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LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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TO MISS FIRST
2 TESTS
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SHUN POLITICS OVER VACCINE: PM

Modi asks States to work out block-level plan for speedy distribution of vaccines when available

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday slammed “politics” over the availability of anti-coronavirus vaccine while asking States to work out “block-level plan” for speedy distribution of the vaccine as and when it is available in the country. The PM held a review meeting with eight worst Covid-19 affected States after new surge in cases.

Addressing Chief Ministers, Modi asked them to send a detailed plan to the Centre on how much cold-storage needed for the anti-Covid-19 vaccine.

Modi said he cannot say when the vaccine would be available and sought that it should not be “politicised”.

“Stop politics over vaccine...its delivery is at hands of the scientists,” he was quoted as saying in the CMs’ meet.

The PM, however, made it clear in the meeting that the timeline and the cost of vaccine has not yet been finalised.

Modi repeatedly warned against showing “carelessness” which he said caused spike in numbers. He asked States to bring down coronavirus positivity to four per cent.

The meeting took place in view of a surge in the number of cases due to onset of winter, festival seasons, and casual approach in the public.

The interaction was two-phased — first with the worst-affected States and second with all States on laying out a plan for the smooth distribution of

the vaccines.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal were among those present at the meeting, held via video conference.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh skipped the video conference meet.

Modi took stock of spike in casualties and spoke on the need for the Centre and States to work with better coordination, devise new containment strategy and need to put in place a system for the distribution of the vaccine as and when it was available for the distribution across the country



Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds virtual meeting with the Chief Ministers of States where Covid-19 cases have seen a sudden spurt after the festive season, in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

in coming months.

The Prime Minister said 160 new oxygen plants are being started to augment supply of oxygen and all demands of States are to be met through PMCare fund. He asked CMs to form steering committees at the State, district and block-

level with regular meetings, monitoring and training for the vaccine distribution at a mass scale in the country.

The Prime Minister assured States all help from the Centre and sought them to detail their needs.

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KUMBH MUST BE A PRIORITY IN VACCINE DISTRIBUTION PLAN IN UTTARAKHAND: CM

Dehradun: Haridwar Kumbh should be a priority in the vaccine distribution strategy for Covid-19 in Uttarakhand considering the huge workforce that will be engaged in organising the fair, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said on Tuesday. He said a steering committee at the state level and task forces in all districts have been set up for vaccination and their meetings are being held regularly.

RUSSIAN VACCINE SPUTNIK V HAS EFFICACY OF OVER 95%: RDIF CEO

New Delhi: The Russia-developed Sputnik V vaccine against coronavirus has been found to be over 95 per cent effective, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev said on Tuesday. In a virtual conference from Moscow, Dmitriev said Sputnik V is not only “one of the most effective” but also among the “affordable” vaccines in the world.

Delhi graveyard running out of burial space

New Delhi: The biggest Muslim graveyard in the national Capital near ITO is running out of burial space amid rising Covid-19 deaths with coronavirus victims from other NCR areas also being buried here, an official managing it said on Tuesday.

ONE CRORE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS IDENTIFIED TO RECEIVE VACCINE IN FIRST PHASE

New Delhi: An estimated one crore frontline health workers will receive the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine whenever it becomes available, with around 92 per cent of Government hospitals and 55 per cent of private hospitals across all states and UTs providing data identifying the workers, official sources said.

Govt bans 43 apps, mostly from China

For activities prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday blocked 43 mobile apps, including Alibaba Workbench, AliExpress, Camcard and many dating apps, mostly from China.

Earlier in June the Centre blocked 59 Chinese apps including Tik Tok, and in September again it blocked 118 Chinese apps, including PUBG.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said it issued the order under section 69A of the Information Technology Act blocking access to 43 mobile apps.

“This action was taken based on the inputs regarding these apps for engaging in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of State and public order. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued the order for blocking the access of these apps by users in India based on the compre-



hensive reports received from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs, said the Ministry in a statement.

AliSuppliers Mobile App, Alibaba Workbench, AliExpress-Smarter Shopping, Better Living, CamCard - Business Card Reader, CamCard-BCR (Western), Soul-Follow the soul to find you, Chinese Social - Free Online Dating Video App & Chat, Date in Asia - Dating & Chat For Asian SinglesWeDate-Dating App, Free dating app-Singol, start your date!, TrulyAsian - Asian Dating App, ChinaLove: dating app for Chinese singles, DateMyAge: Chat, Meet, Date Mature Singles Online, First Love Live-super hot live beauties live online, Rela - Lesbian Social Network are the popular apps blocked in 43 banned apps list.

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL
CASES: 92,16,049
DEATHS: 1,34,661
RECOVERED: 86,37,126
ACTIVE: 4,42,176



Allahabad HC overrides earlier order on inter-religious wedding

Bench upholds right to choose partner, girl's conversion to Islam for marriage

PTI ■ ALLAHABAD

Amid a row over “love jihad”, the Allahabad High Court has ruled that the right to choose a life partner “irrespective of religion” is intrinsic to the right to life and personal liberty.

The bench contradicted a high court judgment in September and another in 2014 against marriages performed after alleged conversions, saying that the two rulings were not good in law.

Justices Pankaj Naqvi and Vivek Agarwal made the observations while quashing an FIR lodged by a man against his

daughter's husband, whom she married after conversion to Islam. “Interference in a personal relationship would constitute a serious encroachment into the right to freedom of choice of the two individuals,” they said.

The ruling comes amid plans by UP and some other States to enact laws to curb alleged conversions in the guise of marriage, which BJP leaders call “love jihad”.

While allowing the writ petition by Salamat Ansari and Priyanka Kharwar, alias Alia, of Kushinagar, the judges cited Article 21 of the Constitution on personal liberty.

“To disregard the choice of a person who is of the age of majority would not only be antithetic to the freedom of choice of a grown up individual but would also be a threat to the concept of unity in diversity,” they said.

“We do not see Priyanka Kharwar, alias Alia, had had sought quashing of an FIR lodged on August 25, 2019 under several sections of the IPC, including illegal confinement and inducing a minor into sex. The FIR had also invoked the POCSO Act.

The petitioners argued that they are adults and competent to choose a person of their choice as their partner. The counsel for the woman's father argued religious conversion only for sake of marriage is prohibited and such marriage has no sanctity in law.

Continued on Page 11

UP passes Ordinance against ‘love jihad’

5-year jail, ₹15,000 fine for unlawful religious conversion in name of marriage

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh became the first State in India to approve the “Love Jihad” Ordinance called “Ordinance to Prevent Unlawful Religious conversions” which attracts a penalty of 5 years of jail term and fine of ₹15,000.

State Cabinet Minister and Government spokesperson Siddharth Nath Singh said the Cabinet has given its approval to prevent unlawful religious conversions in the name of marriage. The Cabinet meeting was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

According to the new law

the inter faith couple will have to give notice of two months before the marriage and District Magistrate (DM) permission is required for the marriage.

“Inter religion marriage without permission will attract jail from 6 months to 3 years and a minimum cash fine of ₹10,000,” the spokesman said.

Concealing the original name and religion before marriage will attract 10 years of imprisonment.

The new law said any violation of the law or conversion will attract one to 5 years of jail and minimum fine of ₹15,000. In case of minor or SC/ST girl, the punishment will be between 3 and 10 years and minimum fine of ₹25,000. Mass conversation will attract 3 to 10 years jail with a minimum fine of ₹50,000, the Government spokesman said.

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Improved version of Brahmos missile test-fired successfully

Enhanced 450km target range gives Indian Army edge over adversaries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of a security situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India successfully test-fired an improved version of the Brahmos missile on Tuesday. More such drills will be carried out in the coming days.

The test is part of the validation firing carried out by the scientists in the last few weeks of a whole range of missiles, including Akash and Nirbhaya, besides the indigenously designed and manufactured Brahmos missile.

The latest test of the land



attack version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile with enhanced range of more than 450 km was conducted on Tuesday from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory, sources said.

The supersonic cruise missile was test-fired at 10 am and it successfully hit its target, which was on another island. This version is already inducted into the Army which has now raised some regiments of the missile.

When inducted some years back, the range of the super-

sonic missile, jointly produced with Russia, within the country was 290 km. The latest test has given the Army an edge over the adversaries with a range of more than 450 km, sources said here.

Incidentally, some batteries of the highly lethal missile rated to the fastest system in its class in the world are already deployed in some crucial sectors of the LAC facing China including Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the last three months tested the new and existing Brahmos missiles apart from the Shaurya missile system. It has the capability of destroying a target at more than 700 km and technology demonstration vehicles for hypersonic missile technology.

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Abdullahs encroached State land to construct palatial house: Record

Jammu Div Com uploads list of encroachers

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

More than two decades after former J&K Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah had constructed his palatial house in the thickly forested area of Sunjwan village in Bahu tehsil of Jammu district, the Union Territory administration on Tuesday made a startling revelation that the same was built on an illegally occupied piece of State land measuring 7.7 Kanals (roughly 1 acre).

The revelation came to light after the office of Divisional Commissioner Jammu made public a list of State land encroachers on its website. Names of Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah figured on top of the list.

“Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah had illegally occupied State land measuring 7 Kanals and 7 Marlas under Khasra No 4,5,6 in village Sunjwan of Bahu Tehsil in Jammu district,” the list said. A residential house has been constructed there, it added.

Abdullah's name surfaced in the list of those violators who had encroached State Land (Physically encroached but not shown in Revenue Record).

The list included names of two other beneficiaries including hotelier Mushtaq Chaya and Ashfaq Mir son of a retired Justice Ali Mohd Mir.

Reacting to the development the twitter handle of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference posted a brief statement which read as, “The news attributing to sources that Farooq Abdullah is a beneficiary of the Roshni Act is completely false and is being spread with a malicious intent.”

Continued on Page 11

TN, Puducherry brace for Nivar to minimise damage

Public holiday in TN, Section 144 imposed in Puducherry as cyclone likely to hit areas soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted that cyclone Nivar may cross Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts Karaikal and Mamallapuram as a very severe cyclonic storm in the late evening on November 25, public holiday has been declared in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday while authorities in Puducherry clamped prohibitory orders (section 144) till Thursday 6 am.

According to IMD's director general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Nivar is likely to make landfall between 8 pm and 12am. The wind will blow at 120-130 km per hour with gusting up to 145 kph.

The cyclonic storm is centred about 380 km east-south-east of Puducherry and 430 km southeast of Chennai. There was heavy rain overnight in several coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, and Puducherry.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to the

Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and assured them of all possible support from the Centre.

“Assured all possible support from the Centre. I pray for the safety and well-being of those living in the affected areas,” he tweeted.

Several trains have been cancelled in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the wake of cyclonic storm.

The Tamil Nadu Government has declared a public holiday on Wednesday. Heavy rain in Chennai and several other districts led to water logging. Southern Railways cancelled a few train services and inter and intra bus-services, including those of private buses, have been suspended in seven districts.

People in low-lying and flood-prone areas have been asked to move to safer places and district authorities are shifting them to relief camps with food and necessary medical aids.

Chief Minister Palaniswami has urged people



Fishermen cover their boats at Marina Beach during heavy rain triggered by Cyclone Nivar in Chennai on Tuesday

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to avoid going out for the next three days. Authorities have warned of damage to thatched roofs, kuchcha roads, water logging, suspension of electricity and uprooting of trees

due to the severe cyclone. The last cyclone to make a landfall in Tamil Nadu was Gaja (very severe cyclonic storm) during the north east monsoon in mid-November 2018.

Authorities in Puducherry clamped prohibitory orders and said only milk shops, petrol stations and pharmacies will be allowed to operate.

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CAPSULE

MAULANA KALBE SADIQ PASSES AWAY

Lucknow: Prominent Shia cleric and All India Muslim Personal Law Board vice president Maulana Kalbe Sadiq died in Lucknow on Monday. He was 83. Maulana Sadiq breathed his last at around 10.00 pm at a private hospital here, his son Kalbe Sibtain said. He was admitted to the ICU of the hospital on November 17. Earlier, the hospital in a health bulletin said that Sadiq was suffering from colorectal cancer with metastasis with severe pneumonia, UTI and septic shock with acute kidney shutdown with paralytic ileus.

RAM TEMPLE TRUST CHIEF ON OXYGEN

Lucknow: Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust president Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, who is admitted to a hospital here, was put on oxygen support on Tuesday after he complained of breathing difficulty.

VETERAN ACTOR VM BADOLA DIES AT 84

Mumbai: Veteran actor Vishwa Mohan Badola has passed away due to age-related ailments. He was 84.

UP govt proposes ordinance for quota in teachers' posts

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed to treat university or college as a unit instead of a department for the purpose of providing reservation for filling up teachers' posts in the state-run educational institutions and bring an ordinance in line with the Union government's Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill.

This decision was taken in the state cabinet meeting held here on Tuesday. The Uttar Pradesh Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Ordinance, 2020 will allow filling vacancies in state-run universities and also provides 10 percent reservation for economically weaker sections. It will be introduced in the state legislature to replace an earlier bill of February 18, 2019.

The government spokesman said that the new ordinance will give a major push to reforms in the education sector, making it inclusive and fulfilling the aspirations of people from different categories

The issue emerges from an April, 2017 Allahabad High Court order which said that for the purpose of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in universities, an individual department should be considered as the base unit to calculate the number of teaching posts to be reserved.

The order was challenged in the Supreme Court, which upheld it. A review petition filed by the HRD

‘Required logistics to be in place for Covid vaccination’

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has launched preparations for COVID-19 vaccination and the required logistics would be in place in advance, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said here on Tuesday.

During a virtual interaction between the prime minister and the chief ministers over COVID-19 vaccination in the near future, Yogi Adityanath informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the UP government had issued necessary directions to departments concerned to be prepared for a massive vaccination drive.

“The whole exercise should be done in an organised and time bound



manner with inter-departmental coordination and all logistics should be in place in time,” the chief minister said. The UP chief minister said his

government was well aware that adequate numbers of vaccinators would be needed in view of the large population of the state.

He said the Health department was asked to make arrangements for the training of the vaccinators.

It may be recalled that the chief minister had issued directions to ensure cold-chain arrangements in all districts by December 15 next in order to enhance the efficacy of the vaccine.

Yogi, during the virtual conference, reposed faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the skilful handling of the COVID-19 crisis in the country.

Ministry in February this year was also dismissed by the apex court.

The Union government brought an ordinance which was adopted by the Uttar Pradesh government.

In another decision, the cabinet approved the proposal to reduce the mandi tax from the existing 2 percent to 1 percent. This will help farmers to increase their income.

“This has been a long-pending demand of the farmers’ associations and the state government has accepted the proposal,” the spokesman said.

The cabinet also approved the proposal to rename the airport at Ayodhya as Maryada Purshottam Shri

Ram Airport. The said proposal will be sent to the Union Civil Aviation Ministry for bringing the change.

The cabinet also passed the UP State Judicial Video Conferencing Guidelines, 2020 so that judicial work could be carried out through video conferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A decision was also taken to develop the area around Saryu Canal Project and Arjun Sahayak Project. For this Rs 1,672.69 crore has been approved.

To improve security at Agra-Lucknow Expressway, the cabinet approved construction of 15 police outposts at the greenfield expressway. The

UP becoming first choice of foreign investors

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, when all the countries of the world are suffering from recession, Uttar Pradesh has become the first choice of foreign investors. During the COVID-19 period, 57 national and foreign companies have tied up with the UP government for investment of Rs 46,501 crore.

It is estimated that after the start of production in these companies in the state, direct and indirect employment opportunities will be available to millions of people.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started working on a strategy to bring back the lost status of Uttar Pradesh ever since he assumed power in the state.

He first organised a national level Investors’ Summit for domestic and foreign companies. This was followed by the first and second groundbreaking ceremonies. The result of this strategy of the chief minister is now noticeable on the surface.

Twenty-eight foreign companies have expressed intent to make an investment of Rs 9,357 crore in the state during the COVID-19 period. It has a German shoe making company that has shifted from China to India and started production in Agra with an investment of 300 crore.

Apart from this, 29 domes-

tic companies have tied up to invest Rs 37,144 crore.

While two companies of Canada will be investing Rs 1,476 crore in UP, four companies of Germany will be investing Rs 300 crore. In addition, seven companies of Japan will be investing Rs 2000 crore, five companies of the United States of America will be investing Rs 309 crore, and four companies of Korea will be investing Rs 928 crore.

Besides, three companies of the United Kingdom will be investing Rs 1,375 crore, two companies of Singapore will invest Rs 16,000 crore and one company of Hong Kong will be investing Rs 1,000 crore.

It may be mentioned that due to the various reforms in the labour laws and formulation of policies of various departments, UP has obtained second rank in ease of doing business and has become the first choice of entrepreneurs.

As many as 800 plots have been allotted to entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 times. In addition, a dedicated medical equipment park is proposed on 3.5 acre of land in Sector 28 along the Yamuna Expressway for which a MoU has been signed.

The chief minister has also issued instructions for giving physical possession of land to the entrepreneurs within two months so that they can start production as soon as possible

Boy killed in Saharanpur, minor raped in Shravasti

Lucknow (PNS): An 11-year-old boy was kidnapped and murdered in Saharanpur in mysterious circumstances while a 9-year-old girl was critically injured after she was raped in Shravasti.

According to Superintendent of Police (Rural) in Saharanpur, Ashok Kumar Meena, Aayan, a resident of Jhadwan hamlet of Titro, went to play after taking lunch three days back. When he did not return home, his family launched a search and later suspecting that the boy may have been kidnapped, lodged a report with the local police on Sunday.

On Tuesday, the body of the missing boy was found lying in a pool of blood in Fatehpur Kala hamlet of Gangoh in Saharanpur.

It appeared that the victim was brutally killed somewhere else and later his body was dumped in the sugarcane field.

As the family had no dispute with anyone in the village, the motive behind the killing was yet to be ascertained. The body was sent for autopsy and investigations were on.

In another sensational incident reported from Bhinga in Shravasti, a 9-year-old girl and a 6-year-old girl, both of the same village, went to the field on Tuesday morning.

In the field, a local resident nabbed them. He tied the hands and legs of the 6-year-old girl with a tree and later raped the other girl, injuring her critically. As she became unconscious, the accused escaped from the spot.

The other girl somehow released herself and went running to the village and informed the family members about the incident. The family members rushed the girl to the community health centre from where she was referred to the district hospital. In view of her critical condition, the doctors referred her to the KGMU Trauma Centre here.

A case was registered and efforts were being made to nab the accused who is absconding.

Woman abducted, raped and murdered

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 22-year-old woman was abducted, raped and later murdered in Etawah. Her body was found lying in a pond on Tuesday morning.

The police registered a case and sent the body for autopsy.

According to reports received here, a girl hailing from Paharpur hamlet of Lavedi in Etawah went to attend the call of nature last Friday.

When she did not return home, the family members searched for her and after failing to find her they lodged a report about her disappearance the next day.

Superintendent of Police (Rural) Omveer Singh said a search was launched for the woman but she could not be traced.

On Tuesday morning, a villager saw the body of the woman lying in the pond and informed the family about it. After identifying the body, the family members informed the local police about it.

The family suspects that someone abducted the woman, raped her and later threw her body in the pond after killing her.

Further investigations are on in this regard.

Meanwhile, a dog owner was stabbed to death by three miscreants after his pet barked at them.

The incident took place in Sitapur district on Sunday night.

The accused used a knife to brutally stab the 25-year-old man, identified as Sachin Kumar. Kumar of Kasba bazaar area in Sidhauili.

Two of the accused managed to evade arrest while one of them was nabbed by the police.

The accused were identified as Uma, Rohit and Govind.

Reports said Kumar was walking with his dog on Sunday night when the three accused intercepted him. When Kumar’s dog start-

ed barking at the three men, they flew into a rage and attacked Kumar with a knife, critically injuring him.

Kumar’s two brothers — Sonu and Sunil — rushed to his rescue when they heard his cries for help but were allegedly thrashed by the three accused. Following this, some locals came to Kumar’s rescue but the accused managed to escape.

Kumar and his brothers were taken to the local community health centre where Kumar was pronounced dead.

ON TUESDAY MORNING, A VILLAGER SAW THE BODY OF THE WOMAN LYING IN THE POND AND INFORMED THE FAMILY ABOUT IT. AFTER IDENTIFYING THE BODY, THE FAMILY MEMBERS INFORMED THE LOCAL POLICE ABOUT IT

ed barking at the three men, they flew into a rage and attacked Kumar with a knife, critically injuring him.

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Kumar and his brothers were taken to the local community health centre where Kumar was pronounced dead.

to the Meerut medical college hospital for treatment.

Firoz received the bullet injury when Abid Ahmed started firing from his gun during the function.

Saidangali SHO Rajeev Sharma said, “Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. The accused has been arrested. Some reports claimed that Firoz and Ahmed had got into an altercation and the latter shot at the groom’s friend. We are investigating all aspects of the case.”

Woman SHGs roped in for maintenance of community toilets

Lucknow (PNS): On the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, 58,000 women self-help groups are being linked with employment as they will be entrusted with the management of community toilets being constructed in all gram panchayats.

“The woman SHGs will manage the toilets and in return, Rs 6,000 per month will be paid to them. Over 6,000 women have already been given the work,” an official said. As part of the Swachh Bharat

Abhiyan, the UP government is constructing community toilets in 58,000 gram panchayats. Over Rs 3 lakh has been given for the construction of a community toilet under the Swachh Bharat Mission. In many districts, large community toilets of better standard are also being constructed.

Additional Chief Secretary (Panchayati Raj) Manoj Kumar Singh said that the government’s effort was to complete the construction of toilets at every

gram panchayat level by March, 2021.

“In the first phase, women of SHGs have been provided employment for maintenance of 6,000 toilets,” he said.

He said besides providing employment, quality of construction was also being verified by a third party.

As per the government decision, Rs 9,000 will be given per month for the maintenance of toilets in a gram panchayat.

“The sanitary worker or the caretak-

er will clean the toilet at least twice a day and will be given Rs 6,000 per month, Singh said.

Besides, Rs 500 per month will be given for the repair of electricity, plumbing, taps and for cleaning equipment like broom, brushes, wipers, sponges, clothes, mop, bucket, mug etc.

Once in six months, Rs 1,000 will be given for purchase of soap, washing powder, air freshener, toilet cleaner, masks, gloves and aprons, he said.

Gorakhpur radio stn to have a permanent transmitter

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that under no circumstances broadcast of programmes from Gorakhpur Aakashwani would be disrupted and announced that soon a permanent transmitter of adequate capacity would be installed there.

Taking a serious note of information that the medium wave mobile transmitter of Gorakhpur Aakashwani had shut down, the chief minister directed officials of the Prasar Bharati to take immediate action to restore the transmission.

After this the broadcast, which was disrupted since November 21, was restarted.

The chief minister said the interest of the employees and

artists would be protected at all costs.

He said that the medium wave mobile transmitter would soon be replaced by a better one.

“When I was an MP I had always advocated expansion of both Doordarshan and Aakashwani. As Nepal is our neighbouring country, we are able to educate our neighbours with our viewpoints and can make them aware of the nefarious designs of China,” he said.

Taking a dig at the opposition parties doing politics on this issue, the chief minister said that these parties were frustrated because of the government’s development programmes and therefore they were spreading lies.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY				Notification No.: 117/2020
Important Notice for the Rail Passengers				
It is notified for information of the general public that following Special Express trains will run from 01.12.2020 as per revised time table as under-				
02555/02556 GORAKHPUR-HISAR-GORAKHPUR SUPERFAST SPECIAL TRAIN				
02555 GORAKHPUR-HISAR		STATION	02556 HISAR-GORAKHPUR	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
--	16:35	Gorakhpur	09:45	--
17:13	17:15	Khalilabad	08:35	08:37
17:41	17:44	Basti	08:07	08:10
19:05	19:10	Gonda	07:00	07:05
20:33	20:35	Barabanki	05:48	05:50
21:35	21:45	Lucknow (NR)	04:50	05:00
22:43	22:45	Unnao	03:36	03:38
23:23	23:25	Kanpur Central	03:00	03:10
05:25	05:40	New Delhi	20:55	21:25
06:11	06:13	Shakur Basti	20:13	20:15
06:21	06:23	Nangloi	19:54	19:56
06:34	06:36	Bahadurgarh	19:41	19:43
07:25	07:48	Rohtak	19:11	19:13
08:45	09:10	Bhiwani	17:45	18:10
10:00	--	Hisar	--	17:00
Days of Run and Rake Composition will be same as notified earlier.				
02571/02572 GORAKHPUR-ANANDVIHAR-T-GORAKHPUR HUMSAFAR SPECIAL TRAIN				
02571 GORAKHPUR-ANAND VIHAR-T.		STATION	02572 ANAND VIHAR-T-GORAKHPUR	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
--	18:45	Gorakhpur	09:30	--
19:27	19:29	Anand Nagar	08:26	08:28
19:54	19:56	Sidharth Nagar	07:52	07:54
20:27	20:29	Barhni	07:18	07:20
21:28	21:30	Balrampur	06:03	06:05
22:25	22:45	Gonda	05:00	05:20
01:15	01:25	Lucknow (NR)	02:30	02:40
03:00	03:05	Kanpur Central	00:55	01:00
08:25	--	Anand Vihar-T.	--	20:00
Days of Run and Rake Composition will be same as notified earlier.				
Please Note:- (1) These trains will run with full reserved accommodation. (2) It is mandatory for the passengers to follow the guidelines issued for prevention and safety from Covid-19.				
CPRO/T-44A Chief Pass Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur				
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955				
Never travel on roof and foot boards.				



NOTICE

MY son DOB is wrongly mentioned 02-01-1997 in highschool Marksheet. But correct DOB is 10-05-2001. Suraj Singh Parihar S/o Jagdatt Singh R/o Plot No. 12, Galla Mandi Colony, Thana - Novasta, Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

Notify that I have changed my name Utkarsh Kumar Yadav to Utkarsh Yadav for all purposes. Utkarsh Yadav S/o Hridyesh Kumar Yadav Flat No. 107 BCC Vision, Near Silver Spoon Bakery, Aishbagh Road, Lucknow.



बैंक ऑफ बरोडा
Bank of Baroda

Regional Office :
118/330, Gunti No. 5,
Kaushalpuri Kanpur - 12
Branch : Panki Site-1, Kanpur

Possession Notice

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date		
Borrower : M/s Waseem Metal Works, Proprietor : Abdul Waseem Shah S/o : Abdul Aziz Shah. Address : 116/421 C, Rawatpur Gaon, Kanpur. Guarantor : Abdul Sharif S/o Abdul Aziz, R/o : 116/406, Rawatpur Gaon, Kanpur.		
Demand Notice Date: 04-07-2019 • Date of Constructive Possession: 23.11.2020		
Description of Mortgage Immovable Property : House No. 116/421B, Situated at Rawatpur, Kanpur Nagar, in the name of Abdul Sharif S/o Abdul Aziz. Area : 312 Sq. Yard. Bounded - North : Road, South : House of Bakridun Nisha, East : House of Abdul Aziz, West : Road.		
O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 26,28,650.00 + Intt. + Others Charges		
Date : 25-11-2020	Place : Kanpur	Authorised Officer

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Death rate comes down to 1.2 pc

282 more test positive for coronavirus

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Covid mortality rate of Lucknow has come down to 1.2 percent while positivity rate has also come declined to 3.7 percent, according to a senior health official. The death rate in Lucknow in October was 1.7 percent while and the total deaths this month have been 70. The official said the positivity rate has reduced despite the increase in the number of daily fresh cases as testing has been increased to 11,000 per day. He said the focus continues to be on capacity building of hospitals.

The coronavirus count came below the 300-mark after few days with 282 persons testing positive on Tuesday. Besides, 269 recovered taking the strength of recovered persons to 65436. Lucknow has witnessed 970 deaths and there are 3442 active cases.

The fresh cases included 33 from Gomtinagar, 32 from Indiranagar, 24 from Rae Bareilly road, 20 from Chowk, 16 from Mahanagar, 15 from Talkatora, and 10 each from Mahanagar & Jankipuram. There were five deaths



DM Abhishek Prakash at a hospital to take stock of arrangements

Pioneer

in the city and all the deceased were from other districts.

Across the state, 2,274 persons tested positive, including 152 in Gautambuddh Nagar and 106 in Varanasi, taking the UP tally to 5,31,050. There were 34 deaths in the state, including five each in Kanpur & Meerut, three each in Prayagraj & Gautambuddh Nagar, two each in Etawah, Farrukhabad & Baghapat, and one each in Lakhimpur Kheri, Etah, Gorakhpur, Varanasi & Gonda,

taking the toll to 7,615. Besides, 2,032 patients recovered, taking the recovery figure to 4,99,507. There are still 23928 active cases in the state.

Nodal officer for Covid at KGMU Dr D Himanshu, while giving details of the training being imparted to doctors of Covid hospitals, said they are teaching basic management and protocols. "The idea is to let them get a grasp of things, emphasising the points where more focus and needed, of

course, apart from treatment methods. These doctors are looking after Covid ICUs," he said.

"We have also enhanced our facilities. For example, now we perform endoscopy on Covid-19 patients, conduct bone marrow examinations, logical evaluations. It is important to control the mortality rate," he said, adding that it has made the treatment more specific. The identification of GB Syndrome, which happens during Covid or even after recovery, has

helped in better support to such patients. GB Syndrome occurs after the virus strikes and the antibodies which are created start injuring the nervous system, as a result of which patients become paralysed. There is also respiratory muscle weakness and thus these patients are identified and treated immediately," he said.

Asked about deaths among younger age groups, Dr Himanshu said it's a myth that nothing would happen to youngsters. "Monitoring of the disease is very important even if a patient is young," he said.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash carried out an inspection of the Covid hospital at RMLIMS where 20 patients are occupying ICU beds and 15 HDU beds. He talked to patients and gave directions for the start of oxygen plant.

Addressing mediapersons, the DM said four things are most important for containment of the virus — surveillance, testing, tracking and treatment. "As far as treatment is concerned, we have a total of 1,000 beds in the district," he said. The DM said that during the discussions held with the RMLIMS director, it was emphasised that lives have to be saved at any cost. He appealed to people to strictly adhere to Covid-19 protocols during the upcoming wedding season.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

Gomti Nagar Branch
Lucknow

PUBLIC NOTICE
 This is to inform (Except Consortium Bankers) that Bank of Baroda, Vipul Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow branch accepted / charged, the property standing in the name of Ekana Sports City Pvt. Ltd. as a security for a loan, In case anyone (Except Consortium Bankers) has got any right/title/interest/claim over the said property, advised to approach the Bank within 10 days along with proof to their claim.

DETAILS OF PROPERTY
 (1) Agricultural Khata No. 62, Khasra, land No. 11 Minjumla measuring 3.0350 hectare and Agricultural Land M 1 Minjumla measuring 1.0120 Hectare situated at Village : Alinagar Khurd, Pargana Bijnor, Tehsil Sarojininagar & Distt. Lucknow. with Boundaries : East: Part of Khasra No. 1, West: Part of Khara No. 11, North: Part of Khasra No. 1, South: Part of Khasra No. 1.
 (2) Non Agricultural land Khata No. 63, Khasra No. 1, measuring 0.949 hectare out of 1.265 hectare, Khasra No. 11M Hectare measuring 2.656 out of 3.541 hectar total Area 3.605 Hectare situated at Village : Alinagar Khurd, Pargana Bijnor, Tehsil Sarojininagar & Distt. Lucknow. with Boundaries : East: Part of Khasra No. 1, West: Part of Khara No. 11, North: Part of Khasra No. 1, South: Part of Khasra No. 1.
 (3) Non Agricultural land Khata No. 23, Khasra No. 1, measuring 2.2760 hectare, Khasra No. 11 Minjumla area 1.518 Hectare, Khasra No. 17 Minjumla Area 0.0510 hectare, Khasra No. 20 Minjumla Area 0.1260 hectare, Total Area 3.9710 hectare situated at Village : Alinagar Khurd, Pargana Bijnor, Tehsil Sarojininagar & Distt. Lucknow. with Boundaries : East: Khasra no.11, West: Nala, North: Nala, South: Part of Khasra No. 1 thereafter Nala.
 (4) Land & Building (upto 5th floor) measuring 2280/30 sq.ft. i.e 2091/85 sq. meters situated at plot No. 35 Prag Narain Road, Buttlerganj Sceme, Lucknow owned by M/s G. C. Constructions & Development Industries Pvt. Ltd. with boundaries: East: Property of Lesu, West: Gokhale Vihar, North: Gokhale Marg, South: Land of Deepakaul & Sheila Kaul.
 (5) Two Proposed Housing Project No. 1 and 2 in Gomti Nagar Extension Lucknow built as per lease land Agreement dated 22.02.2016 having Khasra No. 268 (part), Khasra No. 272(part) m Jgasra Bi. 27(part) Khasra No. 397 (Khasra No. 397(part), Khasra No. 400 (part), Khasra No. 285(part), Khasra No. 283(part), Khara No. 282(Part), Khasra No. 281(Part), Khasra No. 289(Part), Khasra No. 339Sa situated at Village: Ardaunamau, Tehsil Sadar Lucknow total area 17.0903 hectare boundaries as : East: Partly proposed Sports Infrastructure Project and Partly Green City area of Chak Ganjanra City land & 45 meter proposed road. West: Proposed Sports & Infrastructure Project of Ekana Sports City and inart 45 meter wide road. North: In 24meter wide road in part 45 metal road, in part reent Are of C. G. City. South: Proposed Sports Infrasture Project of Ekna Sports City & in part 15 meter wide Road.
 Proposed Group Housing Project Plot No. R- 1 measuring 130916 sq.meters i.e 1408556.16 sq.ft. bounded as East: Plot No. R-2 West 45 meter wide road, North: 45 meter wide road South: Boundary of Stadium.
 Proposed Group Housing Project Plot No. R-2 measuring 149174 sq.meters.e 1605113.32 sq.ft. bounded as East: Other Land West: Plot No. R-1 North: 45meter wide Road South: Boundary of Stadium
Bank of Baroda, Gomti Nagar Branch,
Vipul Khand-3, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
(Mob-7565008661,7565008663)
V. P. Mehrotra, Panel Advocate
Bank of Baroda
9455669594, 79080582, 9235797634

Decks cleared for redevelopment of Gomtinagar station

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The redevelopment of Gomtinagar railway station is set to become a reality with the completion of RERA registration and approval of the design by IIT-Delhi. Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), in partnership with NBCC, is undertaking the redevelopment of the Gomtinagar station.

It is said to be the dream project of local MP and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the objective is to provide world-class amenities to commuters. The redevelopment involves two phases; first, mandatory station development comprising station buildings, air concourse, food courts, renovation of platforms and utilities; and second, commercial development, including retail, basement parking and external development.

The total cost estimated is Rs 190 crore for station development and Rs 170 crore for commercial development, including two-years maintenance. The redeveloped station will be equipped with amenities such as segregation of arrival and departure, basement parking, CCTV surveillance, centrally air-conditioned common spaces, an integrated building management system, treated water for horticulture use, and much more.

"Gomtinagar is developing rapidly as a commercial and retail hub. The station is strategically located with excellent connectivity to other parts of the city. The commercial space being constructed for lease sale of 60 years is in the close vicinity of Hyatt Hotel and new DLF shopping-cum-office plaza. The redevelopment will boost real estate as well as local economy," vice-chairman of RLDA Ved Prakash Dudeja said on Tuesday.

It is an under-construction railway terminus on Barabanki-Lucknow suburban railway and serves Gomtinagar, Indiranagar, Chinhat and Kamta areas. The station currently has three platforms and three more are under construction. Railway has approximately 38 acres of land parcel at Gomtinagar station, of which 8 acres is being utilised for both redevelopment & retail and commercial development.

NR GM inaugurates solar energy plant



Lucknow (PNS): General manager of Northern Railways Ashutosh Gangal inaugurated the solar energy plant installed at the Lucknow division during his two-day visit to the city on Tuesday. The Lucknow division of NR will be saving Rs 1.2 lakh per month by using 14,000 units of power generated by the solar plant of capacity 120 KWP. Gangal later reviewed the ongoing projects in the Lucknow division and asked the officials to expedite the work.

He also had a meeting with different employees' trade unions. During the meeting, he stressed on the need to carry out rail work with dedication and also asked officials concerned to keep in mind the welfare of employees. Gangal later reached Charbagh railway station where he inspected platform number 6 and 7, escalator and foot overbridge constructed in the circulating area. The GM instructed the officials to enforce Covid-19 protocols in no uncertain terms. He also sought the status of the second entry gate being constructed at Charbagh railway station and asked officials to expedite the work. Gangal later inaugurated an electric loco trip shed and planted a sapling in the railway station premises. Officials apprised the GM of the redevelopment work at the station. Senior officials, including DRM Sanjay Tripathi, were present on the occasion.

100 Years
1920 - 2020
University of Lucknow
लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय
शताब्दी उत्सव

लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय शताब्दी उत्सव

एवं
स्थापना दिवस के अवसर पर
डाक टिकट, विशेष कवर तथा स्मारक सिक्के
 का
विमोचन
नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा
(वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से)
गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

योगी आदित्यनाथ
 मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश
डा. दिनेश शर्मा
 उप मुख्यमंत्री
 उत्तर प्रदेश

राजनाथ सिंह
 रक्षामंत्री, भारत सरकार
 (वर्चुअल माध्यम से)
नीलिमा कटियार
 राज्यमंत्री, उच्च शिक्षा तथा विज्ञान
 एवं प्रौद्योगिकी, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 25 नवम्बर, 2020 | समय : अपराह्न 4:30 बजे | स्थान : कला प्रांगण, लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय

कार्यक्रम का लाइव प्रसारण देखें: यूट्यूब https://www.youtube.com/c/UniversityofLucknow_Official एवं **f** <https://www.facebook.com/dswlkouniv/>

लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय के शैक्षणिक उन्नयन के नवीन आयाम

♦ आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देता विश्वविद्यालय का स्वनिर्मित सेनेटाइजर एवं ऑनलाइन शिक्षण हेतु स्वनिर्मित डिजिटल प्लेटफार्म (स्लेट) ♦ विश्वविद्यालय में नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया का डिजिटलीकरण
 ♦ छात्रों के सर्वांगीण विकास हेतु छात्र कर्मयोगी व संवर्धन योजना ♦ नई शिक्षा नीति के अनुरूप नया डी. लिट., पीएच.डी. व परास्नातक का अध्यादेश ♦ अन्तर्विषयी शोध संस्थानों की स्थापना
 ♦ कोविड काल के दौरान जन-जागरुकता अभियान, निःशुल्क भोजन एवं मास्क का वितरण

उच्च शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

84 new Covid cases in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 84 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Tuesday, increasing the total number of cases to 18,619. The day saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 298. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 108 and 106 of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 14,723, while two have been discharged from the hospitals, increasing the number to 2,858. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 17,581, leaving 740 active

cases. The recovery rate is 94.42 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.60 per cent. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 46 positive patients were found out of 3,719 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,99,446 and the results of 2,987 are awaited. Out of them, 3,80,865 were negative, while 18,581 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,20,593. Earlier, a male aged 80 from Pahadia succumbed to COVID-19 at Sundarlal

Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of four new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,462 including 204 red zones. Four green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,258 green zones including 11 news ones. Meanwhile, amidst the receiving of positive development about the invention of some vaccines in their final stages, the cases have started shooting up again in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) comprising 10 districts of three divisions with the finding of 213 new cases a day ago

including 88 in Varanasi (total 18535/ recovered 17473/ deaths 296), 38 in Sonbhadra (4340/ 4018/ 65), 21 in Azamgarh (5601/ 5390/ 91), 16 in Ballia (6727/ 6513/ 95), 14 in Jaunpur (6114/ 5878/ 90), 14 in Chandauli (4158/ 3952/ 48), seven in Ghazipur (4709/ 4517/ 71), seven in Mirzapur (3122/ 2837/ 40), five in Mau (2849/ 2761/ 36), and three in Bhadohi (2034/ 1956/ 91). The total number of cases are 58,189 and out of them 55,395 have been recovered, while there were 850 deaths with recovery rate 95.19 % and mortality rate 1.46%.

65 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The reduction in the number of corona infected after eight days is however going to provide relief. Samples were taken on Monday for a Covid test of 6,532 people. Of them as many as 65 new cases of coronavirus were detected. With this, the number of infected in the district has crossed 26,000. Two people died during treatment. Now the number of people who lost their lives due to Covid infection has increased to 339. According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, the Covid infected people who died during treatment



were also suffering from other serious diseases. On Monday, 26 people were discharged from Covid hospitals. Now the number of people who go home after becoming healthy from hospitals has increased to 6,175, while the number of people who become infection free with 62 people in home

isolation has reached 18,445. The number of active patients has increased to 1,090. The number was below 900 a fortnight ago. The list of infected on Monday included two doctors including a dentist, two bank officers and two professors of AU and ECC. According to the Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, an officer of BoB Soraon branch, a doctor of CHC Holagarh, a dentist of CHC Holagarh, assistant manager of BoB Soraon branch, has been infected with Covid. The report of a CRPF constable, an advocate assistant, has also come positive.

FPO directors discuss farm issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A conference of directors of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) was held at Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR) Guest House, Sunderpur-Nariya here on Tuesday under the auspices of Foundation for Advancement of Agriculture and Rural Development (FAARD). More than 50 directors of FPOs from different districts of UP took part and discussed preparing the road map of agriculture and rural development through mutual discussions of eminent agricultural scientists, policy makers and experts.



FAARD President Prof Panjab Singh addressing FPOs meet in Varanasi on Tuesday

a resource institute for all FPOs.

Prof RM Singh gave the outline and progress of the conference. He emphasised on organising training programmes and training to promote knowledge and skills. Dr Jagdish Singh and JNL Srivastava discussed in detail about the usefulness of FPOs in agricultural development and marketing while Prof Ramesh Chandra talked about FPOs and networking of institutions. Prof PK Singh, Prof Rakesh Singh, Dr Santosh Kumar Singh, Dr Neeraj Singh, Dr Raajesh Singh (all from BHU), Dr AB Rai of APEDA and FAARD Trustee Dashaaratha Singh also expressed their views.

Besides, FPO directors Ram Kumar Rai (Ghazipur), Ajay Singh (Chandauli), Captain RP Pachauri, Vinod Pandey (Sonbhadra), Kanhaiya Singh (Varanasi) and many others also spoke on the occasion. Prof SR Singh welcomed the guests, while Trustee Dr Umesh Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

Dr CB Singh of Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), GOI, NABARD DDM Anuj Singh and others who were either remaining present physically or participating through online connection. President of FAARD Prof. Panjab Singh, who was former Vice-Chancellor of BHU and Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), emphasised the economic betterment of the

rural population through a variety of training programmes, technical interventions, capacity building and their empowerment. He said that the main objective of the conference was to further strengthen the FPO, promote agricultural knowledge and skills, create a federation of FPOs, promote agri-technology, collect information on technological changes in the agricultural sector. Prof Singh said that the FAARD would act as

Baggage sanitisation facility to be available at Prayagraj Junction

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Akin to the airports, baggage sanitisation and wrapping facility on a paid basis will now be available at Prayagraj Junction of the North Central Railways (NCR) to the passengers. The step has been taken keeping in mind the passengers who want additional safety from COVID-19 virus. The facility is in addition to several of the provisions introduced by NCR to promote social distancing during the pandemic, including the introduction of boarding passes, contactless ticket checking facility and thermal scanning of passengers, all usually available only at airports. In the present COVID-19 crisis, there have been consistent efforts from our side to

ensure safe travel for the passengers for which passengers are being made aware for taking all precautions through posters, banners, and public announcement of passengers. In this sequence, the facility of sanitisation and wrapping of passengers' luggage at Prayagraj Junction has been introduced by Prayagraj Division under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Prayagraj, Mohit Chandra, said the newly appointed Public Relation Officer (PRO) of the division, Amit Singh. With this newly installed machine, about 2,000 bags can be sanitised, and 500 bags can be wrapped in a day, added Singh. This machine was installed after the joint efforts of the railway administration and book-baggage.com India private lim-

ited. During the use of this facility by passengers, the DRM has requested the passengers to ensure compliance of Covid norms. Under this facility, the facility of sanitisation and wrapping of passengers' luggage will be provided by the book-baggage organisation. The passenger has to pay an amount of ₹ 10 for getting their luggage sanitised and ₹50 for getting the sanitised luggage wrapped. Passengers can get this facility by contacting the counter of the Book-Baggage organisation established in the concourse area of the station. For this, passengers can pay through any UPI (Google Pay, Phone Pay, Paytm) portal. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Anshu Pandey, Station Director Anupam

Saxena and other officers and employees were present on the occasion. A couple of months back, the division had introduced the concept of an innovative QR code-based ticket checking system. The system, developed by Prayagraj division of North Central Railway (NCR), has since been implemented on pan India basis for contactless reserved ticket checking system. On successful reserved ticket booking from anywhere, an SMS containing URL of QR code is now sent to the passenger's mobile number. During entering the station or checking of the ticket, the passenger clicks on the QR code URL available in his/her SMS and the QR Code of the reserved ticket gets displayed on passenger's mobile browser.

Sticker distribution programme inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

General Manager Anjali Goyal inaugurated the sticker distribution programme received by the children of Bharat Scouts and Guides from the National Foundation for Community Harmony on the penultimate day of ongoing Qaumi Ekta Week at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Tuesday. Later, the stickers were distributed at different offices of administration building, factory, hospital and other offices.



GM Anjali Goyal using a sticker at BLW in Varanasi on Tuesday

of Rajbhasha, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Ajay Malik, who participated in the virtual meeting as an observer, appreciated BLW's efforts in 100 per cent compliance with the Rajbhasha Policy and appealed to continue it. The progress reports of Hindi related to different departments was also discussed by the respective heads. Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) Rajesh Kumar Rai, PCME Vineet Kumar Saxena, CEA Yogesh Kumar Srivastava, PCPO Pradeep Kumar Singh, PCE Rajesh Agrawal, PCMO Dr. Sujit Mallik and others were also present. Chief Rajbhasha Officer Pawan Priya Paju welcomed the participants and informed them about the creative efforts being made for the use and progress of Hindi in BLW. The meeting was conducted by Senior Rajbhasha Officer Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh, who also proposed the vote of thanks at last.

of BLW. The meeting was chaired by GM Anjali Goyal. In her address, she said that it is a matter of pride for BLW to fully follow the Rajbhasha policy. She also highlighted remarkable contributions of the city in the development of Rajbhasha as Hindi has been simplified by incorporating all Indian languages here. She

appealed to all that use such simple and easy Hindi in their official work which is easily understood by everyone. She instructed all officers to write technical articles in Hindi in view to promote Hindi as a language of science and technology. Deputy Director (Implementation), Department

Excise dept increases vigilance to stop sale of spurious liquor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Excise department has increased vigilance to stop the sale of spurious and illegal liquor in Prayagraj and other adjoining districts. The process of sampling has been started with the checking campaign running 24 hours. Samples are being sent for testing from the liquor shops across the state. As of Monday evening, 8,059 samples were collected through checking in 7,3146 shops. Action has been taken to register FIRs against the

license holders by seizing one shop each in Agra and Etah. At the same time, 252 people have been arrested for doing illegal liquor business. Out of this 112 people have been sent to jail. The Excise department was claiming to run a continuous campaign to stop the sale of illicit and spurious liquor. But in November, nearly two dozen people lost their lives by drinking spurious liquor in Prayagraj, Lucknow, Firozabad, Hapur, Mathura, Agra, Baghpat and Meerut. This cre-

ated a stir across the state. After taking cognisance of the case, the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed to take strict action against the culprits. After this, the Excise department suspended many officials. At the same time, following the directions of the Additional Chief Secretary Excise department Sanjay R. Bhushreddy, sampling process was carried out after inspecting the shops on November 21. During the inspection, 25 litre spirit, 83 fake quarter and one roll fake QR code, fake

lid and caramel were recovered in Sikri, a countryside liquor shop in Etah. Similarly, 15 fake quarter were recovered from a countryside liquor shop in Kalal Khediya, Agra. Both stores are sealed. Additional Chief Secretary Excise department said that a special vigilance campaign will be conducted till December 2 against the manufacture, sale and smuggling of illegal liquor. If a person dies by drinking spurious alcohol, strict action will be taken.

NCR GM reviews safety measures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

North Central Railway General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry on Tuesday reviewed position of safety, fog and winter preparedness besides other important works over North Central Railway through video conferencing with PHODs of North Central Railway and Divisional Railway Managers Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra.

In the beginning of the video conference, detailed presentations on fog and winter preparedness were made by Divisional Railway Managers of Agra, Jhansi and Prayagraj. To ensure safe and detention free train operations over high traffic density routes, North Central Railway has framed detailed and time bound action plan for foggy and winter season. Under the ongoing preparedness, requisite training and compulsory medical examination of all train running staff have already been completed. To ensure proper visibility of gate boom and stop boards to road users, retroreflective signage have been provided at all manned level crossing gates over the three divisions. For assisting crew on approaching signal during foggy weather, adequate number of fog-safe devices are provided at all crew booking points and GPS location of signals have been updated in all fog-safe devices to warn loco pilots on approaching signals during less visibility conditions. To safeguard crew from chilling winds, sealing of locomotive cabs in entire fleet of 448 electric locomotives and 102 diesel locomotives is being done. Similarly, adequate arrangement for blankets, geyers, room heaters etc. have

been ensured in all Running rooms over NCR to ensure quality outstation rest to crew. Under the ongoing winter precautions, necessary destressing of track, checking of joints, greasing etc. have already been completed and night patrolling of railway tracks has also been started since November 15, 2020. To ensure proper visibility of last vehicle of train ahead in section, provision of retroreflective cross mark and flashing tail lamp are being checked and ensured in SLRs of passenger trains and guard-vans of goods train. Other important items related to winter and fog working like availability of visibility test object (VTO) to assess fog condition, availability of retroreflective signage, adequate availability of VHF sets, detonators, lime marking before signals etc. are being ensured on Agra, Jhansi and Prayagraj divisions. Reviewing fog and winter preparedness GM observed that divisions should learn from experience of each other and implement good practices followed over other divisions. He also stressed that proper and adequate availability of winter and patrolling gears must be ensured for all staff deputed for inspection of track and other assets. Chaudhry further added that arrangement for prior information to passengers on late running of trains and adequate availability packed food items at stations be ensured. General Manager directed divisions to check and ensure proper illumination at all level crossing approaches and station platforms. GM directed divisions to ensure uniform and proper level of illumination at station platforms.

For timely detection of Hot axle and Brake binding cases in moving trains, Hot axle and Hot wheel (HAHW) detectors are installed over NCR. These equipment send automatic alert messages to control room and maintenance personnel in case of excess temperature noticed in passing train. Reviewing performance of HAHW, GM suggested to explore possibility of installing buzzer in section ahead of such equipment to alert crew of affected trains in addition to the existing system of message-based alert. On the front of freight loading, North Central Railway has narrowed the gap and expected to surpass last year loading volume within this week. So far it has finalised eight station to station (STS) concessional rate proposals which brought major impetus to loading. Reviewing loading performance of North Central Railway, GM commended performance of divisions and said that good efforts made by BDUs needs to be continued and upscaled to maximise volume and revenue from freight loading. HC OBSERVATION ON MARRIAGEABLE AGE: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday observed that the court does not differentiate between the boys and girls of marriageable age on caste or religion basis. If they are adult and are marrying with mutual consent, the government should not stop them on the basis of caste or religion. This observation of the High Court is considered to be of significance when the government plans to bring about a legislation against Love Jihad. The court dismissed the

plea of the state government that religious conversion for marriage sake should not be allowed. Every person has the right to choose the life partner of his/her choice, and this right should be protected. Do not see the marriageable adults as Hindu or Muslim, the court said. The court issued this order on petition filed by Salamat Ansari and Priyanka of Kushinagar. The High Court directed to withdraw the FIR lodged against Salamat. The order was passed by judges of Allahabad Court i.e. Justice Vivek Agarwal and Justice Pankaj Naqvi. TEACHER KILLED IN MISHAP: A 30-year-old primary teacher was killed in a road accident on the new Yamuna bridge, under the Kydganj police station in the city. He was posted at primary school in Koraon. The incident occurred while he was on his way to school by his mobike. The driver escaped with the vehicle after the accident. Police reached the spot after getting information and enquired with people nearby about the vehicle that trampled the teacher, but failed to get any information. Ganesh Prasad Shukla (30), a resident of Majhigwa Shivpur village under the Koraon police station, was a teacher in a primary school in Koraon. He lived in Daraganj area. On Tuesday morning he left for school with his new mobike. He had just reached the new Yamuna bridge when a vehicle from behind hit him killing Ganesh Prasad Shukla on the spot. People of the nearby reached the spot, but by then the driver had escaped with the vehicle.

Hectic preparations on for Modi's visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Hectic preparations are going on in different parts of the city in connection with the proposed visit of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on the occasion of Dev Deepawali on November 30. It is probably for the first time when there was such a long gap when Modi could not visit his parliamentary constituency physically since he was elected for first time in 2014 due to worldwide coronavirus pandemic though during this period, he was connected with the local people on many occasions through virtual platforms. Though the schedule of PM has yet not confirmed but in the manner the local administration and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have started preparations, it has become almost certain that he would come here and address a public meeting at Khazuri in Arajilina Block falling under Sewapuri Assembly segment of Varanasi parliamentary seat. In Sewapuri block hectic efforts are going on since it was selected to make an ideal block by NITI Aayog and July 12 last and during his visit to review the progress in September last, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh

Kant expressed his satisfaction over the progress. Meanwhile, the BJP also held a meeting under the leadership of state co-incharge Sunil Ojha in which the participants discussed the arrangements of proposed meeting. It would be the second time when Modi will address a meeting at Khazuri because on December 20 in 2013, he had kicked off his innings in central politics by addressing a big public meeting there. This proposed meeting will also be important especially when Panchayat elections in the state are round-the-corner. Besides, hectic preparations are also going on to make the helipad ready for the proposed visit at trans-Ganga Sujabad when three helipad were made when Modi visited Parao to inaugurate Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Smiriti Sthal. Besides, the Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal and District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma also held meetings to discuss the preparations. The SP(City) along with other police officers inspected various Ganga ghats to see the security arrangements in connection with Dev Deepawali festival. It is also expected that during the

visit of PM, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also attend the function and from Khazuri, Modi may inaugurate six-lane construction of Varanasi-Prayagraj highway. DEMONSTRATION: The Aam Admi Party (AAP) workers on Tuesday staged a demonstration in protest against the rising criminal incidents against women and girls in the state. Scores of workers gathered at Shastri Ghat here and staged a demonstration to raise their protest against the increasing incidents of violence against the women and girls in the state. There is no law and order situation in the state and the state government has virtually failed in checking the violence particularly against the women and girls, they said. The moral of criminals are high in the state because the police failure in providing protection to women and girls and in the result, the crime is gradually rising instead of being controlled, they said adding, the state government has launched Mission Shakti Abhiyan to provide protection to girls but instead, the violence against girls is on rise.

They demanded the government to install CCTV cameras in the city on the pattern of Delhi and ensure the installation of street lights at dark spots for full-proof security of women and girls. They reached the district headquarter and handed over a memorandum of the demands to the district administration to be forwarded to the President of India. The district president of AAP Kailash Patel led the demonstration. FLAYED: Strongly flaying the arrest of the president of Scheduled Caste wing of the Congress Party Alok Prasad Paswan, the party leaders on Tuesday demanded the state government to immediately release him. They decided to stage a dharna demanding his release on November 26. The state government has anti-dalit mentality and also failed in protecting the honour of dalits, the coordinator of Dr Ambedkar Employees Federation, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee Amarnath Paswan, president of the District Congress Committee Rajeshwar Patel and chief of City Congress Committee Raghvendra Chaubey said while talking to presspersons at party office.



District Magistrate City, Alok Tiwari visits shops in Chappal Bazar to convince shopkeepers to wear masks on Tuesday

Pioneer

DM appeals to people to wear masks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari personally moved from shop to shop in Meston Road, Chappal Bazaar and appealed to the people to wear face masks and to ensure they religiously followed social distancing.

He also advised shopkeepers to refuse to sell goods to customers who came to the shop for any purchase without wearing masks. He said this was necessary to prevent the resurgence of the dreaded novel

coronavirus and save precious lives in the times to come.

Addressing the shopkeepers, the district magistrate said social distancing was in fact the social vaccine against COVID-19 and it was the duty of the people to refrain from going to places which were overcrowded and keep not only oneself safe but the family as well safe.

He said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was concerned about the resurgence of COVID-19 once again and had directed officials to take strict measure and also ensure they create more awareness

among the masses to fight the novel coronavirus.

Tiwari said each and every individual had the moral responsibility to not only keep the family safe but also the society safe.

He said if people did not respond to the appeals of the government and administration, stern and punitive measure would have to be taken.

The district magistrate visited nearly all the shops in Chappal Bazaar and individually appealed to the shopkeepers to not only wear masks but also advise customers to wear

masks and refuse to sell anything to customers not wearing masks.

He drew the attention of the shopkeepers towards the economic slowdown during the COVID-19 lockdown and said that although the government was not in favour of imposing a lockdown, if the novel coronavirus infection spread and was not contained, the administration would have to deal with the situation sternly.

Several officials and police personnel accompanied the district magistrate.

DC visits building collapse site

... asks officials to identify high risk dilapidated structures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar visited the site of the building collapse at Coolie Bazaar on Tuesday and directed the Kanpur Development Authority to set up a special inquiry committee under the KDA secretary to find out facts and fix responsibility in the next 24 hours.

He also issued directives to check all the old and dilapidated structures in the city by December 10 and submit their pictures and videos.

The divisional commissioner asked the officials concerned how a sanction had been given for the building caring two hoots for the safety of the surrounding buildings.

He said in the next 10 days, all such buildings where the basement was being dug be identified and a detailed report be submitted as to who permission was granted and on what conditions.

A SDRF (State Disaster



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar inspects the site of the house collapse on Tuesday.

Pioneer

Relief Force) team from Lucknow arrived here and it was on the spot for necessary action.

Shekhar directed the Kanpur Nagar Nigam and the SDRF to prepare a plan for the protection of the existing buildings nearby and in close proximity, keeping in view the dilapidated structures which fell in risk zone. He directed the officials concerned to ensure sufficient food, winter care,

health check-up and proper shelter for all those persons who had been evacuated from the collapsed building and also the nearby buildings which fell in the risk zone. He asked them to also investigate if at the sites of constructions, protective and preventive measures were being taken or not.

It may be mentioned here that three buildings collapsed in Coolie Bazaar when digging was under way for construction

of basement in the adjacent building.

In several commercial areas of the city, basements are being illegally constructed in dilapidated structures in connivance of the KDA and the KNN officials. It is shocking that the officials who knew that there was a risk of ant building collapsing due to the digging for construction of basement blatantly ignored the norms putting life and property to risk.

Experts discuss cancer burden & challenges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University Vice Chancellor Dr Neelima Gupta while addressing an international webinar on 'Cancer burden: Threats, challenges and paradigm shift in treatment', said the National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020, released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) estimated that there would be over 13.9 lakh cases of cancer in India in 2020 and that this number was likely to rise to 15.7 lakh by 2025.

She said globally, non communicable diseases accounted for 71 percent of total deaths. She said in India, NCDs were estimated to account for 63 percent of all deaths, and cancer was one of the leading causes (9 percent).

She added that cancer registries were recognised as vital components of national cancer control programmes. She said publications from developed and developing countries provided updated information on cancer occurrence, trends and projections and in India, the systematic collection of data on cancer was done by the National Cancer Registry

Programme (NCRP)-National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR) of the Indian Council of Medical Research.

India's cancer cases could increase by 12 percent in the next five years, with 1.5 million people projected to suffer from the non-communicable disease by 2025, up from 1.39 million in 2020, according to the cancer report by the ICMR.

She said cancers of the gastrointestinal tract and breast were projected to be the next most prevalent.

Addressing the session, Prof Kyung Kim from South Korea said the cancer incidence (new cases) in men was estimated to be 6,79,421 till the end of 2020 and it was expected to shoot up to 7,63,575 in 2025. He said among women, it was estimated to touch 7,12,758 in 2020 and 8,06,218 in 2025.

He said the current standard therapies for cancer, including surgery, anti-cancer drugs and radiotherapy, were thought to contribute to the improvement in the survival rates of cancer patients. He said, however, such standard therapies had three major prob-

lems, first in advanced cancers, it was unlikely that standard cancer treatments will cure the disease. He said besides the adverse side effects that accompany, standard cancer treatments put many patients in distress and a large amount of medical expenditure was required for new and expensive anti-cancer drugs.

Prof Kim said COVID-19 had infected millions of people world-wide and emerged to be the biggest global health threat claiming hundreds of thousands of lives at exponential rates.

He said the severity of the disease increased with old age and presence of underlying health conditions, such as cancer.

He said managing cancer patients under these circumstances was rather challenging, given their compromised immunity and the overwhelmed health care services by COVID-19 community transmission. He added that it was prudent to establish common guidelines for the monitoring and treatment of cancer patients.

He said there was a need for a comprehensive investigation of the various aspects of

cancer care during the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges faced while treating cancer patients, and the proposed potential approaches to manage COVID-19 among this vulnerable population.

TWO IHM STUDENTS GET PLACEMENTS: Two students of the Institute of Hotel and Tourism Management of CSJM University, Kanpur have been selected by Hotel Landmark for employment as guest service associate at a salary of Rs.9,500 per month.

Institute's incharge Dr Vivek Singh Sachan said both the students of 2017-20 batch, Prashant Rawat and Abhishek tripathi, were interviewed by the hotel's executive housekeeper Vinod Kumar Das. He said the institute had been making all out efforts for the placement of its students even during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

CSJMU Vice Chancellor Prof Neelima Gupta congratulated both the students and stressed on reforms in education in view of the prevailing circumstances when the country was fighting against the novel coronavirus pandemic.

108 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 108 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 108 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 30,050 cases. He said that 11 cases were discharged from hospital. He said one COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Tuesday evening keeping the death toll to 771. The CMO said at present 1207 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4727 samples were sent for testing in the city.

NSI develops cookies using jaggery and dietary fibre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, Director Prof Narendra Mohan on Tuesday said the institute had always been emphasising production of value added products by sugar factories to achieve economic sustainability.

He said the sugar industry had gradually understood the importance of such diversification for producing value added products and recently entered into production of alcohol-based sanitiser in a big way.

Prof Mohan said the NSI-K added another feather to its cap by developing cookies using jaggery and dietary fibre.

He said these biscuits were prepared from baggage, a by-product of sugar industry, in this COVID-19 period.

He said there was also a growing demand of healthier, nutritive and digestive food products. He added that the biscuits were prepared using liquid jaggery in place of sugar and had sweetness at par and provided many minerals (calcium, magnesium, potassium and iron etc.) and vitamins (A, B1, B2, C & E).

He said the dietary fibre, as recommended by the dieticians and nutritionist also, helped in preventing colon cancer by improving digestion and bowel moment, besides checking cholesterol level and obesity etc.

He said the NSI developed biscuits were not only healthier and enriched with nutritive ingredients but could also be produced at a lower cost.

He said many other healthier bakery products could be made as well.

He said the NSI took pride to claim that such healthier and nutritive food products from the sugar industry could be taken up for startup by the students passing out from the institute.

Woman killed

KANPUR (PNS): An elderly woman was killed while some other passengers were injured when a speeding truck rrammed into a private bus in Ghatampur police station area early Tuesday morning.

The bus was carrying brick kiln labourers to Unnao from Banda.

The police sent the body for autopsy and launched raids to nab the absconding truck driver.

After the collision, the bus crashed into a roadside pan masala shop, killing the fast asleep elderly woman, Shanti Devi (70) of Achhi Mohal locality, on the spot.

Inspector Rajiv Singh said hearing the noise of the collision, when the local residents reached there, the truck driver had escaped after leaving the damaged vehicle laden with maurang on the spot.

Meanwhile, six persons, including a couple and their three children, were injured when a speeding DCM collided with their Maruti van near Dhaka village on Nanamau road under Bilhaur police station on Tuesday morning.

Due to the powerful collision, the van was badly damaged while the DCM overturned in a roadside pit.

NER GM inspects electric loco shed

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

General Manager of North Eastern Railway (NER) Vinay Kumar Tripathi, conducted a thorough inspection of the under construction works at electric loco shed here on Monday. On the occasion Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)/ Construction RK Yadav, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) AK Shukla, Chief Electric al Loco Engineer/ Construction (West) AK Singh, Deputy Chief Engineer/ Construction, Subhash Chandra, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/ Construction SP Yadav, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer /TRS Sagar and Assistant Electrical Engineer/TRS Jaya

Dwivedi along with several officials of Construction and Electrical Departments were present. During the inspection,



General Manager observed the construction works being done related to maintenance of electric loco and reviewed the

installation site of all the machinery and plant to be installed in the shed. Tripathi instructed the officials concerned to execute the work more effectively on several points. For better maintenance of locos he gave many practical and important suggestions related to manpower and time taken for maintenance. The officials concerned assured to implement the instructions and suggestions of GM Vinay K Tripathi. It may be pointed out here that in this electric loco shed the minor schedule maintenance work of electric loco is being done. Last month minor schedule maintenance of 13 electric locos was done. So far this month the minor schedule maintainance of eight electric locos has been done, CPRO PK Singh said.

Four girders launched successfully

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Safe, secure and uninterrupted rail movement is the top priority of the North Eastern Railway (NER). In the past years, all unreserved crossings in large lines have been eliminated. In the past years all unmanned level crossings (LCs) on broad gauge have been eliminated. Now the railway administration by making a provision of road over bridge (ROB), RUB/limited height subways (LHS) at manned level crossings was closing them too and is fast implementing the plan to make the rail movement fast and accident-free. In the same sequence in NER Varanasi division's Gorakhpur-Deoria Sadar section between Chauri Chaura and Gauri Bazar stations on the level crossing number-145-E on the under construction road over bridge the girder launching work was completed on Monday, CPRO PK Singh said. Within a short period of just 3

hours 15 minutes, four girders were launched successfully. A 450 ton capacity road crane was used in girder launching and a crane was kept as a standby during the work. Out of the



four girders launched the length of each of them is 39.5 metres and weighs 47 tonnes. The work of girder launching was done under the supervision of Deputy Chief Engineer/ Construction/Bridge NK Singh and Executive Engineer/ Construction /Bridge Ram Awadh on Monday between

02.10 hrs and 05.25 hrs. It may be pointed out here that during the execution of girder launching the weather was unfavourable and along with the foggy weather the temperature at the workplace was 12 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile on the Gorakhpur-Deoria Sadar section between Sardarnagar-Chauri Chaura stations on the level crossing 149 special the work of girder launching on the under construction road over bridge was completed on November 19. The provision of road overbridge is very beneficial for both the railway administration and road users. As a result of the closing of level crossing there is a reduction in recurring expenses along with manpower for the railway administration Along with it the rail movement takes place at a safe and at an uninterrupted speed. Road transport will also be convenient due to the construction of road over bridge and road users will get relief from the problem of jam.

Gwalior-Balrampur spl from tomorrow

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for additional convenience of passengers has decided to run the 04199/04200 Gwalior-Balrampur-Gwalior superfast weekly special train from November 25 every Wednesday from Gwalior and from November 26 every Thursday from Balrampur till further notice. All coaches in this train will be of reserved category and passengers traveling will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. The 04199

Gwalior-Balrampur superfast weekly special express train will leave Gwalior at 14.55 hours, Morena at 15.22 hours, Agra Cantt at 16.25 hours, Mathura at 17:02 hrs, Faridabad at 18:37 hrs, Nizamuddin 19:25 hours, Ghaziabad at 20:08 hours, Moradabad at 22:38 hours, the second day Bareilly at 00.01 hours, Lucknow at 03.40 hours, Gonda at 06.00 hours and reach Balrampur at 07.45 hours. During the return journey the 04200 Balrampur-Gwalior superfast weekly special train will leave Balrampur at 11.55 hours,

Gonda at 13.05 hours, Lucknow at 16.10 hours, Bareilly at 19.50 hours, Moradabad at 21.45 hours, the second day Ghaziabad at 00.03 hours, Nizamuddin at 01.00 hours, Faridabad at 01.22 hours, Mathura at 02.28 hours, Agra Cantt at 03.10 hours, Morena at 04.19 hours and reach Gwalior at 05.10 hours. A total of 17 coaches will be attached in the train, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, five of general second class, seven of sleeper class, two of air-conditioned third class and one of air-conditioned second class.

DM's directive to polling personnel

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM SK Patel directed the polling personnel to ensure that the MLC elections scheduled to be held on December 1 were conducted in a fair and transparent manner. During the inspection of ongoing training of polling personnel at GIC on Monday the DM was apprised by DIOS Devaki Singh that 54 polling parties were there and all were present in the training. He said that the polling personnel had been directed to move to their polling stations on November 30, inspect the polling station first then ensure availability of the required polling stationery and if case of any shortcoming in the arrangements they should inform the sector magistrate. The DM told the polling personnel that no any laxity will be tolerated. He

interacted with officers involved in the training, including CDO Avinash Singh, DIOS Devaki Singh, DPRO Arvind Kumar and became aware with the arrangements.

POLICE FLAG DAY: SP Ajay Kumar Singh said that police flag was a symbol of



the occasion of Police Flag Day at Police Lines on Monday. He said that it was the matter of honour for UP police that the first PM had handed over the flag first to our state. He said that by hoisting the flag we get new energy. He further said following the path of our heroes was our

responsibility.

HELD: A minor girl who had tried to immolate herself under Lalganj police station on Sunday died during treatment in a hospital on Monday. One person had lodged an FIR at Lalganj police station in which he had stated that his granddaughter (15) was studying in a college and while going to attend her coaching classes a youth used to tease her and hurled expletives at her. Fed up with it she set herself ablaze on Sunday night and died on Monday. Following a complaint the police lodged a case against the accused. Meanwhile Shivmangal (19), son of Horlal, a resident of Newadhia village under the Lalganj police station, was arrested by Lalganj police on Tuesday near a petrol pump located at Muskiria village who was a named accused in the case.

Blankets, folding cots given

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Several welfare schemes are run by the NER Women's Welfare Organisation (NER-WWO). On Monday its chairperson Meena Tripathi in the NERWWO-run Disney World School and Bal Shishu Sadan Asian Sahyog Sansthan, Jail Road, Gorakhpur, provided essential items for the use of needy children. As many as 12 needy students of NERWWO Disney World School, Gorakhpur, were given blankets and folding cots and Bal Shishu Sadan Asian Sahyog Sansthan, Jail Road, Gorakhpur, was provided 16 mattresses, 12 pillows with cover, 17 bedsheets, 12 folding cots, nine sheets and 14 blankets. Guardians of the children were present on the occasion. Its vice-president Vidhi Agarwal, executive secretary, Sunita Mishra, joint secretary Pooja Khare and other members of the organisation were present. It is noteworthy that



under the auspices of NERWWO for children from economically weak background along with schools and to strengthen their families financially Masala Ghar and flour-mills etc. are also operated.

RAIL MUSEUM: The railway administration has decided to open Rail Museum-cum-Heritage Plaza for the general public from November 24. For the time being it will be open for the public from 2 pm to 7 pm. In the rail museum along with cleanliness all necessary precautions will be taken in view of Covid-19. The temperature of the visitors will be taken at the entrance and

arrangement for sanitiser will also be there. Moreover, arrangement for handwash has been ensured everywhere in the rail museum. Keeping social distancing in mind marking has also been done on the line. It is absolutely necessary for the spectators to wear masks. In order to ensure compliance of all these rules, Covid inspectors have also been nominated by the railway administration, CPRO PK Singh said. For not wearing a mask and spitting around a penalty of ₹200 will be imposed. To control the crowd maximum 50 people will be given entry every hour. The entire railway museum and campus will be sanitised twice daily i.e. before its opening and after it is closed. In the toilet at rail museum premises all facilities like flush, hand wash, water tap etc have been made hand free and paddle operated. The weekly holiday will be on every Monday.

Centre invites farmers' bodies for talks on Dec 3

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Agriculture has invited representatives of 32 farmers' organisations for a second round of talks on December 3, at Vigyan Bhawan here. But the farmers' organisations are already gearing up for their "Delhi Chalo" march on November 26-27 against the agriculture laws even as the Central trade unions on Tuesday said that about 25 crore workers are expected to participate in the nationwide general strike on November 26.

Ahead of farmers' protest march towards Delhi, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced plans to seal borders with Punjab on November 26 and 27. It has issued a travel advisory, asking commuters to avoid certain national highways along the state border with Delhi and Punjab in view of 'Dilli Chalo' farmers' protest.

The meeting comes after farmer leaders laid a condition for another central ministerial meeting while calling off their 'rail roko' agitation in Punjab on Monday and lifted the nearly two-month-long blockade, allowing resumption of only goods trains. In a related development, a farmers' body blocked a rail track at the Jandiala railway station, 25 km from Amritsar, which forced the railways to divert several Amritsar-bound trains on Tuesday despite that they have agreed to lift blockade for 15 days two days ago.

A letter from Sudhanshu Pandey, secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, addressed to farmers' representatives stated that minister Narendra Tomar "would like to invite them for the next round of talks on



December 3 at Vigyan Bhawan, as it was agreed by both sides that discussions on various farmers' issues will continue". The first round of talks was held on November 13, but it remained inconclusive but both sides had agreed to continue negotiations in the future.

On the other hand, farmers across Punjab are getting ready for their protests "Delhi Chalo" on November 26. Enter any village and there's only one thing in the air, "Delhi Chalo". From illiterate elderly women to young graduates, all are putting in their all energy to mobilise maximum support for the protest in the national capital. Tractor-trailers fitted with speakers are playing Punjabi songs to ignite passion against the farm laws and collecting ration and other necessary items. Holding flags, youngsters roam villages to disseminate required information. Rural women are busy organising "jago" singing anti-Central Government songs during the daytime; at night, farmers are organising "marshal" marches.

To support farmers' cause, 10 central trade unions, employees' unions in insurance, banking, Railways and State and Central Government institutions will take part in the bandh, which will begin from November 25

midnight and end on November 26 midnight.

A statement has been issued by a joint forum comprising ten central trade unions -- Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (TUCC), Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), Labour Progressive Federation (LPF) and United Trade Union Congress (UTUC). Notably, cabs, auto-rickshaws, trucks, and other private transportations in Telangana will back the nation-wide bandh.

In a related development, despite their assurance to lift rail blockade for 15 days, a farmers' body on Tuesday blocked a rail track at the Jandiala railway station, 25 km from Amritsar, which forced the railways to divert several Amritsar-bound trains.

Food bowl Punjab is at the centre stage of a farmers' agitation against moves to open up agricultural markets in the country and bring sweeping reforms to the farm sector, which supports nearly half the population.

Cong flays RBI's proposal to allow corporate houses into banking sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday condemned the proposal of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Internal Working Group (IWG) recommending the entry of business houses into the banking sector, saying it has the "fingerprints of Modi Government written all over it". The party called upon all the people of India and all political parties and trade unions to join in resolutely opposing the retrograde idea of allowing corporates and business houses to enter the banking sector and set up banks.

Former Finance minister P Chidambaram said the proposal, along with some other recommendations by the IWG, is part of a deeper game plan to control the banking industry by the NDA Government at the Centre. If implemented, the proposal will "completely reverse the enormous gains made in the last 50 years of retrieving the banking sector from the clutches of business houses", Chidambaram noted.

"If business houses are allowed to own banks, they will, with a small equity investment, control very large amounts of the nation's financial resources. This must not happen and Congress will strive its utmost to ensure that this will not happen," Chidambaram said at a AICC Press conference.

Last week, an IWG set up by the RBI made various recommendations, including that a large corporate may be permitted to promote banks only after necessary amendments to the Banking Regulations Act. The proposal drew criticism from former Reserve Bank

Governor Raghuram Rajan and ex-Deputy Governor Viral Acharya, who said that all the experts consulted by the IWG except one "were of the opinion that large corporate/ industrial houses should not be allowed to promote a bank".

Chidambaram said both the Rajan and Acharya have given convincing reasons why the proposal will lead to concentration of economic and political power.

Just as the RBI was the cat's paw of the government in the saga of Demonetisation, the RBI is being used by the government to push through its dangerous agenda. This is another example of the Modi government pandering to the aggrandizement and acquisitive ambitions of the business houses of India. If the proposal goes through, it is no secret which politically connected business houses will get the first licences and increase their monopolistic power," Chidambaram said.

"We call upon all the people of India and all political parties and trade unions to join us in resolutely opposing the retrograde idea of allowing corporates and business houses to enter the banking sector and set up banks," he added in presence of AICC chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala.

Rajan and Acharya have raised concerns that if the industrial houses are allowed into the banking sector, they could get the financing easily with no questions asked as they would have an in-house bank. It would also lead to further concentration of power with certain business houses, they had warned.

Option to purchase vegetable oil enriched with Omega-3 fats at affordable rate soon

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Soon, you will have the option to purchase at an affordable rate vegetable oil enriched with Omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (n-3 PUFA), which have immense health benefits linked to heart and brain.

The top food regulator, Food Safety Standard Association of India (FSSAI), is in the process of issuing a notification wherein vegetable oil manufacturers will be allowed to blend the oil produced by them with Chia seed and flaxseed/linseed oil, the richest plant source of alpha linolenic acid, one of the most important Omega-3 fatty acids, which are essential fats having ability to curb non-communicable diseases which are on increase in India as well as in the world.

The blending will be

allowed up to 5 per cent, said sources in the FSSAI. When contacted, FSSAI CEO, Arun Singhal said that a notification will be issued in this regard soon. He said that the move aimed to ensure availability of healthy oil at the affordable prices.

Last year, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through intense research had worked on improvement of the quality of the linseed oil to make it fit for human consumption in both pure as well as blended form.

Linseed oil was otherwise more suitable for industrial application and not as a cooking oil because of high content of alpha-linolenic acid.

However, ICAR found a solution to improve the quality and shelf life of linseed oil by lowering its linolenic acid content, thus making it suitable for cooking.

"The ICAR tested genotype variety of seed (TL99), which has less than 5 per cent linolenic acid, during last year. It also got good results from the experiment of blending linseed oil with other edible oils to enhance shelf life of the oil," the research body said in its latest report.

It found that "cold pressed linseed oil" can be used in preparation of several food items like banana chips, papad, pakoda, puri and bhaji," it said.

ICAR also found that products prepared from 'blended oil' were acceptable in terms of taste, quality and shelf life. "Hence, linseed oil is now almost ready to join the group of edible oil in both pure as well as blended form," it added.

The FSSAI notification will allow bottled vegetable oils to be blended with omega-3 fatty acids and unsaturated fats rich linseed and Chia oil.

Missing girl case: CBI arrests one

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday arrested an accused, Arum Pal, in an on-going investigation into a case relating to a missing girl who has also been found now.

The CBI had registered a case on January 1 against an accused and others in compliance of the orders of High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior Bench and taken over the investigation.

It was alleged that the complainant (father of the missing girl) had informed that his minor daughter was taken away on motor cycle by the said accused and another person,



both residents of village Dhuta, of Jalaun (Uttar Pradesh) and when he chased the motor cycle, he was threatened, the CBI said in a statement.

The local police had arrested a friend of accused, whose bike was allegedly used in the incident. After thorough investigation including search of bank accounts in several banks,

the accused was traced at Rajpura in Punjab, the CBI said.

The linked mobile number with the said bank account was allegedly in third person's name, it said.

The arrested accused will be produced before the Competent Court for transit remand on Wednesday.

Russian Sputnik V vaccine 95% effective, cheaper



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Russia developed Sputnik V covid-19 vaccine against Covid-19 is 95 per cent effective and will be charged less than rival vaccines as Moscow aims to produce more than 1 billion doses at home and abroad next year, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev said on Tuesday.

The news augurs well for India as pharma giant Dr

Reddy's Laboratories is conducting clinical trials of the Sputnik V vaccine as well as its distribution.

"Cost of Russia's two-shot Sputnik V vaccine will be less than USD20 per person for international markets with each shot costing less than USD10," Dmitriev said at a virtual conference from Moscow.

The Sputnik V vaccine has been developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and

Govt asks States/UTs to be ready for tackling vaccination-related issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the vaccine against Covid-19 is in the trial stages, the Union Health Ministry has asked all the States /UTs to be ready with vaccination-related Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) surveillance plan as a safety measure.

"The preparations are underway for conducting Covid-19 vaccinations in the

States and districts, starting with certain priority groups. In connection with this, steps need to be taken to strengthen AEFI surveillance following Covid-19 vaccinations to maintain confidence in the safety of vaccines" said an official in a letter to all the States/UTs.

Among key initiatives to strengthen AEFI surveillance system for Covid-19 vaccination include roping in medical

specialists such as neurologists cardiologists, respiratory medicine specialists in addition to paediatricians in the state and district AEFI committees.

The Ministry feel that since, the vaccinations will be given to adults, many of whom may have comorbidities, events due to pre-existing comorbidities (stroke, heart attacks etc) may be reported as AEFIs.

temperatures ranging from 2-8 degrees Celsius which is a very important factor in facilitating easy distribution.

"The efficacy of the vaccine is over 95 percent which is great news not only for

Rusia but (also) for the world," Dmitriev said adding that talks are on with regulators in countries where clinical trials are being done. He said the trials are being done on 42,000 volunteers in Russia and other

countries.

Dmitriev said the clinical trial data will be also published in international journals and peer-reviewed by the international community.

"We have achieved the industrial production of the dry form of the vaccine that will allow us to distribute it and use it at temperatures of plus 2 to plus 8 degrees Celsius.

Amid a global race to come out with an effective vaccine to check the pandemic that had ravaged the world, Pfizer Inc and its German partner BioNTech too had announced that their vaccine appears 95 percent effective at preventing mild to severe COVID-19 disease in a large, ongoing study.

US-based biotechnology giant Moderna also announced that its COVID-19 vaccine has shown to be 94.5 percent effective in preventing the deadly disease.

SC trashes sacked BSF jawan's plea against rejection of nomination papers to contest polls against PM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected the plea of sacked BSF jawan Tej Bahadur against the rejection of his nomination papers to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Varanasi constituency.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, which had reserved its verdict in the case on November 18, upheld the Allahabad High Court judgment dismissing Tej Bahadur's election petition against the poll panel's decision to reject his nomination papers.

On May 1 last year, the returning officer had rejected



the nomination papers of Tej Bahadur, a Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate, who was dismissed from the Border Security Force (BSF) in 2017 after he posted a video online

complaining about the quality of food served to the troops.

The high court had upheld the returning officer's decision to reject his nomination.

India seeks 'ahead of the curve' approach in ties with West Asia, Gulf: MEA official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the West Asia and Gulf region, India seeks to supplement its strong traditional ties with an "ahead of the curve" approach, which embraces technology and national priorities in a future-

oriented action plan, a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs said on Monday.

In his remarks at the 13th India-Israel Forum, MEA Secretary (CPV&OIA) Sanjay Bhattacharyya said the West Asia and Gulf region has seen

its fair share of conflict.

"Despite progress and development across the region, economic growth eluded many and religious radicalisation and extremism played a role in the spread of violence and terrorism," he said.

SC seeks Centre's response on PIL for fixing max rate for RT-PCR test for Covid-19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday sought the Centre's response on a PIL seeking direction for fixing the maximum rate for the RT-PCR test for Covid-19 uniformly all over India.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian issued notice to the Health Ministry and listed the PIL filed by lawyer Ajay Agrawal for hearing after two weeks.

The bench, in a hearing conducted via video conferencing, said that the plea would be heard with another pending plea pertaining to the cost of treatment for COVID-19.

It took note of the submission of Agrawal that the plea needed an urgent hearing.

The petition has sought a direction to the governments to fix the maximum rate for the RT-PCR (real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) test to ₹400 uniformly across the country, instead of

₹900 to ₹2,800 as fixed by different state governments, Union Territories and NCT of Delhi.

"There is a big loot by laboratories and they are minting money to the tune of crores and crores of rupees. The margin of profit is so high as it is as high as 1,400 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and 1,200 per cent in Delhi," said the petition filed by advocate Ajay Agrawal.

It claimed that the RT-PCR kits are presently available for less than rupees 200 in the Indian market.

"There is no other cost as the machines used for the RT-PCR test are already there with the laboratories as they conduct a large number of tests.

"And the matter is concerned with 135 crore citizen of the country as everybody worried about the coronavirus and forced to get their test done at this exorbitant price," it said.

It alleged that the owners of the private laboratories and hospitals are using the calamity into opportunities for minting crores and crores of rupees.

No coercive action will be taken against slum dwellers along railway tracks in Delhi: Govt to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre Tuesday told the Supreme Court that deliberations on the issue related to removal of around 48,000 slum dwellings along the railway tracks in Delhi were going on and no coercive action would be taken against them.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that he had made a statement before the apex court on September 14 that authorities are going to take a decision on the issue and till then no coercive action would be taken against these slum dwellers.

"The deliberations are going on. We are not taking any coercive steps," Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The bench, while taking note of Mehta's submission, said it would hear the matter after four weeks."Solicitor General states that govern-

ment is deliberating on the issue. Stand over for four weeks," the bench said.

The top court on August 31 had directed the removal of around 48,000 slum dwellings along the railway tracks in Delhi within three months and said there shall not be any kind of political interference in execution of the plan.

On September 14, Mehta had told the top court that Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Delhi Government are going to take a decision on the issue and till then they will not take any coercive action against the slum dwellers residing along the around 140 km railway tracks in the national capital.

The apex court is hearing the applications, including the one filed by senior Congress leader Ajay Maken who has sought rehabilitation of these slum dwellers prior to their removal.

'Sahakar Pragya' an innovative step towards AtmaNirbhar Bharat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to help primary cooperative societies play bigger roles in AtmaNirbhar Bharat call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Agriculture Ministry on Tuesday launched Sahakar Pragya, an innovative capacity building initiative for the farmers associated with such entities in the country.

Unveiling the programme here online, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that farmers in primary cooperatives in rural areas of the country would be trained under Sahakar Pragya by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), an autonomous body under the Ministry.

This is in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision to make farmers in primary cooperatives in rural areas atma nirbhar (self-reliant) in the post-Covid economic reconstruction, he added.

Sundeep K Nayak, Managing Director of NCDC explained that Sahakar Pragya will be implemented through an elaborate network of 18 Regional Training Centres across the

country. These Centres are run by the Haryana-based Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC) under the NCDC.

Under Sahakar Pragya, forty five training modules for transferring knowledge, skills and organisational capacities have been prepared, said Nayak, pointing out that LINAC has chalked out a plan to train about 5,000 farmers in cooperative societies in a year.

"The 45 dedicated training modules would equip the cooperative societies to run their affairs in professional business terms of market economy," Nayak said, asserting that Cooperatives have a major role in the AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative.

Currently, India has a network of over 8.50 lakh cooperative societies with about 290 million members. Ninety-four per cent of the farmers in the country are members of at least one cooperative society. Cooperatives lend strength to farmers to minimise risks in agriculture and allied sectors and act as shield against exploitation by unscrupulous traders, said the official.

Freedom of choice

Allahabad HC dismisses case alleging love jihad, upholds the right to personal liberty of mature adults but UP pushes ordinance



Unfortunately, it is left to the courts these days to defend personal liberties of citizens. For politics brazenly tramples them. And given the implications of proposed legislations by certain State Governments to criminalise inter-faith marriages, ostensibly to stop conversions in the guise of love, the Allahabad High Court did some tough talking. Denouncing a previous single-judge bench decision that declared religious conversions only for the sake of marriage as unacceptable, it said such a ruling was “bad in law” because it overrides the right to life and personal liberty of mature adults. Defending the right of a Hindu

girl to marry a Muslim man, who converted to Islam voluntarily and whose parents filed the case, the Bench made it clear that two mature individuals were entitled to a freedom of choice under Article 21 of the Constitution. No doubt the court foresaw what attributing ulterior motives to every inter-faith relationship and subjecting each to societal perception could do. For example, even if the partners were to choose conversions on their own, could their disagreeing and vindictive families stop them with a new love jihad law? The court even warned how such obstructive norms on inter-religious marriages could affect “unity in diversity.” And then came its most scathing observation that targetted the Islamophobia implicit in all such proposed legislations: “We fail to understand that if the law permits two persons even of the same sex to live together peacefully, then neither any individual nor a family, nor even the State can have an objection to the relationship of two major individuals who out of their own free will are living together.” And by consistently highlighting that adults were entitled to live free without being monitored by societal malice, the court sought to douse the fire around the growing love jihad campaign. Of course, the ruling did not deter the Yogi Adityanath Government from issuing a punishing ordinance the same day to check forced conversions and marriages based on them.

The worst affected will be women, who continue to fight against and are killed by the devil called family or community honour, the terms of which are framed for the convenience of a patriarchal society. If as an adult, she loses the right to choose her kind of life, nothing could be more disempowering. And laws on love jihad anyway are built on the assumption of young women being impressionable than decisive. For example, both the UP ordinance and the Madhya Pradesh Government’s Dharma Swatantra Bill 2020 make coercing an individual into marriage a punishable offence, non-bailable in nature, deserving of a five-year rigorous punishment. Question is how would you prove coercion if the girl in question is already hostage to her dissenting family and cowering in fear? How would she give her independent opinion? This is why the Supreme Court in the Kerala love jihad case separated the 24-year-old girl from both her family and husband before respecting her choice. The Kerala High Court had handed over Hadiya’s guardianship to her parents, who locked her down for 11 months and discontinued her studies at a college in Salem, fearing her husband Shafin was indoctrinating her. The apex court appropriately prioritised individual freedom of an adult while separating the particularities of whether all of her choices were born of her freewill or were they imposed, given her supposed “conversion”, or indeed if she had the ecosystem to decide for herself, free of pressure and insinuation. That’s why it freed Hadiya from her parents, even kept her away from her husband. And in the end found that her relationship was genuine. It proved that the rights of two adult people to be together cannot be infringed upon on the ground of societal taboos, an alleged threat perception or external bogeyism. But even if the court respects the couple’s choice, where is the security guarantee? For example, the UP ordinance says that in case someone wishes to convert after marriage voluntarily, s/he will have to apply to the district magistrate two months in advance. In MP that sanction has to be taken from a collector. In a society that is yet to come out of the revenge code of honour killings, would not a public declaration of love and conversion invite a hitback? We just saw the backlash following an advertisement campaign by a jewellery brand of an inter-faith marriage, where none of the partners were shown as changing their religion. If that had to be taken down, imagine what could happen to two people making independent choices. It is not that there aren’t laws against forced conversions. Section 366 of the Indian Penal Code criminalises any act of kidnapping, abducting or inducing a woman to marry by force and punishes such an act with imprisonment for up to ten years. Besides, according to the Government’s own admission in Parliament, the term “love jihad” had not been defined under any law and no case had been reported or registered by any Central agency. Where then is the need for a law in the first place? Also, doesn’t a love jihad law go against the grain of the BJP’s pet agenda of the Uniform Civil Code, which would bring all inter-faith marriages under a common set of rules? Of course, nobody wants to see reason when the politics of polarisation has completely taken over the collective mindspace. Even now, inter-faith marriages are few and far between. According to the India Human Development Survey, only about five per cent of all marriages are inter-caste and inter-faith relations are even fewer. A 2016 survey by Social Attitudes Research for India (SARI) found that the majority of respondents opposed inter-caste and inter-religious marriages. In Delhi, about 60 per cent of both Hindus and Muslims were against them. Then there are legal challenges for ordinary couples trying to get a marriage registered under the Special Marriage Act, with courts insisting on all sorts of conditions. Love is never under discussion.

Bad idea

The Reserve Bank of India would do well to prevent corporates from entering the banking sphere



While Raghuram Rajan often sounds like he is yet to come to terms with his effective removal from the Governorship of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), he and his successor Viral Acharya do have a point when they panned the idea mooted by the central bank to allow the corporate sector to enter banking. In a piece, they argued that this would be devastating and would lead to “connected banking” and it isn’t hard to see their point of view. We have seen what happens with “connected banking” and the dramatic collapse of Yes Bank and the more recent rescue of Laxmi Vilas Bank by the RBI are cases in point. As Rajan and

Acharya asked, “How can a bank make good loans when it is owned by the borrower?”

The central bank would be stupid to ignore the advice of its own former honchos as well as India’s top legal eagles that were consulted on this. India has had far too many banking disasters in the recent past for another one to be made through bad policy making. Even if the RBI promises to continue through regulatory oversight, the scandals involving Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi highlight that promoters can bend the rules and cover their tracks (for a while at least) if they want to. Even if corporate-owned banks are prevented from giving loans to non-financial entities of the corporate, what will stop them from giving loans to relatives of bureaucrats and politicians in order to curry favour? Even in the best-run banks, allegations of underhand dealings and impropriety exist as we are learning in the case of ICICI Bank and its disgraced former chief executive against whom there are damning allegations. Instead, it would be more prudent for the RBI and the Ministry of Finance to explore possibilities of privatising India’s burdensome public-sector banks. Are the rule changes being made to assist one or two particular corporate groups in India and make them even stronger? Until the RBI and the government cannot answer this one question, one will assume it to be true. Ergo, this bad idea should be dispensed with forthwith. As for private lenders failing, just remember the lasting impact of the IL&FS fiasco.



BHOPINDER SINGH

The lacklustre township of Nagrota, just outside the unplanned concrete of Jammu city, was once best-known for housing the largest military corps in the world, White Knights Corps or the XVI Corps, as also for rehabilitating fleeing Kashmiri Pandit migrants from the Valley. The small garrison town snakes around the lifeline of the Jammu-Kashmir highway, which connects the Jammu plains to the Kashmir valley, bisected by the Pir Panjal ranges and the minor Trikuta mountains, which harbour the Vaishno Devi shrine in one of their heights, along with the Nagrota dwelling, in the foothills. Another 54 km down the same road is the Indian Army’s Northern Command headquarters at Udhampur.

The conspicuous presence of the Indian military in this township, barely 40 km from the nearest Pakistan border, as also its service mandate of overseeing operations along the “live”, strategic and frequently contested Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan, has drawn unwarranted attention of those who seek to create terror and violence, as per the direction of their handlers across the LoC. Four years ago, terror had struck Nagrota as heavily-armed terrorists had sneaked across the border and fired indiscriminately at the sentries guarding the resident 116 Medium Regiment. A hostage-like drama had ensued and by the time the situation was neutralised, seven Indian soldiers and three terrorists were killed. All indications at the Nagrota site had pointed to the role of the terror organisation, Jaish-e-Mohammed, as notes recovered from the slain terrorists pointed to the involvement of the so-called “Afzal Guru Squad.” The said group had earlier carried out similar terror attacks at Pathankot, Baramulla, Uri and so on. Last year this group was responsible for a deadly strike, involving at least 350 kg of explosives at Pulwama, which had killed 40 Indian security personnel – this provocation had led to the reciprocal Balakote airstrike by the Indian Air Force. Last week, Jaish-e-Mohammed resurfaced again when four of its terrorists were killed in a fierce encounter on the Jammu-Srinagar highway, at Nagrota again.

What is significant is the irrefutable Pakistan hand in the lat-



est encounter, as the Bhawalpur-based jihadist group, Jaish-e-Mohammed, owes its genesis and sustenance to the Pakistani establishment or the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

At an oversimplified level, there is also a turf war among the competing insurgent groups in the Kashmir Valley, where the once predominantly local “pro-independence” groups have been marginalised and it is only those with State support from across the LoC for being “pro-Pakistan” (or at an even more extremist level, the pan Islamic Caliphate-seeking groups), who have managed to hold sway. Jaish-e-Mohammed has the notoriety of having Masood Azhar as its ideologue and leader, who has been declared an international terrorist by the United Nations Security Council. He also infamously and incredulously got support from China, which vetoed moves to put him on the UNSC sanctions committee on “technical grounds” and even posited the flimsier excuse of “lack of evidence.” The realpolitik of Pakistan and China in supporting Jaish-e-Mohammed aside, which brooks no morality or consistency in international affairs (hence the perennial struggle for Pakistan in avoiding getting “blacklisted” by the international watchdog agency, FATF for sponsoring terror), the outfit is banned by UN and almost all Western and even Islamic countries like UAE. Owing to global pressure, Pakistan was forced into the sham of banning the same though the group kept renaming itself as Tehrik-ul-Furqan,

“**PAKISTAN SHOULD BE DISALLOWED THE WINDOW OF TRANSITION BETWEEN THE CHANGING US REGIMES TO FURTHER ITS NEFARIOUS DESIGNS, ESPECIALLY AS TRUMP HAD GIVEN IT THE LONG ROPE TO ENSURE US TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN**”

then Khuddam ul-Islam, then Al-Rehmat Trust and, so on and so forth. Amid all pressures, Masood Azhar remained loyal to the Pakistan “Deep State” and it paid him back by allowing a free run to his group’s operations and machinations in Kashmir. Temporary “protective custody” enforced on Azhar from time to time has impressed no one, and his ability to sustain his operational capabilities in Jammu & Kashmir points to the continued handiwork of the Pakistani establishment, solely and wholly.

The latest Nagrota incident reeks of the scale, sophistication and brazenness of Pakistani complicity. The sheer cache of arms from the terrorists (11 AK-47, three pistols, 29 grenades, six UBGLs, mobile devices and so on) and the subsequent unearthing of a 150-metre long tunnel in the nearby Samba area for the facilitation of the cross-border movement, is impossible without State support. The construction of this tunnel has all the hallmarks of engineering complexities (at least 25-30 metres deep and almost 2.5 metres wide) and facilitation, which could not have been arranged without the acquiescence and material support from the nearby Pakistani posts of Rajab Sahid and Asif Sahib. The presence of the protective *Sarkanada* (elephant grass) on the Pakistani side of the tunnel to hide the literal spade work is self-explanatory. To suggest ignorance or naivete in overlooking the efforts and time to construct such a sized tunnel and arrange for the disposal of the dug-out soil without its

discovery by the Pakistani patrol and posts, is unthinkable. Rightfully, an indignant New Delhi summoned the Pakistan charge d’affaires with incriminating evidence towards a “major attack to destabilise the peace and security.” This was expectedly denied by the Pakistani Foreign Office, as it has done for decades even though it has earned international ignominy as the “nursery” for global terror.

Importantly, India has dialled up the charges against Pakistan, with the Prime Minister himself tweeting about the incident. This escalation is timely as neighbouring Afghanistan is imploding with terror unleashed by the Pakistan-supported Taliban and the situation is expected to worsen. Pakistan should be disallowed the window of transition between the changing US administrations to further its nefarious designs, especially as Donald Trump has given it the long rope in order to fulfil his personal commitment of troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. Nailing Pakistan with “naming and shaming” is the key to ensure that the global pressure does not wane. Connecting the dots between Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Nagrota encounter is crucial to deny Islamabad the convenient postulation of Nagrota as a local expression of animus. Pakistan has been and continues to be the singular source of armed terror in Kashmir – Nagrota has proved this yet again.

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

SOUNDBITE

The BJP has been constantly targetting political opponents like this. Have you ever heard about any CBI or ED raids on people linked with the BJP?



Maharashtra Revenue Minister
—Balasaheb Thorat

My father’s wish was to see me play for India and make the nation proud. Now, all I want to do is fulfill my father’s dream.



Indian fast bowler
—Mohammed Siraj

I call myself a Manist. I believe men should be feminists and women should support men. Then automatically the world will become a better place!



Actor
—Bidita Bag

Every child deserves quality education and this includes the right to have access to safe and clean drinking water and toilet facilities in schools. I hope we can contribute to this.



Former India cricketer
—Suresh Raina

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be responsible

Sir — People must follow COVID-19 safeguards or else this pandemic will destroy many lives and the economy of the nation, too. Governments all over the country will have to get very strict with people endangering others by not following Coronavirus protocols. For instance, the Delhi Government is penalising those who are not wearing masks in public places even as a third COVID-19 wave spreads through the State. The Madhya Pradesh Government, too, has launched the “*Roko, Toko* (stop, and check)” campaign to admonish and penalise those people who refuse to wear masks in public places. Over ₹1.34 crore has been collected in Madhya Pradesh’s Jabalpur district alone due to the fines slapped on people violating COVID-19 protocols under this campaign.

Many other States, too, have been mulling imposing restrictions on citizens in order to break the COVID-19 infection chain. Till we don’t get the vaccine, people will have to mask up and observe social distancing and hygiene protocols. But the sad reality is that people are not tak-

Owaisi needs to join secular forces

Apparently Asaduddin Owaisi has gained in visibility, grown in stature and emerged as a political player who could influence electoral outcomes in his own way in constituencies with a certain percentage of Muslim voters. Certainly it was to the credit of his party, the All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), that it won five seats in the recently-held Bihar Assembly election. But then it cannot evade the question whether it didn’t help split the secular vote and facilitate the BJP-led combine’s return to power in some measure.

Of course, Owaisi has justifiable reasons to oppose the Congress, which hesitates to take a principled stand on secularism. The party’s soft Hindutva line is quite obvious and its Muslim appeasement has not gone beyond the votebank. It has not taken a clear stand on the discriminatory amendment to the citizenship law, abrogation of Article 370 and so on. The Sachar Committee report showed the destitution of the Muslims as a community and debunked the “Muslim appeasement” myth. Still it shouldn’t be difficult for Owaisi to make “tactical” preferences going by the track records of the Congress and the NDA. Politics in our diverse and disparate country is complex as evidenced by the differences between AIMIM and TRS in the run-up to the civic election and

ing this seriously and thus the infection is spreading like wildfire through parties, wedding functions, market places and public gatherings. This is highly irresponsible and selfish on their part as they are not only endangering their own lives but that of others, too. For this they



David Milton Maruthancode

requires a lot of skill to uphold principles and the country’s overall interest.

Owaisi has to concede that he has fewer reasons to adduce for not combining forces with parties like the RJD, the TMC and the DMK. By winning a few seats here and a few seats there, the AIMIM cannot substantially contribute to the fight against the Hindutva forces. By fielding candidates in constituencies where it will indirectly help the BJP, it will only earn the “BJP’s B-team” tag. AIMIM has no option but to join the secular forces or come clean on its political ambitions.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Satna

need to be penalised. All other States, who have not imposed such rules as yet, must learn from Delhi and Madhya Pradesh’s example and crack down on delinquents so that they can’t harm others.

We are to blame

Sir — The visuals of the national Capital covered in smog are a testament to the dangerous levels of pollution in North India. It is worrying that people are having to bear the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic and the

dangerously high levels of pollution, the latter adding to the number of deaths in the country each year.

Apart from the meteorological and geographical factors, we only have ourselves to blame for this sorry state of affairs. Burning of waste and bonfires, bursting of firecrackers despite restrictions, emissions from vehicles, construction dust, polluting industries, coal-fired power plants, biomass burning and cooking fires have quickly deteriorated the air quality to hazardous levels.

Research has proven that the Coronavirus and toxic air are closely connected and both affect the respiratory system.

Health experts confirm that there is a direct correlation between the rise in air pollution and more and more people becoming susceptible to COVID-19 and falling sick as the pollutants carry the virus and allow it to stay for a longer duration of time. We are in the end paying for our own mistakes and blatant violation of anti-pollution norms.

Ranjeet Singh
Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Time to board the algo-trading bus

AI's modus operandi involves mining the relevant stock data, performing the required and appropriate analysis and making a quick decision



GURAV GARG

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionising every aspect of our lives, right from chatbots on websites to applications in defence systems. It is also being comprehensively used in the field of analytics. Trading, i.e. buying and selling of shares, is no exception to it too and over the years, AI has gradually become an integral part of the trading environment. Financial markets are so dynamic that it is sometimes difficult to take proper decisions on particular stocks as there are many factors to consider and the decision to buy or sell must be taken on a split second basis. Emotions are the biggest enemy of the trader in the market but it becomes very difficult to control them. This is where AI plays a major role in helping traders. AI is a programme to which we provide algorithms. An algorithm is a set of instructions using which AI learns and understands its role and executes the required functions. The advent of Information Technology has disrupted many activities and now many advanced methods are available, which have made trading an easy process for the public at large with required tools at its disposal.

The use of AI in trading is generally known as algo-trading because the AI programme receives the algorithm, using which it helps investors trade. These empower AI with complex mathematical models and techniques to take proper decisions regarding the optimal quantity of stocks to buy and decide the price for execution. This removes emotions from the scene and effectively processes various factors at the same time in order to make an appropriate decision. Another important aspect which works in favour of algo-trading is that the reaction time is extremely fast as compared to humans and decisions can be made in a wink. With the advent of tools like neural networks, algo-trading has become refined and more efficient as it continuously learns from the environment. This Machine Learning (ML) is what makes algo-systems quite reliable.

Automation of trading activities is very beneficial as the strategies are scientific, and being rule-based, the approaches are very disciplined. Hence, AI has proved to be a very good monitor of the stock markets with a quick response to any anomaly or change. This is very useful when there are a number of asset classes or scrips and keeping an eye on them continuously is not possible for one person to do efficiently. As opposed to this, AI has the ability to process a humongous amount of historical stock data, analyse the market behaviour and capitalise on any particular pattern or expected movement, such as price action. This has also led to the elimination of a lag between the action in the market and a trader's reaction to it, basically making trading real-time. In many cases this has bestowed people using neural networks with an added advantage over their competitors and traders who are still using manual methods.

However, AI and ML need not be used for developing trading strategies alone and can be used for many other purposes like liquidity searching, creating model portfolios for the clients and so on. The traditional technical analysis, which is known to traders at large, sometimes fails to catch the statistical elements in the markets as this can only be identified after considerable examination. But AI can help overcome this problem as it can eliminate confirmation-bias. AI does not account for subjective valuation and, therefore, investments based on pure quantitative and scientific basis can be made and the so-called "luck-based" trading can be avoided. Comprehensive statistical tools and appropriate mathematical models help to identify the proper time and optimal level for entering the market. With a considerable study of historical data, appropriate indicators and predictors can raise the red flag ahead of other market participants. With the arrival of neural network tools, AI can be put to use for predictive trading, i.e. it can analyse news, information, blogs and so on and come up with a trading recommendation. Although AI is costly due to the huge amount of R&D as of now, it is only logical to assume that it will become cost-effective in the long-term. Since it is just a programme, it has no impediments like fatigue and thereby it keeps the integrity of vital financial decisions intact.

In a nutshell, the AI's *modus operandi* is mining the relevant stock data, performing the required and appropriate analysis and making a quick decision. Such an investment decision will be scientific, calculated, unbiased and free from emotions.

With the increased usage and development of technology, it will not be wrong to say that AI will play a dominant role in the financial markets in the near future. As with other emerging technologies, the immediate implementation of AI may not be round the corner but with gradual evolution and development, of both software and hardware, AI or algo-trading are on their way to becoming the future of trading. The faster traders get used to the fact, the better it is for them because the future is here.

(The writer is Head Research, CapitalVia Global Research Limited, Investment Advisor)

FIRST THE BJP TARGETTED SHARAD PAWAR AND THEN MANY OTHER OPP LEADERS IN RAJASTHAN AND OTHER STATES. THIS IS VENDETTA POLITICS.
—NCP MINISTER
CHHAGAN BHUJAL

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



PRATAP SARNAIK IS NO SAINT AND THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE ACTION IS BEING TAKEN AS PER THE LAW.
—BJP LEADER AND MP
NARAYAN RANE

Autonomy plus accountability

The liberty of the Vice-Chancellor of a university is not a shield against malpractices. In a democratic set-up, all individuals, no matter how high an office they hold, are accountable



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

Disciplinary action against over a dozen Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) of Central Universities (CUs) over the last few years has been a cause of consternation. However, the polarised politics of universities views this from diametrically opposite prisms. While a larger segment hails it as much-needed spring cleaning, some consider it a pernicious design to whittle down institutional autonomy and academic freedom. The overall spectacle is worrisome and needs to be seen in the correct perspective, albeit in a detached manner.

The office of the V-C is an exalted one, and the academia views him as a friend, philosopher, guide and the high priest of the temple of higher learning. The constituting Act and the statutes, Ordinances and regulations of every university vest the V-C with certain powers and autonomy so that s/he executes her/his office efficiently and faithfully. The autonomy of the V-C is not a shield against accountability. In a democratic set-up, all individuals, no matter how high an office they hold, are accountable. In fact, higher the station, greater is the public scrutiny.

The Constitution of India guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws. It is unsparingly unexceptional as the President of India, too, can be impeached by the Parliament for violation of the Constitution. All public functionaries and public bodies are ultimately accountable to the legislature through the Minister-in-Charge.

The Indian higher education system, which is the second-largest in the world, comprises 54 Central Universities, 411 State Universities, 123 deemed universities and 282 private universities. The V-C is the chief executive and the administrative head of the university. A great responsibility, therefore, lies with the V-Cs in terms of the implementation of the national higher education policy, institutional reforms, nurturing the spirit of enquiry and research, building an ecosystem of innovation and adoption of international best practices of good governance.

According to the University Grants Commission's (UGC's) handbook, "the V-C has to evolve as the leader of a symphony orchestra" with the attributes of developing teams and teamwork. S/he also has to build partnerships and collaborations delicately interwoven with collegiality, friendship and intellectual engagement. This goes hand in hand with devising a deliverable action strategy, ensuring accountability of the self and various governing bodies of the university and steering an institutional monitoring and evaluation mechanism on the university's performance, built on transparency. An ideal V-C is a great visionary, a true leader able to procure willing cooperation of the teachers, a constant source of inspiration to the students, an ace administrator who is able to maintain a conducive educational ecosystem, and is well-acquainted with the latest developments so as to bring global visibility to the university.

Plus, s/he must have the highest level of competence and her/his integrity must be beyond reproach. Like Caesar's wife, the V-C must be above suspicion. S/he must execute her/his office faithfully and diligently and ensure that the provisions of the constituting Act, statutes, ordinances and regulations are fully observed. S/he must make various appointments as per procedure, delegate powers for day-to-day work to the officers of the university and audit their performance and exercise all administrative, disciplinary and financial powers as defined in the statutes and ordinances.

In fact, the catalogue of duties of the V-C is vast and varied, which adds a certain aura of reverential



THE VENEER OF AUTONOMY CANNOT CONCEAL OR CAMOUFLAGE ACTS OF OMISSION AND COMMISSION. A ZERO-TOLERANCE APPROACH TOWARDS CORRUPTION DEMANDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT BE SWIFT AND SURGICAL TO WEED OUT CORRUPTION OR UNETHICAL PRACTICES. THE IMPORT OF THE OFT QUOTED STATEMENTS 'MINIMUM GOVERNMENT AND MAXIMUM GOVERNANCE' AND 'LIGHT BUT TIGHT REGULATIONS' IS LOUD AND CLEAR



mystique to the office. S/he represents the vibrant face of the university, engages in constructive stable policy dialogue with the Government, other universities, research funders and academia. It's for these reasons that the V-Cs are selected by the Visitor (the President in case of Central varsities and the Governor in case of State Universities) from the panel recommended by the search committee. This committee comprises three to five members who are persons of eminence in the sphere of higher education and the choice of the V-C is based on rigorous screening of the academic attainments and administrative experience of the people on the panel.

Interestingly, the V-Cs, who faced the axe, were appointees of the same Government. A critical scrutiny of the disciplinary proceedings initiated against the V-Cs broadly falls into four categories: Allegations of financial irregularity; allegations of dereliction of duty and defiance; wrongful appropriation of funds and academic fraud.

The Visitor does not initiate disciplinary proceedings against a V-C *suo motu*, but on the aid and advice of the Ministry of Education or the concerned administrative Ministry. This is because Central universities relating to maritime, agriculture, aviation, sports education, and so on, fall outside the domain of the Education Ministry. The trigger point for initiating disciplinary action is provided by the media, complaints by legislators, students and teachers and in some cases, the Chancellors themselves have demanded enquiries against the V-Cs. So, the Visitor is duty-bound to refer the complaints to the administrative Ministry for ascertaining facts and considered advice with respect to the corrective action required to be taken.

Some glaring examples of acts of omission and commission deserve mention. President Pranab Mukherjee

approved the sacking of the V-C of Visva Bharati university, Sushanta Duttagupta, for alleged irregularities in appointments and flagrant violation of financial rules. The V-C of Pondicherry University, Chandra Krishnamurthy, was removed for alleged academic fraud (that is claiming to have written three books though an enquiry allegedly revealed authorship of only one). The V-C of Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Arvind Agrawal, allegedly resigned when governments sought his comments on the allegations of fudging vital information in his C-V.

Similarly, amid a spate of questions in Parliament and public complaints about financial and academic irregularities, the V-C of Allahabad University, RL Hangloo, allegedly resigned before the Union Government could initiate punitive proceedings. The V-Cs of HN Bahuguna Garhwal University, JL Kaul, and Manipur University, AP Pandey, were sacked for alleged financial irregularities and long absence from duty. The V-C of Tripura University, V Dharurkar, resigned when a sting operation showed him receiving alleged bribe.

In cases where the V-Cs appropriated funds for purposes other than the approved budget heads, the enquiries were closed as there was no personal pecuniary gain or enrichment. The cases of Dinesh Singh, V-C, Delhi University and Talat Ahmad of Jamia Millia Islamia fall in this category, both of whom were known for their competence and integrity. The V-C of Jamia Hamdard, Seyed Ehtesham Hasnain, a deemed to be university (self-financed but partly funded by the UGC), has been suspended by the Chancellor following the decision of the UGC to set up a fact-finding committee to probe allegations.

The Centre has no say in the appointment or removal of the V-C of a deemed university. In a recent case, the Tamil Nadu

Government ordered an inquiry against Anna University V-C, MK Surappa, following complaints of alleged financial irregularities and malpractices in semester examinations and re-evaluation, even though the DMK has demanded his sacking.

The burning question is whether stringent disciplinary action against the V-Cs impinges upon the autonomy and academic freedom of the universities, which are emulated as role models and occupy a place of pride in the academia globally? Will these penal actions impact, dilute or undermine the autonomy and freedom of the institutions of higher learning? Autonomy and academic freedom are crucial to the well-being and smooth functioning of universities and key to attaining excellence in a globally-competitive environment.

The National Education Policy, 2020, lays great focus on the autonomy of institutions of higher learning, making every college in course of time an autonomous, degree-granting college and making India a global hub of education. It is, therefore, the right time to ponder and look to the future as autonomy is not a goal to be pursued in itself, but a fundamental prerequisite for universities to be able to develop strategic profiles, operate in a competitive environment, deliver on their very important societal duties in an ecosystem of transparency and accountability.

The veneer of autonomy cannot conceal or camouflage acts of omission and commission. A zero-tolerance approach towards corruption demands that the Government be swift and surgical to weed out corruption or unethical practices. The import of the oft quoted statements "minimum Government and maximum governance" and "light but tight regulations" is loud and clear.

(The writer is former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha and an author)

India needs to bite the bullet to fight climate change

When 51 per cent of pollution is caused by industries, we cannot harp on the progress we made by reducing cooking smoke and transitioning to a better bulb



KOTA SRIRAJ

The recently-concluded G20 summit was the 15th meeting of the grouping. It was expected to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia but due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it was conducted virtually. On this year's agenda was the socio-economic and environmental impact of tourism and how both, tourists as well as local communities, stand to benefit from tourism as a bridge between different societies.

However, the spotlight was on a side event, titled "Safeguarding the Planet: The Circular Carbon Economy Approach", that was

addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event garnered appropriate attention as the environment is increasingly being seen to be on the back foot, especially as battered economies open up after a pandemic-induced lockdown.

Addressing the meeting, Modi assured the grouping that India, as a signatory to the Paris Agreement, was effectively meeting its targets on climate change. One of the ways it was doing so was by popularising LED lights that have become instrumental in saving 38 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. Similarly, the Ujjwala Scheme provides clean cooking energy to 80 million households across the country, making it one of the largest green energy drives. Modi highlighted India's plans to achieve its 175 GW clean energy target by 2022 and its ambition to be in a position to achieve 450 GW of clean energy by 2030. Though these are commendable efforts towards negating the

adverse effects of climate change, the question we need to ask ourselves is, are they enough?

Recently, the Prime Minister of the UK, Boris Johnson, unveiled a "10-point plan" to tackle global warming. The most notable point was the plan to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030 onwards. In fact, plug-in hybrid vehicles, too, will face the axe after 2035. This unprecedented step towards cleaner transportation has captured the world's imagination, thanks to the scale of the proposed initiatives to address the problem of climate change.

While curbing air pollution, the step would ensure unprecedented demand for electric vehicles (EVs), too. The EV segment in the UK has already been stimulated by the allocation of 1.3 billion pounds to bolster the charging infrastructure throughout the nation. This is further complemented by a funding of 582 million pounds to aid in EV manufacturing and an additional

500 million pounds funding to help the auto industry conduct research and development on EV batteries.

This policy of the UK to put the "environment first" in the post-pandemic economic scenario is silencing critics, who regularly hauled up the lacklustre environmental commitments of Great Britain. With this one proposed step of deleting fossil fuel guzzlers from its roads, Britain would make a huge difference in its carbon emission numbers and alternatively put its EV usage, which is currently stuck at 10 per cent, on a fast track.

To its credit, the UK has shown that in order to make an impact, the fight needs to be taken to where it matters. In this case, other secondary sources of pollution have been bypassed and vehicular pollution has been met head-on.

There is a lesson for India here. Incremental successes in the fight against climate change and pollution are akin to winning smaller battles while losing the larger war to pro-

tect the environment. India, too, needs to come out and identify the largest polluters boldly without the concerns of a backlash.

In a nation where 51 per cent of air pollution is caused by industries, our claim to fame cannot be the progress we made in reducing the smoke from the cooking stoves of our villages or transitioning to a better bulb. The Government has to have the political will to come out with stringent measures to curb industrial pollution.

If anybody can achieve this, it is the Modi Government because it has the mandate of the people and is not dependent on any coalition partners to hammer through difficult decisions if it wants. And its increasing clout in both Houses of Parliament will also make it easier for it to make the changes on the ground if it wants to win the war against pollution and negate the effects of global warming.

The Centre has to be cognisant of the fact that 21 out of the 30 most polluted cities of the world are in

India and millions of people daily breathe in air that is 10 times more polluted than the norms specified by the World Health Organisation. This daily trial by pollution takes a toll on the health of citizens, with nearly two million Indians dying a premature death every year due to pollution-related complications. The reach or the lack of it of the Government's authority and efficacy of its rules can be gauged by the fact that crop residue burning continues defiantly in Delhi-NCR in spite of the best efforts of the Delhi Government, the Centre and the judiciary.

One of the major reasons for Western nations succeeding in matters pertaining to common good is their higher levels of awareness regarding societal and common good. In India it is more like "each man to himself." This attitude puts common assets such as environmental concerns firmly in the back seat. The Government, under pressure to show progress on pressing environ-

mental issues, clutches at nominal achievements and leaves bigger problems for another day. India must fight the bigger battles first. Industrial pollution is one of them and in the post-pandemic era, where every nation is re-scripting its economic journey based on a "green industrial revolution", India must not be left behind.

In order to make a successful transition from polluting industrial infrastructure to a green one, India will have to take bold measures such as cutting down on coal consumption for generating power, rapidly increasing the infrastructure to include clean energy in our daily lives such as EV technologies and, of course, ensuring that polluting industries are shown the door.

Green industrial revolution can usher in the next phase of economic growth for India. The more we delay clean industries, the more we deny ourselves this growth.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

ABNORMALLY LOW BIDS

Govt no to additional performance security

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has decided not to seek additional performance security on abnormally low bids received on government contracts to provide relief to contractors already facing liquidity issues in the wake of the ongoing pandemic.

The finance ministry has asked all government ministries and departments not to ask for additional security deposit or bank guarantees in

cases of low bids unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

Even in such cases, performance guarantee deposit should be taken only after approval from higher authority and properly assigning reasons, the ministry said in a recent circular on the issue.

Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 3.0 announced earlier this month the government has relaxed regulations on earnest money deposit (EMD) and perfor-

mance security on government tenders and reduced performance security on contracts to 3 per cent from a level 5-10 per cent now to boost construction and infrastructure development.

The relaxation from higher performance security on lower bids now will help contractors facing acute financial crunch on account of slowdown in economy due to the pandemic and prevent delays in execution of projects.

The industry had earlier

represented that higher guarantee being sought on low bids may affect the ability of contractors to bid in tenders and hence reduce competition.

The finance ministry has noted that there is no provision of higher security deposit/ bank guarantee in general financial rule for procurement by government departments. So, it had said that no provision should be made unless approved by higher authorities.

The ministry has said that

its instruction will be applicable for all kinds of procurements viz. Goods, Consultancy, Works, non-consulting Services etc.As per the Manual for Procurement of Goods 2017 issued by the expenditure Department, an Abnormally Low Bid is one in which the bid price, in combination with other elements of the Bid, appears so low that it raises material concerns as for the capability of the bidder to perform the contract at the offered price.Procuring Entity

in such cases seek written clarifications from the bidder, including detailed price analyses of its bid price in relation to scope, schedule, allocation of risks and responsibilities, and any other requirements of the bids document. If, after evaluating the price analyses, Procuring Entity determines that the bidder has substantially failed to demonstrate its capability to deliver the contract at the offered price, the Procuring Entity may reject the bid/ proposal.

DoT accepts proposal on ‘0’ prefix for all calls from landlines to mobile phones

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Callers will soon be required to add ‘0’ prefix for making calls from landlines to mobile phones in the country, with the telecom department asking telcos to make necessary arrangements by January 1 to implement the new system.

The department has accepted sectoral regulator Trai’s recommendation for having the ‘0’ prefix for such calls, a move that will create sufficient numbering space for telecom services.

The Department of Telecom (DoT) in a circular on ‘modification of dialling pattern from fixed line numbers to cellular mobile numbers’ said in order to ensure adequate numbering resources for fixed line and mobile services, Trai’s recommendations dated May 29, 2020 have been accepted by the Department.

“Following may be implemented...Fixed-to-mobile calls shall be dialled with prefix ‘0’. Suitable announcement may be fed in the fixed line switches to apprise the fixed line subscribers about the requirement of dialling the prefix ‘0’ for all fixed-to-mobile calls,” DoT said in a circular dated November 20.

This announcement

The department has accepted Trai’s recommendation for having the ‘0’ prefix for such calls, a move that will create sufficient numbering space for telecom services.

should be placed whenever a subscriber dials a fixed-to-mobile call without prefixing ‘0’, it said.

“All the fixed line subscribers should be provided with ‘0’ dialling facility, that is, STD dialling facility,” said the circular posted on DoT’s website.

DoT said that time till January 1 is allowed to all the telecom service providers to implement this new system.

“Compliance of the same may be intimated,” DoT said. It is pertinent to mention here that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) in May this year had recommended dialling prefix ‘0’ for a call from fixed line number to mobile number.

The regulator had, however, stated that the introduction of a dialling prefix for a particular type of call is not akin to increasing the number of digits in the telephone number.

Govt clears 7 projects to create infra for agro-processing clusters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday approved seven projects to create infrastructure for agro-processing clusters with an estimated cost of ₹235 crore.

Food Processing Industries Minister Narendra Singh Tomar chaired

the Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) meeting through video conference to consider the proposals received under the Scheme for Creation of

Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Cluster (APC) of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).

The promoters of projects also participated through video conference. “IMAC approved 7 proposals with total project cost of ₹234.68 crores including grants-in-aid of ₹60.87 crores in the states/UTs of Meghalaya, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra. “These projects will leverage private investment of ₹173.81 crores and are

expected to generate employment for 7,750 persons,” an official statement said. The scheme for creation of infrastructure for Agro-Processing Cluster (APC) has been approved on May 3, 2017, under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana to incentivize setting up of agro processing clusters in the country. This scheme aims at development of modern infrastructure to encourage entrepreneurs to set up food processing units based on cluster approach.

Benchmarks rally to record highs; Nifty closes above 13k for first time

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian equity indices conquered new peaks on Tuesday, with the Nifty closing above the 13,000-level for the first time, as banking, FMCG and auto stocks saw heavy buying amid optimism over Covid-19 vaccine progress and unabated foreign capital inflows.

A strengthening rupee further boosted investor confidence, traders said. After scaling a lifetime intra-day high of 44,601.63, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 445.87 points or 1.01 per cent higher at a record 44,523.02.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 128.70 points or 1 per cent to close at 13,055.15.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the

Sensex pack, spurring 4.02 per cent, followed by M&M, HDFC Bank, ITC, SBI, ICICI Bank, Maruti, Kotak Bank and Sun Pharma.

On the other hand, HDFC, Titan, Nestle India, Bharti Airtel, ONGC and Infosys were among the main laggards, shedding up to 1.47 per cent.

Global markets maintained their upward trajectory as investors wagered on swift rollout of COVID-19 vaccines following encouraging trials data from at least three companies.

“Market is inching higher with more confidence that COVID-19 vaccine will be available in India soon. It can provide an advantage to India compared to the rest of the world.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	13,002.60	13,079.10	12,978.00	13,055.15	128.7	
ADANI PORTS	378	402	376	391.9	16.75	
AXIS BANK	603	622.6	600.55	619	23.4	
HDFC BANK	1,408.00	1,445.00	1,402.05	1,444.00	49.4	
HINDENRGT	2,596.00	2,715.00	2,590.10	2,688.80	91.45	
EICHLMALCO	220	227.25	218.6	225.55	7.5	
M&M	710	745.5	706.25	727	21.55	
ITC	190.6	196.45	190.6	196.55	4.8	
SBI	240.5	245	239.5	244.4	5.7	
ICICIBANK	474	480	471.2	479	10.75	
DREDDY	4,850.00	4,940.00	4,785.80	4,934.10	105.35	
MARUTI	7,050.00	7,209.00	7,050.00	7,139.50	151.75	
KOTAK BANK	1,896.00	1,948.40	1,890.85	1,927.95	30.1	
TECHM	870	890	864.3	879	13.25	
SUNPHARMA	513.5	522.75	508.2	519.8	6.95	
HINDUNILVR	2,132.00	2,161.00	2,122.40	2,157.90	28.5	
BAJAJ FINSV	8,819.90	8,908.00	8,695.10	8,869.00	94.65	
RELIANCE	1,964.00	1,974.00	1,932.00	1,971.05	20.35	
LT	1,135.00	1,144.00	1,128.30	1,137.00	11.15	
TATASTEEL	547.95	550.45	541.4	548.25	5.15	
JSWSTEEL	338.9	342.25	334.1	340.95	3.2	
SBI LIFE	831.95	840	831.95	839.1	7.5	
ASIANPAINT	2,192.90	2,231.00	2,191.00	2,205.00	18.75	
TATAMOTORS	171.85	175.5	171.1	172	1.3	
NTPC	94.25	94.8	93.75	94.35	0.7	
INDUSINDBK	852	860.95	836.3	855.5	5.75	
HDFCLIFE	665.5	664.6	651.4	665.75	4.45	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,077.00	3,122.00	3,053.00	3,094.90	17.15	
HEROMOTOCO	3,056.00	3,109.65	3,041.65	3,075.30	15.75	
CIPILA	748.3	752	741.6	749.2	2.9	
BRITANNIA	3,575.00	3,593.00	3,531.70	3,570.80	13.4	
COALINDIA	123.75	124.6	122.8	123.15	0.4	
UPL	428	431.5	426.45	427.5	1.05	
HCLTECH	843.9	857.4	835.35	841	1.8	
POWERGRID	195	197.7	193.25	195.1	0.35	
GRASIM	857	863.75	850	856	1.4	
TCS	2,734.40	2,743.00	2,705.00	2,726.00	1.75	
WIPRO	359	361.4	355	356	0.15	
INFY	1,145.00	1,154.90	1,133.35	1,140.15	0.3	
BAFINANCE	4,835.00	4,862.00	4,770.00	4,807.20	-4.25	
DIVISLAB	3,609.95	3,609.95	3,493.00	3,540.00	-6.3	
IOC	87	87.35	85.75	86.15	-0.3	
BHARTIARTL	478.4	481.25	471.2	475.5	-1.75	
ULTRACEMCO	4,900.00	4,913.15	4,842.00	4,870.85	-18.65	
ONGC	76.75	78.05	75.4	76.2	-0.3	
SHREECEM	24,550.00	24,689.90	24,067.15	24,285.00	-180.3	
GAIL	101.8	102.5	99.25	100.1	-0.8	
STENLEIND	17,750.00	17,971.20	17,600.00	17,635.00	-151.4	
BPCL	998	999.5	988.35	989.45	-4.6	
HDFC	2,272.25	2,272.25	2,209.55	2,220.00	-30.8	
TITAN	1,347.60	1,364.45	1,323.25	1,328.00	-19.6	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	30,351.95	30,476.75	30,284.20	30,377.15	156.85	
BSCHLTD	11,850.00	13,000.00	11,800.00	12,960.00	1,140.50	
GICRE	131	140.4	129.25	137.1	6.55	
AUROPHARMA	853.95	884.35	845.1	882	33.5	
PEL	1,395.50	1,443.00	1,390.05	1,442.00	49.1	
BIOCON	422.35	436	418.1	435	14.75	
PETRONET	254.15	260.4	251.45	258.3	5.7	
LTI	3,249.95	3,418.00	3,233.00	3,333.90	69.75	
DLF	188	191.4	186.25	189.25	3.15	
HDFCAMC	2,451.00	2,483.00	2,430.00	2,469.00	41.15	
ADANIGREEN	1,203.40	1,220.00	1,180.00	1,200.90	19.7	
BANDHANBNK	357	360.4	353.5	358.9	5.9	
LUPIN	887.75	899	879	898.1	13.8	
PNB	30.3	30.6	29.8	30.5	0.45	
ICICIGI	1,355.00	1,382.45	1,351.90	1,372.25	19.4	
HINDZINC	219.5	224	218.9	222.95	3.1	
IGL	451	456.5	447	454	4.35	
TATACONSUM	524.2	530.7	521.65	526	4.35	
PFC	104.5	105.55	103.65	104.85	0.8	
ABBOTINDIA	15,205.00	15,475.00	15,205.00	15,311.90	114.3	
TORNTHARM	2,627.00	2,652.70	2,581.95	2,619.90	17.95	
ALKEM	2,794.10	2,810.00	2,763.00	2,779.00	18.5	
ADANITRANS	381.6	388	378.7	381.65	2	
ANKARBARODA	47.2	47.45	46	47.05	0.15	
DMAT	2,367.95	2,429.90	2,350.00	2,365.00	4.6	
GODREJCP	711.3	714.3	704.7	707.6	-0.25	
MARICO	379.9	380	373.55	378	-0.25	
PIDILITIND	1,591.30	1,611.85	1,581.25	1,584.00	-1.2	
HAVELLS	828.9	831.4	818	823	-1.15	
NMDC	93.6	93.9	92.15	93.4	-0.15	
DABUR	510	511.25	506.5	508	-1.1	
OFSS	3,060.00	3,060.00	3,001.10	3,019.00	-7.4	
INFRAEL	219.95	228	216.8	217.8	-0.55	
NAUKRI	4,045.50	4,089.95	4,029.15	4,045.00	-13.45	
CONCOR	414.45	416.5	406.6	411	-2.3	
BERGPAINT	644.9	649.8	639.05	642	-1.35	
HINDPETRO	216	216.3	213.3	214.5	-0.9	
INDIGO	1,649.80	1,682.50	1,642.10	1,661.00	-8.55	
MCDOWELL-N	568.4	572.75	561.85	563.75	-3.05	
SIEMENS	1,398.90	1,412.00	1,384.80	1,390.00	-8.9	
PGHH	10,678.65	10,774.00	10,570.00	10,600.00	-78.65	
CADILAH	432	434.2	425.5	429.5	-3.35	
MOTHERSUMI	146.95	148	144.6	145.3	-1.3	
ICICIPRULI	455	457.5	445.35	449	-4.25	
AMBIJACEM	258.2	260.45	254.55	255.35	-2.8	
COALPAL	1,567.00	1,578.90	1,543.35	1,550.00	-17.1	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,165.00	1,165.00	1,122.00	1,143.00	-13	
SBICARD	819	819	805	805.95	-9.1	
ACC	1,086.00	1,093.45	1,068.40	1,071.85	-14.45	
UBL	1,725.50	1,738.55	1,691.90	1,697.50	-28.05	
BAJAJHLDNG	3,295.00	3,348.85	3,075.00	3,100.00	-146.9	

BSE 500

	Open	High	Low	LTP	PNB	30.4	30.55	29.8	30.4	NATIONALUM	36.6	36.85	36.3	36.45	FINOLEXIND	628.95	628.95	613.8	623	IRB	120.15	121.35	118.15	118.6
HDFC	2270	2272	2211	2217.65	WOCKPHARMA	435.9	439.4	407.4	418.5	ABBOTINDIA	15200	15450	15200	15305.7	APLITD	992.7	1003.35	990.6	990.6	JYOTHYLAB	141.35	143.75	140.3	142.8
RELIANCE	1962	1973.6	1931.2	1965.1	IPCALAB	2211.9	2287.55	2136.85	2208	RAIN	117.7	122.45	116.5	120.45	TVTODAY	201	224.15	199.95	208.5	DCMSHRIRAM	361.35	372	359	363.65
IDEA	10.5	10.74	10.13	10.27	ACC	1735	1739.1	1692.85	1698.8	NBVENTURES	48	52.45	46.7	51.7	ATUL	6412.55	6451	6303	6327	TATACOFFEE	104.25	104.5	103.6	103.75
BAJFINANCE	4847	4856.9	4772	4809.2	PETRONET	254.6	260.3	251.6	258.85	NMDC	93.2	93.8	92.2	93.25	AAVAS	1545.2	1577.4	1536.05	1565	MOIL	130	130	127.3	128.35
HDFCBANK	1407.2	1445	1407	1438.65	PEL	1393.05	1443.8	1391	1423.95	IOB	9.9	10.49	9.64	10.36	OIL	93.4	94.8	93.4	94.25	ITI	127.4	127.9	124.95	125.8
SRTRANSFIN	984	1042.55	973.95	1029.35	L&TFH	73.65	74.45	72.25	73.1	SONATISOFTW	342.8	354.4	341	351	MIDHANI	191	191	187.5	188.65	SCI	53	53	51.95	52.5
SOLARINDS	1010	1047.55	997.45	1033	CADILAHCC	436	436	426	429	VINATORGA	1239.85	1239.85	1192.95	1206.8	KSB	545.5	577.4	545.5	571.1	AJANTPHARM	1527	1534.55	1520	1528
BAJAJFINSV	8839	8899.6	8703.55	8859.45	JSWSTEEL	339.9	342.1	334.25	340.8	CEATLTD	1143.1	1150	1129.15	1138.5	CESC	570.25	593.75	570.25	591.5	TVSRRICHAK	1575	1606.45	1568.5	1582.4
SBICIN	240.9	245	239.45	243.85	BATAINDIA	1510	1533.4	1494.85	1504.8	SUPREMEIND	1693	1735	1685	1717.65	CHAMBLEFERT	184.1	192	184.1	186	ORIENTCEM	71	71.35	69.75	71
ICICIIBANK	473.1	479.7	471.15	478.3	ATAINDIA	3390	3467	3289.25	3309.65	IFIL	119.5	1198	111.55	112.65	CGCL	293.9	300.45	290	297.6	MAHSCOOTER	3972.05	3995	3847.8	3885
INFY	1144	1154.9	1133.2	1139.15	SAIL	43.65	43.9	42.3	43.45	HAVELLS	825	831.2	818.1	821.35	KTBKANK	47	47.45	46.45	47	CANFINHOME	474.75	480.4	472.9	479
INDUSINDBK	853	860.8	836.6	853.65	BLISSGVS	162.8	163.7	160.16	161.4	PHILIPCARB	168	171.75	165.3	166	GRINDWELL	578.5	590.25	575	583.3	ECLERX	718.1	722.1	708	716.35
MARUTI	7030	7266.85	7030	7133	RAYMOND	309.95	321	307.15	319.15	BANKINDIA	43.9	43.95	43.25	43.7	IRCON	86.65	86.8	84.9	85	HIMATSEIDE	121.25	122.75	118.1	119.45
AXISBANK	603.2	622.4	601	619.55	SRF	5193.75	5365	5183.85	5348.95	GODREJCP	710	714.05	704.5	708	RVNL	21	21.25	20.85	20.85	SIVN	22.45	23.2	22.45	22.95
M&M	707	745	707	729.75	COFORGE	2435.2	2484.4	2432	2453.8	IRCTC	1375	1379	1358	1361.45	INDIANB	65	65.7	64.7	65.15	NH	374	384.3	370.7	384.3
TATAMOTORS	172.3	175.55	171.2	172	ESCORTS	1410	1427	1401.3	1410.7	NHPC	20.6	21.1	20.55	20.7	INDOCO	278.25	283	271.4	277	JBCHEPHARM	969.95	983.95	960	979
TATASTEEL	546.95	550.4	541.5	548.15	CANBK	94.3	94.7	92.6	93.5	HAL	780	797.7	774.3	791.95	PTC	53.8	54.9	53.65	54.45	JINDALSAM	67	67.2	66.2	66.75
RBLBANK	216	229.95	215.3	226.3	UJIVIAN	293.4	293.4	278.6	285.7	VOLTAS	762	781	762	778.3	SUZLON	3.5	3.55	3.4	3.47	RATNAMANI	1725	1746.2	1621	1677.55
M&MFIN	159.95	171	158.75	166.55	GUGJAS	325.8	339.55	325	334.15	BALRAMCHIN	156.05	157.9	153.5	154.9	JKPAPER	95.5	96.25	94.05	94.85	BLUESTARCO	778	788	768.2	782
KOTAKBANK	1898	1947.7	1891.6	1924.35	TATACONSUM	524.8	530.65	522.1	527.25	CYIENT	490	492.45	478.9	481.65	OBEROIRLTY	465	467.55	458.2	460	LINDEINDIA	897.2	916	893	898.05
ANSAPNAPT	2192	2230	2192	2207.6	LALPATHLAB	2307	2375.95	2260.25	2274.4	JSLSHISAR	122.7	123.9	116.35	116.95	CCL	263.25	275.25	263.25	272.85	MAHLOG	401	401	381.7	391.15
BANDHANBNBK	355.5	360.45	353.6	358.9	GLENMARK	482	483.55	476.9	481.4					ABB	1071.15	1085	1052.15	1073.95	GJALKALI	320.9	323.75	315.05	320	
HCLTECH	840	857	835.25	840.1	POWERGRID	195.75	197.55	193.3	195.45					GMDCILTD	45.9	47.35	45.45	46.2	BALMLAWRIE	102	102.95	102	102.5	
ITD	113.05	117.1	112.8	115.8	INDIACEM	159	161.9	152.8	153.5					GHCL	167	175	167	173.4	CARERATING	494	453.8	439.1	440.95	
VETL	191	196.4	190.9	195.45	HDFCLIFE	666.6	666.6	651.3	664.1					PHOENIXLTD	657.85	675	644.15	656	DBCORP	81	81	78.75	79.45	
FLTC	2738	2743	2705	2722.1	WOMBYEING	70.5	73.8	69.8	73.3					TATACOMM	1004.9	1054.6	1004.9	1054.6	INTELECT	263.8	270	260.85	266	
FLUOROCHEM	521.5	523	505.95	518.75	BADAG	187.15	204.15	184.1	199					VENKYS	1649.4	1649.4	1602.05	1612.45	ASHOKA	74.95	74.95	73.05	73.75	
AIANG	1840.5	1881	1818.45	1869.1	TVSMMOTOR	475	476.9	468.2	471.3					CHOLAHLDNG	511.45	528	505.95	521.85	SPANDANA	754.5	760	720.05	732	
HINDUNILVR	2135	2161	2122	2157.2	JUBLFOOD	2633.45	2659.85	2537	2547					UNIONBANK	25.9	25.9	25.6	25.7	BDL	310.8	314.25	308.6	311	
INFRATEL	218.6	238	216.7	218.9	TATAELXSI	1572	1581.5	1552.9	1573					POLYBAC	935	940	927.75	933	WABCINDIA	5834.25	5864	5768	5784	
DRREDDY	4847	4938.1	4790	4910.95	NCC	44.4	44.65	42.6	43.1					HINDCOPPER	37	39.1	37	38.65	IFCI	6.49	6.55	6.32	6.35	
BHEL	31.65	31.9	30.7	31.3	SPICEJET	71.4	73.2	70.3	70.75					DEEPAKFERT	140.1	142.5	140.1	140.75	SUPRAJIT	1.95	197.6	1.91	196.05	
TECHM	870	890	864.3	877.55	BALKRISIND	1720	1720	1639.25	1662					KNRCON	286	289.45	280.05	285.05	MOTILALOPS	611	617.95	601.9	615	
ADANIGREEN	1197.2	1220	1180	1204.95	MCX	1588	1648.9	1587.05	1620					COCHINSHIP	356	360.3	351.6	358.5	NESCO	517.5	529.05	514.2	514.9	
ADANIPTOPS	378	401.85	378	392.35	STAR	697.7	727	692.3	721.55					CENTRALBK	11.85	11.85	11.71	11.8	TATAMETALI	535.25	535.25	522.1	524.6	
HINDALCO	220.85	227.2	218.65	225.95	UPL	429	431	426.7	427.45					KEI	382.25	393	382.25	391.95	NLCINDIA	49.5	50.1	49.5	50	
ONGC	76.6	78	75.45	76.05	TATAMTRDVR	73.7	74.75	72.8	74.05					AUBANK	882	890.65	870	873.65	WSOLAR	225.55	226.95	218	226.95	
WIPRO	359	361.3	355	355.55	UJIVIANFSB	42.8	42.8	38.05	38.5					UBL	1093.45	1093.45	1068.65	1070.1	FCNSUMER	8.68	8.68	8.68	8.68	
EQUITAS	69.5	72.9	65.5	67	PIIND	2459	2465.2	2327.3	2360					VARROC	358.05	363.05	353.8	356.3	SCHNEIDER	91.6	91.6	87.4	88.1	
EICHERMOT	2610	2714.2	2591.7	2692.7	MFSL	633	646.2	630.75	635.95					GULFOILLUB	787	830	777.75	813.4	TAKE	40.45	40.7	39.8	40.2	
LT	1137.7	1144	1129	1135.35	SBICARD	816.5	819	805	805.9					RADICO	447.65	451.7	446.2	450	CSBBANK	256.2	262.8	253	255.3	
BOSCHLTD	11872.95	13300	11801.7	12988.5	PIDILITIND	1592	1611	1581.55	1584.8					BAJAJ	3042.75	3048	3001.25	3013	STARGEMENT	89.5	93	88.3	91.6	
HONAUT	30769	31400	30769	31020	LICHSHING	326.4	328.5	323	323.85					BAJAJCON	188.5	192.45	188	190.55	APLAPOLLO	3232.5	3249.1	3207.65	3216.4	
MUTHOOTFIN	1156	1161	1122.05	1138.1	CASTROLIND	123.3	130.4	123.3	129.15					CROMPTON	305.6	309.75	301	308.25	TATANVEST	944.95	945.8	926.55	935	
PFIZER	5160	5177.35	5100	5125	SUNDRMFAST	498.55	514.5	491	510.75	TRIDENT	8.3	8.3	7.81	7.88	WELCORP	110.5	113.35	110.5	111.3	NAYNNETDUL	82.6	93	80.95	82
GRASIM	854.6	863.95	850	855.05	MANAPPURAM	163.7	165.6	160.05	163.65	PRESTIGE	275	281.75	273.9	279.05	TORNTPOWER	314	315	311.85	312.3	JKCEMENT	1949	1962.65	1917.45	1946.55
ZEELE	188.9	190.8	187.55	188.25	TORNTPHARM	2639	2651.9	2589	2627.8	INDHOTEL	113.25	115.85	113.25	114.75	VMART	2067.8	2163.55	2064.4	2150	MAHSEAMLES	255	259.8	251.55	253
IDFC	45.2	45.2	40.55	41	ICICIPRULI	457	457.4	445.5	449.1	GSCF	66.7	69.9	66.2	69	SYNGENE	565	576	564.15	575	POWERINDIA	983	995.05	962.85	982.15
SANOFI	8200	8339.95	8176.1	8327	NAUKRI	4049.8	4088	4031.75	4042	STLTTECH	154.7	154.7	147	154.15	EIDPARRY	321	332.15	321	331.6	HATHWAY	30.3	31.25	29.8	30.1
GAUL	101.05	102.65	99.25	100.15	BEL	106.7	108.85	106.1	107.75	DEEPAKNT	822	823.7	805	807.5	LAXMMIMACH	4398.85	4452.1	4360	4446	JAGRAN	39.7	40.45	39.2	39.7
AUROPHARMA	855	883.65	845.2	880.15	CENTURYTEX	331.15	357	331.15	353.2	WHIRLPOOL	2113.5	2262.85	2113.5	2246.4	3MINDIA	22344.3	22810	22344.3	22800	SUMICHEM	287.8	287.8	275.05	280.8
ADANIENT	408	415.3	404.65	408.9	GNPC	194.65	207.7	194.5	206.25	SBILILE	841.95	841.95	832.45	839.2	VRILLOG	177.45	177.45	170	174.15	BLUEDART	3990	4001.95	3925	3938.55
FEDERALBNK	58.8	59.15	57.3	58.65	LAURUSLABS	292.9	294.7	286.5	289.75	METROPOLIS	2271.05	2321	2247.15	2290.95	SIS	382.8	402.8	382.8	400.9	TASTYBIT	11436	11500	11178.4	11400
GMRIINFA	26.75	27.3	24.95	25.6	AMBAJACEM	259	260.4	254.7																

Trump finally agrees to Biden transition

Vows to keep fighting election outcome

Washington: US President Donald Trump has finally given a go-ahead to begin the transition process for president-elect Joe Biden after the state of Michigan certified the Democratic leader's victory in the November 3 presidential election, paving the way for a smooth handover of power after weeks of delay.

President Trump, a Republican, however, did not formally concede the election to Biden, saying he would "continue to fight and will prevail."

He has launched a slew of lawsuits in key states, but has not provided any evidence to back his claims of electoral fraud. Many of the lawsuits have been dismissed by courts.

On Monday, the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) Emily Murphy informed Biden in a letter that the Trump

administration is ready to begin the formal transition process.

The letter from Murphy, a Trump appointee, is the first step the administration has taken to acknowledge President Trump's defeat, more than two weeks after Biden was declared the winner.

Taking to Twitter after Murphy wrote to Biden, Trump said that he has asked to begin the transition process in the best interest of the country.

"...Fight, and I believe we will prevail! Nevertheless, in the best interest of our Country, I am recommending that Emily and her team do what needs to be done with regard to initial protocols, and have told my team to do the same."

"What does GSA being allowed to preliminarily work with the Dems have to do with continuing to pursue our

various cases on what will go down as the most corrupt election in American political history? We are moving full speed ahead. Will never concede to fake ballots & "Dominion," Trump said in a series of tweets.

In her letter, Murphy said she took the decision "independently" and based on the law.

"Please know that I came to my decision independently, based on the law and available facts. I was never directly or indirectly pressured by any Executive Branch official -- including those who work at the White House or GSA -- with regard to the substance or timing of my decision. To be clear, I did not receive any direction to delay my determination," Murphy said in her letter as reported by multiple news outlets.

Murphy said she was mak-

ing USD 6.3 million in funds available to the president-elect for the transition process. Biden is set to be sworn in as the 46th US President on January 20, 2021.

Murphy had come under a lot of criticism after she refused to give the president-elect access to the federal resources required for the transition. Lawmakers from both the Democratic and Republican party had slammed her for this.

"GSA does not dictate the outcome of legal disputes and recounts, nor does it determine whether such proceedings are reasonable or justified," Murphy wrote in her letter.

"These are issues that the Constitution, federal laws, and state laws leave to the election certification process and decisions by courts of competent jurisdiction. I do not think that an agency charged with

improving federal procurement and property management should place itself above the constitutionally-based election process. I strongly urge Congress to consider amendments to the Act," Murphy said.

Later, Trump put out two more tweets in which he thanked Murphy for her services.

"I want to thank Emily Murphy at GSA for her steadfast dedication and loyalty to our Country. She has been harassed, threatened, and abused -- and I do not want to see this happen to her, her family, or employees of GSA. Our case STRONGLY continues, we will keep up the good fight, and I believe we will prevail!" Trump tweeted.

On Monday, the Michigan State Board of Canvassers formally granted Biden the state's 16 electoral votes. **PTI**

Reports: Biden plans to nominate topmost economist Janet Yallen as Treasury Secy

Washington: US President-elect Joe Biden is planning to nominate former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yallen as his Treasury Secretary to lead his economic response to the raging coronavirus pandemic, which has wreaked havoc on the world's biggest economy and led millions of Americans to lose their jobs.

A formal announcement on 74-year-old Yellen would be made soon, according to The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. The Treasury Secretary is fifth in the presidential line of succession.

If confirmed by the Senate, Yellen would be the first woman to hold the job. Currently at the Brookings Institute think-tank, she was Federal Reserve Chair from 2014 to 2018 and was Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisors from 1997 to 1999. "Ms Yellen, who was the first woman to lead the Fed, would become the first person to have headed the Treasury, the central bank and the White House Council of Economic Advisers," The Wall Street Journal said.

The Biden-Harris administration, however, did not comment on the potential announcements.

"The President-elect looks forward to announcing some members of his economic team early next week who will work with him to build the economy back better," said Jen Psaki, an advisor to the transition.

"Her nomination would be one of the early signs that shows Biden plans to lean on experienced Washington veterans to lead the government next year," The Washington Post reported. **PTI**

China launches its first spacecraft to moon to collect samples, return to earth

Beijing/Wenchang: China on Tuesday successfully launched its maiden unmanned spacecraft to collect samples from the lunar surface and return to earth, which space scientists here say is the Chinese space programme's most complex operation ever.

It is China's first attempt to retrieve materials from an extra-terrestrial body which is expected to last more than 20 days.

The Chang'e-5 lunar probe was successfully launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern island province of Hainan, state-run CGTN reported. The spacecraft was launched by a Long March-5 rocket at 4.30 am Beijing Time.

Chang'e-5 is one of the most complicated and challenging missions in China's aerospace history, as well as the world's first moon-sample mission in more than 40 years. The US sent astronauts to the moon to collect samples. In the Soviet Union's unmanned lunar sampling missions, the spacecraft took off from the moon and returned to Earth directly.

The mission faces new technical challenges and much could go wrong, Chinese space scientists said. "It is the Chinese space programme's most complex mission ever," Pei Zhaoyu, deputy director of the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Centre of the China National Space Administration (CNSA) told the official media.

The 8-tonne spacecraft has four independent but interactive components. This includes one to stay in lunar orbit as a docking station, one to go down to the moon's surface and drill for samples, one to take the material back to the dock station and another to bring the samples back to Earth.

A major space power, China launched its first Mars mission 'Tianwen-1' on July 23 this year. **AP**

Europe hopes for reset, end to 'damage control' under Biden

Berlin: German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Tuesday he hopes a reset of US-European relations under the Biden administration can end years in which Europe was mainly concerned with "damage control."

Maas' counterpart from Portugal, which will have taken over the European Union presidency when Joe Biden is inaugurated, said Europe wants to be treated as a "full and equal partner" rather than an enemy of the US.

Biden's victory over President Donald Trump has been greeted with relief in Europe, where differences with the outgoing adminis-

tration ranged from trade tensions to defense spending, relations with China and how to handle Iran's nuclear program.

Biden has made clear that he wants to "repair" the trans-Atlantic relationship, "and that is urgently necessary," Maas said at a panel event in Berlin.

Recent years, he said, were an exercise in "damage control" on international diplomacy and issues such as climate change. "Enough of that -- with this, we are not doing justice to the challenges we face at present."

"The result, because the West wasn't working together any more, was that in many

issues a vacuum arose that was used by China or Russia," Maas said.

But he cautioned that the Europeans "will have to get out of our seats" to grasp new opportunities, and offer to do more themselves in their immediate neighborhood as part of what he has termed a "new deal" "with the US Germany holds the EU's rotating presidency until the end of December, when it will hand over to Portugal."

Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva called for new talks with the US on trade relations. And he noted that a major objection to the Trump administration's approach was its language. **AP**

Singapore arrests Bangladeshi man for plotting attacks against Hindus, planning to fight in Kashmir

Singapore: A Bangladeshi man, who was plotting attacks against Hindus in his own country and planning to fight in Kashmir, has been arrested by Singapore's security agencies which investigated the suspicious activities of 37 people as part of the heightened security measures in the city-state following recent terror strikes in Europe, the government said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs said that counter-terrorism investigations into the suspicious activities of 37 people in Singapore have been carried out after most of them posted on social media, inciting violence or stoking community unrest in the aftermath of the terror attacks in France.

Of the 37 people, 14 are Singaporeans and 23 foreigners, mostly Bangladeshis, it said.

"The 14 Singaporeans comprise 10 males and four females, and are aged between 19 and 62 years old. Most of them had, in response to the recent terror attacks

in France, made social media postings which incited violence or stoked communal unrest," the ministry said.

As for the 23 foreigners, 16 of them, including 15 Bangladeshis and one Malaysian have been repatriated, it said. Seven foreigners are still under investigation, it added. One Bangladeshi man under investigation -- identified as 26-year-old Ahmed Faysal - has been arrested under the Internal Security Act (ISA) following investigations into "terrorism-related activities", the ministry said.

He even bought foldable knives, which he claimed he would use for attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh, it said, adding that he was also willing to travel to Kashmir to fight against "perceived enemies of Islam".

Preliminary investigations by the Internal Security Department (ISD) showed that Faysal was radicalised and harboured the intention to "undertake armed violence in support of his religion", the Channel News Asia reported, citing the statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). **PTI**

England to cut travel quarantines to 5 days with tests

London: Just in time for holiday travellers, England is cutting the two-week quarantine facing people arriving from regions not on Britain's coronavirus safe list, reducing it to as little as five days if they test negative for Covid-19.

The change to the quarantine rules, which was announced Tuesday and takes effect on December 15, has been long-awaited by the travel industry, one of the worst-hit sectors during the pandemic. The change will bring the rules governing quarantines in England more in line with other European countries, including Germany.

Under the new rules, passengers can reduce the 14-day quarantine period by paying for a test from a private firm on or after Day 5 of their arrival at a potential cost of around 100 pounds (\$133). **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

SHUN POLITICS OVER VACCINE: PM

In the recently concluded Bihar elections, the promise of "free-distribution" of vaccine by the BJP had come up for a sharp criticism from the Opposition parties with the latter accusing the ruling party of politicising the vaccine when there is none around. Modi in the meeting said the frontline health workers would have the first claim on the vaccine, besides military, paramilitary forces and senior citizens.

The Prime Minister said India has a great "experience" in vaccine and his Government was "looking at all aspects of its development".

"Two Indigenous vaccines are ahead in the race", he said.

While emphasising need to reach everyone in the country, Modi said the exercise needs to be smooth and systematic as it would be a long-drawn one. "Greater coordination and team-work between the Centre and the States would be needed," he said. Modi said guidelines of World Health Organisation on the distribution of the vaccine also to be followed.

Striking caution to people going "careless", he said there should be no let up in the battle against coronavirus. He reminded people that "they should be careful as there is no vaccine now".

The Prime Minister said India "fought Covid bravely" and assured States all help from the Centre and sought them to detail their needs.

The West Bengal CM wanted the Prime Minister that the Centre pays her State's GST dues to help ramp up its finances. She said Covid situation in her State is in control. The Rajasthan CM said his State has ramped up testing and health infrastructure.

The Gujarat CM said the PM discussed with all CMs plan for the fast distribution of the vaccine.

Most of the States wanted more ventilators and ways of more oxygen supply.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal informed PM Modi that Delhi saw a peak of 8,600 Covid-19 cases on November 10 in the third peak. "Since then cases and positivity rate are steadily decreasing. The high severity of third wave is due to many factors including pollution," said Kejriwal in the meeting.

The Delhi CM sought Modi's intervention to get rid of pollution due to stubble burning from adjoining States especially in view of recent bio decomposition.

Kejriwal urged the Prime Minister for the reservation of additional 1,000 ICU beds in Central Government hospitals till third wave lasts. Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray informed PM Modi that he is in constant touch with Adar Poonawalla of Serum Institute and that the State has formed a task force to ensure timely distribution of vaccine and executing the vaccination programme.

In view of new wave of coronavirus, Maharashtra has made compulsory carrying Covid-19 negative test for all those

flying or travelling to Maharashtra from Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Goa. The test negative has to be done 72 hours before landing in Maharashtra.

The PM-CM meeting comes a day after the Supreme Court said that the Covid-19 pandemic has worsened in Delhi and gone out of control in Gujarat.

The top court directed the Centre and all States to apprise it within two days of the steps taken to contain the situation nationwide. The situation is likely to worsen in December and all States have to be ready to "combat" it, the top court said while expressing concern over the spurt in coronavirus cases across the country.

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

On November 20, the Prime Minister held a meeting to review India's vaccination strategy and discussed important issues related to progress of vaccine development, regulatory approvals and procurement with top officials.

ALLAHABAD HC OVERRIDES EARLIER ORDER ON INTER-RELIGIOUS WEDDING

But the court held that on attaining majority a person is statutorily conferred a right to choose a partner. "The courts and the constitutional courts in particular are enjoined to uphold the life and liberty of an individual guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," the ruling said. "Right to live with a person of his/her choice irrespective of religion professed by them, is intrinsic to the right to life and personal liberty. Interference in a personal relationship would constitute a serious encroachment into the right to freedom of choice of the two individuals," it said.

The bench also referred to the Priyanshi case in September and the Noor Jahan case in 2014, in which the court ruled that conversions for the purpose of marriage are unacceptable.

It said there was no doubt that the women in the two past cases could not authenticate their alleged conversion as they were unable to show knowledge of the basic tenets of Islam. But the courts were still obliged to ascertain the desire of the women as they were above 18.

The judges said the court had then not dealt with the issue of life and liberty of two mature individuals in choosing a partner or their right to freedom of choice about whom they would like to live with. "We hold the judgments in Noor Jahan and Priyanshi as not laying good law," the court observed.

UP PASSES ORDINANCE AGAINST LOVE JEHAD

Singh told the media that the new law

has been brought to give justice to the women in the State.

"In the State there are at least 100 such incidents where women were forced to convert after their marriage as the husband concealed their original names," he said.

IMPROVED VERSION OF BRAHMOS MISSILE TEST-FIRED SUCCESSFULLY

The land, air and sea versions of the highly sophisticated missile are already inducted into the Army, Navy and the IAF. The Navy last month test fired the missile with a range of about 400 km from INS Chennai in high seas.

Known for its precision strike capabilities, the speed of the missile is 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound, they said. In the next few days, the IAF and the Indian Navy are scheduled to carry out separate test-firing of the new version of the air-launched and naval versions of the supersonic cruise missile respectively.

In the last two-and-half months, India has test fired a number of missiles including an anti-radiation missile named Rudram-1 which is planned to be inducted into service by 2022.

On October 18, a naval version of the BrahMos missile was successfully test fired from an indigenously-built stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy in the Arabian sea. The IAF on October 30 test-fired the air launched version of the weapon from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal.

The BrahMos missile provides the IAF a much-desired capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night and in all weather conditions.

The IAF is also integrating the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile on over 40 Sukhoi fighter jets which is aimed at bolstering overall combat capability of the force.

Meanwhile, reports from China indicated that it may deploy more squadrons of its multi-role strike fighter jets J-16 on the LAC.

"A brigade attached to the PLA Western Theatre Command (WTC) Air Force recently conducted a confrontational air-to-air combat exercise in order to examine and enhance the unit's comprehensive combat capability," the State-backed nationalist tabloid Global Times reported citing an article on the official WeChat account of the PLA WTC. The J-16 is a third-plus generation fighter jet.

TN, PUDUCHERRY BRACE FOR NIVAR TO MINIMISE DAMAGE

Puducherry's district magistrate Purva Garg ordered the imposition of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code from

9pm on Tuesday till 6am on Thursday in the entire Puducherry region.

The Indian Navy has deployed five flood relief teams, a diving team, INS Parundu, INS Jyoti from Vishakapatnam with HADR bricks and diving teams to render assistance. The Indian Coast Guard and National Disaster Response Force are on full alert.

According to the NDRF, 22 teams (12 teams in Tamil Nadu, 3 teams in Puducherry and 7 teams in Andhra Pradesh) have been pre-positioned at likely affected areas. Teams have been kept reserve at Guntur (AP), Thrissur (Kerala) and Mundli (Odisha) to meet additional requirement. NDRF has deployed around 1,200 rescue troopers in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry, and 800 others are on standby.

The IMD has forecast widespread rainfall and thunderstorms over coastal and north interior Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal on November 24 and November 26, over south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema on November 25 and 26 and southeast Telangana on November 26 in the wake of cyclone Nivar. The cyclone is likely to move northwestwards and pass the Karaikal-Mamallapuram coast around noon on Wednesday. Villupuram, Cuddalore, Puducherry and Chennai are expected to be among the worst hit regions. According to the cyclone live tracker, Nivar has been stagnant for the past three hours. Earlier, it was moving at a speed of 5 km per hour.

The IMD has warned of damage to thatched houses in Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chennai and Thiruvallur districts of Tamil Nadu. According to the IMD, there is a possibility of roof tops being blown off and unattached metal sheets flying on Wednesday.

The IMD has warned that power and communication lines and kutcha and pucca roads may get damaged, with flooding of escape routes likely to occur. Further, there will be uprooting of trees and breaking off of tree branches and damage to papaya and banana trees, horticulture and crops. The IMD has also warned of damage to salt pans and major damage to coastal crops.

ABDULLAHS ENCROACHED STATE LAND TO CONSTRUCT PALATIAL HOUSE: RECORD

"Farooq Abdullah has not availed of the Roshni Scheme for either his residence in Srinagar or in Jammu and any one who says otherwise is lying. The fact that they are using sources to plant this story shows that it has no legs to stand on," the National Conference statement stated.

Late Monday evening, names of several former Ministers, retired bureaucrats too had surfaced in the list of benefi-

ciaries of the Roshni Scheme.

Former Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu and his three relatives Shahzada Banoo, Ajaz Drabu, Ifitikhar Drabu, prominent businessman and Congress leader KK Amla, Rachna Amla, Veena Amla, Mushtaq Ahmad, former bureaucrat Muhammad Shafi Pandit and his wife Nighat Pandit, Syed Muzaffar Aga are among the beneficiaries of Roshni Act.

In Jammu, the list of encroached land other than Roshni which is physically encroached but not shown in revenue records includes Syed Akhooon, political leader National Conference (NC), MY Khan, Abdul Majid Wani, ex-Minister Congress, Aslam Goni, political leader, Haroon Choudhary, political leader NC, Sajjad Kichloo, ex-Minister of the NC. The list includes the names of several Government employees and businessmen.

The lists were made public by the divisional administration, both in Kashmir and Jammu regions, in accordance with the October 9 directive of the High court which has declared Roshni Act "illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable" and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of the land under this law.

Issuing the first list of 35 beneficiaries, the divisional administration Kashmir showed that National Conference headquarters, several hotels and over a dozen commercial buildings at prime locations in and around Lal Chowk have been regularised under the controversial Roshni Act.

In a separate list, a total number of 383 people were shown under possession of over 483 acres of encroached land in Maria Mandrian tehsil of Jammu district, while 854 beneficiaries having possession of over 370 acres in Jammu south and 15 others in Jammu west.

Names of retired police officers also figured in the list. As many as 419 people, majority among them farmers, have been vested powers of 405 acres of agriculture land under Roshni Act in Khour tehsil and 97 others in Nazool tehsil over over four acres of land, the list highlighted. On November 1, the Union Territory Government cancelled all land transfers that took place under the JK State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 - also known as the Roshni Act - under which 2.5 lakh acres of land was to be transferred to the existing occupants.

The Jammu & Kashmir State lands (vesting of ownership to the occupants) Act was enacted in 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary rights to the occupants of the State land.

The Roshni scheme was brought in 2001 to raise Rs 25,000 crore to light up Jammu & Kashmir by investing the amount in power projects. But only Rs 76 crore was realised in the revenue records."

HC grants Kangana interim protection from arrest

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted "interim protection" to Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel in a case registered against them for alleged sedition, creating "hate" and "communal tension" and other charges, but directed them to appear before the Mumbai police on January 8 for questioning.

Hearing a petition filed by Ranaut and her sister seeking to quash the FIR filed against her by the Bandra police on the basis of an order passed by a Bandra court directing the police to investigate a complaint filed against them, a HC division bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik granted interim protection to the actress and her sister from the arrest.

"We are of the prima facie opinion that interim protection till the matter is heard at length deserves to be granted. The police shall not take any coercive action including arrest against the applicants (Ranaut and Chandel)," the HC bench noted.

However, the high court disapproved of the act of Kangana and her sister not to respond to the summons issued by the Bandra police for questioning. "Three summons were issued by the police and the same need to be honoured," the Judges said.

Subsequently, Ranaut and Chandel's advocate Rizwan Siddiquee then assured the court that Kangana and her sister would appear before the Bandra police in Mumbai on January 8 from 12 pm to 2 p.m. for recording of their statements. The high court accepted their statement.

Earlier, both Chief Public Prosecutor Deepak Thakre and the complainant's lawyer Merchant opposed the grant of interim relief to Kangana and her sister by the high court in her matter.

Kangana and her sister approached the high court through their lawyer after the Bandra issued them third summons last week, asking them on November 23 and 24 in connection with the investigations into an FIR registered against them for allegedly creating "hatred" and "communal tensions" between Hindus and Muslims.

In addition, Munawarali Sahil A Sayyed -- on whose complaint a case has been registered against Kangana and Rangoli -- has also accused the two sisters of indulging in sedition (section 124 A of IPC).

ENGINEERING A CAREER

Irrespective of the field of expertise, selecting a good & stable option after graduation may be a puzzle for many. NITIN VIJAY tells you how opting for management programmes after engineering is a lucrative solution



Engineering has been the favorite branch for the students since ages. It has been able to maintain the novelty factor even in the age of IT and technology. Engineering has amalgamated itself with the latest developments, and it is the development itself; the inflow of students to this field has been increasing incessantly and attests to the never-fading popularity of this branch of study. The common perception is that 'once you complete Engineering', there is no dearth of job options for you, and to an extent it holds true. The need for a well-qualified and talented engineer is required in every sphere of life.

Irrespective of the field of expertise one chooses, selecting a good & stable career after graduation may be a quiet puzzle full for a maximum of them. It is mandatory to go with proper planning and strategy. Those who are comfortable to work with advanced technologies including VLSI, Blockchain, AI, Robotic, Ethical Hacking, Digital Marketing, Protocol Testing, Data Science, Website Designing & Promotion are required in most of the companies. Presently, the startup industry is

setting the latest trend in the competitive market, and one can start the work with two to three people only. The best thing is that the Government is also supporting such an initiative with complete instructions and mentorship. The Government is also supporting by giving financial support in terms of the loan and other benefits. After observing the growth and success of various entrepreneurs, the young and dynamic generation also decides to start their venture; this needs a lot of calmness and self-restraint. This option is one of the finest choices for those who are having creative concepts and are willing to invest in their business; this allows an individual the freedom to express their ideas.

If a student is thinking about a stable career option after graduation, then studying management has turned out to be of great help, which not only provides a good but a handsome CTC also. To enter this domain, one will have to pursue a Masters in Business Administration, which is one of the favourable courses. After completing an MBA, one can get managerial roles in different

A skilled infrastructure professional must possess the acumen to identify potential contractual defaults ahead of time and recommend the most cost-effective mitigation strategy

companies. Management is one of the best career options after engineering in India. Pursuing an MBA after engineering has been in trend since the mid-1990s, and it is still taken up by people who are fascinated by the management part of organisations.

Engineers do serve the cause of the nation by contributing to the development of infrastructure and technology. A well-qualified Engineer is sought after by the top multinational companies as well as Indian giants. Serving the nation can sometimes attain a whole new altitude, and Engineers are known to do well in the Civil Services exam to serve the country in policymaking. It is one of the best options; however, preparation for at least one year is recommended. Millions of students appear for this examination each year, and only a few of them crack it. If a student can attain good rank, then he or she can get the distinguished post of IAS, IPS, or IFS, as well. Engineers also have the option to join armed forces.

Those interested in academics can choose to go for higher studies. They can prepare for the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering

(GATE); this test shows the overall know-how of an engineering graduate, and after qualifying, one can join prestigious engineering colleges (IITs and NITs) for MTech. If a student is not willing to clear GATE then he or she can also prepare for Joint Admission Test (JAM) and can enter academics and research.

So, if you are fascinated by ever-evolving structural designs, IT developments, and space, then engineering will help you realise the dream of joining an elite class that is bringing about the much-needed changes to the world making it a better place to live.

The career options are many; the need is to assess your capabilities and take an informed decision. The graduates should never shy away from taking advice from the experts or the experienced people around them. With numerous changes happening in the world, the job market is vibrant, and pay packages have also become better. Initially, the focus of the graduate should be to gain experience without concentrating hard on the remunerations.

The writer is Academic Guru, Managing Director, Motion Education

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Data is not information, information is not knowledge, knowledge is not understanding, understanding is not wisdom.

— Clifford Stoll

Virtual convocation at KIIT



A total of 7135 students of 2019-20 graduating batch of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar received their degrees at its 16th Annual Convocation, held in virtual mode, on November 21, 2020. Students received degrees virtually from the Chief Guest

Professor Muhammad Yunus, Founder, Grameen Bank & Nobel Peace Laureate, Bangladesh in the presence of His Holiness Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Spiritual Leader & Founder, Art of Living and other dignitaries.

The university conferred Honoris Causa Degrees of D Litt upon His Holiness Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and SK Chaudhary, Chairman & MD, IRCON International Ltd and Honoris Causa Degree of DSc on Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department, Govt of India.

"You are entering a new phase of life. Education is a long and difficult journey but it makes you capable to transform the world", Professor Muhammad Yunus told the graduating students in his convocation address.

Introducing Prof Yunus, who was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his social innovation of microcredit, to the students, Prof Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS said that he has imagined and is relentlessly working for A World of Three Zeroes — zero poverty, zero unemployment

and zero net carbon emissions. He expressed his gratitude to His Holiness Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra and S. K Chaudhary for accepting Honoris Causa degrees from KIIT Deemed to be University. "The pandemic has damaged the lives and livelihoods of millions of people across the world. With 50% of the world struggling to make a living, it has revealed weaknesses in our system. It is an opportunity to redesign a world, which will be more just, more equal and more resilient", the Nobel Laureate stated. Our present system suffers from an extreme polarisation of wealth with 99 per cent of wealth concentrated in the hands of 1 per cent population and global warming that is threatening our very existence. "

With your learning and imagination, it is possible to redesign a new world", he told the graduates, while urging them to explore entrepreneurship as an option.

In his address, chief speaker Sri Sri Ravi Shankar stated: "The purpose of education is to build a strong personality that is equipped to convert new challenges into opportunities and broadmindedness and humility to continue learning forever."

He underscored the importance of inner strength, perseverance, patience and creativity for achieving success. He was awarded Honoris Causa D Litt for "his great contributions to the field of spiritualism and world peace".

CONSTRUCT YOUR FUTURE

The infrastructure sector is poised for exponential growth in the years to come and hence the demand for skilled labour will rise. DR PRATIMA SHEOREY lists skills that are a must-have for those looking for opportunities here

A strong, modern, sustainable and well-functioning infrastructure is the pillar of any country's socio-economic growth. Currently, India is witnessing a boom in the infrastructure sector - a sector that holds the key to a speedy recovery, post COVID-19. New and ongoing infrastructure projects in the sectors of road development, transportation, power and urban development will create positive social and economic multiplier effects, by creating jobs opportunities, elevating rural and urban income profiles, thereby boosting consumption expenditures, and bring the country back on a high growth trajectory. The sector is poised for exponential growth in the years to come, and thus will also demand skilled labour in the identified sectors.

Aspirants desirous of developing a career in infrastructure development and related industries must remain focused on the following seven skills:

Basic Technical Skills: Technical skills in the areas of engineering (civil, mechanical and electrical) will help students understand the ground details of projects and create innovative solutions, aligned with industry expectations and recent develop-



ments in the sector.

Contract Management: Given the multi-stakeholder nature of infrastructure projects, a single infrastructure project can have multiple contracts in force. A skilled infrastructure professional must possess the acumen to identify potential contractual defaults ahead of time, and recommend/prepare the most cost-effective mitigation strategy. Thus, creating water tight contracts and subsequently managing the contracts must come naturally to contract professionals.

Project Management: Infrastructure projects span across several years and are usually multi-stakeholder projects, including government, private investors and impact local citizenry. Thus, effective project

management skills are essential, such that time delays, resulting cost overruns and resulting risks can be managed, to minimise social and economic costs.

Financial Structuring: Due to the large scale of investments coupled with paucity of funds with the government, Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) based projects are likely to continue to be at the front and centre of Infra projects. Within PPP projects, new and innovative financing modules are emerging such as the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) in road projects, amongst others. Thus, students need to stay abreast of financial innovations in the sector.

Risk Management: With large infrastructure projects, come higher risks. Risks such as construction

risks, operational risks, change in force majeure, change in law, and other environmental risks need effective planning, mitigation and monitoring.

Communication Skills: The ability to concisely yet transparently communicate their requirements and ideas is another most significant skill that students must learn. Good communication skills ensure that no detail is lost in comprehension. However, when we talk about communication, it not only includes prowess in airing your own ideas but also the patience to listen to what the client or other members of the team have to say.

Critical and Design Thinking: Much like every other sector, the infrastructure sector also demands critical and out of the box design thinking. An infrastructure professional must possess the ability to apply quick, effective, and innovative solutions to new and complicated problems.

With these skills, the aspirant is well equipped to solve and manage large infrastructure projects that are ever changing in their scope of work.

The writer is , Director —Symbiosis Centre for Management and Human Resource Development

For a fashionable forecast

The fashion field is evolving fast. It offers multiple choices, one of them is fashion forecasting. DR ROOPAK VASISHTHA tells you what it takes to enter this world

The glamour of the fashion industry is such that it attracts many youth to pursue a career in this field. If we talk about career options in the field of fashion, then most of the youth see their career as a fashion designer or fashion merchandiser. But with time, the fashion field has become highly competitive. Now, there are many career options for youth in the fashion industry, one of them is Fashion Forecasting. If you love to stay updated with the latest fashion trends and have a vision for style, then fashion forecasting is definitely a better career option for you!

Fashion Forecasting is the global prediction of upcoming trends in the fashion world. It is the process of analysing and making predictions of the future trends on the basis of past and present data. It basically predicts the mood, behavior and buying habits of the consumer on the basis of color, fabrics, textures, accessories, graphics, and foot wear.

You simply can't guess what's going to be popular. Nothing is fixed here. This field requires a lot of knowledge and a large amount of research work. All the equations of fashion change overnight. The



cut and color change according to the season, but now it seems that the style and material etc. also change before coming into the trend, so the challenges of this work are also unique.

Difference between Fashion Forecasting and Fashion Designing: Fashion forecaster is the sequel of fashion designing. In fashion designing, the designer is responsible for turning an idea into a design. He creates specific look of garments that include its shape, colour, fabric, trimmings, and other essential aspects. The role of fashion forecaster is to identify which silhouettes colours, textures, fabrics, graphics, prints, footwear and accessories will be the upcoming trends on the runway.

It's not enough just to be creative to make a career in the field

of fashion forecasting. But it is also very important to be aware of the technology used in this field. For example, in the case of designing apparel, you should have knowledge of fabric weaving techniques, fabric mixing techniques, dyeing techniques, stitching techniques etc. Similarly, knowledge of various technologies is also vital for footwear designing, accessory designing and jewellery designing.

The fashion industry has been focusing solely on profitability and quality for the last thirty years. The fashion companies are promoting their brand by hiring young designers and organising fashion shows to add a modern touch. In such a situation, the youth will have a lot of work opportunities in the emerging field of Fashion Forecasting.

The writer is CEO & DG, AMH SSC

Cambridge English signs MoU with Chrysalis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cambridge Assessment English (part of the University of Cambridge) has signed an MoU with Chrysalis, a learning transformation organisation in India.

Chrysalis, through this partnership will offer an English language learning and assessment program for all their partner schools, with the assessment powered by Cambridge English. As part of the program students can take an online assessment that has a baseline and end of year test in two important skills of English language — Listening and Reading and will receive a detailed personalised assessment report. The report will highlight areas of

improvement in sub-skills of listening and reading for every student. As part of this programme, teachers also get a comprehensive and individual view of their students' performance, support to interpret the reports and device ways to improve the English language skills of students. The program will initially be available online.

T K Arunachalam, Regional Director — South Asia, Cambridge Assessment English said: "Cambridge has been keenly focussing on India-centric solutions for the last few years and as part of this endeavour we have partnered with Chrysalis who have been successfully providing transformational learning in schools."

JKLU celebrates 8th convocation & Founder's Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the 110th birth anniversary of Lala Lakshmi Pat Singhania, chief architect of JK Organisation, JK Lakshmi Pat University, Jaipur today organised a virtual celebration to mark Founder's Day. The event also coincided with the university's Eighth Convocation, which felicitated students of the graduating batch of 2020 for PhD, MTech, BTech, MBA, BBA, BCom and PGDAR.

Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman, and Managing Director, Hindustan Unilever Limited, graced the dual

celebrations as the Chief Guest.

Led by the Honourable Chancellor Shri Bharat Hari Singhania and Vice-Chancellor Dr RL Raina, the programme was attended by dignitaries including the Pro Chancellor Dr RP Singhania, Pro Vice-Chancellor Asheesh Gupta, Member of Board of Management HP Singhania, other members of the board of management and academic council.

After lighting the ceremonial lamp and garlanding the bust of the Founder, Chancellor, Bharat Hari Singhania extended a warm welcome to all present and

expressed his delight for being a part of Lala Lakshmi Pat Singhania's vision.

In his inspirational address he said: "We, in the JK Group, since long, have believed in meritocracy, which has been made the bedrock of JKLU. In all your areas, be it learning, teaching, training, research or consultancy, try to create a mark for yourself. Do not settle for mediocrity but qualify on the yardsticks of meritocracy. This will not only help you to develop yourself as a world class citizen but will also give you a high level of satisfaction in your pursuit of excellence."

'Fee hike can be a hurdle'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The MBBS, also known as Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, has been one of the prestigious courses among medical students across the globe since generations.

But as Haryana Government colleges, Kerala and Karnataka private colleges seek a hike in fees which is affecting the counselling process as well. During this Covid-19 situation fees hike has become a challenge for

many. MBBS fees in medical colleges in Haryana is raised from ₹56,000 to ₹80,000 plus the bond fees.

Commenting on the fee hike Gaurav Tyagi, Founder — Career Expert said: "The coronavirus pandemic already had a devastating impact on the lives of the people. The government should look into this matter. As already due to this pandemic, there has been a delay in counselling, admissions and semesters. This fee hike can be the hurdle for many brilliant students."

Post COVID-19, trends like digital marketing, data sciences, AI, machine learning, and MBAs in digital social media management are taking over the other conventional disciplines, says DEEPAK GOEL



Alternatives to MBA

The higher education landscape has been transforming due to the present market dynamics. There is no doubt in accepting the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has tremendously increased the dependency on technology and digital media due to social distancing and travel restrictions. Since digitisation and technology have become the fore runners of the economy, it is imperative to understand how they are reshaping the trends in the higher education landscape. After the outbreak of the ongoing pandemic, trends such as digital marketing, data sciences, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and MBAs in digital social media management are taking over the other conventional disciplines. In today's business scenario, leaders lay more emphasis on statistical numbers and predictive analysis to make informed decisions. Thus, it makes data sciences one of the most powerful arenas to provide value to a company to a large extend. According to a recent report, close to 97,000 positions in the field of new-age technology remained vacant due to lack of

talent. The surge in demand for data science professionals captivates the mind of students in taking up programmes that can advance their careers from the present job outlook. With the exponential growth in data sciences and new age technologies, there is a widespread adoption of IoT that is recognised as a significant growth factor in shaping the digital economy. The IoT is leading at many fronts that many students and professionals are identifying programs for upskilling and take up challenging roles from a career perspective.Though IoT is not a new term, it is already anticipated that the black swan event of coronavirus spread makes it a pandemic proof solution that every sector is now adopting. In India, it is anticipated that Digital Social Media, Data Science, and IoT are churning the education landscape. This has resulted in demand for comprehensive and advanced programs such as alternative MBAs that help the learners acquire strong skillset and make a promising career ahead. During the present uncertainties and the guidelines of

Alternative MBAs have become a lucrative option with tremendous scope in areas like digital media, data science, and IoT. Also such programmes are more NEP compliant

New Education Policy (NEP), students enrolling for MBAs and B-Schools are now sceptical about the institutions' commitments to provide placement assistance. On the other hand, B-schools have cut their trimester and course duration to manage the completion of the curriculum online. That means there is a reduction in knowledge that could not be beneficial for students in the long-run. Today, every business sector is remodelling its operations and services as per the changing consumer perceptions and behaviour. To deal with the present market dynamics, companies are preferring to hire candidates based on knowledge and exposure than qualification. They are looking for "profession ready " students. This has encouraged alternative MBAs to replace traditional MBA degree programmes as students no longer find it useful to stick to such courses just for the sake of obtaining degrees. Additionally, the young working professionals seeking to hone their skills to acquire a better or new job role in their organisation are also considering alternative MBAs along with their job to update and educate themselves

with specialisation in digital social media, data science and IoT. Moreover, the recent formulation of NEP emphasizes the fact that degree programs are just the duration extension of diploma and certificate programmes. As per the newly proposed NEP, Under the four-year programme students can exit after one year with a certificate, after two years with a diploma, and after three years with a bachelor's degree. Also under NEP, the AICTE and the UGC have been merged and further guidelines are still awaited. This could make the present MBA/PGP redundant in coming years and adding more uncertainties to the career of students with such qualifications. Thus, alternative MBAs have become a lucrative option with tremendous scope in areas like digital media, data science, and IoT. Also such MBAs are more NEP compliant. Though it is still on a nascent stage, a few institutions are coming forward with such programs that are focusing on providing industrial exposure to students and still preparing them for digital age employment. The writer is CEO of IMET Global

Key pointers before you start business

Successful entrepreneurs across the globe learn from their apprenticeship or executive days as the foundation to start their business, says LAKSH BUCHA

Entrepreneurship is the journey towards self-realisation. People tend to make mistakes in their first few attempts, and those with a firm resolve learn from them to triumph. There are some touchstones of success which must be complied if one wishes to succeed. It is pertinent to research about your prospective competitors; assess the legal aspects of the segment; gauge personal and business finance along with a realistic assessment of the risk involved. The mightiest of the swordsmen didn't forge their swords, and hence, one must also be open to hiring help whenever required. Further, timing is another relevant factor. Every founder must consider the below mentioned six steps to achieve ever-increasing growth acceleration: **Nature of business:** We have all heard the famous proverb 'Jack of all trades, master of none'. A businessman who tries to provide multiple services will fail as clients always repose trust with experts. Other than that the law of the land also requires one to state the nature of business. **Clarity in concept:** The recipe of success is simplicity. One must not over-complicate the concept because it would become difficult to implement a complex idea. Finding investments for simple concepts is easy in comparison to complex concepts as their marketability is higher. **Focus on market:** One may have a brilliant product idea, but it is pertinent to focus on the market trend. Ignoring the demands of the market can lead to huge disappointments; the product must be tailor-made to suit the requirements of the buyers. **Experimentation and improvements:** Product/service launch is of great significance, and one must not leave any stone unturned to ensure their success. It has been an industry practice to launch alpha and beta prototypes before the actual launch. Organisations do this to seek feedback and modify their offerings accordingly. **Government compliance:** Many start-ups have been caught in the net of legal violations for their ignorance of government compliance. It is necessary to fulfil all the Government com-



Laksh Bucha
CEO-founder, Growthxo

pliance requirements to march on the road to success. Many a time, the compliance requirements help the start-ups in fine-tuning their services and products. **Don't hire friends:** One should always avoid hiring friends and relatives due to the various complexities that may occur with the intertwining of relations. The friend may take undue advantage. In any such case, it is the business that suffers. Hiring professionals is the key to success! productivity would increase if the employer-employee relationship is intact. The term business is often read as busy-ness. Everyone who wishes to become an entrepreneur must be willing to step out of comfort zone. Those attracted towards entrepreneurship due to the perks attached must remember that there are no free lunches. An entrepreneur has to work with caution to become successful. Entrepreneurship is a rewarding process. It creates employment and strengthens the economy through revenue generation. One must strive to traverse the entrepreneurial path for nothing is more satisfying than working on what you call your own.

In today's scenario, education has become an essential and expensive asset and is the most powerful thing in life. It adds meaning to life in a massive way whilst enhancing it. Education is one such platform that makes it quite comprehensible to break all barriers and carve its own right way. The objective of education is not just giving degrees that enable a student to earn a living but to profuse the spirits of humanity and virtues to young mind so that they can grow up to become responsible citizens of the world. Education should not be limited just to dish out the curriculum in a mechanical fashion but to ignite young minds. Hence, we should all put in our best efforts in availing and providing the best learning and education.

However, in a developing country like India, where poverty is still a problem; good education is a luxury that still cannot be afforded by many. Therefore, scholarships are given by various educational institutions to reduce the number of droppers and encourage the best students to continue pursuing their studies. One of the most important scholarship benefits for society is that it gives extra support that could help massively in aiding one's education. To make the process of education and learning unhindered, especially during this crisis period, let us now delineate the benefits of such scholarships. ■ Parents are already over-burdened with heavy school/college or institutional fees every month, which cannot be avoided or

MINDIT

reduced under some circumstances. Scholarships thus, aids in eliminating the extra baggage that comes in the form of hefty fees. ■ As these scholarships are given to students only based on a student's performance in the test, it means students receiving the scholarships are meritorious and they should be allowed to compete with the best minds ■ It motivates students and boosts their self-esteem. It makes them confident of their own capabilities and reduces the fear of dropping out or not availing the best guidance for future. ■ Getting a scholarship reduces the burden and risks of taking and repaying loans for higher studies. Thus, it allows studying, gain knowledge and secure better grades. ■ Scholarships are the best way a student can fulfill his or her dream of studying abroad and enables them to get global exposure and develop their interpersonal skills. ■ Most often than not, it is not the cost of the institution but the cost of the degree program that is too high. Such out of financial reach programs can be easily taken

up through scholarships. Opting for a good and fully funded program helps a student get into his or her desired course. ■ COVID-19 has faltered and altered our existence to a great extent. These scholarships during such unprecedented times will act as a big help for parents who are facing pay cuts or have been laid off. These scholarships have come as a boon for them and they can ensure continuous learning of their children. Coaching institutes and all other educational institutions can come forward and provide an aid for deserving students who want to excel in studies and their lives and give it back to society. The support that students receive from their own community infuses a greater sense of belonging and

motivation. Hence, it can be safely concluded that the provisions of these educational scholarships exemplify the fact that the process of learning and education should go on despite hindrances. We, at VMC, provide scholarships to the meritorious students, solely based on their performances in our entrance tests. The main purpose behind imparting education and learning is inclusion and not exclusion, for the greater benefit of society. We sincerely believe that education is the purview of all and hence, the brightest one shouldn't get missed out, only due to the lack of resources. The writer is Saurabh Kumar, Director Academics, Vidyamandir Classes



The Lakehead University invites applications for UG entrance scholarships for the academic year 2021-2022. These opportunities are available to the top international students. **Eligibility:** Non-Canadian citizens who are entering Lakehead University from a recognized high school curriculum or who are transferring from an international college or university. Entrance Requirement: Applicants must have a previous degree. **English language requirement:** All international applicants for whom English is not the native tongue must provide proof of competence in the English language. **How to apply:** How to Apply: firstly, students have to take admission in the undergraduate degree coursework at the university. After being enrolled, you will be automatically considered for the grant. **Application deadline:** It is open. **Applications are invited by Waikato Pathways College International High Achiever Progression Bursary.** The bursary aims to encourage talented international students enrolling in a full-time

undergraduate degree coursework at the University of Waikato. **Eligibility:** Candidates from all over the world are eligible for this application. Undergraduate degree in any subject offered by the university. To be eligible, the applicants must meet all the following criteria: Students who achieved a grade average over their first 60 points (Accelerated Foundation Studies or Certificate of University Preparation) or 120 points (Standard Foundation Studies, International Diploma (Business) or International Diploma (Science)). Candidates must remain enrolled full-time for the whole year of tenure (that is, the first year of enrolment in the UG degree). Applicants must submit a CV, academic certificates, and transcripts with their applications. **Admission requirements:** For taking admission, candidates are required to meet the entry requirements of the university. **Language requirement:** Where applicants are non-native speakers of English, acceptable evidence of the English language is required. **How to apply:** Take admission in the UG, candidates will be automatically considered for this bursary. **Application deadline:** The last date to apply for this is January 31, 2021.

VUE.JS DEVELOPMENT AT MEINIGAR TECHNOLOGIES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹12,000-₹18,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6159739
Deadline: December 3, 2020

PRODUCT MANAGEMENT AT TRIPUPP HR
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6159740
Deadline: December 3, 2020

VIDEO EDITING AT MAYHIGH FILMS
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6159745
Application deadline: December 3, 2020

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT CODALIEN TECHNOLOGIES
Location: Delhi, Noida
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6159746
Application deadline - 3rd December 2020

ANGULAR.JS DEVELOPMENT AT EDUGORILLA
Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6159747
Application deadline: December 2, 2020

GRAPHIC DESIGN & ANIMATION AT INVENT GRID INDIA
Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6159750
Application deadline: December 3, 2020

ACCOUNTS AT P K GUPTA ADVOCATE
Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6159749
Application deadline: December 2, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

‘Aim’s to unravel students need to study abroad’

Students can now apply to top universities in the UK, Ireland, US, Canada and New Zealand through AI-driven study abroad platform

Expanding access to study abroad for Indian students, UK-based AI-driven education consultancy platform for international studies, Edvoy has now set its foot in New Zealand. The digital study abroad platform announced its partnership with Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. As per the QS World Rankings 21, the University holds 223rd position among the World's Top 500 Universities. With this expansion, students can now apply to top universities in the UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, and New Zealand through the AI-driven study abroad platform. The Edvoy has also established fresh tie-ups with several universities in the UK in 2020. Some of these include University of Bath, University of Law, University of Wolverhampton, Solent University of Southampton, and London Metropolitan University. Following these new partnerships, there a total of 120 UK

universities now present on the Edvoy platform. Speaking on the development, Sadiq Basha, CEO, Edvoy said: “Our expansion into New Zealand and partnerships with several renowned universities in the UK will help Edvoy penetrate further into the international student market and enable them to make better and more informed decisions. At Edvoy, our aim is to understand the growing needs of these students aspiring to study abroad. Through our AI-driven digital platform, we empower these enthusiastic bunch of students by connecting them with education providers all across the world to get advice in finding the universities of their choice.” Edvoy is a digital platform that uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to simplify the application process by allowing students to apply to multiple universities in several countries across the world, in one place. In addition to the application process, the AI-driven digital platform also advises students on accommodation, medical insurance, and arrival at university.



IN BRIEF

FIITJEE TALENT REWARD EXAM IN DECEMBER

The FIITJEE Talent Reward Exam (FTRE) is an opportunity for all students to know their current position/rank at national level along with Rank Potential Index for JEE Advanced, JEE Main, KVPY, NTSE and Olympiads. It is the right platform for students of all levels to effectively plan and tread the road of their academic preparation & achieve their aspired goal. The exam will be held on December 27, 2020 in across India in an offline mode, computer-based test mode (at designated centres) or through proctored online mode (can be taken from home).

Students presently in classes V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, Xand XI (going to class VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII in 2021) are eligible to appear in FTRE 2020. The last date to register (Online and Offline) for the exam is December 25, 2020. Through online mode: Registration can be done through www.fiitjee-ftre.com or download FTRE App on your Mobile through Google Play Store. For registration through mobile, please visit www.fiitjee-ftre.com/mobile The registration fee varies from ₹400 to ₹1000 depending upon when you are applying.

ENTREPRENEURS TO BUILD THEIR OWN VENTURES

The Indian Institute of Management Udaipur Incubation Center (IIIMUC) announced applications for Pre-Incubation Program 2020 with the vision of transforming entrepreneurial ideas into a reality and building successful ventures. The program will run for ten weeks, starting from the

week of January 3, 2021. It will provide a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to work on their ideas. The COVID-19 has hit businesses and entrepreneurs and affected their ideas even before they had a chance to work on them. In such a scenario, this programme is aimed at empowering budding and aspiring

entrepreneurs with an entrepreneurial mindset and business skills necessary to create their venture. Additionally, they will also develop intrapreneurship skills, and get them started on the venture journey. For more information: <https://iiimuc.org/pre-incubation>

WORKSHOP BY IIT ROORKEE AND ATAL ACADEMY

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, in association with AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy, organised a one-week virtual workshop on Electrochemical Energy Conversion and Storage from November 23-27, 2020. The objective was to sensitise the faculty of various engineering colleges towards clean energy technologies. The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Manoranjan Parida, Deputy Director of IIT Roorkee. It witnessed participation of

more than 180 faculty members across India. The organisation of the workshop was led by Professor Amit Bhosale and Professor Pratham Arora from the Department of Hydro and Renewable Energy, IIT Roorkee. “Advanced technologies hold the key to combating environmental issues. Amid growing concerns of pollution and threat to life and biodiversity, the workshop will help in sensitizing the participants about clean energy technologies: said Professor Ajit K Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee.

Rohit, Virat's absence will leave big hole: Smith

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Star Australia batsman Steve Smith reckons Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's absence will leave a "big hole" in the Indian team but the visitors have a lot of talented players who can put their hands up in pressure situations.

Rohit, who is nursing a hamstring injury, is out of white ball series and is still doubtful starter for Test matches while skipper Kohli will be on paternity leave after the first Day/Night Test in Adelaide.

"Look, Rohit is obviously a tremendous white-ball player, he has proven that for a number of years now at the top of the order, so obviously it leaves a bit of hole," Smith said during a virtual press conference facilitated by Sony Network.

"But I guess the beauty with the Indian team is there are so many batters coming through, that are of high quality."

Smith spoke about Mayank Agarwal and KL Rahul, who were on fire during the IPL.

"You can look at someone like Mayank Agarwal in the IPL, just smashed, KL Rahul in the top order as well. There are plenty of options there for them so, look you leave a hole no doubt, but quality players there to back him up," Smith explained.

He feels that it's the same for Kohli in Test matches.

"The same (like Rohit) I think with Virat and the Test squad. You know there are a number of players who can come in and do a good job."

"Virat is of obviously of high quality, and we know how good he has been in all forms for a long period of times, so it is certainly



Rohit Sharma plays shot against New Zealand during 1st T20 match in Auckland AP/File Photo

going to leave a hole but I still do believe that they have got some quality batters waiting in the wings to fill that void."

During last India Test series in Australia, Smith was banned for ball tampering and missed out on challenging one of his favourite opposition.

Will it make him hungrier? "I don't know if it makes me hungrier. I am always pretty hungry to go out and perform and do well. I guess it was tough watching from the sidelines and particularly with the team not doing as well," he said.

He admitted that it was difficult to see Tim Paine's boys lose the series 1-2.

"Obviously they wouldn't have liked losing that series. That was difficult to watch, that was hard but certainly look forward to this series, two of the top teams in the world going out, two quality pace and batting -line ups and makes for an interesting and exciting summer."

Sledging according to Smith is over-rated in India versus Australia contests especially after all players converge during IPL and no one wants an awkward situation.

"People talk so much about sledging and stuff but really there is very little that happens in our days. I think that's probably a lot to do with things like IPL," he said.

"You know IPL brings players from all around the world together, so for instance if you get stuck in to someone one day, you might be playing with them a few weeks or few months later."

"...And then, it's a bit awkward sort of conversation, so honestly, it does not happen too much in our days."

I think I found my hands: Smith ahead of India series

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian batting mainstay Steve Smith on Tuesday said he has "found his hands" after a disappointing IPL campaign and is ready to torment the visiting Indian bowlers when the two sides lock horns in an eagerly-awaited showdown across formats starting November 27.

Smith, who captained Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, managed only 311 runs in 14 games and mostly looked out of touch but a couple of days back, he said he finally found his "touch" and is now ready to put his best foot forward.

"I was pretty disappointed with my batting throughout the IPL. For my sort of standards, I wasn't consistent enough. I did play a few innings here and there but not consistently," Smith said during a virtual press conference facilitated by the series' official broadcaster Sony Network.

"I think in the last few days, people who know me well, said that I have found my hands and I am excited about it. So I plan to have a few more hits at the nets and get started in a few days time," said Smith, who would be an integral part of the white-ball games also.

So when did he feel that he has got his rhythm back?

"It was about getting that feel in the way my hands come up. It's hard to explain but it probably wasn't quite being right till two days ago," Smith said.

"Then something clicked two

days ago. It changes where you meet the ball. I had that big smile on my face while training the other day. It's taken me a lot longer than usual.

"I didn't bat for four months during COVID (lockdown) so don't know if it took me a bit longer to get that rhythm back."

Smith admitted that during the IPL, trying to change his natural game affected his batting, something he realised after training with the national team.

"In IPL, I got caught up with trying to be a bit more powerful and that's not my game. There are players in the world who can hit sixes at will and I am probably not one of those."

"It is about playing the cricketing shots and manipulating the gaps available. Probably, it (natural game)

went away in the IPL from doing that. So now, I am keeping the thoughts clear that I will only hit the balls in my areas."

Ask how he has been so successful against India, he feels it's the quality of the opposition that brings the best out of him.

"I don't know. In a big series, I try and stand up and get the best out of myself. Ashes and India series are the two biggest and as an Australian cricketer, there is something inside me that comes out and I am not sure."

"I have always started the first Test well against India and that gives me a bit of rhythm throughout the rest of the series. It's something to do with that," said the man with 26 Test hundreds and 7000-plus runs.

There has been some talk about short-pitched bowling, which has also been his problem. Smith said that only someone like New Zealand's Neil Wagner, with a specific skill-set, has been an issue for him.

"You are alluding to the short pitched bowling approach that others might take. That's kind of flattering if people think that's the only way to get me out as they have exhausted all other options," he said.

He then complimented Wagner for bowling consistently in the line between his rib cage and shoulder.

"Wagner got the better of me in the last Test series He has a set of skills that not many people can do and he does it for a long period of time while changing the pace."

Kohli needs to set tone before leaving: Clarke

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Former Australia captain Michael Clarke has warned that India could be "smoked 4-0" in the Test series if skipper Virat Kohli does not set the tone in the white-ball games before his departure.

"These One-dayers and these Twenty20s is where Virat Kohli can really stand up and lead from the front," Clarke said on 'Sky Sports Radio'.

"If India don't have success in the One-dayers and the T20s, they are in deep trouble in the Test matches and they'll get smoked 4-0, in my opinion," he added.

Clarke feels that despite featuring in only one Test, the talismanic Indian skipper could still play a huge role in the outcome of the red-ball series by dominating in the limited overs game.

"I think the tone he sets with this team will play a big role when he leaves, after the first Test match."

The much talked about contest between the two best sides in the world would begin on November 27 with the ODI series-opener in Sydney.

The former World Cup-winning skipper said Jasprit Bumrah will also have a huge role in the much anticipated series, adding that the star pacer needs to bowl aggressively to put the pressure on the home side.

"Opening bowler, probably the best short-form bowler in the world at the moment but his success in Test cricket has been exceptional as well."

"He's quick, he's got a really different action, so I think he needs to set the tone and be really aggressive to the Australian batters," Clarke said.

The 39-year-old pointed out that Bumrah has been winning the duel against the formidable David Warner and also has the ability to trouble star batsman Steve Smith.

"Again, it's not just about the wickets he takes, it's how he bowls. He's got Davey Warner's measure at the moment, he's got him out a number of times."

"Even to someone like Steve Smith, he's got to use that short ball consistently and regularly, like Jofra Archer did to Steve Smith in the Ashes."

"They've (Bumrah and Kohli) got to take the Aussies on and those two players are India's best two players to be aggressive to the Australians," he added.



PTI ■ SYDNEY

Red-ball captain Tim Paine has admitted the "annoying" Test series defeat to India still "grinds" him, adding that Australia now has a better all round side which is pumped up to take on the holders of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

India had stunned Australia 2-1 to win their maiden Test series Down Under in 2018-19, which was Paine's first assignment as skipper on home soil.

The wicket-keeper batsman was handed the charge of leading the Baggy Greens after the 2018 ball-tampering incident that saw the then skipper Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner being slapped with year-long bans.

"Certainly for me sitting

2018 loss still grinds Paine



back it still annoys me that we lost that Test series," Paine told 2GB's Wide World of Sports radio.

"Whether we had Steve or David or not you don't want to be losing any Test matches or Test series you're involved in, so that still grinds me a little bit," Paine added.

The 35-year-old said the every player involved in the loss has improved in the last couple of years.

"We're a much better all round side. Not just adding Steve and David back into it, which is a hell of a lot of runs to add back into a side, but I think every other cricketer in that team has improved in the

last 18 months as well and we've been playing some really good cricket."

"Whereas back then I think we were finding our way through a really challenging or different type of set up."

India had won the first and third Test at Adelaide and Melbourne respectively, while Australia claimed a victory in the second game at Perth with the final match ending in a draw.

Paine, who has led Australia to 10 Test victories in 19 outings, said the loss drives the players involved in the series to do better and even Warner and Smith are eager to show what they are

capable of.

"I know that it drives a lot of the guys that were involved in that and I certainly know Steve and David are looking forward to coming back and showing just how good they are as well."

The two teams are set to lock horns again on Australian soil in a four-Test series with the opening Day-Night game in Adelaide starting December 17.

"Everyone is absolutely pumped. The key is going to be last time we didn't get enough runs, this time, I think a few of our players have spoken about it."

"If we can make their fast bowlers bowl more overs than last time, I think our attack showed we can get the 20 wickets one way or another."

Rohit, Ishant to miss first 2 Tests

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's star opener Rohit Sharma and pacer Ishant Sharma will miss the first two Tests against Australia and are also doubtful for the remaining two after it was conveyed to the BCCI that the duo will require close to a month to be match fit. The two, who are undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, are already out of contention for the limited-overs leg of the series, which begins with the ODIs on Friday.

They were kept in the Test squad for the series starting on December 17 but tough quarantine rules have made their availability uncertain.

"The NCA has given a report that both Rohit and Ishant will take at least another 3 to 4 weeks to get match fit," a Board source told PTI on Tuesday.

Rohit, while talking to PTI last week, had stated that his hamstring injury is fine now and he is only working on strength and conditioning to be battle-ready at the NCA.

Ishant, on the other hand, is recovering from a side strain.

"Even if they travel now they will have 'hard quarantine' since they will travel by commercial flight. Hard quarantine means not being able to train during the 14

INDIA'S STAR OPENER ROHIT SHARMA AND PACER ISHANT SHARMA WILL MISS THE FIRST TWO TESTS AGAINST AUSTRALIA AND ARE ALSO DOUBTFUL FOR THE REMAINING TWO AFTER IT WAS CONVEYED TO THE BCCI THAT THE DUO WILL REQUIRE CLOSE TO A MONTH TO BE MATCH FIT.

days like the whole team," the source said.

"So, now if only Cricket Australia can convince the government and allow them to train during quarantine," he added.

The Indian team, which landed here after the IPL earlier this month on a chartered flight, was allowed to train in quarantine as Australia battled a fresh wave of COVID-19 cases.

National coach Ravi Shastri had on Sunday stated that the two cricketers' chances of playing the Test series hinge on whether they are able to board a flight to Australia within this week.

"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," he had said.



Ishant Sharma trains during practice session Twitter

Smith will require fifth off-stump line bowling: Tendulkar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Steve Smith's unconventional technique will warrant a slightly wider line from Indian bowlers, the iconic Sachin Tendulkar said, urging the pacers to target the "fifth stump" to blunt the redoubtable batsman during the upcoming series in Australia.

Smith, who missed the last India-Australia series in 2018-19 due to a ball-tampering ban, will be itching to go out there and prove a point. He has always performed against India and has six hundreds and a 92, a statistic that won't be lost on India skipper Virat Kohli.

"Smith's technique is unconventional...Normally, we tell a bowler in Test matches to bowl on and around off-stump or may be fourth stump line. But for Smith, because he shuffles, may be that line (of delivery) moves further away by four to five inches," Tendulkar told PTI in an interview.

"One has to aim between

(imaginary) fourth and fifth stump for Steve to nick one. It's just a mental adjustment of line, more than anything else," the former captain said.

"Smith, I read, said he is ready for the short-pitched stuff...Probably he is expecting bowlers to be aggressive upfront with him. But I think, he needs to be tested on and around that off-stump channel. Keep him on back-foot and induce that early mistake."

Can't an in-swinging yorker be more effective, considering Smith's pronounced trigger from leg to off stump?

"For that to happen, you have to see how much the ball is swinging. All those things matter. You can't

use saliva, so it's a different case, if wickets have a lot more life. In England during the Test matches, on occasions, the Dukes wouldn't be swinging much."

"I don't know if they will have greenish wickets for the ball to do a little bit. If the ball doesn't swing. That swinging yorker, you might not even see."

The Indian bowling attack comprising Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav is a "potent one" but Tendulkar would ideally like the team management to identify a defensive bowler as well.

"As I have always said, we have one of the best and most balanced bowling attacks India has ever had. Eventually, you have to pick 20 wickets to win Test matches. But 20 wickets shouldn't be too expensive either."

"...Along with our attacking bowlers, we should also identify bowlers who can hold one end up on unresponsive pitches, bowl those continuous maiden overs to build the pressure."

India to play 4 Tests against Eng

PTI ■ MUMBAI

England's tour of India next year will comprise four Tests instead of the regulation five to accommodate the limited-overs series that had to be postponed earlier this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly confirmed the schedule for the series planned in February-March while speaking at an online event.

"England is touring India for four Test matches, three ODIs and five T20s, it is a lot easier having bi-laterals because the number of people are less," he said.

"When it gets to 8 teams, 9 teams, 10 teams, then it becomes a bit more difficult...We have to keep assessing the situation...Lot of them are talking about a second wave," he said.

The limited-overs series originally comprised three T20s and as many ODIs and was scheduled to be held in September this year but had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

The number of T20s has been increased in the revised schedule as the Board took into account the World T20 to be held in October-November next year in India.

Virat, Ashwin in contention for Player of Decade award

PTI ■ DUBAI

The talismanic Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin were on Tuesday nominated for the coveted ICC Men's Player of the Decade Award with the Indian captain featuring in all five men's categories for his incredible run in the last 10 years.

Kohli and veteran off-spinner Ashwin are the two Indians among seven players nominated for the most prestigious award.

Besides the Indian duo, Joe Root (England), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Steve Smith (Australia), AB de Villiers (South Africa), and Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka) are the other contenders in this category.

In the Men's ODI Player of the Decade category, former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and run-machine Rohit Sharma also found a place alongside Kohli, Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka), Mitchell Starc (Australia), de Villiers and Sangakkara.

Kohli and Rohit also featured in the Men's T20I Player of the Decade category, which also included Rashid



Khan (Afghanistan), Imran Tahir (South Africa), Aaron Finch (Australia), Malinga and Chris Gayle (West Indies).

Kohli has also been nominated in the Men's Test Player of the Decade and ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade categories.

Besides Kohli, Dhoni also found a place in the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade award category.

Kohli, who averages more than 50 in all formats, has already amassed 70

international hundreds and is only behind Ricky Ponting (71) and Sachin Tendulkar (100).

He is third in the list of leading run-scorers of all time with 21,444 runs, behind Ponting (27,483) and Tendulkar (34,357).

In the past decade Kohli has amassed over 7000 runs in Tests while in the shorter formats, the Indian skipper has accumulated more than 11000 runs in ODIs and over 2600 runs in T20s.

The final winners will be decided on the basis of the number of votes a player receives.

Men's player of the decade: Virat Kohli (India) Ravichandran Ashwin (India), Joe Root (England), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Steve Smith (Australia), AB de Villiers (South Africa), and Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka).

Women's Player of the Decade: Ellyse Perry (Australia), Meg Lanning (Australia), Suzie Bates (New Zealand), Stafanie Taylor (West Indies), Mithali Raj (India), Sarah Taylor (England).