

OPINION 8
THE
SOUNDBURST**WORLD 11**
IRAN SCIENTIST LINKED TO
MILITARY NUCLEAR PROJECT KILLED**SPORT 14**
AUS BEAT INDIA BY 66
RUNS IN 1ST ODI

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



DURGAMATI
WAS PERFECT
FOR ME: BHUMI
12 VIVACITY

Farmers allowed to enter Delhi after clashes

Police give permission to hold protest at Nirankari Ground but protesters adamant on Ramlila Maidan

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The bordering areas of the national Capital looked like battle grounds on Friday as clashes broke out at multiple places between the protesting farmers and Delhi Police personnel. The restless crowds of farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana, milled around and a sea of police personnel used force to keep them at bay. Drones circled the air and plumes of smoke from teargas shells could be seen from far.

Carrying flags and shouting slogans, thousands of farmers gathered at various entry points to the national Capital.

Before the Delhi Police gave the protesting farmers permission to march towards Nirankari Ground in North Delhi's Burari area, clashes broke out between the Delhi Police and farmers at Singhu border forcing the police to resort to tear gas shells, water cannon and mild lathi charge.

In the 40 minutes clash with protesting farmers, the protesters broke barb wires and barricades erected by the police and stones were pelted from both sides. Police said no severe injury was reported on either side.

The farmers on Friday evening refused Union Government's proposal to protest at Nirankari Ground. They demanded that they be allowed to hold their protest at the Ramlila Ground but the Delhi Police denied the request.

Braving tear gas shells and water cannons they camped at the Delhi borders for several



Farmers stand facing security personnel at Singhu border to protest against Centre's new Farm Laws on Friday

Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

hours, making multiple attempts to break barricades and resorting to stone pelting.

"We will not go back till our demands are met. We will stage a peaceful protest now at the designated place. We had to cross several barricades to

reach the place but we are ready to face anything," one of the protesting farmers said.

Punjab farmers, representing over 30 farm bodies, had announced that they will go to Delhi through several routes — Lalru, Shambhu, Patiala-

Pehowa, Patran-Khanauri, Moonak-Tohana, Ratia-Fatehabad and Talwandi-Sirsa. Tension was escalating at all the border points.

Farmers' protest led to traffic snarls in Delhi as Dhansa and Jharoda Kalan borders

were closed for traffic movement due to the demonstration and the commuters were asked to take an alternative route, the Delhi Traffic Police said.

Earlier, during the day AAP-led Delhi Government denied permission to the Delhi

Police to convert the city's stadiums into temporary jails as farmers continued to push towards the national Capital on their "Delhi Chalo" march against the Centre's farm laws.

Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain said Indian cit-

Tomar invites farmers for dialogue on Dec 3

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday requested farmers to end their protest against the new Central laws, offering talks next week, even as the police continued to fire tear gas and water cannons in a second day of clashes over the march to New Delhi.

"The Government has always been ready to discuss issues with farmers. We have invited farmers' organisations for another round of talks on December 3. I appeal to them to leave agitation in view of Covid-19 and winter," Tomar said. On the other hand, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliate Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) has urged the Centre to resolve issues being raised by farmers regarding the three agriculture laws

through dialogue and also urged the farmers to not become victim of ploys by political parties.

BKS leaders warned the NDA Government that if the issues are not addressed at the earliest, the agitation could be hijacked by Opposition parties. The leaders said they are against any use of force or violence by police.

Mohini Mohan Mishra, national secretary of BKS, said nearly 25,000 farmers had sent proposals to the Prime Minister. "The laws have been made for traders saying they'll eventually benefit farmers. If the Government has brought laws to support farmers, we welcome it. However, there are drawbacks," said Mishra adding that they are against any kind of force or violence by police.

Continued on Page 11

izens have constitutional right to protest peacefully for which they cannot be put in jails.

Groups of farmers from Punjab, which had reached Delhi by crossing various barricades installed at several locations across Haryana, were joined by farmers of Haryana at Tikri and Singhu borders. It is expected that farmers from neighbouring States Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh will join the

protests in Delhi on Saturday. Near Singhu border, three petrol pumps were closed as a precautionary measure.

"They (police) have been citing Covid-19 guidelines to stop us from marching ahead but we will take all precautions. We will continue with our fight and go ahead with our march despite all challenges ahead," another farmer said.

Continued on Page 11

Eco claws back faster than expected in Q2

India's GDP clocks just 7.5% contraction against 23.9% in Q1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economy recovered faster than expected in the September quarter as a pick-up in manufacturing helped GDP clock a lower contraction of 7.5 per cent and held out hopes for further improvement on consumer demand bouncing back.

The gross domestic product (GDP) had contracted by a record 23.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2020-21 fiscal (April 2020 to March 2021) as the coronavirus lockdown pummeled economic activity.

The second straight quarter of contraction pushed India to its first technical recession. The GDP contraction of

7.5 per cent in July-September compared with a growth of 4.4 per cent in the same quarter last year, according to data released by the statistics ministry on Friday.

With the gradual opening up from June, the economy picked up momentum.

Manufacturing clocked a surprise 0.6 per cent growth in July-September after it had shrunk by a massive 39 per cent in the preceding quarter.

Continuing its good showing, the agriculture sector grew by 3.4 per cent, while electricity and gas expanded 4.4 per cent. Financial and real estate services shrank 8.1 per cent in the second quarter of FY21 from a year ago, while trade, hotels, transport and communication declined 15.6 per cent.

The construction sector, which is the second-largest employer in the economy, con-

tracted only 8.6 per cent in Q2 versus (-) 50 per cent in Q1. Public spending was down 12 per cent.

Analysts and economists, who have projected the economy shrinking for the full fiscal, had expected a wider contraction in Q2.

China's economy grew by 4.9 per cent in July-September this year, faster than the 3.2 per cent growth in April-June 2020.

Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian said the GDP numbers were "quite encouraging" given the pandemic and compared with the previous quarter's performance.

Giving outlook for the near future, he said, "We should be cautiously optimistic and the caution is warranted because the economic impact is primarily due to the pandemic."

Continued on Page 11

Pilot missing after MiG-29K crashes into Arabian Sea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A twin-seater MiG-29K fighter jet of the Indian Navy crashed into the Arabian Sea off Goa on Thursday evening during a routine sortie. One pilot was rescued and efforts were on to trace the second pilot. These aircraft operate from the INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier.

This is the third mishap involving the MiG-29K in the last one and half years. At least 45 jets manufactured by Russia were inducted into the Navy some years back for flying from the aircraft carrier.

Giving details of the mishap, the Navy said a board of enquiry was ordered to ascertain the cause of the incident. "A MiG-29K trainer aircraft operating at sea met with an accident on November 26. One pilot has been recovered



and searches by air and surface units in progress for the second pilot. An enquiry has been ordered to investigate the incident," the Navy said on Friday.

The MiG-29Ks had recently took part in the prestigious Malabar series of maritime exercises with the navies of the US, Australia and Japan. The Indian aircraft carrier along with the US Navy's aircraft carrier Nimitz took part in the second phase of the four-nation drill in the North Arabian Sea off Goa earlier this month.

Continued on Page 11

TMC heavyweight Suwendu resigns from Didi's Cabinet

Has not contacted BJP as yet, but he is welcome: BJP Bengal observer

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a major blow to the Trinamool Congress (TMC), its one of the most powerful mass leaders Suwendu Adhikary resigned from the State Cabinet, apparently making his first move before quitting the party and joining the BJP.

"I do hereby resign from my office as Minister ... steps may please be taken for immediate action," the brief letter — a copy of which was e-mailed to Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar — written to the Chief Minister said.

Hours after his resignation Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said, "He is welcome in



our party," adding "this is the beginning of the end of the Trinamool Congress." However, BJP's observer for the State Kailash Vijayvargiya said the rebel leader had not yet contacted the saffron leadership.

Adhikary's resignation was promptly accepted by the Chief Minister who on Thursday evening called an emergency meeting of her top Cabinet colleagues and trusted confidants at her Kalighat residence.

Those who were present in the meeting included Ministers Partho Chatterjee, Firhad Hakim and Arup Biswas besides State party president Subroto Bakshi and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, sources in the Government said.

Suwendu, who has been the party's charge de affairs for several districts, including West Midnapore, Purulia, Bankura, Malda, Murshidabad, North, and South Dinajpur, could influence the outcome on dozens of seats, party insiders said, adding it is just a matter of time before he joins the BJP.

Adhikary's quitting of the Cabinet came in tandem with another TMC MLA, this time from Coochbehar North Mihir Goswami joining the BJP in Delhi on Thursday. "He has spoken to us and is about to join us in Delhi," Coochbehar BJP MP Nisith Pramanik said.

Continued on Page 11

Sushil Modi is BJP choice for Paswan's RS seat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday nominated former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Kumar Modi as its nominee for the Rajya Sabha bypoll necessitated by the death of former Union Cabinet Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Ram Vilas Paswan.

Sushil, who is known to be close to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as his erstwhile Deputy, is expected to be brought to the Centre for his induction into the Modi-Cabinet. Polls are scheduled for December 27 and Modi is likely to win with enough votes.

The BJP is inching forward for a majority in the RS with already 92 members. The NDA is 10 members short in the RS for a complete majority there.

The RS nomination will mean the exit of Modi from State politics after helming the affairs of the BJP there for a quarter of a century.

Under house arrest, says Mehbooba; J&K Police denies charge

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) chief and former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Friday claimed she has been illegally detained inside her own house and the local administration was not allowing her to step out to visit family of a PDP leader Waheed Ur Rehman Para, arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi.

Before any official confirmation, Mehbooba posted a tweet claiming, "I have been illegally detained yet again. Since two days, the J&K admin has refused to allow me to visit the ParaWahid family in Pulwama. BJP Ministers & their puppets are allowed to move around in every corner of Kashmir but security is a prob-



lem only in my case."

The J&K Police, however, denied these allegations. The twitter handle of the Kashmir Zone Police in a tweet clarified, "PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti is not under house arrest. She was requested to postpone her visit to Pulwama purely due to security reasons."

Referring to the arrest of a PDP leader by the NIA two days ago in New Delhi, Mehbooba also tweeted, "Their cruelty knows no bounds."

Continued on Page 11

Modi to visit vaccine labs today to size up progress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday will embark on a three-city tour to take stock of the Covid-19 vaccine development work.

Modi will first visit Zydus Biotech Park on the outskirts of Ahmedabad around 9 am and from there he will head towards Chandigarh in a helicopter. Zydus Cadila's Vaccine

Technology Centre is located at Chandigarh Park where the pharma company is developing its Covid-19 vaccine candidate ZyCoV-D.

From Ahmedabad, Modi is expected to fly to Pune where he will review the status of the vaccine, including its launch,

production and distribution mechanisms at Serum Institute of India. From there, the PM will travel to Hyderabad to visit Bharat Biotech's facility where the indigenous vaccine Covaxin is being developed. "As India enters a decisive phase of the fight against

Covid-19, PM Modi's visit to these facilities and discussions with the scientists will help him get a first hand perspective of the preparations, challenges and roadmap in India's endeavour to vaccinate its citizens," said PMO in an statement.

Continued on Page 11

Covid-19 IN INDIA			
TOTAL			
CASES: 93,43,019			
DEATHS: 1,36,103			
RECOVERED: 87,53,290			
ACTIVE: 4,51,491			

5 COVID-19 PATIENTS DIE IN GUJ HOSPITAL FIRE; SC TAKES NOTE

Ahmedabad: Five coronavirus patients died after a fire broke out in the ICU of a designated Covid-19 hospital at Rajkot in Gujarat on Friday, officials said. The SS took cognizance of the fire and sought a report from Gujarat Government. Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said 26 patients at the hospital were rescued and shifted to other facilities.

CAPSULE

2 JAWANS KILLED IN PAK SHELLING IN RAJOURI
Jammu: Two Army jawans were killed on Friday as Pakistani troops opened heavy fire along the LoC in Rajouri.

STRONG WINDS MAKE DELHI'S AIR MODERATE
New Delhi: Delhi's air quality improved to "moderate" category on Friday due to favourable wind speed and is likely to get even better.

KANGANA'S BUNGALOW DEMOLITION ILLEGAL: HC
Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Friday held that demolition carried out by the BMC at actor Kangana Ranaut's bungalow here was illegal and smacked of malicious intent.

4 MINOR SISTERS FOUND MURDERED IN HARYANA
Chandigarh: The bodies of four sisters, aged between one and seven, were found with their throats slit in a village in Nuh on Friday. Their mother was booked for the murder.

Uttar Pradesh targets 10,700 MW solar power projects by 2022

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government is targeting to set up solar projects for generating 10,700 megawatt solar power by 2022. The focus of solar power generation will be on Bundelkhand region and a green energy corridor will be set up to create 4,000 MW solar power in the region.

This was stated by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath while addressing the Renewable Energy Invest Meet and Expo-2020 at Gorakhpur on Friday.

Reiterating his government's priority to develop alternative and non-conventional sources of energy, the chief minister said that the government would achieve the target of setting up 10,700 MW solar power projects in the state by the year 2022.

To encourage private participation in the solar energy sector, the state government had formulated and announced a solar policy in 2017. Under this policy, the third part open access has been given for setting up solar parks and solar plants in the state along with 100 percent exemption in stamp duty and 100 percent waiver of electricity duty for ten years, besides single window online



clearances as part of promotional provisions.

Out of targeted capacity building of 10,700 MW, the utility scale solar power projects accounts for 6,400 MW while rooftop solar power plants will contribute 4300 MW.

The chief minister said that the commissioning of 500 MW capacity of projects was expected by March 2021.

This will be out of 1,122 MW projects which have been allocated after receiving bids under the solar policy.

Besides, under open access to third party purchase or captive power, 553 MW projects have been allocated and 70 MW pro-

jects have been commissioned, Yogi pointed out, adding that the rest of the projects will be commissioned by March, 2021.

The chief minister said his government wanted to develop the state in a uniform manner without discriminating on the basis of region.

"We are focusing on those areas where the investment has been low. Keeping this in mind, the state government is seriously working towards grid connectivity of the projects in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal," he said.

He also announced that the state government would set up a green energy corridor for generation of 4,000 MW of solar power in the Bundelkhand region with 1,000 MW projects to be set up every year from 2021 to 2025.

Further, Rs 5,500 crore will be invested for evacuation of power from the green energy corridor.

The chief minister said that under the Centre's Ultra Mega Renewable Solar Power Park Scheme, the in-principle sanction had been accorded to 1,200 MW capacity.

A solar power park will be set up in Jalaun district by Bundelkhand Saur Urja Limited (BSUL), a joint unit of UP NEDA

and NHPC. Under the same scheme, two solar power parks of 600 MW capacity each have got in-principle sanction in Jhansi and Lalitpur districts and will be developed by TUSCO, a joint enterprise of UP NEDA and THTC Limited.

The chief minister also announced to implement PM Kusum Yojana in UP to enable farmers to set up solar power plants in unutilised lands with some concessions by the government.

₹44.01 CRORE RELEASED FOR FOUR NEW ITIS

In his commitment towards the skill development of youth, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday sanctioned Rs 44.01 crore for the construction of four new industrial training institutes (ITIs) in four districts of the state.

While Rs 10.16 crore has been sanctioned for setting up an ITI in Deoria district, Rs 12.16 crore has been sanctioned for the ITI in Kanpur Dehat, an official spokesperson said..

In addition, Rs 10.86 crore has been sanctioned for the ITI in Hathras district, and Rs 10.82 crore for an ITI in Ghazipur district.

Gayatri now booked in DA case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

More trouble is in store for former Samajwadi Party minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati who is already in jail in connection with a rape case.

Now after the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), it is the Vigilance Department that has filed an FIR against Prajapati in a disproportionate assets (DA) case.

The case has been registered at the Lucknow sector of the Vigilance Department.

The Vigilance Department had earlier conducted an open investigation into the matter, which revealed assets worth more than six times the known sources of Prajapati's income.

The Vigilance Department then sent an inquiry report to the state government, seeking permission to register an FIR in the case and prosecute the former minister in the DA case. After getting the green signal from the government, the Vigilance Department has started investigating cases by registering the disproportionate assets of the former minister.

According to sources, the period during which the Vigilance Department conducted an open investigation of disproportionate assets revealed that Prajapati's income was around Rs 50 lakh and his assets were worth Rs 3.5 crore. Investigations by the Vigilance Department have revealed about 21 benami properties of Prajapati.

The former minister had bought agricultural land worth crores of rupees in Amethi, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh and other places in the name of his family and

other close ones.

Apart from this, his benami properties also include flats and residential plots.

In a rather shocking revelation, Prajapati also made his driver and many servants millionaires in a very clandestine manner.

The development comes at a time when the ED (Enforcement Directorate) recently quizzed Gayatri Prasad Prajapati's son.

Cooling his heels in jail, Prajapati has also been charged of gang-raping a woman and her minor daughter along with his accomplices. A case was registered in this regard at the Gautampalli police station in Lucknow. On March 15, 2017, Prajapati surrendered to the police.

Apart from Prajapati, a charge sheet was filed against six other accused. On July 18, 2017, the POCSO Special Court in Lucknow ordered the case to be registered against all the seven accused.

Prajapati is also named in the mining scam which took place during the SP regime. In the mining scam, the CBI had registered a case against the former minister, after which the ED based the CBI FIR in August 2019 against five IAS officers, including the former ministers Gayatri Prasad Prajapati and B Chandrakala under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Even though on September 4, three years, five months and 20 days later, the high court granted bail to Prajapati on the basis of medical background, the Supreme Court stayed the interim bail. He was again sent to jail and has been there since. He recently called for relief over COVID-19 infection fears.

BJP strengthens organisation for assembly polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With Uttar Pradesh assembly elections just 14 months away, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in the state has started preparing for it with the party high command appointing two deputy organisation secretaries to strengthen the organisation before the polls.

The two new deputies have been assigned special responsibilities. One will take care of eastern Uttar Pradesh and the other of western UP with present UP BJP organisation secretary Sunil Bansal taking stock of the situation from Lucknow.

"The new appointees, Karamveer, who will be based in Meerut, and Bhawani Singh, who will work from Varanasi, will report to Bansal," a party source said here on Friday.

A senior BJP leader said that these appointments were a clear indication that the BJP had started working to strengthen its organisation for the 2022 assembly polls in the state.

COLLEGE OF INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT & SCIENCE
(Running: BBA, BCA, B.Com, B.Com.(H), B.Ed.)
Affiliated to University of Lucknow

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in following Courses
(1) Bachelor In Computer Application (BCA)
(2) Bachelor Of Business Administration (BBA)
(3) Bachelor Of Commerce With Honours (B.Com(Hon.))

Eligibility Criteria: As per Lucknow University Norms Eligible candidates are requested to send their bio-data with photocopies of all documents through email/registered post within 07 days from date of advertisement.
Address: Management Park, Vipul Khand-6, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow -226010
Contact No. 9889191505, 854254317, 0522-4035454
www.cims.edu.in, cimsedu7@gmail.com

NOTICE
I the Advocate Pradeep Yadav on behalf of Smt. Archana Sinha Prahlad Kumar R/o 250 Chandra Prabha Bhawan S.D. Field Prem Nagar city Etawah inform to all that Smt. Archana Sinha Prahlad Kumar has offered to Mortgage the concerned Private Plot having area 189.59 sq.mts. Part of Arazi No.1227 situated in Gram Kasba Etawah Pargana & Teh., Distt. Etawah. It is said by Smt. Archana Sinha Prahlad Kumar that the concerned afore said of original sale deed dated 05.06.2013 executed by Udal Singh s/o Ram Gopal in favour of R.J. Kumar s/o Navab Singh of the afore said Private Plot having area 189.59 sq.mts. Part of Arazi No.1227 situated in Gram Kasba Etawah Pargana & Teh., Distt. Etawah. Which is duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar Etawah in Bahi No.1 zild No.5464 on pages 85-108 SL No.4348 is really still somewhere aless. It has been informed dated 21.11.2020 with the Police Station Kotwali Distt. Etawah, If any person or financial institute has any claim with under signed advocate within 15 days from publication of the notice, failing which will be presumed that proposed mortgage is free from Encumbrances & my Client L.I.C, H.F.L. Agra-2 will be free to process further accordingly.
Pradeep Yadav, Advocate L.I.C,H.F.L. Agra-2 Mo.9935712367



NOTICE

I, Manju Singh spouse of Sub Ajay Singh Chauhan resident of Vill-Ghanarampur PO-Juniya, PS-Gajner, Distt.-Kanpur (Dehat), State-UP, PIN-209121 have changed my name from Manju Singh to Manju Singh Chauhan vide affidavit dated 23.11.20 before Executive Magistrate / Notary/Auraiya.

NOTICE

I Muddasir Tahir Athar S/o Mohammad Tahir Athar, R/o 602/424/1 Adnan Palli Dubagga, Lucknow, declare that my father's name was incompletely written in 10th ICSE certificates and marksheet as Tahir Athar, while my father's complete name is Mohammad Tahir Athar. So the real name must be used for all purposes.

REQUIRED

H.L.Y. DEGREE COLLEGE
UTTARGAON SISENDI MOHANALGANJ, LUCKNOW

Required
Principal/ HOD-1, Asst. Prof. For B.ed-15, Pedagogy-10 (Science, Maths, Hindi, English, Home Science) Foundation Course -02, Art & Carft- 01, Music - 01 (Vocal/ Instrumental), Physical Education- 01 Apply to the manager within 08 days from first insertion of this advt. Education Qualification & Salary as per norms of U.G.C.,N.C.T.E & first state of Lucknow University
9454140180
office.hlydc@gmail.com

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

HAVILDAR UJJWAL GUPTA
13 MAR 1982 - 09 NOV 2020
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR UJJWAL GUPTA WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 176 MILITARY HOSPITAL.
FROM: MAJ GEN NAVEEN AGGARWAL AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

SEPOY VIKRAM KUMAR PANDEY
10 JULY 1994 -30 OCT 2020
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEPOY VIKRAM KUMAR PANDEY WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 4015 HOSPITAL.
FROM: MAJ GEN NAVEEN AGGARWAL AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Jail inmates to take care of cow shelter homes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After contributing their best in fighting the COVID=19 pandemic by manufacturing masks, PPE kits, hand sanitisers etc, the inmates of the jails in Uttar Pradesh will now extend their services in taking care of cow shelters.

Eight district jails have been selected in the first phase to serve for this noble cause.

Revealing this move here on Friday, Director General (Prisons) Anand Kumar said it was a part of a pilot project which would later be replicated by inmates of prisons across the state. Jail inmates in Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shahjahanpur, Orai, Barabanki, Lalitpur, Varanasi, and Farrukhabad have been asked to look after the cow shelters in their respective districts.

"Under the scheme, jail inmates, particularly under-trials, will be engaged to look after the upkeep of gaushalas and animal shelter homes as part of their daily routine. The plan has been formulated by the UP Prisons and Animal Husbandry departments," the official said.

The Prisons department will also pay the inmates for the services rendered by them.

The DG (Jails) said the initiative would make undertrials feel self-reliant and also divert them to doing something useful. He said that as of now, police and jail authorities would provide security and ferry inmates to the destination and bring them back to the prison.

"We had first asked all jail superintendents to conduct a survey in their respective districts to identify government animal shelter homes. Inmates with a clean record will be encouraged. Those showing willingness to look after animals were also taken into account to work there," he said. Currently, five central jails and six district jails in the state have animal shelter homes on their campuses. The inmates also manufacture various products from animal residue, while a vast quantity of milk is also produced from these prisons.

BKU activists stage demonstration, blocks highways against farm laws

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After failing to enter the national capital due to deployment of a heavy force besides the sealing of all the entry points on Thursday, the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) activists blocked several highways and roads in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in the western parts of the state on Friday.

They came on road in support of the farmers of Punjab who were marching to New Delhi in protest against the new farm laws.

Protesting against the Centre's new farm laws and the police action on the agitating farmers, the BKU activists blocked the Delhi-Dehradun National Highway at Nawla Kothi in Muzaffarnagar district.

Similar roadblocks were reported from Baghpat, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur and Bijnor in western UP.

In Baghpat, BKU activists blocked traffic on the Sonipat highway using tractors and raised slogans against the new farm laws.

The BKU had given a call to stage protests on the national highways of the state after which traffic routes had been diverted in the district. SP of Baghpat, Abhishek Singh, said magistrates and police in strength were deployed in Niwada area which shares border with Haryana to ward off any incident.

The local farmer leaders have also been approached in this regard, he added.

The BKU activists and farmers blocked the Yamuna Expressway by squatting on the road which led to a massive traffic jam. A wedding procession was stuck in the jam for several

hours. The blockade prevented traffic movement from Agra to Mathura.

In Lucknow too, the BKU supporters blocked the Lucknow-Sultanpur and Lucknow-Barabanki highway for some time. Due to heavy deployment of police personnel, the situation remained under control as the administrative machinery was already on alert after a call for holding the protests was given by the BKU. All the Delhi-UP borders have been barricaded and sealed in Noida and Ghaziabad while additional security forces have been deployed, police officials claimed.

BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait told reporters on Friday that they were supporting the farmers of Punjab and Haryana and they would block the highways till the farmers' demands were met.

BKU state vice-president Harnam Singh Verma, who led a protest in Naubasta Kala under Chinhat police station in Lucknow on Friday morning, claimed that farmers would soon be staging a protest at the Sadar tehsil in support of their demands.

"We will continue our struggle till the time our demands are met. We are ready to get arrested," he said.

Meanwhile, ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said police personnel had been deployed in view of the farmers' call to ensure law and order was maintained in the state. There was no impact of the farmers' protest in Lucknow, Kumar said. However, as the Delhi-Haridwar stretch on the Delhi-Dehradun Highway was shut due to the protest, long queues of vehicles were witnessed.

PWD goes digital for tender process

Lucknow (PNS): Going with the zero-tolerance policy of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD) has switched to the digital mode for all the works related to tenders, nullifying the role of middlemen and closing all the backdoors that used to be the most important link in the process.

According to officials, all the works related to tenders will now be done through the hi-tech Prahari app and the staff of PWD and middlemen will have no role in the process which will be 100 percent transparent.

The Prahari will scrutinise all the documents related to the tender,

including the documents of the banks and equipment, and the applicants will directly submit their documents on the interface provided by the software.

Besides this, the applicants will also have the option to view the documents of any of the applicants and after examining the documents, Prahari will select the companies for the tender.

"The new system has been implemented from September 15 and with this, the role of department's officers has almost been eliminated from the process. Any complaint in the tender process will be investigated by a team of officers," an official informed.

SCHOOLSCAN

E-COFAS KICKS OFF

A 4-day international computer olympiad, 'E-Cofas 2020', organised by City Montessori School, Rajendra Nagar Campus I, was inaugurated online on Friday by Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal. The participating teams from Russia, Jordan, Bangladesh, Oman, Qatar and various states of India registered their presence online and introduced themselves amidst scintillating educational-cultural performances. More than 50 teams of Russia, Jordan, Bangladesh, Oman, Qatar and various states of India are participating in the event. Speaking on the occasion, Sehgal said computer and science should be adopted by all the fields of subjects for the world to move ahead.

CS reviews preps for Vrindavan religious events

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has issued directions for the completion of civil works, including drinking water and sanitation, within the specified timeline for the upcoming Kumbh Mela at Vrindavan in Mathura district. The Kumbh Mela/Sant Samagam in Vrindavan will be held from February 16 to March 28 next year. The Sant Samagam is held at Vrindavan ahead of the Kumbh Mela at Haridwar.

Chief Secretary RK Tiwari on Friday reviewed the progress of the

works by the different departments at Vrindavan. Tiwari said a large number of saints and religious leaders were expected to participate in the Sant Samagam at Vrindavan and all the departments had to ensure that the required infrastructure was in place ahead of the event.

The officials of the Urban Development, Medical and Health, Transport, Energy, Home, Cultural Affairs, Information , Food and Civil Supplies, Water Resources departments, Agra divisional commissioner, ADG, Agra zone and dis-

trict magistrate of Mathura and Dakshinanchal Power Corporation participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The chief secretary directed the officials to seek the necessary financial approval within the next 2-3 days for the important works to be completed for the mela.

He said tenders for the construction works be floated immediately so that the works could be started as soon as the financial sanction was received by the departments concerned.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Across the state, 2,366 persons tested positive, including 201 in Ghaziabad, 199 in Gautambuddh Nagar, 130 in

Meanwhile, the Health department will carry out digital mapping of the coronavirus spread in Lucknow between November 1 and 15 and follow it up with targeted surveillance of areas with high concentration of cases. The targeted surveillance after mapping

“After testing a diverse set of categories, we reached a conclusion that right now the slum-dwellers and low-income groups are not at that much risk because positivity rate is low among them. We have to find areas from where we can isolate the maximum number of cases in the district. Most of the areas where coronavirus cases are emerging are middle class and upper

middle class. The areas with maximum cases in Lucknow are Aliganj, Gomatnagar and certain pockets of Indiranagar. Prior to this exercise, the targeted surveillance was focused on areas which we were thinking as high risk places like slums, orphanages and market areas, but the positivity rates in these areas was very low. If we keep sending our teams to these areas, we will be wasting our efforts. Therefore, we will identify the areas where these teams should be sent through digital mapping," the official elaborated. On why areas like Aliganj, Gomatnagar and Indiranagar are witnessing maximum cases, he said: "One thing which has emerged out of the targeted sampling so far is that most of the patients have been office-goers. These office-goers are mostly in middle and upper middle group areas which is the reason why the virus is still active in certain pockets. These people go to offices and stay together for a longer time and catch the

On Icknow carrying out the maximum tests as compared to other districts, he said each district has been given targets for testing, but Lucknow has gone beyond that. About the sero-survey report showing that 22 percent of the people have developed antibodies, he said it was the situation which prevailed in the first and second weeks of September. The level of antibodies will be higher now, he said.

Manoj Lodh is a professional caterer, who had left the house for another village along with his team for work on Thursday morning. She had dinner with the family before retiring to her room around 10 pm. On Friday morning, she was found hanging in the courtyard.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under the Rurban Mission, a cluster of geographically contiguous villages with a population of about 25,000 to 50,000 in plain and coastal areas and with a population of 5,000 to 15,000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas are being provided basic urban facilities. The main objective of Rurban Mission is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well-planned rurban clusters.

It is to be mentioned that under the Syama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission, Uttar Pradesh has received a national award for overall performance and rurban soft integration in public financial management system in 2019-20 from the Government of India.

PNS **LUCKNOW**

It is to be mentioned that, Usha Vishwakarma belongs to an ordinary family and has been working since 2011 to protect women and make them self-

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

know (PNS): Four persons were

While leaving Umesh's house, Annath warned that he would lodge an FIR in this connection. Umesh, along with seven persons armed with guns, country-made pistols and spears, reached Jagannath's house around 12:30 on Friday and soon there was an exchange of fire.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Kumar said that the department is also focusing on inviting data centres in the state and working on a



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

विशेष संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण/मतदाता (वोटर) पंजीकरण कार्यक्रम

दिनांक: 17 नवम्बर, 2020 से 15 दिसम्बर, 2020 तक

लोकसभा/विधानसभा क्षेत्रों की मतदाता सूची में पंजीकरण कराने हेतु सूचना

कोई मतदाता न भूटे



मतदाता के रूप में पंजीकृत होने का मौका न गँवाएं

आवेदन की व्यवस्था

मतदाता सूची में नाम जुड़वाने एवं संशोधन इत्यादि करने हेतु भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा एक ऑनलाइन वेबपोर्टल www.voterportal.eci.gov.in विकसित किया गया है, जिसके माध्यम से जन सामान्य निम्नलिखित सेवाएं प्राप्त कर सकते हैं:-

- निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम को सम्मिलित करने के लिए- फार्म-6
- किसी प्रवासी निर्वाचक द्वारा निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम सम्मिलित किए जाने के लिए - फार्म-6ए
- निर्वाचक नामावली से नाम विलोपित कराने के लिए - फार्म-7
- निर्वाचक नामावली में प्रविष्टियों की शुद्धि के लिए- फार्म-8
- एक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में निवास स्थान को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर स्थानान्तरित कराने के लिए - फार्म-8ए

उपरोक्त सेवाएं जन सामान्य www.voterportal.eci.gov.in पर अपने Mobile Number/E-mail ID/ Voter ID Number अथवा अपने Facebook/G-mail/Twitter and Linkdin द्वारा Login करके प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

फार्म-6, 6ए, 7, 8 व 8ए में सम्बन्धित आवेदन ऑफलाइन भी यथानिर्दिष्ट स्थानों पर जमा कर सकते हैं।

उक्त के अतिरिक्त ऊपर दिए गए वेबपोर्टल पर अपना नाम Search in Electoral Roll बटन द्वारा निर्वाचक नामावली में खोज सकते हैं।

आवेदन की सामान्य व्यवस्था

- संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण की अवधि में सभी फार्म अपने बूथ लेवल अधिकारी, पदाभिहीत अधिकारी, तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र, जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी के कार्यालय से अथवा वेबसाइट www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं।
- सम्बन्धित फार्मों पर अपना आवेदन (फोटो, पता, जन्मतिथि के प्रमाण सहित) निम्नलिखित स्थानों पर जमा कर सकते हैं:-
 - सम्बन्धित पोलिंग बूथ के बूथ लेवल अधिकारी के पास
 - तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र पर
 - तहसील के उप जिलाधिकारी / निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी के कार्यालय में
 - तहसील के तहसीलदार / सहायक निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी के कार्यालय में
 - जिलाधिकारी / जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी के कार्यालय में
- उपरोक्त सभी आवेदन चयनित CSC (कॉमन सर्विस सेंटर) के माध्यम से भी निर्धारित शुल्क का भुगतान कर किए जा सकते हैं।

मतदाता बनने की पात्रता :

1. भारतीय नागरिक हों एवं उत्तर प्रदेश के सम्बन्धित निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में सामान्यतः निवास कर रहे हों।

2. 18 वर्ष की आयु पूरे कर चुके हों अथवा 01 जनवरी, 2021 को 18 वर्ष की आयु पूर्ण कर रहे हों।

मतदाता सूची में नाम देखने की व्यवस्था

- मतदाता सूचियों का आलेख्य 17 नवम्बर, 2020 से 15 दिसम्बर, 2020 के मध्य सभी मतदान केन्द्रों पर देखने के लिए उपलब्ध होगा।
- वेबसाइट www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in पर Search your name Electoral Roll बटन पर क्लिक कर मतदाताओं द्वारा अपने से सम्बन्धित विवरण को देखा जा सकता है।

मतदान केन्द्रों पर पंजीकरण हेतु विशेष अभियान दिवस

28 नवम्बर 2020 शनिवार

05 दिसम्बर 2020 शनिवार

13 दिसम्बर 2020 रविवार



काल सेंटर/शुल्क रहित निर्वाचन
हेल्प लाइन नं. - 1950

मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, उत्तर प्रदेश

E-mail: ceo_uttarpradesh@eci.gov.in
Website: www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in

CM sees arrangements at all proposed sites of PM’s visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited almost all the proposed sites where on the occasion of Dev Deepawali on November 30, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take part. As since the nation-wide lockdown imposed in the country on March 25 last, it will be the first tour of PM to his parliamentary constituency though he had interacted the local people many times through virtual platforms, neither the state government nor the district administration is leaving any stone unturned to ensure making the proposed Modi’s visit a grand success. Besides, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers are also working hard for the same.

Yogi visited first at Khazuri when he landed at helipad near Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Mirza Murad area around 3.25 pm to see all the arrangements there where on November 30, the PM will also visit at the same time to address a public meeting. After landing there Yogi inspected all the three helipads and then walked to the pandal area where 300 x 433 feet German Hanger structure has been made. When CM landed there, he was welcomed by UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal followed by Guard of Honour given by the cops. Later, the CM also inspected the 60x30x8 feet stage from where Modi will address the function and also



CM Yogi Adityanath inspecting preparations for proposed visit of PM in Varanasi on Friday

Pioneer

address the rally. District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amit Pathak and other senior officers were also present there, along with BJP leaders. It is expected that during his visit there PM will inaugurate six-lane National Highway between Raja Talab-Handia on Varanasi-Prayagraj route on which three flyovers, 22 underpasses, 36 bus stands, two foot overbridges, four truck ways and a toll plaza have been constructed with the cost of Rs 2447 crore. The work on the project was started on December 5 in 2017 and

after the inauguration this, NH2 will be known as NH19 and it is the same route which was once known as Grand Trunk (GT) Road made by Sher Shah Suri centuries ago. The function will also be attended by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. Later, the CM reached the trans-Ganga area where inspected the construction of helipads and as per the schedule of PM, Yogi also landed there and then reached Dashaswamedh through Alaknanda cruise. On the auspicious occasion of Dev Deepawali, Modi will watch the grandeur of this famous

festival from cruise and may also join the Ganga Mahaaarti. The function will also be attended by the Governor Anandiben and CM. After seeing Dashaswamedh, Yogi stayed there for some time to see all the arrangements and talked to UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Neelkanth Tiwari, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awinish Kumar Awasthi, ACS (Information) Navneet Sehgal, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal and many other senior officers and BJP leaders in connection with the preparations.

Senior officials inspect preparations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Just a few hours prior to the arrival of Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath to review the preparations regarding the proposed visit of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on the occasion of Dev Deepawali on November 30, CM’s messengers Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi and ACS (Information) Navneet Sehgal, arrived here on Friday and inspected the different places where the PM is scheduled to visit during his forthcoming visit to his parliamentary constituency. During their hectic visit, Awasthi and Sehgal gave necessary instructions related to security and other

arrangements to the concerned officers. Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal informed both the officials in detail about the security and other arrangements made so far while both the messengers of CM were taking stock of the preparations entire arrangements through motor boats from Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and Lalita Ghat to Rajghat. Seeing an old woman selling flowers, earthen lamps etc at ghat stairs, both the officers asked the former about her health, life and income especially during post-corona period. Meanwhile, a team of Special Protection Group (SPG) officers arrived at Lal Bahadur Shastri International

Airport, Babatpur around 9.40 am and inspected important places including the main terminal building and apron at the airport. After inspection, they held an ASL (Advance Security Licensing) smeeeting at the conference hall located in the main terminal building. The meeting was attended by IG (SPG) Alok Sharma of SPG, DM Kaushal Raj Sharma, ASP Amit Pathak, SP (RA) Martand Pratap Singh, Senior Commandant of CISF Ajay Kumar and senior officers of IB, LIU and Airlines. Later, the team members reached at all the other places where the PM is scheduled to visit during his proposed visit. Besides, DM along with SP Amit Pathak, held a brief-

ing meeting with security officers in connection with proposed PM’s visit to the city for the first time since nationwide lockdown was imposed to prevent the spread of world-wide coronavirus pandemic. They discussed various security issues and gave responsibilities to different officers. During the PM’s visit about 14,000 security personnel would be deployed and they would be led by 85 magistrates and 20 IPS ranked officers. Apart from this, Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders have also intensified their preparations to make the PM’s visit a grand success. They are planning to invite about 10,000 persons for the proposed public meeting at Khazuri.

Hardcore criminal killed in encounter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In yet another major success, the Crime Branch and police personnel gunned down a hardcore criminal carried who carried a reward of ₹1 lakh, in an encounter in Sariyya at night on Thursday last but his aide, who is also carrying a cash reward of ₹1 lakh managed to escape from the scene. A sub-inspector and constable in the Crime Branch also sustained bullet injuries. The government has announced a cash reward of ₹2 lakh to the police team which registered this success. It was the third encounter with criminals in a week in which the Crime Branch and police personnel gunned two hardcore criminals and nabbed a notorious criminal.

According to the information, the Crime Branch incharge Ashwani Pandey got

a tip-off that the criminals Roshn Gupta aka Kittu and Manish Singh aka Sonu, each carrying a cash reward of ₹1 lakh, are near Dott Bridge in Sarriya, under the Jaitpura police station and hatching a conspiracy to commit heinous crime. He informed his seniors about this. On the basis of information, the SSP Amit Pathak constituted a team comprised SP, City Vikash Chandra Tripathi, CO, Crime Amresh Singh Baghel, Crim Branch Incharge Ashwani Pandey and Incharge of Jaitpura police station Shashi Bhushan Rai to nab the criminals.

Acting on tip-off, the team along with cops raided the place at night on Thursday last. Sensing the danger, the criminals opened fire targeting the police party. The police also opened fire in retaliation.

During the firing, a criminal Roshan Gupta aka Kittu, a resident of Padi Piyari and carrying a cash reward of ₹1 lakh sustained bullet injuries, while sub-inspector in Jaitpura police station Vinay Tiwari and constable in Crime Branch Jitendra Singh also sustained bullet injuries from the firing by the criminals. During the firing the other criminal Manish Singh aka Sonu, also carrying cash reward of ₹1 lakh, managed to escape from the scene taking the advantage of darkness. A pistol of .30 bore, a pistol of .32 bore, four live cartridges of AK-47 and 14 live cartridges of both pistols and a bike were recovered from the crime scene. The injured criminal was rushed to government hospital in Kabirchaura where the doctors pronounced him

brought dead. The injured cops were rushed to a private nursing home in Maldahia where their condition was said to be out of danger. The SSP Amit Pathak informed that total of 34 criminal cases were pending against the gunned down criminal in various police stations of Varanasi and Ghazipur districts and added, he was also involved in double murder case near Chowkaghat flyover on August 28 last and had on November 15 last demanded a ransom of ₹ 50,000 from a goldsmith at gun point in Chowk area. The SSP informed that the government has announced a cash reward of ₹2 lakh for the team for its success. The recommendation will also be made to the government for the reward to the injured cops.

111 new Covid cases in Varanasi

VARANASI(PNS): As many as 111 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Friday, increasing the total number of cases to 18,908. The day saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 304. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 110 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 14,900. As none of the patients has been discharged from any of the hospitals, the number remained at 2,860. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 17,760, leaving 844 active cases. The recovery rate is 93.92 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, 66 positive patients were found out of 4,276 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,12,362 and the results of 2,927 are awaited. Out of them, 3,93,499 were negative while 18,863 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,33,264. Earlier, two females aged 69 and 65 from Shiwpur and Nadesar respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU).With the addition of

three new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,475 including 213 red zones. There are 2,262 green zones with 10 new ones. **MOU SIGNED:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between IIT (BHU), Varanasi and IIT Guwahati in a virtual meeting held on Friday. Under this MoU, IIT (BHU) and IIT Guwahati will start Joint Doctoral Programme in July 2020. Directors of both the institutes Prof Pramod Kumar Jain (IIT-BHU) and Prof TG Sitharam (IIT-Guwahati) said this is the first time in the country that two IITs have come

together to offer a joint degree programme. The idea of a joint PhD programme was originally proposed in the 53rd IIT Council meeting held on September 27, 2019. The vision behind this is to build a ‘Network of Excellence’ of all IITs rather than each one striving to become a ‘Tower of Excellence’. The IIT Council accepted the proposal to start a Joint Degree Programme. Through this academic collaboration, both the institutes are expecting a significant boost in high quality research and foundation for further academic collaborations



Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya delivering his speech during foundation laying ceremony of six lane bridge in Prayagraj

Pioneer

82 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Covid report of 82 infected, including a total of three doctors, came positive in the last 24 hours. At the same time, more than 95 people became infection free. Of these 28 patients were discharged from Covid hospitals. Home isolation of 67 people was completed. According to the new CMO Dr. Prabhakar Rai, a total of 5,564 people were tested for Covid in the district. With this, the number of infected people has so far reached 26,282. He said that it is a matter of relief that no corona-infected patient died in 24 hours. According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr. Rishi Sahai, the number of active patients has increased to 1,018 with 82 new infections. So far 18,660 people have been infection free in home isolation.

After treatment from Covid hospitals, 6,263 patients have been discharged after recovery. According to the nodal officer, physicians included in the list of infected are MLN Medical College, a gynecologist with one doctor each of SRN Hospital, a professor in the Department of Economics at AU, manager of the Bank of Baroda Karchana branch, a branch secretary of the High Court, Chief Pharmacist of Railway Hospital, a Major of Army, resident of New Cantt among others have been infected. Meanwhile, the corona is proving to be futile in the slums of Sangam Nagari, while the spread of the virus is more in posh and residential areas. In the posh areas, the Covid report of people living with modern facilities is continuously coming positive. Not only this, the defend-

ers of the infection are also not able to escape from the effects of the virus. The effect of Covid virus in these settlements is very modest i.e. 1.84 per cent. Out of more than 7,000 corona testing conducted in several slums in the city and villages, 112 positive cases have been found under the campaign by the Health department. On November 19, 20 and 21, 7,243 people were subjected to Covid testing in more than 40 slums of the district. According to the report uploaded on the portal, a very small number of people have come positive in the testing. On this, the Health department officials said that the immunity of people living in slums is much stronger than in posh areas. In such a situation, they did not show the effect of the virus, while the immunity of those living in AC rooms is

weak, due to which they got infected. So the virus is having more effect on them. Most of the people living in slums and rural environments, not only in the city but also in the rural environment, are getting negative reports. Tests conducted in different settlements in November have found only 112 people infected. This figure is relieving, said Dr. Rishi Sahay, Nodal Officer for Corona. According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Sahai, before Diwali, the data of infected people in the testing of about 15,000 people driving tempo, e-rickshaw drivers with street vendors, beauty parlors, shopping malls, electronics shops-showrooms, barbers and electrical shops. It was just one and half per cent. The Covid report of 99.9 per cent of the people taken during the market congestion has been negative.

Prayagraj’s recovery rate reaches 94.7 pc

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Prayagraj district’s recovery rate has now reached 94.7 per cent. Health department officials are maintaining a strict vigil to check the spread of novel coronavirus. While the number of containment zones has also reduced to 519. Officials are focussing on testing of close contacts of COVID-19 patients to check the spread of the disease. The city is now reporting less than 100 active cases in the past 48 hours. On Monday and Tuesday, 65 and 63 new COVID-19 cases were record-

ed in the city respectively. Additional Chief Medical Officer (ACMO) and nodal officer Dr Rishi Sahai said of the 26,112 COVID-19 cases recorded in the city, 24,729 have recovered till now. We are focussing on tracing and testing close contacts of COVID-19 patients to check the spread of the disease. The Health department is testing around 6,000 samples every day. Till now, 340 patients have succumbed to COVID-19 in the district so far. Officials said that there were many reasons behind the decline in the number of con-

tainment zones and COVID-19 cases. We had appealed to people to get themselves tested if they develop any COVID-19 related symptoms. Acting as responsible citizens, they contacted the nearest health centre and got themselves tested. Early detection of cases is helping authorities in treating patients properly. In April, the Health department had declared the first containment zone in the city. By early July, as COVID-19 cases rose, an area was declared a containment zone if three or more positive cases

were reported from there. The city saw the maximum number of containment zones in August and September. Meanwhile, police have taken strict action against those found not wearing masks in public places. So far, police have penalised over 3,000 residents for not wearing masks while stepping out of their homes. A senior police official said if someone is caught not wearing a mask, cops ask them to fill up a ‘Sankalp Letter’, so that they always wear one the next time they step out from the homes.

NCR GM reviews progress of EDFC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry reviewed progress of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC). General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry reviewed progress of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor falling under North Central Railway territory through video conferencing with MD and other officials of DFCCIL, AGM NCR Ranjan Yadav, PHODs of North Central Railway, DRM and other officials of Prayagraj Division. At the outset PCE NCR Shrad Mehta welcomed GM Rajiv Chaudhry and other officers in this review meeting which was followed by opening address from Managing Director DFCCIL RN Singh. In this coordination meeting held

between DFCCIL and North Central Railway various items related to expeditious completion of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor falling on NCR’s territory were discussed and finalised. Progress of important works related to ROB, RUBs, OHE and signaling requiring joint efforts by DFCCIL and NCR were discussed in the meeting. Reviewing the progress, General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry said that proper evaluation of design, drawings etc. of safety critical assets like FOBs, ROB, RUBs should be done by DFCCIL prior to submission to NCR for expediting approval process. He also advised MD DFCCIL to expedite construction of drain between Railway and DFC tracks, protection works for bridges, balance works on RUB

approaches. MD DFCCIL thanked General Manager for support provided in DFC works and assured that with coordinated efforts complete Khura-Kanpur section of EDFC shall be commissioned within current financial year. It may be noted that Bhaupur-Khurja section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor is already in operation and approximately 1400 freight trains have been run using this DFC network. Later another review meeting was held by CRB & CEO RB VK Yadav along with other Board Members with DFCCIL and concerned Zonal Railways to discuss items related to feeder routes of Railways connecting to DFC network and Business Development plan of DFCCIL. During this review meeting works required to

make feeder routes on Eastern DFC fit for 25 tonnes axle load and fitness of western DFC feeder route for operation of double stack container were discussed and finalised so as full potential of DFC network can be harnessed. During this review, DFCCIL presented business development plan for maximising overall freight transport through railway. In the overall plan discussed by DFCCIL, new multimodal logistic park at Kanpur and new freight terminals at Tundla, Makhampur and Daudkhan shall be constructed and commissioned. These modern and efficient freight handling facilities will not only increase railways market share in freight transport but will also help in overall development of these areas and employment generation

Eight impersonators arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Dhoomanganj police arrested eight impersonators who were found taking the exam in place of the bonafide candidates in the examination conducted by Staff Selection Commission (SSC). All are being questioned. A number of materials, including the issued form, Aadhaar card, have been recovered from the possession of the impersonators. The police are investigating the network of this gang. In such a situation, more people of this gang are likely to be arrested. The written examination

of Combined Higher Secondary Level (CHSL) of SSC took place in the year 2018. The skill test of the candidates who passed this examination was being held on Thursday. Gyanodaya Public School in Jhalwa under the Dhoomanganj police station was also made the examination centre, where all the candidates had come to take the exam. At the same time, the police came to know that there are some such candidates in this school, who are appearing in the examination instead of the bonafide ones.

On the instructions of the officers, the LIU was sent there first and then some policemen in plain dress. The surveillance team was also alerted after receiving clues. After this, the police picked up many candidates from there. Strictly interrogation revealed a big gang was involved in it. Then one by one the other impersonator in the examination was also caught. By evening, the police had arrested eight such members of this gang-. Two of those arrested were from Prayagraj and the rest from Bihar.

Inspector Dhoomanganj Arun Chaturvedi said that all are being questioned. The names of some more people have come up, who are being searched. The police team is investigating the case. **KILLED:** In the neighbouring district Kaushambi district of UP, a 32-year-old youth was killed when the mobike on which he was returning collided with a tree late Thursday night after distributing the wedding cards near Dharupur village in Seraikil area while another youth sitting pillion had a narrow escape.

ADM (City) asks people not to enter dilapidated structures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional District Magistrate (City) Atul Kumar has cautioned the residents of the dilapidated houses in Coolie Bazaar surrounding the building which caved in a few days ago against entering their houses to remove their belongings.

He said various trade bodies were exerting pressure on the administration to allow these residents to enter their dilapidated houses to bring out their belongings. He said if any person was trapped inside a dilapidated structure, the administration would make effort to rescue him or her.

The ADM (City) said there was every possibility that in case anyone entered a dilapidated structure, it could collapse and the person could be trapped or fatally injured.

He said the digging of basement had caused the adjacent building to collapse, injuring an old man who had succumbed to his injuries.

He said the district administration had also directed the officials concerned to ensure that they carried out a survey of the dilapidated buildings and houses in the city and if they were too risky be get them vacated on priority.

Kumar also advised people residing in dilapidated structures to immediately vacate the premises as they could collapse any moment.

Akhilesh gives ₹ 2 lakh aid to kin of house collapse victim



Victims of Coolie Bazar incident talking to former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav through video call on Friday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Samajwadi Party national Spresident and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav, has announced to extend financial assistance of ₹ 2 lakh to the kin of Rakesh Sharma who was killed in the Coolie Bazaar house collapse.

In his virtual interaction with the family members of the house collapse victim and shopkeepers of Coolie Bazaar through video call, Yadav assured them of his full support.

He asked SP MLA

Amitabh Bajpai to continue the agitation on this issue and help the victims in consultation with the district administration.

Yadav said if nothing was done, he would himself take up the issue along with many other incidents of Kanpur Nagar.

Yadav had sought full facts of the Coolie Bazaar incident from Amitabh Bajpai on Friday morning and had asked him to organise a virtual meeting with the victims. On his directive, Bajpai had organised the virtual meeting on Friday afternoon.

It may be mentioned here that several household articles belonging to SP activist Anil Chaubey and former party district president Jitendra Bahadur's brother Munna Singh are still lying buried under the rubble.

Bajpai said that the household articles and goods of 23 families and 20 shopkeepers were buried under the collapsed houses. Akhilesh Yadav, while assuring the victims of his full support, said he would visit Kanpur Nagar soon. He demanded stern penal action against the culprits.

‘Covid patients may have inflammation in heart muscles’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Interventional cardiologist, Dr Abhinnt Gupta, said there were chances that patients who were infected with novel coronavirus may present heart-related symptoms such as breathing problems, chest pain, changes in ECG and rise in troponin levels.

Talking to mediapersons, he said a few studies had reported presentation of myocarditis in patients who contracted coronavirus infection.

Myocarditis is a condition in which inflammation happens in the heart muscles which may result in abnormal functioning of the heart.

Dr Gupta said COVID-19



Dr Abhinnt Gupta of Regency Hospital addressing mediapersons on Friday.

was a disease that caused inflammation by means of the release of interleukins and cytokine storm and could affect the heart by causing inflammation of heart

muscles, known as myocarditis.

“It may also lead to occlusion in the arteries, which can lead to a heart attack. Hence patients who are infected with

coronavirus should be treated for heart disease if they show signs,” he said.

He said the harmful effects of coronavirus infection on heart resolve once the infection subsides or is gone and this greatly increases the possibility of patients having normal heart function in later life.

He appealed to people to continue taking steps towards prevention of heart disease as they had been doing in the pre-COVID-19 times.

He said the most important was to exercise 45 minutes a day, keep BP-sugar cholesterol-weight in control, sleep for at least seven hours a day, quit smoking and excessive alcohol intake, manage stress.

School the most important place to start life: Sandhu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Sports Director of South Asia and The Gulf of the Round Square Organisation, Rajbir Sandhu (Bubbles), said that succeeding in school and college was rather like succeeding in life.

Addressing the 46th Founder's Day function of Seth Anandram Jaipuria Public School on virtual platform on Friday, Sandhu said school was the most important place to start life and one needed to question why he or she was there.

She said students who had long-term life and career goals viewed schooling and college as steps towards achieving their goals.

She said there would be challenges during college career and there may be times when one would feel like giving up or one just did not feel like going to class, reading textbook, or writing that paper.

She said having that purpose, that long-term goal could help one decide to move past that challenge and keep going and this was called resiliency.

Sandhu said goals helped one set priorities and remain motivated and committed to ones success.

She said setting a long-term goal usually led to setting medium and short term goals. She said these were practical goals related to being a student that could help one make better decisions when considering choices of how to spend ones time.

She said setting priorities with short term goals could help one see what one needed to do next.



The Vice-resident of Jaipuria Group of Institutions, Sunita Jaipuria lights the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the closing function of Founders Day on Friday.

Sandhu said working through goals could help one feel more in control and could reduce stress. She advised students to stay positive and remain with positive people.

Noted Bollywood actor Darshel Safari (Tare Zamin Par) narrated the reel life and the real life incidents, including his experience as a student. He said each child was born with an exclusive latent talent and it was the duty of the parents and the teachers to bring out that latent talent so that the child could excel.

An alumni, UR Chaudhary, also addressed the students and gave the credit of his success to his alma mater.

This was followed by a

cultural programme presented by the students that enthralled the audience.

The function closed with short kits like Cinderella, Emperor's New Clothes.

Principal Shikha Bannerjee and head mistress Madhushree Bhaumick and several others addressed the virtual meet.

HOMAGE

Activists of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad paid homage to martyrs of 26/11 terrorists attack at a function organised at Harsahai PG College, on P Road, on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, ABVP district unit convenor Rituraj Misra said the bravery and sacrifice of country's

jawans would always be remembered by the youths.

Principal Dr Swadesh Srivastava, Dr Sushil Srivastava, ABVP district unit secretary Sujit Kumar, Mohd Salman, Kamal Raj, Apporv, Sarabjit, Wakas Ahmad and Mohit Sharma were present.

STUDENT ENDS LIFE

A BSc (final year) student, Anirudh Trivedi, committed suicide by hanging himself in his house Gadaria Mohal locality under Harbansh Mohal police station late Wednesday night.

He was in depression since the death of his mother two years ago. Anirudh's father Yogesh Shanker Trivedi runs a grocery shop.

104 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 104 more coronavirus positive cases on Friday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 104 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Thursday evening and Friday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 30,347 cases. He said that 10 cases were discharged from hospital. He said no COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Friday evening keeping the death toll to 776. The CMO said at present 1272 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4781 samples were sent for testing in the city.

CCC alumni celebrate their guru's birthday

KANPUR (PNS) : Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur's Vice Chancellor Dr Neelima Gupta while chairing a virtual meet of the Christ Church College Alumni Association held to felicitate ex-vice chancellor and ex-principal of CCC, Prof Ninan Abraham, said Prof Abraham was one of her predecessors and the legacy he had laid decades ago was being followed till this day as the college continued to be at the forefront both in academics and co-curricular activities which had benefited the students and the society at large.

It may be mentioned here that Prof Abraham completed 99 years of age on November 22, 2020 and the alumni of the college celebrated his birthday online. A galaxy of his star students joined the meet and many of them sent their wishes. During his tenure as principal, the Christ Church College attained lofty heights in all spheres of the academic world. This was evident from the alumni who have attained the highest positions in all walks of life and to name a few are Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor, Satish Mahana, Sanjay Kothari, Retired IAS, Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Government of India, Ajit Sinha, former director UGC-DAE-CSR Consortium, Indore and noted Bollywood singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya.

The programme started with a prayer and blessings by secretary of the CCC governing body and convener of the alumni association, Prof Ravi Prakash Mahalwala, who appraised the gathering about the alumni association. Prominent alumni present were Dr Nita Jain, Dr VK Srivastava, Dr Ashok Mehrotra, TS Johar and RN Tandon who acknowledged the academic blessings of Prof Abraham.

Prof Abraham was overwhelmed by this gesture of his students and blessed them and prayed for their success and healthy life. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Soofia Shahab.

Bag containing cash, jewellery stolen

KANPUR (PNS): A photo session with the groom cost the bride's grandfather dear as he was deprived of cash and jewellery worth lakhs of rupees at a tilak ceremony organised at a guest house in Juhi Kalan on Thursday night.

After the photo session, when he turned to collect the bag he had left on a nearby sofa, it was missing from there. The bag contained Rs.7 lakh in cash and jewellery worth Rs.6 lakh.

The tilak ceremony of Narendra Kumar Dwivedi's daughter Madhulika of Vijay Nagar was organised at a guest house in Juhi Kalan on Thursday. Narendra said he had given his bag containing cash and jewellery to his father Jagat Prakash Dwivedi.

During the ceremony, when Jagat Prakash Dwivedi was called on the stage for a photograph with the groom, he left the bag on a sofa. Hardly after two minutes, when he returned to collect his bag, it was missing from there.

Four vehicle thieves nabbed

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR



Under the joint operation of Katra Kotwali police and Padari police four vehicle thieves were nabbed and 12 tractors, seven trolleys, one rotavator and one generator worth around Rs 1 crore were recovered on Thursday. SP Ajay Kumar Singh said that in the different police stations of the district eight cases of theft of tractors had been registered and investigation was on. He said that the Katra Kotwali police was tipped off by an informer that some suspicious-looking persons were standing on the Polytechnic ground under Katra Kotwali police station along with the tractor which had been stolen from Lohia Talab under Kotwali Katra. On the information the police raided the place and nabbed the four accused along with a tractor to which trolley

was attached. During interrogation the nabbed criminals confessed that the tractor was a stolen one and they were waiting for a customer, the SP added. According to the SP on the identification of the nabbed criminals the police succeeded in recovering the tractors, trolleys etc. After completing the legal formalities the accused were sent to jail. They were identified as Lalu and Mulayam

Yadav, sons of Rajkumar Yadav, residents of Kamhari village under Padari police station, Gopal Bharti, son of Buddh Prakash and Yogendra alias Chhotu, son of Anant Bharti, residents of Devpura village under Padari police station.

INSPECTED: District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel inspected a house which was under question for tax evasion. As per the reports, sub-registrar Suneel Kumar Singh had pointed out that the said property was donated by showing the building as vacant plot and through it the evasion of the stamp duty was calculated as ₹3.16 lakh. Based on the complaint the DM visited Sohta Ka Adda where the property was located and found that instead of a vacant plot a building was there. The DM then directed the official concerned to take further action as per the provisions.

Changes in timings of many spl trains

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is making changes in the timings of special trains for the convenience of the passengers. As a result the following special trains will be run as per the changed timing till further notice. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines.

GWALIOR-MANDUADIH SPECIAL: The 01107 Gwalior-Manduadih daily special train from November 28 until further notice will leave Gwalior at 20:55 hrs, Dabra at 21:32 hrs, Datia at 22:02 hrs, Jhansi at 22:45 hrs, Niwari at 23:19 hrs, Mau Ranipur at 23:50 hrs, the second day Harpalpur at 00:15 hrs, Belatal at 00:36 hrs, Kulpahar at 00:50 hrs, Mahoba at 01:10 hrs, Banda at 2:27 hrs, Atrara at 02:57 hrs, Chitrakootdham at 03:25 hrs, Manikpur at 04:37 hrs, Shankargarh at 05:32 hrs, Naini at 6:20 hrs, Prayagraj at 07:15 hrs, Prayag at 07:31 hrs, Phulpur at 08:14 hrs, Janghai at 08:45 hrs, Suriyawan at 09:05 hrs, Bhadohi at 09:20 hrs and reach Manduadih at 11:05 hrs. During the return journey the 01108 Manduadih-Gwalior daily special will leave Manduadih at 16:30 hrs, Chaukhundi at 17:00 hrs, Bhadohi at 17:40 hrs, Suriyawan 18:10 hrs, Janghai at 18:38 hrs, Phoolpur at 20:35 hrs, Prayagraj at 21:20 hrs, Naini at 21:40 hrs, Shankargarh at 22:14 hrs, Manikpur at 23:35 hrs, the second day Chitrakoot at 00:03 hrs, Atrara at 00:31 hrs, Banda at 01:23 hrs, Mahoba at 02:19 hrs, Kulpahar at 02:38 hrs, Belatal at 02:52 hrs, Harpalpur at 03:32 hrs, Mau Ranipur at 04:08 hrs, Niwari at 04:38 hrs, Jhansi at 06:20 hrs, Datia at 06:44 hrs, Dabra at 07:09 hrs and reach Gwalior at 08:30 hrs. The rake composition of this train will remain as notified earlier.

JHANSI-LKO JN SPL: The 01803 Jhansi-Lucknow Jn. daily special train will from November 28 until further notice leave Jhansi at 06:15 hrs, from Moth at 06:56 hrs, Ait at 07:21 hrs, Orai at 07:42 hrs, Kalpi at 08:13 hrs, Pokhrayan at 08:29 hrs, Govindpuri at 10:07 hrs, Kanpur Central at 10:35 hrs and Unnao at 10:59 hrs and reach Lucknow Jn at 12:00 hrs. During the return journey the 01804 Lucknow Jn-Jhansi daily special train will from November 28 till further notice leave Lucknow Jn at

16:40 hrs, Unnao at 17:38 hrs, Kanpur Central at 18:20 hrs, Govindpuri at 18:40 hrs, Pokharayan at 19:26 hrs, Kalpi at 19:42 hrs, Orai at 20:12 hrs, Ait at 20:36 hrs, Moth at 21:05 hrs and leave Jhansi at 22:35 hrs. The rake composition of this train will remain as notified earlier.

KNP CENTRAL-BANDRA TERMINUS SPL: The 02243 Kanpur Central-Bandra Terminus superfast weekly special from December 2 every Wednesday till further notice leave Kanpur Central at 18:25 hrs, Kanpur Anwarganj at 18:42 hrs, Kannauj at 19:56 hrs, Fatehgarh at 20:48 hrs, Farrukhabad at 21:21 hrs, Kasganj at 23:06 hrs, Hathras City at 23:51 hrs, the second day Mathura Cantt at 01:00 hrs, Mathura Jn at 01:20 hrs, Achhnera at 02:20 hrs, Bharatpur at 03:20 hrs, Sawai Madhopur at 05:15 hrs, Kota at 06:35 hrs, Nagda at 09:35 hrs, Ratlam at 10:30 hrs, Godhra at 13:35 hrs, Vadodara at 14:29 hrs, Bharuch at 15:30 hrs, Surat at 17:05 hrs, Vapi at 18:16 hrs and Borivali at 19:51 hrs and reach Bandra Terminus at 20:35 hrs. Besides the 02244 Bandra Terminus-Kanpur Central superfast weekly special will from December 4 every Friday leave Bandra Terminus at 05:10 hrs, Borivali at 05:40 hrs, Vapi at 07:22 hrs, Surat at 08:42 hrs, Bharuch at 09:19 hrs, Vadodara at 10:34 hrs, Godhra at 11:57 hrs, Ratlam at 14:40 hrs, Nagda at 15:35 hrs, Kota at 18:20 hrs, Sawai Madhopur at 19:27 hrs, Bharatpur at 21:50 hrs, Achhnera at 22:50 hrs, on the second day Mathura Jn at 00:15 hrs, Mathura Cantt at 00:25 hrs, Hathras City at 01:00 hrs, Kasganj at 02:05 hrs, Farrukhabad at 03:40 hrs, Fatehgarh at 03:57 hrs, Kannauj at 04:45 hrs, Kanpur Anwarganj at 06:52 hrs and reach Kanpur Central at 07:15 hrs. The rake composition of this train will remain the same as notified earlier.

GWALIOR-BARAUNI

SPL: The 04185 Gwalior-Barauni daily special daily from November 28 until further notice leave Gwalior at 12:00 hrs, Dabra at 12:38 hrs, Datia at 13:06 hrs, Jhansi at 14:00 hrs, Orai at 15:40 hrs, Kalpi at 16:12 hrs, Pokhrayan at 16:32 hrs, Kanpur Central at 18:50 hrs, Unnao at 19:30 hrs, Lucknow at 20:45 hrs, Barabanki at 21:30 hrs, Burhwal at 21:56 hrs, Colonelganj at 22:27 hrs, Gonda at 23:10 hrs, Mankapur at 23:34 hrs, Maskanwa at 23:50 hrs, the second day Basti at 00:37 hrs,

Khalilabad at 01:03 hrs, Gorakhpur at 02:10 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 03:25 hrs, Bhatni at 03:55 hrs, Bankata 04:22 hrs, Mairwa at 04:33 hrs, Siwan at 05:00 hrs, Durandha at 05:17 hrs, Chhapra at 06:30 hrs, Dighwara at 07:28 hrs, Sonpur at 08:05 hrs, Hajipur at 08:20 hrs, Bhagwanpur at 08:41 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 09:25 hrs, Dholi at 09:48 hrs, Khudiram Bose at Pusa at 10:10 hrs, Samastipur at 10:55 hrs, Dalsinghsarai at 11:19 hrs and reach Barauni at 12:50 hrs. During the return journey the 04186 Barauni-Gwalior special will from November 29 leave Barauni at 18:45 hrs, Dalsinghsarai at 19:14 hrs, Samastipur at 19:41 hrs, Khudiram Bose Pusa at 20:00 hrs, Dholi at 20:14 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 21:35 hrs, Bhagwanpur at 22:06 hrs, Hajipur at 22:40 hrs, Sonpur at 22:52 hrs, Dighwara at 23:13 hrs, Chhapra at 00:40 hrs on Siwan at 01:45 hrs, Mairwa at 02:03 hrs, Bhatni at 02:49 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 03:15 hrs, Gorakhpur at 04:45 hrs, Sahajanwa at 05:21 hrs, Khalilabad at 05:40 hrs, Basti at 06:10 hrs, Babbnan at 06:37 hrs, Maskanwa at 06:55 hrs, Mankapur at 07:10 hrs, Gonda at 08:07 hrs, Colonelganj at 08:34 hrs, Burhwal at 09:04 hrs, Barabanki at 09:45 hrs, Lucknow 11:00 hrs, Unnao at 12:04 hrs, Kanpur Central at 12:50 hrs, Pokhrayan at 14:02 hrs, Kalpi at 14:40 hrs, Orai at 15:30 hrs, Jhansi at 18:15 hrs, Datia at 18:39 hrs, Dabra at 19:13 hrs and reach Gwalior at 23:35 hrs. The rake composition of this vehicle will remain the same as notified earlier.

WITHDRAWAL OF STOPPAGES

Keeping the increasing Covid-19 infection in mind, the railway administration for the safety of passengers is withdrawing the stoppage of the following special trains at some stations with immediate effect. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO Pankaj Kumar Singh said. The 05045/05046 Gorakhpur-Okha-Gorakhpur Weekly Special train will not stop at Wankaner, Hapa and Khambhalia stations with immediate effect. The 09269/09070 Porbandar-Muzaffarpur-Porbandar special train will not stop at Hapa and Wankaner stations with immediate effect.

Pledge administered

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

A programme to mark Constitution Day was organised at the General Manager's office complex, here on Thursday in which General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER) Vinay Kumar Tripathi, was the chief guest. Under the leadership of GM VK Tripathi officers and employees of all offices located at the headquarters read the Preamble to the Constitution. In the same sequence, General Manager administered the pledge of fundamental duties mentioned in the Constitution to railway officers and employees. On the occasion Senior Deputy General Manager Amitabh Ojha, heads of departments, railway officers and employees were present. The function was conducted by the Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh. On the occasion of Constitution Day, similar functions were organised in all the three divisions – Izzatnagar, Lucknow, Varanasi and various workshops.

TWO CAUGHT: The Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway, makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. In this sequence Crime Intelligence Branch (CIB), Varanasi, and Railway Protection Force post, Deoria, caught two persons involved in illegal ticket touting and selling banned software recently. Action was taken against them under the Railway Act and a case was registered against them. Besides in train no. 04185 Gwalior Mail a passenger travelling from Kanpur to Gorakhpur had left a bag. It was later handed over to the person concerned by the RPF maintenance team.

Online workshop

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Constitution Day is celebrated in India on November 26 every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On the occasion an online workshop was organised through the MS teams at NTPC-Rihand on Thursday. Executive Director (Rihand) Balaji Iyengar read the Preamble to the Constitution. A presentation was made by Deputy Manager (Legal) about various relevant provisions of the constitution. The programme was mainly attended by CGM (O&M) AC Sahu, GM (FM) M Ramesh, GM (Operation) AK Chhattopadhyay, CMO (Rihand) Renu Saxena, all HODs and other employees. AGM (HR) KS Murthy conducted the programme and proposed the vote of thanks.

Cash, jewellery stolen


CORRESPONDENT ■ CHANDAULI

A gang of unidentified thieves sneaked into the house of a businessman through its roof in Bichhiyan village under Sadar Kotwali area and decamped with cash and ornaments worth ₹8 lakh. On Thursday the police reached there. ASP Premchand said that matter was being investigated after registering a case on the basis of a complaint received in this regard.

RSS functionaries fill BJP slots in many States

New Delhi (PNS): The BJP on Friday made a number of organisational appointments in States, mainly drawing men from the RSS. BJP president JP Nadda announced appointment of


PARADIP PORT TRUST
Corrigendum-II to e-Tender Call Notice No.EM/IOHP-40/2020 for the work "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection & Commissioning of 3200 TPH capacity Shiploader at IOB".
The last date of submission & opening of the bid for the above e-tender call notice are hereby extended as follows: 1. Last date & time Bid submission : 10.12.2020 up to 1800 hrs. (2) Opening of Technical Bid : 11.12.2020 at 1030 hrs. All other terms and conditions of the original tender will remain unchanged.
Refer our website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
Executive Engineer (M)
PPT/PR/326/20-21 Dt-27.11.2020


U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-Tender Notice
Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced / reputed contractors for the execution of following works : For more details login on website www.etender.up.nic.in. 1. E-Tender No. 52/AETC/2020-21:- Providing Man Power for Operation of 132/33kV (SAS) 2x20 MVA Sub station Mubarakpur, under ETD, Azamgarh. Earnest Money : Rs. 13500.00 (Rs. Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred) only. Tender Cost : Rs. 1593.00 (Rs. One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Three) only. 2. E-Tender No. 53 / AETC / 2020-21 :- Balance work of construction of 132kV Machhalishahar-Mungrobadishahpur. S/C line of D/C tower along with supply of balance materials i.e. stubs, tower parts, fittings, hardwares, OPGW etc. and accessories under ETD, Jaunpur. Earnest Money : Rs. 200000.00 (Rs. Two Lac) only. Tender Cost : Rs. 11800.00 (Rs. Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred) only. Earnest money will be in the shape of RTGS / NEFT duly pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Etecy. Transmission Circle, UPPTCL, Azamgarh. Tenders can upload their tender bids against E-tender No. 52 to 53 upto 17.00 hrs. of 29.12.2020 and the same will be opened on dated 30.12.2020 at 13.00 & 14.00 hrs. respectively. Intimation regarding opening of Tender Bid Part-II i.e. Price Bid will be given on above e-website in due course of time. Please visit website www.etender.up.nic.in for details/download and for any other corrections/amendments/modification/ time extension till the date of submission of tender. In case the tender opening date is a holiday or the undersigned remains out of headquarters, the date of opening of the tender will stand extended to the next working day. Undersigned has the right to reject / divide any tender without assigning any reason thereof. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TRANS.) Etecy. Transmission Circle, UPPTCL, AZAMGARH No.-1436. Date-26.11.2020. SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION.**


उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रॉस मिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा सूचना, अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या-टी-८८/विद्युतपारेषण पंका/२०२०-२१, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल-द्वितीय कानपुर के प्रयोगार्थ हेतु एक अर्द्ध डीजल चलित हल्का वाहन ड्राइवर सहित (०८ माह के लिए) किराये पर रखने का कार्य।
कार्य सम्पादन हेतु अनुभवी, दक्ष एवं व्यापारकर / सेवाकर में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारो से निदांक – ०८.12.2020 अपरान्ह 12.00 बजे तक दो अलग-अलग भागों में मुहरबन्द निविदायें आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। निविदायें निदांक-०८.12.2020 अपरान्ह 1500 बजे उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु अगोहस्ताक्षर-कर्ता अथवा नामित अधिकारी द्वारा सर्वाजनिक रूप से उपस्थित निविदादाताओं / प्रतिनिधियो के समक्ष मण्डल कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। लिफाफे पर फर्म का नाम, निविदा संख्या, भाग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय एवं खुलने की तिथि स्पष्ट अंकित होनी चाहिये। निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि **एफडीआर/सीडीआर० / टी०डीआर० / डी०डी० / कर्बर्स चेक** के रूप में अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय, कानपुर (IFSC Code - PUNB0103500 A/C No. - 10350021000015555) के पक्ष में बन्धक हो तथा निविदा के दूसरे भाग में दरे व शर्तें होगी। धरोहर धनराशि के अभाव में निविदा का दूसरा भाग नहीं खोला जायेगा। अगोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता को सम्पूर्ण निविदा या उसके किसी अंश को बिना कारण बताये स्वीकार / अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। निर्धारित तिथि में अककाश पड़ने पर सारी प्रक्रिया अगले कार्यदिवस में सम्पन्न होगी। **कार्य का विवरण नोटिस बोर्ड पर देखा जा सकता है।** निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य तथा वैट नियमानुसार देय होगा। निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा खोलने के एक दिन पूर्व तक प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। **निविदा संख्या-८८ की धरोहर धनराशि रू० 4000/- निविदा मूल्य 23६/-** (वैट सहित) राशि नियमानुसार देय होगी। **अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल- द्वितीय, पनौती, कानपुर।** पत्रांक 3351, दिनांक 27-11-2020 **“राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बढ़ायें”**

Ravindra Raju as general secretary (organisation) in Haryana to be operating from Rohtak.

Besides, the party president said Ratnakar has been made the joint general secretary (organisation) in Bihar (Muzaffarpur), while Bhawani Singh and Karmveer have been given similar charges in Uttar Pradesh to be functional from Varanasi and Meerut respectively.

The party has also made Abhay Kumar Giri the general secretary (organisation) of Manipur and Nagaland. In the BJP, general secretaries and joint general secretaries in-charge of organisation are considered key posts, and people holding them are generally drawn from the RSS. Praduma has been approved as Secretary, Delhi. RSS functionaries are the key go between the BJP and the Nagpur Organisation. One of the most influential appointees from the RSS in the BJP is General Secretary (Organisation) who may even veto decisions on behalf the Sangh. Last year, BJP national joint general secretary (organisation) BL Santosh was elevated as national general secretary (organisation), the second-most important post in the party's national organisation after that of the national president.


PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE (e-TCN)
Name of the work : **"Providing Assistance for Berthing/Unberthing of Vessels and other Marine Operations at Paradip Port Trust for a period of 03 Years".**Estimated cost : **Rs.3,91,66,000/-**. Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 1500 hours on Dt.17.12.2020. For further details, please log on to the website : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. **Dy.Conservator PPT/PR/327/20-21 Dt.27.11.2020**

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No. : S/16/2020-21, Dated: 27-11-2020 (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) : www.ireps.gov.in. For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender. Please visit IR E-Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get them registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> online. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following materials : **SN:1: Tender No. : 32/20/0635/OT/46/2020. Brief Description, PL No & Quantity : Coupler body with shank wear plate/BG Wagon to RD50 Drg. No.SK-62724, Alt-28, Item- 1 & 10. RD50 Specn. WD-70-BD-10 (Rev-2). Qty-44 Nos. for Pandu/GSD. Qty-100 Nos. for New Bongaigaon / Workshop Depot. PL. No.- 38135840. Closing/Opening date : 23-12-2020. SN:2: Tender No. : 10/20/3782/OT/47/2020. Brief Description, PL No & Quantity : Bearing assembly roller (PE) PINION END To EMD part No.-40072949, DLW PL. No. -17400030. Qty- 165 Nos. for New Bongaigaon/Workshop Depot. PL. No.-17400030. Closing/Opening date : 16-12-2020. PCMM, Maligaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile**

Continental Chemicals Limited
Regd. Office: A-7, Sec-7 Noida 201301
CIN: L24123UP1984PLC014111, Tel No. 0120-2423316 Fax No. 0120-2423316
Email: info@continentalsoft.com, Website: www.continentalchemicalsLtd.com
NOTICE OF THE 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BOOK CLOSURE AND E-VOTING INFORMATION
NOTICE is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, the 21st December 2020 at 04.30 PM through Video Conferencing (VC)/Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) to transact the business as set out in the notice of Annual General Meeting dated 25.11.2020.
Notice is further given that the Register of members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Tuesday, 15.12.2020 to Monday, 21.12.2020 (both day inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting in pursuant to provisions of section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and clause 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
In compliance with the provisions of Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 20 of the companies (Management and Administration) Rules 2014, the Company is pleased to provide its shareholders the facility to cast their vote by electronic means in respect of the agenda items enlisted in the AGM notice through e-voting facility provided by CDSL. The date of completion of sending notices is 27th November, 2020. The e-voting period commences on Friday, 18th December 2020 (09.00 AM) and ends on Sunday, 20th December 2020 (05.00 PM). The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL for voting there after. During this period members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cutoff date of 14th December 2020, may cast their vote electronically. Any person who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after dispatch of the notice of AGM and holding shares as on cutoff date may cast their vote by following instructions and process of remote e-voting as provided in notice of AGM. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The e-voting facility is available at the <https://www.evotingindia.com>. Members are requested to refer to instruction for e-voting forming part of AGM Notice (available at company's website). Regarding process and manner for e-voting by electronic means, in case of any queries or issue regarding e-voting, members may also refer "frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)" and e-voting user manual for Shareholders to cast their vote in help section at <https://www.evotingindia.com> or write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com.
B.S. Goyal practicing Company Secretary, New Delhi is appointed as Scrutinizer for conducting e-voting process in fair and transparent manner. The result of voting on resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM shall be declared within 48 hours of conclusion of the AGM. The results declared along with the report of the Scrutinizer shall be placed on the website of the Company www.continentalchemicalsLtd.com and on the website CDSL immediately after the declaration of result by the chairman or a person authorized by him and result also be communicated to the Stock Exchanges.
Member(s) are requested to keep their e-mail ID validated with their DPR/RTA, so as to receive all communication electronically including annual report, notices, circulars etc sent by the Company from time to time. RTA designated e-mail ID beatalra@gmail.com (BEETAL Financial & Computer Services Pvt Ltd. BEETAL HOUSE, 3rd Floor, 99, Madangari, behind LSC, New Delhi-110062) to facilitate the member(s) to register their request/complaints, if any.
For Continental Chemicals Limited Sd/-
Bhawna Gupta
Company Secretary

Centre kharif paddy procurement jumps to 19% as farmers' stir rages

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Despite farmers' unrest over three agricultural laws, the Centre's kharif paddy procurement jumped 18.78 per cent to 310.61 lakh tonnes so far this year. The purchase from Punjab farmers alone crossed over 65 per cent. According to the agriculture ministry, about ₹58,644.65 crore worth of paddy has been purchased at the minimum support price (MSP) from about 28.45 lakh farmers so far from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. Besides, planting of winter crops has exceeded last year's level by 13.46 percent. The data showed that winter crops were sown at 348.24 lakh hectare this year as compared to the 334.78 lakh hectare last year.

The agriculture ministry's data showed that the Government agencies have procured 310.61 lakh metric tons of paddy (till November 26) as against the 261.48 LMT last year, an increase of 18.78 percent this year. "Out of the total purchase of 310.61 lakh tonne, Punjab alone has

contributed 202.65 lakh tonne, which is 65.24 percent of the total procurement," the ministry said.

For the current year, the Centre has fixed the MSP of paddy (common grade) at Rs 1,868 per quintal, while that of A-grade variety has been fixed at ₹1,888 per quintal. This is despite having around 2 lakh hectares (5 lakh acres) less area under paddy (par-mal) crop this year as compared to the last year.

Paddy procurement commenced in Punjab and Haryana from September 26 due to early arrival of the crop, while in other states from October 1. More than 80 percent of the country's paddy crop is grown in the kharif season. The government through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies undertake procurement of paddy at the minimum support price (MSP).

Punjab has brought 27.36 lakh hectares under rice cultivation this year which included nearly 20.86 lakh hectares paddy and remaining under Basmati crop while last year the area under rice was 29.20 lakh hectares that included 22.91 lakh hectares

paddy and remaining 6.29 lakh hectares under Basmati.

The Union government is on course to buying a record quantity of paddy this year also to blunt a politically challenging farmers' agitation against a set of laws enacted to liberalise the farm sector. Farmers protesting the laws fear the reforms would erode their bargaining power and lead to a collapse of the procurement system, which refers to the government's buying of farm produce at federally fixed assured prices.

Besides, the Government agencies have procured 90,815.60 MT of Moong, Urad, Groundnut Pods and Soyabean having MSP value of ₹489.87 Crores benefitting 52,348 farmers in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan. Similarly, 5089 MT of copra (the perennial crop) having MSP value of ₹ 52.40 crore has been procured benefitting 3961 farmers in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as against the last year corresponding purchase of 293.34 MT of copra. In respect of Copra and Urad, rates are ruling above MSP in most of the major producing States. The Government has

also raised by 27% the number of paddy purchase centres, which now stand at 39,122, up from 30,709 last year, official figures show. Production of kharif or summer crops this year is likely to be a record 144.5 million tonnes, marginally higher than the 143.4 million tonnes produced during the kharif season of 2019-20.

The ministry's data on rabi sowing showed that farmers have sown Oilseeds on 61.64 lakh hectare area against 58.73 lakh hectare area of last year an area coverage increased by 2.91 lakh ha (Under Rapeseed & Mustard area has been covered 57.44 lakh hectare compared to 53.88 lakh hectare last year, an increased by 3.56 lakh hectare). Wheat on 151.58 lakh hectare against 150.49 lakh hectare area of last year i.e. increased in area coverage by 1.09 lakh hectare. Rice 8.18 lakh hectare against 8.84 lakh hectare area of last year i.e. marginally decreased in area coverage by 0.66 lakh hectare. Pulses 99.45 lakh hectare against 87.80 lakh hectare area of last year an increased in area coverage by 11.65 lakh hectare.

Sanket Media Pvt Ltd promoter in ED net for money laundering

New Delhi (PNS): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested promoter of Gujarat-based Sanket Media Pvt Ltd, PVS Sharma, in a money laundering case. The promoter is accused of cheating and forgery by inflating circulation figures of Satyam Times newspapers in English and Gujarati. The accused was arrested on Thursday for laundering the proceeds generated out of criminal offences through the accused firm Sanket Media Pvt. Ltd.

Following the arrest, Sarma was produced before the Special Court (PMLA), Ahmedabad, and the Special Judge granted his custody to the ED till December 2.

The ED had initiated investigation under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of FIR registered by Gujarat State Police (Umra Police Station, Surat) under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy pursuant to investigation conducted by the Income Tax Department against PVS Sarma and his Company.

"Investigation revealed that Sanket Media Pvt. Ltd. is involved in printing and publishing the newspaper Satyam Times in both Gujarati and English language. That, though the circulation of the newspapers were shown at 23,500 and 6000-6,300 copies daily for the Gujarati and English editions respectively, actual circulation was only around 300-600 and 0-290 for Gujarati and English respectively," the ED said in a statement.

Congress resolution lauds Patel, Gogoi for stellar roles in party

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Friday passed resolutions lauding party leaders Ahmed Patel and Tarun Gogoi for their roles in the organisation. The highest decision making body of the Congress met virtually under the chairmanship of party chief Sonia Gandhi and condoned the demise of the two leaders. Both Gogoi, a former Assam chief minister, and Patel, who was the party's treasurer, were members of the CWC.

Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and other party leaders lauded the stellar roles played by Patel and Gogoi.

While the resolution on Tarun Gogoi was moved by former prime minister Manmohan Singh, the one on Ahmed Patel was moved by Mukul Wasnik.

"The Congress Working Committee expresses its profound shock and grief at the untimely demise of Shri Ahmed Patel, a long-serving MP and the treasurer of the Congress Party," the resolution said.

The CWC said Patel was an integral part of the organisation for nearly four decades, contributing in manifold ways as Youth Congress worker, Gujarat PCC president, AICC member, CWC member, political secretary to the Congress president, and treasurer.

"In each of the responsibilities that he assumed, he brought to bear a great sense of dedication, commitment and purpose, always keeping the interests of the Party paramount."

"Such was his selfless service to the party that he won thousands of friends, admirers and supporters not only within the party but across the political spectrum," the resolution said.

"Shri Patel's signal contribution was his unique capacity to reconcile competing aspirations and forge unity and comradeship among the leaders and members of the party. He carried this remarkable talent to reconciling the competing aspirations of other political parties as well and to forging coalitions at the Centre and in the states," the CWC added.

The resolution said Patel was a pillar of strength to the two coalition governments that were led by the Congress during 2004-2014.

"Ahmedbhai had no personal ambition. The interest of the Congress was his only interest and the advancement of the Congress' agenda was his only agenda. He was deeply religious but secular to the core. Ahmedbhai's simplicity, austerity, accessibility and generosity were legendary," it added.

Remembering Gogoi, the CWC resolution



said, "The Congress Working Committee deeply mourns the demise of Shri Tarun Gogoi, one of the stalwarts of the Congress party for nearly four decades."

It said Gogoi was the tallest leader of Assam and of the northeastern region. He was, for many years, the authentic voice of the region, its people and their aspirations, the CWC added.

"As a Congress worker, MP for six terms, Union minister, president of Assam PCC, and chief minister for three consecutive terms (2001-2016), he epitomised the fundamental values of the Congress party and was the party's proud standard bearer," it said.

While Gogoi died in Guwahati on November 23, Patel passed away at a Gurgaon hospital on November 25 due to complications arising out of COVID-19. Both had tested positive for the virus some time ago.

India, Russia ink pact for production of 100m doses of Sputnik V per year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Russia's sovereign wealth fund and the Hyderabad-based Hetero Biopharma, engaged in manufacturing generic medicines have inked a pact to produce more than 100 million doses per year in India of the Sputnik V vaccine. The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which has been backing the vaccine and marketing it globally, plans to start production at the beginning of 2021. Sputnik V is based on a well-studied platform of human adenoviral vectors and has demonstrated a 91.4 percent efficacy rate, according to the second interim data analysis of the largest double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled Phase III clinical trials in Russia involving 40,000 volunteers. The results were announced by Gamaleya Center and RDIF on November 24.

Phase 3 clinical trials of the vaccine are approved and ongoing in Belarus, the UAE, Venezuela and other countries, and Phase 2/3 have been approved in India. India, along with Brazil, China, South Korea and

others, will provide the vaccine to at least 50 countries that have requested over 1.2 billion doses.

"An application has been submitted by RDIF to the World Health Organization (WHO) for accelerated registration (Emergency Use Listing, EUL) and prequalification of Sputnik V," said Alexander Gintsburg, director general of The Gamaleya Research Institute, Moscow.

Evaluation of efficacy was carried out among volunteers 28 days after receiving the first dose (seven days after the second dose) of the vaccine or placebo upon reaching the second control point of the trial in compliance with the clinical trial protocol.

The analysis demonstrated a 91.4 percent efficacy rate for the Sputnik V vaccine. The uniqueness of the Russian vaccine lies in the use of two different vectors based on the human adenovirus, which allows for a stronger and longer-term immune response as compared with vaccines using one and the same vector for two doses, according to a statement from the company.

Withdraw farm Bills, Rahul asks Modi Govt

No Govt in world can prevent farmers from fighting 'battle of truth', say Gandhis



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing farmers' agitation against farm laws, which witnessed several clashes between the police and protesters, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi on Friday attacked the Centre and said no Government in the world can stop them from fighting the 'battle of truth'.

"The PM should have remembered that whenever the ego hits the truth, it is defeated. No Government in the world can stop the farmers fighting the battle for truth. The Modi Government has to accept the demands of the farmers and black laws will have to be withdrawn. This is only the beginning", Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet message.

Earlier in the day, his sister and Congress party's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also lashed out at the Centre and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should implement "one nation, one behav-



our", in an apparent jibe at his suggestion for "one nation, one election".

Since Thursday, thousands of farmers from Punjab and Haryana have been marching towards the national capital as a part of the 'Dilli Challo' march to protest against the three farm laws passed by the Central Government in September. Carrying flags and shouting slogans, farmers gathered at several entry points to enter into Delhi while police blocked them with barricades, batons and tear gas shells.

"To suppress the voice of farmers-they are being drenched in water, roads are being dug up to stop them. But the Government is not ready to show them and tell them where it is written that they have the legal right of MSP. The Prime Minister, who is concerned about one country, one election, should implement one nation, one behaviour," Priyanka said.

People living in rural areas too prone to air pollution, says study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

It's not only people living in urban areas, but even their counterparts in rural settings are facing high health risk due to air pollution, according to a study conducted by the researchers from Colorado State University (CSU), USA and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay). The study is published in journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In fact, rural areas suffer from out-door air pollution as well as indoor air pollution like those emitting from fossil fuels. The researchers have proposed that the National Clean Air Programme should bring in a "regional" component in addition to its current urban focus.

The study used air pollution data measured across North India over four months.

"We wished to definitively evaluate non-urban versus urban impacts of air pollution through the use of all-India data with high spatial resolution (~4.5 km) for a whole year," said Prof Chandra Venkataraman from IIT Bombay, about the reason behind conducting the study.

The researchers also estimated that an excess 10.5 lakh people experience early death owing to heart and lung diseases every year based by exposure to PM2.5.

Out of this, 69% of the deaths are in non-urban areas—that is, an excess 7 lakh people experience early death annually due to air pollution in rural areas. In general, while the sources of air pollution vary, with almost similarly elevated levels of PM2.5 levels in urban and rural regions, both groups of the population face comparable health risks.

Prof Venkataraman said, although sources of air pollution such as vehicular emissions, industries and stubble burning in farms receive attention in policy recommendations, there is a need to monitor and control other sources too. "We find that residential cooking in chulhas with bio-mass fuels (wood, crop residue and dung cakes) is the single largest source impacting out-door air pollution in India," said Prof Venkataraman.

This finding has a far-reaching impact on how pollution is viewed in India and other developing countries. It is also very timely given that India, and countries like India, are turning attention to addressing air pollution, and they need to be aware of this vast issue, said the researchers adding that biomass fuels as well as traditional brick production and waste burning, must urgently be brought within the purview of air pollution mitigation.

Office of the Executive Engineer Prayagraj Division-4 (Kumbh Mela), P.W.D., Prayagraj (U.P.)
No. 5156/-E-प्रिबि/2020 **Notice Inviting E-Tenders (Very Short Term)** Date : 23.11.2020
1. The Executive Engineer, U.P. P.W.D on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, class A, B, C and D as the case may be. The bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Contractors Having Experie-ncie in Building Works will be given Preference.
2. **List of Tender Invited**

Sl. No.	District	Name of Work	Esti-mated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Bid Documents (Rs.)	Time of Completion (Month)	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the work	Address of Superin-tending Engineer	Address of D.M.	Address of Chief Engineer	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Prg	ग्राम न्यायालय हरिद्वार का अनुक्षण का कार्य।	9.00	90000.00	500/-+225/-+GST	3 Months	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-4 (Kumbh Mela) P.W.D. Prayagraj	Superintending Engineer, Prayagraj, Circle, P.W.D., Prayagraj (U.P.)	D.M. Prayagraj	Chief Engineer, Prayagraj Zone, P.W.D., Prayagraj (U.P.)

3. Time allowed for completion of each work is as mentioned in column no.7, including rainy season.
4. Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB).
5. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 30.11.2020 to 05.12.2020 upto 12.00 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 12.00 Hours on 05-12-2020. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 05.12.2020 at 02.00 Hours.
6. The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids. After uploading all the information & documents on Prahrari shall have to download technical sheet E1, after submitting. Scan copy of technical sheet E1 shall be then upload on e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> by the bidder. Bidder shall not upload any document other than technical sheet E1 on e-tender portal. If the bidder is uploading any document other than technical sheet E1 on e-tender portal, the document uploaded on e-tender portal shall not be considered for technical evaluation and claim of contractor in this regard shall not be entertained.
7. The prospective Bidders have to upload all the basic information and required document on Prahrari as per Go No 879/(1/23-7-2020 date 25-08-2020 2/2) and 2/3) given in Prahrari in detail. If a bidder does not upload information and document on Prahrari technical evaluation of the tender shall not be done and the bidder will be responsible for that and the Contractor will be considered as NON-Responsive.
(Mahendra Pratap)
Executive Engineer
Construction Division-4(K.M.), U.P. P.W.D., Prayagraj
For and on behalf of Governor of U.P.
U.P.: 157266, Date : 26.11.2020
बिज्ञापन वेबसाईट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

2 more jawans martyred in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Following fresh flare up of tensions along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Sunderbani sector of frontier Rajouri district two more Indian soldiers attained martyrdom during unprovoked ceasefire violation by the Pakistan Army on Friday.

More than one dozen soldiers have attained martyrdom in the line of duty in the last three months. At the same time, Indian Army has also inflicted heavy casualties on the other side of the LoC and flattened several strategic structures of the Pakistan army and launching pads used by the trained group of terrorists to sneak inside the Indian territory in the garb of heavy firing.

According to the field reports, several civilian houses suffered damages and local residents remained closeted inside their homes during the period of intense mortar shelling.

According to the Jammu-based Defence Spokesman, Lt-Col Devender Anand, "The Pakistan Army resorted to

unprovoked CFV on LoC in Sunderbani Sector of Rajouri on Friday".

He said, in response Indian troops responded immediately to the enemy fire. In the ensuing fire, two Jawans of the Indian Army Naik Prem Bahadur Khatri and Rifleman Sukhbir Singh got critically injured and later succumbed to their injuries.

Defence PRO said, Naik Prem Bahadur Khatri hailed from Maharajanjan district of Uttar Pradesh and Rifleman Sukhbir Singh from Taran Taran district of Punjab.

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh Friday announced a compensation of Rs 50 lakh and a job to a dependent family member. In a tweet Capt Amarinder Singh said, "Anguished to learn of the tragic demise of Sepoy Sukhbir Singh in Rajouri Sector today. Have announced ex-gratia of Rs. 50 lakh & a job to a dependent family member. My condolences to the bereaved family. Nation will always remain indebted for his supreme sacrifice".

Will never be scared of Central agencies: Uddhav

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Slamming the BJP of "mis-using" the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI to mount pressure on the Opposition Governments in the States, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday said his party will never be scared of the Central investigating agencies and that his Government enjoyed the blessings of the people across the State.

In an interview published in the Shiv Sena's official mouth-piece "Saamana" on the occasion of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government completing one year in office, Uddhav said, "I am quiet and patient. But that does not mean I am impotent. The manner in which our families are being attacked is not the culture of Maharashtra. If we are practitioners of Hindutva, if you attack our families and children, you should realise that you also have families and children. You are not like clean rice. If we decide, we as the followers of Shivaji know how to cook and make 'khichdi' out of you." Handing out an indirect

advice to the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre, Uddhav said, "If you are mis-using power, remember that power does not last forever. You too have faced cases in the past and Balasaheb had saved you then." On the BJP's criticism that he does not do anything beyond advising the people to wash their hands, the chief minister said: "Currently, I am only advising the people to wash hands for now. If they continue to indulge in attacks against us, then I will come after you. Some people have gone mad. They need treatment".

Uddhav said his three-party Government was running smoothly. "I have perfect coordination with the Congress and NCP. I do not have to indulge in acrobatics in running the Government".

On the Shiv Sena and Hindutva, Uddhav said, "Hindutva is not a dhoti that we can change. It is in our blood and veins. I believe in my father's and grandfather's concept of Hindutva. We do not believe in 'temple bell banging' Hindutva, we believe in a 'terrorist banging Hindutva' and

my father proved it in 1992-93. When no one was ready to accept responsibility for the demolition of Babri, late Balasaheb and my father owned it up. Ram Mandir is happening because of the court's decision. No political party should take credit for it". In a sharp attack against the BJP, Uddhav said, "Hindutva is not pooja, banging temple bells or thalis. That does not cure corona. No one should do politics in the guise of Hindutva and teach us what Hindutva is. First saffron swarajya was established by Shivaji Maharaj in Maharashtra, so do not teach us that."

On the "Love Jihad", Uddhav said, "Instead of indulging in politics of 'love jihad', why shouldn't the concept of Love Jihad be practised in politics? They (BJP) are opposed to a Muslim boy marrying a Hindu girl. Then how did you (BJP) have an alliance with Mehbooba Mufti or Nitish Kumar or Chandrababu Naidu? Alliance with different political parties with different ideologies works for you, isn't this 'love jihad'?"

Win even by one vote is ultimately a victory: Nitish

PATNA: In a bid to blunt the

RJD's Assertion that the NDA managed to win the Bihar Assembly election by getting only 12,270 votes more than the Grand Alliance led by the party, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday said that victory by even one vote is ultimately a triumph.

If anyone thinks that irregularities have been committed in the election, he can move the court for the redressal of grievances, Kumar said in the assembly while replying to a debate on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address. "Victory even by one vote is ultimately a victory. We have 125 (seats) and anyone having 122 would form the government. If anyone thinks that something wrong has been done (in the assembly election), he can move the court which will hear the case and give its ruling," Kumar said.

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav of the RJD, while participating in the debate earlier in the day, said that the NDA emerged victorious by getting only 12,270 votes and 16 seats more than what the Grand Alliance secured. **PTI**

Mamata offers to join farm protest in Delhi

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday roared back at the Central Government for its anti-farmer attitude saying she had all along been with the farmers and would continue to remain by them.

Slamming the BJP-led Centre for "vitiating the atmosphere of the country," Banerjee said she was ready to join the farmers' protest in Delhi.

Saying that the "brutal suppression" of the farmers' movement in Haryana was "very unfortunate," she said that this was the first Central Government which was "trying to curb all democratic and fundamental rights."

She said, "It has passed a law which is against the interests of the farmers," reminding that no Government could take away the democratic rights of the farmers.

She added India belonged to everyone and not a single outfit or a group of people "What was the role of BJP during the freedom struggle? The country got freedom long back. Some of your leaders have even betrayed (the freedom

struggle)," she told the media.

Apart from the farm laws the Centre also passed the "anti-people Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill" which had led to massive rise in the price of onion and potato because the traders were hoarding the vegetables, she said adding the BJP was "gradually showing its real face."

She attacked the BJP leadership for trying to convert Bengal into Gujarat by bringing in outsiders who had no idea of the culture and history of the State.

"Why do they want to turn our Bengal into a riot-torn place like Gujarat? We don't want riots. Bengal is a land of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, poet Nazrul Islam, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Swami Vivekananda.

The people of the State want to live in harmony and peace... why is the BJP planning to incite communal divide in Bengal," she asked and said the outsiders who were coming to Bengal would go away after the elections but leave back a divide which the people of the State would not tolerate.

Demolition at Kangana bungalow malafide act, smacks of malice: HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a clear vindication for Kangana Ranaut, the Bombay High Court on Friday quashed the demolition notice issued to the Bollywood actress in September this year, terming both the notice and the subsequent demolition of a portion of her Bandra Bungalow were "actuated by malafides" and they involved "a clear malice in law" and ordered compensation for her.

"As we have come to a clear conclusion that the impugned notice under section 354A of the Act and the action of demolition following it, are actuated by malafides, in any event, involve a clear malice in law, causing a substantial injury to the Petitioner," a HC division bench of Justices SJ Kathawalla and RI Chagla ruled.

"We would be perfectly justified on the basis of the law stated by the Supreme Court in the case of Sunbeam Hightech Developers (supra), to order compensation against responsible Respondents," the judges noted, adding that the quantum of compensation would be decided only after the preparation of an estimate by the approved valuer.

On the compensation, the judges ruled: "Both parties, i.e. the Petitioner and the MCGM (as the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation is also known) shall be heard by the valuer whilst making his report of valuation. We would reserve our further Orders on such report being submitted by the valuer. We would also pass appropriate Orders on recovery of any part of such compensation from individual officers of the MCGM when ordering for payment of such compensation".

While quashing and setting aside the notice dated September 7 2020 and the subsequent oral demolition order, the HC bench allowed Kangana to take such steps as were required to make the said bungalow "habitable" so that the Petitioner can immediately start occupying and using the same.

The HC bench said that in the event of Kangana filing an application for regularisation of any unauthorised but demolished portion of her bungalow making an application to the BMC, the BMC would decide on the application within four weeks of the receipt of the application/plan.

In its ruling on the much-discussed on the Kangana demolition case, the HC bench held the action by the Shiv Sena-ruled BMC as "ex-facie illegal, arbitrary, unjustified and highhanded and malafide" and said that the BMC had "ignored" its statutory provisions and guidelines of the Courts as well as of its own circulars and the said action is an abuse of power and authority. "The Petitioner therefore

is fully justified in approaching this Court for redressal of her grievances and the protection of her rights," the judges observed.

On the issue of allowing Kangana to reconstruct the demolished portion, the HC bench said: "As regards allowing the Petitioner to reconstruct demolished portions of the property, we record that though parties have taken contrary positions about the authorized or unauthorized offending portions, we have not been shown any material to justify either of the contentions. We have, accordingly no occasion to decide one way or the other".

"We must accordingly leave the parties to their positions in law. If, and to the extent the demolished portions were originally created / constructed in accordance with law, that is to say, either as tenable repairs for which no permission of MCGM was required, or simply matters of interior decoration and work for which no planning permission is required, or were authorized having regard to the approved plans, the Petitioner shall be within her rights to reconstruct the same," the judges said.

"In case they (Kangana) require a planning permission and none exists, the Petitioner may apply for such permissions and the MCGM shall be bound to deal with such application in accordance with law," the judges noted.

It may be recalled that on September 9, the demolition squad of the BMC pulled down a portion of Kangana Raut's bungalow at Bandra in north-west Mumbai, which housed the office of her film production company, Manikarnika Films Pvt Ltd.

By the time Bombay High Court stayed the demolition of the process of Kangana's bungalow, the BMC employees - who had come armed with big drill machines, hammers, sledgehammers and crowbars and a JCB machine - pulled down the allegedly illegal portions involving at the bungalow.

The BMC, which had served a notice on the actress on September 7 about the alleged "illegal" constructions at the bungalow, followed it up with demolition on September 9 after rejecting the reply provided by the actress' lawyers and pasting a response at the door of Kangana's bungalow.

On the portion that has not been demolished by the BMC, the high court said: "As regards the area, which is not demolished by the MCGM, if the MCGM proposes to take any action, it may issue a notice giving 7 days time to the Petitioner to respond to / comply with the same. the Petitioner shall also be at liberty to make an application seeking regularization of the works already carried out but not demolished under section 53 (3) of the MRTPT Act, 1966".

MeT dept forecasts more rain in TN, Pondy next week

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal on November 30 could bring more rains to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry from December 1, the regional weather office said on Friday.

Deputy Director General of Meteorology, Chennai, S Balachandran, told reporters that the system was likely to intensify into a depression later.

"A low pressure area is likely to form over southeast Bay of Bengal during the next 48 hours. It is very likely to intensify into a depression on November 30 and move towards the Tamil Nadu coast," he told reporters here.

As a result, there will be widespread rains in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Puducherry from December 1-3, he said.

The forecast for more rains for the southern state and the union territory comes a day after severe cyclonic storm 'Nivar' made landfall between Tamil Nadu and Puducherry early on Thursday, bringing sharp showers.

At least three people were killed in Tamil Nadu in rain-related incidents like wall and tree collapse, while over a thousand trees were uprooted.

Balachandran further said that in the last 24 hours, north-western districts in Tamil Nadu received rains, with Sholinghur in Ranipet recording the highest rainfall of 23 cm.

He also forecast light to moderate rains in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for the next two days in some places.

RAIN CAUSES EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO CROPS IN AP; TOLL RISES TO THREE

Amaravati: Heavy rainfall over the last two days dumped by cyclone Nivar dealt a blow to farmers in Andhra Pradesh as agricultural and horticultural crops in over 30,000 hectares were damaged, officials said.

The toll in rain-related incidents climbed to three on Friday while more than 10,000 people were lodged in relief camps primarily in SPS Nellore and Chittoor districts, that bore the brunt of the nature's fury, they said.

Swarnamukhi, Bhima and Penna rivers were in spate while all medium and minor reservoirs filled to the brim and overflowed, cutting off road

communication at many places.

Roads in over 180 km were damaged due to the floods while tanks breached at some places, inundating villages and farms. The national and state disaster response forces and police personnel braved several odds and rescued tens of people from marooned villages, overflowing rivulets and streams, thereby preventing loss of lives, officials said.

The State Cabinet, at its meeting here on Friday, reviewed the situation and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced an assistance of Rs 500 each to those sheltered in relief camps. **PTI**

'No place for disruption, be it Parliament or State Assemblies'

PTI ■ JAIPUR

There is no place for disruption, be it Parliament or State Assemblies, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Friday and stressed on debate, discussion and dialogue.

Efforts are being made to ensure there is minimum disruption and a committee has been formed under the Uttar Pradesh assembly speaker to discuss and submit a report so that a common programme is formed and people's representative play their role ideally, he

said. The Lok Sabha speaker was briefing reporters about the two-day All India Presiding Officers' Conference held in Gujarat recently.

"It is right and a matter of concern that bills get passed in Parliament and state assemblies amid disruption. There is no place for disruption," Birla said while replying to a question.

On the conference, the speaker said that discussions were held on issues related to the anti-defection law and use of information technology in delaying proceedings of Parliament

and the assemblies.

"In the last conference held in Uttarakhand, issues related to the anti-defection law were discussed. We had formed a committee under Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Speaker C P Joshi. If necessary, discussion will be done with the government to make changes after analysing the report," he said.

He said that all presiding officers took a pledge to make legislatures more accountable, while strengthening and empowering them according to constitutional values.

Owner of Karachi Bakery says its founder was Partition victim

Mumbai: The owner of Karachi Bakery in suburban Bandra has said in reply to a 'legal notice' by an MNS leader that the bakery's founder was a victim of Partition, and its name can not hurt Indian sentiments.

Haji Saif Shaikh, a local leader of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, had sent a legal notice to the owner, saying that the word Karachi hurts sentiments of ordinary Indians and the Indian Army because it is a Pakistani city. The bakery should be renamed and the signboard should be in Marathi, he had demanded.

In its response, the bakery owner said it was established by a Sindhi-Hindu family which migrated from Pakistan, and the brand is now recognized globally. They did not use the name Karachi to hurt the feelings of Indians. In fact, bakery founder Khanchand Ramani had experienced violence by pro-Pakistan elements during Partition, it said.

Being a "victim of violence espoused by Pakistan", they can never make any statement or do anything that can hurt feelings of fellow Indians, the bakery said.

"It is incorrect to suggest that my client (bakery owner) has disrespected the sacrifice of our soldiers. The bakery has always been Indian and will continue to do so. Therefore, every allegations questioning my client's loyalty towards India is incorrect and unwarranted," the reply said.

Phone call from Delhi makes BSY defer Lingyat move

AINS ■ BENGALURU

A telephone call from a powerful central BJP leader on Friday morning forced Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa defer his decision on a proposal to recommend inclusion of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community in the Other Backward Community (OBC) list.

Yediyurappa's daily itinerary had put the media on high alert since Thursday night, as it stated that the Chief Minister was himself going to brief the media after the cabinet meeting.

The subject of inclusion of Veerashaiva-Lingayat community in the OBC list was also listed in the cabinet agenda but had to be deferred even before the cabinet meeting began on Friday. Speaking to reporters here, a visibly dejected Yediyurappa said that on the Veerashaiva-Lingayat issue, for various reasons, he would take a decision only after consulting the party high command.

"I will soon go to Delhi and come back after consulting them (party high command). It won't be decided today," he said in a huff. He quickly added in the same breath that it was also the opinion of his Cabinet colleagues. "It is a very special decision... after discussing with the high command, we will go ahead," he reiterated.

The 77-year-old Veerashaiva-Lingayat strongman is known for taking major decisions without consulting with-in the party. He was clearly in shock as his recent decisions such as forming the Maratha Development Board and forming the Veerashaiva-Lingayat Community Board had already kicked off a row, which the party leaders are fighting hard to convince the other community voters.

These decisions have already opened Pandora's box with every small and powerful community in the state starting to demand similar bodies.

Meanwhile, party sources said that after receiving complaints against Yediyurappa's unilateral decisions, a top central BJP leader called him up and directed him to defer a decision on the subject, noting that it is an important issue and its implications have not been discussed in the party forum yet. In a departure from normal practice, Yediyurappa, as per his scheduled programme release on Thursday evening, was slated to address a press conference after the Cabinet meeting reportedly on the Veerashaiva-Lingayat issue -- a task generally done either by the Information Minister or the Law Minister.

Briefing reporters after the cabinet meeting, Law and

Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said that as sub-castes under various other communities had been left out from the OBC list like Kunchatigas from Vokkaligas, it was decided to consider sending a comprehensive recommendation to the Centre about the communities that need to be included in the days to come.

"Hence, we had to defer the subject today," he said in response to a question.

He quickly added that the subject had to be deferred as the state government was awaiting for the anthropologists report, certification of the backwardness and its nature. "Once we compile all data that is needed to convince the backwardness and then we can proceed," he contended.

Rebutting that the subject was mentioned hastily in the cabinet agenda aimed at sending a signal to the high command and Yediyurappa's detractors, Madhuswamy asserted that the proposed recommendation had nothing to do with the state government's reservation policy, and was only for reservation in Central government services and educational institutions.

According to the minister, the contention of Veerashaiva-Lingayats is that at present, only 16 sub-castes of Veerashaiva-

taken suo moto cognisance regarding the Covid pandemic and the lockdown situation in Gujarat.

The bench said that despite various guidelines and laws issued by the government, people continue to flout the norms and there is a need to deter them from doing so.

Acting on a suggestion given by the petitioner, the high court asked the Gujarat government to come up with specific rules for people not wearing masks.

"Despite the fine of Rs 1,000, people continue to flout the rules and not wear masks.

Is the state government mulling over sending such violators to the Covid Care Centres for eight days to perform social service, so that they get serious about the outbreak? The violators should have fear in their minds regarding the pandemic," the bench said.

The high court has given the state government time till Tuesday, by which it is expected to come up with an answer. The state government has assured the court that it will consider the suggestion and come out with an appropriate measure.

Lingayats are considered as OBCs in the central list.

"The community should not be seen in parts by breaking it," the minister claimed.

The inclusion of Veerashaiva-Lingayats in the Central list of the OBCs has been the long-standing demand of the community, and the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha has been pressing for this since 1994.

At present in Karnataka, Veerashaiva-Lingayats and their sub-groups are considered a backward class and they come under Category 3B with five per cent reservation.

Their inclusion in OBC Central list will mean 27 per cent reservation in Central government services and educational institutions under the Centre.

This move has come, days after the Yediyurappa government had announced the establishment of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat Development Corporation, and allocated Rs 500 crore to it.

The Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, which owes allegiance to the 12th century social reform movement initiated by poet-saint-social reformer Basaveshwara, has a substantial population across Karnataka and parts of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Time for KCR, TRS regime to go, says Nadda

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

BJP president JP Nadda on Friday hit the campaign trail for the December 1 city civic polls, with a roadshow, saying "it is time for KCR (Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao) and the TRS regime to go".

"You have come in such large numbers in spite of the rain. This is sending out a message, on its own, to KCR and TRS...that your time to go has come, and it is time for the BJP to come," he told party cadres at Kothapet here.

On criticism from some quarters over the BJP president coming to campaign for a Corporation election, Nadda said that he was ready to go wherever required to put an end to corruption, for the sake of development and towards expansion of the party.

Several senior BJP leaders are campaigning in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar had recently released a "chargesheet" against the TRS government, while his ministerial colleague Smriti Irani had slammed the ruling TRS over the recent floods, asking how 75,000 'encroachments' thrived in the state capital.

Hyderabad calling

With the BJP flying in top guns for the civic polls in the city, the party is hoping to wrest Telangana in 2023



The ruling BJP is relentlessly pursuing its goal of “one party, one nation” if its efforts to supplant federal power in State after State are any indication. And while it seems hyperactive in Bengal, determined to win it at any cost, it is just as keen about strengthening its footprint down south, where it has Karnataka. Nothing else explains why it is paratrooping a battery of its top leaders for polls to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) slated for December 1. Led by Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief JP Nadda, Union Ministers and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the party has literally swamped the city, hoping to consolidate its voters to its advantage and making the city a gateway to capturing Telangana in the next Assembly election in 2023. But why is the BJP so obsessed with Hyderabad’s local body polls, where it could win just four wards, against the Telangana Rashtra Samithi’s (TRS’s) 99 and the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM’s 44, last time? What sense does it make to get aggressive in the civic polls when even during the 2019 Lok Sabha election, it won four of the 17 seats? Perhaps the conversion rate between 2014 and 2019, from one to four seats, and its recent bypoll victory in the Dubbaka Assembly seat have given the BJP enough reason to hope that it could get there if it starts sowing the seeds now. Dubbaka is adjacent to the seat that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) won from and the BJP wants to sharpen this psychological edge. And considering that the Congress is all but decimated, the BJP wants to claim its space as rightful challenger as early as possible. But more than everything else it is what Hyderabad represents that is up for grabs. First, as a cyber hub, Hyderabad has an upper crust brand worth next only to Bengaluru and the BJP wants to be seen as having the endorsement of the knowledge economy and a digitally-empowered India. Second, the municipal limits include as many as 24 Assembly constituencies and touch upon parts of Lok Sabha seats, so no time would be better than now to do the spadework. Third, Hyderabad’s largely Muslim character that has held out against the BJP’s kind of Hindutva. After the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya — whose impact is largely confined to North India — it needs an ideological conquest in the south. And if the party can indeed swing votes in a Muslim-dominated territory, it could justify its political philosophy that has spun around polarisation. Hyderabad is that bastion of syncretism that looks down upon divisive politics. Most importantly, it would help the BJP get rid of Owaisi, who crafted his political survival by undercutting secular forces, saying that they shortchanged Muslims on real issues, earning him the tag of being a vote-splitter and the BJP’s tacit B-team. Now that his appeal is no longer confined to Hyderabad and is expanding to Maharashtra, Bihar and may be Bengal, the BJP doesn’t want a counter-polarisation to happen pan-India among Muslim voters, who may look up to him as their true representative and not want to be traded for votebank politics. Winning Hyderabad would mean taking Owaisi down on home ground. This is already apparent from the BJP leader Tejasvi Surya’s statements calling Owaisi an avatar of Mohammad Ali Jinnah and attributing his Bihar win to his clout in Hyderabad. The campaign is, therefore, high-pitched, where local civic issues have completely been swamped by rhetoric on Pakistan, Osama Bin Laden, terror, Rohingyas and by extension foisting them all on the encouragement of Hyderabad’s Muslims. This is easy for the BJP for it is still not well-entrenched enough to talk about local problems or peddle their solutions.

Where does this leave KCR? There was a time when he could claim advantages by tacitly supporting the BJP, helping it in the passage of crucial Bills in Parliament and staying neutral on controversial issues. But the mammoth Lok Sabha verdict for the BJP in 2019 means the national party doesn’t really need him as an ally and would rather have its own man in the State. A role in New Delhi is also out of question now that the BJP is the enemy knocking at his gate. Besides, as the Bihar verdict showed, the appeal of the Modi persona is still intact and Rao needs to rebuild himself as a leader who birthed the State, led a social rather than religious movement and championed the people’s rights that no outsider can ever understand. Hence the TRS has stepped up the anti-BJP rhetoric and got in almost all its bigwigs to monitor each of the wards and ensure there is recall value. KCR must realise that the BJP still has trouble pushing out Trinamool Congress in Bengal or couldn’t dislodge the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi because both had built their stock on mobilising a people’s movement on issues that mattered, the former on land rights in Singur and the latter on clean governance. So KCR must avoid falling into the Hindu-Muslim trap set by the BJP and revive the social causes he stood for, something which he has ignored recently. He is distancing himself from Owaisi, fearing the loss of the Hindu vote that’s still in his favour, and Modi, too, particularly on the divestment of PSUs. The last stance has helped him win the support of trade unions of LIC, BSNL and South Central Railways for the GHMC polls. He is also planning a meeting of non-BJP, non-Congress leaders next month. But will he be as convincing, considering his initial enthusiasm for stitching up a federal front before the general elections waned like quicksilver the moment he sensed bigger takeaways from a tradeoff with the BJP? Of course, trust deficits are quickly forgotten in politics but does KCR have it in him to be convincing to others?

Caught in between

Kishore Biyani is in the middle of the retail wars being fought by Amazon and Reliance and may be the sole loser



Kishore Biyani was Indian retail’s poster child 15 years ago, featured on the covers of top business magazines and being a regular on the front pages of financial dailies. We were told that he was building a retail empire through Future Group that would rival that of the Walton family’s Walmart. He even wrote a book, *It Happened In India*, to celebrate his success. His Big Bazaar store sales on national holidays attracted thousands of people and there were kilometre-long lines outside outlets in order to get a bargain. But Biyani, like many others in different industries, never saw the internet coming and it hit his business like a freight train. The irony of a group named “Future” not realising the future of retail will likely become a case-study in some business schools one day. Biyani was forced to first drive a deal with Amazon and then later deal with Reliance Retail as well. Amazon subsequently claimed that the Future Group could not sell its retail assets to Reliance and went to emergency arbitration in Singapore which gave it relief. While this should bring up questions of why Indian corporate battles constantly go to arbitration in nations like Singapore and the United Kingdom, it is also bad news for Biyani.

Yes, he has a massive ready-made network of retail stores across the country which Amazon or Reliance would love to get their hands on. More importantly, both multi-billion dollar companies would not want the other to get their hands on it. While both Amazon and Reliance have issued statements with all the right words, it appears that this matter will not be resolved anytime soon. This is horrible news for Biyani and his retail empire, which was already bleeding but was dealt a body blow by the Coronavirus-inspired lockdown and the closure of malls. Amazon and Reliance don’t just have the pockets to ride out the crisis, they also know that if they can’t get their hands on the asset, they can always create another one with real estate being a lot cheaper than ever before. What happens next only the courts will decide.

The soundburst

India needs a mass movement for banning crackers. For what is considered enjoyment is tantamount to collective suicidal self-indulgence



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

India is in the grip of a raging COVID-19 pandemic, which is surging forward relentlessly. New cases and deaths are reported every day in alarming numbers. Things are made worse by severe air pollution levels in many places — particularly Delhi. Besides enhancing people’s vulnerability to the Corona virus — these are causing permanent damage to the health of children and the old. One would have thought that all this and the crisis stalking the economy would invoke a sombre mood that would be reflected in the observance of Deepavali, one of the most beautiful events in the country, which is celebrated by a large section of Indians of the diaspora as well, and prompts warm gestures by friendly countries. Witness the lighting up of the Times Square in New York City on the occasion.

One had expected that the emphasis in India would be on observing Deepavali as a festival of lights, dispelling the gloom that has enveloped the country this year, creating an interlude of cheer in the midst of grief and despair. One had hoped that people would abjure crackers, whose use had been banned or severely restricted in many parts of the country. Nothing like this happened. There was not only no decline in their use but they continued to be burst on Deepavali day, which was November 14, and in some cases, even a week later, albeit in diminishing frequency.

Sky-rocketing decibel levels heaped miseries on the old, infirm and the ill. Animals, particularly dogs, suffered terribly, with some going almost crazy with fear. Billowing smoke from cracker bursts severely spiked the already high air-pollution levels that had been playing havoc. Unforgivably, all this happened despite restrictions and bans, exhortations against unrestrained cracker bursts by civil society elements, environmentalists and a growing army of school children pleading that their future be not jeopardised. In fact, over the past several years now, there has been a growing movement calling for a progressive reduction in the explosion of crackers and a ban on the more deafening and polluting kinds of these, without, of course, any significant effect.

Why is it that a large section



of Indians is relentlessly trying to reduce what is meant to be a splendid festival of lights into a prolonged orgy of horrid, ear drum-splitting noise? They cannot be unaware of the consequences of what they are doing and the impact this will have on their children and grandchildren, not only in terms of health but of character. Their progenies, and those of the latter, will come to feel that what matters is doing what they want to and not their society’s well-being and future, and that rules and laws can be broken with impunity. The consequences can be serious in terms of maintaining social harmony and law and order if this leads to a generally cavalier attitude towards obeying laws, including those embodied in the penal code in respect of crimes like murder, robbery, serious fraud, printing of counterfeit currency and so on.

People engaged in orgies of bursting crackers cannot be unaware of the consequences of what they are doing. These have been dinned into their consciousness for at least two decades now. Is it that they enjoy bursting crackers so much that they cannot help doing it heedless of the consequences? If this be true, what can be the explanation?

To answer the first question, one needs to look at some of the deeper processes at work. Every action by an individual is fundamentally a result of instinct or an exercise of will. One instinctively jumps out of the way of a truck that suddenly comes across a bend and threatens to

run one over. It is the result of the instinct for survival at work. The bursting of a cracker is an act of will, the final one of a series that involves the decision to buy it, the act of buying it, followed by acts of storing it, taking it out and igniting it.

Every act of will is an act of self-assertion. The self wills the action which, in turn, underlines its existence. One can act because one exists. A much-referenced statement by the French philosopher, Rene Descartes, runs, “*Cogito ergo sum*” or “I think, therefore I am.” One can see a subconscious extension of the same thought process behind the statement implied in each cracker burst, “I explode crackers, therefore, I exist.” In fact, there is more. One sometimes gets hurt — even badly — while setting off a cracker. This, therefore, can also be projected as a testimony to one’s courage. It can be doubly so if the act is in defiance of a ban — or restrictions — on the use of crackers. One can then show oneself as a daring rebel as well.

There are doubtless, other means of self-assertion in the form of producing works of art like painting and photographs, making films, staging plays, writing, dancing, singing, making sculptures and designing and building celebrated works of architecture. Engaging in these requires training, skill, effort and, of course, talent, and the expending of a huge amount of time, which would leave one with little opportunity for going through all the stages of activity associated with explosion of

crackers. One may be asked: How does one know that people who explode crackers are not engaged in creative activity? Some of them may. This writer, however, is not aware of any survey, which shows how many or what percentage of cracker enthusiasts are engaged in creative pursuits. The nature of activity required in any form of creative venture and the setting off of crackers respectively are, moreover, totally different and this writer knows of no novelist, poet, playwright, painter, film-maker or stalwart photographer who explodes crackers.

The argument can be that people explode crackers because they enjoy doing it and that those engaged in pursuits that are essential to the functioning of a society but are not regarded as creative — businessmen, administrators, managers, clerks, lawyers, doctors, engineers and so forth, for example — have as much right to enjoy themselves as writers, painters, film-makers, photographers and so on. They certainly do, but not when it causes serious damage to public health and the environment. In such a situation, enjoyment is tantamount to collective suicidal self-indulgence. We are steeped in a culture conducive to it.

Throughout history, most cultures have sanctioned an element of self-indulgence in the form of gorging on food that thrills the palate and consuming beverages that can inebriate. There is nothing wrong with this within limits. It has created demands, the satisfaction of

which has contributed to economic, and even creative, activity. In the present instance, the cracker industry employs thousands in the manufacture and distribution of its products.

It is, however, an industry that causes severe damage to society. Year after year, there has been talk of drastically restricting use of crackers during Diwali and a few days before and after it. Virtually nothing, however, has been coming out of it; as almost unrestricted supply of crackers is available every year and, if anything, used on a continuously escalating scale. Since restrictions imposed by the Government on the use of crackers have hardly had any effect, the Union and State governments need to take steps to drastically curtail production, if not close the industry down altogether. It should not be difficult to absorb the workforce thus rendered surplus into the manufacture of fireworks, which will receive a boost as the bulk of the money now spent on crackers will then be spent on these.

Meanwhile, school children and civil society organisations and personnel, who have been demanding severe restrictions on the use of crackers, must step up their efforts. The target must be on building a nationwide citizens’ mass movement whose tidal sweep can be ignored by neither the Union and State governments nor the manufacturers, the distributors or the exploders of crackers.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

SOUNDBITE

The demands of the farmers are genuine. Therefore the request of the Delhi Police to convert stadiums into jails is being rejected by the Delhi Government.



Delhi Home Minister
—Satyendar Jain

Today, we joined a multilateral Digital Cooperation Organisation as founding member, ushering in a new era of digital diplomacy to shape global digital agenda.



Pakistan Foreign Minister
—Shah Mahmood Qureshi

In Asia, we have more women comedians coming up, especially in India. The groundwork for having girl comedians to do really well from Asia will take a bit of time.



Singaporean comedian
—Sharul Channa

Diego Maradona’s balance and acceleration were things that every defender was scared of. You could barely knock him down while he was running with the ball.



Indian football team coach
—Igor Stimac

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Patel will be missed

Sir — Ahmed Patel, a leader who remained with the Congress for three decades, succumbed to COVID-19 related complications at the age of 71. He was the most powerful party leader from Gujarat though he did not hold any position of power. Patel won the Rajya Sabha elections although his candidature was challenged by the ruling party there.

With the passing away of the stalwart, Gujarat has lost a leader who remained synonymous with an approach which paid rich dividends in power politics. He was the last of the veterans in the Congress after Tarun Gogoi, the two-time Chief Minister of Assam. Congress president Sonia Gandhi depended a lot on Patel’s counsel. For that reason, his demise is the most politically consequential event of this year. When the main person running an establishment suddenly dies, there is bound to be chaos. Patel was the flagbearer of status quo. After him, status quo is not viable in the Grand Old Party.

Jayanthi Anandambal
Navi Mumbai

Stop ‘connected lending’

The move to allow corporate behemoths to set up banks clearly indicates their clout with the ruling dispensation. It is a disquieting pointer to the country’s descent into an oligarchy. It is hard to believe that the present “corporate governance culture” has inspired so much confidence in the RBI that it decided to favour banks in the corporate sector. It is premised on the principle of profit for the rapacious corporate houses and not as much on public welfare.

Large industrial houses will have access to different sources to collect or receive money (for them it is “capital”) including household savings through the banks they run and will be at liberty to use them to amass more wealth for themselves. The consequences of the lender and the borrower being one and the same are not hard to visualise. There is no way “connected lending” can be prevented, given the loopholes in the system. The super-rich know how to work the system to their advantage. Nobody needs to teach the corporate houses promoting banks how to jump over the ring fence put around the funds.

To circumvent regulations and legislative safeguards, they may have to loan money with low income rates or donate through electoral bonds to those who have oversight of the banks and their finances. The actualisation of the Central Bank’s recommendation will be



a recipe for disaster as it will exacerbate problems of non-performing assets (NPAs) and bad loans. Eventually the economic burden will fall on the people. It is for valid reasons that the RBI’s recommendation has been termed as a “bad idea” and a “bombshell” by economists Raghuram Rajan and Viral Acharya. Yes Bank, Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Punjab National Bank, ICICI Bank, Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi crowd the mind to plead the case against such a move.

The corporates waiting in the wings can do more damage if given a chance. Linking the move to India’s ambition to become a \$5 trillion economy makes no sound economic sense. As Raghuram Rajan puts it, the proposal is “best left on the shelf.”

G David Milton
Maruthancode, TN

Death of a legend

Sir — Speaking to an Argentine television channel in 2014, the greatest of all footballers, Diego Maradona, said, “Do you know

the player I could have been if I hadn’t taken drugs?...I am 53 going on 78 because my life hasn’t been normal. I’ve lived to 80 with the life I’ve gone through.” Millions of football lovers

believe that Maradona definitively was a great player but it is disrespectful to put him over a player like Brazilian legend Pele. While Pele grew into international reverence,

Maradona’s ability to surprise and startle developed a darker edge as he became addicted to cocaine during his playing days in the 1980s. He was suspended by FIFA twice, even though all the fame and infamy that attended his career and his life were on display in that quarter-final match, on June 22, 1986, against England.

It’s a pity that in 1991, he tested positive for cocaine while playing for Napoli and got a 15-month suspension. His behaviour grew erratic. Shockingly, in 1994, he fired an air rifle at reporters outside his summer home in Argentina. Soccer lovers wonder how such a superb master and stupendous athlete can become flawed off the field.

One did not judge him for what he did with his life, but one loved him for what he did with ours. Hope that Maradona is in heaven playing now. He will always be remembered among football lovers till the sport is alive on this planet. Rest in Peace, Diego!

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A double-edged sword?

India must understand the need for data anonymisation and also build the idea of consent when dealing with facial identification technology



KUNAL KISLAY

The pandemic pushed many enterprises into survival mode. They started exploring new technologies like computer vision to help them work efficiently and safely. Computer vision uses live feed from CCTV networks to generate actionable insights in real time. Many offices have started contactless attendance wherein a camera identifies a person even with a mask, using facial recognition technology. There is also an increase in the use of facial recognition for contact tracing to stop the spread of Coronavirus from an infected person. However, the spread of this technology globally also brought to light its misuse, such as racial discrimination. After several cases of bias against people of colour, the US Democratic lawmakers introduced a Bill that would ban the use of facial recognition technology by federal law enforcement agencies.

India hasn't implemented a countrywide facial recognition programme yet. We are in the perfect stage wherein we can learn from the mistakes of others when it comes to creating laws that will monitor this powerful technology so as to protect our citizens' right to liberty and privacy. Like any emerging technology, there are multiple applications of facial recognition that appear completely harmless. For instance, Facebook tags users in pictures and Google Photos organises them according to faces. Interpol has been using the technology to make the immigration process safer, easier and faster. It uses information from 160 countries to prepare a criminal database. Over 650 missing people or "persons of interest" were reportedly recognised using this technology in 2016. Today, it is being used across multiple sectors. Privacy and surveillance concerns arise due to multiple cases of racial discrimination and illegal use of information. An innocent man in Michigan was forced to spend one whole day in police custody after a facial recognition system mistakenly identified him as a shoplifter. There have been numerous instances of facial recognition systems wrongly identifying people of colour. Various algorithms provide incorrect matches for darker skinned individuals.

So what does the US Bill say? In the light of several protests and the Black Lives Matter movement, the Bill prohibits the use of facial recognition technology and its federal funding. It will be illegal for any federal agency to use or have access to surveillance technology within the geographical boundary of the US. Furthermore, the information obtained in any form, resulting in the violation of this Bill, cannot be used for judicial proceedings. It clearly states that this technology cannot be used without a federal law and relevant provisions to ensure maximum security. Incidents of racial discrimination have always been a major concern in the US and the killing of George Floyd in May put the spotlight on errors in facial recognition technology, too. Various studies have shown that it does not have the same level of accuracy for people of different skin colours and gender. It works best when identifying white men but falters the maximum when faced with images of dark-skinned women. Wrong identification by algorithms has led to increased cases of police brutality and racism.

Does India need a counterpart? There are people of varying skin tones in our country but in the sphere of criminal justice, the discrimination is not based on their colour. We discriminate on the basis of caste, tribe, economic status and religion. Hence, in India, the facial recognition software is not a threat in the same way it is in the US. However, fears over privacy that arise out of the misuse of this technology are valid for us because as of now, there is no law protecting the privacy of people. On a trial basis, the Central Board of Secondary Education and the Indian Railways became two institutions to successfully use facial recognition on a large scale. The railway station at Bengaluru, too, is set to get an AI-powered CCTV system that uses facial recognition technology to aid in creating and maintaining a database of criminals. The problem with such a powerful technology is that it needs supervision at every stage. People in India have not put much thought into what facial recognition could do for us or the threats it could give rise to. Some believe it is the future and some are aware of data protection and misuse of information.

The way forward: Though the advantages of technological advancement are undeniable, it is vital to take into account situations of unprecedented social insecurity that this brings. We need to address the concerns about data privacy, protection and ethics in order to create a strong legal framework to guide the workings and usage of biometric and facial recognition software. As a first step, the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 needs to be reviewed and made into an Act. A facial recognition algorithm picks up the biases of the data fed by people into it. People working with facial recognition algorithms should be careful when feeding data and also when deriving insights out of it. We must understand the need for data anonymisation and also build the idea of consent when dealing with facial identification technology. Constant improvement should ensure zero scope of error eventually. With the right policies and laws in place, facial recognition will ensure our *kanoon* (law) is not *andha* (blind) anymore as enforcement agencies will be able to see 24 frames per second through the millions of CCTVs across the country. Hopefully for our security.

(The writer is Co-Founder and CEO of Integration Wizards Solutions)

I WELCOME THE DECISION TO ALLOW FARMERS TO ENTER DELHI TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO PROTEST. THEY SHOULD NOW INITIATE TALKS.

—PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER
CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THE CENTRE IS ALWAYS READY FOR TALKS (WITH THE FARMERS). A DIALOGUE WOULD FETCH A SOLUTION.

—HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER
MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR

Voicing pain through art

While they are essential for survival, textiles can also be an important artistic medium of expression, especially for those who have suffered violence, repression and discrimination



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

When the two daughters of Debra Munda, a resident of Sundergarh district, Odisha, died after a prolonged illness, he was convinced that black magic was at work there. He suspected that his neighbour's wife was practising witchcraft and had cast an evil spell on his children. A couple of days later, he forced his way into the neighbour's house after he had left for work and attacked the woman. After killing her and her four children with a crowbar, Munda and his accomplices threw their bodies into a nearby well.

This was not the first time that a woman was killed on the suspicion of indulging in witchcraft in Odisha. In fact, the steady rise in such attacks against women prompted the State to promulgate the Odisha Prevention of Witch-hunting Act in 2013. However, this does not appear to have struck fear in the hearts of perpetrators of such crimes. In 2019, at least four women were killed every month over suspicions of practising witchcraft, between January and August, according to official statistics. Not surprisingly, Odisha holds the dubious distinction of being the second-worst State in the country where suspicion of witchcraft is a prime reason for the high number of killings.

It was stories of such horrific violence that led to a churn within Pankaja Sethi. The Odisha-based textile designer and social anthropologist began exploring how she could project the vulnerability of women. Sethi decided to use her art to channelise her rage against injustice by raising awareness on the issue. So, when she was invited to reflect upon women's rights, gender equity, fertility, contraception and violence against women through her work at the "Fabric of Being" textile exhibition, Sethi knew just what to create. The exhibition, that was held at the 2019 Nairobi Summit, commemorating 25 years of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), became the ideal platform for her to showcase her campaign for gender justice by putting women and girls at the centre of development.

Sethi wanted her artwork to provoke conversations as to why women in India were oppressed and devalued in a society that worshiped goddesses as symbols of power and benevolence. She wanted to question why society religiously revered women as creators of life and power and yet had no qualms in snuffing out their lives. She wanted to raise consciousness about the fact that many women were killed not just on suspicions of being a witch but for numerous reasons. Millions of girls were killed in the womb because their families preferred a male child. Even if some girls were lucky to survive foeticide, they were at a risk of experiencing emotional, mental and sexual violence, which is perpetrated to control them by a deeply-entrenched patriarchy.

Sethi, therefore, chose to depict the uterus and womb as sources of power, representing women negotiating for space against forces that wanted to curb their freedom and make them invisible and voiceless. Aptly titled, *The Flaming Womb*, her textile artwork used the popular Odisha *ikat* technique to weave three panels in red threads to represent the burning anger within women and their resistance against the dictates of a patriarchal society. Art should make a noise, says Sethi. This is why she is using an artistic medium of expression to tell stories of women and push for greater focus on creating an enabling environment for gender equality, sexual autonomy and freedom of choice. However,



THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS HEALING IS TO BELIEVE SURVIVORS INSTEAD OF BLAMING THEM. ONCE THE BLAMING STOPS, THE PROCESS OF COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY CAN BECOME POSSIBLE. THE BLANK NOISE TEAM IS HOPING TO ACHIEVE BOTH THESE GOALS. IT ENVISIONS THAT BY 2023, THERE WILL BE 10,000 GARMENT TESTIMONIALS EXHIBITED AT THE INDIA GATE COMPLEX IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL, EACH ONE NARRATING ITS OWN POWERFUL STORY



Sethi is not the only one to use textiles to tell stories of injustices committed against women. "I Never Ask For It," a campaign by Blank Noise, a Bengaluru-based volunteer-led project, too, aims to generate awareness on gender-based violence and end victim shaming/blaming by building testimonies of clothing.

This is because textiles are inextricably linked to the lives of people, particularly women. While they are essential for survival, textiles can also be an important artistic medium of expression, especially for those who have suffered violence, repression and discrimination.

Hence, Blank Noise's testimonies are built by inviting women, girls and others to share the garment they wore when they experienced sexual violence. This is because most people across the world can recall the clothes they wore when they experienced any form of sexual violence, says Jasmeen Patheja, founder, Blank Noise. The garment bears the memory of it and is a witness to that experience.

The organisation, which has been working to tackle street harassment and change public attitudes towards sexual violence through creative initiatives since 2003, wants this campaign to be a process of healing; where survivors of violence feel heard and believed.

This is vitally important as claims by survivors of sexual violence are often dismissed or not taken seriously enough. As a recent study by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) and the Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives (AALI) reveals, rape survivors in Uttar Pradesh (UP) had to run from pillar to post to file First Information Reports (FIRs) because the police did not believe them. Titled *Barriers in*

Accessing Justice, the report reveals how the UP police humiliate, discourage and harass women and girls protesting against sexual violence when they try to get a FIR registered.

The first step towards healing is to believe survivors instead of blaming them. Once the blaming stops, the process of collective responsibility can become possible. The Blank Noise team is hoping to achieve both these goals. It envisions that by 2023, there will be 10,000 garment testimonials exhibited at the India Gate complex in the national Capital, each one narrating its own powerful story.

Exhibitions on gender, sexuality, and women's rights expressed through the medium of textile art are creative and powerful ways to send social messages. Pieces of cloth or yarn hanging from the ceiling or draped in an aesthetic manner can have the impact that the spoken word may not have, especially on issues considered prickly or stigmatic. Sethi's work at the "Fabric of Being" exhibition certainly had the intended effect of drawing attention to the pressing need for sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Art is the key to social transformation, says Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund and the brain behind the exhibition. This is why they chose 15 artists from Asia and Africa to present artworks featuring different kinds of textiles, including used clothes, to tell the story of women. Narrated from their culturally-diverse perspectives, these stories were expressed in different kinds of fabric and colours. Yet, they all shared a common thread in the way women, whether in Asia or Africa, negotiated for space and rights.

This was the first time that such an

exhibition was an integral part of a global conference on reproductive rights, reveals Rosalia Sciortino Sumaryono, head of Southeast Asia Junction, a creative hub in Bangkok. Sumaryono, who helped to conceptualise and organise the exhibition, contends that it is not always necessary to use words to bring about transformation. Art could give voice to the unspoken and unheard without using words just as it had done at the "Fabric of Being" exhibition.

Besides using her art to tell stories, Sethi has used her skill to build an agency of women and girls. When the Coronavirus pandemic hit marginalised crafts people, especially in villages in Odisha and unemployment led to hunger and poverty, Sethi provided livelihood opportunities to women and girls in weaver households by training them to stitch masks. Since then, these women have lifted their families out of poverty by stitching and supplying *ikat* masks to different parts of the State. History has shown that women hold societies together particularly at a time of crisis. They weave the tapestry of life to ensure the health, well-being and prosperity of their families, often at the cost of their own health and safety. Then, why must they die to give birth when most maternal deaths are preventable? Why must they be branded as witches, sexually abused and killed when they have an equal right to live a life without violence? Why must they bear the burden of family planning or be denied access to safe abortion services when reproductive rights of women are not up for negotiations? Most importantly, why must they be denied their right to be born merely because of their gender?

(The writer is a senior journalist)

Vital to get the Corona vaccine rollout right

While getting micro-plans ready, States need to work in tandem with the Centre and citizen groups to ensure smooth and speedy distribution of the shots



RAJEEV AHUJA

KEERTI PRADHAN

Who will receive the COVID vaccine first as and when it comes out? Will it be a doctor working in a private hospital in Mumbai or a health worker in a remote area of Madhya Pradesh, both of whom are involved in dealing with Coronavirus cases? Who will get the shot first, a healthy elderly person or a middle-aged man suffering from co-morbidities, both of whom are living in a COVID hotspot? Will a typical rural dweller have to wait longer than an urban dweller to receive a vaccine? Will a poor but high-risk

individual receive a shot before a wealthy but low-risk person? What if some people refuse to take the vaccine for some reason or the other? These are some tough questions that a COVID vaccine prioritisation strategy will have to answer once a successful Coronavirus vaccine does hit the market in India.

As is the case in many other countries, the Indian Government, too, has accorded top priority to the issue of vaccine procurement, delivery and distribution. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself has been chairing high-level review meetings for preparedness of a vaccine rollout, whenever it happens, given AstraZeneca's admission that there was an "inadvertent dosing error" during the global clinical trials.

In one of his earlier meetings, Modi had laid down four principles of vaccination: The population groups to be prioritised; the absence of any domicile-related restrictions; affordability and universality and use of technology on a real-time basis.

These principles only provide broad guidance to strategising the effort. The real challenge lies in their operationalisation.

To give an example, as a principle, prioritising health workers, non-medical frontline Corona warriors and vulnerable people among the general population is all fine. But these identified population sub-groups will not be vaccinated all at once. Some phasing will happen even among these population sub-groups, which will need to get reflected in micro-plans prepared by the local (municipal and district) authorities. It will easily take a few months to vaccinate even these prioritised sub-groups. So, a phased approach is at the heart of a vaccine rollout plan. And such a plan has to be smart. A "smart" micro-planning will typically rely on multiple factors in preparing a rollout plan for both, the prioritised population and the general public.

Insights from India's national malaria programme: In this context,

India could learn a lesson or two from its own national malaria programme. Several years ago, the Government made a switch in its malaria prevention strategy. Instead of relying mostly on Indoor Residual Spray (IRS) which is logistically challenging, the Government switched over to using Long-Lasting Insecticidal Bed-Nets (LLINs); and it decided to use IRS only as a supplementary measure. Because LLINs were in limited supply in relation to the needs back then, the distribution of LLINs had to be prioritised. Consequently, States and local authorities were asked to draw a list of malaria-endemic areas based on their endemicity. A neat listing of regions — from the higher endemic areas to the lower — was prepared by the States and local authorities. It was thought that providing LLINs to higher endemic areas and gradually moving down the list until the nets were exhausted would be the most objective way of distributing the nets. However, the team soon realised that such an objective way was not the

best method. Why? Because of a number of other practical considerations that had an important role in the distribution and use of bed-nets. These considerations had to do with geographic accessibility, social and behavioural aspects in the use of nets, administrative capacity, varying degree of efficiencies in deploying IRS and so on. These considerations needed to be incorporated in prioritising the bed-net distribution. Local conditions, too, needed to be factored in. The team couldn't do such analytics due to several constraints. But it was amply clear that preparing bed-net distribution plans was both an art and science.

Micro-plans need to be smart: Similar logic will hold for the prioritisation of the COVID vaccine, too. Epidemiology, demography, geography (rural versus urban, degree of remoteness), social and cultural factors and availability of healthcare infrastructure will all have to be brought to bear upon the prioritisation of the vaccine's rollout. This

implies that one needs to conduct deep data analytics using all available data on relevant parameters to plan smartly. Is such a complex analysis worth doing, especially when the ultimate goal is to give the shots to the entire population in a short span of two to three years? The answer is "yes." The goal is important but so is the pathway chosen, which will have a significant bearing on the number of new cases and deaths in the intervening period. In fact, preparing a COVID vaccine distribution plan is more challenging due to multiple vaccines, with each making different demands on the logistics. Further, there are still a few unknowns such as the number of doses of a vaccine to be given to each person. For all these reasons, it's all the more important to have a smart distribution plan for the vaccine rollout.

While getting the micro-plans prepared is the responsibility of States, they need to work in tandem with the Centre at all levels and citizen groups to ensure smooth and

speedy distribution of the vaccines as intended.

Need to get it right: Thinking about the vaccine rollout, it has all the incentives for a deep political interest — free vaccine distribution, instant benefit (protection) provided by the shots, the scale at which it is to be administered. Adequate safeguards need to be put in place to ensure no political interference at the local level or to check against any possible diversion of vaccines. While the local administration needs to be given discretion in preparation for vaccine delivery and its rollout, some mechanisms need to be in place to ensure that the discretion is not misused. Once the vaccine is out, we can't afford to get it wrong. The country needs to use all its available bandwidth in getting this right. The stakes are pretty high.

(Ahuja is a development economist formerly with the World Bank and Pradhan is an advisor and adjunct professor, Chitkara University, Punjab.)

Fiscal deficit at 120 % of annual target at Oct-end

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union government's fiscal deficit further widened to Rs 9.53 lakh crore, which is nearly 120 per cent of the annual budget estimate, at the end of October of the current financial year, according to official data released on Friday.

The deficit widened mainly on account of poor revenue realisation. The lockdown imposed to curb spreading of coronavirus infections had significantly impacted business activities and in turn contributed to sluggish revenue realisation.

The fiscal deficit at the end of September 2020 was about 114.8 per cent of the annual budget estimate.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit stood at Rs 9,53,154 crore at October-end, which is

119.7 per cent of the annual budget estimates, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

In the first seven months of 2019-20, the deficit was at 102.4 per cent of the annual

target.

The fiscal deficit or gap between the expenditure and revenue had breached the annual target in July this year.

The government received Rs 7,08,300 crore -- which is

Estimates show ‘upside potential’ for economy this financial year: CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser C.K. Subramanian on Friday said there is an “upside potential” in the estimates about the economy during the current financial year as recovery is taking faster than expected. Giving outlook for the near future, he said, “We should be cautiously optimistic and the caution is warranted because economic impact is primarily due to the pandemic.” Given the uncertainty, he said, it is difficult to

predict if positive territory can be hit in the third or fourth quarter of this fiscal. “I would say that the given what we have seen in Q1 and Q2 and with the optimism that is being seen in the estimates, I do see upside potential in that estimate given the good recovery that is happening,” he said when asked about growth estimates for the entire financial year.He further said that food inflation is expected to soften in the third quarter and it is something which has to be tracked closely.

31.54 per cent of 2020-21 budget estimate of total receipts - up to October. It comprised Rs 5,75,697 crore of tax revenue (net to centre), Rs 1,16,206 crore of non-tax revenue and Rs 16,397 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

Non-debt capital receipts consist of recovery of loans of Rs 10,218 crore and disinvestment proceeds to the tune of Rs 6,179 crore.

Total receipts in the April-October period of 2019-20 was nearly 45 per cent of the annual target. In the current financial year, Rs 2,97,174 crore was transferred to state governments as part of devolution of share of taxes by the Union government till the end of October. The amount under devolution was Rs 69,697 crore lower compared to the year-ago period.

Markets end modestly lower as RIL, IT stocks weigh; post weekly gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices closed marginally lower after a choppy session on Friday, dragged by losses in Reliance Industries and IT counters despite a firm trend in global markets. Investors also remained on the sidelines ahead of the release of Q2 GDP data, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed 110.02 points or 0.25 per cent lower at 44,149.72. The broader NSE Nifty slipped 18.05 points or 0.14 per cent to 12,968.95. PowerGrid was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.63 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, ONGC, Axis Bank, TCS, M&M, Reliance Industries and Infosys.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, Titan, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Auto were among the gainers, spurring up to 2.85 per cent. During the week, the Sensex advanced 267.47 points or 0.60 per cent, while the Nifty gained 109.90 points or 0.85 per cent.

Global markets remained in the positive territory on Friday, shrugging off questions surrounding the trial data of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine candidate. “Today's market momentum was driven by uncertainty related to efficacy of COVID vaccine and expecta-

tion of Q2 GDP data. Although GDP is expected to improve compared to the previous quarter, the recovery in Indian economy is likely to be lower in comparison to its global peers.

GOLD AND SILVER marginally DOWN
New Delhi: Gold was marginally down by ₹43 to ₹48,142 per 10 gram in Friday in the national capital, according to HDFC Securities.In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹8,185 per 10 gram.

Silver also declined ₹36 to ₹59,250 per kg, from ₹59,286 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was marginally higher at \$1,810 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.29 per ounce.

₹ SUFFERS 1ST LOSS IN 6 DAYS, FALLS 17 PAISE AGAINST \$

Mumbai:The rupee snapped its five-day winning streak to finish 17 paise lower at 74.05 against the US dollar on Friday on emergence of demand for the greenback from banks and importers.

Besides, subdued domestic equities too weakened sentiment, traders said and added that market participants also turned a little cautious ahead of the release of the Sept quarter GDP numbers.

‘November auto wholesale volumes to be driven by demand sustenance, inventory refilling’

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Sustaining demand, refilling inventory and normalising supply-chain bottlenecks at the manufacturer level are expected to drive automobile wholesale volumes for all segments except M&HCV in November with the tractor segment estimated to grow at a whopping 86.5 per cent, a report said on Friday.The report by brokerage Motilal Oswal Financial

Services also said the festive season was reasonable with no major negative surprises. Wholesales in November are expected to rise year-on-year for all segments, excluding the medium and heavy commercial vehicle segment, which are expected to grow at 19.6 per cent for two-wheelers on a low base and 12.6 per cent for passenger vehicles due to sustaining demand and inventory refilling.

FM pushes large CPSEs to exceed capex target by March

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday exhorted large central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to exceed their planned capital expenditure (Capex) target for 2020-21 by March to accelerate economic growth hit by the Covid-19 crisis.

She held a virtual meeting with secretaries of power, mines and atomic energy along with the chairman and

managing directors (CMDs) of 10 CPSEs, belonging to these ministries, an official statement said.

This was the fifth in the ongoing series of meetings that the finance minister is having with various stakeholders to boost the economic growth amid the pandemic.While reviewing the performance of CPSEs, Sitharaman said that Capex by CPSEs is a critical driver of economic growth and need to be scaled up for the 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Appreciating the efforts of the ministries and CPSEs for making visible efforts to meet the capital expenditure targets, the finance minister said that “more efforts are still required to achieve the target of 75 per cent CAPEX by Q3 and more than 100 per cent by Q4 of the FY’21”.

The overall achievement as on November 23, 2020, is Rs 24,227 crore (39.4 per cent) against the Capex target for 2020-21 - Rs 61,483 crore, the statement said.

BSE 500

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	13,012.05	13,035.30	12,914.30	12,968.95	-18.05
TATAMOTORS	174.65	183.85	174.65	178.65	4.9
ASERAMOT	2,170.00	2,244.60	2,165.00	2,198.55	43.25
HINDMOTOCO	3,049.00	3,118.55	3,032.00	3,085.00	60.45
DIVISLAB	3,547.00	3,629.90	3,509.75	3,608.00	63.7
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,144.90	3,249.00	3,135.70	3,170.25	41.05
TECHM	864	885.95	855.3	867	9.95
TATATEEL	570	582.35	563.05	574.9	6.5
BAJFINANCE	4,859.00	4,960.00	4,785.15	4,874.80	53.55
INDUSINDBK	856	862.45	848.55	859	8.45
HDFCBANK	1,431.80	1,446.00	1,415.55	1,438.00	11.35
TITAN	1,333.00	1,368.40	1,313.55	1,334.00	6.6
CIFLA	741	749	735	742	3.3
ADANIPTS	411	416	408.2	412	1.85
COALINDIA	125.45	127.4	125	125.2	0.15
BRITANNIA	3,563.85	3,684.90	3,503.10	3,549.50	0.75
GAIL	103.5	106.7	101.5	102.75	0
HDFC	2,240.00	2,272.45	2,202.20	2,238.00	-0.4
SUNPHARMA	514	520.88	509.2	511.5	-0.2
GRASIM	877.4	885.85	870	876.9	-0.5
INFY	1,118.00	1,121.00	1,091.00	1,112.35	-0.85
MARUTI	7,040.30	7,111.00	6,930.00	6,985.00	-9.25
KOTAKBANK	1,890.00	1,925.15	1,846.95	1,885.30	-3.8
ICICIBANK	476.4	479.55	471.3	474.3	-1
SBILIFE	855	857.6	841	849.1	-2.4
UPL	421.2	425.5	416.3	418.7	-1.85
SRIN	245.45	245.23	242.05	244.2	-1.25
ULTRACEMCO	4,834.20	4,873.45	4,770.00	4,807.70	-26.45
RELIANCE	1,940.50	1,956.10	1,921.40	1,940.50	-13.9
HINDUNILVR	2,167.00	2,167.50	2,126.00	2,140.25	-12.55
ITC	194.45	195.75	193.2	193.5	-1.3
BHARTIARTL	468.3	472.65	462	465	-3.4
EICHERMOT	2,566.00	2,618.00	2,515.10	2,530.00	-19.2
NTPC	95.75	97.05	91.8	93.15	-0.95
BAJAJFINSV	8,844.95	8,934.45	8,680.00	8,712.00	-94.7
WIPRO	354.85	357.5	347.85	350.95	-3.9
IT	11,29.00	11,39.80	10,92.00	11,06.10	-12.85
AXISBANK	612	613.65	598.75	605.1	-7.45
IOC	85.6	86.2	84	84.4	-1.2
BPCIL	380.4	383.9	371	372.55	-5.45
M&M	736.9	742.95	711	717.35	-11.15
DREDDY	4,901.00	4,935.55	4,809.20	4,826.00	-75.35
TATTONS	2,705.00	2,717.70	2,669.05	2,678.00	-42.6
HINDALCO	230	230.6	220.55	225.25	-4.65
HDFCLIFE	663.7	661.1	642.15	647	-13.8
ONGC	80.8	81.78	78	78.45	-1.75
HCLITECH	842	847.8	814.35	823.15	-18.9
SHRECEM	24,473.70	24,529.05	23,351.00	23,811.95	-569.2
JSWSTEEL	361.3	362	347.65	349.85	-9.35
POWERGRID	197.65	197.65	188.7	191.25	-6.4
NESTLEIND	17,850.00	18,068.90	16,949.75	16,971.20	-770.75

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	30,316.45	30,591.00	30,121.35	30,334.40	148.35
IGL	470	514.5	470	490.75	42.6
CADILAH	439	449	432.2	448.25	25.95
PNB	32.15	34.15	32.05	33.4	1.35
HINDZINC	221.4	235.6	221.3	229.85	8.85
LTI	3,115.35	3,250.00	3,087.15	3,197.75	108.85
TATACONSUM	520.8	545.3	520.55	537.05	17.2
ADANITRANS	366.1	390.9	365.05	375.1	10.85
MOTHERSUMI	143.45	149.6	140.15	146.2	3
BAJAJHSH	3,016.00	3,089.00	3,006.00	3,067.00	61.4
GICRE	138.9	143.7	137.85	140.1	2.15
MUTHOOTFIN	1,143.00	1,175.00	1,126.70	1,144.75	12.75
BERGEPAINT	640	653	638.15	645.05	5.95
DLF	184	189.9	184	186	1.55
NAUKRI	4,165.30	4,375.75	4,131.00	4,209.00	29.5
ICICIGI	1,468.95	1,474.00	1,421.60	1,464.00	6.95
ALKEM	2,828.00	2,865.00	2,821.00	2,831.90	13.05
HAVELLS	808.5	816.5	796	805.5	2.3
ABBOTINDIA	15,419.45	15,439.95	15,320.00	15,399.00	44.85
BIOCON	426.1	435.1	422.3	426.7	0.95
BOSCHLTD	12,875.00	13,147.70	12,520.00	12,799.05	22.55
GODREJCP	702.1	719.6	694	702.25	1.15
BANKBARODA	51.15	52.5	50.6	51.2	0.05
TORNTPHARM	2,620.00	2,629.50	2,596.00	2,618.00	2.3
INFRATEL	221.35	224.05	216.05	219	0.1
NMDC	96.85	98.75	95.75	96.35	0
OFSS	3,030.05	3,065.70	3,010.10	3,010.15	-4.75
SIEMENS	1,525.00	1,534.80	1,490.80	1,513.80	-2.9
AMBUJACEM	261.4	263.2	257.5	260	-0.75
AUROPHARMA	871	893.5	862.8	868	-2.7
BANDHANBANK	368.4	372.3	362.1	365.2	-1.35
ACC	1,704.70	1,720.00	1,672.60	1,685.75	-6.75
LUPIN	903	914.3	889.5	891.85	-7.7
HDFCAMC	2,558.00	2,577.10	2,500.00	2,526.00	-22.7
DABUR	507	507.1	496.65	498.95	-5.15
PGH	10,565.20	10,800.00	10,494.30	10,535.00	-111.2
PFC	110	110.5	107.35	107.75	-1.35
HINDPETRO	213.5	215.8	206.5	210.45	-2.7
SBICARD	814	814.6	792	798.7	-10.55
PIDILITIND	1,543.80	1,554.50	1,500.60	1,512.85	-20.75
COAL	1,046.00	1,057.70	1,026.50	1,030.00	-15.75
COLPAL	1,521.00	1,540.00	1,480.60	1,494.10	-25.45
CONCOR	408.25	413.95	397.6	400.5	-6.9
MCOWELL-N	559.9	562.1	537.25	547	-10
INDIGO	1,550.00	1,562.25	1,504.85	1,515.00	-29.35
MARICO	375.3	378	361.9	366.4	-7.55
DMAT	2,373.00	2,395.00	2,220.05	2,320.00	-53.05
ADANIGREEN	1,105.00	1,159.65	1,072.80	1,078.00	-26.45
ICICIPRULI	456	459	440	442	-12.4
PEL	1,420.00	1,442.00	1,374.15	1,382.00	-41.75
PETRONET	255.05	259.5	244.15	247.75	-8.25

ANAGAS	318.85	348.05	317.38	348	WOCKPHARMA	445.7	474.2	440	451.9	EIHOTEL	89.15	91	88	89.8	PHILIPCARB	167.65	169.65	165	166.85	ITDC	279.95	279.95	264	266.4
MFSL	641	664.75	633	648.8	IOC	85.6	86.2	84.05	84.5	WELCORP	115.65	119.95	115.1	118.1	DEEPAKFERT	143.15	145.5	143.15	144.55	JUBILANT	720	727	713	722.35
IGL	465	514	465	496.5	ICICIIG	1465.1	1474.95	1422.25	1455.75	FINEORG	2480	2603	2465	2590.9	EMAMILTD	42.47	447.25	422	441.25	RCF	46.75	47.5	46.45	47.25
ANSALPAINP	2171.1	2242.55	2169.95	2217.35	TVSMOTOR	147.4	504.9	47.4	492.9	ABB	1095	1103.8	1060.1	1073.7	FRETAL	82.35	82.35	82.35	82.35	PRESTIGE	274.95	277.5	265.6	267.5
MRF	76774	79150	75293.95	77939.95	CUMMINSIND	533.5	597.1	533.5	586.5	GRANAULES	414.95	417.5	408.3	412.45	KPITTECH	101.5	107.3	101.5	106.9	PGHH	10678	10732	10508.1	10552.4
ITC	194.9	195.7	193.25	193.7	NMDC	97	98.7	95.75	96.2	RAYMOND	321.5	325.95	317.3	321.7	SVVN	24.45	24.7	24	24.15	SUMICHEM	280.35	283.25	279.45	282.05
FEDERALBNK	60	63.5	59.85	62.75	VAKRANGEE	35.25	39.7	35.25	38.4	SHILPAMED	465	479.05	455.2	471.4	OIL	97	98.05	95.4	96.15	IOB	11.11	11.11	10.9	10.97
AXISBANK	612.8	615	599	602.1	ENDURANCE	113.3	1159.55	1126.95	1154.65	3MINDIA	20980	22300	20870	21837.4	SUDARSCHEM	480	480	465.75	469.65	SKFINDIA	1561.75	1590.2	1550	1569.15
APOLLOHOSP	2700	2717.95	2670	2679.15	POWERGRID	197.7	197.75	188.85	192.5	SBILIFE	26882	86.28	841.6	846.3	ABBOTINDIA	15352.15	15425.5	15349.4	15397.55	DCAL	146.18	147.25	144.2	144.7
BHEL	231.1	2374.35	2298.75	2338.7	ADANIENG	403.45	407.7	396.4	398.75	SUNTECK	319	324.95	317.75	314.5	BIRLACORPN	704.25	721	701.55	709.55	ORIENTCEM	70	71.95	69.45	71.5
ASHOKLEY	89.2	92.9	89.05	92.1	JUBLFOOD	2513.9	2533.4	2434	2497.7	SYNGENE	570	586.95	564.4	577.9	JCHAC	2187	2306.8	2174.1	2285.25	GMDCILTD	47.55	47.65	46.75	47
DLF	184.4	189.8	184.35	187.1	NAVINFLOOR	2525	2737.95	2525	2682.7	HINDCOPPER	40.4	41.95	40.15	41.45	NH	383.95	399.5	373.15	383.75	DBCORP	79.1	83.25	79.1	80.7
NESTLEIND	17835	18040	16949.95	17657.6	DCBBANK	104.85	108.4	102.05	107.7	APALPOLLO	3190	3472.25	3190	3358.95	TRIDENT	7.98	8.09	7.89	7.92	CHENNPETRO	87.5	87.5	85	85.4
HINDDALCO	2308	2308	220.5	225.65	DIXON	11450	11974.55	11916	5WANENERGY	14005	145.85	138	139.2	RACOCCEM	864.25	898.1	862.25	889.95	NBVENTURES	54.85	55.55	53.6	53.95	
SKTRANSFIN	1051.7	1091	1051.7	1071.1	AMBULIACEM	262.45	263.1	259.5	261	SPARC	176	183.5	175.95	181.7	GRINDWELL	573.35	605	573.35	597.25	RITES	248.75	251.55	243.65	246.7
INDUSINDBK	857	862	849	857.65	TORNTPHARM	2625.35	2678.6	2550.6	2611.1	LEMONTREE	32.05	33.75	32.05	33.3	SUPREMEIND	1570	1734	1543.7	1646.65	CSBBANK	251.1	260	248	253.3
LT	1131	1139.35	1092.35	1115.8	VBL	777	924.3	777	873.25	CENTRALBK	12.9	12.9	12.45	127.1	SFL	1524.45	1580.95	1496.5	1522.65	ORIENTELEC	227.7	241	227.7	237.8
MARUTI	7048	7111	6931.5	7026.7	PPC	111	111	107	105.3	LALPATHLAB	2244	2301.8	2231.85	2271	RAIN	117	118.5	114.5	115.3	MKPL	29.55	29.8	29.3	29.55
IPICALAB	2151.95	2275	2087.5	2196.85	SHREECEM	24599.8	24599.8	23505.55	24110.4	GNFC	207.95	212	205.7	209.7	GALAXYSURF	1860	1965	1860	1937.35	ATUL	6239.1	6369.35	6165.2	6310.05
DEEPAKFN	802	871.6	802	865.05	ASHOKA	71.3	79.6	71.3	77.45	HAL	815	825.9	805.3	818.85	KAJARIACER	628.65	649.95	628.65	647.95	VRLLOG	178	184	174.1	179.15
LICHSGFIN	324.6	340.8	320.6	330	GOODREJCP	706	719.4	694.4	699.58	BSOFT	187	201	184.6	198.25	TATAMETALI	528.3	546.6	520.05	537.7	MIDHANI	191.6	192.65	191.2	191.9
BATAINDIA	1537.05	1582.3	1536	1571.8	TATAMTRDVR	76.05	79.75	76.05	78.2	DALBHARAT	1033.75	1110	1028.5	1099.15	KRBL	262.8	264.4	255.25	257.7	UCOBANK	12.25	12.56	12.22	12.28
SIEMENS	1525	1532.58	1492	1513.9	COLPAL	1510	1539.45	1481.7	1508.9	WHEELPOOL	2137.5	2205	2102.4	2181.4	ZENSARTECH	210.6	233	210.6	228.75	HIMATSEIDE	121.45	122	119	120.8
GUGJAS	348	411.2	343.4	348.1	ALOKTEXT	21.75	22.3	21.7	21.95	SUVENPHAR	372.5	401	355.5	393.8	ALKEM	2989	2989	2825	2840.65	SUPRAJIT	193.55	197.65	191.6	195.8
HCLTECH	836	847.7	815.05	842.2	KEC	335.1	362.7	335.1	359.9	IEX	214.9	218.95	211.5	217.85	RAJSEHXPPO	452.45	456.55	449.05	450.85	MINDAIND	390.65	390.65	383.05	386.25
NTNTPC	96	97	91.75	94.2	GAM	3678.05	3874	3678.05	3831.1	NOCIL	140	143.35	139.1	140.9	KANSAINER	520	556.05	518.65	541.85	KALPATPOWR*	318.25	323	312	319.5
CANBK	100	105.6	100	103.75	PIDILITIND	1544	1553.95	1501.6	1528.7	EDELWEISS	67	69.95	66.55	69.95	FDC	328.1	346	326	344	ECLERX	715.25	738.4	715	725.9
BAJAJ-AUTO	3130	3249.75	3130	3172.65	IRCTC	1351.1	1365.55	1347.65	1353.75	JKCEMENT	1896.75	2063.75	1896.75	2026.25	WELSPUNIND	67.75	69.95	66.65	68.4	NLCINDIA	51.25	52	51.1	51.15
CIPLA	741.7	748.75	735.34	744.65	IBREALEST	105	166.65	60.5	64.7	IFIL	106.5	108.2	98.9	100.25	INDIANB	66.6	67	66.6	67	SUZLON	3.5	3.5	3.38	3.44
ADANIGREEN	1102	1159.5	1072.65	1120.8	GDL	102.85	104.95	102.85	103.6	GRAPHITE	245	251.55	235	243.65	HEIDELBERG	202	209.65	202	207.95	MOTILALOFS	606.1	615	606	609.6
MOTHERSUMI	143.75	149.55	143.25	147.85	STLTECH	154.2	163.4	152.9	162.7	STLTECH	154.2	163.4	152.9	162.7	CESC	592	609	578	581.65	HONAUT	32800	32801.7	31784.55	31956.85
ENGINEERSIN	73.55	74.95	72.75	74.15	NAUKRI	4153.1	4371.8	4140	4270.25	POLYCAB	951	975	947.5	958.1	SONATSOFTW	345	349.7	335.95	339.7	FUOROCEM	567.65	596.6	566	576.85
ADANIPORTS	407.05	416.05	407.05	412	INDHOTEL	112.55	119.5	112	118	STAR	752	774	734	764.35	INOXELISUR	267	272	266.25	270.7	UFLEX	351.95	354.4	348.35	349.45
DIVISLAB	3546	3655	3512.35	3607.6	POLYCAB	951	975	947.5	958.1	STAR	752	774	734	764.35	GARFIBRES	2150	2298	2135	2235.5	TATAINVEST	939.1	945	932.95	941.15
ACC	1708.7	1719.6	1672.7	1703.25	INDHOTEL	112.55	119.5	112	118	STAR	752	774	734	764.35	FNOXELIND	623.8	635	608	629.9	HATHWAY	30.05	31	30.05	30.75
DRREDDDY	4898.8	4934.9	4811	4829.6	STAR	752	774	734	764.35	SFR	5105	5188	5030.85	5135.3	SHRIRAMCIT	1105.45	1123.9	1060.5	1082.75	SHRIRAMCIT	1105.45	1123.9	1060.5	1082.75
EXIDEIND	172.95	186.25	172.9	184.65	GMR	25.75	27.05	25.75	26.8	SFR	5105	5188	5030.85	5135.3	ALLCARCO	128.9	130.75	125.05	126.65	ALLCARCO	128.9	130.75	125.05	126.65
GAIL	103.5	106.6	101.5	102.5	KINFRA	20.5	21.05	20.5	21.05	KINFRA	20.5	21.05	20.5	21.05	HAWKINCOOK	5147.95	5147.95	5065.05	5112.45	GESHIP	250	261	247.3	256
SUNTV	422	447.8	420	439.9	INDIACEM	157.85	162.15	154.85	158.7	INDIACEM	157.85	162.15	154.85	158.7	UJIVANSFB	38.6	38.6	37.6	37.8	ALANG	1920.3	1940	1841.55	1862.05
MAMAPPURAM	173.6	180.35	172.5	179.9	VENKYS	1621.05	167.17	1621.05	166.65	VENKYS	1621.05	167.17	1621.05	166.65	OFFS	3015	3065	3013.55	3041.35	DCMSHRIRAM	389.9	389.9	367.75	371.6
JINDALSTEEL	251.25	252.35	242.25	244.3	ASTRAZEN	4485.15	4579.75	4396.6	4538.5	ASTRAZEN	4485.15	4579.75	4396.6	4538.5	CROMPTON	300.8	309.25	304.1	305.35	BLUESTARCO	758.8	822.85	758.8	806.6
BRITANNIA	356.25	3684.85	354.5	3634.1	INFRAELT	220.5	224	216	218.25	INFRAELT	220.5	224	216	218.25	PERSISTENT	1201.7	1212.1	1181.25	1194.15	GODREJIND	406.95	411.2	402.8	405.2
PNB	32.2	34.15	32	33.45	ADVZENVMYS	326.1	357.55	326	353.85	ADVZENVMYS	326.1	357.55	326	353.85	ITI	91.1	92.4	91	91.6	SOMANYCERA	271.3	287.3	269.55	280.6
M&MFIN	169.55	173.9	166.35	170.9	IDFC	41.5	42.15	39.6	41.75	IDFC	41.5	42.15	39.6	41.75	ITC	125	126.9	123.7	124.15	PCJEWELLER	15.4	15.65	15.3	15.35
M&M	739.9	742.4	712	720.05	GSPL	214.2	243	214.2	219.5	GSPL	214.2	243	214.2	219.5	SCI	57.15	57.15	55.75	56.05	JYOTHYLAB	141	142.5	140.1	140.85
VEDL	118.8	122.85	117.7	121	VGUARD	176	185.95	176	184.95	FINCABLES	309	316.5	305	308.6	BDL	326	331.9	320.55	327.65	HUDCO	35.15	35.7	35.05	35.35
AMBER	2170.05	2465.45	2137.25	2398	GLNEMARK	471	478.5	470.05	471.2	COINSHIPP	363.9	371.9	360.6	369.3	ABFRL	161.35	164.9	157.05	162.65	GODFREYPHP	915.3	919.7	900.5	906.55
AMARAJABAT	892	963.95	886.3	946.45	ULTRACEMCO	4850	4861.55	4771	4802.75	ASTRAL	1514	1514.55	1452	1463.65	TATACOFFEE	103	104.2	102.1	103.5	CHOLAHILL	512.5	548.6	509.9	541.2
BPCL	380	383.7	370.8	372.95	CUB	174	186.85	174	185.9	TATACOMM	1079	1099.9	1051.35	1059.45	SIS	435	449.85	435	445.19	LUXIND	1598.9	1644.2	1588.9	1607
BEL	109.85	113.75	109.1	111.15	UPL	423.55	425.35	416.1	417.5	COROMANDEL	805	837	794.2	823.95	JKTYRE	80	82	80	80.5	INDOCO	264.85	270.45	259.9	261.3
HINDPETRO*	213.5	215.75	206.75	209	PEL	1419.3	142	1376	1386.7	IDBI	37.95	38.8	37.85	38.1	VINATORIGA	1165.2	1182.4							

‘Will leave White House post official declaration’

Washington: US President Donald Trump said for the first time that he will leave the White House if the Electoral College declares Joe Biden as the winner, but made clear he is not prepared to “concede” the election.

Trump, a Republican, has refused to accept defeat in the November 3 presidential election, and told reporters on Thursday that it would be “hard” to concede to Biden, a Democrat.

“Certainly I will, and you know that,” Trump said when asked by a reporter about leaving the White House if Biden is declared the winner on December 14. “I will and, you know that.”

“It’s going to be a very hard thing to concede because we know there was massive fraud,” Trump said, once again repeating the unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud.

The 538-member Electoral College is scheduled to meet on December 14 and is expected to formally declare the 78-year-old



former vice president as the 46th US President.

Under the US electoral system, voters do not directly choose the President. Instead, they vote for 538 officials, who are allocated to American states based on their population size.

Biden leads Trump 306 votes to 232 under the Electoral College system used to pick US presidents. Biden’s tally is far more than the 270 needed to win the race for the White House, and he also leads the popular vote by more than six million.

In his Thanksgiving Day remarks, Trump, however, said it will be a mistake if the

Electoral College were to elect Biden.

“It’s going to be a very hard thing to concede,” Trump told reporters when asked during a press call at the White House what he will do if the Electoral College elects Biden.

“If they do, they made a mistake,” he said.

On his plans for his last Thanksgiving in the White House, Trump said, “You can’t say what’s first or last.”

It might be the “first one of the second term,” Trump, who is continuing his legal efforts to upend his victory.

Earlier this week, Trump allowed the official start of Biden’s transition to power without conceding defeat. Biden due to be sworn in as president on January 20.

However, election officials in key battleground states have declared Biden the winner, giving him an unofficial 306-232 edge in the Electoral College that determines the outcome of US presidential contests. **PTI**

Pakistan Cabinet approves chemical castration of rapists, special courts for rape trials

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s Cabinet has approved two anti-rape ordinances which called for the chemical castration of rapists with the consent of the convict and setting up of special courts for rape trials, according to a media report on Friday.

A meeting of the Cabinet committee on legislative cases chaired by federal Law Minister Farogh Naseem on Thursday approved the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Ordinance 2020 and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2020. The ordinances have already been approved in-principle by the federal Cabinet on Tuesday, the Dawn News reported.

The concept of chemical castration for first or repeated offenders has been introduced mainly as a form of rehabilitation, and subject to consent of the convict, it said.

According to law minister Naseem, it is mandatory under

the international law to take consent of the convict before castrating him.

In case, chemical castration is ordered without taking consent, the convict might challenge this before a court of law, he said.

If a convict would not agree to castration, he would be dealt with in accordance with the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) under which the court might award him death sentence, life imprisonment or 25-year jail term, the minister said.

However, he said, it is up to the court to decide the punishment. The judge may order chemical castration or the punishment under the PPC.

The court might order castration for a limited period or lifetime, Naseem said.

The ordinances also provide for setting up of special courts to conduct trial in rape cases. Special prosecutors for the special courts will also be appointed.

Putin foe Navalny urges EU to be ready for Russian election

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny urged the European Union to reject the results of Russia’s parliamentary election next year if any candidates are blocked from taking part and he called Friday on the EU to impose sanctions on oligarchs close to President Vladimir Putin.

Navalny, a corruption investigator and longtime foe of Putin’s, has been recovering in Germany from a poisoning attack with what experts have said was a Soviet-era nerve agent. He told EU lawmakers he thinks it’s “important that Europe not remain silent” on conditions in Russia.

Navalny described next September’s election for Russia’s lower house of parliament as “an absolutely crucial event.” He said that while he and other opposition politicians expect some vote-rigging, what “is most important is the right to participate.”

Navalny, who has been blocked several times from registering as a candidate, said the EU’s approach should simply be: “If everyone is allowed to participate, we can discuss it further. But if some are not allowed to participate, the results of such an election will never be recognised.”

He urged the 27-nation bloc to change its approach to sanctions, saying there is little

point in slapping travel bans or asset freezes over poisonings or election irregularities on military officers because they generally don’t move much outside of Russia, own real estate or hold bank accounts in Europe.

Navalny said the EU should ask itself why these alleged crimes are happening. “The answer is very, very simple: money,” he told EU lawmakers via video-link. “So, the European Union should target the money, and Russian oligarchs” notably the new circle of the ultra-rich business people around Putin.

Navalny said most Russian citizens would support such an approach.

Lawmakers throw pig guts, punches on Taiwan Parl floor

Taipei: Lawmakers in Taiwan got into a fist fight and threw pig guts at each other Friday over a soon-to-be enacted policy that would allow imports of US pork and beef.

Premier Su Tseng-chang was due to give a regularly scheduled policy report to lawmakers on Friday morning about the pork policy when opposition party lawmakers from the Nationalist party, also known as the KMT, blocked his attempt to speak by dumping bags of pig organs. Legislators from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party attempted to stop them, resulting in chaos and an exchange of punches.

A DPP lawmaker wrestled a KMT lawmaker to the floor



Lawmakers fight during a Parliament session in Taipei, Taiwan on Friday **AP**

in the scuffle. President Tsai Ing-wen’s administration lifted a longstanding ban on imports of US pork and beef in August, in a move seen as one of the

first steps toward possibly negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with the US. The ban is due to be lifted in January. **AP**

TMC heavyweight Suvendu resigns from Didi’s...

From Page 1

Adhikary who immediately left his Z-category security and resigned as the Chairman of Haldia Development Authority said he was quitting to avoid criticism regarding his handling of so many important posts.

Senior Trinamool MP Saugato Roy, who was entrusted by the Chief Minister to hold dialogues with Adhikary, said “I was given the task to talk to him and I communicated his issues to the top leadership. Now he has left as a Minister but I still hope dialogue process has not ended as he is still a party MLA and a primary member.”

Suvendu Adhikary’s father and MP Sisir Adhikary, his sibling Dibyendu Adhikary, also an MP, together form a formidable force in the State politics.

Ghosh said, “The TMC is a sinking ship and all the rats, cats and other creatures are leaping back to safety... only the captain that is the director and producer (read Mamata Banerjee) will sink with the ship and the rest will join the

BJP,” adding “the better leaders in the TMC like Suwendu Adhikary are welcome in our party should they decide to join us... this is the beginning of the end of the Trinamool Congress.”

Vijayvargiya said Adhikary had not yet contacted the BJP leadership adding “if he contacts us then we will welcome him and accord him huge respect... our top brass will welcome him in the party.”

Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury said “Suvendu is the most powerful mass leader of the Trinamool after Mamata Banerjee and his leaving the party would cost it dearly... with his quitting the TMC’s Antarjali Yatra (final journey) has begun.”

Former CPI (M) MP and its legislature party leader Sujan Chakrabarty said, “Mamata Banerjee’s poaching politics has now boomeranged on her ...she is getting the taste of her own medicine now she will herself be sacrificed at the alters of poaching politics.”

Iran scientist linked to military nuclear project killed

Dubai: An Iranian scientist that Israel alleged led the Islamic Republic’s military nuclear program until its disbanding in the early 2000s was killed in a targeted attack that saw gunmen use explosives and machine gun fire Friday, state television said.

Israel declined to immediately comment on the killing of Mohsen Fakhriadeh, who Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once called out in a news conference saying: “Remember that name.” Israel has long been suspected of carrying out a series of targeted killings of Iranian nuclear scientists nearly a decade ago.

State TV said Fakhriadeh was attacked by “armed terrorist elements.” He died at a local hospital after doctors and paramedics couldn’t revive him.

The semiofficial Fars news agency, believed to be close to the country’s Revolutionary Guard, said the attack happened in Absard, a small city just east of the capital, Tehran. It said witnesses heard the sound of an explosion and then machine gun fire. The attack targeted a car that Fakhriadeh was in, the agency said. **AP**

Biden’s win hides a dire warning for Dems in rural US

Des Moines (US): Democrats once dominated Koochiching County in the blue-collar Iron Range of northern Minnesota. But in this month’s presidential election, President Donald Trump won it with 60 per cent of the vote.

That’s not because voters there are suddenly shifting to the right, said Tom Bakk, who represents the area in the state Senate. It’s because, he said, Democrats have steadily moved too far to the left for many rural voters.

“We’ve got to see if we can get the Democratic Party to moderate and accept the fact that rural Minnesota is not getting more conservative,” said Bakk, who announced last week that he would become an independent after serving 25 years as a Democrat. “It’s that you guys are leaving them behind.”

While Democrats powered through cities and suburbs to reclaim the White House, the party slid further behind in huge rural swaths of northern battlegrounds. The party lost House seats in the Midwest, and Democratic challengers in Iowa, Kansas, Montana and North Carolina

“That’s not because voters there are suddenly shifting to the right, said Tom Bakk, who represents the area in the state Senate. It’s because Democrats have steadily moved too far to the left for many rural voters”

Senate races, all once viewed as serious threats to Republican incumbents, fell, some of them hard.

Though Democrats’ rural woes aren’t new, they now heap pressure on Biden to begin reversing the trend. Failure to do so endangers goals such as curbing climate change and winning a Senate majority, especially with GOP Senate seats in Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin up in 2022. “The pressure for Democrats has to be on conveying an economic message for rural America,” said Iowa Democrat John Norris, a former candidate for governor. **AP**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FARMERS ALLOWED...

Raising anti-Government slogans and chanting “Kisan Ekta Zindabad” and “Wahe guruji da Khalsa, Wahe guruji fateh”, farmers in huge numbers sat at the borders beating ‘daffis’. Continuous announcements were being made through loudspeakers requesting farmers to go back and maintain peace, social distancing and law and order. “Our leaders are speaking to the authorities and accordingly, the next course of action will be taken as per their decision,” an agitator said.

Security was strengthened at the border and sand-laden trucks and water cannons were stationed. Barbed wire was also used for fencing at the Singhu border to prevent the protesters from entering the city, earlier in the day.

Punjab farmers, representing over 30 farm bodies, had announced that they will go to Delhi through several routes - Lalru, Shambhu, Patiala-Pehowa, Patran-Khanauri, Moonak-Tohana, Ratia-Fatehabad and Talwandi-Sirsa. Tension was escalating at all the border points.

Farmers had assembled near the borders in tractor-trolleys laden with rations and essentials for their proposed march. Authorities in Haryana have imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in several parts of the state to prevent assembly of the protesters. Farmers’ bodies said they will hold a dharna wherever they are stopped from moving towards the national Capital. “We have enough ration stock to last for days. We will not go back till our demands are met,” a farmer

said. Punjab farmers are demanding the repeal of the new farm laws, which, they said, should be replaced with another set of legislations framed after wider consultation with the stakeholders. They also want a guarantee on the minimum support prices. “Things are under control as of now. The protesters and police are at the either sides of the second barricades. They have been raising slogans. Some people who wanted to commute through the border, were advised to take alternate routes,” a senior police officer said. Local residents also gathered at the terrace of the buildings and shops near the national highway. The Singhu border that connects Narela and adjoining Delhi areas with Sonapat was closed around 4.30pm on Thursday as the Delhi Police said they had inputs from their Haryana counterparts about farmers nearing the border.

Due to farmers’ march, vehicles moved bumper-to-bumper on key roads after Delhi Police closed several border points with Haryana. Dhansa and Jharoda Kalan borders were closed for traffic movement due to the demonstration and the commuters were asked to take an alternative route, the Delhi Traffic Police said.

“Tikri Border is completely closed for traffic movement by local police. Traffic intending to go towards Haryana is also closed. All motorists are advised to avoid this route in view of the protest by Kishan Sangharsh committee,” it tweeted. The police asked people to “totally avoid outer Ring Road, Mukarba Chowk, Grand Trunk Road, NH-44 and Singhu

Border” as the traffic was “very very heavy in this area.”

Heightened checking near the Dhaula Kuan police post led to obstruction in traffic in the carriageway from Gurgaon towards Dhaula Kuan. “Traffic is heavy in the carriageway from Peeragarhi towards Punjabi Bagh due to checking by local police at Ordnance Depot. Kindly avoid the stretch,” the traffic police tweeted. Farmers, representing over 30 farm bodies, had announced they will go to Delhi through several routes -- Lalru, Shambhu, Patiala-Pehowa,

Patran-Khanauri, Moonak-Tohana, Ratia-Fatehabad and Talwandi-Sirsa -- to protest against the Centre’s new farm laws. They have been demanding the Central Government to repeal the contentious laws, which, they said, should be replaced with another set of legislations framed after wider consultation with the stakeholders. The Delhi Police had Wednesday refused permission to farmers’ organisations to protest in Delhi on November 26 and 27.

In order to prevent farmers from entering Delhi, heavy police deployment has been made at NH-24, DND, Chilla Border, Tigri border, Bahadurgarh border, Faridabad border, Kalindi Kunj border and Singhu border. While paramilitary personnel have also been deployed on Delhi-Gurgaon border, five sand-laden trucks and three water cannons have also been stationed at the Singhu Border to stop tractors being driven by the protesters. North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash on Friday said North Delhi Municipal Corporation is preparing Nirankari ground by putting

teams for road sweeping, cleaning, placing dustbins for collection of garbage and regular lifting of garbage, sanitization of the area keeping in view the Covid-19 pandemic, fumigation for control of mosquitoes, deployment of mobile dispensaries and provision of tankers.

“The teams deployed have started functioning at war-footing. The functions have started falling in place so that farmers do not have to face any inconvenience,” said the Mayor.

ECO CLAWS BACK...

Rumki Majumdar, economist, Deloitte India said recent high-frequency data suggest a quicker rebound ahead.

“The possibility of a release of several highly effective vaccines soon gives us hope that there is an end date to the pandemic, even if it may not be immediate,” Majumdar said.

Stating that the numbers are surely not as gloomy as was being anticipated, Mayur Dwivedi of Religare Enterprises said it now remains to be seen whether this momentum is sustained in the remaining two quarters of FY21.

In the first half, India’s GDP contracted by 15.7 per cent compared to a growth of 4.8 per cent in the same period last fiscal. Though the contraction in July-September pushed India into its first technical recession, based on records going back to 1996, a sharp recovery held out hopes for the economy turning around before the end of the fiscal year. Analysts said the recovery was ‘V’ shaped.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das had on Thursday stated that the recovery from the lockdown has been stronger

than expected and the economy could show growth in the fourth quarter.

Post Q2, there has been a pick-up in consumer demand for autos, non-durables and rail freight during the festival season as prospects grew for COVID-19 vaccines to be launched early next year.

But there are downside risks as some states reimposed curbs to fight a second wave of infections, which could possibly slow the pace of recovery in the next two or three months, as well as heightening the risk of inflation. India’s tally of infections has crossed 93 lakh -- the second-highest globally after the US -- with more than 1.35 lakh deaths. The improvement in the economy came ahead of next week’s interest rate decision by the RBI.

“GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 of 2020-21 is estimated at Rs 33.14 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.84 lakh crore in Q2 of 2019-20, showing a contraction of 7.5 percent as compared to 4.4 percent growth in Q2 2019-20,” the National Statistical Office (NSO) said in a statement.

“With a view to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, restrictions were imposed on the economic activities not deemed essential during Q1. Though the restrictions have been gradually lifted, there has been an impact on economic activities. In these circumstances, some other data sources such as GST, interactions with professional bodies, etc. Were also referred to for corroborative evidence and these were clearly limited,” it added. Most rating agencies had projected that the fall in India’s GDP for the second quarter of 2020-21 would be

arrested to single digits.

PILOT MISSING...

The exercises focused around the Vikramaditya Carrier Battle Group of the Indian Navy and Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of the US Navy. The two carriers, along with other ships, submarine and aircraft of the participating navies carried out high-intensity naval operations over four days from November 17 onwards. These exercises also included cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MiG 29K fighters of INS Vikramaditya and F-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeye from Nimitz. This is the third mishap of MiG-29K aircraft in the last one year. In February this year, a MiG-29K crashed after being hit by birds over Goa. Both pilots had steered the jet away from habitation before ejecting.

In November last year, a MiG-29K trainer aircraft crashed outside a village in Goa. Both the pilots had then ejected safely. In January 2018, a fighter jet crashed as it veered off the runway at the INS Hansa base in Goa. The pilot escaped unharmd. The MiG-29Ks of the Navy are based at its base in Goa and operate from the lone aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

MODI TO VISIT VACCINE...

Zyudus Cadila had earlier announced that the phase-I clinical trial of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, ZyCoV-D, has been completed and it has commenced phase-II clinical trials from August. “PM Narendra Modi will be on a brief visit of Gujarat on Saturday, during which, he will visit Zyudus Cadila’s facility to

get first-hand information about the progress made by the company so far in terms of development of vaccine against coronavirus,” Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said. Serum Institute of India has partnered with global pharma giant AstraZeneca and the Oxford University for the vaccine. The Prime Minister will reach Pune around 12.30 pm. “We have received a confirmation about PM Modi’s visit to the Serum Institute of India on Saturday,” Pune Divisional Commissioner Saurabh Rao said. “The PM will arrive at the Pune airport at 12.30 pm on Saturday. He will attend the scheduled programme at the Serum Institute of India from 1 pm to 2 pm, where he will review the mechanism of COVID-19 vaccine production and its distribution,” he said.

The Prime Minister will then fly to Hyderabad where he is scheduled to visit vaccine maker Bharat Biotech’s facility, an official said. Modi will land at Hakimpet Air Force station and go to Bharat Biotech’s facility at Genome Valley around 50 km from Hyderabad. Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin is undergoing phase-3 trials.

TOMAR INVITES...

“This isn’t right. We are against violence. The Government should initiate dialogue and farmer organisations should leave politics and violence. These movements by farmers are taking place where mandis dominate,” Mishra said. He said counter bills by States like Punjab and Rajasthan are more damaging to farmers and Punjab Bill recommends tax inside and outside mandi. “We will have a meeting if our rep-

resentatives across the country in the first week of January to finalise our strategy. Farmers should be non-political,” he said.

UNDER HOUSE ARREST...

Waheed was arrested on baseless charges & I am not allowed to even console his family. Even my daughter Iltija has been placed under house arrest because she also wanted to visit Waheed’s family.”

“I am going to hold a Press conference at 3:00 pm today & will brief the press on various issues. Request the media to kindly come” Mehbooba tweeted. Omar Abdullah also reacted to the development on social media. Referring to the similar treatment meted out to his father Farooq Abdullah, Omar tweeted, “Parking a truck in front of our gates is now standard operating procedure for this admin. They did the same to my father recently to stop him from praying. Personal liberty is treated as a favour by the government, to give & withdraw at will, with no interference from the judiciary.” Later in the day when the media too was denied permission to attend a press briefing organised by the PDP Chief, Mehbooba posted another tweet claiming, “Press has been barred from entering my residence in Srinagar. This despite no written orders explaining my arbitrary detention. Kashmir is an open air prison where no one has the right to express their opinion.”

“We are one day away from DDC polling & it’s evident that the admin here is using fear & intimidation in tandem to muffle any form of opposition,” Mehbooba stated in another tweet.



BHUMI PEDNEKAR

I've always starred in films, which were a slice of life. My films have always made people laugh & cry, but now was the time to make people scared and at the same time, give them a thrilling experience. The film (*Durgamati*) gives a new, rare kind of canvas to an actor which has action, drama and suspense.



SHILPA RAO

This week is very special as the album, *Love Letters* by Anoushka Shankar, in which I've a song, *Those words*, has been nominated for the 63rd Grammy Awards. Anoushka, what should I say, thank you for all the love & hard work you've put into this beautiful album. This is one step closer to the dream.



KRISHNA BHATT

People expect me to deliver the best, nothing average, because for the world I've had everything on a platter, no struggle. But that's not true. Every individual, in the initial stage, goes through things. With time & experience, efficiency gets sharper. And I want to prove my talent as a storyteller.



SEJAL KUMAR

Giving a whole new meaning to emptiness, the song (*Khaali Khaali*) expresses my feelings on how there is no need to say anything or do anything, just sitting *Khali Khali* with that one person is enough. This lockdown has been tough on all of us, ones who've been away from their homes. I wanted to capture the essence.

DIA MIRZA

To be a changemaker, it doesn't take much. It just takes the power of empathy, compassion and the intention to kick in. If you are a good human being, who is responding to the travails of society, you do it from a place of compassion and action to make a difference.



SHORT CIRCUITS

ENCOUNTER 60 MINUTES

Actor **JACK HUSTON** tells us that the latest instalment of *Fargo* is the most relevant and ambitious of all as it is inclusive of our social and political realities.
By **TEAM VIVA**



What's your character like?

I play a man named Odis Weff, who is a cop in the Kansas City Police Department. He is suffering and has suffered for the most of his life from a rather debilitating case of OCD, which was made worse from his time at war. This instalment takes place just post World War II. He was a bomb sweeper. There's a bit of history with Odis and what he has gone through his entire life. He's someone who is caught between a rock and a hard place. He's trying to survive and find out what's right — some sort of self-preservation, which can lead one down some very dark avenues. But once you start knocking down the dominoes, the other ones begin to fall too. So Odis is playing a dangerous game — one that's making his life worse.

What was your biggest challenge while playing Odis?

Thank God, we have someone like Noah (Hawley, maker-writer). Noah directed the first couple of episodes and is obviously the brain behind everything. It was just phenomenal to work with him. With a talent like him, I know we're working within this beautiful openness of what *Fargo* is and what's come before. The great thing about *Fargo* is always the great characters. Noah gave us as the actors' leeway to say, "How far can I go?" And it was Noah who was great at pushing everything and saying, "Reach further, go further!" I wasn't just delivering the lines, I had to mutter to myself and do everything in fives, with my fingers. Odis has his own clock, a tick. He can't walk out of a room without displaying some of his ticks. I was discovering Odis on my first day of filming and basically, every day, henceforth, because new things kept coming to me.

Initially, I felt a little lost because I was taking so much on playing a character with such severe OCD. I wasn't just saying my lines. I was trying to dig incredibly deep and it was heartbreaking to watch my character go through so many physical and mental challenges but I was guided by the best possible writers, directors, and people behind and in front of the camera. You're acting alongside some of the best actors and it's the marriage of all these great actors coming together that leads to an amazing the series.

What appealed to you the most about Fargo and had you watched the seasons before joining the show? Or did you watch them later?

I've seen all of them. I'm not lying when I say it was my favourite show on TV. I adored it, and every season I've known somebody or have had conversations with somebody and, deep down, I always had a hope that I might get to be involved in one of these seasons. And it was a most welcomed conversation when Noah caught up and said, "Do we want to sit down and have a chat?" And when we did, he mentioned about the character Odis, and very lightly touched upon who he was. I just said, "I'm in. Are you kidding?" There are certain people with whom just the idea of working makes everything worthwhile. You know you're going to be taken care of and Noah is one of those people. In a sense, you want to be as open as possible because this is where you really get to test your chops as an actor. You really get to go in there and dive deep into the character. It's nice going in blind sometimes and just reading as everyone else did because it's a constant surprise. It's such a treat. I've never had more fun developing and like learning about a character and coming to terms with that. I think it was just wonderful.



How was it working with Noah on the sets? I understand that he gives very minimal notes, was that a good working style for you?

Noah can be rather disconcerting because he's very quiet. He's very astute. He's always watching. If he does say something, there's a real reason for it. They already shot the first episode and I came in on episode two. I was actually working on something else and they very kindly allowed me to come in a bit later. During the first big scene, it was lovely having Noah's guidance because I didn't know how far I could go. And it's funny. As an actor, I think one was aware of going too much. The lovely thing about this is that Noah creates a unique world, which calls for the Coen-esque version of some of these people as a beautiful inspiration. Noah was very good at making me feel confident and comfortable so that I could push myself into the skin of my character. I could have always pulled it back but let's see how far we can go.

Well, you can always pull it back but how far can you go? Noah said "go for it" and I did. I'll tell you what came out of that, I got so involved in the character similar to when I played Richard Harrow in *Boardwalk*. I got so deep into Odis that a twitch in my face began to appear and I couldn't stop it. I thought I might have this

facial twist for the rest of my life. The role was very taxing, physically.

It felt like as Odis, you're trying to prevent yourself from having a nervous breakdown the whole time. You're trying to hide and it's very hard when you've got a twitch. You're trying to hide certain things because it feels like you're just tensed up the whole time. It's like you're trying to stop yourself because you're very aware visibly that you look like or act a certain way. Odis is in a constant battle with himself and it is exhausting. It made me just feel forlorn, sad and sympathetic to people who are afflicted quite so severely with something like OCD or things that they can't prevent.

What about the other people in the cast? Had you worked with them before? Anybody on scene, on the set? What were they like to work with?

I can't talk enough. I hadn't worked with anyone in this cast before but I was lucky enough to be working with them. However, Jessie (Buckley) was the only person I didn't have moments with.

I think usually, one of the most appealing things is when someone thinks outside the box. I remember while reading the script and coming across the cast and their respective characters, I was awestruck and felt that these are some brilliant people I am

going to work with. I don't know what they are going to bring to the role and finding that out was the best thing. It felt so cool and exciting because I knew I am going to be surprised. I worked the most with Timothy (Olyphant), who's really a sweetheart, through and through. There's no one quite like him and he commands such respect and is just brilliant. Everyone across the board, they made you laugh and made you cry. It was fantastic!

You had to shoot this in two parts because in the mid, the pandemic had set in. Did the mood and the environment change? What were the differences? Was everybody excited to come back on the sets or were they nervous?

We were very excited to be back on shoot because we were in the middle of shooting when we left. The first wave of people who were going back I am sure were a little nervous. One amazing thing that had happened was that Noah had sent us the first seven to eight episodes. Well, that made us all something to look at and it reignited the fires. The episodes were so great and were shot beautifully. It was very helpful. When we were on set, everyone was very careful. It was a very proactive work atmosphere. Everybody wasn't there to mess around. Everyone was out to get it done. And, to be honest, the last day of shooting was very sad because I knew I was going to miss being here.

What do you think is the message of Fargo?

I think *Fargo* has a lot of hidden messages. It's like an onion, which while you peel, you find layers after layers and with each one, you discover something new. I also think a lot of it is about people trying to find their place in a world which is like a magnifying glass. I think this season in particular is an incredibly poignant and a relevant one. We explore how history has already, in a sense, repeated itself. A lot of it also has to do with money and money corrupts. It's about family and loyalty.

The most wonderful thing about *Fargo* is that the writers got everybody together in a very important moment in the world right now with equality and the 'Black Lives Matter' movement — front and centre. The season is very timely with what we are seeing around us, politically and socially. It's amazing how Noah and the writers were able to tap into something so relevant with this fourth instalment. And they are going to be talking about a lot of things in this season. It's an incredible and a credible time for this!

What do you think will be the audience's takeaway from Fargo?

It's a ride, a wild, wild one. This instalment is like every season put together. It's incredibly ambitious, large in scale and epic. This has most of the *Fargo* of all, in certain areas. You go on a journey with somebody and when you're introduced to something else, you head on to that journey. By the end, you just can't quite understand how they've managed to weave so much into just 11 episodes. It is mind-bending. It's a fun, wild, and bloody ride with a lot of realism that has been addressed.

(Season 4 airs every Saturday at 10 pm on Colors Infinity.)

FILM TALKIES 30 MINUTES

'Good content matters'

Veteran producer **ANAND PANDIT** says that cinema and OTT platforms are not adversaries, instead they complement each other



Veteran producer Anand Pandit's two big-budget films, the Abhishek Bachchan starrer, *The Big Bull* and the Amitabh Bachchan and Emran Hashmi thriller, *Chehre* will be released on OTT platforms soon.

The producer does not really think that artificial binaries need to be created within the entertainment industry at the time of a global pandemic. He feels that the speculation about whether OTT platforms will eat into the profits of cinema halls in the long run, is a tad premature.

He says, "As someone who grew up watching a superstar like Amitabh create mass hysteria in cinema halls during the seventies and eighties, I firmly believe that nothing can replace the excitement of big screen entertainment. It has survived cable and satellite television, massive waves of video piracy and it will survive the pandemic. Please note, I did not pit OTT platforms against film theatres because I think they complement each other and I don't think the two share an adversarial relationship.

During the pandemic, OTT platforms have rescued producers from

mounting losses by releasing their films. After the pandemic, people will make a beeline for theatres with a vengeance and still watch or rewatch their favourite shows and yes, even big and small budget films on OTT platforms. In this era, the consumers of content are the real winners and both OTT platforms and theatres will be busy wooing them rather than competing with each other."

'After the pandemic, both OTT platforms and the cinema halls will co-exist because each one of them offers something unique to the viewers'

He adds that the current time has decidedly been challenging for theatres but a silver lining seems right ahead for all stakeholders in the business of entertainment. He concludes, "This pandemic has given the industry a long moment to dig deep and find ways to keep its engines running. We have to realise that when the viewer cannot come to us, we have to go to her/him. After the pandemic, both OTT platforms and the cinema halls will co-exist because each one of them offers something unique to the viewers. We will find a way to work together and not against each other because that is the way forward. The industry is not fighting for its turf. It is expanding it."

A mentor's take

Choreographer **REMO D'SOUZA** says he feels compassionate for strugglers as he has been at that position in his life

Choreographer Remo D'Souza says he feels compassionate towards struggling artistes because he has been there and faced everything in the initial part of his career.

"I feel more compassionate for the budding talent and strugglers because I have been there, and I know exactly how it feels as a talented youngster without the right opportunity or a series of rejections. With years of hard work and appreciation, I have created my space, so I am quite focussed on giving chance to the new talent. I started doing that with dancers but then I realised that songs are an integral part of our dance, and budding singers also face the same struggle as dancers and choreographers," Remo said.

He recently appeared in the music video of the song, *Log Kya Kahenge*, and he says his effort in front of the camera is all about promoting the budding singers. "I want to



encourage singers, too, now. The song in the video *Log Kya Kahenge* is a result of that," he said.

"Abhinav (Shekhar) is a very talented singer and rapper. This was the first time I was appearing in a dance video before the camera as a dancer because usually I am a choreographer all my life and I make people dance!" he added. The song is written and

sung by Abhinav Shekhar who also appeared in the video. So, how was the shift, from behind the camera to facing it? "Initially, it was weird. Rahul Shetty worked on it, and I followed his instruction on dance. Rahul has trained under me and now he is choreographing for me. It is a proud moment for me as a mentor. Eventually, I also want to work with new actors," Remo said. —IANS

CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES

A NOTCH HIGHER

Actor NATASHA LITTLE feels privileged to be a part of the third season of *Absentia* as she says it's a great deal for a performer to remain associated with a good project. By TEAM VIVA

The *Absentia* series tells the story of FBI special agent Emily Byrne who disappears without a trace while hunting one of Boston's most notorious serial killers, and she is declared dead in *Absentia*. Six years later, she is found in a cabin in the woods, barely alive and with no memory of the years that she was missing. She returns home to learn that her husband has remarried and her son is being raised by the new wife, and she soon finds herself implicated in a new series of murders. Excerpt:

How does it feel to come back as Julianne?

Coming back for season three of *Absentia* has been a joy because you get a chance to go deeper with a character that's already established in season two. Julianne was new to the Boston office and in this season, she's got her feet well under the table. She's come back and is the head of the Boston field office now where she's got some tricky situations to handle. Although she is now the head, she still has to navigate some personal relationships. At the end of last season, she was the one responsible for killing Alice. All that has been sorted but obviously there's a dynamic in the office that is not easy, an unsettled peace has to be broken.

Can we trust Julianne?

Is Julianne trustworthy? I can say that she's super good at her job, she's FBI perfection, everything by the book. I'm playing her so of course I trust her.

Can you tell us a secret about Julianne?

I could tell you something about Julianne that only I know but then I would have to kill you.

Does Julianne envies Emily somehow?

I think she has great admiration for Emily. Julianne is a profiler and she understand people. So I think she sees really strong qualities in Emily that she has admiration for and also is probably envious of it. Julianne does everything by the book, she's not a risk taker. Emily has incredible instincts and she follows them right irrespective of the consequences. Although Julianne is smart and more analytical, I don't think she's as instinctive. I think that's something she recognises in Emily and is full of admiration and even a little envious of.

Describe Nick Durand with only one word.

I think if I had to choose one word to describe Nick Durand, it would be 'trustworthy'.

Describe the season in three words.

Must watch television would be the three words I would describe this season with. I think season two was up there but season three gets even better.

How is it to be back on a show for the second time?

I think it's such a privilege to come



back and do a third season of a show. First of all, you should have the confidence that people are enjoying it, that there's an appetite for more. It just allows for everything to go deeper and people have an understanding of their characters which can be developed by putting them in new storylines and situations. So, it's such a great gig as an actor to have more of a good thing.

How was the evolution of the relationship with the cast?

Well, I came in on season two so the season one cast knew each other.

'YOU SHOULD HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THAT PEOPLE ARE ENJOYING YOUR WORK AND THERE'S A DEMAND TO WATCH MORE AS IT ALLOWS YOU TO GO DEEPER INTO THE CHARACTER, UNDERSTAND IT AND FURTHER DEVELOP BY PUTTING IT IN NEW STORYLINES AND SITUATIONS'

Before I started, I felt like a newbie but on day one I was welcomed and it didn't feel like a big leap to come into that team. And Matt who plays Cal came in season two as well. Coming back for season three, there's a shorthand, there's an ease that it's going to be easy, there's no one who's going to be a tricky nightmare. Or else when you haven't met people before you feel you don't know the people you work with. Whereas when you've been there and you've done it before, you're like ok I know how this is going to be – we all just want to make this as good as we can. And that's a great way to start filming.

What was the hardest scene to shoot?

I don't want to give too much away – there is a scene where Julia gets punched in the face by one of the characters. That was fun to film but also quite technical so it was a little tricky.

Describe Julianne with one word?

In one word I would describe her as ambitious.

Who would you cast to join the series?

If I could choose one actor to join the team next season, I would choose my husband – Bo Poraj! But that's maybe a bit cheating because then we could just enjoy Sophia on the days off.

Would you be up for an *Absentia* film?

I think it is a fantastic idea!

What would be the perfect ending for Julianne in this series?

A great ending would be a further promotion, not just as the head of Boston office but going higher up – the FBI. I think at some point she'd run for president. I mean, let's break the glass ceiling.

(Watch *Absentia* S3, Monday to Friday at 10 pm on Colors Infinity.)

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES



Randeep makes his digital debut

Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda will make his digital debut with the web-series *Inspector Avinash*, a cop thriller based on real life events of police officer Avinash Mishra. Directed by Neeraj Pathak and produced by Pathak and Krishan Chowdhry, the show is set in Uttar Pradesh.

"I look forward to exploring new challenging roles with each of my characters and Inspector Avinash gives me a fabulous opportunity to do that. It's a highly inspiring and interesting role based on true life events," Randeep said.

He added that he believes in the vision of the show and can't wait to begin filming this

thrilling cop drama.

The actor's cop avatar will see him in action in a dramatic retelling of the life of the famed cop dealing with criminal activities of the state. The series is all set to hit the floor in December 2020.

It is presented by 'Jo Studios' and 'Gold Mountai' Pictures'.

The director says Randeep is ideal for the role of a super cop and will add an interesting dimension to the character. "We are very excited to have him play the lead. We commence shooting next month in December," Pathak informed.

—IANS

CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES



Back to normal

Actor ARJUN KAPOOR, who has been shooting for his next, a horror-comedy titled *Bhoot Police*, says that it's refreshing to be outdoors and shooting

Actor Arjun Kapoor has been out of Mumbai shooting for his next film, a horror-comedy titled *Bhoot Police*. The actor, along with Saif Ali Khan, Jacqueline Fernandes, and Yami Gautam has shot in Dalhousie and is now in Dharamshala. Arjun is thrilled that the team is shooting smoothly despite the pandemic.

"It's actually refreshing to be outdoors and shooting for a film. It was really tough for our industry when the pandemic started and the lockdown that followed thereafter. I'm really happy that the industry has found its feet again and has started shooting with utmost care. It has taken a lot of preparations and stringent safety measures had to be

applied for things to resume," he says.

The actor thanks his producers Ramesh Taurani and Akshai Puri for creating a safe shooting experience for the entire crew by keeping the virus at bay. He says the entire team has managed to create the perfect bio-bubble so far.

"I'm glad that we have been able to achieve a bio-bubble because we have been going to different locations for our film and the risk of infection is way higher when you travel more. My producers have done a tremendous job at protecting every cast and crew member. I would also like to thank the local government and authorities of Himachal Pradesh for making it a smooth shooting experience," Arjun says.

IMMERSIVE 30 MINUTES

Hope to surprise viewers: Namit



Actor Namit Das has quite a few interesting unannounced projects on his slate. Levelling with the rise of digital entertainment, the actor has experimented with roles and genres throughout the year. His latest ventures in the OTT space continue to amass viewership and popularity.

Recognised for his contribution to the digital scene, Namit also bagged a spot on

a coveted list of 13 actors who proved to be real gamechangers of 2020.

As an actor who has owned the digital entertainment milieu in a special way, Namit emerges a gamechanger in Ram Madhvan's popular digital series, *Aarya*.

Marking a turning point in the actor's career, the series revolves around Sushmita Sen and her character juggling between her life as a doting

mother and a crime boss. Das's character Jawahar is a major influence on her. With this series and a few other projects, 2020 was rife with opportunities for him to showcase his true potential. The digital viewers across the globe witnessed his brilliant performances in *A Suitable Boy* and *Mafia* too.

Says Namit, "This year entertainment was a larger source of escape and it kind of led viewers to watch a variety of shows. I'm glad that I was able to offer my performances in different capacities. I'm grateful to have been bestowed with praises. I hope to surprise viewers time and again. I'm stepping into the new year with my exciting projects and my fingers crossed."

The actor awaits the streaming of his digital outing, *Aafat-E-Ishq*. He recently contributed to raising awareness about men's mental health and suicide during this month and promoted talking therapy as an advice service that can be accessed during tough times.

Union Minister inaugurates automated tower car parking

The Union Power Minister RK Singh and LG Anil Bajjal in the presence of BJP Delhi President Adesh Gupta, LOP Delhi Legislative Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Mayor Anamika inaugurated Delhi's first fully-automated tower car parking at Green Park near the Metro Station through video conferencing on Wednesday.

Singh congratulated SDMC for selecting the most feasible new-age parking system to overcome the parking in and around the Green Park. He further expressed confidence that the Tower Parking Project will certainly contain pollution in the area. He offered to provide expertise, consultancy and help of his Ministry in providing boost to the innovative actions in future. While giving detailed description of the projects being executed by his Ministry in and around Delhi, he expressed hope that the projects will go a long way in accelerating the pace of development in the city and providing facilities to the citizens.

Deputy Mayor Subash Bhadana, Chairman Standing Committee Rajdutt Gehlot, Leader of House Narendra

Chawala, Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, DC South Zone G Sudhakar and other senior officials were also present.

Bajjal said that this sort of vertical parking is the most appropriate in congested markets and populated colonies as it requires just 1.50 sq metre space to park a car in comparison to 30 sq metre required in conventional parking. He said that all three MCDs should come up with effective parking area management to deal with the parking problem in their jurisdiction. While giving details of the project, he said that the new era steel structured modular designed tower parking is flexible and hence, can be installed at another place. It is eco-friendly, accommodates maximum number of cars in minimum space, allows faster parking and retrieval, has customised parking solutions, comprehensive fire safety, is fully safe and has parking through lifts.

Bharti while welcoming Union Minister referred to the achievements and ongoing major projects of SDMC and said that SDMC has taken major steps to increase the number of parking sites. The

tower parking project is another initiative to develop useful property over a limited sized plot. He further informed that the plot area of parking is 878 sq metre. The total cost of the project is ₹18.20 crore. The height of the towers is 39.50 metres and there are 17 floors in each tower, accommodating 17 cars on each side of the car lift, totaling to 34 cars in each tower. At a time, the tower can accommodate up to 136 cars. Each tower accommodates eight SUVs from the first level to the fourth level and 26 sedans from the fifth level to the 17th. The parking facility is available for 32 SUVs and 104 sedans in total in all the four towers.

He further informed that there is an automated ticket dispenser with boom barrier at entry and exit of the parking and there will be parking charges as per SDMC notified rates — ₹20 per hour, ₹100 for 24 hours, ₹1,200 day pass (monthly) and ₹2,000 day and night pass (monthly).

He added that the operation, maintenance cost and requirement of manual labor will be lower than the conventional parking. The retrieval

time of the vehicle in the tower parking will be 150 seconds.

Anamika stated that the SDMC has been completing its project in spite of limited recourse and a paucity of funds. She said, "Such projects will prove to be beneficial in lessening the pollution levels and fuel consumption.

Moreover, parking vehicles in the automated car parking will be easy and convenient than those in conventional parking. It will also suffice the car parking need of the residents." She added that the possibilities are also being explored to use the facade for generating revenue for using it for advertisement purposes.

MV Iyer assumes charge as director of GAIL

MV Iyer assumed charge as Director (Business Development) of GAIL. Earlier, he was working as the Executive Director (Projects) with the company.

An electrical engineer, Iyer has 33 years of rich experience in GAIL in projects execution amounting to ₹40,000 crores, including current projects worth ₹25,000 crores spanning 16 states, 150 districts and City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects in six cities. He is also the director in one of the company's new joint venture Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) for implementation of North East Gas Grid.





India down & under

Poor bowling costs India opening ODI despite Hardik's career-best innings

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Hardik Pandya's career-best effort wasn't good enough to compensate for a forgettable bowling effort as India slumped to a 66-run defeat against Australia in the first ODI, making a rather unimpressive start to the tour, here on Friday. Virat Kohli's men started exactly on a note they wouldn't have liked, giving away 374 runs in 50 overs with rival captain Aaron Finch (114 off 124 balls) and his illustrious predecessor Steve Smith (105 off 66 balls) hitting contrasting hundreds.

A pitch that looked docile during the first half suddenly came to life in the second as Josh Hazlewood (3/55) bounced out the Indian top-order, including Kohli and a frightened Shreyas Iyer, who got himself into a tangle.

Pandya's 76-ball 90 and a 128-run stand with senior opener Shikhar Dhawan (74 off 86 balls) delayed the inevitable but it was always a catch-up game after the team was reduced to 101 for 4 inside 14 overs.

Big-hearted leg-spinner Adam



Zampa (4/54 in 10 overs) dismissed Dhawan and Pandya in quick succession as India surrendered to scoreboard pressure finishing at 308/8 after 50 overs.

Pandya, who hit seven fours and four sixes, carried his blazing IPL batting form into the first game of the series but it was his fast-medium bowling that Kohli missed on the day as he lacked options when Smith sent his regular bowlers on a leather-hunt.

India badly missed a sixth bowling option with none of their specialist batters good enough to roll their arms for even two to three overs.

It was a day when the bowling unit barring Mohammed Shami (3/59 in 10 overs) flopped badly and poor fielding only added to their woes.

As many as three sitters were dropped and numerous sloppy efforts on the field added to the misery.

The normally steady

Yuzvendra Chahal (1/89 in 10 overs) earned the ignominy of worst figures by an Indian spinner and Jasprit Bumrah's wretched ODI form (1/73 in 10 overs) continued.

India's fastest bowler Navdeep Saini (1/83 in 10 overs) also struggled like any newcomer does, unable to hit the right length on Australian tracks.

Ravindra Jadeja (0/63 in 10 overs) wasn't as costly as Chahal but since the past two and half months, his bowling has lacked sting.

India's eternal nemesis Smith seems ready to torment them a lot in next two months if his 11 fours and four sixes were any indication on Friday.

Not for once was he troubled by the Indian bowlers, who were already under the pump after a 156-run opening stand between Finch and David Warner (69).

A lot of credit should go to Warner and Finch for the manner in which they attacked Chahal.



Indian cricketers join Aussies in anti-racism gesture

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The Indian cricketers on Friday joined their Australian counterparts in forming a barefoot circle on the ground to support the anti-racism movement and acknowledge the culture of indigenous people of the host country.

The barefoot circle ceremony was held before the start of the opening ODI between the two teams.

Australian pacer Pat Cummins had said that it was the team's way of demonstrating an anti-racism feeling as well as celebrating the indigenous culture of Australia.

While Finch used his feet to smother the spin and play against the turn, Warner stayed back in the crease to hit Chahal with the turn, disturbing his line and length completely.

It helped as Smith and Maxwell (45 off 19 balls) had no problems in playing the bowlers during the last 10 overs.



Lack of all-rounders has hit us: Kohli

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India skipper Virat Kohli on Friday questioned his team's body language after the opening ODI loss and said Hardik Pandya not being fit to bowl is affecting the side's balance as he doesn't have enough all-rounders at his disposal.

"Everyone needs to show the intent in the entire 50 overs. Probably, we played 50 overs after a long time that could have an affect... But having said that we have played so much ODI cricket that it is not something we don't know how to do," Kohli said in the post-match presentation.

"I think the body language in the field wasn't great after around 25 overs. It was a disappointing part. If you don't take your chances against a top-quality opposition they'll hurt you and that is what happened today."

With Hardik Pandya not yet to fit to bowl, Kohli said it is affecting the balance of the team. "We have to find out a way to get few overs from part-timers. Unfortunately, someone like Hardik is not ready to bowl yet, we have to accept that, we don't really have all-round options as such right now," he said.

"That is an area to be looked at, it is a big part in any team's balance, someone like Marcus (Stoinis), Maxwell bowling a few overs for Australia helped."

Kohli said his bowlers couldn't pick wickets regularly and it allowed the Australians to post a big total in the end.

"The key to winning games is picking up wickets, that is something we were not able to do, also lapses in the field were also a reason why we couldn't capitalise on any kind of momentum, the pressure that we created in early part of the innings."

Talking about the batting unit, Kohli said: "I think we gave ourselves the best chance."

"Hardik's innings was the best example of that. As a batting unit we committed nicely to positive cricket and we are going to do that in the future as well."

Winning captain Aaron Finch said he took his time early in the innings.

"Found it reasonably hard to get my timing. Took a couple of chances, got lucky," he said.

Finch heaped praise on his teammates for their performance despite not being able to train much as a unit.

"We've barely been together as a team. Each guy has different strengths and weaknesses. You embrace that. Davey (David Warner), he's moving beautifully. His rhythm looked outstanding. Smudge (Smith) was different class altogether," he said. "Maxi (Maxwell), the rare ability he's got to just click his fingers and put pressure on the opposition."

Steve Smith, who was adjudged the Player of the match, said the superb innings by Finch (114) and Warner (69) gave him the license to thrill as he smashed a 66-ball 105 to take Australia to 374 for 6.

"Have been searching for something for a couple of months now. About three days ago something just clicked. My rhythm came back, everything came back," he said.

"Finchy and Davey played very well early on. We could come in and be aggressive. Wasn't thinking too much out there, just seeing the ball and hitting it. Was seeing the ball well. It was a good surface."

"Nice to contribute to a good win. Need a bit of luck in this game sometimes, nice to ride it today (getting his LBW overturned)," he said referring to the LBW decision which was overturned.

Rohit not is Aus due to dad's illness: BCCI

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The BCCI finally cleared the "confusion" on why Rohit Sharma did not travel with the team to Australia hours after captain Virat Kohli complained of "lack of clarity", stating that the top batsman had to be in Mumbai for his ailing father after the IPL.

Apart from this, the Board said senior-most fast bowler Ishant Sharma is ruled out of the Test series, starting December 17, as he will not be match-fit in time.

The Board reiterated Kohli's assertion that Rohit's fitness will be up for a review on December 11, following which a call would be taken on whether he can be there for the Tests.

"Rohit Sharma had to come back to Mumbai after the IPL to attend to his ailing father. His father is now recuperating well and that has allowed him to travel to the NCA and start his rehabilitation," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a statement after Kohli expressed his displeasure over the lack of information on Rohit's fitness on Thursday.

He is likely to miss the opening two Tests because of the 14-day hard quarantine rules in the host nation.

Shah clarified that the white ball vice-captain had come back to Mumbai after the IPL in the UAE to attend to his ailing father after which he reported to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

"He (Rohit) is presently undergoing rehabilitation at the NCA. Mr Rohit Sharma's next assessment will be conducted on December 11th following which the BCCI will have clarity on his participation in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia," the statement read.

It is also learnt that BCCI president Sourav Ganguly will request Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley to ensure that Rohit, if he goes, can undergo soft quarantine which will allow him to train during the 14-day isolation period.

As far as Ishant is concerned, Shah said the lanky pacer has recovered from his side strain but will take time to attain peak match fitness.

"Ishant has recovered completely from his side strain injury sustained during IPL 2020 in the UAE," he said.

"While he is building up his workload in order to achieve Test match fitness, Ishant Sharma has been ruled out of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy," Shah added.

Hardik targets WCs to return as bowler

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

India's ace all-rounder Hardik Pandya on Friday said that he is focussing and preparing himself to play purely as a batsman till he gets match-ready to bowl.

The younger of the two Pandya brothers had a back injury in 2019 and as he gradually returns to competitive cricket, he is avoiding bowling. He did not bowl at all for the Mumbai Indians in the recent-concluded Indian Premier League and played as a pure batsman in the first ODI against Australia on Friday.

Asked if playing purely as a batsman makes any difference, Hardik said, "(It does) not make much difference. I believe in having both skills. I like to back myself

and have that confidence where whatever role is given to me I try to fulfill that to the best of my ability."

Pandya on Friday played a brilliant knock — 90 off 76 balls — and tried to take the game deep after India lost early wickets. He came into bat after they were reduced to 101/4 in the 14th over.

Unlike his role at Mumbai Indians in IPL's, in which he is

asked to do power-hitting right from the word go, Pandya on Friday played himself in before unleashing a flurry of boundaries against Glenn Maxwell.

Pandya said that playing as a pure batsman he has to start thinking as a batsman only.

"I start thinking as a batter. I try to take the game deep. I try to bat in a way, where I can score more runs than what I am used to. It does not add too much pressure or does not give me any more freedom. It is just that I am enjoying being on the ground as a batter or cricketer," said Pandya on being asked if playing only as a batter allows him more freedom than

playing as an all-rounder.

Pandya did not give any specific time about when he would get match-ready to bowl. But he said he is looking at long-term goals like the World Cups and does not want to rush in. There are three successive World Cups that India play — the T20 World Cups in India and Australia next year and the 50-over World Cup in 2023 in India.

"It is a process. I am looking at a long-term goal time when I want to be 100 per cent of my bowling capacity for the most important games — the World Cups are coming, the most crucial series. I am looking at long-term plan, not short-term plan where I'll try to exhaust myself and maybe have something else (injury) which is not there," he said.



Two protesters enter field

SYDNEY : In a security breach, two protesters made their way into the field of play during the first ODI between India and Australia before being escorted out here on Friday.

Two people made their way into the centre fielding circle holding up cardboard signs before the start of the seventh over.

The invaders were protesters against Adani Group and held 'NO \$1B ADANI LOAN' sign.

The front of the protesters' T-shirt read "#StopAdani", while at the back, it said "Stop Coal. #StopAdani. Take Action."

PTI

Ferguson's fifer douses Pollard blitz

AFP ■ AUCKLAND

Paceman Lockie Ferguson unleashed a devastating five-wicket barrage as New Zealand downed the West Indies in a roller coaster T20 series opener in Auckland on Friday.

The match — the first international cricket played in New Zealand for almost nine months — produced a nail-biting finale as the Black Caps reached 179/5 in the final over after being set a target of 176.

Persistent showers meant the innings were reduced to 16 and many players, particularly the tourists, were rusty after only emerging from Covid-19 quarantine on Thursday.

But there were outstanding individual performances on both sides, particularly player of the match Ferguson and West Indies captain Kieron Pollard's

unbeaten 75 from 37 balls.

Ferguson claimed a career-best haul of 5-21 to put the brakes on a flying start from the West Indies, saying the short boundaries at Eden Park helped his cause.

"It's one of the craziest grounds you could ever play at, the ball flies everywhere and fortunately for me today it went to hand, which is nice," he said.

Pollard almost swung momentum back to the West Indies single-handedly, clubbing eight sixes and four fours to ensure his team set a competitive target.

Before play commenced, both sides took a knee in a gesture against racism, with the West Indies players each raising a black-gloved fist.

West Indies opener Andre Fletcher smashed back-to-back sixes off debutant Kyle



Jamieson, who conceded 18 from his first over in international T20.

The tourists were even more brutal against Hamish Bennett, plundering 29 runs from a nightmare over for the fast bowler.

They were 58 without loss before Ferguson broke through and clean-bowled Fletcher on 34.

The West Indies then lost five wickets for a single run over the course of 11 balls, with Ferguson claiming three scalps

during the spell and captain Tim Southee two.

Pollard's contribution looked like it would prove decisive when New Zealand made a shaky start and veteran opener Martin Gupthill departed for five.

They were soon 63 for four when Ross Taylor was run out. The Black Caps' South African-born debutant Devon Conway and Jimmy Neesham were looking dangerous when Pollard broke their 77-run partnership when Conway was caught on 41.

But Neesham, who scored 48 from 24 balls, steered the New Zealanders home with Mitchell Santner, who hit a six to claim victory with four balls to spare.

The next fixture in the three-match series is in Mount Maunganui on Sunday.

AFP ■ LONDON

Napoli honoured the memory of Diego Maradona with a 2-0 win over Rijeka which allowed them to go top of Europa League Group F in the first match since the death of his Argentine icon.

Gennaro Gattuso's side entered the field all wearing the number 10 jersey of Maradona, who won Napoli's only Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990 as well as the 1989 UEFA Cup.

"Diego is a legend and will never die," Gattuso said after the match. "Since Wednesday you could see that the city breathed a different atmosphere."

"We hope to dedicate something important to him and win a trophy. In this city we have talked about it for too many years."

Napoli made sure the fans gathered outside to pay their respects to Maradona weren't disappointed by the current team as an Armando Anastasio own goal and a simple Hirving Lozano finish sealed the points.

Napoli are now two points ahead of AZ Alkmaar and Real

Napoli's winning tribute to Maradona

Gattuso's side entered the field all wearing the No 10 jersey of Maradona, who won Napoli's only Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990



Sociedad following their goalless draw in the Netherlands.

Fellow Italian side Roma made their way into the last 32 with a 2-0 win at Romanian side Cluj, while Hoffenheim joined them after ensuring their respective passages into the next round from L.

Earlier Jame Vardy's last-gasp leveller in a thrilling 3-3 at Braga sent Leicester City

through to the knockout rounds, where they were also joined by Arsenal thanks to their 3-0 win at Molde.

Brendan Rodgers' side are top of Group G on 10 points, three ahead of Braga in second and seven in front of third-placed AEK Athens with two games to play after the Greeks' 3-0 home defeat at the hands of Zorya Luhansk.

Tottenham Hotspur are level on nine points with Group J leaders Royal Antwerp after a 4-0 thumping of bottom side Ludogorets, who are yet to pick up a single point.

Spurs comfortable home win was the stage for an incredible long range strike from Harry Winks, whose launch from near the left wing put Jose Mourinho's side three goals

ahead following an earlier Carlos Vinicius brace.

However Winks admitted to BT Sport after the match that he wasn't aiming for the goal.

"I'd love to sit here and say that I did, but I've got to be honest and say no. I saw Gaz (Gareth Bale) run in," said the England international.

Lucas Moura rounded off the scoring in the 73rd minute as the Premier League high-flyers eye an intriguing London derby with in-form Chelsea at the weekend.

Lille missed out on qualification after they could only draw 1-1 with an AC Milan side missing the injured Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The Ligue 1 outfit are top of Group H, one point ahead of Milan and with Sparta Prague lurking a further point back after dumping Celtic out of the competition with a 4-1 thrashing in the Czech Republic.

ATK Mohun Bagan beat SC East Bengal

PTI ■ VASCO

Fijian striker Roy Krishna continued his prolific goal-scoring form as he helped ATK Mohun Bagan prevail over SC East Bengal 2-0 in the first ever Indian Super League derby here on Friday.

Krishna, who had scored ATKMB's lone goal against Kerala Blasters in their campaign opener, struck in the 49th minute before Manvir Singh killed the contest in the 85th minute with a solo effort.

With two wins on the trot, ATK Mohun Bagan led the table with six points, followed by Northeast United FC.

It was a typical Antonio Lopez Habas' style of play that panned out on the field as ATKMB were slow to get off the blocks before taking control of the game.

Their defence, helmed by Tiri, put up a disciplined show to return with a clean slate for their second successive match.

For Liverpool legend Robbie Fowler, who built the

SC East Bengal in less than a month's time, it was a disappointing start to his coaching stint in India as he was let down badly by his striker up front.

As the sole striker, Balwant Singh was wayward up front and missed a sitter at the hour mark when he blasted over the bar just in front of the net.

They had the better ball possession but looked thin up front, leaving too much to do for their vice-captain and former Norwich City winger Anthony Pilkington.

As in their last match against Kerala Blasters, ATKMB struggled to get going initially, while SCEB made some fine attacking moves but lacked the finishing touches.

ATKMB had their first real chance just a minute before with Javier Hernandez on the target but Debjit Majumder came on his way as the first half saw a stalemate.

Like in the last match

when he struck the winner after the changeover, Krishna broke the deadlock and this time with a powerful left-footer past a diving Majumder.

It was Jayesh Rane who made a dashing run on the left and sent in a through ball to Hernandez before Krishna took control of the ball for a clinical finish.

SCEB almost got an equaliser in the 83rd minute with Pilkington firing in from the left but ATKMB custodian Arindam Bhattacharja stood tall and ensured another clean sheet for Habas' side.

A minute later, Manvir chased a ball from the midfield and made a fine run, beating the SCEB defence before firing past Majumder and sealing three points from the big match.

The red-and-gold brigade wore black armbands in memory of the Argentine legend Diego Maradona who died of heart attack on Wednesday.