

OPINION 8
DON'T TEST
OUR PATIENCE**WORLD 11**
3 WIN NOBEL MEDICINE PRIZE FOR
DISCOVERING HEPATITIS C VIRUS**SPORT 14**
BHUVI, AMIT MISHRA
OUT OF IPL

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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Fight over AIIMS report on Sushant

Rajput's sister cries foul over 'suicide' report; Mumbai Police, Sena say their stand vindicated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a medical board of the AIIMS unanimously decided that Sushant Singh Rajput committed suicide and ruled out any possibility of homicide, the section advancing the "murder" theory has cried foul. The CBI has also found nothing so far that suggested any foul play in the actor's death.

While Sushant Singh Rajput's sister has rejected the AIIMS report, the doctors on the panel have strongly defended their findings. The Mumbai Police and the Shiv Sena have said they stood vindicated by the AIIMS report.

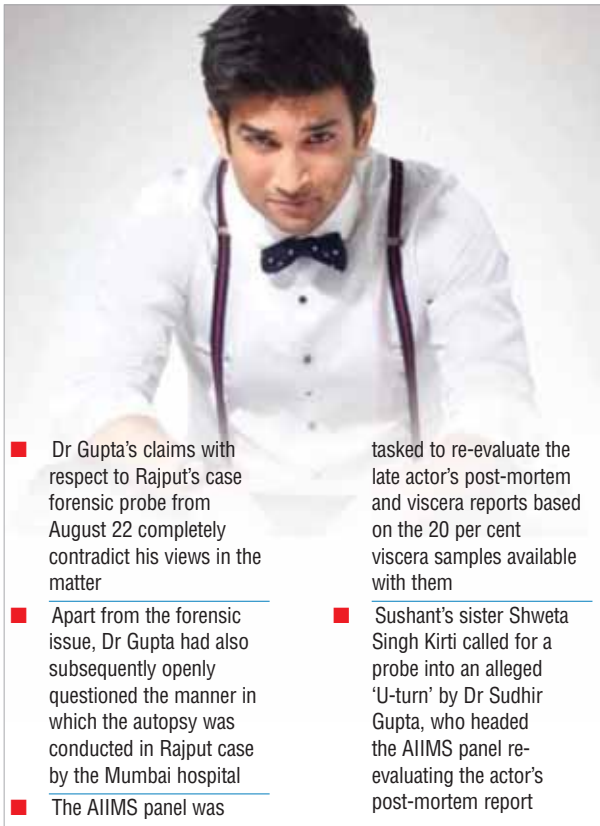
The CBI reiterated its stand that all aspects of the film star's untimely demise are being probed. However, the agency has so far found nothing either by way of forensic, documentary, or photographic evidence or by way of profiling of the suspects to differ with the AIIMS findings. The agency will continue with its probe and look into all aspects as was routinely done in similar cases

until a closure report is filed. A CBI spokesperson said, "Investigation in Sushant Singh Rajput case is going on. All aspects into the case are being looked into meticulously."

Earlier on September 28, the CBI had in a similar statement said, "The Central Bureau of Investigation is conducting the investigation related to the death of Shri Sushant Singh Rajput in which all aspects are being looked at and no aspect has been ruled out as of date."

The CBI's reaction on Monday came in response to the contradictory claims by AIIMS Forensic Department head Dr Sudhir Gupta who had on Saturday claimed that "Sushant's death is a case of suicide and the murder angle has been completely ruled out."

The AIIMS panel was tasked to re-evaluate the late actor's post-mortem and viscera reports based on the 20 per cent viscera samples available with them. Dr Gupta's claims with respect to Rajput's case forensic probe from August 22 completely contradict his views in the matter.



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■ Sushant's sister Shweta Singh Kirti called for a probe into an alleged 'U-turn' by Dr Sudhir Gupta, who headed the AIIMS panel re-evaluating the actor's post-mortem report

"Why was the autopsy done in such a hurry, was any videography done? There was contamination of evidence and is not suitable for further examination with sanctity. I had never given permission to open Sunanda Pushkar's room for four years. There was also a case of DK Ravi in Bangalore," he had told a news channel.

The channel also revealed the WhatsApp chats with Dr Gupta, from August 11, where in he had raised questions on forensics. "The panel of five doctors of Cooper (Hospital) conducted an autopsy...only one is junior level forensic doctor...rest 4 are just medical officer. The panel must be of forensic specialists as per norms. Who constituted the medical board? What was justification for the medical board...by the police?" were some of the questions asked by Dr Gupta then.

Apart from the forensic issue, Dr Gupta had also subsequently openly questioned the manner in which the autopsy was conducted in Rajput case by the Mumbai hospital.

Sushant's sister Shweta Singh Kirti called for a probe into an alleged 'U-turn' by Dr Sudhir Gupta, who headed the AIIMS panel re-evaluating the actor's post-mortem report. Gupta stuck to his ground and pointed out that all members of the medical board has come to one conclusion that it was a case of suicide.

"This kind of U-Turn must be explained!! #SushantConspiracyExposed #SushantAIIMSTape." In another tweet, she asked, "Why?" Shweta wrote.

But doctors on the AIIMS panel rejected such contention and said that Gupta had said so on August 22 when the AIIMS had not received any medical report or Sushant's viscera and he was merely reacting to wild media reports. Meanwhile, the Mumbai Police is jubilant that its probe stood vindicated with the AIIMS ruling out murder. Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh said people with "vested interests" targeted Mumbai Police without knowing anything about the probe.

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China can't get better of us, says IAF Chief

'But main focus of Govt is to resolve tension at LAC through talks'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



IAF chief Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria addresses a Press conference in New Delhi Monday PTI

In a stern message to India's neighbours, IAF chief RKS Bhadauria on Monday said his force is ready to take on China and "there is no question it can get better of us." Assuming that the armed forces are "well positioned" to deal with any threat, he also said the IAF is prepared to fight a two-front war.

While adopting a tough stance, the IAF chief, however, said the main focus of the Government at present is to resolve the tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) through talks. His remarks came days before the seventh round of Corps Commander-level talks between the two sides slated for October 12.

Incidentally, last week he had described the present scenario on the border as "not war, not peace."

Elaborating upon the operational readiness in the backdrop of more than five-month-long stand-off at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh, the IAF chief on Monday said his force is very "well positioned" to deal with any threat and very strong

deployments have been made in all relevant areas considering the security scenario.

The IAF helped the Army in a major way in mobilising troops and equipment in a short time in all the operational areas on the LAC, he said but refrained from giving details.

Addressing a Press conference ahead of Air Force Day on October 8, Bhadauria, cautioned that there was no question of underestimating the capabilities of the adversary and said China has superiority in number of aircraft and missile systems.

Observing that China has made huge investments in military technology, Bhadauria said, "Their strength lies in surface-to-air systems they have put up in the area. They have long missile systems. We cater to those in our matrix... we can take on that threat."

Continued on Page 4

Police file 19 FIRs, say Hathras protest conspiracy to incite riots

Family begs for security as upper caste men hold meet to defend accused

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The family members of the Hathras gangrape victim continue to reel under fear begging for protection, while hundreds of upper caste men openly held a massive meet and defended the four accused.

Unmindful of these developments, the police on Monday went on to file 19 FIRs across the State for criminal conspiracy for inciting riots and communal violence in the State.

The FIR has been registered in Chandpa police station of Hathras district under as many as 20 different sections including criminal conspiracy and IT Act 2008.

The police, which is facing

flak for its handling of the entire case and cremating the victim's body at midnight without taking victim's parents permission, claimed that it was a big ploy to destabilise the Government. The police also blocked a website "JusticeforHathras" claiming it was created to spread fake information related to the Hathras incident in order to incite caste riots across UP.

Uttar Pradesh Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, Prashant Kumar, claimed that a "conspiracy" was made to push the State into "turmoil".

Police have found justice-forhathrasvictim.carrd.co was involved in the conspiracy and

even received foreign funds to carry on the campaigning. But when the Government found out the conspiracy, the website was immediately closed.

The SIT team on Monday visited the Aligarh jail and met the four accused who are lodged there in judicial custody. The team took their statements and interrogated them briefly about the incident.

Issuing a statement before the electronic media on Monday afternoon, ADGP Kumar said that the investigating agencies suspected a conspiracy involving the Popular Front of India (PFI), the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) and mafias targeting the Government and funding in this regard to create chaos

in the State.

"These people issued fake photo of the CM with a screen shot of a TV news channel writing breaking news to confuse the people and also issued a fake statement of the CM," he added.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday alleged some anarchists were out to create communal frenzy and caste violence as they were not liking the progress made by the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to a press note issued by the BJP, the chief minister said that some of the recent incidents have exposed the conspiracy of such elements in this regard.



Police personnel try to stop Congress workers while they were marching toward Mahatma Gandhi statue during a protest over the gangrape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras, in Gurugram, on Monday PTI

Covid +ve AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar reaches Hathras victim's home

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party MLA Kuldeep Kumar, who was found Covid-19 positive just five days ago, on Monday landed up at the Hathras gang-rape victim's home to meet her family. Kumar, MLA from Kondli Assembly seat in Delhi, along with dozens of his supporters reached Hathras.

Kumar also made public the identity of the victim as he tweeted mentioning the victim's name.

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL
CASES: 66,81,953
DEATHS: 1,03,600
RECOVERED: 56,57,686
ACTIVE: 9,19,733



CBI books DK Shivakumar for ₹75 cr DA, ₹50 L seized

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday registered a case against former Karnataka Minister and State Congress president DK Shivakumar and others in a ₹75-cr disproportionate assets probe and conducted searches at 14 locations, including nine in Karnataka, four in Delhi and one in Mumbai. The Congress condemned the raid and said it was a case of political vendetta. The search yielded ₹50 lakh in cash and several property and investment documents.

Continued on Page 4

Safety prime focus of schools reopening SOP

Students may opt for online classes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major development, the Union Education Ministry on Monday issued guidelines for reopening of schools after October 15 in a phased manner. The guidelines give students the options to opt for online classes.

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said the States have been given the flexibility to prepare their SOPs based on the Centre's guidelines and local concerns.

GUIDELINES ON HEALTH & SAFETY ASPECTS

- Disinfecting of all areas in schools and ensuring air flow indoors
- Schools to form Emergency Care Response Team
- Functions to be avoided
- Staggering of entry and exit timings
- All students and staff to wear mask at all times
- Signage and markings for social distancing to be displayed at adequate places
- Regular health check-up of students and staff
- A full-time trained healthcare attendant/nurse/doctor

"The SOP of the Education Ministry comprises two parts- health and safety aspects for reopening schools and learning with social distancing... In consonance with the MHA guide-

lines, students are also permitted to take online classes and can attend schools only with the written consent of parents," said a Ministry official.

Continued on Page 4

2 CRPF jawans martyred, 3 injured as 2 bike-borne LeT terrorists open fire

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Two motorcycle-borne Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorists, including a Pakistani commander, on Monday opened "indiscriminate" firing on the road opening party of the CRPF in which two personnel were martyred and three others received injuries near Kandijal bridge in Pampore area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

In retaliation, CRPF personnel also opened fire but

the terrorists managed to escape.

This is the third such strike carried out by the same group of terrorists led by a Pakistani LeT commander Saifullah, police said.

The traffic on the National Highway (NH-44) near Pampore was disrupted as different teams of the security forces launched a cordon and search operations in the close vicinity of the attack site to track down the footprints of these terrorists.

Centre releases ₹20,000 cr to States as GST compensation immediately

Cess to be levied beyond 2022, GST Council decides

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday said it will release ₹20,000 crore to States on account of GST compensation dues.

Briefing reporters after the meeting of the 42nd GST Council here, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the States which received less apportionment of Integrated

GST (IGST) for 2017-18, the Centre will next week transfer a cumulative ₹24,000 crore to them. On the issue of releasing compensation to the States, Sitharaman said: "This year whatever we have collected till now, ₹20,000 crore will get disbursed tonight."

The compensation requirement of States between April and July stood at ₹1.51 lakh crore. On the issue of IGST, she said excess IGST apportioned to certain States would be retrieved. However, the Minister did not mention the amount.

Sitharaman said ₹24,000 crore would be released by the middle of next week to those states which have received less IGST share against their actual dues. The Minister said the proposal to extend GST compensation cess levy beyond 2022 was cleared by the GST Council.

"Levy of Compensation Cess to be extended beyond the transition period of five years i.e. Beyond June, 2022, for such period as may be required to meet the revenue gap," an official statement said.

Continued on Page 4

Bengal BJP accuses TMC of killing leader, demands CBI enquiry

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Alleging Trinamool Congress' hand in the murder of State BJP leader Manish Shukla, the saffron outfit has demanded a CBI investigation into the incident with Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar too asking Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to arrest the "nose diving" law and order situation in the State.

A furious Governor reportedly expressed his mind to

Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay who called on him after the Home Secretary and the DGP failed to respond to Dhankhar's summons.

This, while all hell broke loose in the Barrackpore police commissionerate area where cops fought pitched battles with the stone-pelting BJP supporters firing several rounds of tear-gas shells. The BJP had called a 12-hour-Barrackpore bandh on Monday in protest.

CAPSULE

MODI, XI FACE-TO-FACE ON NOV 17 BRICS SUMMIT
New Delhi: For the first time since the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to come face-to-face virtually at the BRICS annual summit to be held on November 17.

DELHI WAQF BOARD: GOVT LAUNCHES AUDIT
New Delhi: The AAP Government has launched a special audit into alleged irregularities by former Delhi Waqf Board chairman Amanatullah Khan during his tenure, officials said. A four-member team is currently auditing records on Khan's regime from March 2016 to March 2020, they said.

'CHALTE CHALTE' ACTOR VISHAL ANAND DIES AT 82
Mumbai: Veteran actor Vishal Anand, best known for featuring in the 1976 hit film "Chalte Chalte", passed away on Sunday following a prolonged illness, his family said in a statement on Monday. He was 82. The actor, whose real name was Bhisam Kohli, appeared in several Hindi films in the 1970s, including "Hindustan Ki Kasam" and "Taxi Driver". It was, however, "Chalte Chalte", also starring Simi Garewal, that earned Anand acclaim and fame.

Maintain effective treatment: CM

Covid recovery rate more than 87% in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Expressing satisfaction that the COVID-19 recovery rate was more than 87 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to maintain effective treatment of the patients.

“The role of contact tracing is very important in breaking the coronavirus infection

chain and it should be carried out actively,” the chief minister said while presiding over a high level Unlock review meeting at his residence here on Monday.

The COVID-19 recovery rate of UP is 87 per cent, 3 per cent more than the average recovery rate (84 per cent) of India. On Monday, 3,064 fresh coronavirus positive cases were reported while 4,269 COVID-19 patients recovered. So far, UP has reported 4,17,437 confirmed coronavirus positive cases while 3,66,321 COVID-19 patients have recovered in the state.

The positivity rate has been declining for the past four weeks. Last week, it was just 2.6

per cent. In the week from September 7-13, a total of 45,287 positive cases were reported and the positivity rate was 4.8 per cent. The next week (September 14 -20), there were 42,141 cases and the positivity rate of 4.3 per cent while in the third week (September 21-27), there were 33,256 cases with positivity rate of 3.2 per cent. Last week (September 28 to October 4), there were 28,000 cases and the positivity rate was 2.6 per cent.

The chief minister also sought detailed information about the situation in Lucknow and Kanpur Nagar districts from the nodal officers, ACS (Rural Development and

Panchayati Raj) and principal secretary (Health) respectively. He directed them to effectively continue the activities for controlling the infection in these districts.

The chief minister also directed officials to make all necessary arrangements at paddy purchase centres and to also establish Covid help desks at all paddy purchase centres.

The chief minister said that it should be ensured that the paddy purchase price was transferred in 72 hours to the accounts of the farmers selling paddy at the purchase centres.

The chief minister also directed officials to ensure that Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan

Rojgar Abhiyan was implemented effectively so that UP achieved the top position.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said that on Sunday, 1,49,272 samples were tested. He said there were 21,361 asymptomatic COVID-19 patients in home isolation, while 3,525 patients were admitted to private hospitals and the rest were recovering in government run Covid hospitals.

Prasad said over 4.1 lakh surveillance teams had covered 1,31,336 areas of the state and visited 2.61 crore houses to check the health of over 12.94 crore people.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated a 220-bed Covid hospital in Prayagraj and unveiled state's first COBAS-6800 lab through video-conferencing on Monday

Pioneer

Power employees boycott work

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Power employees of Uttar Pradesh on Monday boycotted work in protest against the proposed privatisation of the Purvanchal Power Distribution Corporation, a subsidiary of UP Power Corporation Limited.

This subsidiary covers politically significant districts like Varanasi, the Lok Sabha constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Gorakhpur, the home town of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The work boycott disrupted power generation and also affected the power supply in different parts of the state.

The power generation in six generation units of the Obra and Anpara thermal power stations in Sonbhadra district was disrupted affecting 1820 megawatt

of power. In Shahjahanpur district, the power supply in Kalan area was disrupted after the power employees shut the 33/11 distribution sub-station and locked it while in Choubeypur in Kanpur Nagar, fire broke out at a sub-station.

Though the UP government made alternative arrangements in view of the work boycott by the power engineers and employees, the power generation and supply was affected in many districts.

Protests and dharnas by the striking power employees and engineers were also reported from western parts of the state.

Power Employees Joint Action Committee coordinator Manohar Singh said here on Monday that the employees and engineers would not suc-

cumb to any pressure and would not allow the government to go for privatisation of the power sector. He said once the power sector went into private hands, the consumers would be worst affected as the power tariff would be beyond the reach of a large number of consumers.

He said the subsidised power in the rural areas and for irrigation would also end as the main objective would be profit of the private company.

On Sunday, the UPPCL management held talks with the employee's joint action committee leaders to persuade them to withdraw the work boycott call. The talks however broke down after the management rejected their demand for the rollback of the privatisation of the Purvanchal power distribution corporation.

BJP hits out at oppn for misleading farmers on new agriculture laws

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party's senior leader and national general secretary Anil Jain slammed the opposition parties for "misleading" the farmers on the farm laws issue and said the reforms would ensure liberalisation in the farm sector for the first time since Independence.

"The opposition parties are misleading the farmers on the farm sector laws. The opposi-

tion is not saying anything about the provisions of the Act. They are spreading rumours that farmers won't get the minimum support price for their produce. Nowhere in the Act is it written that the farmers won't get the MSP. They will continue to enjoy it like in previous years," Jain said. He said the farmers would have their own choice about whom to sell their produce. "This is not only liberalisation of the agriculture sec-

tor but also the liberalisation of every single farmer of the country. The farmers will taste freedom for the first time after Independence," Jain told a press conference here on Monday.

The farm sector reforms have ensured that farmers can sell their products to anyone outside mandi. This will empower farmers to sell wherever they get a better price and grow what fetches them money," he said.

UP govt to rope in DRDO to promote pharma industry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government, for promoting the pharmaceutical industry as per the UP Pharmaceutical Industry Policy 2018 (amended), has decided to rope in the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as knowledge partner. The DRDO is an organisation under the Ministry of Defence.

The UP government will soon sign an MoU with the DRDO. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has given in-principle approval to the venture. The promotion of pharmaceutical industry in UP will lead to fresh investments and creation of fresh job opportunities.

The UP government, during the lockdown period in May, had identified the pharma industry as an important sector for investment in the state. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath had then directed the Industry department to start work on the project as there were immense opportunities in the field of pharmaceutical, medical equipment and herbal medicines in the state.

He had also directed the

officials to prepare a policy for the pharma sector after consulting all the stake holders. In May last, a presentation was made before the chief minister on Pharma Park and Medical Device Park. The UP government also identified well-known scientific research institutions in the state like CDRI and CIMAP in Lucknow.

The chief minister had directed the officials to ensure maximum utilisation of the infrastructure of the research institutions and also connect these with Pharma Park and Pharma Device Park.

The UP government had also taken up the matter with the Union government for facilitating the setting up of the Pharma Park and Medical Device Park.

A senior government official said there was no dearth of land in the state. The Revenue department alone has a land bank of 1.66 lakh acres. This land is available in all the nine climatic zones of the state.

The government will also provide skill development incentives and other concessions to the investing companies as per the requirement. While making any proposal, Bundelkhand will also be kept in focus.

Cabinet okays funding of Gorakhpur Link Expressway project

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved a proposal for the funding of the Gorakhpur Link Expressway project by a consortium of public sector undertaking (PSU) banks led by Punjab National Bank.

The other partner banks are Union Bank of India, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, CU Bank and Bank of India.

The Punjab National Bank will extend credit of Rs 750 crore while the total credit limit for the project approved by the cabinet is Rs 2,250 crore. The amount will be drawn by the UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority in next three years against the requirement of the funds.

The Punjab National Bank has agreed to immediately release Rs 350 crore and the process of the formation of the consortium will take time.

The PNB has also agreed to waive the up front fee and processing fee for providing the

credit. The repayment of the entire loan of Rs 2,250 crore will be made in next 15 years in 48 instalments, to be payable every quarter.

For ensuring the timely repayment of the loan, the UPEIDA will open an escrow account in the lead bank or Punjab National Bank where all the receipts from the toll tax will be deposited and the first charge on the account will be of the lenders.

Meanwhile, the cabinet on Monday also approved a new agency for collecting toll tax on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. The UPEIDA had fixed the reserve price of Rs 274 crore but the bidders had quoted a higher price. The contract was awarded to the highest bidder, Sahkar Global Limited, which quoted Rs 402 crore.

The toll on the expressway will be levied at two toll plazas and 15 ramp plazas. The toll collection agency will also provide five ambulances and 10 patrolling vehicles on the expressway.

Woman duped of ornaments

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman was duped of ornaments by two unidentified miscreants posing as pot-coating work in Thakurganj on Monday. As per reports, the woman, identified as Neeta Saxena (55) of Newazganj, was at her home when the accused reached there around 1:30 pm. The accused told Neeta that they did coating work on utensils.

An unsuspecting Neeta gave them utensils after which they said they also cleaned ornaments. Neeta gave them two earrings and a gold chain.

The accused asked Neeta to bring a small brush and she went inside to bring the same. When she came back, the accused had gone. She later informed police but was yet to give any complaint in this regard.

Minor gang-raped; critically injured in Maharajganj

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A minor girl was critically injured after being gang-raped in Maharajganj while a girl was raped at gunpoint and a visually handicapped girl was sexually exploited by her kin in two incidents reported from Muzaffarnagar.

According to a report from Maharajganj, four persons gang-raped a minor girl in the Kothibhar area of the district and when she resisted, they brutally assaulted her and threatened to kill her if she told anyone about the incident, which took place on Sunday afternoon.

The girl fainted after the incident. When she regained her senses after a few hours, she somehow reached home and revealed her trauma to her parents after which the family members took her to the community health centre in Siswa but in the absence of a female doctor, she was referred to the district hospital.

The girl's father lodged a report in which he named one accused and three unknown miscreants.

The local police detained two youths and claimed that the girl was friendly with one of the accused who called her on the mobile phone and asked her to meet him in the village

field on Sunday afternoon.

The police said the youth also called three of his friends there and they all gang-raped the girl and escaped. A case under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) has been registered and efforts are being made to nab all the accused.

Superintendent of Police Pradeep Gupta and Additional District Magistrate Kunj Bihari also visited the hospital to take first hand information from the victim.

In a separate incident, a woman was allegedly raped by a man at gunpoint in Muzaffarnagar. Police said on Monday that the accused had been arrested.

According to a complaint filed by the woman, the man raped her in a sugarcane field on Sunday. A case was registered against the accused, identified as Shravan Kumar (26), under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code on the basis of the complaint and he was arrested.

In another incident, a blind woman was allegedly raped by her relative for several months after promising to marry her. A case was registered against the accused under IPC sections 376 (rape) and 420 (cheating), SHO Deepak Chaturvedi said.

6-yr-old nephew of Unnao rape-murder victim missing

Unnao (PTI): A six-year-old nephew of the woman, who was allegedly raped by five men last year and later burnt alive in December while going to attend a court hearing in the gang-rape case, has gone missing. The child went missing on Friday from his village in Bihar area and is yet to be traced, a senior

police official said on Monday. "Fourteen police teams have been deployed to work out the case," said Unnao Superintendent of Police Anand Kulkarni.

The missing child, a class one student, is the son of the brother of the 23-year-old woman, who was allegedly gang-raped by five men last year.

Gang making illicit liquor busted; 2 held

Lucknow (PNS): With the arrest of two accused, the Chinhat police on Monday claimed to have busted a gang manufacturing illicit liquor.

Earlier, the police had busted a factory where some miscreants were manufacturing illicit liquor. Those arrested were identified as Vikas Dubey and Ashutosh Pandey (both of Pratapgarh). Vikas was presently staying in Madaon while Ashutosh in Aliganj. The police recovered a luxury car and an SUV, 1,575 bottles of desi liquor, 940 litres of adulterated alcohol, over 22,000 stickers of different liquor brands, empty bottles, urea and other equipment used for distilling liquor. The total cost of the items recovered was estimated at Rs 25 lakh.

Five of the aides of the accused managed to evade arrest. They were identified as Aditya Kumar, Gulshan, Bipin Bihari Shukla, Parmendar Sardar and Rahul Tiwari.

DCP (East) Charu Nigam said the accused tricked people by selling adulterated liquor by pasting fake stickers on the bottles. "The accused had a network of sellers at ground level and they sold it among those looking for liquor bottles at lower prices. They tricked people by providing them adulterated liquor in bottles with fake stickers," one source said.

Vilayat Jaffri no more

Lucknow (PNS): Former director of All India Radio and Doordarshan Vilayat Jaffri, died amongst the legendary figures of Lucknow, died in Mumbai on Monday morning.

His son Amber Jaffri said the body would be brought to Lucknow on Tuesday and the mortal remains would be buried in the family graveyard in Rae Bareilly. "The house will be open for people who want to pay their tributes to my father," he said.

Jaffri celebrated his 88th birthday on October 2. He was not keeping well lately. Amber said his father had recently defeated coronavirus.

"He tested positive on September 3 but recovered by September 21 and returned home," he said.

Jaffri, who retired as Doordarshan director in 1993, was best known for his light and sound show 'Badhate Kadam', which was held at the Residency. Married to Krishna Jaffri, he is survived by a son and three daughters.

to the last person of the society," Yogi said.

The chief minister, without mincing his words, said it was not any secret that the Samajwadi Party stood for hooliganism, and the Bahujan Samaj Party was synonymous with corruption. He said the Congress had no base left leaving the electoral field open for the Bharatiya Janata Party. "The only task which is left is to register record victories in the coming bypolls," he said.

Yogi said that this by-election would be different as no mass gathering and public meetings would be allowed. "It is required to focus hundred per cent on booths and make a group of 4-5 workers to conduct door-to-door communication.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, तृतीय निर्माण खण्ड (बि०/या०), उ०प्र० जल निगम, अयोध्या
पत्रांक : 1254 / M-8 / 70 दिनांक : 28.09.2020
अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
उ० प्र० जल निगम की ओर से जनपद बाराबंकी में जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत मोहम्मदपुर पेयजल योजना के नलकूप निर्माण, पम्प अधिष्ठापन कमीशनिंग एवं टेस्टिंग आदि कार्यों के लिए अनुमती देकेदारों हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 09.10.2020 से 19.10.2020 तक http://e-tenderer.up.nic.in से डाउनलोड एवं जमा किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु० 5000*+12% GST = 5600.00 है। निविदा की तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 20.10.2020 को 03.00 बजे अपराह्न कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, तृतीय निर्माण खण्ड (बि०/या०), उ०प्र० जल निगम, अयोध्या में खोली जायेगी। अन्य शर्तें उ०प्र० जल निगम की वेबसाइट jn.uspsc.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Telangana Govt. Text Book Press Mint Compound, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500063. Tel: 040-23234839 & Fax: 040-23234839 e-PROCUREMENT FOR SHORT TENDER NOTICE Rc.No.1359/P/2/2020 Date: 03.10.2020 Online tenders in two bid system are invited for the academic year 2021-22 on 'All India Basis' for supply of 1) 70 GSM Map Litho paper in reels, 2) Supply of 200 GSM White Art Card in Sheets The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from www.tender.telangana.gov.in from 07-10-2020 at 11.00 A.M. onwards. Last date & time for download of tender form online: 26-10-2020 at 3.00 PM. Last date and time for submission of online tenders on 26-10-2020 at 4.00 PM. R.O. No. : 561-OPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2021 Director, Telangana Govt. Text Book Press, Hyderabad.
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Office Project Manager, Construction Unit
Uttarakhand Peyjal Sansadhan Vikas Evam Nirman Nigam
Ghingharikhali, Ranikhet, Distt. Almora
E-Mail: pmranikhet@rediffmail.com Fax & Ph. No.: 05966—220690

Letter No. 1145 / NIVIDA/34

Date: 30-09-2020

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645, on behalf of Chairman Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>, for the following works.

S. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work
1.	Construction of remaining civil and appurtenant work for S.A.D at Dhamdeval Distt Almora.	44.83 Lacs.
2.	Construction of approach road at government medical college and base hospital Almora Distt Almora.	330.07 Lacs.
3.	Construction of Trout Hatchery Bageshwar.	298.10 Lacs.

The tender form can be downloaded from e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 05.10.2020 at 10:00 hrs. to 20.10.2020 at 17:00 hrs. Other information can be seen in tender form or office notice board or obtained from office or phone no. 05966 220690 of office of tender inviting authority.

PROJECT MANAGER

66% of total cases from urban parts of district

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Sixty-six per cent of the total Scoronavirus cases in Lucknow have been from urban parts while the remaining from rural areas. A senior official at the CMO office said that in rural parts of the district, they have better control because the health system is strong in the presence of ASHA and Aanganwadi workers.

ASHA workers have been going from door to door in rural areas and checking on people having fever or any other symptom related to coronavirus. However, in urban areas there are no so many ASHA and Aanganwadi workers,” he said.

The official said their special drive in Aliganj continued even on Monday. “We have roped in five extra doctors as extra supervisors for the 20 focal points which we have identified in Aliganj for containment of virus. We are also sending our mobile medical van to Aliganj to get samples from private nursing homes and hospitals,” he said.

The official pointed out that the health teams would be carrying out inspection at Vivekanand Polyclinic Institute of Medical Sciences to take stock of the arrangements for Covid patients.

Dr Sandeep Sahu from SGPGI said although the number of cases in Lucknow was decreasing, people should not be complacent because severe cases and deaths were increasing. He said people must be cautious for the next

454 more test +ve

Lucknow (PNS): As many as 454 persons tested positive in Lucknow on Monday while 582 patients recovered. Lucknow has witnessed 742 deaths till now while there are 5,753 active cases in the district.

A senior official at the CMO office said the patients included 43 from Indiranagar, 34 from Rae Bareilly road, 32 each from Gomtinagar & Aliganj, 25 from Alambagh, 24 from Cantt, 21 from Chinhat, 17 from Jankipuram, 16 from Madaion, 15 each from Chowk & Ashiyana, 13 from Vikasnagar, 12 from

Hasanganj and 10 each from Thakurganj & Bazaarkhala.

There were eight deaths in the city and the deceased included four from Lucknow. Five patients died at KGMU.

In the state, 3,064 persons tested positive, including 196 in Kanpur, 186 in Noida and 162 in Ghaziabad, taking the total number of cases to 4,17,437. There were 63 deaths in the state, taking the toll to 6,092. Besides, 4,269 patients recovered, taking the number of recoveries to 3,66,321 while there are 45,024 active cases in the state.

October 15,” Dr Sahu said.

Meanwhile, incharge of Infectious Disease Centre at KGMU Dr D Himanshu said they were working to find out whether Covid patients were getting haemophagocytic lympho histiocytosis (HLH) syndrome. “This is a kind of syndrome which also occurs in non-Covid patients and there is a treatment protocol for this. For this, we also check bone marrow and we are getting the evidence of this disease,” he said.

He said they were also checking on the molecule which developed by CDRI as a drug for Covid-19. “The advantage is that it can be manufactured in India and will this be cost-effective,” he pointed out.

He said they have also

India may have passed Covid peak: Dr Gilada

Lucknow (PNS): People’s Health Organization of India claimed that India passed the peak in terms of coronavirus cases in mid-September. Dr Ishwar Gilada from the organisation said after almost eight months into the global pandemic, India finally achieved the first important goal.

“Covid-19 peak may have passed in mid-September, possibly during September 10-20 considering different parameters. Passing of the peak is indeed the most important goal; however, subsequent surge can come, as seen in several European countries. With India being a vast country, some states may have different peaks. The states that matter the most for influencing Indian Covid-19 statistics —Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu — have passed the peak. However, we cannot let the guard down. Mask remains the most important tool till we have vaccine or cure or both,” he added.

completed the trials for the BCG vaccine at KGMU for its effectiveness against coronavirus. “It will be clear in next months as to how useful the BCG vaccine is in providing us protection against the virus,” he said.

Shreyansh shines with AIR 424

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Shreyansh Singh from Lucknow emerged as the Lucknow topper with all-India rank (AIR) 424 in JEE-Advanced, results of which were declared on Monday. A student of CMS (Kanpur Road), Shreyansh said it was his first attempt and he wanted to get into IIT-Delhi to pursue Computer Science.

Shreyansh’s father is a government employee and his brother is also a student of IIT-Delhi. He said lockdown helped him a lot as he took as an opportunity to do as much revision as possible. “I devoted 8-9 hours to my studies during the lockdown. I also made it a point to be away from a smartphone as it could be a big distraction,” Shreyansh said. He said he wanted to be in rural areas and work for education of children residing there.

Shashwat Gupta, who secured AIR 603, said it was his second attempt. A student of St Fidelis College in Vikasnagar, he said he dropped a year to crack JEE-Advanced.

“With this rank, I may get Electrical Engineering at IIT in Delhi, Mumbai or Kanpur. I am weighing the options at the moment. Having said that, Computer Science is my pas-

JEE ADVANCED



(Clockwise from top) Shreyansh Singh, Shashwat Gupta, Suhani Vajpayee and Amrithesh Sharma

sion,” he said.

About his success mantra, he said persistence was the key. “Having a mentor is important and even if you get into a coaching, it is very important to study on your own. Guidance is important but self-study is more so,” he added.

Son of the state TB officer,

Shashwat said he was always fascinated by computers. He said he would like to work in Robotics as it has many applications in different sectors.

Amrithesh Sharma, who secured AIR 738, said he was aiming at IIT-Hyderabad and IIT-BHU. He said his success mantra was revision and solv-

ing as many mock test papers as possible. A student of MG Convent School, he said he would also go for MTEch. Son of a bank manager, he said it was his first attempt at JEE.

Suhani Vajpayee, who secured AIR 1713, said she was overjoyed as it was her first attempt. “I am happy because I never thought I would get such a good rank,” she said. She added that would likely go to IIT-BHU. She said her success mantra was to be relaxed while making preparations.

“I knew I was giving it my best, hence I would watch movies and talk to my friends and relatives also while making preparations. I was a topper in Class 10 in Lakhimpur Kheri and was preparing for JEE since then. I wanted to appear for civil services and went for JEE because there have been many engineers who have cracked civil services exams,” said Suhani, who is a student of St Xavier’s in Gomtinagar.

Nandini Daruka of CMS Gomtinagar Campus, who secured AIR 1990, said she got a lot of support from her teachers. Nandini, who passed Class XII with 97.7% marks in March earlier this year, said she wants to pursue Computer Engineering one of the IITs.

CLAT-2020: City achievers on cloud nine

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

City achievers were overjoyed after CLAT-2020 results were declared late on Monday evening. Arushi Tewari, who secured AIR 85, said she was consistent throughout in studies and focused on the core competency.

“I devoted 2-3 hours on reading material and doing follow-up questions on a daily basis,” said Arushi, who is a student of RLB. It was her second attempt at CLAT for which she dropped a year. She said she would go to Law Institute in Bengaluru, which is considered to be the best.

“Whenever we were debating on topics on socio-economic canvas, I realised that this is the profession I would love to be in,” she said. She added that she would also like to go and study abroad and then



pursue a career in corporate law.

Gaurav Pandey, who secured AIR 647, said it was his third attempt. About his success mantra, he said he was consistent with his preparations and focused on current affairs and mathematics. Gaurav said he also wanted to appear for civil services. “I am taking the legal route because it gives

a lot of opportunity to develop skills and when you are associated with law, you are familiar with the loopholes and all the credits, merits and demerits of the system,” he said.

Utkarsh Upadhyay, who secured AIR 984, said he cracked the exam in first attempt. About his success mantra, he said: “I just studied regularly. One needs to read the newspapers regularly for current affairs. Generally, people leave out mathematics because it carries 10-15 marks, but it is important to focus on it,” he said. He added that initially he had joined a coaching institute for engineering but then realised that it was not his cup of tea. “One of my uncles, who is a district judge, asked me to try CLAT. When I did it, I enjoyed it,” he said. He said he would love to become a lawyer or a civil servant.

Mini-truck driver killed in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A mini-truck driver was killed and several others injured in a road mishap in Malihabad on Sunday night.

As per reports, the mini-truck rammed his vehicle into a tractor-trolley. Due to heavy impact, those in the tractor-trolley — Mukesh (driver), Anuj, Subhash and Mithilesh — suffered injuries. The mini-truck ferrying milk got stuck in the

road divider. Mini-truck driver Sanjay Saini of Sandila sought help from his employer and asked him to send another vehicle. When the milk was being shifted to another vehicle, a speeding truck coming from behind rammed the mini-truck from behind. Due to heavy impact, Sanjay Saini suffered injuries while his colleagues Sandeep, Abhimanyu (both of Sandila), Mohit of Sitapur, Bodhlal and Jamil suffered

injuries. Meanwhile, the Itaunja police arrested Shani Rawat aka Amrendra of Sarai Damu locality for posting hate messages against Thakurs and added the name of CM Yogi Adityanath in a message on Monday. Police said they were interrogating him. They said Shani had some enmity with a group of people belonging to Kshatriya community and the accused posted the message to take revenge.

In another incident, a 28-

year-old milk vendor was fatally knocked down by a speeding truck on Khujauli Neelmatha road in Mohanlalganj around 10 pm on Sunday. Reports said Manish Yadav of Nagram was returning home after supplying milk to customers in Telibagh. On the way, his bike was hit by a truck from behind. He suffered injuries and he bled to death on the spot. The police worked on the case and later informed the kin of the deceased.

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India		
Kanpur Regional Office : 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar Kanpur-208005 Head Office : 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021		
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI ACT)		
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 23.10.2020 as under.		
Online E-Auction through website https://bankauctions.com • Date & Time of Auction :23th Oct.2020 at 11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M (With Unlimited Extension of 10 Minutes), Last Date of Submission of Bid/EMD : 22th Oct.2020 upto 4.00 P.M.		
Branch Rawatpur, Distt. Kanpur A/c No. for Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / BID Amount : e-Auction Sundry Deposit A/c No. : 455201980050000 Inward RTGS Account of Union Bank of India, Branch Rawatpur, Distt. Kanpur, IFSC Code : UBIN0545520		
Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Description of Property & Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice / Amount of Debt	Reserve Price EMD Price Bid Increment Amount	E-Auction Date & Time
Name of Borrower : Maharana Infrastructure and Professional Services Limited (M.I.P.S.), Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, G.T. Road, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). Directors : (1) Smt. Surabhi Bhadoriya, Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). (2) Shri Rustam Digshaw Batliwala, Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). (3) Shri Meet Kamal, Address : 13/117, K-Block, Sarovodaya Nagar, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.) (4) Shri Jai Kishan Pandey, Address : 13/149, Parmat, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). (5) Shri Punyatma Singh, Address : 17, Navsheel Dham, Kalyanpur, Bithoor Road, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.) Guarantor : (1) Shri Shailendra Bhadoriya (2) Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya (3) Smt. Surabhi Bhadoriya, All Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 3,26,06,354.00 + Intt. + Other Charges Details of encumbrances over the property, as known to the Bank - Nil / Symbolic Possession Description of Mortgage Properties :		
(1) Property situated at Arazi No. 565, Sale Deed Dated 30-07-2008 on cover no. 3928, from Page 111 to 130, On Serial No. 2404, Mauza Bagdaudhi Kachar, Pargana & Tehsil - Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property : Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, Area : 0.2316 Hectare, Bounded : North- Land No. 583 & 566, South- 20 Ft. Link Road, East-Land No. 566, 567 & 564, West- Land No. 592	₹ 2,00,000,00/- ₹ 20,00,000/-	23-10-20 11.00 am to 12.00 pm
(2) Property situated at Arazi No. 565, Sale Deed Dated 12-08-2008 on cover no. 3950, from Page 185 to 210, On Serial No. 2694, Mauza Bagdaudhi Kachar, Pargana & Tehsil - Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property : Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, Area : 0.2316 Hectare, Bounded : North- Land No. 583 & 568, South- 20 Ft. Link Road, East-Land No. 566, 567 & 564, West- Land No. 592	₹ 1,00,000/-	
(3) Property situated at Arazi No. 423, Sale Deed Dated 30-11-2005 on cover no. 3142, from Page 109 to 128, On Serial No. 3856, Khatoni No. 00209, Village Bagdaudhi Kachar, Pargana & Tehsil - Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property : Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, Area : 0.349 Hectare, Bounded : North- Land No. 424 & 427, South- Land No. 420, East-Land No. 404 & 405, West- Land No. 429 & 430	₹ 1,57,000,00/- ₹ 15,70,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/-	23-10-20 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm
(4) Open Plot Part of House No. 117/Q/49-B, Sale Deed Dated 10-11-2014 on cover no. 1, from Page 125 to 148, On Serial No. 11224, Sharda Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, Owner of Property : Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, Area : 374.99 Sq. Mtr., Bounded : North- 18 Mtr. Wide Road, South- Plot No. 757 & 758, East-Juj Part of House No. 117/49-B, West- House No. 117/Q/66	₹ 1,78,000,00/- ₹ 17,80,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/-	23-10-20 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm
TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E-AUCTIONS SALE : (1) The REFUNDABLE Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 10% of Reserve Price shall be payable by interested bidders through NEFT/RTGS/FUNDS Transfer on or before Dt. 22-10-2020 latest by 4.00 pm of Union Bank of India, through Concern branch, Concern A/c Number & IFSC Code or by DD/Pay Order favouring Union Bank of India Concern Branch Payable at District-Kanpur. (2) Bidders are Advised to visit the Bank's Website : www.unionbankofindia.co.in or www.eprocure.gov.in for detailed terms & conditions of e-Auction sale & other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-Auction. Bidder may also visit the Website : www.bankauctions.com of service Provider M/s C-1 India Pvt. Ltd. Address : Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gulf Petrochem Building, Building No. 301, Gurgaon, Haryana. Pin: 122015, e-mail ID : support@bankauctions.com /Helpline Number : +91-124-4302020/21/22/23/24, (Contact person-Mr. Mithlesh Kumar, Mob-07080804466). (3) The terms & conditions of sale shall be strictly as per the provisions of the Security Interest Rules (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. (4) The Interested bidder may contact the Branch Rawatpur, Distt. Kanpur, Authorised Officer/Branch Head (Chief Manager) Shri Balbir Singh, (M) 9315685194 & E-mail ID : rawatpur@unionbankofindia.com , Property inspection Date 21-10-2020 upto 5.00 pm		
STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) / Rule 9 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6) / rule 9 (1) of Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the above loan accounts about the holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date.		
Date : 06.10.2020	Place : Kanpur	Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

समर्थन मूल्य प्राप्त करना सभी किसानों का अधिकार है

धान खरीद

वर्ष 2020-21

प्रदेश में मूल्य समर्थन योजना के अन्तर्गत सरकारी धान की खरीद प्रारम्भ

पंजीयन करायें समर्थन मूल्य का लाभ उठायें

क्रम	एजेंसी	केन्द्र
1.	खाद्य विभाग की विपणन शाखा (पंजीकृत सोसाइटी, मल्टी स्टेट को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी सहित)	1200
2.	उ०प्र० खाद्य एवं आवश्यक वस्तु निगम (एस०एफ०सी०)	150
3.	उत्तर प्रदेश सहकारी संघ (पी०सी०एफ०)	1350
4.	उत्तर प्रदेश को-ऑपरेटिव यूनियन (पी०सी०यू०)	500
5.	उ०प्र० राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद	150
6.	उ०प्र० उपमोक्ता सहकारी संघ लि० (यू०पी०एम०एस०)	160
7.	उ०प्र० राज्य कृषि एवं औद्योगिक निगम (यू०पी० स्टेट एग्री)	70
8.	उ०प्र० कर्मचारी कल्याण निगम	60
9.	नेशनल एग्रीकल्चरल को-ऑपरेटिव मार्केटिंग फेडरेशन ऑफ इण्डिया लि० (नेफेड)	100
10.	एन०सी०सी०एफ०	140
11.	भारतीय खाद्य निगम	120
योग		4000

धान का समर्थन मूल्य धान कामन रु. 1868/- प्रति कुन्तल एवं ग्रेड 'ए' रु. 1888/- प्रति कुन्तल है।

योजना का लाभ उठाने हेतु किसान अपने बैंक खाते सी.बी.एस. युक्त बैंक में खुलवायें तथा बैंक नम्बर व आई.एफ.एस.सी. कोड भरने में विशेष सावधानी बरतें।

राजकीय केन्द्रों पर 17 प्रतिशत या उससे कम नमी का धान क्रय किया जाता है। अतः किसान भाइयों से अपील है कि अपना धान अच्छी तरह सुखाकर, साफ करके खरीद केन्द्र पर लायें।

धान की गुणवत्तिनिर्दिष्टियों, अधिकतम सीमा प्रतिशत में

1. विजातीय पदार्थ	
क) अकार्बनिक	1.00
ख) कार्बनिक	1.00
2. क्षतिग्रस्त, बदरंग, अंकुरित एवं धुने हुए	5.00
3. अपरिपक्व, संकुचित एवं सिकुड़े हुए दाने	3.00
4. अद्यमानक प्रजाति का अपमिश्रण	6.00
5. नमी	17.00

क्षतिग्रस्त, अंकुरित एवं धुने हुए दाने 4.00 प्रतिशत से अधिक नहीं होने चाहिए।

किसी भी सख्यता के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800-1800-150 या सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला खाद्य विपणन अधिकारी, तहसील के क्षेत्रीय विपणन अधिकारी या ब्लॉक के विपणन निरीक्षक से सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

कोरोना से बचाव हेतु सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग के नियमों का पालन करें।

खाद्य एवं रसद विभाग उत्तर प्रदेश

CBI books DK Shivakumar for ₹75 cr DA, ₹50 L seized

From Page 1
“The CBI has registered a case against former Minister of Karnataka Government (presently MLA) on the allegations of possession of disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 74.93 crore (approximately) in his name and in the name of his family members,” the CBI said in a statement here.
The Karnataka Government had issued a notification under Delhi Special Police Establishment Act and it was followed up by a notification from the Centre after which CBI had initially registered a Preliminary Enquiry

(PE) during March, 2020 against the said MLA and others in the matter, the CBI spokesperson said.
Searches were conducted at 14 locations including Karnataka, Delhi and Mumbai at the premises of the said MLA and others which led to the recovery of cash of Rs 57 lakh (approximately) and several incriminating documents including property documents, bank related information, computer hard disk among others, reads the CBI statement, adding investigation is continuing.
Congress leaders flayed the Modi Government and CBI for

the raids.
“The insidious game of intimidation & machinations of Modi-Yeddyurappa duo being executed by a puppet CBI by raiding @DKShivakumar won't deter us. CBI should be unearthing the layers of corruption in Yeddyurappa Govt. But, 'Raid Raj' is their only 'Machiavellian Move'!” Randeep Singh Surjewala, the Congress' national spokesperson, tweeted.
“Let Modi & Yeddyurappa Govts & BJP's frontal organizations i.e CBI-ED-Income Tax know that Congress workers & leaders will not be cowed down nor bow down before such devious attempts. Our resolve to fight for people & expose BJP's maladministration only becomes stronger,” he added.
Karnataka Congress tweeted that CBI has become a permanent electoral weapon for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). “We condemn this politics of vendetta,” it said.
The Congress party said it will hold a protest meet at its headquarters against the CBI raid. “Afraid of losing the Sira and RR Nagar by-polls, the BJP is resorting to these tactics. We won't be cowed down and will

fight this,” Saleem Ahmed, the Congress state working president, said.
The CBI raids were also condemned by senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah. “@BJP4India has always tried to indulge in vindictive politics & mislead public attention. The latest CBI raid on @K P C C P r e s i d e n t @DKShivakumar 's house is another attempt to derail our preparation for bypolls. I strongly condemn this,” Siddaramaiah tweeted.
“After ED and I-T they have unleashed CBI. This is vendetta for what DKS did during the RS polls of our leader Ahmed Patel. We have belief and trust in the judiciary. We will fight it out,” Lakshmi Hebbalkar, former Minister and Congress MLA, said.
Sources said the seized documents and records are being analysed for further legal action and probe into the matter. The accused persons will accordingly be summoned for questioning.
Based on the CBI case, the Enforcement Directorate is likely to register a separate case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

कार्यालय छावनी परिषद, कानपुर
बंगला नं० 64, सुभाष चन्द्र बोस मार्ग, कानपुर कैम्प-208004

No.CBK/SS/K-392 **निविदा सूचना** दिनांक 03 अक्टूबर, 2020

छावनी परिषद, कानपुर की स्वराज माजदा टिपर नं० UP 78 N 9950 व जे०सी०बी० नं० UP 78 T 3909 की “जैसी है जहां हैं” के आधार पर नीलामी आमंत्रित की जाती है। नीलामी की समस्त नियम व शर्तें www.cbkanpur.org व eprocure.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। नीलामी को बिना किसी सूचना के स्वीकृत व अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार मुख्य अधिशासी अधिकारी को सुरक्षित है।

(अनुकुलद्विवेदी)
मु.अधि.अधि.
कानपुर कैम्प

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
E-Tender Notice.

1. E-Tender No. : 35/BMD-II/ BTPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for the “Overhauling of primary and secondary air pre heater of unit No. 4 of 2x500 MW, BTPS, Anpara. E-tender has been upload-ed on **25.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **27,40,000.00** only. **Period: During overhauling maintenance of unit 4,BTPS, Anpara, E.M.D. cost Rs. 28,000.00.** Last date of tender: **31.10.2020 at 18:00 Hrs**

2. E-Tender No.: 95/CF-842/ PD-II/DTPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for “Supply of Gear box for cooling tower fan.” E-tender has been uploaded on **23.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **26.10 Lakh** only. E.M.D. cost **Rs. 26,500.00.** Last date of tender: **30.10.2020 at 14:00 Hrs.**

3. E-Tender No: 23/AHD/ ATPS/2020-21-Online e-bids are invited for the “Painting work of new/old & used ash disposal pipe on outer surface and other related work of 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara. E-tender has been uploaded on **23.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **1,63,000.00** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 3,000.00.** Last date of tender: **11.11.2020 at 10:00 Hrs.**

4. E-Tender No: 26/AHD/ BTPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for the Work of “Providing Assistance in operation of PLC based control system and site equipments of DFA Extraction plant/Silo area of unit no. 4 of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. E-tender has been uploaded on **23.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **10,85,364.00** only. **Period: 12 months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 21,700.00.** Last date of tender: **29.10.2020 at 12:00 Hrs.**

5. E-Tender No: 04/CMD-I/ATPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for the work of Annual white washing/painting / distempering, cement primer, polishing etc in the various building of power house area in ATPS, CHP area and H-Type office shed. E-tender has been uploaded on **05.10.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **11,78,360.00** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 24,000.00.** Last date of tender: **10.11.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

6. E-Tender No: 05/CMD-I/ATPS/2020-21-Online e-bids are invited for the work of Spl M&R of drains along Road (S-II-73 to S-II-48) and (S-I-185 to S-I-145) in CISF Colony ATP, Anpara. E-tender has been uploaded on **05.10.2020 (10:00 Hrs.)** <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **607358.00** only. **Period: 04 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 12,500.00.** Last date of tender: **10.11.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

7. E-Tender No: 93/CF-436/PD-III/ DTSP/ 2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for the Supply of Protection shield for RH circuit.” E-tender has been uploaded on **22.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of materials is Rs. **06.00 Lakh** only. E.M.D. cost **Rs. 6,000.00.** Last date of tender: **19.10.2020 at 14:00 Hrs.**

8. E-Tender No: 96/CF-848/PD-III/DTPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for “Supply of mill outlet Elbow.”. E-tender has been uploaded on **28.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of materials is Rs. **21,05,096.00** only. E.M.D. cost **Rs. 22,000.00.** Last date of tender: **30.10.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

9. E-Tender No.: 08/TMD/BTPS/2020-21-Online e-bids are invited for the Work of Repairing of valves of condensate line, steam drain lines, feed water lines of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. E-tender has been uploaded on **01.10.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **05,89,498.00** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 11,790.00.** Last date of tender: **05.11.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

10. E-Tender No.: 140/CF-591/PD-II/ DTSP/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for Supply of silica gel for DTSP, Anpara. E-tender has been uploaded on **29.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **1,10,000.00** only. E.M.D. cost **Rs. 2,000.00.** Last date of tender: **03.11.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

11. E-Tender No: 06/C&I&M-II/ BTPS/ 2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for the Work of Repairing of pneumatic actuators of mill outlet gate of ball mills of 2x500, BTPS, Anpara. E-tender has been uploaded on **25.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **1,05,000.00** only. **Period: 1 Year, E.M.D. cost Rs. 2,000.00.** Last date of tender: **02.11.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

12. E-Tender No: 01/ CMD-VIII/ ATP/2020-21-Online e-bids are invited for the Work of Annual M&R of civil Works of Various Buildings/ structures in coal Handling plant area of 2x500MW, DTTP, Anpara. E-tender has been uploaded on **09.10.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **8,59,262.00** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 15,000.00.** Last date of tender: **09.11.2020 at : 1600 Hrs.**

13. E-Tender No: 97/CF-603/PD-III/ DTSP/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for “Supply of spares of FD and PA fan for DTSP, Anpara”. E-tender has been uploaded on **30.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **14,70,000.00** only. E.M.D. cost **Rs. 15,000.00.** Last date of tender: **21.10.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

14. E-Tender No: 12/PD-II/ BTPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for Supply of “MS/SS Fasteners & other miscellaneous items”. E-tender has been uploaded on **30.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **7.49 Lakh** only. E.M.D. cost **Rs. 15,000.00.** Last date of tender : **02.11.2020.**

15. E-Tender No: 05/TMD/ DTSP/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for “Preventive maintenance and revisioning of strainer, PHE, Hotwell, Deaerator, Pilot Valves etc and minor breakdown maintenance of Turbine side Auxiliaries of unit# 6&7, DTSP, Anpara”. E-tender has been uploaded on **26.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **4,55,000.00** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 9,000.00.** Last date of tender: **31.10.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

16. E-Tender No.: 01/HRDD/ ATPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for “Routine work of Up keeping & cleaning of simulator building offices and halls etc. at ATP, Anpara, Sonebhadra, E-tender has been uploaded on **30.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **1,53,207.00** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 3,000.00.** Last date of tender: **02.11.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

17. E-Tender No: 22/BMD-II/ BTPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for “Routine maintenance work of milling system of Unit 4&5 of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. E-tender has been uploaded on **05.10.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **22,61,952.00** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 33,000.00.** Last date of tender: **05.11.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

18. E-Tender No: 23/BMD-II/ BTPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for “Breakdown maintenance work of milling system of unit 4&5 of 2x500 MW, BTPS, Anpara, E-tender has been uploaded on **05.10.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **20,10,500.00** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 13,000.00.** Last date of tender : **05.11.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

19. E-Tender No: 38/TMD/ATPS/2020-21-Online e-bids are invited for Major maintenance of medium pressure pumps, drain tank, hot well, overhauling and rectification of tube leakages of working oil and lub oil coolers of BFPs of 3x210 MW, ATPS, Anpara. E-tender has been uploaded on **29.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **08,06,242.00** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 16,000.00.** Last date of tender: **09.11.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

20. S.T.E-Tender No: 08/CMD-II/ATPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for The work of construction of platform in switchyard BTPS, Anpara, Sonebhadra, E-tender has been uploaded on **29.09.2020 (10:00 Hrs)** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **08,00,000.00** only. **Period: 04 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 16,000.00.** Last date of tender: **19.10.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.**

21. E-Tender No: 18/CHD-II/ ATPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for the daily site store handling and cartage of material from central store to site store and vice-versa of CHP, 3X210MW, ATPS Anpara, Sonebhadra, E-tender has been uploaded on **28.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **2.61 lakh** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 5,000.00.** Last date of tender: **02.11.2020 at 17:00 Hrs.**

22. E-Tender No: 20/CHD-II/ ATPS/2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for the Maintenance of coal chutes and other allied works of CHP, ATPS Anpara, Sonebhadra, E-tender has been uploaded on **28.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **14.58 lakh** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 29,000.00.** Last date of tender: **02.11.2020 at 17:00 Hrs.**

23. E-Tender No: 19/CHD-II/ ATPS/2020-21-Online e-bids are invited for the Round the clock checking/routine and breakdown maintenance of stacker-Reclaimer machine and vibro feeders installed in CHP, 3X210MW, ATPS, Anpara, Sonebhadra, E-tender has been uploaded on **28.09.2020** on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **11.00 lakh** only. **Period: 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 22,000.00.** Last date of tender : **02.11.2020 at 17:00 Hrs. Total quality of work / supply, Tender specification and other term & condition is as per tender document available on the E-tender portal. Concerned Officer reserves the right to cancel the e-bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (W), For CHIEF ENGINEER, Anpara Thermal Project, Anpara, Sonebhadra (U.P.). No. 847, Date 03.10.2020, Save Electricity in the interest of nation.**

FROM PAGE 1

FIGHT OVER AIIMS REPORT ON SUSHANT

“We all stand vindicated by these findings of AIIMS,” the Police Commissioner said. The Supreme Court had upheld transfer of the FIR lodged by Bihar Police in the Rajput case and not the Mumbai Police’s investigation, Singh said.
“The court didn’t find any fault with our investigation,” he said. Singh further said that the city police had submitted the investigation report to the apex court in a sealed cover and it was seen by only six persons — the investigating officer, senior police inspector, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Commissioner of Police, advocate general of the State and the judge.
“Without knowing anything about our investigation and without having seen our report some vested interests criticised our investigation,” he said. Rajput (34) was found hanging at his flat in Mumbai on June 14. A section of media had hinted that it could be a murder.
The CBI had taken over the probe from Bihar Police into the alleged abetment to suicide case filed by the actor’s father KK Singh in Patna against Rajput’s girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her family.
Meanwhile, Shiv Sena on Monday sought an apology from the BJP leaders as well as the media for trying to defame Maharashtra Government and Mumbai Police. A day after the AIIMS forensic panel, set up to assist CBI in the medical investigation, ruled out murder claims in its report, the Sena said that the BJP-led Centre and its NDA partner in Bihar, JD (U), used the actor’s death as a poll plank ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar. “Since the very beginning, in this case, there has been a conspiracy to malign Maharashtra Government and Mumbai Police. If now the CBI inquiry is also not being trusted, then we’re speechless,” senior Shiv leader Sanjay Raut said.

CHINA CAN’T GET BETTER OF US, SAYS IAF CHIEF

Replying to a question whether the military was surprised by Chinese aggression in Ladakh, he said, “We acted swiftly and it will not be correct to say we were surprised... We do hope the talks between the military commanders progress on expected lines. The current progress (by China) is an effort to dig on for the winter... we too are taking actions to step up air assets.” Replying to another question whether China could use Pakistan air bases in the case of a conflict, the IAF chief said it would mean a collusive threat and the force was ready to tackle it. On the possibility of a two-front threat, he said, “We are aware they are cooperating closely. There is a significant threat, but so far there is no such indication that they are colluding for a two-front war.”
Asked, if at any moment the IAF came close to an air strike against China, especially after the Galwan clash on June 15 when 20 Indian Army personnel were

killed, the IAF chief replied in negative. But he said the IAF “is prepared.”

On Rafale, he said it had provided the IAF a technological edge. “It gives the ability to strike first and strike deep and hard even in a contested air space,” he said.
Bhadauria said there was no step up in deployment of assets on the other side since the last Corps Commander level talks on September 21. After the talks, the two sides had for the first time issued a joint statement and agreed to “stop sending more troops to frontline” and “refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground.”
On his assessment on the LAC in the next three months, the IAF chief said the main focus was on talks to disengage. He admitted the current rate of progress was slow and said “ground realities” cannot be ignored. China is digging in for winter and India will also have to take precautionary steps, he added.
On delivery schedule of the Rafale jets, he said while the first five were inducted recently, the next four to five planes were expected in India in November and by 2023 all the 36 jets will be in operational in the IAF.

10% OF WORLD'S POPULATION INFECTED WITH COVID: WHO

The estimate — which would amount to more than 760 million people based on a current world population of about 7.6 billion — far outstrips the number of confirmed cases as tallied by both WHO and Johns Hopkins University, now more than 35 million worldwide.
Experts have long said that the number of confirmed cases greatly underestimates the true figure.
The comments came during a special session of the executive board to consider the follow-up to its previous meeting, in May, that passed a resolution to look into the world’s - and WHO’s - response to the pandemic. Ryan warned that the world was “now heading into a difficult period. The disease continues to spread. It is on the rise in many parts of the world.”

CENTRE RELEASES ₹20,000 CR TO STATES ...

Under the GST structure, taxes are levied under 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent slabs. On top of the highest tax slab, a cess is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods and the proceeds from the same are used to compensate states for any revenue loss. Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said with effect from January 1, 2021, GST refunds would be paid/distributed in a validated bank account linked with the PAN and Aadhaar of the registered taxpayer.
The 42nd meeting of the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister and comprising state counterparts, also eased compliance burden for small taxpayers

Maha sees low of 10,244 cases, recovery rate rises to 80%

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In two welcome developments, Maharashtra on Monday recorded relatively low 10,244 Covid-19 infections –which is the lowest in a week– and the recovery rate in the State touched 80 per cent, while 263 more people succumbed to coronavirus in various parts of the State.
On a day when the total infections in Mumbai region –comprising Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivli, Ulhasnagar, Bhiwandi-Nizampur, Mira-Bhayandar, Palghar, Vasai-Virar, Raigad and Panvel—crossed 5 lakh infection mark to touch 5,02,583, there was a drop in the number of infections in the state. The infections came down to 10,244 from Sunday’s 13,702.
With 13,702 fresh infections, the total number of infections jumped from 14,43,409 to 14,53,653. Similarly, with 263 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in the state mounted from 38,084 to 38,347.
On a day when 12,982 people were discharged from various hospitals in the state, the number of people discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 11,49,603. The recovery rate in the state rose from 79.64 to 80 per cent.
Of the total 263 deaths reported on Monday, Mumbai recorded a maximum of 47 deaths, followed by 30 deaths in Pune, 25 in Kolhapur, 20 in Nagpur, 17 in Thane, 15 in Satara, 14 in Jalna, 12 in Yavatmal, 11 in Sangli and 10 deaths each in Raigad and Nanded.

Govt relaxes criteria for enhanced family pension

New Delhi (PTI): The Defence Ministry has scrapped the requirement of minimum continuous service of seven years for grant of enhanced ordinary family pension (EOFP) to the next of kin of deceased defence personnel, an official statement said Monday.
An EOFP is 50 per cent of personnel’s last emoluments and is payable for 10 years from the date of the death of the personnel in service, the ministry said in the statement.

“The requirement of continuous qualifying service of 7 years (to get EOFP) is done away with effect from October 1, 2019,” it said.
If the service personnel dies after his or her release, retirement, discharge or invalidment, the EOFP is given for seven years from the date of death or up to the time when the personnel would have reached 67 years of age, whichever is earlier, the ministry noted.
Further, the family of armed forces personnel who

died within 10 years before October 1, 2019, without completing continuous service of seven years, would be getting the EOFP, it noted.
As per the rules till date, “there is a requirement of continuous qualifying service of 7 years for grant of the EOFP to the next of kin of defence forces personnel”, it stated. While the EOFP is 50 per cent of last emoluments of the personnel, the ordinary family pension (OFP) is 30 per cent of last emoluments of the personnel.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लो.नि.वि. वि./यां. सभाग रीवा								
क्रमांक/2449/कार्य/निविदा/2020-21			रीवा, दिनांक 26.09.2020					
निविदा क्र. D-29/2020-21			रीवा, दिनांक 26.09.2020					
निविदा आमंत्रण-सूचना								
निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑन-लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसका विवरण www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। आमंत्रित निविदा का संक्षिप्त विवरण।								
क्र.	टेंडर आई.डी. क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	आमंत्रण क्र.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की समयवधि	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी	कार्य की अनुमानित राशि	अमानत राशि	भौतिक रूप से दस्तावेज जमा करने का कार्यालय
1	2020_PWDRB_109767_1	जिला चिकित्सालय अनुपूर, सोधी, उमरिया में 33 के.बी. लाई एच. टी. विद्युत कनेक्शन का कार्य	तृतीय आमंत्रण	छ: माह सुपरवीजन आईई उपपान	“अ” श्रेणी या उच्च विद्युत ठेकेदार	24503978.00	245040.00	कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता लो.नि.वि. रीवा परिसर रीवा दिनांक 13.10.2020 तक समय शाम 05.30 बजे तक
निविदा फार्म Online भुगतान कर 12.10.2020 को शाम 5:30 तक क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। भौतिक दस्तावेज जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 13.10.2020 को शाम 5:30 तक होगी। विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना व अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती हैं। जिसे अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में कार्यालयीन समय पर देखी जा सकती है। किसी भी प्रकार का संसोधन समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जायेगा केवल वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किया जायेगा।								
नोट:- प्रत्येक टेण्डर अलग-अलग लिफाफे में अलग-अलग, स्पीड पोस्ट से प्रेषित करें अन्यथा मान्य नहीं होगा।								
कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक निर्माण विभाग (वि./यां.) संभाग रीवा (म.प्र.)								
G-14676/20								

Power employees go on strike

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The power employees including the engineers went on indefinite strike on Monday in protest against the government move to privatise Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PVVNL), which supplies electricity in the 21 districts of six divisions of Purvanchal (eastern UP). To meet the situation being created by the strike and ensure smooth supply in the entire region, the state government and district administration have made several alternative arrangements. Besides, at power sub stations, offices and other places tight security and other arrangements have been made.

Under the banner of Power Employees' Joint Action Committee, power employees held a meeting at PVVNL headquarters at Bhikharipur here which was attended by hundreds of employees and engineers and while addressing the power staff, the speakers strongly criticised the state government for its policy of privatisation and adopting rigid attitude as all the meetings to resolve the problems failed to bring any consensus. They also raised many other demands including restoration of old pension schemes. The power employees also held meetings at many other districts of Varanasi, Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Vindhyachal (Mirzapur) and Basti divisions. On the first day of the strike, though in the



Power employees staging protest in Varanasi on Monday

Pioneer

city no major impacts were seen, power supply in many other adjoining districts was affected badly.

In view of the strike, the officers were keeping watch on the situation through its control room set up at the office of ADM (Finance/Revenue). For repairing faults, the district administration had deployed some ITI trained electricians. According to information, police forces have been deployed at many power sub-stations but despite that some power employees had disconnected the supply of some of the areas from Shankuldhara power sub-station. There were also reports

of power disruption in many other areas including Sarnath. There was five hour power disruption through Ashapur feeder apart from reports of no power supply in Madauli areas of DPH Manduadih, in Badshah Bagh, Birdapur and many other areas. In trans-Ganga Chandauli district due to closure of Chandhasi power sub-station, the supply of many areas was also disrupted. District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma said that in view of strike, three control rooms have been set up with toll free number of 1912, 0542-2300136 (Bhikharipur) and 0542-2221944 (City Command Centre, Siga)

where the customers can file their complaints round-the-clock. Besides, elaborate security and other arrangements have been made at one 440 KVA, four 220 KVA, eight 132 KVA, 82 82/11 KVA power sub-stations apart from 229 feeders. At power sub-stations the supply would be ensured through outsourcing by deploying 393 employees there. Besides, Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) had provided the list of 201 diploma holders, 3,052 retired officers and employees while the principal of ITI Karaundi gave list of 274 trainees and 10 trainers apart from many others.

104 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 104 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Monday, increasing the total number of cases to 14,197. Besides, the district also saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 231. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 125 patients. Out of them, 118 patients were recovered from home isolation,

increasing the number to 9,672 and seven patients have been discharged from the hospitals. With this, the number of cured patients from the hospitals has reached 2,735. The total number of cured patients is now 12,407, leaving 1,559 active patients. The recovery rate has improved to 87.39 per cent, while the mortality rate has remained at 1.62 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has

informed that in the first report of the day by 11am, 62 positive patients were detected out of 2,892 received reports.

Till then, the total test reports received were 2,25,464 and the results of 1,491 are awaited. Out of them, 2,11,309 were negative while 14,155 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,41,373. Earlier, a female aged 50 and a male (55) from

Habibpura (Chetganj) and Surajkund (Nai Sarak) respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU). With the addition of 11 new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,101 including 324 red zones. Three green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,777 green zones with one new one.

Gangetic Dolphin Jalaj Safari inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Gangetic Dolphin Jalaj Safari was inaugurated in the district on the occasion of World Dolphin Day at the confluence of rivers Ganga and Gomti near Markandeya Mahadev Ghat, Kaithi here on Monday on the fifth day of ongoing Wildlife Week. The programme was attended by experts from Indian Institute of Forestry, Ganga Prahari, National Disaster Response

Force (NDRF), Forest Department, Ganga Vihar Manch, VESS India, children and others.

Namami Gange is a new initiative to develop river Ganga for economic purposes in view to enhance the livelihood of the local people by creating job opportunities like boatmen, nature guides and providers of other tourist facilities. Initially, three boats have been attached to this programme by painting the dol-

phin concept on them and in the coming days, more and more boatmen and nature guides will be linked to this scheme and their self-help groups (SHGs) will be developed apart from promoting eco-tourism. Sailors and nature guides will be trained in view to develop their overall information and capacity especially in connection with dolphins and other aquatic organisms. They will also be trained for maintaining security arrange-

ments.

Ganges dolphins are seen in large numbers in Varanasi district, especially in Ganga-Gomti Sangam area. By providing this type of systematic eco-tourism along with religious tourism, India's national aquatic dolphin will also get strength for conservation. Along with this, the possibility of promoting eco-tourism will also be created and the livelihood of the local people will be increased.

Sanjay Singh flays state govt

VARANASI (PNS): Making a scathing attack on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for rising crime against women in the state, Rajya Sabha MP of Aam Admi Party (AAP) Sanjay Singh said that the party would fight right from the roads to the Parliament to ensure justice to the victim's family. Talking to the presspersons at Paradkar Bhawan here on Sunday, after addressing the party workers, he reiterated, once again, that the inquiry into the Hathras incident should be done by a committee headed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.

Playing the state government, he said that the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath failed on the fronts of maintaining law and order situation and providing jobs to the unemployed youths as per the promises of the BJP manifesto. AAP MP said that UP is not safe for the women as in many cases, the government was seen protecting the main accused of the rape cases. Singh also criticised the BJP MLA from Ballia district Surendra Singh for his statement on the Hathras incident, saying that the same just

showed the mentality of BJP. Singh was here to hold dialogue with the party workers in view of strengthening AAP's organisation.

UPSC PRELIMS: Thousands of candidates appeared in preliminary examinations of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in their attempt to become IAS, IPS and other top administrative officers. About 26,641 candidates were scheduled to appear in the examinations conducted at 50 centres in the city here on Sunday. For making elaborate security arrange-

ments as many as 22 sector magistrates were deployed to keep watch on the activities at different centres during the examinations conducted in two shifts starting from 9.30 am and 2.30 pm. Besides, at all centres static magistrates were deployed and all activities were watched through CCTV cameras.

During the examinations, social distance and other COVID-19 guidelines were followed and no candidates were allowed to enter the centres without wearing masks.

Book on welding technology released

VARANASI (PNS): Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) Satish Kumar Kashyap released a book based on welding technology in Hindi at his chamber on the behalf of General Manager (GM) Yashpal Singh in Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) here on Monday. The book entitled 'Guide of Welding Technology' (second edition) was edited by Assistant Mechanical Engineer (Training) Dr Vipin Kumar Srivastava in the supervision of Principal of Technical Training Centre (TTC), DLW, Ram Janam Choubey. The function was also attended by Chief Electrical Engineer (Maintenance) Pawan Priya

Raju. This book has been specially attempted to provide theoretical knowledge of welding as well as practical information to railway personnel and officials related to welding engineering and technology of Indian Railways. This handbook will help in increasing the welding quality for manufacturing world class locomotives. The first edition of this book was released by the then General Manager on 28 March, 2018 and was conferred with the Lal Bahadur Shastri Technical Basic Writing Award from the Railway Board level.

WEBINAR: Valetictory session of national webinar on 'Gandhian Values and Principles of National Service

Scheme (NSS)' was organised under the auspices of NSS, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) with Dr Bala Lakhendra and Deepali Yadav as programme coordinator and organising secretary respectively. In his address, chief guest and great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi Tushar Gandhi motivated the students to use the theory of Mahatma Gandhi for doing social service and asked them to find a village that is far from development and have not received any welfare projects till now. He also asked for the need of real life based social service than doing any activism on social media which does not reaches the underprivileged at all. Director

of Sabarmati Ashram Arun Pandya spoke about Gandhi's visit to BHU when he returned from South Africa. Prof. Saroj Bala, Dean of NCERT and Dr Sanjay Kumar, convener of Gandhi Study Circle (Delhi University) were the speakers. Dr Dinesh Chahal, programme coordinator NSS Central University of Haryana and Dr Satish Kumar Sahni, programme advisor, Government of India also shared their views about Gandhi Regional directors Dr Anshumali Sharma and Dr Ashok Shoti also participated in the programme conducted by Dr Chinmoy Roy. In the end, NSS volunteers presented papers sharing their ideas and views.

CM inaugurates Cobas Lab

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the state-of-the-art Cobas Lab and 220-bed Covid Hospital at MLN Medical College on Monday through video conferencing. This was the second Cobas Lab in the state. With this, around 2,500 RTPCR checks can be done in a single day.

In his address on this occasion, the Chief Minister said that both this will prove to be a milestone in the testing and treatment of COVID-19. He said that out of 220 beds made for high-quality Covid patients in the newly constructed super specialty block under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, 140 beds are of ICU and 80 beds of isolation. All other state-of-the-art facilities are available at COVID-19 Hospital along with all medical equipment as well as central oxygen facility for life saving oxygen gas.

The Chief Minister said that Cobas-6800 lab is the first lab in Uttar Pradesh. He said that this would help in increasing the quality and efficiency of the corona test. From Cobas-6800, 1500 samples per day will

be tested in a quality manner. Chief Minister said that COVID-19 Hospital and Cobas-6800 Lab set up in Swaroop Rani Hospital will also benefit other districts around Prayagraj district, including Mirzapur, Chitrakoot, Banda, Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, Fatehpur and other districts. People will also be able to take advantage of it.

Chief Minister said that unprecedented work has been done in Uttar Pradesh under the guidance of the Prime Minister in controlling the global pandemic, in which significant support of the Central Government has been received. He said that the Government of Uttar Pradesh is continuously working in preventing and treating this pandemic with full strength and commitment, in which the cooperation of all people has also achieved unprecedented success.

Chief Minister said that the State Government has ensured adequate number of beds in L-1, L-2 and L-3 hospitals made for Covid. He said that proper arrangements for oxygen, ventilators, PPE kits, medicines and other necessary things have also been ensured there. He said that

there has been a complete change in health medicine in the state. He said that the establishment of many new medical colleges in the state and super specialty hospitals has been arranged in the already established medical colleges, for which he thanked the Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan. He said that this has been possible with the guidance of the Prime Minister and with the support of the Union Health Minister.

Participating in the programme, Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan praised the unprecedented efforts made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in controlling the corona and said that due to the untiring efforts of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh has seen a success in controlling COVID-19. He said that apart from other states, important work has been done in the health sector in Uttar Pradesh, including the establishment of medical colleges, super specialty hospitals and many other works.

On this occasion, Uttar Pradesh's Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna said that the COVID-19 Hospital established in Swaroop Rani

Hospital, which was inaugurated on Monday by the Chief Minister, is in the form of All in One Model Hospital. He said that all the facilities are available here simultaneously. He further said that Cobas Lab will increase testing capacity and quality of COVID-19. He congratulated the Chief Minister for the untiring efforts being made for the rescue and treatment of Corona. It is said that due to the systematic arrangements made by the Chief Minister for the control of COVID-19 in the state with such a large population, significant success has been achieved in prevention and treatment of Covid.

On the occasion of the inauguration programme conducted by the Chief Minister through video conferencing in the NIC Room at Collectorate, MP Phulpur- Keshari Devi Patel, MLA City North- Harsh Vardhan Bajpai, Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, IG KP Singh, District Magistrate Bhanu Chandra Goswami, Principal of Medical College Dr. SP Singh, Chief Development Officer Ashish Kumar and other concerned officers and doctors were present.

Power employees protest against privatisation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The employees of the Electricity department went on an indefinite strike on Monday to protest against privatisation. The responsibility of handling power supply in all the 20 divisions of the district has been handed over to a private company Prime One Workforce Limited. On Sunday evening, the new MD Dr Saroj Kumar inquired about the situation from Chief Engineer OP Yadav and instructed not to let any kind of impact on supplies during strike and complete alternative arrangements. In view of the situation, police force has been put in place on the sub-stations.

After the negotiations between the Power Corporation Management and Vidyut Karmachari Sanyukt Sangarsh Samiti were inconclusive, the struggle across the divisions was declared by delegation of the Samiti. However, Vidyut Karmachari Sanyukt Sangarsh Samiti reiterated its resolve to positively improve the power system and appealed to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to intervene in the



Power employees protesting against privatisation at head office of Electricity department in Prayagraj

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energy sector to end the atmosphere of conflict created by the management, so that the situation can be controlled.

On Sunday, in the protest meeting in front of George Town's Chief Engineer Transmission Office, the office-bearers of the Sangharsh Samiti said that it was decided in a written agreement with Power Minister Srikanth Sharma in the past that the existing system of power distribution corporations should improve power distribution itself. The employees and engineers will take meaningful steps in this regard after taking in confidence the

employees, but this has not been done.

The representatives of the Sangharsh Samiti also said that according to the agreement, the initiative was not taken by the management after the power employees, junior engineers and engineers taking in confidence. The Sangharsh Samiti said that 1.5 million employees across the country joined the work boycott to strengthen this movement at the national level in support of the work boycott of power workers due to the dogma of electricity management.

Earlier, the Sangharsh

144 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Prayagraj district reported the lowest number of 144 new positive cases of Covid infection in the last 24 hours on Sunday night. With this, the figure of corona infected persons in the district has crossed from 20,000 to 20,076. While 308 people became infection free in 24 hours, three patients died during treatment.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, after about two months, the figures of infected persons have decreased. Only 144 cases have come positive in 24 hours. More than twice as many as 308 patients have been infection-free on the same day.

Dr Bajpai said that out of the 308 patients who got infection-free, 47 were discharged from various Covid hospitals. At the same time home isolation of 261 infected was completed. So far 12,870 patients have been cured in home isolation. At the same time, 4,615 patients have been discharged from various Covid hospitals and Covid care centres. The death toll from Covid infection has increased to 274.

According to the CMO, there were 2,317 active cases of corona infection in the district on Sunday. A total of 251 patients are admitted in various Covid Care Centres and Hospitals. Out of these, 90

patients are being treated in L3 Hospital SRN, 42 in Beli, 28 in Railway Hospital, 39 in Kalindipuram, 22 in United Medicity and 30 in Sainath Vatsalya AMA Hospital.

The number of corona patients decreased the most on Sunday. This is the first figure since August, 65 days when the number of corona patients has declined so much. On August 1, there were 141 positive cases of corona and on October 4, 144 patients were found. However, the number of patients has started decreasing since last one week. On Sunday, the total number of corona patients crossed 20,000. At the same time, the number of peo-

ple who died after the death of three patients has increased to 274.

These days the Health department is breathing a lot of relief. Because of this, the number of patients has started to decrease. Recently, till a few days ago, where more than 400 positive cases were being received daily, the number has now reduced to less than 150. Active cases are also coming down, that is, the number of positive patients has come down, as well as the number of healthy patients is increasing. This is the reason that there are only 2,317 active patients in the district who are undergoing treatment.

NCR launches communication campaign

ALLAHABAD (PNS): For combating COVID-19 amidst unlocking of economy and upcoming festival season; North Central Railway has launched intensive communication campaign for October and November 2020. With focus on Covid appropriate behaviour Ministry of Railway in consultation with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had decided to launch a multipronged, standard and simple communication campaign for passengers, railway customers, employees and public at large during ensuing festive season. This include display of posters in stations and trains; automated announcement and jingles through station PA system; display of video materials on LED screens on stations and LED display in trains; message on electronic reservation slip (ERS), website and IRCTC app; extensive use of social

media platforms and bulk SMS to passengers, railway employees etc. On North Central Railway 261 important stations equipped with PA systems are regularly announcing COVID-19 related precautionary messages; major stations equipped with LED display facility are playing video clip on COVID-19 related precautions; posters have been provided in all stations and primary trains of NCR; social media platforms are being used to spread awareness Besides existing efforts, further directions and standard communication related materials received from Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting shall be used for intensifying this communication campaign. In addition to intensive communication campaign, other COVID-19 related arrangements such as automatic thermal scanners at major stations; hand held scan-

ners at all stations and workplaces; social distancing arrangements at stations, workplaces, offices etc.; promoting use of Arogya setu app; hand hygiene arrangements; luggage sanitisation & wrapping arrangement; kiosk for mask, sanitiser etc.; COVID-19 safety kit sales points; contactless ticket checking arrangements; etc. are put in place to safeguard passengers as well as railway employees from Corona virus. As on October 4 total 638 formal and informal training programmes on sanitisation and information, education and communication (IEC) have been organised on NCR to equip our medical professionals and other front-line staff with requisite knowledge on novel disease. Screening of Railway employees, their family members and other beneficiaries of Railway medical services has been intensified, and as on 04.10.2020 more than

15,400 persons have been examined in 05 separate clinics being run to examine persons with fever and symptoms like COVID-19. COVID-19 care facilities are being upgraded continuously in hospitals over North Central Railway. So far, in 100 beds level-2 Covid care facility of Jhansi Divisional Hospital, 464 Covid positive patients have been admitted of which 338 discharged, 77 referred to other hospitals and 49 are currently under treatment. In level-2 facility of 100 beds at Central Hospital Prayagraj, total admissions are 435 of which 370 are discharged, 40 referred to other hospitals and 25 are currently under treatment. COVID-19 testing has also been intensified and Divisional Railway hospital Jhansi has done 1,868 tests while Central Hospital Prayagraj has done 2,372 COVID-19 tests till October 4, 2020.



Kanpur District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari carries out a surprise inspection of Regency Hospital, Govindnagar on Monday.

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DM not satisfied with drop in city's Covid death rate

‘Patients brought to hosps when condition worsens’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari has expressed concern that the COVID-19 death rate in the city has not declined as expected despite all efforts.

He said though the COVID-19 deaths had come down from a daily average of 12-15 to around 6-7, the objective was to still bring the death rate down even further.

Tiwari said one reason for this that had come to light was that the hospitals were receiving very critical COVID-19 patients who, despite the best efforts, could not be saved and so a strategy was being worked out to identify coronavirus positive cases at the earliest so that they could be immediately shifted to hospitals for treatment to save their lives.

The district magistrate said the objective was to save

every life and the administration was making every effort to ensure that it came from the static figure daily.

He said strict monitoring was regularly being maintained at all the government and even private Covid hospitals.

Tiwari said the district administration and the medical officials had decided to shift COVID-19 patients at the initial stages of infection to hospital to start treatment immediately.

He said one reason given by the medical officials for the spread of the infection and COVID-19 patients being brought to hospital in a critical condition was that in suburban areas and slums, the people were not following the social distancing norms and when a symptom manifested, they started taking medicines on their own without consult-

ing a doctor. He said when the condition of such patients worsened, they were rushed to the hospital when it was already too late and the chances of recovery were little.

The district magistrate made a surprise inspection of Regency Hospital at Govind Nagar and went through the documents related to deaths, diagnosis, pathology reports and billing. He said on the whole the static magistrates gave their feedback that the doctors were regularly visiting patients and that anaesthetists, specialists and chest physicians were constantly on duty.

Tiwari said the hospital had complied with the Covid protocols and guidelines and its working was found satisfactory.

He said during detailed discussions with GSVM Medical College Principal Prof RB Kamal, it was decided to

set up a four-member special committee under LLT Superintendent Dr Jyoti Saxena to find out why COVID-19 deaths in the city had once again shot up from zero to 7-8 per day.

The other members of the committee are Dr Richa Giri, Prof Anil Verma and Prof Yeshwant Rao. The committee has been asked to submit its report in two days.

The doctors are of the view that tracking and surveillance is not being carried out in the right earnest and most of the patients are getting treatment at home by local doctors and they come to hospital only when their condition worsens.

The district magistrate said the committee would especially look into these facts and also find if the death rate was being put up transparently or not.

‘Herd immunity behind fall in Covid graph’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The GSVM Medical College doctors claim that the COVID-19 graph has fallen because of herd immunity. They point out that in Kanpur Nagar, the COVID-19 death rate had shot up to 16 per day and around 600 positive cases were being detected but now it was showing a decline mainly because of herd immunity.

However, they warn, the second wave is yet to arrive and thus one must remain alert as one cannot yet say that the virus has weakened.

The government has also issued directives that there should be no laxity so that the Covid infection and death rates

could be brought to zero. Head of GSVMHC transfusion medicine department Dr Lubna Khan said when the novel coronavirus first started to spread, the immunity was practically nil and only a good immune system could fight the virus.

She said when most of a population was immune to an infectious disease, it provided indirect protection — or herd immunity — to those who were not immune to the disease. She said if 80 per cent of a population was immune to a virus, four out of every five people who encountered someone with the disease would not get sick and this contained the disease. She said thus kept the

spread of the infectious disease under control.

She added that for infections without a vaccine, even if many adults had developed immunity because of prior infection, the disease could still circulate among children and could still infect those with weak immune systems.

Dr Khan said flu mainly mutated over time, so antibodies from a previous infection provided protection for only a short period of time. She, however, cautioned that when infection rates rose and fell over time one may relax social distancing measures when numbers of infections fall, and then may need to re-implement these measures as numbers

increase again.

She said prolonged effort would be required to prevent major outbreaks until a vaccine was developed.

Dr Khan said as per the WHO, the death rate for COVID-19 was 10 times higher than for the flu. She said it was higher still among vulnerable groups like the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

She said the physical distancing measures needed may vary over time and would not always need to be as strict as our current shelter-in-place laws. “But till a vaccine is developed, proper and extra care has to be taken,” she added.

Shekhar finds 60 pc staff absent at KNN

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar, during a surprise visit to Kanpur Nagar Nigam on Monday, found over 60 per cent of the employees absent in nearly all sections. In some sections, not even a single employee was present.

The divisional commissioner directed Kanpur Municipal Commissioner Akshay Tripathi to deduct one day's salary of all the absent employees.

He also directed the municipal commissioner to issue show-cause notice to all officials and employees and submit their replies within a week.

Shekhar also directed the municipal commissioner to make adverse entries in the records of the supervisory officials for poor monitoring and supervision of the employees and officials attendance and their punctuality.

The divisional commissioner then checked the redressal of the public grievances by the Call Centre set up



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar, conducted a surprise raid at Kanpur Nagar Nigam on Monday.

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at the Kanpur Nagar Nigam and found over 55 per cent of the complaints and grievances were still pending.

He found that since January 2020, nearly 5,000 complaints and grievances had been registered out of

which around 40 per cent were disposed of and five per cent had been rejected.

He advised the municipal commissioner to dispose of the pending complaints and grievances by October 15 and that too without compromis-

153 more test +ve

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 153 more coronavirus positive cases on Monday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 153 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Sunday evening and Monday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 25,966 cases.

He said five COVID-19 deaths in the city pushed the toll to 690 on Monday evening.

The CMO said with 214 COVID-19 patients recovering in hospitals and home isolation in the last 24 hours, 22,278 coronavirus infected people had been cured in the city and at present 2998 active cases were undergoing treatment.

Dr Mishra said 5,413 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Big fire in paint factory

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A fire broke out in a paint factory on Pachore Road under Bithoor police station on Monday morning.

Seeing the flames and thick smoke in the factory, panic prevailed among the workers of other factories. Immediately, all the adjacent factories were got vacated. Due to massive jam on GT Road, the fire brigade reached the spot after one-and-half hours.

According to reports, there are several manufacturing units on Pachore Road of Mandhana Industrial Area. Around 9 am every day, the labourers and workers reach there to report on duty. On Monday morning, with the start of entry of workers in these units, a paint factory suddenly caught fire.

Seeing the devastating flames, the security guards and workers escaped from there.

The cops from Mandhana outpost immediately reached the spot and controlled the situation. Entry of workers to other factories was stopped. With the flames coming into contact with the highly inflammable chemicals in drums, the fire became devastating.

Fire tenders were pressed into service and they took over two hours to extinguish the fire

3 IPL punters arrested

KANPUR (PNS): The Gwalto police have arrested three punters engaged in betting on IPL matches on Monday. The police recovered 30 lakh in cash from them. Their operation was not confined to Kanpur but spread to different states. Superintendent of Police (West) Anil Kumar and Superintendent of Police (South) Deepak Bhuker said the drive to nab punters of IPL matches was on in the city. On a tip-off, the police raided a house at Khalasi Lines in Gwalto and arrested Ravinder Singh of Khalasi Lines and Harsh Verma and Sonu Singh of Gwalto. One of their accomplices, Gaurav, escaped during the police raid.

Apart from recovery of ₹.29,00,520, police also recovered six mobile phones and one notebook from the accused.

SP (South) said these punters would always remain in contact with big bookies and earn huge commission.

He gathered some important clues from the mobile chat of the accused. With the help of CDR, their links with other bookies were being ascertained, he added.

Meanwhile, the Chakeri police also arrested two speculators involved in betting for IPL match through WhatsApp on Sunday and sent them to jail. Police recovered a register and two mobile phones from them. Station House Officer Ravi Srivastava said Jajmau outpost incharge Anurag Singh arrested two youths near UCO Bank branch at Jajmau. They were identified as Ashish Kesarwani of Phoolwali Gali at Lal Bungalow and Somil of Jajmau Gausala. The SHO said after collecting call details, other gang members would be arrested.

Rly minister dedicates changed name of Naugarh station to Siddharthnagar

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Union Minister of Railways, Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal dedicated the changed name of Naugarh railway station to Siddharthnagar railway station via video link on Monday. Speaking on the occasion through video link, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said that the due to the birth of Mahatma Buddha in Lumbini near Naugarh, his life events being connected with this region and in view of public aspirations the Naugarh railway station was named Siddharthnagar. He congratulated everyone for it. A large number of Buddhist pilgrims came here for Lumbini. The area has been declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO. The construction of 240-km-long new railway line

stations. He said that in UP under 67 railway projects migrant workers who had come here were being provided employment under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan. to the in The railway minister said that there has been unprecedented improvement in loading of goods. The loading in September this year was almost 80 per cent more than the previous year. The railway minister said that Antyodaya, Humsafar, Deendayalu and LHB coaches were being made at Modern Coach Factory, Rae Bareilly, and the factory doubled production of coaches last year which was a record in itself. On the occasion MP Jagdambika Pal thanked the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and said that development work was being done rapidly through the railways. MP Jagambika Pal said that



from Khalilabad to Bahraich via Domriaganj-Utraula-Balrampur-Shravasti has been given approval. The completion of this project will accelerate development of Sant Kabir Nagar, Siddharthnagar, Shravasti, Bahraich and Gonda districts. Goyal said that in Uttar Pradesh during the past six years construction of 460-km-long new rail line, 531 km doubling and 489 km gauge conversion works were completed. Similarly electrification of 4,682 km was also completed with which the trains will be able to run at high speed and environment will also be protected. Besides all 1,404 unmanned level crossings had been eliminated in UP, he said. Railway Minister further said that due to the nationwide lockdown the movement of passenger trains had to be stopped, but the movement of goods trains and parcel trains for the supply of food and other essential materials in the country continued uninterrupted due to which supply the essential materials to the people and coal could reach the power stations. The movement of special trains was started. A total of 1,661 Shramik special trains arrived in UP. From UP too through 191 shramik special trains 2,50,000 passengers were sent to various states. In Uttar Pradesh 270 railway coaches had been converted into Covid Care coaches at various

Naugarh station was named Siddharthnagar in view of public aspirations. This has fulfilled the much-awaited demand of the people here. He said that this region was related to the events of childhood of Gautama Buddha. Pal said that during the lockdown the Railways ran Shramik Special trains. Besides, 5,000 coaches were converted into Covid care coaches. The construction of Khalilabad-Bahraich new line (240 km) has been approved. The railway minister was apprised of the demands of the public of the region.

While welcoming the guests, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM)/Lucknow Dr Monika Agnihotri said that in view of the demand of the public of the region the district headquarters station, Naugarh railway station, has been named Siddharthnagar.

The programme was broadcast live via YouTube. On the occasion through web link MLA Shyam Dhani, General Manager of North Eastern Railway (NER) LC Trivedi and senior railway officers were present. The programme was conducted by the Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh while the vote of thanks was proposed by Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM)/Operations Shishir Somvanshi.

Changes in timing of clone spl trains

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration has from October 11 changed the arrival and departure timing of following clone special trains at different stations, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. The 02573 Muzaffarpur-Anand Vihar Terminus clone special train as per the changed time will reach Gorakhpur Junction station at 16:40 hours and leave at 16:50 hours. The 02569 Darbhanga-New Delhi Clone special train as per the changed time will reach Aishbagh station at 19:55 hours and leave at 20:05 hours and will reach Kanpur Central at 21:35 hrs and leave at 21:40 hours. The 02570 New Delhi-Darbhanga clone special train as per the

changed time will reach Kanpur Central station at 18:25 hours and leave at 18:30 hours, reach Aishbagh station at 19:40 hrs and leave at 19:50 hrs. The 02563 Saharsa-New Delhi clone special train will reach Aishbagh station at 20:15 hours and leave at 20:25 hours as per the changed time. The 02564 New Delhi-Saharsa clone special train as per the changed time will reach Aishbagh station at 01:25 hours and leave at 01:35 hours. The 04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar clone special train as per the changed time will depart from Jaynagar at 04:15 hours, reach Darbhanga at 05:25 hours and leave at 05:30 hours. It will reach Samastipur at 07:00 hours and leave at 07:25 hours, arrive at Muzaffarpur at 08:20 hours and leave at 08:25 hours, reach

Chhapra at 11:10 hours and leave at 11:20 hours and reach Shahganj at 16:55 hours and leave at 17:20 hours. The 09465 Ahmedabad-Darbhanga clone special train as per the changed time will reach Shahganj at 23:25 hours and leave at 23:50 hours, reach Chhapra at 04:50 hours and leave at 04:55 hours, will reach Muzaffarpur at 07:00 hours and leave at 07:05 hours and reach Samastipur at 08:30 hours and depart at 08:55 hours and reach Darbhanga at 10:30 hours. The 09466 Darbhanga-Ahmedabad clone special train as per the changed time will reach Muzaffarpur at 05:20 hours and leave at 05:25 hrs, reach Chhapra at 08:40 hours and leave at 08:30 hours and reach Shahganj at 13:45 hours and leave at 14:10 hours.

Youth's body found hanging

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The body of a youth was found hanging in a hotel in Ratanganj locality under Katra Kotwali on Sunday. The youth was identified as Adarsh Patel, a resident of Javansipur village under Newadhiya police station in Jaunpur had checked in the hotel on October 1. On finding foul smell coming out from the room the manager was informed following which when the staff peeped inside it they saw the body hanging there and intimidated the police which reached the spot. They recovered the body of the victim and completed the legal formalities. Officiating SP Sanjay Kumar said that the investigation would be done

from all angles.

LIQUOR SEIZED: Under the joint operation of Padari police and excise department six smugglers were nabbed and 263 bottles of liquor were recovered from them. As per the received reports, SHO Venkatesh Tiwari was informed through an informer that some persons were engaged in the sale of liquor. At the information the police swung into action and raided the place along with the team of the Excise department and cordoned it off. Six persons were found engaged in a deal near Pahada railway crossing under Padari police station. On frisking them police recovered ₹3,520 in cash and 263 bottles of liquor with bogus QR

code. After registering a case the police seized the liquor, a car and two motorcycles and after arresting the six accused sent them to jail.

APPEAL: At a discourse organised at Katra Bajirao on Sunday Baalsant Sachchidanand Maharaj appealed to people to adopt modern ways but not remain aloof from rich culture of our past. He exhorted them to live life with ethics, human values and follow Indian culture for which we had been famous since long. The discourse started with Govardhan Tripathi's welcome address and garlanding of Baalsant Sachchidanand Maharaj by Nitin Awasthi. Among those present event were TN Purwar, Ramkumar Kesarwani and Manoj Jain.

Knp Central-Bandra Terminus spl to run from Oct 7

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

As per the directions issued by Railway Board the movement of 02243/02244 Kanpur Central-Bandra Terminus-Kanpur Central superfast weekly special train will be ensured from October 7 till further notice. All coaches of this train are of reserved category. The 02243 Kanpur Central-Bandra Terminus superfast weekly special train will from October 7 every Wednesday till further notice leave from Kanpur Central at 18:20 hours, from Kanpur Anwanj at 18:32 hours, from Kannauj at 19:36 hours, from Fatehgarh at 20:47 hours, from Farrukhabad at 21:15 hours, from Kasganj at 22:50 hours, from Hathras City at 23:40 hours, on second day from Mathura Cantt at 01:07 hours,

from Mathura Junction at 01:30 hours, from Achhnera at 02:30 hours, from Bharatpur at 03:35 pm, from Sawai Madhopur at 05:45 hours, from Kota at 07:10 hours, from Ramganj Mandi at 08:15 hours, from Nagda at 10:50 hours, from Ratlam at 11:45 hours, from Godhra at 14:40 hours, from Vadodra at 15:52 hours, from Bharuch at 17:32 hours, from Surat at 18:45 hrs, from Vapi at 20:08 hours, from Borivali at 22:26 hrs and will reach Bandra Terminus at 23:05 hrs. On the other hand the 02244 Bandra Terminus-Kanpur Central Superfast weekly special train from October 9 every Friday till further notice will depart from Bandra Terminus at 05:10 hours, from Borivali at 05:40 hours, from Vapi at 07:29 hours, from Surat at 08:50 hours, from Bharuch at 09:39 hours, from Vadodra at 10:53 hours,

from Godhra at 11:58 hours, from Ratlam at 15:00 hrs, from Nagda at 15:55 hrs, from Ramganj Mandi at 17:35 hrs, from Kota at 18:40 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 20:07 hrs, from Bharatpur at 23:20 hrs, on second day from Achhnera at 00:05 hrs, from Mathura Jn at 01:30 hrs, from Mathura Cantt at 01:42 hrs., from Hathras City at 02:18 hrs., from Kasganj at 03:20 hrs., from Farrukhabad at 04:52 hrs, from Fatehgarh at 05:09 hrs, from Kannauj at 05:58 hrs, from Kanpur Anwanj at 08:20 hours and will leave Kanpur Central at 08:35 hrs. A total of 20 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, six of general second class, eight of sleeper class, one of second air-conditioned and three of third AC will be attached in this special train, CPRO Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

Delhi Zoo’s land, ecosystem worth ₹56K cr



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The land and carbon sequestration value of the Delhi Zoo, also known as the National Zoological Park (NZP), in the heart of the city has been valued at a whopping ₹55,209.45 crore. And visited by over 2 lakh foreign and domestic tourists every year, the annual economic value of the Zoo’s biodiversity conservation, recreational and cultural services has been pegged at ₹422.76 crore.

These have been estimated in a first of its kind economic valuation of any zoo in the country, conducted to identify its contributions to the economy as well as environmental awareness level of the visitor.

Spread over an area of 176 acres against the historic monument of Old Fort, the NZP is home to around 75 species of animals under various categories including the endangered one and 29 species of exotic animals besides several free ranging floral and faunal species.

The ecosystem services provided by the zoological park are bio-diversity conservation, carbon storage and sequestration,

employment generation, education and research, and recreational and cultural, said the report ‘Economic Valuation of the Ecosystem Services of National Zoological Park, New Delhi – 2020’.

According to the report, 77 per cent of the total of ₹422.76 crore came from recreational and cultural services while education and research services contributed nine per cent. The informal interactions with the tourists suggested that most Indian tourists visiting the zoo were from Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana.

While employment generation contributed eight per cent or ₹32.19 crore, the contribution of bio-diversity was six per cent or ₹27.33 crore. The least contribution was found in carbon sequestration which was 0.31 per cent or Rs 1.31 crore of the total economic value of ecosystem services provided by the Delhi zoo in 2019-2020.

“Irrespective of the contributions, every service is important as it contributes towards the improvement of the local environment. The benefits of the zoo are not only

restricted to its visitors but also reach Delhi’s citizens. Hence, it is necessary to ensure proper maintenance of the zoo to improve its services,” the report stated.

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) prepared the report which was released by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday.

Speaking at an online event, he said that funds will be allocated for the plan and it will be announced in the budget session next year.

“Children like visiting zoos and to enhance their experience, these facilities must be maintained properly. There are 160 zoos in the country. We will soon come up with a new plan for upgradation and expansion of zoos across the country and we will set aside a budget for it, which will be announced in the next year’s budget session,” Javadekar said.

The minister said that State Governments and corporations will also be involved in this plan. There are about 160 zoos in the country, either funded by the State

Centre plans PPP model to operate zoos across country for better upkeep



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is planning for a public-private partnership (PPP) model to operate zoos in the country for their proper maintenance, said Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday.

Speaking at an online event, he said that funds will be allocated for the plan and it will be announced in the budget session next year.

“Children like visiting zoos and to enhance their experience, these facilities must be maintained properly. There are 160 zoos in the country. We will soon come up with a new plan for upgradation and expansion of zoos across the country and we will set aside a budget for it, which will be announced in the next year’s budget session,” Javadekar said.

The minister said that State Governments and corporations will also be involved in this plan. There are about 160 zoos in the country, either funded by the State

human development, added CZA member secretary SP Yadav on the importance of the

Governments or the Centre through the Central Zoo Authority (CZA).

The Minister further said that State Governments, corporations, businesses and people will all be key elements of the plan. “It will help give enhanced experience to the visitors especially the students and children and the future generation in order to nurture the connect between wildlife, nature and humans.”

SP Yadav, member secretary of the CZA said that the Authority which was established to oversee the functioning of Indian zoos and complement the wildlife conservation strategies through ex-situ measures, as on today recognizes around 160 zoo and rescue centers that enforce global standards in animal housing and welfare. “Over 567 captive animal species (with 114 species under endangered category) with overall 56481 individual animals are currently housed in various zoos in the country,” he said.

habitats such as zoos to human wellbeing and the need for replication across India.

‘Secret’ extradition process on to bring fugitive bizman Mallya to country, Centre informs SC

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court that “secret” extradition process was going on to bring fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya to the country but it was not aware about its status. The Centre also told the top court that it was not a party to the proceedings.

A bench of Justices U U Lalit and Ashok Bhushan asked Mallya’s lawyer to inform the court what kind of “secret” proceedings are going on to extradite him.

Advocate Ankur Saigal, appearing for Mallya, told the apex court that he was not aware what kind of proceedings are going on.

He said, “I have knowledge that my request against extradition has been rejected.”

The bench also directed Mallya’s lawyers to apprise it by November 2 when can the fugitive businessman appear before the court and when the “secret” proceedings are going to end.

Advocate Rajat Nair, appearing for the Centre, told the court that extradition request has been made as per the direction of the court.

“Some secret extradition proceedings are going on to which we are not a party.

“Extradition proceedings have been upheld by the highest court of UK but it has not been happening as of now,” he said.

The apex court had earlier directed Mallya to appear before it on October 5 while dismissing his plea seeking review of the 2017 verdict which held him guilty of contempt for transferring USD 40 million to his children in violations of court orders.

Mallya, an accused in bank loan default case of over Rs 9,000 crore involving his

defunct Kingfisher Airlines, is in the United Kingdom.

The apex court had in June directed its registry to explain as to why Mallya’s review petition had not been listed before the concerned court for the last three years.

It had directed the registry to furnish all the details including names of officials who had dealt with the file concerning the review petition in the last three years.

The apex court’s 2017 order had come on a plea by consortium of banks led by the State Bank of India (SBI), which had said that Mallya had allegedly transferred USD 40 million received from British firm Diageo, to his children in “flagrant violation” of various judicial orders.

It was dealing with pleas of lending banks seeking contempt action and a direction to Mallya to deposit USD 40 million received from offshore firm Diageo respectively.

The banks had then alleged that Mallya concealed the facts and diverted the money to his son Siddharth Mallya and daughters Leanna Mallya and Tanya Mallya in “flagrant violation” of the orders passed by the Karnataka High Court.

Mallya had in May lost his application seeking leave to appeal his extradition to India in the UK Supreme Court, setting a 28-day clock on his removal from the UK.

The UK top court’s decision marks a big legal setback to the 64-year-old flamboyant businessman, who had earlier lost his high court appeal against an extradition order to India on charges of alleged fraud and money laundering related to unrecovered loans to his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines. **PTI**

Bihar election: Over 700 observers briefed virtually by EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 700 observers including police and expenditure observers who joined virtually from 119 locations for the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar — were on Monday briefed by the Election Commission (EC) to ensure strict compliance of the new guidelines amid the coronavirus pandemic in the poll fray.

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora underlined the need for poll observers to be extra careful during the three-phase Bihar assembly elections, saying the exercise, being the largest in the world to be held amid the COVID-19 pandemic, will be keenly watched by the world community. He also reiterated the poll panel’s commitment towards conducting an election that is free, fair, transparent, ethical and also “COVID safe”.

The EC also gave them details of Covid19 guidelines for electorates and candidates and for poll duty officials during elections in Bihar.

Addressing observers, Arora said the strength of a democracy rests in its primary stakeholder -- the voters. “All efforts must be made to instil confidence in the voter to come to the polling station on election day to cast her/his vote safely and freely,” an Election Commission statement said quoting him. Arora gave a global perspective on the impact of Covid 19 on election schedules around the world and the detailed deliberation and assessments done by poll body before taking the decision to conduct elections in Bihar.

Monday’s meeting was a blend of virtual and physical gathering with more than 700 general, police and expenditure observers joining virtually from 119 locations across the country and about 40 observers posted in Delhi joining in person.

He underscored the need to be extra careful as this election will be keenly watched by the world community being the largest election in the world to be held amid the pandemic.

Speaking on the occasion, Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar drew the attention of the officers that as Observers they have a statutory duty to perform on behalf of Election Commission of India. He said the officers should always bear in mind they are the actual face of ECI on the ground.

Deputy Election Commissioner and in charge of Bihar polls at the ECI, Chandra Bhushan Kumar gave a detailed out the legal provision, Model Code of Conduct issues specifically in COVID scenario for Bihar Elections.

Bypoll to 3 more Manipur Assembly seats on Nov 7

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday announced that bypolls to three more Manipur Assembly seats — Wangoi, Saitu (ST) and Singhar (ST) — would be held on November 7. The counting will take place on November 10.

On September 29, the commission had announced bypolls to two assembly seats in Manipur. With these fresh announcements, the total number of seats going for by-election in the state goes up to five. All the bypolls in Manipur would be held on November 7 and counting will take place on November 10 along with that of the Bihar Assembly polls being held in three phases and 54 other assembly bypolls taking place on November 3.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren had requested the poll body to hold bypolls to six other Assembly constituencies along with the two constituencies whose byelection schedule had already been announced. At present, altogether 13 assembly constituencies are lying vacant in the 60 member Manipur legislative Assembly after nine MLAs resigned and four were disqualified.

“There are 13 vacant seats in the 60-member House. We will point out that there is no bar by courts against eight constituencies and it is just that some petitions had been filed,” he had stated.

WB BJP leader shot, party wants CBI probe

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Alleging Trinamool Congress hand in the murder of Bengal BJP leader Manish Shukla, the saffron outfit has demanded a CBI-investigation into the incident with State Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar too asking Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to arrest the “nose diving” law and order situation of the State.

With no love lost between him and the State Government a furious Governor reportedly expressed his mind to Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay who called on him, after Home Secretary and Director General of Police failed to respond to Dhankhar’s express summons.

This, while all hell broke loose in the Barrackpore police commissionerate area north of Kolkata where the men in uniform fought pitched battles with the stone-pelting BJP supporters firing several rounds of tear-gas shells.

The BJP had called a 12-hour-Barrackpore bandh on Monday in protest against the murder of Shukla a local councilor, an upcoming party leader and close associate of strongman and BJP MP Arjun Singh who too had crossed over to the saffron outfit from the Trinamool Congress before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections after he was denied MP ticket by the party. He defeated sitting TMC MP Dinesh Trivedi by a few thousand votes.

Shukla, a man with manipulative and organizational skills, who too left the Trinamool and joined the BJP recently was shot dead late on Sunday evening moments after he alighted from Singh’s car and proceeded towards a local party office at Titagarh.

While locals said the miscreants riding a motorbike fired at least 25 to 30 rounds doctors conducting autopsy found 9 bullet injuries on his person. While four 7 mm pistol bullets were pulled out from his head and body other bullets seemed to have pierced through his neck and hand, sources said.

According to the police, Shukla suffered serious bullet

injuries on his face and chest. He was immediately rushed to a hospital in Kolkata where he was declared brought dead on arrival at the hospital.

While Singh blamed local TMC MLA Nirmal Ghosh for the murder of Shukla saying “I have information that the miscreants came out of the MLA’s house and they used police guns to kill Manish.”

Later Bengal minister Firhad Hakim who too once enjoyed close chemistry with both Singh and Shukla suspected BJP hand in the murder saying “he was sending feelers to us about his possible return to the party as he was feeling out of place in the new party.”

Rejecting CBI investigation Hakim said “it is an open secret that CBI is a caged parrot. They have not been able to catch the culprit who stole Tagore’s Nobel Prize. ... Bengal is not UP and the criminals will not be killed in encounter. We will arrest them, bring them to justice.”

Later even as senior BJP leaders like Vijaybargiya, Locket Chatterjee and others met the Governor in the evening seeking CBI investigation Dhankhar expressed grave concern over what he called an “alarming situation” in Bengal.

He said that the “Chief Minister should take note of critical aspects that run down the democratic governance and lawlessness” adding targeted killing of people should be stopped in Bengal.

After meeting the Chief Secretary he said about having “conveyed my concern of the present alarming scenario to the new Chief Secretary.

Am sure Chief Minister would be indicated all these critical aspects that run down democratic governance and lawlessness. Political violence and targeted killings must stop.”

Expressing anger at the “official apathy” towards the Governor’s summons he said, “alarming nose-diving law and order scenario Targeted political killings in spite of alert by Constitutional Head. Neither ACS Home nor DGP WB Police responded.”



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tests the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha

Pioneer photo

Bharat Biotech inks pact with US firm to use Alhydroxiquim-II

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based vaccines major Bharat Biotech on Monday said that it has inked pact with a US firm to use latter’s adjuvant Alhydroxiquim-II to boost immune response and longer lasting immunity of its indigenous Covid-19 vaccine candidate Covaxin, which is currently undergoing Phase II clinical trials.

An adjuvant is a pharmacological or immunological agent that improves the immune response of a vaccine by producing more antibodies and providing longer-lasting immunity.

Kansas-based ViroVax LLC has licensed their adjuvant for the use of Covaxin, which is currently undergoing advanced stages of clinical trials in India.

Covaxin is an inactivated vaccine derived from a strain of the Sars-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19, isolated at the Indian Institute of Medical Research-National Institute of



Virology (NIV), Pune.

The inactivated virus has been formulated with ViroVax’s adjuvant to produce the vaccine candidate.

Bharat Biotech is currently conducting Phase 2 human trials of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate after receiving approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) around the end of June.

“There is a critical need for the development and availability of adjuvants that induce greater antibody responses to vaccine antigens, thus resulting in long-term protection against pathogens. Adjuvants also enhance the sustainability of the global vaccine supply on account of their antigen-sparing effect,” said Krishna Ella, chairman and managing director, Bharat Biotech.

“The widely used adjuvant Aluminium hydroxide in the development of Sars-CoV-2 vaccines is known to induce a Th2 based response (which are important for eradication of extracellular parasites and bacterial infection).

“The Th2 based response has a theoretical risk of vaccine associated enhanced respiratory diseases (VAERD or ADE). We have used

strengthened multi-sector collaboration, stress on the swifter generation of evidence, accelerated research & development efforts and rational evidence-based implementation of plans

In this regard, Dr Harsh Vardhan urged WHO members to work with the global community of partners for the efficient, effective and responsive discharge of public health obligations. All these challenges, such as the present pandemic, demand a shared response because these are the shared threats requiring shared responsibility to act

India’s COVID-19 caseload has crossed 66 lakh, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 55,86,703, pushing the recovery rate to 84.34 per cent, according to Union Health Ministry data on Monday.

The death toll has climbed to 1,02,685 with the virus claiming 903 lives in a span of 24 hours. There are 9,34,427 active cases of the coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 14.11 per cent of the total caseload.

Bharat Biotech is currently conducting Phase 2 human trials of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate after receiving approval

Imidazoquinoline class of adjuvants (TLR7/8 agonists), which are known to induce Th1 based response which further reduces the risk of ADE (Anti-Body Dependent Enhancement),” he explained.

Sunil David of ViroVax, said, “ViroVax is delighted to partner with Bharat Biotech. This has been possible because of support from the National Institutes of Health.”

ViroVax is supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, medical research centres under US Department of Health.

Why Chirag is the key

The BJP is using the LJP to undercut Nitish Kumar and increase its bargaining chip in the Bihar election



That the BJP is keen to have Bihar on its own terms is no secret even though it has agreed to a 50 per cent seat split with its ally, the Janata Dal (United), and has publicly expressed full faith in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as the leading face of the combine. But the fact is it wants to cannibalise him without appearing so overtly ambitious. Besides, the growing trust deficit in Nitish, given his inept handling of the pandemic, the floods and the returnee migrants, is something that the BJP does not want to bet on or be burdened with in the long term. If anything, it wants Nitish's victory to be entirely dependent on it so that it can keep him in line and going forward,

can even change him mid-course with its own man or somebody who would be subservient to its design. In fact, it has ambitions to become the single-largest party in the State. It wants to posit itself as the deliverer party, considering that despite Nitish's poor legacy, voters still buy into the aura of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it, therefore, wants to encash it as soon as possible. It is against this perspective that one must see the decision of Dalit leader Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) to contest against JD(U) despite being part of the larger National Democratic Alliance (NDA). It wants to undercut Nitish and become the BJP's B-team with the latter's blessing. For the LJP, with the potential to swing six to 10 per cent of the votes, can dent the JD(U) votebase and give an upper hand to the BJP. For playing spoiler, the LJP would either be rewarded at the State-level or even get another Central Ministry in return. Besides, Ram Vilas Paswan now wants his son Chirag to take the decisive lead in State politics and become his rightful heir. As the BJP's proxy, the LJP had already begun targeting Nitish long before the pandemic with Chirag Paswan losing no opportunity to lambast his poor performance. Not that Nitish was not aware of this strategy but considering he needed the BJP, he tried to squeeze out the LJP in seat-sharing, thereby ensuring that the JD(U) could retain its bargaining edge. To that end, he even got Paswan's Dalit contender, Hindustani Awam Morcha president Jitan Ram Manjhi, into the JD(U) fold, hoping to convince the BJP that he was good enough without the LJP. Except that the BJP, now that it has agreed to a 50:50 seat-sharing with Nitish, wants LJP to be the vote-cutter, increase its tally with the junior ally and bypass Nitish altogether. Dalits account for 16 per cent of Bihar's population and half of these are Paswans, a segment that has been loyal to the LJP over the years. But Nitish, by introducing sub-quotas for Mahadalits, chipped away his base. Manjhi isn't exactly a swinger despite Nitish's best efforts and the ambitious Chirag feels that with the Chief Minister's political stock at an all-time low, this is the best time for the LJP to shore up its base and anoint himself as a key power player. Besides, he wants to emerge as an alternative to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, who is also looking at the Assembly elections as his coronation. Many believe that Chirag has a better appeal and acceptability among the youth in general than the arrogant Tejashwi and wouldn't want to miss an opportunity to prove as much.

Tejashwi may be the face of the RJD but the party derives its political relevance from the legacy and aura of Lalu Yadav, still considered the best challenger to the NDA bloc. Ideally, with Lalu at the helm and on its own, it would have a fighting chance as it is best placed in terms of winnability. But it needs a strategic partnership simply because the multiplicity of like-minded parties and the Congress, which still has a consolidated Muslim votebank, would mean that the non-NDA vote could be badly divided. Besides, Lalu, who is battling health issues, is not on the ground to smoothen wrinkles in the grand alliance or *mahagathbandhan*. So the allies are becoming aggressive about bargaining for seats in return for staying together and that could push down the RJD's seat quota. As it is, many allies are upset with Tejashwi for pursuing his individual ambition, grooming his yes men and running down senior leaders of the caste movement as deadwood. He was one of the reasons why Lalu's upper caste comrade-in-arms Raghuvansh Prasad Singh resigned before he died. This brazenness has cost the RJD its dependable associations with the Left and the Congress. In fact, though Lalu wants to give the Congress no more than 60 seats, the latter is demanding a price of "loyalty," wanting 70 instead. The Left parties have their dedicated pockets but are only a fringe presence to influence the verdict. If in the process of bartering away seats in the allied clutter, the RJD gets about 140 seats, then its total would be again hovering around the 100-seat mark. A reduced number of seats for the RJD will only help the BJP. Besides, it can splinter unhappy, smaller parties by luring them away with governance positions. As for the Congress, another poor performance could see the party losing further members to the BJP. Alternatively, if it does well, then it can even restrain Lalu. And should Nitish indeed feel the need to detach himself from the NDA and jump ship going forward, the party could even build bridges with him. So this election is turning out to be a tussle for the Opposition's political relevance rather than people's issues. And if the youth leaders do deliver, then Bihar would have witnessed another change in its social and political template.

Defence spending

With China heaving down, the Govt may have eased purchase restrictions on procurement but these take time



Given the ongoing stalemate with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Beijing resurrecting its untenable 1959 claims, the Government has decided to shore up its defences. It has eased spending restrictions on emergency arms procurements and additional funding for the Border Roads Organisation. The immediate buys that need to be made include missiles, precision-guided munitions, drones and assault rifles from the US, France, Russia and Israel. Though India will formally induct the Nirbhay subsonic cruise missile into the Army and Navy after the seventh trial next month, it has already moved a

limited number of the missiles to the LAC to boost its defence preparedness. How serious the situation is on the border can be gauged from the fact that the cash-strapped Government had in April issued instructions to re-prioritise spending and a few Ministries and departments had to face spending cuts. With the Centre stepping up borrowings in a pandemic-stressed economy, the easing of spending restrictions on defence shows that it is not ready to back down and is serious about sending a strong message to Beijing that it is in for the long haul. There are fears that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) may use its 1959 territorial claim to put pressure on the six other areas of differences in the western sector that have not been impacted in the ongoing standoff so far.

Of course, these decisions and acquisitions are too late and too little as the time frame for any typical defence procurement usually takes five years. They give the forces the finances to buy additional systems, ammunition, repairs and so on, but there won't be capital accretion. The Government has transferred the procurement responsibility to the services and most importantly, removed the financial representative from the chain. So the discretionary powers to spend have been given to them to cover the immediate shortfall. But the lead time still remains the same. So it is left to the services to plead, push and cajole the vendors to supply the items. Conversely, the Centre has shifted its responsibility when it comes to the crunch on to the services by giving them the powers to spend, making sure that they are stocked up and ready. This when the enemy is at our doorstep. But the ground reality is far different. So for now, it is the valour of our services that will have to see us through any engagement with China, particularly through the harsh winter months ahead.



A SURYA PRAKASH

Addressing the historic 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi yet again made a forceful plea for reforming this international body and making the UN Security Council (UNSC) more representative and balanced. Modi had flagged this issue six years ago when he addressed the UNGA for the first time as India's Prime Minister in September 2014. On that occasion, he told the member countries that no one country or group of countries can determine the course of the world. There has to be a genuine international partnership. This is not just a moral position but a practical reality and these efforts should begin with the UN. "We must reform the United Nations, including the Security Council, and make it more democratic and participative", or else it could "face the risk of irrelevance" if it remained resistant to change. The Prime Minister was obviously emphasising India's right to be a permanent member of the UNSC, a status enjoyed by the P-5 — US, UK, France, Russia and China — who are also armed with extraordinary veto powers.

He returned to this theme once again when he addressed the UNGA last month. Referring to the circumstances prevailing in 1945 when the UN came into being, he told his audience that members were now in a completely different era — the 21st century. Therefore, the international community must ask itself whether the character of the institution, constituted in 1945, was relevant even today? He spoke of the regard that the people of India have for the UN and said they wonder whether the reform process will ever reach its logical conclusion. "For how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations?... When we were strong, we did not trouble the world; when we were weak, we did not become a burden on the world. How long will such a country have to wait?"

The Prime Minister was echoing the sentiments of 1.35 billion citizens of the country when he hinted that India's patience was running thin. Indians find it difficult to fathom why their country is kept out, especially when it has such strong credentials. It is the

Don't test our patience

It is high time that the UN recognises India's potential and its contribution to the organisation and makes it a permanent member of the Security Council



“AS PROUD CITIZENS OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST VIBRANT DEMOCRACY, INDIANS ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT THE UN REMAIN FAITHFUL TO ITS OWN FUNDAMENTAL POSTULATES. INDIA IS NO LONGER WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SECOND-CLASS STATUS THRUST ON IT 75 YEARS AGO”

world's largest and most vibrant democracy with 911 million electors, of whom over 600 million exercised their franchise in 2019. It is also the most diverse nation in the world with unparalleled ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity and home to all the major religions in the world. Indians speak 121 languages and 270 dialects. Further, India accounts for 18 per cent of the global population and will overtake China and become the most populous nation by 2027. Add to this its economic and military strength — it is the fifth-largest economy and one of the top five military powers in the world. Finally, it is a founding member of the UN, one of the 26 signatories at the first conference in 1942 and has made a phenomenal contribution to the organisation's peace-keeping efforts across the world. Are these not enough reasons for India to be a permanent member of the UNSC?

As proud citizens of the world's largest and most vibrant democracy, Indians also have the right to demand that the UN remain faithful to its own fundamental postulates. Is it not strange that the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith "in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small..." and yet, actively promotes a hierarchy of nations and consequently, of human beings? How can India, which has equality as a fundamental precept in its

Constitution, accept this form of graded membership?

Further, Article 2 of the Charter says the UN is based on the sovereign equality of all members. How is this achieved when a nation with almost one-fifth of the global population is not a permanent member of the UNSC whereas two European nations — UK (67 million) and France (65 million), each with a population equivalent to just one of India's 28 states (Karnataka) — are permanent members of the UNSC?

Articles 108 and 109 of the UN Charter are also wholly undemocratic because even if two-thirds of the members of the UN agree to amend the Charter, any of the five permanent members of the UNSC can use its veto power to block the amendment. This is absolutely undemocratic and unworthy of being part of any civilised institution in the democratic world. Why should the world's largest democracy put up with this?

These articles enable members of the P-5 to play politics and stonewall reform. That is why the efforts of the G-4 (India, Brazil, Japan and Germany) to support each other's bid for a permanent seat in the UNSC have not thus far fructified.

The international community must understand that India's patience, despite all its philosophical underpinnings, is not inexhaustible and that there is a new India emerging — optimistic, self-confident and self-

reliant (*atmanirbhar*). It is true that seven decades ago, given India's economic plight after centuries of colonisation, it lacked the gumption to stand up and demand its rightful place. But that is not the India of today. This is not a tame India. This is a bold India. A billion-plus citizens of this nation are no longer willing to accept these inequities as part of their karma and reconcile themselves to the second-class status thrust on them 75 years ago.

India is shaking off the delusions of the past. It has shed its innocence and gullibility that was in full display during the "*Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai*" days and has realised that it must become strong and resilient to promote peace in its neighbourhood and the world. The Chinese are getting a taste of this, and as the momentum picks up, other nations too will begin to sense it. This is irreversible. Having nudged his countrymen towards this new thinking, Modi is sensing the change. That is why he made a specific reference to the aspirations of the people vis-à-vis UN reform.

India will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its independence in 2022. The UN must use the occasion to redeem itself, acknowledge that democracy is the most civilised political system ever devised by man and invite India to the high table.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

We are given equal importance, job security, financial benefits through cash awards when we win. All these are great encouraging factors to take up the sport professionally.

Hockey player
—Navneet Kaur



In the last three months, 458,000 jobs have been created — 60 per cent of which have gone to women, 40 per cent to young people.

Australian Treasurer
—Josh Frydenberg



The farmers will not be scared into submission. They will face COVID pandemic but fight for their rights on the streets of Punjab and the rest of the country.

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi



The best thing we can do now for all those who have suffered in the course of this pandemic is bring it to an end in the speediest possible way.

British PM
—Boris Johnson



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ethics of journalism

Sir — Ruling out theories of poisoning and strangulation, the AIIMS medical board, in its report to the CBI, revealed that the cause of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death was indeed suicide. Ever since the 34-year-old actor was found dead on June 14 in his Mumbai apartment, many news channels had falsely cooked up theories of his murder and started a witch-hunt against his girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty. Under pressure from the media trial, the case was handed over to the CBI for further investigation.

The media is supposed to be the fourth pillar of democracy and report unbiased news. Rajput's case is a perfect example of how media houses sensationalise news rather than reporting facts. They have become a tool for political parties to disseminate their propaganda and polarise the masses. Further, news debates are being used as a platform to distract people from important issues rather than being informed. There is an urgent need for implementation of the rules laid down by existing media regulatory bodies.

Falguni Aswani
Ujjain

Row over AIADMK CM candidate

The rift between the two factions, one led by Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami and the other by Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, within the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in Tamil Nadu is widening as the Assembly election is approaching. The internecine feud primarily centres on the finalisation of the party's chief ministerial candidate. Both the leaders covet the top job.

Having tasted power and consolidated his position in the party, Palaniswami is firm on staking his claim to lead the party in the election. On the other hand, Panneerselvam feels he is a credible choice as he claims the blessings of late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa. A disunited AIADMK coupled with anti-incumbency could hand over an easy victory to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) waiting in the wings.

Jayalalithaa was not disadvantaged by her proximity to the BJP and her personal rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the perception that the present AIADMK Government dances to the tune



of the BJP might affect its electoral fortunes, given the strong anti-BJP sentiment in the State. The DMK led by MK Stalin could romp home by riding on the party's opposition to Hindi imposition, NEET, the dilution of federal autonomy and most importantly, Tamil pride.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Caste and gender

Sir — There is no doubt that even after 73 years of Independence, not much has changed when it comes to caste discrimination and divide. Atrocities against Dalits and Scheduled Tribes are common across the country. And the recent rape-murder case of the young Dalit woman from Uttar Pradesh's Hathras is

one of many such instances. What is more shameful is the extent to which the State Government is ready to go in order to save the culprits. The UP police has claimed that the forensic report of the 19-year-old woman's viscera has established that she was not raped. How can one believe this, given the manner the police cremated her body? Having said that, the fault

not only lies in our police and judicial system but also the society which woke up too late in this case. There is not only a need for more stringent laws but also a political will to implement them. It is also time that we root out the patriarchal and casteist mindset from society and not feed it to create a political constituency.

Bal Govind
Noida

A hard lesson

Sir — US President Donald Trump, who has been playing down the threat of the Coronavirus pandemic from its outset, has tested positive along with his wife Melania. Feverish and fatigued, Trump was flown to a military hospital on October 2 after being injected with an experimental drug combination. In a video he posted from the hospital, he said that he was improving and would be "back soon" but he also acknowledged that the crucial coming days would be "the real test." With this, the prospects for two remaining presidential debates and whether the President will have to yield power temporarily to Vice President Mike Pence if his condition worsens are unknown. Also, now that Trump understands the severity of the pandemic that has killed more than 2,08,000 Americans, he should adopt a serious approach in the fight against the virus and stop sending mixed messages on mask-wearing.

Sanjana Soni
Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Acts of growth, empowerment

UP is developing 27 modern *Kisan Mandis* and 24 of these will have cold chamber and ripening facilities for preservation of farm produce



VIJAY BAHADUR PATHAK

The Opposition is staging protests against the recent farm reforms though the measures contained in the three Acts will enable barrier-free trade in agricultural produce and empower farmers to engage with investors of their choice. These Acts, which are a bid by the Centre to empower growers and double their income by 2022, will free them from unnecessary legislation, bring fundamental changes, give impetus to investment and increase employment in the agriculture sector, which in turn will strengthen the economy of the country. The promotion of contract farming will help farmers reach an agreement with food processing units/exporters on an individual or organised basis. It will also enable them to reduce the input of fertilisers and seeds, reduce other costs and use modern techniques to maximise products and get a better market as they will have the opportunity to work according to national-international demands.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act seeks to create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of produce. This facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels to promote efficient, transparent and barrier-free inter and intra-State trade. This was proposed because there were restrictions to selling agri-produce outside the notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC). And growers could sell the produce only to registered licensees of the State Governments. This legislation will open more choices for farmers, reduce marketing costs and get them better prices. It will also help growers of regions with surplus produce to get better prices and consumers of regions with shortages, lower prices. The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act seeks to provide for a national framework on agreements that empowers growers to engage with agri-business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters or large retailers for services and sale of future produce at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework, in a fair and transparent manner.

This has been done because agriculture is characterised by fragmentation due to small holding sizes in India and has certain weaknesses such as weather dependence, production uncertainties and market unpredictability. This makes it risky and inefficient in respect of both, input and output management. Now the risk of market unpredictability will be transferred from the grower to the sponsor. Farmers have been given adequate protection and an effective dispute resolution mechanism has been provided with clear redressal timelines.

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act seeks to remove commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. This will remove fears of private investors of excessive regulatory interference in their business operations. The freedom to produce, hold, move, distribute and supply will lead to harnessing of economies of scale and attract private sector/Foreign Direct Investment. Farmers suffer huge losses when there are bumper harvests, especially of perishable commodities and this Act will help drive up investment in cold storages and modernisation of the food supply chain.

The Opposition parties have Governments in different States and they should show what they have done for the farming community. Take the case of Uttar Pradesh (UP) which is striving hard to double the income of farmers. During the lockdown, the Yogi Adityanath Government exempted 45 items of fruits and vegetables from *mandi* fee, which benefited growers who are now free to sell their produce anywhere in UP. They also have the option to sell their goods in the *mandis* where only one per cent user charge is taken from traders. Besides, all 119 sugar mills of UP ran at full capacity and produced 126.36 MT of sugar after crushing 1,118 lakh tonnes of sugarcane. As a bumper *khari* crop is expected, the Mandi Parishad and the State Warehousing Corporation are building warehouses of 5,000 MT capacity each in 37 *mandis*. Farmers can keep their produce here free of charge for 30 days, after which they will get 30 per cent rebate on the rent, so that they can sell their products when they get the best price. The UP Government has ensured that the produce will be recognised as a guarantee for the farmers to get bank loans.

UP is developing 27 modern *Kisan Mandis* and in 24 of these, cold chamber and ripening facilities for preservation of fruits and vegetables are being made. This project will have a ripening chamber of 20 MT capacity and a cold chamber of 10 MT capacity. It is expected to be completed by 2020-21. Also, during the lockdown, 35.77 lakh tonnes of wheat was purchased, as were pulses and oilseed and it was ensured that the market price should be at least at par or above the Minimum Support Price. Now efforts are afoot to purchase paddy, pulses and oilseeds at the MSP in order to benefit farmers.

(The writer is a member, Legislative Council of Uttar Pradesh and vice-president of UP BJP)

(RAPES) CAN ONLY BE STOPPED THROUGH GOOD VALUES AND NOT GOVERNANCE OR VIOLENCE. PARENTS SHOULD INSTILL GOOD VALUES IN THEIR DAUGHTERS

—UP BJP MLA
SURENDRA SINGH

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THIS IS THE FILTHY RSS MALE CHAUVINIST MENTALITY AT WORK. MEN DO THE RAPING BUT WOMEN NEED TO BE TAUGHT GOOD VALUES.

—CONGRESS LEADER
RAHUL GANDHI

A taxing question

As pointed out by the nation's top auditor, there are irregularities galore in the management of the various cesses as they have been appropriated to manage deficits



UTTAM GUPTA

Reining in the fiscal deficit has always been a challenge for the Centre especially after the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003, which requires it to maintain the shortfall within a specified threshold. At the same time, there are certain thrust areas, such as education, roads and other infrastructure, telecommunication networks in rural areas, exploration of oil, gas and so on, which the Government feels won't get the desired funds in the normal course of budgeting. This led to successive dispensations to think of a special tax or cess — a form of tax charged/levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer. These include USO (Universal Service Obligation) levy imposed on telecom service providers, cess on Crude Petroleum Oil (CPO), Road and Infrastructure Cess (RaIC), Primary Education cess (PEC), Secondary and Higher Education cess (SHEC), Education cess on Imported Goods (ECIG), R&D cess and so on. The proceeds from these taxes are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) and subsequently transferred to a non-lapsable fund, for instance, the USO Fund (USOF) — based on the appropriation approved by the Parliament — created in the public account for utilising exclusively for the purposes for which it is collected. The financing of the specified activity thus gets shielded from the vulnerabilities associated with the normal budgeting exercise.

Prima facie, the idea sounds appealing. But the big question is if this is working. Are funds being utilised for the declared purpose? Are the outcomes commensurate with the intent? To answer these questions, let us look at the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) brought out from time to time. The Centre charges licence fee at eight per cent of the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of telecom service providers. This includes five per cent as appropriation for crediting to USOF (set up in 2002) while the balance three per cent is retained with the general exchequer. For 2018-19, the CAG has noted that out of a total collection of about ₹6,900 crore as USO levy, only ₹4,800 crore was transferred to the USOF, implying a shortfall of ₹2,100 crore. Against a collection of ₹1,10,000 crore since 2002, the amount disbursed till date is only ₹54,500 crore. The balance ₹55,500 crore remains with the CFI. Coming to the SHEC, the Government started collecting this levy from 2006-07 and until January 2019, could harness about ₹94,000 crore. The entire amount has been retained in the CFI. In this case, even the public account christened as Madhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK) was created only in August 2017 (more than a decade after the collection started) and has not been operationalised so far.

The R&D Cess Act, 1986, provides for levy and collection of cess on all payments made for the import of technology. The proceeds of this were to be disbursed as grants-in-aid to the Technology Development Board (TDB) set up in 1996. During 1996-97 to 2017-18, a total of about ₹8,000 crore was collected. Of this, a mere ₹800 crore was transferred to the TDB. Furthermore, though the cess was abolished from April 2017, it continued to be collected during the following two years, viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19. In case of Clean Energy Cess (levied on coal supplies) since 2010-11, the amount denied to the designated fund, viz.

“IN CERTAIN CASES, THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS WERE NOT EVEN CREATED LONG AFTER THE GOVERNMENT STARTED COLLECTING THE TAX. IN OTHERS, THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO COLLECT THE CESS EVEN AFTER THE SAME WAS ABOLISHED. NONETHELESS, THERE IS A DIRE NEED TO ABOLISH CESSES AS THESE ARE NOT ONLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BUT ALSO MAKE OUR POLICY PLANNERS AND ADMINISTRATORS COMPLACENT WITH REGARD TO SUSTAINABLE WAYS OF BALANCING THE BUDGET



National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF), was about ₹44,500 crore. Likewise, in the case of the RaIC, (earlier nomenclature Road Cess), there was a “short transfer” of about ₹72,000 crore in the amount collected since 1998-99 till March 31, 2018 to the Central Road Fund (CRF), the public account.

Unlike other taxes, which are part of the “divisible pool” to be shared with the States as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission, the Centre gets to retain all of the cess (which goes to the CFI and is available for general use). Because its finances have come under serious stress during the current pandemic year, its reliance on RaIC has increased by leaps and bounds. It raised central excise duty (CED) on petrol and diesel twice this year in March and May, mostly through hike in the cess. At present, out of CED on petrol of ₹33 per litre, ₹18 per litre or 54.5 per cent comes from the cess. For diesel, out of ₹32 per litre CED, RaIC is ₹12 per litre or 37.5 per cent. The Government also levies the Oil Industry Development (OID) cess currently at 20 per cent ad-valorem on the price that domestic producers of crude, namely the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and the Oil India Limited (OIL), get on their supplies from nominated blocks and pre-NELP (new exploration licensing policy) exploratory blocks. Collected under the Oil Industries (Development) Act of 1974, though the cess proceeds are intended to fund research, exploration and development work, yet the money remains with the CFI.

As pointed out by the top auditor, there are irregularities galore in the management of the cesses. These include short or “nil” transfer of cess proceeds from the CFI to the dedicated non-lapsable fund in the public account set

up for the specified purpose. In certain cases, the public accounts were not even created long after the Government started collecting the tax. In others, it continued to collect even after the same was abolished. The Government has, in fact, used them primarily for increasing its “general revenue” and meeting the fiscal deficit target. If an overwhelming share of proceeds (or even the whole of it) from the cess remain with the CFI, what else one should conclude? Or the dedicated public account where the money has to go (for use in the intended purpose) is not even created, what else can one infer?

Meanwhile, these cesses continue to inflict damage on the stakeholders who bear their brunt. Look at the impact of the five per cent USO levy on telecom service providers. In an intensely competitive environment, wherein they are compelled to keep the tariff low (this is also in sync with the dire need to make these affordable to consumers, with a majority of them having a low income), such levy has the effect of raising the cost of services and making them unviable. In fact, there is a strong case for scrapping this tariff.

This was recognised by none other than the Union Telecom Minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad, when he wrote to the Finance Ministry: “Given that rural tele-density has significantly increased since the time the fund was set up, it is proposed that the USO levy may be reduced from five per cent to three per cent. The two per cent USO levy reduction may be made available to the telecom service providers provided that this amount is utilised by them for carrying out research and development for development and deployment of indigenous technologies in the country.” Yet the Government continues with *status quo*, the sole reason being easy availability of funds (from

USO levy) which can be used for plugging its general deficit. Look at the RaIC, which accounts for a major slice of the CED on petrol and diesel and together with the cascading effect of Value Added Tax (VAT) leads to a bizarre situation whereby taxes alone account for about two-third of their prices at the pump. The high fuel price contributes to high inflation and higher cost of fertilisers and food. Since the Government controls their prices at a low level to make them affordable, much of the extra revenue is given back as higher subsidy.

To that extent, the revenue gain from the cess (besides other taxes) is imaginary. Likewise, 20 per cent OID cess on domestic supplies of crude (besides the 20 per cent royalty ONGC/OIL need to pay to State Governments in respect of onshore supplies and 10-12.5 per cent royalty to the Centre on offshore supplies) impacts the viability of producers at a time when their realisation from sale has plummeted (courtesy, the steep decline in the international price of crude).

Despite the cesses not serving the intended purpose and their negative consequences, the mandarins in the Finance Ministry appear to be in no mood to say goodbye to them. Amid the current crisis created by the pandemic, when the tax collections have been severely impacted and expenditure commitments have ballooned, they may not even entertain any discussion on this. Nonetheless, there is dire need to put abolition of these cesses on the high table as these are not only counter-productive but also make our policy planners and administrators complacent with regard to sustainable ways of balancing the budget. Will the Government go on a course correction? One can only wait and watch.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

A real break-up or political posturing with eye on polls?

Many believe that the SAD would wait till the next wheat harvesting season and take a call on whether the divorce with the BJP would be final or not



AMITABH SHUKLA

It was supposed to be the most loyal, oldest and time-tested ally of the BJP but ground realities and compulsions of State politics in Punjab in the wake of the passage of the three farm Acts forced the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) to hurriedly exit the NDA. Had there been even a slight delay in announcing the divorce from the NDA, the party, whose major vote bank comprises the farmers and those in the rural areas of Punjab, would have seen an erosion of its base at a crucial juncture. Plus, the SAD draws its power from influential Sikh religious organisations, which would not have taken too kindly to the party continuing to be in an alliance with the NDA after its decision to push through the three farm Acts despite protests by the farmers.

The primary concern of the SAD at the moment is the March 2022 Assembly election, the countdown for which has already begun in the State with the political positioning by various parties. For the SAD, being a part of the NDA is a secondary concern at the moment, focussing as it is on gaining public traction and getting on the electoral bandwagon.

Particularly as the SAD's main rival, the ruling Congress Party, which is facing anti-incumbency sentiments in the State, has been aggressively targeting the farm Acts to divert attention from its lacklustre performance in the last 42 months. It would have challenged the SAD for being part of an alliance which passed the “anti-farmer” laws.

However, SAD patron and five-time Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and party president Sukhbir Singh Badal sensed the mood and strategy of the Congress and took immediate measures by quitting the NDA. Harsimrat Kaur Badal was asked to submit her resignation from the Cabinet and when this was dubbed as “too little, too late”, SAD walked away from the NDA to stop the

Congress from becoming the fulcrum of a pro-farmer political mobilisation.

However, the question remains, how deep is the fissure between the SAD and the BJP and is the split permanent? Moreover, questions are being raised whether this was mere posturing and a strategy to buy time? Will the two once again enter into an electoral alliance for the 2022 Assembly polls and then the 2024 Lok Sabha elections?

The Badal patriarch has time and again described the SAD-NDA alliance as “made for each other” and even after this break, he has refused to join in any public mudslinging against the former partner. He also did not get swayed by the temporary sentiments of hostility towards each other. Perhaps he wants to leave a window of rapprochement ajar as and when the time comes. Many in Punjab believe that this time would be a few weeks before the Assembly elections when the din associated with the farm Acts dies down in due course and a formula is evolved to appease the farmers, who are on the warpath at the moment.

Punjab has more or less been a

two-party system for decades now, where the SAD-BJP and the Congress Party have shared power for long, though the equations changed slightly after the emergence of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its decent outing in the last State polls.

The BJP's votebank in urban pockets of Punjab is an increment in not only sociological terms for the Akalis but also psychologically as it helps the alliance present itself to the electorate as an ideal Sikh-Hindu combination, carrying the legitimacy of the entire population. With the SAD parting ways with the NDA, which many, even those in the Badal-led party, believe is temporary, this idea of a composite Sikh-Hindu electoral alliance has been dented. This is likely to carry an adverse message for the rest of the country as well, where the Opposition could paint the BJP as “anti-alliance” or a party which could not keep a Sikh minority party in its fold or accommodate the viewpoint of its alliance partners.

Talk to the Akali Dal leaders in private and they admit that backdoor negotiations would begin once the heat generated by the Acts subside and the

churning for the Assembly elections starts. Even BJP leaders in the State are not sure what exactly to say at the moment. Behind the public posturing and the bravado of a couple of saffron leaders, who talked of a “clean sweep and Modi wave in next elections”, lies a lurking fear on how to pick candidates and build the organisation in the rural pockets of the State. Hitherto, they had never been to the rural areas as it was always left for the Akalis. Even now, after the divorce, the saffron party leaders are taking no steps to build a semblance of a political structure in the Sikh-dominated rural pockets. Perhaps they, too, have a sense that the break-up is temporary and they should not do anything to aggravate the situation as of now.

The argument that the Shiv Sena walked away from the BJP and formed a Government in alliance with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Maharashtra and that something similar could happen in Punjab, simply does not hold ground. The reason is simple — the SAD would cease to exist if it even goes soft on the Congress in Punjab, forget about entering into any sort of understand-

ing with the grand old party.

The SAD was born on an anti-Congress plank and has consistently maintained that in the two-party electoral ethos which the State has developed historically. The BJP or its earlier avatar, the Jan Sangh, has always been a minor player in the border State. Even at the height of the Narendra Modi wave in 2019, the Congress managed to swim through. For the BJP, Punjab is more or less politically similar to Kerala or Tamil Nadu — whatever it does, however hard it tries, it cannot get a foothold as of now if it goes solo. The reason is simple — demography and the socio-religious profile of the electorate.

Of course, the farm Acts could have consequences in neighbouring Haryana as well where the BJP is in a post-election alliance with the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP). The Ajay and Dushyant Chautala-led family party has so far stuck to the chorus that the Acts would not take away even an “iota” from the farmers and their interests are safe, but they, too, are slightly apprehensive given the support the farmers' agitation is receiving from the rich Jat growers — the main social and

political base of the JJP. But as Assembly elections in Haryana are four years away, sitting ensconced in the State Government is far more politically rewarding for the JJP than facing an uncertain future and an uncertain electoral outcome if it withdraws support at this juncture.

If the ongoing season of paddy procurement goes well, farmers get the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and are able to sell their produce in the *mandis* without any difficulty; the apprehensions related to the farm Acts would be addressed automatically to an extent. Then comes the wheat sowing and harvesting season in April next. Farmers and political parties like the SAD and the BJP will look at that too. And if everything goes as per what the proponents of the Acts in the BJP are saying, there could be a rethink in the strategy of the SAD and its approach towards the NDA. Many in Punjab believe that the SAD would wait till the next wheat harvesting season and take a call on whether the divorce with the NDA and the BJP would be permanent or temporary.

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

Markets march higher for 3rd day

TCS zooms 7 pc on buyback plan

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex started up for the third consecutive session on Monday, buoyed by robust gains in IT and banking stocks amid a broad upmove in global markets. TCS soared over 7 per cent after the IT major said it will consider a share buyback proposal later this week.

Starting off on a high note, the 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed to the day's peak at 39,263.85, before ceding some ground to settle at 38,973.70, up 276.65 points or 0.71 per cent.

Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty rose 86.40 points or 0.76 per cent to close at 11,503.35.

TCS was the top performer on the Sensex chart, rallying 7.30 per cent.

In the process, the IT giant became the second Indian firm after Reliance Industries to cross the Rs 10 lakh crore market valuation mark.

Other prominent gainers included Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, HCL Tech, ICICI Bank, HUL, Kotak Bank and HDFC Bank, spurring up to 4.71 per cent.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Auto, PowerGrid and ITC were among the major laggards, shedding as much as 2.70 per cent.

With the global markets' focus turning to US President Donald Trump's COVID-19 treatment, reports of an improvement in his health boosted investor sentiment,

analysts said.

Asian shares rose following Trump's health update, while European markets too opened on a firm footing.

"Indian indices had a very positive start taking cues from the global market and in anticipation of the Supreme Court verdict of the compounding of loans during the moratorium period. Gains came off when the decision was deferred to next week, this delay is unlikely to change the framework for small borrowers and the banking sector as the government and RBI is expected to maintain the buoyancy of the market."

"In the near-term, the market is expected to maintain its optimism based on Trump's recovery, development of stimulus in US and India, upcoming Q2 FY21 results in India

and Supreme Court final verdict," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, the BSE IT index rose 4.06 per cent, followed by tech, metal, healthcare and bankex.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap index shed 0.18 per cent, while the smallcap gauge rose 0.38 per cent, underperforming the benchmark.

On the forex market front, the rupee closed 16 paise lower at 73.29 against the US dollar.

Global crude oil benchmark Brent was trading nearly 3 per cent higher at USD 40.41 per barrel.

Analysts further said that going ahead, the market's focus will shift to corporate earnings announcements, with the results season beginning this week.

India's economic fundamentals remain strong, says BSE chief

IANs ■ MUMBAI

Despite Covid-induced moderation, India's economic fundamentals remain strong, thereby retaining investors' interest, contended the chief of the Bombay Stock Exchange.

In a conversation with IANS, BSE MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan pointed out that rising investor participation in the equity segment along with recent industrial recovery trends clearly show

the resilience of the Indian economy.

"Overall, I believe that despite a moderation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the fundamentals of Indian economy remain strong and GDP growth is expected to rebound from the second quarter of FY 2020-21," Chauhan said.

"Indian government is seen not only as reformative, but transformative in approach, as seen by the recent farm and labour bill enactments. Foreign investors, in my view, are

focussed on such reforms."

According to Chauhan, India's economy has shown signs of stability in the last few months with manufacturing and services gradually improving even as coronavirus cases escalated across the country.

"Activity in India's dominant services sector is picking up and manufacturing has bounced back into expansion due to government push after four successive months of contraction," he said.

"So clearly the real econo-

my is on the path of recovery, as the markets have indicated. It is early days to predict full recovery but current indications are good."

Besides, he cited that in the last 1 year, BSE brokers have opened 1.5 crore investor accounts. In the last 6 months alone, more than 80 lakh investor accounts have been opened on BSE. Consequently, the stock exchange major has reached a landmark of 5.47 crore investor accounts registered on its platform.

Govt mulls domestic gas floor price system to protect explorers' margin

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

The Government proposes to implement a new floor price mechanism for gas produced from domestic fields by companies such as the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to prevent the fuel price from crashing below an identified threshold in current subdued market conditions.

Domestic gas price has fall-

en to \$1.79 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) for the October-March period of the current fiscal.

The administered price of the gas has fallen in the last four six-monthly revision cycles and has now reached the lowest price levels since 2014.

At this level of natural gas prices, exploration companies such as ONGC actually lose money on fuel as tariffs crash.

Sources said the Petroleum Ministry is considering a proposal under which domestic gas will have a floor pricing that would be linked to gas prices with the Japan-Korea Marker, a benchmark index used to determine LNG tariff in North Asia with a discount. With JKM prices hovering over \$5 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) even with a \$1 mmBtu discount, the Indian gas floor price under

this formula will be close to \$4 mmBtu. This is much higher than the government's current administered price of natural gas and would give necessary margins to oil explorers to economically maintain gas production cycles. While a gas floor price at this juncture would benefit oil companies, it could render the price of piped natural gas to households and CNG for transportation expensive.

BSE 500

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11487.80	11578.05	11452.30	11503.35	86.40
TCS	2620.00	2728.10	2603.05	2713.95	190.50
WIPRO	315.10	336.00	315.20	335.00	21.95
TATASTEEL	370.20	385.50	369.50	382.95	18.00
SUNPHARMA	500.00	525.10	503.80	524.10	17.20
JSWSTEEL	284.30	292.00	282.45	291.00	8.95
HINDALCO	175.00	179.90	172.80	179.35	5.25
INFY	812.55	1054.90	801.85	1047.60	29.95
TECHM	828.55	890.95	818.05	845.35	22.85
DIVISLAB	3080.00	3145.00	3049.05	3143.00	78.10
IOC	74.50	76.15	73.80	75.70	1.60
INDUSINDBK	593.20	630.70	592.00	603.50	11.30
DREDDY	517.00	519.00	510.00	518.95	69.90
HCLTECH	828.80	839.20	815.10	823.30	10.35
CIPLA	776.00	784.05	762.05	781.95	8.95
HDFCLIFE	572.00	576.95	565.35	575.75	6.55
ICICIBANK	370.75	385.80	375.05	373.25	4.05
COALINDIA	117.95	119.50	117.55	118.40	1.15
SBILIFE	822.00	835.00	815.00	826.30	7.40
HINDUNILVR	2100.00	2123.30	2082.20	2113.00	18.00
KOTAKBANK	133.10	133.70	130.80	131.95	7.90
MARUTI	686.00	687.60	674.00	683.50	38.70
BRITANNIA	385.00	387.80	378.05	383.00	21.40
TATAMOTORS	136.95	137.50	132.05	134.20	0.70
EICHERMOT	2210.65	2225.00	2182.20	2208.95	11.30
HDFCBANK	1112.00	1132.00	1111.00	1112.50	5.55
NESTLEIND	3593.00	3614.00	3572.35	3607.90	78.50
BPCL	353.30	358.45	353.00	353.80	0.50
UPL	549.50	550.15	502.10	506.00	0.35
AXISBANK	400.45	456.45	439.05	440.00	0.30
ONGC	69.00	69.70	68.40	69.15	0.00
M&M	615.00	612.50	597.10	608.35	-1.80
HEROMOTOCO	3225.00	3230.00	3094.20	3137.90	-13.55
SBIN	192.00	193.80	187.05	189.45	-0.85
HDFC	1784.00	1816.50	1775.70	1782.35	-8.30
RELIANCE	2240.00	2249.15	2206.00	2215.00	-10.25
ANANDPAINT	2040.45	2042.70	2011.00	2031.00	-9.45
IT	907.95	908.55	895.05	897.00	-5.80
NTPC	1201.00	1216.00	1188.70	1189.90	-8.75
TIIT	85.00	85.45	83.80	84.20	-0.70
ITC	171.10	172.80	167.65	169.30	-1.55
ULTRACEMCO	4114.10	4114.10	4031.05	4060.25	-37.50
GRASIM	752.20	763.60	741.95	747.50	-7.05
ADANIPORTS	355.90	358.00	348.45	349.50	-3.80
POWERGRID	164.00	166.40	162.15	162.55	-2.05
BAJAJ-AUTO	801.40	802.00	799.05	804.60	-39.40
GAIL	88.80	89.80	86.35	86.85	-1.55
BAJFINANCE	3465.00	3519.00	3370.25	3379.95	-62.85
BHARTIARTL	432.35	437.50	423.00	423.90	-8.45
SHREECEM	20600.00	20719.05	20000.00	20045.00	-566.00
BAJAJFINSV	6090.00	6169.50	5857.80	5885.00	-168.60

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27403.25	27419.40	27206.30	27321.30	70.35
CADILAC	401.00	417.40	395.80	417.00	18.75
GICRE	122.50	129.85	122.15	127.00	5.05
MARICO	362.10	379.25	362.05	376.85	14.95
ADANIPORTS	249.50	259.40	248.00	257.15	9.95
AUROPHARMA	825.00	848.00	811.50	847.00	28.35
GODREJCP	741.00	758.00	738.55	756.00	21.95
PETRONET	221.70	227.45	221.00	226.90	6.20
HINDZINC	208.50	214.45	208.50	213.90	5.65
BANDHANBNK	290.00	297.95	288.60	292.35	5.60
DLF	157.00	161.85	156.80	159.50	3.60
INDIGO	1271.30	1329.00	1265.30	1295.00	25.60
PUNB	1304.75	1333.00	1296.05	1319.20	22.00
DABUR	515.35	521.65	510.65	521.65	7.85
LUPIN	1028.35	1048.00	983.20	1042.95	15.10
MOTHERSUNI	117.20	119.00	114.20	117.75	1.60
SIEMENS	1268.80	1288.00	1261.10	1278.50	17.25
HDFCAMC	2300.00	2323.00	2270.00	2306.00	30.90
BIOCON	453.60	460.00	448.00	458.70	6.05
NMDC	83.45	84.10	82.65	83.60	1.00
SBICARD	839.00	848.45	838.00	846.90	8.00
MUTHOOTFIN	1161.90	1187.40	1148.80	1163.80	10.05
COLPAL	1445.00	1457.00	1435.30	1451.00	11.00
PNB	28.40	28.85	28.05	28.15	0.15
ALKEM	2769.00	2769.00	2714.10	2755.00	12.90
TORNTPHARM	2817.20	2840.00	2761.20	2830.50	13.30
HAVELLS	669.30	674.95	666.00	669.05	3.00
ACC	1420.00	1429.50	1402.00	1420.00	4.90
PGHH	9910.00	10000.00	9832.30	9899.95	33.45
MCOWELL-N	523.00	527.45	519.50	524.50	1.70
AMBUJACEM	221.20	224.20	219.45	221.70	0.50
HINDPETRO	176.90	177.10	173.00	175.75	0.25
ADANIGREEN	769.60	770.00	741.10	748.00	0.90
BERGEPAINT	591.00	593.80	584.30	590.00	-0.55
INFRATEL	180.00	182.90	176.55	178.40	-0.55
UBL	965.00	983.00	952.05	958.95	-3.20
BOSCHLTD	13660.00	13807.45	13363.05	13479.85	-71.65
BAJAJHLING	2471.00	2478.95	2422.45	2432.90	-16.60
ICICIPRULI	425.00	426.95	416.40	420.00	-3.40
BANKBARODA	42.10	42.80	41.40	41.60	-0.35
ONSS	3050.00	3089.45	3003.60	3012.00	-28.95
CONCOR	355.80	358.90	351.00	352.80	-3.45
LPTILIND	1479.00	1479.00	1444.00	1446.00	-17.00
TATACONSUM	513.40	513.40	502.10	503.00	-6.10
PEC	89.00	90.45	86.80	87.10	-1.55
ABBOTINDIA	1606.00	1657.00	1597.10	1600.70	-377.90
IGL	40.85	40.95	38.85	39.20	-10.90
DMART	2192.95	2197.15	2104.00	2113.00	-71.80
NAUKRI	3611.00	3649.00	3474.00	3488.00	-121.15
ICICIGI	1295.00	1295.00	1251.15	1255.25	-46.05

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	RAYATEL	181.50	182.80	176.80	178.70	UBL	975.00	982.00	953.00	958.80	GSPL	204.10	206.65	199.25	204.00
HCLTECH	827.00	839.30	817.70	822.90	RAYMOND	286.00	293.80	284.20	291.20	PETRONET	221.00	227.40	221.00	226.80	MIDHANI	194.10	198.65	194.10	196.35
TCS	2610.00	2727.00	2604.00	2706.85	JUSTDIAL	396.00	401.00	372.25	378.80	BERGEPAINT	590.00	593.35	584.60	591.00	JKCEMENT	1570.00	1576.40	1537.40	1552.80
RELIANCE	2246.00	2249.00	2205.50	2211.15	SPICEJET	50.30	52.00	49.55	51.40	FINERGEO	2625.00	2655.45	2532.05	2565.00	UJIVANSFB	32.90	33.25	32.60	32.85
INDUSINDBK	594.00	630.70	592.10	601.75	SRF	4090.05	4127.85	4090.05	4128.85	HINDZINC	208.40	214.40	208.40	213.65	BALMALAWRIE	104.10	104.65	102.00	102.00
INFY	1019.45	1054.60	1019.00	1048.20	LIFE	2534.50	2603.05	2522.70	2577.55	KAJARIACER	553.95	553.95	531.75	546.10	FINCABLES	280.00	291.90	280.00	289.40
BAJFINANCE	3460.00	3518.00	3370.00	3379.85	MRF	6069.00	6129.80	6029.40	6048.05	GMRFINRA	23.10	23.80	23.10	23.30	HSCI	54.70	55.00	52.90	53.80
SBIN	191.80	193.70	187.10	188.75	DABUR	515.00	521.00	510.65	520.05	IDFC	31.90	32.75	30.60	30.75	VB	73.50	73.50	69.02	69.00
WIPRO	315.75	335.90	315.45	334.05	COALINDIA	118.80	119.55	117.65	118.40	HEXAWARE	465.30	466.80	464.50	464.80	EIDPARRY	284.00	290.70	281.00	287.00
PVR	1320.00	1347.50	1265.60	1273.30	MARICO	366.00	380.60	362.90	376.85	UJIVAN	218.15	222.65	216.35	218.80	KEI	351.00	351.00	340.25	343.65
IDEA	9.25	9.48	8.94	9.02	TORNTPHARM	2752.05	2841.85	2752.05	2825.65	ABCAPTAL	64.00	65.50	63.60	63.90	ABB	862.50	877.60	862.50	874.00
ESCORTS	1293.00	1296.60	1224.50	1235.95	NATCOPHARM	940.00	962.05	918.80	950.10	LALPATHAL	1878.70	1940.55	1861.70	1929.75	DBL	342.80	345.00	332.25	341.95
TATAMOTORS	137.00	137.50	132.05	133.90	NOCIL	142.00	148.85	141.45	146.80	STRTECH	153.00	157.00	152.15	154.75	GLAXO	1565.00	1585.00	1560.00	1568.95
TATASTEEL	369.00	385.25	369.00	382.15	MOTHERSUNI	117.55	118.20	114.15	116.45	JAICORPLTD	82.75	85.00	82.00	86.60	AKLYLAMINE	3265.00	3290.00	3220.00	3233.00
VEDL	139.60	140.35	135.15	137.80	SUNTV	462.00	468.65	456.70	460.60	ATUL	6199.95	6199.95	6000.00	6022.30	AIANTPHARM	1610.00	1610.00	1582.00	1599.25
ADANIANT	312.40	334.60	315.95	326.60	LICHSGFIN	283.55	288.15	274.25	274.90	APLTD	934.05	974.95	934.05	972.20	SYMPHONY	916.00	918.45	881.25	890.00
BHARTIARTL	432.85	437.50	423.00	424.35	VOLTAS	678.55	685.50	663.80	672.00	DELTACORP*	116.90	118.30	112.75	113.80	IRCON	80.30	80.55	79.00	79.25
AXISBANK	445.05	456.20	439.35	444.20	CANBK	89.70	93.30	89.50	90.25	SPARC	174.80	178.40	172.05	177.25	INDOCO	276.75	276.75	262.80	265.10
HDFCBANK	1111.00	1131.45	1110.65	1114.15	BEL	96.70	96.70	94.70	96.15	TATAMTROVR	63.40	64.15	61.55	62.15	CENTRALBK	14.00	14.25	13.75	13.80
ICICIBANK	370.95	382.45	370.95	373.15	ACC	1416.00	1428.00	1402.50	1421.00	SUPRAIT	190.00	206.85	188.85	202.55	SPANDANA	515.00	549.80	515.00	540.00
KOTAKBANK	1307.45	1333.00	1307.45	1314.80	HAVELLS	667.00	674.05	665.00	672.00	THYROCARE	758.00	768.65	752.60	770.80	PRESTIGE	253.00	257.15	250.05	253.90
DREDDY	515.05	518.65	510.95	512.45	BALKRISIND	1475.00	1475.00	1435.70	1449.95	CEATLTD	1000.70	1034.40	986.05	1015.60	OMAXE	7.00	70.00	66.50	66.65
LAURUSLABS	277.70	298.95	265.00	299.40	DIXON	8850.00	902.00	8720.00	8857.10	PHILIPCARB	133.00	134.10	129.95	130.60	NH	360.00	369.80	340.90	364.25
ITC	171.70	172.85	168.80	169.30	BLISS	177.80	181.00	173.30	178.95	VENKYS	1460.00	1501.15	1460.00	1475.45	AVANTI	504.90	508.05	494.45	501.00
AUROPHARMA	822.00	847.00	811.35	843.60	HFCL	16.00	17.75	16.00	17.50	PGHL	5444.00	5444.00	5256.90	5288.00	SUPREMEIND	1417.00	1424.80	1361.95	1370.05
JSWSTEEL	283.20	291.80	282.55	289.55	BATAINDIA	1350.00	1356.50	1327.20	1343.00	ENGINEERSIN	65.00	65.40	64.10	64.60	EDELWEISS	58.80	59.55	57.80	58.75
RBLBANK	179.50	184.85	173.70	175.05	GRASIM	754.25	763.45	742.50	751.00	FCONSUMER	8.60	8.74	8.32	8.35	ALLCARB	124.25	126.00	123.95	124.85
HINDUNILVR	2103.70	2122.65	2082.50	2111.05	IGL	403.90	403.90	390.45	390.45	SWANENERGY	127.45	127.10	123.60	127.75	CSBBANK	224.25	239.00	224.25	227.00
BANDHANBANK	286.30	297.95	286.30	292.00	SIEMENS	1269.00	1287.85	1261.05	1279.00	CUMMINSIND	449.00	460.25	444.00	458.85	GDL	94.40	97.85	94.05	97.20
JINDALSTEEL	191.25	198.00	191.25	196.65	SHILPE	820.15	842.85	815.40	825.35	OFFSS	3071.30	3087.00	3005.00	3022.70	GICRE	124.00	129.65	122.12	126.65
TECHM	822.00	850.15	822.00	841.55	PAGEIND	2140.00	2146.50	2053.45	2056.85	CASTROLIND	1079.10	1133.50	109.70	110.50	PTC	46.90	47.45	46.80	47.40
MARUTI	6890.00	6890.00	6746.35	6816.85	RECLTD	104.00	104.20	98.60	98.90	COCHINSHIP	338.00	344.55	332.75	342.70	DHANUKA	769.80	783.40	762.65	769.70
HINDPETRO	176.00	177.30	173.10	175.70	ACFLTE	282.50	2850.25	2729.00	279.50	AMBER	2060.00	2105.90	2028.50	2088.00	SHINIA	18294.05	18459.00	18230.90	18459.00
HDPC	1789.90	1816.00	1775.55	1785.35	ITI	134.70	134.30	129.00	129.80	CHAMLFERT	160.60	164.65	159.50	163.05	BOJMEYING	62.65	64.55	62.65	64.35
MUTHOOTFIN	1164.45	1186.70	1148.85	1160.35	METROPOLIS	1847.70	1938.70	1770.00	1913.50	ECLERX	69.75	734.00	695.50	725.75	BAJAJHLNDG	2470.75	2479.95	2423.75	2435.50
CIFLA	776.00	783.65	762.40	779.10	MGL	855.30	872.05	852.00	854.60	CENTURYTEX	335.00	338.75	333.10	336.80	PARGAMILK	102.50	106.00	102.50	103.35
FEDERALBNK	51.10	52.25	50.25	50.80	SUMICHEM	290.25	291.80	284.40	286.70	SOUTHBANK	6.81	6.85	6.71	6.72	EMAMILTD	346.00	353.65	346.00	350.55
INDIGO	1270.00	1328.95	1265.60	1295.75	HDFCAMC	2299.00	2319.20	2271.60	2299.85	QUESS	410.00	414.55	399.00	404.80	IDBI	34.85	35.10	34.30	34.60
ZEEL	214.20	214.80	207.50	208.25	DEPAKANI	623.00	629.00	602.10	608.05	KRBL	289.00	297.75	276.00	280.90	GMCLDIT	42.15	45.80	42.15	45.60
APOLLOHOSP	2080.00	2156.75	2068.30	2135.00	AMBUJACEM	223.00	224.05	219.60	221.40	VINATHOIGA	131.55	134.30	129.00	129.50	SOLARINDS	1118.00	1143.00	1075.00	1084.40
ASHOKLEY	76.30	77.05	74.40	75.15	NASTEJIND	1610.00	1614.45	1582.95	1624.60	PNBHOUSING	33.55	34.10	33.40	33.80	PCJWELLER	14.40	14.40	13.60	13.92
BANKBARODA	42.00	42.80	41.45	41.60	WELSPUNIND	72.80	73.75	71.30	73.75	ABFL	132.70	134.80	131.25	132.15	ASHOKA	66.60	66.50	65.45	65.65
SBI	360.30	377.75	356.30	376.00	NMDC	83.00	83.95	82.60	83.50	BALRAMCHIN	150.05	156.45	150.05	153.50	SUVENPHAR	399.00	400.00	388.50	390.00
HEROMOTOCO	3215.00	3230.00	3095.00	3135.00	WOCKPHARMA	303.10	317.60	299.40	317.60	IBREALTE	53.00	53.20	50.40	51.50	AGEISLOG	231.75	233.25	224.45	224.65
BAJAJAUTO	3080.00	3021.05	2930.00	2947.95	NAUKRI	3749.00	3749.00	3473.80	3488.00	TORNTPOWER	305.00	310.00	300.00	309.50	ORIENTELE	179.35	181.00	177.70	179.65
TRAJENT	8.20	8.57	7.79	8.47	TV18BRDCST	28.15	31.60	28.15	31.60	ARTIIND	1025.00	1025.00	997.00	1010.65	CHAIKAT	147.00	147.15	142.25	144.45
BAJAJFINSV	6100.00	6171.95	5861.25	5889.50	POWERGRID	164.50	166.35	162.20	162.65	GNFC	217.00	217.00	207.00	208.10	DCBBANK	80.95	82.15	80.95	81.35
SUNPHARMA	506.80	524.80	503.95	523.15	BOSCHLTD	13620.00	13801.80	13348.30	13470.65	NALCS	23.35	24.10	23.35	23.85	SANOPI	8652.20	8750.00	8619.60	8641.40
SHREECEM	20500.05	20700.05	19973.55	20032.00	BHEL	29.90	30.00	29.40	29.90	RBL	28.25	28.60	27.90	28.15	BAJAJCON	181.90	182.30	180.20	180.25
M&M	612.00	618.00	597.35	608.40	DALAL	166.95	172.40	164.00	172.40	CUB	141.40	145.30	141.40	144.00	GERSE	241.25	243.75	235.15	236.60
CALICAHC	401.80	417.70	396.10	412.40	RELAXO	660.20	676.00	655.75	673.75	POLYCAB	833.00	833.00	822.15	823.50	GSHIP	222.40	223.75	216.60	218.05
LUPIN	1030.00	1047.85	1012.95	1038.75	PPC	89.90	90.45	86.75	87.25	SHILPAMED	562.00	562.00	547.15	547.80	WHIRLPOOL	2245.00	2245.00	2169.90	2209.00
MINDTREE	1034.00	1373.65	1336.30	1348.80	IPCALAB	2248.05	2249.00	2137.05	2148.15	ABANINDIA	16377.15	16555.00	15965.80	16008.20	FINOXELIND	5215.50	5320.00	5039.90	519.60
HINDALCO	175.15	179.75	172.75	179.50	VAKRANGEE	28.85	30.25	28.85	29.65	COROMANDEL	798.00	800.70	761.35	765.75	INFIBEAM	7.70	78.65	76.25	78.85
MANAPPURAM	166.50	169.45	164.35	166.70	WELCORP	113.40	112.40	109.65	117.40	GSCF	64.45	66.20	63.70	64.00	KANSAINAR	49.05	49.50	47.80	47.80
ASIANPAINT	2040.00	2040.00	2010.60	2032.00	INDIAMART	4993.80	5040.00	4900.00	4973.85	CESC	635.00	635.00	614.60	619.75	BIRLAARON	663.00	666.75	637.70	639.90
TATAELSI	1280.00	1374.95	1280.00	1358.70	CROMPTON	294.00	294.00	279.50	281.15	LINDEINDIA	808.50	823.00	793.30	817.55	VAIHABVGBL	1919.45	1925.00	1906.85	1908.65
DISVLAB	3088.00	3146.10	3052.90	3137.60	ICICI	1300.00	1300.00	1251.05	1254.30	DEEPAKFERT	150.35	154.00	149.20	150.45	RAIN	104.70	105.15	102.15	102.15
LIT	908.00	908.00	8																

Prez Trump’s drive-by surprises supporters

Washington: US President Donald Trump made a surprise drive-past to greet his supporters outside a military hospital where he has been admitted since Friday for the treatment of the deadly coronavirus, drawing criticism from Democrats and a leading medical expert.

The brief drive through Rockville Pike in Bethesda, a Maryland suburb of Washington DC, that separates the National Institute of Health and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, brought cheers to his supporters who have been praying for the 74-year-old president's health ahead of the presidential election next month.

"I really appreciate all of the fans and supporters outside of the hospital. The fact is, they really love our Country and are seeing how we are MAKING IT GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE!" Trump said in a



tweet soon after his unannounced drive-past.

Trump, a Republican is seeking another term in the White House. He is being challenged by former Vice President Joe Biden of the Democratic Party in the November 3 election.

Trump and the First Lady Melania tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday night. Trump was shifted to the

Trump, moving to show strength, aims for Monday release

Bethesda: President Donald Trump was hoping for a Monday discharge from the military hospital where he is being treated for COVID-19, a day after he briefly ventured out while contagious to salute cheering supporters by motorcade in a move that disregarded precautions meant to contain the deadly virus that has killed more than 209,000 Americans.

White House officials said Trump was anxious to be released after three nights at Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre, where doctors revealed on Sunday that his blood oxygen level dropped suddenly twice in recent days and that they gave him a steroid typically only recom-

mended for the very sick. Still, the doctors said Trump's health is improving and volunteered that he could be discharged as early as Monday to continue the remainder of his treatment at the White House.

"This is an important day as the president continues to improve and is ready to get back to a normal work schedule," White House chief of staff Mark Meadows told Fox News on Monday.

He said the determination on whether Trump would leave the hospital won't be made until later in the day after the president is evaluated by his medical team, but that Trump was "optimistic" he could be released Monday. **AP**

Gen Naravane, Shringla meet Suu Kyi; discuss bilateral issues

Naypyitaw (PTI): Indian Army chief Gen MM Naravane and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Monday called on Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and discussed a wide range of "important" bilateral areas, including maintenance of security and stability in the border areas.

They also met Myanmar's top General Min Aung Hlaing, the Commander in Chief of defence services, and discussed issues of bilateral importance.

Gen Naravane and Shringla discussed "important bilateral issues" during their meeting with Suu Kyi, the Indian embassy said.

"The two sides discussed maintenance of security and stability in their border areas and reiterated their mutual commitment not to allow their respective territories to be used for activities inimical to each other," said a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Myanmar is one of India's strategic neighbours and shares a 1,640-km-long border with a number of northeastern states including militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.

India has been concerned over some militant groups from the North-East region taking shelter in Myanmar. The country has been assuring India that it would not allow any insurgent group to use its territory against India. In June, 2015 the Indian Army had carried out an operation in areas near the Indo-Myanmar against the NSCN (K) militants, days after the ultras had killed 18 Army men in Manipur.

The two countries have significantly ramped up defence and security cooperation in the last few years including in the maritime security sphere.

Shringla said Myanmar's handing over of 22 Indian insurgents has been deeply appreciated by India and sends a strong message of "deterrence to inimical elements on both sides."

Gen Naravane also held talks with Vice Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Armed

Services while Shringla met Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of Foreign Ministry.

Their visit to Myanmar assumes significance as it comes in the midst of the Indian Army's bitter border standoff with the Chinese military in eastern Ladakh as well as restrictions on foreign visits due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It is Gen Naravane's first visit to any foreign country after he took charge as the Chief of Army Staff on December 31 last year.

During their visit, India announced a grant of USD 2 million for the construction of the border haat bridge at Byanyu/Sarsichauk in Chin State that will provide increased economic connectivity between Mizoram and Myanmar.

A quota of 1.5 lakh tonnes of Urad (Vigna mungo) for import from Myanmar till March 31, 2021 was also announced.

"The visit provided an opportunity to review the sustained progress in bilateral relations which have been marked in recent years by regular high-level visits and interactions, the release said.

"Both sides agreed to further strengthen their partnership in connectivity projects, capacity building, power and energy, deepen economic and trade ties, further facilitate people to people and cultural exchanges, and broad-base their defence exchanges across all the three services," it added.

Myanmar appreciated India's decision to provide debt service relief under the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative.

Both sides agreed to work towards operationalising the Sittwe Port by the first quarter of next year and that the tendering process for 69 bridges proposed under the ambitious India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway will begin soon.

Sittwe Port is part of the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project which is being viewed as India's gateway to Southeast Asia. The port will connect India's landlocked northeastern region with the Bay of Bengal through Mizoram.

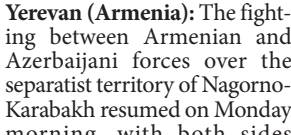
Armenia, Azerbaijan clashes resume over separatist region

Yerevan (Armenia): The fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh resumed on Monday morning, with both sides accusing each other of launching attacks.

Armenian military officials on Monday reported missile strikes hitting Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist war in 1994.

Firefights of varying intensity "continue to rage" in the conflict zone, Armenian Defence Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian said on Facebook.

The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry, in turn, accused Armenian forces of shelling the towns of Tartar, Barda and Beylagan. Ganja, Azerbaijan's second-largest city far outside of the conflict zone, is also "under fire," officials said.



Armenia's Foreign Ministry in a statement dismissed allegations of the attacks being launched from the Armenia's territory as a "disinformation campaign" waged by Azerbaijan.

Vahram Poghosyan, spokesman for Nagorno-Karabakh's leader, on Monday warned in a Facebook post that the territory's forces would target military facilities in Azerbaijani cities in response to strikes on Stepanakert and Shushi, a town in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The fighting erupted September 27 and has killed dozens, marking the biggest escalation in the decades-old conflict over the region. Both sides have accused each other of expanding the hostilities beyond the conflict zone in Nagorno-Karabakh. **AP**

Over 300 detained in Belarus during Sunday protests

Kyiv: Authorities in Belarus said Monday that more than 300 people were detained during the previous day's protests against the country's authoritarian president, who won his sixth term in office in a vote widely seen as rigged.

The Interior Ministry said 317 people were detained during rallies in several cities Sunday against Alexander Lukashenko.

In the capital, Minsk, where according to a rights group nearly 120,000 took part in a rally on Sunday, water cannons were used to disperse the crowds, the ministry said. Police estimated the turnout to be around 10,000 people.

In the city of Vitebsk police used tear gas against protesters, the ministry said. The vast majority of those detained — 258 — remain in custody pending a court appearance.

Mass protests have rocked Belarus for almost two months, with the largest held on Sundays and drawing up to 200,000 people.

The unprecedented unrest was triggered by the results of the August 9 presidential election that handed Lukashenko, who has run Belarus with an iron fist for 26 years, victory with 80 per cent of the vote.

His main challenger, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, got 10 per cent. She and her supporters refused to recognize the results, saying the outcome of the vote was manipulated.

Initially, Belarusian authorities cracked down brutally on protesters, with police detaining thousands and injuring scores with truncheons, rubber bullets and stun grenades.

The government has since scaled down on the violence but has maintained the pressure, detaining hundreds of protesters and prosecuting top activists.

Prominent members of the opposition's Coordination Council, formed to push for a transition of power, have been arrested or forced to leave the country. **AP**

Car bomb targets Afghan Governor, kills 8: Officials

AP ■ KABUL

A suicide car bomber targeted the convoy of a provincial governor in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, killing at least eight people, including four civilians, government officials said.

The governor, Rahmatullah Yarmal, was unharmed in the attack in Laghman province, according to his spokesman, Asadullah Dawlatzai.

Four of Yarmal's bodyguards were killed, the spokesman said, adding that about 38 people — both military and civilians — were wounded in the attack, which took place in Mihterlam, the provincial capital.

Dawlatzai said 36 civilians were among the wounded, including children, as well as two other bodyguards of the governor.

The explosion also left several badly damaged vehicles at the site of the attack. The wounded, including small children, were taken to the city's main hospitals.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but both the Islamic State group and the Taliban are active in the area.

Both militant groups have carried out attacks in the past against Afghan government representatives, national security and defense personnel, and civilians. **AP**

Nepal’s expert panel submits report to govt on border issue with India

Kathmandu (PTI): An expert panel constituted by the Nepal government to gather historical evidences for backing the country's claim over three strategically-important Indian areas of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura has submitted its report to Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, according to official sources here.

Nepal in May released the revised political and administrative map of the country laying claim over the three strategically important areas in Uttarakhand, more than six months after India published a new map in November 2019.

India has already termed as untenable the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial

claims by Nepal after its Parliament unanimously approved the new political map of the country featuring Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas which India maintains belongs to it.

New Delhi has also said that Kathmandu's action violated an understanding reached between the two countries to resolve the boundary issues through talks.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in May said that the revised map of Nepal included parts of the Indian territory and asked Kathmandu to respect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"This unilateral act is not based on historical facts and evidence. It is contrary to the



Armenia's Foreign Ministry in a statement dismissed allegations of the attacks being launched from the Armenia's territory as a "disinformation campaign" waged by Azerbaijan.

Vahram Poghosyan, spokesman for Nagorno-Karabakh's leader, on Monday warned in a Facebook post that the territory's forces would target military facilities in Azerbaijani cities in response to strikes on Stepanakert and Shushi, a town in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The fighting erupted September 27 and has killed dozens, marking the biggest escalation in the decades-old conflict over the region. Both sides have accused each other of expanding the hostilities beyond the conflict zone in Nagorno-Karabakh. **AP**

Malaysia PM quarantines as Minister tests positive for virus

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said on Monday he will self-quarantine after a Cabinet minister he was in contact with tested positive for the coronavirus, as new cases in the country hit a record high.

Muhyiddin had chaired an October 3 meeting attended by Religious Affairs Minister Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri, who confirmed Monday he has been hospitalized for treatment.

The health ministry has warned that Malaysia is facing a new wave of virus cases as the outbreak has widened in recent days.

New clusters have sprung up in many states amid increased travel to eastern Sabah state, a hotspot zone, for a state election last month.

New virus cases hit a record daily high of 432 on Monday, bringing Malaysia's tally to 12,813 with 137 deaths. Nearly half were from a prison in a northern state, and 130 were in Sabah.

Muhyiddin, who took power in March after a political coup, said in a statement that he underwent virus testing every two weeks since April. **AP**

Islamabad (PTI): A Pakistani court here on Monday rejected a plea seeking a ban on the broadcast of the speeches made by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif against the Pakistan Army, saying courts should not be unnecessarily dragged to decide such matters.

Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah in his four-page order said the petitioner could not satisfy the court regarding which of his rights were being affected by the matter.

These kinds of issues unnecessarily dragged courts into matters of conflict and there was an alternate forum for the redressal of these issues, Justice Minallah said.

The court also rejected the contention that the issue was a matter of public interest.

A Pakistani citizen on October 3 filed a petition in the IHC, seeking a ban on the airing of speeches of Sharif and party President Shehbaz Sharif on television channels against Prime Minister Imran Khan's government and the Pakistan Army. In a decision taken last week, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) banned the broadcast and rebroadcast of any speech, interview or public address of absconders or proclaimed offenders, days after former prime minister Sharif made blistering speeches from exile in London targeting the

3 win Nobel medicine prize for discovering hepatitis C virus

Stockholm: Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice and British-born scientist Michael Houghton won the Nobel Prize for medicine on Monday for their discovery of the hepatitis C virus, a major source of liver disease that affects millions worldwide.

Announcing the prize in Stockholm, the Nobel Committee noted that the trio's work identified a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the previously discovered hepatitis A and B viruses.

Their work, dating back to the 1970s and 1980s, has helped saved millions of lives, the committee said.

"Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health," the committee said.

"Their discovery also allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C," it added. "For the

first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating hepatitis C virus from the world population."

The World Health Organisation estimates there are over 70 million cases of hepatitis C worldwide and 400,000 deaths from it each year.

The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis requiring liver transplants.

The medicine prize carried particular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has for societies and economies around the world.

Will Irving, a virologist at the University of Nottingham, said that identifying hepatitis C had been the "holy grail" in medicine.

"After hepatitis A and B were discovered in the 1970s, it was clear there was still at least one other virus or more that were causing liver damage," he said.

"We knew there was a

virus in the blood supply, because when people had blood transfusion they would get liver damage," Irving said.

"It was recognised as a risk but there was nothing we could do. We didn't know what the virus was and we couldn't test for it."

Nobel Committee member Patrik Ernfors drew a parallel between this year's prize and the current rush by millions of scientists around the world to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

"The first thing you need to do is to identify the causing virus," he told reporters. "And once that has been done, that is, in itself, the starting point for development of drugs to treat the disease and also to develop vaccines against the disorder." "So the actual discovery, viral discovery itself, is a critical moment," said Ernfors.

Unlike hepatitis A, which is transmitted via food or water and causes an acute infection that can last a few weeks, hepatitis B and C are transmitted through blood. **AP**

Pak police registers sedition case against Sharif, PML-N leaders

Lahore (PTI): Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam and other top leaders of the Opposition PML-N party were charged with sedition and other serious cases for allegedly conspiring against the institutions of the army and judiciary, and inciting people against them.

The Lahore police registered a FIR on the complaint of a person on Monday, citing Sharif's two recent speeches made through a video link from London in which the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo made blistering remarks targeting the powerful Pakistan Army.

Sharif — who left for London late last year after securing bail for medical treatment in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills case and the Al Azizia case — has been targeting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan as well as many state institutions, including the judiciary and the military. He served as Pakistan's prime minister three times, first removed by a president in 1993, then by military ruler Pervez Musharraf in 1999. A court in 2017 ousted him from power over corruption allegations. Imran Khan, a former cricketer, came to power in

2018.

The case was registered under sections 10 (cyber-terrorism), 120-A (definition of criminal conspiracy), 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against Pakistan), 123-A (condemning the creation of the country and advocating the abolishment of its sovereignty), 124-A (sedition) and 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) of the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (2016) and the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). In his speeches, 70-year-old Sharif alleged that the Pakistan Army had rigged the 2018 vote that brought Khan to power.

The powerful Army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy. Sharif attacked the Army for its alleged involvement in politics, conspiring against elected governments and using the judiciary for its designs.

He alleged that there was a state above the state in the country and the Opposition's struggle was not against Prime Minister Khan but against those who had imposed such an incapable and mindless person upon the nation through a

manipulated electoral process.

Sharif also accused Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa of taking action against him'. He disclosed that he was conveyed a message in the middle of the night by then Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt. Gen. Zaeheerul Islam during Khan's sit-in in Islamabad in 2014 to resign otherwise he would face consequences or martial law could also be imposed. He said "desired decisions" had been secured from judges through pressure and blackmail, referring to his ouster by the Supreme Court in 2017. He cited the example of former accountability judge Malik Arshad who convicted him in the Al-Azizia corruption case for seven years imprisonment.

According to the FIR, instead of availing medical treatment in London, Sharif launched a planned conspiracy to defame Pakistan and its institutions army and judiciary. Through his speeches he is trying to incite the public against the state institutions.

It alleged that Sharif through his speeches supported the policies of India so that Pakistan remains on the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list and gets isolated in the world being a rogue state.

Pak court rejects plea to ban Sharif’s speech

Islamabad (PTI): A Pakistani court here on Monday rejected a plea seeking a ban on the broadcast of the speeches made by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif against the Pakistan Army, saying courts should not be unnecessarily dragged to decide such matters.

Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah in his four-page order said the petitioner could not satisfy the court regarding which of his rights were being affected by the matter.

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powerful Pakistani Army.

The move by PEMRA came as it took cognizance of 70-year-old Sharif's repeated attack on the Pakistan Army, with the latest being on Thursday during which he in a televised speech said that the military had rigged the 2018 vote that brought the country's current prime minister to power.

After the court hearing on Monday, Justice Minallah also ruled that the complainant could not satisfy the court regarding which of his rights were being affected by the matter.

Sharif served as Pakistan's prime minister three times, first removed by a president in

1993, then by military ruler Pervez Musharraf in 1999.

A court in 2017 ousted him from power over corruption allegations. Khan, a former cricketer, came to power in 2018.

Sharif spoke from London, where he has been since last November when he was released on bail to seek medical treatment abroad. At the time, a court permitted Sharif to leave the country for four weeks, but he did not return.

A court last month issued arrest warrants for Sharif, previously sentenced to seven years in prison on corruption and money laundering charges stemming from disclosures in the Panama Papers.

Belgium’s new princess not keen about royalty

Brussels (AP): Delphine Boel has been acknowledged as Belgian Princess Delphine of Saxe-Coburg, after a two-decade royal paternity scandal. Still, she said on Monday she'd still rather be considered an artist than a royal.

Last week, a Belgian court ruled in her favor and officially recognized her as the daughter of former King Albert II, something the aging monarch had fought tooth and nail to avoid ever since the paternity allegations became public. Princess Delphine said going to court was all about getting family recognition and the love of a father who had always coldshouldered her. "For me to go to court, especially for that, to be recognised by my own blood, my own father, felt so unnatural," she told reporters on Monday.

It is (a) sort of unnatural life

I was living that was most painful, the 52-year-old said during an emotional press conference.

The former king, whose son Philippe is the reigning monarch, could still make an ultimate legal appeal at the Court of Cassation, but Princess Delphine said the case was unlikely to go that far. I think it is finished now.

King Albert decided in January to no longer fight a claim that he is Boel's father, after he finally agreed to have a DNA test and received the results. Rumors about Albert and Boel's mother, the aristocratic wife of a well-heeled industrialist, had been around for years. But the news that the king might have had a child with her broke into the open when a biography of Albert's wife, Queen Paola, was published in 1999.

DOCYARD
DR DHANANJAYA I BHAT

Senior Consultant
Neurosurgery

ASTER RV HOSPITAL



All about Moyamoya

The Moyamoya Disease is a rare vascular disease which affects the brain. This disease is commonly seen in children between five-10 years of age and in adults between 35-50 years of age. Though certain genes have been linked to the disease, the exact cause remains elusive. In India, this disease is frequently seen in denizens of West Bengal and North East India.

This condition causes a progressive slow narrowing of major intracranial blood vessels which supplies blood to both hemispheres of the brain. The body tries to compensate for the reduced blood supply by opening up previously nonfunctioning small vascular connections between the adjacent blood vessels in order to improve the blood supply. Despite the best efforts, as the disease progresses, the blood supply to the brain progressively diminishes and a stage of decompensation occurs. There is an imbalance between blood oxygen supply and the demand of the brain. In the above event the patient starts experiencing initially fleeting neurological deficits leading to symptoms such as weakness, headaches, seizures which inevitably worsens and ends in permanent neurologic deficits of varying degrees.

Diagnosis of Moyamoya disease is mainly done with MRI and MR angiogram (MRA) or CT angiogram. The MRI shows the presence of any infarctions or bleed and presence of significant brain damage. MRA reveals the brain blood vessels patency and caliber. It demonstrates the narrowing of blood vessels and the presence of opened up vascular channels trying to shore up the brain blood supply. When the diagnosis cannot be made with certainty on MRI, a slightly invasive procedure known as digital subtraction angiogram (DSA) will be needed. It is the gold standard and can establish the diagnosis irrefutably.

At present, surgical intervention offers the best outcome for Moyamoya disease. If the patient has already suffered major strokes then the surgical outcome and improvement is not good. It needs to be done early in the course of the disease when the diagnosis is made

Ancillary tests like SPECT scans may be done in certain cases to demonstrate functionally the adequacy of blood supply.

Management of Moyamoya disease

- Untreated patients have a poor prognosis with major neurologic deficits, including death occurring in 70-75 per cent by two years.

- Medical management includes blood thinning tablets (aspirin and clopidogrel) to prevent formation of small clots which may block the already compromised narrow blood vessels and cause stroke. However though medications intuitively seem to reduce the risk of future stroke, it does not prevent the progression of the

disease and a substantial number of patients develop strokes in the months or years ahead.

- Surgical intervention consists of augmenting the intracranial blood supply by using the blood vessels on the scalp. By this procedure there is an immediate and a delayed increase in blood supply to the brain which offsets the progressive oxygen deficit the brain will face due to the ongoing progressive occlusion of the intracranial blood vessels.

- The surgical procedures include a direct bypass between a scalp vessel (superficial temporal artery) and an intracranial vessel (branch of middle cerebral artery) and indirect procedures like placing the temporalis muscle directly on the brain surface. The direct surgery improves the blood supply immediately and the indirect procedures result in slow parasitisation of the muscle blood supply by the brain.

- At present, surgical intervention offers the best outcome for Moyamoya disease. If the patient has already suffered major strokes then the surgical outcome and improvement is not good. It needs to be done early in the course of the disease when the diagnosis is made. Surgery prevents development of stroke and neurologic deficits, but cannot undo the damage of an already sustained stroke.

SUMMER COOLERS

CLOVE: Clove is a sweet and aromatic spice, found both in whole and ground forms. They are widely used in Indian dishes and beverages to add flavour.

Cloves are low in calories but a rich source of manganese. They're otherwise an insignificant source of nutrients. In addition to containing several important vitamins and minerals, cloves are rich in antioxidants.

Studies also show that cloves may promote oral health, thanks to their antimicrobial properties, which may help kill harmful bacteria.

Cloves can also help

boost immunity. It may also help in regulating blood sugar levels.

The eugenol in cloves possess strong anti-inflammatory properties and helps ease pain by stimulating pain receptors in the body. Clove oil or extract provides relief from arthritis, inflammation and any pain in general.



HEART MATTERS

A recent study suggests that serious COVID-19 patients are 10 times more at risk of developing heart diseases. DR RAKESH CHUG shares tips that can help

The entire world is in the grip of COVID-19 infection. Rising number of infected patients with every next moment is one of the major concerns of the time. Social distancing, precautions for prevention have emerged as new normal, but even long before COVID came cardiac diseases have already been one of the top killer diseases in our country. Now another fact is although COVID is primarily a respiratory disease but in large number of cases it is leading to cardiac problems as well. Hence more awareness needs to be spread in this regard.

What exactly is Cardiac Disease?

Major function of the heart is pumping of blood after purification and oxygenation in lungs. Now when this basic functioning of the heart is obstructed it leads to a number of heart diseases, results can vary as per the seriousness and complexities of the disease. One can also be born with it and it can be develop due to other diseases and unhealthy habits, food pattern and smoking.

A number of COVID patients are reporting with heart block. A study suggests serious COVID patients are at 10 times risk of developing heart diseases. Hence take extra precaution and lead a healthy life in order to lower the risk.

There are some diseases which play a major role in predisposing to heart diseases.

There are a few standard risk and well established risk factors for blockages in the heart. These include high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol level, fam-

Diabetes is a major risk factor in India. Not only do Diabetics have a higher incidence of cardiac blockages, they are also more complex and difficult to treat

ily history of heart disease and smoking.

Obesity — particularly abdominal obesity can predispose to heart disease both directly as well as indirectly — by increasing the incidence of high blood pressure and blood sugar.

Diabetes (high blood sugar) — in particular it is a very major risk factor in India and its incidence is rapidly increasing in both rural and urban India. Not only do Diabetics have a higher incidence of cardiac blockages, they also have more complex and difficult to treat blockages.

If one is suffering from any of the above risk factors, they should be more cautious and get themselves regularly evaluated. It is also extremely important to follow the treating doctor's advice and take your prescribed medicines on time as well as follow all life style

advice.

Talking about COVID and heart disease, it has been seen that COVID and heart diseases have a two way association. Patients with COVID 19 infection have a higher incidence of heart diseases such as heart attacks, heart failure and various types of electrical problems of the heart. On the other side, many established heart patients are now suffering from unexpected complications due to untimely follow up with doctors because fear of infection in hospital premises. Hence heart patients need to be regular with their medication and prescription and also have regular follow ups with their treating doctors. Don't ignore even a minor symptom and stay in touch with your concerned doctor.

The writer is Senior Consultant and Incharge, CTVS, Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute

Follow a healthy lifestyle

During the current time, heart patients are not only more at risk of infection but also their treatment process was also disturbed due to the lockdown and fear of infection. A case in point is one of the patients lost his life as he did not come to the hospital on time due to the fear of catching infection.

Hence considering every related risk factor, the following steps should be kept in mind especially in regard to cardiac diseases:

- Keep your BP under check, make sure your blood sugar is in

control.

- Be in contact with your concerned doctor and tell her/him about every update regarding your disease.

- Do go to the hospital if doctor suggests. Don't ignore your disease because of fear of infection. Take along only one adult with you for help so that there will be lesser risk of overcrowding and follow every required precaution.

- Exercise daily. Some exercise patterns suggested in Yoga, Pranayama also lower the risk of

heart diseases. If you are already a heart patient then takes your concerned doctor's suggestion first in this regard.

- Take extra care of your food habits. Keep the nutrition value high; make a diet plan with your concerned doctor's suggestion.
- Keep a positive outlook towards life. Take your mental health also seriously and consult a specialist if face any related issue.

The writer is Dr Anand Kumar Pandey, Director and Senior Consultant — Cardiology, Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

DadiKaKehna

Hair fall can be worrisome. While, in many cases, it can be due to hormonal imbalance and requires doctor intervention, in most cases simple ingredients found in our kitchen can do the trick, says ROSHANI DEVI



Most women love long hair. After all, one ends up styling it differently each time one goes out. Therefore, when clumps of hair start falling, it can lead to worry. And rightly so. In some cases, it can be due to hormonal imbalance and a visit to the doctor can help. Otherwise here is what one can do:

Given the benefits of aloe vera, most households have the plant in their home — either in their garden or in a pot. Take a stalk and extract pulp. Apply it to hair and scalp and leave it for

45 minutes. Rinse with normal water. Do this three-four times in a week.

Use fresh lemon juice or lemon oil. Apply fresh lemon juice to the scalp and hair. Wait for 15 minutes and shampoo. You can use lemon essential oil diluted in coconut oil and apply.

Apply coconut milk. Not only is it good for hair re-growth, it controls hair fall as well. Grate coconut and squeeze its milk.

Then apply this milk to the scalp. Cover your head with a towel and leave it for 20 minutes. Wash hair with shampoo.



TIPTOP

Deep Learning — it is the artificial intelligence (AI) that powers today's self-driving cars, chatbots, personal assistants (such as Alexa, Cortana, Siri etc.), facial recognition in social media and law enforcement agencies. The collaboration between Prof Angshul Majumdar of IIT Delhi and Prof Emilie Chouzenoux of INRIA, Saclay, Paris, harnesses the power of deep learning to screen drugs that have the potential to treat COVID-19 infections. "This is the first of a kind AI powered study for antiviral selection", says Prof Majumdar.

In scientific literature this is called 'drug repositioning'. Current approaches are based on rudimentary models like network diffusion, similarity matching, matrix factorisation, classification etc. In contrast, our approach (DeepVir), integrates the power of deep representation learning with biological insights via graphical regularisation. Furthermore, Prof. Chouzenoux boosted

DeepVir with a state-of-the-art optimisation approach based on hybrid proximal alternating minimization (HyPALM); in short "it is Deep Learning on steroids," she explains.

Our deep learning AI model, DeepVir, selects Chloroquine, Remdesivir, Umifenovir, Favipiravir and Ribavarin. All of them are undergoing clinical trials for treating COVID-19 infections.

The use of chloroquine and hydroxy-chloroquine for COVID-19, both as a prophylactic and as a treatment, is common knowledge today. Major pharma companies (Zydus Cadilla, Cipla, Jubilant) in India have already launched Remdesivir for treating COVID-19 infections. The Russian drug Umifenovir has received DGCI nod for phase III trials in the country a while back. Several big Pharma companies have launched the Japanese drug Favipiravir for treating novel coronavirus infections.

SLIMLINE

Patients facing end-stage heart failure years ago; and certain death in the absence of an immediate heart transplant — are leading near-normal lives. The reason: Heart surgeons at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket implanted a mechanical pump called the LVAD (Left Ventricular Assist Device) that took over the function of their failing hearts. These patients don't have a pulse, heartbeat or blood pressure, yet they are able to do everything that a healthy person can, as their blood flow has been fully restored.

Dr Kewal Krishan, Director, Heart Transplant & Ventricular Assist Devices, Dept of Cardiovascular Surgery, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket said: "LVAD is a device that adds 13 to 15 years to the life of people facing imminent heart failure. It boosts functions of the heart and is used either as a temporary measure till a heart transplant can be conducted, or as a destination therapy where the patient lives with the device permanently. LVAD enables patients to live a normal life even after end-stage heart failure."

MINDFUL EATING IS KEY

One doesn't necessarily have to follow extreme weight loss diets. DOLLY KUMAR tells you

how by making small changes in the regular diet, one can get the desired results

Keto, Paleo and GM diet; most of us must have tried at least one of them during our weight loss journey. While the results must have varied, it is important to know that eating healthy is possible without falling for these extreme diets. Even if you are aiming for weight loss, you just have to make small changes to your food habits and you can reach your ideal weight. It is all about making the right choice when it comes eating healthy.

Muesli instead of paratha for breakfast: While we all love parathas, they have a lot of calories. Eating them on a regular basis can lead to a series of health problems such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and obesity. That's why switching the paratha with muesli is a wise option. Muesli is essentially a mix of rolled oats, nuts, seeds, and a bunch of dried fruits. It is not only delicious when paired with toned milk or low-fat yoghurt, muesli is also a great source of nutrition.

Green tea instead of regular tea/coffee: We often don't realise how much sugar we consume daily through our tea and coffee. High intake of sugar can increase the risk of diabetes, obesity and heart diseases. It is also bad for our skin, hair and teeth. Switching regular tea/coffee with green tea is the right way to go. Rich in antioxidants, green tea has many health benefits, from weight loss to reduced risk of cancer.

Olive oil instead of regular cooking oil: Olive oil has loads of heart-protective polyphenols that lower cholesterol levels in the blood. Packed with a generous amount of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, this miraculous oil is also known to improve brain health and cure depression. Moreover, it has anti-inflammatory properties and contains mono-saturated fatty acids that aid weight loss by boosting metabolism. With so many health benefits to offer, you should definitely replace your regular cooking oil with olive oil.

Stevia instead of sugar: Stevia is a popular plant-based, carb-free and calorie-free alternative to sugar. Unlike artificial sweeteners, it is extracted from the leaves of a plant called Stevia rebaudiana. It is much sweeter than sugar and a small amount is sufficient. Taking stevia instead of sugar can promote weight loss as it essentially packs no calories. However, it is crucial to choose the right stevia as many brands add artificial sweeteners and fillers.

A2 cow ghee instead of regular ghee: Ghee is an indispensable part of any Indian kitchen. From using it as a seasoning for Biryani to putting it on chapatis, ghee is perhaps one of the most used ingredients. But, there are several reasons why you must replace your regular ghee with A2 cow ghee. Easier to digest, A2 cow ghee is loaded with Vitamin A, which is good for eyes. Since it contains essential fatty acids, it also helps in maintaining healthy cholesterol levels. Additionally, A2 cow ghee is Keto-friendly and maintains general immunity.

The writer is Founder & Director at Cosmic Nutracos Solutions Pvt Ltd

INBRIEF

Maxirich, the flagship multivitamin brand of Cipla Health Ltd has introduced Tulsi Drops, a natural immunity booster that effectively supports respiratory and digestive health, gives relief from cough and cold and helps in stress management.

While the pandemic has taken the world by storm, The World Health Organisation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of AYUSH have highlighted the importance of having a strong immune system that enables and builds an individual's overall capability to battle diseases and stay healthy.

Taking this into consideration Maxirich Tulsi Drops has been specially curated with remedial ingredients best known to fight pathogens and that one could be susceptible to. It includes 95 per cent concentration of five varieties of tulsi: shyam tulsi, van tulsi, ram tulsi, nimbu tulsi, vishnu tulsi all of which have medicinal properties fostering complete wellbeing. Tulsi is a powerful antioxidant with anti-viral and anti-microbial properties useful in the treatment of cold, cough, sore throat, heart diseases, eye diseases, mouth infections, and stomach ailments.

A combination of five types of tulsi makes Maxirich Tulsi Drops an ideal inclusion in your everyday routine to remain strong and active.

The flagship product in the range which is Maxirich Daily Multivitamin supplements include more than 13 essential vitamins and minerals in a softgel capsule which helps fulfil the body's nutrient requirement, in the event there is a shortfall.

TrendSlazer

Akshay's retro look in BellBottom

A new teaser of the forthcoming spy thriller *BellBottom* released on Monday sees lead actor **AKSHAY KUMAR** turn on the retro style quotient.

In the short video, Akshay wears bell-bottom pants and a turtle-neck pullover. While the look was revealed earlier in film stills from his recent outdoor stint of the film in Glasgow, the video sees Akshay hit attitude in motion.

He shared the video on Instagram and Twitter. "Go BellBottom! Here's a thrilling throw-back to the 80s. Presenting #BellBottomTeaser," he wrote.



'Andhadhun will always be close to my heart. It gave me yet another opportunity to

collaborate with like minded colleagues, who inspire me and help me grow my craft. Working with a director like Sriram Raghavan and co-actor Ayushmann, was a great learning and experience. It feels lovely to have worked on a National award winner.'

—Radhika Apte

Actor **TAAPSEE PANNU** is excited about her much-needed forthcoming getaway, going by her post on social media.

She posted a picture on Instagram, where she is seen posing by the pool at an undisclosed getaway destination.

"Here's me looking forward to the much needed getaway. P.S- that pool was out of bound so @khamkaphotoartist figured out other means to make the picture look cool," she wrote with the picture.

Taapsee's forthcoming films are *Haseen Dilluba*, *Shabaash Mithu* and *Rashmi Rocket*.



Eva loves spending time with husband

Actor **EVA MENDES** says she would rather be at home with her husband Ryan Gosling than anywhere else in the world.

A throwback photo the actor shared has her running on a beach. She joked that she "went for a run on the beach this morning" before adding, "No I didn't." "This picture was taken at least 15 years ago. Haven't seen a beach this year. Haven't been on a run this year," Mendes joked.



HOTELS COUNT ON FESTIVE WEEKENDS

Travel aggregators and hotels are introducing more affordable services to attract travellers for a long-weekend vacation, which is slowly picking up post-COVID. By TEAM VIVA

Earlier, long weekends used to be the most awaited times of the year, especially during the festive season between October and December. However, is it same this year too, given that a pandemic has taken over the world? With the festive season round the corner and work-from-home/anywhere becoming the new normal, we analyse how travel suppliers and hotels are looking at it.

A recent survey by LocalCircles said that only 19 per cent of the people are opting to go on a holiday during the forthcoming festive season.

As per the survey, the much-awaited festive season is unlikely to bring any cheers to the travel industry, including the airline sector, as less than 20 per cent of people polled plan to travel during October-November amid the pandemic. The majority of those having travel plans said that they do not want to make their booking till they get closer to their travel date.

The survey was conducted to get citizen pulse on how people in India are planning to travel in the forthcoming festive season, given the current situation with COVID-19. It received over 25,000 responses from people located in 239 districts of India. "Only 19 per cent citizens (respondents of the survey) say that they will undertake festive travel this year due to COVID-19. Of those who plan to travel, only 23 per cent say they will travel by a flight and another 38 per cent plan to travel by car or a cab," reported the survey.

When the citizens were asked about the kind of travel they plan to undertake during the festive season, it said that as many as 69 per cent respondents don't want to be travelling this year and

would prefer to stay at home. Three per cent of the respondents said they will travel to a holiday destination, while 13 per cent said they will visit family and friends, and another three per cent said they will do both, as per the survey. However, 12 per cent respondents were unsure about what they would do.

People in many parts of India plan their travel back home or vacations during this time, it said adding, this year, however, looks drastically different due to the fast spreading COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns, unlocks and just a lot of caution amongst people. Though India opened domestic air and train travel in June, the daily caseload has grown by 10 times during this period.

Well, it certainly raises questions at how hotels and travel aggregators are preparing to keep the travellers coming in and give them more chances to keep considering their long-awaited plans.

A BETTER PLAN

Nishant Pitti, CEO & Co-founder, EaseMyTrip, which is supporting its customers to plan their travel at affordable prices via air travel, said, "In order to boost the air travel, we have come up with the 'Lowest Airfare Challenge', which guarantees that the customers will get the lowest airfare on domestic and international flight bookings departing from India or else we will refund double the difference amount to the customer, who will be then eligible for the refund if s/he has made booking via EaseMyTrip and within four hours of booking flights with us, user finds a lower domestic or international airfare for the exact same itinerary on any other competitor website/app (India-based reputed online travel



agency)."

Talking about the developments post that, he added, "After we put out the challenge, the business is getting picked by each day up to over 1.65 lakh passengers. They are opting to go to nearby places more. We are also receiv-

ing bookings from many, who are going for car travel and isolated places."

NOT TOO FAR

The survey also revealed that many service providers in the road transportation sector are trying to build capacity

to seize the festival demand uptick. Many online portals are even considering to get more providers for outstation rental cars and taxi services as people are opting to travel to nearby places more.

Kush Kapoor, CEO, Roseate Hotels & Resorts, said, "The Roseate Ganges, Rishikesh, is sold out during all the weekends in October 2020. Our 'drivacation' packages have been well received by our guests who have eagerly been waiting to experience the wellness resort with tailor-made experiences, proper hygiene and safety standards and easy accessibility from Delhi-NCR."

NEWER OPTIONS

While it's true that a lot of people are avoiding travel due to COVID scare, Roshan D'Silva, CEO, TripVillas, said, "It's even more interesting to note that there is a marked shift away from hotels to independent villas, homestays and apartments. People want to travel and we have seen a surge in bookings during this time. People are booking for much longer as compared to the two-night bookings as compared to how it was before."

A tale of rise and fall

Director **HANSAL MEHTA**'s financial crime thriller, *Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story*, unravels the man and the story behind one of the biggest stock market scandals in India

In April 1992, mayhem hit the Indian financial sector as the nation woke up to the biggest stock market scam. So huge was its impact on the Dalal Street that it led to structural changes in the financial security system of India with new reforms in stock trades. However, what remains untold is the story of the mastermind behind it. SonyLIV brings *Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story* unraveling the man and the story behind one of the biggest stock market scandals in India.

Produced by Applause Entertainment in association with Studio Next, this series is a financial crime thriller based on the bestseller book *The Scam* written by notable journalists Debashis Basu and Sucheta Dalal. The makers spent over three years on this series to ensure absolute accuracy in detailing right from the script to the choice of actors



and the overall treatment.

Adapted by dialogue writers Sumit Purohit, Saurav Dey, Vaibhav Vishal and Karan Vyas, it is a gripping tale of the meteoric rise and the steep fall of the flamboyant Big Bull of the stock market — Harshad Mehta.

Directed by national award-winning filmmaker Hansal Mehta, the series is led by Pratik Gandhi and Shreya Dhanwanthary along with an ensemble cast of Satish Kaushik, Sharib Hashmi, Anant Mahadevan, Nikhil Dwivedi, KK Raina, Lalit Parimoo amongst others.

Indranil Chakraborty, Head, Studio Next says, "We are delight-

ed to foray into OTT with this series that reflects on a landmark event of the Indian stock market. The incident was integral to shaping up India's financial security systems and hence was a story waiting to be told. It's a new storytelling format for us and we had Hansal leading us through this process."

Hansal says, "The series is inspired by true events and sheds light on a man about whom not much is known. In a tale that is even more relevant today, this show gives you an intimate peek into the middle-class aspirations of a common man who rose from rags to riches while managing to subvert and deceive the



banking system."

Sameer Nair, CEO, Applause Entertainment says, "We have put together a great ensemble of actors and a team of talented writers who worked tirelessly on the show. Based on the book written by Sucheta Dalal and Debashis Basu, this show marks another chapter in Applause's slate of book adaptations where we have dramatised the story while staying true to the essence of book."

Ashish Golwalkar — Head-Content SET, Digital Business, Sony Pictures Networks India says, "The story offers an apt mix of talent, storytelling and technique. We are hopeful that like our previous offerings, this one will also open to a warm audience response and reinstate our promise of bringing 'stories of India' to the audience."

(The series releases on October 9 on SonyLIV.)

Reel turns real

Actor Harshita Gaur who will be seen in the forthcoming season of *Mirzapur* has roots from this city in Uttar Pradesh. Her maternal grandfather hailed from Deoria which is close to Mirzapur and he grew up there along with his siblings.

Speaking about her childhood memories, Harshita said, "Just talking about the show makes me go all nostalgic as I have spent quite an amount of my childhood there. My *nana*-ji and his younger brother were settled in Mirzapur. He eventually settled in Amritsar but we used to visit our cousins in Mirzapur during summer holidays. I have actually seen guns and pistols in that home. When I used to visit the city women used to be in *ghoonghat* till their waists. Only a few years back, I got to know that my *naani* was fighting a case due to some illegal land grabbing. In fact, our family was advised not to go to Mirzapur or Wasiganj because of the threat of being killed on sight. It still sends shivers down my spine when I think about it."

She further added, "When I was offered the series, it took me back to some childhood memories. My family has suffered and got threats from an extended family. Even when I heard the narration and read the script, I had my childhood



memories play out like a show reel as it wasn't new to me. Years back if I was probably spotted in that city I would have been killed on sight. So somewhere yes, I resonated with the fact that things like these do happen."

Harshita will be seen reprising the role of Dimpi Pandit in the series starring Ali Fazal, Vikrant Massey, Pankaj Tripathi, Shweta Tripathi, Divyendu Sharma and Rasika Dugal.

(The series will stream on Amazon Prime Video from October 23.)

