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BAT ANYWHERE

LUCKNOW, MONDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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SUMEET VYAS
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CAPSULE

BHARTI SINGH, HUBBY IN CUSTODY TILL DEC 4

Mumbai: A Mumbai court on Sunday remanded comedian Bharti Singh and husband Harsh Limbachiya, arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau following seizure of drugs from their house here, to judicial custody till December 4. The court will hear their bail pleas on Monday. The NCB arrested Singh on Saturday and her husband early Sunday morning following seizure of ganja (cannabis) from their house in suburban Andheri.

CBI ARRESTS EX-K'TAKA MIN IN IMA PONZI SCAM

Bengaluru: Former Congress Minister R Roshan Baig was arrested by the CBI here on Sunday in connection with the multi-crore I-Monetary Advisory (IMA) ponzi scam, the agency sources said. Baig, a disqualified MLA of the Congress, was summoned to the CBI office on Sunday morning and "based on material evidence, he has been arrested," they said.

100-GUEST LIMIT AT WEDDINGS, FUNCTIONS IMPOSED IN UP AGAIN

Lucknow: In view of the surge in Covid cases, the Yogi Adityanath Government has decided to re-impose the restrict 100 guests at weddings and other social functions. The state government, on October 15, had allowed 200 guests at weddings with proper safety protocols. But with Covid cases rising again after the recent festive season, the state government keen to check the resurgence of cases. According to the government spokesman, the Chief Minister, on Saturday night, asked all district magistrates to ensure restriction of 100 guests at weddings.

Central teams rushed to contain Covid

High-level teams to help UP, Punjab, HP manage high infection loads, curb fatalities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Covid-19 pandemic continues unabated across the country, the Centre has rushed high-level teams to three States — Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab — to help them manage high infection loads and curb fatalities.

Earlier the Union Government had sent the high level teams to Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Manipur and Chhattisgarh.

The Union Health Ministry official said the high-level teams to UP, Punjab and HP aims to support them in Covid-19 response and management. These States have been either reporting a rise in the number of active cases — those who are hospitalised or are in home isolation under medical supervision, or demonstrating a rise in the daily new cases of coronavirus infections.

These three-member teams will visit the districts reporting a high number of Covid cases and support the State efforts towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures and efficient clinical management of the positive cases. The Central teams shall also guide in effectively managing the challenges related to timely diagnosis and follow up, the official said.

Acting tough in a bid to break the chain of infection, the UP Government, which initially restricted 100 people at marriage function instead of 200 in Noida and Ghaziabad districts brought the entire States under the marriage guest capping. The violators will face tough



action, the authorities said, adding that the decision has been taken due to a spike in the number of coronavirus cases.

Night curfews and Section 144 have returned in States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and others. The Ashok Gehlot Government in Rajasthan has imposed night curfew in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Bikaner, Udaipur, Ajmer, Alwar and Bhilwara. According to news agencies, nobody except those providing essential and emergency services will be allowed to come out from 8 pm to 6 am in few cities in Rajasthan. The fine for not wearing a face mask has been increased from Rs 200 to Rs 500.

In Delhi, the fine for not wearing face masks has been increased from Rs 500 to Rs 2,000. Besides, consumption of tobacco, spitting in public places, violation of quarantine rules, and not maintaining social distancing will also attract a fine of the same amount. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority had reverted to the earlier cap on the number of guests in the wake of a spurt in coronavirus cases in the city.

Continued on Page 4

PM likely to hold meet with CMs to review coronavirus situation tomorrow

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold virtual meetings with Chief Ministers and other representatives of States and Union Territories on Tuesday to review the Covid-19 situation and discuss vaccine distribution strategy. Modi is expected to hold two back to back meetings, one with eight States with high caseloads and another with States and UTs to discuss vaccine distribution strategy, sources said.

The PM, till now, has held several virtual meetings with States over the coronavirus situation. While the national daily Covid-19 case count has remained below 50,000 for some time, several urban centres have witnessed a surge, resulting in enforcement of several measures, including curfews in some cities.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 91,37,812

DEATHS: 1,33,731

RECOVERED:

85,59,630

ACTIVE: 4,42,391



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	17,80,208	46,623	16,51,064
Karnataka	8,73,046	11,654	8,36,505
Andhra Pradesh	8,62,213	6,938	8,41,026
Tamil Nadu	7,69,995	11,586	7,43,838
Kerala	5,62,696	2,023	4,88,437
Delhi	5,29,863	8,391	4,81,260
Uttar Pradesh	5,26,780	7,524	4,93,228
West Bengal	4,56,361	7,976	4,19,403
Odisha	3,13,961	1,678	3,03,897
Telangana	2,63,526	1,426	2,49,157
Rajasthan	2,43,936	2,146	2,16,579
Bihar	2,30,632	1,216	2,23,615
Chhattisgarh	2,21,688	2,713	1,98,316
Haryana	2,17,300	2,163	1,92,533
Assam	2,11,513	973	2,07,219
Gujarat	1,97,412	3,846	1,78,886

Desi Covaxin at least 60% effective, to pass WHO norm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's coronavirus vaccine candidate, Covaxin, will be at least 60 per cent effective, said vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech on Sunday based on the trial data of the vaccine candidate. The company said while it aimed to achieve at least 60 per cent efficacy, it could actually be more. "Chances of the vaccine being less than 50 per cent effective are remote, as suggested by our trial results so far," it said.

According to the World Health Organization, clear demonstration of efficacy (on

a population basis) ideally with 50 per cent point estimate should be a minimum criterion for any coronavirus vaccine candidate. It had also said that the efficacy can be assessed against disease, severe disease, and/or shedding.

The company, which is conducting the trials in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research, said on Tuesday that it had begun the third phase trials of the vaccine with 26,000 participants from across 22 sites in the country. Meanwhile, the Government may grant Pune's Serum Institute of India (SII) with the emergency use authorisation of

Oxford and AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine if the British-Swedish pharmaceutical company got such approval from the UK Government.

Continued on Page 4

MODERNA VACCINE TO COST GOVTS \$25-\$37

Berlin: Governments seeking to purchase Moderna's potential Covid-19 vaccine may have to shell out \$25 and \$37 per dose, depending on the size of the order, the company's CEO Stephane Bancel told German weekly 'Welt am Sonntag' (WamS).

Corona test must for all entering UP from Delhi



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As Delhi fight to contain a month-long surge in coronavirus, its neighbouring State Uttar Pradesh has decided to conduct mandatory Covid tests on people coming from Delhi.

"We will be testing people coming from Delhi via flight, bus or train, in the wake of surge in Covid-19 cases in the national Capital," UP Chief Secretary RK Tiwari was quoted as saying by news agency ANI today. "We are discussing on the number of people allowed to attend weddings or other events," he added.

The authorities in Gautam Budh Nagar, the district in Uttar Pradesh adjoining Delhi, have been conducting random checks on incoming people for a while. So did Haryana in Delhi's adjoining districts of Gurugram and Faridabad.

■ See Page 2

Border tunnel used by fidayeen detected

20-25 feet, 160 metre long terror tunnel was found in Regal area of Samba sector

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Exposing Pakistan's complicity in aiding and abetting terrorism, a joint team of Border Security Force (BSF) and Jammu & Kashmir police on Sunday detected a 20-25 feet deep and 160-metre-long cross border tunnel, along the International border in Regal area of Samba sector.

The tunnel was used by the four member fidayeen squad (members of a suicide squad) of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) to infiltrate inside the Indian territory before they were neutralised at Ban Toll Plaza near Nagotra on November 19.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontiers, NS Jamwal who visited the tunnel site told reporters, "In a coordinated operation a joint team of BSF and Jammu & Kashmir police managed to timely detect this cross border tunnel used by the JeM group to crawl inside the



Indian territory". He said the tunnel was approximately 160-metre-long and 20-25 feet deep.

"The exit of the tunnel was in thick bushes, carefully concealed and meticulously covered with soil and wild growth. The mouth of the tunnel is strengthened and reinforced by the sand bags with markings of Karachi, Pakistan," he added.

Referring to the detection of tunnel IG, BSF said it appears it is a freshly dug tunnel and appears to be used for the first time. He said it appears that proper engineering effort has gone in making the tunnel which shows the hand of the establishment.

The nearest Pakistan BOPs are — Chak Bhura, Rajab Sahid

and Asif Sahid.

Director General of Police, Dillbagh Singh, who was also present on the spot, told reporters the items used by the tunnel diggers to cover it up all carry the markings of items made in Pakistan. "Earlier, the seizures made from the encounter site at Ban Toll Plaza also clearly indicated Pak hand in pushing these groups to execute their sinister design of disrupting DDC polls in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

He said JeM terrorists were tasked by their Pakistan based handlers to disrupt the district development council polls beginning November 28 in Jammu & Kashmir. To execute their sinister plot the JeM group was launched inside the Indian territory along with the huge consignment of arms and ammunition which included 11 AK rifles, 29 grenades, RDX explosives, etc.

Continued on Page 4

Firms trying to cash in on Covid fear with crafty ads

Companies claim fabric anti-Covid, sweets can fight virus: Advertising Standards Council

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI



improve the immune system. Similarly, a grocery chain said it would refund full grocery bill if their customer tested positive for Covid-19 within 24 hours of shopping at their store. The ASCI has found these advertisements to be misleading and told the advertisers either to modify such claims or withdraw their advertisements.

According to the ASCI, at the time when the second wave of coronavirus pandemic started spreading across India,

many advertisers leveraged consumers' fears and insecurities to lure them to make product purchases through their misleading advertisements.

A clothing company claimed that their fabric kills 99 per cent of the Covid-19 virus with HEiQ ViroBlock Swiss Technology 2. The advertiser claimed that "HeiQ Viroblock NPJ03 is an intelligent Swiss textile technology that is added to the fabric during the final stage of the textile manufacturing process. This has been tested by HEiQ with the very reputed Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Melbourne."

They also claimed that wearing of their antiviral shirt will give protection to the consumer since viruses that come in contact on the fabric including Covid-19 will be killed and will not be able to reach the body of the consumer thus protecting him.

Continued on Page 4

Focus on climate change, India exceeding Paris target: Modi

World can progress faster with greater support of technology, finance to developing nations: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the world leaders to keep the focus on climate change and asserted that India is exceeding the target of the Paris agreement. He also said the entire world can progress faster if there is greater support of technology and finance to developing nations.

Addressing the G20 side event on "Safeguarding the Planet", Modi said India is not only meeting its Paris Agreement targets but also exceeding them.

Saudi Arabia, which assumed the G20 presidency this year, is the host of the virtual summit that is bringing together leaders from the world's richest and most devel-

oped economies, such as the US, China, India, Turkey, France, the UK and Brazil, among others.

Modi said India's focus is on saving citizens and the economy from pandemic while keeping the pace of fighting climate change. He informed the G20 leaders that India's aim is to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by the year 2030 and encourage a circular economy.

"Today, we are focused on saving our citizens and economies from the effects of the global pandemic. Equally important is to keep our focus on fighting climate change. Climate change must be fought not in silos but in an integrated, comprehensive, and holistic way. Inspired by our traditional ethos of living in harmony with the environment, and the commitment of my Government, India has adopted low-carbon and climate-resilient development practices.

"I am glad to share that



India is not only meeting our Paris Agreement targets, but also exceeding them. India has taken concrete action in many areas. We have made LED lights popular. This saves 38 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

"Smoke-free kitchens have been provided to over 80 million households through our Ujjwala Scheme. This is among the largest clean energy drives globally," said Modi.

The PM said that India is doing efforts to eliminate single-use plastics and increasing the forest cover. He also said that the population of wild animals such as lion and tiger are increasing in India.

Modi said that India is making next-generation infrastructure such as metro networks, water-ways and more.

"In addition to convenience and efficiency, they will also contribute to a cleaner environment. We will meet our goal of 175 Giga Watts of renewable energy well before the target of 2022. Now, we are taking a big step ahead by seeking to achieve 450 Giga Watts by 2030," he said.

The Prime Minister reiterated worldwide support for 'The International Solar Alliance' and also asked for more countries' participation in the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). "18 countries - including 9 from among the G20 - and 4 international organizations have already joined the

Coalition. CDRI has started work on increasing the resilience of critical infrastructure. Infra damage during natural disasters is a subject that has not got the attention it deserves. The poorer nations are especially impacted by this. Therefore, this Coalition is important," pointed out Modi.

He also said that this is the best time for further increasing research and innovation in new and sustainable technologies. "We should do so with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration. The entire world can progress faster if there is greater support of technology and finance to the developing world.

For humanity to prosper, every single individual must prosper. Rather than seeing labour as a factor of production alone, the focus must be on the human dignity of every worker. Such an approach would be the best guarantee for safeguarding our planet," said Modi.

BJP councillor alleges MP thrashed him

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A Bharatiya Janata Party councillor in Deoria has complained to the higher authorities of the party, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, that the local Member of Parliament thrashed him at his residence here on November 19.

The councillor, Ashutosh Tiwari, in his letter on Sunday alleged that the local BJP MP from Deoria, Ramapati Ram Tripathi, and his supporters thrashed him at his residence.

He also alleged that one of

the supporters of the MP whipped out a pistol to shoot him during the incident.

However, the MP contradicted the charges.

In the letter, the councillor said that he had proposed to name the auditorium of the Town Hall after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Municipal Board had passed the proposal on December 20, 2019.

He said in September 2020, someone put a statue of former MP Mohan Singh there and his name was put on a plaque.

The councillor said he went to meet the local BJP MP to

discuss the issue on November 19. “The MP asked me to take back the proposal which I refused. Later, the supporters of the MP thrashed me while the MP himself abused me. A contractor, Girish Singh, even whipped out his pistol and threatened me,” the councillor alleged.

“I was badly beaten up and I saved my life by running away from them,” Ashutosh Tiwari said in his letter.

However, Ramapati Ram Tripathi said the councillor was trying to blackmail him and denied that Tiwari was thrashed inside his residence.

Record production of sanitiser in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Going by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s mantra of ‘Opportunities in Disaster’, the state has registered a record production of sanitiser during the COVID-19 period, setting a new record in revenue generation.

According to the statistics of the Excise department, the distilleries and other small units of the state have not only produced a record quantity of 177 lakh litres of sanitiser from March 24, 2020 to November 15, 2020, they have also generated a record revenue of Rs.137 crore.

As far as the sale of sanitiser is concerned, while 78.38 lakh litres have been sold outside UP, a total of 87.01 lakh litre has been consumed in UP, making it to a total 165.39 lakh litres.

“On the lines of ‘Apada Mein Awasar’, the Excise department ensured that the formalities of production of sanitiser were completed timely and the product was also available in the markets,” said Additional Chief Secretary (Excise) Sanjay Bhooresreddy.

UP has also set a record in revenue generation during this period.

As per statistics, the exchequer has made record revenue of Rs.137 crore.

While this includes GST (goods and services tax) revenue of Rs.12,848 lakh, the licence fees added Rs.794.28 lakh to the exchequer. In addition, the revenue earned as denaturation fees was Rs.21.18 lakh.

CM hands over cows to 11 families

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In what can be said to be the most unique scheme in the country, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath chose the occasion of Gopashtami on Sunday to hand over cows to 11 families that have malnourished children. It will serve the dual purpose of preserving cows as well as providing nourishment to undernourished children.

Under its Sahbhagita Yojana (co-participation scheme), the Uttar Pradesh government is giving Rs 900 per month to the people taking care of cows. As many as 66,257 cows have been given under this scheme while 1,071 cows have been distributed to 1,069

families of malnourished children, according to a senior government official.

“The state government launched the cow protection campaign in a big way, setting up cow shelters besides maintaining the existing gaushalas. The government also started schemes to make cow shelter homes financially viable,” the official said. According to the Animal Husbandry department, there are 1.9 crore cows and 3.3 crore buffaloes in the state. Under the cow protection campaign launched by the UP government, 5,25,376 out of 11.84 lakh destitute cows have been conserved in cow shelter homes.

Ear-tagging of cows and buffaloes is being done by the

Animal Husbandry department and this will literally work as an Aadhaar card for the animals. Complete data of the domestic animals will be available online, including the owner’s identity and breed of the animal, the official said, adding that the problem of stray cows could largely be solved this way.

A total of 2,23,83,742 cows and buffaloes have been tagged in the state, out of which 95,77,781 are cows.

It is worth mentioning here that the UP government is the only government in the country which has promised to complete the ear tagging of the cows by March 31, 2021.

The chief minister also sought involvement of people’s

representatives, administration and public in vaccinating cows at cow shelter homes. More than 3.34 crore cows and buffaloes have so far been vaccinated in the state in the last three-and-half years.

The Animal Husbandry department has received 52 applications for registration of cowsheds in the districts, out of which permission for 14 cowsheds has been given.

“MGNREGA has also been linked to cow shelter sites for maximum employment generation,” the official said.

Under the MGNREGA, about 3,116 projects are operating at cow shelters in the state. In addition, organic fertiliser is also being prepared at 1,056 cow shelter homes.

UP focuses on random testing of people coming from Delhi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In view of the rising novel coronavirus positive cases in Delhi, the Uttar Pradesh government has started random testing of people coming from the national capital as the state registered 2,588 fresh COVID-19 cases during the past 24 hours, taking the tally in the state to 5,26,780.

“The authorities increased Covid testing after Diwali and on Saturday 1,75,128 tests were done. This was done to ensure that people across the state, particularly in the National Capital Region, could be tested vigorously,” Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said here on Sunday.

He said in November, the positivity rate in the state remained at 1.6 percent, well below the national average.

“Five districts, namely Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Lucknow and Varanasi, have a very high positivity rate while districts like Ambedkar Nagar, Balrampur, Hathras, Kanpur Dehat and Shravasti have the lowest positivity rate in the state,” Prasad said during his daily press briefing.

Prasad said that the recovery rate in the state had come down to 94.04 percent from 94.09 percent since Saturday. A total of 4,95,415 COVID-19 patients have recovered in the state, including 2,187 during the past 24 hours.

At present, there are 23,806 active coronavirus positive cases in the state out of which 10,902 are in home isolation, 2,356 in private hospitals and the rest in government run Covid hospitals.

The COVID-19 death toll in the state reached 7,559 on Sunday evening with 37 more people succumbing to the dreaded virus.

On Saturday, 1,75,128 samples were tested in the state taking the number of Covid tests to 1,79,85,811, the highest in the country, according to the additional chief secretary.

Around 4.60 lakh surveillance teams have so far visited 2.91 crore houses in the state and have checked the health of over 14.27 crore people. Reports on Sunday evening said that 351 fresh cases were reported in Lucknow with six COVID-19 deaths, 118 in Kanpur, 110 in Prayagraj, 189 in Ghaziabad, 171 in Gautam Buddha Nagar, 102 in Varanasi and 283 in Meerut.

Bill to make marriages after forced religious conversion null & void

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has drafted a proposed law that seeks to make marriages null and void if they are found to involve forced religious conversion.

The draft ‘Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Bill, 2020’ is aimed at curbing the alleged trend of love jihad – or an alleged conspiracy involving the conversion of Hindu women to Islam under the garb of love and marriage.

The draft bill has been formulated by the state’s Home department and forwarded to the Law department. The bill, it is learnt, will soon be presented before the state cabinet.”

The proposal law provides for five years of jail and Rs 15,000 as fine for forced conversion, including through marriage.

If a woman is converted only for the purpose of marriage and someone files a complaint with the police, an investigation will ensue, the draft bill

states. If the investigation finds evidence of foul play, the marriage will be dissolved.

The draft bill also calls for 10 years’ jail for mass conversion. Conversion will be a non-bailable offence.

An official of the UP Law Commission – an advisory body to the Law department – said the proposed law includes no restriction on inter-religious marriage. “It only proposes that religious conversion by force, or by giving inducement or by facilitating conversion through marriages, should be included in the category of crime. Under this law, religious conversion is allowed, but conversion by force or through any kind of inducement is not,” he said.

Referring to the absence of the term ‘love jihad’ in the bill, the official said it was used only in the media, social media and political discourses.

“The Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion Bill, 2020 does not treat religious conversion in terms of ‘Hindu-

Muslim’ only. Instead, it is applicable to all religions,” he said.

Among other things, the draft bill seeks to impose imprisonment of two to seven years and a fine of at least Rs 25,000 in case of forced religious conversion that involve minor girls or a woman belonging to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.

For all kinds of conversions, the draft bill states, it would be mandatory to provide information to the district magistrate one month in advance and violation of this provision may attract a jail term ranging from six months to three years. UP Law Minister Brajesh Pathak had on Friday said that the number of love jihad cases had increased rapidly in the state, adding that this had led to social tension and law and order problem. On 31 October, the Allahabad High Court in a judgement had said that religious conversion just for the sake of marriage was not valid.

SP for electoral tie-up with smaller parties

Lucknow (PNS): The Samajwadi Party has decided to revise its electoral strategy and focus on tie-up with smaller political outfits for the 2022 UP assembly elections.

The SP feels encouraged by the performance of small political parties during the recent Bihar assembly elections. SP and other small political outfits representing Dalit and backward classes are having a backlook at their electoral stand after the recent bye-elections to seven UP assembly constituencies showed that split in non-Bharatiya Janata Party votes ultimately benefited the ruling party.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav intends to forge an alliance with smaller parties, which include Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), the outfit floated by his estranged uncle Shivalp Singh Yadav, who in turn has given a positive response.

The SP had tied up with the Congress in the 2017 UP assembly polls and with the Bahujan Samaj Party in the

2019 Lok Sabha polls but failed to halt the BJP juggernaut.

The SP might have a local tie-up with Rashtriya Lok Dal and Mahan Dal in western UP, party sources said.

In the 2012 UP assembly polls, over 200 registered parties had fielded their candidates, while in 2017, there were some 290 local parties vying for electoral laurels.

The BJP had tied up with Apna Dal (Sonelal) headed by Anupriya Patel and the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party led by Om Prakash Rajbhar, keeping in mind their clout among Kurmi and extremely backward classes, respectively.

BJP MLC and UP unit vice-president Vijay Bahadur Pathak said the party had cordial ties with its allies and the bonds would get stronger in the days to come.

Sources in Congress also said that the party was toying with the idea of forging an electoral alliance with smaller parties for the 2022 UP assembly polls.

Krishnam wants Priyanka as Congress chief

Lucknow (PNS): There is no let up in the bickering within the Congress, with a senior leader and party spokesperson Acharya Pramod Krishnam demanding that the rein of the party be handed over to Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for a strong fight against the Narendra Modi government.

Krishnam, who was Congress’ Lok Sabha candidate from Lucknow against Rajnath Singh in the 2019 parliamentary elections, in a tweet on Sunday said, “Crores of Congress workers want Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to lead the party. Under her leadership, Congress will launch a decisive mass struggle against the anti-people government of Narendra Modi.” Earlier too, Krishnam had supported senior party leader Kapil Sibal on his demand for a change in the party leadership. This time Krishnam has decided to lead from the front and make a direct demand that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra be made the new president of the party.



शिक्षा व्यवस्था में बढ़ते कदम

वर्चुअल स्कूल

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

23.11.2020 से 27.11.2020 तक ई-लर्निंग प्रसारण का चौदहवां चरण

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	अपराह्न 1:30 से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 3:30 से अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:30 से सायं 5:00 बजे तक	सायं 6:00 से सायं 6:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 1:00 से अपराह्न 1:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 2:30 से अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:00 से अपराह्न 4:30 बजे तक	सायं 5:30 से सायं 6:00 बजे तक
23-11-2020 सोमवार	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 लोकतंत्र के परिणाम भाग-4	विज्ञान अध्याय-10 प्रकाश का परावर्तन भाग-1	विज्ञान अध्याय-10 प्रकाश का परावर्तन भाग-2	विज्ञान अध्याय-10 प्रकाश का परावर्तन भाग-3	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-13 एसीन भाग-4	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-4 गतिमान आवेश तथा चुम्बकत्व, भाग-5	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-4 गतिमान आवेश तथा चुम्बकत्व, भाग-6	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-4 गतिमान आवेश तथा चुम्बकत्व भाग-7
24-11-2020 मंगलवार	संस्कृत अध्याय-व्याकरण अध्याय-1	संस्कृत अध्याय-1 वर्ण विचार एवं उच्चारण स्थान भाग-1	वाणिज्य अध्याय-10 देशी व्यापार भाग-1	संस्कृत अध्याय-तृतीयः पाठः सुक्तिं सुधा भाग-1	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-4 गतिमान आवेश तथा चुम्बकत्व भाग-8	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-4 गतिमान आवेश तथा चुम्बकत्व भाग-9	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-6 रोगों की उत्पत्ति, प्रसार, लक्षण और उपचार भाग-1	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-6 रोगों की उत्पत्ति, प्रसार, लक्षण और उपचार, भाग-2
25-11-2020 बुधवार	संस्कृत अध्याय-व्याकरण शब्द रूप एवं बचत भाग-1	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-1 शिशक द्वारा प्रतिदर्श बजट बनाना भाग-1	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-(Prose) The Ganga Part-2	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-2 A Letter to God Part-1	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-6 रोगों की उत्पत्ति, प्रसार, लक्षण और उपचार भाग-3	जीव विज्ञान अध्याय-4 जनन स्वास्थ्य भाग-1	जीव विज्ञान अध्याय-4 जनन स्वास्थ्य भाग-2	संस्कृत अध्याय-द्वितीयः रघुवंश महाकाव्य भाग-6
26-11-2020 गुरुवार	हिन्दी अध्याय-व्याकरण सवित्र भाग-1	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-3 The Verb Part-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-व्याकरण सवित्र भाग-2	गणित अध्याय-6 त्रिभुज भाग-1	संस्कृत अध्याय-द्वितीयःसर्गः रघुवंश महाकाव्य भाग-7	संस्कृत अध्याय-द्वितीयःसर्गः रघुवंश महाकाव्य भाग-8	संस्कृत अध्याय-द्वितीयःसर्गः रघुवंश महाकाव्य भाग-9	संस्कृत अध्याय-15 जैव विविधता और इसका संरक्षण भाग-1
27-11-2020 शुक्रवार	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-22 कुछ सामान्य रोग और उनकी रोकथाम भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-6 त्रिभुज भाग-2	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय- 23 माछी श्वास गति तथा ताप चार्ट, भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-6 त्रिभुज भाग-3	हिन्दी अध्याय-1 आत्मज्ञ एवं सर्वज्ञ भाग-1	संस्कृत अध्याय-2 कारक एवं विभक्ति भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-7 नौका विहार भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-2 कारक एवं विभक्ति भाग-2

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

चैनल e vidya-9 पर कक्षा-9 एवं चैनल e vidya-11 पर कक्षा-11 यू.पी. बोर्ड हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी				
दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-9		कक्षा-11	
	प्रातः 8:30 से प्रातः 9:00 बजे तक	प्रातः 9:00 से प्रातः 9:30 बजे तक	सायं 6:30 से सायं 7:00 बजे तक	सायं 7:00 से सायं 7:30 बजे तक
23-11-2020 सोमवार	हिन्दी अध्याय-6 काका कालेलकर-निष्कामूर्ति कस्त्रुबा (हिन्दी गद्य), भाग-1/2	विज्ञान अध्याय-12 ध्वनि भाग-1/4	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-एकक-8, अपचयोपचय (रोडाक्स) अभिक्रियाएँ (रसायन भाग-2) भाग-1/8	हिन्दी अध्याय-5-खण्ड-क-काव्य तुलसीदास : भरत महिमा-1 (गद्य, कथा साहित्य, काव्य संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका) भाग-1/6
24-11-2020 मंगलवार	संस्कृत अध्याय-7-खण्ड-क नीति-नवनीतम् (संस्कृत पद्य पौष्यधम) गद्य, पद्य तथा आधुपाठ, भाग-1/2	विज्ञान अध्याय-12 ध्वनि, भाग-2/4	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-एकक-8, अपचयोपचय (रोडाक्स) अभिक्रियाएँ (रसायन भाग-2) भाग-2/8	हिन्दी अध्याय-5-खण्ड-क-काव्य तुलसीदास : भरत महिमा-1 (गद्य, कथा साहित्य, काव्य संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका) भाग-3/6
25-11-2020 बुधवार	हिन्दी अध्याय-6 काका कालेलकर-निष्कामूर्ति कस्त्रुबा (हिन्दी गद्य) भाग-2/2	विज्ञान अध्याय-12 ध्वनि, भाग-3/4	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-एकक-8, अपचयोपचय (रोडाक्स) अभिक्रियाएँ (रसायन भाग-2), भाग-3/8	हिन्दी अध्याय-5-खण्ड-क-काव्य तुलसीदास : भरत महिमा-1 (गद्य, कथा साहित्य, काव्य संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका) भाग-4/6
26-11-2020 गुरुवार	संस्कृत अध्याय-7-खण्ड-क नीति-नवनीतम् (संस्कृत पद्य तथा पौष्यधम) गद्य,पद्य तथा आधुपाठ, भाग-2/2	विज्ञान अध्याय-12 ध्वनि, भाग-4/4	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-एकक-8, अपचयोपचय (रोडाक्स) अभिक्रियाएँ (रसायन भाग-2), भाग-4/8	हिन्दी अध्याय-5-खण्ड-क-काव्य तुलसीदास : भरत महिमा-1 (गद्य, कथा साहित्य, काव्य संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका) भाग-5/6
27-11-2020 शुक्रवार	वाणिज्य अध्याय-15, मुद्रा इतिहास (वस्तु विनियम एवं मुद्रा उद्यम), भाग-1/2	संस्कृत अध्याय-5-खण्ड-ख, सवित्र-स्तोःशुभाशुभ (व्याकरण अनुवाद तथा रचना) भाग-1/1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-एकक-8, अपचयोपचय (रोडाक्स) अभिक्रियाएँ (रसायन भाग-2), भाग-5/8	हिन्दी अध्याय-5-खण्ड-क-काव्य तुलसीदास : भरत महिमा-1 (गद्य, कथा साहित्य, काव्य संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका) भाग-6/6

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

माध्यमिक शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश की एक पहल

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Cases rising due to people coming from other cities

351 more test positive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

There is an increase in the number of coronavirus cases because of people coming from outside during the recent festive period. According to a senior official at the CMO office, increased testing can also be attributed to the spike in cases. However, he said it could not be called a second wave because the wave always peaks. He said they were making preparations so that the beds are ready when cases increase further.

On Sunday, 351 persons tested positive in the city on Sunday while 313 recovered. The death toll stands at 963 while the number of active cases is 3,402. The fresh cases included 38 from Gomtinagar, 35 from Indiranagar, 22 from Cantt, 21 from Rae Bareilly road, 20 from Ashiyana, 19 each from Chowk & Alambagh, 16 from Mahanagar, 13 each from Hasanganj & Jankipuram, 12 from Hazratganj, 11 from Vikasnagar and 10 each from Chinhat & Madaon. There were two deaths in the city and one of the deceased belonged to Lucknow while the other to Mainpuri. A 50-year-old man from Lucknow succumbed to Covid-19 at KGMU.

Across the state, 2,588 persons tested positive, including 171 in Gautambuddh Nagar, 189 in Ghaziabad, 110 in Prayagraj, 283 in Meerut and 118 in Kanpur, taking the UP tally to 5,26,780.

There were 37 deaths in the state, including four in Meerut, three in Jalaun, two each in Mathura & Bahraich, and one each in Gautambuddh Nagar, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Agra, Saharanpur, Ayodhya, Barabanki, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shahjahanpur, Deoria, Bulandshahr, Etawah,



Ghazipur, Rae Bareilly, Sitapur, Sultanpur, Mainpuri, Banda, Auraiya & Lalitpur, taking the toll to 7,559. Besides, 2,187 patients recovered, taking the recovery figures to 4,95,415.

Additional CMO MK Singh said the increase in cases is due to the testing of visitors from other parts of the district and country. In the 11,000 tests being carried out in slums, airports, bus & railway stations on a daily basis, the cases are bound to increase.

"All these people coming from outside of Lucknow will be visiting some areas in the city and almost 8-10 percent of them are testing positive. If these people had been allowed to roam freely, they would have increased the number of cases in the city manifold. With increased detection, they have been separated, isolated or will be treated," he said.

He said 25 contacts of each patient are tested and thus the cases are bound to increase. "The rise is not an issue, but the containment is important. Once the patients are detected, all the Covid-19 protocols are followed," he said.

About those coming to Lucknow by their personal vehicles, he said they are not tested separately but when the 25 contacts of any positive case are tested.

He said they are focusing on five areas — Indiranagar, Gomtinagar, Sarojininar, Chinhat, Indiranagar and Aliganj. "Teams have been increased in these areas by

making small containment zones and the surveillance activity is the key focus and separation of those having ILI and SARI continues for effective containment by early detection of the patients to prevent further spread," he said.

When asked why the circulation of the virus is not contained in these focus areas, he said the cases have come down as in other parts of the city.

"Substantial reduction is still there but circulation is still continuing in these areas because these are larger areas catering to a large population. For example, Chinhat, when combined with Gomtinagar, becomes a larger area. Also, Aliganj is a fairly huge area," he said. He added that the number of positive cases post the festive period has been low as compared to 1,100 cases which were coming up in the month of September.

"It's seven days after Diwali and the incubation period of the virus is 4-12 days, and the cases have not increased to a large extent," he said. Talking about the old city not witnessing the spike, he said static teams at eight CHCs were vigilant to contain the spread of infection.

Meanwhile, Dr AK Tripathi, who recently came back as the director of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, resigned on Sunday. Tripathi said he submitted his resignation to the governor because of personal reasons.



कोविड-19 की जांच के लिए राजकीय एवं निजी मेडिकल कॉलेजों में

नवस्थापित बी.एस.एल. लैब

तथा

कोविड-19 व डेंगू के उपचार के लिए

एफरेसिस व केमिल्यूमिनिसेन्स फैसिलिटी

का

लोकार्पण / शुभारंभ

(वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से)

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

सुरेश कुमार खन्ना

मंत्री, चिकित्सा शिक्षा, वित्त एवं संसदीय कार्य, उत्तर प्रदेश

संदीप सिंह

राज्यमंत्री, चिकित्सा शिक्षा प्राविधिक शिक्षा एवं वित्त, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 23 नवम्बर, 2020 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे | स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

लोकार्पण

- राजकीय मेडिकल कॉलेज, कन्नौज में बी.एस.एल.-3 लैब
- राजकीय मेडिकल कॉलेज, प्रयागराज में एफरेसिस फैसिलिटी
- राजकीय मेडिकल कॉलेज, आगरा व कानपुर में केमिल्यूमिनिसेन्स फैसिलिटी
- राजकीय मेडिकल कॉलेज, गोरखपुर में एफरेसिस फैसिलिटी एवं केमिल्यूमिनिसेन्स फैसिलिटी
- स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, फिरोजाबाद में एफरेसिस फैसिलिटी एवं केमिल्यूमिनिसेन्स फैसिलिटी

शुभारंभ

- हिन्दु इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मेडिकल साइंसेज, बाराबंकी में बी.एस.एल.-2 लैब
- इंटीग्रल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मेडिकल साइंसेज, लखनऊ में बी.एस.एल.-2 लैब
- रामा मेडिकल कॉलेज एवं रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट, हापुड़ में बी.एस.एल.-2 लैब
- एफ.एच. मेडिकल कॉलेज एवं हॉस्पिटल, फिरोजाबाद में बी.एस.एल.-2 लैब
- टी.एस. मिश्रा मेडिकल कॉलेज, लखनऊ में बी.एस.एल.-2 लैब
- हेरिटेज इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मेडिकल साइंसेज, वाराणसी में बी.एस.एल.-2 लैब
- मेडिकल कॉलेज, मुजफ्फरनगर में बी.एस.एल.-2 लैब एवं केमिल्यूमिनिसेन्स फैसिलिटी
- मेयो मेडिकल कॉलेज, बाराबंकी में एफरेसिस फैसिलिटी

कोरोना के उपचार हेतु व्यवस्था

- कोरोना पर प्रभावी प्रयासों की WHO द्वारा भी सराहना
- राजकीय चिकित्सालयों में कोरोना का निःशुल्क उपचार
- प्रतिदिन लगभग 1.75 लाख कोविड टेस्टिंग
- 1.75 लाख से अधिक कोविड बेड की उपलब्धता
- अब तक 1.79 करोड़ से अधिक कोविड टेस्टिंग

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चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Man hacked to death by family members of girl

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 30-year-old man was hacked to death after he swore at a girl. He was attacked by her family members in Bhawanipur village of Mohanlalgarh on Sunday evening. The victim was identified as Mushtaq.

As per reports, Mushtaq had a verbal spat with the girl and he abused her. As she confronted, her brothers Golu & Guddu and their mother Vimla reached the scene and attacked Mushtaq, who was all alone. Golu and Guddu allegedly

attacked Mushtaq with sticks and also with an axe before fleeing the scene. Mushtaq was rushed to CHC where doctors referred him to KGMU Trauma Centre. Mushtaq later succumbed to injuries. Police registered a case and detained Guddu, Golu and Vimla. Mushtaq's brother Imtiaz alleged that Vimla and her daughter caught hold of Mushtaq while Guddu and Golu attacked him with an axe.

Meanwhile, to gain popularity among his friends, a youth uploaded on social media a video of him opening fire with

an illegal pistol in Wazirganj. The police swung into action after the video went viral.

Inspector, Wazirganj, SB Shukla said the man, identified as Sameer Ali of Wazirganj locality, had uploaded a video in which he was seen opening fire with an illegal pistol some time back. Shukla said the police were tipped off about the miscreant who was in planning to sell the illegal pistol. "A team reached the scene and nabbed the accused who tried to flee the scene seeing the police team near city station," the inspector said.

5-year-old girl electrocuted

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic incident, a 5-year-old girl was electrocuted to death in Krishnanagar police station area on Sunday afternoon. The girl, identified as Ishika of Snehnagar locality, was playing outside her house around 3 pm when she inadvertently touched the strainer of a concrete electric pole.

Ishika suffered electric shock and she was rushed to a hospital where she was declared brought dead. Locals blamed it on LESA for not ensuring safety of residents.

Meanwhile, several persons were injured after a family clashed with a group of transgenders in Bazaarkhala police station area over an old enmity on Sunday. As per reports, Hamid Ali of Bhawaniganj locality lodged a case against a group of eunuchs, accusing them of thrashing his nephew Ifitkhar on November 20.

Ali alleged that the transgenders were passing via the lane in which his house is located and they went berserk when asked to refrain from using swear words in the presence of women. "As the cops took time in taking preventive action, the group of eunuchs reached his house and started pelting stones, leaving some of my family members injured," Ali alleged. Contrary to his claim, Ashish aka Vaishali claimed that neither she nor anyone else pelted Ali's house with stones. Vaishali said she, along with Babu and Prem, was passing from near Ali's house when latter's kin attacked them with iron rods.

In another incident, a man was attacked with an axe over asking for his bicycle that he had given to his neighbour in Mohanlalgarh. The incident took place on November 15 but a case was registered in this connection on Sunday.

Reports said Mohanlal went to the house of Radhe to take back his bicycle on November 15. Radhe refused to return the bicycle and abused Mohanlal. In the meantime, Radhe's family members reached the scene and started thrashing Mohanlal. Radhe attacked Mohanlal with an axe, causing him head injuries. The accused fled the scene fearing police action. Villagers called victim's wife Phoolmati, who rushed him to a hospital and later lodged a case. The accused was challaned under Arms Act.



पुलिस झण्डा दिवस

23 नवम्बर, 2020

भारत के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा वर्ष 1952 में उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस को पुलिस कलर (झण्डा) प्रदान किया गया

आइये, झण्डा दिवस के अवसर पर हम पुलिस कर्मियों को उनकी सेवा, शौर्य और शहादत के लिए नमन करते हैं।



मुख्या एवं उत्तरांचल विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

सन्देश

प्रिय साथियों

ध्वज हमारे चरित्र का दर्पण एवं गौरवशाली इतिहास का प्रतीक है, जिसमें हमने देश सेवा एवं लोकसेवा में अपने कोशाल, शौर्य एवं कर्तव्य परायणता से अप्रतिम योगदान दिया है, जिसमें सर्वोच्च आत्म बलिदान भी सम्मिलित है। यह ध्वज हमारे लिए प्रेरणादायक है तथा इस ध्वज के फहरने मर से हम सभी में एक नई ऊर्जा का संचार होता है। ध्वज की अवधारणा की जड़ें वेद और पुराण में भी हैं। पुराणों में भी देवताओं के झण्डों का वर्णन मिलता है। मविष्य महापुराण में उल्लेख मिलता है कि अत्यंत प्राचीन काल में देवताओं और असुरों में भी जो भीषण युद्ध हुआ था, उसमें देवताओं ने अपने-अपने स्थों पर जिन-जिन चिन्हों की कल्पना की थी वह भी उनके ध्वज के प्रतीक यानी चिन्ह बने। ध्वज का महत्व हम महाभारत काल में भी पाते हैं। कुरुक्षेत्र में कौरव एवं पाण्डव के मध्य हुए धर्मयुद्ध में अर्जुन के रथ पर भी एक ध्वज पताका थी। इतिहास गवाह है कि इसी ध्वज पताका की प्रेरणा से धर्म की अधम पर विजय हुई। मध्य कालीन इतिहास में राजा या सम्राट की सेनाएं भी ध्वज का वहन करती थी अगर सेना ने दुश्मन के हाथों अपना ध्वज खो दिया है तो इसका तात्पर्य अपमान है और अगर दुश्मन के ध्वज पर कब्जा कर लेती है तो इसका तात्पर्य एक सम्मान है।

19वीं शताब्दी में ध्वज का इतिहास नेपोलियन बोनापार्ट से जुड़ा हुआ है। विभिन्न युद्ध मुहिमों में जाने वाली सैन्य टुकड़ियों अलग-अलग ध्वजों के माध्यम से अपनी पहचान बनाए रखती थी तथा युद्ध भूमि पर निरंतर इस ध्वज को फहराते रखती थी। कालांतर में विभिन्न मुहिमों में शामिल रहे टुकड़ियों की पहचान के लिए नेपोलियन द्वारा सीने पर बाये, हृदय के ऊपर उन्हीं ध्वजों के प्रतीक रिबन के रूप में धारण करने की परंपरा प्रारम्भ की गई थी। उसी फ्रांसीसी परंपरा को हम सभी यदीपारी बलों द्वारा अंगीकृत किया गया है। 20वीं शताब्दी में भारत के राष्ट्रपति का रंग पुरस्कार सर्वोच्च सम्मान है, जिसे भारत की किसी भी सैन्य इकाई को दिया जा सकता है। इसे निशान के रूप में भी जाना जाता है, जो एक प्रतीक है, जिसे सभी सैन्य अधिकारियों द्वारा अपनी यदी के बाएं हाथ के आस्तीन में पहनाया जाएगा। जबकि रंग को युद्ध में ले जाने की प्रथा बंद हो गई है, लेकिन सशस्त्र एवं पुलिस कर्मियों में आज भी रंग प्राप्त करने, धारण करने और परेड करने की परंपरा जारी है। पुलिस ध्वज हमारे गौरवशाली अतीत का जीवंत प्रतीक है। पुलिस विभाग की अहर्निश जन-सेवा, कर्तव्य परायणता, पराक्रम, शौर्य तथा आत्म बलिदान की अनगिनत गाथाओं के बाद पुलिस ध्वज की प्राप्ति होती है। उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस विभाग के वीर जवानों के शौर्य, कर्तव्य परायणता एवं उत्कृष्ट कर्तव्य निष्ठा के फलस्वरूप ही भारत के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री श्री द्वारा सर्वप्रथम उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस को पुलिस ध्वज प्रदान किया गया था। उ.प्र. पुलिस पूरे भारत का प्रथम राज्य पुलिस बल है, जिसे उसके अप्रतिम योगदान के फलस्वरूप पुलिस कलर अर्थात् पुलिस ध्वज प्रदान किया गया है, जो हम सब के लिए गर्व का विषय है।

23 नवंबर 1952 को पुलिस लाइन लखनऊ के परेड ग्राउंड में वार्षिक पुलिस परेड के अवसर पर राष्ट्र के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा पुलिस एवं पीएसी ध्वज प्रदान किए गए। ध्वज का आकार 4 फीट लंबा एवं 3 फीट चौड़ा है। यह दो रंगों का है जिसमें ऊपर लाल रंग एवं नीचे की ओर नीला रंग है, मध्य में उ.प्र. पुलिस का प्रतीक चिन्ह है। इसके बाद मुंबई पुलिस (पुलिस कमिश्नरेंट) को 1954, महाराष्ट्र पुलिस को 1961, जम्मू एवं कश्मीर पुलिस को 2003, तमिलनाडु पुलिस को 2009, त्रिपुरा पुलिस को 2012, हिमाचल प्रदेश पुलिस एवं गुजरात पुलिस को 2019 में यह सम्मान प्राप्त हुआ है। ब्रिटिश उपनिवेश के "पुलिस-बल से पुलिस विभाग" तक की यात्रा उ.प्र. पुलिस के लिए एक गौरव गाथा है, जिसका प्रत्येक पृष्ठ भारत के आधुनिक इतिहास का प्रामाणिक साक्ष्य है। वर्ष 1860 में श्री एच.एम. कोर्ट की अध्यक्षता में पुलिस कमीशन द्वारा पुलिस सफ्ट 1861 के तहत सिविल कोस्टेबुलरी के गठन की योजना बनी, तब से सर सीताराम पुलिस पुनर्गठन कमेटी एवं उसके बाद वर्ष 1960 में उ.प्र. पुलिस कमीशन तक आते-आते कानून की सीमा में पुलिस व्यवस्था को संचालित करने की रीति-नीति बनायी गयी।

उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस कमीशन (1960-61) की रिपोर्ट में पुलिस मुख्यालय को इलाहाबाद से लखनऊ स्थानांतरित करने की संस्तुति की गई थी। इसके बाद उ.प्र. पुलिस विभाग में विभिन्न इकाइयों का आविर्भाव हुआ है, जिससे यह विभाग एक समग्र और संपूर्ण रूप से जनता की सेवा में तत्पर है। इसी श्रृंखला में समय-समय पर पुलिस विभाग में सीबीसीआईडी, सतर्कता अधिविभाग, ईओडब्ल्यू तकनीकी सेवाएं लॉजिस्टिक, यातायात निदेशालय इत्यादि इकाइयां लखनऊ में स्थापित की गईं तथा एस.टी.एफ., ए.टी.एस., 112 एवं 1090 (बीमैन पॉवर लाइन) का गठन किया गया है। हाल ही में साइबर थाने, ई.ओ.डब्ल्यू. थाना, पावर कॉर्पोरेशन थाना एवं विजिलेंस थाना एवं विजिलेंस थाना का गठन किया गया है। इसके अतिरिक्त स्पेशल सिविलरिटी फोर्स के गठन एवं फॉरेंसिक यूनिवर्सिटी की स्थापना हेतु कार्यवाही प्रचलित है। हाल में वैरियक महामारी कोरोना की चुनौतीपूर्ण परिस्थितियों में पुलिस की भूमिका सहाय्य रही है। वर्तमान बदलते परिदृश्य एवं उन्नत तकनीक के सुलभता के युग में अपराध एवं अपराधियों से निपटने के लिए हमको नित नई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। हमारे प्रदेश की पुलिस ने इन चुनौतियों का डटकर मुकाबला करते हुए अपराध नियंत्रण, कानून व्यवस्था कायम करने के साथ-साथ पीड़ित आम जनता के व्यक्तियों के पास सहायता हेतु दृढ़गति से पहुंचकर उन्हें राहत पहुंचाने का काम पूरी कुशलता से किया है। इसके साथ ही हमारी पुलिस साइबर अपराध, आतंकवाद, संप्रदायिक तनाव एवं आंतरिक सुरक्षा जैसी चुनौतियों का पूर्ण दक्षता से सामना कर रही है।

झंडा दिवस के अवसर पर मैं आप सभी लोगों को स्मरण कराना चाहता हूं कि जिस कर्तव्य परायण, सौर्य निष्ठा लगन के कारण उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस को यह ध्वज प्राप्त हुआ है, उस ध्वज की गरिमा को हमें हमेशा बनाए रखना है।

मैं आप सभी को झंडा दिवस के अवसर पर बहुत-बहुत बधाई देता हूं।

जय हिंद।

(एच. सी. अवस्थी)
पुलिस महानिदेशक, उत्तर प्रदेश

Heritage walks, plantation drive mark LU centenary celebrations

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University's centenary celebrations kicked off early Sunday morning at with a 'centennial walk' taken out from the proctor's office to Raj Bhawan. The event was organised and led by former president of Lucknow University Athletics Association Neeraj Jain.

Vice-Chancellor AK Rai, proctor Dinesh Kumar, other faculty members and several students participated in the walk. Governor Anandiben Patel welcomed everyone and said yoga, sports and physical activities should be a part of one's life. Congratulating LU on its centenary year, the governor the 100-year journey should be made memorable.

"Make children realise their talent, work together and accept each other's qualities so that the country can move forward. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the country a high place in the world with his stress on working together and the university will also progress like that," she said.

The governor said various programmes should be organised for the students and they should be taken on educational excursions. "Give them an opportunity to make all the necessary preparations related



Governor Anandiben Patel addressing participants of centennial walk at Raj Bhawan on Sunday

Pioneer

to travel. Provide teachers' support and guidance in learning and doing new things. They will develop a sense of confidence and leadership qualities," she told the teachers.

"Students from rural, tribal and other areas come to study in universities. Create such an environment that those coming from backward areas can study without stress," she said. The *padayatra* team included VC AK Rai along with teachers and students who were also invited to visit the gardens and cowsheds at Raj Bhawan.

A plantation drive was also organised in the university

campus in which the VC planted saplings in front of the Human Resource Development Centre. Students planted 100 palash trees.

"Palash or tesu is the state plant of Uttar Pradesh and is known for its beautiful ochre red flowers that bloom around Holi. It is culturally significant for its use in Holi colours. It is economically significant for its leaves are used to make *patals*. It is also medicinally important as the bark of this tree has bone-strengthening properties," an official said.

Meanwhile, a heritage walk started from Bhaurao Devas Dwar and saw the participation

of international tourists.

Among the first to arrive were tourists from Spain Natalia Ana Gomez and Rahul De La Rose. While taking the tanga joy ride, the Spanish guests had some beautiful glimpses of LU heritage, including the historic Lal Baradari, Tagore Library and Arts Quadrangle.

Coordinator, Institute of Tourism Studies, Anupama Srivastava said when she came to know about the arrival of Spanish visitors to the city, she offered them to join the heritage walk and they accepted the offer despite their pre-planned visits.

Former MLA's domestic help found hanging

Lucknow (PNS): A former MLA's domestic help was found hanging in the basement of former's house in Vibhuti Khand police station area on Sunday. Police claimed that it was a case of suicide, though the investigation was yet to be concluded. The deceased was identified as Manoj Yadav of Ishanagar in Lakhimpur Kheri. He had been working in the bungalow of former MLA Yashpal Chaudhary for last several years. The police said Manoj was found hanging from the ceiling with a rope tied around his neck in the basement on Sunday and they were informed by inmates of the house. Though the police said Manoj committed suicide, they failed to explain why. A spokesman said no suicide note was recovered from the scene and further investigation was underway," he said.

FIRE

A fire broke out in the house of Rajeev Gupta in Vikasnagar on Sunday morning. Luckily, the fire broke out in the bathroom and did not spread to any other part of the house. Police said the geyser installed in the bathroom caught fire probably due to short-circuiting. The fire was doused by a police team that reached the spot on being informed.

CISH, CSSR scientists organise virtual workshop held for banana farmers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The coronavirus pandemic has restricted farmers to meet distantly situated experts and scientists are also unable to visit farmers' fields. Farmers require frequent consultations to solve serious problems and scientists require field visits for testing their technology in the field. Linking 60 banana farmers from the Panama wilt epidemic fields of UP, Bihar and Tamil Nadu to experts was a unique feature of a virtual workshop which was organised by CISH and CSSR scientists in Lucknow. The web interaction was attended by president of Uttar Pradesh Kela Utpadak Sangh and Bihar Kela Utpadak Sangh AK Singh, deputy director general (Horticulture) and many other ICAR officials.

More than 15 farmers expressed their views from their banana field itself along with video of the crop and narrated how the ICAR technology was adopted by them and the success they got in reviving the banana cultivation devastated due to Panama wilt disease. "The meeting set the platform for farmers from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to interact with the scientists standing in their own fields in the crucial pandemic situation. At many places, where farmers didn't have access to smartphones, they participated from a single phone in a group. The farmers were happy and excited to share their success experiences with the scientists. Another unique feature of the webinar was sharing of technological knowhow across the states and learning from their counterparts for efficient wilt management," CISH director Shailendra Rajan said.



"This indicates how information technology can help in linking the farmer's field with the scientist and promote tele-real time advisory to

stakeholders. The organisers used the efficient IT platform for presenting the simultaneous field situation through videos and photos while the concerned farmers were narrating their success stories," Rajan said.

A good number of farmers showed their enthusiasm while explaining successful management of the disease by using pre-immunised tissue culture plants made available to them from CSSRI and CISH. Rajan mentioned that about 24,500 plants were provided to the farmers field testing of the technology in different hotspots.

LU's facade embedded in my mind: Kher

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Recalling his connection with Lucknow University in a rather unusual manner, actor Anupam Kher said he would pass by the university each day as he moved on his cycle from his residence in Niralanagar to BNA where he was a teacher. He said LU's facade is embedded in his mind.

Kher was a part of the Literary Fest under LU's centenary celebrations on Sunday where he spoke on lessons taught by life in a virtual conversation with Yatindra Mishra.

"At the outset, I was a learner and coming from a small town of Himachal Pradesh, my endeavour was to learn something at all the places that I visited. During the 36 years of my time in the industry, I have never taken a holiday because I enjoy my work," he insisted.

"Being the son of a Forest

department clerk had a salary of Rs 900, I feel life has given me a lot," he added.

Having no qualms in admitting that he was a bad student in academics and would never get anything above 38 percent, he said his father never scolded him for that. "Once went to him to get my report card signed after I ranked 65th in the class, he asked me how many children were there in the class. When I told him there were 66 students, he said those who score the first rank are always tense since they have to maintain the rank but one who has got the 65th rank can only get better. Remember that failure is an event, and not a person," he recalled.

Kher said he got his first break in the movie 'Saraansh' after three years of struggle. "I never thought that I would be typecast as I was playing the role of a 65-year-old man. I

have always believed that to be noticed, one has to do something different. Once when I was asked to do an audition, I was given the choice between playing a woman or man, I chose to become the woman called 'Vasantsena' because it was different. I was praised for what was termed a daring thing to do," he said.

Kher said he would never intellectualise his work. "I did not carry what I had learnt at the National School of Drama as a baggage because acting was more about doing than thinking. I would also enjoy the work of commercial artistes such as Rajendra Kumar and Sunil Dutt. I remember when someone asked me to be cast opposite Sharmila Tagore or Moushmi Chatterjee, I was not listening to the role but was thinking about these two heroines," he said.

The actor said that it was during the corona pandemic

that he wrote a book and also learnt that there are very little things which people require to be happy.

Commenting on the popularity of his mother on social media, he said after his father died in 2012, he started making these videos so that she did not feel lonely, and the response was great. About challenging roles, he said playing the role of former PM Manmohan Singh was a difficult task and he had to work on it for over a year watching the videos to get the tonal quality right.

Anupam said that Hollywood is much more organised than Bollywood. "They even tell you how to breathe. It's also a place where everyone is treated as an equal unlike Bollywood where hierarchy works," he added.

The actor said he was impressed by a poem written by Pankaj Prasooin which he read out at Times Square.



DM Abhishek Prakash and others at Kanha Upvan on the occasion of 'Gopashtami' on Sunday

Pioneer

SCHOOLSCAN

SCHOLARSHIP

A brilliant student of City Montessori School, Station Road Campus, Irtiqua Irfan has been awarded Rs 4-lakh scholarship by Union



Ministry of Science and Technology. The Ministry of Science and Technology will be giving this scholarship to Irtiqua to pursue higher studies in Science. She will be getting Rs 80,000 per year for five years, thus a total of Rs 4 lakh. He performed excellently in the ISC (Class XII) Board exams and secured a place among the "Top 1" merit list which gave her an opportunity to get this prestigious scholarship. She has given credit for her success to her parents and teachers and the peaceful atmosphere of CMS.

CANTONMENT BOARD, LUCKNOW
31, Nehru Road Lucknow Cantt.
TENDER NOTICE
Telephone No.- 0522-2480037
Fax.- 0522-2480610
Online Tenders/ bids are invited from the reputed firms/agencies through the Government e-procurement portal <http://eprocure.gov.in> for the "Grant of advertisement rights on tree guards/ plant stands, electric/ street light poles, unipoles, Bus/Rain shelters and led wall screen in Cantt. area Lucknow". All the details are available on Government e-procurement portal <http://eprocure.gov.in>
No.LCBS/E/M/Tender Notice/2020
Office of the Cantonment Board
Dated 21 Nov 2020
Chief Executive Officer
Lucknow Cantt.

विधान परिषद सचिवालय उत्तर प्रदेश (व्यवस्थाधिकारी कार्यालय)
संख्या : 1023/वि०
लखनऊ: दिनांक 20 नवम्बर, 2020

सार्वजनिक नीलामी
उत्तर प्रदेश विधान परिषद सचिवालय परिसर के कार्यालय कक्षों के नवीनीकरण/सौंदर्यीकरण के फलस्वरूप कार्यालय कक्षों से निकले निम्नोपयोग्य सामग्री(फर्नीचर/बिजली उपकरणों) की नीलामी दिनांक-06 दिसम्बर, 2020 दिन रविवार 12.00 बजे से गेट नं०-7 के निकट विधान भवन परिसर, लखनऊ में होगी। निम्नोपयोग्य फर्नीचर/बिजली के उपकरणों को एतदर्थ गरित नीलामी समिति की स्वीकृति पर सबसे अधिक मूल्य लगाने वाले जी०एस०टी०एन० धाराक व्यक्ति के हवाओं बेची जायेगी तथा सर्वाधिक बोली लगाने वाले फर्म को सामान का पूरा मूल्य नीलामी की स्थल पर ही एक मुक्त नकद जमा करना होगा, तथा उस पर देय जी०एस०टी० की नीलामी सामग्री को उसी दिन विधान भवन से बाहर ले जाना होगा।
नीलामी बोलने वाले व्यक्ति को रुपये-5000.00 (रु पाँच हजार) मात्र नकद सिक्कोरिटी के रूप में नीलामी स्थल पर जमा करना होगा। नीलामी के माध्यम से फर्नीचर/बिजली उपकरण खरीदने वाले व्यक्ति की सिक्कोरिटी धनराशि को फर्नीचर के मूल्य में समायोजित कर ली जायेगी, शेष व्यक्तियों को जमानत (सिक्कोरिटी) की धनराशि उसी दिन वापस कर दी जायेगी। सामग्री खरीदने वाले व्यक्ति को अपना परिचय संबंधी प्रमाण/साक्ष्य के रूप में राशन कार्ड/आधार कार्ड/निर्वाचन कार्ड/ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस/बिजली का बिल आदि फार्म के साथ प्रस्तुत करना होगा। प्रमुख सचिव, विधान परिषद बिना कारण बलाये नीलामी प्रक्रिया को निरस्त भी कर सकेंगे।
(ब० राजेश सिंह)
प्रमुख सचिव
उपरोड 157177 दिनांक 21.11.2020
विधान वेबसाइट www.ugov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tender Notice No.: E-Tender No.: 126/2020 CM-2/CBA/PCOI/
Prayagraj Division-2020
E-TENDER NOTICE Date: 19.11.2020
Following e-tender in sealed cover on prescribed tender form is invited by the Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of President of India.

Tender No.	Details of work including place	Cost of Tender Form (₹)	Earnest Money to be deposited (₹)
126/ 2020	Allotment of City Booking Agency contract in area of Prayagraj Chheoki station	100.00	5,000.00

Approximate cost: NIL, Period of Contract: 3 Years, Date & time for dropping the tender form: From date of publishing of tender notice in newspaper to 15.12.2020 Upto 13.00 hrs., Date & time for the opening of tender: At 15.00 hrs. on 15.12.2020, Office address from where the tender information can be obtained: Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj-211001 & through online www.ireps.gov.in. Website & Notice board where the full detail of tender can be seen: Tender form will be available on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender i.e. 15.12.2020 up to 13.00 hrs. The Tender Notice can also be viewed on Railway's website www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in.
125220 (R)
North central railways @ CPNO NCR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BORDER TUNNEL...

According to the preliminary investigations made public by the Jammu and Kashmir police, "The Jem terrorists had infiltrated into the Indian territory through this tunnel on November 18 between 8.30 and 9.00 p.m."

"From there they took 5-6 hours to reach the National Highway and boarded the Kashmir bound truck in the wee hours". The truck had crossed Thandi Khui toll plaza at 3.44 a.m on November 19 before reaching Ban Toll Plaza around 4.50 a.m.

At present the police team is looking for a guide who may have helped the members of the 'fidayeen' squad to safely reach the highway and assisted them in locating the truck parked on the highway. It is learnt the terrorists were picked up by a truck from Village Jatwal, Distt-Samba on the National Highway. Inspector General of Police, Jammu range Mukesh Singh said the investigating team used mobile phone, radio sets to track down the possible route of infiltration. He said the investigations were still going on in the case.

Earlier, on August 29 a similar 'rat hole' tunnel, which was also 15-20 feet deep and 150 metres long, was detected by the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans along the International border in the Samba sector of Jammu frontier.

The tunnel found in village Galar of Samba was the seventh such tunnel found on the international border since July 2012. In the past terrorist handlers sitting across the border in Pakistan have used this mode of infiltration to push armed terrorists inside the Indian side.

Chronology

- On July 27, 2012 BSF had detected tunnel along IB in Samba sector
- Another tunnel was detected by BSF on May 2, 2014 in the same Samba sector
- On August 23, 2014 Indian army again detected a tunnel along Akhnoor sector
- On 4 March 2016, a 30-metre-long tunnel was detected along IB IN RS Pura sector
- November 29 2016, it is believed terrorists who targeted Nagrota army camp and three other infiltrators had crossed cross border tunnel in Ramgarh sector of Samba
- On Feb 14, 2017 another cross border tunnel was detected in Ramgarh sector of Samba
- On September 30, 2017 an under-construction trans-border tunnel was detected in Arnia sub-sector of RS Pura

CENTRAL TEAMS...

Following the latest order, only 50 people will now be allowed at marriage functions in the capital city. There will not be an overall lock-

down, but there will be strict surveillance at the markets emerging as Covid-19 hotspots, said the Kejriwal Government.

Rattled by an increase in Covid cases, the Madhya Pradesh Government too has announced imposition of night curfew in five districts Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Ratlam and Vidisha from Saturday, as the State reported 1,500 cases on Friday - the highest for the State in the past 40 days. The night curfew will be from 10 pm to 6 am the next day. The State Government has also decided to close schools up to Class 8 till 31 December.

Gujarat, where the Central team is assessing the spike in coronavirus cases, has decided to impose a night curfew in three cities of the State, including Ahmedabad, Surat and Rajkot on 21 November from 9 pm to 6 am. Himachal Pradesh is another States that is witnessing second wave of Covid with markets and shops to remain shut in Shimla following district administration orders on Sundays until further orders. Also, shops selling groceries, milk, fruits, vegetables, meat, medicines, and restaurants have been exempt. Neighbouring Haryana has again closed schools till November end.

FIRMS TRYING TO...

ASCI said these claims were misleading and no test reports or documents were available to verify the extent and scope of the antiviral activity claimed at the first use of the fabric, and up to 30 times washes of the fabric.

In one case, a well-known paint company in a visual in the advertisement makes a reference to the paint destroying virus (time-0.6-0.8 seconds), implying that the paint offers protection against virus.

The claims are misleading by exaggeration and are likely to lead to widespread disappointment in the minds of consumers, the ASCI said.

In August and September 2020, the ASCI looked into complaints against 317 advertisements, of these 64 were promptly withdrawn by advertisers. The Independent Consumer Complaints Council (CCC) of ASCI evaluated the remaining 253, of which complaints against 221 advertisements were upheld. Of these 222 advertisements, 101 belonged to the education sector, 77 to healthcare, eight to food and beverage, seven to personal care, three to finance and investments and 25 were from other categories. Complaints against 32 advertisements were not upheld as they were found to be not in violation of the ASCI code. ASCI also upheld misleading ad claims made on various digital platforms like Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Along with the healthcare and education sectors, the finance and investment sec-

tor had some interesting cases too. ASCI received a unique direct complaint from a consumer regarding a campaign TVC run by a leading loan company. The TVC had people covering their mouths only till their nose with the mask. The CCC concluded that such advertisements misuse the COVID-19 situation and upheld the complaint.

DESI COVAXIN...

This was confirmed by a top official from the center's vaccine expert group has indicated. "We expect emergency authorisation for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to be sought in the UK. If so, it will give an opportunity for the Indian regulator also," Dr Vinod Paul who is also a member (Health) of the Niti Aayog said to a news agency here.

The Oxford vaccine is already in its third and final phase of clinical trials in India, and if all things go as planned, the Covid-19 vaccine may be ready for distribution by January or February 2021. An emergency authorisation of the coronavirus vaccine would ensure its proper administration based on the priority list, starting with frontline workers, senior citizens, people with comorbidities and so on, he explained.

Earlier this week, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine produced a strong immune response in older adults, raising hopes that it can protect the age groups most at risk from the virus.

PM LAYS...

"The Dhanraul Dam, which was built in 1917, is endowed with abundant water and till now it was only used for irrigation purposes. Now, it will also serve as a medium for drinking water to the region," he added.

"For the first time after Independence, such a big project is being started in the Vindhya region. This region is also full of natural resources and given the immense possibilities of tourism, the airstrip is also being extended," the chief minister said.

He said that while going by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas, the UP government was carrying forward the developmental activities without any discrimination and the interest of the people was the interest of the country and the state.

The chief minister said the Sonbhadra administration was also preparing a coffee-table book and the state government would be branding every small and big feature of the region through it.

"It will also help in employment generation. Sonbhadra is a tribal majority area and it will not be wrong if we call it the place of origin of tribes," Yogi said.

Delhi's minimum temp drops to 6.9° C; coldest Nov since 2003

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The minimum temperature of the national Capital dropped to 6.9 degrees Celsius on Sunday, the lowest in the month of November since 2003, as a cold wave swept parts of the city. Delhi had recorded a minimum of 7.5 degrees Celsius on Friday, the lowest in the month in 14 years, according to the India Meteorological Department.

"The Safdarjung Observatory which provides representative data for the city, recorded a minimum of 6.9 degrees Celsius. It is Delhi's lowest minimum temperature in the month since November 2003, when the city recorded a minimum of 6.1 degrees Celsius," said Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre. The mercury dropped to 6.1 degrees Celsius at the Palam weather station, he said. For the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than normal for two consecutive days.

"However, for small areas such as Delhi, a cold wave can be declared if the criteria is fulfilled even for a day," Srivastava said. Delhi had recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 11.5 degrees Celsius last year, 10.5 degrees Celsius in 2018 and 7.6 degrees Celsius in 2017 in the month of November. The all-time record for the lowest minimum temperature in November is 3.9 degrees Celsius recorded on November 28, 1938. Srivastava said icy cold winds blowing from snow-laden western Himalayas have led to a dip in the mercury. However, the minimum temperature will rise by two to three degrees Celsius in the next four to five days under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance. The minimum temperature this month, barring on November 16, has remained 2-3 degree Celsius below normal in the absence of a cloud cover, according to IMD officials. Clouds trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, warming the ground. The month of October was the coldest in 58 years in the national capital. The mean minimum temperature in October this year was 17.2 degrees Celsius, the lowest since 1962, when it was 16.9 degrees Celsius.

PTI

91 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 91 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Sunday, increasing the total number of cases to 18,447. The day saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 295. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included five and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 14,547. As no one has been dis-

charged from the hospitals, the number remained at 2,856. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 17,403, leaving 749 active cases. The recovery rate is 94.34 per cent while the mortality rate is 1.59 per cent. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 64 positive patients were found out of 3,667 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,92,504 and the results of 2,173 are

awaited. Out of them, 3,74,084 were negative, while 18,420 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,12,837. With the addition of seven new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,447 including 196 red zones. One green zone has been converted into red zone again. There are 2,251 green zones with five new ones. Under the ongoing mass/group antigen tests, the passengers were tested at both Varanasi Junction (Cantt.) and

Manduadih railway station but all the 245 and 250 tests were found negative there respectively. Besides, all the 259 tests at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, 203 at Government Women's Hospital, 75 at CHC Shivpur, 95 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, 137 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and 195 at Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU) were also found negative.

Gopashtami celebrated at Dharm Sangh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the occasion of Gopashtami, Gopujan was performed with great pomp on the Mani Mandir premises at Dharm Sangh, Durgakund here on Sunday. In the morning, at Swami Karpatri Adarsh Gaushala, general secretary of Dharm Sangh Shiksha Mandal Pandit Jagitan Pandey performed the ritual prayers. On the occasion, under the guidance of Acharya Ramanand Pandey, 11 Vedic Brahmins performed cow worship in the Shodashopachara method amid the chanting of Shukla Yajurveda. In the beginning, worship of Gauri-Ganesh and Aditya Surya (Lord Sun) was offered and then, Lord Vishnu was worshiped followed by Gopujan (prayer to cows).

On the occasion of Gopashtami, hundreds of cows living in Gaushala were bathed in the morning, after which the cows were decorated with silk cloths, crown ornaments etc. After the puja, all the cows were offered food, fruits and sweets. The chief guest and Vice-Chancellor of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) Professor Rajaram Shukla high-



Gopashtami festival being organised at Dharm Sangh in Varanasi on Sunday

Pioneer

lighted the importance of cow in Indian culture who provides happiness to all. He also said that Gauseva (services to cows) not only brings happiness but also opens the doors of salvation. Pandit Jagitan Pandey said

that cow is the patron of the whole world and in the same form she has incarnated on the earth. According to him, the cow's incarnation is for the welfare of all. Gaupujan was also attended by MLA Saurabh Srivastava, Shalini Yadav,

Raghavendra Choubey, Brajbhushan Ojha, Vivek Shankar Tiwari, Krishnanand Pandey, Abhishek Mishra, Amresh Pandey and Tanuj Pandey. Rajamangal Pandey welcomed all the participants.

'Happy Family Day' celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In order to increase the acceptance of new initiatives and family planning services, the Health and Family Welfare department celebrated 'Happy Family Day' at all primary and community health centres (PHCs/CHCs), Rural PHC Hathibazar, Urban PHCs Durgakund and Chowkaghat, District Women's Hospital Kabirchaura and Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital Ramnagar. Along with this, vasectomy fortnight was also launched in the district.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh said that Happy Family Day is celebrated on 21st of every month on all health units in view to increase awareness and acceptance of family planning in the community and apart from creating wider publicity of family planning. Its main objective is to make the people aware towards small family and the theme of the fortnight is 'participation of men in family planning brings happiness to life'. During the programme, couples reached the health centres were counselled and informed about family plan-



Happy Family Day being organised in Varanasi on Saturday

Pioneer

ning facilities apart from mobilising the men for their increase participation.

Nodal Officer and ACO of Family Welfare Programme Dr Rajesh Prasad said that since January 1 this year counselling is being done in a phased manner by ASHA workers after preparing the lists of complex pregnancy maternities, qualified couple with three or more children and newly married couple. One of such programme was held at Durgakund

Community Health Centre where the participants were motivated to adopt permanent and temporary means of family planning.

Durgakund Medical Officer Incharge Dr Sarika Rai informed that various activities were organised in which counselling of a total of 19 couples were done including one male vasectomy and one female sterilisation apart from giving birth control pills to five and condoms to six. Besides, 48 children were vaccinated. District

Programme Manager (DPM) Santosh Singh said that through the programme, focus was given among the men towards vasectomy. Urban Health Coordinator of PHC National Health Mission Ashish Singh, ANM Sunita, Akhilesh Kumar from PSI, counsellor Usha Upadhyay and many others were also present. Gram pradhan Gyan Shankar Singh inaugurated the day's programme at a PHC under NITI Aayog's Adarsh block Sewapuri.

SSP suspends Lalpur PS incharge

VARANASI (PNS):: Taking a serious note of the sudden rise in criminal incidents, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amit Pathak on Sunday suspended the incharge of Lalpur-Pandeypur police station Ved Prakash Rai and directed for departmental inquiry against him. Besides, the SSP attached the incharges of Bhelupur police station and Shivpur police station Ajay Kumar Shrotiya and Nagesh Kumar Singh respectively to the Police Lines. Meanwhile, the Varanasi Vyapar Mandal staged a demonstration in protest against the gradually deteriorating law and order situation and rising crime in the city.

It is pointed out that the city has witnessed a sudden rise in criminal incidents and two murders took place in three days. A caretaker of girls' hostel Vishal was shot dead at Kaiwalyadham Colony, under the Bhelupur police station on November 18 last, while Shahid Iqbal was shot dead on

Saturday morning last in Lalpur, under Lalpur-Pandeypur police station. Besides, the loot and theft incidents took place in many areas during the last many days.

Taking the rising crime graph seriously, the SSP put the incharge of Lalpur-Pandeypur police station Ved Prakash Rai under suspension and directed for departmental inquiry against him for showing dereliction in duty and showing indiscipline and making high-handedness during the duty. The SSP also sent incharges of Bhelupur police station and Shivpur police station Ajay Kumar Shrotiya and Nagesh Kumar Singh respectively to the Police Lines on administrative ground. The traders associated to the Varanasi Vyapar Mandal gathered at Azad Park in Lahurabir and staged a protest saying, the criminals are taking edge on the district administration and police because of their failure in controlling the crime and maintaining the law and order situ-

ation and the rising criminal incident has created a sense of fear among the business community.

The district administration and police are busy only in making challan of vehicles and persons for not using face masks and virtually failed in controlling the criminals, they said adding, the police officers are taking action only on papers sitting in the office. . Ajit Singh, Bagga, Pramod Agrahari, Ramesh Nirankari, Sunny Jauhar, Kavinder Jaiswal, Vandana Seth and Meena Mukherjee.

MURDER WORKED OUT: City police on Sunday claimed to have worked out the murder case of the caretaker of a girls' hostel and arrested two in this connection. It is pointed out that the caretaker of girls' hostel in Kaiwalyadham Colony, under the Bhelupur police station Vishal Rai was shot dead by the criminals on November 18 last when he was at the hostel gate.

The SSP Amit Pathak

informed the presspersons here that the Bhelupur police and Crime Branch were swung into action to nab the criminals. On Sunday morning, the Bhelupur police and Crime Branch personnel got tip-off about the criminals involved in the murder of caretaker and acting on the information, they raided the Ramchandra Shukla crossing around 11 am and succeeded in nabbing two criminals identified as Vikash Kumar Rai and Sidhharth Yadav (both of Sindhaura). During the interrogation, Vikash Rai confessed their involvement in the crime and informed the police that they shot Vishal Rai dead because he had developed intimidating with a girl with whom he has also a close relation. He along with Sidhharth Yadav killed Vishal as he had jealousy with the deceased for developing closeness to the girl living in the hostel. The police recovered a pistol of .12 bore, one live cartridge and motorcycle used in the crime from their possessions .

128 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Once again, the number of people who got infection-free from corona was higher than the newly infected. On Saturday, while 137 people became free of infection, 128 new cases of coronavirus were reported in Prayagraj district within the last 24 hours.

This brought the total number of infected in the district to 25,893,, while 24,438 people became infection free. Dr. Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer of Corona, said that on Saturday, several employees including DIG Stamp, RAF Commandos also got infected.

On the other hand, according to the CMO, 25 people who were free of infection on Saturday were discharged from



Nagar Nigam tanker sanitising road in Prayagraj

Pioneer

the hospital, while home isolation of 112 people was completed. Among the discharged are 17 from SRN Hospital, seven from Beli and one from a private hospital. In addition 195 people are admitted after getting infected. SRN Hospital has the highest number of 115, while 51 patients are admitted to Beli and 29 in private hospitals, 916 are in home isolation.

On Saturday, Assistant Audit Officer of AG Office, a teacher from Chaka Block, member of BJP State Committee, a lineman, manager of HDFC Bank at Jhalwa, officer of Punjab National Bank located at CDA Pension Complex, peon of DRM office, Commando of RAF, DIG Stamp Registrations also are also hit by the infection.

SSP suspends S-I, 3 constables

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Coming into action after the Phulpur hooch tragedy, the DIG/SSP Prayagraj Sarvashreshtha Tripathi placed S-I Rajesh Kumar under suspension. Others who faced suspension included the beat constable Hare Ram Gupta, constable Gaurav Saini and constable Jogendar Singh.

The Excise department has already taken action against the responsible officers and staff members.

Death toll in the hooch tragedy of Phulpur had reached seven on Saturday while the condition of eight others was critical.

Now reports say that they are showing signs of improvement. Consumption of spurious liquor from the registered country liquor shop had caused



SDM and CO talking to family members of one of the victim who died drinking spurious liquor at SRN Hospital in Prayagraj

havoc in the village on Friday when four persons had died within hours.

Cold wave hits Sangam city

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Cold wave crippled the denizens of Sangam city on Sunday leaving streets with thinner traffic than usual. Traders benefited as sale of woolen clothes picked up in the past two days.

The city recorded the maximum temperature of 21.6 degree Celsius while the minimum was 11 degree Celsius on Sunday. Officials predicted that visibility would be slightly down during the morning hours and foggy weather was likely to affect commuting in the coming days. Despite a sunny afternoon, chilly winds compelled many residents to remain indoors. Two wheeler riders were exposed to the

cold waves the most.

Met officials said that after the clouds had disappeared from the sky, the biting cold waves were felt by citizens. The intensity of the cold waves would increase in the coming days.

The woolen market witnessed a rise in the number of customers in the past 48 hours. Lalmani, a trader in Civil Lines said the strength of customers had shot up in the past two days, leading to a sharp rise in the sale of woolen clothes.

Weather experts believed that cold winds from the Mediterranean Sea collided with the Himalayan peaks and entered the Ganga-Yamuna basin. Due to cold winds on Sunday, the cold increased.

There is a possibility of rain again due to western disturbance within the fortnight. Along with this, there are indications of more chilly cold in Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Pratapgarh and Purvanchal.

After the passing of the Western disturbance, cold winds from the Mediterranean Sea have now started flowing into the northern plains i.e. the Ganga-Yamuna basin. There is a possibility of more cyclonic windstorms coming in contact with the Himalayan peaks soon. This information was given by Meteorologist Prof HN Mishra of Allahabad University. He claimed that the second tremor of western disturbance within the fortnight could bring rain again.

There is also a possibility of running a cold wave. Due to the filling of cold winds, the temperature has started falling continuously. At present, the Sun has entered the Southern Hemisphere. This has caused the Sun's rays to slant over the Northern Hemisphere. In such a situation, there is a possibility of severe cold for the next two months. Due to the onset of cold, the problems of the miners, labourers and the ferries and the trackmen who spent the night on the tracks of the roads have increased. Those who do not have a home or clothes are forced to spend the night with young children in the open sky, under trees on the road tracks or in torn clothes huts.

Passerby sustains injuries in shootout

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

One passerby sustained injuries in a shootout between two history sheeters and their gang men in Rajrooppur area of Dhoomanganj on Sunday. Property dispute is stated to be the cause behind this firing. The criminals are absconding and the police are raiding their suspected hideouts.

According to reports Akram and Ismail are brothers-in-law and they had a joint property in Bamrauli area near the airport. The property was sold out both Akram and Ismail turned into enemies on the issue of share in the property.

On Sunday both came face to face and after a heated discussion, allegedly Akram opened fire. Unfortunately the bullet targeted a passerby. On the information of firing the police reached the spot, but by then the culprits had fled from place. Gathering information regarding the involvement of the criminal gangs in this shootout, the police raided some hideouts, but could not reach the real culprits.

The SP City said that persons involved in this firing will be behind the bars soon. The youth who had sustained injury in this firing, has been rushed to hospital and is stated to be out of danger.

Anup Tripathi, a resident of Nurullah Road, is working as a lab technician at Fatima Memorial Hospital. On Sunday afternoon, he was going to Dhoomanganj with his relative Ajit Tripathi on a bike. His



A fire fighter spraying water on burning car at car parking, in Civil Lines in Prayagraj

Pioneer

house is being built there. Some miscreants opened fire when they reached 60 feet road in Rajrooppur. A bullet hit Anoop's leg. During interrogation, it was found that Anoop had no rivalry with anyone.

There is a buzz among the people that the goons had come to kill any Nabi Ahmed but the lab technician got shot.

FIRE BREAKS OUT IN CAR: A mysterious fire broke out in a car parked in multi-level parking behind Rajkaran Palace Cinema in down town Civil Lines on Sunday in afternoon hours. By the time the fire tenders reached the spot, the flames had engulfed the whole vehicle. No other vehicle was parked near this car, so no further damage was done owing to this fire.

Owing to fire, the number

of the car could not be read, and efforts are being made to trace out the vehicle owner on the basis of the chassis number. Till filing of this report the car owner had not appeared on the scene.

NIRANKARI SANT SAMAGAM TO BE HELD FROM DEC 5: With the blessing of Satguru Mata Sidiksha Ji Maharaj, the 73rd annual Nirankari Sant Samagam of this year will be organised in virtual form with this information in full harmony with the atmosphere of zeal and happiness. The entire broadcast of the Samagam will be presented on the mission's website from 5th to 7th December.

Given the above information by local zonal incharge Ashok Kumar Sachdeva.

It is worth mentioning that Nirankari Sant Samagam has been held in the direct presence of devotees for the last 72 years, in which lakhs of devotees used to enjoy the Sant Samagam, but this time this is going to be the first time in the history of Nirankari Mission.

The annual Nirankari Sant Samagam is being organised in virtual form with this information in full harmony with the atmosphere of zeal and happiness. The entire broadcast of the Samagam will be presented on the mission's website from 5th to 7th December.

Apart from this, this Samagam will be broadcast on Sanskar TV channel from 5:30 pm to 9 pm on all three days.

DC inspects liquor shops in Bilhaur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar carried out a surprise check of liquor shops in Bilhaur with the objective to curb illicit liquor sale.

He expressed concern over the absence of the signature of the dispatcher on the transit permit and issued stern warning in this regard.

He also expressed annoyance at the slipshod working of the excise inspection team and said that initials instead of full signature and name was not allowed and in future all must put in their full signature with name so that they could be identified.

The divisional commissioner inspected a country liquor shop (No. 21872, Bilhaur 1) and also a beer shop (No. 27551-Bilhaur) randomly. He said that licences of both the shops were valid and renewed timely. He said the sale register and stock register were also found updated.

He later checked the full stock and also minutely checked the holograms for



Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar, inspecting a liquor godown at Bilhaur

their validity and authenticity. He said during the inspection, no illicit or unauthorised liquor was found.

The divisional commissioner said it was a matter of great concern that the stores were found dirty and shabbily kept. He said the country liquor shops were very filthy and dirty and warned that a complete overhaul and cleaning exercise need to be done at the earliest.

The divisional commissioner directed District Magistrate Alok Tiwari to take note and to get a detailed inquiry of the same done by a joint team of ADM (F&R) and deputy excise commissioner of Kanpur division and also to take appropriate action by November 30 and submit the report to the commissionerate. He also issued instructions to DMs, DIG, SSP and SPs and all excise officials of the division to conduct regular surprise checking and ensure strict action against all suspected shops and areas from time to time.

He warned the officials of dire consequences if illicit or spurious liquor was found in any shop and said the officials concerned would also be held answerable.

KDA VC inspects rainwater harvesting theme park

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh carried out the inspection of under-construction rainwater harvesting theme park in Indira Nagar on Saturday.

Spread over 4,500 square metres land, the park aims at educating children about the importance of water conservation and harvesting. It comprises a resource centre, watch tower, security room, cafe, toilet, gazebo, power block, amphitheatre, STP and rain-water harvesting system.

For the amusement and education of the children, the park will have a talking tree and a robot to provide kids the knowledge about water conservation.

During the inspection, Singh directed the officials concerned to carry out the stone pitching work in the drain, street fencing to ensure security of equipment installed in the park, fixation of display board (signage) of the theme park and tree plantation near the main entry gate to develop greenery around it.

Expressing displeasure over the painting of the resource centre, he directed Executive Engineer Mukesh Agarwal to carry out proper colour match-



KDA Vice Chairman RK Singh inspecting the Rainwater Harvesting Theme Park.

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ing there. He also asked him to submit a proposal for the operation of the theme park and directed him to complete all the works by December 15 at any cost.

Assistant Engineer Akhilesh Singh and Junior Engineer CB Pandey were also present during the inspection.

Meanwhile, the KDA VC said that the estimate for construction of the proposed administrative building in the South City area at BN Bhalla Hospital, Babupurwa, would be

prepared by the Kanpur Nagar Nigam.

The expenses on the construction of the building would be equally borne by the KDA and the Kanpur Nagar Nigam.

Besides, in a bid to quickly resolve the problems of allottees, the KDA would organise a three-day camp at Motijheel from December 17 to 19. Senior officers and employees would be present at the camp.

As per the decision of the KDA Board, such camps would

be organised every month, starting from December, wherein problems of allottees would be resolved on the spot, if possible.

Singh said the KDA was organising Vikray Melas since November 9 to sell its remaining 6,000 flats. He said interested buyers were visiting the mela daily to collect information about the flats.

Besides, as per the KDA Board's decision, agents/brokers would also be appointed to sell the flats, he added.

111 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 111 more coronavirus positive cases on Sunday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 111 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Saturday evening and Sunday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 29,832 cases. He said that 10 cases were discharged from hospital. He said two COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Sunday evening keeping the death toll to 765. The CMO said at present 1180 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4682 samples were sent for testing in the city.

‘Unmasked’ cops book youth for not wearing mask

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Video recording of unmasked cops cost dearly to a trader's son in Govind Nagar market late on Saturday night. The irate cops challaned the youth for not wearing mask and took him to the police station.

In protest, hundreds of traders closed their shops and staged a massive dharna at the Govind Nagar police station, demanding action against the guilty policemen.

Coordinator of Govind Nagar Vyapar Sangathan and electronic goods shopowner Vivek Saxena of B Block, Govind Nagar, said his son Ayush was going to purchase some goods from a nearby shop late Saturday evening.

He was challaned by a cop. Kuldeep, of Govind Nagar police station for not wearing a mask. Meanwhile, when Ayush started video recording all the unmasked cops, he had to face the ire of the policemen who took him to the police station.

On coming to know about the incident, a group of traders reached the police station and somehow got Ayush released.

On Sunday morning, the office-bearers of the Govind Nagar Vyapar Mandal gheraoed the police station and staged a massive demonstration. They demanded action against the guilty cops.

Govind Nagar Vyapar Mandal president Nirmal Tripathi demanded suspension of the guilty cops. He also promised to cooperate with the police in removing encroachments from the market.

Bhagat Singh Market Association president Shammi Malhotra, Sunil Dixit, Ankur Khanna, Sagar Kapoor, Navneet Singh, Baldeo Malhotra and Surendra Tandon took part in the protest.

SUICIDE

On being scolded by his father, a 24-year-old youth, Ashish, hanged himself to death in Patkapur under Pheelkhana police station on Saturday night. When the cousin went to his room on Sunday morning, he found Ashish, son of street vendor Jagannath Singh, hanging from the ceiling.

Mulayam’s birthday celebrated

KANPUR (PNS): The Samajwadi Party leaders and workers here celebrated the 82nd birthday of party supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav at the party office on Sunday. The function was chaired by SP city unit president Imran and a huge cake was cut and shared by the party members, who wished Mulayam Singh Yadav a long and healthy life to guide the party in its future endeavours. Former cabinet minister Surendra Mohan Agarwal, who was the chief guest at the function, said Mulayam Singh Yadav overcame all challenges to carve an image and get a place among the top politicians of the country and he rose to the post of the country's defence minister. He said Mulayam Singh Yadav's major achievements as the defence minister included taking the bodies of the martyred jawans to their respective homes and ensuring the last rites with full state honours.

Cattle smuggler arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Lalganj police arrested a criminal who was wanted in a case of cattle smuggling on Saturday. As per the reports, the police had on November 2 recovered 27 head of cattle which were being smuggled for the purpose of slaughtering. In the case while two accused had been arrested on the spot, one had managed to escape from the scene. Acting upon the case the police was informed through an informer that the accused was hiding at Deepnagar. Thereafter the police raided the place and arrested Ramdular, a resident of Madarpur village under Lalganj police station. After arresting him the police sent him to jail.

Meanwhile Halia police on Friday arrested four accused for luring a girl away. As per the

reports, a man had lodged an FIR few days ago that his daughter was lured away by some persons. Registering the case the police started the investigation and recovered the girl two days back. During patrolling the police was tipped off by an informer that the accused were hiding near Bhatwari bridge. The police raided the place and arrested them. They were identified as Ramzan, Sonu, Mohammad Husain and Jabbar Ali, residents of Vyoguna village under Halia police station. The police sent the accused to jail under relevant sections, including SC/ST Act.

WARM WELCOME ACCORDED: A student who had cleared a medical entrance examination was accorded a warm reception at Padari market on Saturday. Tanu Pandey,

daughter of Sarvesh Chand Pandey, a resident of Kathinayi village under Pahadi block was accorded a warm welcome when she returned home after getting admission in the Autonomous State Medical College Society, Firozabad. The locals were elated when they got information about her clearing the medical entrance examination. They were proud of Tanu Pandey. While addressing a brief function a social worker and the manager Shri Gyananand Inter College Ajay Ojha said that with her success, she had become a role model for students and an inspiration for the youth. Among those who greeted her and wished her a bright and successful future were Shiv Kumar Pandey, Pramod Singh, Bhagwan Das, Saheb Singh and Sushil Patel.

Seminar to mark World Fisheries Day

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A seminar was held at Vikas Bhawan held on the occasion of World Fisheries Day on Saturday. In it experts suggested to the people involved in fisheries work to adopt the new technology to earn more which was not only in their interest but of the nation too. The speakers were of the view that the trade had a lot of scope. They gave tips about the season in which production could be more and how the size of the fish could be heavier. They also threw the light over the breed and appealed to be updated with inventions as well as market demand. After the seminar Neeharika Singh of Lodhava village, Jamalpur, Himanshu Singh of Ramgarh village, Seekhar and Rajshekhar of Bharehta village, Narainpur, were honoured for their



A seminar to mark World Fisheries Day was organised at Vikas Bhawan in Mirzapur on Saturday

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achievements. The seminar was conducted by Deputy Director, Fisheries, Mukesh Kumar Sarang. Prominent among those who spoke on the

occasion were Deputy Director Agriculture, Ashok Kumar Upadhyay, Neha Singh and District Manager, Lead Bank, Kunwar Ajay.

Team NCL excels

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The four-member team of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) received the first prize at the International Project Management Team Excellence Award (I - PMTEA-2020) organised by the Centre for Excellence in Project Management. In the competition 19 teams from all over the world, including those from Germany and USA, took part. Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) NCL PK Sinha and the Board of Executive Directors have congratulated the team NCL for this spectacular achievement.

This competition organised on the topic 'Prendo Simulation' well known worldwide through e-medium lasted

two days. This simulation technique is used by top management and internationally reputed science institutes.

In this competition on behalf of Northern Coalfields Limited under the leadership of Chief Manager (Mining) Ratanjay Singh, Himanshu Wadhvani, Shruti Anil and Rahul Verma participated. In it India's top public sector undertakings besides NITI Aayog also took part. Significantly, in the 'Executive Diploma in Project Management' (EDPM) programme of the prestigious institute of the world, International Institute of Project and Programme Management (I2P2M), General Manager (Security/R&D) of NCL PD Rath, had earned the title of 'Best Student' recently.

Two apprehended

CORRESPONDENT ■ CHANDAULI

During a drive against cattle smugglers launched on the instructions of Superintendent of Police Hemant Kutiyal on Saturday, during an intensive checking campaign under the direction of Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) and Circle Officer

(CO) Sadar, the Syedraja police achieved a big success when they arrested two accused near Naubatpur police booth from National Highway No 2 while they were carrying 18 head of cattle in a truck for selling them in West Bengal via Bihar. They were identified as Belal Ahmed and Fateh Khan, residents of separate places.

30-year-old woman ends life

CORRESPONDENT ■ HAMIRPUR

A 30-year-old woman who was angry with her husband for not going to the temple ended her life by hanging herself in an area under the Jalalpur police station on Saturday. According to the police, Arjun (40), a resident of Chhedhi Beni village, was addicted to liquor. His wife Preeti (30) and the whole family were upset with him due to it. She had been telling him to go to Devi temple in Kupra village for the past many days but Arjun was avoiding it. On Saturday evening Preeti insisted on going to temple to which

he flatly refused. At this lost she her temper and decided to take this extreme step. As soon as Arjun went to the toilet Preeti locked herself in the room and hanged herself.

With the help of his neighbours, Arjun brought her down and was taking her to Rath for treatment but she died on the way. The police took the body of the deceased into custody and sent it for the post-mortem examination.

In another incident a man died on the spot when he was hit by an unidentified vehicle in Kurara area on Saturday. Police said that Ramsajeevan (45), a resident of Kurara town,

was going on Saturday on foot from Kurara to Para village in connection with some work when he was knocked down by some unknown vehicle on the way. When the family members got information about the matter they took him to the district hospital for treatment but the doctor on duty there declared him dead. After filling the panchnama the police got the post-mortem examination done, of their critical condition.

The family members of the deceased were shell-shocked on hearing the news about his premature and untimely death and there was lamentation in his house.

‘Arghya’ offered to rising Sun

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The festival of Dala Chhath concluded with the offering of 'arghya' to the rising Sun. This four-day-long event is celebrated in region with great enthusiasm. However, this time in NTPC's Vindhyaachal project due to coronavirus infection the programme was not organised on a large scale at Lake Park. As per the instructions of the Central Government and district administration it was



organised for limited devotees by observing Covid-19 prevention guidelines. The project management during this time was constantly advising people to follow social distancing guidelines. During the Chhath festival, the event organised in the project premises was from time to time inspected by Executive Director Munish Johri, who after taking stock of the arrangements there, issued necessary guidelines to the team of the Security department.

Parl panel seeks laws to foil bio-terrorism



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing apprehension that viruses like novel coronavirus which has currently emerged as pandemic, infecting a large population across the globe, can be used as biological weapons against enemy nations, a Parliamentary panel has called upon the Government to formulate effective laws to counter such bio-terrorism in partnerships with different nations.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, in its report “The Outbreak of Pandemic COVID-19 And its Management”, underlined the need of bio-safety to prevent the world community from any activity signalling bio-terrorism.

The chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee, Ram Gopal Yadav, submitted the report to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday.

The committee’s attention has been drawn to the fact that

novel coronavirus like viruses infecting large populations across the globe and emerging as pandemics, can be used as biological weapons against enemy nations.

Bio-security, therefore, is a critical area of concern, the report said.

In its reply, the Department of Health and Family submitted that a holistic approach is needed for ensuring bio-security against biological weapons, that inter alia include approach for deterrence, prevention, protection and response against biological weapons, engagement with agencies and active participation in ongoing international treaties and strengthening bio-safety and bio-security platforms in India.

The panel also pitched for instituting robust bio-repositories for high-risk emerging/ reemerging infectious pathogens, strengthening disease surveillance including at animal-human interface, training and capacity building for management

India may grant Serum Institute emergency use authorisation for Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India may grant Pune’s Serum Institute of India (SII) with the emergency use authorisation of Oxford and AstraZeneca’s coronavirus vaccine if the British-Swedish pharmaceutical company gets such an approval from the UK Government, a top official from the Centre’s vaccine expert group has indicated.

“We expect emergency authorisation for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to be sought in the UK. If so, it will give an opportunity for the Indian regulator also,” Dr Vinod Paul who is also member (Health) of the Niti Aayog said to a news agency here.

The Oxford vaccine is already in its third and final phase of clinical trials in India, and if all things go as planned, the COVID-19 vaccine may be ready for distribution by

January or February 2021.

An emergency authorisation of the coronavirus vaccine would ensure its proper administration based on the priority list, starting with frontline workers, senior citizens, people with comorbidities and so on, he explained.

Earlier this week, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine produced a strong immune response in older adults, raising hopes that it can protect the age groups most at risk from the virus.

The most likely candidate to get licensure in India would be the Oxford-Serum Institute vaccine, with Phase 3 data likely to be available by late January or early February 2021. The first batch of COVID-19 vaccine doses would be available by March-April, 2021, he said.

Being the largest manufacturer of vaccines in the

world, India was in a good place with respect to access to vaccines, he said.

Vaccine maker SII’s CEO Adar Poonawalla on Thursday had said the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine should be available for healthcare workers and elderly people by around February 2021 and by April for the general public.

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had chaired a review meeting on Covid-19 vaccination. Countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Qatar, Bhutan, Switzerland, Bahrain, Austria and South Korea have shown keen interest in partnering for vaccine development of Indian vaccines and use thereof, according to the PMO.

Modi also reviewed the aspects of emergency use authorisation and for manufacture and procurement of the vaccine.

Recognised national, State parties fielded 467 tainted candidates out of 1,197 in Bihar poll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Out of a total of 1,197 candidates with criminal antecedents who contested the recently-held Bihar Assembly elections, 467 were fielded by recognised national and State parties while remaining 730 were either fielded by registered but unrecognised parties or had contested the polls as independents.

According to the Election Commission, a total of 3733 candidates including 371 women were in the fray in the three-phase elections. During the polls, 156 cases were registered against “organisers” of rallies and meetings of various leaders and candidates for violating COVID-19 norms. In 2015 out of 3,450 candidates 1,038(30%) had declared criminal antecedents. There has also been a rise in the number of candidates with serious criminal cases, with 915(25%) declaring such cases this year,

as compared to 796 (23%) candidates in 2015.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has the maximum candidates registered against them followed by the BJP. It said, “Out of 56 RJD candidates, 36, which is 64 per cent, candidates have criminal cases against them, followed by the BJP with 29 out of 46 candidates which is 63 per cent.

Cases were registered against organisers as they had sought permission to hold rallies or meetings in which following health guidelines was mandatory, explained an official. Ahead of the three phase elections, the poll panel had made it clear that violation of COVID-19 guidelines during election period would be deemed as a violation of section 144 of the CrPc.

The section of the Criminal Procedure Code allows local authorities to issue orders to prevent and address urgent cases of appre-

hended danger or nuisance. Certain sections of the National Disaster Management Act and the Epidemic Act were also used.

The local authorities also relied on section 188 of the Indian Penal Code to deal with cases of violation of health guidelines. It deals with disobedience to follow orders issued by an authorised public servant. Bihar assembly elections were the first full-fledged polls to be held amid coronavirus. Over 4 crore of the total over 7 crore voters exercised their franchise.

Following a Supreme Court direction in February this year, the Election Commission had in March asked political parties to justify why they chose candidates with criminal history to contest elections.

Assembly elections in Bihar were the first full-fledged polls where such details of their candidates were made public by parties.

Cong is on its lowest in last 72 years: Azad

GHULAM NABI AZAD INTERVIEW



Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, on Sunday, said that “Congress is on its lowest in the last 72 years”. During an interview with ANI, Azad said that “There is no rebellion in Congress party”.

Ghulam Nabi Azad said that “Congress is on its lowest in the last 72 years. Congress does not have even the post of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha during the last two terms. But Congress won 9 seats in Ladakh hill council elections even as we were not expecting such a positive result.”

Office bearers should understand their responsibility. Till the time, office bearers are appointed, they won’t go. But if all office bearers are elect-

ed, then they will understand their responsibility. Right now, anyone gets any post in the party,” he added.

He further said that “Polls aren’t won by 5-star culture. The problem with leaders today is if they get a party ticket, they first book a 5-star hotel. They won’t go if there’s a rough road. Till the time 5-star culture is given up, one can’t win elections.”

On being asked about recent losses, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said “We all were worried about losses, especially about Bihar and by-polls results. I don’t blame the leadership for the loss. Our people have lost the connection on the ground. One should be in love with their party”.

“Till the time, we change our way of functioning at every level, things won’t change. Leadership needs to give a program to party workers and hold elections for posts. One should be so much indispensable that leadership asks for you in your absence,” Ghulam Nabi

Azad said during the interview.

I’m giving a clean chit to Gandhis due to COVID-19 pandemic as they can’t do much right now. There’s no change in our demands. They’ve agreed to most of our demands. Our leadership should hold elections if they want to become a national alternative and revive the party,” said Azad.

Our party’s structure has collapsed,” he said, adding that “We need to rebuild our structure, and then if any leader is elected in that structure, it will work. But saying that just by changing the leader, we’ll win Bihar, UP, MP, etc. is wrong. That will happen once we change the system,” he added.

“Be it our party or any other, the culture of sycophancy has become the main reason for the party’s death as well as the downfall of leaders. We should stay away from this culture at all levels. Politics is a penance. Shame on those who join politics for enjoyment and money,” he said.

Jal Shakti Ministry adopts five novel technologies to overcome drinking water crisis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As it gears up to meet its target of providing functional household tap connection to every rural home by 2024 in the country, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry has recommended five innovative technologies to help States/UTs to deliver drinking water services of adequate quantity and prescribed quality to rural communities.

These are Grundfos AQPure, a solar energy based water treatment plant based on ultra filtration, Janajal Water on Wheel, an IoT based electric vehicle based on GPS location to enable delivery of safe water



to the doorstep of households, Presto Online Chlorinator, a non-electricity dependent online chlorinator for disinfection of water for removal of bacterial contamination.

The two others are Johkasou technology – an inbuilt packaged black (sewage) and grey water (Kitchen and bath water) treatment system having advanced anaerobic-aerobic configuration that can

be installed underground and FBTeC, a site assembled decentralised sewage treatment system using fixed filter media, said an official from the Ministry.

He said these technologies would now be listed in the innovation portal of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry. “These technologies have been appraised at different levels before consideration and recommendation by a high-scientific level technical panel of the Ministry,” said the official. He added that more technologies will be included in case they pass certain criteria specified by the panel.

Film on Covid pandemic wins this year’s tve Global Sustainability Film Awards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coronavirus Pandemic: Making Safer Emergency Hospitals, a film by UK-based CineTexture Ltd on how to convert large air-conditioned spaces into emergency hospitals has won this year’s tve Global Sustainability Film Awards in the nominated category along with My Octopus TeacherDirected by Pippa Ehrlich and James Reed.

The tve Global Sustainability Film Awards 2020(tve GSFA), in partnership with Difficult Dialogues, has announced the winners of its eight competitive and two nominated award categories. The online awards presentation was complemented by four thought-provoking Difficult Dialogues panel discussions on crucial themes related to global sustainability as well as the finale of the Daring Debates,a debate competition aimed at engaging the youth from across the world in sustainability-related ideation.

The tve GSFA which is in its ninth year and rewards films both on their creativity as well as on the sustainability impact, had received over a hundred film submissions from 17 countries. A diverse and eminent international jury panel drawn from the fields of sustainability and filmmaking adjudicated on the entries to first come up with three or four shortlisted films for each category and then announced the final winners.

The winners in the competitive Award Categories are: Documentary Impact: (Joint Winners): Once You Know(Pulp Films)and Our Planet: Our Business(WWF-UK); Doing Business Differently: Helping People Put the Planet First(BBC StoryWorks); Transforming Society: BREEF and Rolex Preserve & Protect Nature(The Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation); Campaigning: 10 Myths about Deforestation and Food(WWF-UK); Health and the Environment: A Failure of the Imagination(The Progress Film Company)

Innovations: Turning the Tide(Stramash Films); Solutions News Story: The Man who grew his own Amazon Rainforest(BBC, People Fixing the World); Young Filmmaker: Traces(Sébastien Pins)

Nick Nuttall, Chair of the jury for the tve GSFA 2020 and Strategic Communications Director, Earthday.org said,” Selecting the winners is always tough,

but this year was even tougher with the quality, range of issues and creativity even higher in 2020. I hope as many people as possible will watch and share these amazing, winning works far and wide, while being motivated to step up action towards a better world and fired-up to submit their own extraordinary films in 2021”.

The inspiring five-day long online event presented by Difficult Dialogues in partnership with the tve GSFAwas focused on Global Sustainability, a key theme that crucially affects the entire planet. It was well attended by sustainability experts, filmmakers, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, youth leaders and individuals concerned about sustainability.

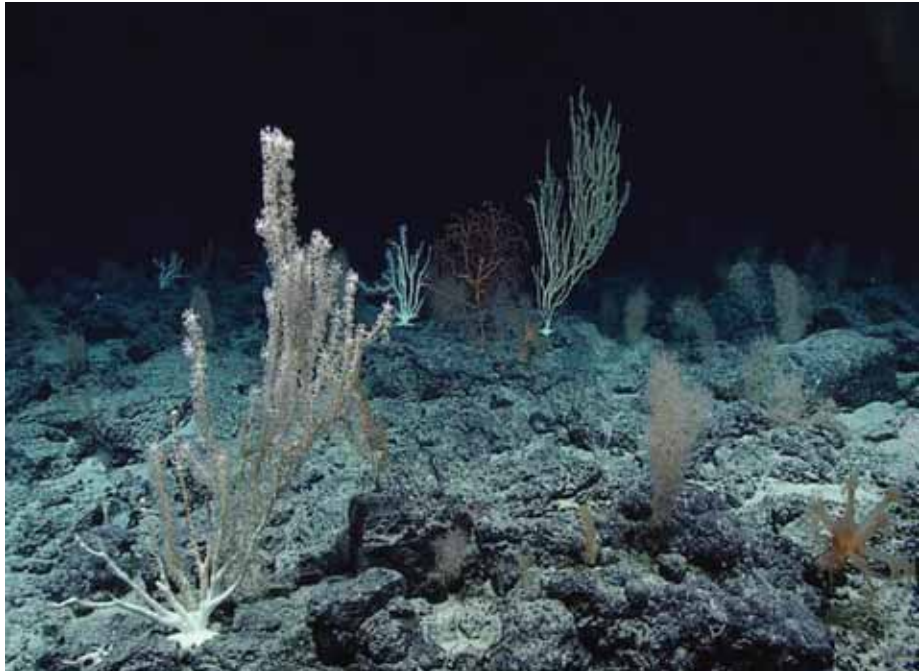
The agenda was to highlight the current environmental crisis and suggest solutions and actions we need to take today to ensure a better and more sustainable future. This was done through dialogues, debates and films, with abouttwo hours of environment and sustainability content each day.

Commenting at the conclusion of the Awards Week, Surina Narula, MBE, Founder of Difficult Dialogues and the tve GSFA said, “The last week has been a roller coaster ride showcasing the collection of shortlisted and winning films and incisive discussions on developing a more sustainable world including difficult dialogues with businesses because of the dilemma of profit over sustainability. This year going virtual over five days gave us more time to provide a better experience for filmmakers and the visibility to showcase our youth ambassadors and their work”.

The five-day event concluded with the announcement of the winners of Daring Debates which featured the college finalists from India, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Africa, the USA and Sri Lanka who debated the topic – Is Global Sustainability Profitable for Business? At the end of a keenly contested finale, Gloria Oziohu Alonge from University of Lagos, Nigeria, Africa was declared as the winner for the motion while Aditya Dhar from Harvard University, USA won against the motion.

The Award category sponsors this year were United Living, Global Healthcare, Azad Ayub Ltd and Foundation BNP Paribas (who sponsored the Youth Day), and the Eco Partner was EcoRight Bags.

India to launch deep sea mission in 3-4 months: MoES official



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will soon launch an ambitious ‘Deep Ocean Mission’ that envisages exploration of minerals, energy and marine diversity of the underwater world, a vast part of which still remains unexplored, a top official of the Ministry of Earth Sciences said.

The ministry’s secretary, M Rajeevan, said required approvals are being obtained for the “futuristic and game-changing” mission, and it is likely to be launched in the next 3-4 months.

The mission, which is expected to cost over ₹4,000 crore, will give a boost to efforts to explore India’s vast Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf, another senior official of the MoES said. Rajeevan said the mission

will also involve developing technologies for different deep ocean initiatives.

The multi-disciplinary work will be piloted by the MoES and other government departments like the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will be stakeholders in this mission, Rajeevan added.

Some of the technologies involved will be developed by organisations such as the ISRO and DRDO.

“One of the main aspects of the mission will be design, development and demonstration of human submersibles,” the MoES official said.

Another aspect is exploring the possibility of deep sea min-

ing and developing necessary technologies, the official added.

The official said the move strategically significant as it will enhance India’s presence in the Indian Ocean where other players like China, Korea and Germany are active.

Last week, China live-streamed footage of its new manned submersible parked at the bottom of the Mariana Trench.

This was part of its mission into the deepest underwater valley on the planet.

India has been ear-marked nearly 1.5 lakh square kilometres of area in the central Indian Ocean for exploration.

In September 2016, India signed a 15-year contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exploration of Poly-Metallic Sulphides (PMS) in the Indian Ocean.

Comedian Bharti, husband Harsh sent to judicial custody till December 4

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Special Court here on Sunday remanded television comedian Bharti Singh and her husband Harsh Limbachiya in Judicial custody till December 4 in connection with the drugs seizure and consumption case filed against them by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

While Bharti was arrested on Saturday evening, Harsh was placed under arrest by the NCB in the early hours of Sunday. Their arrests came after the NCB seized 86.5 grams of Cannabis during the raids conducted on their residences at Andheri’s Lokhandwala Complex and Versova in north-west Mumbai.

Bharati and Harsh, both of whom have been booked by the NCB for various offences under

the provisions of NDPS Act 1986, were on Sunday produced before a special court, which sent them to judicial custody for 13 days.

During their questioning by the NCB, Bharti and her husband reportedly confessed to having consumed cannabis (ganja). The drug consumption is in addition to the charge of possessing banned drugs that they face. The raid on the homes of Bharti and her husband Harsh and their subsequent arrest came after their names figured in the custodial interrogation of a 21-year-old drug trafficker whom the NCB officials had arrested earlier the day on Saturday. During the raid conducted at a location in Khar Danda area, the investigators seized various drugs including 15 blots of LSD (commercial quantity), ganja (40 gm) and Nitrazepam (psy-

chotropic medicines).

Bharti and Harsh are being investigated in connection with the Bollywood-drug mafia case registered by the NCB in the wake of the alleged suicide of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput. 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.

Earlier, on November 9, the NCB had raided the residence of Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal on November 9, his and his live-in friend Gabriella Demetriades’ questioning and the subsequent arrest of his Australian friend Australian friend Paul Bartel was on Friday arrested by the NCB in the much-discussed Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case.

Government orders Ministries not to print diaries, calendars

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Secretariat has directed all the ministries to scrupulously follow instructions for non printing of diaries and calendars and instead develop electronic format of these items.

Any lapse in compliance of the instructions will be viewed seriously.

The decision relating to non printing of diary and calendars was reviewed recently by the Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat through videoconferencing with various ministries.

The Secretary (Coordination) also reviewed the progress of development of

The Secretary (Coordination) also reviewed the progress of development of electronic applications of calendars and diaries

electronic applications of calendars and diaries.

In the meeting, it was decided that all ministries/departments, attached offices and subordinate offices under their control are supposed to ensure that calendars/diaries and similar materials are not printed.

The meeting was also attended by Joint Secretary

(Administration) in the Union Home Ministry. Subsequently, the Home Ministry has directed all the heads of divisions and its attached offices/subordinate organisations to comply with the instructions strictly.

The Home Ministry has also directed the Divisional heads to ensure that all the organisations under their administrative control confirm compliance of the instructions related to the non printing of diaries and calendars.

The move to do away with the practice of printing of diaries and calendars has been taken in view of the tight fiscal position in view of the Covid-19 pandemic that has hit economy hard and concurrent loss in government revenues.

The vaccine challenge

We need public-private partnerships to meet targets as our existing immunisation drives are quite under-served



Since 2020 has been “a lost year”, engulfed as it has been by the pandemic, many are looking forward to 2021 as “the year of the vaccine.” And when it comes to India, a year would still fall short of inoculating its people. As Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of the Serum Institute of India, which is the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer and will be rolling out the Oxford vaccine, predicted that it could take till 2024 to secure all Indians. If containing the virus is level 1 of the challenge, vaccinating people against it is level 2 indeed. The toughest, of course, would be devising the logistics of the supply chain, ensuring the safety of the vials, avoidance of wastage and lining up trained health workers to administer the vaccine and monitor its effects on the recipients. In fact, given India’s population, there has to be a multi-phased, general election-like drill and efficiency, all of which cost money and resources. Poonawalla himself estimated a Government spend of ₹80,000 crore in one year. Of course, though we have not yet had an adult immunisation programme, the Government will be riding piggyback on the existing immunisation network for women and children, one of the world’s largest. But we have to reckon with some cold facts considering that our Universal Immunisation Programme is yet to achieve 100 per cent success and is still struggling to meet targets despite years of investment and efforts. An IndiaSpend survey of September 2019 shows that 47 per cent of India’s poorest children are not fully immunised, 17 per cent more than the richest ones, leaving them prone to preventable diseases that compound the burden of healthcare costs for their families. Although Government immunisation programmes have been carried out for 30 years, the coverage rate has been growing at a snail’s pace. According to the Health Ministry’s own findings, India’s vaccination coverage increased from 35 per cent in 1992-93 to 62 per cent in 2015-16. Only 16 districts in India have a coverage of over 90 per cent. Currently our immunisation shield targets 26.7 million newborns and 29 million pregnant women every year, which works to around 390 million doses of vaccines. Needless to say the pandemic has slowed down the pace and efficacy of drives this year. Assuming we can tap into this network immediately, we will still need to supplement its strength and capacities to administer 400-500 million doses by the first two quarters of 2021. Also, a two-shot vaccination drive would mean double the effort. Much has already been said about the challenges of a contiguous cold chain infrastructure that includes moving contained, sanitised and temperature-controlled vaccine consignments under tropical conditions and ensuring last mile equity. The first vaccines announced by Pfizer and Moderna require sub-zero conditions; they must be thawed from -70 degrees celsius and injected within five days. Or else, the whole consignment could go bad. Such delicacy of maintenance and administering doses require a sophisticated and expensive infrastructure that India and even other developing countries would find difficult to harness at short notice. We would have to look at a vaccine that can be stored and transported in liquid form (anything between two and eight degrees celsius) instead of the frozen kind. Besides, no vaccine has a 100 per cent efficacy or can claim a lifetime guarantee — a shot could have to be repeated if antibody levels drop before the predicted periodicity. Some nations would then have to wait for a more conventional vaccine that brews batches of protein or inactivated viral particles in living cells, has the same effect as that of the pharma majors, and can be delivered through existing health care networks. We need to prepare allied items like syringes and glass vials and since glass breaks at sub-zero temperatures required of the announced vaccines, it needs to be a toughened and fortified kind. Even these need to be tested for the vaccine’s stability and subjected to laboratory approvals. These need to be started right away if we want a good stock ready to seal the vaccines. We may be privileged to produce and supply the bulk of the world’s vaccines but can we deliver it to every Indian in the hinterland and protect communities even as managing cities themselves may pose a challenge?

There are no dilemmas really. Nations rich in resources and with an evolved health infrastructure will be deploying the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines before ours. And though the World Health Organisation’s Covax project intends to raise \$18 billion to buy stocks for poorer countries, the trickle-down effect would be delayed, creating a new kind of healthcare hierarchy. Asia, Africa and South America, even with emergent economies, would need an all-new template in the health sector. There are huge recurring costs involved with vaccines made in one part of the world required to be transported to another. And given their fragile and unstable nature, they would mostly be airlifted. Analytics firm McKinsey has estimated that over 10 billion doses would be traded globally. Planes, trucks, warehouses and health centres will have to be outfitted with freezers. The last implies an uninterrupted electricity supply. How many villages and district towns in India can afford continuous power supply? Even with back-ups and generators, how many health centres can sustain the added costs? The Government immediately needs to involve the private sector in developing the delivery and distribution infrastructure in right earnest. It can use Digital India programmes to map the supply chain requirements, track the response modules and effectively manage and deploy resources. The pandemic has taught us how health is the real wealth of a nation. Even if we tame COVID-19, it won’t be the last. We have to reconfigure health and human resource as a major driver of the economy going forward.

Time for football

Can the revamped Indian Super League take on the might of cricket?



We must give credit where it is due. The Indian Super League (ISL) tournament has made a mark on our football scene thanks to the professionalisation of the sport in India. The merger with the older I-League has proceeded to a certain degree and while some are still upset at how that took place, the emergence of a predominant professional league should help the country emerge as a football powerhouse in the future. It is a crying shame that India is still far behind the curve when it comes to football globally, and qualifying for the top tournaments remains a pipe dream in the world’s most popular team sport.

As it is, no Indian player has made it to the first team in any major global league. The grassroots of the sport in India have remained weak for decades, confined to being part of the local club culture. Tournaments like the ISL should be able to make a difference over here by making football a lucrative career for young players and sharpening their talent with some foreign expertise. Currently, other than cricket, and possibly kabaddi to a limited extent, youth have few options for careers in sport unlike in Europe and North America. That said, India has been remarkably successful in creating one of the most popular and successful sports leagues outside these regions.

With traditional Kolkata powerhouses East Bengal and Mohun Bagan now part of the ISL, it might be easier for tournament organisers to appeal to a wider audience. However, they have to be wary of competition from international leagues which happen around the same time. Besides, without passionate and cheering spectators, will the atmosphere remain the same? Some could argue that since football had a limited audience in India anyway, a lack of audience will not make a difference to the players. But with few spectators and a limited television audience, can the ISL compete for eyeballs, particularly as global sports recover from the pandemic? That is an open question. When it started out, ISL was watched by a record audience, the first week notching up a viewership of 170 million. Hopefully, the numbers go up given the closed door nature of the games.

Why Trumpism prevails

The liberal Left cannot disregard the role it played in the rise of Trump. Ignoring ordinary voters would be a catalyst for another populist surge



JANET DALEY

There was only one possible reflection on that extraordinary broadcast from the Trump bunker. How did this ludicrous, dangerously ignorant man ever become president of the United States? That is not a rhetorical question. We need to know how and why this was possible, not only for the sake of America’s political future but for ours, too.

Before the whole hideous chapter is written off as a historical aberration, it is important to understand the sense in which it was not surprising at all. There was, in fact, a kind of inevitability about it: a vacancy that was waiting to be filled by some demagogic figure who would offer what mainstream politics was refusing to provide. And make no mistake, the policies – and even the attitudes – that he embodied addressed directly the frustrations of a huge proportion of the population, as evidenced by the first election victory and the remarkably narrow result of the second.

Yes, somebody was needed to carry out this task but why did it have to be a man like this? An obnoxious ignoramus who appeared to know nothing about the Constitution – even though every American school child learns to recite its basic provisions like a catechism?

The answer is quite simple. If you make certain views unspeakable, then only the unspeakable will be prepared to express them. A clue lies in that infamously damaging remark made by Hillary Clinton during the 2016 campaign in which she described Trump supporters as a “basket of deplorables.”

The essence of democratic freedom is argument and open debate. You enter the game on the assumption that this is a principled contest, not a mud fight. So you do not just castigate and condemn your opponents, treating their position as beneath contempt. Which is not to say that you must be gentle or even courteous: I fully understand the view that some political opinions are so maligned that they must be met with anger and hostility. But how much more effective to attack the “deplorable” programme with devastating accuracy, to rip the position to shreds with rigorous criticism, to disprove its claims and undermine belief in its effectiveness?

Of course, there is one obvious



MANY POLICIES OF TRUMP – AND THE COMPLAINTS THAT HE MADE ON BEHALF OF THE ‘FORGOTTEN MAN’ – WERE SOUND AND CONVINCING. PARTICULARLY CONVINCING TO A VAST ARMY OF DISPOSSESSED VICTIMS OF THE POST-INDUSTRIAL APOCALYPSE WHICH HAD DECIMATED BLUE COLLAR AMERICA

reason why Mrs Clinton in 2016, or the Biden campaign in 2020, or the liberal media both times, could not easily do this. Because many of the policies which Trump advocated – and the complaints that he made on behalf of the “forgotten man”, ironically a phrase associated with the presidency of the greatest Left-liberal of them all, Franklin Roosevelt – were sound and convincing. Particularly convincing to a vast army of dispossessed victims of the post-industrial apocalypse which had decimated blue collar America.

These are the people who believed themselves to be not just “forgotten” but despised. To fail to see this was the unforgivable error not only of the Democrats and their camp followers in the media but of most of the Republican Party too.

It may be difficult for the British, with their ingrained class guilt, to understand how this could have happened so easily: how such blithe indifference to the concerns of communities that were built on old industries like mining and steel production could be written off by Democrat politicians who would once have seen such places as their natural base. Hillary Clinton did not even bother to campaign in the rust belt – presumably because she knew that her feminist message about glass ceilings was unlikely to beguile women who were more worried about putting food on the table. Joe Biden did campaign frenetically in those

places but without many substantive policy proposals to counter the protectionist solution that Trump had offered.

We are seeing a remarkably similar tendency here but the Islingtonisation of the Labour party with its new metropolitan obsessions is, at least, an ongoing ideological battle. The abandonment of working class voters became a point of huge interest once again with the breaching of the northern Red Wall by the Tories in the last general election. Class disadvantage is still very much a live electoral issue in Britain. To become a part of the educated middle class is to enter immediately – with one jump – into the privileged elite which accepts noblesse oblige as a historic duty.

But American political culture is very different. There is almost no sense of inherited responsibility to those who are poor or victimised by economic change – especially if they are White. The American credo is that you should strive to succeed in whatever circumstances you find yourself: that is why you (or your forebears) came to the country.

Almost everybody started poor. If you do not succeed, by equipping yourself with whatever skills or personal characteristics are necessary or by moving across the country to somewhere with better opportunities, then that is largely your own fault. Self-determination is not optional: it is a moral

obligation. What follows from this? That poverty or failure are not to be passively accepted and treated with patronising compassion – which is why most Americans will vote against democratic socialism.

It is important to realise that even most of the American poor feel this way. What they want is what Trump promised them – “jobs, jobs, jobs”, not welfare dependency. So dismissing their anger and failing to offer solutions which restore their dignity and self-worth is an inexcusable betrayal, not just of them but of the American dream – the national spirit, the whole point of the country’s existence as a refuge for those who want to make something of themselves.

That is what Trump stood for. To the surprise of the liberal establishment, huge numbers of Black and Latino voters were attracted to this message because, like most Americans, they did not want to see themselves as permanent victims or losers. What they wanted was a chance to succeed.

Over the coming months, senior Republicans and Democrats are going to have to find a way to talk to the Trump constituency without insulting them. If they don’t, then it will just be a matter of time before another ranting populist lures them away. And the next one might be less obviously absurd.

(Courtesy: The Daily Telegraph)

SOUNDBITE

India is trying to reduce its carbon footprint by 30-35 per cent. We need to increase natural gas usage by four times in our need for energy.



Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi

What’s the reason that the Yogi Government has failed to take action against the liquor mafia despite so many deaths? Who is responsible?



Congress leader
—Priyanka Gandhi

I can’t tell you how excited I am to be playing with my son Charlie in our first official tournament together. It’s been great watching him progress as a junior golfer.



Ace golfer
—Tiger Woods

Don’t worry about Virat. He is up for every single game he is playing. Maybe, there will be extra motivation. I am sure he will be ready to go.



Australian cricketer
—Marcus Stoinis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indo-US ties must be mutually supportive

Be it a courtesy gesture or not, the phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President-elect Joe Biden enabled both the leaders to assure each other of cooperation. The latter may be self-effacing and sport a solemn expression but Modi should try to establish a close rapport with him, forgetting his endorsement of US President Donald Trump for re-election at the “Howdy Modi” mega event at Houston.

Despite its preference for Donald Trump as a sort of natural global ally, India’s ruling dispensation has now no option but to come to terms with the reality of the Biden Administration and what it entails. The reiteration of commitment to further strengthening Indo-US relations and cooperation in dealing with a range of issues signals a policy continuity. Possibly we can now hope for restoration of the H-1B regime in its entirety, lifting of visa and work permit restrictions and a fair trade deal. Biden’s read-out following the phone call mentioned “strengthening democracy at home and abroad.” Its omission in Modi’s tweet and the MEA’s read-out for whatever reason did not go unnoticed. Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris do not see eye to eye with the Modi Government on the abrogation of Article 370, the curtailment of civil liberties in Jammu and Kashmir, the discriminatory Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the punitive action



David Milton
Maruthancode

against NGOs and so on. New Delhi can assess their views against the touchstone of “justice”, “equality” and “freedom.” India can walk tall on the global stage and feel at ease with the incoming Biden Administration by demonstrating that it respects human rights and shuns discrimination against minorities. There is scope for workarounds. The Biden Administration is likely to reshape the US’ role in world affairs in order to regain its lost pre-eminence. When it comes to its role *vis-a-vis* India, we should engage on equal terms and tackle global challenges in a spirit of multilateralism.

Pakistan needs to set its own house in order as dissent against its Government grows in the form of a people’s movement and its economy is in shambles.

CK Subramaniam
Mumbai

Free Stan Swamy

Sir — The arrest of the 83-year-old priest Stan Swamy, who is suffering from Parkinson’s disease, has caused a stir among many people in India. The vet-

eran tribal rights activist has worked for over 50 years in Jharkhand, fighting for the Adivasis on land, forest and labour rights. The charges against this ailing social worker aim to discredit intellectuals, legal pro-

fessionals and social activists who raise their voices for the rights of the poorest of the poor. He should be released at the earliest, come what may.

The National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled has recently written to the National Human Rights Commission seeking its intervention to provide “reasonable accommodation” to Swamy, who has been in detention in Nagpur Central Jail. It is shameful that an ailing elderly man, who needs a straw to drink because of his debilitating condition, is being denied basic help and forced to seek help from the court just to be able to nourish himself. In the meantime, he is suffering from severe dehydration physically and the worst kind of humiliation mentally. This is inhuman, cruel and stinks of political vendetta. The State and its law and order agencies never liked him because he has been consistent in questioning the non-implementation of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. He must be freed before he loses his life in jail.

Jubel D’Cruz
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Incomprehensible digital world

Information technology wizards often coin new words and their jargon is confusing. Much of these await handling in a statesman-like manner



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

We are living in the age of digitisation and now the pandemic has made it much more universal and in a much lesser span of time than would have been otherwise possible. The multiplication of online platforms and transactions of almost every variety has almost divided the world community into categories, depending upon their facility with this process and medium. The “traditional” mom-and-pop set-ups, dealing with maintenance and services, have been speedily eliminated in favour of the do-it-yourself (DIY) culture and by online instructional videos. There would be nothing to grudge that if two things were ensured. First, the basic infrastructure for online communication as and when needed. Second, credible skills at the responding digital end to diagnose the problem and articulate it in comprehensible terms. Both of these clearly need far more attention than currently seems to be the case. This is not to find fault but to emphasise an essential pre-condition for digital maintenance services. The proposition of both infrastructure and skill take time to reach a level of maturity, making them amenable for use. If it is sought to be artificially expedited, the casualties are several. Among the first is the breakdown of systems and interruption in work. The second is loss of opportunity which would have a domino effect on critical aspects of productivity and the livelihood chain.

This concern needs to be a universal one and must be catered to right from the planning stage itself. There is no magic wand to see one through, skipping the preceding processes. The facts of life being what they are, investing in bridging these gaps is not lucrative enough to draw investment. Business by its nature tends to skirt around unprofitable activities to focus on revenue-rich modules.

The Government itself seems to be surrounded by so many pressing concerns that it tends to operate in a fire-fighting mode. The result is all-round confusion, errors in data entry and misreading of categories by semi-literate staff who do not fully grasp the fallout of errors. Carelessness often compounds matters. The inefficiency is further aggravated by a progressively increasing punitive protocol with which default is met. So results of technological default can easily be interpreted as conscious acts and punitive action follows.

In a pandemic situation (which came in weeks before the crisis got recognised as one such) in India, the sheer speed with which “policy” and “vision” measures are being put in place is breathtaking. Almost everything, from education to maritime vision, seems to have been fashioned and the rollout has begun. This is only matched by the dip in the number of copies each newspaper is printing and how much of the dialogue is almost confined to those with access to the internet and a screen.

Logic is often known to be subservient to desire and the Indian genius for finding arguments for what one wishes to do is universally known to be strong. But some day all this will change. Some day the pandemic will be a thing of the past. Some day, it is likely, the fate of internet non-users and those at the receiving end of economic growth would have reached a point of equilibrium. The lesser fortunate would have been, metaphorically, wiped out or relegated to a state of destitution. Of the surviving ones, a percentage of the successful would be firmly in the driving seat, growing bigger, richer and more powerful.

There is a distinct possibility that even in that situation, good sense may prevail. Whether that will be so or not, only time will tell. Oligarchies do sometimes have a wiser side in certain cases. That, at this point of time, is essentially a matter of speculation.

In all this, the process of digitisation would have been a strong potent force. In effect, it would mean the requirement to make non-linear thinking as important as linear reasoning in education. Even global approaches would have to go hand-in-hand with local ones. Our preparation for the future demands recognition of such a reality. Effectively, mindsets need to be tuned to look at the big picture and not temporary gains. It would require a conscious and systematic approach to decision-making. It may not be just survival of the fittest in simple Darwinian terms but a lot of self-dependence would need to be ingrained.

For the present, one could begin this much-needed journey by making the language used in ushering in and spreading the digitisation mission comprehensible. Unfortunately, the jargon which information technology specialists use even in explaining the working of their gadgets is not in a format of normal communication. Information technology wizards often coin new words and their jargon often confuses. Much of these await handling in a statesman-like manner.

(The writer is an internationally-acclaimed management consultant)

LOVE JIHAD HAS COME TO BE REALISED AS A MENACE IN ALL STATES IN INDIA, NOT JUST AMONG HINDUS BUT AMONG ALL NON-MUSLIMS, TOO.

—UNION MINISTER
GIRIRAJ SINGH

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



FAMILY MEMBERS OF MANY BJP LEADERS HAVE PERFORMED INTER-RELIGION MARRIAGES. WILL THESE MARRIAGES TOO COME UNDER LOVE JIHAD?
—CHHATTISGARH CHIEF MINISTER
BHUPESH BAGHEL

Focus on primary care

Though national policies are often preceded by commitments of political parties in their manifestos, it is for the first time that health infrastructure has become a poll agenda



SURAVI SHARMA

In spite of the pressing needs of a huge population, healthcare in India has never been an electoral mobiliser unlike in older democracies, such as the UK and the US. Only three National Health Policies (1983, 2002 and 2017) have been promulgated by respective Governments in the last 70 years. Though national policies and promises are often preceded by commitments of political parties in their manifestos, it is for the first time in the history of independent India that healthcare infrastructure has now become a top election agenda. This is all due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Our country should be moving towards a healthcare system that places a high priority on keeping people healthy and out of hospitals. And the primary care doctor should be playing the leading role in this transformation. This, in turn, will lead to a reduced financial burden, diminishing the high costs of emergency rooms and tertiary care centres. Good primary care improves patient outcomes too, yet we have ignored these fundamentals to our detriment. This blind spot is the biggest flaw in our current healthcare system.

Democracy is a system of governance for the people, by the people and of the people. Primary healthcare, similarly defined, is healthcare provided to all, especially the most marginalised, with their participation and for their needs. If the primary healthcare system of a country is not functioning well, it is symptomatic of problems in its democracy itself. Primary healthcare is a public good and in a democracy, public good is publicly funded. The right to health is subsumed under the right to life in the Constitution. Yet, India figures at the very bottom of the global health systems’ rankings. We have the dubious distinction of having the maximum number of tuberculosis and leprosy patients and the highest maternal and infant mortality rates.

With a focus on primary care, our health system should move away from procedures/hospital-based care, in which primary care physicians (PCPs) have been devalued. Such systems depict the PCPs as paper-pushers in a world of specialists.

The Bhore Committee set up in 1946 published a landmark report highlighting the need for a “social physician”, who would be a key player in India’s healthcare system. The report also emphasised the need to recognise the field of Family Medicine as a separate speciality with a post-graduate residency programme in post-graduate medical institutes. Our medical education system, too, needs to encourage medical students to view primary care as a route to creating a more effective healthcare system.

The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, an organisation working to improve healthcare in the US, says that in order to produce more primary care doctors, who are willing to practise in disadvantaged and underserved areas, medical schools need to change the way they select students. It is seen in India, too, that students, who have strong ties to their community, want to form long-term relationships and commitment to public service, and hence are more likely to choose primary care (if such training is made available in the country) as a profession, than other students. One of the reasons our country or even the US is facing a shortage of PCPs is because the brightest medical students are often told or made to believe that they’re too smart not to specialise, and that attitude is reinforced throughout their medical training. What is special about Japan in the context of successful healthcare services is that it man-

“A DEMOCRATIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEM SHOULD HAVE FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN COMMUNITIES THAT ARE EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THEIR NEEDS AND PROVIDE PREVENTIVE AND CURATIVE CARE. THEY SHOULD BE STAFFED BY A SKILLED TEAM OF PROVIDERS WHO ARE EMPATHETIC TO THE PEOPLE AND THEIR CULTURE AND TREAT THEM WITH DIGNITY”



aged to contain the clout of specialists in its healthcare system and accorded a prominent voice to PCPs in its decision-making process.

In the early days of Japan’s modern medicine history, hospitals catered to only an affluent few and the Government limited their funding, restricting them to functions like training of medical students and isolation of infectious cases. Reciprocal connections between doctors in private clinics and hospitals were forbidden, thwarting possibilities of a nexus between the two groups. However, a sturdy lobby of clinic-based PCPs evolved, which tipped the balance in favour of primary healthcare. The Japanese social health insurance was implemented in 1927 and the medical association, that was dominated by PCPs, played the main role in negotiating the fee schedule.

Primary healthcare renewal demands major investments in system transformation and infrastructure (appropriate premises and staffing, information management systems and tools and facilitation to support the coordination of care and the improvement of quality).

Sadly, in India until 2018, only one per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was spent on healthcare and since 2019 this has increased to 3.6 per cent. This is much lower than many non-democratic/poorer nations and is ahead of only five countries, namely Burundi, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan and Cambodia. Such low spending, as we know, leads to a perverted pattern of healthcare as our health system is meant to cater to a population of over a billion human beings.

Poor investment in the primary healthcare system naturally under-equip it. Hence, we lack supplies and drugs for

comprehensive primary care. For example, of the 709 public health centres (PHCs) surveyed in 2009 by the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, about 24 per cent did not have electricity and 63 per cent did not have piped water supply. At the same time, PHCs are expected to deliver centrally-designed, targeted, vertical programmes, alienating them further from communities. As a result, even those families that can access PHCs continue to look elsewhere for their critical healthcare needs.

There is empirical evidence that public spending on primary healthcare is the most effective, efficient and equitable approach to improve the health of populations. Higher public spending has always shown decreased mortality and morbidity of the poor. An analysis by the Centre for Economic and International Studies examined the relative efficiency of public and private healthcare spending in 163 countries and reported that the former consistently leads to lower infant mortality rates and the latter, to higher.

India has a large network of PHCs and each is meant to serve a population of 25,000. In poorer States, such as Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, one PHC covers 45,000, 49,000 and 76,000 people respectively. In Rajasthan, the population is often so dispersed (especially in hilly areas in the south and in the desert in the west) that a family may need to travel 10-20 km to reach the nearest PHC. This means that when a person is sick, s/he may have to wait for many hours or days to reach a healthcare facility.

A few countries in South America with limited resources have managed to design and scale up people-friendly health systems to cover large populations for

delivering primary care. Family clinics in Brazil and polyclinics and nurses offices in Cuba are examples of systems with nationwide coverage. Cuba has one of the most effective primary healthcare systems in the world, whose centerpiece is the community-based polyclinic, each of which serves a catchment area, hosting between 30,000 and 60,000 people. The neighbourhood-based family doctor-and-nurse offices further extend care closer to the communities. One such office is for 1,000-2,000 people. Prevention is the cornerstone of these services, complemented by community analysis and treatment. An important requirement of primary healthcare is the active participation of the masses — akin to citizen participation in a democracy. Such systems are likely to be more responsive to public needs. In the States of West Bengal and Kerala, in which primary healthcare is co-managed by panchayats, health outcomes are better than in most other States at similar levels of economic development.

Government healthcare centres even in cities are yet to be able to provide treatment to the sick with dignity. Patients struggling for life sharing beds, children along with parents lying on the floor in hospital wards and women delivering babies in hospital corridors are an everyday sight in Government hospitals in cities. A democratic healthcare system should have facilities located within communities that are equipped to deal with their needs and provide preventive and curative care. They should be staffed by a skilled team of providers, who are empathetic to the people and their culture and treat them with dignity.

(The writer is an author and a doctor by profession)

Raising the spectre of the ‘Deep State’

The oft-used term means a very different thing in countries like Pak. But when Donald Trump uses it for the US, he does it as a ploy to deflect attention from his failures



NADEEM PARACHA

A friend, settled in the US, recently quipped that never has he heard so many Pakistanis (in the US) use the word “Deep State” as much as they have been doing since the recently-concluded US presidential elections. The polls were won by the Democratic Party nominee John Biden. My friend clarified that the mentioned term was being used mostly by those Pakistani-Americans who actually voted for President Donald Trump.

Even though exit polls published by *The New York Times* show that a majority of Asians had cast their vote for Biden (63 per cent), up to 31 per cent of them voted for Trump. According to my friend, a majority of these included Pakistanis who believed Trump was good for the cur-

rent coalition Government in Pakistan being led by Prime Minister Imran Khan’s Centre-Right PTI.

The Opposition parties in Pakistan have increasingly insisted that certain State institutions installed Khan “through an engineered election” in 2018 and were using him as a “puppet” Pakistan has had a history of State institutions influencing political outcomes, sometimes through direct interventions and sometimes by influencing the results of elections.

This is why my friend was sounding sarcastic, because he added that not once did he hear the term “Deep State” from American-Pakistanis (who voted for Trump) during discussions on the current political arrangement in Pakistan. The term “Deep State”, now being aired so frequently by Trump supporters, was proliferated by the defeated President himself, who is accusing the “American Deep State” of engineering his electoral defeat.

So far Trump has provided no evidence whatsoever of this and is largely sounding like an archetypal conspiracy theorist. The difference between the US and Pakistan in this context is the fact that there is now

enough evidence in the latter country to build a substantiated history of the State’s overt involvement in influencing political matters outside of its constitutional obligations. So what really is a “Deep State”?

The scholar Matthew Wills says that the term is a translation of the Turkish phrase, *derin devlet*. Author and academic Ryan Gingeras writes that “Deep State” generally refers to a kind of a parallel system of Government in which unofficial or unacknowledged individuals play important roles in implementing State policy. According to Gingeras, the idea of a “Deep State” can be traced to the twilight years of the Ottoman Empire.

Gingeras writes that clandestine forces were recruited from paramilitary and criminal elements by the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), the party that ousted the Ottomans in 1923. Across much of the 20th century, opponents of the CUP claimed that the party had established a clandestine network of military officers and their civilian allies who, for decades, suppressed anyone thought to pose a threat to the secular order established in Turkey by Mustafa

Kemal Atatürk. Dexter Filkins, in a March 2012 article for *The New Yorker*, writes that the former Prime Minister of Turkey (now President), Recep Erdogan, was extremely nervous when he was first elected as Prime Minister in 2003 because he believed that since he was a candidate of an (albeit “moderate”) Islamic party, Turkey’s “Deep State” would never allow him to rule.

But no such thing happened. His party has continued to win elections since the early 2000s and the only coup attempt that his Government faced in 2016, according to Erdogan’s own admission, was mounted by a faction of the military influenced by a clandestine Islamic group.

There is nothing secretive about how, after 1923, the Turkish military continued to directly and indirectly interfere in Turkish politics, and the country’s judiciary and bureaucracy were committed to secure Kemal’s secular Turkish republic. For this military rule, military-backed candidates and constitutional courts were used. But there were no hidden agenda, as such, even though men such as Erdogan believed that shadowy forces were at work and would topple him.

Interestingly, all talk of “Deep State” vanished from his rhetoric once he consolidated his power.

So what does this imply? In many countries, certain powerful State institutions do interfere in political processes, but increasingly, it’s being done rather unabashedly. It was always justified as a “necessary step taken to curtail political chaos”, but now the interfering State institutions use social and electronic media to generate support for their actions in this regard. Again, there is nothing clandestine about all this. There has always been “a State within a State” in most modern nation-States.

Recently, the Pakistani Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif used the phrase “State above the State”. This is probably because he knows that the knowledge of Pakistan having a State within a State is now common, and he would be saying nothing new. So he wanted to point towards a much deeper malaise. According to his narrative, the State within the State, which is not quite hidden anymore, is now facing a challenge from within.

But what about the US? Does it have a “Deep State” that, as Trump believes, helped Biden hijack the

election? In the January 27 edition of the *Business Insider*, the American academic Rebecca Gordon writes that the idea of a sinister “Deep State” in the US, popularised by Trump across his presidency, is somewhat different than how it is understood in most other countries. According to Gordon, “rather than referring to a parallel system of Government operating outside official channels, for Trump the ‘Deep State’ is the Government”.

For Trump, any State or Government institution, which stalls any of his orders, is working for a “Deep State”. To him, elements within America’s domestic and international Intelligence agencies, such as the FBI and the CIA, were also working for the “Deep State”. In November 2019, the former Deputy Director of the CIA, John McLaughlin, was amused about Trump’s constant usage of the phrase. In a radio interview McLaughlin said, “There is no ‘Deep State’. What people think of as the ‘Deep State’ is just the American civil service, social security, the people who fix the roads, health and human services.”

In his 2016 book, *The Deep State*, the American author and a former

Republican US Congressional aide, Mike Lofgren, wrote that the “Deep State” was not some secret, conspiratorial cabal. It is a “State within a State” that is hiding in plain sight, and its operators mainly act in the light of day.

As I argued earlier, there is really nothing clandestine about what is understood as “Deep State”. Its actions are in the open because it wants to impose the fact that it will secure its interests in a political arrangement. Governments negotiate a space for themselves with the State as long as that space is not overtly violated by State institutions in an unconstitutional manner.

If and when it is, the Government has constitutional tools to push the State back as much as it can, or just give in and get on the same page just to survive. This is common in most countries. But what if the Government starts to see its own elements in league with the so-called “Deep State”, as Trump saw it? I’m afraid this is then nothing more than either a delusion, or simply a cynical ploy to blame something sinister, intangible and largely imaginary, for one’s own failures. (Courtesy: Dawn)

India’s manufacturing poised to witness recovery in Jul-Sep: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector is poised to witness recovery in the July-September quarter, even as hiring outlook for the segment remains bleak, according to a survey.

Industry body FICCI's latest quarterly survey on manufacturing points towards recovery of the manufacturing sector in the second quarter ended September as compared to the previous quarter, with a rise in percentage of respondents reporting higher production.

The proportion of respondents reporting higher output during July-September rose to 24 per cent, as com-

pared to 10 per cent in the previous quarter.

Besides, the percentage of respondents expecting low or same production is 74 per cent in the second quarter which was 90 per cent in the first quarter of 2020-21.

However, hiring outlook for the sector, though improving slightly, shows a bleak picture as 80 per cent of the respondents mentioned that they are not likely to hire additional workforce in the next three months.

"This presents slightly improved situation in the hiring scenario as compared to the previous quarter Q-1 of 2020-21, where 85 per cent of the

respondents were not in favour of hiring additional workforce," FICCI said.

Moreover, the average interest rate paid by manufacturers has reduced slightly to 9.2 per cent per annum as against 9.4 per cent per annum during the last quarter and the highest rate is reported to be 12.5 per cent. The recent cuts in repo rate by the RBI has not led to a consequential reduction in the lending rate as reported by 55 per cent of the respondents, found the survey.

Based on expectations in different sectors, all the sectors except medical devices are likely to register low growth in Q-2 2020-21. The primary reason



for such depressed expectations seems to be the imposition of lockdown, subdued demand, restricted exports and other guidelines in place as a

response towards COVID-19 outbreak.

The survey covered wide areas of relevance for manufacturing like exports, capaci-

ty utilisation, ongoing restrictions, availability of labour/workforce and others. In many of these areas there are signs of operations inching towards normal and in coming months could see better performance.

The survey assessed the sentiments of manufacturers for July-September 2020-21 for 12 major sectors namely automotive, capital goods, cement and ceramics, chemicals, fertilizers and pharmaceuticals, electronics & electricals, leather and footwear, medical devices, metal & metal products, paper products, textiles, textile machinery, and miscellaneous.

Responses were drawn from over 300 manufacturing units from both large and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of around Rs 3 lakh crore.

The survey showed that overall capacity utilisation in manufacturing has risen to 65 per cent as compared to 61.5 per cent in Q4 2019-20.

The future investment outlook, however, is subdued as only 18 per cent respondents reported plans for capacity additions for the next six months as compared to 22 per cent in the previous quarter, the survey revealed.

High raw material prices, high cost of finance, shortage

of skilled labour and working capital, high logistics cost, low domestic and global demand due to imposition of lockdown across several countries, lack of financial assistance, are some of the major constraints affecting expansion plans of the respondents. Significantly, the percentage of respondents expecting increase in exports in July-September has increased substantially to 24 per cent when compared to the previous quarter, wherein merely 8 per cent respondents were expecting a rise in exports. Also, 19 per cent are expecting exports to continue to be on same path as that of same quarter last year, the survey noted.

Petrol, diesel prices rise for 3rd straight day across metros

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Prices of petrol and diesel rose across the four metro cities on Sunday for the fourth consecutive day after a nearly two-month hiatus.

In the national capital, petrol was priced at ₹81.46 per litre on Sunday, eight paise higher than the previous level.

In the other key cities of Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold at ₹88.16, ₹84.53 and ₹83.03 per litre, higher than the Saturday's levels of ₹88.09, ₹84.46 and ₹82.95, respectively.

The prices of diesel in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata were ₹71.07, ₹77.54, ₹76.55 and ₹74.64 per litre, respectively, compared to ₹70.88, ₹77.34, ₹76.37 and ₹74.45.

The increase in petrol and diesel prices was expected as the global oil market has shown signs of firming up after posi-



tive news on the successful introduction of a coronavirus vaccine soon.

Moreover, the demand for oil and falling inventory levels in major consuming markets has also firmed up the crude price.

The benchmark Brent crude price is hovering close to \$45 a barrel for some time now while the US WTI crude is also over \$42 a barrel.

The two have remained firm since the beginning of the month after remaining soft in most parts of October at close to \$40 a barrel or less.

OMC sources said that the auto fuel hike may not end just

yet and the price of the two petroleum products may increase gradually over the next week as well.

This is required to keep OMCs from incurring losses on the sale of petrol and diesel.

While India has brought both petrol and diesel out from an earlier administrative price regime and their retail prices are revised daily based on the global movement product prices, holding the retail price revision for almost two months was surprising.

At a time when globally prices change by the hour, in India it could be kept static for such a long period.

The increase of every dollar in the price of crude results in a retail price of petrol and diesel to be increased by up to 40 paise per litre.

This would mean that the fuel prices should be up by at least ₹1.20 per litre by now.

GST Council panel for 2-pronged strategy to curb fake invoices

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

The Law Committee of the GST Council has suggested a two-pronged strategy to tackle the issue of fake invoices, sources said.

According to people in the know, the panel has recommended that new or fresh registrations in GST may adopt an Aadhaar-like registration process under which new registration can be done online with live photo and use of biometrics with due verification of documents.

Such facilities can be provided at banks, post offices, and GST Seva Kendras (GSK), just like the Passport Seva Kendras or the Aadhaar Seva Kendras. The GSKs can work on the pattern of the Passport Seva Kendras to provide new registration facilities with required checks on fake registration.

According to sources, the Law Committee has suggested



that a fresh registrant must go for compulsory physical verification and personal identification in case he or she opts for non-Aadhaar authentication-based registration process and does not have income tax return supported adequate financial capability.

In such a case, he or she may have to submit a recommendation letter by two taxpayers of adequate reliability.

Further, also, if on the basis of document supported

credentials, a registrant or dealer falls in "trustworthy" category, then he or she can be given registration within seven working days.

If he or she is not in the "trustworthy" category, then conditional registration shall be given within 60 working days only after physical verification of the place of business wherein in such cases input tax credit to their buyers shall be allowed only after filing of their return and the dealers

Such facilities can be provided at banks, post offices, and GST Seva Kendras, just like the Passport Seva Kendras or the Aadhaar Seva Kendras

would be required to pay certain portion of their liability in cash instead of paying 100 per cent tax through ITC.

According to sources in the Department of Revenue, to weed out existing fake dealers from the GST system, the panel proposed full application of the Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics (BIFA) tool for precise identification of riskier dealers based on the riskier input supply chain and outward supply chain, abnormal taxpayer behaviour in terms of ITC availment, tax payment for catching fake dealer and taking appropriate action, including enforcement.

It has suggested suspension of first lot of riskier traders and identification of such taxpayers on the basis of significant criterion including non-filing of return for six months, said sources, adding that the committee underlined that fact that there are about 6 lakh dormant registrants in GST.

Sebi to spearhead World Investors Week activities

TYAGI ASKS INVESTORS TO TAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is a need for new investors to take informed investment decisions without getting lured by false promises and unsolicited advice, Sebi chairman Ajay Tyagi has said as the regulator spearheads World Investors Week celebrations in India beginning Monday.

Every year, the World Investor Week (WIW) is celebrated the world over, under the aegis of IOSCO, the global body of securities regulators, in order to give further impetus to the various investor education and awareness initiatives.

The WIW is celebrated in more than 100 jurisdictions across the world.

Sebi has been participating in the celebrations along with

exchanges, depositories, investor associations, commodity derivative trainers and resource persons since 2017.

Sebi is the national coordinator for the WIW in India, which will be celebrated this time from November 23-29.

"There is a need for the new investors to make informed investment decisions. Thus, investor awareness and education play an important role in educating the investor. One should not get lured by false promises and by unsolicited advice," Tyagi said in a special message on this occasion. Economic function of the securities market is to ensure that savings get channelised into productive investment proposals, which lead to capital formation and economic growth, he said.

Resume mining to overcome jobs, economy issues: CII to Goa Govt

IANs ■ PANAJI

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Goa chapter has emphasised the need for prompt resumption of mining activities in the coastal state to overcome disruption in economy and unemployment caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Alterations to the National Mineral Policy, phasing out of mining activities from eco-sensitive areas, setting up of a comprehensive regulatory mechanism to deter illegal mining, and effective management of iron ore deposits are some of the key recommendations made by the industry body in a White Paper titled 'Accelerating the Goan Economy - A White Paper'.

"Since the halt on mining in Goa during 2012 and later again in 2018, after only a brief resumption, tourism has been one of the key employment generating sectors. However, with the sudden and highly dis-

ruptive emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, most of Goa's traditional economic engines and employment generators are facing significant challenges," it said.

"Resumption of mining can play a huge role in generating employment and restarting traditional economic engine," it added.

The CII document points out that the National Mineral Policy which has prioritised import substitution, value addition and discourages exports leans in favour of bigger ore-producing states like Karnataka, Jharkhand, and Odisha and is against the interests of Goa which mines low-grade iron ore.

"This is on account of significantly lower ore quality compared with the rest of India, and therefore not suitable for domestic steel production. The export of Goan ore does not burden the national assets, thanks to the excellent inland waterways. The Goa

government should therefore press for the removal or reduction of export duty from low-grade Goan iron ore," the White Paper said.

The document has called for regulation of the mining sector, especially near green zones.

"Well-regulated and authorised mining in Goa should be allowed outside the sensitive zones. If it pose any significant threat or danger to a sensitive zone, mining activities should be phased out," the document said, adding, that mines whose ore deposits were exhausted should be rehabilitated as per the Mines and Minerals Regulation and Development Act.

Mining activities in Goa was banned by the apex court in 2012 following the unearthing of a Rs 35,000 crore scam by a judicial commission appointed by the central government. But it was resumed in 2015 with restrictions before it was halted again after the apex

Cargo movement issues likely to stay as supply chains resume: ADB

IANs ■ MUMBAI

As international trade gets back to normalcy with gradual lifting of lockdowns across countries, difficulties in cargo movement and clearance processes are likely to continue, said an Asian Development Bank blog post.

Emphasising the need for automations, the blog post said that although the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) countries have made progress in automation, there is still a need for physical interfacing and paper filings, which is difficult during the pandemic.

"Inadequate digitisation in many of the cross-border regulatory agencies, and lack of digital connectivity among these agencies, ports and terminal operators, and shipping lines further hindered the flow of cargo," it said.

"Automation of clearance processes, which should have played a greater role in helping cargo move seamlessly across borders, with limited need for human contact, affords an example of the gaps in trade facilitation progress," said the blog authored by Aileen Pangilinan and Satish Reddy.

Economy improving fast, growth to turn positive in Q3, Q4 of FY21: Ashima Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's macroeconomic situation is improving fast and the country's GDP growth will turn positive in the third and fourth quarters of the current financial year, eminent economist Ashima Goyal said on Sunday.

Goyal in an interview to PTI said the management of the COVID-19 pandemic and gradual unlocks announced by the government had helped in avoiding multiple COVID-19 peaks.

The growth estimates by different agencies were being continuously revised, she said. "We are seeing the consensus negative forecasts shrinking below double digits now. Since unlock 4 in September that prevents states from restricting inter-state movements we are seeing supply chain disruptions easing and rapid pick-up in activity. Growth will turn positive in Q3 and Q4."

Goyal, who has been appointed as member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), said there was progress on many reforms and that would make higher long-run growth sustainable.

India's diversity and resilience as well as the benefits of surplus liquidity becoming available after a period of severe liquidity shortage are contributing to the turnaround," she said while stressing that she was speaking to PTI in her personal capacity.

Replying to a question on high retail inflation, Goyal noted that it was due to transient supply-side factors such as unseasonal rains and supply-

chain disruptions that were unlikely to persist. "Moreover, there are long-term changes that are likely to reduce inflation," she said.

Stating that while the repo rate as well as communication on targets and inflation paths anchors inflation expectations, she said liquidity and counter-cyclical macroprudential regulations could be used to stimulate growth.

"The RBI has implemented a number of excellent measures that are also reversed in time, without adverse effects such as the moratorium," Goyal, also a professor of economics of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), said.

She pointed out that the government is providing a considerable net demand stimulus because it is spending more although revenue has fallen.

"The budgeted fiscal deficit has already exceeded the budget estimate and the combined Centre plus states fiscal deficit is expected to reach 12 per cent this year," she said.

Replying to a question on monetisation of the deficit by the RBI, Goyal said true monetisation is only if the RBI has to automatically finance a deficit by making a transfer to the government without any rise in government debt.

"Then the money supply can rise arbitrarily raising risks," she said, adding this is not required because excess savings and limited OMOs will be able to absorb the borrowing required by a relatively conservative government at low interest rates.

Govt plans 10% stake sale in MIDHANI via offer for sale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is planning to sell up to 10 per cent stake in defence PSU Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd (MIDHANI) in the current fiscal ending March, an official said.

The company got listed on stock exchanges in April 2018 and the government had raised Rs 438 crore by selling 26 per cent stake through IPO.

The official said that with the opening of space sector to foinvestment and bringing defence sector under automatic route for 74 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI), MIDHANI shares are expected to attract investors.

MIDHANI manufactures special steel and super alloys for use in defence, nuclear and space sectors. "We are looking at up to 10 per cent stake dilution via offer for sale," the official said. Shares of MIDHANI closed at Rs 193.50 apiece on the BSE on Friday.

CAIT urges DPIIT to penalise Amazon, Flipkart for alleged violations

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has written to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to take action against e-commerce major Amazon and Flipkart for alleged violation of FDI and FEMA norms.

In a letter to the DPIIT Secretary, Guruprasad Mohapatra, the traders' body said: "Our association has been requesting your good office to take appropriate steps and investigate, punish and penalize the multinational companies like Amazon and Flipkart (owned by foreign multinational company 'Walmart', interchangeably used hereinafter) for the blatant violation and/or by exploitation of the loopholes of the FDI policy and Foreign Exchange Management Act."

It said the traders' body has been examining various public statements and documents pertaining to the investments made by both Amazon and Walmart and it has come to



light that both these companies have been conducting their activities in blatant violation of Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 (FEMA Rules).

It said that the the latest revelation by Amazon during the arbitration proceedings at an arbitration court in Singapore clearly shows its control over Future Retail.

"Amazon has unequivocally claimed that it has absolute control over FRL through the shareholder agreement between Amazon and Future Coupons Private Limited," it said.

"While FCL has only 9.2 per cent equity participation in FRL, but by the way of shareholder agreement between Amazon and FCL, it has full control over FRL," it alleged.

CAIT also told DPIIT that Amazon indirectly invested around Rs 4,200 crore and took over control of More Retail Limited.

It also made allegations against Flipkart and said that it has on numerous occasions, brought to the notice of the authorities about the operation of inventory-based model of e-commerce, that is prohibited to foreign companies, by Flipkart.

Trump’s legal team cried vote fraud, but courts found none

Philadelphia: As they frantically searched for ways to salvage President Donald Trump’s failed reelection bid, his campaign pursued a dizzying game of legal hopscotch across six states that centered on the biggest prize of all: Pennsylvania.

The strategy may have played well in front of television cameras and on talk radio.

But it has proved a disaster in court, where judges uniformly rejected their claims of vote fraud and found the campaign’s legal work amateurish.

In a ruling late Saturday, US District Judge Matthew Brann — a Republican and Federalist Society member in central Pennsylvania — compared the campaign’s legal arguments to “Frankenstein’s Monster,” concluding that Trump’s team offered only “speculative accusations,” not proof of rampant corruption.

Now, as the legal doors close on Trump’s attempts to have courts do what voters would not do on Election Day and deliver him a second term, his efforts in Pennsylvania



show how far he is willing to push baseless theories of widespread voter fraud.

It was led by Rudy Giuliani, Trump’s personal lawyer, who descended on the state the Saturday after the November 3 election as the count dragged on and the president played golf.

Summoning reporters to a scruffy, far-flung corner of Philadelphia on November 7, he held forth at a site that would soon become legendary: Four Seasons Total Landscaping.

The 11:30 am. News conference was doomed from the start.

At 11:26 am, news outlets had started calling the presidential contest for Democrat Joe Biden.

The race was over. Just heating up was Trump’s plan to subvert the election through litigation and howls of fraud — the same tactic he had used to stave off losses in the business world. And it would soon spread far beyond Pennsylvania.

“Some of the ballots looked suspicious,” Giuliani, 76, said of the vote count in Philadelphia as he stood behind a chain link fence, next to a sex shop.

He maligned the city as being run by a “decrepit Democratic machine.”

“Those mail-in ballots could have been written the day before, by the Democratic Party hacks that were all over the convention center,” Giuliani said. He promised to file a new round of lawsuits. He rambled.

“This is a very, very strong case,” he asserted.

Justin Levitt, a Loyola Law School professor who specializes in election law, called the Trump lawsuits dangerous.

“It is a sideshow, but it’s a harmful sideshow,” Levitt said.

“It’s a toxic sideshow. The continuing baseless, evidence-free claims of alternative facts are actually having an effect on a substantial number of Americans. They are creating the conditions for elections not to work in the future.”

Not a single court has agreed with the strength of the case, but that did not stop Trump’s team from firing off nearly two dozen legal challenges to Biden’s victory in Pennsylvania, including an early morning suit on Election Day filed by a once-imprisoned lawyer.

Joe Biden’s Chief of Staff: Everything Trump doing now is bad for American democracy

Washington: President-elect Joe Biden’s Chief of Staff Ronald Klain on Sunday launched a scathing attack on President Donald Trump, saying American voters have rejected his leadership and everything the Republican leader is doing now is bad for the democracy of the US.

“I think he has definitely set back the democratic norm here in the United States. He’s been doing that for four years, and that’s ramped up since the

election,” Klain told ABC News in an interview.

“The voters rejected his leadership. A record number of Americans rejected the Trump presidency. And, since then, Donald Trump’s been rejecting democracy. He has been launching baseless claims of voter fraud, baseless litigation. He’s been rejected by 34 courts, and now these efforts to try to get election officials to overturn the will of the voters,” he alleged.

Trump campaign files for recount of votes in Georgia

Washington: The Trump Campaign has filed a petition for recount of votes in Georgia, days after US President-elect Joe Biden wrested the Republican stronghold by a little over 12,000 votes.

Democrat Biden became the first Democrat to have won the key battleground state since 1992 after a hand recount of nearly five million votes, that lasted for several days.

Georgia hadn’t voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Bill Clinton in 1992.

In case of a recount, election officials in Georgia will have to re-scan the five million hand-recounted and audited legal ballots.

“We are focused on ensuring that every aspect of Georgia State Law and the US Constitution are followed so that every legal vote is counted. President Trump and his cam-

paign continue to insist on an honest recount in Georgia, which has to include signature matching and other vital safeguards,” the Trump campaign said in a late-night statement on Saturday.

“Without signature matching, this recount would be a sham and again allow for illegal votes to be counted. If there is no signature matching, this would be as phony as the initial vote count and recount,” said the statement issued by the legal team of the campaign.

“Let’s stop giving the people false results. There must be a time when we stop counting illegal ballots. Hopefully it is coming soon,” said the campaign, a day after Georgia Secretary of State, who is also from the same Republican Party, officially certified the election results which was narrowly won by Biden.

Pompeo touts Iran policy in Gulf ahead of Biden presidency

Dubai: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday defended his tour of Gulf Arab states and the Trump administration’s continued efforts to squeeze Iran, even as a new US administration led by Joe Biden prepares to enter the White House in January.

Although Pompeo has not taken questions from US-based reporters traveling with him over the past 10 days, he sat down with the Saudi-owned broadcaster Al-Arabiya in Dubai for brief televised remarks Sunday. “Our policies don’t change. Our duty doesn’t change. My responsibilities don’t change,” he said. “I still have an obligation — every hour, every minute — to defend the American people and to keep them foremost in our efforts, and we’ll do that. We’ll do that to the very last minute.”

Xi calls on G20 to push for full, effective implementation of Paris Agreement

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Sunday that the G-20 countries should take the lead in tackling climate change, follow the guidance of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and push for the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

With US President-elect Joe Biden’s promise to rejoin the Paris Agreement after he takes over power early next year, its implementation is expected to get a big boost to efforts to tackle climate change and other environmental challenges to protect the planet.

The US and China are the top two polluters of the world.

Addressing the Leaders’ Side Event on Safeguarding the Planet of the G-20 Riyadh Summit via video link, Xi said, “G-20 should continue to take

the lead in tackling climate change”.

“We need to follow the guidance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and push for the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement,” he said.

He reaffirmed China’s commitment to striving to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

Xi said China supports the shift to low-carbon energy in the post-Covid era to achieve the goal of Sustainable Energy for All. China has put in place the world’s biggest clean energy system, and has led the world in the output and sales of new energy vehicles for five years running, he said.

China will pursue clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient

use of energy and accelerate the growth of new energy and green industries to promote greener economic and social development in all respects, he said. He called on the G-20 countries to protect the ecosystem with a respect for Nature, and said China supports deepening G20 cooperation in reducing land degradation, conserving coral reefs, and cleaning up plastic from the ocean.

Xi welcomed participation to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in the Chinese city of Kunming in May 2021.

He hoped that the meeting will set goals and take actions to ensure the protection of global biodiversity in the years ahead.

Protesters burn part of Guatemala’s Congress building

Guatemala City: Hundreds of protesters broke into Guatemala’s Congress and burned part of the building Saturday amid growing demonstrations against President Alejandro Giammattei and the legislature for approving a budget that cut educational and health spending.

The protest came as about 7,000 people were demonstrating in front of the National Palace in Guatemala City against the budget, which protesters say was negotiated and passed by legislators in secret while the Central American country was distracted by the fallout of back-to-back hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Video on social media showed flames shooting out a window in the legislative building. According to media reports, security agents fired tear gas at protestors and there



An official photo of former Congress President Eduardo Meyer is thrown out from the Congress building after protesters set a part of the building on fire in Guatemala City on Saturday

were people injured. Giammattei condemned the fires in his Twitter account

Saturday. “Anyone who is proven to have participated in the crim-

inal acts will be punished with the full force of the law,” He wrote that he defended people’s

Erdogan says Turkey’s place is in Europe before EU summit

Ankara: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday that Turkey sees itself as a part of Europe, but he called on the European Union to “keep your promises” on issues such as the country’s membership bid and refugees.

He spoke before an EU summit due to be held next month.

In recent weeks, EU members have raised the prospect of sanctions against Turkey over its gas exploration missions in the eastern Mediterranean.

“We always see ourselves as part of Europe,” Erdogan said in a virtual speech to ruling party members. “We chose to favour Europe as long as they don’t force us to look elsewhere.”

He added: “Keep your promises to our country, from full membership to the issue of refugees. Let’s establish a closer and more efficient cooperation together.”

Turkey applied for membership in the bloc in 1987 and four years ago signed a deal with the EU to manage the flow of migrants to Europe.

However, claims of democratic backsliding have seen its application effectively suspended while both sides have accused the other of not properly implementing the refugee agreement. Ankara has dispatched research and drill ships to waters claimed by EU members Greece and Cyprus, sparking a military escalation over the summer.

UK Treasury chief shows no sign of turning off spending taps

London: The UK’s treasury chief batted away speculation on Sunday that he is about to turn off the spending that has buoyed the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying now is not the time to worry about the government’s record peacetime borrowing.

Rishi Sunak used appearances on Britain’s Sunday morning political talk shows to announce plans to give the National Health Service an extra 3 billion pounds (USD 4 billion) and pledge that support for businesses and workers hurt by the pandemic will continue through the spring. The comments came amid reports that Sunak may announce a pay freeze for government workers when he delivers his annual spending review to Parliament on Wednesday.

That triggered questions about whether he was preparing to clamp down on spending and raise taxes amid forecasts that government borrowing will reach 372 billion pounds this fiscal year. Sunak said the government was still focused on responding to the

pandemic, with 750,000 people having lost their jobs already and more likely to follow. He declined to comment on pay freeze reports. “It’s very sad to see,” he told the BBC. “It’s real, it’s not just numbers of a chart, it’s people’s lives, it’s their livelihoods, their security that’s being impacted. And it’s something that we’re going to grapple with for a while to come, sadly.”

The question of government spending is a very sensitive one in the UK, which struggled under years of austerity after the 2008 financial crisis. The matter is even more fraught now, as public sector workers, including nurses, firefighters and care workers, bore the brunt of tackling COVID-19.

Frances O’Grady, leader of the Trades Union Congress, urged ministers to think twice about a pay freeze. “If you want to motivate a workforce when we are still facing a second wave of a pandemic — and we’re going to have a tough winter, we all know that — the last thing you do is threaten to cut their pay,” she said.

Polls open in Burkina Faso for election marred by violence

Ouagadougou: Voters went to the polls in Burkina Faso on Sunday for presidential and legislative elections that have been marred by ongoing extremist violence in this landlocked West African nation.

President Roch Marc Christian Kabore has promised to secure the country and is vying for another five years against 12 other candidates. Kabore is expected to win, but the opposition hopes to split the vote, depriving the president of the 51% support needed for an outright victory in the first round, and then form a coalition behind the strongest candidate for round two.

On Saturday, opposition candidates accused the ruling



Burkina Faso Opposition candidate Eddie Komoigo casts his ballot in the presidential and legislative elections in Ouagadougou on Sunday

party of fraud, including bribing people. The parties also accused The National Independent Electoral Commission of making

changes to the electoral map. Zephirin Diabre, a leading candidate from the Progress and Change Party, told a press conference.

Azerbaijanis who fled war look to return home, if it exists

Baku: As Azerbaijan regains control of land it lost to Armenian forces a quarter-century ago, civilians who fled the fighting decades ago wonder if they can go back home now — and if there’s still a home to go back to.

An estimated 600,000 Azerbaijanis were displaced in the 1990s war that left the Nagorno-Karabakh region under the control of ethnic Armenian separatists and large adjacent territories in Armenia’s hands.

During six weeks of renewed fighting this fall that ended Nov. 10, Azerbaijan took back parts of Nagorno-Karabakh itself and sizeable swaths of the outlying areas.

More territory is being returned as part of the ceasefire agreement that stopped the latest fighting. But as Azerbaijani forces discovered when the first area, Aghdam, was turned over on Friday, much of the recovered land is uninhabitable. The city of Aghdam, where 50,000 people

once lived, is now a shattered ruin.

Adil Sharifov, 62, who left his hometown in 1992 during the first war and lives in Azerbaijan’s capital, Baku, knows he will find similar devastation if he returns to the city of Jabrayil, which he longs to do.

Jabrayil is one of the outlying areas regained by Azerbaijani troops before the recent fighting ended. Soon after it was taken, one of Sharifov’s cousins went there and told him the city was destroyed, including the large house with an orchard where Sharifov’s family once lived.

Nonetheless, “the day when I return there will be the greatest happiness for me,” he said. For years, he said, his family had followed reports about Jabrayil on the internet. They knew the destruction was terrible, but Sharifov’s late mother retained a desperate hope that their house had been spared and held on to the keys.

“I will build an even better house,” he vowed.

Ulviya Jumayeva, 50, can go back to better, though not ideal circumstances in her native Shusha, a city that Azerbaijan forces took in the key offensive of the six-week war.

Her younger brother, Nasimi, took part in the battle and phoned to tell her the apartment their family fled in 1992 was intact, though mostly stripped of the family’s possessions.

“According to him, it is clear that Armenians lived there after us, and then they took everything away. But our large mirror in the hallway, which we loved to look at as children, remains,” Jumayeva said, adding: “Maybe my grandchildren will look in this mirror.”

“We all have houses in Baku, but everyone considered them to be not permanent, because all these years we lived in the hope that we would return to Shusha,” she said.

More mass testing in China after 3 new cases

AP ■ BEIJING

Authorities are conducting mass testing and shutting down schools after China reported three new domestically transmitted cases in the past 24 hours — two in northern Inner Mongolia province and one in Shanghai.

The city of Manzhouli, in Inner Mongolia, will start testing all its residents for Covid-19 on Sunday, a day after the two cases were discovered.

The city has suspended classes and shut public venues, telling residents to not gather for dinner banquets.

Pak Opp alliance holds anti-govt rally despite ban on gathering in Peshawar

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Pakistan’s newly-formed alliance of 11 Opposition parties on Sunday held its massive anti-government rally in Peshawar despite a ban imposed by the city administration owing to a spike in COVID-19 cases and security threats, with top coalition leaders predicting that the Imran Khan Government will “have to go home by January”.

The fourth power show by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was held despite the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government’s warning that it may lodge cases against the PDM leaders

if a spike in Covid-19 cases was witnessed in the province after the rally. The alliance earlier held three massive back-to-back gatherings in Gujranwala, Karachi and Quetta.

Addressing the gathering, Pakistan People’s Party leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari vowed that January will be the incumbent Government’s “last month in power” and the people will decide how Pakistan will be governed.

“They will go home in January,” he said. “Time is near when you, the people, would hold this selected Government and its selectors responsible for current crises...,” he said.

Israel strikes Hamas sites in Gaza Strip after rocket attack

Jerusalem: Israeli aircraft on Sunday struck multiple sites in the Gaza Strip in response to a rocket fired earlier from the Palestinian territory, Israel’s military said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

While several militant groups operate out of the Palestinian enclave, Israel holds Gaza’s Hamas rulers responsible for all rocket fire out of the territory and usually strikes Hamas targets in response.

The Israeli military said in a statement that fighter jets and attack helicopters hit two rocket ammunition manufacturing sites, underground infrastructure and a Hamas naval forces training compound.

Late Saturday, Palestinian militants in Gaza fired a rocket toward Israel, setting off air-raid sirens in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon, the Israeli military said.

Israeli police said the rocket caused damage to a structure



in the Ashkelon area, roughly 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of Gaza, but there were no injuries. Israeli media said the rocket struck a factory, causing damage.

Israel and Hamas, an Islamic militant group that seeks Israel’s destruction, are bitter enemies who have fought three wars and numerous skirmishes since Hamas seized power in Gaza in 2007.

Man dies in shark attack in Western Australia



Sydney: A man died Sunday after being attacked by a shark in Western Australia, the eighth fatality in the county this year.

Police were called to Cable Beach, a popular tourist spot on Australia’s Indian Ocean coast, at about 8:40 a.M. The 55-year-old was pulled from the water with serious injuries and treated by police before paramedics arrived. He died at the scene, police said.

Park rangers immediately closed the beach.

The man was the eighth to die in a shark attack in Australia this year, the highest toll since 1929 when nine died. The introduction of shark nets at popular beaches in the 1930s led to a significant fall in fatal attacks.

Trend Slazer

'Not hopeful about OTT future in India'

NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI feels OTTs are getting cramped in India and herd mentality is seeping in. The actor says everyone wants to do something on the digital platform, not for the art but just for the sake of business.

"Frankly speaking, OTT used to be a platform for content that was different from the typical Bollywood form, and had a distinctive character. I am not talking about social content, but content for the audience who want something apart from the regular Bollywood," he said.

"At the moment, *bharma ho raha hai* (there is an overload). We have a tendency of herd mentality. With that, there will be a decline and there is no doubt about it," he added.



'There is a reason why Kareena (Kapoor) is so popular and so successful over such a long period of time. Unless you are hardworking and committed to your craft, you cannot sustain your success. You can achieve it but cannot sustain it for this long. This has been a big learning experience for me.'

—Sumeet Vyas

Actor **TAAPSEE PANNU** has been training hard for her forthcoming sports drama, *Rashmi Rocket*. She gave her fans a glimpse of her training routine for the film on Instagram.



Taapsee posted three pictures from her training sessions. In the images, she is seen wearing a black tank top paired with white shorts. She is seen hopping in one picture, skipping in another and running in the third one.

"Hop... Skip... Run... Repeat! #RashmiRocket... P.S: Those marks aren't of brutal assault on me but technically only on my muscles. #BattleScars," she wrote.

Bieber curious about India's COVID scene

JUSTIN BIEBER is curious about the COVID situation in India, and whether people are wearing masks. Recently, Bieber held a live session on Instagram, and was joined by Indian Tik Tok star Riyaz Ali. Among other things, they discussed India's situation during the pandemic.

Bieber, who joined in from home in the US, asked Riyaz: "What's the COVID looking like over there?"

Riyaz replied, "COVID is still going on like crazy."

To this, Bieber admitted, "Yes, it is pretty crazy."

Bieber recently released his song *Monster* with Shawn Mendes.



Ever since cinemas reopened in parts of India as part of the unlock process, a few new releases — including Hollywood films — have hit the big screen. Trade experts say regular Hollywood popcorn flicks will not help bring the crowds back to theatres, nor will small Bollywood releases. A star-studded pan-India film would do the trick, with good marketing.

The Diwali weekend saw the release of *Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari*, starring Manoj Bajpayee, Diljit Dosanjh and Fatima Sana Shaikh. The film was the first new Bollywood release following the opening of cinemas after the COVID-19 lockdown. Although the film received a lot of support from the film fraternity, it could not excite the audience much. According to a trade source, the comedy film could not even rake in a crore at the box office since its release on November 15.

Among other new releases was the Maisie Williams-starrer, *The New Mutants*. The horror-thriller superhero film released in India on October 30. It was followed by the Robert De Niro-starrer comedy drama, *The War*

What would do the trick?

Theatres have reopened but trade looks for one star-studded, pan-Indian film to change fortunes

With Grandpa, which had a theatrical release on November 13. Hollywood film *Trolls World Tour*, with voices of stars like Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Rachel Bloom, Ozzy Osbourne, Kunal Nayyar, James Corden, Ron Funches, Kelly Clarkson, Anderson Paak, and Sam Rockwell, hit the screens on November 19.

Trade analyst Girish Johar said all these films performed "below the mark". "The audience have not come to the theatres either due to the scare factor or maybe they didn't find the content lucrative enough to take the risk. Hollywood films too haven't done well," Johar said.

Talking about *Trolls World Tour* and *The War With Grandpa*, Johar said, "I doubt people will go for these films. They are typical Hollywood popcorn flicks. Maybe people in metro cities



would have gone over the weekend, but the COVID cases are rising in Mumbai and Delhi, and the audience are aware of that. They are being cautious. I doubt they would take a risk for these films."

Kunal Sawhney, Senior Vice President, Operations, Carnival

Cinemas, shared that *Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari* has done better than the Hollywood films. "We have seen a small growth in footfalls. It started with youngsters, now families are coming in. The number is still low, but we are seeing a gradual increase. Once the content is there, people will

come back," he said.

While Bollywood films are yet to be announced, more new Hollywood movies will be playing at theatres in the country. The Katie Holmes-starrer romantic drama, *The Secret: Dare To Dream*, has been scheduled for a release on November 27. Steven Spielberg's Amblin Partners and Reliance Entertainment's *Come Play* is set to hit theatres on November 27 as well. Hollywood star Gerard Butler will be seen in *Greenland*, which is set for a December 4 release.

Sawhney added, "There has to be good content with good marketing where people are aware that this movie is releasing on this date. Only then will the crowds be back." He is hoping a star-studded Bollywood film like 83 and *Sooryavanshi* can probably make people get out of the comfort of their homes and

watch the films on the big screen.

Not just Bollywood, even the more hyped Hollywood releases have stayed away. Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* might have opened internationally, but the film is yet to confirm an India release date. On the other hand, the other major film that has been lined up — Daniel Craig's final James Bond act in *No Time To Die* — has been pushed worldwide to 2021.

"Other than Bollywood, once *Tenet* opens, we should get more crowd. We have queries for the film," said Sawhney. Nolan's *Tenet* is also special for Hollywood buffs here because the spy thriller has an India connect. The film, starring Robert Pattinson and John David Washington, also features Dimple Kapadia. Not just that, it was shot in India apart from the US, the UK, Denmark, Estonia, Italy and Norway.

"I think mentally everyone is waiting for January only. I hope we have an upsurge in activities by then," said Johar, who feels that though the footfalls have been low, "one pan-India film would change everything."

A MUSICAL TREAT

The Hindi version of the film *Trolls World Tour* features singer NEETI MOHAN lending her voice to the lead character. She shares that translation is more than just words, it's about maintaining their intent, style, tone and context. By AYUSHI SHARMA



While the year has trolled each one of us in style, saving the best for the last, the animated musical comedy *Trolls World Tour* takes over the theatres. The film features singer Neeti Mohan lending her voice to the lead character — Poppy. With Anna Kendrick regaling the audience in the English version of the film, Neeti blows us all away with three songs in the Hindi version of it: *Koi Geet Gao*, *Iss Pal Ko Jo* and *Trolls Toh Karenga Fun*. Excerpts:

■ What fascinated you to say yes to the film?

Singing for animated films, for characters which are trying to tell a story and spread positivity fascinates me the most, especially when it's musical character. That was the main reason why I said yes to the project.

■ How was your dubbing experience? Was it challenging to translate songs and dialogues to another language?

Of course, yes! It was definitely challenging. When you are trying to translate something from English to Hindi or any other language for that matter, you don't want to lose out on the poetry or the real essence of it. That's why we wanted to make sure that it sounds amazing and the

'MY CHARACTER POPPY SENDS ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT EVERY GIRL IS A QUEEN. SHE IS A FREE-SPIRITED SOUL WHO IS A 'GO GETTER'. SHE INSPIRES THE AUDIENCE TO A GREAT EXTENT, WHICH IS WHY GETTING THE CHANCE TO BE HER WAS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS'



meaning stays the same. We did our best to not lose the meaning of the lyrics in translation. Translation is more than just the words, it's about context, tone and aim. It's the process of adapting a particular text

from one language to another, while maintaining its intent, style, tone and context. A good translation will evoke the same emotions in the target language as it does in the source language. We have to make sure that our tone is suiting the character, the energy level is jumpy, so we have to match that as well. And if the character is in a romantic state, then we have to match that kind of vibe too. These are some of the challenges we usually face. However, I feel the challenges were fun because I love to deliver the vocals as per the visual requirements.

■ You sang three songs for the film, each quite different from each other. How did you strike a balance between them and the genres?

Yes, I sang three different songs, one of which was the title track, all the them quite different from each other. But I have always loved singing in various genres. This wasn't the first time that I did it. I have done it before, so it comes naturally to me. I believe that if you feel the lyrics and the melody, you can easily mould in any genre.

■ You said that your character Poppy sends across the message that every girl is a queen and a 'go-getter'. Could you give us a deep insight into the character?

Yes, Poppy sends across the message that every girl is a queen. Poppy is a free-spirited soul who is a 'go-getter'. The character inspires its audience to a great extent, which is why getting the chance to be 'Poppy Mohan' was one of the best things of all time if you ask me. With music being such an integral part of the narrative, a film like this ranks among my most-favorite. I feel that poppy is someone who wants to change the world and is very positive about it. She is an icon of music. She wants to tell every child and every girl that you can make it happen. She conveys a message that you are not alone. I feel like I am myself so much similar to Poppy.

■ How do you think music tours will see a change now that the pandemic and social distancing norms are here to stay...

Yes, pandemic has changed the face of live concerts, weddings and parties or any gatherings. It is going to be here for a while unless and until we find the cure. That's going to take a lot of time, so yes, we have resorted to virtual concerts as of now. I haven't performed a live gig in front of the audience as of now but I have been doing Insta Lives and some virtual gigs... I think because of social media, it's quite helpful to stay in touch with fans, connect to a larger audience who can watch your work online. Social media is a great way for individuals and communities to stay connected even while physically separated. For now, it's safe that way.

'OTT can be enjoyed anywhere'

Actor Iqbal Khan says OTT platforms create space for stories and experimentation. While content creators should be responsible, self-censorship should not limit storytelling. Iqbal, who was last seen in the web series *Crackdown*, is currently shooting an forthcoming series in the scenic hill town.

"OTT has taken stories to mobiles and laptops, and can be enjoyed anytime and anywhere.

'The initial success of OTT prompted me to go for more. I believe that in a short period of time OTT platforms have been able to blur the boundaries of language and geography'

I believe that over a period of time synergies will work out between these platforms. Content can be customised for the platforms. As the authorities are mulling self-censorship on OTT platforms, cognisance will be taken of the nature of content being released by responsible content creators. I believe that such censorship would not come at the cost of creative freedom."

"The initial success of OTT prompted me to go for more. I believe that in a short period of time OTT platforms have been able to blur the boundaries of language and geography. Now, good content in any language can be viewed and enjoyed in any part of the world. There are so many stories being told online that good actors can explore much more compared to television or films. However, I always choose a project based on content, irrespective of the exhibition platform or the language," Iqbal mentioned.

—JANS

WEBBED



AFTER WE COLLIDED

Tessa fell hard and fast for Hardin but after a betrayal tears them apart, she must decide whether to move on — or trust him with a second chance. The film releases on December 1 on Netflix.



BHAAG BEANIE BHAAG

Facing disapproving parents, a knotty love life and her own inner critic, an aspiring comic ditches her cushy but unsatisfying life to pursue stand-up. Starring Swara Bhasker, Dolly Singh and Ravi Patel, season 1 releases on December 4 on Netflix.



TORBAAZ

At an Afghanistan refugee camp, an ex-Army doctor seeks to bring children joy through cricket — and soon realises that the stakes go beyond the sport. Starring Sanjay Dutt, Nargis Fakhri and Rahul Dev, the film releases on December 11 on Netflix.

SHE'S THE CHANGE

Sixteen-year-old VASUNDHARA PRAJAPAT of Rajasthan has been nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize 2020 for her instrumental work in stopping girl child marriages in her village and empowering women to discuss menstrual hygiene more openly. By DR ABHA SHARMA

Until a few years ago, she was an unusually shy girl. Rather timid and even hesitant to strike a conversation with visiting guests and relatives. All she would do was to quickly greet them and slip away at the earliest opportunity. Today, she is a youth icon, one of the most vocal forces in her village. Sixteen-year-old Vasundhara Prajapat, who was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize 2020, has all the reasons to smile. A resident of Dardaturki village of Tonk district in Rajasthan, Vasundhara was nominated for her active efforts in advocating gender equality at grassroots level.

Excited about her journey so far, Vasundhara recalled how she was initially reluctant to join the meetings organised by Save the Children and Shiv Shiksha Samiti, a local NGO working in Tonk district for the past three decades. Her parents were not very enthusiastic either. But when she finally felt persuaded by her friends, she developed interest instantly. "It was an eye opener, an introduction to a new perspective. The most motivating fact that now keeps ringing in my mind is — how to be capable of handling your own affairs," she said.

Born and brought up in a region where child marriages have social acceptability despite legal provisions in place, Vasundhara hadn't thought about weddings beyond an occasion to eat, dance and enjoy. Thanks to an awareness drive for reproductive rights, she became aware about the impacts of early marriage on adolescent health, menstrual hygiene, girls' right to education and much more. She realised that all these aspects were so significant to a youngster's life but hardly discussed or mentioned in homes or schools. This orientation triggered many questions in her mind.

Her active association with Shiv Shiksha Samiti, however, started when she came into contact with Dholi, the then project coordinator for the campaign, *Shaadi Bachhon Ka Khel Nahin* (marriage is no child's play). She soon became a member of the children's group and acquired life skills training. Sensing her aptitude for social work, Dholi urged Vasundhara's parents to encourage and motivate her. This was the beginning of her journey as she became a member of the adolescent discussion group in 2017.

Sitaram, the present project coordinator, said, "The drive focuses on 'peer educator concept', where groups are formed for life skill training on different modules ranging from identifying yourself to gaining confidence and commu-



nication skills to empathy. They are prepared to address the challenges of gender norms, how to bring out changes in 'society, me and my body' that includes health issues as well as awareness about physical violence."

With time, Vasundhara became more observant and sensitive towards adolescent issues. She started noticing that girls would just end up working in fields if there were no girls' schools in villages. She also started identifying the taboos — how important was menstrual hygiene, how a girl can prevent her own child marriage, what are the government schemes for women education and empowerment, how to avail facilities provided by government at health centres, etc.

This carved her journey of becoming a changemaker. As part of the project, a Federation was constituted at Panchayat level in February 2019 named 'Kalpana'. Around 20 girls were selected for the Gram Panchayat and Block Level Federation and assigned different roles. Vasundhara was assigned the responsibility of 'media', given her good communication skills. "By asserting the right public narrative on issues of importance, one can make the people in power listen to our cause," she believes.

But striking a conversation with girls or even their mothers was not as easy as she had thought. Most difficult task was to talk about menstrual hygiene and child marriage. But persistent efforts



'I WISH TO BE IN POLITICS TO BE ABLE TO BETTER THE LIFE OF PEOPLE AND GIRLS. THE KEY TO ADDRESS PUBLIC GRIEVANCES COMES FROM THE GOVERNMENT. IF YOU ARE AT A CERTAIN POSITION, YOU CAN BE INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING CHANGE'

helped break the ice. She motivated other groups of girls too to discuss menstrual hygiene more openly. She now felt confident in discussing all issues with her family members as well and was able to convince them to support her. She in fact, also taught her mother how to use a sanitary pad.

Vasundhara's village has schools up to Class 12 for both boys and girls but many other villages of the Panchayat only have primary schools for girls. Since parents do not wish to send their girls to study outside their village, most of the girls drop out of active schooling after Class 5. Vasundhara persuaded the dropout girls to join the two-month session organised by the Samiti and help them become well-versed in basic English and Hindi.

She confidently led all the campaigns at Gram Panchayat, block and district levels, be it upgrading an all-girls school in neighbouring Khedula village up to eighth standard or providing sanitary napkins in private schools and demand to include Tonk district in the National Adolescent Health Programme. She was vociferous in raising the issues on all forums and submitted memorandums to Sarpanch, District Collector, local MP and of course, the media.

Vasundhara said, "During the recent lockdown, the entire attention of the government and other organisations was on maintaining food supplies which was, of course, the need of the hour. But where

do girls and women get sanitary pads since the supply was halted at the health centre? When schools are open, girls do get pads there, but it was essential to keep the supply chain in order during lockdown too." Her concerns were also raised on social media with the support of the Shiv Shiksha Samiti. The demand was conveyed to the administration as well. She had been requesting installation of an incinerator too for disposal of sanitary pads. Moved by her well-intentioned efforts, the Sarpanch has now promised to install one in the village girls' school.

The secretary of the Shiv Shiksha Samiti, Shivji Ram Yadav told us about how Vasundhara trained nearly 180 girls through life skill sessions. "Her role has been commendable in the 'Chuppi Todo' (Break the Silence) programme, focussing on menstrual hygiene. She has done really well in creating awareness about child marriage and adolescent health and rights," he said.

Vasundhara is the eldest among her three siblings, and hence, her grandparents were keen on getting her married too. They loved her immensely but were stuck in an old mindset so Vasundhara mustered up the courage to speak to her parents and convinced them to let her study. She was instrumental in stopping three child marriages using the helpline number. The marriages eventually were called off but she invited a lot of displeasure of villagers for her alleged "audacity." Some of them even dissociated with her family. "Look at her. Now she will teach us what is right," became a common refrain. But for Vasundhara, her family's support helped her continue the path. "If your family is with you, you can do anything," she says. Her recent nomination for the award, however, has eased out the somewhat hostile environment towards her. Well, now, she has begun to receive praises!

When asked about her dreams, she replied, "I wish to be in politics to be able to better the life of people and girls." She is particularly fascinated by the leadership qualities of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her own namesake, former Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje. She feels the key to address public grievances comes from the government. She said, "*Samasya ka hal sarkaar se hi aata hai*. If you are in a position, you can be instrumental in bringing about a change for people, especially a better life for girls." She wants to help every girl who dares to dream like the protagonist of her favourite film, *The Secret Superstar*.

—Charukha Features



The key to sustainability

We need to live a simple life and practice more self-control to save the world from a grave catastrophe, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

Looking at the recent series of events, we can observe how the environment is increasingly witnessing a global change. There is now a greater realisation of the serious danger that the depletion of the ozone layer has been posing. The greenhouse effect is now resulting in an increase in the ultra-violet radiation and eventually, graver consequences like global warming, rise in the level of oceans and vanishing islands and coastal countries from the world map.

Hence, in the context of preservation of environment and planning for development, 'sustainable' has become a catchword. And that is why it is now being emphasised that our efforts to improve the living standards of people in the under-developed countries, as also our means of production and transport should not result in depletion of natural resources and degradation of environment. Greater emphasis is thus being put on the term 'sustainable' whenever one talks of development. Many steps in that direction are, therefore, being suggested. However, in this whole planning, not much has been thought and done to reduce the population growth rate, especially in some Asian countries. It is not being realised that if the population continues to grow in these countries, the efforts of development, however slow and small, would certainly cause more and more damage to the natural environment. Even if there were not much industrial expansion in these and other developing Asian countries, the huge population and its continuous growth would itself result in the rise of the greenhouse effect because of the production of methane from human and cattle resources. On the other hand, even if the developed countries continue to practice control over growth in human population, the per capita consumption of energy and non-renewable, natural resources in these countries is already so high that it will certainly result in a serious depletion of natural resources.

The excessive use of automobiles and other factors would gravely affect the environment. Thus, the threat posed by the lifestyles in these countries is real. But almost nothing is being done to bring the desired change in people's outlook on their everyday habits which majorly contribute to an environmental imbalance. World over, it is still not being properly realised that if the population continues to grow, to meet the over all demands of that population, developmental efforts also go on. Which will lead to a deterioration of the environment. Similarly, if the lifestyle of the people in the developed countries continues to be what it is today, then there would certainly be a depletion of natural resources. Combining the two factors together, one can say that 'sustainable development' has become a dream rather than a reality.

If, therefore, we wish to avert a major catastrophe because of these two grave threats, we must inspire people to have self-control and live a simple life and for that purpose, adopt a spiritual outlook on life. And for that we need to realise our spiritual identity and values. Such awareness will make us naturally eco-friendly and send out a positive energy that will bring the elements of nature into harmony with us again. If a critical mass of humans begin to live with this spiritual awareness, nature will by itself become our friend, and humanity will look at a golden instead of doubtful future.



The ultimate dilemma

While some experts argue that masks are of utmost importance, researchers warn that they might only be helpful in containing the Coronavirus spread by up to 60 per cent

A lot of efforts to slow the spread of the Coronavirus comes down to a seemingly simple concept — Wearing a mask. But the issue has proven a thorny one. Health authorities have changed their guidance on who should wear masks and when. This has led to some confusion and even suspicion.

But since the Coronavirus first appeared, authorities have gained a better understanding of how it spreads and how masks can help stop that spread. Here's a look at how, what we know about, masks has changed, and how government officials are increasingly getting behind the idea of mandating the use of masks.

What the experts say?

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has long advised people to wear masks because they help prevent people who are infected — whether they know it or not — from spreading the Coronavirus. But last week, the CDC added a new reason — masks can also protect wearers who are not infected, though to a lesser degree.



The agency referred to a study led by Japanese researchers that found masks block about 60 per cent of the amount of virus that comes out of an infected person. When an uninfected person wearing a mask is near an infected person who isn't wearing one, the amount of virus the uninfected person inhaled fell by up to 50 per cent. But when both people are wearing masks, that produced the best result. The decline in virus particles reaching the second person was close to 70 per cent.

So, if everyone wears a mask when social distancing is not feasible, the infection rate will be cut, experts say.

A study done in Denmark, published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, seemed to question whether and to what extent masks protect the wearer. The study had a number of flaws, however, as the researchers acknowledged. For example, study participants who were supposed to wear masks sometimes didn't. And the work was done at a time when not much Coronavirus was spreading in Denmark — there wasn't a lot of data to conclude from.

Either way, experts say masks, while helpful, are not perfect. Keeping a distance, being in well-ventilated areas, and washing hands are also important ways to reduce risk.

How is this different from what has been said?

Surgeon General, US, Jerome Adams had tweeted on February 29, "Seriously people — Stop buying masks! They are not effective in preventing general public from catching #Coronavirus."

But today, Adams has a different message pinned to the top of his Twitter account. "When we can't stay six feet away from others, please, I'm begging you, wear a face covering," Adams says in the videotaped July 2 tweet. And in July, the CDC stressed that cloth face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19, particularly when everyone wears them.

Similarly, the WHO early on had recommended against mask-wearing for the general public, saying they might lead to a false sense of security and that people who didn't know how to use them properly could infect themselves. The World Health Organisation changed its advice in June. It now suggests that people should wear masks when they are outdoors at a crowded area or when they can't be socially distant.

Even though not everywhere around the world, there is a mask rule, especially in some states of the US, but some countries, including Asian, have mandated mask use, from requiring them everywhere in public to using them on public transportation and in stores.

—AP

Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.
—Nelson Mandela

TB VAX LINKED TO LOWER RISK OF COVID-19

New research adds to a growing body of evidence that *Bacillus Calmette-Guérin* (BCG), a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB), is associated to reduced possibility of contracting the COVID-19 virus.



In the new study, published in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, the research team tested the blood of more than 6,000 healthcare workers for evidence of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and also asked them about their medical and vaccination histories.

They found that workers who had received BCG vaccinations in the past, nearly 30 per cent of those studied were significantly less likely to test positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in their blood or to report having had infections with Coronavirus or associated symptoms over the prior six months than those who had not received BCG. These effects were not related to whether workers had received meningococcal, pneumococcal or influenza vaccinations.

COVID SOCIAL ISOLATION LINKED TO HIGH BP

The COVID-induced lockdown and social isolation is linked with an increase in high blood pressure (BP) among patients admitted to emergency, say researchers.

According to the study, admission to the emergency department during the mandatory social isolation period was linked with a 37 per cent increase in the odds of having high BP, even after taking into account age, gender, month, day and time of consultation. "After social isolation began, we observed that more patients coming to the emergency had high blood pressure. We conducted this study to confirm or reject this impression," said study author Matias Fosco of Favaloro Foundation University Hospital in Argentina.

Blood pressure is a standard measurement on admission to the emergency department and almost every patient (98.2 per cent) admitted between 21 March 2019 and 25 June 2020 was included in the study. The most common reasons for admission were chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness, abdominal pain, fever, cough, and hypertension.



MANGOES REDUCE WOMEN'S FACIAL WRINKLES

Researchers have found that eating Ataulfo mangoes, also known as honey or Champagne mangoes, may reduce facial wrinkles in older women with fairer skin.

The study, published in the journal *Nutrients*, revealed that mangoes, like other orange fruits and vegetables, are rich in beta-carotene and provide antioxidants that may delay cell damage. The researchers found that post-menopausal women who ate a half cup of Ataulfo mangoes four times a week saw a 23 per cent decrease in deep wrinkles after two months and a 20 per cent decrease after four months.

"That's a significant improvement in wrinkles," said study lead author Vivien Fam from the University of California, Davis in the US.

"Women who ate a cup and a half of mangoes for the same periods of time saw an increase in wrinkles. This shows that while some mangoes may be good for skin health, too much of it may not be, too," Fam added.



INFECTIOUSNESS PEAKS IN COVID PATIENTS

In a major study, researchers have claimed that infectiousness peaks early in COVID-19 patients, highlighting the need to quickly identify and isolate cases before the virus spreads.

Systematic review and meta-analysis of three human Coronaviruses, published in the journal *The Lancet Microbe*, suggests that people infected with Coronavirus are most likely to be highly infectious in the first week after the symptom onset.

The report used meta-analysis to assess 98 studies on COVID-19, SARS and MERS. The researchers studied all three diseases was to determine why COVID-19 has spread more rapidly than the earlier diseases. "This is the first systematic review and meta-analysis that has comprehensively examined and compared viral load and shedding for these three human Coronaviruses," said study lead author Muge Cevik, University of St Andrews, UK.



COVID PREGNANCY POSES LOW RISK TO BABIES

Researchers have now claimed that pregnant women, who test positive for COVID-19, their newborn babies have low risk of developing severe symptoms.



The study, published in the journal *JAMA Network Open*, shows that 95 per cent of women who tested positive for COVID-19 during pregnancy had no adverse outcomes.

Additionally, the study found that the virus was transmitted to the fetus in just three per cent of the cases. "Our findings are that approximately five percent of all delivered women with COVID-19 infection develop a severe or critical illness," said study author Emily Adhikari from the UT Southwestern Medical Centre in the US.

"Most women with the asymptomatic or mild infection will be relieved to know that their babies are unlikely to be affected by the virus," Adhikari added.

For the findings, the research team followed 3,374 mothers, 252 of whom tested positive for the virus during pregnancy, from March through August.

Rohit ready to bat anywhere Was disappointed with Oz snub: SKY



Rohit Sharma chats with Ravi Shastri during India nets session PTI/File Picture

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
He has enjoyed and revelled in his new role as a Test opener but Rohit Sharma is ready to be flexible about his batting position in the eagerly-anticipated Test series

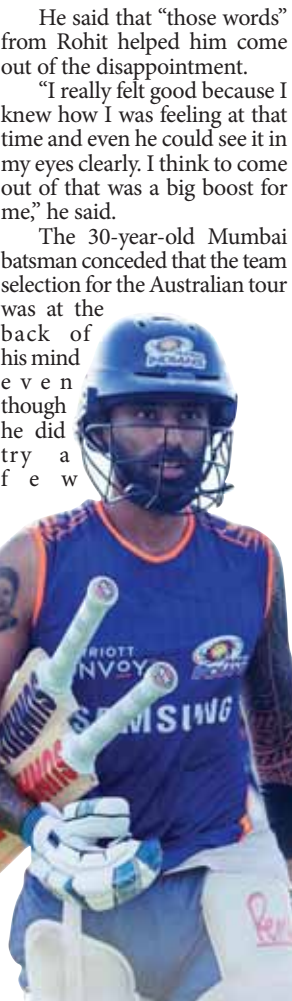
per Virat Kohli returns to India after the opening Test for the birth of his first child.
“I will tell you the same thing that I have told everyone all this while. I will be happy to bat wherever the team wants me to but I don’t know if they would change my role as an opener,” Rohit told *PTI*.
He believes that the team management will have figured out his role in the batting order by the time he would reach Australia after completing the strength and conditioning work at an National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.
“I am sure the guys already in Australia must have figured out what are options when Virat leaves and who are the guys who will open the innings,” Rohit said.
“Once I reach there, I will probably have a clearer idea of what’s going to happen. I will be okay to bat wherever they want,” added the dashing batsman, who has a 46-plus average in 32 Tests.
One of the finest players of the hook and pull shots, the *Mumbaiak* believes that the bounce on Australian tracks is sometimes, not as big a factor as it is made out to be.
“We talk about bounce but except for Perth, over the past few years, the other grounds (Adelaide, MCG, SCG), I don’t think have that much bounce.”

Rohit, Ishant need to leave for Aus in 3-4 days: Shastri

SYDNEY: India head coach Ravi Shastri has expressed his apprehensions about senior players Rohit Sharma and Ishant Sharma’s participation in the upcoming Test series if they don’t reach Australia in the next few days.
Both Rohit (left hamstring) and Ishant (side strain) are at the NCA undergoing rehabilitation, but the BCCI is yet to announce when the duo would reach Australia.
Considering the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement, it is clear that they would miss the first warm-up game against Australia A, at Drummoyne Oval from December 6-8, if they don’t depart by Monday.
“He (Rohit) was never going to play the white-ball series, they were just looking to see how long he needed the rest, because you can’t afford to be resting for too long,” Shastri told *ABC Sport*. “If you need to play in the Test series or any red-ball cricket, you’ve got to be on the flight in the next three or four days. If you aren’t, then it’s going to be tough.”
Shastri said that NCA’s medical team is currently assessing how long would be Rohit’s break from the game.
“But things could get difficult if he’s asked to wait for too long, (because) then you’re talking of the quarantine again, which might make it really tough for even him to come just in time for the Test series,” the head coach added.
Shastri said that even Ishant’s case is similar and he would also need to play at least one practice game before he can be considered for Test.
The second and final warm-up game, at the SCG from December 11-13, will be a day-nighter before the first Test commences in Adelaide from December 17.
“It’s (Ishant’s) a similar case to Rohit,” Shastri said.
“You don’t really know how quickly he’ll be available to fly out. Like I said, if anyone has to be on the flight in the next four or five days. Otherwise, it’s very difficult.” **PTI**
ing the cut or pull shots and focus on playing in the ‘V’ and as straight as possible,” he said.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

anguished beyond words after being overlooked for the tour of Australia, Suryakumar Yadav found comfort in a pep talk with Rohit Sharma.
Soon after his conversation with Mumbai Indians’ inspirational captain, Suryakumar’s mind was suddenly wired for distraction, and his bat ready to do some more talking.
“That time in the gym Rohit was sitting besides me and he just looked at me, and I said, ‘obviously, I am a bit disappointed,’ because he could see that I was expecting some good news,” Suryakumar told *PTI*.
“Later on he was like ‘I just believed you have been doing a great job for the team right now, and instead of thinking about that (non-selection), you just do the same things what you have been since day one in this IPL.’
“...and when the time is right, your opportunity will come, may be today or tomorrow but it will come, you just got to believe in yourself,” Surya recalled.
The non-selection, despite his prolific run in domestic cricket and the IPL, extended Suryakumar’s wait for an India cap.



He said that “those words” from Rohit helped him come out of the disappointment.
“I really felt good because I knew how I was feeling at that time and even he could see it in my eyes clearly. I think to come out of that was a big boost for me,” he said.
The 30-year-old Mumbai batsman conceded that the team selection for the Australian tour was at the back of his mind even though he did try a few things to distract himself from the thought.
“During this tournament actually I was a bit disappointed. I knew the team was going to come out, and the same day I tried myself to keep busy, just try and avoid getting that thought — there is a squad selection tonight.
“So I thought I’ll just focus on my process and my things properly and instead of thinking about the call up, I will try and keep myself busy, I can go to the gym or maybe spend time with my teammates.
“But yes, at the back of the mind, there was a thought that the team is coming out tonight,” he admitted.
And when he saw that his name did not feature in the list, Suryakumar was hurt.
“I sat in a room and started thinking, why my name is not there, but after looking at the squad there were lot of players who got lot of runs as well and even they have been playing consistently, doing well for India, doing well in IPL.
“Then I thought instead of thinking about that, I’ll just try and keep scoring runs, do my job, what’s in my hand, what’s in my control, and then wait for the opportunity, whenever it comes, grab with both hands,” he said.

Toss-up between Mayank & Gill for opening spot

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The Indian team management will think over the ideal opening combination for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, with a toss-up between Mayank Agarwal and Shubman Gill for the second opener’s slot on the cards.
The visiting Indian team has been training for over a week now and while the primary aim is to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, winning the white ball games will certainly increase their confidence.
For skipper Virat Kohli, the key will be to get the combination right in the 50-over games, which are currently low priority going into the next one year with a World Test Championship final spot and the T20 World Cup on their minds.
The last ODI series that India played in New Zealand was a nightmare for the *Men In Blue* who lost 0-3.
Agarwal played all three games in New Zealand with not much success but that would count for little as it happened eight months back.
With Shubman also in the mix, it will be a call that coach Ravi Shastri and Kohli will have to take considering the SCG pitch and the Australian attack.

There was not much difference in terms of form between Gill and Agarwal in the recently-held IPL. The KKR opener scored 440 runs while KXIP’s Agarwal had 418 runs in his kitty.
At least, nine players select themselves in the first XI for the ODIs.
The in-form Shikhar Dhawan, skipper Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, wicketkeeper-batsman KL Rahul (another opening option), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah are automatic picks.
While Mohammed Shami may start in the first ODI with India’s current fastest bowler Navdeep Saini for company, there is a chance that Shardul Thakur may get a look-in if the Indian team management decides to rest one among Shami and Jasprit Bumrah looking at their workload.

Ind-Oz series fate lies on selection choices: Chappell

SYDNEY: The legendary Ian Chappell believes that Virat Kohli’s departure after the first India-Aus Test next month will leave a “big hole” in the visiting line-up, creating a selection dilemma which could ultimately decide which way the series goes.
Kohli will return home after the first Test in Adelaide from December 17 to 21, to welcome his first child. The 77-year-old Chappell feels the situation provides a perfect opportunity for young Indian batters to show their skills.
“This creates both a big hole in the Indian batting order and an opportunity for one of their talented young players to make a name for himself,” Chappell wrote in a column



for *ESPNcricinfo.com*.
“What was already shaping up as an exciting tussle now has the added stimulus of crucial selection decisions. The result could well come down to who is the bravest set of selectors.”
Stressing on the importance of making correct selection choices, Chappell voted in favour of Will Pucovski over an off-colour Joe Burns to be David Warner’s partner at Australia’s opening slot.
He differed with Australia coach Justin Langer, who has backed Burns. Chappell said selection should always be made on the basis of current form.
“...I was flummoxed by the

Australian coach’s summation of the choice between incumbent Joe Burns and rising star Will Pucovski for the job of David Warner’s opening partner.
“...You shouldn’t overestimate the value of the partnership. Burns’ contributions last summer equated to an aggregate of 256 runs at an average of 32 with two half-centuries. That is the performance of a below-average Test player,” the former Australia skipper said.
“Pucovski has taken a sledgehammer to the entryway by making six centuries at Shield level, three of them doubles; two of those double-hundreds came this season,” he added. **PTI**

McDonald warns against bouncing out Smith

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Attempting to replicate Neil Wagner and rattle Steve Smith with a barrage of bouncers may not be a good idea for the visiting Indians in the upcoming series, according to Australia’s assistant coach Andrew McDonald.
Against New Zealand in the 2019-2020 season, Smith was dismissed by left-arm pacer Wagner four times, as the Kiwi consistently attacked the batsman with short-pitched deliveries aimed at his body.
But despite Smith’s recent issues with the short balls, McDonald doesn’t think the Australian run-machine has any weaknesses in his batting.
“I know within a Test match he had that moment with Archer where he got him,” McDonald said on Sunday.
“But in terms of coming back off that, he was still able to score runs. Even in one-day cricket and T20 cricket, he’s been able to score runs with that plan being adopted by opponents.
“So, I don’t necessarily see it as a weakness ... they can keep approaching it that way if they want.”
In recent times, quite a few bowlers tried to rattle Smith with short-pitched stuffs and the Australian had also suffered concussion on two occasions after being hit on the neck and head respectively.
The Indians also tried to employ the short-ball strategy against him during the three-match ODI series in January, but the 31-year-old Australian



maestro responded with scores of 98 and 131.
“They had a leg gully, a deep square and a deep man just in front of square and they had everyone up on the off-side during the Powerplay.
“So that’s a tactic they’ve used before, and it’s probably to negate the runs that he scores and to try and give themselves the best opportunity to potentially get him out in that area.
“But he was able to combat that in India last time ... so he’s had that before and he’s worked his way through it. I see this series being no different in the way he approaches it.”
McDonald added, “They’ve used it before and he’s done well with it before so I’m suggesting that plan hasn’t necessarily worked to its full effect.”

Ronaldo’s red-hot form continues

AFP ■ TURIN

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his third brace in five games as champions Juventus moved up to second place in Serie A on Saturday with a 2-0 win over Cagliari in Turin.
Andrea Pirlo’s side are one point behind leaders AC Milan, who travel to fourth-placed Napoli on Sunday.
Juventus had been held 1-1 at Lazio last time out — one of four stalemates this season for the nine-time reigning champions — but quickly took charge against the Sardinians.
“We needed a match like this,” said Pirlo. “There were excellent performances, even from those returning from national teams.”
“A lot of them arrived two days ago and did their first training yesterday and were also tired from the trip.”
“Tonight they also had fun, performances like this allow the players to gain confidence.”
Federico Bernardeschi had an early

goal ruled out for offside before Ronaldo struck twice in a four-minute spell before the break.
The Portuguese striker blasted in an Alvaro Morata cross on 38 minutes, before latching onto a Merih Demiral header from a corner for the second from close range minutes later.
Ronaldo, 35, has come back strong after his coronavirus layoff, scoring eight goals in five games to join Milan’s Zlatan Ibrahimovic at the top of the Serie A scorers’ chart.
Ragnar Klavan had a goal disallowed for Cagliari midway through the second half.
But it was Juventus who threatened a third with Demiral, Morata, Bernardeschi and Paulo Dybala having shots at goal.
Dutch defender Matthijs de Ligt played the entire game in his first match

in August, a boost for Pirlo’s side without injured duo Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini before Tuesday’s Champions League game against Hungarian side Ferencváros.
LUKAKU LIGHTS UP
Romelu Lukaku inspired a remarkable second-half comeback as Inter recovered from 2-0 down to defeat Torino 4-2 and claim their first win for almost a month.
Marco Giampaolo’s Torino came into the match with a solitary Serie A win to their name this season but belied that meagre return as the effervescent Simone Zaza crowned an enterprising first-half display with the opening goal.
A penalty from former Inter man Cristian Ansaldi made it 2-0 in the 62nd minute, although Alexis Sanchez swiftly reduced the arrears.
Sanchez turned provider for Lukaku to level in the 67th minute and the Belgium star kept his cool from the spot six minutes from the end of normal time, before Lautaro Martinez came off the bench to make it four shots on target and four goals for Inter in a crazy second half.



GOLDEN BOY Haaland nets four in Hertha rout



BERLIN: Erling Braut Haaland netted four goals and Youssoufa Moukoko became the youngest player in Bundesliga history on Saturday as Borussia Dortmund routed Hertha Berlin 5-2 to trim Bayern Munich’s lead at the top of the table to just a point.
It was the first time the 20-year-old Haaland had scored four goals in a game for Dortmund since his January debut, with all of them coming in the second half.
“I drank a Red Bull at half time, I got some wings and everything was good,” said Haaland.
The Norwegian now has 10

goals in seven Bundesliga matches this season to give him a total of 31 goals in 30 games in all competitions for Dortmund.
After Matheus Cunha gave Hertha a first-half lead at Berlin’s Olympic Stadium, Dortmund roared back.
Haaland equalised when he tapped home an Emre Can pass on 47 minutes.
He grabbed his second two minutes later with perfect timing to slip his marker and fire in a Julian Brandt pass.
Haaland wrapped up his hat-trick on 62 minutes, just before Raphael Guerreiro stabbed the ball home from close range to make it 4-1.
Cunha converted a late penalty, but the night belonged to Haaland who finished a move he started with 10 minutes to play.
There was still time for history to be made as Moukoko made a late cameo off the Dortmund bench to replace Haaland.
One day after his 16th birthday, Moukoko is the youngest player in Bundesliga history. **AFP**

Atlético in pole position Simone’s side record first league victory over Barca in 10 years

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid delivered a major boost to their hopes of winning La Liga on Saturday by beating Barcelona 1-0 and consigning their opponents to their worst start to a league season in 29 years.
Yannick Carrasco finished brilliantly from range after mistakes from Gerard Pique and Marc-Andre ter Stegen left the goal gaping but Barca, and a below-par Lionel Messi, failed to respond at the Wanda Metropolitano.
Instead, Atletico recorded their first league victory over Barcelona in 10 years, which puts them three points ahead of Real Madrid, with a game in hand, and second in the table, level on points with early leaders Real Sociedad.
It also leaves their opponents languishing in 10th, with Barcelona’s 11 points from their first eight games their worst tally at this stage since the 1991-92 season.
“Like any coach, I am responsible,” said coach Ronald Koeman. “We know we have to improve the results. I continue to trust the players I have.”
Beating Barcelona in La Liga for the first time since 2010 — before Simone arrived as coach — will do wonders for the Madrid side’s belief and extends what is now a considerable advantage in the table.
It also extends Atletico’s unbeaten run in the league to 24 matches.



AFP ■ LONDON

Tottenham powered to the top of the Premier League with an impressive 2-0 win against Manchester City at home on Saturday.
Manchester United remain well off the pace in ninth, but did manage a first home win in the Premier League for seven games as Bruno Fernandes’ twice-taken penalty saw off lowly West Brom 1-0.
Spurs ended the day on top of the table for the first time in six years as goals from Son Heung-min and Giovanni Lo Celso saw off a toothless City at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium.
Tottenham took the lead after five minutes as Son ran onto Tanguy Ndombele’s lofted pass, beat the City offside trap and slotted a cool finish under Ederson for already his 11th goal of the season.
City dominated possession but struggled to create chances and were cut open again for Spurs’ second with just their second shot on target.
Lo Celso came off the bench to score just 35 seconds after his introduction as he raced onto Harry Kane’s sublime pass to slot past Ederson.
On the one-year anniversary of Jose Mourinho’s appointment, Tottenham are unbeaten in their last eight league games since losing to Everton on the opening

Tottenham on top Spurs reach No 1 position in PL table for first time in six years



weekend, sparking hopes of a genuine title challenge.
“The players gave everything and followed a strategy. They were amazing,” Mourinho said.
“We found a way to play and it was magnificent to see them play how they did.”
Tottenham, who last won the top-flight title in 1961, lead Chelsea by two points with the two set to face each other next weekend.



City are languishing in 11th place, eight points behind the leaders, albeit with a game in hand.
Pep Guardiola extended his contract at the Etihad to 2023 this week, but his side took a shadow of the swaggering outfit that won successive league titles in 2018 and 2019.
Twelve points from eight games is City’s lowest total at this stage of a Premier League campaign since 2008-09.

“We had more chances than them but we lost. Mourinho’s teams are like this, you make a mistake and they punish you on the counter attack,” Guardiola said.
BRUNO SCORES
United still have a long way to go to claw themselves back into title contention as they again flattered to deceive at Old Trafford despite picking up a long-awaited win.
Ole Gunnar Solskjaer’s men got two slices of penalty fortune as West Brom were awarded a spot-kick first early in the second-half when Fernandes challenged Connor Gallagher.
However, on review, referee David Coote overturned his original decision.
Moments later, the Red Devils got a penalty for Darnell Furlong’s handball.
Fernandes’ first effort was saved, but he got a second chance as Sam Johnstone had jumped off his line prior to the Portuguese international’s kick.
Fernandes slammed home the reprieve, but was still not happy at missing from the spot for the third time this season.