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IN A DYSTOPIA?

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CHOREOGRAPHY:
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12 VIVACITY

3 BJP leaders join Chirag's crusade

Many other BJP leaders to join LJP, contest against JD(U) despite warning from BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Three senior BJP leaders have turned rebel and joined Chirag Paswan's political crusade against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, much to the discomfiture of the saffron outfit. Several other BJP leaders are in the queue to join the Lok Janashakti Party and contest against Janata Dal(U) despite strong warning from the BJP.

A day after former BJP vice president Rajendra Singh, joined the LJP, two more senior BJP leaders — Usha Vidyarthi and Rameshwar Chaurasia — joined the LJP even as the State saffron leadership fretted and fumed and the JD(U) tried to calculate the loss it may have to face due to Chirag Paswan's decision to put contest against the party's nominees.

Usha Vidyarthi joined the LJP after meeting its president Chirag Paswan here, and is likely to be fielded from the Paliganj Assembly seat where the JD(U) will contest as well. Sitting BJP MLA Ravindra Yadav from Jhajha also joined the LJP along with several other party rebels who have been denied tickets and see the LJP a perfect platform to take a plunge in the polls.

Rajendra Singh, who has more than three decades of association with the RSS, wanted to contest from Dinara but the seat has been allotted to the JD(U) as part of its seat-sharing arrangement with the ally.



Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Bihar BJP election in-charge Devendra Fadnis, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, BJP State president Sanjay Jashwal with Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) leader Mukesh Sahani after their alliance for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections in Patna on Wednesday. PTI

"I have no bitterness with anyone. I have remained a small worker of the RSS. I will still talk of Ram Mandir, Kashmir, CAA-NRC, etc. I have respect for Ram Vilas Paswan also. My conscience is clear that I have to work for Dinara. The farmers still don't get the right price for their paddy here," Singh has been quoted as saying.

Singh narrowly lost the

2015 Assembly polls from Dinara.

Several other BJP rebels are in the queue to join the LJP, hoping the party could get their ticket to contest the polls. This has given serious headache to the JD(U), which fears that these rebels can sway the BJP cadre and win their votes at the cost of the JD(U). "This could come in the way of transfer of the BJP

votes to the JD(U)," said a JD(U) leader, adding, "If that happens our voters could do the same. That would harm the interest of the NDA."

Realising the seriousness of the situation, State BJP leaders have repeatedly warned both Chirag and the rebels. While they have advised Chirag not to invoke the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in campaigning, they have asked

the rebels to come back to the party fold.

Chirag may have compulsion to fall in line — he could face action from the EC if he continued to seek votes in the name of Modi — but the BJP rebels have turned deaf ears to the warning.

Chirag has come out strongly against JD(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and claimed

that the next Government in the State will be headed by the BJP with his party's support.

Meanwhile, the BJP on Wednesday allocated 11 seats to associate partner Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) from its quota of 121 seats in Bihar Assembly polls.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had announced at a joint press conference on Tuesday that while the JD(U) will spare some seats to Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) of former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi from its share of 122 seats and the BJP will accommodate the VIP from its quota of 121 seats in the 243-member Assembly. The JD(U) has provided seven seats to the HAM.

The seat distribution to the VIP was announced at a press conference addressed by Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Bihar unit president Sanjay Jaiswal and VIP chief Mukesh Sahni.

Jaiswal told reporters that the VIP will also be provided one seat in Bihar legislative council in future.

The VIP floated a couple of years ago by former Bollywood set designer Mukesh Sahni, was with the Opposition Grand Alliance till last week.

Sahni had on Friday last announced an abrupt exit from the Opposition coalition in protest against "back-stabbing" by the RJD, which helms the anti-NDA grouping, and its de facto leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Ex-CBI chief Ashwani Kumar found hanging

PTI/ANS ■ SHIMLA/NEW DELHI

Former CBI director and Nagaland Governor Ashwani Kumar was found hanging at his residence in Shimla on Wednesday, officials said.

It is learnt that Kumar, also the former Director General of Himachal Pradesh Police, was under depression for sometime now. Shimla Superintendent of Police Mohit Chawla confirmed the incident.

Kumar became CBI director in 2008, succeeding Vijay Shanker, in the midst of the agency's probe into the Aarushi Talwar murder case that hogged the headlines.

Kumar later became Governor of Nagaland, they said. He was presently Vice Chancellor of a private university in Shimla, they said. The university is currently facing charges of issuing fake degrees.

The body of Kumar, a 1973-batch IPS officer, was found hanging at his residence in Shimla on Wednesday evening, they said.

A senior police officer told IANS that a suicide note was found from the crime spot.

He along with his wife was seen strolling in the evening in the city, a neighbour told the police.

The lover of cartoons, Kumar had said in an interview



to PTI in 2008 after taking over as the CBI Director, "I like Tom and Jerry cartoon show. Police is like the cat while the criminals are like mice. So Tom never leaves Jerry."

"I am in the game of Tom and Jerry and I have to do my job," he had said.

Kumar had expressed his displeasure over the probe into the Aarushi murder case and had taken upon himself to take it to a logical conclusion.

"This case is a litmus test for me. I need to know who killed Aarushi — parents or someone else. I feel agitated within over this case," he had commented.

During his stint as the CBI Director, Kumar laid a special focus on the growing economic offences and roped in the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to help the agency in probing white collar crimes.

Protesters can't block roads, says SC in Shaheen verdict

Protest democratic right, but must be done on designated places, rules court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Public spaces cannot be occupied indefinitely and demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in designated places alone, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while concluding that occupation of public ways in the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh here was "not acceptable".

Observing that democracy and dissent "go hand in hand", the apex court said constitutional scheme comes with the right to protest and express dissent, but with an obligation towards certain duties.

A bench headed by Justice SK Kaul said erstwhile mode and manner of dissent against colonial rule cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy.

"However, while appreciating the existence of the right



to peaceful protest against a legislation...We have to make it unequivocally clear that public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied in such a manner and that too indefinitely," said the bench, also comprising Justices Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari.

The bench delivered its verdict on a plea by lawyer Amit Sahni against blockade of a road in Shaheen Bagh area by those protesting against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which aimed to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

It said protest at Shaheen Bagh was a blockage of a public way which caused grave

inconvenience to commuters.

"We have, thus, no hesitation in concluding that such kind of occupation of public ways, whether at the site in question or anywhere else for protests is not acceptable and the administration ought to take action to keep the areas clear of encroachments or obstructions," it said.

"Democracy and dissent go hand in hand, but then the demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in designated places alone," it said, adding, "We cannot accept the plea of the applicants that an indeterminate number of people can assemble whenever they choose to protest."

Continued on Page 11

Centre procures 23% more paddy on MSP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid farmers' protests across India against the farm Bills and their apprehensions over the minimum support price (MSP), the Centre on Wednesday said since September 26 it has procured 15.26 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy at the MSP value of around ₹2,882 crore from 1,27,832 farmers.

This is 23 per cent more than last year's procurement of 12.38 LMT. Similarly, the number of purchase centers has increased from 30549 to 39130, an increase of 28 per cent amid coronavirus pandemic.

Addressing a Press conference, Sudhanshu Pandey, secretary, Food and Public Distribution Department, said so far 23 per cent more paddy has been procured than last year. The paddy procurement of 4,82,656 MT in Haryana, 10,08,028 MT in Punjab, 6,945 MT in Chandigarh, 1545 MT in Uttar Pradesh and 1809 MT in Kerala and 25,551 MT in Tamil Nadu totaling 15,26,534 MT having MSP value of around ₹2,882 crore has been

done from 1,27,832 farmers of Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Pandey said up to October 6, the nodal agencies procured 201.15 MT of moong having MSP value of ₹1.45 crore benefiting 161 farmers in Tamil Nadu and Haryana. Similarly, 5089 MT of copra having MSP value of ₹52.40 crore has been procured benefiting 3961 farmers in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu against the sanctioned quantity of 1.23 LMT for the Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Continued on Page 11

Punjab farmers reject Centre's request for meet on farm laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agitating farmers in Punjab on Wednesday turned down the Centre's request for a meeting on October 8 to address their concerns regarding the farm laws, saying the Government is not serious.

The rail roko agitation by farmers under the banner of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC) has entered in 14th days in Punjab. Farmers have been blocking the railway tracks by putting up a tent on the railway lines since September 24.

In Haryana, farmers in Sirsa are squatting on a road leading to Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala's residence, demanding his resignation from the post against Centre's agriculture sector laws.

The Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, the farmers' body which is spearheading the agitation in Punjab against the Central Government's three farm laws, on Wednesday said Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar had invited it for a meeting in Delhi on October 8.

Continued on Page 11

Rhea granted bail, brother's petition rejected by HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted a conditional bail to accused actress Rhea Chakraborty in the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, after holding that there were no grounds to believe that she committed any offence involving commercial quantity of contraband and dismissing the special court's observation that if released on bail she might alert others and have the evidence destroyed by them.

Hours after the High Court granted her bail, Rhea walked out from the Byaculla women's jail on Wednesday and drove back to her Juhu residence in the full media glare and amid tight police security.

Nearly a month after she was arrested in the Sushant

death-related drug case, Justice SV Kotwal of the High Court granted bail to Rhea on a personal bond for ₹1 lakh with "one or two sureties" for the same amount and conditions like she would deposit her passport with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and not leave the country without permission from the special court and she would present herself for an attendance once in a month for the next six months.

The High Court also granted bail to the actor's housekeeper Dipesh Sawant and house manager Samuel Miranda on a surety of ₹50,000 each in cash. Justice Kotwal, however, rejected the bail plea of Rhea's brother Showik Chakraborty after noting he is part of a chain of drug dealers.

Continued on Page 11

Scribes can't chase anyone for interview in Mumbai

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TV journalists in Mumbai will no more be able to enjoy the thrill of chasing celebrities on the streets and shriek at them question from speeding vehicles.

After Bombay HC granted bail to Rhea Chakraborty, the police warned journalists of strict action if they chased the vehicle of any celebrity, advocate or a person they wanted to interview.

Continued on Page 11

Hathras case papers handed over to CBI; SIT's term extended

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Hathras police investigating the alleged rape incident transferred the case papers to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which will now register a case and proceed with the probe.

In the meantime, the Uttar Pradesh government extended the term of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for ten more days as its probe was still inconclusive.

Sources said that all the FIRs related to the Hathras case had been transferred to the CBI after the agency agreed to take over the case though the case is yet to be registered by the central agency.

However, the family of the victim has opposed the CBI probe and has demanded a judicial investigation while protesting against the UP government's suggestion for a narco test of the family, accused and even of the policemen concerned. A UP government communiqué also confirmed that the SIT had been given 10 more days to complete the probe. The SIT was set up on September 30 and given a week's

time to submit its report.

On the basis of a preliminary report of the SIT, the government had suspended five policemen, including the superintendent of police of Hathras.

Meanwhile, the UP police on Wednesday booked four persons, including a Kerala journalist, Siddique Kappan, on sedition and other charges at Maant police station in Mathura, two days after they were held while on way to Hathras.

According to the FIR, charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IT Act have also been slapped against the four, who are accused by the UP police of having links with the alleged radical group Popular Front of India and its affiliates.

The four were identified as Kappan, a journalist of Malappuram in Kerala, Atiqur Rehman of Muzaffarnagar, Masood Ahmad of Bahraich and Alam of Rampur.

They were on Wednesday booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, resi-

dence, language, etc and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious belief), according to the FIR.

The PFI has been accused of funding protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act across the country earlier this year and the UP police had sought a ban on the outfit.

The four were held when, according to the police, they were on their way to Hathras where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped.

Meanwhile, in yet another twist to the Hathras case, the Uttar Pradesh Police alleged that funding of around Rs 50 crore was sourced by the Popular Front of India (PFI) from Mauritius to incite casteist violence in Hathras.

The Enforcement Directorate had earlier said that it would seek all files from the UP Police and look into the financial angles. An FIR was also filed against Congress leader Shyoraj Jivan Valmiki, who was caught on camera allegedly inciting caste riots.

CAPSULE

VIRUS-HIT AAP MLA MEETS HATHRAS FAMILY, BOOKED
Hathras: Delhi AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar was on Wednesday booked for meeting Hathras victim's family even after being tested positive for coronavirus in violation of the Covid-19 protocol, police said.

PREVIOUS INFECTION CUTS COVID-19 SEVERITY
Boston: Being previously infected with coronaviruses that cause the 'common cold' may decrease the severity of Covid-19, according to researchers, including one of Indian origin, who said the finding could have significant implications on vaccine development.

TRUCK OVERTURNS ON CAR IN S DELHI, 2 DEAD
New Delhi: A truck overturned in South Delhi's Lajpat Nagar early Wednesday, crushing to death two people going to the airport to catch a flight, police said.

Trump's new curbs on H-1B visas to hit Indian IT professionals

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has announced new restrictions on H-1B non-immigrant visa programme which it said is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries and petitioners, a move which will affect thousands of Indian IT professionals.

The interim final rule announced by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Tuesday, ahead of the US presidential election on November 3, will narrow the definition of "specialty occupation" as Congress intended by closing the overbroad definition that allowed companies to game the system.



It will also require companies to make "real" offers to "real employees," by closing loopholes and preventing the displacement of the American workers. And finally, the new rules would enhance the department's ability to enforce compliance through worksite inspections and monitor compliance before, during and after an H-1B petition is approved.

Continued on Page 11

Ramp up contact tracing: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that for effective control of the coronavirus infection, the officials should ramp up contact tracing with focus on cities like Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Gorakhpur and Meerut.



"The Urban and Rural Development departments should carry out a special cleanliness and sanitation campaign and ensure that anti-larva chemicals and lime are sprayed," he said.

The chief minister appealed to all the people to immediately consult a doctor if they see any symptom of COVID-19 in themselves, family members or near and dear ones.

"It has been found that delay in getting medical attention leads to complication in COVID-19 treatment," he said. Yogi said the government was committed to the safety and dignity of girls and women.

Keeping this in mind, the CM also directed officials to carry out a special campaign during Navratri. He also directed officials to

ensure that the paddy purchase centres operated actively and with full capacity.

The CM also directed officials to issue SMS alerts promptly and swiftly to prevent loss of lives by lightning.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal said that the total positive cases detected in the state had reached 4,24,326 out of which 3,74,972 had recovered and 43,154 were getting treatment at hospitals or in home recovery.

"The recovery percentage in the state has gone up to 88.36 points," he said. The ACS said on Monday, 1,63,677 samples were tested. Over 4.5 lakh surveillance teams have covered 1,33,335 areas of the state and visited 2.63 crore houses to check the health of over 13 crore people.

Concession agreement for Jewar airport signed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday signed the concession agreement with representatives of Zurich Airport International to commence the development of the Noida International Airport at Jewar.

The concession agreement was signed by Dr Arun Vir Singh, CEO of Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL), the special purpose vehicle of UP government, and Christoph Schnellmann, Chief Executive Officer of Noida International Airport in the presence of other officials.

The concession agreement grants Zurich Airport International the licence to design, build and operate Noida International Airport for a period of 40 years.

The Noida International Airport will be developed on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Scheduled to open in 2024, the NIA will merge Indian culture and hospitality with Swiss technology and efficiency. India's greenfield airport will deliver quick, efficient processes and excellent value for passengers, airlines and partners.

The NIA will operate as a fully digital airport, providing a safe and contactless travel experience and customised commercial offerings for passengers. It will be the first net zero emissions airport in its class, setting a new standard for sustainable aviation.

SP Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Chief Minister & Civil Aviation department, said during the brief function, "Infrastructure development will be key to economic recovery, not only in the state but also for the country. The construction of Noida International Airport will support economic growth through

job creation in the state, while making it the most preferred destination for domestic as well as global investors in the coming years. We look forward to supporting the Zurich Airport International team to jump-start this mega project, which will reinforce the economic progress of the state of Uttar Pradesh."

Zurich Airport International (Asia) CEO Daniel Bircher said, "The signing of the concession agreement marks an important milestone in the development of the Noida International Airport. When phase-1 development is completed in 2024, we will provide capacity for 12 million passengers per year.

"In partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Government of India, Zurich Airport International looks forward to making this airport a major player in Indian air transportation and a benchmark for ease of use for passengers and logistic partners.

"We are a committed and trusted partner for India's growth, and see tremendous opportunity to invest and participate in India's aviation growth story."

CEO of Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) Dr Arun Vir Singh said, "The world class airport will not only connect western UP region with other domestic and international destinations but also provide additional capacity to Delhi NCR region."

In November last year, Zurich Airport International AG (ZAIA) won the contract to build and operate the airport in Greater Noida for a period of 40 years. ZAIA received the security clearance from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to develop the Noida International Airport at Jewar in May this year.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that, our client intends to acquire leasehold rights in relation to all that piece and parcel of the lands admeasuring in the 125 Hectares approximately, being, lying and situate at Villages Haidapur and Para, Tehsil Kalgli, District Jalaun and more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder ("Scheduled Property"), from its owners mentioned against each of the lands in the Schedule. In view of the aforesaid, any person including any individual, partnership firm, limited liability partnership, Hindu undivided family, company, corporate entity, bank, financial institution, non-banking financial company, firms, association of persons, any body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors and/or any other entity having any right, title, interest, share, benefit, estate, claim or demand, whatsoever, in, or to, the Schedule Property and/or any part(s) thereof, and/or the possession, use, occupation, or enjoyment of the Schedule Property and/or any part(s) thereof and/or any of the title deeds in respect of the Schedule Property, by way of sale, conveyance, transfer, allotment, exchange, gift, covenant, assignment, mortgage, lien, charge, trust, waqf, let, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, share, sub-tenancy, protected tenancy license, occupancy rights, care-take rights, succession, inheritance, claim, devise, bequest, hypothecation, encumbrance, family arrangement/settlement, will, testamentary instruments, letters of administration, probate, easement, maintenance, possession, development rights, possession in part performance, partnership, joint-development rights, sub-development, project management, joint venture, collaboration, its pendens, or under any judgement (interim or final) or decree, of any court of law, or under any agreement/contract and/or otherwise however, are hereby requested to make the same known and file their respective objection(s), claim(s), protest(s) to the contemplated transaction and/or otherwise, as the case may be, together with notarially certified true copies of documentary proof in support thereof, to the undersigned at their office at 81/1, Adchini, Sri Aurobindo Marg, Adchini, New Delhi, 110 017, within a period of 14 (fourteen) days (both days inclusive) from the date of publication of this notice, or else, the purported right, title, interest, share, benefit, estate, claim or demand of such person (as mentioned above), as the case may be, if any, will be considered to be waived off and/or abandoned and/or relinquished and the Schedule Property shall be presumed to be free from any and all sorts of encumbrance(s) of any nature and it shall be deemed that the title and possession of the owners mentioned below to the Scheduled Property is clear and marketable and that our client may proceed to acquire the aforesaid leasehold rights free from any and all sorts of encumbrance(s).

Khasra No.	Area (Hectares)	Village	Name of Owners
355	2.298	Haidapur	Bhagwati Devi, wife of Jamunadas
317	1.344	Haidapur	Shyam Singh, Balvir Singh, Devendra Singh, Tribhuan Singh, Pratap Bhan Singh, Veeru, sons of Karan Singh and Bhagwati Devi, wife of Karan Singh
310	0.454	Haidapur	Daya Shankar, son of Devi Deen
306	1.185	Haidapur	Charan Singh, Lalji Singh, sons of Batan Singh, Ramesh Singh, Bajinath Singh, sons of Lakshmidhar and Gyasi Prasad, son of Bramhadeen
307	0.490	Haidapur	Uma Shankar, son of Devi Deen
309	0.470	Haidapur	Ramakant, son of Devi Deen
311	0.421	Haidapur	Lallu, son of Devi Deen
296	1.720	Haidapur	Marjad Singh, son of Batti Lal
352MI	0.405	Haidapur	Maikhan Singh, son of Fattoo
352MI	0.809	Haidapur	Mullu, son of Sumar
378	0.648	Haidapur	Veer Singh, Tej Singh, Lala Singh, sons of Roop Singh, Shivangi, Himanshi, (minor) and Nidhi (minor), daughters of Nek Singh
379	1.032	Haidapur	Manohar Singh, Kriparam and Hakim Singh, sons of Madho
352MI	0.405	Haidapur	Jamunadas, son of Guvindi
382	0.388	Haidapur	Siyaram, wife of Shankar
389MI	0.202	Haidapur	Jagdev, son of Suraj Prasad
389 MI	0.243	Haidapur	Santram, son of Ramcharan
391	1.165	Haidapur	Harcharan, son of Bhagirath
295	1.700	Haidapur	Ramesh Singh, Rajpal Singh, Devendra Singh, Akbar Singh, sons of Maiyadeen and Vidhadevi, widow of Maiyadeen
352MI	0.405	Haidapur	Dhaniram, son of Kishor
376	0.648	Haidapur	Samarth Singh, son of Lotan Singh
352MI	0.300	Haidapur	Gaon Sabha Land
371	0.676	Haidapur	Ramautaar, Krishnautaar, sons of Gyaprasad, Ayodhyaprasad, son of Pusoo and Jethi, widow of Gyaprasad
372B	0.441	Haidapur	Santosh, son of Shivdutt and Vimla, wife of Harvansh
372A	0.610	Haidapur	Ramwali, son of Bihke Singh
327	0.829	Haidapur	Santram, son of Ramcharan
314	0.388	Haidapur	Smt. Ram Jami, widow of Shambhu Dayal
312/665	0.486	Haidapur	Gauri Shankar, son of Devi Deen
312	0.789	Haidapur	Gauri Shankar, son of Devi Deen
333	0.571	Haidapur	Manendra Singh, son of Rambali, Tara Devi, Widow of Rambali, Sumit, son of Surendra Singh and Shakuntla, widow of Surendra Singh
337	0.583	Haidapur	Harsankar and Jaysankar, sons of Prayagnarayan
332	0.571	Haidapur	Chotes Singh, son of Ganesh
330	0.829	Haidapur	Sumanlata, wife of Vishambhar Singh and Susheela, wife of Lalan Singh
331	0.829	Haidapur	Shichupal Singh, son of Virendra Singh and Gayatri Devi, widow of Virendra Singh
329	0.829	Haidapur	Ramesh Singh, son of Bheekhe Singh
306/668	0.563	Haidapur	Ramesh, son of Lachearam and Matole, son of Dhoramare
316	0.384	Haidapur	Siyaram, Vishambhar and Santosh, Sons of Bhaiyalal and Rampyan, widow of Bhaiyalal
335	2.197	Haidapur	Ramdev, son of Santram Singh
336	7.358	Haidapur	Harishchandra, son of Lakhan Singh
324	5.208	Haidapur	Saro Devi
308	0.729	Haidapur	Foolsingh, son of Lalitprasad
369	0.979	Haidapur	Vinod Singh and Roopnaryan, sons of Chhotelal, Mallodevi, widow of Chhotelal, Ankit Singh, son of Ashok Singh and Santoshi Devi, widow of Ashok Singh
340	0.462	Haidapur	Ramji, son of Ajudhyaa Prasaad
339	0.393	Haidapur	Dhaniram, son of Kishor
315	0.393	Haidapur	Chhote, Ramnarup, Hariharanarayan, Bhagwati, Munna, Indal, sons of Paramlal; Shivam, son of Rajpal Singh, aged 16 years (under the guardianship of Rajbahadur Singh) (Minor) and Satyam, son of Jitendra Singh, aged 15 years (under the guardianship of Rajbahadur Singh)
353	1.068	Haidapur	Babu, son of Fattoo
352MI	0.565	Haidapur	Halko, son of Sumar
352MI	0.405	Haidapur	Siyaram, son of Bhaiyalal
374	2.732	Haidapur	Sushil Kumar, son of Manju, Chandrabhan, Rakeshkumar, Lakshminarayan, sons of Baladeen and Shakuntla, widow of Baladeen
357	1.060	Haidapur	Kiena Avtar, son of Ajudhya Prasad, Ramautaar and Jethi, sons of Gayaprasad
360	1.416	Para	Sonu, son of Ramji Singh and Suneta Devi, widow of Ramji Singh
354	1.631	Para	Savitri Devi, wife of Manna Singh
352	3.420	Para	Ramratan Singh, son of Hamir Singh and Srimati Premvati, widow of Hamir Singh
351	0.785	Para	Ramratan Singh, son of Hamir Singh and Srimati Premvati, widow of Hamir Singh
350	3.444	Para	Vinod Kumar, Pramod Kumar, Satyanarayan, sons of Dayadas, Ramprakash, Rameshchand, son of Seetaram, Gangacharan and Rambabu, sons of Devdas, Ramkumar, Vinodkumar, and Pramod Kumar, sons of Savitri, Premlata, wife of Vinod Kumar, Geeta, wife of Pramod Kumar, Gajendra Singh, son of Rambali Singh, Rajendra Singh, son of Rambali Singh
362	12.295	Para	Dharmdas, Kalish Nath, sons of Gayaprasad, Ramji and Rambabu, sons of Kriparam, Manohar Singh and Hakim Singh, sons of Madhav Singh, Shivcharan and Sarman, sons of Ramadhar, Mansingh, son of Manlole, Lalla, son of Kriparam, Mevalal, Ramlal, and Baburam, sons of Preetam
376	1.651	Para	Ramwali, daughter of Lakshmidhar, Hakim Singh and Manohar Singh, sons of Madhav Singh, Ramji, Rambabu, Rajuand Lalla Singh, sons of Kriparam
356	2.420	Para	Rajnarayan, son of Mulpat Singh, Srimati Rameni, widow of Mulpat Singh, Prahlad Singh and Jagdandan Singh, sons of Prabhudayal, Chandrapal Singh and Suryapal Singh, sons of Govind Singh, Vimla Devi, widow of Govind Singh, Suresh, son of Ramprakash and Srimati Siya, widow of Ramprakash
364	2.051	Para	Vinod Kumar and Pramod Kumar, Satyanarayan, sons of Dayacharan, Rameshchand, son of Seetaram, Gangacharan and Rambabu, sons of Devadas, Savitri, widow of Dayacharan, Premlata, wife of Vinod Kumar, Geeta, wife of Pramod Kumar, Ankit Kumar, son of Kamlesh, Chhuni Devi, widow of Kamlesh and Kamlesh, son of Devdas
363	0.785	Para	Ramsurman, son of Shree Ram and Omprakash, son of Ramsharan
371	1.728	Para	Rambabu, son of Devdas, Gangacharan, son of Devdas, Satyanarayan, son of Seetaram, Rameshchandra, son of Seetaram, Veeran Singh, Veerendra Singh and Shivshankar, sons of Samarth Singh
368	5.840	Para	Charan Singh and Lalji Singh, sons of Batan Singh, Chandrashekar and Arvind Singh, sons of late Raghuveer Singh, Dushyant, son of Ramnareesh and Kamlesh, widow of late Ramnareesh, Umed Singh, Naresh Singh and Rajpal Singh, sons of late Veerendra Singh and Sushila Devi, widow of Veerendra Singh, Rajendra Singh and Rakesh Singh, sons of Samarath Singh, Surendra Singh and Jayprakash Singh, sons of Dasrath Singh
366	1.129	Para	Javaharlal, son of Vijay Singh
365	2.391	Para	Ram Singh, son of Shivram Singh
353	0.470	Para	Shivam Singh, son of Rajpal Singh, aged 13 years (under the guardianship of Rajpal Singh) and Dwarika Singh and Satyam Singh, sons of Jitendra Singh, aged 11 years (under the guardianship of Rajbahadur Singh)
355	4.836	Para	Magan Bihari, son of Devi Sahay, Jay Narayan, son of Prabhu Dayal, Govindra Narayan, son of Prabhu Dayal, Prem Narayan, son of Keshav Narayan, Ramdhakeli, widow of Keshavnarayan, Amit, son of Magan Bihari, Akhil, son of Magan Bihari, Srimati Saroj, widow of Magan Bihari, Digvijay Singh Saingar, son of Narendra Singh Saingar and Ranvijay Singh Saingar, son of Narendra Singh Saingar
367	2.764	Para	Aanandswarup, Krishnaswarup and Sanjay Kumar, sons of Umashankar, Virsheshwar, widow of Uma-shankar, Vinod Kumar and Pramod Kumar, sons of Dayacharan, Dayacharan, son of Dwarika Prasad, Satyanarayan and Rameshchandra, sons of Seetaram, Gangacharan and Rambabu, sons of Devdas, Ramsurman, son of Shree Ram, Anil Kumar, son of Ram Bihari, Omprakash, son of Ramsharan, Raj Kumar, Vinod Kumar and Pramod Kumar, sons of late Dayacharan, Premlata, wife of Vinod Kumar, Geeta, wife of Pramod Kumar, Ankit Kumar, son of Kamlesh and Chhuni Devi, widow of Kamlesh.
367/669MI	0.471	Haidapur	Satyavati, wife of Shatrughan Singh and Aasha Devi, wife of Chandrapal
367	0.539	Haidapur	Balwant Singh, son of Babu Singh and Harvansh Singh, son of Mulayam Singh
362	0.713	Haidapur	Baburam, son of Fattoo
368	0.943	Haidapur	Baburam, son of Fattoo
387	1.432	Haidapur	Bailal, Pancham and Maniram, sons of Bhauna
383	0.405	Haidapur	Ramesh, Ravindra and Ram Rajesh, sons of Santram and Rajabai, wife of Santram
381	0.397	Haidapur	Sultan, son of Girende
385	2.120	Haidapur	Rajkumar, Rajesh Kumar and Brajesh Kumar, sons of Dalchandra, Rambayi, wife of Dalchandra, Rajabai, wife of Jammu
313	0.388	Haidapur	Shri Radhe Radhe Ispat Pvt. Ltd.
318 MI	0.130	Haidapur	PS.PN. Synergy Private Limited
318	0.210	Haidapur	Arjun, Dharan Singh, Mukundand Raghuveer Singh, sons of Gajraj Singh
294 MI	0.834	Haidapur	Devesingh, son of Darshan Singh; Shre Prakash and Shredhar, sons of Ramswarup
357	1.757	Para	Sudharshan Singh, Ranvir Singh, Krishanpal Singh, sons of Sitaram Singh
563	1.919	Para	Dev Singh, Shree Prakash and Shreedhar, sons of Ramswarup
564	3.270	Para	Fool Singh, son of Prahlad Singh
566	3.707	Para	Ajaypal Singh and Veer Singh, sons of Lallan Singh
565	1.963	Para	Rajesh Singh and Lokendra Singh, sons of Ramprakash and Ramwali, son of Bheekhe
567	0.785	Para	Demarcated as 'Tala'
338	0.441	Haidapur	Demarcated as 'Chakmarg'
365	0.049	Haidapur	Jagmohan Singh, Rajendra Singh and Kamal Singh, sons of Ram Snehi; Mahindra Singh, Sanju Singh, Dipendra Singh and Raivir Singh, sons of Gulab Singh and Ram Devi, wife of Gulab Singh
366	1.967	Haidapur	

Date : 08.10.2020
Place : New Delhi
For HSA Advocates
Amaresh Kumar Singh
(Partner)
Email: amaresh.singh@hsalegal.com
Address: 81/1, Adchini, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi : 110 017

CM directive to ensure safety of women

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government will launch a special drive during Navratri to reaffirm its determination towards dignity and safety of women and for this the anti-Romeo squad will be deployed at all crowded places.

Wednesday. He said that matters related to women and girls should be dealt on priority.

"No effort should be spared to maintain security, safety and dignity of women in the state. There is no scope of any laxity as far as women and girls are concerned," he added.

The CM said the presence of police itself was sufficient to instil a sense of security among the citizens.

He laid stress on police patrolling, specially foot patrolling by the uniformed persons regularly.

He, however, praised the efforts of the state machinery for ensuring safety of girls and said that the number of crimes against them had come down considerably.

"It shows the good intention of the government," he said.



NOTICE

I want to change my daughter's name Shagufta Salam to Hifza Salam in Aadhar card. In future my daughter should be identified by her new name. Abdul Salam S/o Kasim Ali, R/o Village Chandpura, Tahsil & P.S. Lakhimpur, District Kheri.

सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरी पत्नी प्रमा मेहरोत्रा C-5307 सेक्टर 13 राजाजीपुरम निवासिनी की जन्मतिथि हाईस्कूल अभिलेखानुसार 2-7-1954 है जबकि वृत्तिवश मेरे अन्य सरकारी अभिलेखों में 13-9-1960 अंकित है। अतः हाईस्कूल अभिलेखानुसार जन्मतिथि 2-7-1954 ही मान्य रहेगी। निर्मल मेहरोत्रा C-5307 Sec. 13 राजाजीपुरम, लखनऊ।

आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है श्रीमती गुजराती देवी महाविद्यालय गदनुपुर बिस्वनाथी-आजमगढ़ में
स्वयंसेवायुक्त योजना अन्तर्गत विज्ञान संकाय के निम्नलिखित विषयों में रसायन विज्ञान 03 पद, भौतिक विज्ञान में 02 पद, गणित 02 पद, कनसति विज्ञान 02 पद, प्राणि विज्ञान में 02 पद पर प्रवक्तव्यों की आवश्यकता है। वेतनमान यूजीसी 03 उपाय संस्कार एवं विश्वविद्यालय के परिनिष्ठावली के अनुसार योग्य अयोग्य विज्ञान के 21 दिन के अन्दर महाविद्यालय के कार्यालय में रजिस्टर्ड डाक द्वारा आवेदन करें, साक्षात्कार की सूचना मोबाइल/रजिस्टर्ड डाक द्वारा दी जायेगी।
प्रतारक
9450030637, 7080528166, 8299469624

NOTICE

"My self Smt. Sandhya Nigam W/o Dr. Gyandra Nigam R/o 18/137, Kursawan Kanpur, I am owner of the Bhukhand no-179 Block-C Scheme No.-IInd, Sujatganj Kanpur Nagar of which area is 206.52 Sq. Mtr. of in chain deed a Original registered POA which doc. no.- 4296 Dated 06/11/1987 and Original Allotment Letter which No.- 4374/D.Bhu./17136 Dated 15/04/1974 and Original Possession Letter have missed on the way, when I was going to Badachauraha at Kanpur from Kanpur Civil Court Kanpur Nagar. Which is the part of original property document, which use of above documents by any person will be illegal."

SPECIAL TRAINS BETWEEN MALDA TOWN AND DELHI JN.

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run Special Trains between Malda Town and Delhi via Sultanpur (Tri-Weekly) and via Faizabad (4 days a week) as per schedule given below:-

03413/03414 Malda Town-Delhi-Malda Town Special Train (Tri-Weekly) (Via Sultanpur)			
Train No. 03413	STATIONS	Train No. 03414	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
---	19.10	07.05	---
20.23	20.25	05.16	05.20
20.46	20.47	04.45	04.46
21.35	21.45	04.01	04.06
22.07	22.08	03.31	03.32
22.33	22.34	02.46	02.47
23.27	23.37	02.03	02.13
00.00	00.01	01.40	01.41
00.41	00.51	01.00	01.10
01.11	01.12	00.37	00.38
02.15	02.25	00.05	00.10
03.00	03.02	22.43	22.48
03.19	03.21	22.19	22.21
03.36	03.40	22.05	22.07
03.55	03.57	21.38	21.40
04.09	04.14	21.22	21.24
04.25	04.27	21.11	21.13
04.45	04.55	20.45	20.55
05.10	05.15	20.00	20.05
05.28	05.30	19.40	19.42
05.50	05.52	19.20	19.25
06.06	06.08	18.58	19.00
06.41	06.43	18.22	18.24
07.05	07.10	18.05	18.10
08.05	08.07	17.21	17.23
08.19	08.21	17.06	17.08
10.02	10.17	16.08	16.23
---	10.34	---	16.01
11.00	11.10	15.01	15.16
11.43	11.45	13.29	13.30
12.09	12.10	12.48	12.49
12.37	12.42	12.33	12.38
13.2			

WHO volunteers to help Health department in surveillance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Health department will take help from World Health Organization volunteers to monitor the work done in the field by surveillance teams for the containment of coronavirus and also seek assistance for faster contact tracing. A senior official at the CMO office said WHO has a full team of field volunteers in all the blocks and urban units of the district.

"They will help us in local checking on what quality of work is being done by the teams. They will be giving us a feedback on this and they will be giving hands-on improvement messages as well," he said. The official said that the volunteers would also help in contact tracing and getting the contacts faster.

Regarding the containment at airports, railway & bus stations which are areas of huge gatherings, he said they would be strengthening their IEC so that



District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash distributing masks among people near a food stall in Hasanganj on Wednesday

they could spread awareness on the impact of coronavirus and tell people not to assemble in big numbers at such places.

The district administration on Wednesday carried out a special campaign for distribution of masks and sanitisers at Hazratganj and Darulshafa. DM Abhishek Prakash personally dis-

tributed masks and sanitisers among general public.

He said a mass campaign was being carried out through social networking, hoardings and banners on precautions against Covid. "Campaigns are also being carried out in the areas that witness huge rush and announcements are being made for pre-

cautions for preventing the spread of virus," he added.

He said the entire administration was committed to containing the spread of virus. "The positivity rate has come down to five per cent in Lucknow and we want to take it down further," he said. A senior district administration official said that in the areas with maximum coronavirus cases, they had increased the number of teams doing door-to-door surveillance. He said there were 180 teams involved in ensuring social distancing and wearing of masks.

Meanwhile, National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) carried out a mass screening of its employees in the last 15 days. Director SK Barik said 200-300 staff members were tested per day. "We started it at a time when Lucknow was having the maximum coronavirus cases and 10-15 of the staffers tested positive," he said. He added that the tests were carried out by their own Covid-19 lab.

529 more test positive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The total number of cases in Lucknow climbed to 56,250 with 529 more testing positive for coronavirus on Wednesday while 544 patients recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 49,954. There have been 747 deaths in the state capital till now while there are 5,549 active cases in the district.

A senior official at the CMO office said the patients included 45 from Gomtinagar, 39 from Indiranagar, 32 from Chinhat, 26 each from Ashiyana & Madaion, 25 from Aliganj, 22 from Cantt, 19 from Chowk, 18 each from Mahanagar & Sarojininar, 17 from Vikasnagar, 15 from Hasanganj, 14 each from Hazratganj, Talkatora & Mohanlaliganj, 11 each from Jankipuram & Alambagh, and 10 from Naka. There were 12 deaths in the city and four of the deceased were from Lucknow while the rest from Varanasi, Sitapur, Bhadohi, Unnao, Ambedkarnagar, Kanpur, Bahraich and Sultanpur.

Six patients died at KGMU, includ-

ing a 60-year-old man from Pratapgarh, a 15-year-old boy from Siddharthnagar, a 50-year-old woman from Unnao, a 48-year-old man from Sitapur, a 75-year-old woman from Gosainganj and a 50-year-old man from Bahraich.

Across the state, 3,561 persons tested positive, including 150 in Gorakhpur, 159 in Prayagraj, 112 in Kanpur and 257 in Ghaziabad, taking the total number of cases to 4,24,326.

There were 47 deaths reported from across the state, included three each from Kanpur, Varanasi & Hardoi, two each from Gorakhpur, Ayodhya, Jaunpur, Ambedkarnagar & Mathura, and one each from Prayagraj, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Moradabad, Aligarh, Jhansi, Lakhimpur Kheri, Muzaffarnagar, Maharajganj, Bulandshahr, Pratapgarh, Sitapur, Farrukhabad, Siddharthnagar, Sonbhadra, Badaun, Ferozabad, Lalitpur, Amethi, Kanauj, Bhadohi and Mau, taking the toll to 6,200. Besides, 4,219 patients recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 3,74,972 while there are 43,154 active cases in the state.

Class XI student feared drowned

Lucknow (PNS): A class XI girl student went out leaving a brief suicide note at her house in Sikandernagar locality under Hazratganj police station area on Wednesday. As her family members found the note, they started searching for her and reached the bank of the river at Laxman Mela ground where they recovered her slippers. Police suspected that she jumped into the river.

A team of NDRF, divers and policemen were searching for the girl, who could not be recovered till last reports came in. The girl left a note in which she stated that she was going to end her life. The police said the girl was under mental duress for the last few days and was under treatment. "Her classmates told us that she was not friendly to most of them," the police said. They said the girl was feared drowned.

"We do not have any evidence to be sure that she jumped into the river and the search is underway," the police said.

केनरा बैंक **Canara Bank**
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम **A Government of India Undertaking**

Regional Office - HIG 1B, Chandra Vihar Lakhnagar, Kanpur - 208002, Ph.: 0512-2583225

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the CANARA BANK under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice on the dates mentioned against each account (details of which have been mentioned hereunder) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the authorised officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the said Rule. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the CANARA BANK for an amount and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantor & Outstanding Amount	Date of Demand Notice Date of Possession Notice	Description of Immovable Property
1	Shrimati Usha Katiyar and Shri Ankit Katiyar Outstanding Amount: Rs. 24,72,843/- + Interest + Other Expenses	12.02.2020 06.10.2020	All that part and parcel of the property in the name of Shrimati Usha Katiyar House at J/110 MIG Barra (KUDP) Kanpur Nagar, Area 180.00 Sq.mt. Bounded: North: Plot No. 109, South: Plot No. 111, East: 12.0 Meter Road, West: Plot No. 257

Date: 08-10-2020 Place: Kanpur Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Woman thrashed by live-in partner

Lucknow (PNS): A woman accused her live-in partner of thrashing her over a family discord due to which she had to get her foetus aborted. Police sent the woman for a medical test and registered a case in this connection. As per reports, the woman fell in love with a youth, Shanu of Madaion, despite the fact that she was married. When her husband came to know of her relationship with Shanu, he divorced her. The woman then started living with Shanu.

After three months, the couple developed differences and they started having verbal spat off and on. On October 4, the couple picked up a fight during which Shanu allegedly thrashed the woman. "Shanu kicked me in the stomach due to which I had to go for an abortion, as advised by doctors," she said. Police said Shanu was absconding since he was named in the case.

ARYAVART BANK **आर्यावर्त बैंक**
(A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India) (भारत सरकार, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार एवं बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया का संयुक्त उपक्रम)

Regional Office: Barabanki C-930, 931 Civil Lines, Dewa Road, Barabanki-225001

POSSESSION NOTICE {for immovable property under Rule 9(1)}

The Authorized Officer of Aryavart Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule-9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated hereunder calling upon the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being together with further interest at contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. within sixty days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described herein below in exercise to powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read with the Rule-8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned hereunder. The borrowers attention is invited to the provision of Sub-Section (8) of section - 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties. Any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Aryavart Bank for the amounts and interest thereon. Details of the mortgaged Properties of which the possession had been taken is as follows.

Name of the Borrowers/ Guarantors/Branch	Details of the Mortgaged Properties	Amt. Due as per demand Notice Date Demand notice Date of possession
Borrower: M/s Chandani Gift House, Proprietor Mr. Ram Ji S/o Mr. Badri Prasad R/o Mohalla-Pure Kazi, Post-Rudaauli, District-Ayodhya. Branch: Rudaauli	Land & Building at Khasra No.-1555 min House No. -13/229, Mohalla-Pure Kazi, Ward No. 13, Akbarganj Pargana & Tehsil-Rudaauli, District-Ayodhya. Title Holder Mrs. Manju Devi W/o Mr. Ram Ji (Guarantor), Bounded as: (As per Sale Deed) : East :Road Bhelsar to Rudaauli, West: Plot Badri Prasad, North: Shop & House of Reeta Gupta, South: Shop & House of Javed & others. Area: 400 Sq. Feet	Rs. 6,56,568.00 & other expenses 27.05.2019 03.10.2020
Borrower: M/s Shabana Traders, Proprietor-Mrs. Shabana Bano W/o Mr. Irfan Ahmad & Mr. Irfan Ahmad S/o Mr. Mushtaq Ali R/o Mohalla-Makdoom Jadgan, Post-Dariyabad, District-Barabanki. Branch: Dariyabad	Land & Building at khasra No. -78 M, Mohalla-Muharirian, Kasba & Pargana- Dariyabad, Tehsil-Ram Sanahi Ghat District-Barabanki. Title Holder Mrs. Momina Khatoon D/o Mr. Ashraf Ali urf Jhagru (Guarantor), Bounded as: (As per Sale Deed) : East : House of Sahdev Now of Ismail and Khait of Nanihu Murav, West: 28 ft Road, North: House of Mutaru Now of Dr. Phool Chand Yadav, South: 15 ft Road. Area: 41.635 Sq. Mtr.	Rs. 8,44,950.38 & other expenses 28.06.2019 03.10.2020

Date: 08.10.2020 Place- Barabanki Authorised Officer

कोरोना से लड़ाई में मेडिकल ऑक्सीजन के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर बढ़ते कदम

मोदीनगर में प्रदेश के सबसे बड़े ऑक्सीजन प्लांट का शुभारंभ

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

सुरेश कुमार खन्ना
मंत्री, वित्त, संसदीय कार्य एवं चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग उत्तर प्रदेश

सतीश महाना
मंत्री, औद्योगिक विकास उत्तर प्रदेश

जय प्रताप सिंह
मंत्री, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य परिवार कल्याण तथा मातृ एवं शिशु कल्याण, उत्तर प्रदेश

सिद्धार्थ नाथ सिंह
मंत्री, खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग, वस्त्रोद्योग सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम नियंत्रण प्रोत्साहन, एन.आर.आई. तथा निवेश प्रोत्साहन, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक: 8 अक्टूबर, 2020
समय: अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
स्थान: 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

विशेषताएं

- माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा जुलाई 2018 में शिलान्यास किया गया
- प्रदेश में ऑक्सीजन की आपूर्ति में आत्मनिर्भरता के लिए निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी
- अस्पतालों को लिक्विड ऑक्सीजन की आपूर्ति हेतु प्लांट तैयार
- प्रदेश के करीब 200 सरकारी व निजी क्षेत्र के अस्पतालों में होगी ऑक्सीजन की आपूर्ति
- प्लांट की कुल क्षमता 150 टन लिक्विड मेडिकल ऑक्सीजन प्रतिदिन उत्पादित करने की है
- 1000 मीट्रिक टन लिक्विड ऑक्सीजन भंडारण करने की भी क्षमता

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

विश्व दृष्टि दिवस

08 अक्टूबर, 2020

प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय अंधता एवं दृष्टिक्षीणता नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत नेत्र की बीमारियों के लिए सभी राजकीय चिकित्सालयों में निःशुल्क

नेत्र चिकित्सकीय सुविधाएं प्रदान की जाती हैं।

हरी सब्जियों एवं फलों का सेवन करें

कम्प्यूटर स्क्रीन पर लगातार काम न करें

आँखों की सफाई का विशेष ध्यान रखें

आँखों की निरामित जांच कराएं

दृष्टि सुरक्षा एवं क्षमता संवर्द्धन के क्रम में प्रदेश के सभी जनपदों में निम्न निःशुल्क सेवाएं प्रदान की जा रही हैं

नेत्र परीक्षण	मांतिर्याबिंद ऑपरेशन	बुजुर्गों को चश्मा प्रदान किया जाना	ग्लूकोमा एवं कॉर्निया प्रत्यारोपण	बच्चों को चश्मा प्रदान किया जाना
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कोरोना संबंधी जानकारी हेतु संपर्क करें

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चिकित्सा, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, उ०प्र०

अन्य जानकारी के लिए संपर्क करें

0522-2230006/2230009/2616482

नोवेल **CORONA** का ना

134 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 134 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district here on Wednesday, increasing the total number of cases to 14,449. Besides, the district also saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 234. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 244 patients. Out of them, 240 patients were recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 10,107 and just four patients have been discharged from the hospitals. With this, the number of cured patients from the hospitals has increased to 2,740. The total number of cured patients is now 12,847, leaving 1,368 active patients. The recovery rate has improved to 88.91 per cent and the mortality rate to 1.61 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has also informed that in the first report of the day by 11 am, 108 positive patients were detected out of 4,536 received reports. Till then, the total test reports



Corona testing being held at SSPG Hospital in Varanasi on Wednesday Pioneer

received were 2,33,993 and the results of 1,185 are awaited. Out of them, 2,19,570 were negative, while 14,423 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,49,596. Earlier, a male aged 50 from Lamahi (Bada Lalpur) succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU). With the addition of 11 new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,118 including 306 red zones. There are 1,812 green zones with 21 new ones. Meanwhile, the ongoing mass/group antigen tests continued at different government hospitals and urban and rural primary health centres (PHCs). Eight persons out of 462 tests were detected positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, while four out of 494 at adjacent Government Women's Hospital, two out of 94 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, two out of 172 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar, four out of 105 at Shivpur CHC and three out of 501 at SSH BHU.

148 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

There was indeed good news for the people of Prayagraj. That is, the number of patients infected with the coronavirus is steadily decreasing. As of Tuesday night, 148 new infected persons were detected while one patient died. The relief is that a total of 220 patients were successful in defeating corona. Out of this, 24 patients were discharged from the hospital and 196 people completed home isolation. However, the total number of 2013 people are still struggling with the deadly virus in the district.

Out of this, 31 patients were admitted in L-1 Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, 24 patients in L-2 Covid Care Centre Railway Hospital, 47 patients in L-2 Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital, 22 people were admitted in L-2 Hospital United Medicity and Medical College Rawatpur.

In L-2 hospital Shri Sai Nath Vatsalya Mohiuddinpur Baratha, 30 infected people are being treated. Swaroop Rani Nehru L-3 Hospital has 88 patients admitted. All of them are serious, although all are stable and in control.

One one hand the impact of the corona infection is get-



ting less but still need to be cautious. Report of Public Service Commission Review Officer, Inspector CISE, Nursing Officer of Railway Hospital, SDO of Tagore Town, a Junior Engineer of Railways, a staff of BSNL, a health worker of Andawa, manager of BOB Dhanupur, Assistant Professor ADC, BDO Chaka has corona positive. Apart from this, an advocate of the High Court, two

teachers of primary schools are also victims of infection.

Meanwhile, the power failure on Tuesday evening at L3 Covid Hospital SRN and L2 Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital led its patients in highly difficulty. Patients suffering from the power outages in both hospitals were given relief by running generators. Doctors and hospital workers doing Covid duty were also disturbed due to

the power failure from morning to evening for hours. Covid patients were monitored for not happening to be outside of the SRN and Beli Hospitals. Power was supplied in all Covid wards through generators. At the same time, due to the power failure, patients admitted to the Covid Care Centres including Sarojini Naidu Children's Hospital, Dufferin, Colvin, had to face trouble.

DM unhappy over poor revenue realisation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma expressed his dissatisfaction over the slow progress of revenue collection while reviewing tax and revenue realisation at a meeting at his camp office here on Wednesday. He said that now the progress of revenue realisation would be reviewed every Wednesday, instructing the various departments to ensure 100 per cent collection of monthly targets by the end of the month and also asked all departments to give departmental detailed plans to increase revenue.

During his meeting, he issued notices to several officers remaining absent and asked every lekhpal to give list of five land mafia of their respective area, who are involved in illegally encroaching government property. DM instructed the AIG (Stamp) to increase collection, expressing his concern over just 41 per cent achievement of the target.



DM KR Sharma reviewing tax/ revenue realisation in Varanasi on Wednesday

An officer of Excise department informed that 53 per cent realisation has been done. Directing the departmental officers of Sales and Trade Tax, he said that only registration of 4,000 shops is not enough and asked them to register all those shops which are not registered. He also instructed the departments to intensify recovery certificate (RC) process to increase collection as there is outstanding of ₹ 402 crore. He was also not happy

as the Transport department had collected ₹ 13.93 crore against the relative amount of ₹ 20 crore. Sharma asked the department to submit the comparative details of registration of two and four wheelers and realisation of previous years. He also instructed that the fitness of all school vehicles should be done by October 15 so that no illegal vehicles are seen on the roads after that. He issued show-cause

notices as the officers of Power and Forest departments remained absent in the meeting. He also issued notices to local bodies for their poor progress of revenue collection and Nagar Nigam for its poor realisation as there was only 16 per cent collection during the six months. He has ordered for withholding the salary of concerned Mining department officers for remaining absent and issued notice for its poor collection, also seeking the details about action taken against illegal brick kilns. He also issued notices to the Labour department as just ₹ 2 lakh were realised against the target of ₹ 1.18 crore.

He also expressed his concern over realisation of just ₹ 3.72 lakh against target of ₹ 25 lakh by Gangapur Nagar Panchayat and ₹ 3.71 lakh against ₹ 75 lakh by Ramnagar Nagar Palika. The meeting was attended by ADMs, SDMs and other senior officers.

Freight loading performance of NCR improves

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

With gradual opening of economy, freight loading performance of North Central Railway is improving steadily and it has registered positive loading for last four months consecutively from June to September as compared to same months of last financial year.

Besides improvement over last year loading performance; in September 2020 freight loading of 1.32 million tonnes was also on plus side to the proportionate target for the September 2020 to achieve total loading of 16.94 million tonnes in 2020-

21. So far NCR has loaded 7.20 million tonnes freight in FY 2020-21 and need to load additional 9.74 million tonnes in balance six months from October to March to achieve 16.94 million tonnes mark. To achieve this ambitious freight loading volume in remaining part of current financial year, North Central Railway is focusing on increasing loading of bulk commodities and capturing new non bulk freight stream. Increase in volume of bulk commodities like POL (petroleum), oil and lubricant, cement, ballast etc. will play very crucial role in this as cement and petroleum prod-

ucts combined together accounts for more than 50 per cent total freight loading of North Central Railway.

In a bid to increase freight loading volume, meeting with major freight loaders of POL (petroleum, oil and lubricant), cement and ballast was organised in HQ office of North Central Railway. In this virtual meeting convened by PCOM NCR Ravi Valluri and PCOM MN Ojha; representatives of IOCL Baad Mathura, HPCL Rasulpur Gogama, Diamond Cement Parichha, L&T Cement Chunar, leading ballast loaders participated through video conferencing, besides

CFTM NCR, CCM/FM/NCR, Dy CCM FM NCR from NCR HQ office and Sr DOMs and Sr DCMs from the three divisions.

In the meeting strategy for increasing loading of these commodities in balance six months of 2020-21 was discussed and freight customers were assured that all possible help from Railway side shall be rendered. It was further apprised that BDUs at divisional and HQ level can be approached as a single window facility on all freight related matters and contact details of BDUs on HQ and divisions were shared with all the customers present in the meeting.

BHU, Cambridge sign agreement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Following the initiative taken by Vice-Chancellor Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar under the Institute of Eminence Programme, the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and University of Cambridge have recently signed a collaborative agreement under the Project 'Transforming India's Green Revolution by Research and Empowerment for Sustainable Food Supplies (TIGRESS)'. To work on this major multidisciplinary project, Department of AIHC &

Archaeology, BHU will work on its archaeological component under the leadership of Prof Ravindra Nath Singh as Principal Investigator (India) and Dr Vikas Kumar Singh as Co-Principal Investigator (India). From University of Cambridge, Dr Cameron Andrew Petrie will lead the project as Principal Investigator (UK).

The research project is funded by the Research Councils UK (RCUK) - Global Challenges Research Fund (UK). The tenure of project is from February 1 this year to

September 30 next year. Under this project, BHU will receive funds approximately ₹.22 lakh from the University of Cambridge.

Prof RN Singh and Dr Vikas Kumar Singh explained that, today, large parts of India are intensively farmed, and the large-scale mono-cropping of water intensive crops causing extreme water depletion. Archaeology has the potential to make an important contribution to identifying possible solutions to these circumstances. Archaeological data indicate a high degree of vari-

ability in past crop choices and growing conditions, which appears to have supported sustainable farming systems that were resilient to climate change, and within which diversity may have been encouraged. This project combines archaeological approaches with insights from agronomy and agricultural economics. We aim to use insights from sustainable agricultural practices from both the archaeological and historical past - in particular the Bronze Age Indus Civilisation in northwest India, they added.

Two killed, 3 others injured in mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Two youths were killed, while three others received grievous injuries in a road accident in Pratapgarh district. The accident occurred on the highway in Lalganj Kotwali area. A Bolero car hit the bike on Wednesday morning. Two motorcycle-borne youths from the side were killed in the accident. During this time, the Bolero also overturned uncontrollably. However, all the occupants in it were safe. Police also reached the spot on getting the information by the people around and immediately

admitted the injured to Lalganj CHC.

Mohammad Bashir's 15-year-old son Sufiyan, a resident of Babutara under the Lalganj police station, was going somewhere by bike at around 12 noon on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Aamir, the 12-year-old son of Manzoor Ahmed of the village and Shakeel Ahmed, the 22-year-old son of Mohammad Sharif. In front of the Sagarasundarapur Petrol Pump located on the highway under Lalganj Kotwali, the Bolero of the Government Department hit the bike from the front. After

the accident, the bike riders Sufiyan and Aamir fell on the ground bleeding profusely. The two died on the spot, while the third one sustained injuries.

Meanwhile, the two other mobile-borne youths going from the side also fell in the ground after being hit by the Bolero and were badly injured. Police reached there after getting information of nearby people and passers-by. The three injured were admitted to the Community Health Centre at Lalganj by the police.

On the other hand, after the accident, the Bolero also went uncontrolled and over-

turned some distance. There were five people in the Bolero. However, all of them had a narrow escape. Police have taken the vehicles in possession. Simultaneously, the accused Bolero driver was taken into police custody and taken to Kotwali. Meanwhile, a driver was killed when an uncontrolled tractor-trolley overturned near Jhansi Gangoli Shivala under the Jhansi police station. Vijay Yadav (23) son of Suresh Yadav, a resident of Jhansi, was carrying tractor-trolleys. Meanwhile, suddenly the vehicle overturned uncontrolled near Gangoli Shivala.

Anganwadi workers get smartphones

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Common Application Software (CAS) has been launched under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in the ideal block of NITI Aayog, Sewapuri where the works of Anganwadi workers will be digitised soon. There are 249 Anganwadi workers working in Sewapuri block who record daily activities of nutrition campaigns in the registers but soon they will get rid of this work. About 150 Anganwadi workers of the block have been distributed smart phones under CAS and the work of distributing smartphones is going on. Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Sewapuri, Sushma Singh said that under CAS, mobile phones are being distributed to Anganwadi workers which will replace the 11 registers of the Anganwadi centres. Through this, Anganwadi workers will get ease to display their data at any level whenever they want. With this, quality enhancement and communication of information will be done easily. CDPO said that soon all Anganwadi workers will be trained so that they can digitise the records of daily activities through CAS. District Nutritionist said that through



Anganwadi worker getting smartphone at Sewapuri in Varanasi on Wednesday

the CAS, data of Anganwadi centres will not be tampered in any way. This process will be completely transparent. From the mobile phone dashboard, the data of each Anganwadi centre will be displayed directly to the government.

SP FOR TAKING ACTION: Samajwadi Party (SP) on Wednesday accused the district administration for taking no action against those who torched the effigy of party chief and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav at highly sensitive district headquarter area and demanded legal action by lodging an FIR against them. Some youths gathered at district headquarter,

a highly sensitive place where the offices of senior administrative and police officers are situated and there is frequent movement of VIPs, on October 5 and burnt the effigy of ex-CM Akhilesh Yadav, they said and blamed, but the district administration did not take step to stop them. It means, those who set the effigy of party chief afire, have patronage of the district administration, they blamed demanding the police to lodge an FIR and ascertain legal action against them. If the police fails in lodging complaint in this direction and also ascertaining legal action against the guilty, they have no option

except to torch the effigy at same venue following the same way and the district administration will be responsible for this, they threatened and also submitted a memorandum to the Senior Superintendent of Police Amit Pathak regarding their demand. Prominent among those who present on the occasion included party city chief Vishnu Sharma, Raju Yadav, Vikash Yadav and Shalini Yadav.

PROTEST: Annoyed with the sewage water flowing on the road for last many days, the residents of Seergoverdhanpur on Wednesday staged a demonstration against it. They adopted a unique way to stage their protest by bathing in the sewage water. The sewage water has been flowing on the road in the area for the last many days causing inconvenience to passersby in passing through it. The annoyed residents said blaming the concerned authority for taking no initiative to address this problem despite the repeated complaint and thus, they have to come on road to stage the protest as there was no option except it to draw the attention of district administration towards this acute problem. They bathed with the flowing sewage water to lodge their protest.

Meritorious teachers felicitated

ALLAHABAD (PNS): In a grand virtual ceremony, Prayagodaya Sahodaya School Complex, Allahabad chapter felicitated the meritorious teachers of the distinguished schools of Allahabad as well as awarded merit certificates to the students of the participating schools for their astounding performance in a series of activities organised by them on the occasion of Independence Day.

The virtual meeting started on a ceremonious note with a soulful rendition of Ganesh Vandana by Saumitra Guha, teacher from the Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir.

It was followed by a welcome address by the President of Prayodaya Sahodaya School Complex and Principal Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir Sushmita Kanungo, who welcomed the teachers who were to be felicitated in the function. She also acknowledged the efforts, strong live participation of the members of Sahodaya group which proved to be a strong contributory factor in the meteoric rise of the Prayogodya Group.

By narrating the tragic incident of the terrorist attack on Taj Mumbai, she conveyed a very thought provoking and meaningful message that how through team work, dedication loyalty and leadership quality

demonstrated by the staff of Taj Hotel, maximum lives could be saved. She encouraged the principals to keep in mind while recruiting the teachers that attitude and attribute is more important than certificates possessed by the teachers as they are the ambassadors of the school.

She also inspired the teachers to imbibe in themselves, the quality of leadership and decision making in the vital issues of the school.

Thereafter Ravinder Birdie, Joint Secretary of Prayagodaya and Principal Mahaprabhu Public School praised the role played by the teacher in the present pandemic times, she spoke volumes about their contribution and untiring efforts for the welfare of the students. She said that the foundation of Prayogodaya was laid so that the schools can work together for a better future of students.

The appraisals of the award winning teachers were read out by the Executive members and the principals of the member schools, viz - Dharti Srivastava, BBS Vidya Mandir, Manisha Jaiswal, Dawn The Higher, Mathew George, St. Thomas, Snehlata Puthrana, Erny Memorial Sr. Secondary School, Nityanand, Patanjali Rishikul and Geeta Arora, LDC Public School. 34 middle school teachers of the reputed

member schools were facilitated in the ceremony.

Sister Shilpa, Vice-President of Prayagodaya and Principal Bethany Convent School spoke on the topic 'The co-operation and collaboration of teachers and management in order to educate children'. She through a self explanatory presentation explained the difference between infrastructure and institution and said the building constructed by the management becomes lively and gets its fullness by teachers, students and parents. She said the employment of manpower, reaching out to the parents and a cordial relation amongst them is a key factor in the growth of schools.

The much awaited results of the talented and the prize winning students was announced in which the students showcased their talent in the 4 category of competitions organised on the occasion of 'Independence Day' namely Patriotic Poem recitation, Patriotic Dance competition, Patriotic Speech recitation and Patriotic solo singing competition from classes Nursery to XII. The results were announced by Vibha Pandey, Principal, Ramanujan Public, Archana Tewari, Principal, Tagore Public School, Indrani Gupta, Principal, JT Golden

Jubilee School and Usha Hamilton, Principal, Springer Public School.

The talk by Arun Prakash, Principal Laurels International School on NPA Aligned Teachers was an informative presentation which highlighted the vital points that would affect the schools as the NPA policy has a broad perspective which focuses on education for life and nor for living.

As the programme progressed, certificates of honour, for excellent service as an executive member of Prayododaya were awarded for completing of a significant milestone rendering outstanding services and contribution to the growth and smooth functioning of Prayogodaya Member Schools of Allahabad Region. The executive members who were bestowed with certificates of honour are Sushmita Kanungo, Ashish Ranjan, Indrani Gupta, Ravinder Birdie, Usha Hamilton, Alpona Dey and Kaveri Adhikari (posthumously). Puthrana read out the citations of the executive members.

The host of the ceremony Ashish Ranjan, Principal SMC Ghoorpur and the Secretary of the Prayagodaya Group, hosted the felicitation ceremony. The vote of thanks was proposed by Alpona Dey.

With Covid cases declining, focus shifts on dengue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari said that with the decline in COVID-19 cases, the government was now focusing on containing the dengue outbreak in the city and for this it had set up a Dedicated Dengue Control Cell.

Tiwari said a number of officials who were involved in COVID-19 control had been brought under a separate vertical. He said a requisition had been sent to the government for handling the situation and funds had been released as well.

However, he added, the district administration would strictly monitor the situation so that a second wave of novel coronavirus infection, as witnessed in some parts of the world, does not catch it off-guard.

The district magistrate said the dengue control project was now assigned to the malaria department, especially in view of its rising graph, and the department had been provided with manpower and funds to control the spread of dengue.

SGPGI team arrives

KANPUR (PNS): A two-member team from Sanjay Gandhi Post-graduate Institute of Medical Science, Lucknow, comprising Dr Shashi Srivastava of anaesthesia department and Dr Ajmal Khan arrived in Kanpur Nagar to probe into the death at LLR Hospital in which the difference of death timing in record on September 12 has kicked up a controversy.

The relatives of the deceased have complained that the patient was put off the ventilator before breathing its last and with different versions of the death, the probe has been handed over to the two-member SGPGI team.

The team refused to divulge any detail and said it would submit the report to the district administration in a week.

DM directive on RTE

KANPUR (PNS): District Magistrate Alok Tiwari, while addressing a meeting at the Collectorate on Wednesday, said that strict action would be taken against the schools which were not admitting children who have been allotted schools under the Right to Education.

He directed the BSA to prepare a list of schools that were denying admission as per the RTE.

He said it was the priority of the government to ensure children's admission to schools and it needs to be done hundred percent.

Tiwari said vector-borne diseases were normal during monsoon and the end of monsoon periods. He said the

malaria department had been made active and additional manpower had been diverted to it to control the spread of

dengue.

He admitted that dengue cases had increased suddenly but still the situation was not that alarming.

The district magistrate said with the budget for dengue control arriving, things would improve on a faster pace.

Meanwhile, after a surprise visit to the SIS Kalyanpur Hospital on Wednesday, the district magistrate said it was a routine inspection to ensure that things were running as per the directives.

He said at this juncture, extra care was needed as a simple neglect could land the entire city in great trouble again.

Tiwari said it was encouraging that in most of the private hospitals the COVID-19 cases had declined substantially. He said the load on ICUs had also reduced and this was a good indication.

The district magistrate said as monitoring hospital billing, medical oxygen stock and presence of anaesthetist and specialists, particularly chest specialists, was the focus point of the surprise inspections, these things were now nearly perfect in hospitals.

143 more test +ve

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 143 more coronavirus positive cases on Wednesday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 143 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 26,285 cases.

He said three COVID-19 deaths in the city pushed the toll to 695 on Tuesday evening.

The CMO said with 163 COVID-19 patients recovering in hospitals and home isolation in the last 24 hours, 22,774 coronavirus infected people had been cured in the city and at present 2979 active cases were undergoing treatment.

Dr Mishra said 5,359 samples were sent for testing in the city.

150 KL/day STP commissioned at NSI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

National Sugar Institute Director Prof Narendra Mohan commissioned a 150 KL per day capacity sewage treatment plant on Monday. Addressing a gathering on this occasion, he said the institute was in the process of developing many more facilities and soon a training centre and hostel would become functional and this would further increase the sewage load. He said keeping this in view, the existing STP would fall short of capacity and thus remedial measures had been taken timely.

Prof Mohan said the plant was based on proven and efficient 'Moving Bed Bin-reactor Technology' and had been designed and developed by the NSI in association with UY Trienviro Pvt Ltd.

He said in the system, the treated sewage, after filtration, was sent to bio-reactor from where after aeration it was sent to the tube settler to remove sludge and get water.

He said this water, after chlorination, was filtered and then treated with powdered active carbon to improve its quality.

Prof Mohan said the treated water finally obtained would be used for horticulture and as irrigation water for sugarcane crop at the nearby farms. He said it would reduce working of tube-wells and thus conserve the natural resource.

Woman accuses lawyer and his friends of rape

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A lawyer and his accomplices have been accused of holding a woman hostage and raping her in Ghatampur police station area.

The woman has alleged that about three months back, Rajendra Dhamaka, a practising lawyer, took her to his Ashok Nagar (South) house and held her hostage there. She alleged that on Wednesday morning, Rajendra Dhamaka and his friends Arjun Singh, Pandit Maharaj and Prashant brutally beat her up and raped her.

She further alleged that in the past also, these persons had raped her several times after threatening to implicate her in false criminal and murder cases.

Rajendra Dhamaka, a resident of Girsī village in Ghatampur, had been convicted in a rape case about two years ago. Besides, he was also convicted on charges of extortion. In view of his involvement in many criminal cases, the police had opened his history-sheet about two years ago.

Circle Officer Ravi Kumar Singh said after she filed the FIR, the woman was sent for medical examination.

He said on the basis of the medical report and other allegations, further action would be initiated against the culprits.

SUICIDE: A lovesick youth committed suicide by hanging himself in Naubasta police station area on Tuesday night.

He was identified as Raju (18) son of Radhey Shyam of Lankapuri, Naubasta.

Two held with illicit liquor

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Under the joint operation of Dehat Kotwali police and excise department two persons were arrested along with 1,080 bottles of illicit liquor on Tuesday. As per the reports, the police had inputs about the smuggling of liquor through Bhatauli bridge under Dehat Kotwali police station so it had already laid a trap to catch the smugglers. During patrolling the police spotted an Innova near Bhatauli bridge, when they signalled its driver to stop he tried to flee but was given a chase and caught after going some distance. When the joint team launched the search the vehicle it found 1,080 bottles of illicit liquor. Police arrested two persons, seized the liquor along with the vehicle



Police and excise department team along with the liquor smugglers and the seized vehicle in Mirzapur.

(UP65-ET/3358). The arrested persons were identified as Dhananjay Singh, son of Om Prakash Singh, a resident of Devatua village under Phoolpur police station in Varanasi and Satish, son of Bharat Lal, a resident of Chhatarpur village under Mirjamurad police station in Varanasi. On the other hand, Madihan police on Tuesday nabbed one person who was

accused of raping a minor. As per the reports, an FIR had been lodged by a woman in the said police station on Monday in which she had alleged that the accused had raped her minor girl when she was on the way to field. Acting swiftly the police arrested the accused, Lakkad Kol, a resident of Bhawanipur under Madihan police station, on Tuesday. Meanwhile Ahraura police arrested Vinod Maurya, a resident of Ahraura Deeh, who was accused of molestation. As per the reports, a married woman had lodged a complaint at the police station that the accused had barged into her house at night and molested her. When she cried for help the accused fled from the scene. Taking action on the complaint the police nabbed the accused.

Seven applications disposed of

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel told the officials that Sampurna Samadhan Divas was one of the priorities of the government so each application should be taken seriously. Such direction was given by the officer during the Sampurna Samadhan Divas organised at Madihan tehsil on Tuesday. Taking action on each application, the DM made it clear that the government was monitoring each of them and their disposal on merit was a must for



DM Sushil Kumar Patel during the Sampurna Samadhan Divas held at Madihan tehsil in Mirzapur.

the officials concerned. He said that the inquiry report

should be communicated to the applicants and no laxity would be tolerated at all. On the day total 65 applications had been received related to irrigation, pension, revenue etc. Out of them seven were disposed on the spot. For the remaining applications officials concerned were directed to dispose of the matters on priority basis. All district level officers, including those of consolidation, revenue, police and Panchayat Raj departments, besides DRDA and others were present on the occasion.

Shekhar inspects dedicated freight corridor progress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar, while carrying out inspection of the construction work going on for dedicated freight corridor (DFC) on Wednesday, called a meeting of DFCCIL, Indian Railways officials, Setu Nirman Nigam, PWD and SDM Narwal to work out a plan over the pertinent issues raised by the DFCCIL officials for the requirement of the Railway Over Bridge (ROB) at the Sarsaul railway crossing.

He admitted that as per their contention, it was the main entry point to the DFC station which was under construction and which would be the main station for goods trains on DFC route. He said the meeting would be summoned shortly.

The divisional commissioner was accompanied by BS Sanyal, Additional GM DFCCIL, RK Jain, Dy CPM DFCCIL and Rajesh Agarwal, PM DFCCIL.

He assured the DFCCIL of all possible help to complete the project in time so that the Kanpur business and industry could benefit from this mega project.

It may be mentioned here that the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor is an ambitious project of the Government of India and the Ministry of Railways, which aims at boosting the economy by ensuring speedy, smooth



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar, inspecting construction work at Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) on Wednesday.

Pioneer

and hassle-free transportation of goods by setting up a dedicated railway line.

In Uttar Pradesh, the total DFC route length is around 1,500 km, starting from Dadri to Mughalsarai via Kanpur Nagar and Prayagraj. The portion from Dadri to Kanpur is now almost complete and is ready for operation in the near future. The officials informed the divisional commissioner that the stretch

from Kanpur to Prayagraj would be completed by June 2021 and the remaining portion from Prayagraj to Mughalsarai would be completed by December 2021. The average speed of the freight trains on this route will be 100 km/hour. The present average speed of the goods trains on the existing tracks of Indian Railways is around 50 km/hour.

Sanyal informed the divi-

sional commissioner that all the minor pending issues of this project had been sorted out recently with the help and support of the local people and the administration.

He said that as of now, two minor issues were pending in the Kanpur stretch which would be resolved soon.

Sanyal said the district administration had provided them good support for this project.

Early detection the cornerstone of breast cancer control: Doc

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

October is observed as World Breast Cancer Month, a disease most common in urban Indian women.

As per World Health Organisation estimates, there will be 17.3 lakh breast cancer cases in 2020. The survival rate of breast cancer in India is low because the detection takes place late. There are about 1.38 million new cases and 4,58,000 deaths from breast cancer each year and by far it is the most common cancer in women world-wide, both in the developed and developing countries.

This was stated by cancer surgeon Dr PK Agarwal addressing a virtual session on Saturday. He said the Indian women presented advanced diseases at younger age mainly because of the heterogeneous structure of the Indian society. He said there was great dis-

As per World Health Organisation estimates, there will be 17.3 lakh breast cancer cases in 2020. The survival rate of breast cancer in India is low because the detection takes place late.

parity in awareness, education, treatment affordability, access to health care and general outlook towards the breast cancer. He said treatment facilities were concentrated in larger cities and survival from disease was poor in Indian women.

Dr Agarwal said in the absence of adequate knowledge of the causes of breast cancer, early detection of the disease remained the cornerstone of breast cancer control. He said if the breast cancer was detected early, and if adequate diagnosis and treatment were available, there was a good chance

that breast cancer could be cured. He said the majority of deaths (2,69,000) occurred in lower and middle income countries, where most women with breast cancer were diagnosed at late stages mainly due to lack of awareness on early detection and barriers to health services. He said breast cancer was the most common cancer in Indian women and accounted for 27 per cent of all cancers in women.

He said about 1 in 28 women were likely to develop breast cancer during their lifetime and in the urban areas the incidence was 1 in 20 as com-

pared to the rural areas where 1 in 50 women develop breast cancer. He said this incidence began to rise in the early 30s and peaked at the age between 54 and 64 years.

Dr Agarwal said in a small number of women, breast cancer ran in the family and of all women who developed breast cancer, up to 15 per cent had a significant family history of the disease and about one in 20 had inherited a fault in a gene linked to breast cancer.

He said women who went through menopause later than average had a slightly increased risk of breast cancer. He said some factors that increased the risk of breast cancer were weight gain, lack of exercise, alcohol, hormone replacement therapy, the combined oral contraceptive pill, ionising radiation, radiotherapy, stress and possibly shift work. However, he said, pregnancy and breastfeeding reduced the risk.

Expected increase in goods loading continues on NER

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

In order to attract freight on the Railway Business Development Unit was constituted at the headquarters and divisional levels on the North Eastern Railway (NER) whose marketing efforts, concessions being given by the Ministry of Railways in loading of goods and increasing speed of goods trains is producing positive results. The sequence of expected increase in loading of goods continues. Since April loading of eight NMG rakes of Tata Motors vehicles for Bangladesh had been done from Haldi Road station of Izzatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway (NER). By September loading of 42 rakes of Tata Ace and tractors for various stations from Haldi Road station has been done which is 75 per cent more than the corresponding period last year. The increased loading resulted in an 83.39 per cent increase in



revenue from loading of automobiles over the previous year which is a result of the efforts of the Business Development Unit. The average speed of goods trains these days is about 50 km per hour. The inclination of business establishments has increased towards the Railways. As a result there is an increase in the loading of goods and automobile. With the continuous increase in the average speed of goods trains the wagon becomes available for reloading in a short time which increases efficiency. The loading in September this year was 80 per cent more compared to the corresponding period last year even in these

adverse conditions. Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. As a result of the increase in loading of goods there is also an expected increase in railway revenue.

BOY FOUND, HANDED OVER TO CHILD LINE: The Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER), makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. In this sequence Railway Protection Force (RPF) post Babhanan found a 10-year-old boy in an unclaimed condition at Gonda railway station on September 30. The boy was handed over to the Child Line, Gonda. The Railway Protection Force post, Kannauj during patrolling found two boys, aged eight and nine years, in unclaimed condition on October 4 at the Kannauj railway station. They were handed over to the Child Line, Kannauj, CPRO PK Singh said.

NER plans to run Kisan Rail from Ballia

PNS ■ VARANASI

With a view to attracting more and more conventional and non-conventional freight loading on the rail transport facility, the railway administration is taking several meaningful steps. The result of this is that the North Eastern Railway (NER) has done a record loading in the month of September and registered an increase of 80 per cent compared to the corresponding period last year. In order to double loading of goods by the year 2024 a Business Development Unit (BDU) has been constituted at

the division and headquarters level. In view of the success of Kisan Rail operated from different parts of the country the Varanasi division has also planned to run Kisan Rail from Ballia railway station on the suggestion of its BDU, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) VK Panjari said. "If appropriate demand comes the scheme will be implemented," he added. Given the abundance of agricultural produce in Ballia and its surrounding areas, the Railways have decided to provide safe, reliable and fast traffic facility to it. Through which the farmers can send their pro-

duce to the big market and order agricultural goods. Apart from it for demanding the running of Kisan Special trains in connection with the transportation of agricultural produce on Varanasi division and for making important suggestions on this topic farmers and people associated with agribusiness can also contact the following convener members of Varanasi division — Sanjeev Sharma/ Senior Divisional Commercial Manager- cell No. 9794843950 and Rohit Gupta /Senior Divisional Operations Manager — mobile No 9794843900.

Won't be first to withdraw forces from LAC, asserts India



RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Even though both the sides have agreed not to send more troops to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, India is not willing to take any chances and will wait for the Chinese to first begin the withdrawal from the stand-off sites before thinning out its own troops. This even as India has carried out a succession of tests of missiles in the last few weeks and minced

no words in its posturing against China, which is a new assertive trait. The real intent of the Chinese will come to the fore in the seventh round of Corps Commander level talks scheduled for October 12. In the sixth round on September 21, both the commanders agreed not to send more troops to the LAC as a confidence building measures. While relative calm prevails at the LAC since exter-

nal affairs minister S Jaishankar's bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow on September 10 and the Corps Commander level parleys, the Indian security establishment is watching the situation closely, sources said here on Wednesday. There is no question of pulling out additional troops now deployed in the depth areas since the stand-offs began in mid May till the Chinese take the first step and pull back, officials said. Making it clear that there is a big trust deficit, they also said the forces are geared to meet any challenge. Not letting its guard down, at least four missile tests were conducted in the past few weeks including the 700-km-range Shaurya missile. Capable of carrying 200 to 1,000 kg nuclear payload, it is the land version of submarine launched K-15 missile. Both the missiles are developed by the Defence Research

India can become hub for defence industry: Rajnath



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said it is the endeavour of the Government to make India one of the top five countries in the world in aerospace and defence industries. Backing and Development Organisation (DRDO). The important break-

this intent with facts, he said India is one of the few countries in the world which produces 4th generation fighter aircraft, nuclear submarines, main battle tanks and inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBM). "India has one of the largest defence industrial ecosystems in Asia and we aspire to build further on our strengths... We want to make India one of the top five countries of the world in aerospace and defence industries from design to production with active participation of public and private industries fulfilling the objective of

self reliance as well as demand of friendly countries," he said addressing a virtual round table with foreign Ambassadors in India on the upcoming Aero India 2021. The 13th edition of the biennial air show, Aero India, is scheduled to be held from February 03-07, 2021 in Bengaluru. Rajnath said India can prove to be an excellent base for the defence and aerospace industry with respect to repair, overhaul, maintenance and servicing facilities. "It can also become a centre for regional distribution and services," he added. through in a test off Balasore in Odisha comes as India has already deployed its Brahmos

close to the LAC. The preventive move came after China positioned its strategic missiles in the Tibet region in the last few weeks besides enhancing its troop strength and fighter jet fleet in the volatile region. Officials rate Shaurya as one of the top 10 missiles in the world in its class with its high performance navigation and guidance systems, efficient propulsion systems, sophisticated control technologies and canisterised launch. The missile can be launched from silos and canisters mounted on a truck and fixed on the ground, they said adding that it can be easily moved around. A truck itself can become a launching platform. Moreover, these missiles are difficult to be tracked by enemy satellites. Keeping up the tempo of tests, scientists some weeks back successfully tested Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator (HSTDV). The capability has now placed India the elite category of nations having this capability. The US, Russia and China are other countries having these capabilities. The HSTDV gives India the flexibility of development of missile travelling at speed three to four times more than sound. The indigenously designed and manufactured Brahmos supersonic cruise missile got a major boost after the successful test of its extended range system. Now, these missiles with most of its components manufactured within the country can hit a target at more than 400 kms. The other important test included the supersonic missile assisted release of torpedo that targets submarines. Sources said some more tests are in the offing like Nirbhay cruise missile with a range of nearly 800 km. A limited number of them are already deployed along with Akash and Brahmos at critical sites near the LAC.

I-T dept freezes Jaya's close aide Sasikala's ₹2,000 crore assets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department on Wednesday froze assets worth ₹2,000 crore owned by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalitha's close aide VK Sasikala under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act. The frozen assets include two properties worth ₹300 crore located in Siruthavur and Kodanadu, both registered in the name of Jaya's aide Sasikala, her sister-in-law Ilavarasi and VN Sudhakaran. The Benami Prohibition wing of the I-T department also pasted notices outside the attached properties. "Income Tax Department

today attached assets belonging to former CM J Jayalitha's aide Sasikala in Kodanad and Siruthavur areas of Tamil Nadu. Assets worth ₹2,000 crore frozen," the Income Tax Department said in a statement. VK Sasikala and her two relatives - Ilavarasi and Sudhakaran - are currently serving a four-year sentence in a disproportionate assets case. Siruthavur is on the outskirts of Chennai and Kodanad is in the Nilgiris. The move comes in the wake of the Benami Prohibition wing in Chennai earlier provisionally attaching properties in and around Chennai worth ₹300 crore.

ED chargesheet in PMLA court: Swapna met Kerala CM 6 times

Kochi: The ED on Wednesday filed a chargesheet in a PMLA court in Ernakulam in its probe into the money trail in the gold smuggling case, triggering another slugfest in Kerala politics after it allegedly revealed that prime accused Swapna Suresh had met Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan six times. The charge sheet was filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 against PS Sarith, Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair in the District and Sessions Court (PMLA) in Ernakulam in the gold smuggling case. All three accused are in judicial custody since July. The ED charge sheet quoted Swapna as saying that she had met Vijayan on six occasions in the presence of now-suspended IAS officer M Sivasankar and that the CM knew about her appointment in the Space Park on a salary of over Rs 1.50 lakh per month. The Congress and the BJP leadership in the southern state were up in arms and demanded the resignation of Vijayan. "Vijayan had said he had no clue of how she got a job in the Space Park, but the ED charge sheet says he was aware. Vijayan then said his office is not a haven for such people. That statement has since fallen flat and the onus is now on him to come clean," state Congress President Mullapally Ramachandran said. The over 300-page charge sheet includes Swapna's statement that following her resignation from the UAE Consulate, she approached Sivasankar, then Principal Secretary to Vijayan and also IT Secretary, for a job. She was quoted as saying that he asked her to put in her

CV with his reference to PriceWaterhouse Coopers and thereafter she went and met a top official of Space Park and soon got the job. Swapna also allegedly said that Sivasankar had helped her financially and they were good friends and it was he who introduced her to chartered accountant Venugopal, who was asked to help her in financial dealings by opening fixed deposit accounts to the tune of Rs 20 lakh. After the ED charge-sheeted Swapna Suresh and two others in a PMLA court in a money laundering case, state Congress President Mullapally Ramachandran on Wednesday demanded that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan come clean on gold smuggling case prime accused Swapna. Referring to the charge sheet, Ramachandran alleged that Vijayan was aware of her new job in the state-owned Space Park, which directly comes under the CM's charge. "Vijayan had said he had no clue of how she got a job in the Space Park, but the ED charge sheet says he was aware. Vijayan then said his office is not a haven for such people. That statement has since fallen flat and the onus is now on him to come clean," said Ramachandran. "The charge sheet also claimed that she had met Vijayan along with his now-suspended Principal Secretary M Sivasankar six times. It is very serious. Vijayan's credibility has taken a hit. So, one has to doubt if the so-called probe on how she got the job is in limbo due to such relations," the Congress leader remarked.

Cabinet clears ₹8,575 crore for Kolkata East West Metro Corridor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved ₹8,575 crore for the Kolkata East West Metro Corridor Project covering 16.6 kilometers with 12 stations in the city. The Cabinet also decided to conduct a nationwide awareness in public places about preventive measures for Covid-19 and introduce e-marketing in the natural gas sector to move towards a gas-based economy. The Cabinet further noded the ratification of seven persistent organic pollutants listed under the Stockholm Convention. Addressing the media following the Cabinet meeting, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said the new metro corridor in Kolkata will ease traffic congestion, enhance urban connectivity and provide a cleaner mobility solution to lakhs of daily commuters. The project is being implemented by the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited, a CPSE under Ministry of Railways. "Estimated completion cost of the project is - Rs. 8575 crore with Ministry of Railway's share as ₹3268.27 crore, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' share as Rs.1148.31 crore and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) loan of Rs.4158.40 crore," said the Government in a statement. Goyal said that the target date for completion of the entire project is December 2021. For his part, Union I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar said that the Government will start a mass awareness campaign on preventive measures on Covid-19 from Thursday. "Mask, social distancing and

washing hands are the only weapons to remain safe in the absence of vaccine to prevent Covid-19. Public camping to raise awareness about appropriate behavior in all public places will start from tomorrow," he said. Javadekar also said that the Cabinet approved ratification of seven persistent organic pollutants listed under the Stockholm Convention. The regulation prohibited the manufacture, trade, use, import and export seven chemicals namely (i) Chlorocone, (ii) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Heptabromodiphenylether (Commercial octa-BDE), (iv) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether (Commercial penta-BDE), (v) Pentachlorobenzene, (vi) Hexabromocyclododecane, and (vii) Hexachlorobutadiene, which were already listed as POPs under Stockholm Convention," said the statement. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the 'Natural Gas Marketing Reforms', taking another significant step to move towards gas-based economy. "The objective of the policy is to prescribe standard procedure to discover market price of gas to be sold in the market by gas producers, through a transparent and competitive process, permit Affiliates to participate in bidding process for sale of gas and allow marketing freedom to certain Field Development Plans (FDPs) where Production Sharing Contracts already provide pricing freedom," said Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, adding that bidding will be online to provide transparency.

Sushant Singh's family writes to CBI, seeks fresh forensic team

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Within a week after a team of forensic doctors All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) ruled out any murder in the Sushant Singh Rajput murder case, the lawyer of the late actor's family on Wednesday urged the CBI to have forensic test conducted in the case by another forensic team of doctors comprising "best names" from different hospitals. Alluding to reports in the media and statements made by some of doctors concerned about the AIIMS' forensic report that had ruled out murder in the Sushant death case and said it was a clear case of "suicide", the late actor's family lawyer Varun Singh stated in a letter written to the CBI that there was need for another forensic test, since "I personally feel that the forensic team of AIIMS for whatever reason has not given a categorical opinion on the flaws of the post-mortem done at the Cooper Hospital". "I am accordingly of the firm opinion that the matter needs to be referred to another forensic team to be constituted by the CBI by picking up some of the best names in the field from different hospitals so that a fair and proper assessment takes place with regard to the comments of the post-mortem done by the Cooper Hospital and also whether the cause of death can be specified on the basis of the material available with the CBI," Varun Singh wrote in his letter to the CBI. "The AIIMS report, if at all,

could have specified the cause of death i.e. by hanging and could not have gone to say it is a case of suicide because that is something which the CBI can decide after a complete investigation in the matter," the late actor's family lawyer stated. "CBI may also inquire into the circumstances that have led Dr Sudhir Gupta indulge in such unprofessional conduct that threatens to jeopardise the course of investigations and help wrong-doers escape the clutches of law," lawyer Varun Singh added. The letter written by the late actor's family lawyer comes a day after his key accused actress Rhea Chakraborty's family lawyers alleged that Sushant's family and their lawyers were "interfering and tampering" with the investigations, by raising doubts about the probe carried out by the CBI and the forensic report submitted to it by the AIIMS which has ruled out murder in the Sushant death and said it was a clear case of "suicide". "The CBI is independently and impartially investigating both the cases and the agency is supposed to be insulated and free from any interference," Maneshinde said. "The SSR family lawyer (Vikas Singh) is supposed to have said that he is going to meet the CBI Director to get the family's pre-determined path of investigations in SSR death. It is very disturbing to read such information in the media as attempts are being made to get a pre-determined result in the case," Maneshinde said.

3 terrorists killed in Shopian encounter

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Three terrorists, one belonging to the pro Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen and two others to Al Badr terrorist outfit, were killed by the joint team of security forces during a night long operation in the Sagan area of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the line of control along the Uri sector in Baramulla also witnessed fresh exchange of firing with Pakistan resorting to use of mortar shelling and use of other weapons to hit the forward posts of the Indian army. In response, Indian army retaliated strongly. Defence spokesman in Srinagar, Col Rajesh Kalia said, "Pakistan initiated an unprovoked Ceasefire Violation along LoC in Uri Sector, Baramulla District Wednesday morning by firing mortars & other weapons. A Befitting response was given, he added. In Shopian, the operation was launched in the area on receipt of information about the movement of a group of terrorists late Tuesday evening. Soon after the initial contact was made with the terror-

ists hiding inside a home, appeals were made by the security forces to lay down their arms but they refused. According to ground reports, two terrorists were neutralised late night and the third terrorist was neutralised after the operations resumed with the first light early Wednesday morning. Jawans of 44RR, Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir police and 178BN CRPF participated in the operation. The security forces recovered three dead bodies from the site of encounter Wednesday morning. According to a police spokesman, "the killed terrorists have been identified as Sajad Ahmad Malla resident of Maldera Shopian affiliated with proscribed terror outfit HM, Junaid Rashid Wani resident of Tumulhaal Pulwama and Waseem Ahmad Magray resident of Chakoora affiliated with proscribed terror outfit Al-Badr". As per police records, the killed terrorists were part of groups involved in planning & executing several terror attacks including civilian atrocities and attacks on security establishments.

Covid positive humans too can transmit virus to wildlife: Study



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While the SARS-CoV-2 causing Covid-19 is being blamed to have spilled over from animals to humans, a new study has flagged concerns that there's considerable risk that infected humans too can transmit the virus to wildlife, thus creating a new reservoir of pathogen besides endangering the already threatened species. The researchers have urged people to take sanitary precautions when in direct or indirect contact with wild or feral mammal species to prevent human-to-wildlife SARS-CoV-2 transmission. The study is published in the journal Mammal Review. It noted that if SARS-CoV-2 was to infect and spread among wild mammals, it could potentially cause disease in some populations, in turn further endangering already threatened species. "We really should avoid turning our pandemic into a multi-species problem," said study lead author Sophie Gryseels from the University of Antwerp in Belgium. For the findings, the research team regularly searched the studies with different combinations of the keywords: SARS-CoV-2, infection experiment, animal model, mammal, susceptibility, ACE2, cell line, coronavirus, wildlife. They particularly checked ProMED, a community-driven platform that scans infectious disease news and reports every instance of non-human animals naturally infected by SARS-CoV-2. Though most people very rarely come into close contact with live wild animals, transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from humans could readily occur during (field) activities. Also, if SARS-CoV-2 could be sustainably transmitted among some mammalian pop-

Previous coronavirus cold infection may lessen severity of Covid-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an observation that could have significant implications on the Covid-19 vaccine development, a study has said that being previously infected with coronavirus that cause the 'common cold' may decrease the severity of Covid-19. Led by researchers at Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine, the study Published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, however, also demonstrated that the immunity built up from previous non-SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infections does not prevent individuals from getting Covid-19. The researchers looked at electronic medical record data from individuals who had a respiratory panel test (CRP-PCR) result between May 18, 2015 and March 11, 2020. did not prevent someone from getting infected with SARS-CoV-2. "Our results show that people with evidence of a previous infection from a 'common cold' coronavirus have less severe Covid-19 symptoms," said Manish Sagar, MD, an infectious diseases physician and researcher at Boston Medical Center, associate professor of medicine and microbiology at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) and the study's co-corresponding author. Another interesting finding, the authors note, is that immunity may prevent disease (COVID-19) in ways that are different from preventing infection by SARS-CoV-2. This is demonstrated by the fact that the patient groups had similar likelihoods of infection but differing likelihoods of ending up in the ICU or dying. human populations-imagine what it will be like if it spreads among wild mammals," said study researcher KU Leuven from the University of Arizona in the US. "They (animals) could

also get sick and form a reservoir from which they can then again infect humans, but we can't ask animals to wear face masks and keep physical distance," Leuven noted.

Minister lauds RAF's role in curbing riots across country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday said the riots in Delhi this year were a "big conspiracy" to disturb the country but security forces like the Rapid Action Force (RAF) played an important role in "suppressing the elements that spread anarchy" during the time. Rai was addressing RAF troops on the occasion of the force's 28th anniversary, or raising day, at a Central Reserve Police Force camp in Gurugram. The RAF is a special anti-riot wing of the CRPF and was raised in 1992. "A big conspiracy was deployed to disturb the coun-

try through the Delhi riots that took place this year," Rai said in his address to the troops. But RAF personnel "completely defeated" the nefarious designs of the rioters, he added. "You suffer damage and injury during riots and protests. But you use force only when violent groups start troubling the peace of society," he added. The RAF was deployed for law and order role during the communal violence that broke out in northeast Delhi in February, killing 53 people and injuring about 200 others. The RAF has 15 battalions (over 15,000 personnel) based in various parts of the country. Delhi Police has filed multiple chargesheets before a Delhi court in the riot cases.

EC trims star campaigners' number to 30

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has revised downwards the number of star campaigners whom recognised national and State political parties can use during the upcoming and future polls in the country during the coronavirus pandemic. As per the revised norms for star campaigners, a maximum limit of the number of star campaigners is fixed to 30 for recognised national/State political parties. For unrecognised registered political parties, the maximum limit is fixed 15. Earlier, 40 star campaigners were allowed for recognised national/state political parties, while 20 were permitted for unrecognised registered political parties. Accordingly, the period of submission of the list of star campaigners is extended from 7 days to 10 days from the date of notification. The battle lines are drawn for the Bihar assembly elections, with both major alliances announcing their seat sharing equations. The EC further said that political parties, which have already submitted a list of star campaigners shall resubmit a revised list within the stipulated period.

No more Shaheen Baghs

SC says public spaces can't be occupied indefinitely, upholds the right to dissent with that of commute but leaves it to police to clear site



Protests, demonstrations, mass rallies and street blockades have been resorted to by citizens across the world to register their disapproval of or discontent with the establishment. And it is because of their disruptive nature, affecting public life, that has compelled authorities to take notice or change tack. It is because of their participatory zeal that they end up becoming movements, encouraging change and keeping democracy alive. So the Supreme Court had an extremely tough job at hand to decide whether the prolonged protests at Shaheen Bagh, against a religion-based citizenship law, should be allowed to continue for the sake of democ-

cracy. Or whether the democratic right to dissent should also factor in the democratic right of citizens to lead their lives normally beyond a certain threshold of disruption. At the same time, would Shaheen Bagh have become a civil movement had it not been sustained over a certain period of time and forced people to sit up and take notice? Would the citizens have shared a sameness of purpose if they did not have a focal point in a commoner like Bilkis Dadi and her magnetic force? But now that Shaheen Bagh has probably served its purpose and outlived its utility, the top court, which had previously sent interlocutors for mediating with protesters, has given a decisive verdict. In a carefully worded ruling, it said public spaces cannot be occupied indefinitely and that dissent and democracy must go hand-in-hand. It said protests should be held at a designated place and any occupation of public places or roads by demonstrators, which cause inconvenience to a large number of people and violate their right to movement, is not permissible under law. The Bench ruled that the right to protest had to be balanced with the right to commute. But by not mentioning the timeline and specifics, it did not disallow such blockades per se but instead entrusted the authorities concerned to act on their own in such situations without hiding behind the court. Now this latter bit could be interpreted variably by the implementing agencies in deciding to what extent could a blockade be allowed or not and what would be the contours of reasonable restrictions. This could also be open to political manipulation. The court also mentioned "parallel conversations on social media" as having fomented a polarised scenario but while these may have some mobilising ability, they cannot have as much of an impact as a physical congregation. The latter is dependent on individual will, commitment and effort. That's why, contrary to the court's perception, the Shaheen Bagh protest worked. Driven by elderly women against the Government's citizenship and identity policies, it was by and large disciplined and peaceful, one which drew many sympathisers from across the spectrum. But as it led to traffic congestion over time, resulting in hardships for commuters and emergency services, it did turn off a middle of the spectrum opinion that it had galvanised in the early stages. And the clamour for clearing the protest site gained traction.

Still, Shaheen Bagh has been an example of civil society's spontaneous combustion, one that has been taken note of by *Time* magazine as a change-making moment of our times. But now its sincerity of purpose has been drowned and become an easy fodder for political weaponisation. Just before the Assembly elections, Shaheen Bagh was swiftly turned into a test case of nationalism from being an anti-establishment forum, becoming a simplistic referendum on whether minority intrusion could disrupt majority lives — in this case, blockade-hit Delhiites — on whether it needed to be surgically cut out from the heart of the city. But despite the demoralisation of the protesters, the women were able to draw not just liberal thinkers, who are easily perceived as public enemies these days, but all-faith community leaders, including the Sikhs. The BJP had lionised Shaheen Bagh to push the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) into a corner before the elections and though it could have very well used the Delhi Police to clear the roads, as the top court reminded it should have, it let the problem fester, hoping it would anger citizens enough to vote for it. That didn't happen. As for the preventive role of the police that the court insisted should have settled matters, the forces were predictably acting at the behest of their political masters. One of the principles of good policing is that the forces should function without any fear and favour, which they have failed at. This brings us to the subject of police reforms that have been stalled by successive regimes since the apex court mooted this idea in 2006, though it has been more than two decades that the call for reforming our forces gained traction. And sadly, as the crackdowns on dissenters, even at dedicated spots as the court mentioned, on some other pretext or the other show, the space for alternative views is shrinking regardless of whether protesters block roads or not.

Taking shape

China's recent actions have forced the Quad alliance between Australia, India, Japan and the US to become much more formal



The Quad is the latest politico-military alliance on the block that has been under discussion over years but is picking up pace now. So far, India, one of the primary members of this alliance along with US, Japan and now Australia, seemed to be quite happy that it remained stillborn, not wanting to instigate the reason this axis was being built up for — to contain the People's Republic of China and its President Xi Jinping in the region. Then India faced a double whammy; first the pandemic imported from China, advance information of which was withheld by Xi and his lackeys, and then the murderous assault on our troops and territorial ingress in

the Galwan Valley. This forced the Indian political and bureaucratic establishment to realise that China is not even a transactional neighbour but an avaricious maximalist and having financially and militarily backed Pakistan for decades now, it now wanted Central Asia on its terms and saw India as a thorn in its flesh. Besides with India swerving towards the US-led West, the Chinese establishment thought that "teaching a lesson" would force us away from Quad. But with the meeting of Foreign Ministers and military officials in Tokyo, the Quad, an alliance to protect the Indo-Pacific, is closer than ever to being formalised.

It remains to be seen if the Quad, or whatever name the alliance takes, will have something similar to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) whereby if war is declared on one NATO member, all members are at war (although NATO doesn't know how to resolve conflicts between two members as is currently ongoing between Greece and Turkey). But China's recent belligerence despite gifting the world the pandemic that has ripped the global economy to shreds, driven millions into poverty and destabilised the global system means that the Quad is not just sending a message to Xi and other Chinese Communist Party members. It is also telling the rest of the world that four large and successful democracies are willing to stand up to Beijing's bullying and that other nations can take shelter behind them. India is slowly warming up to Australia with which it conducted a two-day mega joint exercise in the Indian Ocean Region recently, involving a range of complex naval manoeuvres, anti-aircraft drills and helicopter operations. This is progress considering that India has so far not invited Australia to the Malabar exercises as it feels that Australia's dependence on the Chinese economy would hold it back from committing to Quad effectively. But now that Australia, too, has spearheaded the campaign to unveil the conspiracy behind the Wuhan virus and is at the receiving end of Chinese hit-back at its economy, there is a shared concern. India has to map out a strategy of opening doors of cooperation in relation to its Andaman and Nicobar Islands with Australia. At the end of the day, China just has a sea or two. India is the only nation in the world to have an Ocean named after it and that ocean should belong to us as a sphere of influence and used to squeeze China along maritime corridors.

Are we living in a dystopia?

The rampant police brutality and utter disregard for the rule of law compel us to question what lies ahead for India



DEEPAK SINHA

The thing about young Sushant Singh Rajput's untimely passing is not so much his death, which was undoubtedly tragic, but far worse, his subsequent character assassination for dubious political ends. What the media would now have us believe is that he was just another Jekyll and Hyde character, a promising and aspiring young star on the outside but a doped out manic depressive on the inside. Thankfully, the AIMS medical report and the CBI's initial findings seem to confirm that he indeed did commit suicide.

Over the last few months, the pot continued to boil as dribs and drabs of inconclusive information were leaked by agencies to media outlets to serve their own ends. This ensured the arrest of his former girlfriend, now granted bail by the Bombay High Court, in the ludicrous avatar of a drug financier, and a galaxy of top stars from Bollywood facing the heat for alleged drug use and peddling. The fact that the evidence investigators appeared to be working with was in the nature of some forced confessions, as some allege, and the recovery of 500 grams of a recreational drug, seemed inconsequential. Truly, we are now burdened with courts, it seems, that will believe anything, however far-fetched or fanciful it may be. In all of this, one is not quite sure what the actor's family hoped to gain from converting this tragedy into a public spectacle. In all probability, their hopes seem to have been belied and dashed, if recent reports in the media are to be believed.

The real winners are not the aspiring politicians but our very own Sherlocks, the hard-working sleuths of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) who now get to mess with the stars daily. As the good Bard wrote, each of them now gets to "strut and fret his hour upon the stage", though at the end of it, after the Bihar elections precisely, one suspects it will be "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing".

There is another loser here, an institutional one, that has willingly allowed politicians to turn this tragedy into a blood sport. But then as the imitable Charles Dickens wrote, "the law is an ass",



and one cannot help but wonder what he thought of those who meted it out. Sadly, we see that too often these days, as the verdict on the 28-year-old case over the demolition of the Babri Masjid demonstrates. BJP veterans may well celebrate but it is not innocence that has won but plain incompetence. But who are we to complain, it is probably the price we pay for our version of democracy and the right to choose who leads us.

Talking of which, in these dystopian times, we have been given a glimpse of the new and future India if the BJP and its friends have their way. Rampant brutality and utter disregard for the law, on the part of those appointed to uphold it, appear to have become the hallmark of Yogi Adityanath's Uttar Pradesh. All the people in the State are seen as lab rats for the Hindutva brigade's experimentation with governance. A rape a day is the new normal. Hathras yesterday, Balrampur today, who knows where next tomorrow?

The alleged horrific rape, that the police insist never occurred, the subsequent murder of a teenager in Hathras and the subsequent acts of indignity heaped on her family by the local administration are not just a shameful and damning indictment of the Yogi Government, but also of the Central Government that has allowed the police to run riot wherever its party controls the system. As our courts and criminal jus-

MOST OF THE PM'S INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN STYMIED BY THE INABILITY OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE 30 PER CENT ODD VOTESHARE THAT IT RECEIVED, LEADING TO AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN THE PARLIAMENT, DOES NOT IN ANY WAY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF ALL THE PEOPLE. WE NEED CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

stice system have floundered, and all but surrendered, to an increasingly authoritarian regime, the latter's henchmen, in collusion with the police, act as if they are above the law, storm troopers from an earlier darker era. What else can explain the undemocratic curbs placed to prevent protests against police high-handedness?

In all honesty, it is unfair to blame Prime Minister Narendra Modi, either for most of our ills or for much that has transpired. After all, this debilitating pandemic was not of his doing and while initial reactions of the Government may not have been up to the mark, especially its handling of the migrant issue, it is really doubtful if any other Government would have done any better. Given the constraints that health is a State subject, our high population density, poor health infrastructure and lack of hygiene awareness that prevails, we have at least tried to manage resources. In fact, it is the Modi Government that has been focussed on the issue of hygiene and sanitation.

Similarly, our broken criminal justice system and the prevailing police culture that are responsible for much that is awry owe a great deal to generations of politicians of all hues, who have used, and continue to use, the police as personal lackeys for their own ends. It is they who have successfully blocked all attempts at reforms or min-

imising political interference in such matters. Also, let us not forget that this is not the first time that the issue of independence of the judiciary has been raised or its actions questioned.

Most of the Prime Minister's initiatives have been stymied by the inability of the Government to understand that the 30 per cent odd voteshare that it received, leading to an overwhelming majority in the Parliament, does not in any way represent the views of all the people. For initiatives to be acceptable to all, there is a genuine need for consultation and interaction with all stakeholders in a spirit of give and take without intimidation. There has also been a remarkable inability on the part of this Government to deliver, due to sheer inefficiency, on matters such as GST and demonetisation. The saving grace for him has been the military's superlative performance in the confrontation against the Chinese, especially given the way he botched up his response after the Galwan action. This is indeed ironical, given the fact that he has never lost an opportunity to do down the military, serving and veterans alike. One cannot help but wonder if his attitude towards the military will now change, or will he kill the goose that lays golden eggs.

(The writer, a military veteran is a Consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation)

SOUNDBITE

Sitting in a hotel room in quarantine once again after leaving New Zealand is not how I thought I would be arriving at the IPL, but here I am and all things considered, I'm in a good place.



Cricketer
—Ben Stokes

The next parallel city to Panaji will be in Mercas and it will be an attraction. It will be like Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.



Goa Chief Minister
—Pramod Sawant

I am ready to give the responsibility to strong leaders, no matter which group they belong to. I am even ready to help them.



President of Kyrgyzstan
—Sooronbay Jeenbekov

It would be very meaningful if the four countries (Australia, India, Japan and US) could exchange their views in the field of defence.



Japan's Defence Minister
—Nobuo Kishi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Structural reforms

Sir — The Hathras incident has once again exposed the vulnerable state of women in India, especially those who belong to the marginalised social sections, and the challenges in ensuring their safety and delivering justice. The Hathras case has also been equated with the 2012 gang-rape case in Delhi that had shaken the nation's conscience, leading to the formation of the Justice JS Verma Committee, which recommended amendments to criminal laws for providing quicker trial and enhanced punishment to those who committed sexual assault against women. But incidents such as Hathras show that ensuring social, institutional and structural changes on the ground is more difficult than making changes on paper. However, the real justice for the victim of Hathras would be implementing the Verma committee recommendations in letter and spirit by both the Central and State Governments. The outrage against the events of Hathras should now be channelised towards driving political will and structural reforms.

Noor Ahmad
Hyderabad

UP Govt must be held accountable

Following the horrifying 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape, lawmakers brought stringent reforms, including death penalty for repeat rape offenders. However, even with changes in the law and continuous media coverage, it took over seven years for Nirbhaya to get justice. Over the years, Governments have changed but nothing much has been done to improve the justice system. There is no political will to enforce the laws. Unfortunately, even a heinous crime like that of rape becomes a political issue in India as parties start exploiting the situation for their selfish gains. The brutal gang-rape and murder of the 19-year-old Dalit girl in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, is a perfect example. And Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Government has much to answer for it.

The manner in which crimes against women, especially Dalit women, is being approached and dealt with by the Uttar Pradesh police is outrageous. And what is more obnoxious is the way it justified its act of obstructing justice as necessary for maintaining law and



order before the Supreme Court. What the Yogi Government cannot deny is that the State has witnessed a 28 per cent rise in crimes against women, especially those of Dalits. The UP Government and the State police must be held accountable for caste-based atrocities and injustice meted out to them.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Safety is paramount

Sir — The decision to reopen schools from October 15 is not very well thought out given the fact that Coronavirus cases are increasing at an alarming rate and more than one lakh people have died in the last six months. It would be utter folly to expose children to the risk of infection in the name of education, career

and future. The safety of children is paramount and it must override concerns like sessions and examinations. Resetting of schools, particularly classrooms, libraries and laboratories, to make them spacious enough to keep physical distancing is easier said than done. The pandemic calls for nothing short of recreating the physical educational infrastructure. It is impor-

tant to foresee the difficulty in maintaining distancing as children interact and bond with their peers naturally. In fact, children are programmed to socialise as they grow up. It is difficult to foretell how far it will be possible for children to modify their behaviour and adapt to what is called the "new normal".

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

AQI hits 207

Sir — On October 7, the capital woke up to "poor" air quality for the first time this season, with the air quality index (AQI) hitting 207. According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), around 336 farm fires were observed around Punjab, Haryana and neighbouring border regions on October 6. Stubble burning has been a major contributor to Delhi's air pollution and coupled with the pandemic, it can prove life-threatening. In this context, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched a mega anti-air pollution campaign *Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh* with specific plans for each of the 13 pollution hotspots in the city. The State Government is also preparing a "Green Delhi" mobile application where people can report "pollution-causing activities". These steps will not only make the public aware of their surroundings but also help the Government address the issue proactively.

Bhadesh Prajapat
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Why Indian start-ups fail

The approach of entrepreneurs should be to leapfrog and learn from failures rather than to succumb in the name of fortune



TUSHAR MANCHANDA

With the advent of technology and the culture of 'Make in India', the number of Indian start-ups has risen sharply. This has been strengthened by continuous support from the Government and improvement in the 'Ease of Doing Business' in the country. Plus, initiatives like Stand-Up India, Skill India, the Atal Innovation Mission and Start-Up India have established an ecosystem to encourage entrepreneurship and job creation for the State. However, despite all these efforts by the Government, 90 per cent of the Indian start-ups fail within five years of their inception as per a report by IBM Institute for Business Value and Oxford Economics. There are numerous reasons why a new firm would fail. In an emerging market like India, the needs of the people change frequently. Thus, the strategic model of a start-up needs to resonate with the changing needs of society. However, a large number of Indian entrepreneurs lack this skill. Typically, the age of founders of new businesses is in the range of 20-30. Most of them are fresh graduates who have an aspiration to grow in life and have high risk-taking abilities. However, despite such ambition and enthusiasm, their probability of being successful is very low. Since most of the entrepreneurs have very limited exposure, their understanding is limited in terms of what is required in the marketplace.

Most of the founders imitate a business model that is successful in the overseas markets. However, tweaking a model to suit the Indian geography may not be a good way to realise revenues from the business. This could fetch initial investments for the firm but may not help to retain the customers after trials, since this might not be what they are really looking for. While imitating an idea the vision is defined by the originator. This makes the scope of business limited and the team tries to adhere to what had been done earlier. As a result, the offering may not address the problem of the customers.

A lot of entrepreneurs in their initial phase think of expansion as scaling up is an important aspect that is associated with a new business. However, most of the founders from the premier B-schools forget about the viability of the model. Scaling up at a stage when the path is not clear scripts a dreadful fortune for the firm. The Indian sub-continent is a land of diversity and disparities, unlike the US where the culture is quite similar across the country. Thus implementing anything on a PAN-India level is difficult, unless a business has a stable model. Most of the teams end up in a perplexed state when they are occupied by too many issues and they lose track of their vision and how to solve the burgeoning problems. Eventually, the top talent in senior management often makes an exit in such scenarios.

There are even bigger questions that still remain unsolved. Why does this happen to start-ups in India? Why is an entrepreneur from India more innovative and productive when abroad? Why is there a race among entrepreneurs to upscale immediately? This basically dwells on the deep roots of Indian society, as our cultural barriers are strong enough to hit the vision of an entrepreneur. Failure, which is seen as the stepping stone and learning curve on the road to success, is not accepted in Indian society. In India, failure is frowned upon in all instances of life, whether it is school, higher education or profession. This tendency leads to a race to achieve something, or to fail at something and move on. If an entrepreneur fails at some point, that's the end of the road. All possibilities of improving are ruled out and often a new career option is considered.

In the US and most other nations overseas, there is an approach towards company building. A start-up recruits top talent from the industry by offering perks. However, in India, new firms have limited access to talent. But for companies with a strong business model, there is a major talent pool available. This again boils down to norms that are being inculcated within the individuals at a very young age. Indian parents nurture their kids with a phrase called "job security." Every household in India wants a promising job, a company that weathers tough times and the economic uncertainty of a slowdown.

There may not be a lucid solution or a paved path to avoid these issues. However, a step-by-step approach will help the entrepreneurs realise what's required in the marketplace. One must realise that there are bumps and bottlenecks in the road to success. Further, failure will only indicate what's not right for your customer. Over a longer horizon, this would result in a better value proposition for the end-consumer. The approach of entrepreneurs should be to leapfrog and learn from failures rather than to succumb in the name of fortune.

(The writer is ASM in a leading FMCG firm. The views expressed here are personal)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

YOUNG AND EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUALS DON'T JUST WAKE UP ONE FINE DAY AND KILL THEMSELVES. SUSHANT SAID HE WAS BEING BULLIED.

—ACTOR

KANGANA RANAULT



NO THEY DON'T. THEY SUFFER FOR MANY YEARS AND STRUGGLE BEFORE SOMETIMES JUST NEEDING TO OPT OUT. LET'S NOT DEMONISE MENTAL HEALTH.

—ACTOR

SONI RAZDAN

Let's talk about it

People are often reluctant to get treatment for their emotional well-being because of societal stereotypes and pre-conceived notions. This needs to change



SANTOSH K BISWAL

UTTAM CHAKRABORTY

Mental illness in India accounts for 28 per cent of global suicides, as around 197 million Indians suffer from some form of it. Yet it is a subject that is ignored and brushed under the carpet as it is considered to be a stigma in the country. However, the recent suicide by the promising Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR) has brought the issue back into the spotlight, even though a lot of people were in denial that the talented, young man, who was doing well for himself, was suffering from depression and had decided to end his life at the age of 34.

Even though social media and the family of the actor are denying that SSR committed suicide, the fact of the matter is that he is not the lone celebrity with mental health issues to have done so. Hindi film and TV actors Kushal Punjabi, Jiah Khan, Gurudutt, Pratyusha Banerjee and actors from the South like Sai Prashanth, Uday Kiran, Ranganath, Santhosh Jogi, Silk Smitha and Kalpana all ended their own lives. The majority of these celebrities committed suicide when they were basking in glory and there was no dearth of fans. The award-winning Dubai-based Indian industrialist, Joy Arakkal, committed suicide as he was battling depression due to a financial crisis. The story behind Cafe Coffee Day founder VG Siddhartha's death was the same and came as a huge shock.

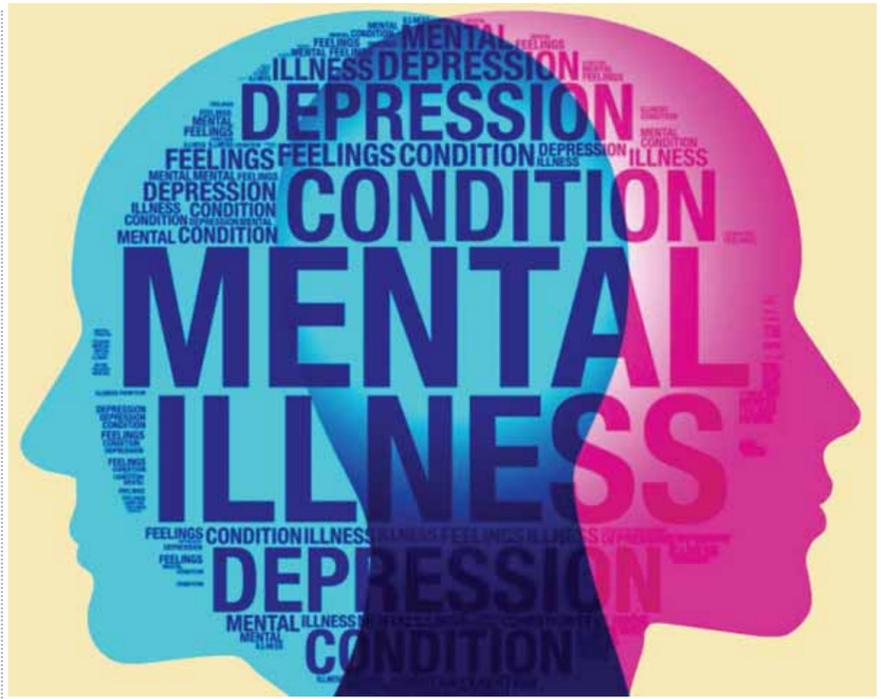
The fact remains that celebrities do fall prey to mental illness for all their outward fame and success. However, many conspiracy theories are doing the rounds regarding SSR's death and the larger discourse on mental health is getting lopsided, or worse totally ignored. The discussion on mental health, a part of public health, remains a low priority and a taboo. Sadly, celebrities suffering from mental health issues are not willing to forgo their fame and saleability in the process of mitigating their mental illnesses.

If, like Bollywood A-lister Deepika Padukone, more of them would come out and talk about their struggle with depression, it would do a yeoman's service to Indian society as mental health is often stigmatised in the country. It would help common people to cope better with their own mental illnesses and life's struggles and hopefully get timely help. This is important as farmer deaths are at 11.2 per cent of the total suicides in the nation whereas students contribute to 6.7 per cent of the burden.

The National Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, is in a precarious condition to address this grave situation. Moreover, the World Mental Health Day campaign of "Move for mental health: Let's invest" by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health doesn't mean much in the Indian context. In an urgent note, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has shouted out to strengthen India's public health system for human resource development. Tellingly, mental health remains undeniably one of the most neglected areas of the public health system in the country, which in any case is in a poor shape.

Now, with the Coronavirus resulting in widespread joblessness and reverse migration of millions of labourers to their villages, this burden of mental illnesses-fuelled suicides is only set to grow. As many as 466 suicides were reported this year to date, which means that on an average, over two people are taking their lives daily. Reportedly, farmers top the list, followed by labourers, students, private sec-

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROSCIENCES, BENGALURU, REVEALS THAT 13.7 PER CENT OF INDIA'S POPULATION SUFFERS FROM SOME FORM OF MENTAL ILLNESS. SADLY, INDIA SPENDS ONLY 3.6 PER CENT OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ON HEALTHCARE SERVICES. MOREOVER, ITS SPENDING IS THE LEAST AMONG BRIC COUNTRIES. ADDING TO THE PROBLEM, ONLY 1.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH EXPENDITURE IS ALLOCATED TO MENTAL HEALTH



tor employees and businessmen. Over 40 suicides were reported in January, 45 in February, 32 in March, 47 in April, 89 in May, 112 in June and 101 in July. Of the total number of suicides, 302 were reported in May, June and July.

The two-fold increase in suicide cases is being attributed to the growing stress in the wake of the pandemic. In fact, suicides are believed to be the second leading cause of non-Coronavirus deaths during the lockdown. The issue in these troubled times is double-layered and has to be discussed keeping in mind plenty of factors. Fear, uncertainty and suicidal thoughts have gone up and people are becoming highly vulnerable.

Plus, the dread of contracting the disease, combined with the realisation that the incidence of COVID-19 has spiralled instead of being contained, and that the days of social distancing could extend indefinitely, have been profoundly disturbing for many. So people who were on a mild anxiety spectrum earlier have moved to moderate and severe anxiety. When anxiety gets severe, self-harm increases.

Also, psycho-social issues, such as domestic violence and sexual abuse, have added to these woes. More housewives have committed suicides because of a spurt in domestic violence, intimate partner violence and harassment.

Taking worries about the mental health of India's adolescents to another level, there has been a spurt in suicides by teenagers in these uncertain times as those already suffering from depression or anxiety can be pushed over the edge by even a small trigger. For instance, the 14-year-old daughter of a daily wage labourer in Kerala ended her life owing to the inaccessibility to a smartphone. Here, the digital divide was the trigger for the

youngster to end her life. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru, reveals that 13.7 per cent of India's population suffers from some form of mental illness. Sadly, India spends only 3.6 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product on healthcare services. Moreover, its spending is the least among BRIC countries. Adding to the problem, only 1.3 per cent of the total Government health expenditure is allocated to mental health. It is hard to believe that basic healthcare facilities are not there for mentally disturbed patients in a 20-kilometre radius.

To make matters worse, India has one doctor for every 1,00,000 people. There are only 43 hospitals and 3,000 psychiatrists available in the entire nation, leaving a number of mentally challenged or disturbed patients in the lurch. Since it is a signatory nation of the United Nations' (UN) Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Government should proactively address the issues of the disabled irrespective of its nature.

The Mental Healthcare Act 2017, assures bio-medical, clinical interventions and institutionalisation to intervene in mental health issues. Despite the Act, the social determinants of health (SDH) are not fully functional. Suffice to say, the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) offer a blueprint for human development and for addressing the SDH.

While mostly people with mental illness are unemployed, inclusive education, too, is a distant dream. The approach to deal with the issue still suffers from pity, charity and a medical model of disability. Plus, the medical and administrative apparatus dealing with mental health is not gender and region-sensitive. There is

no discussion on women with mental illness and mental patients residing in rural and tribal pockets.

Farmer and student suicides are creating havoc in the country. Yet, there is no thorough probe or discussion on why certain States are more prone to suicides than others. People are often reluctant to get treatment for their emotional well-being because of societal stereotypes and pre-conceived notions. This needs to change.

In addition, the news media remains episodic in terms of the coverage on mental health issues. As a result, the underestimated consequences of such health issues are getting perpetuated, stressing the public healthcare system. India cannot achieve its SDGs unless it curbs its rate of suicides.

The WHO asserts, "Mental health and well-being are fundamental to the quality of life, enabling people to experience life as meaningful, become creative and active citizens." In these pandemic times, it has disseminated comprehensive guidelines to keep mental health intact. In addition, the IMF has endorsed that India should boost its human capital by investing in education and healthcare.

The discussion on mental health needs to be re-oriented and no more compartmentalised. Socio-cultural, economic and environmental factors covering national policies, social protection and community support must be ensured. Resilience among adolescents and children needs to be exercised. A multi-pronged approach is the solution to several psychological issues.

(Biswal and Chakraborty are Assistant Professors at SIMC and SIBM respectively and are working at Symbiosis International, Pune.)

Serve humanity through sensitive policing

The distinct nature of the RAF's duties necessitates the use of non-lethal equipment and a different mindset to deal with tricky situations



NITU BHATTACHARYA

The Indian civilisation is old and it has been a synthesis of cultures, religions, races, castes and creed. Thousands of years of syncretic culture have held their own despite the vast social and economic disparities. India thus represents a multi-cultural mosaic within an integrated nation. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and test of our civilisation."

Diversity does not mean inequalities but celebrates the differences between sectionalities while unity stands for integration and the bonds that hold our social fabric together. At the intersectionalities, the social fabric of the country sometimes gets frayed when emotions run high. While the Father of the Nation is known as the

'apostle of peace', India has witnessed the most gruesome riots, too. It is in this backdrop that the Rapid Action Force (RAF) was raised. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was already deployed across the country and dealing with internal security duties. Therefore, the CRPF was given the mandate to raise the RAF, which is a specialised force meant exclusively to deal with riots and riot-like conditions.

On October 8, 1992, the RAF was born as an integral part of the CRPF. A neutral, professional force, specialised in the task of riot-control, which reaches the site in "zero-response time," it protects the vulnerable sections of society and provides succour to the victims. Distinct from the other forces in their blue dungarees, the men and women of the RAF are trained professionals who understand mob psychology and are aware of the ethos and culture of the area.

The RAF was conceptualised to work on the principle of "minimum use of force" with less lethal weapons and equipment, conforming to the graded approach to the use of force against rioters. The RAF has 15 battalions, which are numbered 99 to 108,



and 83, 91, 97, 114, 194. Each is headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector-General. The smallest functional unit in the force is a team commanded by an inspector, which has three components, namely riot control, tear smoke element and fire element. It has been organised as an independent striking unit. One team in a company of the RAF comprises women personnel so as to deal more effectively with a situation where there are women demonstrators.

The President's Colours is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon an armed unit and is presented in recognition of the invaluable contribution to the security of the nation during peace and in times of hostility. The RAF, with 11 glorious years of service, was presented the President's Colours

in October 2003. The distinct and sensitive nature of the RAF's duties necessitates the use of non-lethal equipment and a different mindset to deal with tricky situations. This duty is very different from that of the armed forces who are trained to deal with insurgency, militancy and warfare. The personnel are, therefore, put through a special pre-induction training at the RAF Academy of Public Order that was raised in 2013. Over the years, the academy has grown in stature and now provides training to State police forces besides foreign nationals. With 15 units deployed across the length and breadth of the nation, the RAF is able to reach the area of concern quickly and efficiently. In peace time, it undertakes famex or familiarisation exercises. The RAF

routinely adopts villages in nearby areas and undertakes social responsibilities. Resultantly, the force has successfully contributed in the field of adult education and gender awareness.

Working in the field of environment protection and climate change, too, the force has generated awareness about rain water harvesting, use of solar energy, plastic disposal and has worked towards reversing the loss of forest cover by planting more trees.

The proven credentials of the RAF and its unstinting work ethics have made it a force to reckon with. As part of the nation's commitment to world peace, the force was sent on its first overseas deployment to Haiti in 1994. In 2000, RAF troops were deployed in Kosovo as it faced turmoil. The force continued for five years there, providing relief. The RAF created history in July 2007 by sending the world's first female-formed unit to strife-torn Liberia. This was followed by nine other women-only contingents that are rotated annually. Male contingents were also deployed on six occasions.

The force has had an impeccable record in containing violent situations, especially communal riots. In the

two months of its formation, the RAF was at the forefront of tackling communal violence that erupted after the demolition of Babri Mosque in Ayodhya.

The RAF has rendered invaluable humanitarian services during the 1993 floods in Delhi, the 1994 Delhi riots, the plague in Surat, the 1995 floods in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, the 1997 super cyclone in Odisha, the 2004 tsunami in South India and during heavy floods in Maharashtra and Gujarat (2005, 2006, 2011 and 2012). During the Mumbai terror attack in 2008, the RAF was deployed to cordon off the area around the Oberoi Trident and the Taj Mahal hotels. Apart from controlling riots, the RAF performs law and order duties, crowd management during festivals and agitations, election duties and VVIP duties.

A force with a human touch, the RAF has proved its credentials over the 28 years of its raising. An unflinching dedication to duty, service before self and sensitive policing are the hallmark of this force. On its 28th Anniversary, the RAF rededicates itself to the service of India and her people. (The writer is DIG, CRPF)



FOREIGN EYE



HOPE AMID DESPAIR

Plants in offices have been linked to an increased level of generosity and trust. And while claims for plants' healing properties must not be overstated, nor should they be dismissed. Buying houseplants can be understood as an instinctive reaching for cure. "As long as you have a garden," wrote FH Burnett, the author of *The Secret Garden*, "you have a future." Even if your garden is only a snake plant or two in the corner, you have a claim on hope. (The Guardian editorial)

RBI's MPC begins deliberations, to announce policy review on Fri

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The newly-constituted Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank began its three-day deliberations on Wednesday, amid expectations that the central bank will maintain status quo on the benchmark lending rates in view of hardening inflation.

At the end of the deliberations, the RBI will come out with its monetary policy review on Friday.

The meeting of the six-member MPC, earlier slated for September 29 to October 1, was rescheduled as the appointment of independent members was delayed. The MPC must have a quorum of four.

The Government has now appointed three eminent economists Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhide as members of the MPC headed by the RBI Governor. Experts opined that the

Reserve Bank of India may not go for a reduction in the policy rate in the wake of rising Consume Price Index (CPI) based inflation, driven mainly by supply-side issues.

Industry bodies are of the view that the RBI should maintain its accommodative stance on the policy interest rates in the wake of serious challenges in limiting contraction in the economy due to COVID-19 pandemic. Tanvee Gupta Jain, Economist, UBS Securities India said that retail inflation (CPI) was above the RBI's upper tolerance band of 6 per cent in the past two quarters (March and June 2020), and likely remained above 6 per cent in the September quarter too. Jain expects the RBI to keep the policy rates on hold.

"That said, we maintain our base case view that the policy easing cycle is not over yet. We expect a further 25-50 bp rate cuts in FY21, likely in the December/February policy

review once CPI inflation has eased close to the RBI's 4 per cent," the UBS analyst said in a report.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had earlier said, although there was headroom for further monetary policy action, it was important to keep "our arsenal dry and use it judiciously".

Mayur Modi, Co-founder and Co-CEO, Moneyboxx Finance pointed out that the smaller NBFCs have found it difficult to access liquidity, both for working capital and growth.

"As of now only established and big NBFCs are getting access to RBI's partial guarantee scheme and other liquidity measures. On the other hand, if this scheme gets extended to smaller NBFCs which are catering to micro-businesses (borrowing up to Rs 5 lakh), these businesses will find some relief in the form of easy accessibility of loans at a better rate," he said.

Sensex surges for 5th day on RIL boost; TCS results eyed

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Markets ticked higher for the fifth straight session on Wednesday following gains in RIL, banking and IT stocks amid a mixed trend overseas after US President Donald Trump dashed hopes of a pre-election stimulus package.

After opening on a weak note, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained ground to end 304.38 points or 0.77 per cent higher at 39,878.95.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 76.45 points or 0.66 per cent to close at 11,738.85.

The Sensex has now gained 1,905.73 points in five sessions, while the Nifty has advanced 516.45 points. Titan was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Wednesday, climbing 4.44 per cent, after the Tata group firm said its business has been returning to normalcy in the second quarter of this fiscal, led by the jew-

ellery division.

Index heavyweight Reliance Industries spurred 2.13 per cent a day after its retail arm raised Rs 5,512.50 crore from Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for a 1.20 per cent stake.

Bajaj Auto, Maruti, UltraTech Cement, and ONGC were among the other prominent gainers.

IT major TCS inched up 0.78 per cent ahead of its quarterly results.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, NTPC and Bajaj Finserv were among the laggards, skidding up to 4.12 per cent. On the global front, Wall Street tumbled after US President Donald Trump said he was calling off negotiations with Democratic lawmakers for a fresh stimulus package until after the elections next month. However, Asian and European markets showed a mixed trend.

₹ recovers by 13 paise; ends 2-day losing streak

Mumbai: Snapping its two-day losing streak, the rupee strengthened by 13 paise to settle at 73.33 against the US dollar on Wednesday, aided by foreign fund inflows and positive domestic equities. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.53 against the US dollar, and moved in a range of 73.29 and 73.55. It finally finished at 73.33, registering a rise of 13 paise over its last close of 73.46 against the greenback. Traders said investors are focusing on the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting.

Dinesh Khara takes over as SBI Chairman



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Dinesh Khara on Wednesday took charge as the new Chairman of the country's largest lender State Bank of India. Khara took over from Rajnish Kumar, who superannuated on Tuesday. Soon after taking over the charge, Khara told reporters that one of the top priorities for him will be to maintain the quality of the loan book. Other focus areas would be safety of bank employees and customers, he said. On Tuesday, the government appointed Khara for a period of three years. Prior to his new role, he was serving the bank as Managing Director (global banking & subsidiaries).

Govt allows gas marketing freedom

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Govt on Wednesday allowed complete marketing freedom for natural gas produced from non-regulated fields, including sale to affiliate companies. The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a standard e-bidding procedure to discover price of gas. While producers will continue to be barred from participating in such auctions, affiliates would be allowed to bid, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters here.

However, the existing pricing mechanism for gas produced by state-owned ONGC and Oil India Ltd from fields given to them on a nomination basis would continue. The marketing reform would help add 40 metric million standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) of production to the existing output of 84 mmscmd, he said.

Government debt grows at 30 quarter high

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The outstanding debt of Indias non-financial sector (NFS) stood at ₹322 trillion or 167.3 per cent of GDP in 1QFY21, up from around 153

per cent in the past few quarters.

According to a report by Motilal Oswal Institutional Equities, a 9.1 per cent year on year growth in NFS debt and 0.6 per cent year on year

decline in annualized nominal GDP led to a jump in NFS' debt-to-GDP ratio in 1QFY21.

Within NFS, general government (Centre plus states) debt grew at a 30-quarter high pace of 14.3 per cent year on

year, the report said.

Moreover, nongovernment non-financial (NGNF4) debt grew 4.6 per cent YoY in 1QFY21 (against record-low growth levels of 4 per cent in 4QFY20).

States' market borrowings jump 55 pc to ₹3.75 lakh crore so far this fiscal

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The States' market borrowings have jumped 55 per cent to ₹3.75 lakh crore so far this fiscal, or 75 per cent of the budgeted amount, with 17 of them raising

an additional ₹2,350 crore from the latest auction of state development loans held on Tuesday.

Rising expenses and falling revenue, including the Centre's inability to pay the GST dues, have been leading states into a

debt trap after the pandemic scuppered their finances since the beginning of the fiscal. The latest debt raising is ₹1,200 crore more than the notified amount as Maharashtra and Jharkhand accepted an additional ₹1,000

crore and ₹200 crore, respectively.

So far this fiscal year (between April 7 and October 6), 28 states and two Union Territories have cumulatively raised ₹3.75 lakh crore via market borrowings.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

₹ recovers by 13 paise; ends 2-day losing streak



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2016 polls: Trump orders declassification of documents

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday ordered "total declassification" of all the documents related to the alleged interference of Russia in the 2016 presidential elections, which he described as a hoax.



"I have fully authorized the total Declassification of any & all documents pertaining to the single greatest political CRIME in American History, the Russia Hoax. Likewise, the Hillary Clinton Email Scandal. No redactions!" Trump said in a tweet Tuesday night.

The announcement came hours after the Director of National Intelligence declassified some of the documents.

The handwritten documents revealed former CIA Director John Brennan briefed former President Barack Obama on the purported plan of Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, to tie Trump to Russia as "a means of distracting the public from her use of a private email server", Fox News said.

2020 communications director, in a statement said now it is known that Hillary Clinton hatched a plan to divert attention away from her use of a private email server by falsely tying then-candidate Donald Trump to Russia.

"We also know that former CIA Director John Brennan briefed President Obama on that plot. It is imperative that the American people now learn what then-Vice President Joe Biden knew about this conspiracy and when he knew it," Murtaugh said.

"What did Biden know about Clinton's plan to use the Russia hoax to try to smear her

political opponent? Did Biden condone the plan? Did he express any misgivings about it or remain silent? Biden must give a full accounting of his knowledge and his conversations about Clinton's scheme, which was known to the highest reaches of his administration," he said.

Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe in a statement to Fox News said the declassified documents were transmitted to the House and Senate Intelligence Committees Tuesday afternoon.

These documents explained that Brennan's handwritten notes were taken after briefing Obama on the matter, the news channel said.

"We're getting additional insight into Russian activities from [REDACTED]," Brennan notes read. "CITE [summarizing] alleged approved by Hillary Clinton a proposal from one of her foreign policy advisers to vilify Donald Trump by stirring up a scandal claiming interference by the Russian security service," Brennan's notes read Fox News said. **PTI**

Nearly 40 nations criticise China's human rights policies

United Nations: Nearly 40 mainly Western countries criticized China's treatment of minority groups, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet, on Tuesday and expressed grave concern at the impact of its new national security law on human rights in Hong Kong.

The United States, many European countries, Japan and others called on China to allow "unfettered access" to Xinjiang for independent observers including UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet, and to urgently refrain from detaining Uighurs and members of other minorities.

The 39 countries also urged China in a joint statement read at a meeting of the General Assembly's human rights committee, "to uphold

autonomy, rights and freedoms in Hong Kong, and to respect the independence of the Hong Kong judiciary."

Their statement, read by Germany's U.N. Ambassador Christoph Heugens, was immediately followed by a statement from Pakistan on behalf of 55 countries opposing interference in China's affairs when it comes to Hong Kong.

It said the territory is part of China, and the national security law ensures China's "one country, two systems" policy on Hong Kong is enduring. Cuba followed with a statement on behalf of 45 countries supporting China's counter-terrorism and deradicalization measures in Xinjiang.

It said measures taken by China in response to threats of

terrorism and extremism were carried out within the law to safeguard the human rights of all ethnic groups in the province.

The rival statements spotlight tensions between China and the West over human rights. Those tensions have escalated especially between the United States and China, and include other issues including responsibility for the COVID-19 pandemic, trade, and Beijing's actions in the South China Sea.

The predominantly Western statement said its 39 signatories shared the concerns expressed by 50 independent U.N. Human rights experts in an "extraordinary letter" in June in which they urged the international community to "take all appropriate measures" to monitor

China and "act collectively and decisively" to ensure its government respects human rights.

They raised concerns including Beijing's treatment of ethnic minorities in Tibet and Xinjiang, allegations of excessive force against protesters, reports of retaliation against people who spoke out about the coronavirus outbreak, and Hong Kong's then proposed new security law.

The 39 nations on Tuesday expressed grave concern about the existence of a large network of 'political re-education' camps where credible reports indicate that over a million people have been arbitrarily detained" in Xinjiang, and increasing reports of

gross human rights violations." "There are severe restrictions on freedom of religion or belief and the freedoms of movement, association, and expression as well as on Uighur culture," they said.

"Widespread surveillance disproportionately continues to target Uighurs and other minorities and more reports are emerging of forced labor and forced birth control including sterilization."

On Hong Kong, the mainly Western nations said they shared concern with another group of UN experts that the National Security Law "doesn't conform to China's legal obligations" and allows for certain cases to be transferred for prosecution to the Chinese mainland. **AP**

Biden against second debate if Trump still suffers from Covid

Washington: Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden on Tuesday said he is against participating in his second debate with Donald Trump next week if the president still suffers from COVID-19.



"I think if he still has COVID, we shouldn't have a debate," Biden, a former US vice-president, told reporters on his return from Gettysburg.

The first of the three presidential debates between Biden, 77, and Trump, 74, was held on September 29. The second debate is scheduled for October 15 in Miami and the final one on October 22 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Biden said they should follow very strict guidelines. "Too many people have been infected. It's a very serious problem, so I will be guided by the guidelines of the Cleveland Clinic and what the docs say is the right thing to do," he said.

"I'm not sure what President Trump is all about now. I don't know what his status is. I'm looking forward to being able to debate him but I just hope all protocols are fol-

lowed," Biden said. Trump in a tweet on Tuesday said he is looking forward to the debate. "I am looking forward to the debate on the evening of Thursday, October 15th in Miami. It will be great!" said the president.

The only vice-presidential debate between Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris and Vice-President Mike Pence in scheduled for Wednesday in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"I think what they're doing at the Harris debate, I've been told, I don't know this for fact, they're using plexiglass, and are following what the Cleveland Clinic says," Biden told reporters in response to a question. **PTI**

Daniel Pearl's murder accused to remain in jail for another 3 months

Islamabad: British-born al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides - the main accused in the abduction and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl - will remain in jail for another three months, according to an order issued by Pakistan's Sindh government on Wednesday.

The announcement of extending their detention was made by prosecutors during a hearing of the Supreme Court, which was to decide on Sheikh's release. The apex court last week barred the government from releasing them.

Faisal Siddiqi, the lawyer representing Pearl's family, told the media that the government prosecutor, Fiaz Shah, told the judges he needed more time for paperwork to prepare for the case. The court accepted his argument and adjourned the hearing till October 21. In April, a two-judge Sindh High Court bench committed the death sentence of 46-year-old Sheikh, who was convicted in the abduction and murder of Pearl in 2002, to seven years. **PTI**

Two scientists win Nobel chemistry prize for 'gene scissors'

Stockholm: Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for developing a method of genome editing likened to "molecular scissors" that offer the promise of one day curing inherited diseases and even cancer.

Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic, Frenchwoman Emmanuelle Charpentier and American Jennifer A. Doudna developed a method known as CRISPR/Cas9 that can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision.

"There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all," said Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. "It has not only revolutionized basic science, but also resulted

in innovative crops and will lead to groundbreaking new medical treatments."

Gustafsson said that, as a result, any genome can now be edited "to fix genetic damage," adding that the tool "will provide humankind with great opportunities." But he cautioned that the "enormous power of this technology means we have to use it with great care."

It has already raised serious ethical questions in the scientific community. Most of the world became more aware of CRISPR in 2018, when Chinese scientist Dr. He Jiankui revealed he had helped make the world's first gene-edited babies, to try to engineer resistance to future infection with the AIDS virus. **AP**

Trump stops negotiations with House Democrats on coronavirus stimulus

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday instructed his officials to stop negotiating with the House Democrats on another coronavirus stimulus package, alleging that Speaker Nancy Pelosi was not holding talks in good faith.

"I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major stimulus bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and small business," Trump said in a series of tweets Tuesday afternoon.

Trump's instructions came a day after he was discharged from a military hospital where he was treated for COVID-19. For the past a few weeks, senior officials from his administration are negotiating with the House Democrats on a major

stimulus package before the November 3 elections.

Nancy Pelosi is asking for USD 2.4 Trillion to bailout poorly run, high crime democrats Ssates, money that is in no way related to COVID-19. We made a very generous offer of USD 1.6 trillion and, as usual, she is not negotiating in good faith," he alleged.

"I am rejecting their request and looking to the future of our country," he said.

Trump said he has asked Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell not to delay but to focus full time on approving his outstanding nominee to the United States Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett.

"Our Economy is doing very well. The Stock Market is at record levels, JOBS and unemployment also coming back in record numbers. We are

leading the World in Economic Recovery, and THE BEST IS YET TO COME!" Trump said.

In another tweet, he alleged that "crazy" Nancy Pelosi and "the radical Left" Democrats were just playing "games" with the desperately needed workers' stimulus payments.

"They were never in it to help the workers and they never will be!," he alleged.

His Democratic Party presidential challenger Joe Biden alleged that by stopping the negotiations, Trump ended the efforts to pass a bipartisan relief that the country desperately needed.

"He ended talks that would get help for our businesses and schools, for families struggling and for those unemployed — that would have preserved hundreds of thousands of jobs," he said. **PTI**

PROTESTERS CAN'T BLOCK ROADS...

It said despite a lapse of a considerable period of time, there was neither any negotiations nor any action by administration, warranting the court's intervention in the matter.

"In what manner the administration should act is their responsibility and they should not hide behind the court orders or seek support therefrom for carrying out their administrative functions. The courts adjudicate the legality of the actions and are not meant to give shoulder to the administration to fire their guns from," it said.

"What must be kept in mind, however, is that the erstwhile mode and manner of dissent against colonial rule cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy," it said.

"Article 19, one of the cornerstones of the Constitution of India, confers upon its citizens two treasured rights, i.e., the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) and the right to assemble peacefully without arms under Article 19(1)(b). These rights, in cohesion, enable every citizen to assemble peacefully and protest against the actions or inactions of the state. The same must be respected and encouraged by the state, for the strength of a democracy such as ours lies in the same," it said.

"We only hope that such a situation does not arise in the future and protests are subject to the legal position as enunciated above, with some sympathy and dialogue, but are not permitted to get out of hand," it said.

It said people live in the age of technology and internet where social movements around the world have swiftly integrated digital connectivity into their toolkit, be it for organising, publicity or effective communication.

...tive outcome evident," the bench said.

RHEA GRANTED BAIL...

The HC said, "The material gathered so far shows that the applicant (Showik) was not only knowing many drug dealers, but he was (also) in touch with them and was actually transacting with them. Thus, he is part of a chain of drug dealers. At this stage, the investigating agency has sufficient material to show that he is a part of a chain of drug dealers engaged in illicit traffic of drugs".

Justice Kotwal did not entertain a plea by Additional Solicitor General Anil C Singh that the bail order be stayed for one week to facilitate him to move the Supreme Court. "I have imposed sufficiently stringent conditions on the applicant. Some further conditions can be imposed for a limited period to take care of the request made by learned ASG though I am not inclined to grant stay to the order. If finally the order is set aside and the bail is cancelled, the applicant will be available for being arrested again," the Judge noted.

In what came as a snub to the NCB which is investigating the Sushant death-related drug case, Justice Kotwal observed: "The investigation did not reveal any recovery either from the applicant or from the house of Sushant Singh Rajput. It is their own case that the drugs were already consumed and hence there was no recovery. In that case, there is nothing at this stage to show that the applicant had committed any offence involving commercial quantity of contraband".

"The material at the highest shows that she has committed an offence involving contraband, but, the crucial element of incurring rigours of Section 37 in respect of commercial quantity is missing. Therefore, I am satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the applicant is not guilty of any offence punishable under Sections 19, 24 or 27A or any other offence involving commercial quantity," the Judge noted.

"There are no other criminal antecedents against her. She is not part of the chain of drug dealers. She has not forwarded the drugs allegedly procured by her to somebody else to earn monetary or 66 / 70 67 1.3-BA-st-2386-2020 other benefits. Since she has no criminal antecedents,

there are reasonable grounds for believing that she is not likely to commit any offence while on bail," Justice Kotwal observed, while granting bail to Rhea.

A day after the special court extended Rhea's custody till October 20, the High Court dismissed the special court's observation that if released on bail, she might alert others and have the evidence destroyed by them.

"The learned Special Judge has observed that the applicant may alert others and evidence can be destroyed by them. There is no basis for such observation. It is also important to note that when the applicant was produced before the court for her first remand, the investigating agency did not seek her custody. That means, they are satisfied with her interrogation and she had cooperated in that investigation," the HC Judge noted.

Welcoming the High Court's order granting bail to Rhea, her lawyer Satish Maneshinde said: "Truth and justice have prevailed and ultimately the submissions on facts and law have been accepted by Justice Sarang V Kotwal".

"The arrest and custody of Rhea was totally unwarranted and beyond the reach of law. The hounding and witch hunt by three Central agencies --- the CBI, ED and NCB --- of Rhea should come to an end. We remain committed to truth. Satyamev Jayate," Maneshinde said.

It may be recalled that Rhea was arrested on September 8, after 19-long hours of grilling carried out during a span of three days. Her brother Showik had been arrested five days earlier.

Rhea, Showik and other accused in the Sushant death-related drug case had moved the High Court after the Special Court had rejected their bail applications on September 11.

After hearing both the sides, the Bombay High Court had on September 29 reserved its order on the bail applications of accused actress Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and others in the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, after observing that its verdict would have "wide reach repercussions" and that it would pass separate orders in all matters.

After hearing all the sides, Justice SV Kotwal of the Bombay High Court had said: "Arguments on the matter are closed. The matter is now reserved for orders. Due to voluminous proceedings, the order may take some time".

"This judgment has wide reach and repercussions. I will try to write separate orders in all matters, but I might end up attributing Sayyed's arguments of Sayyed (advocate for co-accused Abhisit Parihar to (Satish) Maneshinde. Please excuse me for that," the Judge had noted.

During the hearing before the High Court, advocate Satish Maneshinde had among other things argued for the bail applicants that the NCB had no jurisdiction to handle the case after the Supreme Court directed the CBI to investigate the cases relating to Sushant's death.

The NCB had told the High Court that the Supreme Court has directed the CBI to take over investigation, if any new case was registered "on the death of Sushant Singh Rajput and the surrounding circumstances of his unnatural death" and the direction "was not with respect to the present case" registered under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

"The present applicant (Rhea) is a prominent member of the supply chain of drugs and majorly she is handling finance also...and used to manage finance for drug procurement along with Sushant Singh Rajput," the NCB had said in its affidavit opposing Rhea's bail application.

SCRIBES CAN'T CHASE ANYONE FOR INTERVIEW...

"You cannot chase the vehicle of any celebrity, advocate or any person you wish to interview. You cannot endanger your life, the life of that person or normal people walking on the roads. It's an offence. We will take stern action, not only against

the driver but against the person instigating, instructing the person to do such a chase", Sangram Singh Nishandar, Mumbai Police Deputy Commissioner, told reporters. The police decided to issue the warning apprehending that the TV journals will go after Rhea once she came out of the Byculla Jail and headed home.

The Mumbai Police issued similar warning on September 27, but the media flouted it with impunity.

"Today we have observed a lot of media vehicles chasing people who were called for the inquiry. The vehicles will be seized because they are endangering their lives as well as lives of whoever was called and common people", Sangram Singh Nishandar, DCP Zone 1, Mumbai Police had tweeted on September 26.

It has to be seen how successful the Mumbai police are in enforcing its diktat against paparazzi this time.

CENTRE PROCURES 23% MORE PADDY ON MSP

In respect of copra and urad, rates are ruling at or above MSP. Respective State Governments are making arrangements for commencement of procurement in respect of moong.

According to the CMD (Food Corporation of India) DV Prasad, the procurement of paddy from farmers across the country has registered an increase of 5 per cent till now as compared to corresponding period last year. "Maximum procurement has happened in Punjab where 7,82,685 MT paddy has already been procured from the farmers through APMC system as against 24,452 MT procured last year. The target of paddy procurement is fixed 497.10 LMT to benefit 1.56 crore farmers this year. The Government will spend Rs 140078 crore (estimated) in 2020-21. During pandemic, 528 LMT wheat and paddy has been procured from 64.64 lakh farmers this year as compared to 437 LMT last year. Last year, the Government has procured 510 LMT rice as against the total production of 1184 LMT.

At a joint Press conference, secretaries of agriculture, food and consumer affairs and textiles presented a data of procurement of their respective ministries. Sanjay Agrawal, secretary (agriculture), said

Kuwait's National Guard Minister picked as next crown prince

Dubai: Kuwait's deputy chief of the National Guard, who spent years in the oil-rich country's security services, was nominated as crown prince on Wednesday, the Kuwaiti state news agency reported.

The nomination makes Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah the possible heir apparent to the new emir, 83-year-old Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who is propelled to power following the death of his half-brother.

Although Sheikh Nawaf had

a full year to choose a successor, he picked Sheikh Meshal in record-breaking eight days, ending frenzied speculation that has gripped Kuwaiti social media.

Before Sheikh Meshal can be officially named crown prince, lawmakers must approve the choice during their final session on Thursday, ahead of the formation of a new government — a rare vote for the region's Arab monarchies in which the question of succession is typically decided behind palace doors. **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

1,095 lakh hectare area sown during kharif crop season this year which 10 lakh hectare more as compared to the last year of 1085 lakh hectare. "The procurement of MSP crops has increased many folds during the recent years," he said.

PUNJAB FARMERS REJECT CENTRE'S REQUEST FOR MEET

According to Sarvan Singh Pandher, State secretary of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, they got a telephone call from the Union Agriculture Minister on Tuesday and invited them for a meeting on the going farmers' agitation.

The Ministry has also sent a mail in this regard. Pandher said farmers have decided not to participate in any meeting as the Government is not serious about their concern.

Earlier, the secretary of the department of agriculture, had written to the farmers' body, inviting it for a meeting at Krishi Bhawan in the national Capital on Thursday to address its concerns over the laws.

TRUMP'S NEW CURBS ON H-1B VISAS...

It said the US Citizenship and Immigration Services is forging the regular notice and comment period to immediately ensure that employing H-1B workers will not worsen the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 and adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed US workers, it said.

The pandemic's economic impact is an "obvious and compelling fact" that justifies good cause to issue this interim final rule, the DHS said in a press release.

The White House defended the move and said that the President is improving America's work visa programmes to prioritise the highest-skilled workers and protect the American jobs and wages amidst the severe impact on the economy due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement, he said that Trump is committed to making sure the American workers are not disadvantaged by foreign labour.

Trend Slazer

'Ginny Weds Sunny has diverse music'

Actor **VIKRANT MASSEY** says his film *Ginny Weds Sunny* has a song for every mood.

"The entire music album of *Ginny Weds Sunny* is so diverse. It has a song for every mood. Out of the album, *Rubaru* is my favourite. This is the song that I was waiting to be out," said Vikrant.

With composition by Jaan Nissar Lone, lyrics by Peer Zahoor, *Rubaru* has been rendered by Kamal Khan.

Directed by Puneet Khanna, the film also stars **Yami Gautam**.

She had earlier posted on social media, "Thank you for all the love. This film has been toughest for me for health reasons. It's my constant support system, which kept me going."



All things green

With work-from-home becoming the new normal, experts suggest how urban gardening can help release stress and make intimate spaces more relaxing. By **TEAM VIVA**

The rising sensitivity towards the environment has seen the smooth slipping in of urban gardening. With city life being alienated from the calmness of countryside, it can help recreate the lush oasis by altering the interiors of one's house.

Well, this is becoming a global trend. Plants inside the home don't just lend a new dimension to the interior design but also instill a sense of ecological consciousness in the modern city development. It creates a whole new space enabling people to break free from the stress and fatigue of busy schedules and fast-paced lives. Humans do find rescue in nature by smoothly adjusting to mindful living and striking the right balance between architecture and interior. And given the current normal of working from home, one certainly needs the interior spaces to be relaxing.

"The consciousness of creating natural zones and realising the soothing essence of greenery, colour, fragrance, light and texture have driven the popularity of urban gardening. Going beyond hobby, people seek advice from experts for which the IFFCO Kisan Urban Gardening sector have witnessed a promising wave of city dwellers reaching out for professional guidance to create the natural landscape," says IFFCO Kisan MD Sandeep Malhotra.

He believes that the urban indoor gardening comes with an entourage of benefits. It adds on to the aesthetic beauty of the house radiating attractive features of the residence. Offering a good range of colour and pattern, it is also a



feast for the eye.

Experts says that while we focus on the visual grandeur, we generally lose out on the healthy impact it can have on one's mind. Plants can purify the air quality, eliminating the air pollutants coming from adhesives, furnishings, clothing and solvents which can cause illness. Aradhana Dalmia, founder of The Artist, suggests, "Adding the natural element brings a breadth of fresh air into any interior or exterior space. Introducing a beautiful sculptural element will always enhance the urban landscape and add a creative touch to the aesthetics. Such features elevate the space and are always in line with the designers and the clients' vision."

She adds it greatly impacts our sub-

jective perception by enhancing the concentration capacity, imparting a sense of satisfaction to one's soul. This in turn "can hugely affect the output, increasing the productivity that remains overshadowed in the chaos of the daily life. Overcoming the sedentary lifestyle, it has the vibrancy to boost the mood and bring the creativity buried deep down within oneself."

The overall spatial design — the blooms along with the foliage — can act as an extension of indoor space showcasing the magnificence of managed indoor plants. One can use bonsai, ferns, jade plant, bonsai and other tiny-potted plants for indoors. Good luck plants are also an option as they are popular in their own ways for attracting wealth and positive vibes. The *Pachira* money tree, lucky



bamboo, money plant, green climber, palm plant, potted orchids and others can serve the purpose well. "With an increasing desire for multi-functional and green spaces, urban gardens have become an extension of all man-made structures, channeling the dynamism, fluidity and softness of natural foliage. These are decorative and edible plants, mixed with individualistic design elements like woven upholstery, metallic accents and artisanal ware. They are made for individualistic and immersive spaces. They blur the lines between the inside and the outside," says interior designer Punam Kalra, creative director of I'm The Centre for Applied Arts.

The lush green ecosystem crafted out of various structures and layout of plant offers a relaxing zone for social gathering. Brimming with decorative plants, vibrant flower beds, micro-green farming, it also opens up doors for healthy interaction with greens while realising entertainment to the full extent. "Urban

gardening is a great company to always keep you involved, leaving no space idle. It is just like taking care of a pet or baby, surrounding the space with positivity," adds Kalra.

Experts point out towards kitchen gardening, which has become another trend to benefit from. From organic food like bright red chilli bushes, neat rows of beetroot, fruit bearing trees in patio to purple, flowering eggplants — they enhance the texture of the garden and add depth to the structure. It makes the garden look more visually appealing.

Well, some do it for recreation, some for organic food and some for entertainment. However, Malhotra points out, "Irrespective of the passion driving one to do urban gardening, it is evident that the greenery imparts a pleasant place to relax. It brings the contrasting line of solid, man-made structures and the raw nature flowing with foliage in the same plane — a combination required for healthy lifestyle."

'I search for extraordinary stories of extraordinary women, that really guides my film choices. I have tried to bring stories of powerful, strong, independent women who have a voice and want to be heard. I feel I have a responsibility to portray women differently on screen. Thankfully, I have been lucky enough to find projects that did so.'

—**Bhumi Pednekar**

Actor **SHWETA TRIPATHI** talks about how she underwent gruelling prep for *Mirzapur 2* including extensive gun training.



She says, "Master *ji* would keep reminding me that it has to be Golu's emotions. It was a tough part to crack but it was thrilling. I prepped extensively as action is like choreography. Every step has to be planned. You have to know it well and there is no room for improvisation because you're responsible not just for yourself but people around you too. The experience was one of my most memorable character preparations ever."

The series releases on October 23 on Amazon Prime Video.

Dan slams India's Comedy Central

Actor and co-creator **DAN LEVY** of the Emmy Award-winning show *Schitt's Creek* has slammed Comedy Central India for taking out a scene of a same sex kiss between his character David and **Dustin Milligan's** character, Ted.

Levy posted a promo clip on Twitter, claiming the channel cut out his kissing scene.

He tweeted, "Why did you remove the kiss between two men? This is a show about the power of inclusivity. The censorship of gay intimacy is making a harmful statement against that message."

#loveislove. For those who are confused, this is about the channel in India. Comedy Central in America is not censoring the show."



Lights, camera, laughter

Directed by **ZAKARIYA MOHAMMED**, the Malayalam film, *Halal Love Story*, through comedy, explains the struggles of making cinema for everyone

Starring **Joju George**, family entertainer *Halal Love Story's* trailer is out now. The film stars George as an unorthodox director, **Indrajith Sukumaran** as the charming Shereef, **Sharafudheen** as an unmarried young lad from an orthodox family named **Thoufeek**, along with **Grace Anthony** and **Parvathy Thiruvothu** in pivotal roles. The trailer of the comedy drama takes us through the perfectly imperfect journey of a group of cinema lovers from Kerala who are passionate about creating their own film but are subjected to a few guidelines to make their dreams finally come true.

The film within the film aims to adhere to religious beliefs at every point of its production and keeps them 'lawfully' right from its screenplay to its casting, and even to the entire shooting process. *Halal*, a term as per the *Quran*, means 'lawful' or 'legal/allowed to do' under Islamic beliefs. As the crew follows religious guidelines in every phase of the filmmaking, massive confusions happen as the unorthodox **Siraj** (film director) struggles to go ahead with the project.

Back with another thought-provoking film that will leave the audience in splits this time, director **Zakariya Mohammed** said, "For



me, *Halal Love Story* is a funny, yet beautiful, commemoration of the art of storytelling in all its forms. I am grateful to my co-writers **Muhsin Parari** and **Ashif Kakkodi**, who made this chaotic comedy possible alongside me. With a unique perspective brought to life by our strong ensemble, I am confident that the viewers will enjoy this chronicle that tries to manifest that cinema is for everyone."

Speaking on the film, **Indrajith Sukumaran**, superstar of the Malayalam film industry, said, "The character **Shereef** is quite layered. He wants to conquer his passion for acting but at the same time wants to do it right by following his beliefs. The film impacts him in more ways than the other and in the

due process completely changes his outlook towards his personal life. Playing a humorous and a complicated **Shereef** was a phenomenal experience and I will forever be thankful to **Zakariya** and **Aashiq Abu** for giving me this opportunity."

Malayalam cinema's favourite **Joju George** said, "It is always fun to be a part of comedy films, especially the one that is engulfed in errors. What was most appealing to me is the opposing views that my character **Siraj** offers whilst taking on the challenge of directing this *Halal* film. As my character struggles at every phase, it's the brilliance of the writers who envisioned the comedic charm in the film. It was indeed a wonderful experience to

work alongside such an incredible cast and crew."

Thoufeek, an unmarried young man from a very orthodox family, is highly passionate about filmmaking. He is an active member and plays a key role in one of Kerala's popular Islamic Organisations, which has kept his cinema dreams in halt. He's approached by **Raheem** and **Shereef** with the idea of making a film as an initiative of the cultural wing of his organisation. They soon approach **Siraj**, a popular associate director to don the cap of the director. The biggest challenge for the crew is to keep the film, *Halal*.

(The film releases on October 15 on Amazon Prime Video.)



The message hits home

Starring the father-daughter duo, **SONAKSHI** and **SHATRUGHAN SINHA**, the song *Zaroorat* reflects hope

The makers of *Guzar Jayega* bring us yet another song — *Zaroorat*. It is essentially a campaign for hope in these uncertain times. Its narrative has been headlined by actors **Shatrughan Sinha** and **Sonakshi Sinha**. They are seen together for the first time for a musical campaign.

Happy at the song's release, **Shatrughan** and **Sonakshi** said, "We can't wait to know the reaction of the listeners to the song and its narrative. We are rooting for it to be the spurt of hope we need currently and in the future. May the song inspire people to be kind to one another."

The song features names from diverse fields including **HE Dr Kiran Bedi**, **Padma**

Vibhushan Dr Sonal Mansingh (Member of Parliament), **Laxmi Agarwal**, **Laxmi Narayan Tripathi** and **Ani Choying Drolma**. It has been penned by **Shravan Pundir** and rendered by artists such as **Simran Choudhary**, **Ajay Keswani**, **Shruti Unwind** and rappers **Muhfaad** and **Violina**. The track has been produced by **Shishir Samant**. It has been curated by **Varun Prabhudayal Gupta**, Founder and Managing Director, **Republik Of Musik** and **Viral Motani**, Founder, **Beyond Music**. The initiative has been directed by **Varun**.

Viral and **Varun** jointly share, "We are happy to present the song to everyone. We hope the message and the impact of the song hits home."

We strive to play with power. We've got quality in this squad. We've given confidence to each one of them because we know they're very talented

I think losing wickets early doesn't help, we haven't been able to get off to a good start. Outside of Buttler and Archer at the end, we have a bit of work to do on our batting

We have not managed to come off as a top-order in the last three games. We lost three wickets in power-play and in T20 you never win too many games from that position

Sitting in hotel room in quarantine once again after leaving New Zealand is not how I thought I would be arriving at the IPL, but here I am and all things considered, I'm in a good place

KXIP, SRH look to turn around fortunes

PTI ■ DUBAI

Their bowling attacks struggling to find form, Kings XI Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad will look towards their power-hitters to do the job when the two erratic teams go head to head on Thursday.

KXIP are currently languishing at the bottom of the table after losing four of their five games, while SRH are only slightly better at sixth following two wins and three losses so far.

KXIP's strength has been in a formidable opening duo. Skipper KL Rahul has been in scintillating form this year, scoring two fifties and a century, while Mayank Agarwal also has a half-century and a ton to his credit. The two have done the heavy-lifting for the team.

Nicholas Pooran has also looked sharp but Glenn Maxwell is yet to fire.

But despite the solid batting performances, KXIP have been unable to win because of their disappointing bowling attack. Apart from Mohammed Shami, all the other bowlers have failed to take wickets, conceding far too many runs in death overs.

They were unable to defend 223 against Rajasthan. In their 10-wicket loss in the previous outing, KXIP bowlers were at their wits end as Chennai Super Kings overhauled a 178-run target with 14 balls and 10 wickets to spare.

And come on Thursday, Sunrisers, who are blessed with a strong top order comprising Jonny Bairstow, David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson, will look to exploit a low-on-confidence KXIP's bowling unit.

Having lost their opening two games due to the middle order, Sunrisers addressed the issue by bringing in Williamson to the playing XI at the expense of an all-round option.

Skipper Warner backed youngsters Abhishek Sharma and Abdul Samad to fill in for the fifth bowler and the risk paid off as the former champions won two games on the trot.

However, the Orange Army was dealt a massive blow when senior pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar was ruled out of the tournament with a thigh muscle injury.

In Bhuvneshwar's absence, Sunrisers struggled with their bowling. Apart from T Natarajan, pacers Sandeep Sharma and Siddarth Kaul leaked runs.

Samad was also expensive, which led Warner to turn to Williamson to bowl two overs of off-spin against Mumbai.

Going ahead, there will be added pressure on yorker specialist Natarajan and star spinner Rashid Khan.

Sunrisers face the conundrum of either providing stability in the middle order or strengthening their bowling attack.

They have the option of playing experienced Afghan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi or West Indies' Fabian Allen but that would mean Williamson will have to sit out.

KKR sail through as CSK choke

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Rahul Tripathi celebrated his promotion to the top by striking a 51-ball 81 as Kolkata Knight Riders returned to winning ways with a 10-run victory over Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

Tripathi stood tall on the way to his fifth IPL fifty before Kolkata Knight Riders faltered in the back end of the innings to be bowled out for 167.

In reply, CSK were stopped at 157 for five.

Having restored his confidence with a whirlwind 83 not out against Kings XI Punjab, veteran CSK opener Shane Watson picked up from where he had left to slam a 40-ball 50, his 21st in the lucrative league.

Watson feasted on the short-ball strategy of KKR bowlers in a 69-run partnership with Ambati Rayudu (30 from 27 balls).

Needing 78 runs in the last 10 overs, the CSK duo departed for addition of just two runs, while Mahendra Singh Dhoni, coming out to bat at No. 4, got out for 11.

Sam Curran hit 17 from 11 balls, but that was not enough as CSK fell short.

The win catapulted KKR to



KKR batsmen Rahul Tripathi & Shubman Gill

the third place in the table with three wins from five matches, while CSK remained at five with four points from six games.

Earlier, Chennai Super Kings staged a remarkable comeback as KKR lost three wickets in the last over with 'birthday boy' Dwayne Bravo removing two of them for

(2/25), Shradul Thakur (2/28), Sam Curran (2/26) claimed two wickets each as the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side bounced back in the back-10 by taking eight wickets while giving away just 74 runs.

Dhoni picked up four catches, the last one being his best effort.

On a Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch that seemed to slow down, Tripathi played a risk-free knock and maintained a healthy run-rate.

Karthik made a baffling decision to send Sunil Narine ahead of their best batsman, Eoin Morgan, at No. 4. However, Narine did his job with a nine-ball 17 before being dismissed by an excellent combined effort by a diving Ravindra Jadeja and Faf du Plessis.

Morgan started with a classical cover drive boundary but Curran cut short the with a bouncer that climbed in and took a faint edge behind the stumps.

Thakur, who had given the first breakthrough by dismissing an in-form Shubman Gill (11), claimed the big wicket of Andre Russell with a cross-seam short delivery as the KKR dazler struggled to get going.

Bumrah was keen to take new ball & back his yorkers: Bond

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Mumbai Indians bowling coach Shane Bond has revealed that star pacer Jasprit Bumrah took the new ball and backed his yorkers with a renewed vigour against Rajasthan Royals as he was a bit disappointed with his IPL performances so far.

Bumrah, who was having a rather ordinary tournament, was back to his destructive best, claiming a four-wicket haul as his side inflicted a 57-run defeat on Rajasthan on Tuesday.

It was the first time the 26-year-old was handed the new



Mumbai Indians pacer Jasprit Bumrah

ball in the tournament and Bumrah didn't disappoint, returning with the impressive figures of 4/20, including the prized scalp of Steve Smith.

"Jasprit genuinely wanted to take the new ball so there was a discussion that went on one day before the game against Royals, we obviously have used him in a defensive manner at the back-end of the powerplay," said Bond during the post-match conference.

"It was a fresh wicket and there was grass on it, he has the ability to nip the ball around, we knew Rajasthan's key players were in the top-order so we wanted to give him an opportunity to get out

there, take the new ball and take some wickets for us," he added.

Bond said the Indian pace spearhead was unhappy with his performances in the tournament and wanted to make the kind of impact that is expected from a bowler of his calibre.

"Jasprit really wanted to back his yorkers against Royals, he wanted to go back to his strengths and use his bouncer as he normally does," the New Zealander said.

"That's his strength, if he is not happy with his performances, he tends to bounce back to a new level. I know, traditionally through IPL, Bumrah tends to get better and better," he added.

KL shouldn't be bothered with India wicket-keeping: Lara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Iconic West Indian cricketer Brian Lara says "great batsman" KL Rahul shouldn't be bothered with wicket-keeping in the Indian team and he should be allowed to concentrate on his batting.

Lara also feels that Rishabh Pant has matured in the past year and he should be considered as India's number one wicketkeeper-batsman.

Rahul did a great job keeping wickets in the limited overs series against Australia and also during the India's tour of New Zealand earlier this year. The Indian team also experimented with Rahul's batting position and he had delivered.

"Well, first of all I would like to say that KL Rahul should not be bothered with wicket-keeping when it comes to that Indian squad," Lara said on Star Sports show Cricket Connected.

"He's such a great batsman that I feel that he should concentrate on that and put in a lot of runs on the board," he added.

In the ongoing Indian Premier League, Rahul has amassed 302 runs, with the help of a century and two fifties in five games.

Pant, who was once seen as heir apparent to Dhoni, has faced flak for his keeping skills right from the beginning of his career.

However, Lara feels the youngster, who has scored 171 runs in the IPL, has matured in the past year and is taking more responsibility while playing for the Delhi Capitals this season.

"Rishabh Pant a year ago, I would say no, but I feel that he has stepped up in terms of his responsibility as a batsman," Lara said.

"Look at how he plays for Delhi Capitals, it looks like he wants that responsibility, he wants that onus on him to score runs, build an innings and get big scores. If he continues that way, I think that he should be the No 1," he added.

Talking about talented Sanju Samson, Lara said the 25-year-old needs to work on little chinks in his armoury. "Sanju Samson, who is not keeping for Rajasthan Royals, but I do understand that he keeps, that's one of his main jobs — very classy player, looks good so far in the tournament in Sharjah.

"I feel there's a little chink in his armoury in terms of his technique against very good bowling on sporty tracks."

Ailing father told Stokes to get back to playing

London: Star England all-rounder Ben Stokes has revealed that his ailing father, for whom he took a break from cricket, encouraged him to return to action in the IPL by telling him that he was duty-bound "to do the job".

Stokes took compassionate leave in the middle of the home Test series against Pakistan in August and travelled to New Zealand to attend to his father who has been diagnosed with brain cancer.

After spending five weeks with his family,

Stokes, who is contracted with Rajasthan Royals, has landed in the UAE and is currently in quarantine.

"Saying goodbye to my dad, my mum and my brother in Christchurch was tough. It has been a difficult time for us as a family, but we've pulled together and supported each other as best we can," Stokes wrote in his column for the Daily Mirror.

"And I was able to get on the plane with my parents' love and blessing after we reached the decision, for

me to get back playing, as a family with no external influences."

Recalling the conversation he had with his parents, Stokes said, "My dad was also very strong on the responsibilities I have. He told me I have a duty to do the job that I do and I have a duty as a husband and father as well. "We gave it all a lot of thought and talked it over at length, and we came to a decision that now sees me back focusing on the game and then I'll be heading home to Clare and the kids."

Ali Khan out with injury

Abu Dhabi: Kolkata Knight Riders fast bowler Ali Khan, who had become the first USA cricketer to be signed by an Indian Premier League franchise, has been ruled out of the tournament due to an injury.

A media advisory from IPL confirmed his injury but did not provide any details.

The two-times winners had signed Khan as a replacement for the injured English seamer Harry Gurney ahead of the tournament.

"Khan became the first USA cricketer to be signed up by an IPL franchise. Unfortunately, Khan has since been injured and will miss the rest of the Dream11 IPL 2020 season," the statement read.

Kvitova, Kenin set semis clash

AFP ■ PARIS

Petra Kvitova returned to the French Open semi-finals for the first time in eight years on Wednesday after defeating Germany's Laura Siegemund 6-3, 6-3, describing Roland Garros as her "lucky place".

Czech seventh seed Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion, will now face Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin who knocked out fellow American Danielle Collins 6-4, 4-6, 6-0 for a place in Saturday's final.

"It means a lot to be back in the semi-finals," said 30-year-old Kvitova who was beaten by eventual champion Maria Sharapova when she made the same stage in 2012.

"After my last match, I was very emotional to be in the quarter-finals. Now I am in the semis. I never imagined this would happen after everything that has happened.

"This is my lucky place."

It was Paris where Kvitova made her comeback in 2017 after spending six months recovering from a terrifying knife attack at her home in December 2016.

The frenzied assault required a four-hour operation and left her with damaged ligaments in her playing hand. Doctors warned her that her career may be finished.

AFP ■ BRISBANE

Australian women's cricket team equaled a record of most consecutive one-day international wins in international cricket as they thrashed New Zealand by 232 runs in Brisbane to register their 21st victory on the trot.

The women's team equaled the long-standing record set by Ricky Ponting's world champion men's team in 2003.

Having been asked to bat first by New Zealand, Australia's captain on the day Rachael Haynes and fellow opener Alyssa Healy stitched together a 144-run opening stand that laid down a platform for Australia to post 325/5 in their fifty overs, their highest total against New Zealand.

The White Ferns' chase though completely collapsed as the Australian bowling attack bundled them out for just 93.

Megan Schutt, Jess Jonassen, Ashleigh Gardner and Sophie Molineux all picked up two wickets each for the home side.

With the win Australia completed a 3-0 sweep of the ODI series having already got the better of New Zealand in the T20Is.



Women's semifinals
Live from 6:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 2 NETWORK

cially in these conditions — roof open, roof closed, sunshine, windy."

'IT'S A JOKE'
Siegemund leaves behind a tournament to remember having been accused of hitting the ball on a double bounce in her first round win over Kristina Mladenovic.

She then munched on a plate of food court-side during her fourth round victory against Paula Badosa.

On Wednesday, she signed off with a time violation for taking too long between points.

"I was on the line, I was bouncing, I was starting my movement, and it was about once, and literally she (the umpire) was saying that it was one second too slow. I mean, that's a joke," said Siegemund.

Fourth seed Kenin moved two wins from a second Grand Slam title of 2020 when she defeated Collins on the back of 38 winners, out-hitting her 26-year-old rival who had arrived in the last eight having unleashed a tournament total of 140.

It was Kenin's fourth three-set win at the tournament.

DUGOUT



Delhi Capitals players and support staff enjoy day off at Atlantis, The Palm in Dubai



Mumbai Indians spinner Anukul Roy, who took sensational catch on Tuesday to dismiss Mahipal Lomror poses for photo with team's fielding coach James Pamment

SMITH FINED FOR RR SLOW OVER RATE

Rajasthan Royals captain Steve Smith has been fined ₹ 12 lakh for his side's slow-over rate during their IPL match against Mumbai Indians. Given that this was his team's first offence of the season, Smith was fined ₹ 12 lakh under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences. "Rajasthan Royals Captain Steve Smith has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their Dream11 IPL 2020 match against Mumbai Indians in Abu Dhabi on 6 October 2020," the IPL said in a media statement. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr Smith was fined ₹ 12 lakh," it added.

POINTS TABLE

		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	MI	6	4	2	+1.488	8
2	DC	5	4	1	+1.060	8
3	RCB	5	3	2	-1.355	6
4	KKR	4	2	2	-0.121	4
5	CSK	5	2	3	-0.342	4
6	SRH	5	2	3	-0.417	4
7	RR	5	2	3	-0.826	4
8	KXIP	5	1	4	+0.178	2

Boxers to head to Europe for training next week

New Delhi: India's Olympic-bound boxers, except for an indisposed M C Mary Kom and two others, will travel to Italy and France starting next week on a 52-day training-cum-competition trip as they gear up for the Tokyo Games.

Mary Kom is currently recovering from a bout of dengue and has ruled out travelling abroad at least this year due to the Covid-19 threat. The Europe assignment starts on October 15.

"I was not keeping well for the past two weeks because of dengue. I am much better now but won't be travelling," the six-time world champion and London Olympics Bronze-medallist told PTI.

In all, a 28-member contingent will travel, including 10 men and six women boxers along with the support staff.

Six of the nine Olympic-bound (five men and four women in total) are travelling for the assignment. They are — Amit Panghal (52kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Satish Kumar (+91kg), Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg).

Vikas Krishan (69kg), who is training in the USA and Manish Kaushik (63kg), recuperating from an injury, along with Mary Kom, are the ones missing from the Tokyo-bound list travelling for this assignment.

The teams will be training at Assisi, Italy for a period of 52 days from October 15 to December 5. Thirteen boxers from the contingent will also participate in the Alexis Vastine International Tournament to be held in Nantes, France from October 28 to October 30.

"All the four events (men's 57kg, 81kg, 91kg and women's 57kg) where India is yet to win a quota, will have boxers who will be a part of the travelling contingent," the SAI said in a statement. PTI

AIR FORCE DAY



GUARDIAN OF THE SKIES

Keeping pace with the demands of contemporary advancements, the Indian Air Force has been upgrading its combat aircraft fleet since the last few years to enhance its operational capability

The Indian Air Force, also known as the 'Bhartiya Vayu Sena', has made stellar contributions securing the Indian airspace and conducting aerial warfare during armed conflicts. The IAF not only safeguards the country's territory and national interests from all threats but it also provides strategic and tactical airlift capabilities in the battlefield and support during natural calamities. Since its inception, IAF has made remarkable achievements.

This year, India celebrates its 88th Indian Air Force Day. The day is observed to build the familiarity with Indian aviation based armed forces in any association of the national security both authoritatively and freely.

The Indian Air Force today, having completed 88 years of dedicated service to the nation, is a

modern, technology-intensive force distinguished by its commitment to excellence and professionalism. Keeping pace with the demands of contemporary advancements, the IAF continues to modernise in a phased manner. Today, it stands as a credible air power counted among the foremost professional services in the world.

The primacy of Air Power will be a decisive factor in shaping the outcome of future conflicts. In line with this dictum, the IAF has developed into a major 'Component of National Power', which can be applied quickly and decisively. The IAF has reoriented itself to a multi-role capability of platforms and equipment, along with multi-skill capability of personnel. The rapid economic growth of the country dictates the need to protect our security interests

extending from the Persian Gulf to the Straits of Malacca.

Over the years, the IAF has grown from a tactical force to one with transoceanic reach. The strategic reach emerges from induction of Force Multipliers like Flight Refuelling Aircraft (FRA), Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and credible strategic lift capabilities. There is emphasis on acquiring best of technology through acquisitions or upgradation, be it aircraft, systems, precision missiles or net centricity.

IAF has started upgrading its combat aircraft fleet since the last few years in order to enhance its operational capability and maintain its aircraft as modern weapon platforms, capable of meeting the present challenges posed by the security scenario in our region. Of the available fleet, MiG-21, MiG-27 and Jaguar aircraft have already

been upgraded and Mirage-2000 and MiG-29 aircraft are planned for upgradation. The Indian Air Force is considering upgrade of its medium lift helicopters comprising Mi-8, Mi-17 and Mi-17-IVs, as also the AN-32 transport aircraft, with the aim of improving their overall capability.

The IAF today is in the process of a most comprehensive modernisation plan. Over the next few years, the force would induct more Su-30 MKI aircraft, the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and the Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA). There are plans to augment the helicopter and transport fleets too. The IAF is also in the process of acquiring radars in various categories to meet the Air Defence requirements, accurate and advanced weapons, Network Centric Warfare systems, etc. to meet its assigned tasks.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION FROM DIGNITARIES

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF, GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT

On the occasion of the 88th Anniversary of Indian Air Force, I extend my felicitations to all Air Force personnel, defence civilians and their families.

The Indian Air Force has served the nation with utmost dedication, total commitment and unwavering loyalty. The recent induction of high-end combat platforms and weapons has transformed the Indian Air Force into a formidable force with multi-spectrum capability. IAF personnel have conducted themselves with



the highest standards of professionalism and valour, in times of war and peace. The selfless devotion to duty displayed by the men and women in blue during the recent operational deployment reflects on their commitment to remain prepared to touch the sky with glory.

We compliment the contribution of each and every member of the Indian Air Force and extend our best wishes to all ranks and civilians on this momentous occasion.

CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL, RKS BHADAURIA, PVSM AVSM VM ADC

On the occasion of the 88th Anniversary of the Indian Air Force, I extend my felicitations to all Air Warriors, NCs(E), DSC personnel, civilians and their families. My special greetings to our esteemed Air Veterans and their families.

Air Force Day is celebrated to mark the inception of IAF and to honour the courage, bravery and valour of our Air Warriors, past and present. As we pay tribute to our brave Air Warriors who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty, we pledge to rededicate ourselves in service to our nation.

In the past year, we have witnessed contingencies as varied as the COVID-19 pandemic to the military face off along the LAC. The prompt response by our transport and helicopter fleets in providing 24 x 7 support for COVID-19 tasks was highly praiseworthy. Our squadrons and units remain on high alert in order to suitably address any adverse situation along our Northern borders. We have fulfilled our operational charter while undertaking all pre-planned and urgent 'Air Maintenance' efforts for the Indian Army, Para-military organisations and civil agencies, in some of the most challenging terrains and weather conditions. I commend all Air Warriors on their indomitable courage in discharging their duties



and adapting to the new normal in midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A dynamic security scenario with both conventional and sub-conventional threats, emanating at short notice, make it incumbent for us to train hard and prepare ourselves for all eventualities. We must maintain very high levels of operational preparedness and hone our skills by training in realistic environment.

The high value inductions and up-gradation of legacy equipment in past few months has ensured that we gain substantially in technology and capability. It is our individual and collective responsibility to absorb the changes and operationalise rapidly. While we work professionally to ensure physical security of our borders, we need to pay serious attention to safeguarding our critical information and infrastructure from cyber threats.

I urge all Air Warriors to prepare well and participate whole heartedly in the various training exercises that are being conducted to enhance our levels of readiness and capability. We are in the process of adopting a paperless, digital work environment by this year end with the induction of e-office, e-Maintenance Management System and host of operational software to optimally utilise all resources and expedite the work flow across the IAF. Numerous HR and administrative decisions have also been taken to improve our work and social environment. We all must ensure completion of all such measures in full. Be rest assured that along with professional growth, welfare and well-being of all our personnel and families is uppermost in my mind.

I congratulate all of you for the successes of IAF which would not have been possible without your sincere and dedicated efforts as a team. My compliments to all the commanders and supervisors in the field, who have worked admirably, in spite of the difficult environment due to the pandemic, and delivered on all our operational goals. I feel proud and honoured to lead this great team of IAF.

My wife Asha and I, convey our greetings to all Air Warriors, NCs(E), DSC personnel, civilians and their families. We wish you continued success in all your future endeavours.

THE PRIDE OF INDIA

The BrahMos medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile, equipped with inertial navigation and global positioning systems, can effectively engage ground targets from an altitude as low as 10 m for surgical strikes



The Indian Air Force is the fourth largest in the world and has made a lot of technological advancements in the last few years. New helicopters and aircrafts have been introduced showing the progress and development in the field of creating a new benchmark each time in the history of the IAF.

Tactical deployment and utilisation of air power — arguably the most effective military tool — has become absolutely indispensable owing to planes being virtually unsurpassable in terms of speed, range and flexibility alike. It has evolved over a comparatively short span of time having impact both at operational and strategic levels boasting heightened aircraft survivability, enhanced weapon systems, air- and space-based intelligence, and surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

The immense potential of the BRAHMOS medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile combined with the outstanding performance of the Su-30MKI twin-jet multirole air superiority fighter gives the Indian Air Force the desired vital reach.

The successful test-firing of the projectile from the IAF's frontline fighter Su-30MKI provides a major deterrence against aggression. The missile, equipped with inertial navigation and global positioning systems, can effectively engage ground targets from an altitude as low as 10 m for surgical strikes. It is the sole projectile possessing this advanced ability thereby providing an edge to the user with a precise hit.

Further, the successful development of the enhanced BRAHMOS (ER) has significantly bolstered the IAF's combat operations competence from stand-off ranges. The advanced BRAHMOS air-launched

cruise missile (ALCM), after undergoing a series of successful launches from the Su-30MKI platform, was successfully inducted into the IAF's Tigersharks Squadron.

Tigersharks 222, comprising Su-30 MKI jets, is tasked with an air dominance and maritime role and equipped with the air variant of BRAHMOS. The squadron is perceived as nothing short of a "gamechanger" vis-à-vis guarding the strategically vital Indian Ocean Region. Expected to set right the military balance in the IOR, the Su-30MKI is a state-of-the-

THE BRAHMOS-NG HAS BEEN CONCEPTUALISED AS A SMARTER WEAPON POSSESSING GREATER VERSATILITY, LETHALITY AND FLEXIBILITY WITH A CRUISING SPEED OF MACH 3.5 OR HIGHER

art all-weather aircraft capable of undertaking varied air defence, ground attack and maritime missions.

The BRAHMOS-NG (Next Generation) systems, having smaller size and reduced weight, could be fitted onto India's light combat aircraft Tejas. The BRAHMOS-NG has been conceptualised as a smarter weapon possessing greater versatility, lethality and flexibility with high precision and a cruising speed of Mach 3.5 or higher. This version will be designed for

integration on a wide range of platforms. The air launched BRAHMOS missile is a 2.5-tonne supersonic air-to-surface cruise missile with ranges of close to 300 km.

The Indian Air Force has become the first force in the world to have successfully fired an air launched missile of this magnitude on a sea target on November 22, 2017. This was followed by a second live launch over a land target on May 22, 2019. The ALCM fired from Su-30MKI effectively penetrated a land target, showcasing a much-desired capability of BRAHMOS missile to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night and in all weather conditions.

The software development and integration of weapon of the aircraft was undertaken by the IAF engineers while Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) carried out complex mechanical and electrical modifications on aircraft.

The world class asset, BRAHMOS, is a product of BrahMos Aerospace Company, a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation and NPO Mashinostroyeniya from Russia. The missile has pride of place as the fastest supersonic cruise missile operationalised in all the three services. The versatile weapon system is based on a mobile automatic launcher, ship, submarine or aircraft.

India's mainstay in the stand-off weapons is the BRAHMOS air-to-surface cruise missile. The Su-30-BRAHMOS combination will carry out air combat operations within and beyond visibility range and will provide the IAF with the capability of attacking targets protected by powerful air defence assets.

• SPEED • PRECISION • POWER • RANGE



BrahMos
JOINT VENTURE OF DRDO, INDIA & NPOM, RUSSIA

BrahMos
Salutes all the Air Warriors
on the
88th Air Force Day



BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile
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• MULTIPLE PLATFORMS • MULTIPLE MISSIONS • MULTIPLE TARGETS