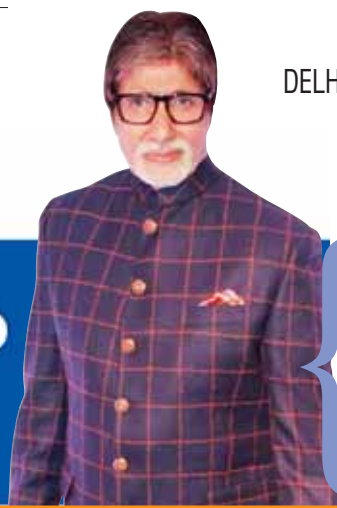


OPINION 8
A SEAT AT THE
HIGH TABLE**WORLD 12**
ISLAMIC STATE GROUP CLAIMS
ATTACK AT SAUDI WWI CEREMONY**SPORT 14**
PUCOVSKI GETS
OZ CALL UP

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

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**MENTAL HEALTH
DEMANDS
ATTENTION: BIG B
13 VIVACITY**

Atmanirbhar Bharat stimulus widened

Tax relief on home sale, enhanced credit guarantee for small businesses, incentives for job creation, ₹65k cr more subsidy on fertilizer among ₹2.65 lakh crore package; total stimulus rises to ₹30L crore

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday widened stimulus measures to boost the economy by announcing a "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" package that includes tax relief on select home sale deals, enhanced credit guarantee programme for small businesses and incentives for new job creation.

The measures that also include additional fertiliser subsidy and already announced production-linked incentive scheme for manufacturing units totalled ₹2.65 lakh crore, taking the cumulative stimulus package announced since the lockdown to almost ₹30 lakh crore, or 15 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

It also includes additional funding for real estate developers and contractors, a new employment scheme and additional spending on the rural jobs plan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" package continues his Government's efforts to help all sections of society. In a tweet, he said these initiatives will help create jobs, alleviate the stressed sectors, ensure liquidity, boost manufacturing, energise the real estate sector and support farmers.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman cited data, including increase in tax collections



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State Anurag Thakur during a news conference in New Delhi on Thursday

for goods and services, rise in energy consumption and improvement in bank credit, to state that the economy was seeing "strong recovery" taking root.

The Indian economy has recovered from its worst-ever contraction of 24 per cent in the April-June quarter but will end up shrinking by close to 10 per cent in the fiscal year to March 2021. But she saw hope in the RBI predicting a strong likelihood of growth in the current quarter.

Doubling down on the previously announced mea-

sures, she said Income Tax law will be relaxed to allow primary or first sale of housing units of up to ₹2 crore at a price that can be 20 per cent below the stamp duty circle rate.

Currently, the law restricts differential between circle rate and agreement value at 10 per cent, and "the move will help reduce hardships faced by both home-buyers and the developers and help clear unsold inventory," she said.

Under the new job creation scheme, the Government will provide a subsidy equal to the contribution that an employee

and the employer have to make towards the retirement fund (totaling 24 per cent of the wages) to establishments that hire new employees or re-hire those it fired during Covid-19 pandemic, she said.

The ₹3 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), under which small businesses can get collateral-free loans, has been extended till March 31, 2021.

The same has also been extended to 26 stressed sectors identified by a high-level committee as also the healthcare

sector. The companies will get a one-year moratorium on loans and four more years to repay the amount, she said.

Sitharaman counted a production-linked incentive programme worth ₹1.46 lakh crore for manufacturing units, already approved by the Government, as part of the 12 support measures unveiled on Thursday.

In the past, ₹51,355 crore of incentives has been provided for mobile manufacturing, drug intermediaries and manufacturing of medical devices and now automobiles, telecom, textile and food products, white goods, specialty steel and electronic products have been included.

An additional outlay of ₹18,000 crore will be made towards the affordable urban housing programme, she said.

To provide higher liquidity to contracts, the Government has decided to lower the earnest money deposit for projects till December 31, 2021.

Also, ₹10,000 crore was provided for rural employment, ₹3,000 crore to Exim Bank for extending lines of credit, and ₹10,200 crore additional budget outlay for defence and infrastructure.

A ₹900 crore grant was made to the Department of Biotechnology for Covid-19 vaccine research, she said, adding this did not include the cost of procuring and distrib-

uting the vaccine which will be established later.

Sitharaman said the Government will provide ₹65,000 crore of additional subsidy on fertiliser to ensure the crop nutrient is available to farmers during the current season.

The measures are the Government's latest efforts to boost the economy, which slipped into an unprecedented recession after gross domestic product probably declined for a second straight quarter in the three months ended September.

The ₹29.87 lakh crore stimulus package, spread over five announcements over the past few months, includes ₹12.71 lakh crore of liquidity boosting measures by the RBI.

India Inc on Thursday welcomed the bouquet of measures and said these would deliver festive cheer and have a multiplier effect on the growth trajectory through support to stressed sectors, thrust to job creation and increased private investments.

"It is heartening to note that despite fiscal constraints, the Government chose to hasten the recovery process by spending an additional Rs 2.65 lakh crore, thus taking the cumulative fiscal stimulus (till date) to Rs 17.2 lakh crore or 9 per cent of GDP," said Uday Kotak, CII president.

Continued on Page 12

Nitish likely to take oath as CM on Mon

PTI ■ PATNA

Nitish Kumar may take oath as Bihar Chief Minister for a fourth successive term next week but the date has not been finalised yet, a close aide said on Thursday.

However, speculation is rife in political circles that he will be sworn in on Monday, the day "Bhaiyya Dooj" festival will be celebrated, as it is considered an auspicious day.

He will visit the State party headquarters later Thursday to meet the newly elected MLAs and other JD(U) functionaries.

Raj Bhavan sources said they have not received any communication about when the swearing-in ceremony will take place.

Before he is sworn-in as the Chief Minister again, Nitish Kumar has to tender his resignation to the governor.

The newly elected MLAs of the NDA are yet to meet formally and elect Kumar as their leader.

However, with top BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, strongly endorsing Kumar as the Chief Minister, there are no doubts over a fourth straight term for him in the high office.

Chief Electoral Officer H R Srinivas, meanwhile, submitted the list of winning candidates in the Assembly elections to



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar addresses a press conference at JD(U) office in Patna on Thursday

Governor Phagu Chauhan at Raj Bhavan.

Talking to reporters for the first time after the NDA's victory, Nitish said the date for his swearing-in ceremony will be discussed at an "informal" meeting of all the four NDA constituents on Friday.

He said it is for the alliance spearhead BJP to take a call on whether to retain the BJP in the NDA. "You make suggestions to this effect," Nitish replied laughingly when asked whether he would ask the BJP to drop the BJP from the NDA at the Centre in the wake of its brinkmanship that scuppered the chances of JD(U) candidates in several seats.

"In any case, it is for the BJP to decide. I have nothing to say in the matter," said Nitish.

Showcause to Twitter for not showing Leh as Ladakh part

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued showcause notice to Twitter for not showing Leh as part of Ladakh.

The notice dated November 9 asked Twitter to explain within five working days as to why legal action should not be initiated against it for disrespecting India's territorial integrity.

Earlier Twitter faced summons from Parliament panel for showing Leh as part of China and Twitter India representatives apologised. The IT Secretary also wrote to Twitter head Jack Dorsey on this matter.

After the Parliamentary panel headed by Meenakshi Lekhi warned the Twitter representatives of facing seven years in jail, the US-based company submitted a written apology.

Ministry in its notice sent to global vice president of



Twitter has mentioned that showing Leh as part of Jammu & Kashmir is a deliberate attempt by Twitter to undermine the will of sovereign Parliament of India which had declared Ladakh as a Union Territory of India with its headquarters in Leh.

Incidentally, Twitter showed Leh as part of People's Republic of China after which the Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT, wrote to

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey raising objection to that.

In response to that Twitter removed showing Leh as part of People's Republic of China, but it has not corrected the map to show Leh as part of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

It is still showing Leh as part of Jammu & Kashmir, which is against the official position of the Government of India," said the Ministry in a statement.

Covishield's Phase-3 trial enrolment complete

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

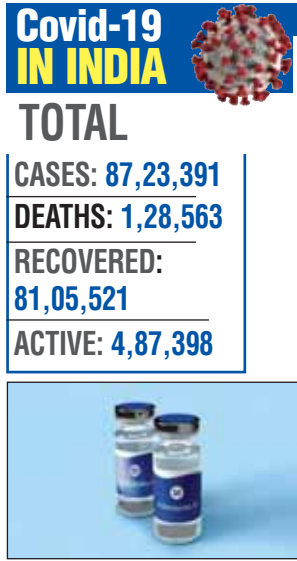
The Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Thursday announced the completion of enrolment of phase-3 clinical trials for potential Covid-19 vaccine "Covishield" in India.

The world's largest vaccine manufacturer SII and Union Health Ministry's research wing ICMR are currently conducting phase 2/3 clinical trials of Covishield at 15 different centres across the country. The drugmaker said in a statement that as many as 1,600 participants were enrolled on October 31.

"The strategic alliance between SII and the ICMR will advance India's role in the global race to develop Covid-19 vaccines," further said the statement.

The ICMR has funded the clinical trial site fees while Serum Institute has funded other expenses for the vaccine.

The SII said that the trials of the Oxford vaccine have shown promising results, which



"so far give confidence that Covishield could be a realistic solution to the deadly pandemic."

Among the vaccines being developed in India, Covishield is in the most advanced stage of human testing. Based on the phase 2/3 trial results, SII with the help of ICMR will pursue

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	17,31,833	45,560	15,97,255
Karnataka	8,55,912	11,474	8,14,949
Andhra Pradesh	8,49,705	6,837	8,22,011
Tamil Nadu	7,52,521	11,440	7,13,584
Kerala	5,08,257	1,797	4,28,529
Uttar Pradesh	5,03,159	7,281	4,73,316
Delhi	4,59,975	7,228	4,10,118
West Bengal	4,20,840	7,506	3,81,149
Odisha	3,05,986	1,536	2,93,741
Telangana	2,54,666	1,393	2,35,950
Bihar	2,25,500	1,167	2,17,958
Rajasthan	2,19,327	2,032	1,99,943
Assam	2,09,633	955	2,03,305
Chhattisgarh	2,05,923	2,507	1,83,190
Haryana	1,93,111	1,979	1,72,265
Gujarat	1,84,964	3,785	1,68,958

the early availability of this product for India, the company said, adding that it has already manufactured 40 million doses under the at-risk manufacturing and stockpiling license from DCGI.

Apart from Covishield, developed at the Pune laboratory with a master seed from

Oxford University/AstraZeneca, ICMR and SII have also collaborated for clinical development of Covovax developed by US-based Novavax. The Oxford Covid vaccine is currently being tested in large efficacy trials in the UK, Brazil, South Africa and the US.

Continued on Page 12

CAPSULE

MAHANT NRITYA STILL CRITICAL: HOSPITAL
Lucknow: The condition of Ram Jannabhooni Teerth Kshetra Trust president Mahant Nriya Gopal Das, admitted at the Medanta hospital here, continued to be critical on Thursday, a health bulletin issued by the hospital said.

GAMBHIR OPENS GIANT AIR PURIFIER IN DELHI
New Delhi: East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir inaugurated on Thursday a first-of-its-kind giant air purifier in Gandhi Nagar market. The 12-feet-tall air purifier will cover an area of 1,000 square metres and deliver 2 lakh cubic metre of clean air every day, according to a statement from his office.

JUD SPOKESPERSON GETS 32 YRS IN JAIL
Lahore: A Pakistani anti-terrorism court on Wednesday handed down 32 years imprisonment to the spokesperson of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's Jammat-ud-Dawah (JuD) terror group in two terror financing cases.

Jab We Met actor Asif hangs self at Dharamshala home

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Bollywood actor Asif Basra allegedly committed suicide on Thursday at his palatial rented residence in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.

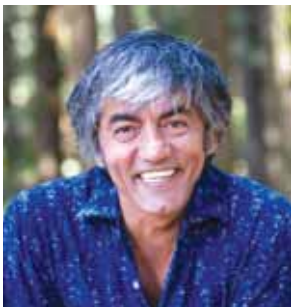
The 53-year-old actor committed suicide by hanging himself with a leash of his pet dog around 12-12.30 on Thursday, Superintendent of Police Vimukt Ranjan told the medi-

apersons.

No suicide note has been recovered, he added.

As per the police, just before the alleged suicide, the "Jab We Met" actor had returned from a stroll in the locality along with his dog. The actor was staying in the town for nearly four years.

Basra is known for his roles in films like "Black Friday", "Parzanika", "Jab We



Met" and "Kai Po Che", among many others. He played the father of Emraan Hashmi's Shoaib Khan in Milan Luthria's "Once Upon a Time in Mumbai" (2010).

His most recent outing was in Amazon Prime Video's smash-hit series "Paatal Lok". He was last seen in the web series Hostages, which released earlier this year.

Continued on Page 12

Dismantling structures at Pangong lake part of LAC disengagement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the likelihood of withdrawal of tanks and heavy guns from the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India and China may also dismantle new structures in the Pangong Tso (lake) area.

The two sides had built structures like barracks to lodge additional troops rushed to the LAC as part of military build-up. China had also built a jetty at the lake leading to strong protest by India.

The proposed removing of the structures is part of the proposed three-step plan to disengage and de-escalate from the LAC in eastern Ladakh. If the proposals, including pulling back tanks and additional troops from the border, are agreed upon in the ninth round of talks between the Corps Commanders in the next few days, the disengagement may begin in middle of next month.

Elaborating upon the



three-stage proposed plan, which was discussed during the eighth round of Corps Commander talks on November 6, sources said here on Thursday the two sides may also agree to have a buffer zone between "Finger 4" and "Finger 8" area at the Pangong lake. Mountain spurs are referred to as Finger.

This comes against the backdrop of the face off there in early May starting after the Chinese troops blocked an Indian Army patrol between "Finger 4 and 8". While India

reiterated it was within its zone, China claimed it was not so. It led to exchange of blows between the two armies.

The two armies may also pull back partially from south bank of the Pangong lake. The Indian Army had occupied crucial high points after the Chinese tried to forcibly enter that zone in August. The Indian troops occupied strategic heights in the Mukhpari, Rezang La and Magar hill areas around the southern bank of the Pangong lake.

Continued on Page 12

BIKRU SHOOTOUT IMPACT DIG suspended on charges of nexus with criminals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In the first crackdown on cops-criminal nexus in the Bikru ambush case of Kanpur, the Uttar Pradesh government placed DIG PAC in Moradabad, Anant Deo Tewari, under suspension on the recommendation of the special investigation team and ordered a departmental enquiry against him. The suspension order was issued on Thursday evening, confirmed Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi.

Facing allegations of nexus with criminals, Tewari was earlier shunted out from prime posting as DIG of Special Task Force and posted as DIG of Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) in Moradabad.

The action was taken after Tewari was alleged to have

overlooked a letter that surfaced after the Bikru incident, written by slain DySP Devendra Mishra, alleging a nexus between gangster Vikas Dubey and suspended Chaubeypur police station in-charge Vinay Tewari.

Anant Deo Tewari, who was posted as SSP of Kanpur Nagar, is considered to be close to Dubey's aide and had given patronage to the Chaubeypur police station in-charge.

Sources said that though Tewari got relief in the inquiry conducted against him by IG, Lucknow Range, Lakshmi Singh, but the SIT formed by the state government to look into the role of police officers for giving patronage to Vikas Dubey indicted him and recommended action against him along with some other officers.

Many of the local policemen then posted in Kanpur

Nagar are already behind the bar for helping Vikas Dubey to run his empire.

It may be mentioned that the state government had constituted the SIT under Additional Chief Secretary Sanjay Bhoosreddy. The other members are ADG Hari Ram Sharma and DIG Ravinder Goud.

The SIT had to submit its report by July 31 after looking into all the angles, studying all related documents and spot inspection in Kanpur Nagar. However, it got an extension.

On July 3 last, eight police personnel, including a DySP, were gunned down in Bikru village by the henchmen of Dubey. Seven others, including a civilian, were injured in the attack from the rooftop after the police team entered the village past midnight on July 2 to arrest Dubey.



दीपज्योतिः परब्रह्म दीपज्योतिर्जनार्दनः ।
दीपो हरतु मे पापं दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तुते । ।



Grandeur of Treta Yug to come alive in Ayodhya

5.51 lakh earthen lamps to be lit at Ram Ki Paidi

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ◆ Symbolic homecoming of Lord Ram and Sita in Ram Katha park | ◆ Saryu Aarti amid chanting of prayers | ◆ Mesmerising laser light and sound show |
| ◆ Symbolic coronation of Lord Ram and Sita | ◆ Cultural programmes on Ram Ki Paidi | ◆ Re-enactment of Ram Lila |
| | | ◆ Virtual Deepotsav in Ram Lalla's temple |

in the august presence of

- | | |
|---|--|
| Anandiben Patel
Governor, Uttar Pradesh | Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh |
| Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh | Dr. Dinesh Sharma
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh |
| Dr. Neelkanth Tiwari
Minister of State, Tourism, Culture and Religious Affairs (Independent Charge) Protocol (MOS), Uttar Pradesh | Lallu Singh
Member of Parliament Ayodhya |
| Rishikesh Upadhyay
Mayor Ayodhya | Ved Prakash Gupta
Member of the Legislative Assembly Ayodhya |

Date : 13th November, 2020 | Venue : Ayodhya

Light a Virtual Diya with one click : <http://virtualdeepotsav.com>

Attack on jeweller: Police detain property dealer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after Abhishek Kesarwani, a jewellery shop owner, was shot at in Vikas Nagar on Wednesday night, police detained a property dealer identified as Ashthbhuja Pathak of PGI police station area for his alleged



involvement in the crime. Abhishek's father Sudhir Kesarwani of Mahanagar had

lodged a case against his elder brother Rajendra Kesarwani of Faridabad and Pathak. Sudhir said land dispute was the reason why Abhishek was shot at. The victim himself had informed the police about the attack on Wednesday night.

Sudhir further alleged that Pathak had threatened his son in February earlier this year and also a week back.

"He threatened to kill my son if they did not get the land," Sudhir alleged. He said his elder brother had probably signed a land deal with Pathak.

On Wednesday night, Abhishek and his wife Neha were returning home in a car after closing the jewellery shop. When they reached CIMAP road, two car-borne miscreants reached there and opened fire before speeding off the scene.

During investigation, the police got a CCTV footage in which the car was identified by Abhishek but the police were yet to reach the attackers.

Cases surge with 315 new Covid patients

Health dept's focus now on preventing mortalities

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow witnessed a spurt in coronavirus cases with 315 persons testing positive on Thursday. As many as 235 patients recovered while the death toll has reached 926.

The new patients included 29 from Gomia Nagar, 28 from Indiranagar, 27 from Vikas Nagar, 21 from Rae Bareilly road, 17 from Ashiyana 16 from Hazratganj, 14 each from Sarojininaragar, Hazratganj & Aliganj, 13 each from Alambagh, Chowk & Madiaon, and 11 from Chinhat. Ten Covid patients died on Thursday and three of them belonged to Lucknow while the rest to Rae Bareilly, Ayodhya, Balrampur, Sultanpur and Basti. Two

patients succumbed at KGMU, including a 54-year-old man from Faizabad and a 67-year-old man from Sultanpur.

Across the state, 2,278 persons tested positive, including 214 from Gautambuddh Nagar, 145 from Ghaziabad and 160 from Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,05,426. There were 21 deaths in the state, including three in Meerut, two in Agra, and one each in Kanpur, Jhansi, Lakhimpur, Kheri, Gautambuddh Nagar, Pratapgarh, Mathura, Hardoi, Deoria, Sonbhadra, Siddharthnagar and Kaushambhi, taking the state toll to 7,302. Besides, 1,870 patients recovered, taking the recovery figures to 4,75,175. There are still 22,949 active cases in the state.

Meanwhile, the Health department's will be on testing those having co-morbidities through RT-PCR method and those with the slightest of symptoms will be tested to prevent deaths due to Covid-19 in Lucknow. Additional



CMO MK Singh, who is also the nodal officer for containment, said this strategy would help in early detection of cases and decline in the mortality rate of the district. He pointed out that the mortality rate of Lucknow is slightly less than that of the entire state.

He said RT-PCR tests are being conducted more as compared to antigen tests for coronavirus sampling. "We have completed the targeted surveillance today," he said.

He said no member of the surveillance & rapid response teams and health officials will take leave in the festive period and everyone will continue with the containment activity. "There are 1,200 surveillance teams and 160 rapid

response teams and over 4,000 health workers are part of the teams that will be working even during Diwali holidays," he added.

Meanwhile, under 'Bas Ab to Jeetna Hai' campaign against coronavirus, People's Health Organisation (PHO) has appealed to people to help those who have been infected with the virus instead of ostracising them.

PHO secretary Dr Ishwar Gilada said a lot can be done for Covid patients without catching the Infection. "Call them up or send them a message and let them know that you are always there to help them, if need be. Family and friends are the biggest support system for Covid patients. It is safe to drop food, groceries, medicines or other items of need at the doorstep of patients. If everyone at the house is positive, it becomes difficult to get even a paracetamol or anything else; and in such a situation simple gestures can be of great help," he said.

"Treatment may get expensive if hospitalisation or intensive care is needed. Mental stress is a big issue faced by Covid patients as they are alone without any interaction with others and with the natural fear of the disease in their minds. Help them establish a daily routine to follow so as to give them a sense of normalcy. Be it an hour of yoga, a game played together online or anything like that, a daily routine will help them feel less stressed and go about everyday feeling more relaxed and with something to look up to," said Gilada.

He said there is a high incidence of depression and anxiety amongst Covid patients which they may not feel comfortable discussing with anyone. "Lend them your emotional support and be alert for any signs of depression while talking to them. Keep them cheerful and busy, and simply be patient and listen to whatever they have to say. Your time and patience is probably the biggest thing they need," he added.

फाइल नं: 10(22)/2007-08/ESF/Pur
राष्ट्रीय शर्करा संस्थान
आईएसओ 9001:2015 प्रमाणित संस्थान
उपभोक्ता मामले खाद्य एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय
(खाद्य एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग) (भारत सरकार)
कल्यानपुर, कानपुर, दिनांक: 11.11.2020
आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना
भारत के राष्ट्रपति के द्वारा प्रदत्त अधिकारों के अन्तर्गत, निदेशक, राष्ट्रीय शर्करा संस्थान, कानपुर द्वारा संस्थान की प्रायोगिक शर्करा प्रयोगशाला में "6500 कुंतल शीरा" विक्रय हेतु कैंटिन फीड बनाने वाली ईकाईयों से निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
निविदा का सम्पूर्ण विवरण संस्थान की वेबसाइट www.nsi.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। निविदाएं दिनांक 02.12.2020 को अपरान्ह 01.00 बजे या इससे पूर्व प्रस्तुत की जा सकती हैं। निविदा उसी दिन 03.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।
(महेन्द्र कुमार यादव)
कनिष्ठ तकनीकी अधिकारी

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No.SSA/Esstt/Pre-Primary/Furniture/406/2020/3075 Date:10.11.2020
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed manufacturer of plastic moulded furniture for supply of Low Height Shelves.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/-Executive Director, SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog No. CF/2674/20

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना
निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा जिनका संक्षिप्त विवरण नीचे दिया गया है ई-निविदा की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड कर दी गई है : अतिअल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या - T-85/ETC-II/2020-21, वीवीआईपी गेस्ट हाउस सैफई में बैडसीट इत्यादि की सफाई का कार्य। उपरोक्त विषय में विस्तृत विवरण साईट पर उपलब्ध है सभी सक्षम आपूर्ति / कार्यदायी संस्थाएं तदनुसार निविदा में भाग ले सकती हैं। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परीक्षण मण्डल द्वितीय, पनकी, कानपुर। पत्रांक 3289 / वि० प्रे० म० डि० ५० (का०) / टी०-1 दिनांक - 12.11.2020 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"

Diwali rush: Traders hopeful as huge crowds throng markets



Huge rush in Aminabad market on the occasion of Dhanteras on Thursday

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Coronavirus failed to cast its shadow in markets on the first day of Dhanteras on Thursday. Traders said though there was brisk shopping late in the evening, there was no dearth of buyers. Gold worth Rs 15 crore and utensils worth Rs 6-7 crore were sold on the first day. Traders said they are expecting huge crowds on the second day of Dhanteras on Friday.

Secretary, Lucknow Sarrafa Association, Adheesh Jain said that the highlight was a diamond *kamarnabandh* worth Rs 17.35 lakh, which was sold on Thursday. "The sales have been good and gold worth Rs 15 crore was sold. The market picked up late in the evening. The sales have been good because of the wedding season approaching. We expect the sales to be even better on

Friday because the date of Dhanteras on social networking sites has been highlighted as November 13," he said.

He said that last year, they had sold 50 kg gold worth Rs 20 crore. "Coronavirus fear did not impact the market this year and items of all kinds were sold," he said.

President of Metals Merchant Association and Lucknow Vyapar Mandal Harish Chandra Agarwal said utensils worth Rs 6-7 crore were sold on the first day of Dhanteras. He said that though the crowd was less, heavy items for wedding purposes were sold. "The traditional buyer will come on Friday and we expect huge crowds since the *muhurat* of Dhanteras was after 7 pm on Thursday. The traders were happy that they made good sales and coronavirus did not play a role," he said. Agarwal said they sold

utensils of copper and brass. "The trends have changed in the recent years. The customers are more inclined towards utensils which promote health and are not too much interested in buying aluminium vessels because these are not good for health and make a person prone to diseases," he said. He added that the most popular were cookers made of brass and copper, as also utensils of bronze.

METRO SERVICES FROM 6 AM TO 7 PM ON DIWALI

Lucknow Metro train services will be available from 6 am to 7 pm on the occasion of Diwali. Officials said the services would start at 6 in the morning from both the terminals (Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport and Munshipulia stations) and the last train would be available at 7 in the evening.

Government of India
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
NOTICE
The Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, circulates a list of books in Hindi marked by qualitative excellence, with recommendation for their purchase by libraries of the Central Government Ministries/Departments/ Organizations. Accordingly, a list of books of a range of subject published in Hindi during the period from 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2019 (2 years) and meeting the parameters of excellence is to be circulated by this Department. Books are invited from writers, publishers, printers, distributors and NRI persons of Indian origin for the above-said purpose.
Complete details in this regard are available at the department's website www.rajbhasha.gov.in or www.rajbhasha.nic.in The last date for submission of books is 11.12.2020.
(Manjula Saxena)
Deputy Secretary (Patrika)
davp 19201 / 11 / 0005 / 2021

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना
(1) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 75-वि.पा.म.(प्र.)ल./2020-21, विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड-तृतीय, लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड-द्वितीय, रामसनेही घाट के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न 132 केवी परीक्षण लाइनों के सामान्य अनुक्षण समन्वयी कार्य, हेतु ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की गयी है जिसे www.etender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक 12.11.2020 को प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु 8.05 लाख की अंश 01 वर्ष धरोहर धनराशि रु 9,00,000 ऑन लाइन ई-निविदा भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 25.11.2020 को 16.00 बजे तक है। अतः उपरोक्त वर्णित ई-निविदाओं के कार्य की कुल मात्रा ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण व अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। ओहोस्टाफरकर्ता को निम्न कोई कारण बताये किसी भी ई-निविदा अथवा सभी ई-निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से सम्बन्धित सूचना यदि कोई होगी केवल वेबसाइट पर डाली जाएगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखते रहना चाहिए। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत परीक्षण मण्डल - प्रथम, परीक्षण भवन, विजुति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक - 1962 दिनांक-12.11.2020, "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें"

Doctor killed in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 40-year-old doctor died in a road mishap in Indiranagar on Wednesday night. Police said the victim rammmed his motorcycle into an electric pole while his father suspected foul play.

The deceased was identified as Ashish Bajpai of Indiranagar. A native of Unnao, he had his clinic in Khurramnagar. As per reports, he left for his house around 11 pm on Wednesday and his motorcycle rammmed into an electric pole. He suffered serious injuries and was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Meanwhile, a 20-year-old BBA student committed suicide

at her house in Gudamba on Thursday morning. Around 5 am, the girl, identified as Savitri of Gudamba, was found hanging from a hook with a saree tied around her neck. Her parents rushed her to a hospital where she was declared brought dead. Police said the girl's father is a farmer. The body was sent for autopsy.

LOOT CASE WORKED OUT

With the arrest of four persons, Ashiyana police claimed to have worked out a two-month-old loot case in which a woman was targeted in Devi Kheda locality. On the day of the incident on September 7, the police had doubted victim's claim that she was deprived of

Rs 3.5 lakh by unidentified miscreants. The accused were identified as Vishal Kanaujia, Aryan Rawat, Lalit Kumar (all of Ashiyana) and Faizan Khan of Sarojininaragar. The police recovered Rs 46,500 in cash, two motorcycles and a country-made pistol.

A police team was tipped off about the presence of four suspects in Ratan Khand in the area and the police conducted a raid. The suspects attempted to flee the scene but were overpowered by the police. They told the police that the cash recovered from their possession was looted from a woman on September 7 while the motorcycles were used to execute crimes.

IIM-L placement: Highest stipend ₹2.5L

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The highest stipend in the hundred percent IIM-L summer placements this year is Rs 2.5 lakh per month. IIM-L successfully completed its summer placements (2020-2021) for the 36th batch of PGP and 17th batch of PGP-ABM.

IIM-L secured 100% placement for the largest batch in the history of its 36-year legacy, placing students across a multitude of roles in marketing, consulting, finance and

general management with top recruiters. The highest stipend is Rs 2.5 lakh per month, median stipend Rs 1.2 lakh per month and average stipend Rs 1.1 lakh per month.

"It is noteworthy that this accomplishment was achieved through entirely virtual conduct of the recruitment processes. Amidst the global pandemic, IIM-L took the recruitment processes onto the online platform, designed specifically to ensure a smooth interface among all the stakeholders in the process," an

official said. The placement drive saw participation from many top recruiters. Legacy recruiters include Accenture, Aditya Birla Group, Alvarez and Marsal, Amazon, Avendus Capital, Axis Capital, Bain and Co, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Citi, Colgate-Palmolive, Deloitte, Deutsche Bank, Flipkart, Goldman Sachs, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, JP Morgan Chase, Kearney, MasterCard Advisors, McKinsey and Co., Microsoft, Nestle, Procter and Gamble, etc.

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH I NEW DELHI-48				
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"				
N.I.T No.21/S-III/(2020-21)				
S. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of badly damaged/settled deep sewer line in front of H.No.68, K-1 block C.R. Park under South-III (AC-50)	2923237/- 58500/-	2020_DJB_196389_2 10.11.2020	27.11.2020 upto 3:00 PM
Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in				
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt No. J.S.V. 224 (2020-21)		Sd/- (L. L. MEENA) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-III		

Indiabulls Infraestate Limited (CIN : U70102DL2007PLC157384)				
Extract of Unaudited Financial Results for the half year ended 30 September 2020				
(Rupees in Lakhs)				
Particulars	6 months ended 30 September 2020	6 months ended 30 September 2019	Previous year ended 31 March 2020	
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
Total Income from Operations	2,820.45	72,325.89	1,41,625.54	
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(2,947.36)	17,418.27	2,791.15	
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(2,947.36)	17,418.27	2,791.15	
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(2,843.04)	10,050.12	490.74	
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(2,843.04)	10,048.11	485.96	
Paid up Equity Share Capital	22.74	22.74	22.74	
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	1,37,372.92	1,49,778.11	1,40,215.94	
Net Worth	1,37,395.66	1,49,800.85	1,40,238.68	
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	1,35,187.89	-	1,31,638.33	
Debt Equity Ratio *	0.98	-	0.94	
Earnings per Share (EPS) (Face value Per Share Rs. 10 each)	-	-	-	
* (EPS for the half year are not annualised)				
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(1,250.02)	4,418.80	215.77	
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(1,250.02)	3,643.09	215.77	
Debt Redemption Reserve	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.22)	-	0.95	
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	(1.08)	-	1.08	
Note to financial results:				
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 12 November 2020.				
2) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Half / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://indiabullsrealstate.com/bil/) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).				
Registered Office : M-62&63, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi- 110 001.		For and on behalf of The Board of Directors		
Place : Gurugram		Vishal Damani		
Date : 12 November 2020		Director		

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No.SSA/Esstt/Pre-Primary/Furniture/405/2020/3073 Date :10.11.2020
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed manufacturer of plastic moulded furniture for supply of Low Height Plastic Table and Chair.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/-Executive Director, SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog No. CF/2674/20

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Construction Organization)	
The Chief Administrative officer/Const-II/Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-	
Mode of Tender	(E-Reverse Auction)
Tender Notice No.	74-W/3/2438/WALKO Dated 12.11.2020
Full name of work	Sohawal-Daryabad Section:- Earth work in formation including filling, cutting and compaction, supply and laying blanketing material on embankment, extension of existing minor bridges by RCC Box and construction of LHS by Air pushing methodology and other allied works between Sohawal (Excluding) to Daryabad (Excluding) & Radauli Yard (Excluding) in connection with Proposed Doubling of Barabanki-Akbarpur of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway
Approx. cost	Rs. 119.93 Crores
Completion period	24 (Twenty Four) months
Earnest money amount	Rs. 61.46,100/- only
Sale/Availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 17.11.2020 to 07.12.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	07.12.2020 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 23.11.2020 to 07.12.2020
Date and time of opening of tender	07.12.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on.
2512/20	

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No.SSA/ESTT/STC/BAGS/374/2020/3074 Date :10.11.2020
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturer of Bag for supply of School Bag for Special Training Centre.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/ Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/-Executive Director, SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog No. CF/2674/20

Bihar elections more nail-biting than UP prez polls: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Describing the Bihar Assembly elections as more nail-biting than the US presidential polls, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said that Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav was set to become the chief minister but because of irregularities committed in Bihar, the Mahagathbandhan was denied victory.

“Those having faith in democratic values are unhappy after the Bihar Assembly polls. Tejashwi Yadav was poised to make his government but could

not do so at the last moment,” Akhilesh Yadav said while talking to reporters here on Thursday. The SP chief said all those who valued democratic values were unhappy today and were asking if this was how elections would be fought.

Expressing surprise, he claimed that with only 14,000 more votes, the grand alliance would have been victorious.

“The Bihar elections were more nail-biting than the US elections. Don’t know what trick the Bharatiya Janata Party played. This is the speciality of the BJP,” he said. The SP chief said that elections today had

become mathematics and there were no issues now.

“The BJP uses everything to win elections. I can present one example and also play its video to prove how all the officials from district magistrate to police chief were involved (in UP). At some places, even during the checking of temperature when the voters were going in to cast their votes they were threatened that such a temperature would be given which would directly shift them to hospital, and ambulances were also deployed,” Akhilesh said

He stressed that his party would not leave the path of development come what may and recalled how the SP schemes were being repackaged and claimed as that of this (BJP) government.

“I can say on record that we had given farmers pensions and women pensions. The maximum bank accounts and bank branches were opened during the SP regime and online transfer of money had also started but this (BJP) government only indulges in publicity and we will also do the same now,” he said.

Yadav also attacked the government for its claim of giving 50 lakh jobs and asked the names of the departments where the jobs were being provided. He also asked what happened to the claims of over Rs 4 lakh crore

investment in the state as claimed by the government. “When the time comes, we will bring a scheme and spell out the details of where we will be giving jobs to the youth,” he said. At least three farmers of Ayodhya also addressed the press conference and recounted their experiences with the officials over land acquisition in their native villages for Sri Ram Airport and development of Ayodhya. They alleged that the officials were harassing them for signing the agreement in which their land was being acquired at very low rates. They also said that they had met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the issue after which the atrocities of the officials had increased.

Assuring all possible help by his party to the farmers of Dharampur, Ganja and Kutia gram sabhas who recounted their problems, Akhilesh Yadav said the government was taking land for a pious work and should show big heart and revise the circle rates as there was no dearth of money to serve the people. He demanded that the farmers of these villages be given six times more compensation for their land.

Giving the example of Agra-Lucknow Expressway, Yadav said that land for it was acquired giving compensation to the satisfaction of the farmers.

CITYBRIEFS



MEETING

Principal Secretary, UP Housing and Development Board, Deepak Kumar presided over the 251st divisional level meeting on Thursday. The meeting resolve to appoint the board as the consultant of Bhumi Vikas Evam Grahkar Yojana, Ayodhya. It was also decided to fix the monthly rent of houses built under Affordable Rental Housing Scheme at Rs 4,000. It was also decided to hand over 20 acres of land of Awadh Vihar Yojana to UP Handloom Corporation.

SELECTED FOR ADMISSION

Qasim Mohammad Anees, a talented student of City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus I, has been selected for admission by the Kazan Federal University of Russia. His academic excellence and diligence got him the opportunity to get into this prestigious foreign university. He has given credit for his achievement to the robust academic atmosphere of CMS. Qasim has been selected by the Russian university for pursuing Specialist Degree Diploma in General Medicine.





GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS AUTHORITY
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation And Farmers Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Website: www.plantauthority.gov.in



PLANT GENOME SAVIOUR AWARDS 2018-19 and 2019-20
Under section 39 (1) (iii) of PPV&FRA Act, 2001 read with PPV&FR (Recognition and Reward from Gene Fund) Rules, 2012 and PPV&FR (Community Award from Gene Fund) Rules, 2018.
INDIA'S HIGHEST AWARD/REWARD/RECOGNITION FOR FARMER(S) AND FARMING COMMUNITIES
A unique aspect of Farmers' Rights in PPVER Act, 2001 which provides the facility to award, reward and recognize the farmers engaged in conservation of Genetic resources of Land races and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection.

1. PLANT GENOME SAVIOUR COMMUNITY AWARD
THE AWARD :- A maximum of five awards in a year, each consisting of cash of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Only), a citation and a memento.
WHO CAN APPLY :- A community of farmers duly forwarded by a body who are engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of landraces and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation and the material so selected and preserved has been shared with others for varietal improvement.

2. PLANT GENOME SAVIOUR FARMER REWARD/ RECOGNITION
THE REWARD:- A maximum of 10 rewards comprising of citation, memento and cash amount of Rs 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only).
THE RECOGNITION :- A maximum of 20 recognitions comprising of citation, memento and cash amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only).
WHO CAN APPLY :- Farmers application duly forwarded by a body engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of landraces and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation and the material so selected and preserved has been used as donors of genes in varieties registerable under the PPV&FRA Act, 2001. (Certificate from concerned institute to be attached)
HOW TO APPLY :- Application form and detailed guidelines may be downloaded from the website of the Authority www.plantauthority.gov.in or may be obtained in person or by post on any working day from the office of PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi or its offices at Ranchi, Guwahati, Palampur, Pune and Shivamogga (Please see the address from website) between 9:00A.M to 5:30 P.M. Applications may be submitted either in Hindi or English. There is no application fee. Only complete form with supporting document(s) is to be submitted.

APPLICATIONS TO BE FORWARDED THROUGH :- Chairperson / Secretary of the concerned Panchayat, Biodiversity Management Committee or concerned District Agricultural Officer or Director of Research of concerned State Agriculture University or concerned District Tribal Development Office. However in case of applications for plant genome savior community awards it can also be forwarded through concerned Zonal Project Director, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Now director - Agriculture Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI)-ICAR.

Last date of Submission :- The duly filled in application forms along with supportive information, evidence / documents / details / proof of the claims made should reach the following address within 3 (three) months from the date of publication of the advertisement .

UK Dubey
Deputy Registrar
Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare,
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India,
S-2, 'A' Block, NASC, DPS Marg, Opp. Todapur, New Delhi-110012.
Contact No. : 011-25842846; E-mail: uk.dubey@gov.in

davp 01146 / 11 / 0001 / 2021

U.P. POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
SHAKTI BHAWAN, 14-ASHOK MARG, LUCKNOW
(A Govt. of UP Undertaking)
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 64 of the Electricity Act 2003, the State Government owned Distribution Licensees namely Pashchimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited and Kanpur Electricity Supply Company Ltd. submitted their Business Plan Petition for Control Period FY2020-21 to FY2024-25 before Hon'ble U.P. Electricity Regulatory Commission. Further in compliance to the direction by Hon'ble Commission, above named licensees submitted their Petitions for Truing-Up for FY 2018-19, Annual Performance Review for FY 2019-20 and Aggregate Revenue Requirement for FY 2020-21. Subsequently as per order of Hon'ble Commission consumer category/sub-category/slab simplification proposal for different categories of consumers has been published in newspaper.

Hon'ble U.P. Electricity Regulatory Commission has issued order on Business Plan for control Period FY2020-21 to FY2024-25 and on Truing-Up for FY 2018-19, Annual Performance Review for FY 2019-20 and Aggregate Revenue Requirement & Tariff for FY 2020-21 vide its Order dated 27.10.2020 and 11.11.2020 respectively.

Tariff/Rate Schedule, as approved by Hon'ble Commission for FY 2020-21 is informed as under:-

CONSUMER CATEGORY / SUB-CATEGORY	Approved Tariff FY 2020-21	Fixed Charge	Rs. 330 / BHP / Month	
Energy Charge		Rs. 8.50 / kWh		
LMV-1 DOMESTIC LIGHT, FAN & POWER:		(ii) Un-Metered		
(a) Consumers getting supply as per "Rural Schedule" :		Fixed Charge	Rs. 3300 / BHP / Month	
(i) Life Line Consumers: With contracted load of 1 kW, Energy consumption upto 100 kWh/ Month		LMV-9 TEMPORARY SUPPLY:		
Fixed Charge	Rs. 50 / kW / month	(i) Un-Metered		
Energy Charge (0-100 Units)	Rs. 3.00 / kWh	Fixed Charges for Illumination / Public Address / ceremonies for loads upto 20 kW / connection plus Rs.100/ kW/ day for each additional kW	Rs. 4750 per day	
(ii) Un-Metered:		(a) Fixed charges for temporary shops set-up during festivals / melas or other wise and having load up to 2 kW	Rs. 560 per day / shop	
Fixed Charge:		PTW consumers of Bundelkhand Area having requirement of electricity only for the Rabi Crop i.e. period between November to February in any year.	Rs. 500/BHP/month	
All Load	Rs. 500 / kW / month	(i) Metered		
(iii) Metered:		(i) Individual Residential Construction		
Fixed Charge:	Rs. 90 / kW / month	Fixed Charge	Rs. 200/kW/Month	
Energy Charge:		Energy Charge	Rs. 8.00/kWh	
For first 100 kWh / Month	Rs. 3.35 / kWh		From 3rd year onwards: Base Tariff applicable for current year plus additional 10% of the applicable Energy Charge.	
For next 101-150 kWh /Month	Rs. 3.85 / kWh			
For next 151-300 kWh /Month	Rs. 5.00 / kWh			
For next 301-500 kWh /Month	Rs. 5.50 / kWh			
For above 500 kWh /Month (Starting from 501st unit)	Rs. 6.00 / kWh			
(b) Supply at single point for bulk loads: 50kW and above, Supplied at any voltage				
Fixed Charge	Rs. 110 / kW / month			
Energy Charge	Rs. 7.00 / kWh			
(c) Other Metered Domestic Consumers:				
(i) Life Line Consumers: With contracted load of 1 kW, Energy consumption upto 100 kWh/ Month		(B) (i) Others		
Fixed Charge	Rs. 50 / kW / month	Fixed Charge	Rs. 300/kW/Month	
Energy Charge (0-100 Units)	Rs. 3.00 / kWh	Energy Charge	Rs. 9.00/kWh	
(ii) Other Metered Domestic Consumers: (For All loads)			From 3rd year onwards: Base Tariff applicable for current year plus additional 10% of the applicable Energy Charge.	
Fixed Charge	Rs. 110 / kW / month			
Energy Charge				
For first 150 kWh / Month	Rs. 5.50 / kWh			
For next 151-300 kWh / Month	Rs. 6.00 / kWh			
For next 301-500 kWh / Month	Rs. 6.50 / kWh			
For above 500 kWh / Month (Starting from 501st unit)	Rs. 7.00 / kWh			
LMV-2 NON-DOMESTIC LIGHT, FAN & POWER:				
(a) Consumers getting supply as per "Rural Schedule"		LMV-10 DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES AND PENSIONERS		
(i) Un-Metered		For all such consumers LMV-1 rate schedule will be applicable.		
Fixed Charge	Rs. 1000 / kW / month	LMV-11 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING		
(ii) Metered		1. Domestic Consumers		
Fixed Charge	Rs. 110 / kW / month	All the metered domestic consumers covered under the LMV-1 category will be allowed to charge their Electric Vehicle at their residence, provided the load of Electric Vehicle does not exceed the connected / contracted load.		
Energy Charge	Rs. 5.50 / kWh	2. Multi Storey Buildings (covered under LMV-1b & HV-1b of the Rate Schedule)		
(b) Private Advertising/Sign Post/Sign Board/Glow Signs/Flex		LMV-1b Demand charge - Nil, Energy charge- Rs.6.20kWh		
Metered		HV-1b Demand charge - Nil, Energy charge- Rs.5.90kWh		
Fixed Charge	-	3. Public Charging Stations		
Energy Charge	Rs. 18.00 / kWh	Public charging station (LT)	Demand charge - Nil, Energy charge- Rs. 7.70/kWh with TOD	
Minimum Charges	Rs. 1800 / kW / month	Public charging station (HT)	Demand charge - Nil, Energy charge- Rs. 7.30/kWh with TOD	
(c) Other Metered Consumers:		4. Other Consumers		
Fixed Charge		The consumers of other categories (any metered consumers of LMV-2(a), LMV-2(c), LMV-4, LMV-6, LMV-7, LMV-8 (Metered), LMV-9 (Metered), HV-1 (excluding Multi Storey Buildings covered under LMV-1b & HV-1b of the Rate Schedule), HV-2, HV-3 and HV-4), will be charged as per the Tariff applicable for their respective category, provided the load of EV does not exceed the connected / contracted load.		
Load upto 2 kW	Rs. 330 / kW / month	HV-1 NON-INDUSTRIAL BULK LOAD		
Above 2 kW to 4 kW	Rs. 390 / kW / month	(a) Commercial Loads / Private Institutions / Non-Domestic Bulk Power with contracted Load 75 kW & above and getting supply at single point on 11 kV & above voltage level.		
above 4 kW	Rs. 450 / kW / month	Demand Charges for Supply at 11 Kv	Rs. 430 / kVA / month	
Energy Charge		Energy Charge for Supply at 11 Kv		
For First 300 kWh / Month	Rs. 7.50 / kWh	First 2500 kVAh/month	Rs. 8.32 / kVAh	
For next 301 - 1000 kWh / month	Rs. 8.40 / kWh	Above 2500 kVAh/month	Rs. 8.68 / kVAh	
For above 1000 kWh / month (Starting from 1001st unit)	Rs. 8.75 / kWh	Demand Charges for Supply above 11 Kv	Rs. 400 / kVA / month	
Minimum Charge	Rs. 600/kW/Month (Apr to Sept)	Energy Charge for Supply above 11 Kv		
	Rs. 475kWh/Month (Oct to March)	First 2500 kVAh/month	Rs. 8.12 / kVAh	
LMV-3 PUBLIC LAMPS:		Above 2500 kVAh/month	Rs. 8.48 / kVAh	
Un-Metered Supply:		(b) Public Institutions, Registered Societies, Residential Colonies / Townships, Residential Multi-Storeyed Buildings including Residential Multi-Storeyed Buildings with contracted load 75 kW & above and getting supply at Single Point on 11 kV & above voltage levels		
Gram Panchayat	Rs. 2100 / kW or part thereof / month	Demand Charges for Supply at 11 Kv	Rs. 380 / kVA / month	
Nagar Palika and Nagar Panchayat	Rs. 3200 / kW or part thereof / month	Energy Charge for Supply at 11 Kv		
Nagar Nigam	Rs. 4200 / kW or part thereof / month	First 2500 kVAh/month	Rs. 7.70 / kVAh	
Metered Supply:		Above 2500 kVAh/month	Rs. 7.90 / kVAh	
Gram Panchayat	Rs. 200 / kW / month	Demand Charges for Supply above 11 Kv	Rs. 360 / kVA / month	
Nagar Palika and Nagar Panchayat	Rs. 250 / kW / month	Energy Charge for Supply above 11 Kv		
Nagar Nigam	Rs. 250 / kW / month	First 2500 kVAh/month	Rs. 7.50 / kVAh	
Energy Charge		Above 2500 kVAh/month	Rs. 7.70 / kVAh	
Gram Panchayat	Rs. 7.50/ kWh	LMV-4 LIGHT, FAN & POWER FOR PUBLIC & PRIVATE INSTITUTION:		
Nagar Palika and Nagar Panchayat	Rs. 8.00 / kWh	4 (A) For Public Institutions:		
Nagar Nigam	Rs. 8.50 / kWh	Fixed Charge	Rs. 300 / kW / Month	
TOD Rates % Energy Charge	18.00 Hrs - 6.00 Hrs @ 0%	Energy Charge		
TOD Rates % Energy Charge	6.00 Hrs - 18.00 Hrs @ +20%	For first 1000 kWh / month	Rs. 8.25/ kWh	
LMV-4 LIGHT, FAN & POWER FOR PUBLIC & PRIVATE INSTITUTION:		For next 1001 - 2000 kWh / month	Rs. 8.50/ kWh	
4 (A) For Public Institutions:		For above 2000 kWh / month (Starting from 2001st unit)	Rs. 8.75/ kWh	
Fixed Charge	Rs. 300 / kW / Month	4 (B) For Private Institutions:		
Energy Charge		Fixed Charge		
For first 1000 kWh / month	Rs. 8.25/ kWh	Up to 3 kW	Rs. 350 / kW / month	
For next 1001 - 2000 kWh / month	Rs. 8.50/ kWh	Above 3 kW	Rs. 400 / kW / month	
For above 2000 kWh / month (Starting from 2001st unit)	Rs. 8.75/ kWh	Energy Charge		
4 (B) For Private Institutions:		For first 1000 kWh / month	Rs. 9.00 / kWh	
Fixed Charge		For above 1000 kWh / month (Starting from 1001st unit)	Rs. 9.30 / kWh	
Up to 3 kW	Rs. 350 / kW / month	LMV-5 SMALL POWER FOR PRIVATE TUBE WELL/ PUMPING SETS FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES:		
Above 3 kW	Rs. 400 / kW / month	(A) Consumers getting supply as per "Rural Schedule"		
Energy Charge		(i) Un-Metered Supply		
For first 1000 kWh / month	Rs. 9.00 / kWh	Fixed Charge	Rs. 170 / BHP / Month	
For above 1000 kWh / month (Starting from 1001st unit)	Rs. 9.30 / kWh	(ii) Metered Supply		
LMV-5 SMALL POWER FOR PRIVATE TUBE WELL/ PUMPING SETS FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES:		Fixed Charge	Rs. 70 / BHP / Month	
(A) Consumers getting supply as per "Rural Schedule"		Energy Charge	Rs. 2.00 / kWh	
(i) Un-Metered Supply		Minimum Charge	Rs. 160 / BHP / Month	
Fixed Charge	Rs. 170 / BHP / Month	(iii) Energy Efficient Pumps		
(ii) Metered Supply		Fixed Charge	Rs. 70 / BHP / Month	
Fixed Charge	Rs. 70 / BHP / Month	Energy Charge	Rs. 1.65 / kWh	
Energy Charge	Rs. 2.00 / kWh	Minimum Charge	Rs. 140 / BHP / Month	
Minimum Charge	Rs. 160 / BHP / Month	(B) Consumers getting supply as per "Urban Schedule (Metered Supply)"		
(iii) Energy Efficient Pumps		(i) Metered Supply		
Fixed Charge	Rs. 70 / BHP / Month	Fixed Charge	Rs. 130 / BHP / Month	
Energy Charge	Rs. 1.65 / kWh	Energy Charge	Rs. 6.00 / kWh	
Minimum Charge	Rs. 140 / BHP / Month	Minimum Charge	Rs. 215 / BHP / Month	
(B) Consumers getting supply as per "Urban Schedule (Metered Supply)"		For PTW consumers of Bundelkhand Area located in Gram Sabha, the minimum amount payable by a consumer shall be Rs. 170 per BHP per month, till the installation of the meter. Regulatory Surcharge, Duty, Taxes etc. will be payable extra.		
(i) Metered Supply		LMV-6 SMALL AND MEDIUM POWER:		
Fixed Charge	Rs. 130 / BHP / Month	(A) Consumers getting supply other than "Rural Schedule"		
Energy Charge	Rs. 6.00 / kWh	Fixed Charge	Rs. 290 / kW / Month	
Minimum Charge	Rs. 215 / BHP / Month	Energy Charge		
For PTW consumers of Bundelkhand Area located in Gram Sabha, the minimum amount payable by a consumer shall be Rs. 170 per BHP per month, till the installation of the meter. Regulatory Surcharge, Duty, Taxes etc. will be payable extra.		Upto 1000 kWh/month	Rs. 7.30kWh on entire consumption	
LMV-6 SMALL AND MEDIUM POWER:		Upto 2000 kWh/month	Rs. 7.40kWh on entire consumption	
(A) Consumers getting supply other than "Rural Schedule"		Above 2000 kWh/ month	Rs. 7.90kWh on entire consumption	
Fixed Charge	Rs. 290 / kW / Month	TOD Structure		
Energy Charge		Summer Months (April to September)		
Upto 1000 kWh/month	Rs. 7.30kWh on entire consumption	05:00 hrs-11:00 hrs	(-) 15%	
Upto 2000 kWh/month	Rs. 7.40kWh on entire consumption	11:00 hrs-17:00 hrs	0%	
Above 2000 kWh/ month	Rs. 7.90kWh on entire consumption	17:00 hrs-23:00 hrs	(+)15%	
TOD Structure		23:00 hrs-05:00 hrs	0%	
Summer Months (April to September)		Winter Months (October to March)		
05:00 hrs-11:00 hrs	(-) 15%	05:00 hrs-11:00 hrs	0%	
11:00 hrs-17:00 hrs	0%	11:00 hrs-17:00 hrs	0%	
17:00 hrs-23:00 hrs	(+)15%	17:00 hrs-23:00 hrs	(+)15%	
23:00 hrs-05:00 hrs	0%	23:00 hrs-05:00 hrs	(-)15%	
Winter Months (October to March)		(B) Rural Schedule:		
05:00 hrs-11:00 hrs	0%	This Schedule shall be applicable only to consumers getting supply upto 11 kV as per "Rural Schedule". The consumers under this category shall be entitled to a rebate of 7.5% on Base Rate as given for 11kV consumers under urban schedule. Further, no "TOD RATE" shall be applicable for this category.		
11:00 hrs-17:00 hrs	0%	HV-3 RAILWAY TRACTION & METRO RAIL		
17:00 hrs-23:00 hrs	(+)15%	RAILWAY TRACTION		
23:00 hrs-05:00 hrs	(-)15%	(a) Demand Charges		
LMV-7 PUBLIC WATER WORKS:		Demand Charges for Supply at, below and above 132 kV	Rs. 400 / kVA / month	
(a) Consumers getting supply other than "Rural Schedule"		(b) Energy Charge		
Fixed Charge	Rs. 375 / kW / Month	Supply at & above 132 kV	Rs. 8.50 / kVAh	
Energy Charge	Rs. 8.60 / kWh	Supply below 132 kV	Rs. 8.80/ kVAh	
(b) Consumers getting supply as per "Rural Schedule"		(c) Minimum Charge	Rs. 950/ kVA / month	
The consumers under this category shall be entitled to a Rebate of 7.5% on RATE as given for "Consumer getting supply other than rural schedule".		METRO RAIL		
LMV-8 STW, PANCHAYTI RAJ TUBE WELL & PUMPED CANALS:		(a) Demand Charges	Rs. 300 / kVA / month	
(i) Metered		(b) Energy Charge	Rs. 7.30 / kVAh	
The consumers under this category shall be entitled to a Rebate of 7.5% on RATE as given for "Consumer getting supply other than rural schedule".		(c) Minimum Charge	Rs. 900 / kVA / month	
No. 303 Dt. 12.11.20		Penalty @ Rs. 540kVA/month will be charged on excess demand, if maximum demand exceeds contracted load.		
(MNVNL, PNVNL, DVVNL, PuVNL, KESCO)		HV-4 LIFT IRRIGATION WORKS		
" Save electricity in the interest of Nation		(a) Demand Charges		
		For Supply at 11 kV	Rs. 350 / kVA / month	
		For Supply above 11 kV upto 66 kV	Rs. 340 / kVA / month	
		For Supply above 66 kV upto 132 kV	Rs. 330 / kVA / month	
		(b) Energy Charge		
		For Supply at 11 kV	Rs. 8.50 / kVAh	
		For Supply above 11 kV upto 66 kV	Rs. 8.40/ kVAh	
		For Supply above 66 kV upto 132 kV	Rs. 8.25 / kVAh	
		(c) Minimum Charge	Rs. 1125/ kVA / month	
		The Above Rate and Charges as approved by U.P. Electricity Regulatory Commission shall be in force after 7 days from this publication in all state owned Distribution licensees. The approved Tariff/Rate Schedule are also available at the website of all Distribution licensees (www.mvnl.in , www.dvnl.org , www.puvnl.up.nic.in , www.pvnl.org & www.kesco.co.in) and U.P. Power Corporation Ltd. at www.upcl.org .		
		Chairman		

53 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 53 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Thursday, increasing the total number of cases to 17,686. The day also saw two deaths, increasing the toll to 284. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 59 and out of them, 55 have been recovered from home isolation, while four from the hospitals, increasing the number to 13,849 and 2,837 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 16,686, leaving 716 active cases.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 20 positive patients were found out of 2,486 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,62,331 and the results of 4,640 are awaited. Out of them, 3,44,678 were negative, while 17,653 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,81,391. Earlier, with the addition of nine new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,388 including 193 red zones. Two green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,195 green zones with 11 new ones.

Under ongoing mass/ group antigen tests, all 100 tests at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, 50 at Government Women's Hospital, 35 at CHC Shivpur, 42 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur and 83 at SSH BHU were found negative. However, two out of 101 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar were detected positive.

Besides, after the order to impose ban on the sale of firecrackers, Sarnath police while checking vehicles at Panchkosi crossing, they got information about some persons selling such articles in Paighambarpur.

Later, the police raided at a house there and seized 45 kgs firecrackers in three bags, 41 kgs explosives in five bags and four kgs shells in one bag and arrested one person who was identified as Raju Khan. Under the 'Mission Shakti' campaign, a total of 5,898 women / girls were mobilised at 201 places and 1,590 leaflets were distributed. A total of 1,404 women / girls were sensitised by the Anti-Romeo Squads at 170 places. Action was taken against three under 34 Police Act, 10 under MB Act, five under 290 CrPC, one under 107/116 CrPC apart from warning 34 eve teasers.

Devotees throng Annapurna Mandir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Despite several COVID-19 restrictions and tight security arrangements, hundreds of devotees thronged famous Annapurna Mandir near Dwadaslinga Kashi Vishwanath Mandir to take the darshan of gold idol of Maa Annapurna on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras here on Thursday. As the temple is located in red zone of super sensitive Gyanvapi premises, elaborate security arrangements were made and every devotee was only allowed after checking through metal detectors.

In view to check the rush of devotees, the adjoining areas were barricaded. As Dhanteras will continue around 4 pm on Friday, it is expected that the temple would see rush of devotees even on the second day. The darshan of gold idol began after Peethadishwar Rameshwar Puri offered Shodshopchar puja and Mangla arti. During the next five days, the people can take darshan of this gold idol till Annakoot Mahotsav daily between 4 am to 11 pm except 12 noon to 12.30 p.m. when Bhog Aarti would be performed. It may be mentioned that every year, this gold idol is taken out only once on this auspicious occasion. In the afternoon hours there was a heavy



Gold idol of Goddess Annapurna on display on the occasion of Dhanteras in Varanasi on Thursday

Pioneer



Mahant Rameshwar Puri distributing prasad among devotees at Annapurna Mandir in Varanasi on Thursday

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rush when Anndhan (coins and lava) was distributed. The Banarasis believe that keeping

the coins in the houses help Maa Annapurna's blessings to their family.



People shop for utensils at a market during Dhanteras festival, in Prayagraj, on Thursday. Dhanteras, which occurs two days before the Hindu festival Diwali, is seen as an auspicious day on which to make purchases

Pioneer

89 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

For the third consecutive day on Wednesday, the number of corona infections is gradually increasing. The COVID report of 89 persons came positive in 24 hours. At the same time, 76 people beat corona. It is a matter of relief that no infected died.

According to CMO Dr. GS Bajpai, 59 people also completed home isolation. At the same time, 17 people were discharged from various Covid hospitals. The number of active patients stood at 836.

According to CMO Dr Bajpai, the Target Group testing was conducted in the shopping mall. A total of 6,649 people

were screened during the day. The percentage of infected is negligible. He informed that 85 infected patients are admitted in SRN Hospital and 50 in Beli Hospital, while 18 patients are being treated at United Medicity.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, two doctors including the Deputy Commissioner, a private and a government official were infected on Wednesday. On the other hand, a TC of Railway, Commandant of RPF, Audit Officer of AG Office, a constable posted at SSP residence, the driver of SP Yamunapur and the Covid report of the PDA employee have come positive. It may be pointed out here

that the infection of COVID-19 is gradually decreasing, but the danger remains until the vaccine is introduced.

With this, winter has also knocked. With the onset of winter season, the risk of pneumonia increases with cold and fever. If left unnoticed, pneumonia can also be fatal. World Pneumonia Day is observed every year on November 12 for pneumonia awareness globally for prevention of pneumonia.

With the corona pandemic, the risk of pneumonia increases further, so it is necessary that pneumonia be recognised and treated in time.

District Immunisation Officer Dr Amit Srivastava said that newborns, young

children and old people are most at risk of pneumonia. It can not be openly told about its problems, so it is very important to recognise the symptoms of pneumonia in young children. If the symptoms of pneumonia are recognised in time, the lives of various children can be saved.

About 16 per cent of the children are affected by pneumococcal bacteria, to prevent this, PCV vaccine has been launched on all health centres on Child Health and Nutrition Day on August 13, which is free. Pneumonia is spread both by bacteria and viruses.

COVID-19 is transmitted by virus. Pneumonia can be prevented if diagnosed early.

Ex-MLC files nomination papers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Former MLC Pramod Mishra filed his nomination papers from Varanasi Teacher constituency. Though like sitting MLC and his arch rival Chet Narayan Singh, he is also a senior leader of Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh (UPMSS), both belong to different factions of the association. They are also close to different political parties as Pramod is close to Congress, while Chet Narayan Singh to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Meanwhile, Nageshwar Singh filed his nomination papers from Varanasi Graduate constituency along with senior Congress leaders including ex-MLA Ajay Rai, former state secretary Satish Choubey, city chief Raghvendra Choubey and many others.

With the filing of nomination papers, infighting in different lobbies of Congress has surfaced as just a few days ago Sanjeev Singh also filed papers claiming as a Congress candidate from Varanasi Graduate seat. Actually, earlier Sanjeev was the regional chief of Aam



SP candidate Ashutosh Sinha going to file his nomination from Varanasi Graduate seat in Varanasi on Thursday

Pioneer

Admi Party (AAP) but later on, after resigning from AAP he had joined the Congress and since his joining the party it was expected that he would be the Congress candidate which created a resentment among some old party leaders.

Besides, Ashutosh Sinha along with senior SP leaders also filed his nomination papers from Graduate seat though earlier he had also did the same silently. This time he reached there along with some

senior SP leaders including city president Rajkumar Jaiswal. The attraction of the day was Narendra Dubey 'Adig' who had fought almost all elections in the recent time as he also filed his nomination from Graduate seat as an independent candidate. The others who also filed papers as independent candidates were Jaichand Gautam and Santosh Kumar Tiwari from Graduate seat while Jitendra Patel from Teacher seat.

As per the schedule, the scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on November 13, while the candidates can withdraw their names by November 17.

The election will be held on December 1 between 8 am and 5 pm, while the counting of votes will be held on December 3.

For electing their representative from Graduate constituency, 2,07,039 would cast their votes from eight districts of the region including Varanasi, Chandauli, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra and Ballia while 32,649 of the same areas will elect their representative from Varanasi Teachers constituency. The constituencies include the entire areas of Varanasi and Vindhyachal divisions and only Ballia district of Azamgarh division.

At present, both the seats are being held by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLCs Kedar Nath Singh and Chet Narayan Singh from Graduate and Teachers constituencies respectively who are also trying this time to retain their seats.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

North Central Railway is committed for safe and convenient travel experience to its esteemed passengers during ongoing festive and winter seasons. In order to ensure availability of trains to various destinations and confirmed berths, 227 pairs of special trains including 73 pairs of festival specials are catering to different stations over NCR.

Besides punctual running of trains, various other security and passenger amenity measures have also been taken by Railways. Three divisions of NCR are ensuring that commercial staffs are deployed near windows out-

side the reservation counters at all passenger reservation centers.

They have been asked to counter-sign the requisition form after ensuring complete filling of the form, especially the address before it is submitted to the reservation clerk to expedite reservation process. These staff shall be available at PRS counters during peak hours from 07:30 am to 11:30 am on all days including Sundays and Holidays. Divisions have been further advised to operate additional reservation counters wherever required and proper duty roster and availability of adequate reservation slips are also being ensured.

Strict vigil and surveillance is being kept over the activities of touts and anti-social elements by deploying sufficient number of Commercial/Vigilance Inspectors and RPF staff at reservation offices. Drives are being launched to avoid complaints regarding overcharging by coolies/porters. Squads of Commercial Officers and ticket checking staff have been formed to organise special surprise checks to curb the activities of anti-social elements and to organise special checks to detect various frauds.

Frequent announcements with regard to special trains being run and extra coaches

being attached to different trains are also being made for information of the passengers so that complete occupancy of such trains is ensured and pressure on regular trains is reduced.

Adequate drinking water facility, proper upkeep of waiting halls/rooms, lightened signage etc. are being ensured along with maintenance of proper cleanliness at stations by deployment of adequate number of staff. For the convenience of senior citizens, availability of adequate number of wheel chairs in workable condition and other specified facilities for differently able "Divyangjan" are also being monitored.

BJP office-bearers hold meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In the meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party's office-bearers and office-bearers of Meja, a strategy was chalked out for the election of Allahabad-Jhansi Graduate Constituency in a meeting held on Thursday at Surva Dalapur Square in Mada area. The meeting was chaired by Yamunapur district president Vibhav Nath Bharti.

The district president of Yamunapur said that Bharatiya Janata Party workers accept each election as a challenge and make the candidate victorious. An organisational plan was created for this goal completion. The strategy was also decided by taking suggestions. The meeting was addressed by District general secretary Vijay Shankar Shukla, Savita Tripathi, Dilip Kumar, Manoj Gupta, Madvi Sharan Dwivedi, Jeet Narayan Srivastava etc.

While conducting the meeting, Vikramaditya Maurya expressed gratitude to divisional president including Subhash Singh Patel, Vinay Prakash alias Sanjay Dwivedi, Govind Prasad, Kameshwar Patel, Shyamraj Yadav, Sanjay Kesari, Ramavali Maurya, Bhagwandas Kushwaha, Roop Narayan Mishra, along with district office-bearers and workers discharging election

responsibilities were present. BJP workers also exchanged sweets in the joy of victory during the meeting.

BJP won in byelection and NDA victory in Bihar was celebrated by distributing sweets under the leadership of divisional president Alok Bhushan Tripathi in Mauaima area.

He expressed happiness by distributing sweets to the office-bearers and workers of BJP divisional Mauaima Rural in the joy of BJP's victory in the byelections of various states of India and the NDA's victory again in Bihar elections.

Divisional president Alok Bhushan Tripathi said that this is the victory of development and nationalism over the traitor and casteist mindset. On this occasion, Prakash Tripathi, Ram Palat Patel, Mitha Lal, Adesh Pandey, Vijay Singh, Madan Lal Gupta, Vishwa Vijay Singh, Ram Sundar Mishra, Yuvraj Singh, Rajkaran Singh, Kaushal Kishore Shukla, Keshav Prasad Passi, Bal Govind Passi, Amarendra Pasi, Bhola Sahu, Chhabi Lal Maurya, Jai Singh Yadav, Akash Sharma, Amarnath Patel, Vivek Mishra, Deepak Mishra, Jayaprakash Patel, Shiv Babu Modanwal, Pawan Kesarwani, Vinod Kesarwani, Satyam Shukla, Vikas Gupta, Alok Patel, Asha Mishra, Usha Mishra,

Shivkumari Vishwakarma, Nisha Soni, Sona Maurya, Dudhanath Patel etc. were present.

DELEGATION OF FILM & PUBLIC ARTS COUNCIL MEETS SN SINGH: Everyone has to make an effort to handle the legacy. All efforts should be made to start the studio of the movie corporation which was closed in Prayagraj. Every effort is being made to make films in Uttar Pradesh. If the films here are seen all over the world, then the talent of the state will also get an opportunity to shine.

The delegation of Film and Public Arts Council met the spokesperson of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Cabinet Minister Siddharth Nath Singh and also submitted the memorandum. It demanded that the closed studio of the Education department in Prayagraj should be started by affiliating with Film City. Concrete steps should also be taken to create an atmosphere for films here. Minister Siddharth Nath Singh, after listening to all the demands, gave them in-principle consent. He also assured that the Chief Minister will also be made aware in this regard. He said that if there is any obstacle in the production of Prayagraj, then immediately

give information so that the problem can be resolved. The delegation was led by Virendra Pathak, convener of the Film and Public Arts Council. Rajiv Mehra, Pallavi Chandel, Amit Mishra, Jatin, Shlok Ranjan etc. were present on this occasion.

The delegation informed the Cabinet Minister that about 10,000 artists from Prayagraj are working in Mumbai. All these artists want to stay connected here by making a film in their home district Prayagraj. Various institutions have formed a council to help such people. There was also a meeting over the same issue here recently.

NEW PCPO TAKES CHARGE: A senior IRPS officer of 1987 batch Nand Kishore on Thursday took over as the Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO).

North Central Railway Headquarters. He has arrived here from Jaipur where he served as the Chief Personnel Officer of North Western Railway.

Nand Kishore has earlier served as Chief Personnel Officer West Central Railway Jabalpur, and Senior Personnel Officer at Ratlam, Ajmer, Kota, Vadodara, and Jaipur divisions.

Newborn Care Week from Nov 15

VARANASI (PNS): Proper care of the newborn is very important to make her childhood happy. Apart from this, it also has a big role in reducing infant mortality. Keeping this in mind, the Newborn Care Week will be observed in the nation from November 15 to 21, under which efforts will be made to make every section aware at all the points through which infants can be made 'Ayushman'. National Health Mission (NHM), UP's Mission Director Aparna Upadhyay has sent a letter to all the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) of the state and issued necessary guidelines regarding the major activities and awareness programmes of the newborn care week. During the week, the public will be made aware of newborn health along with better care. Along with promot-

ing kangaroo mother care and breastfeeding, awareness of the identity of sick newborns will also be made. Apart from this, everyone will also be made aware about the child health programmes being run by the government and help of voluntary organisations will be taken in this direction so that the infant mortality rate can be reduced. According to the letter, for the necessary care of the newborn, it is necessary that the delivery should be done in the hospital itself. Stay in the hospital for proper care of mother and baby for 48 hours after delivery. Do not bathe the newborn immediately, only wash the body and wear soft clean clothes. Within one hour of birth, the mother should start feeding thick yellow milk and breastfeed only and only for six months. Immediately

after birth weigh the newborn and get Vitamin K injected. Get regular and complete immunisation. Keep the navel of the newborn dry and clean, prevent infection and take care of personal hygiene of mother and baby. Pay special attention to low birth weight and premature babies and adopt Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) method to keep the temperature of the baby constant and breastfeed infants repeatedly during the day or night. To prevent malnutrition and infection, do not drink only mother's milk, honey, puffy, water etc. for six months at all.

Main objectives of the week are reducing neonatal mortality by making the public aware of taking necessary care of the newborn, breastfeeding immediately after birth, breastfeeding only for six

months, and feeding children by giving an upper diet after six months, and regular premature infants. During the week, district level seminars and workshops will be organised and presentation will be made about better care of the newborn baby, private nursing homes / clinics will also be provided necessary information by providing proper information, healthy baby competitions (healthy baby shows) will be organised, hospital wards in the publicity materials related to the care of the newborn will be installed, videos related to breastfeeding will be shown to the women after delivery. Apart from this, better care of newborn baby will be discussed mainly in Mother's meetings and Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee meetings.



Minister for Higher Education, Neelima Katiyar, handing over the appointment letters to the newly appointed junior engineers under UP Government Mission Rozgar Yojana at NIC on Thursday.

Pioneer

DM warns against bursting crackers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari has issued a stern warning to Kanpurites to refrain from bursting firecrackers during the Diwali period and particularly on the day the festival is celebrated.

He also imposed a ban on the sale of firecrackers and directed the additional city magistrates (ACMs) and the circle officers concerned to carried out patrolling in all the prominent markets and take legal action against those violating the directive.

The district magistrate said a special mobile van should remain active for conducting Covid rapid antigen tests.

Tiwari said as the threat of novel coronavirus was still looming large and its second wave was expected in the first

90 more test positive

KANPUR (PNS):Kanpur Nagar reported 90 more coronavirus positive cases on Thursday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 90 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 28,754 cases. He said that 23 cases were discharged from hospital. He said four COVID-19 deaths in the city were reported till Thursday evening keeping the death toll to 750. The CMO said at present 843 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4147 samples were sent for testing in the city.

week of December, special monitoring of crowd places was essential to ensure social distancing and that the people wore masks. He said medical teams had been asked to deploy staff to sanitise people moving in the crowded markets.

He said in case of people testing positive, they should be rushed to the Covid hospitals for treatment.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical

Officer Dr AK Mishra said special teams had been set up to carry out inspection of hospitals, both private and government, to check their preparedness for the second wave of COVID-19.

He appealed to the people to ensure that at the first symptom of COVID-19 they rush their patients to the hospital so that treatment could be started timely. He also advised peo-

ple to regularly check their oxygen level by oximeter and if it was lowering, to get themselves admitted to the hospital.

Meanwhile, GSVM Medical College Principal Prof RB Kamal has ordered an inquiry into one lakh hand gloves being consumed in 30 days only. He said there were allegations that the gloves were purchased from an employee's relatives on double the rates.

He said when the requisition for another one lakh gloves came up for sanction, it stirred the hornet's nest and thus an inquiry was ordered.

However, he admitted that the maximum cases of COVID-19 were between July and August. He further said that the government had given a green signal for the purchase of CT Scan and MRI machines which would installed by the next month.

Markets decked up for Dhanteras

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur markets were decked up for Dhanteras on Thursday.

The bullion market wore a festive look after six months of lockdown. Birhana road, which is the biggest jewellery market of Kanpur Nagar, appeared specially prepared for the day. The shopkeepers were keeping their fingers crossed for a good sale following a long slowdown due to the adverse impact of novel coronavirus pandemic on market.

The malls and automobile showrooms were closely on the heels. The massive crowd to purchase four-wheelers was something which has surprised the common man in the city.

Dhanteras is celebrated by purchasing some metal and the top priority is gold. The prominent markets like Mall Road, PPN Market, Som Dutt Plaza, Gumti No. 5, Arya Nagar, Rave3 and Rave Moti were dressed like brides and aesthetically illuminated to lure the customers. The shopkeepers were keeping their fingers crossed that this Dhanteras would surely give a new energy to the market.

Besides the shops and showrooms selling various brands as well as local items, roadside stalls selling statues of Lord Ganesh, Goddess Lakshmi and other deities, diyas etc. and traditional items dotted all market places.

The roadside vends drew big crowds, especially those selling seasonal items related to home décor like rangoli, artificial lanterns, diyas and candles, sweet shops, utensil shops.

The jewellery, automobile and apparels sales were estimated to cross the ₹ 200 crore-mark in these three days.

One killed, 3 hurt as truck hits handcart

KANPUR (PNS): In a tragic incident, a minor boy was killed while three others, including two children, were seriously injured when a speeding truck hit their handcart laden with radish behind Hanspuram police outpost under Naubasta police station on Thursday morning. The condition of the injured was stated to be critical.

According to reports, Chandra Pal, a vegetable vendor of Deendayalpuram locality in Naubasta, had gone to Naubasta Galla Mandi on Thursday morning to buy radish. He along with his son Sanjay and his friends Shakil, son of Mohd Sahil, and Ranjha was pushing the handcart when a speeding truck the handcart behind the Hanspuram police outpost, killing Shakil on the spot and injuring the other three.

The injured Ranjha anyhow reached home and informed the family members about the accident and they rushed to the spot and informed the police. The seriously injured Chandra Pal and Sanjay were admitted to the LLR Hospital where their condition was stated to be critical.

Police have launched raids to nab the guilty truck driver.

KNN to install rain water harvesting system at Motijheel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Municipal Commissioner Akshay Tripathi said the Kanpur Nagar Nigam would install a massive rain water harvesting system at Motijheel.

Addressing press persons on Thursday, Tripathi said the rain water harvesting system would prevent Motijheel from being inundated with rain water that made it difficult for people to move, especially the morning walkers. He said the rain water harvesting system would be set up adjacent to the musical fountain.

He said water was a precious, essential and an abiotic component of the ecosystem and it would not be any exaggeration to state that today we all were heading toward scarcity of water, and this was mainly because of the lack of water conservation and pollution of water bodies.

Route march taken out

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Keeping the festival in mind a route march was taken out by police which was led by Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Singh on Wednesday. It started from Dankeenganj police outpost and passed through the main markets of the city. During it the SP interacted with common people. He said that the march was taken out to warn the miscreants and to instil confidence among the traders that the administration was active to thwart any anti-social activity. During it the cops continued the checking of vehicles as well as suspicious people. On the occasion the SP directed the cops to keep a vigil in their areas and gather inputs

about the suspects for maintaining law and order. He made it clear that no laxity in duty would be tolerated. Besides, the route marches were taken out throughout the district which were led by the ASPs, COs and the SHOs.

EXHIBITION: NABARD District Development Manager Anupriya during a two-day-long exhibition organised on Wednesday said that craftsmanship was a way to strengthen the economy of the nation. During the exhibition organised by NABARD with the assistance of Mahila Prabodhini Foundation Anupriya expressed satisfaction over the performance of SHGs. She said that the event was the way to highlight not only the product of the

district but to draw attention to the fact that a district like Mirzapur had the potential to contribute to the country through its skill. She was of the view that the event will prove to be a milestone for giving national identity to the artisans of the district. Chief manager, regional office of NABARD, Shikha inaugurating the programme through virtual system said that the products of the district like woollen durries, clay idols, clay lamps, pottery products should be demonstrated at national level and should be publicised at international level too. The welcome speech was given by Foundation director Vibhuti Mishra and vote of thanks was proposed by its chairperson Nandini Mishra.

Bandra Terminus-Ghazipur City puja spl to run on Nov 16

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of passengers during festivals has decided to run the 09015/09016 Bandra Terminus (T)-Ghazipur City-Bandra (T) puja special train in one trip. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines CPRO PK Singh said. The 09015 Bandra Terminus-Ghazipur City puja special on November 16 will leave Bandra (T) at 23.30 hrs, Borivali at 00.05 hrs, Vapi at 01.55 hrs, Balsad at 02.20 hrs, Surat at 03.30 hrs, Bharuch at 05.23 hrs, Vadodara at 05.23 hrs, Ratlam at 09.30 hrs, Ramganj Mandi at 12.22 hrs, Kota at 13.40 hrs, Sawai Madhopur at 15.20 hrs, Gangapur City at 16.15 hrs, Hindaun City at 16.45 hrs, Bayana at 17.50 hrs, Agra Cantt at 19.10 hrs, Shamsabad Town, at 19.40 hrs, Etawah at 22.20 hrs, the third day Kanpur Central at 00.45 hrs, Prayagraj

at 05.20 hrs, Mariyahu at 07:23 hrs, Jaunpur at 08:35 hrs Gazipur City Dobhi at 09.08 hrs, Aunrihar at 20.12 hrs and reach Ghazipur city at 10.30 hrs. During the return journey, the 09016 Ghazipur City-Bandra Terminus puja special train will on November 18, leave Ghazipur City at 19.30 hrs, Aunrihar at 20.12 hrs, Dobhi at 22.35 hrs, Jaunpur at 21.35 hrs, Mariyahu at 22.23 hrs, Janghai at 23.08 hrs, the second day Prayagraj at 01.05 hrs, Kanpur Central at 03.35 hrs, Etawah at 05.50 hrs, Shamsabad Town at 07.30 hrs, Agra Cantt at 08.30 hrs, Bayana at 11.30 hrs, Hindaun City at 11.54 hrs, Gangapur City at 12.40 hrs, Sawai Madhopur at 13.35 hrs, Kota at 15.10 hrs, Ramganj Mandi at 16.12 hrs, Ratlam at 20.10 hrs, the third day Vadodara at 00.40 hrs, Bharuch at 01.30 hrs, Surat at 03.00 hrs, Balsad at 03.55 hrs, Vapi at 04.17 hrs, Borivali at 07.05 hrs and reach Bandra terminus at 07.50 hrs. A total of 22 coaches, including two coaches of generator-luggage vans, one AC second, five AC third, 10 of sleep-

er class and four of general second class will be attached in these special trains.

DELHI-CHHAPRA PUJA SPECIAL: The railway administration keeping the convenience of the passengers during the upcoming festivals has decided to run 04482/04481 Delhi-Chhapra-Delhi puja special train in three trips. The 04482 Delhi-Chhapra puja special train on November 12, 15 and 18 will leave Delhi at 12.00 hours, Moradabad at 15.33 hrs, Bareilly at 16.57 hrs, Sitapur at 20.50 hrs, the second day Gorakhpur at 01.25 hrs, and reach Chhapra at 04:30 hrs. The 04481 Chhapra-Delhi Pooja special will on November 13, 16 and 20 leave from Chhapra at 07.30 hrs, Gorakhpur at 10.40 hrs, Sitapur at 16.10 hrs, Bareilly at 19.32 hrs, Moradabad at 21.15 hrs and reach Delhi at 00.30 hrs on the second day. In these special trains, a total of 22 coaches, including 20 of general second class and two coaches of SLRD, will be attached.

Awareness camp organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Under the statewide drive to make senior citizens aware about special facilities provided by the government the district unit of Legal Services Authority organised an awareness camp at district jail on Wednesday on the direction of District Judge Lal Chand Gupta on Wednesday. Addressing the prisoners its secretary Amit Yadav said prisoners aged 60 years and above would be treated as senior citizens so those eligible under the provision should avail them. He said prisoners of that category could apply to the Authority through jail officials for free legal services if they were not capable



of affording a lawyer. For small cases panel lawyers and for session trial amicus curiae would be provided, he added. In his address jail superintendent AK Rai elaborated on the facilities for senior citizens. Among those who worked for the success of the camp were Vishnu Singh, Deepak Srivastava apart from the jail staff.

MP elated with BJP's good show

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Rajya Sabha MP Shiv Pratap Shukla expressed happiness over Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in various states, including Uttar Pradesh and said it is a win of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. The chief whip in the Rajya Sabha Shukla said this trend of BJP's victory is going to continue. The BJP worked day and night for the betterment of all sections of the society without any discrimination. The Central and state governments have in all fields developed all sections, the former Union minister of state added.

Porbandar-Muzaffarpur spl to run today

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration in view of huge rush of passengers during the forthcoming festivals has decided to run the 09269/09270 Porbandar-Muzaffarpur-Porbandar special train in one trip for their convenience. All coaches in this train will be reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. The 09269 Porbandar-Muzaffarpur special will on November 13 (Friday) leave Porbandar at 16:30 hrs, Jamnagar at 19:15 hrs, Rajkot at 21:00 hrs, Surendranagar at 22:41 hrs, on second day Viramgam at 00:17 hrs, Amli Road at 00:47 hrs, Palanpur at 04:08 hrs, Abu Road at 05:00 hrs, Marwar at 07:43 hrs, Ajmer at 11:05 hrs, Jaipur at 13:20 hrs, Bandikui at 14:30 hrs, Alwar at 15:40 hrs, Rewari at 18:02 hrs, Gurgaon at 18:40 hrs, Delhi Cantt at 18:59 hrs, Delhi Sarai Rohilla at 19:33 hrs, Delhi Jn at 20:30 hrs, Moradabad at 23:55 hrs, the third day Bareilly at 01:21 hrs, Shahjahanpur at 02:27 hrs, Lucknow at 05:50 hrs, Gonda at 08:10 hrs, Gorakhpur at 11:10 hrs, Siswa Bazar at 12:50 hrs, Bagaha at 14:09 hrs, Narkatiaganj at 15:00 hrs, Bettiah at 15:32 hrs, Sugauli at 16:03 hrs, Bapudham Motihari at 16:24 hrs, Chakia at 16:47 hrs, Mehsi at 16:57 hrs and reach Muzaffarpur at 18:10 hrs. During the return journey the 09270 Muzaffarpur-Porbandar special will on November 16 (Monday) leave Muzaffarpur at 15:15 hrs, Mehsi at 15:45 hrs, Chakia at 15:55 hrs, Bapudham Motihari at 16:21 hrs, Sugauli at 16:42 hrs, Bettiah at 16:59 hrs, Narkatiaganj at 18:06 hrs, Bagaha at 18:43 hrs, Siswa Bazar at 20:31 hrs, Gorakhpur at 22:40 hrs, the second day Gonda at 01:50 hrs, Lucknow at 04:40 hrs, Shahjahanpur at 07:12 hrs, Bareilly at 08:12 hrs,

Moradabad at 09.53 hrs, Delhi at 13.05 hrs, Delhi Sarai Rohilla at 13.22 hrs, Delhi Cantt at 13.41 hrs, Gurgaon at 13.59 hrs, Rewari at 14.56 hrs, Alwar at 15.54 hrs, Bandikui at 16.40 hrs, Jaipur at 18.30 hrs, Ajmer at 21.50 hrs, Marwar at 23.56 hrs, the third day Abu Road at 02.45 hrs, Palanpur at 04.10 hrs, Amli Road at 06.12 hrs, Viramgam at 06.52 hrs, Surendranagar at 08.22 hrs, Rajkot at 10.45 hrs, Jamnagar at 12.30 hrs and reach Porbandar at 15.10 hrs. A total of 22 coaches, including one AC second, five AC third and nine sleeper class, will be attached in these special trains.

ANVT-RAXAUL PUJA SPL: The railway administration will run 04470/04469 Anand Vihar Terminus (ANVT)-Raxaul-ANVT puja special train for three trips and the 04474/04473 ANVT-Saharsa-ANVT puja special for three trips. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category. The 04470 Anand Vihar Terminus-Raxaul puja special will on November 12, 14 and 16 leave ANVT at 10.00 hrs, Moradabad at 13.00 hrs, Lucknow at 18.20 hrs, Sultanpur at 20.37 hrs, Varanasi at 23.45 hrs, the second day Ghazipur City at 01.25 hrs, Ballia at 02.52 hrs, Chhapra at 04.55 hrs, Hajipur at 06.50 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 08.20 hrs and Sitamarhi at 09.35 hrs and reach Raxaul at 12.15 hrs. During the return journey 04469 Raxaul-ANVT puja special will on November 13, 15 and 17 leave Raxaul at 14:30 hrs, Sitamarhi at 17:05 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 18.20 hrs, Hajipur at 19:50 hrs, Chhapra at 21:50 hrs, Ballia at 23:42 hrs, on the second day Ghazipur City at 01.15 hrs, Varanasi at 03.00 hrs, Sultanpur at 05:32 hrs, Lucknow at 08.25 hrs, Moradabad at 13:50 hrs and reach Anand Vihar Terminus at 17.00 hours. A total of 22 coaches will be attached.

ANVT-SAHARSA PUJA SPL: The 04474 Anand Vihar Terminus-Saharsa puja special will on November 12, 15 and 18 leave Anand Vihar Terminus at 09:00 hrs, Moradabad at 12:10 hrs, Sitapur at 17:05 hrs, Gorakhpur at 22:20 hrs, the second day Chhapra at 01:30 hrs, Hajipur at 03:05 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 04:40 hrs, Samastipur at 05:50 hrs, Khagaria at 07:55 hrs, Mansi at 08:17 hrs and Simri Bakhtiyarpur at 09:00 hrs and reach Saharsa at 10:00 hrs. During the return journey the 04473 Saharsa-Anand Vihar Terminus festival special train will leave Saharsa on November 13, 16 and 19 at 12:30 hrs, Simri Bakhtiyarpur at 13:32 hrs, Mansi at 14:17 hrs, Khagaria at 14:43 hrs, Samastipur at 14:50 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 16:00 hrs Hajipur at 17:35 hrs, Chhapra at 19:15 hrs, Gorakhpur at 22:25 hrs, Sitapur at 03:50 hrs Moradabad at 09:05 hrs and reach leave Anand Vihar Terminus at 13:20 hrs. A total of 20 coaches, including 10 of general second class, eight of sleeper and two SLR/D coaches will be attached in it.

AGARTALA-CHHAPRA PUJA SPECIAL: The railway administration for the convenience of passengers will run the 05675 Agartala-Manduadih single journey festival special on November 12 from Agartala and 05677 Agartala-Chhapra single journey festival special on November 13 from Agartala. All coaches will be of reserved category. The 05677 Agartala-Chhapra puja special will on November 13 for a single journey leave Agartala at 14:00 hrs, Badarpur at 19:25 hrs, New Hahlong at 21:47 hrs, second day Guwahati at 04:10 hrs, New Bongaigaon at 07:45 hrs, New Jalpaiguri at 13:10 hrs, Katihar at 17:10 hrs, Samastipur at 19:42 hrs, Hajipur at 21:20 hrs and reach Chhapra at 23:30 hours.

Drive launched against illicit firecrackers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Maharajpur police launched a drive against illicit manufacturing, storage and sale of firecrackers and raided over half-a-dozen places on Thursday.

During patrolling in Sarsaul market, Station House Officer Raghvendra Singh warned people against sale and use of firecrackers.

He said if any shopkeeper was found selling firecrackers, the shop would be sealed and the shopkeeper would be sent to jail after registering an FIR.

The cops also made the villagers aware of the harmful effects of firecrackers on the environment and their health.

It may be mentioned here that Sarsaul town in Maharajpur police station area is considered to be a hub of illicit manufacturing and storage of firecrackers and has witnessed several powerful explosions in the past.

Two persons were killed in an explosion in an illegal fire-cracker manufacturing unit there before Diwali three years ago. Earlier to this, a few others had fallen prey to storage of illicit explosive material.

Firecrackers of Sarsaul are



Maharajpur SHO Raghvendra Singh announces about ban on sale and use of firecrackers in Sarsaul market.

Pioneer

also in big demand during marriage season and on other auspicious occasions.

Over half-a-dozen persons are reportedly associated with the illicit trade of explosive material.

In a meeting held on Wednesday evening, Senior

Superintendent of Police Pretender Singh ordered crackdown on manufacture, storage and sale of illicit firecrackers.

In the wake of the SSP directives, the Maharajpur police searched two-wheelers and four-wheelers on Thursday to nab those carrying fire-

crackers.

SHO Raghvendra Singh said sale and use of firecrackers would not be allowed under any circumstances.

He said raids were on to nab suspects involved in the illicit trade of firecrackers and explosive material.

ADM (City) inspects Ursula Hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional District Magistrate (City) Mahendra Kumar carried out a surprise inspection at Ursula Horsman Hospital on Thursday and directed its Director Dr RC Bhatt to display the stock of medicine outside the OPD room every day.

He said it was the duty of the pharmacists to explain to the patients in simple language how the medicines were to be taken.

He said for patients who were to return after a certain period, their documents should be maintained.

The ADM (City) asked the doctors to advise separate pathological tests as they were free while for a group of tests a big amount of money had to be paid.

He said the disposal of medical waste should be as per the bio-medical waste disposal norms failing which action would be taken against the hospital authorities concerned. He asked the doctors to report on duty at the hospital on time every day.

Kumar said there was need for keeping the hospital premises clean especially the wards and their surroundings.

He said as per the norms,



ADM City, Mahendra Kumar carries out a surprise inspection of UHM Hospital on Thursday.

Pioneer

the OPD slip was valid for 15 days and if a patient came to the hospital within this period, he/she should not be charged any money.

The ADM (City) then visited the pathology and said it was essential to maintain the

record of the tests carried out.

He said the patients need not be forced to get their tests done from outside and all the tests should be done in the indoor pathology.

He said each patient should be given a document number

so that when he or she approached the hospital, further treatment could be continued.

Kumar was informed by the authorities that 80 patients had been registered on Thursday.

Big brother watching

As OTT platforms and digital media come under the purview of the I&B Ministry, regulation should be an enabler, not a disabler



Choice is that precious, unclaimed space in the human mind that allows us to decide our response to stimulus and helps us understand the value of freedom. It is the only agency we have to decide our own good and that defines and grows our sense of responsibility. When it is runaway and affects others destructively, mediation is required for the sake of balance. As former US President Ronald Reagan once said, "The Government exists to protect us from each other. Where the Government has gone beyond its limits is in deciding to protect us from ourselves." And the Narendra Modi Government's move to step into an area of personal freedom, namely the digital and OTT platforms — which are paid services for customised consumption, and, therefore, not overarching in their reach as other mass media — has raised hackles. The Government has issued an order seeking to regulate online news portals and content providers such as Netflix by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B). News on social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, will also be subject to the Ministry's scrutiny as will audio-visual content. This refereeing is being seen as tantamount to censorship considering that both print and TV media, too, are not subjected to a direct watch by the Ministry but by regulatory bodies, the Press Council of India for print media and the News Broadcasters Standards Association (NBSA) for television media. Besides, there are enough existing laws and self-check mechanisms by the industry to ensure that no content crosses the line in such sensitive matters as child pornography or terrorism. The crackdown on "fake news" and incendiary material is also fairly stringent now. What is astounding about the move is that the Ministry itself had in principle agreed to consider the proposal of a self-regulatory model by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), a representative body of the OTT platforms. The Online Curated Content Providers or OCCPs had further proposed a Digital Curated Content Complaints Council as part of a two-tier structure. So the new move seems rather Orwellian. And no matter how much the Government may claim to be a well-meaning supervisor, we cannot discount an internecine attempt to police the democracy on the Internet, curb free speech, dilute the plurality of viewpoints, track criticism of Government policies and worse, in the culture space, prevent stories that speak of the multiplicity of a real India and not of the homogenous makeover that the "one country" propaganda demands. So this is about a war of perception. When it comes to print, it is far more trustworthy and thorough than the screaming matches that are disguised as "news" on TV channels, more partisan than fair. Is it because the self-regulation of the TV industry has failed that the Government decided to take the self-control proposals by online news publishers and video streaming services with a pinch of salt? Or is it because it is scared of the social media having gotten too deeply embedded in all aspects of our life and, therefore, becoming an influencer in itself? Facebook and Twitter are behemoths that are being used by both industry and political parties to harness numbers and disseminate their ideas. Would the Government ensure that it is not disproportionately represented?

Regulation should be an enabler, not a disabler. It should ensure that shows and even news published on online platforms meet an acceptable standard and aren't besmirched by fake and outrageous claims. Online news sites or websites disguised as online news purveyors often proclaim snake oil cures for all sorts of ailments, including COVID-19. Such misinformation can be deadly. Besides we have seen how rumour-mongering by such news providers can lead to actual physical harm. But that does not mean that discussions uncomfortable to the powers that be or content that is sexual in nature can be censored. That does not mean squeezing websites because they are anti-establishment or clipping shows that expose the hidden dystopia the Government doesn't want you to question. Its truth cannot be the only truth. As for entertainment-oriented OTT platforms, that thrive on a creative bandwidth of ideas, agitate us out of our comfort zones with thought-provoking shows and help us release our angst through satiric comedy, the Government move is a dampener. For now, it has more power to force streaming services to act on complaints even from the most wayward fringe. That could kill innovation and even make licensing mandatory. The Government must realise that people are not looking for *Doordarshan* on a service they pay for and, therefore, have a right to demand their kind of content. In fact, the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) had clarified that there was no need for regulation under the Cinematograph Act for prior licensing of content. It had also told the Delhi High Court that the IT Act and Indian Penal Code were sufficient to deal with complaints against streaming platforms. In fact, Section 69A of the IT Act allows the immediate take-down of controversial content and is quite punitive in nature. The I&B Ministry only has oversight powers and no statutory authority. That said, with broadcasters increasingly moving online as are traditional newspapers and magazines, and there being an overlap with the Telecom and IT Ministries, maybe it is time to consider a single unified Ministry that looks over all these issues. But that should just encourage resolution, not regulation.

Superspreader spots

A Stanford University study identifies restaurants, gyms and hotels as risky and suggests targetted containment protocols



With the pandemic in its aggressive second phase, all countries are caught in a dilemma, forced to choose between the need to keep their gasping economies open through the winter months or save lives by going under lockdown yet again. So a new study that says that the reopening of restaurants, gyms and hotels carries the highest danger of spreading the virus is not something that the world even wants to deal with right now. But this is what researchers at Stanford University and Northwestern University, using mobile phone data from 98 million people, have discovered. They modelled the risks of infection at different locations between March and May in cities across the US to map the movement of people. The study looked at where they went, how long they stayed, how many others were present and then combined that information with data on the number of cases. That helped them map the virus spread and create infection models. These predicted that if restaurants in Chicago were reopened at full capacity, they would generate almost 6,00,000 new cases, three times as many as establishments in other categories. The researchers also found that about 10 per cent of the locations examined accounted for 85 per cent of predicted infections. Though Governments across the world have to deal with this unsavoury truth, there is a silver lining too. Given the fact that there is very little epidemiological data on how Corona protocols curb the spread of the virus, by collating this type of precise data, they can find vulnerable areas and take more localised preventive steps.

What the study has, in fact, shown is that hard lockdowns aren't necessary to curb the infection. As the study showed, capping occupancy at 20 per cent in locations in the Chicago metro area cut down predicted new infections by more than 80 per cent. And because the occupancy caps primarily impacted visitors during peak hours, the restaurants only lost 42 per cent of patrons overall, as against losing all of their business during a lockdown. Other countries, too, can create their own virus dashboards and roll out targetted policies to tackle the contagion. They can harness technology, such as mobile phones and fitness trackers, to scout potential virus hotspots. But much will depend on how people continue to observe Corona-appropriate behaviour. As Health Minister Harsh Vardhan aptly said, consider the mask and other protocols as a vaccine till we get one. The faster we imbibe this, the faster can the whole world get back to work.



PRAFULL GORADIA

A pejorative wisecrack on the United Nations is that it has become the "useless non-existent organisation." For example, in 1999, the then UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, suddenly flew to Delhi to "mediate" in the Kargil War only to be politely told by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government to mind his own business and be gone. It is reported that this international body employs some 1,00,000 employees. If the average cost of each is taken to be \$50,000, it means an expenditure of five thousand million dollars annually. The organisation's other expenses are separate.

The late American columnist, Charles Krauthammer, had dubbed the UN a "corrupt impostor, underserving of any American support". Titled *A Table for Tyrants*, the former Czech President Vaclav Havel wrote an article in *The New York Times* saying that he felt scandalised when he saw the UN Human Rights Council filled with members like Sudan, Zimbabwe, China and Saudi Arabia, which had no human rights.

Yet, India continues to be an elephantine contributor to the UN peacekeeping contingents and has sent nearly 2,00,000 peacekeepers to 44 missions over the years. This is more than the national armed forces of most countries. Indian forces working for the UN have suffered more casualties than any other country's armed forces. Our policy-makers argue that this is being done not for any strategic gains but in the service of "global ideals" — like strengthening the world body and international peace and security. On the other hand, the UN did not even condemn China's unprovoked aggression against India in October 1962, leave alone do anything about it. The irony is that the dictatorial and communist China enjoys a permanent seat in the Security Council while India, the world's largest democracy, does not.

The UN also did not support India in its Bangladesh War waged solely to bring relief to East Bengal, who were at the receiving end of Pakistan's genocidal crackdown. The UN passed a resolution making the State of Jammu and Kashmir an internationally disputed territory despite evidence that it was Pakistan that invaded Indian territory in October 1947. The dispute,



which has seen four wars and continuing *jihadi* infiltration and terror attacks, has been geopolitically laid to rest by India's unilateral abrogation of the controversial Article 370, and not because of the UN.

The world body has failed miserably in bringing a terrorist-endorsing country like Pakistan to heel or prevent its nuclear proliferation. It is India that has had to deal with Pakistan on its own. Apart from the importance of this international organisation, India's boundless naiveté in the Nehruvian era cannot be denied.

The only service the UN arguably performed was to provide a platform for radical communist elements and a whole generation of dictators and autocrats to portray themselves as leaders and statesmen. Most notable in this regard was India's Krishna Menon, whose vitriolic anti-Western rhetoric and fire-spitting speeches in the UN earned him the dubious sobriquet of a "spitting camel" — he was so dubbed by the Americans who hated Menon's patronising lecturing — but also more seriously earned India a lot of Western ill will.

The failures of the UN make an unusually long catalogue beginning with 1948. That year, the Soviet Union blocked Berlin. The only action that prevented the city's surrender was the American airlift of all conceivable supplies in the spirit of *Ich bin ein Berliner* (I am a Berliner), the famous words of President Kennedy in 1961. In the Korean War (1950-53), the communist North had gone all out to take over the entire peninsula. Again, the UN could do nothing. It watched Vietnam being bombed

more intensively than seen anywhere, anytime since or before World War II. In 1956, the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt over the Suez Canal issue yet again proved the UN's incompetence. As it did again the same year when the Soviet Union invaded Hungary. In 1959, the world witnessed the annexation of Tibet by China. In 1968, the international body looked askance at the Prague spring when Soviet tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia.

The idea of an international concert of nations began in the post-Napoleonic period with the primary objective of avoiding war. At the start of World War I, the call for an international organisation to prevent future wars began to gain considerable public support, particularly in Britain and the US. Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson, a British political scientist, coined the term "League of Nations" in 1914 and drafted a scheme for its organisation. Together with Lord Bryce, he played a leading role in establishing a group of international pacifists known as the Bryce Group, later the League of Nations Union.

The forerunner of the League of Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was formed by peace activists William Randal Cremer and Frederic Passy in 1889 and is currently still in existence as a body with a focus on the various elected legislative bodies of the world. The IPU was founded with an international scope, with a third of the members of world parliaments serving as its members by 1914. It aimed to encourage Governments to solve disputes by peaceful means.

The concept of a peaceful community of nations had been proposed as far back as 1795. Immanuel Kant, German metaphysician and philosopher, whose comprehensive and systematic work on the theory of knowledge, ethics and aesthetics greatly influenced philosophy, outlined the idea of a league of nations to control conflict and promote peace between States in his work *Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch*. He argued for the establishment of a peaceful world community, not in a sense of a global Government, but in the hope that each State would declare itself a free State that respects its citizens and welcomes foreign visitors as fellow rational beings, thus promoting a peaceful society worldwide.

International cooperation to promote collective security originated in the Concert of Europe, which developed after the Napoleonic wars in the 19th century, in an attempt to maintain the status quo between the European States and avoid war. This period also saw the development of international law, with the first Geneva Convention establishing laws dealing with humanitarian relief during wartime. Then the international Hague Convention of 1899 and 1907 laid down governing rules of war and the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

As historians William H Harbaugh and Ronald E Powaski point out, Theodore Roosevelt was the first American President to call for an international league. While accepting his Nobel Peace Prize, Roosevelt said: "It would be a masterstroke if those great powers honestly bent on peace

would form a League of Peace." Such an idea should logically have emerged from Europe, whose long history is a record of almost unending wars. At the end of the Great War, the League of Nations came up in the hope of ending the era of war and healing the West with an age of peace. Yet again, this idea emerged from American President Woodrow Wilson.

However, the credibility of the League of Nations was weakened by the fact that the US never joined it and the Soviet Union joined rather late and was soon expelled after invading Finland. Germany withdrew from the League, as did Japan, Italy, Spain and others. The onset of World War II showed that the League had failed its primary purpose, which was to prevent any future world war. The League lasted for 26 years and the UN replaced it after the end of World War II, inheriting several agencies and organisations spawned by the League.

True, the League of Nations did not last long. Yet, credit must go to it for having spawned the International Court of Justice and the International Labour Organisation and other bodies. It is doubtful that the UN would leave behind anything memorable except for its performance of profligacy. It is high time India told the big powers to give it a permanent seat in the Security Council with veto power. If the Council does, well and good, or else, New Delhi should not be as committed to an organisation that costs it time, money and honour.

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

SOUNDBITE

The creation of an absolutely secure facility for controlling strategic nuclear forces, among others, is nearing completion. It will have a very high safety margin.



Russian President
—Vladimir Putin

If our (AAP) party comes to power in Bengaluru, our first and foremost priority is to set up such Mohalla Clinics across the city.



Delhi Deputy CM
—Manish Sisodia

The recent results of elections in 11 States have sent out a clear message that the 135 crore people of India are standing like a rock with PM Narendra Modi.



Union Home Minister
—Amit Shah

This is our third week inside the bio-bubble and I must confess it isn't easy but, of course, needed. We are trying our best as a team to be as fit as possible before the tournament starts.



Footballer
—Sunil Chhetri

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congress in a tight spot

Sir — The BJP's much-improved tally has enabled the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to retain power in Bihar even after Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav gave it a tough fight. The BJP's scorecard increased from 53 seats in the 2015 Assembly election to 74 seats in the 2020 Assembly election. However, it should not bask in the glory of an increased tally. Laxity in performance exacts its price in the next election and the party cannot bank upon the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi only. Amid all this, the Congress party is facing an existential crisis. The party had 27 seats in the 2015 Assembly election and now has been reduced to 19.

Another reason for the BJP to celebrate is because of its performance in the byelections across 11 States, including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Karnataka and Telangana. Here, too, the BJP was successful in wresting seats from the Congress. The latter now finds itself in a desperate position. It is even prepared to allow any regional party to run the Government with its support and

Expectations from Biden

How Joe Biden's administration reshapes the US' role in world affairs will be something that will be followed with interest across the globe. The President-elect's pledge to restore the US on the world stage signals a major shift in its foreign policy. It will need a lot of imagination, tact and diplomacy to regain the world leadership that has slipped away under the Donald Trump administration.

If Biden's renegotiation and re-engagement with other Governments are to succeed, he has to first convince them that the US has no intention to dominate the world or play the global policeman. Reshaping foreign relations should not be motivated merely by furthering the US' self-interest, it has to be based on partnership and promotion of multilateralism in a multi-polar world. Biden should commit to the emergence of an equitable world order and seek global cooperation for tackling global problems.

His decision to rejoin the WHO will strengthen the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, rejoining



the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, signed by Barack Obama, will reduce the scope of a conflict in the Middle East and advance the cause of world peace. It is hoped that the Biden administration will not let down the Palestinians in their struggle for a homeland on the territory which is rightfully theirs.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

play second fiddle to it with a one point-agenda of keeping the BJP out of power.

The Congress is being seen as an entitled party by the people. Unless it makes sincere efforts to refurbish its dented image, its presence in the political map would continue to be just symbolic.

KV Seetharamiah
Hassan

Green Diwali

Sir — The National Green Tribunal banned the sale and use of firecrackers, which is a right step as studies have shown that high levels of air pollution can aggravate the health condition of Corona patients. People across the country, especially Delhi, should respect the decision. It is time to observe a green Diwali.

The concentration of suspended particulate matter in the air has a significant impact on a person's health. Bus drivers, two-wheeler riders and auto-rickshaw drivers are among those who suffer most with chronic respiratory diseases. Airborne lead from leaded petrol is a major air pollutant and in high concentrations, it is known to impair liver and kidney functions. It is also

associated with reduced mental development of infants and children. Thus there is an urgent need to control the level of suspended particulate matter and bring it down to the WHO's prescribed limits.

Abhishek Ramaswamy
Mumbai

Virat's decision

Sir — The sports calendar is full of cricket tournaments around the year and at various places. While it is the most popular sport in India by far and is played almost everywhere, cricket enthusiasts need to respect the balance players have to maintain between their professional and personal lives. And understand that Indian captain Virat Kohli is within his rights to seek some personal family time in between the Australia tour as he is expecting his first child. We should respect his decision and let Rohit Sharma prove his mettle as the Test captain in the remaining three Test matches of the series.

Bal Govind
Noida

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A new political reality

The fresh binaries in the US and Bihar may achieve similar charters if they decide to continue with a similar cosmic resolve



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The world has woken up to a new era of binaries, where seemingly distant stars have moved closer, occupying pole positions of significant strength. I am not pointing to any cosmic event but to the verdicts of the US and Bihar elections, where new dimensions of 21st century political reality have started to emerge. Let us see what it means for businesses, with regard to key policy manoeuvres. Cybersecurity, in an era of work from anywhere, should be the first stop for the new administration in the White House. It is expected that the Joe Biden administration will move towards a multilateral approach on tackling complex cybersecurity challenges. A link of commonality with the past may be to take an aggressive stance towards China's hyper technology-aided economic ambitions with a tech-colonisation background. The only divergence may be to move away from the company-by-company approach to a wider, sustainable, multilateral, partnership-based one to arrest China's disproportionate share in ICT supply chains.

That is where the Bihar election verdict becomes relevant. It had many firsts, including the absence of veterans of Bihar politics from the centrestage, at least till the last phases. This threw up a simple yet complex verdict, where many preconceived notions about the State and its citizens were trashed and the paradigm shifted. A bunch of young *netas* appealing for votes, for the first time, brought the issue of jobs to the forefront, for a State widely known for its caste-led voting patterns. That leaves the fourth-term incumbent Chief Minister with the clear-cut task of providing jobs to Bihar's youth, just emerging from the trauma of a forced reverse migration.

One of the easiest ways of creating thousands of jobs in a relatively short span of time is by persuading one of the bigger companies in the ICT domain to set up a manufacturing base. This requires a "cast in stone" assurance of freedom from future tyrannies of any "jungle raj" and a guarantee of return on investments sunk into the region. The Centre's push towards domestic manufacturing for ICT products via performance-linked incentives should get its well-deserved play in Bihar, like it is finding resonance in Uttar Pradesh. A diversified (globally and within the country) supply chain network addresses key concerns of sovereign cybersecurity and increases the self-sufficiency of a country in an era of technology.

The next big area is of immigration, where half the world, given a chance, wants to move to the US. The Biden administration is likely to abandon some of the stringent policies of the Donald Trump regime, including travel bans on certain categories of people based on their religious and regional identities or access to modern healthcare facilities. The more in demand non-immigrant visas could see some relaxations as could country caps for PhD graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The regime may again make it lucrative for trained-in-US, PhD degree holders fast-track their permanent citizenship in the US.

Similarly, everyone knows the story of migrations from Bihar to the rest of the country, particularly to unfriendly, big cities. As witnessed recently, when a mass-scale misfortune threatens, they are often seen heading back to their towns and villages. This constant cycle of migrations creates a social churning and to some extent stigmatisation of Bihar as a region, which can be arrested by creating great livelihood opportunities. From day one, the Nitish Kumar regime has to deliver economic and holistic well-being. Creation of long-term economic opportunities, healthcare and educational facilities for the citizens could prevent migration out of Bihar and result in the creation of a new and sustainable loyal voter base.

One of the key issues dominating Bihar election campaigns was the status of infrastructure in the State. This echoed widely in the aftermath of the recurring floods. The Central Government has widely been credited with creating world-class infrastructure in a relatively short span of time within the country. Now with the BJP as the dominant partner in the new Bihar Government, no *kuccha* road, bridge or piped water connection should be left unattended, so that the glorious days of the State can be revived.

Similarly, the new regime in the US has talked a great deal about infrastructure investments being the centrepiece as well as dominant sub-theme of activities such as workforce development, climate change, digital connectivity, on-shoring and so on. Earlier, it had promised a \$2 trillion infrastructure spend across multiple areas. What has caught the world's attention is the President-elect's promise of allocating sizeable investments towards building clean energy future-ready infrastructure. The world awaits a switch to a cleaner, healthier tomorrow and is looking for directions from the oldest democracy. It is often observed that binary star systems eventually create large magnetic fields, ultimately leaving the ecosystem energy-rich and charged. The new binaries in the US and Bihar may achieve similar charters if they decide to continue with similar cosmic resolve.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

WE HAVE TO STOP BEING A COUNTRY OF FAGS....
WE HAVE TO FACE UP TO IT (CORONAVIRUS) AND
FIGHT. I HATE THIS FAGGOT STUFF.

—BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT
JAIR BOLSONARO

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



BETWEEN 'GUNPOWDER' AND 'FAGS,' WE HAVE
MORE THAN 1,60,000 DEAD IN BRAZIL. OUR
SOLIDARITY IS WITH THE KIN OF COVID VICTIMS.
—SPEAKER OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF CONGRESS
RODRIGO MAIA

Divided States of America

Regardless of conflicting approaches, we must acknowledge that in all societies, political behaviour cannot be reduced to catch phrases such as racial/social divide



JYOTIRMAYA TRIPATHY

Like they do so often these days, pollsters and pundits got it wrong about a so-called massive victory for Joe Biden propelled by public anger against Trump's presidency that had split the US wide open. They had harped on the social and racial divide that Trump had engineered and had put all their cards on the table around this core issue, hoping that this divide would secure a comfortable win for Biden and heal the present divided States of America. What we got instead was an election that went down to the wire which Biden managed to scrape through. Even as Trump was breathing down his opponent's neck, the pollsters had a tough time convincing the people, and themselves, where they went wrong and why they failed to sense the public mood.

If Biden won some key States like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, it was a sigh of relief rather than a vindication of poll pundits. To give the devil his due, Biden in his victory speech, said, "I pledge to be a President who does not see red or blue States, but United States. For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment tonight... But now, let's give each other a chance... It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again. And to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies. They are not our enemies. They are Americans." It is difficult to find fault with such clarity of thought that offers an insight into the way he is planning to run the show.

Though statesmanlike, Biden's speech must be seen in terms of realpolitik. On the face of it, he is making an effort to move away from a binary framework which many believe was mainstreamed by Trump. It is another story that Biden may not be radically different from Trump in terms of economic policies or international relations and in spite of his sage-like calmness *vis-à-vis* Trump's abrasive demeanour, his policies may not reflect that outward garb. The declaration of intent by Biden that his first job is to unify the country has been celebrated as a watershed development and a moment of awakening of the great nation that is waking up to its Puritan ideals of being a city on the hill. But the reality is that the US will pursue a politics that favours its own interest rather than India's or China's. Even if we assume that Biden will indeed usher in world peace that has not been seen before, its reality can only be imagined in a time yet to be.

Biden's speech was apparently a clarion call to "make America great again." What was lost in the cacophony of media analysis is that race ties are much more than the Black-White divide. Since the time of the founding fathers, the idea of frontier has dominated the US' imagination and the worst victims have been the native Americans who went on moving westward while vacating space for the Europeans. The history of slavery is as much a history of dispossession and violence as has been the history of the frontier. And unlike the visibility and general awareness of African-American history, it just does not exist outside books and certainly not in the popular debates, maybe because of the numerical weakness of native Americans. Similarly, the presence of Mexicans in the southern borders and later the influx of Hispanic migrants and Asians in the aftermath of the World War do not count as racial issues. Hamid Dabashi, an Iranian-American professor from Columbia, was clear that in spite of the intellectuals' fascination for Biden, he is not going to vote for him. He was convinced that Biden is as much a symbol of misogyny as is Trump, one who also supported the Iraq invasion. He differed from other leading intellectuals like Cornel West and Noam Chomsky, who preferred Biden. This is because

“UNFORTUNATELY, OBSERVERS REDUCED RACE RELATIONS TO BLACK-WHITE PROBLEMS AND LIMITED THE ENORMITY OF THEIR COMPLEXITY TO THE PERIOD OF TRUMP'S PRESIDENCY. WHAT WE GOT IN THE PROCESS IS NOT A SUBSTANTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FOUNDATION OF THE US AS A NATION WITH MULTIPLE LAYERS OF CONFLICT AND COLLABORATION, BUT SOUNDBITES AND CLICHES THAT CONCENTRATED AROUND BLACK-WHITE RELATIONS, MORE OR LESS THE WAY INDIAN PROBLEMS ARE FRAMED AROUND THE HINDU-MUSLIM CONFLICT”



"demonic" Trump is unredeemable whereas Biden can be pressurised to do good. This lesser-evil syndrome in English media is a lame excuse rather than a position of conviction. Converting a political choice into a moral one is dangerous to say the least because it sees things in black and white, creates saints out of challengers and demons out of the incumbent. Now the question remains if the media simply represented what they saw taking place or created a razor-sharp divide. If one believes in the constitutive power of language and images, then the media, too, created the divide, gave wind to it so that it could frame the debates along predictable lines.

Unfortunately, most of the media reduced race relations to Black-White problems and limited the enormity of their complexity to the period of Trump's presidency. What we got in the process is not a substantive engagement with the foundation of the US as a nation with multiple layers of conflict and collaboration, but sound-bites and clichés that concentrated around Black-White relations, more or less the way Indian problems are framed around the Hindu-Muslim conflict. This vastness got squeezed into the period of 2016-2020 and cathected onto a symbol that is Trump. By reducing him to the be all and end all of everything that ails the US, most of the media peddled in sloganeering rather than explaining anything. What we got was a caricatured version of social reality where we have heroes and villains. In the process, the media absolved itself and society at large from taking any responsibility for simplifying things and immunised all possible future perpetrators with the understanding that all race-related problems will disappear with Trump's defeat. What is disturbing is the ease with which experts saw him as the root cause and refused to see the problem in the very American consciousness and its exceptionalism that pervades Biden's psyche as much.

Some commentators believe that

"Trumpism" will continue to live on even after his loss. Their understanding is that "if a demagogue has the skill and the cheek to build a dominant majority's latent insecurities into a victim complex, he can build an impregnable base." They go on to compare Trump's US with Narendra Modi's India, something which betrays ignorance of unique historical experiences of these two nations. What they ignore is their own position as knowledge producers create and perpetrate the language of exclusion. In the act of interpreting reality, many thought leaders end up producing it and cling on to that as if reality is a fiction of journalistic language. US TV anchor Van Jones broke down on live TV while covering Biden's victory. Another called Trump an "obese turtle on his back realising his time is over." Yes, Trump was a sore loser but such language perpetuates the divide and conditions intellectual debates around them.

Now let us face the reality of race politics and the impact of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and to what extent the social divide actually played out during the election. It may surprise many that Trump actually improved his popularity among Black voters compared to 2016. Even though it stands at a meagre eight per cent, it is still two per cent higher than what he polled earlier. Even as this is nothing compared to what Biden got, it will continue to rile the Democrats and pundits alike as to why eight per cent Blacks voted for Trump in spite of BLM reaching its crescendo just before the election. What we know so far is that the Black support was due to Trump's performance *vis-à-vis* the economy and improved employment among African-Americans. Another reality is that Democrats themselves believed that Black youth are predators.

Trump made significant gains among Latino voters in important States like Texas and Florida. In Democratic strongholds, like Rio Grande Valley region, he got close

to 50 per cent Latino votes. The BLM movement consolidated the Latinos around Trump as they predominantly identify themselves as White; also Mexican-American voters are usually conservative. Another aspect that we should not lose sight of is the fact that many Latinos fled from their countries to escape the so-called Marxist utopia run by Left-wing dictators. Among Cuban voters in Florida, Trump had more than 30 per cent lead. These nuances are rarely discussed in a mainstream media.

So far as issues are concerned, Pew Research said that Biden and Trump coalitions fundamentally differ over racial inequality following the killing of George Floyd, with more than 75 per cent Biden supporters agreeing that racial inequality would be a determining factor for their voting behaviour compared to 24 per cent of Trump's. In spite of Trump polarising and vitiating the climate to an extent, we should not forget that US voters are entrenched in their political beliefs and only outliers can be persuaded to vote otherwise. This becomes even more pronounced in a bi-party system in the US. This election was not as polarising as is made out to be. To put it in perspective, Trump won 58 per cent of the White vote in 2016 and 57 per cent this year. Derek Thompson in *The Atlantic* argued that this election may be a case of depolarisation and that demography is no longer going to be a path to majority for Democrats. He believed that it is polarisation of place rather than race, as urban areas are getting pro-Democrat whereas rural areas are turning Republican. Regardless of conflicting approaches, for the sake of intellectual honesty, we must acknowledge that in all societies, political behaviour cannot be reduced to catch phrases such as racial/social divide. That would be intellectually naïve and analytically problematic.

(The writer is Professor, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Madras)

Time for the BJP-JJP combine to introspect

The defeat of the ruling combine in Baroda seems to clearly suggest that farmers are not yet convinced about the farm laws being in their favour



AMITABH SHUKLA

The result of the bypoll for the Baroda Assembly seat in Haryana may not have any significance for the stability of the BJP-JJP (Jannayak Janta Party) coalition Government in the State, nor will it affect its strength in the Assembly. But it is expected to have a far-reaching impact on the politics of the State in the medium to long-term. Despite a spirited campaign by top leaders, BJP candidate and Olympic medalist Yogeshwar Dutt was routed by over 10,000 votes by the Congress nominee Indu Raj Narwal in a constituency dominated by Jats.

Political precedence and electoral behaviour of the past suggest that

candidates from the ruling party or coalition usually have an edge in the bypolls and they win two times out of three. Even in the bypolls in different States this time round, the ruling parties or coalitions in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Odisha had it easy and they won handsomely. But the Baroda bypoll proved to be different as the combined might of the BJP-JJP could not consolidate enough to get victory for Dutt, the Olympian who was defeated in the 2019 Assembly polls as well.

Interestingly, the margin of defeat increased in his second electoral outing. He was routed by around 4,800 votes in 2019 by Congress candidate Shri Krishan Hooda. This time, the margin has doubled to over 10,600 votes. What could be a matter of concern for the ruling dispensation in Haryana is the fact that in 2019, the JJP and BJP fought against each other; this time around they fought in an alliance but still lost by a bigger margin.

The bypolls were held in the back-

ground of the farmers' agitation in Punjab and Haryana against the three farm Acts. The Congress has been hammering the point that the laws are against the interests of the farmers and the regime of Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been threatened by them. The BJP, on the other hand, has been repeatedly stressing that these Acts are for the benefit of the farming community and are set to increase rural prosperity by giving more money into the hands of the tillers.

Baroda is largely a rural constituency with the dominant Jats in a position to determine political outcomes. The defeat of the ruling BJP-JJP combine in Baroda seems to clearly suggest that farmers are not yet convinced that the farm laws are in their favour. They have rejected the arguments of the BJP-JJP leadership, forcing the alliance partners to have a rethink on the way forward.

Of course, there is no election in Haryana in the near future. The earliest one could be in May 2024 when general elections are scheduled and the BJP-JJP combine could perhaps get



enough time to make a course correction. Alliance or not, the BJP will have to woo the farming community back into its fold. Particularly the Jats if it wants to be close to its spectacular performance in the next Lok Sabha polls. On the defensive now, BJP strategists are insisting that Baroda had always remained a Congress stronghold and the result should be seen in that context. They are also arguing that the BJP got more votes than last time and "all is well" in the alliance and this was one "stray and local" political incident, which cannot have any impact on the politics of the State.

Clearly, the outcome has put the ruling coalition on the defensive and many in the JJP know that it was entirely owing to the mistrust over the farm laws that the alliance could not make any headway.

The Baroda seat fell vacant in April following the death of sitting MLA Hooda, who had won it three times in a row in the 2009, 2014 and 2019 Assembly polls. It is adjacent to the Garhi Sampla-Kiloi constituency, represented by Congress strongman and two-term Chief Minister of the State, Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Another question which would emerge at this point is the winning potential of the BJP-JJP combine and whether they will stick together in the next elections.

The alliance was formed after the BJP won 40 of the 90 Assembly seats in the 2019 polls and needed a state-election partner to give a stable Government in the State. Though the two parties formed the partnership, many in the JJP have been openly voicing concerns and have repeatedly raised the issue of the three Central

farm laws.

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, who belongs to the JJP, has faced protests in several parts of the State for backing these laws. Being a grassroots politician, he is aware that there are strong apprehensions and resentment among the land-holding castes about the impact of the Acts.

The Baroda result has undoubtedly made it clear that the JJP has not and may not be able to transfer its votes to the BJP. In fact, many on the ground believe that whatever votes the BJP got was entirely from its vote bank. They say the JJP was defensive throughout the campaign and could not garner any support for the BJP candidate.

This was the only electoral test which the BJP-JJP alliance faced jointly after the 2019 tie-up and it failed miserably. It is more or less a marriage of convenience. For the BJP, it is a route to a stable Government and for the JJP it is a shot at being in power before going solo again in the next general elections. BJP poll managers have more or less realised now

that it would be futile to fight future elections jointly with the JJP.

The message of the Baroda bypoll is also clear for the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), the parent party of the JJP, led by Om Prakash Chautala and his elder son Abhay Chautala. The people of Baroda and the State have made it clear that the JJP is the torchbearer of the legacy of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal. The INLD will have to become a really serious Opposition with an accompanying strategy to replace the JJP.

If there is one person who has a place on the victory podium besides the winning candidate Narwal, it is the Leader of Opposition in the State, Bhupinder Singh Hooda. He not only managed to retain his family pocket borough but also harvested the anti-farm law feelings to his electoral advantage. At present, he has no challenger in the State Congress and this unchallenged reign is likely to continue till the next elections.

(The writer is Senior Resident Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh)

Govt working on steps to control price rise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said perishable goods are putting upward pressure on inflation and the government is working on both short and medium-term measures for controlling price rise.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation rose to a seven-month high of 1.32 per cent in September, while retail inflation was at eight-month high of 7.34 per cent on spiralling prices of food items, especially vegetables.

Speaking to reporters, Sitharaman said floods in certain districts have led to uptick in prices of perishable goods, and the government is taking steps for their better preserva-



tion, long shelf life and providing weather proof storage, particularly for crops like onion and potato.

"Strictly, the perishable goods are the one which went up...And its more because some districts got flooded...The government is working on both short-term and medium-term steps. Import where necessary for short duration and for

medium-term, enough investment is being attracted to and incentives being provided to create agri infrastructure," she said.

The Reserve Bank in a report on the state of economy on Wednesday had also flagged unrelenting pressure of inflation as a downside risk confronting the prospects of economic recovery.

"The foremost is the unrelenting pressure of inflation, with no signs of waning in spite of supply management measures...There is a grave risk of generalisation of price pressures, unanchoring of inflation expectations feeding into a loss of credibility in policy interventions and the eventual corrosion of the nascent growth impulses that are making their appearance," RBI said.

FM announces ₹900 cr grant for Covid-19 vaccine research

New Delhi:Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman on Thursday announced a ₹900 crore grant to the Department of Biotechnology for Covid-19 vaccine research. "We are providing ₹900 crore for research and development of Covid-19 vaccine. This is being provided for covid suraksha mission, purely for R&D but this money goes to Department of Biotechnology for research purposes," she said.

Sitharaman said the grant does not cover the actual cost of vaccine and distribution expenses, which will be made separately as and when the vaccine is available. "The actu-

al cost of the vaccine or logistics required for distributing the vaccine is totally different and whatever is required for that, as and when it is required will be provided. But this is totally a different purpose and this is for research for vaccine development which goes towards department of biotechnology," she added. Sitharaman also said that ₹ 10,200 crore additional budget outlay will be provided towards capital and industrial expenditure for domestic defence equipment, industrial incentives and infrastructure and green energy.

PTI

Industrial production grows 0.2% in Sept; enters positive territory after 6 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industrial production entered positive territory after a gap of six months, mainly due to higher output in mining and power sectors, official data showed on Thursday.The industrial output grew by 0.2 per cent in September, according to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data.The manufacturing sector - which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index - recorded a marginal contraction of 0.6 per cent in September.The output of mining and power segments grew at 1.4 per cent and 4.9 per cent, respectively.

The IIP had contracted by 4.6 per cent in September 2019. The industrial production had witnessed a 5.2 per cent

growth in February this year. Thereafter it recorded a contraction of 18.7 per cent in March, (-) 57.3 per cent in April, (-) 33.4 in May, (-) 16.6 in June and (-) 10.8 in July this year.Meanwhile, the contraction in IIP for August has been revised to (-) 7.4 per cent from the (-) 8 per cent provisional data released last month.The government had imposed a lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19 infections on March 25 this year.

With the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in the economic activities by varying degrees as well as in data reporting, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in a statement.

Retail inflation inches up to 7.61 pc in Oct

New Delhi:Driven by rising food prices, retail inflation inched up to 7.61% in October, remaining above the comfort level of the Reserve Bank. According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the government on Thursday, inflation stood at 7.27 per cent in September 2020. It was 4.62 per cent in October 2019. The rise in general inflation was mainly on account of elevated food prices.

PTI

Markets snap 8-session winning run despite new stimulus steps

Mumbai: The Sensex and Nifty snapped their eight-session rising streak on Thursday as the new set of stimulus measures announced by the finance minister failed to stem profit-booking in banking, IT and energy stocks. Lacklustre global cues and a weakening rupee further weighed on sentiment, traders said. After dropping 466.12 points during the day, the 30-

share BSE Sensex ended 236.48 points or 0.54% lower at 43,357.19. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 58.35 points or 0.46% to 12,690.80.SBI was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 3.16%, followed by Kotak Bank, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and ONGC.On the other hand, HUL, ITC, L&T, Bajaj Finserv,

Tech Mahindra and Bajaj Finance ended with gains of up to 2.89 %. FM Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced tax relief on select home sale deals, enhanced credit guarantee programme for small businesses and provide incentives for new job creation as the Govt widened stimulus measures to boost the economy.

PTI

POWERGRID posts ₹3,117 cr profit after tax of for Q2FY21

Gurgaon: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power, GoI and the 'Central Transmission Utility (CTU)' of the country, has posted a PAT of ₹3,094 crore and Total Income of ₹9,831 crore on consolidated basis for Q2FY21. On standalone basis, the Company posted PAT and Total Income of ₹3,117 crore and ₹9,890 crore respectively for Q2FY21, registering an increase of about 23% &

8% respectively with respect to the corresponding period of FY20. For six-month period (H1FY21), the PAT and Total Income on consolidated basis are ₹5,142 crore and ₹19,648 crore respectively, which are about 1% and 6% higher with respect to the corresponding period of FY20, while on standalone basis, the PAT and Total Income are ₹5,097 crore and ₹19,511 crore respectively, registering a growth of 3% and 6% respectively.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY50	12702.15	12741.15	12624.85	12690.80	-58.35	
HINDUNILVR	2129.00	2204.00	2123.25	2201.40	70.25	
GRASIM	804.00	831.00	803.10	826.30	23.10	
SHREECEM	23120.00	236240.00	22880.00	23413.30	545.75	
HINDALCO	205.05	211.40	204.25	207.90	3.85	
ITC	185.20	188.75	183.85	188.00	2.70	
HDFCLIFE	1054.90	1075.85	1052.45	1071.30	11.85	
IBULSHGINF	62.85	63.10	61.80	62.95	6.50	
BAJAJFINSV	6943.95	7060.00	6850.65	7013.00	68.20	
EICHERMOT	2326.00	2368.50	2302.00	2347.80	21.20	
BAJFINANCE	4260.00	4325.00	4200.00	4307.00	38.10	
BRITANNIA	3499.70	3525.95	3481.35	3522.70	29.95	
TECHM	837.00	848.00	834.55	844.00	6.50	
SUNPHARMA	503.95	517.70	502.20	509.80	3.75	
HEROMOTOCO	3060.00	3100.00	3037.00	3080.00	19.85	
ULTRACEMCO	4852.00	4866.50	4784.25	4844.40	20.80	
DIIVSLAB	3336.00	3408.75	3303.15	3367.00	13.65	
IOC	85.00	85.50	83.95	85.20	0.20	
TITAN	1286.95	1296.00	1267.00	1276.90	2.20	
M&M	630.55	654.40	629.50	634.00	0.80	
NESTLEIND	16799.00	16900.00	16533.60	16720.00	22.40	
TATAMOTORS	1550.00	1538.50	1500.00	1510.05	0.10	
HDFC	2297.25	2343.80	2267.45	2325.60	1.30	
GAIL	93.75	94.00	92.60	93.00	0.05	
BPCL	395.00	395.90	387.10	394.00	0.00	
BHARTIARTL	476.85	483.20	475.05	478.55	-0.05	
SHRIIFE	840.00	844.40	835.10	839.40	-0.15	
WIPRO	348.00	350.70	344.30	346.65	-0.10	
HCLTECH	827.15	837.00	822.00	824.70	-1.35	
INFY	1128.10	1142.00	1113.75	1119.60	-2.90	
ASIANPAINT	2172.00	2201.75	2162.00	2175.10	-6.60	
CIPLA	742.40	758.85	733.50	740.10	-2.25	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3025.00	3040.90	2996.25	3013.55	-9.55	
POWERGRID	190.50	199.15	189.00	-0.65		
MARUTI	6857.00	6930.00	6792.00	6829.00	-28.35	
TCS	2686.00	2713.00	2667.45	2674.45	-13.35	
ONGC	72.50	72.90	70.75	71.80	-0.55	
RELIANCE	1981.00	2048.55	1965.00	1981.80	-15.40	
TATASTEEL	472.00	479.90	466.30	470.05	-3.90	
DREDDYD	4875.00	4925.00	4805.00	4837.00	-45.15	
HDFCBANK	373.00	375.60	366.10	367.90	-3.70	
HDFCPRNT	1377.40	1388.55	1360.00	1373.50	-16.45	
UPL	436.80	437.80	425.10	427.40	-6.00	
JSWSTEEL	343.75	344.40	335.00	337.40	-5.35	
AXISBANK	601.95	610.45	588.80	599.00	-9.65	
ICICIBANK	481.60	483.55	471.35	476.80	-9.75	
NTPC	92.40	92.60	90.40	90.80	-2.10	
INDUSINDBK	790.00	802.85	761.80	767.70	-20.25	
COALINDIA	126.05	126.55	121.00	122.45	-3.40	
KOTAKBANK	1799.00	1799.00	1748.45	1757.10	-50.75	
SBIN	233.20	233.35	225.65	227.05	-11.55	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	28921.55	29081.05	28847.20	29050.00	170.20	
ADANIGREEN	914.00	942.40	903.10	940.00	42.45	
NAUKRI	3559.00	3725.00	3525.70	3681.00	136.75	
AUROPHARMA	814.50	864.00	800.00	839.80	29.00	
CADILAHF	418.40	435.40	413.85	427.05	10.60	
SIEMENS	1370.95	1414.00	1367.50	1405.00	35.00	
TORNTPHARM	2552.00	2644.80	2510.00	2619.70	63.65	
DABUR	512.50	521.95	510.55	521.85	11.85	
PFC	99.25	101.80	98.05	101.20	2.05	
HINDZINC	225.00	230.00	222.20	228.45	4.40	
ADANTRANS	323.00	329.95	320.00	325.10	5.90	
BIOCON	415.00	427.70	413.10	424.20	6.30	
COLPAL	1492.00	1523.95	1458.25	1521.00	21.65	
AMBUJACEM	258.10	264.35	256.20	263.00	3.30	
PETRONET	242.15	247.45	239.50	243.95	3.00	
INFRAEL	177.50	181.80	176.60	179.10	2.20	
GICRE	124.25	125.50	123.50	124.95	1.45	
TATACONSUM	505.00	512.50	502.20	509.00	5.55	
MOTHERSUMI	131.35	133.50	130.00	132.75	1.35	
BAJAJHSD	2670.00	2717.20	2661.00	2670.00	20.10	
INDIGO	1621.00	1650.00	1606.50	1628.60	9.10	
ACC	1673.80	1686.05	1652.35	1678.75	8.60	
LTI	3000.00	3059.00	2971.00	2995.00	14.95	
MUTHOOTFIN	1172.00	1181.45	1154.30	1172.00	5.35	
ICICIPRULI	428.55	433.50	424.90	430.30	1.75	
PEL	1398.00	1421.95	1385.05	1401.00	5.60	
NMDC	91.50	91.90	89.80	91.10	0.35	
OFSS	3080.00	3107.25	3070.05	3090.00	11.85	
PIDILITIND	1564.00	1581.90	1557.75	1570.25	6.00	
BERGEPAINT	647.90	656.10	642.40	651.05	1.85	
MARICO	368.30	376.65	368.30	376.50	1.00	
DMAT	2400.00	2419.00	2361.05	2398.00	-0.20	
BANDHANBNK	339.80	339.80	330.25	338.75	-0.40	
GODREJCP	688.00	693.15	681.15	688.00	-0.90	
DLF	182.00	185.75	179.20	182.65	-0.25	
CONCOR	400.70	402.70	398.00	399.10	-1.15	
PNB	29.25	29.50	28.90	29.15	-0.10	
ICICIGI	1265.35	1270.55	1248.00	1260.00	-5.35	
HAVELLS	818.80	823.65	807.20	811.00	-3.80	
HDFCAMC	2443.75	2463.00	2415.30	2428.00	-15.75	
HINDPETRO	214.90	216.20	212.60	213.20	-1.50	
ABBINDENTIA	15420.00	15509.75	15275.10	15300.00	-120.75	
UBL	1031.00	1050.00	1002.65	1024.30	-15.00	
LUPIN	908.00	927.20	888.55	897.20	-13.90	
ALKEM	2791.75	2710.00	2645.00	2647.00	-41.55	
PGHH	10955.05	10970.00	10740.50	10785.00	-204.30	
IGL	449.90	449.90	435.80	439.25	-9.05	
MCOWELL-N	571.25	571.25	555.30	573.35	-11.70	
BOSCHLT	12240.00	12281.20	11830.00	11880.00	-358.75	
SBICARD	807.95	809.00	785.20	781.90	-23.85	
BANKBARODA	47.10	47.25	45.40	45.70	-1.50	

BSE 500					
Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	
RELIANCE	1985.00	2008.35	1965.00	1979.85	344.75
INDUSINDBK	788.15	801.90	762.15	769.15	347.50
BAJFINANCE	4263.80	4322.80	4198.20	4301.55	219.10
HDFCBANK	1350.00	1388.35	1350.00	1371.90	1328.00
AUROPHARMA	815.90	863.60	801.35	838.95	62.30
TATAMOTORS	1500.00	1538.00	1500.00	1511.15	1677.00
INFY	1124.00	1141.95	1113.95	1117.75	359.00
IBULSHGINF	159.45	175.30	157.85	171.05	39.70
TATASTEEL	472.90	479.80	466.50	473.15	258.00
SBIN	232.10	233.20	225.75	226.80	990.00
ICICIBANK	481.00	483.40	471.60	476.30	3545.05
BAJAJFINSV	6910.00	7057.10	6850.00	7024.55	1487.60
LUPIN	910.00	937.15	889.00	894.95	46.90
AXISBANK	600.00	610.10	588.80	599.60	789.90
ITC	185.20	188.80	183.95	187.90	148.60
VGUARD	165.00	170.30	165.00	168.00	25.00
LT	1057.30	1075.40	1052.25	1073.30	127.10
KOTAKBANK	1798.90	1798.90	1748.50	1754.75	27.85
HINDALCO	205.00	211.30	204.00	208.35	35.60
DREDDYD	4887.00	4923.80	4806.45	4826.75	395.45
ALKEM	2693.20	2706.00	2633.15	2645.00	84.60
MARUTI	6864.00	6929.25	6790.20	6837.30	29.25
DAVULAB	3352.20	3408.40	3304.85	3368.75	126.50
HINDUNILVR	2134.90	2203.10	2125.00	2192.60	251.15
HDFC	2300.00	2343.30	2268.10	2328.50	76.15
CIPLA	743.00	758.70	733.95	739.90	482.00
EICHERMOT	2316.00	2368.00	2299.95	2345.80	251.15
SUNPHARMA	502.35	517.55	502.35	509.05	350.80
TCGS	2687.00	2711.65	2662.55	2670.70	276.15
IDEA	8.46	8.60	8.39	8.51	
DABUR	511.00	522.00	510.55	518.25	
COALINDIA	126.70	126.70	121.05	122.20	
VEDL	101.80	103.75	100.05	103.40	
LIFFFOOD	2335.40	2428.20	2314.65	2338.85	
ESORTS	1369.10	1422.00	1369.10	1401.95	
BHARTIARTL	477.00	483.30	475.10	479.65	
SHREECEM	23199.75	23600.00	22576.35	23412.65	
M&M	629.50	654.30	629.50	634.80	
HCLTECH	826.25	837.00	822.05	824.35	
BALRAMCHIN	149.00	150.50	148.50	149.25	

Ideology should not hurt India: PM Modi unveils Vivekanand statue at JNU

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday unveiled a statue of Swami Vivekananda on the JNU campus and asserted that people may have ideological differences but ideology should be seen supporting and not opposing the nation in matters of national interest.

Giving priority to one's ideology over national interest has harmed the democratic system of the country a lot, the PM said in his address to students after unveiling the statue through video conferencing. Jawaharlal Nehru University has long been considered a citadel of the Left, with student unions affiliated to it calling the shots on the campus.

The BJP and Hindutva groups, including the RSS's student wing, the ABVP, have often claimed that those with 'anti-national' sentiments have found support from the Left-affiliated bodies.

Modi said good reforms were earlier considered bad politics but now it is good politics because his government's intentions and commitment are pure, and it has prepared a

"protection shield" for the poor and other vulnerable sections before carrying out reforms.

"People have endorsed our reform measures with their votes, he said in an obvious reference to the Bihar poll results where BJP led NDA retained power.

The Prime Minister said the statue on the campus will inspire everyone and instill courage and compassion that Swami Vivekananda wanted to see in everyone.

"Swami Vivekananda wanted that education in the country should be such that it provides self-confidence to individuals and makes them atmanirbhar in every way. The new National Education Policy is on the same line and has inclusion at its core," he added in the address through video conferencing.

Union Minister of Education Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Vice-Chancellor, JNU, Prof. M Jagadeesh Kumar also participated in the event.

Addressing the JNU students and the youth of the country, the Prime Minister expressed his views on harms of prioritizing ideology over

national interest. He said this is one thing that has done great harm to the democratic system of our country.

"Because my ideology says this, so in matters of national interest, I will think in the same framework, I will work on the same parameter, this is wrong", said Modi. It is natural to be proud of one's ideology still, on the subjects of national interest, our ideology should be seen standing with the nation not against it, he stressed.

The PM told the students that in the history of the country, whenever a difficult time arose before the country, people of every ideology came together in the national interest. People of every ideology stood united under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom struggle. They fought for the country together. The country saw the same solidarity during the Emergency. Former Congress leaders and activists were also present in the movement against the Emergency. There were RSS volunteers and Jana Sangh people. Socialists and communists too came together.

Prime Minister Modi stressed that in this solidarity,

no one had to compromise on ideology. There was only one purpose - national interest. Therefore, whenever there is a question of national unity, integrity and national interest, taking decisions under the burden of any ideology will lead to the loss for the nation.

Prime Minister made it clear that idea-sharing and the flow of new ideas need to be kept uninterrupted.

Prime Minister said for a long time the poor were kept in slogans only and there was no attempt to connect the poor of the country with the system. He said the poor were the most neglected, most unconnected and most financially excluded person earlier.

Similarly, through better irrigation infrastructure, modernization of mandis, E-Nam, soil health cards, availability of urea better MSP a safety network was created around the farmers.

The government first worked for their needs, now it is working for their aspiration. Pokhriyal said the statue will remind our future generations about his values, philosophy and thoughts about the country, he added.

10 States\UTs report 78% of Covid infections in 24 hrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seventy-eight per cent of the new 47,905 coronavirus infections reported in the past 24 hours on Thursday are from 10 States and Union Territories with Delhi topping the list, registering the highest single-day cases at 8,593 followed by Kerala and Maharashtra.

Much to the worry of the Government, four northeastern States — Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram — are reporting increase in cases, prompting the Union Health Minister Dr Harsvardhan to ask them to increase testing on high risk groups and vulnerable population to check the spread of Covid-19.

For the successive fifth day, new Covid-19 cases reported in a span of 24 hours did not cross the 50,000 mark, while the trend of daily new recoveries outnumbering daily new infections continued for the 40th day. As many as 52,718 new recoveries were registered in a day as against 47,905 infections during the same period.

Ten states and union territories reported 78 per cent of the new cases registered in a span of 24 hours. This trend has continued to compress the active Covid-19 caseload which is currently 4.98 lakh and comprises only 5.63 per cent of India's total coronavirus cases.

The recovery rate has also been boosted with the trend of recoveries exceeding new cases and currently stands at 92.89 per cent with 80,66,501 people having recuperated from the disease so far.

Anti-oxidative herbal drugs beneficial in treating Covid-19 diabetic patients, say researchers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when India is promoting Ayush including ayurveda decoction such as kadha or ayush kwath as immunity boosters to keep the Covid-19 at a bay, researchers from Tehran have suggested use of anti-oxidative herbal drugs as an adjuvant therapy to currently prescribed conventional treatments in Covid-19 infected diabetic patients.

Following an analysis of various studies, they said in an article published in the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), anti-oxidative herbal medicines with evidence-based beneficial impacts in the treatment of diabetes mellitus can be suggested as an adjuvant therapy to its conventional treatments in patients infected with Covid-19.

Agreeing with their observation, Dr AKS Rawat, former senior scientist with CSIR-National Botanical Research

Institute (NBRI) said, "Many herbs like Giloy and Gudmar have antioxidant properties and checks free radicals apart from blood sugar lowering properties that make them useful for people with or at high risk of type 2 diabetes."

He cited example of anti-diabetic herbal formulation, BGR-34 which was scientifically developed under his guidance among other scientists at the NBRI in collaboration with Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (CIMAP), both Lucknow-based, using extracts of herbs like Daruharidra, Giloy, Vijaysar, Gudmar, Majeeth and Methika.

"At least 500 herbs were analysed after which we selected best six herbs having diabetes management properties to develop BGR-34."

In fact, an independent clinical trials conducted at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi last year too showed the BGR-34 has therapeutic efficacy for treating

newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes. The drug is commercially manufactured by Aimil Pharmaceuticals.

As the world observe November 14 as Diabetes Day, Dr Rawat also said that compounds in herbal ingredients like giloy used in BGR-34 also corrects immunity while compounds in Dharuharida helps in insulin release in Type II diabetic patients.

Based on the 2019 International Diabetes Federation (IDF) report, the world prevalence of diabetes was 463 million, and is expected to reach 578 million in 2030, and 700 million in 2045. According to doctors, patients with co-morbidities like diabetes are more vulnerable to Covid-19 because of their compromised immunity.

It is estimated that nearly 20–50 per cent of patients infected with Covid-19 have diabetes, much higher than the worldwide incidence rate of diabetes.

DILIP GHOSH CONVOY STONNED

BJP, not TMC, indulges in maut ka khel: Trinamool

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said "Maut ka khel (game of murder)" can never fetch votes an irked Trinamool Congress reacted saying it was the BJP and not the Trinamool Congress which was unleashing violence in Bengal to win the next year's Assembly elections.

Senior leader and TMC spokesperson Sougato Roy on Thursday said that this party had been a victim of political violence since its inception. "First it was the CPI(M) and now it is the BJP which is perpetrating political violence in Bengal and targeting the Trinamool," Roy said adding it was the BJP "and not the TMC which is unleashing violence in the state."

Incidentally Roy's remarks came almost in tandem with an attack on State BJP president Dilip Ghosh's convoy at Jaigaon in Alipurduar district of North Bengal where his vehicle and those of other party leaders were stoned by alleged supporters of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (Bimal Gurung) which had recently left the NDA and joined hands with the

Trinamool Congress.

Swearing by Mahatma Gandhi the TMC MP said that his party did not believe in violence. "It believes in peace. We would request the Prime Minister to give his advice to the Bengal BJP unit to maintain political decorum."

Modi had earlier said that "Maut ka khel" (game of murder) cannot fetch votes to a political party, even as he said without naming any outfit that, "the people who aren't able to challenge us in democratic way, have taken the path of killing our workers. In some parts of the country, they think they can realise their goals by killing BJP workers. But killing game cannot get votes."

Bengal BJP which won 19 out of 42 parliamentary seats displacing the Left as the main opposition force in the State is eyeing two-third majority in the next year's Assembly in Bengal.

On Union Home Minister Amit Shah setting a target of 200 out of 294 Assembly seats for the BJP in 2021 State polls, Roy said, "He (Shah) has no inkling of what he is saying. BJP will never be able to for-

m government in Bengal. This is Bengal, things are not going to be easy for them here."

Meanwhile, the BJP youth wing staged protests all across the State on Thursday evening after Ghosh was black-flagged and his vehicle was attacked with brickbats in North Bengal's Alipurduar district, sources said.

Ghosh was returning from his routine "chai pe charcha (discussion over tea)" programme. Vehicle of local BJP MLA Wilson Chapramari was also damaged in the attack, sources said even as Ghosh later said, "The TMC and their friends are getting desperate as they can sense defeat in the upcoming assembly polls. However such tactics won't work. People are with us."

Such attacks by the ruling party and its allies proved that law and order had collapsed in the State, he said while State Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar too condemned the attack saying "leaders of no political party should be attacked" and that "it is the duty of the State administration to ensure safety and security of all the political parties."

AIMIM to spell trouble for non-BJP parties in Bengal polls

New Delhi/Kolkata: Buoyed by its good showing in the 2020 Bihar Assembly elections in which it won five seats, the AIMIM is now planning to throw its hat in the electoral ring in the West Bengal Assembly elections slated in the first half of 2021, which could spell trouble for non-BJP parties in the eastern state. Telangana-based All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen or AIMIM, led by Asaduddin Owaisi, put up an impressive show in Bihar by bagging more than 1.24 per cent votes while contesting 24 seats.

The AIMIM not only won five seats in Bihar, but also played the political spoilsport in an equal number of Assembly constituencies, which could have tilted the balance in a tight situation like in the new Bihar Assembly. This prompted Congress West Bengal unit President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to say that "the Grand Alliance in Bihar lost because of AIMIM". The AIMIM's entry in West Bengal will make the Trinamool Congress, the Congress and the Left jittery as a resurgent Owaisi, after winning seats in Seemanchal area of Bihar.

ED attaches ₹1.3 cr assets of sr manager of Vijaya Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹1.3 crore of a senior manager of Vijaya Bank in a money laundering case relating to siphoning of funds of Karnataka State Handicraft Development Corporation Ltd.

The attached immovable assets are in the form of land and building which are in the name of BY Srinivas, former Senior Manager, Vijaya Bank, Bengaluru and movable assets in the form of balance lying in bank accounts in the name of HS Nagalingaswamy, BY Srinivas, Ashwin Tours & Travels and PNP Enterprises.

Investigation under the provisions of the PMLA was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered at Ashoknagar Police Station, Bengaluru City against GC Kishor Kumar, General Manager, KSHDCL and others for siphoning off the funds of KSHDCL, a State Government of Karnataka undertaking.

AG OK's contempt proceedings against comic artist Kamra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Attorney General K K Venugopal Thursday granted consent for initiation of contempt proceedings against stand-up comic artist Kunal Kamra for his tweets which allegedly criticised the Supreme Court.

"The tweets which I am extracting below are not only in bad taste but clearly cross the line between humour and contempt of the court," said Venugopal in his letter to one of the applicants who had sought consent of the top law officer for initiation of contempt proceedings against Kamra.

"I therefore grant consent to proceed by way of initiating contempt proceedings against Kunal Kamra," Venugopal said in his letter.

Congress expresses disappointment over Bihar poll results

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday said the party was disappointed with the Bihar Assembly election results and Congress Working Committee (CWC) will take note of it and deliberate the issue.

Asked about the Bihar assembly results at the AICC Press, Chidambaram said, "we are definitely disappointed with the Bihar results but the vote difference between NDA and Grand alliance was just 3 per cent and the CWC will discuss and take a view on it."

The party high command including former party chief Rahul Gandhi who campaigned extensively in the State is yet to react on the dismal

performance of the party. The party also could not perform in other State bypolls including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and others.

At the same time, another senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh asserted that the mandate is against Nitish Kumar and accepted that the Congress could have done much better. The former union minister said that despite 15 years of Nitish as chief minister Bihar remains one of the poorest states.

With the worst ever performance despite raking up the core issues like unemployment and price rise, the grand old party whose campaign was led by Rahul Gandhi.

‘Nav Bharat Udyan’ for 75th I-Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To commemorate 75 years of Independence being celebrated in 2022, the Central Government has decided to build an 'iconic structure' called the 'Nav Bharat Udyan', or New India Garden, next to the Yamuna river bank spread over 22 acres in the national Capital. The 'iconic structure' will be dedicated to the nation by August 15, 2022, which provides execution time of about one year for the project. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), falling under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs called a design competition for the new structure.

The Centre has decided to double the length of the Central Vista from 2.9 km to 6.3 km, beyond the Rashtrapati Bhawan to the

Mother Teresa Crescent in the west and from the India Gate to the banks of the river Yamuna in the east.

According to the ministry, an iconic structure is being planned to be built in Nav Bharat Udyan (New India Garden) in the national capital, symbolizing emerging New India with equitable growth opportunities, rooted in values of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas' and representing the aspiration of clean India, free from poverty, corruption, terrorism, communalism and casteism.

The CPWD's proposal says the 'iconic structure' should be constructed with materials and technology which would last for ages, like Ashoka's edicts, Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar complex, etc. It should be robust and with-

stand the vagaries of nature and remain as such for millennia to represent the current age, it added.

Under the Master Plan, the Central Vista Axis will be extended from the present 2.9 km to 6.3 km from ridge to river. On the eastern side, it will culminate at the western bank of River Yamuna. This will restore the original design envisioned for Central Vista; the CPWD's proposal said.

Spread over 20.22 acres, New India Garden will be open to the public and is being designed to have an iconic structure and infotainment facilities such as Sphere of Unity, Milestones Walkway, Journey of India, Tech Dome, Amphitheatre, public amenities etc. to showcase India's rich historical and cultural heritage, scientific achievements, and will symbolize

unity in diversity and aspirations of the New India.

"The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital. For example, the India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in independent India should now become a new symbol of the national capital," CPWD's proposal said.

The central axis of the Vista starts from the Rashtrapati Bhawan, moves on the central line between North and South Blocks and Rajpath and culminates at India Gate. The iconic structure should be aligned exactly on this central axis, as per the design competition's rules. It will be located on the western bank of river Yamuna. Hence, the foundation is to be sited in sandy soil with a high

water table.

The ministry says the registration will close on December 11. The presentations before the jury (if required) will be during the 2nd fortnight of December, 2020 and the winners will be announced in the last week of Dec, 2020.

Officials said that structure can be a tower/sculpture or any other built form but not a building to be occupied. Maximum permissible height at the proposed site as per colour coded zonal map prepared by Airports Authority of India is 134 metres from the present ground level.

Other factors like soil stability, wind velocity, seismic forces and vulnerability to flooding etc. need to be duly considered as per the provisions of National Building Code of India, 2016 while designing the structure.

Bihar poll: CEC rubbishes Opp charge of irregularities during counting of votes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of allegations by the Opposition of irregularities in the counting of votes in the Bihar Assembly polls, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora on Thursday said while the Election Commission does not react to comments made by political parties, the ultimate decision lies with people.

He also said the Bihar chief

electoral officer has already responded to everything. The EC had to hold four press conferences on counting day on November 10 to respond to various aspects of the process, Arora pointed out.

We do not respond to comments made by political entities. It is their decision, what they said, why they said. The ultimate decision lies with people," he told reporters.

The specially designed panel discussions along with the presentation of the film awards would take place as part of the Awards Week from November 16 to 20, comprising 90-120 minutes of environment and sustainability content each day.

Boosting connectivity with ASEAN countries top priority of India: Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said enhancing all kinds of connectivity, including in social, digital and financial spheres, with the 10-nation ASEAN grouping is a major priority for India.

He made the remarks at a virtual summit between India and the ASEAN.

"We believe a cohesive and responsive ASEAN is needed for security and growth for all in the region," Modi said.

He also said that there are many similarities between India's "Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative" and ASEAN's "Outlook on Indo Pacific".

Enhancing every type of connectivity between India and ASEAN — physical, economic,

social, digital, financial, maritime — is a major priority for us. In the last few years, we have come close to all these areas," he said. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.

Key speakers include Andrew Wilson, a change agent with expertise in sustainability and business purposes, Andrew Dunnett, Director of Vodafone Foundation, Tony Juniper, eminent campaigner, writer, sustainability adviser and environmentalist, David Stringer Lamarre, a business leader, entrepreneur and innovator, Duncan Wardle, who served as Head of Innovation and Creativity at Disney, Mark Wood, an established speaker, author and explorer, Adam Ricobanni, an AI entrepreneur and author, Claire Rewcastle Brown, British investigative journalist who has campaigned ceaselessly against environment destruction and Poulomi Basu, Indian trans-media artist, photographer and activist.

Trump wins Alaska, now has 217 electoral votes

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has won the closely-fought presidential election in the state of Alaska, winning three electoral college votes and taking his tally to 217.

The Republican Party has also retained the Senate seat from Alaska, giving it 50 seats in the 100-member United States Senate.

When the election was called in Alaska, Trump had received 56.9 per cent of the total votes counted and President-elect Joe Biden from the Democratic Party with 39.1 per cent.

With this, Trump's tally of



electoral college votes has increased to 217, as per the count maintained by The New York Times.

Biden has already been declared winner of the

November 3 presidential election with 279 of the 538 electoral college votes. Trump has refused to concede and has filed lawsuits in multiple states, challenging election results.

The election results in Alaska also gave the Republican Party an edge over the Democrats in the Senate. Republican senator Dan Sullivan won his Senate re-election bid. This gives the Republicans 50 Senate seats, while the Democrats have 48. The two Senate seats are going in for elections on January 5.

"President Trump and Senate Republicans win Alaska, overwhelmingly and by a massive 20 point spread!" Ivanka Trump, daughter of Trump and a presidential advisor, said in a tweet.

Democrats, GOP take different approaches on Georgia Senate blitz

AP ■ ATLANTA

Jon Ossoff took the stage in Columbus and looked out over a parking lot filled with cars, with supporters blaring their horns in approval as he declared that "change has come to Georgia."

Hours earlier, Republican Sen. Kelly Loeffler stepped to a microphone in suburban Atlanta and addressed hundreds of eager supporters packed into the Cobb County GOP headquarters.

The freshman senator and her Florida colleague, Sen. Marco Rubio, stirred the crowd with their insistence that the change offered by Ossoff and his fellow Democratic Senate hopeful Raphael Warnock means "radical elements" would control Washington.

Those opening salvos of Georgia's twin Senate runoff campaign — Ossoff looking to unseat Republican Sen. David Perdue and Warnock facing off with Loeffler — showcase starkly different approaches the two parties are taking to the unusual circumstances that make this newfound two-party battleground the epicenter of a national battle for control of the Senate.

Both sides are playing to core supporters, the most reliable voters among the 5 million who split their ballots roughly evenly between the two parties in the first round.

But for Democrats, it's seemingly a more piecemeal, voter-by-voter approach, while Republicans are pushing a broad branding message through mass media.

Pak court jails spokesperson of JuD for 32 years in terror financing cases

Lahore: A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has handed down 32 years of imprisonment to Yahya Mujahid, spokesperson of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's Jammat-ud-Dawah (JuD) terror group, in two terror financing cases.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) here on Wednesday also convicted two other JuD leaders, including the brother-in-law of Saeed, in terror financing cases.

"ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar handed down 32 years imprisonment to JuD spokesperson Yahya Mujahid in two FIRs. Prof Zafar Iqbal and Prof Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki (brother-in-law of Saeed) were awarded 16 and one-year jail terms in two cases," a court official told PTI.

He said that the two other JuD leaders -- Abdul Salam bin Muhammad and Luqman Shah

-- were indicted in more terror financing cases.

The court directed the prosecution to present its witnesses on November 16.

The suspects were presented in the court in high security and media was not allowed to enter the court premises during the case proceedings.

Last week, the ATC Lahore convicted JuD's Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf in two more cases of terror financing registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police.

Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf have been given a collective imprisonment of 16 years each under different sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act. Makki has been sentenced to one-year imprisonment in a case with a fine of ₹1,70,000.

In September last year, the ATC Lahore handed down over 16 years imprisonment to Prof Zafar Iqbal and Hafiz Abdus Salam bin Muhammad and one-and-a-half-year sentence to Makki in a terror financing case.

In February last year, Saeed had been sentenced to jail for 11 years on terror finance charges by an ATC in Lahore.

The ATC sentenced Saeed and his close aide Zafar Iqbal to five-and-a-half years each in two cases. A total of 11 years sentence will run concurrently. Saeed is serving his term in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail. He was arrested in July last year.

The CTD of Punjab police had registered 23 FIRs against Saeed and his accomplices on the charges of terror financing in different cities of the province.

PTI

Biden names Ron Klain as White House Chief of Staff

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Joe Biden has tapped veteran political operative Ron Klain as Chief of Staff, elevating his "invaluable" longtime aide to one of the most powerful positions in the White House.

The White House Chief of Staff manages the president's daily schedule. He is often described as the president's gatekeeper.

In addition to supporting the president-elect, Klain, 59, will work to build a diverse, experienced and talented team to help Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris meet the urgent challenges facing the country,

the Biden transition office said in a media release on Wednesday.

"Ron has been invaluable to me over the many years that we have worked together, including as we rescued the American economy from one of the worst downturns in our history in 2009 and later overcame a daunting public health emergency in 2014," said Biden.

"His deep, varied experience and capacity to work with people all across the political spectrum is precisely what I need in a White House chief of staff as we confront this moment of crisis and bring our country together again," Biden said.

Biden emphasises on a secure, prosperous Indo-Pacific

Washington: US President-elect Joe Biden in phone calls with the leaders of Australia, Japan and South Korea emphasised on maintaining a secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. According to readouts of the calls issued by his transition team, Biden on Wednesday spoke over phone with Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan and President Moon Jae-in of South Korea. These were congratulatory calls by the three leaders after Biden's historic win in the November 3 elections. In his call with

Morrison, Biden underscored that the United States and Australia share both values and history, and noted that the two countries have fought side-by-side in every conflict since the World War I. Biden said that he looks forward to working closely with Morrison on many common challenges, including containing the COVID-19 pandemic and guarding against future global health threats; confronting climate change; laying the groundwork for the global economic recovery; strengthening democracy; and maintaining a secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

Disquiet within 10 Downing Street as UK PM's top aide resigns

PTI ■ LONDON

There are widespread reports of a power struggle at the heart of the UK government as one of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's closest aides has announced his resignation as the Director of Communications.

Lee Cain, 39, announced he would step down as Johnson's top media aide on Wednesday night after ministers and advisers, including Johnson's fiancée Carrie Symonds, are said to have protested over his planned promotion to Chief of Staff.

Cain is also a close aide of fellow Brexiteer and Downing

Street Chief Strategy Adviser Dominic Cummings, another one of Johnson's most influential and high-profile top team members.

"After careful consideration I have this evening resigned as No. 10 Director of Communications and will leave the post at the end of the year," reads Cain's resignation letter.

"I would like to thank the prime minister for his loyalty and leadership. I have no doubt that under his premiership the country will deliver on the promises made in the 2019 election campaign and build back better from the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

Islamic State group claims attack at Saudi WWI ceremony

Beirut: The Islamic State group claimed responsibility on Thursday for the explosion the previous day at a cemetery in Saudi Arabia where American and European officials were commemorating the end of World War I. The blast wounded three people.

IS said in a post on its online Telegram channel on Thursday that its fighters were able to plant the explosive device at the Non-Muslims Cemetery in the kingdom's coastal city of Jiddah.

In a statement posted on one of its Telegram channels, IS said a group of its militants were able to plant the explosive

device at the in the city of Jiddah. It provided no evidence but said the device went off when diplomats from "the Crusader countries" had gathered there.

One U.K. National suffered minor wounds, according to the British government. Greece's Foreign Ministry said a Greek policeman serving in the country's consulate in Jiddah was wounded. A Saudi security officer was also lightly wounded, Saudi state media quoted a local official as saying.

Some 20 people of different nationalities were attending the ceremony.

FROM PAGE 1

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT STIMULUS WIDENED

"We saw a powerful multi-sectoral boost coming in from the government today," said Ficci President Sangita Reddy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecast that the Indian economy will shrink by 10.3 per cent in the year to March.

"Recovery (in economy) is happening," Sitharaman said, pointing to some high-frequency indicators.

"In the last 10-15 days, there have been quite a few steps and indicators which have shown the recovery is happening. The PMI has risen to 58.9 in October. This is the strongest increase in output in close to nine years. This shows that it is not just pent up demand but a strong pitch for recovery," she said.

Further, Sitharaman said, "a total of 15 per cent of GDP is what is being given here as stimulus till today." PTI

COVISHIELD'S PHASE-3 TRIAL ENROLLMENT COMPLETE

"The promising results of the trials so far give confidence that Covishield could be a realistic solution to the deadly pandemic," Serum Institute said.

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of SII said the pandemic has presented a chance to foster structural reforms in building robust public healthcare infrastructure and added, "ICMR has played a huge role in coming forward and strengthening India's fight against Covid-19. The collaboration will further aid us in putting India at the forefront of developing an immunogenic and efficacious vaccine."

DISMANTLING STRUCTURES AT PANGONG LAKE PART OF LAC DISENGAGEMENT

The broad contours of the three-step process 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. 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.

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.

JAB WE MET ACTOR ASIF HANGS SELF AT DHARAMSHALA HOME

The news of the sudden death of the character actor, which comes months after Bollywood star Sushant Singh Rajput was found hanging at his residence in Mumbai on June 14, led to shock in the industry with several of his colleagues expressing their grief.

"What? This is too shocking!! Shot with him just before Lockdown!!! Oh My God!!!" tweeted actor Manoj Bajpayee.

Director Hansal Mehta was equally stunned. "Asif Basra! Can't be true... This is just very, very sad."

Among the others who condoled his death were directors Onir and Rahul Dholakia.

"In shock. Can't believe that we have lost him. #asifbasra Used to meet him so often at the park jogging. He would tell me not to jog sideways. I might lose balance and hurt myself," Onir tweeted.

Dholakia, who directed Basra in the National Award winner "Parzanina" and in the Sanjay Dutt-starrer "Lamhaa", said Basra was a "wonderful actor and a jovial fellow".

"I mean why would he?? Very Sad - had directed him in Parzanina (Chagan), in Lamhaa (the Darzee) and also in society... Very sad to hear about his passing!! #asif-basra Hope you are at peace," he added.

Casting director Mukesh Chhabra tweeted, "This can't be true Asif Bhai, we have done so much work together from 'Kai Po Che' to 'Hostages 2'. I can not believe this! Whattttt is happening????????? #asifbasra".

Basra's sudden death is the latest blow for the industry, struggling to get back on its feet after the lockdown that came into effect in March to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Fifth Scorpene submarine 'Vagir' launched at Mumbai's Mazagon docks

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a development that will not only boost the Indian Navy's capabilities but will also bring about a transformational shift in submarine operations, the fifth Scorpene submarine of Project-75 "Vagir" was launched at the Mazagon Dock here on Thursday.

With the launch of "Vagir" at the hands of Mrs Vijaya Shripad Naik through video conferencing in the presence of Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik as the chief guest, India has cemented its position as a Submarine Building Nation.

The development is in sync with the current impetus of the Government towards 'Make in India' and 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat'. The first two submarines of the Project-75 have been commissioned into the Navy and the third and fourth submarines are progressing their Sea Trials. After its launch on Thursday, Vagir will commence with the setting to work of various equipment and the Harbour Acceptance Trials. The crew will subsequently sail the submarine for the Sea Acceptance Trials after which the submarine



Submarine Vagir being launched by Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik at the Mazagon Docks Limited in south Mumbai on Thursday

would be delivered to the Navy. Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command - Vice Admiral RB Pandit, Chairman & Managing Director of MDL Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad and other Directors of MDL were among those present at the launching ceremony. Chief of Materials, Indian Navy, and CWP&A (Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition) Vice Admiral SR Sarma and Additional Secretary, Defence Industries Production Sanjay Jaju joined the function through video conferencing from New Delhi.

Launched at the Kanhoji



deep, guarding the vast maritime interests of our nation.

The state-of-the-art technology utilized in the rebuilt Scorpene has ensured superior stealth features (such as advanced acoustic absorption techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimised shape etc.) and the ability to launch an attack on the enemy using precision guided weapons. The attack can be launched with both torpedoes and tube launched anti-ship missiles, whilst underwater or on surface.

The stealth of this potent platform is enhanced by the

PAGD releases list of seats allocated to allies for DDC polls

Srinagar: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Thursday released a list of seats allocated among the allies for the first phase of polling for District Development Councils (DDCs) in Jammu and Kashmir, to be held in eight phases beginning November 28.

Out of a list of 22 candidates for 17 constituencies released by the Kashmir-based conglomerate of mainstream parties, the National Conference will fight 16 segments, the Peoples Democratic Party four and the Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference two.

On Sunday, the PAGD announced that it had unani-

mously decided to fight the DDC elections unitedly.

The PAGD was floated on October 7 for the reversal of constitutional changes made to Jammu and Kashmir by the Centre on August 5 last year.

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah was appointed as the PAGD President, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti its Vice President, People's Conference leader Sajad Lone as Spokesperson, and CPI-M leader Yousuf Taragami as Convener.

The flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir has been adopted as the symbol of the alliance.

Jammu: For the third consecutive day on Thursday Pakistan resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation in three sectors of the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch district.

Colonel Devender Anand, defence ministry spokesman said at about 9 a.m. Pakistan initiated

BOLLYWOOD-DRUG MAFIA NEXUS CASE NCB grills actor Arjun Rampal's live-in friend for second day

some documents from Rampal's residence.

The NCB officials had also raided two other places at Khar and Andheri. They had also detained a driver working for Rampal and took him to their office for questioning. The driver was let off later in the evening. The raid on Rampal's residence, the subsequent questioning of Gabriella and summons issued to Arjun Rampal should be seen in the context of the arrest of Gabriella's brother Agisilaos Demetriades made by the NCB from Lonavala near Pune on October 19. Agisilaos is alleged to be a part of a larger drug syndicate operating in Bollywood, which is being investigated after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Informed NCB sources said that Agisilaos was in touch with Omega Godwin, a Nigerian national who had earlier been arrested for supply of cocaine in Mumbai. During his custodial interrogation, Godwin had named Agisilaos. Earlier, ex-Dharma Productions employee Kshiti Prasad had earlier been arrested by the NCB in the in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput's death-related drug case and

expanded Bollywood-drug nexus case.

Sushant, it may be recalled, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his closed room of his duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai on June 14.

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

After the seizure of drugs and cash, the NCB officials arrested five persons, including Firoz A. Nadiadwala's wife Shabana Saeed.

The NCB has registered two drugs cases in the wake of the investigations launched by the CBI into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput in June this year upon the directive issued by the Supreme Court

some documents from Rampal's residence.

The NCB officials had also raided two other places at Khar and Andheri. They had also detained a driver working for Rampal and took him to their office for questioning. The driver was let off later in the evening. The raid on Rampal's residence, the subsequent questioning of Gabriella and summons issued to Arjun Rampal should be seen in the context of the arrest of Gabriella's brother Agisilaos Demetriades made by the NCB from Lonavala near Pune on October 19. Agisilaos is alleged to be a part of a larger drug syndicate operating in Bollywood, which is being investigated after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Informed NCB sources said that Agisilaos was in touch with Omega Godwin, a Nigerian national who had earlier been arrested for supply of cocaine in Mumbai. During his custodial interrogation, Godwin had named Agisilaos. Earlier, ex-Dharma Productions employee Kshiti Prasad had earlier been arrested by the NCB in the in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput's death-related drug case and

TrendSlazer

'Mental health demands attention'

Actor **AMITABH BACHCHAN** feels that it is important to confront the mental health crisis, adding that the issue should be given undivided attention.

"Today, the way I see it is a question of a lifeline. A lifeline can be anyone who simply cares about mental illness. Even though the truth has a way of hitting right across your face, it's important to confront it," Bachchan said. "A crisis, as insidious and devastating as mental health one demands our undivided attention. It's more upto the fortunate ones to make ourselves available to those who seek help," he added.

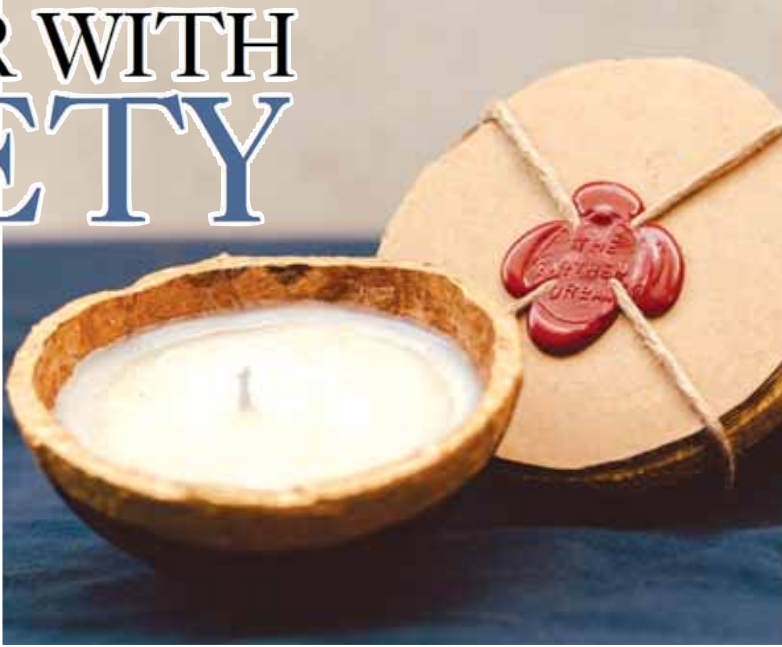


'Asif (Basra) was a fantastic actor. The news of his demise is very shocking and disturbing. It is indeed a loss. While making Jab We Met, I wanted an intelligent and a special actor. I wanted to show two qualities — lechery and humour — at the same time through that role. Couldn't get to work with him after that movie. I will miss him in films.' —**Imtiaz Ali**



PROSPER WITH SAFETY

So what if it's low key this year? Diwali always calls for celebrations. Keeping wellness and health in mind, TEAM VIVA suggests some thoughtful ideas to gift your loved ones



A GIFT THAT SUSTAINS

As is evident from the bustling markets of the city, people have taken the festivities amid the pandemic a bit too seriously to be even following the necessary precautions. Social distancing has certainly gone for a toss in Delhi's markets. While last minute shopping could be hassling, why not go for online gifting and hampers for your loved ones? It will not only offer you a plethora of options but also prove to be safe in the current contagiously dangerous environment. Here are a few select options you can choose from to gift your loved ones this Diwali.

The newest addition to the 1983 Swatch collection is a SISTEM51 in bio-sourced materials, which can make for a very thoughtful gift. A black, classic watch with decorated dial that one can appreciate, it comes with a message, which is a real call to action — 'Time is what you make of it'. The model only has 51 moving parts anchored to a single, central screw. Unlike the original Swatch, which featured a battery-powered quartz movement and a 34 mm case size, the SISTEM51 is a fully automatic watch, 41mm in size with an exceptional 90-hour power reserve.

The collection emphasises on Swatch's new bio-source material technologies — with cases made out of a material extracted from the seeds of the castor plant, the first time such a material has been used in a mechanical watch, priced at ₹12,045.

Another option that gives sustainability a chance is a gift hamper from The Earthen Urban. Founded in 2020, amid the pandemic by an environmentally-conscious woman entrepreneur, the hamper products are ethically sourced, up-cycled, cruelty-free, handmade by local artisans and undoubtedly, biodegradable. Well, an interesting fact about it? To give back to the fauna, a segment of its returns from the



sales go to feed the stray dogs across New Delhi and look at reaching far and wide in days to come.

There are three hampers each with different kinds and sizes of scented soy wax candles in coconut bowl, plantable calendars, bamboo brushes, breathable cotton masks and a customised Diwali greeting on a seed paper. The quantity of the products range as per the price, which are ₹599, ₹999 and ₹1699, respectively.

HEALTH FIRST

This Diwali, gift yourself and your loved ones good health and wellness with Fast&Up's "immunity special" products. It offers a range of hampers with different immunity boosting antioxidant multivitamins. One of them also include the N-Acetyl Cysteine (NAC) to help boost the lung immunity and fight air pollution by enhancing one's lung's ability to become stronger to fight the Coronavirus. The other hampers include the detox capsules with Active Greens and Vitamin C, Curcumin and comes in various flavours like mango, orange and Ghana chocolate.

FOR THE PERFECT PARTY

The Jameson Blockbuster Pack by Pernod Ricard is all your friends need for a great start to the festival. The pack contains the essentials for an ultimate house party — two bottles of Jameson, the triple distilled, twice as smooth, Irish whiskey with a well-rounded flavour; a Jenga set; and a deck of playing cards to set a perfect house party.

Well, a yet another thoughtful consideration is the 'I Wolf You' crate by

Occasionally Silly. The hamper includes Jacob's Creek Red Wine, Cabernet Shiraz; a pair of rose gold wine glasses; 4700 BC gourmet popcorns; a Mazel Tov scented candle; ceramic oil diffuser; two ocean fragrance oils; and two tea light candles. The hamper comes in a wooden tray handcrafted by local artisans. With the product code as OSIWY, the hamper is priced at ₹4,099.

BASKET OF GOODNESS

The Diwali hamper by The Imperial brings tons of treats and gifts from chocolates to gourmet favourites for your loved ones. The hamper offers a wide range of carefully selected eats, handpicked to create lasting pleasures and to bring back cheer in the lives of your family and friends. It includes banana bread, plum cake, chocolates, Mustard and raspberry gourmet, cheese straws, olive jar, granola bars, Whole wheat Pasta, mix nut bottle and capers and more to make your Diwali simply delightful and memorable. The hampers are available at 1911 Restaurant and are priced at ₹6,000 plus taxes.

RIGHT FOR A REVAMP

This Diwali, renovate, decorate, and revamp not just your home but also your and your friends' kitchens with Le Creuset's range of cookware and kitchen tools. It brings you products that help you celebrate life and brighten up your kitchen with their vibrant hues, just like Diwali. The collection offers enamelled cast iron cookware, multi-ply stainless steel, toughened non-stick, and bakeware, along with a range of wine accessories. The prices for the products range from ₹750 to ₹42,000.



KUSHAN MITRA



Back in the late 1990s when Hyundai Motor came to India, they were an unknown brand. But all thanks to the smiling face of actor Shah Rukh Khan and some well-packaged products which were affordable, Hyundai acquired a reputation of being a 'Value For Money' carmaker. Having driven the first-generation Santro extensively and having an Accent in the family, you knew that Hyundai's were not the most dynamic of vehicles, but they gave a great combination of features at a cheerful price. Their cars proceeded to get slightly better but for a long-time, Hyundai was considered, above all else, to be a 'Value For Money' carmaker.

Things have changed in the recent past, modern Hyundai's are fantastic vehicles to drive from a purely dynamic point of view. Once upon a time, Hyundai cars used to wallow around a corner, there used to be a palpable sense that there was a lag between the time you gave a steering input and when the wheels actually turned. If you drive a modern Hyundai released in the past three-four years, you can throw them into a corner and the car will handle it with aplomb, they're fabulously fun to drive.

That brings us to the new third-generation i20, now Hyundai considers this the fourth generation of premium hatchbacks, with the Getz being the first generation. The Getz was not a huge sales success and when the i20 was launched, this was the time when everything was 'i'-inspired, thanks to Steve Jobs and Apple, Hyundai India executives did not expect wonders. But the first i20 and its successor, the Elite i20 have been stunning sales successes. Surprisingly, so has the 'premium' hatchback segment which also includes the Maruti-Suzuki Baleno and the Honda Jazz. It continues to do well despite the onslaught of small SUVs such as the Maruti-Suzuki Brezza, Honda WR-V, Hyundai's own Venue and the Kia Sonet. The overall trendline has been of a move away from smaller hatchbacks, yet premium hatchbacks despite being constrained by the four-meter rule have done well. Hyundai has sold over one million i20s since 2008 and currently move over 6,000 units a

Return of the prodigal

The third generation Hyundai i20 may not appeal to everybody in an SUV-obsessed world but it proves that when it comes to fun, nothing compares to a hatchback with a bit of power



month.

The new i20 is spectacularly amazing to drive. I will admit I took the 'fun' variant, the 120PS Turbo-GDI with the seven-speed dual-clutch gearbox, and while other cars in the Hyundai Motor Group family — the Hyundai Venue and the Kia Sonet have the same engine and transmission combination, on the i20 everything felt better. And that is the defining aspect of a hatchback over the SUV. I have always said, to each their own. Some people prefer sitting way up off the ground, others such as myself genuinely prefer sitting lower down in a car. I agree that in India, and actually across the world, there has been a gradual shift away from hatchbacks and sedans towards SUVs, but for sheer driving thrill on the roads, nothing beats a hatchback with a powerful engine.

Hyundai also equips the i20 with their latest 1.2 litre Kappa engine, which delivers 83PS on the manual and 88PS on the automatic iVT variant, this is the 'affordable' variant. For those who need a daily commuter, it is the version to look at. Hyundai also gives hatchback buyers the option of a BS6 diesel, the U2 CRDi with 100PS and while diesels are a dirty word in Delhi and the rest of the NCR, by all indications thanks to the Venue and Sonet small diesel motors are still rocking the sales

HYUNDAI i20 (3RD GENERATION)

VERSION TESTED: T-GDI 7DCT Asta (0)
PRICE AS TESTED: ₹11.18 lakh (ex-showroom India)
ENGINE TESTED: 3-cylinder 998cc Turbo GDI Petrol 120PS
TRANSMISSION TESTED: Seven-Speed Dual-Clutch Transmission
RATING: 9/10 (Pricey but worth it)

charts in the West and South of the country.

Given how well cars like the i10 Nios and Verna do on the road, the i20 was going to be fabulous. It ticks other major boxes as well, it is comfortable and spacious particularly for a hatchback. There is also a decent amount of boot space, I find Hyundai's fitment of their 'Oxyboost' air purifier with a readout to be a major positive particularly in the horrible, horrible air quality conditions in the capital. There is the large 10.26-inch screen and the seven-speaker BOSE audio system that are both now standard on top-end variants from Hyundai and Kia. But even the middle-specifications are fairly well loaded albeit with a smaller screen. There are multiple charging points,

rear air-con vents and you can even specify a two-tone interior with touches of the 'fiery red' exterior paint job.

Now to the big issues around this i20 — the looks and price. Hyundai India claims that in their market research that almost 40 per cent of buyers looked at exterior looks as the prime buying criterion in this segment. I believe a part of that is because on the normal 1.2 litre naturally-aspirated engines across such hatchbacks, there are only slight differences in fuel economy and power output. The new i20 is certainly quite striking and it epitomises Hyundai's new 'Sensuous Sportiness' styling language. While it really won't be to everyone's taste, I personally find the styling a bit 'busy'. I will not be surprised if people really like the sharp edges and angles across the new car.

That is one aspect, Hyundai has also been a bit defensive on the price of the new i20. With a decent amount of kit, which would be the 'Sportz' specification and upwards, you would be spending close to 10 lakh on-road unless you picked up the manual transmission of the naturally aspirated Kappa engine. This is not a cheap car to buy. While Hyundai correctly says that you get a lot of cars for the money and it is also true that buyers are preferring fully-loaded models nowadays. The i20 gives you much more than its rivals, some buyers might be put off by the price. But five years ago, when Hyundai launched the first Creta, many of us, both buyers and writers questioned the price. We all know how the Creta did. Maybe Hyundai has changed the concept of 'Value For Money', because they're saying on this i20 that VFM does not mean 'cheap and cheerful' anymore, it means that you are getting a technologically advanced car for much less than what you'd pay in a luxury car with the same features.



Highway star

The Mercedes-Benz GLS 450 might combine a petrol engine with a big SUV, but it works rather well

For quite a few years, the very concept of a large Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) with a petrol engine might have seemed like anathema, unless and until you bought the madcap variants like the AMGs and Ms of the world. Why would anyone buy a large SUV with a "normal" petrol engine? Okay so in these cases, normal engines usually mean three-litre V6 turbo-charged engines, but you get the point. Then, of course, came that momentous Supreme Court ruling that in a single stroke wiped five years off the life of diesel-engined SUVs in the National Capital Region (NCR). While you can still fully depreciate a car in less than 10 years, it still hurts many owners to dispose of their big diesel SUVs after eight-nine years for a song. There are immaculately maintained 2010 and 2011 registered luxury diesel SUVs in the NCR that are available for next to nothing, if you check the online classifieds.

While we can, and should have a debate on whether diesel vehicles conforming to the BS6 emission regulations should be allowed the regular 15-year registration period, the '10-year rule' has led to most manufacturers launching petrol-

MERCEDES-BENZ GLS 450

PRICE: ₹99.9 lakh (ex-showroom, India)
ENGINE: 3-litre inline-six cylinder, 362hp
TRANSMISSION: 9-speed dual-clutch
RATING: 8.5/10 (Big and burly but not a drunkard)

engined variants of all their SUVs and some manufacturers such as Maruti-Suzuki and Skoda-Volkswagen Group in India getting out of the diesel market altogether. However, the prevalence of petrol SUVs has puzzled some, after all, don't petrol-engined SUVs return a far poorer fuel economy than a diesel-engined SUV?

Recently, I took the Mercedes-Benz GLS 450 out on a highway run to Jaipur and back. If the traffic on the highway is any indication, the economy is certainly back on track. Trucks still drive in the wrong lane and block the entire roads, being a trucker is a hard life, but for crying out loud, learn to drive properly folks and follow lane discipline. Driving on all but a few highways in India is a constant task of weaving through

the traffic and while you are almost always in motion, you are constantly accelerating and braking. And with new cars coming with speed alarms, even at 80 kilometers per hour (less than the highway speed limit), which on most luxury cars sound over the music, you can't even drive at the prescribed limit. I had a child in my car so I did not push the limit at all.

This car has a three-litre turbo-charged inline-six motor with a battery that provides a power boost (Mercedes calls it EQ Boost) and start-stop help and makes the car a mild hybrid. Total power output is just over 360 horsepower and despite weighing over three tons with passengers and luggage and still gets a move on. But on the highway and a little bit of city driving the GLS450 returned a quite remarkable 9.5 kilometers per litre. Frankly, I do not feel that the diesel variant the GLS 400d would have done much better in the circumstances. And when you consider that the diesel and petrol variant cost the same ex-showroom, although on-road prices will be impacted by diesel vehicle taxation in some states like Delhi, the petrol variant makes a lot of sense particularly when you consider aspects like resale value.

As for driving the car, I have never been a huge fan of cars of the GLS' size, but with button operated second and third-row recline, the GLS is easy to configure and can swallow a decent amount of luggage even with the third-row up and a positively massive amount of luggage when you have the third-row down. The SUV has a brilliant Burmeister sound system and on the front-row there are 'Active Seat Kinetics' which pulsate and believe me help a lot to mitigate fatigue, because a few hours on an Indian highway is like a full day of driving in Europe or the US.

While a GLS may be a bit big for me personally, the advent of lean-burning petrol engines in SUVs coupled with mild or strong hybrid systems will make a compelling case for them. And while it is too soon to declare the 'Death of Diesel', petrol-engined SUVs are no longer fighting an uphill battle.

PUCOVSKI GETS CALL UP FOR INDIA TESTS

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

The prodigiously talented pair of Will Pucovski and Cameron Green were among five uncapped players picked Thursday in a 17-member Australian Test squad for the big-ticket four-match series against India, starting December 17.

The other uncapped Test players in the Tim Paine-led side are fast bowler Sean Abbott leading to his tragic death — leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson and all-rounder Michael Neser.

All the players who are yet to wear the Baggy Green have been called on the back of extraordinary performances in the domestic circuit in recent times, Cricket Australia said.

Cricket Australia's national selector Trevor Hohns said the Shield performances augur well for the country's cricketing future.

"Two of those many standout players were of course Cameron Green and Will Pucovski," Hohns said in a statement.

Each of these players, though, has represented Australia in other formats.

Up against a strong Indian line-up and seeking to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy they lost for the first time in 2018-19, the fresh faces in the Australian Test squad will join the seasoned stars who dominated their most recent Test series — against Pakistan and

'In Kohli's absence, Aus will easily win Test series'



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former England skipper Michael Vaughan feels Australia will "quite easily" win the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India as talismanic batsman Virat Kohli will not be there for the final three matches of the four-Test series.

"No Virat Kohli for three Tests in Australia...The right decision

going to be at the birth of his first child...but it means Australia will win the series quite easily IMO .. #JustSaying," Vaughan said in a tweet.

Kohli will, however, feature in three ODIs and as many T20Is which will be played before the first Test — a pink-ball fixture — of which the Indian skipper will be a part of.

The other uncapped Test players in the Tim Paine-led side are fast bowler Sean Abbott leading to his tragic death - leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson and all-rounder Michael Neser.

New Zealand at home.

The performance took the team to the top of the world rankings before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

The limited overs leg, which will comprise three ODIs and as many T20Is, will be held prior to the Test series, starting November 27.

World's number one pacer Pat Cummins was named Paine's deputy in the Test team.

The selectors also named a 19-member Australia A squad, which includes nine members from the Test team, for four matches against India.

In recent times, past Australian greats have called for Pucovski's selection in the team following his fine run in domestic cricket — the 22-year-old struck successive double centuries in his two Shield appearances.

His inclusion sets up a competition with fellow opener Joe Burns, who is feeling the heat after a disastrous start to the first-class summer.

In all likelihood, Pucovski will partner the seasoned David Warner at the top.

"The undeniable form demanded selection and we are very pleased to have these young men in the squad for what



young talent who has great potential to become an all-rounder of substance over time. His batting alone has demanded his place in the squad."

Pucovski has been in stunning form in the opening rounds of the Shield games, amassing 495 runs at an unbelievable average of 247.50 in his two matches.

"His ability to show such patience is something which stands him in good stead for Test cricket and he is in rare company with two double centuries to start the summer.

"We very much look forward to Will developing further on the international stage," Hohns said.

Australia Test squad: Tim Paine (c), Sean Abbott, Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Will Pucovski, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Wade, David Warner

will be a tremendous Test Series against an extremely formidable opponent," Hohns said.

"Cameron has already won selection in the white-ball squad and continues that in joining the Test squad. He is a wonderful



Pooran retains place for NZ tour

PTI ■ ST. JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

West Indies all-rounder Roston Chase has been elevated to Test vice-captaincy while wicketkeeper Nicholas Pooran will continue as deputy in T20Is in the upcoming tour of New Zealand, starting November 27.

Chase replaced opener Kraigg Brathwaite, who was Jason Holder's deputy in the series against England in July, while the 25-year-old Pooran, first named the West Indies vice-captain in 2019, retained his position.

"Nicholas Pooran continues in the role of vice-captain of the T20I Team for the tour of New Zealand. He was first named vice-captain for this format for the series against Afghanistan in 2019," Cricket Windies' chief selector, Roger Harper, said.

Chase, 28, has so far played 35 Test matches, scoring five centuries and collecting three five-wicket hauls with his off-spin bowling.

"Roston Chase has been appointed vice captain of the West Indies Test Team for this tour of New Zealand. He is an experienced player who is tactically aware and very purposeful in his approach to the game," Harper said.

"He is readily willing to

offer advice and discuss ideas with his fellow players and the coaches and I think will offer good leadership support to captain Jason Holder both on and off the field," he added.

Chase has already landed in New Zealand while Pooran, who was part of the recently-concluded Indian Premier League, is expected to reach on Thursday along with the other players who competed at the tournament, including T20I skipper Kieron Pollard, Test captain Holder, Fabian Allen, Shimron Hetmyer, Keemo Paul and Oshane Thomas.

"I see this as another opportunity to learn and grow in the game. I was vice-captain for the tour of Sri Lanka earlier this year, so this is continuation of that work. It's always good to share your knowledge as we look to continue the winning mentality," Pooran said.

"I have been making strides in Test cricket since my debut back in 2016 and I see this new role as vice-captain as an honour. It is just for me to try and carry on and try to achieve great things for West Indies," Chase said.

"It is all about offering support to the captain, coach and other players as we try to plan strategy and put more wins on the board," he added.

Younis is Pak batting coach will 2022 T20 WC

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday extended batting coach Younis Khan's contract till 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia.

The PCB said it had received positive feedback about Younis' role during tour of England, which paved way for is contract extension.

"I am delighted that Younis will now be with for, at least, the next two years as our batting coach. The feedback we received about Younis' impact in a short period of time in England was



excellent," Pakistan Cricket Board Chief Executive Wasim Khan said.

"His work ethics, commit-

ment and knowledge are second to none, and I am confident that his appointment will benefit a number of talented batsmen."

When not on national duty, Younis will work at the High Performance Centre at Karachi, where he'll be joined by another Pakistan legend Mohammed Yousuf.

"The PCB will also be utilising Younis Khan's expertise and skills when he is not on national duty as he will help local batsmen hone their skills."

"This is part of the PCB's strategy to appoint highly-qualified and respected coaches across all major

centres of the country so that we can start producing cricketers who can represent Pakistan with distinction," Wasim added.

He also led Pakistan to its maiden T20 World Cup triumph in 2009.

"I am pleased to join the Pakistan cricket set-up on a long-term basis," Younis said on his part.

"I felt honoured when I was given the opportunity this summer and thoroughly enjoyed my time, and I now look forward to continuing the work with the same group of people on an important tour of New Zealand," Younis said.

Beliu and Gemechu to defend ADHM titles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ethiopia's Andamlak Belihu and Tsehay Gemechu will return to defend their men's and women's titles respectively in the 16th edition of the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on November 29.

The Ethiopian pair will both be aiming for an unprecedented third successive victory in the prestigious IAAF Gold Label Road Race.

"This has been a difficult year, for everyone around the world, not just professional athletes, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and I have been training alone much more than that I am normally used to.

"But my fifth place at the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships last month has assured me that I am in good shape and I am confident I can put up a good defence of my title," said Belihu.

Ethiopia's Guye Adola will return to Delhi for the first time since he set the course record of 59:06 in 2014.

An unprecedented 13 men in the ADHM 2020 elite field have run under the world class bench mark of one hour, and five of them have run faster than Belihu in their careers.

The fastest man in the field is Bahrain's 2018 World Athletics Half Marathon Championships Silver medallist Abraham Cheroben, who holds the Asian record for the distance with 58:40.

Two other men to watch out will be the Ethiopian pair of Amdework Walegn, who was second in Delhi last year and also took



the Bronze medal at 2020 World Athletics Half Marathon Championships, and 2017 and 2019 world 5000m champion Muktar Edris, who will be making his half marathon debut.

Last year, Gemechu improved her own women's course record by 50 seconds when she ran a stunning personal best of 66 minutes.

She will have a host of outstanding rivals in this year's race, arguably the strongest women's field ever seen in the history of the ADHM with seven women having run under 67 minutes.

Among them are two of her compatriots, Yalemzerf Yehualaw and Netsanet Gudeta.

The in-form Yehualaw finished second in the ADHM last year, just a second behind Gemechu.

She grabbed the third place at the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships last month with a personal best of 65:19. While Gudeta finished eighth in Poland but helped Ethiopia bag the team gold and was the 2018 world half marathon champion.

Both the men's and women's races have a first prize cheques of USD 27,000 with a total prize purse (combined men and women) of USD 233,270.

This year's ADHM will be held in a bio-secure bubble with only an estimated 60 elite international and Indian runners in action.

Non-elite runners of all abilities will have a chance to participate virtually from any location, running at any time between November 25-29.

Finland stun World Champions France

AP ■ FRANCE

Finland stunned WC winner France 2-0 in a friendly as the hosts were punished for missing a number of chances.

First-half goals from winger Marcus Forss and striker Onni Valakari gave the Finns an unexpected win, which had looked even more unlikely after France carved open the visiting defence early on.

Forward Marcus Thuram, could have made a scoring debut at Stade de France Thuram almost scored with his first chance for France when he headed against the crossbar from close range in the 16th minute. Two minutes later, Thuram volleyed over another good opportunity from close range and tried his luck with a speculative curling shot a few minutes later.

With Thuram probing down the left and combining



Finland's Onni Valakari, second right, is congratulated by teammates after scoring the team's second goal

AP

well with striker Wissam Ben Yedder, the French looked in total control only to concede twice in quick succession.

After midfielder Moussa Sissoko gave the ball away in the 28th, Forss charged into the penalty area and finished confidently with a driving shot. Three minutes later, the Valakari curled a shot past goalkeeper Steve Mandanda

from the edge of the penalty area.

France had a lot of the possession in the second half yet created little until the latter stages.

PORTUGAL WIN 7-0

Cristiano Ronaldo scored once in Portugal's 7-0 rout of Andorra in a friendly, moving a step closer to becoming the

all-time top scorer for a national team.

Ronaldo reached 102 goals with Portugal to sit seven shy of the 109 scored by former Iran striker Ali Daei, the only other male soccer player to surpass the 100-goal milestone for a national team. Ronaldo broke the century mark after scoring twice in Portugal's Nations League win over Sweden in October.

Ronaldo entered the match after halftime at the Stadium of Light in Lisbon. He made it 6-0 with a close-range header in the 85th minute after having squandered a few good chances.

He had replaced Pedro Neto, the 20-year-old Wolverhampton forward who was making his national team debut and opened the scoring for Portugal in the eighth minute. Paulinho, who was also making his Portugal debut, added to the lead in the 29th and Renato Sanches

scored in the 56th.

GERMANY BEAT CZECH

Lucas Waldschmidt's early goal was enough for an inexperienced Germany team to beat the Czech Republic 1-0 in their friendly game.

Germany goalkeeper Kevin Trapp made a late save to deny Matej Vydra an equalizer for the visitors, who were without two players due to positive coronavirus tests. The game was played without fans to minimize the risk of infections.

Germany coach Joachim Löw handed debuts to both PSV Eindhoven defender Philipp Max and Wolfsburg defender Ridle Baku.

SPAIN, DUTCH DRAW

Donny van de Beek put his Manchester United troubles behind him to score the equalizer as the Netherlands came from a goal down to draw 1-1 with Spain in a

friendly at the Johan Cruyff Arena.

Van de Beek has struggled to establish himself as a first-team player in Manchester but felt right at home back at the stadium where he rose to prominence with Ajax as he drilled a low shot past Unai Simon in the 47th minute.

It was a fourth match in charge without a win for Netherlands coach Frank de Boer, whose record is now a loss and three draws.

ITALY WIN 4-0

Vincenzo Grifo scored his first two goals for Italy in a 4-0 win over Estonia in a friendly as the host won comfortably despite missing a number of players and its coach because of coronavirus infections.

Federico Bernardeschi also scored in the first half, while Riccardo Orsolini converted a penalty four minutes

from time. Italy was without coach Roberto Mancini and several players because of the coronavirus.

BELGIUM WIN 2-1

Striker Michy Batshuayi scored twice to help a makeshift Belgium side come from behind to beat Switzerland 2-1 in a friendly game.

The Crystal Palace forward showed clinical efficiency to convert Belgium's two best chances in the second half after Switzerland deservedly took the lead with an early goal that rewarded its intense pressing.

Ahead of upcoming Nations League matches against England and Denmark, Belgium coach Roberto Martinez played mostly his backups and handed debuts to youngsters Dodi Lukebakio, Hannes Delcroix and Charles De Ketelaere.

Gomez out for indefinite period

AP ■ LONDON

Liverpool's injury problems mounted Lwth defender Joe Gomez leaving England duty with a knee injury sustained in training.

England manager Gareth Southgate said the severity of the injury was still unclear.

"What was upsetting was to see he was in a fair bit of pain," Gomez said.

"No one was around him when the injury happened."

Liverpool already has center back Virgil van Dijk out for a lengthy spell with a knee injury. Fabinho sidelined with a thigh injury and right back Trent Alexander-Arnold out with a thigh problem.

England plays Ireland on Thursday in a friendly ahead of Nations League games against Belgium and Iceland.

