

OPINION 8
A DBT FOR
MANUFACTURERS**WORLD 11**
'CHINESE ACTIVITIES ALONG
INDIAN BORDER PROVOCATIVE'**SPORT 14**
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Farmers reject Shah offer, set talk terms

Farmers' union threatens to block all entry points to Delhi, demands Cabinet Committee for talks; Shah assures high-level team of Ministers for dialogue if farmers shift to Burari

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah held out an olive branch to farmers protesting at Delhi's borders for four days against the new farm laws for talks anytime provided they move to the Burari ground, the farmers on Sunday rejected Shah's offer and said they will not accept any conditional dialogue and threatened to block all five entry points to the national Capital.

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) on Sunday demanded the Centre to name and authorise a Cabinet committee or a group of Ministers for future discussions with the farmers.

"The condition laid down by Shah is not acceptable to us. We will not hold any conditional talks. We reject the Government's offer. The blockade will not end. We will block all five entry point to Delhi... The condition put for talks is an insult to farmers."

"We will never go to Burari. It is not a park but an open jail," Surjeet S Phul, Bhartiya Kisan Union's Punjab president, told reporters.

Reacting to their demands, the Centre on Sunday once again appealed to the farmers to shift to a ground in Delhi's Burari and said a high-level

team of Union Ministers is ready to hold talks with them at the Capital's Vigyan Bhavan once they move to the designated place.

Later in the evening, Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar held deliberations over the farmers' protest against the three Central farm laws with BJP president JP Nadda.

As the standoff showed no signs of easing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi again batted for the new laws in his monthly radio address. Shah on Sunday said they were meant for the welfare of farmers and called their agitation apolitical.

Speaking to reporters, he said, "The new farm laws are meant for the welfare of farmers. After a long time the farmer is going to come out of a locked system. Whoever wants to oppose it politically let them do it. I have never said the farmers protest is political and would never say (that it is political)."

The Home Ministry too assured the farmers' organisations that a high-level team of Union Ministers will talk to them once the protesters move to the designated site.

A meeting of over 30 farmer groups was held to discuss Shah's offer for talks before the scheduled date of December 3 once they move to



Farmers protest at Singhu border during their Delhi Chalo march against the Centre's farm reform laws, in New Delhi on Sunday.
Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

Burari in the city, but thousands of protesters refused to budge and prepared for spending another night in the cold at the Singhu and Tikri border points. Their representatives said Shah's condition that they shift the protest is not acceptable and claimed Burari ground is an "open jail".

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FARMERS' BODY ASKS KISAN TO MARCH TO DELHI, URGES THEM TO START NATIONWIDE STIR FROM TOMORROW

New Delhi: The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) has decided to intensify stir, protests to start in other States from December 1. The AIKSCC has asked all farmers' organisations to immediately mobilise farmers to Delhi and to hold protests across the country from December 1.

MAN SLEEPING IN CAR NEAR PROTEST SITE ON CAPITAL BORDER CHARRED TO DEATH

New Delhi: A 55-year-old man from Punjab was burnt alive after the car in which he was sleeping caught fire on Saturday night near the Delhi-Haryana border. Janak Raj had come to Delhi border to express solidarity with the agitating farmers. A tractor repairman, he had gone to Delhi to voluntarily fix tractors that were being used by farmers camping near Delhi, to protest against the Centre's agricultural laws that were passed recently.

Don't be swayed by rumours as farm laws pro-farmers: Modi

New legislations have opened 'new doors of opportunities', benefits for farmers, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of demand by farmers for guaranteeing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted that new farm laws have opened "new doors of opportunities" and benefits for farmers and that "awareness" was key to progress in life.

Addressing the nation through his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi touched on the various issues including coronavirus pandemic and need to preserve cultural heritage.

Even as hundreds of farmers continue protest against the Centre's farm laws which have been described "anti-farmer", the Prime Minister stressed that these farm laws had broken the shackles of various farmers and begun to lessen their problems.

Giving example of one farmer Jitendra, he said the



farmer was not getting full-payment of his produce sold and he made use of new farm laws to receive payment with the intervention of District Magistrate who, according to new farm laws, is mandated to solve payment problem within one month.

"Don't be carried away by rumours, be aware", Modi said. Similarly, Modi gave example of a Haryana farmer Virendra Yadav who he said sold his "parali" to paper mill to earn ₹1.50 crore in two years. "Jagrukta hi Jeevantata hain", he said seeking people to be fully aware about developments around them.

The PM said while coronavirus vaccine is still on its way, "any carelessness could be fatal" during the pandemic.

Continued on Page 11

CoviShield volunteer seeks ₹5 cr for ill effects

Drugs Controller General of India initiates probe into complaint

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has initiated probe into the complaint by a Chennai-based volunteer about alleged adverse

complications reported in a CoviShield vaccine trial. While the volunteer has demanded ₹5 crore compensation for causing medical complications, the Serum Institute of India (SII) has also served a legal notice seeking damages of ₹100 crore from him, calling his complaint "malicious."

According to reports, the 40-year-old Chennai-based business consultant, who was a volunteer for the third phase of the vaccine trial conducted by

Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), has sought ₹5 crore compensation for allegedly suffering serious neurological and psychological symptoms after taking the dose.

He was administered the shot at Chennai's Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (SRIHER), one of the trial sites on October 1.

Now on his behalf, a law firm has sent a legal notice to Director General, ICMR,

Drugs Controller General of India, DCGI, CEO, Astra Zeneca UK, Professor Andrew Pollard, Chief Investigator, Oxford Vaccine Trial and Vice Chancellor of Sri Ramachandra Higher Education and Research.

The man has sought a compensation of ₹5 crore and that the testing, manufacturing and distribution of the vaccine be stopped immediately. The SII has partnered with British-Swedish biopharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca AstraZeneca for manufacturing the Oxford vaccine candidate for Covid-19.

On its part, issuing notice against the complainant, SII refuted the allegation, terming his claims "malicious and mis-conceived in nature". The Pune-based pharma giant claimed that "there is absolutely no correlation with the vaccine trial and the medical condition of the volunteer".

"The allegations in the notice are malicious and mis-conceived. While the Serum Institute of India is sympathetic with the volunteer's medical condition, there is absolutely no correlation with the vaccine trial and the medical condition of the volunteer."

Continued on Page 11

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL
CASES: 94,30,724
DEATHS: 1,37,152
RECOVERED: 88,44,751
ACTIVE: 4,46,658



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	18,20,059	47,071	16,80,926
Karnataka	8,83,899	11,765	8,47,612
Andhra Pradesh	8,67,683	6,988	8,52,298
Tamil Nadu	7,80,505	11,703	7,57,750
Kerala	5,99,601	2,224	5,32,658
Delhi	5,66,648	9,066	5,22,491
Uttar Pradesh	5,41,873	7,742	5,09,556
West Bengal	4,80,813	8,376	4,48,032
Odisha	3,18,307	1,787	3,11,256
Telangana	2,69,223	1,455	2,57,278
Rajasthan	2,65,386	2,292	2,34,336
Chhattisgarh	2,35,998	2,840	2,12,517
Bihar	2,35,159	1,259	2,28,251
Haryana	2,32,522	2,401	2,11,216
Assam	2,12,617	981	2,08,283
Gujarat	2,08,278	3,969	1,89,520

CAPSULE

UP FIRST CASE UNDER 'LOVE JEHAD' LAW

Lucknow: UP has registered its first case under the new anti-conversion law in Bareilly district based on a complaint from the father of a woman. P5

CoBRA OFFICER KILLED IN NAXAL BLAST

Raipur: An officer of the CRPF's jungle warfare unit, CoBRA, was killed while nine commandos were injured after Maoists triggered an IED blast in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district.

PM Modi to visit Varanasi today

RAMESH K SINGH ■ VARANASI

Varanasi is all set to accord a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he visits his parliamentary constituency to take part in the Dev Deepawali festival on Monday. This will be the prime minister's first visit to his constituency since the nation-wide lockdown due to the novel

coronavirus pandemic and the second this year as last time he came here on February 16 to inaugurate the Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Smriti Sthal at Parao apart from launching projects worth Rs 1,254 crore.

It will also be the first time that Modi will attend internationally famous Dev Deepawali festival, the first post-coronavirus pandemic festival which

is going to be celebrated in a grand manner.

The 84-odd ghats spread in over 7-km semicircle will glitter with about 11 lakh diyas (earthen lamps) and illuminated with attractive lighting arrangements on both sides of the river Ganga apart from cultural programmes to be staged at 15 main ghats.

Continued on Page 11

'Tiger State' MP loses 26 national animals in 2020

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the "tiger State" of India, has lost 26 striped animals so far this year, as per the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). Reacting to it, Madhya Pradesh Forest Minister Vijay Shah told PTI that the average death rate of tigers was less compared to their birth rate in the State in last six years.

According to the NTCA website, out of the 26 tiger deaths reported since April this year, MP lost 21 felines inside the tiger reserves, including 10 in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. No tiger death was reported in the first three months of this year, as per the data. In 2019, the State lost 28 tigers while three cases of seizures of body parts due to poaching were also reported.

Continued on Page 11

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CM to meet industrialists in Mumbai on December 2

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Backed by a proactive industrial policy, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will present a new facet of the state when he rings the bell at Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on December 2 next during the listing of Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) bonds.

The chief minister will visit Mumbai and will also interact with prominent industrialists and Bollywood celebrities and invite them to invest in UP.

Lucknow is the first city of north India to release the bond of its municipal corporation and soon the municipal corporations of Ghaziabad, Varanasi, Kanpur Nagar and Agra will follow suit.

The Rs 200 crore-bond issue was floated just before Diwali and was oversubscribed by 4.5 times to raise Rs 450 crore.

“The 10-year bond closed at a very attractive coupon

rate of 8.5 percent only because India inc. has shown faith in the potentiality and prospects of Uttar Pradesh,” a senior official said.

“During his day-long visit, Yogi Adityanath will be meeting eminent industrialists, bankers and renowned Bollywood celebrities. He will be telling them about how the UP government has created a conducive atmosphere for industrialisation by way of simplification of policies, single-window mechanism for various clearances and a sound law and order as a potent back-up besides availability of basic infrastructure and manpower,” the government spokesman said.

He said that ever since Yogi Adityanath took charge of UP, a lot had changed in terms of law and order, infrastructure and air connectivity to the state.

“Be it one of the best film cities and the finance city in Noida or Asia’s largest airport in Jewar and the defence man-

State will progress if panchayats become self-reliant: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that if the panchayats became self-reliant, the state as well as the country would become self-sufficient and with this, the youth, including women, would get employment and this would present a new model of economic independence.

The chief minister, who dedicated to the people and laid the foundation stones of 2095-km-long 748 routes in 56 districts under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at a cost of Rs 204 crore and 2000-km-long 1,825 roads by the Panchayati Raj department at a cost of Rs 647 crore, also said that this was a good attempt to start and realise Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of Gram Swaraj.

ufacturing corridor, the process of development will further accelerate with the construction of Purvanchal, Bundelkhand and Ganga Expressway.

The grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya will further rejuvenate tourism in the state. UP is becoming a favourite destination of investors,” the spokesman said.

“The results of these efforts are also visible with the fact that a few months ago, UP achieved the second slot in the Ease of Doing Business ranking with a jump of ten points.

Even during the global coronavirus pandemic times, 52 domestic and foreign companies invested about Rs 45,000 crore in UP because of the investor-friendly policies of

the state government. Besides this, over six lakh medium, small and micro enterprises were also given loans to the tune of Rs 20,000 crore in coordination with the banks,” the official said.

The chief minister will be discussing these issues with the industrialists and bankers, including N Chandrashekhhar of Tata Sons, Dr Niranjan Hiranandani of Hiranandani group, Baba Kalyani of Bharat Forge, Suprakash Chaudhary, CEO of Simmons, SN Subramaniam, Chairman of L&T, Vikas Jain of Capital Services, Sanjay Nair, Chairman of KKR Ltd, Jaspal Bindra, Chairman of Centrum Capital Ltd, Sukaran Singh, CEO and MD of Tata Advanced Systems, Harshvardhan of Tata Defence Technology, Ashish Rajvansh of Adani Defence, Rajat Gupta of Ashok Leyland TS Darbari, CEO and MD of Texmaco Defence System.

Among the film personalities who will meet the UP chief

minister will be Subhash Ghai, Bonnie Kapoor, Bhushan Kumar of T-Series, Jatin Sethi of Zee Studio, Rahul Mitra, Neeraj Pathak, Randeep Hooda, Tigmanshu Dhulia, Jimmy Shergill, Taran Adarsh, Komal Nahta and Raj Kumar Santoshi.

Earlier in December 2017, the chief minister had gone to Mumbai and invited prominent industrialists to the Investors’ Summit that was held in Lucknow in February, 2018. During that visit, he met Mukesh Ambani, Ratan Tata, Anand Mahindra and others, and most of them came to Lucknow and took part in the Investors’ Summit.

It may be mentioned here that during the summit, memorandums of understanding (MoUs) of about Rs 4. 52 lakh crore were signed and investments of about Rs 2 lakh crore have already come on the ground through two groundbreaking ceremonies that have taken place since the summit.

Oppn flays Central govt over farmers’ agitation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With farmers of at least three states laying siege to Delhi borders in protest against the three Central farm laws, the opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday hit out at the Centre, asking it to reconsider these laws.

“The farmers of the country are angry and agitated over the three farm laws enacted recently by the Centre. It would be better if the Centre reconsiders these laws enacted without forging any consensus with farmers,” Bahujaan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said in a tweet in Hindi on Sunday.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav too flayed the Centre, accusing it of seeking to mortgage the country to the rich.

“Insulting farmers by calling them terrorists is the worst face of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP, which favours the rich, is conspiring to mortgage farms, farming, small business, trading, roads, transportation and everything else to the rich,” Yadav also said in a tweet in Hindi.

“If the farmers are terrorists for the BJP, the BJP leaders and workers should pledge not to consume the food grown by them,” he added. For the past two days, thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh have been laying siege to different borders of the national capital in protest against the Central farm laws.

Farmers protesting against the Centre’s three farm laws have been expressing fears that these laws would lead to the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates.

Seeking to allay the farmers’ fears, the Centre has been insisting that these newly enacted laws would give farmers greater market access across the country and increase their income.



NOTICE

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अनुप्रिया पटेल

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342 more test positive for Covid, 334 recover

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 342 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow on Sunday while 334 patients recovered, taking the total strength of recoveries to 66,771. City's death toll stands at 991 while there are 3,704 active cases.

The fresh cases included 35 from Gomtinagar, 34 from Indiranagar, 19 from Rae Bareilly road, 17 from Chowk, 16 from Gudamba, 15 each from Alambagh, Vikasnagar, Jankipuram & Hazratganj, 12 from Ashiyana, and 10 from Sarojininar.

Across the state, 2,036 persons tested positive for coronavirus, including 123 from Gautambuddh Nagar, 113 from Ghaziabad, 230 from Meerut, 85 from Varanasi and 108 from Kanpur, taking the UP tally to 5,41,873.

There were 25 deaths across the state, including seven in Lucknow, two in Gorakhpur, and one each in Kanpur, Gautambuddh Nagar, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Meerut, Moradabad, Agra, Mathura, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Amroha,



Ghazipur, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur & Balrampur, taking toll to 7,742. Besides, 2,618 patients recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 5,09,556.

Meanwhile, most of the Covid-19 patients in Aliganj, Gomtinagar, Alambagh and Chinhat are office-goers and targeted surveillance will be carried out in these areas shortly as per the directions of the state government.

According to a senior health official, more cases are found in contact tracing than in random sampling under targeted surveillance. "However, the random sampling helps check the spread of virus to some extent," he said. On Sunday, sanitisation

and containment activities were carried out in Aishbagh, Motinagar Jheel slum. "As part of our routine exercise, we will be concentrating on one slum every Sunday for the containment exercise," he added.

Head of KGMU's Microbiology department Dr Amita Jain, while sharing her experiences in Covid-19 starting from 60 tests per day to 6,000 tests per day at a webinar on Sunday, said that quality assured testing was important to decide the line of treatment and to stop the transmission when they first started testing.

"We started testing from February 3 and at that time KGMU's was the only lab in the state and one of the 13 in the country authorised to carry out Covid testing and the declared capacity was 72 tests per day," she said, adding that the journey was not simple and they had to adopt a multipronged approach when they started expanding in March 23. She said that till date, they have carried out 8.5 lakh tests and 6,000 samples are being tested every day and the maximum samples tested on a single day were 7,200.

‘Providing quality medical facilities priority of govt’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that providing quality medical facilities to the people was the priority of the state government. Directing officials to maintain an effective system of treatment and prevention of COVID-19, he also said that better treatment facilities should be provided to the patients infected with the novel coronavirus. The chief minister, who was presiding over an unlock review meeting at his official residence here, said that arrangements at the Covid hospitals should be maintained properly and it should also be ensured that expert doctors took regular rounds in the wards.

He said adequate availability of medicines, medical equipment and oxygen in the Covid hospitals should also be maintained. The chief minister said people should be constantly made aware about protection from COVID-19 and public address systems and other publicity media should be used to spread awareness.

2 held for duping investors

Lucknow (PNS): Two persons were arrested on the charges of fraud by a team of Vibhuti Khand police on Sunday. They were identified as Sandeep Maurya of Gorakhpur and Aviral Verma of Indiranagar. The duo, along with their mentor Mohit, opened up a share trading company and duped more than 200 persons of over Rs 5 core.

The accused were said to be on police

action was being taken by the state government to control COVID-19 in the state and in this regard, media briefing should be done continuously to give authentic information to the public.

"It should also be ensured that an effective system of Covid testing is maintained constantly and a sufficient number of RT-PCR and rapid antigen tests are conducted on a daily basis. The chief minister also asked the officials to operate the Integrated Command and Control Centres actively. "Adequate number of doctors should be arranged in newly-established medical colleges as the availability of the prescribed number of doctors will ensure better treatment to the patients," he said.

The chief minister also gave instructions to speed up the construction of the approved medical colleges and said that technical and financial bids should be invited in this regard. He also directed officials to set up a 100-bed hospital and a trauma centre near the Yamuna Expressway.

radar after a case of fraud was registered against them in the past. The accused used to trap gullible people by promising attractive refunds against investment. Meanwhile, a woman was duped of Rs 21,730 on the pretext of processing fee for clearing provident fund of her husband in Jankipuram. Anuradha Singh of Jankipuram got a call from an unidentified man who shared with her details related to service tenure of her husband and asked her to pay the processing fee.

Toll plaza staffers thrashed

Lucknow (PNS): Supporters of a BJP MLA from Bacharawan allegedly clashed with a toll plaza staff and manager in Nigoha on being denied free entry on Sunday. Police were scanning CCTV footage to verify the allegations. The MLA alleged that the toll plaza staff discarded the entry pass which his supporters showed them and later attacked him. A cavalcade, consisting of several dozen vehicles of the MLA's supporters was stopped by the plaza staff. Later, the men in the car got down from the vehicle and started beating the staff and manager Dheeraj Srivastava.

In his complaint, Dheeraj said the MLA, Ram Naresh Rawat, and

his supporters were pressuring him to allow free pass of the cavalcade which consisted of several vehicles, and thrashed him on being refused. He alleged that the policemen present there remained mute spectators to the incident.

Meanwhile, a 55-year-old man was found dead near Shanti Nagar embankment in Thakurganj police station area on Sunday. He was identified as Pappu, who was staying in a house close to the irrigation office in the area. The police said Pappu was an alcoholic and he died after falling down in a drunken state. The police said they were informed about the recovery of body.

<div>  चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut </div>			
REVISED-RECRUITMENT NOTICE			
Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates (As per UGC notification 18 July 2018 and subsequent UP Government order 28 June 2019 and first Statutes of University as amended from time to time) for the appointment to the following posts in the University:			
Advt. No.	Name of Post	Number of Posts with Category & Department Name	Level
Acad. 1185R/01/2020	Professor	Economics (UR-1), Mathematics (SC-1), Sociology (OBC-1), Microbiology (SC-1), Physics (UR-1)	14
Acad. 1186R/02/2020	Associate Professor	History (UR-1), English (SC-1), Psychology (SC-1 & UR-1), Botany (EWS-1), Statistics (OBC-1), Economics (OBC-1)	13A
Acad. 1187R/03/2020	Assistant Professor	Genetics & Plant Breeding (OBC-1), English (SC-1), Physics (UR-1), Political Science (OBC-1), Education (SC-1), Sociology (UR-1)	10
The last date for submitting online application is 21.12.2020. interested applicants may visit website http://www.ccsuniversity.ac.in/ccsu/recruitment in for further details and eligibility conditions.			
			Registrar

Conjoined twins separated after rare surgery



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

KGMU successfully separated conjoined twins after a surgery which will be counted amongst the rare surgeries. Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri and other doctors gave details of the surgery to mediapersons on Sunday. A film on the surgery was also showcased. The VC said it is a rare condition of conjoined twins with the incidence of happening one in 100,000. "More than 70% of the cases die in utero or immediately after birth. Only one-third of them survive. In case of the conjoined twins, what is important is the point at which these twins are joined and whether they share one organ. Team effort is very important in such surgeries and one has to be careful when anaesthesia is administered," he said.


The doctors said very few similar surgeries have been possible in the world till date in which both the children have survived surgical separation. The KGMU team separated the conjoined twins who were thoraco omphalopagus twins.

Dr JD Rawat from the department of Paediatric Surgery said that on November 6 last year, Chandan Kanauija and Priyanka, residents of Bhaluha village in Kushinagar district, gave birth to twins. "The twins were attached to each other from thorax up to the abdomen. Seeing this, the parents and the attendants were very worried. They brought the children to BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur from where they were referred to KGMU. We started the treatment and explained the whole technique and operation procedure to the attendants. They were also assured complete treatment procedure which would be possible in the superspeciality department. The attendants were counselled and sent home for waiting period until optimum age for the surgery," he said.


During the home stay too, the attendants were in tele-consultation with the doctors of Paediatric Surgery department. "Preparations for surgery were started after admission. Under the instructions of the VC and supervision of Dr SN Kureel, a multi-disciplinary team was constituted. Being the very first time in KGMU, the preparations as well the surgery were very challenging. Investigations like CT scan and MRI revealed that the children were attached to each other starting from the thorax up to the mid part of the abdomen with the attached pericardium, diaphragm and an attached liver. Once the investigations were completed, the surgery was planned on November 9 this year. Two days before the scheduled date of surgery, a mock drill was performed," Dr Rawat said.

He said preparations inside the operation theatre began at 6 in the morning on the day of surgery. "Securing the airway control of both the children simultaneously was a challenging task for the anaesthetists. During the surgery, thorax with attached pericardium of both the kids was separated and repaired. By the technique of hydro-surgery with the help of water jet scalpel, liver resection was performed. Also, the help of the argon plasma coagulator was taken. After the successful repair of the diaphragm with the help of local flap, abdomen and thorax were closed," he said. He added that after the completion of surgery, the patients were shifted to PICU, Trauma Centre, on mechanical ventilation.

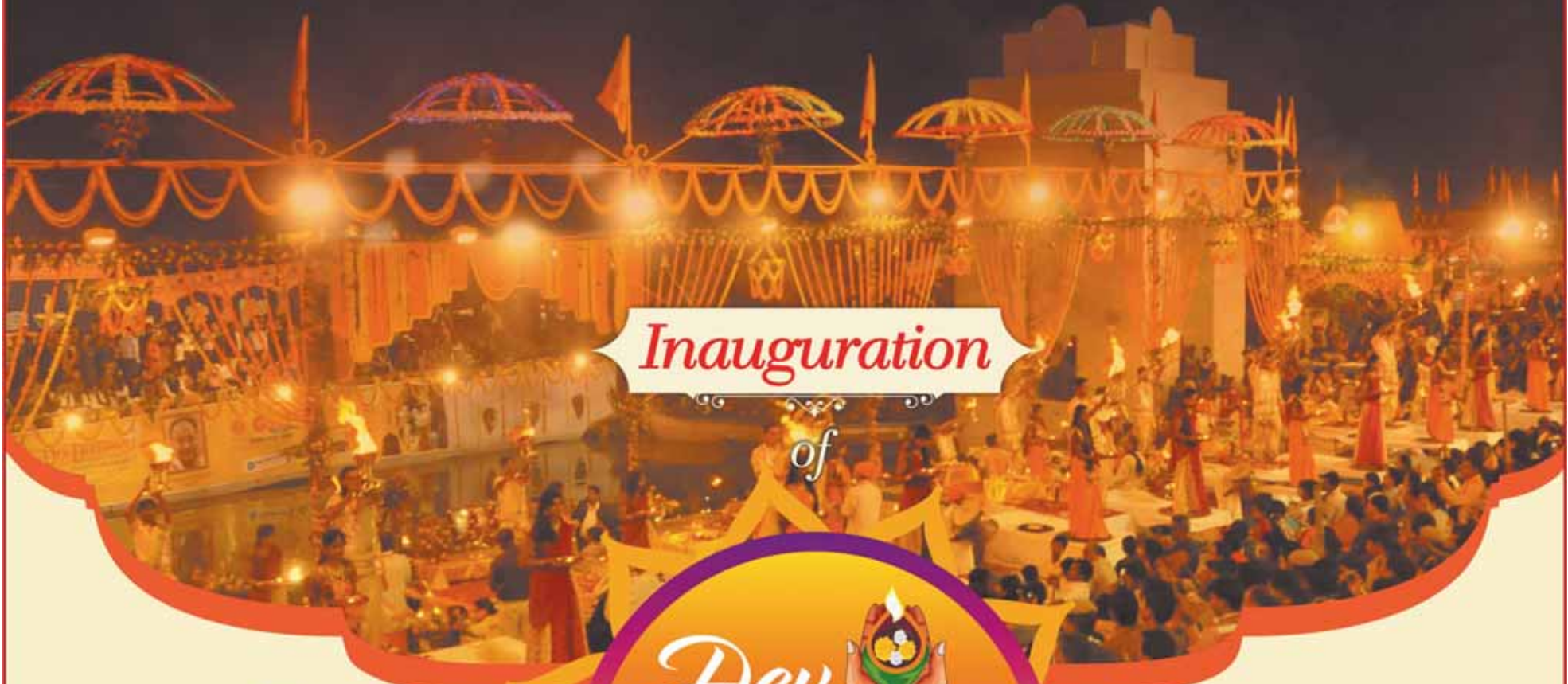
Ram was extubated on the next day after the surgery, but Shyam required mechanical ventilation for the next 10 days. Both the children are healthy now and awaiting discharge. Successfully completing such a challenging surgery and treatment under the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme by the Central government s a big achievement for KGMU.





Dev Deepawali in Kashi
A fusion of divinity, tranquility and spirituality






Uttar Pradesh
UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM
U.P. nahi dekha,
toh India nahi dekha.



Inauguration
of
Dev Deepawali
VARANASI
30th November, 2020

by
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
in the august presence of
Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
and other Distinguished Dignitaries


Watch live telecast on
DD National/Uttar Pradesh,
[Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh](https://www.youtube.com/dduttarpradesh)
and connect on
social media handles
 **UPGovtOfficial**
 **CMOUTtarpradesh**
 **CMOfficeUP**

Date: 30th November, 2020 | Time: 4:00 PM | Venue: Rajghat, Varanasi

Main Attractions

- Lighting of more than **11 lakh** earthen lamps on both sides of the bank and ghats of the holy river Ganga
- Digital Dev Deepawali for the first time in Kashi
- Mesmerising Laser Show
- Launch of Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department's website '**Pawan Path**' to provide information of prominent religious places in Varanasi
- Cultural programmes at Rajghat and other main ghats
- Light and Sound show at Sarnath

Do Gaj Ki Doori, Mask Hai Jaroori



Medical Helpline: 1800-180-5145



Yogi govt has enhanced sweetness of sugarcane for growers and mills

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has claimed that the Yogi Adityanath-led Bharatiya Janata Party regime has taken a series of measures during the past nearly four years for the welfare and overall uplift of the sugarcane farmers and the sugar industry. “The Yogi Adityanath government has enhanced the sweetness of the sugarcane by increasing the daily cane crushing capacity of the sugar mills, fresh capacity addition for production of khandasari and ethanol and also record payment to the farmers by the sugar mills,” said an official. He said, “The sweetness of sugarcane, which has been bitter for farmers due to mounting cane arrears during the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party regimes, has now returned.”

Clearing the arrears of the farmers was a major challenge before the Yogi Adityanath government, which assumed office in March 2017. During the past three cane crushing seasons, the sugar mills have made a record payment of over Rs 1.12 lakh crore to the farmers.

Along with the payment, the gov-

ernment focused on modernisation of old mills and opening of new mills. In this order, capacity of 11 mills was increased and new mills with state-of-the-art capacity were set up at Pipraich in Gorakhpur, Mundera in Basti and Ramala in Baghpat. These mills were closed during the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party regimes.

For the first time after 25 years, the government made an arrangement to issue online licences to khandasari units within 100 hours to crush sugarcane at the local level. It also had units already under its purview. So far licences have been issued to 105 units, thus adding fresh cane crushing capacity 27,850 MT per day. In order to add to the revenue of the sugar mills, co-generation plants are also being set up by the sugar mills and the present power generation by them is 2000 MW.

The government is trying to make sugarcane green gold through ethanol. UP has become the top producer of ethanol having produced about 126.10 crore litres. A total of 50 distilleries are making ethanol.

Last year, two mills were making ethanol from heavy

molasses. This year the number has increased to 20. Ever since the coronavirus pandemic broke out in March this year, 1.77 crore litres of sanitiser has been produced during a period of nine months. From March 24 to November 15, the state's sugar industry generated additional revenue of Rs 137 crore by producing a record quantity of sanitiser. According to the Excise department, 78.38 lakh litre sanitiser has been sold outside UP. A total of 87.01 lakh litre of sanitiser has been sold in UP. Total sale of sanitiser has been 165.39 lakh litres.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued directions that until the entire sugarcane crop is harvested, the sugar mills will continue cane crushing. UP tops in sugar production in India as 51 percent of the total area of sugarcane and 50 percent of the production and 38 percent of the sugar is produced in the state. Out of the total sugar mills in India, 119 are in Uttar Pradesh. Out of about 48 lakh sugarcane farmers in UP more than 46 lakh supply sugarcane to sugar mills. The sugar industry in UP employs about 6.50 lakh people directly and indirectly.

Campaigning ends for Council polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The stage is set for a crucial battle of ballots in the biennial polls for the 11 seats of graduates and teachers constituencies of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, the campaigning for which ended on Sunday. The polling will be held on December 1 from 8 am to 5 pm and counting of votes will be taken up on December 3. As many as 199 candidates are in the fray from five graduates and six teachers constituencies spread across the state.

Election Commission sources here said on Sunday that all arrangements were in place for smooth and transparent conduct of the polls and the polling parties would reach their polling booths on Monday.

All the liquor shops will be closed with the end of campaigning and will reopen only after the end of polling. The COVID-19 protocol will be enforced during the polling with face masks, social distancing and hand washing being made compulsory.

The graduate constituencies where the biennial polls are being held are Lucknow division, Varanasi division, Agra division, Meerut

division and Allahabad-Jhansi division. Polling for the teachers' constituencies will be held in Lucknow division, Varanasi division, Agra division, Meerut division, Bareilly-Moradabad division and Gorakhpur-Faizabad.

Out of the 75 districts in UP, polling will be held in 72 districts.

These 11 seats fell vacant on May 6 last and the elections were delayed for six months due to COVID-19 pandemic.

There are 22 candidates in the fray for the Agra graduate seat, 16 in Allahabad-Jhansi, 24 in Lucknow, 30 in Meerut and 22 in Varanasi.

There are 16 candidates in the fray for the Agra teachers seat, 15 in Bareilly-Moradabad, 11 in Lucknow, 15 in Meerut and 12 in Varanasi. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, which is contesting these polls for the first time, has fielded candidates from nine seats and will support independent candidates on two seats.

The BJP candidates are Avith Kumar Singh (Lucknow-graduate), Kedarnath Singh (Varanasi-graduate), Manvendra Pratap Singh (Agra-graduate), Dinesh Kumar Goel (Meerut-graduate) and Dr

Yogesh Dutt Sharma (Allahabad-Jhansi graduate). Four BJP candidates from the teachers constituencies are Umesh Dwivedi (Lucknow), Dinesh Chandra Vasishth (Agra), Shrichand Sharma (Meerut) and Dr Hari Singh Dhillon (Bareilly-Moradabad). The Congress candidates are, Rajesh Dwivedi (Agra graduate), Jitendra Kumar (Meerut-teachers), Ajay Kumar Singh (Allahabad-Jhansi graduate), Brajesh Kumar Singh (Lucknow-graduate), Sanjeev Singh (Varanasi-graduate), Nagendra Dutt Tripathi (Gorakhpur-Faizabad, teachers) and Dr Mehndi Hassan (Bareilly-Moradabad, teachers).

Samajwadi Party candidates are Dr Aseem (Agra), Shamshad Ali (Meerut), Ram Singh Rana (Lucknow), Ashutosh Sinha (Varanasi) and Dr Maan Singh (Allahabad-Jhansi), all from graduate constituencies, and Umashanker Choudhury Patel (Lucknow), Lal Bihar (Varanasi), Sanjay Kumar Mishra (Bareilly-Moradabad) Dharmendra Kumar (Meerut), Harendra Choudhury (Agra) and Awadhesh (Gorakhpur-Faizabad) from teachers constituencies.

Call to take up research on impact on brain post-Covid-19

Lucknow (PNS): Director of Centre of Biomedical Research Alok Dhawan said he recently had a meeting with SGPGI director Dr RK Dhiman and discussed taking up research on the impact of brain after coronavirus infection. “Some pre-entations will be made in this regard in the coming week. The SGPGI director also suggested taking up research on brain after liver transplant surgeries. More clarity will prevail when we hold a meeting this week on larger issues of how the institutes should collaborate,” he said. About the institute, he said the mandate is to come up with markers and diagnostics at an early stage for patient care focusing on non-invasive methods. He said the institute is under the state government and his effort would be to amplify its reach so that more and more people get benefitted.

LMC inaugurates utensil bank

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Municipal Corporation inaugurated a utensil bank at Jiamau Kalyan Mandap on Sunday. It was inaugurated by Municipal Commissioner Ajay Dwivedi and mayor Sanyukta Bhatia. Speaking on the occasion, Dwivedi said the aim of the utensil bank was to minimise the usage of the single-use disposables.

He said they started off with 500 steel utensils, which were donated by Amarnath Mishra and Vinod Agarwal under CSR initiative. “This



facility will be without charges and for every 100 utensils taken for programmes, people should return 101

so that this bank can be a long-term venture. Those who want to donate utensils can contact LMC,” he said.

“We appeal to people to use these utensils instead of disposables. People who borrow these utensils should clean before returning. We appeal to all the vendors supplying for parties and marriages that disposables should not be used,” he said.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Energy Minister Shrikant Sharma has directed the UP Power Corporation Limited to ensure there is no power tripping in any district headquarters, including those in the National Capital Region, by next summer.

Sharma issued these instructions to the UPPCL chief during an inspection in Noida.

He also directed the company responsible for transmission and distribution of electricity in the state to ensure uninterrupted power supply in all tehsils and villages as per schedule.

“The NCR is being made tripping-free. By next summer, all district headquarters should become tripping-free and tehsils and villages should get uninterrupted power supply as per the roster. The UPPCL chairman should ensure this,” Sharma said.

After the inspection of a sub-station in Sector 29 of Noida, the minister went to some residential sectors on a bicycle along with an entourage to take feedback from the residents on issues such as billing and supply system.

Sharma said he had instructed officials to ensure that correct bills were generated at the right time for power consumers so that



there was less line loss and people were not harassed. Sharma interacted with the locals and also appealed to the public to clear their power dues in time.

“If consumers clear their dues in time, not only will it help the debt-ridden power company overcome losses but also pave the way for cheaper rates of electricity,” the minister said. He also highlighted the ‘No Disconnection, Knock the Door’ initiative of his ministry and asked power officials to not disconnect power supply of consumers who have a clearance backlog of three months but knock their doors and talk them into resolving issues, if any.

PM: Statue of Goddess Annapurna being brought from Canada

Lucknow (PNS): A day before the Dev Deepawali programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared the good news with the people of Varanasi about the return of an ancient statue of Goddess Annapurna from Canada to India.

While addressing the nation during Mann Ki Baat on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “Every Indian would feel proud to know that an ancient idol of Maa Annapurna is being brought back from Canada to India.” Over 100 years ago in 1913, this idol was stolen from a temple in Varanasi and smuggled out of the country. In the 71st episode of his monthly radio programme, explaining the connection of Maa Annapurna with Varanasi, the prime minister said: “Mata Annapurna has a very special bond with Kashi. And the return of the idol is very pleasant for all of us. Like the statue of Mata Annapurna, many of our heritage has been victims of international gangs.”

It is worth mentioning that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be celebrating this world-famous Dev Deepawali festival in his parliamentary constituency on Monday.

The prime minister will light the first diya at Raighat to start the illumination of all 80 ghats that will be decked up with over 10 lakh diyas and colourful lights.

61% consumers not satisfied with smart meters

Lucknow (PNS): Around 61 percent of the power consumers using smart meters under Madhyanchal Viduyt Vitaran Nigam Ltd (MVVNL) have expressed their dissatisfaction with the functioning of these meters, as per a survey conducted by the corporation.

The information was received on the 1912 toll-free number of the power utility, which had sought feedback from the smart meter power consumers of the Madhyanchal region. According to sources, out of the total 2,230 consumers who gave their feedback on Saturday, 61 percent expressed their resentment at the functioning of the smart meters, 38 percent were satisfied while 488 consumers did not give their comment. There are around 12 lakh power consumers under the MVVNL and the state government has launched a project to get feedback from the consumers from Saturday. A total of 1,067 consumers expressed dissatisfaction, 669 were satisfied and six were fully satisfied.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Rajya Upphokta Parishad chairman Awadhesh Kumar Verma has appealed to the smart meter power consumers to write their honest feedback on the 1912 toll-free number so that the government should know how the power companies are duping them.

(1) NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No. 124/2020
IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR RAIL PASSENGERS
It is notified for information of general public that following Special Express trains will run from 01.12.2020 as per revised time table as under :-

(1) 04650/04649 Amritsar -Jaynagar- Amritsar Saryu Yamuna Express Special Train
Ex. Amritsar- From 02.12.2020, Ex. Jaynagar- From 04.12.2020
Frequency : Tri- weekly, Amritsar - Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, Jaynagar -Tuesday, Friday, Sunday

Timings and stoppages

04650 STATIONS		04649	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.

-	13:05	Amritsar	16:40	-
13:33	13:35	Beas	15:37	15:39
14:12	14:19	Jalandhar City	14:58	15:05
14:28	14:30	Jalandhar Cantt	14:43	14:45
14:43	14:45	Phagwara	14:23	14:25
15:22	15:24	Phillaur	14:03	14:05
15:45	15:55	Ludhiana	13:40	13:50
16:40	16:42	Khanna	12:46	12:48
16:50	16:52	Govindgarh	12:25	12:27
17:03	17:05	Sirhind	12:16	12:18
17:22	17:24	Rajpura	11:53	11:55
17:45	17:47	Ambala City	11:36	11:38
18:10	18:18	Amabala Cantt	11:20	11:25
19:05	19:20	Yamunanagar Jagadhri	10:26	10:28
20:00	20:15	Saharanpur	09:50	10:00
20:45	20:47	Roorkee	08:53	08:58
21:05	21:10	Laksar	08:30	08:35
22:00	22:10	Najibabad	07:45	07:50
23:02	23:07	Kanth	06:43	06:45
00:10	00:20	Moradabad	06:05	06:13
00:53	00:55	Rampur	05:18	05:20
01:55	01:57	Barailly	04:21	04:23
03:03	03:05	Shahjehanpur	03:19	03:21
06:10	06:20	Lucknow	00:45	00:55
07:06	07:08	Barabanki	23:53	23:55
		Rudauli	22:51	22:53
08:33	08:38	Faizabad	22:15	22:20
08:55	08:57	Ayodhya	21:51	21:53
09:43	09:45	Akbarpur	21:06	21:08
10:55	11:20	Sahganj	20:05	20:30
11:40	11:42	Khorason	19:11	19:13
		Sarai Mir	18:52	18:54
12:29	12:34	Azamgarh	18:25	18:30
		Sathiaon	18:03	18:05
12:57	12:59	Muhammabad	17:51	17:53
13:18	13:23	Mau	17:20	17:25
13:36	13:38	Indara	17:03	17:05
14:06	14:08	Rasra	16:30	16:32
14:37	14:42	Ballia	15:45	15:50
		Sahatwar	15:24	15:25
15:50	15:52	Suraimanpur	15:02	15:04
16:40	16:50	Chhapra	14:20	14:30
18:05	18:10	Hajipur	12:40	12:45
19:25	19:30	Muzaffarpur	11:45	11:50
21:05	21:30	Samastipur	10:30	10:50
21:52	21:54	Haiyaghat	09:26	09:28
22:06	22:08	Laheria Sarai	09:10	09:12
22:15	22:25	Darbhanga	08:53	09:03
22:48	22:50	Sakri	08:10	08:12
23:03	23:05	Madhubani	07:54	07:56
23:14	23:16	Rajnagar	07:43	07:45
23:25	23:27	Khajauli	07:32	07:34
00:30	-	Jaynagar	-	07:20

(2) 02004/02003 New Delhi - Lucknow-New Delhi Shatabdi Special Train

Ex. New Delhi :- From 01.12.2020 Daily,
Ex. Lucknow :- From 01.12.2020 Daily, Frequency : Daily

Timings and stoppages

02004 STATIONS		02003	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.

-	06:10	New Delhi	22:20	-
06:40	06:42	Ghaziabad	21:33	21:35
07:47	07:49	Aligarh	20:10	20:12
08:45	08:47	Tundla	19:20	19:22
09:40	09:42	Etawah	18:12	18:14
11:20	11:25	Kanpur Central	16:48	16:53
12:50	-	Lucknow	-	15:35

(3) 04006/04005 Anand Vihar (T) - Sitamarhi - Anand Vihar (T) Express Special Train

Ex. Anand Vihar (T) - From 01.12.2020 Daily,
Ex. Sitamarhi- From 01.12.2020 Daily,
Frequency : Daily,

Timings and stoppages

04006		STATIONS		04005	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.

-	18:00	Anand Vihar (T)	4:30	-	
18:27	18:29	Ghaziabad	03:53	03:55	
18:50	18:52	Dadri			
19:25	19:27	Khurja	02:23	02:25	
19:58	20:00	Aligarh	01:40	01:42	
21:05	21:07	Tundla			
00:15	00:20	Kanpur Central	20:00	21:00	
03:15	03:20	Prayagraj	18:00	18:10	
03:40	03:42	Prayagraj Rambag	17:41	17:43	
04:42	04:44	Gyanpur Road	15:59	16:01	
		Madhosingh	15:25	15:27	
05:26	05:27	Bhulanpur	14:52	14:53	
06:00	06:10	Varanasi	14:25	14:40	
06:32	06:34	Sarnath			
07:18	07:20	Jakhnian	13:13	13:15	
08:07	08:12	Mau	12:42	12:47	
09:05	09:07	Belthara Road	12:08	12:10	
09:23	09:25	Lar Road	11:51	11:53	
09:36	09:37	Salempur	11:38	11:40	
09:57	10:10	Bhatni	11:00	11:25	
10:39	10:41	Bhatpur Rani	10:40	10:42	
10:55	10:57	Mairwa	10:24	10:26	
11:11	11:13	Jiradei	10:09	10:11	
11:42	11:47	Siwan	09:50	09:55	
12:04	12:06	Duraundha	09:14	09:16	
12:16	12:18	Chainwa	08:57	08:59	
12:44	12:46	Krma	08:45	08:46	
13:30	13:40	Chhapra	08:10	08:20	
14:10	14:12	Goldinganj	07:08	07:10	
14:19	14:20	Dumri Juara	06:58	06:59	
14:26	14:28	Bara Gopal	06:51	06:53	
14:41	14:43	Dighwara	06:32	06:34	
14:49	14:51	Sitalpur	06:24	06:26	
15:18	15:20	Sonpur	05:55	05:57	
15:30	15:35	Hajipur	05:40	05:45	
15:52	15:54	Bhagwanpur	05:10	05:12	
16:02	16:04	Goraul	04:59	05:01	
18:20	18:50	Muzaffarpur	04:05	04:35	
20:20	-	Sitamarhi	-	02:30	

(4) 02436/02435 New Delhi -Varanasi-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express Special Train

Ex. New Delhi- From 01.12.2020, Ex. Varanasi - From 01.12.2020
Frequency : 5 Days a Week, Ex. New Delhi - Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Ex. Varanasi - Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Timings and stoppages

02436		STATIONS		02435	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.

-	06:00	New Delhi	23:00	-	
10:08	10:10	Kanpur Central	18:24	18:26	
12:08	12:10	Prayagraj	16:35	16:37	
14:00	-	Varanasi	-	15:00	

(5) 02234/02233 Anand Vihar (T) - Ghazipur City - Anand Vihar (T) Express Special Train

Ex. Anand Vihar (T) - From 04.12.2020 every Monday & Friday,
Ex. Ghazipur City - From 05.12.2020 every Tuesday & Saturday,
Frequency: Bi-weekly,

Timings and stoppages

02234		STATIONS		02233	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.

Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
-	20:20	Anand Vihar (T)	05:35	-
20:47	20:49	Ghaziabad	04:58	05:00
01:15	01:20	Kanpur Central	22:46	22:51
04:00	04:05	Prayagraj	20:25	20:30
05:28	05:30	Janghai	18:27	18:30
06:59	07:00	Zafarabad	17:07	17:08
07:40	07:45	Jaunpur	16:50	16:55
08:13	08:15	Dobhi	15:54	15:56
08:32	08:34	Aunihar	15:33	15:35
09:30	-	Ghaziपुर City	-	15:00

Stage set for grand Dev Deepawali festival today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Since the nationwide lockdown, Dev Deepawali will be the first festival which is going to be celebrated in this ancient city in a grand way on Monday evening. As the festival will also be attended by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this time it would give a grandeur shape when about 11 lakh diyas (earthen lamps) would be glittered and the entire ghats would be lighted with attractive lighting arrangements. Besides, cultural programmes will be staged at 15 ghats. Apart from lighting of lakhs of diyas (earthen lamps) on the stairs of its 84-odd ghats of river Ganga, the same would also be lit at various famous kunds, ponds, Varuna ghats, religious maths and some buildings located near the banks of river Ganga on the auspicious occasion of Karthik Purnima.

Dev Deepawali has emerged as one of biggest attractions of the city when thousands of tourists come here from across the world. The lighting of Hazara at Panchganga Ghat will also be one of the main attractions of the day.

As Karthik Purnima is also an auspicious occasion for the Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains, all



Ghats decorated with attractive lights on eve of Dev Deepawali festival in Varanasi on Sunday evening

Pioneer

the Gurdwaras have already lighted with attractive lighting arrangements for the last few days to celebrate the Prakashutsav of Guru Nanak Dev while for last three days, there is festive mood in Buddhist township of Sarnath where on Monday, the ashes of Lord Buddha would be carried out in a grand procession attended by devotees from several Buddhist nations.

The main function of Dev Deepawali will be Dashaswamedh and its adjoining ghats where Ganga-aarti will be performed under the auspices of Ganga Sewa Nidhi. The programme will begin with wreath lying at replica of Amar Jawan Jyoti by GSN members, CRPF, NDRF, 39 GTC and 4- Air Force Selection Board. Besides, at the adjoining Old Dashshwamedh Ghat,

under the auspices of Gangotri Sewa Samiti (GSS), thousands of earthen lamps will also be lighted followed by Maha Ganga Aarti by 21 Batuks and 42 Ridhi-siddhis.

According to president of GSS Pt. Kishori Raman Dubey, the programme will be dedicated to personnel of PAC and cops who laid down their lives while discharging their duties.

Administration bans pvt drone cameras till December 1

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

There will be restriction on the operation of private drone cameras in the district till December 1 in view of the rush of devotees and tourists on the auspicious occasion of Dev Deepawali on Monday. Though, the drone camera operated by the police and security agencies will remain free from the restriction. At same time, the boating in the river from Rajghat to Lalita Ghat will remain suspended till 6.30 pm on the auspicious day. Besides, there will also be traffic restrictions in the city because of the rush of people at ghats.

It may be said here that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be coming to city on Monday. Besides, addressing a public meeting the PM will also watch the grandeur of Dev Deepawali at Rajghat,

laser show at Chet Singh Ghat and light & sound show at Sarnath. He will also have a glance of the beauty of ghats by boat. The ghats and the sands across the river will be glittered with the lakhs of earthen lamps on the occasion of Dev Deepawali after 5.15 pm on Monday. The first diya is to be lit by the PM at 5.15 pm at Rajghat under the celebration.

In view of the proposed visit of the PM and rush of the devotees and tourists, the District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma has imposed section 144 of CrPC in the district and also imposed a complete restriction on the operation of drone camera in the district including ghats because of the security purpose. But the drone camera operated by the police and security agencies will remain free of the restriction. The legal action will be

ascertained against those found violating this order, the DM informed.

To have a glance of the beauty of ghats on the auspicious day, the devotees and tourists use boats to go from one ghat to another ghat. To ensure the celebration pollution-free and following the security measures, the district administration has imposed some restrictions on boating. The tourists and common men could make boating from Assi Ghat to Lalita Ghat like the earlier years. But the boating between Rajghat and Lalita Ghat will remain suspended till 6.30 pm on Monday because of the movement of big boats of high level security. The floating dividers have been made in the river between Rajghat and Lalita Ghat and boats of common men will be between ghat and divider while the

VVIP movement will be between divider and across the river to avoid inconvenience to the common people, the DM informed. There will also be restrictions on the fireworks by Monday to ensure visibility. The cultural programmes could be held at ghats like the previous years but the DJ could not be used with loud sound. The traffic police have imposed restrictions on many routes in view of rush of people at ghats. The restriction will remain effective from 3 am to 10 am in the morning and from 3 pm to the end of celebration in the evening on Monday. The routes which have been declared no-vehicle zone include from Bhadauchungi to Bhainsasur Ghat, Maidagin to Godowlia, Sonarpura to Beniabagh, Agrawal tri-junction to Assi Ghat, BoB tri-junction to Assi Ghat.

97 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The number of COVID-19 patients in the district has crossed 19k-mark as with the finding of 97 new positive patients the total number of cases has increased to 19,068 on Sunday. The day saw one more death, increasing the toll to 306. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 115 and 113 of them have been recovered from home isolation while two from the hospitals, increasing the number to 15,109 and 2,864 respectively. The total number of

patients who have been recovered so far is 17,973, leaving 789 active cases. The recovery rate is 94.25 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, 53 positive patients were found out of 4,084 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,20,171 and the results of 2,535 are awaited. Out of them, 4,01,147 were negative, while 19,024 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,41,247. Earlier, a male aged 67 from

Rohania 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 2,488 including 209 red zones. There are 2,279 green zones with four new ones.

Meanwhile, the CMO said that breaking the corona chain is not the responsibility of any individual but of the entire society and carelessness of one may cause problems not only for the one's but also for the whole society. Dr Singh said

that as the corona infection is not yet over so it is very important to be cautious about the pandemic. In our fight against corona, the pandemic can be defeated with caution, not with carelessness. He said that due to the reduced number of patients in the last week of September and October, many felt that it was an end of corona infection, whereas this was a big mistake and as due to the negligence, the number of patients has restarted increasing, once again. He appealed to all to follow all the COVID-19 guidelines.

Ganga Mitras receive awards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Maa Ganga Utsav Samman Samaroh-2020 was organised here on Saturday in which the chief guest was eminent environmental scientist and chairman of Mahamana Malviya Ganga Research Centre, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof BD Tripathi. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Tripathi praised Ganga Mitras for doing all their tasks given to them under Namami Gange and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) successfully so far. He further said that for the first time, Jal Shakti Ministry is discussing about providing training to the Ganga Mitras.

Praising the roles and contributions of Ganga Mitras, Alok Mohan Upadhyay from

Lucknow shared his experiences and expressed hope that in the coming days, the results of their training would be seen. Anita, a teacher of Maddhopur Primary School, said that Ganga Mitras are the ground workers of the Task Force.

Later, awards were presented. Ajmer Alam received first prize in live painting contest and received gold medal from Prof Tripathi. The other winners also received certificates, medals and copies of Namami Gange souvenir. The function was conducted by Nandini Gupta, while vote of thanks was proposed by C Shekhar. The function was also attended by Vaibhav Pandey, Ghanshyam Patel, Pankaj Singh, Dharmendra Patel, Rohit

Singh, Vaishnavi and Sneha. **BJP WORKERS LISTEN TO MODI:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and workers on Sunday listened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who talked to the nation under his programme 'Man Ki Baat'.

During his speech the PM remembered Nanaji Deshmukh and while talking about a reference related to him, he said that it was Nanaji Deshmukh who saved Jaiprakash Narayan by laying on him when the police had resorted to lathicharge during the movement. The movement was led by Jaiprakash Narayan and it was the first movement against corruption in Independent India, the PM added.

The BJP leaders gathered

at Nadesar to listen to Modi and said that the PM discussed the simplicity of Lal Bahadur Shastri with Mahatma Gandhi and added, had the country followed the economic policy of Mahatma Gandhi, there would be no need of the programme like Atm Nirbhar Bharat.

The PM emphasised on apprising the new generation with the stories related to our traditions.

The PM also lauded the farmers who do not bewilder even in adverse situations and they showed such capability during the corona crisis.

The state minister Anil Rajbhar, Dharmendra Singh, Dr Mannu Yadav, Ashok Vishwakarma and others were present on the occasion.

Goyal inaugurates rly electrification line

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On Sunday, the Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the railway electrification line by flagging off the goods train on the traction at Digavada station to Bandikui station.

Rail was being operated from Delhi Sarai Rohilla to Ajmer in the east by diesel engine. In view of this, the Government of India, Ministry of Railways decided to electrify the railways on this route in the year 2013-14. The executing organisation for this work was entrusted with the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) at Prayagraj.

CORE approved the work of 446 route kilometres and 1065 track kilometres of railway electrification from Delhi Sarai Rohilla to Madar in the year 2013-14 and handed over to railway electrification executing team project Jaipur for its implementation. In which 82 route kilometres from Alwar to Rewari had already been completed. And when the rail line from Bandikui to Digavada station was doubled, electrification was done separately on one line. This work was completed in various stages. This included Delhi Sarai Rohilla to Rewari, Rewari to Alwar, Alwar



to Bandikui, Bandikui to Bassi, Bassi to Kanakpura (including Jaipur), Kanakpura to Phulera, Phulera to Madar (Ajmer), Bandikui to Digavada (Single Line).

Now the railway electrification work from Delhi Sarai Rohilla to Madar (Ajmer) has been completed and Railway Safety Commissioner Western Circle Mumbai has also given permission to run the train on electric traction after inspection.

Though this work was going on for a long time, after the induction of YP Singh to the post of General Manager in the CORE, it intensified. It has a total of 23,418 foundations, 26 switching stations, 6 traction substations and 7 OHE depots, as well as 15000 MT steel,

2000 MT copper conductor was used in it. The estimated cost of electrical, civil, signalling and telecom works has been ₹ 738 crore.

This commendable achievement has been achieved by the team of the Railway Electrification Project Jaipur under the direction of Central Organisation for Railway Electrification, Prayagraj.

Rail Electrification and subsequent Electric Traction will give a boost to Green India initiatives in Indian Railways. The early completion of railway electrification will result in environmental security as well as economic and financial benefits to the country.

Rail electrification will reduce carbon footprint while

reducing dependence on diesel engines and is expected to save crores of foreign exchange annually by reducing fuel imports.

Thus, it is expected that the electrification of various segments on the Indian Railways will result in substantial savings in fuel costs.

In addition, electrification will help to make the mobility of trains more reliable and powerful. It is also expected to significantly increase the line capacity to run more trains in the section.

YP Singh General Manager, CORE Prayagraj has congratulated the entire team of the Railway Electrification Project Jaipur for setting up a new rail electrification line despite the tough challenges.

Pharma cos secretly increasing price of medicines every third month

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Pharma companies are blaming the government's efforts by increasing the prices of essential medicines during the corona transition period. Contrary to claims of providing cheap medicines to people, pharma companies are secretly increasing the price by 20 to 30 per cent of medicines every third month. People's pockets are being emptied due to rising prices of Azithromycin, an antibiotic considered inexpensive and safe along with certain medicines, and the Nimolid given in pain and fever.

According to drug market experts, as demand for medicines increases, pharma companies secretly change batch numbers and send them to stocks with increased prices. The shopkeepers also come to know when they receive the invoice. This arbitrariness of companies is overshadowing not only the drug dealers but also the patients.

Drug traders believed that as demand for medicines

increases, companies are increasing their prices. The compulsion leads to increased sales at forced rates. Medical stores operators of wholesale merchants and retail drug dealers have customers here. The need of medicine forces patients to pay more.

A month after the corona period began, the best-selling drug for nail-acne isotroin capsules was priced at ₹150 to 160 from April, while now it has been priced from ₹250 to ₹270. Similarly, ten graeme tubes of anti fungal cream luloconazole were priced at ₹ 120 about six months ago. In November, its price has been increased from ₹150 to 170. Another drug Ketoconazole was priced from ₹ 60 to 65 six months ago, for which now patients have to pay ₹90 to 120. Patients need these medicines till the completion of the course. It is not possible to change medicines every day in the treatment of skin, so patients are buying these medicines at increased prices under compulsion.

The wholesale, retail drug

dealers, who were troubled by the daily routine of talking to the representatives of the pharma companies, had their answer, avoiding the China market is the reason for the rise in the price of medicines. According to drug representatives, the salt that used to come from China for ₹ 4,000 to 6,000, companies have to pay about one-and-a-half times the price when it is imported from Singapore, Malaysia.

Antibiotic salts are being sourced from abroad to maintain the quality and adherence to the drug, as they do not have availability under patent laws in their own country. This is the reason for the rise in the price of some medicines.

Manufacturers of patent medicines have increased the prices of some medicines. Contrary to this, except for one or two medicines, the price of generic medicines is still undone. Efforts are made to make the availability of medicines in the market, so buying and selling medicines has to be done at higher prices, said

Anil Dubey, president Allahabad Chemist and Druggist Association.

The pricing of medicines is done by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. Companies take permission before raising prices of medicines. At the local level, it is not the price of medicines but their availability and black marketing that is monitored. Our teams monitor if drugs are not sold for more than the prescribed price. At the moment, there have been no complaints of overcharging, said Govind Lal Gupta, Drug Inspector

Due to increase in the prices of some medicines, the retail seller has to be compelled in facing the brunt of customers and patients. The simple solution to this is to leave profits and get charged. Objection has been lodged from companies and wholesalers in this regard. Efforts are on to make patent medicines available to the patients at low prices. This was said by Rana Chawla, president Prayag Chemist Association (Retail).

75 new Covid cases in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of people who got infection-free from corona on Saturday was almost double that of the new infected. About 133 people became infection-free, while 75 new cases of coronavirus were reported in the last 24 hours. An elderly resident of Etah died due to corona. He came here to meet his daughter. After coming positive, he was first admitted to Bel then shifted to SRN Hospital after his condition deteriorated.

The new corona infected included four teachers, SRN's Ward Boy, an employee of Allahabad University, a finance company's recovery agent, NTPC Meja's Senior Manager,

District Crime Prevention Committee's ward officer. Dr Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer of Corona confirmed this.

Dr Sahai informed that the total number of infected people in the district has increased to 26,446 with the 75 new infections. Of them, a total of 25,110 people became infection-free. On Saturday, 29 people have been discharged from the hospital while home isolation of 104 has been completed. Apart from this, 5,291 people have been tested. He reported that the 85-year-old elderly man who died of corona had various other illnesses.

After his condition deteriorated, he went to a private hospital for treatment. During testing, he was found positive

for COVID-19. He was then admitted to Bel Hospital. When the condition became serious there, he was shifted to SRN Hospital where he died on Friday night. Earlier, a total of 341 people in the district have died due to corona.

TRADER'S BODY FOUND: The cloth merchant of Meja who had been kidnapped on Friday, was found dead on Saturday evening, causing tension in the village.

Local police and the Crime Branch are trying to solve this murder mystery.

According to reports Vijay Kumar, a cloth merchant pulled down the shutter of his shop on Friday evening in Soraon area, under the Meja police station, and approached towards his

residence.

The police investigation have revealed so far that some Bolero borne miscreants intercepted the trader on his way home and dumped him in their vehicle.

Later the glasses and some other belongings of Vijay Kumar were found lying on the roadside.

The family members approached the police and suspected kidnapping of Vijay, but nothing could be done.

On Saturday evening a body was found in Madauka area of Naini, and the family members identified it as of Vijay.

Cause behind this kidnapping and murder is still not clear.

NCR loco pilots donate blood

ALLAHABAD (PNS): North Central Railway loco pilots on Sunday presented an unprecedented example of human service by donating blood for an emergency case who needed four units of blood. The NCR-LABSS has so far made available over 200 units of blood and platelets.

Prayagraj division of the NCR besides being one of the busiest division and maintaining punctuality of trains, safety and security of passengers, and providing best possible amenities, is not at all lagging behind in human service and social obligations.

As soon as the running staff of pilot and guard lobby came to know about the urgent

need of four units of blood on Sunday, loco pilot Praveen Kumar and Ravi Kumar volunteered for blood donation and saved the life of an accident victim. The running staff of the pilot and guard lobby have been donating blood on a regular basis at Allahabad Medical Association blood donation camps. During corona period the Prayagraj division staff fearlessly donated blood, clothes, and eatables for the needy persons. Those who have recovered from corona are ready for plasma donation.

BEO'S MAIN EXAM TO BE HELD ON DEC 6: The Main Examination of Block Education Officer (BEO)-2019 will be held on December 6.

Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) on Friday released the admit cards of the candidates. Admit cards are available on the official website of the commission.

The main examination for recruitment of 309 posts of BEO will be held in three districts of Prayagraj, Lucknow and Ghaziabad on December 6. The examination will be conducted in two sessions. There will be general studies in the first shift of 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and general Hindi and essay will be conducted in the second shift that will last from 2 pm to 5 pm.

According to Exam Controller Arvind Kumar Mishra, the candidate will be

present at the examination centre with e-Admit Card and ID-proof and two photographs downloaded from the website of Commission.

The BEO preliminary examination was held on August 16 in 1127 centres of 18 districts of the state. The examination was held in the afternoon from 12 noon to 2 pm. 5,28,313 candidates were registered for recruitment to 309 posts of BEO and out of which 23,464 candidates had appeared for examination. Attendance was only 44.18 per cent. In the preliminary examination, 4,591 candidates were declared successful, who will now appear in the main examination.



Divisional Commissioner, Kanpur, Raj Shekhar addressing a meeting on tourism promotion at his camp office

Pioneer

Kanpur tourist places to be developed on priority: DC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar, while addressing a meeting at his camp office here on Sunday, said that Kanpur Nagar had several places of mythological importance and the Uttar Pradesh government had decided to lay thrust on modification, promotion and development of the tourist spots on priority.

He said all the prominent places of tourism in Kanpur division need to be identified and an inventory be prepared as to what all could be done to give a facelift to them and ensure that tourists were attracted to these places of

mythological importance.

He said the onus was being placed on Kanpur Nagar Nigam and all this need to be accomplished by March 2021.

The divisional commissioner said that these places needed a facelift by providing facilities like drinking water, streetlights and toilets.

He said there should be proper sign boards showing the direction to these tourist places and all the parks and green spots in these specific areas should be beautified.

He said special beautification drive should be carried out on a war footing at Nana Rao Park.

He said apart from this, a son et lumiere should also be

arranged there and for this a special proposal be prepared.

The divisional commissioner said all these works would be carried out under the Smart City Project.

He said a proposal had been prepared long back for the uplift of Tulsi Upvan and a sound and light show be planned for this place as well.

He said special tourism package be worked out and for this various agencies like Archaeology Survey of India, Kanpur Development Authority and other related department need to work in coordination.

The divisional commissioner directed the ASI to remove encroachments at

Chapraghat on the Bhognipur-Ghatampur route at the earliest. He said encroachments at Jagannath Mandir, Behta should also be removed

He said there were many other tourist spots which should be developed. He asked the Revenue department to identify such places and hand over their details to the ASI.

He also stressed on proper maintenance of all the memorials and cosmetic touches to them to make them attractive.

Those who took part in the meeting included CDO, KDA VC, RTO, tourism officer, additional city commissioner, SP (Traffic), DFO and ASI officials.

Three killed as Roadways bus collides with van

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Three persons, including two women, were killed when a speeding Roadways bus collided head-on with their van on GT road under Shivrajpur police station on Sunday morning.

Two persons seriously injured in the accident were sent to hospital.

The accident badly hit the traffic on the GT road. The traffic movement was restored after the damaged vehicles were removed.

According to reports, Pooranlal (37) of Pipariya, Saurikh (Kannauj) along with father Ram Prakash, Ramkali (42), Maya Devi and Rama (18) son of Kanhaiya Lal of Bilhaur, was returning from Mandhana (Kanpur) hospital on a van. Rinku (21) of the village was driving the van.

Near Dhamni Nivada village of Shivrajpur, a Roadways bus going towards Kannauj collided head-on with the van, killing Ramkali, Maya Devi and Rinku on the spot.

The local police reached the spot and sent the seriously injured Pooranlal and Ram Prakash to hospital. Their



Damaged roadways bus after a mishap in Shivrajpur on Sunday morning Pioneer.

condition was stated to be critical.

MAN STRANGLES 7-YEAR-OLD SON

In a shocking incident, a man strangled his seven-year-old son in Lakadmandi locality under Sisamau police station late Friday night.

After killing the boy, the man sat beside the body throughout the night and himself informed his wife about the incident.

Police arrested the man and registered an FIR against him on the complaint of his wife.

Alankar Srivastava (43)

of Lakadmandi is employed in a private firm and deals in shares. His wife Sarika is a teacher in a primary school in Radaura village of Kannauj. The couple have two daughters, Tulika (16) and Gitika alias Khushi (10), and son Rushank (7).

On Friday night, Alankar gave milk laced with ashwagandha to his three children and sent them to sleep.

Sarika said as Rushank used to sleep with his father, Alankar slept with him in another room. Around 5 am, Alankar informed her that he had set everything right and nobody could harass his son like him as the boy was taking a restful sleep.

Hearing this, Sarika immediately came out of her room and found Rushank dead on the sofa. Hearing her screams, both the daughters also woke up and rushed to the spot.

On the information of neighbours, the police reached the spot and took Alankar into custody. Station House Officer Mahesh Vir Singh said on the complaint of Sarika, an FIR was registered against her husband.

Scientist: Organic farming a holistic production system

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Organic farming in Uttar Pradesh is dangerously threatened by pests and diseases as compared to conventional farming yet it could be successfully managed through manipulation of the agro-ecosystem processes in advantage of the crops. The limited number of active plant protection substances authorised for use in organic farming can provide support to natural and biological control agents in suppression of pests and diseases.

This was stated by Prof SK Singh from CSA University of Agriculture and Technology while addressing a virtual session on 'Pest and disease management for organic farming' at the university on the closing session on Sunday.

He said organic agriculture was a holistic production system that sustained the health of soils, ecosystems, and people. He said it relied

on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions rather than the use of inputs having adverse effects.

Prof Singh said organic agriculture combined tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.

He said organic agriculture relied on a number of farming practices based on ecological cycles and aimed at minimising the environmental impact of the food industry, preserving the long-term sustainability of soil and reducing to a minimum the use of non-renewable resources.

The agricultural scientist said organic agriculture was both a philosophy and a system of farming that aimed at producing food that was nutritious and uncontaminated with substances that

could harm human health

Prof Singh said organic farming benefited the ecosystem by conservation of soil fertility, carbon dioxide storage, fossil fuel reduction, preserving landscape, and preservation of biodiversity.

He said apart from this, pest management in organic farming was achieved by using appropriate cropping techniques, biological control and natural pesticides.

He said weed control, the main problem for organic growers, could be managed through cultural practices, including mechanical cultivation, mulching, and flaming.

He said organic agriculture was guided by four principles, health (soil, plant, animal and human), ecology (living ecological systems and cycles), fairness (environment and life opportunities) and care (protection to health and well-being of current and future generations as well as

the environment).

He said pest management in organic farming was a holistic (whole-farm) approach that largely depended on the ecological processes and biodiversity in the agro-ecosystem. "Accordingly, most IPM tactics, principles, and components match with organic farming systems," Prof Singh said and added that the goal of this strategy was to prevent pests from reaching economically damaging levels without causing risk to the environment.

He said difference between organic and conventional farming with respect to plant protection was that only a few options of plant protection substances were available for certified organic growers compared to conventional farming. He said soil-borne and root pathogens were usually found in low levels in organic farming as compared to conventional farming.

88 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 88 more coronavirus positive cases on Sunday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil K Mishra said that 88 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Saturday evening and Sunday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 30,549 cases. He said that 8 cases were discharged from hospital. He said one COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Sunday evening keeping the death toll to 778. The CMO said at present 1190 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr. Mishra said 4010 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Kanpur to have automatic driving testing track

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Regional Transport Officer S (Administration) Sanjay Singh has expressed concern over the existence of a strong syndicate in the department but added that the process to issue driving licences was made more transparent by introducing slot booking and online test.

He said it was true that thousands had to cool their heels for their driving licence but from now onward those who had got themselves registered in slot booking would have to wait till February for the test.

He said very soon a sensor-based automatic driving testing track would become operational at Panki.

He said in an effort to break the syndicate which was the root cause of corruption, all those interested in obtaining driving licence would have to book their own time slot online and then an OTP number would be sent to them on their mobile phone and he/she would have to reach RTO at the allotted time for the biometric and test which was mandatory.

He said with this, the process of making permanent driving licence would become more transparent.

He appealed to the applicants not to approach touts and to apply online and obtain their time slot and be personally present and smoothly obtain their licence.

CPAO accepts demand of Pensioners' Forum

KANPUR (PNS): Pensioners' Forum general secretary Anand Awasthi, in a press statement issued on Sunday, said that their long-pending demand for endorsement of the PPO number on the passbooks of the pensioners' account with the banks was accepted by the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), New Delhi.

Accordingly, Deputy Controller of Accounts Shahid Kamal Ansari has directed all the heads of CPPCs and government business departments to instruct their bank branches dealing with pension payments to record the PPO number in the passbooks of the pensioners/family pensioners issued by them.

There were complaints from many pensioners' associations that the bank branches were not recording the PPO number in the passbook which led to problems for transfer of pension account from one bank to another bank or from one bank branch to another bank branch.

It has the approval of the Chief Controller (Pension), Awasthi added.

Meanwhile, the national advisor of All India EPS-95 Sangharsh Samiti and vice-president of Pensioners' Forum, UP, Rajesh Kumar Shukla, said the last date for submitting the life certificate by the pensioners had been extended to February 29, 2021, from the earlier December 31.

He also demanded suspension of the necessity of submitting life certificate by the pensioners.

Blind murder case worked out

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Katra Kotwali police worked out a blind murder case here. Giving details on Sunday, CO (City) Ajai Kumar Rai said that on Saturday morning a youth was found in an unconscious and injured condition at Dangahar locality who died in the hospital. His brother, Dheeraj Srivastava, had lodged a case against unidentified persons at Katra Kotwali. After registering

the case the police started the investigation and a sniffer dog was pressed into service. After getting a clue the police raided the house of Vishal Yadav, a resident of Dangahar locality. In police custody Vishal confessed his involvement in the murder. The accused said that the deceased, Neeraj Srivastava, had an affair with his wife prior to marriage and still insisted on continuing it. He said that on Friday night the deceased entered his house in his absence to which his wife object-

ed and it turned into a scuffle. In between he reached his house and when the deceased asked for forgiveness he let him go. He said that after that what happened he did not know. The police arrested Vishal Yadav and his wife and recovered a brick and a small gas cylinder which was used in the murder. The SP rewarded SHO Ramesh Yadav and outpost incharge Mandi Samiti Ajay Srivastava along with the team with cash prize of ₹10,000.

Changes in timings of special trains

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is making changes in the timings of special trains being run for the convenience of the passengers. As a result the following special trains will be run at a changed time from December 1. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines. CPRO PK Singh said.

LKO JN-JABALPUR SPL: The 05205 Lucknow Jn-Jabalpur special train will leave Lucknow Jn at 17.30 hrs, Unnao at 18.25 hrs, Kanpur Central at 19.15 hrs, Ghatampur at 20.15 hrs, Bharuwa Sumerpur at 20.47

hrs, Ragaul at 21.05 hrs, Banda from 22.10 hrs, Atrara at 22.37 hrs, Chitrakoot at 23.22 hrs, on second day Satna at 02.00 hrs, Maihar at 02.35 hrs, Katni at 03.50 hrs, Sihora Road at 04.40 hrs and will reach Jabalpur at 05.25 hrs. On the other hand, the 05206 Jabalpur-Lucknow special train will leave Jabalpur at 20.50 hrs, Sihora Road at 21.20 hrs, Katni at 22.00 hrs, Maihar at 23.00 hrs, Satna at 23.50 hrs, the second day Chitrakoot at 02.02 hrs, Atrara at 02.48 hrs, Banda at 04.00 hrs, Ragaul at 04.34 hrs, Bharuwa Sumerpur at 04.52 hrs, Ghatampur at 05.24 hrs, Kanpur Central at 07.35 hrs, Unnao at 08.00 hrs and reach Lucknow at 09.25 hrs. The days of run and

rake composition of this train will remain as notified earlier.

KATHGODAM-DEHRADUN SPL: The Kathgodam-Dehradun special will leave Kathgodam at 05.30 hrs, Lalkuan at 06.26 hrs, Rudrapur City at 06.47 hrs, Rampur at 07.45 hrs, Moradabad at 08.30 hrs, Najibabad at 09.50 hrs, Haridwar at 11.10 hrs and reach Dehradun at 12.30 hrs. On the other hand, 02091 Dehradun-Kathgodam special train will leave Dehradun at 15.45 hrs, Haridwar at 17.20 hrs, Najibabad at 18.40 hrs, Moradabad at 20.20 hrs, Rampur at 20.56 hrs, Rudrapur City at 21.40 hrs, Lalkuan at 22.30 hrs and reach Kathgodam at 23.40 hrs. The days of run and rake structure of this train will remain as notified earlier.

Four applications disposed of

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Sushil Kumar Patel and SP Ajay Kumar Singh jointly held the Thana Samadhan Divas at Halia police station on Saturday. Total 19 applications were put before the officers, each of them were heard turn wise and four of them were disposed of on the spot and for the rest teams of officials concerned were sent to the spot with the direction to settle them on merit and inform without inordinate delay. Addressing the officials the SP said that the day should be proved useful through high rate of disposal and ensuring satisfaction of the aggrieved. Besides, the DM inspected the paddy procurement centres in the area. At the Deori purchase centre the DM was informed that till date 1,526 quintals had been purchased and the purchase of the day was 193.20 quintals. At Sukhada purchase centre total 2541.80 quintals purchase was found and the purchase of the day was 289.40 quintals. At Mawayikala centre the purchase of the day was 350 quintals while total was 5,122 quintals through 103 farmers. He directed the staff involved in purchase that no harassment of farmers



DM Sushil Kumar Patel inspecting the paddy purchase centre at Deori, Halia block in Mirzapur on Saturday Pioneer

should be done at all. During the inspection the DM interacted with farmers too and told them to feel free to inform him about any problem without any hesitation.

FUNCTION: Meritorious students were given prizes at a function held at Gyananda Law College recently. Director Dr Sheela Singh said that it was due to endeavour of students and dedication of faculties that the institution had earned a good reputation within the short period. She said it was a matter of contentment that the students who had passed out from institution were doing well in their profession. Prof. Asha Srivastava also spoke on the occasion. She said that the institution was making available placement facilities to students of third year along with providing admission in LLM classes. The interested students were urged to submit their applications in the office. Students who had secured first, second and third places in the examination were presented prizes. Among those who graced the event were Digvijay Singh, Gyan Shankar Pathak, Vanshraj Singh, Rama Singh and Sarvesh Maurya.

Delhi-Azamgarh spl to run as per revised timetable

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is making changes in the timings of the following special trains. Consequently the following special trains will be run at a changed time.

DELHI-AZAMGARH SPL: The 02226 Delhi-Azamgarh special will from December 1 leave Delhi daily at 20:25 hrs and after stopping at Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao, Lucknow Jn, Barabanki, Rudauli, Faizabad, Ayodhya, Akbarpur, Malipur, Shahganj, Khorasan Road and Saraimir will reach Azamgarh at 10:55 hrs. Besides the 02225 Azamgarh-Delhi special train from December 1 will leave Azamgarh daily at 16:25 hrs and after stopping at Saraimir, Khorasan Road, Shahganj, Malipur, Akbarpur, Ayodhya, Faizabad, Rudauli, Barabanki, Lucknow Jn, Unnao, Kanpur Central, Etawah, Etawah, Aligarh and Ghaziabad will reach Delhi at 07:05 hrs. The rake composition of this train will remain as notified earlier.

VANDE BHARAT SPL: The 02436 New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat special train will from December 1 leave New Delhi every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 06:00 hrs and after stopping at Kanpur Central and Prayagraj Jn reach Varanasi at 14:00 hrs. On the other hand 02435 Varanasi-New Delhi Vande India special will from December 1 leave Varanasi every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 15:00 hrs and after stopping at Prayagraj Jn and Kanpur Central reach New Delhi at 23:00 hrs.

AMRITSAR-JAYNAGAR SHAHEED SPL: The 04674 Amritsar-Jaynagar Shaheed special will from December 1 every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday leave Amritsar at 13:05 hrs and after stopping at Beas, Jalandhar City, Jalandhar Cantt, Phagwara, Phillaur, Ludhiana, Khanna, Govindgarh, Sirhind, Rajpura, Ambala City, Ambala Cantt, Yamuna Nagar Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Roorkee, Laksar, Najibabad, Kanth, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gonda, Mankapur, Babhanan, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Bhatni, Bhatpari Rani, Marwah Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Dholi,

Samastipur, Hayaghat, Lahariyasarai, Darbhanga, Sakri, Madhubani, Rajnagar and Khajuli will reach Jaynagar on the third day at 00:30 hrs. On the other hand, the 04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar Shaheed special train from December 3 every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday leave from Jaynagar at 07:20 hrs and after stopping at Khajuli, Rajnagar, Madhubani, Sakri, Darbhanga, Lahariyasarai, Hayaghat, Samastipur, Dholi, Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, Chhapra Siwan, Mairwa, Bhatpar Rani, Bhatni, Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur, Khalilabad, Basti, Bhabhanan, Mankapur, Gonda, Barabanki, Lucknow, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Rampur, Moradabad, Kanth, Najibabad, Laksar, Roorkee, Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cantt, Ambala City, Rajpura, Sirhind, Govindgarh, Khanna, Ludhiana, Phillaur, Phagwara, Jalandhar Cantt, Jalandhar City and Beas will reach Amritsar at 16:40 hours. The rake structure of this train will remain as notified earlier.

NEW DELHI-LKO JN SHATABDI SPECIAL: The 02004 New Delhi-Lucknow Jn Shatabdi special train will from December 1 daily leave New Delhi at 06:10 hrs, Ghaziabad at 06:42 hrs, Aligarh Jn at 07:49 hrs, Tundla at 08:47 hrs, Etawah at 09:42 hrs, Kanpur Central at 11:25 hrs and reach Lucknow Jn at 12:50 hrs. On the other hand, the 02003 Lucknow Jn-New Delhi Shatabdi special train from Dec 1 will daily leave Lucknow Jn at 15:35 hrs, Kanpur Central at 16:53 hrs, Etawah at 18:14 hrs, Tundla at 19:22 hrs, Aligarh at 20:12 hrs, Ghaziabad at 21:35 hrs and reach Delhi at 22:20 hrs. The rake composition of this train will remain as notified earlier.

City at 16:42 hrs, Rampur at 17:39 hrs, Moradabad at 18:15 hrs, Ghaziabad at 20:05 hrs and reach New Delhi at 20:50 hrs. The rake composition of this train will remain as notified earlier.

ANVT-SITAMARHI SPL: The 04006 Anand Vihar Terminus-Sitamari special train will from December 1 daily leave Anand Vihar Terminus at 18:00 hrs, Ghaziabad at 18:29 hrs, Dadri at 18:52 hrs, Khurja at 19:27 hrs, Aligarh at 20:00 hrs, Tundla at 21:07 hrs, on the second day Kanpur Central at 00:20 hrs, Prayagraj Jn at 03:30 hrs, Prayagraj Rambagh at 03:42 hrs, Gyanpur Road at 04:44 hrs, Bhulanpur at 05:27 hrs, Varanasi at 06:10 hrs, Sarnath at 06:34 hrs, Jakhaniaan at 07:20 hrs, Mau at 08:12 hrs, Belthara Road at 09:07 hrs, Lar Road at 09:25 hrs, Salempur at 09:37 hrs, Bhatni at 10:10 hrs, Bhatpar Rani at 10:41 hrs, Mairwa at 10:57 hrs, Jiradei at 11:13 hrs, Siwan at 11:47 hrs, Duraundha at 12:06 hrs, Chainwa at 12:18 hrs, Ekma at 12:46 hrs, Chhapra at 13:40 hrs, Godinganj at 14:12 hrs, Dumri Juara at 14:20 hrs, Badagopal at 14:28 hrs, Dighwara at 14:43 hrs, Sitalpur at 14:51 hrs, Sonpur at 15:20 hrs, Hajipur at 15:35 hrs, Bhagwanpur at 15:54 hrs, Goraal at 16:04 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 18:50 hrs, and reach Sitamarhi at 20:20 hrs. Besides the 04005 Sitamarhi-Anand Vihar Terminus special train will from December 1 leave Sitamarhi daily at 02:30 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 04:35 hrs, Goraal at 05:01 hrs, Bhagwanpur at 05:12 hrs, Hajipur at 05:45 hrs, Sonpur at 05:57 hrs, Sitalpur at 06:26 hrs, Dighwara at 06:34 hrs, Badagopal at 06:53 hrs, Dumri Juara at 06:59 hrs, Godinganj at 07:10 hrs, Chhapra at 08:20 hrs, Ekma at 08:46 hrs, Chainwa at 08:59 hrs, Duraundha at 09:16 hrs, Siwan at 09:55 hrs, Jiradei at 10:11 hrs, Mairwa at 10:26 hrs, Bhatparani at 10:42 hrs, Bhatni at 11:25 hrs, Salempur at 11:40 hrs, Lar Road at 11:53 hrs, Belthara Road at 12:10 hrs, Mau at 12:47 pm, Jakhaniaan at 13:15 hrs, Varanasi at 14:40 hrs, Bhulanpur at 14:53 hrs, Madhosinghat at 15:27 hrs, Prayagraj Road at 16:01 hrs, Gyanpur Rambagh at 17:43 hrs, Prayagraj Jn at 18:10 hrs, Kanpur Central at 21:00 hrs, Aligarh 01:42 hrs, Khurja at 02:25 hrs, Ghaziabad at 03:55 hrs and reach Anand Vihar Terminus at 04:30 hrs. The rake composition of this train will remain as notified earlier.

Polls no solution to Kashmir problem, hold dialogue with Pak: Mehbooba

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Struggling to revive fortunes of her own party in the electoral politics of Jammu & Kashmir, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti Sunday claimed elections were not the solution to the “Kashmir problem”.

She also battled for holding a dialogue with the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistan to resolve the issue.

Angry PDP Chief also accused the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) government of muzzling dissent and building an ecosystem in which “there is no place for democracy.”

Addressing a press conference at her residence in Srinagar, a day after more than 50 percent voters participated in the first phase of the DDC polls in Jammu and Kashmir, PDP Chief asked a question, “if Abrogation of Article 370 has resolved all the issues then

why 9 lakh troops are still stationed in kashmir and why they have not been sent to the borders”.

Referring to the heavy turnout of voters, the former Chief Minister said, “In the past, the polling percentage has been higher than this (DDC polls) but it is no solution to the Kashmir problem. Kashmir problem is still there as long as there are nine lakh soldiers in our state. She asked, “Which state of India has so many sol-

diers that too in civilian areas”.

She added: “In an election, how many people participate and how many don’t has nothing to do with the Kashmir issue. Kashmir issue is going to be there as long as there is no resolution through a dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and with Pakistan.”

Cornering the Bharatiya Janta Party led government at the Centre PDP Chief said they had “made a mockery of

democracy”.

“Black laws prevail in the country and the weapon which they use is UAPA. Muslims are being called Pakistani. Sardars are called Urban Naxals. Kashmiris are called terrorists. The students are called tukde-tukde gang. Women who protest are called anti-national. If everyone is a Khalistani, Pakistani and anti-national then who is Hindustani in this country? Only Bharatiya Janata

Party workers?” she said.

Referring to the 25000 crore Roshni scam, Mehbooba Mufti said, The Jammu and Kashmir government had cancelled all land transfers that took place under the Roshni Act.

“The Roshni scheme was a law passed during the time of the National Conference and implemented during the time of (Ghulam Nabi) Azad sahab. It was a law, it was made by our assembly. If anyone legalised

their land in that law, how is it a scam? If they think rich people have taken a lot of land, go after that. Why are they going after poor people who have 2 marla, 5 marla land?” she noted.

Mufti also accused the BJP government of silencing her voice. I am being told “directly and indirectly” not to talk about Article 370.

“Why do they get rattled by what I say when their own leaders talk about Article 370.

They want to go after me because I raise my voice. They want to get to me. They want to ban my party,” she said.

She said, “After we decided to participate in the DDC election, the degree of oppression has increased in Jammu & Kashmir. Candidates of PAGD are confined and are not allowed to go out for campaigning. How candidates will contest if they are not allowed to organise their campaign meetings?”

UP registers 1st case under new anti-conversion law in Bareilly

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh has registered its first case under the new anti-conversion law in Bareilly district based on a complaint from the father of a young woman.

The case was registered at the Devarniyan police station in Bareilly district on Saturday, officials said.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said a case was registered by Tikaram, a resident of Sharif Nagar village under Devarniyan police station (in Bareilly), who accused a man — Uvaish Ahmed — of the same village of trying to convert his daughter through “allurement” (bahla-phas-laakar). The case was registered against Uvaish Ahmed under sections of the Indian Penal Code and the new anti-conversion law.

Senior Superintendent of Police Rohit Singh Sajwan said four police teams have been formed to arrest the accused.

According to the complaint, Tikaram’s daughter and Ahmed studied together in Class 12.

Three years ago, the accused started exerting pressure on her to undergo religious conversion and perform ‘nikaah’ (marriage). But

when the woman opposed, he threatened to kidnap her, Tikaram alleged.

The complainant’s daughter married someone else in June this year. However, Ahmed continued to harass her family members, he said.

According to the complaint, Ahmed went to Tikaram’s house on Saturday and asked him to bring his daughter back from her in-laws’ house.

Threatening her family, the accused told Tikaram that the woman will have to undergo religious conversion and marry him, according to the complaint.

Tikaram subsequently approached the police, and a case was registered against the accused.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Bareilly range, Rajesh Kumar Pandey told reporters that the case was being investigated.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel on Saturday gave assent to an ordinance against forcible or fraudulent religious conversions that provides for imprisonment up to 10 years and a maximum fine of Rs 50,000 under different categories.

The promulgation of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of

Religion Ordinance, 2020, came four days after the Yogi Adityanath government approved the draft of the legislation which also curbs religious conversions only for the sake of marriage.

Under the law which deals with different categories of offences, a marriage will be declared “null and void” if the conversion of a woman is solely for that purpose, and those wishing to change their religion after marriage need to apply to the district magistrate.

The ordinance mainly envisages that no person shall convert, either directly or indirectly from one religion to another by use or practice of misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage nor shall any person abet, convince or conspire such conversion.

The onus to prove that the conversion has not been done forcibly will lie on the person accused of the act and the convert, it said. An aggrieved person, his/her parents, brother, sister, or any other person who is related to him/her by blood, marriage or adoption may lodge an FIR about such conversion, according to the ordinance. **PTI**

Puducherry logs 33 new Covid-19 cases

Puducherry: The Union Territory of Puducherry logged 33 fresh coronavirus cases during the last 24 hours pushing the overall tally to 36,935, a top Health department official said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, no fresh fatality was reported for the 10th day in succession, a release from Director of Health and Family Welfare S Mohan Kumar said.

The 33 fresh cases were identified at the end of the examination of 2,926 samples of which 21 were reported in the Puducherry region, six in Karaikal, five in Mahe and one in Yanam.

The Health department Director said 72 patients were discharged during the last 24 hours ending 10 AM Sunday. **PTI**

16 fresh cases in Mizoram; tally 3,822

Aizawl: At least 16 people, including two Border Security Force (BSF) jawans, have tested positive for Covid-19 in Mizoram on Sunday, taking the State’s tally to 3,822, a senior official said.

Of the 16 fresh cases, seven were reported from Lunglei, Mamit, Siaha and Champai, the official said.

Four cases were detected through RT-PCR at Zoram Medical College, one at a TrueNat lab in Siaha district and the rest by Rapid Antigen Test, he said.

Two BSF jawans, one policeman and two children, aged eight and 10, are among the newly infected people, he said. **PTI**

Maha records 85 deaths, 5,544 fresh infections

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 toll in Maharashtra crossed 47,000 mark on Sunday, as the State recorded 85 fresh deaths, while the number of infections rose to 5,544.

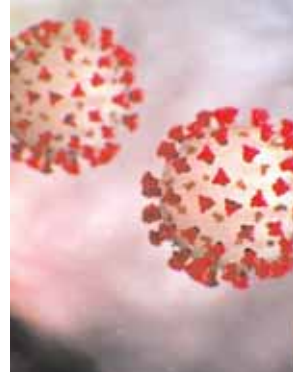
A day after Maharashtra logged 75 deaths and 5965 infections, the number of deaths rose by 10, while the number of daily infections went up by 421.

With 85 fresh deaths, the total number in Maharashtra climbed 46,986 to 47,071. Similarly, with 5544 new infections, the total infections jumped from 18,14,515, to 18,20,059.

As 4362 more people were discharged from various hospitals the number of people discharged from the hospitals on Sunday after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 16,80,926. The recovery rate in the state dropped marginally from 92.40 per cent to 92.36 per cent.

The Covid-19 toll in Mumbai climbed from 10,847 to 10,865, while the infected cases went up by 940 to trigger a jump in the total infections from 2,82,821.

Meanwhile, the number of “active cases” total cases in the state went up from 89,905 to 90,997. The fatality rate in the



state stood at 2.59 per cent.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,51,784 to 3,52,565, while the total number of deaths in Pune increased to 7418 to 7443.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections rose from 2,39,598 to 240323, while the total deaths climbed from 5303 to 5310.

Of the 1,08,04,422 samples sent to laboratories, 18,20,059 have tested positive (16.85 per cent) for COVID-19 until Sunday.

Currently, 5,26, 555 people are in home quarantine while 6,814 people are in institutional quarantine.



A man leads his herd of sheep on a road in Kolkata on Sunday

PTI

8 TMC leaders including Mins, MPs to join BJP soon: Soumitra

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Close on the heels of senior TMC leader and Bengal Minister Suwendu Adhikari resigning his post sparking speculations of his joining the BJP the saffron outfit on Sunday claimed that at least eight Trinamool Congress Ministers were preparing to join it.

BJP MP from Bankura Soumitra Khan said that eight TMC leaders including ministers and MPs were in touch with the BJP and would soon that party. Hours after State BJP president Dilip Ghosh said December was going to be a disheartening month for the TMC as the Bengal ruling outfit would find people leaving a sinking boat. Khan was more direct in taking the names of senior TMC leaders even as he said ministers “Subroto Mukherjee, Rabindra Ghosh and Gautam Deb will leave the TMC soon.” Besides he also named senior leader and MP Saugato Roy among the list of possible deserters.

Though Ghosh, Deb and Roy said they had no intentions of quitting the Trinamool Congress, sources said that the leadership was keeping close watch on them and many oth-

ers. “We respect our ideology of tri-colour and so will never accept a communal ideology,” Deb said.

Other TMC MLAs who have openly rebelled against the party and have dropped hints of quitting it are Singur Legislator and veteran farm leader Rabindranath Bhattacharya, Sitai MLA Jagdish Basunia, Barrackpore and Diamond Harbour MLAs Silbhadra Dutta and Dipak Halder.

“Wait till December there are many TMC leaders who are in touch with us and would soon be with us... We will take all of them provided they have a clean record and are willing to work for our ideology and the people,” Ghosh said.

Meanwhile, the TMC tried to put a brave face on Sunday with party MP and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s nephew Abhishek Banerjee taking powerful East Midnapore satrap Suwendu Adhikari head on saying “those who talk of not taking the lift but breaking the stair cases to rise up in their careers should know that I also have taken the stair case and not taken a parachute or lift to rise up in life.”

Adhikari had a few days ago said that he had been with the

people and taken the stair case and not taken a lift like many others to rise up in his political career. He was apparently indicating Banerjee who has replaced him as the Trinamool youth wing chief.

Daring the BJP leadership for referring to him innuendo Banerjee said “these BJP leaders are cowards and so they do not take my name directly... they only refer to me as the Bhaipo (nephew)... I dare them to take my name... but they will not do that because Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Mukul Roy earlier tried to put allegations against my name and I gave them a legal reply in the High Court ... they know that if they do that again I will drag them to the court.”

The immediate reference of his speech was apparently remarks from Modi who during a poll campaign had said that, “Vhatija ka batti gul ho jaiga (nephew’s power will go).” Banerjee also referred to Kailash Vijayargiya’s recent speech in which he said that TMC which used to be people’s party, its leaders’ and workers’ party, Mamata Banerjee’s had been reduced to the party of the “nephew” and his alleged syndicate.

TMC's time is gone, it's our time to be goonda: Ghosh

Kolkata: Earlier the Trinamool Congress perpetrated the goonda raj but now it was the BJP’s turn to unleash the same, Bengal BJP leader Dilip Ghosh on Sunday said giving a sharp reply to TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee’s remark that the State BJP president was a goonda.

“Yes if he thinks that I am a goonda ... so be it ... I am a goonda and would act as one ... there is no harm in becoming a goonda to tame the other goondas... till today TMC had unleashed the goonda raj... now it is our turn to do the same and will do the same if it is needed,” Ghosh said during Banerjee to stop him if he could. “I again say that I will act like a goonda and dare him to stop me ... stop me if you can,” he said adding the TMC will soon see a big ruffle in the party. “Let December come

and they will see some big changes taking place their party... they will stop talking loud ... Instead of attacking us and calling us goonda they should instead take care of their own house and save it from collapse. The TMC will vanish in a few months time,” Ghosh said.

Earlier from a public rally Banerjee said that unlike the BJP leaders he would not talk in innuendo. Rather “I will openly say that Kailash Vijayargiya, Amit Shah, Sunil Deodhar are outsiders to Bengal... I will openly say that the president of Bengal BJP is a goonda and I repeat he is a goonda... I will openly say that Akaash Vijayargiya the son of Kailash Vijayargiya is a goonda ... let them take action against me if they can,” he said.

Decomposed body found

Palghar: The decomposed body of an unidentified woman has been found by police in Maharashtra’s Palghar district, a police official said on Sunday.

Some passersby experienced foul smell in Satali Khind area here on Saturday and alerted the police.

Later, the police went to the area and found the decomposed body of a woman, believed to be around 30 to 35 years of age, the official said.

The police suspect the woman was killed by some persons elsewhere and the body was dumped at the spot where it was found. The body was sent for postmortem and a case was registered under Indian Penal Code Sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence), the official said. **PTI**

शिक्षा व्यवस्था में बढ़ते कदम

वर्चुअल स्कूल

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

01.12.2020 से 4.12.2020 तक ई-लर्निंग प्रसारण का पन्द्रहवां चरण

दूरदर्शन, उत्तर प्रदेश (DD UP) चैनल पर यू.पी. बोर्ड की कक्षा-10 एवं 12 हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी								
दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-10				कक्षा-12			
	अपराह्न 1:30 से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 3:30 से अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:30 से सायं 5:00 बजे तक	सायं 6:00 से सायं 6:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 1:00 से अपराह्न 1:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 2:00 से अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:00 से अपराह्न 4:30 बजे तक	सायं 5:30 से सायं 6:00 बजे तक
1-12-2020 मंगलवार	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-7 Interrogative Sentence, Part-1	गणित अध्याय-6 त्रिभुज भाग-4	हिन्दी अध्याय-व्याकरण संस्कृत व्याकरण शब्द रूप, भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-6 त्रिभुज भाग-5	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 प्रत्यावर्ती धारा भाग-1	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 प्रत्यावर्ती धारा भाग-2	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 प्रत्यावर्ती धारा भाग-3	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 प्रत्यावर्ती धारा भाग-4
2-12-2020 बुधवार	संस्कृत अध्याय-10 मदन मोहन मालवीय भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-6 त्रिभुज भाग-6	हिन्दी अध्याय-4 मेवाड़ मुकुट भाग-3	गणित अध्याय-6 त्रिभुज भाग-7	नागरिक शास्त्र अध्याय-3 नियोजन विकास की राजनीति भाग-2	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-2 हृदय व रक्त (परिसंचरण) भाग-1	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-2 हृदय व रक्त (परिसंचरण) भाग-2	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-2 हृदय व रक्त (परिसंचरण) भाग-3
3-12-2020 गुरुवार	संस्कृत अध्याय-10 मदन मोहन मालवीय भाग-2	गणित अध्याय-7 निर्देशांक ज्यामिति भाग-1	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-4 कृषि (भूगोल) भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-7 निर्देशांक ज्यामिति भाग-2	वाणिज्य अध्याय-1 अधीक्षण तत्व भाग-2	वाणिज्य अध्याय-13 कृषि औद्योगिक और व्यापारिक बैंकों की अर्थव्यवस्था, भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-7 समाकलन भाग-1	वाणिज्य अध्याय-9 व्यापारिक संगठन एवं पत्र व्यवहार प्रकरण प्रकरण-प्रतिलिपिकरण भाग-1
4-12-2020 शुक्रवार	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-4 कृषि (भूगोल) भाग-2	विज्ञान अध्याय-8 जीव जनन कैसे करते हैं भाग-1	संस्कृत अध्याय-10 मदन मोहन मालवीय भाग-3	विज्ञान अध्याय-11 मानव नेत्र तथा रंग-बिरंगा संसार भाग-1	वाणिज्य अध्याय-9 व्यापारिक संगठन एवं पत्र व्यवहार प्रकरण प्रकरण-प्रतिलिपिकरण भाग-2	हिन्दी अध्याय-5 गद्य-खण्ड प्रणति के मानदंड भाग-1	भूगोल अध्याय-4 मानव बस्तियाँ भाग-1	भूगोल अध्याय-4 मानव बस्तियाँ भाग-2

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

चैनल e vidya-9 पर कक्षा-9 एवं चैनल e vidya-11 पर कक्षा-11 यू.पी. बोर्ड हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी				
दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-9		कक्षा-11	
	प्रातः 8:30 से प्रातः 9:00 बजे तक	प्रातः 9:00 से प्रातः 9:30 बजे तक	सायं 6:30 से सायं 7:00 बजे तक	सायं 7:00 से सायं 7:30 बजे तक
1-12-2020 मंगलवार	वाणिज्य अध्याय-15, मुद्रा इतिहास (वस्तु विनियम एवं मुद्रा उद्गम) भाग-2/3	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-3 The Verb भाग-1/1	हिन्दी अध्याय-1-खण्ड-ख काव्य सौन्दर्य के तत्व (रस) गद्य, कथा सहित्य, काव्य संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका, भाग-1/3	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-11 (भौतिक भाग-2) द्रव्य के तापीय गुण भाग-1/5
2-12-2020 बुधवार	गणित अध्याय-12 हीरोन का सूत्र भाग-1/2	हिन्दी अध्याय-5 मैथिलीशरण गुप्त पंचवटी (हिन्दी काव्य) भाग-1/2	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-8 अपचयोपचय (रेडॉक्स) अभिक्रियाएँ (रसायन भाग-2) भाग-6/8	हिन्दी अध्याय-5-खण्ड-क-काव्य तुलसीदास-भरत-महिमा-1 (गद्य, कथा सहित्य, काव्य संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका) भाग-6/6
3-12-2020 गुरुवार	वाणिज्य अध्याय-16 मुद्रा की परिभाषा, कार्य व महत्व भाग-3/3	हिन्दी अध्याय-5, मैथिलीशरण गुप्त पंचवटी (हिन्दी काव्य) भाग-2/2	हिन्दी अध्याय-1-खण्ड-ख काव्य सौन्दर्य के तत्व (रस) गद्य, कथा सहित्य, काव्य संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका, भाग-2/3	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-11 (भौतिक भाग-2) द्रव्य के तापीय गुण भाग-2/5
4-12-2020 शुक्रवार	गणित अध्याय-12 हीरोन का सूत्र भाग-2/2	हिन्दी अध्याय-7, सूर्यकान्त त्रिपाठी निराला-दान (हिन्दी काव्य) भाग-1/2	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-8 अपचयोपचय (रेडॉक्स) अभिक्रियाएँ (रसायन भाग-2), भाग-7/8	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-6 भू-आकृतियों प्रक्रियाएँ (भौतिक भूगोल मूल सिद्धान्त), भाग-1/1

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

माध्यमिक शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश की एक पहल

Baptism by fire

As Uddhav Thackeray completes a year in office, the reluctant politician seems to have mastered some rules of the game



Nobody had any expectations of Uddhav Thackeray. Not even as a descendant of Shiv Sena supreme Bal Thackeray, who always had a wish of one of his own becoming the Chief Minister. But Balasaheb had probably not bargained for the circumstances under which Uddhav became one. Or imagined him to stand out with quietude and resolve in a hostile environment of competitive politics. For years after tamely acquiescing to its bigger partner, the BJP, the Shiv Sena stood up to it following its improved performance in the Assembly elections last November and demanded chief ministership on that basis. The BJP, the single largest party, thought

it could rustle up the numbers to form its own Government and was surprised when Uddhav snapped ties with it, engineered a coalition with the opposition Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)-Congress combine and negotiated the chief ministership. A manoeuvre that was so not expected from a man who was hardly thought capable of the aggression of Thackeray senior. But one year down the line, he is on a steady course, walking with ideologically divergent partners, not overstepping the ego of the Maratha strongman and NCP chief Sharad Pawar, who is believed to have been the architect of the alliance based on a shared pursuit of power. Apart from a few creases here and there, Uddhav hasn't been an embarrassment for the Congress despite his avowed commitment to Hindutva causes and that party's to its minority plank. The BJP, not quite accustomed to the Sena's revolt yet, has expectedly been placing hurdles along the way of the coalition government, be it through gubernatorial interference, by thrusting Central probes or generally shaming Uddhav's lack of administrative experience. As for the last, Uddhav had no time to settle in as the State recorded its first COVID-19 case on March 9, posing a severe challenge to the healthcare system. And before he could get a grip on it, Maharashtra became the State with the highest number of cases across India. Then the exodus of migrant labourers caught him by surprise, a fact played up by the BJP as an example of his ineptitude and lack of foresight. Still, Uddhav did not lose his cool and went in for aggressive containment measures, testing and medical protocols as Asia's biggest slum, Dharavi, put him on trial. Today, Mumbai is doing better than Delhi in handling the pandemic despite infrastructural weaknesses. Its caseload is going down, it is going for a graded reopening of sectors — unlike other States giving in to populist and commercial pressure — and is the first State in the country to have introduced international-style travel protocols to control the spiral of imported infection. The management of the Dharavi outbreak is a model example of how effective community engagement, awareness and deployment can tame the virus in resource-scarce and congested clusters. As the worst-hit State with a spiralling death count, Maharashtra seems to be finally getting there. And Uddhav, who may be borrowing lessons from the governance heft of the NCP-Congress, must be credited with having the will to deliver without drawing attention to himself. In fact, given his administrative inexperience, he has empowered efficient bureaucrats and shunted out the slackers, clearly emphasising that performance would be the only qualifier of assessment. The best part is he hasn't failed to call a spade a spade. He publicly admonished the police for indiscriminate use of force during the lockdown and in matters religious has taken an apolitical stand despite his Hindutva moorings. So when Maharashtra Governor B G Koshiyari prodded him on opening temples, wondering if he was delaying because of his "secular" partners, Uddhav shot back, asking if Hindutva meant simply opening religious places and as someone who had sworn on the Constitution, was he denying the secularism enshrined in it? Besides, he managed the festival season with reason. By confining the Ganesh Mahotsav to a largely indoor celebration, he avoided a super spreader event. In an editorial in *Saamna*, he even questioned the utility of all shrines in a pandemic. At the same time, he calibrated his response to Muslims, considering the Sena's stand on the Babri masjid and the Ram temple. He used the Congress to urge the community not to congregate in mosques and stayed away from fanning the fire on the Tablighi Jamaat. In fact, Uddhav, in his own way is trying to posit his Hindutva as nationalism rather than the BJP kind of communalism so that he can justify his togetherness with the NCP-Congress. And given the Sena's history of rowdiness, he is trying to split his politics from bogeyism.

Uddhav's assets so far have been his straightforwardness and realism, which have held him in good stead. His respect for Pawar in keeping the coalition largely frictionless is the other reason for his stability. But he has to watch out against ambitious leaders who have already accused him of setting up a coterie to enable a smooth transition to his son Aaditya. And a jilted BJP with the means won't give up trying to break him and picking up dissenters. It almost had him on the lynching of sadhus in Palghar, who were mistaken by villagers for thieves and child lifters. Luckily for Uddhav, who was slow on the investigation, some BJP office-bearers were found to be among the lynch mob and spared him the criticism of running over another Hindu cause. Of course, the BJP baited him on the suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, though the CBI ultimately ruled out a conspiracy. But going by the State Government's demolition drive at an actress' office or a journalist's arrest, Uddhav must stop falling prey to the BJP's design of reactive politics. He certainly could have handled these cases better despite the provocation. If he is to last a full term, he needs equanimity. He doesn't need to flex muscles.

Bubble trouble

The problems with the Pakistani cricket team in NZ highlight the challenges of sequestering sportsmen



While the Indian cricket team began its tour of Australia, not minus some controversy surrounding the fitness of Rohit Sharma, it had already spent a few weeks in quarantine without any issues. Not so for the Pakistani cricket team playing across the Tasman Sea. While every player carried a clean bill of health on leaving Pakistan, it is reported that seven cricketers have tested positive for the Coronavirus since they arrived. This throws into doubt Pakistan's COVID-19 testing regime and with the players being a bit loose and fast regarding the quarantine. The New Zealand

cricket board issued the Pakistani team "a final warning" and if the latter is in contravention of the quarantine or if more players test positive, then it could be sent home without having played a single match.

This incident, rather a series of incidents, highlights the problems of athlete bubbles and indeed the "bubble" travel system anywhere. Even with vaccine development moving along at an unprecedented rate, it is still at least two years before a substantial number of people worldwide can be inoculated. With the delayed Summer Olympics still on track and several other major international sports tournaments, such as the European Football championships, also due to be played, it is vital that national authorities and sports federations work out the kinks as quickly as possible. And that includes player behaviour. Athletes are almost always extremely social young men and women, so asking them to stay locked up for a period of up to two weeks requires immense self-determination that not all of them have. These are challenges that have to be met if we expect a completely normal sporting calendar for 2021 and if eventually fans are to return in full numbers to stadia. And on that last point, there were several Indian supporters during the first One-Day International between Australia and India. Despite the stadium only being at half capacity, Indian fans were clearly ignoring social distancing protocols, which looked Covidiotic and callous on television.

opinion 08

A DBT for manufacturers

The PLI scheme is result-oriented. The cash incentives will be paid only if the manufacturers make the goods. It is a better alternative



SUBHASH CHANDRA PANDEY

The Central Government has approved production-linked incentives (PLI) for manufacturers in 13 sectors. It essentially means that if an eligible manufacturer produces and sells/exports eligible goods worth ₹100 crore, the Government will give him ₹5 crore (assuming five per cent incentive) as a reward/incentive because such sale/export of locally manufactured goods will create local jobs.

The PLI will be available for sale/export for the next five years in addition to the existing incentives. Now this is one of the concerns that remains for investors and would need to be addressed to make the scheme a success. As the PLI benefit has been assured only for five years, the investor has to assess the financial viability of the project beyond the PLI period. Once a manufacturing unit has been set up with a lot of fixed investment, recovery may be difficult. So the five-year period has to be utilised to make life easy for all businesses and job creators. In other words, the "ease of doing business" has to improve substantially.

The Government expects that it may be called upon to pay about ₹2 lakh crore, which means a total sale/export of about ₹40 lakh crore (assuming five per cent PLI rate) during the next five years. This PLI will increase local manufacturing of eligible goods by an output equal to about 20 per cent of the current GDP.

Thus, the second concern is changing growth dynamics and the global demand scenario, especially in the post-pandemic world. To get free cash of ₹2 lakh crore from the Government, specified goods worth about ₹40 lakh crore would need to be produced in India and a matching demand would be needed in a world where the cut-throat competition is going to deepen.

The third concern is about how much of the PLI benefit would boost the investor's actual post-tax income. In October, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) approved PLI benefits (four per cent to six per cent) to 16 companies. The PLI is available for incremental sales of goods manufactured in India five years subsequent to the base year (FY 2019-20).

Now, whether the incentive of four per cent to six per cent of invoiced price for five years would be enough compensation to offset



the cost disadvantage in India remains to be seen. One plus point in favour of the new manufacturing units is 15 per cent corporation tax that was announced last year. For them, manufacturers of highly branded products like Apple iPhones, the PLI scheme and reduced corporate tax are major incentives. Since such manufacturers face little competition for their products, they can set prices of their products on their own. The PLI benefit may or may not be fully passed on to the retail buyers in this particular case.

Most other manufacturers may face stiff price competition and may not be able to fully pocket the PLI benefit to offset their cost disadvantage. Their discerning, hard-bargaining buyers will demand price discounts on the basis of the PLI benefit.

The percentage of PLI benefit may vary across beneficiaries and depending on the competition, the post-tax actual benefit could vary from investor to investor. The PLI scheme, therefore, needs supplementation by sustained investor facilitation and improvement in ease of doing business.

Incentives like income tax and Central excise exemptions, VAT/GST reimbursements, interest and insurance subsidies, subsidies on plant/machinery and so on are typically provided for industries set up in industrially-backward areas like North-eastern states.

At present, the total manufacturing output of all items (whether PLI eligible or not) in a year is about 16 per cent of the GDP. The services sector has a 55

to 60 per cent contribution in GDP and has been a major employer so far.

The PLI will be available to all new manufacturing units and also to existing manufacturing units for their extra production, additional over baseline output. For example, existing mobiles and electronics manufacturers are entitled to PLI benefit for whatever they produce over and above the 2019-20 level production in the next five years. The manufacturing units will have to apply, register and go through a vetting process and enter into proper agreement with the Government so as to ensure that only eligible manufacturers get the incentive for actual local manufacturing.

On April 1, a PLI scheme promising ₹40,951 crore incentive (four to six per cent of production value) was notified for manufacturers of mobile phones and other electronic components. Medical devices and bulk drugs (active pharmaceutical ingredients) were added to PLI eligibility in July and on November 11, 10 more manufacturing sub-sectors were added.

Thus, ₹1,97,291 crore of cash incentive has been promised in the next five years to manufacturers of automobiles and auto components (₹57,042 crore); mobile manufacturing and specified electronics/technology products (₹45,951 crore); advance chemistry cell batteries (₹18,100 crore); pharmaceuticals and drugs (₹21,940 crore); medical devices (₹3,420 crore); telecom and networking products (₹12,195 crore); processed food (₹10,900 crore); man-made fibres

and technical textiles (₹10,683 crore); high-efficiency solar PV modules (₹4,500 crore); white goods like ACs and LEDs (₹6,238 crore) and speciality steel (₹6,322 crore).

For its move in October to approve grant of PLI benefit (four to six per cent) to 16 companies, MEITY received a very good response from mobile handset manufacturers.

The production of mobile phones surged from about ₹18,900 crore in 2014-15 to ₹170,000 crore in 2018-19. Samsung, Foxconn Hon Hai, Rising Star, Wistron and Pegatron have been granted PLI benefit only for manufacturing high-end phones (invoice value ₹15,000 and above).

Foxconn Hon Hai, Wistron and Pegatron are contract manufacturers for Apple iPhones. They expect to have a major export turnover for high-end phones. Some Indian mobile phone companies, including Lava, Bhagwati (Micromax), Padget Electronics, UTL Neolyncs and Optimus Electronics, have also been approved for PLI.

This scheme aims to make India a manufacturing hub of global repute, reduce imports and generate employment. It covers both low-value and high-employment items like textiles and food as well as high-value and low-employment items like automobiles, mobiles, electronics, white goods, including high technology items like Advanced Chemical cell battery. Incentivising local manufacture of items like ACC battery, auto and electronics components will help India

become part of the global value chains. The automobile industry turnover already accounts for almost half of the total value of manufactured items.

The auto, electronics and pharma industries, which have substantial import dependence and also high export potential, are major beneficiaries of the scheme while textiles and processed food are major employment generators.

A pertinent question is why should the Government give financial assistance of ₹900 to a phone manufacturing company for every phone sold at ₹15,000 (assuming six per cent PLI)? After all, more than half of the value of a phone may comprise imported components. The answer to this question is local employment.

The exports, in any case, are tax-free. Under the WTO rules, a Government can refund all taxes collected from exports so that the local taxes are not exported to foreign buyers. So, whatever Customs, excise duties and GST are paid on exported items, they are eventually refunded by the Government. Often, exporters face the problem of working capital if the refund is delayed.

There is a growing demand in the world for diversification in supply chains and India can become a major player. The promotion of the manufacturing sector means forward integration with global supply chains and backward linkages with the MSME sector.

The domestic electronics hardware manufacturing faces a lack of a level-playing field vis-à-vis competing nations. It is assessed that it costs about 8.5 per cent to 11 per cent more to manufacture these items in India on account of lack of adequate infrastructure, domestic supply chain and logistics; high cost of finance; inadequate availability of quality power; limited design capabilities and focus on R and D by the industry; and inadequate skill development. Sunrise sectors need support in the initial stages.

Traditionally, we have tried to attract investors with investment subsidies like giving land at concessional rates and subsidy on plant and machinery cost at a fixed percentage of say 15 per cent to 20 per cent of price. Thereafter, if the unit does not properly run, the subsidy goes waste. The PLI scheme is result-oriented. The cash incentives will be paid only if the manufacturers make the goods. It is a better alternative from the Government's viewpoint.

(The author is former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry)

SOUND BITE

I honestly don't believe anyone could pull off a *Coolie Number 1* redux other than Varun Dhavan. This is gonna be the massive, commercial blockbuster 2020 has been waiting for.



Musician
—Vishal Dadlani

Had a good interaction with the team at Serum Institute of India. They shared details about their progress so far on how they plan to further ramp up vaccine manufacturing.



Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi

The history of peasant resistance in Punjab goes back to 1906/07 when Ajit Singh, Bhagat Singh's uncle, led a movement known popularly as Pagri Sambhal Jatta movement.



Historian
—Srfan Habib

Vaccine will be distributed initially in India, then we will look at the COVAX countries which are mainly in Africa.



CEO, Serum Institute
—Adar Poonawalla

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Memories of Diego

Sir — Football legend Diego Maradona visited two football-crazy Indian cities during his lifetime — Kolkata and Kannur. We cherish the day when Maradona came to our city, Kannur, eight years ago. He came, he saw and conquered the hearts of thousands.

This city, which has given to the country some of its best footballers, was decked up with huge welcome posters and hoardings. Soccer fans came from everywhere to catch a glimpse of the "god of football." I still remember how the area outside his hotel was jam-packed. As soon as they saw him waving from the balcony of his room, they were euphoric. There was a big cheer for him from the people, who were whistling, clapping, shouting, dancing and some even crying.

Later at Jawahar stadium, Maradona mesmerised the crowd — perhaps the biggest in the city so far — with his unique brand of stunts and tricks. There was a cake in the shape of the football stadium. He made sure that he didn't slice the ball because for him, they say, it was his life and soul. The

Farmers have the right to protest

The right to hold a protest is intrinsic to a democratic society. The blockade of major highways in order to prevent farmers from nearby States to enter Delhi constitutes a curtailment of this right. The denial of democratic space to farmers shows the Government is disinclined to adopting a consultative approach in dealing with their issues.

The crackdown on farmers with water cannons and tear gas shells was disturbing and inappropriate. The authorities did more harm than good by using strong-arm tactics against farmers and widened the trust deficit. Thankfully, the Government has now belatedly allowed the protesting farmers to gather in Delhi and even promised discussions. We hope that the Government will wisely defuse the situation instead of levelling baseless charges against parties in the opposition for "instigating" the farmers to protest. The Government should not turn its back on them but be empathetic to their community that provides food security to the nation.

The farmers' organisations are just in asking the Government to either repeal the new law, pushed through unilaterally without consulting them, or to give legal guarantees on the Minimum Support Price



(MSP). The Government can't reject their demands using vague claims that the new law will open up the markets and benefit them.

The farmers are fully justified in opposing the new Acts, which have the potential to undercut the prices of their produce. It will pave the way for contract farming and even the loss of their agricultural fields. We urge the Central government to accede to the farmers' demand and rescind the anti-farmer laws.

G. David Milton
Maruthancode

BJP's desperation

Sir — A desperate BJP, seeking to gain a toe-hold in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, has ruffled feathers in a big way in its local rank and file as "outsiders" have

been appointed to oversee the December 1 election.

One immediate reaction to the paratrooping of the saffron party's leadership was the self-immolation bid by a grassroots worker in Musheerabad division in front of the OBC

Morchha National president Dr K Laxman's camp office. The unfortunate incident reflects the seething anger among the BJP workers against the unwelcome moves made by the party leadership. The incident occurred hours before Congress leader and former Hyderabad Mayor Banda Karthika Reddy joined the BJP.

The appointment of BJP general secretary Bhupendra Yadav and four deputies from other States to oversee the GHMC polls, ignoring Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy, party's State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and other State leaders, has not gone down well with the party cadre. Following the party's success in Bihar polls, the BJP leadership is counting on Yadav to deliver in Hyderabad. Even though the State is represented by Reddy at the Centre, party president JP Nadda preferred Yadav over him. This is quite demoralising for the cadre. One should not ignore workers of a region just for political gains.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

What of India's 'Act East' policy?

By rejecting the RCEP membership, we have given China a free hand to integrate its economy with Asian nations. Maybe India should look West now



SANJIB POHIT

The "Act East" policy, with a focus on an extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific Region, has been the cornerstone of India's diplomacy in the current decade. While it was originally conceived as an economic initiative, in recent years, it has gained political, strategic and cultural dimensions, including the establishment of institutional mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation. India has upgraded its relations to a strategic partnership with Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Singapore and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and has, thus, forged close ties with all countries in the Asia-Pacific. Further, apart from the ASEAN, the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), it has been actively engaged in regional fora, such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) and the Indian-Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The "Act East" policy has laid emphasis on India-ASEAN cooperation for our domestic agenda on infrastructure, manufacturing, trade, skills, urban renewal, smart cities, Make in India and other initiatives. The objective is to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationships with countries in the Asia-Pacific through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

As a follow-up, India has entered into Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and comprehensive economic engagements with many Asian countries. Notable among them are RTAs with the ASEAN, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, APTA (Bangladesh, China, Korea, Laos and Sri Lanka) and South Korea.

However, India decided against joining the mega trade bloc or the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). It is a free trade agreement (FTA) between the Asia-Pacific nations of Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. These 15 countries account for about 30 per cent of the world's population (2.2 billion people) and 30 per cent of the global GDP (\$26.2 trillion) as of this year, making it the biggest trade bloc in history.

The fear is that India's agricultural and manufactured goods will not be in a position to stand up to competition from cheaper imports from abroad. Of course, lobbying by multiple associations protecting the interests of processed agricultural product and manufactured goods makers plays a significant role in the policymakers' decision. In contrast, India's service sector, which no doubt would have benefited by gaining access to the large market, could not play its cards well. In the end, the belief that India's merchandise trade deficit (already negative with ASEAN and other Asian countries due to the existing RTAs) will further worsen, tilted the balance in deciding that the country's interests would be best served by not joining the RCEP.

In the long run, this decision will hurt India in a big way. Let me flag up the issues on this count. First, when you have RTAs with some members of the RCEP it will be a Herculean task to stop merchandise from third countries being routed through these nations with whom we have an existing pact. For instance, imports from China may be routed through ASEAN members like Vietnam and Malaysia with whom we have RTAs. Of course, one can argue that the "rules of origin" clause will stem this flow. However in reality, the "rules of origin" clause is not effective enough to curtain third country imports.

Second, India is missing the golden opportunity to be a part of the global value chain. If multinational corporations (MNCs) are thinking of shifting their value chains from China to other countries, they would go for any member of the RCEP like Vietnam and so on. This will be a win-win situation as they will have access to a large market and also benefit from the economies of scale of production. The same holds true for new investment from the European Union or US firms. The usual argument that India has a demographic dividend and MNCs will come here to make a production base falls flat. Given the income inequality, a significant part of the population does not have jobs and thereby income to purchase consumer goods. Gains from the demographic dividend are realised only when people are employed or else it becomes a burden on society.

Third, the service sector, where India has a comparative advantage, would be at a disadvantage because of this decision. Fourth, this decision should have been made based on long-term gain and not based on a higher trade deficit in the short run. By joining the group, Indian industries may suffer in the short-run. But in the end, they will be more competitive, which will open up opportunities in the world markets. It will be a win-win situation for the consumers, too, as they will have access to a variety of goods at a cheaper price. Alas, there is no one to lobby for the consumers' interests.

Fifth, is it realistically possible to "Act East" without entering the mega trading bloc of the East? By rejecting the RCEP membership, India has given China a free hand to integrate its economy with Asian countries. Maybe India henceforth should look West.

(The writer is Professor, NCAER. The views expressed are personal)

THE PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER IS FANNING THE PROTEST. HIS OFFICE BEARERS ARE LEADING IT. TRIED TO CONTACT HIM BUT GOT NO RESPONSE.

—HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER
MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR



I WILL NOT EVEN ANSWER THE HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER'S PHONE CALLS NOW BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE HAS ACTED WITH THE POOR FARMERS.

—PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER
CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH

A wake-up call

Let not the recent incident at Nagrota meet the fate of similar encounters in the past. It should ring warning bells and lessons should be learnt from it



ANIL GUPTA

The recent encounter at Nagrota, near Jammu on National Highway (NH) 44, in which four heavily-armed Pakistani terrorists were gunned down by the Indian security forces, has once again exposed the fact that the "Deep State" in Pakistan continues to rule the roost with the singular agenda of bleeding India through a thousand cuts. Similar encounters had taken place on the same highway in the past, too. Pakistan continues to use the International Border (IB) sector as a preferred route of infiltration not only for terrorists but also for narco-terrorism, as it provides the twin advantage of movement into Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Punjab. Also, the *modus operandi* adopted in most cases is near identical. After revocation of Article 370 in J&K, Pakistan's desperation to create trouble has increased manifold. With the Indian Army adopting a very strong counter-infiltration grid on the Line of Control (LoC) and an equally impregnable counter-terrorism grid inside the Valley, the Pakistan Army has shifted its focus to the IB sector with a comparatively higher success rate.

Pakistan is going through the worst phase of its history. Ever since its formation, the country has suffered the dilemma of identity. Regional loyalties have surpassed national ones, leaving the Pakistan Army alone as a symbol of national identity. This has been exploited by the Army to its advantage by becoming the virtual ruler. To ensure its continued hold over the nation's defence and foreign policy, the Army has created a myth of India being an existential threat. At the same time it has promoted Kashmir as an unfinished agenda of the Partition and as our jugular vein. Despite Islamabad's obsession with Kashmir costing it dearly, both economically and strategically, it refuses to relent. Terrorism continues to remain an instrument of its State policy. Kashmir continues to be the *raison d'être* for the continued supremacy of its Army.

Politically and economically, Pakistan is on the verge of collapse. Prime Minister Imran Khan is the target of a domestic rebellion against his Government by the conglomeration of 11 Opposition parties under the banner of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). Even Imran Khan's mentor, Chief of the Army Staff General Bajwa, and his ISI chief are not being spared by the public. This has unnerved the Army as it is quite conscious of its image among the people. But that aura is gradually eroding due to the involvement of senior Army officers in corruption. While the common man is finding it difficult to survive, the Army is eating up a large slice of the national budget. The economy is in the doldrums. Saudi Arabia, a liberal donor till now, is unhappy with Imran Khan due to his growing proximity with Turkey. Pakistan is neck deep in debt and is resorting to borrowings to service it. Unemployment and inflation are common and Imran Khan is doing nothing to resolve these issues. His total surrender to China is also being resented by Pakistanis.

Pakistan is close to an implosion at this stage due to the growing turmoil in Balochistan, increased unrest in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, revolt in Pakistan-Occupied J&K and Gilgit Baltistan and the growing dissent in Sindh due to the ongoing protests by the PDM. Attempts to integrate Gilgit Baltistan as its fifth province and holding of elections there have been met with stiff opposition from the locals. The results of the elections are being contested as fudged. The Balawaristan Movement for an independent Gilgit-Baltistan is gaining momentum.

With the Pakistan Army under tremendous pressure from China to tie down the Indian Army, the time-tested Pakistani formula of creating an India

“UNFORTUNATELY, THE BORDER REMAINS OUR WEAKNESS, WHICH IS BEING EXPLOITED BY THE ENEMY. MANY QUESTIONS NEED TO BE ANSWERED BY THE BSF WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GUARDING THE IB. WHY IS IT THAT THE TUNNELS ARE DETECTED ONLY AFTER INFILTRATION HAS TAKEN PLACE? WHY IS NO ACTION TAKEN TO PIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LAPSES? WHY ARE NO PROACTIVE MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT SIMILAR FAILURES IN THE FUTURE? IS IT LACK OF RESOURCES, PROFESSIONALISM OR SINCERITY?”



bogey at home has been put into practice to generate an anti-India public opinion. Repeated unprovoked ceasefire violations and attempts to push in terrorists have become a norm. Apart from attempts to distract public attention at home, these are also being used to keep Kashmir in the focus of the international community as a potential flashpoint.

Pakistan's nuclear blackmail has been exposed and is no longer being used as a threat by its leadership. So it has increased its dependence on terrorist activities in India and the "Deep State" is involved in spreading its tentacles in other parts of the country apart from Kashmir. However, Kashmir for the time-being continues to remain its main focus because of the realisation that with the passing of each day peacefully, Pakistan is losing its relevance there. That was the main reason behind infiltrating a heavily-armed group with about 750 kg of RDX to create mayhem in Kashmir on the eve of the District Development Council elections in J&K.

Plus, China is egging Pakistan on to keep the pot boiling in Kashmir. It needs a hold in Gilgit-Baltistan and does not want to part with Shaksgam and Aksai Chin. Hence, irrespective of the success achieved by us at Nagrota, Pakistan is not going to relent. We have to be proactive and make the cost of such attempts as prohibitive for the "Deep State" as possible.

Unfortunately, the IB sector remains our weakness, which is being exploited by the enemy. Many questions need to be answered by the Border Security Force (BSF) which is responsible for guarding the IB. Why is it that the tunnels are detected only after infiltration has taken place? Why is no action taken to pin responsibility for the lapses? Why are no proactive measures taken to prevent similar failures in the future? Is it lack of

resources, professionalism or sincerity?

The Government has spent crores of rupees to equip the BSF so that it can stop infiltration, including the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) to overcome the difficulties of the terrain. Not very long ago BSF officers had displayed to the media a tractor modified for tunnel detection. There were also claims of importing tunnel detection equipment. What happened to all that and why is that equipment not being used?

The BSF has been provided with seismic sensors and any underground disturbance is meant to be picked up by them. Definitely, the digging of a 150 metre-long tunnel should have been picked up by these sensors but it wasn't. Are these sensors non-functional or have they not been sited and deployed tactically? Incidentally these tunnels serve a dual purpose and the BSF knows that apart from sneaking in terrorists, these are also used for smuggling narcotics. Plus, what was the need to make the detection of the tunnel public? Rather it should have been booby-trapped and kept under surveillance. We have to accept that there are major chinks in our armour as far as guarding the IB sector is concerned and the enemy is exploiting these to its advantage.

Knowing the enemy's compulsion to keep Kashmir on the boil, strict measures need to be taken to prevent Islamabad from treating the IB sector as a preferred route for infiltration. First and foremost, the BSF needs to reconsider its pattern of deployment of ambushes at night. Apart from avoiding predictability, it needs to give up the pattern of deploying in a single line without depth. For day patrolling, it needs to be provided with detection equipment.

A "no gap pattern" deployment of CIBMS has to be ensured, including

liaisoning with neighbouring units to cover gaps. The fact that the terrorists trekked on foot for nine km undetected and thereafter boarded a truck on the NH and travelled up to Nagrota unchallenged is a matter of concern and exposes the gaps in the surveillance and vigilance of depth areas and the NH. Hence, armed highway patrols have to be activated. Mobile checkpoints have to be established to avoid predictability. Cameras need to be installed 24x7. There is an urgent and inescapable need for full body scanners at select places on the NH.

There is a valuable asset of ex-servicemen in these areas. A Border Defence Volunteer Force to strengthen the depth area surveillance and patrolling should be raised for utilising the services of these ex-servicemen. They should be deployed on either side of the NH, up to a depth of five-10 km, depending on the distance of the IB from the NH. It will strengthen the hands of the local police.

A serious review of command and control of all border guarding forces on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the IB is an urgent requirement. To have greater coordination and effective command and control, these need to be placed under the Ministry of Defence and the local Army formation. The present system has been found wanting time and again. Let not this aspect of national security become a victim of turf wars. Let not the recent incident at Nagrota meet the fate of similar encounters in the past. It should ring warning bells and lessons should be learnt from it. Pakistan is not going to change, we will have to change ourselves if we want to have a zero tolerance policy against terror.

(The author is a Jammu-based veteran, political commentator, columnist, security and strategic analyst)

Through the eyes of 'the other'

The term is used to define 'the self' in contrast. But 'self-Orientalism', ironically, looks towards assumed Western authority for validation



NADEEM PARACHA

In philosophy and literary criticism, the term "the other" means an entity which is constructed to define the self. According to J Miller in *The Sage Encyclopaedia of Quantitative Research Methods*, "the other" is the opposite of the self. Both are perceptions though, constructed by an individual, community or the State. For example, the Nazis in Germany perceived the Jews as being racially inferior compared to the pure Aryan races. So the "imperfect" Jews were constructed as "the other" to define the "perfection" of the Aryans (white Germanic races). The self in this respect can be an individual or an ide-

ology belonging to a perceived social, religious or political whole that can only be defined in contrast to "the other" which is either explained as being inferior, different or even threatening to the whole. The nationalist idea which led to the creation of Pakistan was almost entirely based on this. Muslim nationalism in India could only be defined in contrast to Hindu majoritarianism, "the other", which was explained as being "culturally different" and politically threatening to the Muslim community of the region.

In the same way, Hindu nationalism cannot be defined without the construction of the Muslim other. The self in this context can only reassure and strengthen its perceived self-image by assuring the assumed dissimilarities of "the other". Scholars such as Edward Said and the post-modernist philosopher Michel Foucault severely castigated the self as an agent of conformity. To bolster the power and self-image of social and political conformity (of an elite), it demonised non-conformists as "the other." To Said, the act

of European colonialists of imagining the colonised native as an uncouth, entirely sensual and overtly emotional being was an act of enhancing the self-image of the superiority of the European self in contrast to the oriental other.

In his 1961 book, *Madness and Civilisation*, Foucault argues that the conventional idea of madness was a "social construct" imposed by a conformist elite upon those who refused to conform. Years later, Foucault went on to praise the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran by deriding Western powers for demonising Ayatollah Khomeini as "the other." According to the Lebanese author Kim Ghattas, in her book *Black Wave*, Foucault did not retract his support for Khomeini even when he established an authoritarian theocracy and ordered the execution of hundreds of Iranian men and women.

On the other hand, according to the critics of Edward Said's *Orientalism*, Said clubbed together a diverse array of colonised peoples of Africa and Asia

as a homogenous whole and then defined this abstract totality in contrast to a ruthless European colonial set-up. In other words, to define a perceived homogenous self, he created "the other" in the shape of a colonial European elite, which was dismissed, in a rather binary manner, as being an entirely evil entity. This is understood as "Occidentalism."

This can imply that "the other" is not always passive. But on occasions, rather ironically, it strikes back, not by overturning how it is being perceived and demonised by a conformist collective-self, but by actually becoming exactly that. Foucault praised Iran's revolution as a "spiritual" event which was not understood by the "non-spiritual" West. He believed this was why the West was demonising Khomeini as being fanatical and mad.

Yet, in response, Khomeini intensified this image of him as a way to differentiate "Islamic Iran" from the secular West. He moulded a collective Islamic self in Iran in contrast to a Western secular other. This often

leads to what is known as "self-Orientalism" or when "the other" begins to behave exactly how a collective self portrays and perceives it as being.

The idea is either to own the characteristics and labels given to it by the collective self and weave them into an aggressive ideology against the collective self, or to own these labels and present them as being as superior as that to the collective self. Khomeini owned the label given to him by Western governments of being "a fanatic" and used it to intimidate the West, and on the other hand, normalise it as an ethos in Iran. Muslim radicals around the world followed suit.

Things in this respect are even more intriguing in India. For decades, self-Orientalism in India meant producing cultural and spiritual products that were designed according to how "mystical, magical and spiritual" India was perceived in the West. This play was good for business and public relations. But "the other" was missing. This made Indians seem entirely passive

and, as the historian Markus Daechsel demonstrates in his book *The Urdu Middle-class Milieu in Mid-twentieth Century India*, this image was problematic and too "effeminate" for Hindu nationalists, especially compared to the "masculinity" of some forms of Muslim nationalism.

After 2014, once Hindu nationalists gained an overwhelming majority in the Parliament, they began to create a "masculine" self-image and a collective self in contrast to "the other": i.e. the Indian Muslim community. Ironically, decades earlier, by creating a Hindu other to define his idea of Muslim nationalism, this is exactly what Jinnah was warning about. So, in a way, Hindu nationalists eventually decided to own and then flex the label that Jinnah gave them.

That of being hegemonic and a threat to India's Muslim community. Self-Orientalism is often used by tourism industries to cater to the "Orientalist" perceptions of the West. But even if some practitioners of Self-Orientalism pose as being anti-colo-

nial and authentic (as in being non-Western, or more spiritual), they are usually overtly conscious of how the West is perceiving them. During the 2013 elections in Pakistan, campaign commercials of Imran Khan's Centre-Right party, the PTI, showed a Pakistani being gladly welcomed by an immigration officer (in a blonde wig), presumably in a European country. Here the post-colonial self was seeking validation from a post-colonial Western other.

Sometimes indigenous acts are performed just to gain traction from Westerners. In 2003, the former chief of Jamaat-i-Islami, the late Qazi Hussain Ahmad, said there was nothing wrong in behaving or looking religious "because the West is more appreciative of this." This is an example of how self-Orientalism looks towards the West for validation. An image was adopted (of religiosity) to attract attention (and maybe praise) of "the others" by confirming to the perceptions of a "pious Muslim."

(Courtesy: Dawn)

RBI likely to maintain status quo for 3rd straight time on inflation concerns

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank is likely to keep the benchmark interest rates unchanged in its next monetary policy review in view of heightened retail inflation which has persistently remained above its comfort level, feel experts.

However, with the economic growth continuing to remain in the negative territory for the second consecutive quarter ending September, the central bank is likely to continue with the accommodative monetary stance keeping the hope alive for a rate cut as and

when needed.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by RBI Governor is scheduled to meet for two days starting December 2. The resolution of the sixth bi-monthly MPC meeting would be announced on December 4.

In its last MPC meeting in October, the RBI kept policy rates unchanged to help tame inflation that in the recent times has surged past 6 per cent mark. The RBI projected the country's GDP to contract 9.5 per cent in the current finan-

cial year due to the pandemic. It has cut policy rates by 115 basis points since February.

"With inflation continuing to trend well above RBI's medium-term target of 4 per cent, there is limited room for a rate cut in the upcoming policy. We have seen encouraging signs of a pick-up in economic activity and a return of consumer demand, buoyed by the festive season," Kotak Mahindra Bank group president consumer banking Shanti Ekambaram said.

The next few months are

Retail inflation, calculated on the basis of Consumer Price Index (CPI), continued to rise for the ninth month in a row in October, reaching 7.61 per cent on the back of high food prices. This is the highest level of retail inflation since May 2014 when the inflation was at 8.33 per cent

critical as it needs to be seen whether demand levels will

sustain and the central bank will closely monitor the growth trajectory and high-frequency data prints, she added.

Retail inflation, calculated on the basis of Consumer Price Index (CPI), continued to rise for the ninth month in a row in October, reaching 7.61 per cent on the back of high food prices. This is the highest level of retail inflation since May 2014 when the inflation was at 8.33 per cent.

The government has mandated the RBI to keep retail inflation at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per

cent).

On concerns of elevated level of inflation, CRISIL Chief Economist Dharmakirti Joshi said the RBI policy will be on hold.

Echoing similar views, CARE Ratings Chief Economist Madan Sabnavis said, "I think RBI has no choice but to go for a pause now because inflation is still very high. Also, the scope for rate cut is more or less exhausted for this financial year. The RBI will address the issue more through OMOs, operation twists to

influence the g-sec yields rather than the repo rate cut."

According to M Govinda Rao, Chief Economic Advisor, Brickwork Ratings, considering that CPI inflation remains at an elevated level, the MPC is likely to continue with the pause in the rate.

"With real interest rates already in the negative zone, the space for rate reduction is limited at present. However, the accommodating stance is likely to continue," Rao said. The RBI is expected to maintain status quo given the fact

that food inflation continues to be high, whilst core inflation has also inched up, Moneyboxx Finance co-CEO Deepak Agarwal said.

However, Anuj Puri, Chairman of real estate consultant Anarock said the real estate industry's perennial hope is fixed on lower interest rates, which would be enabled by reducing the repo rate.

The last meeting of the MPC was held from October 7 to 9, 2020. It was the 25th meeting of the rating-setting panel. **PTI**

US second biggest FDI source for India during Apr-Sep 2020

New Delhi: The US has emerged as the second biggest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India, replacing Mauritius, during the first half of the current financial year, according to data of the commerce and industry ministry.

During April-September 2020, India attracted FDI worth USD 7.12 billion from the US and USD 2 billion from Mauritius, which slipped to fourth position, the DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) data showed.

Mauritius was the second biggest FDI source during the same period previous year. The US was the fourth biggest investor during that period.

Singapore with USD 8.30 billion foreign inflows continued to be the top source of FDI for India in April-September 2020-21.

The country has received USD 2.1 billion inflows from Cayman Islands.

The islands was followed by Netherlands (USD 1.5 billion), UK (USD 1.35 billion), France (USD 1.13 billion), Japan (USD 653 million), Germany (USD 202 million), and Cyprus (USD 48 million).

According to experts, increasing FDI from the US reflects the further strengthening of economic ties between the two countries.

The US was also India's top trading partner in 2019-20.

Biswajit Dhar, a professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, said that "the US technology companies are buying stakes in Indian companies that is why FDI numbers are showing increase".

Despite the fact that FDI from Mauritius is coming down, it still accounts for 29 per cent of the total inflows received by India during April 2000 and September 2020. In this period, India has attracted USD 500.12 billion foreign direct investment.

Foreign inflows into India grew by 15 per cent to USD 30 billion during the first half of the current fiscal. In August, the country had attracted USD 17.5 billion worth of foreign investments. **PTI**

FPIs net buyers for 2nd consecutive month in Nov, invest record sum of ₹60,358 cr in equities

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) remained net buyers for the second consecutive month in November by pumping in a whopping ₹62,951 crore in Indian markets.

For equities segment, this is the highest quantum of money invested ever since the FPI data has been made available by the National Securities Depository Ltd.

According to depositories data, FPIs invested a net ₹60,358 crore into equities and ₹2,593 crore in debt segment, taking the total net investment to ₹62,951 crore between November 3-27.

In October, FPIs were net buyers to the tune of ₹22,033 crore.

Global investors are preferring to invest in emerging markets more than developed markets as the potential upside is much higher in emerging markets, said

Harsh Jain, co-founder and COO at Groww.

Inflows into other emerging markets like South Korea and Taiwan show a similar trend, he added.

"FPIs have invested into top bluechips of India in a big manner. A bulk of the investment that has come in has been into the banking sector. So, the inflow has been concentrated in a few stocks," Jain further said.

Himanshu Srivastava, associate director - manager research, Morningstar India said that "few uncertainties have been behind us in November with the major one being the outcome of US Presidential election".

Attractive valuation compared to the developed markets and weakness in the dollar also supported buying, Srivastava said. **PTI**

Resume REC trade soon, trading pause to impact discoms' ability to meet RPO targets: Power exchanges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Further suspension on trading of renewable energy certificates (RECs) would impact state power distribution utilities' ability to meet renewable purchase obligation (RPO) targets, electricity exchanges PXIL and IEX said, stressing that the trade should be resumed at the earliest.

Talking to PTI, Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) Head and Senior Vice President - Business Development Rohit Bajaj said, "REC market is a key avenue for obligated entities such as captive power producers, discoms and open access consumers to fulfil their RPO requirements.

"Owing to the pause in REC trade since the last five months (July 2020), and compliance year coming to an end in the next four months, any further delay in resuming the trade will greatly impact their ability to meet their RPO targets in a timely manner," he added.

With renewable energy taking a centre stage in India's energy future, such matters require expeditious resolution to keep the country on track to achieve its renewable targets, Bajaj said.

"We hope that honourable APTL soon issues the final order so that the trading can commence in December," he added.

CII urges industry not to lower guard against Covid-19

New Delhi: Industry body CII has urged its member companies in north India to not lower guard against COVID-19 and ensure that the prescribed norms of wearing masks, maintaining physical distance of at least 6 feet and avoiding large gatherings are followed.

With COVID-19 cases rising for the past few weeks at an unprecedented rate, the pandemic continues to pose hardship for the entire country, the chamber said in a statement on Sunday.

Many states in northern India are experiencing probably the second or even the third wave of rise in infections and mortality. With the onset of winter, the problem is getting accentuated, especially for the vulnerable ones, it added.

Observing that while pan-

demc fatigue is an expected and natural response to a prolonged public health crisis, the chamber said "we need to understand and keep in mind the repercussions of dropping our guard not only on the health and safety of those around us but also its impact on our work and everyday lives".

CII Northern Region Chairman Nikhil Sawhney said, "As we can see some signs of a rebound in our economy, the least we must want now would be another spate of shutdowns or closing of our workplaces due to infections.

"Already, we are seeing that some of the states are again being forced to announce night curfews and restrictions on social gatherings which I would say are not good signs."

Sawhney has written to the industry in north India, urging them to not lower guard against COVID-19 and to ensure that the prescribed norms are followed.

"We must also ensure that those around us, including family, friends and workforce also follow these rules at all times without fail. At the same time, in our offices, we need to maintain work from home policy for few more months," he said.

He highlighted that the government is committed to ensuring the availability of the vaccine and has stated that a definite process is underway for reaching it to the vulnerable sections of society.

In the light of this, it is essential for all industry members to be ready for a period of at least a year of continued vigil

and precautionary measures for working towards containing disease prevalence, Sawhney said.

CII has prepared a detailed workplace protocol, which has been shared with the industry members to adhere to, including following work from home for all offices requiring non-contact activities, ensuring the fullest workplace safety measures where employees are required to be physically present, and conducting COVID testing of all employees and their families.

It also includes aggressively promoting awareness among employees' families and the larger community and relentlessly spreading the message of SMS -- sanitization and hand washing, mask wearing, social distancing. **PTI**

Startup develops software for displaying garment images in 3D

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A startup incubated by IIT Madras and NASSCOM has developed a software to convert flat images of traditional Indian garments into photo-realistic 3D images on e-commerce websites.

The software, its developers say, is a game changer for small and medium enterprises as it does away with the need of expensive model photoshoots.

The software, TRI3D, is aimed at helping SMEs survive the economic challenges brought about by COVID-19.

According to the team, as many as 80,000 garments have been digitized and sold using TRI3D's Technology in India,

Sri Lanka and Abu Dhabi in the last one year alone.

More than 100 new generation entrepreneurs from across 50 locations in India have already deployed this technology.

"Our unique apparel visualization technology converts flat images of garments such as sarees into beautiful photo-realistic 3D images on models, mannequins and creative representations. We have developed a software substitute for conventional model photoshoots, convenient for even the small boutique designers and weavers who cannot afford photoshoots," said IIT Madras alumni and startup co-founder Krishna Sumanth Alwala.

FinMin asks PSU general insurers to cut flab; rationalise branches, other expenses: Sources

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has asked public sector general insurance firms, especially National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance, to rationalise branches and cut down avoidable expenses to improve their financial health, sources said.

Earlier this year, the Union Cabinet decided to halt the merger process of three state-owned general insurance companies due to weak financial positions of these three companies. Instead, the government approved fund infusion of ₹12,450 crore to meet regulatory parameters.

The finance ministry has asked these companies to cut the flab by rationalising branches and rein in other avoidable expenses like guest houses, etc, sources said.

Besides, sources said, they have been asked to expand their business through digital medium.

The Government in Budget 2020-21 had made a provision of ₹6,950 crore for capital infusion in these three insurance companies in order to maintain the requisite minimum solvency ratio

As part of capital infusion exercise, the government also approved raising authorised share capital of National Insurance Company Ltd (NICTL) to ₹ 7,500 crore and that of United India Insurance Company Ltd (UIICL) and Oriental Insurance Company Ltd (OICL) to ₹5,000 crore each.

The ₹12,450 crore capital infusion approved by the Cabinet in July includes ₹2,500 crore provided to these companies during 2019-20.

During this year, the Government infused ₹3,475 crore while announcing infusion of the balance ₹ 6,475 crore in

one or more tranches.

The government in Budget 2020-21 had made a provision of ₹ 6,950 crore for capital infusion in these three insurance companies in order to maintain the requisite minimum solvency ratio.

Three PSU general insurers, with their large underwriting losses of ₹14,443 crore, together have been responsible for the overall losses of over ₹7,118 crore in 2019-20.

NICTL, with a combined ratio of 160.8 per cent and underwriting losses of ₹5,759 crore, has suffered losses of ₹4,108 crore while OICL (141 per cent, ₹4,197 crore) and UIIL (132 per cent, ₹4,487 crore) have been hit with losses of ₹1,524 crore and ₹1,486 crore, respectively in 2019-20.

However, New India Assurance, the only exception out of the four public sector general insurers, posted a profit of ₹1,418 crore in 2019-20. **PTI**

Cos raise ₹25,000 cr via IPOs in 2020 so far; next year expected to be equally strong

New Delhi: High liquidity and robust interest from investors helped companies raise nearly ₹25,000 crore through initial share-sales this year so far and 2021 is expected to be equally strong for the IPO market, experts said.

Adding to the depth of the IPO market, companies from diverse sectors like pharma, telecommunication, IT and financial services have made their way to the IPO space during the period under review.

According to an analysis of data available with the stock exchanges, 12 initial public offerings (IPOs) in 2020 so far raised around ₹25,000 crore, significantly higher than ₹12,362 crore mopped up through 16 initial share-sales in the entire 2019.

Prior to that, 24 companies had floated their IPOs in 2018 that raised ₹30,959 crore.

In 2020 so far, close to ₹25,000 crore has already been raised through IPOs and the figure could rise further as Burger King's Rs 810-crore initial share-sale is schedule to open on December 2.

Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, attributed higher fund raising in this year compared to 2019 to high interest of corporates and retail investors for the primary market despite huge contraction in the economy.

At the same time, companies opted for the IPO route to build war-chest during the uncertainties and to strengthen their balance sheet, he added. **PTI**

US, UK and Australia among top mkts for Indian sellers exporting products on eBay

New Delhi: The US, the UK, mainland Europe and Australia are the top markets for Indian sellers that are exporting products through cross-border e-commerce on eBay's platform, a top official said.

Indian sellers have been witnessing strong demand across categories like apparel, fine jewellery, toys, auto parts and accessories and home decor, especially during the holiday season (Thanksgiving to New Year's), eBay India Country Manager Vidmay Naini told PTI.

"Evolving consumer demand and increase in the trust in purchases outside domestic e-commerce reflect a huge market potential that developing countries like India should tap into for e-commerce exports.

The US, the UK, mainland Europe and Australia are the top markets Indian sellers are exporting products through cross-border e-commerce," he said. eBay's CBT (cross border

trade) business in India has been in operation for over a decade with an aim to help Indian sellers list and sell merchandise to over 183 million buyers who shop on various global platforms of eBay across the globe, Naini said.

He noted that the overall global e-commerce business ranges around USD 4 trillion (based on data from emarketer.Com).

"According to various estimates, the pure B2C cross border e-commerce potential for Indian sellers is approximately USD 1 billion now..The top-shopped categories that Indian sellers have observed during the holiday season sales are clothing, shoes and accessories; toys and games; auto parts and accessories; fine jewellery and watches; and home decor," Naini said.

During the five days window of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Indian sellers experience a spike in the volume of

orders and sales, and the holiday shopping continues till Christmas, he said.

Black Friday is celebrated a day after Thanksgiving with retailers wooing potential shoppers with special deals and discounts.

Naini cited data from a survey conducted among its users to state that shoppers have started relying more on digital marketplaces.

He said 31 per cent respondents said they had started holiday shopping before September 30 this year, and 41 per cent said they spent USD 1,000 on holiday gifts and celebrations in 2019. About 62 per cent said they planned to spend the same or more this year.

"Taking into consideration the dynamic change in shoppers behaviour in reference to holiday shopping this year, Indian sellers consider this as a huge opportunity to expand business in foreign markets," he added. **PTI**

CBIC asks for physical verification of biz granted deemed GST registration between Aug 21-Nov 16

New Delhi: The CBIC has asked field offices to carry out physical verification of premises of businesses which have been granted deemed GST registration between August 21 and November 16 to ascertain that they have genuine business or intend to carry out so.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has also asked taxmen not to grant GST registration on deemed basis in cases where the applicant has not opted for Aadhaar authentication or the authentication has failed.

Current provision under Goods and Services Tax (GST) law allows for deemed registration upon completion of 21 days

of application if the proper officer has not issued any notice within the said 21 days.

The CBIC, in its instruction to field offices, said that data suggests that during the period from August 21, 2020 to November 16, 2020 deemed registrations have been granted in many cases where Aadhaar authentication has not been opted for or has failed.

"These registrations granted on deemed basis require verifications to ascertain that they have genuine business or intends to carry out so," the CBIC said while issuing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for carrying out physical verification of persons who

have been granted deemed registration.

During the physical verification, the officer, among other things, would verify that in case the applicant intends to carry out manufacturing activity, the capital goods, if required for the said manufacturing activity, have been installed.

The officer would also verify electricity connection, bills paid in the relevant period, size of the premises – whether it is commensurate with the activity to be carried out by the applicant, whether premises is self-owned or is rented and documents relating to ownership/registered lease of the said property. **PTI**

5G prospects compelling for India: Qualcomm

New Delhi: India has a big market that needs to upgrade and set up for 5G offtake, and the government and policy makers can trigger growth of the telecom space by releasing spectrum, including 5G, in adequate quantity and at affordable prices, a senior official of Qualcomm said.

The 5G would positively impact India's telecom market, the second largest in the world and "still growing", as increased data consumption and heightened adoption of technology due to the pandemic has prepared the market for the advent of the next-generation technology, said Rajen Vagadia, VP and President, Qualcomm India

and SAARC. "The case for the immediate rollout of 5G networks in India is a compelling one. It is no longer a choice, but a pre-requisite for the country's growth and development," Vagadia told PTI.

Indian regulators will have a big role to play in ensuring that 5G in India is deployed to its "full potential".

As the world's second largest telecom market, India holds huge promise for growth, Vagadia said. "The government and policy makers can trigger growth of the Indian telecom market by releasing spectrum, including 5G, in adequate quantity and at affordable prices," he said in an email interview.

Since networks are congested, it is "prudent" to make the spectrum across all bands including mmW (millimetre wave) available for immediate deployment, starting with trials, he said. The 5G will completely redefine mobile experiences and enable generations to benefit from it, the company said.

Tech titan, Qualcomm, is a wireless technology innovator and fuelling the development, launch and expansion of 5G.

"We are driving conversations at all levels of the ecosystem to catalyse the commercial reality of 5G in the country — from telco, education, healthcare, automotive, medicine to manufacturing," Vagadia said.

India has a big market that needs to upgrade and set up for 5G growth, he pointing out.

"We expect a longer-term trial followed by circle level roll-out towards the end of next year before a national rollout of services," he pointed out.

Unlike previous generation technologies, 5G is expected to embrace and support specialised use cases in sectors like manufacturing, energy, utilities, healthcare, pharmaceutical, transportation and logistics. To support the connectivity needs for the next decade, 5G will play a "much bigger role" than previous generations of technology, spanning multiple industries and verticals.

ITU EVALUATES 3 NEW 5G-RELATED TECHS

Meanwhile, three new technologies including "5G" submitted by the Telecommunications Standards Development Society India (TSDSI) have completed "successful evaluation" and conform with rigorous performance requirement, according to International Telecommunication Union statement. During the multi-year development and evaluation process by the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, these technologies were deemed to be sufficiently detailed to enable global compatibility of operation and equipment, including roaming. **PTI**

‘Chinese activities along Indian border provocative’

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

An influential US lawmaker has expressed concern over reports of China’s continuing construction activities along the Indian border in Ladakh, saying if the reports are true, it is a “provocative measure” on the part of Beijing and fits the pattern of its conduct in the South China Sea.

India and China have been locked in a military standoff, which began in May, along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

Armies of both countries have deployed a large number of troops along the LAC. Multiple rounds of talks between the two sides to resolve the standoff have not yielded any concrete outcome.

“If it (reports) turns out to be true, it would be yet another provocative measure by the Chinese military to change the facts on the ground,” Democratic Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi told PTI.

“It would also fit the pattern of their conduct in the South China Sea, where they build islands, where they try to change the facts as we previously understood them, and they would be deeply disturbing, to say the least,” said Krishnamoorthi, who is the first-ever Indian-American to be on the US House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

China claims almost all of

the 1.3 million square mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory. It has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Beijing has also impeded commercial activity like fishing or mineral exploration by countries like Vietnam and the Philippines in the resource-rich region, claiming that the ownership of the territory belonged to China for hundreds of years.

Krishnamoorthi, who was recently re-elected to the House of Representatives for the third consecutive time, said the US stands with India.

The Congressman from Illinois said reports including satellite images are his source of information about Chinese construction activities.

“I have to say that we currently in the US Congress, but also the Trump and the incoming Biden administration stand by our Indian partners and the Indo-Pacific region,” he said.

The recently concluded Malabar exercise of QUAD countries — India, Japan, Australia and the United States — is a signal that the democracies in the Indo-Pacific region will continue to stand with each other and push for a rules-based international order, the Congressman said.

Responding to a question,

Krishnamoorthi said US President-elect Joe Biden has been a longtime friend of India, and he along with Indian-origin vice president-elect Kamala Harris will stand with New Delhi.

“I think his selection Kamala Harris only cements a relationship given her own Indian roots. Secretary of State nominee Anthony Blinken is also a longtime friend of India. He knows the region extremely well. I trust that incoming Secretary Blinken is going to take the relationship to new heights, along with President Biden and vice president Harris,” he said.

“They are going to continue the approach that has largely been taken by Democratic and Republican presidents, which is we stand with India in the region, and opposing any kind of militaristic action on the part of any neighbour, including China,” he added.

Krishnamoorthi also said addressing COVID-19 needs to be the number one priority for India and the US.

“A global health partnership that involves India, the United States, and all of our partners and allies around the world, and others, is crucial for defeating the pandemic,” he said.

“I’m confident it’s going to happen, especially with Joe Biden as one of the world’s premier preeminent leaders pushing this change,” he said.

Strike Haifa if Israel killed scientist: Iran newspaper

AP ■ TEHRAN

An opinion piece published Sunday by a hard-line Iranian newspaper urged Iran to attack the Israeli port city of Haifa if Israel carried out the killing of the scientist who founded the Islamic Republic’s military nuclear programme in the early 2000s.

Though the hard-line Kayhan newspaper has long argued for aggressive retaliation for operations targeting Iran, Sunday’s opinion piece went further, suggesting any assault be carried out in a way that destroys facilities and “also causes heavy human casualties.”

Israel, suspected of killing Iranian nuclear scientists over

the past decade, has not commented on the brazen slaying of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. A military-style ambush Friday on the outskirts of Tehran reportedly saw a truck bomb explode and gunmen open fire on the scientist, killing him and a bodyguard.

US Intelligence agencies and UN nuclear inspectors have said the organised military nuclear programme that Fakhrizadeh oversaw disbanded in 2003, but Israeli suspicion of Tehran’s atomic program and his involvement has never ceased.

Kayhan published the piece written by Iranian analyst Sadollah Zarei, who argued Iran’s previous responses to suspected Israeli airstrikes that

killed Revolutionary Guard forces in Syria did not go far enough to deter Israel. He said an assault on Haifa also needed to be greater than Iran’s ballistic missile attack against American troops in Iraq following the US drone strike in Baghdad that killed a top Iranian general in January.

Striking the Israeli city of Haifa and killing a large number of people “will definitely lead to deterrence, because the United States and the Israeli regime and its agents are by no means ready to take part in a war and a military confrontation,” Zarei wrote.

While Kayhan is a small circulation newspaper in Iran, its editor-in-chief Hossein

Shariatmadari was appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and has been described as an adviser to him in the past.

Haifa, on the Mediterranean Sea, has been threatened in the past by both Iran and one of its proxies, the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Such a strike likely would draw an immediate Israeli retaliation and spark a wider conflict across the Mideast. While Iran has never directly targeted an Israeli city militarily, it has conducted attacks targeting Israeli interests abroad in the past over the killing of its scientists, like in the case of the three Iranians recently freed in

Thailand in exchange for a detained British-Australian academic.

UN CALLS FOR RESTRAINT AFTER KILLING OF IRANIAN NUCLEAR SCIENTIST

United Nations: The United Nations urged restraint Saturday after tensions rose in the Middle East with the assassination of a top Iranian nuclear scientist.

Iran has blamed Israel for Friday’s killing of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh and vowed revenge.

Chinese Def Minister meets Nepal’s top leadership to bolster military cooperation

Kathmandu: China’s Defence Minister Gen Wei Fenghe on Sunday met Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and held talks with Nepal Army chief Gen Purna Chandra Thapa on various issues of bilateral interest, aimed at bolstering military cooperation and take the existing friendly ties to a new height. Gen Wei, who is also a State Councillor, held bilateral talks with Army chief Gen Thapa at the army headquarters here during his day-long “working visit” to Nepal, said a statement issued by the Nepal Army.

Boris defends tier-based lockdown in letter to rebel colleagues

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has urged his Conservative Party lawmakers to back the Government’s tier-based Covid-19 lockdown in a Parliament vote in a letter stressing that there “a sunset” clause — or expiry date — of February 3 on the latest restrictions.

In an attempt to curb a growing rebellion within his own ranks against the new measures which face a House of Commons vote next Tuesday, Johnson wrote on Saturday evening that the tiers will be reviewed every two weeks, and areas can move down the tiers from mid-December.

“Regulations have a sunset

of 3 February. After the fourth fortnightly review (27 January), Parliament will have another vote on the tiered approach, determining whether the measures stay in place until the end of March,” he wrote.

In his attempt to placate angry MPs opposed to further lockdowns, he also committed to publish more data and outline what circumstances need to change for an area to move down a tier, as well analysis of the health, economic and social impacts of the measures taken to suppress coronavirus.

Most of England’s population is set to fall under the two toughest tiers when the second national lockdown ends on December 2. Around 32 million people — covering 57.3 per

cent of England and including London — will fall into Tier 2 or high alert level which means the rule of six applies overall and most venues are allowed to function near normally.

The further tough measures after four weeks of a stay-at-home lockdown has triggered a backlash among Johnson’s own Tory MPs and the changes could now face a fight in Parliament after the Opposition Labour Party remains undecided and may abstain in the vote on Tuesday.

The Cabinet has been rallying around to try and ensure the latest measures to curb the spread of coronavirus infections clears the Commons hurdle.

Only three regions of the

Thai pro-democracy protesters rally outside Army base

AP ■ BANGKOK

Thailand’s indefatigable pro-democracy activists took to Bangkok’s streets again Sunday, this time to protest the army as they push forward with their campaign for sweeping reforms, including to the nation’s monarchy.

Around 800 protesters gathered in the afternoon and in early evening marched to the base of the 11th Infantry Regiment, which is closely associated with the country’s



royal palace. Their number grew to well over 1,000 as they settled in for speeches by

protest leaders.

An advance group of protesters had already pulled away

two decrepit buses that had been used to block the entrance to the base and removed strands of razor wire. A large contingent of riot police, several rows deep, stood their ground in front of the gate but there didn’t appear to be an imminent chance of a clash.

The protesters believe that the army undermines democracy in Thailand, and that King Maha Vajiralongkorn wields too much power and influence in what is supposed to be a democratic constitutional monarchy.

Taliban: Doha negotiators have agreed on rules

IANS ■ KABUL

A Taliban spokesperson has said that negotiators from both sides for the Afghan peace process have agreed on procedural rules with 21 items for the talks to proceed, the media reported.

The procedure of Intra-Afghan negotiations between the negotiating teams was completed and finalized in

21 articles on the 15th of November,” TOLO News quoted spokesperson Mohammad Naem as saying in a tweet on Saturday.

Last week, sources reported a breakthrough in the talks and said both sides have agreed to include the US-Taliban agreement, UN endorsements for the Afghan peace process, commitments of the negotiating

teams and the will of the Afghan people as the base for upcoming negotiations.

The peace negotiations between teams from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban started on September 12. However, no direct talks have started because of disagreements on procedural rules for the negotiations, TOLO News reported.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PM MODI TO...

Though Modi had attended the Ganga aarti and other programmes at the river Ganga on many occasions, including when he accompanied French President Emmanuel Macron and Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, he could not visit the mythological city during Dev Deepawali festival.

The entire ghat areas have been decorated with attractive structures, paintings and lights to add grandeur to the festival on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, which is a pious day not only for Hindus but also for Sikhs and Buddhists.

And during this visit, Modi will not only light the first diya at 5:15 pm at Rajghat but also watch the ghats when all the diyas are lit. Meanwhile, he will go to Kashi Vishwanath Corridor to see the progress made in one of his dream projects here. In the state, Dev Deepawali will be the second festival after Deepotsav at Ayodhya which is going to be organised in a big manner.

During his 6:40-hour stay here, Modi will first go to Khazuri by helicopter after landing at LBS International Airport at Babatpur by his special plane and address a public meeting where a few thousand people will remain present, maintaining social distance. The meeting at Khazuri will also be attended by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He will dedicate to the people the 73-km-long six-lane Raja Talab-Handia road constructed at a cost of Rs 2,447 crore. He will also launch the website of Tourism department and visit the Buddhist holy site at Sarnath and watch the light & sound show which was by inaugurated by him on November 9 last. Later, he will return to the airport and leave for Delhi around 9 pm.

FARMERS REJECT...

Opposition parties too pressed the Government to initiate an unconditional dialogue with the farmers.

Farmers who had reached Nirankari Samagun Ground in Burari on Saturday also

continued their protest there.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla in a letter to 32 farmers organisations sent on Saturday cited the cold conditions and the Covid-19 outbreak and said the farmers should move to the Burari ground where adequate facilities have been made for them. “As soon as you shift to the ground at Burari, the very next day a high-level committee of Union Ministers will hold talks at Vigyan Bhavan with the representatives of all farmers unions, with whom dialogue had taken place earlier,” he said in the letter. The Central Government has reached out to the farmers underscoring its willingness to hold talks with them. It has also asserted that concerns expressed by some farm bodies about the new laws are misplaced, asserting that existing support measures like the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and state-run ‘mandis’ will remain in place.

Farmer leaders, however, claimed that more protesters will join them from Haryana and Punjab. Several Khaps or caste councils from Haryana have extended support to the farmers’ ongoing protest and will march towards the national Capital. Raising slogans against the government, the farmers staged protests amid heavy police presence on the Delhi borders. The Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC) provided food to the agitating farmers. A war of words has also broken out between Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar over the movement of protesting farmers to Delhi.

Singh and his Congress party have supported the farmers’ agitation and criticised the Khattar Government which had tried to stop the protesters from crossing the BJP-ruled Haryana to enter Delhi.

Khattar said on Sunday he would hold Amarinder responsible if farmers’ gathering on the state’s borders with Delhi leads to an aggravation of the Covid-19 situation in the State.

He alleged that it was programme sponsored by the

Congress and the Punjab Government. The Congress, which has been targeting the Government over the farm laws issue, said the insistence on support to the legislations shows that the Government is “drunk with power.”

“Those who are still defending the black farm laws, what solution will they find in favour of farmers?” party leader Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi, adding that, “Ab hogi (now there will be) #KisaanKiBaat”.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asked the Centre to immediately and unconditionally hold talks with the farmers. The protesting farmers have come prepared for a long haul, their vehicles loaded with rations, utensils, quilts and blankets for the cold and equipped with even charging points for their phones.

“In any situation, we will not call off the protest till our demands are met,” Brij Singh, one of the farmers at Singhu border, said.

Gaurav Sharma, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North), said they are allowing vehicles carrying food and other necessities for farmers to pass. “Burari DDA ground has already been designated as the protest site and when they want to move, we will be facilitating their movement,” he said. On Friday, police used teargas shells, water cannons and multi-layer barriers to block the protesters.

Some protesters pelted stones and broke barricades. No untoward incident was reported on Saturday. But the tension persisted with restless crowds milling around the city’s edges and beyond and settling down from another night out in the cold.

DON’T BE SWAYED...

He said pandemic has compelled us to think differently. Modi spoke Abut ‘atm-nirbharta’ and for being ‘vocal for local’ paying tribute to the innovations of the young minds in the country.

“We are stepping into winters. The internet is replete with pictures of Cherry Blossom flowers, but they are not from

Japan, but from India’s Shillong”, said the Prime Minister. In the times of the pandemic, he said schools and colleges should work to fortify their alumni network and get connected.

Ahead of Guru Nanak Jayanti on Monday, the Prime Minister said the legacy of ‘langars’ of feeding needy people had continued through the Covid-19 pandemic by Sikh communities.

The PM said as World Heritage Day was still away, the statue of ‘Aanapurna Devi’, stolen from Varanasi temple in 1913, was returning home. Modi said the idol which was stolen from Varanas is being returned to India by the Canadian Government.

He said that attempts are being made to digitalise museums and other heritage sites amid the Covid-19 pandemic, including the Ajanta Caves.

The Prime Minister lauded Dr Gaurav Sharma, one of the youngest and newly-elected MPs in New Zealand, who on Wednesday took oath in Sanskrit in the country’s Parliament. Sharma, 33, hailing from Himachal Pradesh’s Hamirpur, was recently elected as the Member of Parliament from the Labour Party for Hamilton West in New Zealand.

‘TIGER STATE’ MP...

Karnataka, which is on the second position in the number of tigers in the country, registered eight deaths and two seizures of tiger body parts this year, as per the data.

The southern State lost 12 big cats last year. “Right now, MP has 124 tiger cubs. The cubs were not counted during the last census (in 2018). In the next count, we are going to have more than 600 tigers,” Shah said.

“We have more tigers than the area for them. Take the example of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve it has 125 tigers whereas it has the territory to house only 90,” he said. The Minister attributed the big number of tiger deaths in Bandhavgarh to the territorial fight among the big cats for space and dominance. Earlier, MP had lost the

GLOBE TROTTER

PANDEMIC CALLS OFF X’MAS MARKETS IN EUROPE

Berlin: The European plazas where people would usually gather at crowded stalls to partake in hot mulled wine, gingerbread, sausages and other delicacies are just empty squares. Christmas markets, a cherished tradition in Germany and neighbouring countries, have joined the long list of annual traditions that were cancelled or diminished this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

SWISS VOTES TO BOOST LIABILITY OF BIG FIRMS

Geneva: Swiss voters are casting final ballots in a referendum on a measure that could stiffen penalties against companies that are based Switzerland if they violate human rights or harm the environment abroad.

HK TO CLOSE SCHOOLS AMID VIRUS SURGE

Hong Kong: Hong Kong has reported 115 new coronavirus infections, the first time it has seen cases in the triple digits since August 2. The government on Sunday also announced that classes at kindergarten, primary and secondary schools will be shut for the rest of the year in light of the worsening coronavirus situation in the city.

MAN HELD FOR NOT WEARING MASK ON FLIGHT

New York: A 44-year-old man was arrested after refusing to wear a face mask on a Delta Airlines flight heading from Salt Lake City to San Francisco in the US, a media report said. The man, identified as Joshua Colby Council, was rushing to board his flight at Salt Lake City International Airport on Wednesday night when a gate agent stopped and asked him to put on a face mask, the New York Post reported.

CENTRE-RIGHT MAYOR FACES SOCIALIST

Sao Paulo: The mayor of the largest city in the Americas is trying to fend off a reelection challenge from the socialist leader of a squatters movement as 57 Brazilian cities hold runoff elections on Sunday. Guilherme Boulos, backed by former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, pushed his way into a surprising runoff with 40-year-old Mayor Bruno Covas.

N KOREA TOUGHENS RULES OF ENTRY TO SEA

Seoul: North Korea is further toughening restrictions on entering seawaters as part of elevated steps to fight the coronavirus pandemic, state media said Sunday, two days after South Korea said the North had banned sea fishing. The Korean Central News Agency reported the country is mobilising more anti-virus units and establishing strong steps to “completely remove uncivilised and unhygienic elements that could help make room for the spread of an epidemic” at winter.

Trend Slazer

‘Will shoot once I deliver my child’

Actor and mother-to-be **ANUSHKA SHARMA** says she will be back shooting once she delivers her first child.

“Being on the set brings me a lot of joy and I’m going to be shooting continuously for the next few days once I deliver my first child and establish a system at home that ensures me to balance my child, my home and my professional life. I intend to keep working for as long as I live because acting truly makes me happy,” she said.

Anushka, who is currently shooting for endorsements after creating a protective, full-proof bio-bubble with her staff, said, “It’s great being on the set & meeting my entire team, soaking in the madness of shoots.”



‘Remembering Kal Ho Naa Ho as it completes 17 years. A film that made me laugh and cry in a heartbeat.’

It was an experience that went beyond words. This was probably one of my best-written films. Thank you to the entire cast and crew for making this film so memorable. So I’d say, aaj zindagi jee lo, kya pata kal ho naa ho?

—**Preity Zinta**

Bollywood veterans **HEMA MALINI** and **DHARMENDRA** are grandparents once again, this time to twin baby girls born to their younger daughter **Ahana Deol Vohra**.

“Delighted to share the good news of my younger daughter Ahana and (Ahana’s husband) Vaibhav who are blessed with twin girls,” Hema Malini tweeted, sharing the news.

The twins have been named Astraira and Asea. Hema further tweeted that she and Dharmendra are “overjoyed grandparents” to the twins.

Not surprised by COVID-19: Jude

Actor **JUDE LAW** says he was not shocked by the COVID-19 pandemic as he already feared the possibility of a global health crisis after speaking to experts on the set of his 2011 release, *Contagion*.

“When 2020 started, and we heard about what was initially happening in China, what fast became apparent around the world, it rang alarm bells. Unfortunately, I wasn’t hugely surprised,” Law said.

Law essayed Alan Krumwiede in the thriller, and said that there was a feeling “this was going to happen” as they worked in the film.



You were possibly trained at a young age about ways by to improve your physical health, however, mental health and self-care might have taken a backseat. If you have been diagnosed with a mental health ailment like anxiety or depression, the treatment typically comprises of emotional therapies and medication.

The lifestyle changes which tend to impact our state of mind are often less observed. Fortunately, with many now prioritising mood and cognitive health as much as their physical health, mental health and the discourse around it, in current times is less stigmatised than it was in the past. Today mindfulness is equally valued as much as physical health. Even those not suffering from a cognitive health condition may still look for effective ways to further take care of their mood, reduce stress and accomplish day-to-day mental health.

As with physical health, nurturing mental health is an ongoing process; simple daily practices and lifestyle changes can aid in this. Kanchan Rai, Mental and Emotional Well-being Coach, Founder - Let Us Talk, mentions five lifestyle modifications to get you started:

Practice relaxation techniques: While sensory input can release

Put your mind at ease

The lifestyle changes which tend to impact our state of mind are often less observed. Here are a few things to elevate your mood

stress in the moment, relaxation techniques facilitate to condense overall stress levels. Practices like meditation, yoga, deep inhalation and progressive muscle relaxation can help put the brakes to anxiety levels and help balance your mind and body.

Healthy eating is a go-to option: In order to achieve an optimal brain functioning, you must increase the intake of wholefoods like green leafy vegetables, grains, legumes, seafood and lean meat in your diet. These foods encompass magnesium, folate, zinc and vital fatty acids which accelerate cerebral function. Edibles rich in polyphenols, such as wine, dark chocolates and berries are also vital in getting the mind activated.

Improving mental well-being through physical activity: Fitness activities to get your body moving can offer an instant mood elevation. Activities that involve



In order to achieve an optimal brain functioning, you must increase the intake of wholefoods like green vegetables, grains, legumes, seafood and lean meat in your diet. These foods encompass magnesium, folate, zinc and vital fatty acids which accelerate cerebral function

social interaction and exposure to nature can possibly help mental well-being even further.

Reach out when you need help: Positive lifestyle alterations are not a replacement for medication or therapy but, rather, something you can undertake yourself in addition to treatment. While most lifestyle modifications can be encouraging, some fluctuations may be challenging if used as an emotional crutch. One might be required to deal with it delicately, and with expert support.

Prioritising sleep: Along with improving sleep patterns, sleep hygiene techniques also help to treat insomnia. These comprise of limiting caffeine usage, regulating your sleep time, limiting screen time and ensuring you wake up at a similar time in the morning. Never force yourself to sleep, if you are unable to sleep within around 20 minutes, it may be best to get up and focus on an activity until you feel tired. The other mainstay of achieving an enhanced sleep pattern is to limit light exposure. This will surge the emission of melatonin, which aids in sleep. Getting quality sleep is significant for regulating stress levels, thus indirectly mending mind health. —IANS

POWER OF THE PALETTE

Abstract artist **WASSILY KANDINSKY**’s works revolved around Russian folklore and culture, portraying his belief in art’s ability to transform the self and society. By **UMA NAIR**

The newly-opened Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in New York is now home to a stellar exhibition by abstractionist Wassily Wassilyevich Kandinsky. The most enchanting works here are his early woodcuts. Scholars say that before he abandoned the figurative idiom, Kandinsky created evocative works on paper, largely in black and white.

LAWYER-TURNED ARTIST

A very few people are aware that Kandinsky had traded a very promising career in law for a position of an art director at a printing firm in Moscow. The next year he came to Munich, carrying with him the knowledge of classic printmaking techniques like woodcut, etching and lithography.

The woodcut, in particular, challenged the artist to reduce compositions and narratives to simplified, expressionist forms, often using just black ink or limited palettes.

In 1907, Kandinsky produced numerous original woodcuts featuring women in traditional Russian costumes, embodying the romantic, fairytale imagery he favoured early in his career. Among them, *Birches* (Schalmei), *Women in the Woods* (Frauen im Wald), *Two Birds* (Zwei Vögel), and *Church* (Kirche) — as well as another woodcut, *Horsemen* — were reissued as photogravures with the title, *Xylographies*, in the Parisian magazine, *Les Tendances Nouvelles* in 1909.

CHURCH (1907)

The title, ‘Church,’ draws attention to the pervasive musical elements of the portfolio. Kandinsky’s fascination with the emotional power of music inspired his later abstract compositions, and was a lifelong interest for the artist. In this woodcut, we see a composition that blends the architectural setting of a church with an onion-shaped dome with two women in the foreground. The women are standing on each side — left and right — and both are lost in their own contemplation. The details and elements of the children, the sky and the street — all become a part of a panoramic spread that juxtaposes each detail and anchors them with a singularity.

Scholars say that in this series of woodcuts, Kandinsky prepared one block for the artwork’s lines and another with its coloured areas, pressed both onto the same paper, and then hand-painted the resulting image through watercolour. Kandinsky’s lifelong and passionate interest in music was a great inspiration to his later abstract period. Although these works seem traditional to the contemporary audience, the reduction of forms was an important step forward for his early career.

Kandinsky’s woodcuts are experi-



mental in technique but fully assured and characterised by juxtapositions and combinations of events. The woodcuts ranged in style from Kandinsky’s early fairytale idiom to fully-fledged abstracts of great power and beauty.

For him, 1907 became an important year. He produced a body of woodcuts that was published as *Xylographies* in 1909 in the Parisian periodical, *Les Tendances Nouvelles*. In the works, we see a current of nostalgia for traditional Russian folklore and culture — the onion-shaped domes of Church, the costumes of the women and an ambient sense of fullness.

Hence, Church is an important woodcut in the lifeworks of Kandinsky as it reveals how his Russian roots continued to move and inspire him. He

believed that great artists were like prophets but they had to be driven by a spirit. This woodcut testifies his brilliance, passion and love for the everyday idiom, which we so often take for granted.

INNER NECESSITY

Drawn primarily from the Solomon R Guggenheim Foundation’s rich holdings, this comprehensive exhibition traces the four geographic sections of the aesthetic evolution of Kandinsky, one of the foremost artistic innovators of the early 20th century.

He set out on a crusade against conventional aesthetic values and discovered a new subject matter based solely on the artist’s “inner necessity” in a dream of a more spiritual future through the transformative powers of art. As his calligraphic contours and rhythmic forms revealed scarcer traces of their representational origins, Kandinsky began to advance abstraction and elicit what he called the “hidden power of the palette.”

PIONEER OF ABSTRACTION

For Kandinsky, even the most abstract forms retained expressive, emotive content. For instance, the triangles embodied active and aggressive feelings; the squares denoted peace and calm; and the circles represented the spiritual and the cosmic realms. As a pioneer of abstraction and a renowned aesthetic theorist, he is among the foremost artistic innovators of the early 20th century. In his endeavour to free painting from its ties to the natural world, Kandinsky’s work was based on an artist’s “inner necessity”.

In Munich, in the 1900s and the early 1910s, he began exploring the expressive possibilities of colour and composition but he was forced to abruptly leave Germany with the onset of World War I in 1914. The artist eventually returned to his native place, Moscow, where his pictorial vocabulary started to reflect the utopian experiments of the Russian avant-garde. He emphasised geometric shapes in an effort to establish a universal aesthetic language.

Kandinsky subsequently joined the faculty of the Bauhaus, a German school of art and applied design, that shared his belief in art’s ability to transform the self and the society. Compelled to abandon Germany again when the Bauhaus closed under Nazi pressure in 1933, he settled outside Paris, where surrealism and the natural sciences influenced his biomorphic imagery. This exhibition extols his brilliance both as an artist and as a thinker.

Photo: Guggenheim Museum, NY



Nirvana Inn set for digital premiere

The Adil Hussain-starrer *Nirvana Inn* will have a digital world premiere on a pay-per-view basis for 99 hours on December 11. The Hindi-language psychological horror drama, which also stars Sandhya Mridul and Rajshri Deshpande, is directed by Vijay Jayapal. It follows the story of a boatman who becomes the caretaker of a Himalayan resort after an attempted suicide.

“*Nirvana Inn* is very unique in its narrative. We hardly see this style in Indian cinema. I loved how the reality of my role easily slips into nightmarish vision. Very intelligently done. Never played a role of this kind. I think Vijay Jayapal has a lot to offer to Indian cinema. I hope he gets what he really wants to,” said Adil.

Sandhya shared that director Jayapal brings a simple real personal approach to his films and a “normalcy in the handling of relationships between characters and a palpable emotional thread occasionally which is interesting, especially in the genre of horror it’s more uncomfortable and then terrifying. For me this role was easy and then not.”

Nirvana Inn, which had its world premiere at the Busan International Film festival 2019, will be available on the digital platform Cinemapreneur.

The film is produced by Stray Factory, Uncombed Buddha, Stop Whinging (Australia) and Harman Ventures in association with Magic Hour Films (Singapore).

The producers said in a collective statement: “With theatres closed and OTTs crowded, independent films have to find truly independent ways of distributing their film. We have decided on an unconventional release because this gives the power to the audience to decide the fate of the film, we hope this sets a trend for many more independent films.”

WEBBED



ALIEN WORLDS

Applying the laws of life on Earth to the rest of the galaxy, this series blends science fact and fiction to imagine alien life on other planets. Season 1 releases on December 2 on Netflix.



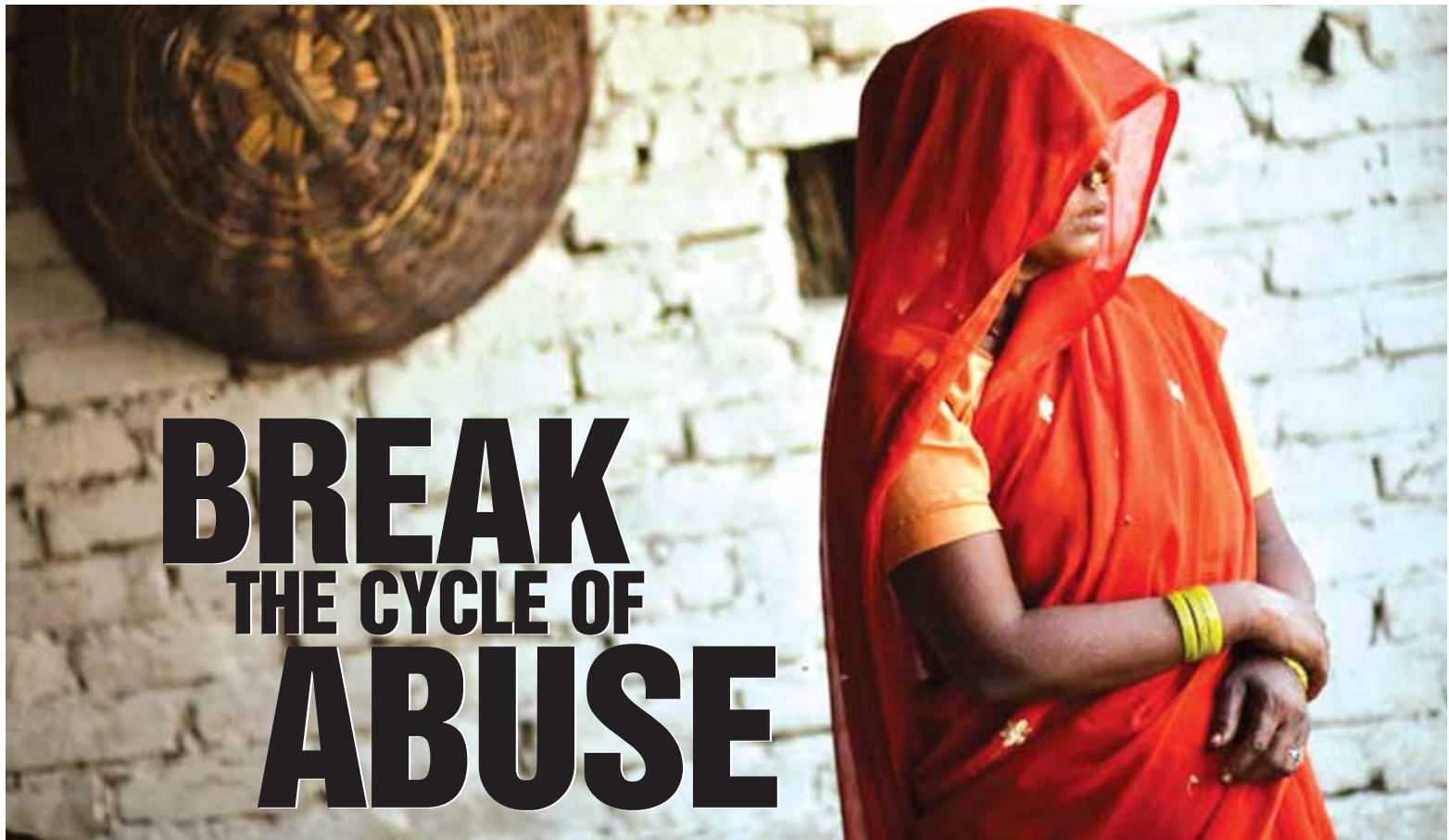
THE SURGEON’S CUT

They’re philosophers, storytellers and pioneers in their fields. Four surgeons reflect on their lives and professions in this inspiring docuseries. Season 1 releases on December 9 on Netflix.



THE MIDNIGHT SKY

In the aftermath of a global catastrophe, a lone scientist in the Arctic races to contact a crew of astronauts with a warning not to return to Earth. Starring George Clooney, Felicity Jones and Kyle Chandler, the film releases on December 23 on Netflix.



BREAK THE CYCLE OF ABUSE

India saw a sharp escalation in the cases of violence against women during the lockdown. RAMA SHARMA reports that the situation is worse in remote areas as women neither have information regarding their rights nor have access to necessary resources

Last week on November 25, people from across the world protested violence and abuse against women on International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. In the context of the ongoing pandemic, a United Nations report suggests that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic, has intensified. Several women's rights organisations across the world are demanding their respective governments to take effective measures to safeguard young girls and women caught in the cycle of violence. Considered to be the 'Shadow Pandemic', growing amid the COVID-19 crisis, the UN has stated that to stop the same, global collective efforts are needed. "As COVID-19 cases continue to strain health services, essential services such as domestic violence shelters

and helplines have reached capacity. More needs to be done to prioritise addressing violence against women in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts," highlighted the report published by the UN. India, which reported a 7.3 per cent increase in rape cases from 2018 to 2019 as per the National Crimes Record Bureau, saw sharp escalation in incidences of violence against women during the nationwide lockdown implemented to contain the spread of virus. As per different news reports, the National Commission of Women (NCW) received 13,410 complaints of crimes against women between March-September 2020, of which 4,350 were domestic violence. Complaints peaked in the March-May period with 1/3rd of them being filed in these three months

alone. The situation was worse in rural and remote areas. From Rajasthan's Chaksu municipality, located 40 kilometres from Jaipur district, many women shared their ordeals with the writer confirming the statistics. "My husband has posed his own lockdown on us. He doesn't allow either me or our children to step out of the house and fights if we ask him for financial support. He is strictly against the idea of letting me work outside the house," shared Sujata Sharma. Seemvati Swami, another woman from Tonk district, shared how her husband indulges into physical violence under the influence of alcohol and wouldn't allow her to speak to anyone. Rajasthan reported a surge of over 100 per cent in crime cases against women in May as compared to the

'AS COVID CASES CONTINUE TO STRAIN HEALTH SERVICES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS AND HELPLINES HAVE REACHED CAPACITY. MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO PRIORITISE THE ISSUE'

—Charkha Features



A better world

If we want all sections of society to have moral values, we need to educate people about the right religious beliefs, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Offlately, there has been a lot of buzz around the topic of values in every profession and area of learning. It is being said repeatedly and vociferously that our education should be value-based, science should not neglect values, politics should observe some moral principles, business and industry should follow some ethics, media should have a code of conduct and administrators should have a set of values to put into practise. Thus, inculcation of values is being stressed upon everywhere. This need for values in all walks of life and human activity emanates from the growing realisation that all conflicts arise from infringement or dissonance of values and that the problems of deterioration in the state of law and order and the lack of harmony have arisen because of violation of values by people. Therefore, we must not miss the essential moral dimension if we want to have peace and happiness in our life and harmony and synchronicity in the society. However, it is little realised that values are derived from our beliefs. Hence, our visions and aspirations determine the set of values necessary to realise our goals and ideals.

There is no human being, however remote from the civilised society he might be living, who has absolutely no beliefs as they are basic to life. Even a cave-man has some values but there is no value which is not derived from some belief knowingly or unknowingly. So, we should be clear in our mind as to what do we mean when we talk of a particular value. In other words, we should be aware of the particular 'belief system' that is behind that value. For example, when Mahatma Gandhi talked of non-violence, he included *Brahmacharya* also in his concept of *Ahimsa*. He said that a person, who aspires *Ahimsa* as a value in his life, must follow celibacy. So, when he pledged himself to it, he announced that he would consider his wife as his mother. So, his understanding of the value of non-violence was pretty different from what many others, professing the observance of these values would say. Similarly, if we were to ascertain what 'tolerance' as a value meant to different communities, we would have to know their religious beliefs. Like, in some religions, the concept or definition of tolerance does not include tolerance to the condemnation of, or even adverse comment on their sacred book or a derogatory remark about a revered person in the history of their religion. In such matters, they feel that they are under attack and hence they feel highly provoked and throw tolerance to the winds. So, tolerance has a limited scope in their value-system because they think that their beliefs are such.

History is witness to many events where numerous places of worship of a religion were destroyed by people of another religion. They initiated attacks on and acts of destruction of, what was a holy place to followers of another faith, because, according to the belief of the former, 'the holy place' of others was a place of false beliefs and practises and, therefore, it was natural for them to destroy such places. Thus, the value, called 'respect' for the faith and the holy places of other religions or sects had a very narrow scope. The above mentioned examples should make it clear that all do not talk of human values with the same background and implying the same virtue because their belief systems are different. So, if we now wish to transform the world and have moral values in all sections of society, we will have to work to educate people to have right beliefs because, without transforming them, you cannot have a changed value system and, without the latter, you cannot have a better world.

These days, with a pandemic raging, this is what life can look like: Staring at your face on Zoom for hours instead of occasionally glimpsing it in the mirror. Living out the days in loungewear. Wearing minimal makeup because no one sees much of you. Considering an investment in home exercise equipment because gyms are closed or restricted.

The pandemic has forced people to spend more time with themselves than ever. Along the way, it has reshaped and broadened the way many think about and prioritise how they treat themselves — what has come to be called self-care.

The pandemic-era incarnation of self-care isn't about buying a signature outfit, wearing a trendy shade of lipstick or getting a perfect haircut. It has, for many, put the purpose and meaning of life front and centre, reconfiguring priorities and needs as the virus-inflected months drift by. No longer are worries about longevity and fears of mortality mere hypotheticals. They are 2020's reality.

It is that daunting reality that has skyrocketed the importance of "me" time: stress-baking the latest viral creation, tending to a garden, learning a new skill, getting dressed like you're going out just to feel some semblance of normalcy. "People are social beings. And while the social fabric has been torn down, and you can't be a normal social person, you have been more focussed on yourself," says Rod Little, CEO of Edgewell Personal Care, which makes Schick and Bull Dog products. Rod adds, "It's beautifying for longevity, as opposed to how I

Celebrate yourself

The meaning of self-care has evolved during the pandemic as the isolation forced people to focus on their priorities and needs

look in the office tomorrow."

It's also a way to mitigate the feeling that life is careening forward haphazardly in so many ways. That's true for Tonya Speaks, a 43-year-old wardrobe coach from Fort Mill, South Carolina. Before the pandemic, she was always zipping to and from business meetings. Now, the mother of two teenagers exercises regularly and opts for luxurious baths at night instead of quick showers in the morning. She's happier doing so. "Taking care of myself," Speaks says, "is one way for me to have control."

Beyond the 'lipstick index'

Self-care isn't a new fad. The difference is that pre-pandemic, it could fall by the wayside if a to-do list got crowded. Now, eight months into the new reality, it is a priority. After all, the thinking goes: If we're not taking care of ourselves, how can we do jobs, parent children, care for loved ones?

For those who have the means — and that's no small caveat during this pandemic — feeling good can mean looking good. And the widespread isolation has produced new trends in beauty and clothing.

Pop star Lady Gaga, who has her own beauty line, recently posted a close-up shot in which



she wears a cat-eye look with natural, peach-colored lipstick. She did her makeup "to cheer myself up." But when it comes to consumer products, the pandemic is pushing makeup aside as people gravitate towards skin care products. The virus is even turning the "lipstick index" upside down.

Typically, lipstick sales skyrocket when the economy gets rough because it is an inexpensive way to feel good. But during the pandemic, makeup sales have been rocky, and sales of skincare products are up. In fact, 70 per cent of consumers scaled back their use of makeup this year,

according to the NPD Group Inc., a market research firm. As a result, skincare has eclipsed makeup as the top category in the beauty industry's market share from January through August.

"People are being more mindful of what they are putting on their skin because of the pandemic," says Lauren Yavor, a beauty influencer.

Beauty chains and department stores are ramping up offerings in moisturisers and bath and body products. Walmart teamed up with Unilever, maker of Dove and Suave, to launch shops called "Find Your Happy Place" aimed

at customers looking to destress. The concept, in the works before the pandemic, was accelerated by one year.

Within makeup, eyeshadow and eyeliner as well as false eyelashes are thriving as people play up the features that are peeping through their masks when they're out, says Larissa Jensen, NPD's beauty industry advisor. Hair products saw an 11 per cent sales increase during the third quarter as people take a DIY approach to colouring and styling.

Says Esi Eggleston Bracey, chief operating officer of Unilever North America's personal care and beauty division: "This is a wellness revolution."

A deeper importance

How deep does this run? Is all the pandemic self-care working, or are people are just going through haphazard motions? One psychologist compares it to a roller coaster — up on some days, down on others.

"Some days, you have a great day when you did all the things you wanted to do. You got up on time, you made a salad. And then the next day, it's Cheetos for lunch," says Dr Vaile Wright, a senior director at the American Psychological Association.

Being kind to one's self feels especially important during the

pandemic, where every aspect of human life has been impacted and there is little control over what's next. That level of uncertainty is unnerving, Wright says, and further depletes already limited energy levels.

Self-care, of course, is only one dimension of coping during stressful times. Surveys have shown a sharp increase in anxiety disorders. Many therapists are reporting upticks in referrals and increases in caseloads. Virtual mental health services are booming — another form of self-care, in a more medical sense. "Having a toolbox of coping skills is really critical," Wright says. She highlights other types of self-care like meditation, journaling and organising — each of which has its own culture and committed practitioners. "We have a tendency to isolate emotionally. It is really important that people don't do that," Wright says.

Ultimately, "self-care" contains as many definitions as there are people who take care of themselves — a Google search of the term will show you that. The World Health Organisation takes an expansive view, describing it as a "broad concept" that includes hygiene, lifestyle, social habits, income levels and cultural beliefs — and, in the best cases, can "strengthen national institutions" to encourage a society's overall health.

For all the horror the pandemic has brought, it has also revealed things that matter. And from the way people have reacted through this year, it seems clear that, in all the forms it takes, self-care matters — particularly right now, particularly with so many unknowns still ahead. —AP

“

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. —Nelson Mandela

”

ANXIETY LINKED TO ALZHEIMER'S ONSET RISK

Researchers have discovered that anxiety is associated with an increased rate of progression from mild cognitive impairment to Alzheimer's disease.

Anxiety has been frequently observed in patients with mild cognitive impairment, although its role in disease progression is not well documented.

"We know that volume loss in certain areas of the brain is a factor that predicts progression to Alzheimer's disease," said study senior author Maria Vittoria Spampinato from the University of South Carolina, US. "In this study, we wanted to see if anxiety had an effect on brain structure, or if the effect of anxiety was independent from brain structure in favouring the progression of disease," Spampinato added.

The study group included 339 patients, average age of 72 years, from the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative 2 cohort.



SEROTONIN ZONES IDENTIFIED

Researchers have identified specific areas of the brain that individually promote patience through the action of serotonin, a chemical that the body produces.

The research, published in the journal, *Science Advances*, gains significance in view of the fact that learning to suppress the impulse for instant gratification is often vital for future success, but how patience is regulated in the brain remains poorly understood.

"Serotonin is one of the most famous neuromodulators of behaviour, helping to regulate mood, sleep-wake cycles and appetite," said study co-author Katsuhiko Miyazaki from Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University in Japan.

The study on mice showed that serotonin-releasing neurons from dorsal raphe nucleus (DRN) penetrate many other areas of the brain, including the nucleus accumbens (NAc), orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) and medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC).



A PERSON'S ESSENCE REMAINS SAME ALL LIFE

In a unique study, researchers have now shown that the essence of an individual remains largely stable over the years. "In our study, we tried to answer the question of whether we are the same person throughout our lives," said study author Miguel Rubianes from the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) in Spain.

"In conjunction with the previous literature, our results indicate that there is a component that remains stable while another part is more susceptible to change over time," Rubianes added.

The 'continuity of the self' — the capacity for self-awareness and self-recognition — remains stable whereas other components such as physical aspects, physiological processes and even attitudes, beliefs and values are more liable to change.

Even components such as personality traits tend to change slightly over the years, but "the sense of being oneself is preserved, improving our understanding of human nature," Rubianes said.



GENUS OF BACTERIA IN THE GUT LINKED TO IBS

Researchers have detected a connection between *Brachyspira*, a genus of bacteria in the intestines, and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) — especially the form that causes diarrhoea.

Although the discovery needs confirmation in larger studies, there is hope that it might lead to new remedies for many people with irritable bowel syndrome, the study published in the journal *Gut*, reported.

The pathogenic bacterial genus, *Brachyspira*, is not usually present in human gut flora. A new study links the bacterium to IBS, particularly the form with diarrhoea. The bacterium hides under the mucus layer protecting the intestinal surface from fecal bacteria. "Unlike most other gut bacteria, *Brachyspira* is in direct contact with the cells and covers their surface," said study author Karolina Sjöberg Jabbar from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.



EMOTIONAL FLEXIBILITY HELPS RELATIONSHIPS

Being emotionally flexible may be one of the most important factors when it comes to longevity and overall health of romantic and familial relationships, say researchers.

The study, published in the *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science*, statistically combined the results of 174 separate studies that had looked at acceptance and commitment therapy, mindfulness, and emotion regulation.

The researchers' aim was to clarify how mindful flexibility on one hand and inattentive, mindless, and rigid inflexibility on the other were linked to the dynamics within families and romantic relationships.

"This meta-analysis underscores that being mindful and emotionally flexible in tough and challenging situations not only improves the lives of individuals, it might also strengthen and enrich their close relationships," said study co-author Ronald Rogge from the University of Rochester in the US.



Smith does it again

Former Oz skipper makes second consecutive 62-ball hundred to lead hosts to ODI series win despite India's fight with bat

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia buried India under an avalanche of runs for a 51-run drubbing in the second ODI and an unassailable 2-0 series lead after the majestic Steve Smith produced another master-class in the form of a 64-ball 104 here at Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

Batting first, Australia rode on five fifty-plus scores including Smith's blazing knock, to post an imposing 389 for four against a sluggish India.

This was the Australian run-machine's fifth century against India in the 50-over format and second on the trot after his ton in the series-opener, which came off 66 deliveries.

A target of 390 proved to be too much for India as they were stopped at 338 for nine, with captain Virat Kohli (89) and KL Rahul (76) finishing as their main contributors in what turned out to be another forgettable outing for the beleaguered visitors.

India started the big chase in earnest with the in-from Shikhar Dhawan (30) and Mayank Agarwal (28) dealing in boundaries from the onset.

If Agarwal found the fence twice in the first over, Dhawan struck Mitchell Starc for three successive fours to get the Indian innings going.

A magnificent cover drive by Agarwal took the visitors past 50 in 6.1 overs. However, in trying to go for one too many, Dhawan perished.

In came Kohli and as he has mostly done through his illustrious career, the Indian captain played some delightful shots on the way to his 87-ball innings to keep the visitors in with a chance.

During his stay in the middle, Kohli pulled, drove, flicked and cut with plenty of success as India tried to keep the required rate within 9-10 runs per over.

But pacer Josh Hazlewood provided Australia their biggest breakthrough when he had Kohli caught brilliantly by a diving Moises Henriques at midwicket.

That brought Hardik Pandya in

I tried to whack the ball a bit too hard in the IPL, now I have started to hit the ball with a bit more finesse which is probably working better for me. I'm just playing nice cricketing shots...Nice to score some runs again for the team and get us to a good total.

STEVE SMITH

AFTER SCORING TWO BACK TO BACK HUNDREDS

As he (Smith) said the other day, he has found his hands, he is looking pretty scary at the moment for opposition teams. He is placing the ball as well as anyone around the world

GLENN MAXWELL

ON STEVE SMITH FORM

We are doing lot of things right, we just need to learn how to bowl better on such beautiful batting wickets. Not a lot that we have done wrong, we need to get better with skills and execution.

KL RAHUL

ON INDIAN DRESSING ROOM MORALE

We were completely outplayed: Kohli

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India skipper Virat Kohli had no qualms conceding that the visitors were outplayed by a confident and ruthless Australia in the series-deciding second ODI on Sunday, pinning the blame on the ineffective and inconsistent bowling by his side.

"We were completely outplayed. I think with the ball, we were not that effective, we didn't hit the areas that we wanted to consistently and they have a strong batting line-up, they know the conditions and the angles well,"

the middle and the all-rounder, in the company of KL Rahul, played some big shots. But they were never going to be enough.

Rahul departed after striking five sixes and four boundaries in his 66-ball knock. India completely lost the plot after that.

Australia fast bowler Pat Cummins picked up 3/67 in his 10 overs.

Besides Smith's 104-run knock, swashbuckling opener David Warner smashed 83 off 77 while skipper Aaron Finch contributed 60 in a first-wicket stand of 142 in under 23 overs.

The duo of Marnus Labuschagne and Glenn Maxwell

Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

Chasing Australia's 389, India finished at 338 for 9 with Kohli (89) and KL Rahul (76) being the top-scorer.

"Look at the scoreboard, we got 340 and still fell short by 50 odd, so the chase always felt steep and we knew one or two wickets would take the required rate to up to 13, 16 and so we had to keep hitting," the India skipper said.

"They took the chances that they created in the field, which was the difference, otherwise it would have been a much closer

game."

"...Credit to them, they bowled much more consistently and used the dimensions well."

Kohli said the two catches which led to his and Shreyas Iyer's (38) dismissal were the "defining moments" of the game.

"Me and KL (Rahul) were talking if we stick around till 40-41 (overs), even 100 in last 10 overs with Hardik to come, it was game on, that was the game plan but the two catches that they hung on to were the defying moments," he said.

Indian bowlers.

To dislodge Smith, India needed Pandya to bowl for the first time since returning from a back surgery more

than a year ago, and he did the trick in his third over, luring the imperious Australian to slash one straight into Mohammed Shami.

Warner suffers injury, taken to hospital for scans

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia's swashbuckling opener David Warner's participation in the remainder of the limited-overs series against India was thrown into doubt after he suffered a groin injury during the second ODI on Sunday.

Warner hobbled off the field after he struggled to get up following a dive in the fourth over of the Indian innings. A car waited outside the Sydney Cricket Ground to take the



David Warner leaves the field after injury

AP

senior player to a nearby hospital for undergoing scans.

Asked about the opener's condition at the post-match presentation ceremony, Australian skipper Aaron Finch said he was not aware of its severity but didn't expect the south-paw to be available.

"No idea. We've got to reshuffle it around, I don't think he'll be available," Finch said after the game.

Considering the way Warner grimaced in pain after falling while

diving to stop the ball, it appears he could not only miss the third and final ODI but also the following three-match T20 series. The Twenty-20 games are scheduled to start on December 4 in Canberra.

SINGLES



Haas driver Romain Grosjean is helped by medical staff after he crashed his car during the F1 race in Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir on Sunday

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Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, centre, and Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel, right, take the knee in support of the Black Lives Matter campaign and End Racism Recognition event ahead of the Bahrain F1 Grand Prix

AP



Manchester United's Edinson Cavani celebrates with Victor Lindelof after scoring Utd's second goal against Southampton at the St Mary's stadium on Sunday

AP



AC Milan's Franck Kessie, left and Fiorentina's Patrick Cutrone embrace at the end of the Serie A match at the San Siro

AP

Our bowlers need to adapt to conditions quicker: KL

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Backing his struggling bowlers to the hilt, India's vice captain KL Rahul on Sunday said that Jasprit Bumrah and Co have endured hard lessons in adapting to conditions so far and it is not a surprise that wickets have been hard to come by on batting-friendly Australian tracks.

The Indian bowlers, who did exceedingly well in the IPL before landing in Australia, have bled runs in the first two ODIs, letting the hosts run away with a decisive 2-0 series lead.

The ever-reliable Bumrah and the fiery Mohammed Shami have been made to look quite ordinary by the home team batsmen, who have scored at will.

"I would not agree when you say they are struggling. It's different conditions, different format. It's



learning for us to sit back and think of how to do better when playing on such good batting wickets," Rahul said at the post-match conference.

"In white-ball cricket, it is vital to get wickets regularly, then only you can keep the run-rate under check...We have to find (our) mantra to get wickets and the batting unit has to think about how

to stretch the 30-40-run partnerships," he assessed.

Rahul said Australian bowlers could do well because of the familiarity with the conditions.

"We did not adapt quick enough. It's a learning curve for the bowling group to adapt quicker."

Asked if it's just a bad phase for Bumrah, who struggled even in New Zealand earlier this year, Rahul said the speedster will come back strongly.

"We all know Jasprit is very fiery and competitive on the field. He means a lot to this set up, we know the value of Jasprit. It's about time that a champion player comes back and delivers and gets wickets for us."

"In New Zealand and Australia, the wickets are too good to bat, you will see that bowlers will not get wickets, that's acceptable."

Walelegn, Yehualaw win ADHM with record times

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ethiopians Amedework Walelegn and Yalemzerf Yehualaw smashed event records to win the men's and women's titles respectively in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon held in a bio-secure environment amid the Covid-19 pandemic, here on Sunday.

The results in this World Athletics Gold Label road race were unprecedented with both the elite race winners re-writing the event records.

Both Walelegn (58.53 seconds) and Yehualaw pocketed \$27,000 first prize and an additional \$10,000 as event record bonus.

In fact, Yehualaw ran the second fastest women's half marathon ever. Her timing of 1:04:46 was just a quarter of a second outside the world record time (1:04:31) of compatriot Ababel Yeshaneh, who finished third.

For India, Tokyo Olympics-bound Avinash Sable smashed the national record with a time of 1:00:30.

The 26-year-old Sable, from Maharashtra, was 10th overall. He pocketed ₹3.5 lakh first prize and



Womens elite category Gold Medalist Ethiopian Yalemzerf Yehualaw (C) flanked by Silver Medalist Kenyan Ruth Chepngetich (L) and Bronze Medalist Ethiopian Ababel Yeshaneh

PTI

an additional ₹1 lakh for setting event record among Indians.

According to the Athletics Federation of India's official records, the earlier national half marathon record stands at 1:03:46 in the name of Kalidas Hirave of Maharashtra.

In the men's elite race, last year's Silver medalist Walelegn beat compatriot and defending champion Andamlak Belihu in a nail-biting finish in event record time of 58:53 seconds. Walelegn had won a Bronze at the World Half Marathon

Championships last month.

Belihu, who had won the title in 2018 and 2019, settled for the Silver with a time of 58:54sec in the 21.09km distance. Uganda's Stephen Kissa was third in 58:56.

The 21-year-old Walelegn bettered the earlier ADHM record of 59:06, which was in the name of compatriot Guye Adola, set in 2014.

Avinash Sable, who qualified for Tokyo Olympics in 3000m steeplechase, emerged winner

among Indian elite runners, clocking 1:00:30. This was the first time an Indian ran below 61 minutes in the ADHM.

Srinu Bugatha, who won the race last year, was second with a time of 1:04:16 while Durga Bahadur Budha was third, clocking 1:04:19.

In the star-studded women's elite race, Yehualaw surged ahead after the halfway mark to win in record time, bettering the earlier mark of 1:06:00 in the name of compatriot and defending champion Tsehay Gemechu, who could not finish on podium this time.

Kenya's Ruth Chepngetich was second in 1:05:06 while another Ethiopian and world half marathon record-holder Ababel Yeshaneh was third in 1:05:21.

Yehualaw had finished second in last year's ADHM and third in the World Half Marathon last month.

Among Indians, Parul Chaudhary, who had finished second last year, took the Gold in 1:12:18 while Sanjivani Jadhav (1:13:00) and Komal Jagdale (1:14:04) were second and third respectively.

Phillips' record-breaking ton sets up Kiwis win

AFF ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

West Indies captain Kieron Pollard accused his side of not performing to international standards on Sunday after New Zealand comprehensively won the second T20I by 72 runs on the back of a record century by Glenn Phillips.

New Zealand wrapped up the series at Mount Maunganui with a game to spare, after winning the opening match on Friday by five wickets, as Phillips provided a batting masterclass.

Called up to the T20 side while regular skipper Kane Williamson focuses on the upcoming Tests, Phillips plundered eight sixes and 10 fours on his way to 108 as New Zealand posted a mammoth 238/3 and then restricted the West Indies to 166/9.

"You never know when the next opportunity is going to come



New Zealand stand-in skipper Tim Southee called Phillips' performance "incredible", adding that his two catches, one diving at full-stretch on the boundary, and the sharp run out showed "he's got that X-factor about him".

But while Phillips, along with Devon Conway who produced an unbeaten 85, put the game firmly in New Zealand's hands, opposing captain Pollard was left fuming.

After winning the toss and sending New Zealand into bat under overcast skies, Pollard believed the West Indies were in control when the Black Caps reached the halfway mark at 84/2.

"But between overs 10 to 15 we sort of lost it there," Pollard said. "In terms of the energy and feel and erratics in the field, that's not the standard that we want to set for ourselves, and not the standard anyone wants to see in international cricket."

Messi, Barca remember Maradona in winning style

AFF ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi paid tribute to Diego Maradona by stripping off his Barcelona top to reveal the Argentina great's shirt after he scored the final goal of a 4-0 rout of Osasuna on Sunday.

Messi celebrated his powerful strike from outside the box to cap the comfortable victory by taking off Barcelona's blue-and-burgundy to bare the red-and-black of Maradona's shirt from his stint at Newell's Old Boys. Messi then blew a kiss with both hands to the sky as he looked up.

Messi played

for Newells before he joined Barcelona at age 13. Maradona played five matches for Newell in 1994 near the end of his glorious playing career that made him a legend in his home country.

Before the match, the club played *The Song of the Birds* by Catalan cellist Pablo Casals as the teams stood around the centre circle where a Maradona shirt was laid on the centre spot.

Messi had kept his head bowed during the minute of silence before kickoff at the empty Camp Nou for Maradona. Maradona played for Barcelona from 1982-84.

Martin Braithwaite, Antoine Griezmann and Philippe Coutinho also scored for Barcelona.

Messi played

