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LUCKNOW, FRIDAY OCTOBER 9, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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I LOOK UP  
TO DAD:  
TIGER SHROFF  
12 VIVACITY

# Eternal mausam vaigyanik Ram Vilas Paswan no more

RAM VILAS PASWAN  
JULY 5, 1946 — OCTOBER 8, 2020

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

Outside the grimy world of politics, anyone who ever came across Ram Vilas Paswan will find it difficult to control his emotion on hearing of his passing away at a Delhi hospital on Thursday evening. His demise is truly the end of an era both in Bihar and national politics.

Seventy-four-year-old Paswan had undergone heart surgery on Saturday. His son Chirag posted this emotive tweet to announce the passing away of his father.

"Papa... Now you are not in this world but I know you are always with me wherever you are. Miss you Papa," read his post.

He will be missed not only by his family but by thousands of those who would be forever indebted to his kindness and helpful outreach.

His journey from a small village in Khagaria to the Lutyens' Delhi and from a

near destitute struggler to a powerful voice of the Dalits in Indian politics can make a captivating story. Paswan achieved more than many in the Indian politics — an eight-time MP and Union Minister for decades — but his true legacy will be the memory he leaves behind of being a thorough gentleman, a caring guardian, and someone who respected and nurtured a personal relationship like a few did in today's cut throat world of politics.

Paswan trusted people so much that he discussed with them even the biggest decision of his life. I remember him visiting my house in Patna when he was the Union Telecom Minister and expressing his dilemma about continuing in the Cabinet in the aftermath of the Gujarat riots. It was on that day, then and there, he took the call to walk out of the Government.

Which other politician would have discussed such

massive political decisions with a State-level correspondent?

Paswan may have all the guts to pursue a political career, but when it came to personal relationships he would always be there for you. Unlike the new breed of politicians, who stop taking your calls the day they become "something", he would always be available for any professional help or social calls.

Paswan was known for reading the political climate more than anyone else. A few weeks before the 2014 general elections, I met him at a lunch hosted by late member of Parliament DP Tripathi. There Paswan hinted to me about his big step and asked me to see him the next day. Till then no one suspected that Paswan could go back to the BJP fold once again.

Somehow the news leaked out and he left his home and became traceless to avoid being approached by the Congress

leaders. Once he made up his mind he will not let anyone change it. The rest is history.

"Always remember that only a dog that hesitates while crossing the road is run over. The one who is decisive always escapes," was one of his favourite quotes.

Paswan loved his food. I forgot the name of loads of fried river fish he would carry with him in the chopper when he went campaigning. It would be a regular feature of his lunch. Pakoda was one of his favourite snacks which I savoured with him last time I visited his residence a few months ago.

As Telecom Minister he appointed hundreds of his party men as members of the telephone advisory committee. Those were the days when people didn't have mobile and the landline was such a privilege for a small-time party worker. It was in Patna's Chanakya hotel that one day I told him that he should curtail the num-

ber of beneficiaries lest a scandal broke out. He smiled and said, "These are the people who carry my flags and toil for me. I've no existence without them. Why should I not reward them in whatever way possible?"

It was this quality — his ability to care for his workers, his cadres, his family, his friends, his near and dear ones — that made him such a rare personality in Indian politics.

The last few times I met Paswan I could sense he was aware of the approaching end. I could see that in his eyes, in his voice, in his gesture. In his decision making, he saw it coming and that's why he passed on his party's mantle to Chirag.

I last talked to Paswan on August 1 when he called me in the evening to tell me about his decision to link UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland and Uttarakhand to one nation one ration card scheme. He was so upbeat

about the programme. Where can one find such a humble soul who would open up even on phone with a journalist?

The discussion veered to Bihar politics, too. He was clear in his mind that Chirag should carry on the way he wants. He told me that some senior BJP leaders had visited him to discuss the upcoming State Assembly elections, but he had asked them to now do business with his son. The man who was described as "mausam vaigyanik" for his astute political sense, was surely aware that time was running out for him.

There have not been any elections in Bihar in more than four decades when Paswan was not a player on the ground. Will his death also impact the outcome of the Bihar Assembly polls? The answer to this the million-dollar question would decide who will be the king and who will be the kingmaker of Bihar on November 10.

## Police, BJP workers clash in 'Nabanna march'

**Cops lathicharge workers, lob tear gas shells, resort to water cannons**

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Ahead of forthcoming Assembly elections in Bengal, BJP leaders on Thursday engaged in a pitched battle with State police that led to over hundred injuries and multiple arrests, including those of senior saffron leaders.

In what the critics termed a well thought out tactic to provoke and trigger Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee into frontal street fights, the Yuva Morcha — the youth arm of the Bengal BJP — led a four-pronged march to Nabanna, the State Secretariat, from four points of Kolkata and Howrah.

Though State BJP president Dilip Ghosh and Yuva Morcha national president Tejaswi Surya claimed, the "police

launched an unprovoked lathicharge on democratically peaceful protesters leading to more than 100 injuries," the clashes evidently erupted when the crowds tried to force their way to Nabanna after being blockaded away by the administration at various junctions.

Subsequently, the police said 113 people were arrested during the march. The BJP, however, said about 500 people, including senior leader Kailash Vijayvargiya, were arrested.

Among the arrested persons was one Balwinder Singh, a BJP worker who was carrying a gun, police said. Dilip Ghosh, however, said Singh was a personal security guard of a BJP State committee member who had a licensed gun.

The Assembly polls are likely to be held in April-May explaining the gradual hotting up of the political situation.

The Thursday's commotion started when stones were pelted at the police at Hastings area in southern Kolkata and Santragachi and Howrah

Maidan where bombs were exploded leading the police to fire tear gas shells and lathicharge the crowds, sources said.

Water cannons spraying coloured water — subsequently interpreted by State Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay as "water mixed

with holi colours to identify the protesters for further action post dispersal" — were too used on the crowd.

Continued on Page 11



Police use water cannons to disperse BJP activists marching towards State Secretariat Nabanna during a protest against worsening law and order in the State, at Hastings in Kolkata, on Thursday

PTI

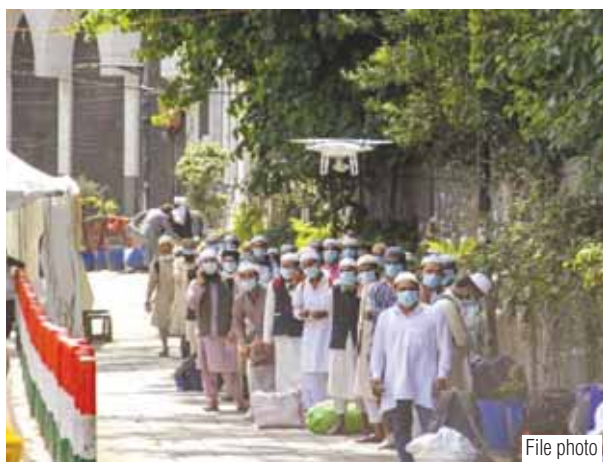
## Freedom of speech most abused, SC says on plea against fake Tablighi news

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said freedom of speech and expression is the "most abused right" in recent times. A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde, which was hearing pleas of Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind and others alleging that a section of media was spreading communal hatred over Tablighi Jamaat congregation during the onset of Covid pandemic, pulled up the Centre for its "evasive" and "brazen" affidavit on the issue.

"Freedom of speech and expression is the most abused right in recent times," the apex court said.

The bench observed this when senior advocate Dushyant



Dave, appearing for Jamaat, said the Centre in its affidavit has stated that petitioners are

trying to muzzle freedom of speech and expression. To this, the bench said,

"They are free to make any averment in their affidavit, like you are free to make any argument you want".

The bench was irked over the fact that instead of secretary of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, an additional secretary filed the affidavit which contained "unnecessary" and "nonsensical" averments with regard to media reporting in Tablighi issue.

"You cannot treat this court the way you are doing in this case," said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The apex court sought an affidavit from the I&B secretary with details of steps taken in the past to stop motivated media reporting in such cases.

### CAPSULE

#### SENSEX RECLAIMS 40K-MARK AFTER 7 MONTHS

**Mumbai:** The BSE Sensex rallied for the sixth straight day to reclaim the 40,000-mark on Thursday, with IT shares hogging the limelight after robust results from TCS indicated that the worst may be over for the software services industry.

#### INDIA'S GDP TO CONTRACT BY 9.6%: WORLD BANK

**Washington:** The World Bank on Thursday said that India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal which is reflective of the lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms due to the Covid pandemic.

#### TWO MEMBERS OF ISIS HELD IN BENGALURU

**Bengaluru:** The NIA arrested two members of the city-based ISIS module, which was involved in radicalisation of youth and funding their trip to Syria to join the terror outfit.

## Airlines can operate 75% of domestic flights if fliers are safe

Future of international flights depends on availability of vaccine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday said Airlines may be permitted to operate maximum 75 per cent of their pre-Covid scheduled domestic flights if the passengers remained healthy during the next 7-10 days.

The Minister also said the



future of international flights will depend on the availability of a vaccine.

"Our internal thinking is that we will watch it for another week or 10 days....If the figures (of passengers travelling) continue to be healthy, we would open domestic civil avi-

ation to 75 per cent of the pre-Covid levels," Puri said at a Press conference on Thursday.

The Minister said according to his assessment, the number of daily air passengers is set to rise up to 200,000 by October-end, while pre-Covid figures of 300,000 passengers per day will be reached between Diwali and New Year.

The Government on September 2 had said Indian airlines can operate up to 60 per cent of their pre-Covid services within the country. On June 26, the Ministry of Civil Aviation had allowed the airlines to operate a maximum of

45 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights.

Projecting a positive forecast for India's civil aviation sector, Puri said with more than 1.5 lakh passengers travelling by air today and 1.2 crore domestic passengers since May 25, Indian skies can expect air travel numbers to reach pre-Covid numbers by January 1, 2021.

Puri also said the Indian Government has formalised air bubble arrangements with 16 countries - USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Maldives, UAE, Qatar, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Japan,

Nigeria, Kenya, Iraq, Bhutan and Oman - while it is in discussions with Italy, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and others for similar arrangements.

Air bubbles or travel corridors allow designated airlines of two nations to fly passengers either way without any restriction.

On whether travel bubble arrangements will continue till March-April, the Minister said, "It is difficult to say as there is no country which has completely opened its borders for all. It depends on the availability of a vaccine as countries

Continued on Page 11

## Kin of Hathras victim, accused trade charges

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With families of the accused trading charges and escalating caste tension in the region, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to probe the sequence of events stepped up its investigation.

The SIT has now called 40 persons from the village who were present at the spot where the deceased was consigned to flames by the district administration, for quizzing.

Earlier, the SIT members had inspected the cremation site and recorded the statement of the victim's brother besides inspecting the victim's house.

The state government has given another 10 days to the SIT to submit its findings.

However, the CBI has already taken up the case and started preliminary investigation of the incident.

Meanwhile, after reports of caste tension in the region, the state government on Wednesday rushed ADG Rajiv Krishna and DIG Shalabh Mathur to assess the situation at ground zero.

The two officers would be

camping in Aligarh and Hathras for the next one week and defuse tension in the area. The two have been asked to report to the DGP after meeting local people and pan-chayats.

The security of the victim's family has already been enhanced.

Back at the village, the families of the victim and the accused traded charges which also added to the growing caste tension in the region.

While the victim is a Dalit, those accused are from the upper caste.

On Thursday, a queer twist was given to the veracity of the incident after prime accused Sandeep and his three co-accused wrote to the superintendent of police of Hathras from Aligarh jail, pleading innocent and claiming that they were framed in the case.

The other accused are Luvkush, Ravi and Ramu and they all are related to Sandeep.

The accused maintained that they were implicated by the girl's family. Sandeep claimed in the letter that he was friends with the girl and spoke over the phone and met her frequently. He

## Cong leader in custody

**Hathras (Uttar Pradesh):** Shyoraj Jivan, who was caught on camera trying to incite public sentiment in Bulgarhi village over the fatal assault on a 19-year-old allegedly by four upper caste men, was taken into police custody on Thursday afternoon when the Dalit Congress leader arrived at the Hathras police station in response to summons issued to him.

The Congress leader was seen in the purported videos, admitting that Congress used the Hathras incident for furthering its politics as it had been devoid of issues for a long time.

IANS

claimed that on the fateful day, he had called the girl to the fields and when she came along with her mother and brother, he left the place immediately and joined his father in feeding the cows. He said later, he learnt that the girl's brother assaulted her leading to her hospitalisation and ultimately death.

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Former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation &  
Former Chairman, National Education Policy Committee

will preside.

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Chancellor

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# ‘Won’t allow another Kairana, Kandhla to happen’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath warned unscrupulous elements planning to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere to mend their ways or face the wrath of the government.

“We will not allow another Kairana and Kandhla to happen in west UP anymore. People with vested interests are out to consign west UP to the throes of communalism and casteism. Let me assure you there will be no riots like Muzaffarnagar again,” Yogi said, addressing a virtual meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party office-bearers of booths, divisions and sectors of Bulandshahr Assembly constituency set for bypoll on November 3.

The chief minister further said that such elements were the ones who bred on communalism and anti-social manifestations. “My government is identifying them one by one and will surely take them to task,” he said.

**Teacher raped and killed in Fatehpur Lucknow (PNS):** A 20-year-old lady teacher of a private school was raped and murdered in in Kurosaawa hamlet of Mallawa in Fatehpur. Her body was found in a field.



**सूचना**  
 मेरे अपना नाम मित्रा मुखार से बदलकर मित्रा खानुन कर दिया है. 89/194-ए. पलोर नो 401 सोहनलाल कोमलदे. बांस मेडी, कानपुर।

**NOTICE**  
 I Radha Krishna S/o Ramadhar Vishnoi R/o Flat No. 401, Gujrat Apartment, 15/70, Civil Line, Kanpur-208001 have changed my name to Radha Krishna Vishnoi for all future purposes.

**NOTICE**  
 I, MUSARRAF HUSSAIN S/o SAJJAD HUSSAIN, R/o 84/5, JuhI Lal Colony, Kanpur. I have changed my name MUSHARRAF HUSSAIN to MUSARRAF HUSSAIN in future known as MUSARRAF HUSSAIN for all purpose.

**NOTICE**  
 I hereby declared that my correct name is GULREZ AHMED while it has been wrongly registered as GUIREZ AHMED in my son's MD ZIA documents T/3288/083 ICSE year 2012 & Unique ID 5434577 ISC Year 2014 Statement of Marks & Pass Certificates. GULREZ AHMED.

**NOTICE**  
 I, No. 4197490N, Rank Nk Madan Singh S/o Sri Ram Singh, Unit 15, Kumaon C/o 56, APO, hereby declared that in my service records my wife's name inadvertently mentioned as Smt. Manju Devi (05.03.1986). While her correct name is Smt. Manju Bisht and same has to be incorporated in my service records.

**NOTICE**  
 I Manoj Kumar Singh (No. JC-671796H Rank-Sub.M.T.) Presently residing at Vill.-Bhantikaia, Post - Karaha, Tehsil-Mohammadabad, Gohana, Distt - Mau, U.P. That I have change the name of my son from Hritik Singh (Name of Son for note in record) Hritik Singh (Proposed new name) of son due to correction to first name (reason for change is correction of name in relationship certificate). Hence forth as Hritik Singh for all purpose. Manoj Kr. Singh

**आवश्यकता है**  
**आवश्यकता है**  
**श्रीमती गुराती देवी महाविद्यालय**  
**गदगपुर हिन्दुपट्टी-आजमगढ़ में**  
 स्वतंत्रतापक्षित योजना अन्तर्गत विज्ञान संसाधन के निम्नलिखित विषयों में पर्याप्त विज्ञान 03 पद, भौतिक विज्ञान में 02 पद, गणित 02 पद, वनस्पति विज्ञान 02 पद, प्राणि विज्ञान में 02 पद पर प्रवक्तृओं की आवश्यकता है। वेलनमन गृहीतीसी उपाय संस्कार एवं विश्वविद्यालय के परिनिगमावली के अनुसार योग्य अन्यगी विज्ञान के 21 दिन के अन्दर महाविद्यालय के कार्यालय में रजिस्टर्ड डाक द्वारा आवेदन करें, साक्षात्कार की सूचना मोबाइल /रजिस्टर्ड डाक द्वारा दी जायेगी।  
**उपराफ**  
**9450030637, 7080528186, 8299466924**

## CM inaugurates biggest oxygen plant in UP

**Lucknow (PNS):** After virtually inaugurating the biggest oxygen production plant in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the plant was a testimony to the government's commitment to bringing industries in the state and the plant would ease the oxygen crisis in the health sector in UP.

“The state's struggle for oxygen will now be a thing of the past. After the installation of HFNC (high-flow nasal cannula), the demand for oxygen has shot up in Covid hospitals in UP. The new facility will bridge the gap between demand and supply. It is heartening that such a facility is ready during the trying times of pandemic, when it is needed the most,” the chief minister said in Lucknow on Thursday.

Yogi expressed happiness that the company would now set up another plant in the central parts of the state and more such plants would come up to eliminate oxygen

Invoking Chaudhary Charan Singh on the occasion, Yogi said that the late leader was the real sympathiser of farmers while for others, the farming

shortage.

Asking officials to encourage such investments in the state, the chief minister said that UP had the pride of becoming second in the country in Ease of Doing Business.

He said that investors should be approached to come to set up their industries in UP as it would create more employment and contribute to the state's development.

“The state government is doing everything to provide the best treatment to COVID-19 patients and others. UP has become the top state in testing Covid samples with over 1.12 crore tests while the state has the number of Covid beds in the country,” he said.

Yogi said that his government was doing everything to attract investors and provide them assistance to set up manufacturing units and to do business in the state.

The new plant would manufacture

the, the chief minister said that if they were concerned about farmers' interests, why was Ramala sugar mill, closed for over 30 years, not revived.

high quality liquefied oxygen to be used for patients. The plant was commissioned by INOX Air Products (INOXAP), one of India's largest manufacturers of industrial and medical gases.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up the oxygen unit was signed during Investors Summit in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018. The project has come up with an investment of Rs 150 crore.

With a potential to produce 150 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen per day, the plant takes UP's current liquid oxygen manufacturing capacity from 115 MT to 265 MT per day. It would fulfil the oxygen demand of more than 200 hospitals and medical colleges across the state and also cater to gases for various industries.

Talking about the new plant, INOX Group Director Siddharth Jain said that the project was possible only due to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

“Similarly, why did these governments not upgrade Mohiuddinpur sugar mill. It was the BJP government that came forward and did it for the

farmers,” he said. Yogi added that his government had made payments of Rs 1.6 lakh crore to the cane farmers in the last three-and-half years.

“We were able to achieve this as a leader from west UP was made cane minister,” he said.

The chief minister made it clear that ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas Aur Sabka Bharosa’ was not merely a slogan for the BJP, it was a commitment.

“Unlike the previous regimes which used to extend relief to people on the basis of caste, religion and region, the BJP government has believed in transparency and impartiality,” he added.

Yogi said that the recent developmental initiatives across the state were going to benefit Bulandshahar in a big way.

“The Ganga Expressway, the longest in the country, will pass through Bulandshahar while the proposed Jewar international airport and film city will also be coming up in the vicinity,” he said.

## CM to officials: Keep an eye on high Covid caseload cities

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Asking officials to keep an eye on the high caseload cities like Kanpur Nagar and Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) should operate actively and in full capacity for better results.

“There should be more vigilance in the Lucknow, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Meerut and Kanpur Nagar districts and efforts should be made to bring down the fatality rate in these districts,” the chief minister said while presiding over a high-level meeting at his official residence here on Thursday. He said that Uttar Pradesh had successfully controlled the COVID-19 infection rate but it did not mean that the government should lower its guard. Yogi said senior doctors should keep taking rounds in Covid hospital, and added that this success rate should be maintained and all efforts should be made to further bring down the infection rate.

Keeping in view the security and dignity of girls and

## Pledge to defeat corona virus

**Lucknow(PNS):** Acting on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for making coronavirus prevention a mass movement pan-India, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his ministerial colleagues, officials and government employees took a pledge to follow the Covid guidelines and adopt the three-point prevention protocol.

On the occasion, Yogi said that such a movement would strengthen the country's fight against the disease and create more awareness among the people.

“UP joined the country in its movement to defeat the coronavirus on Thursday. The steps include wearing face mask, following social distancing and washing hands repeatedly,” said Additional Chief Secretary

(Information) Navneet Sehgal in Lucknow. The chief minister and his entourage pledged to be cautious about COVID-19 and be careful of the viral threat to oneself and friends.

They promised to follow all preventive measures to contain the virus and make people aware. They also promised to wear face mask or cover face particularly at public places, follow social distancing of two yards and wash hands repeatedly with soap and water.

Having said these lines, the chief minister and his colleagues and staff vowed to fight and defeat the infection, unitedly.

The ministers who took the pledge included Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, Industry Minister Satish

Mahana, MSME Minister Sidharth Nath Singh, Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh and Minister of State for Health Atul Garg.

The officials included Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, IDC Alok Tandon, APC Alok Sinha, ACS (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi, DGP HC Awasthi, ACS (Information) Navneet Sehgal, ACS (Secondary Education) Aradhana Shukla, Principal Secretary (Animal Husbandry) Bhuvnesh Kumar, Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Deepak Kumar, Principal Secretary to CM and Information, Sanjay Prasad, Principal Secretary (Health) Alok Kumar, Relief Commissioner Sanjay Goel and Director Information, Sishir.

with the cleanliness and sanitation campaigns,” he said.

The chief minister said for road safety, inter-departmental coordination should be established and traffic and road safety campaigns should be carried

out in districts.

He said as October 15 happens to be World Hand Wash Day, programmes should be organised with the coordination of Basic, Secondary, Technical and Higher Education departments. The chief minister said to ensure that more and more people benefit from the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan, a plan should be formulated. He said that proper communication and coordination should be established with the industrialists and investors with whom memorandums of understanding were signed during the Investors Summit for initiating necessary action.

The infrastructure and industrial development commissioner briefed the chief minister about the communication being established with the investors under three categories.

The first category is of investors whose projects are in the last stage of execution, the second category is of investors whose projects are under process and the third category is of investors who are willing to invest in UP.

## BJP crushing voice of poor, spreading lies: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party of trying to crush the voice of the poor, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said that by spreading lies the ruling party leaders believed that the people would not see through their designs but they were sadly mistaken.

Issuing a statement in Lucknow on Thursday, Akhilesh said that the BJP's policies were not going to succeed in reality.

“The BJP government in UP has failed in maintaining law and order and its sole agenda is to harass and humiliate opposition party leaders,” the SP chief said.

Hitting out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Akhilesh said that the chief minister had announced that one crore workers had been given employment but the truth was that migrant workers were now forced to go back to other states to earn their livelihood.

“If there is an aorta of truth in the chief minister's claim then why will workers board Mumbai-bound trains? The trend is visible in eastern UP and Bundelkhand. A large crowd of migrant labourers can be seen at railway stations as they want to leave the state at any cost,” he said.

The SP chief said that the chief minister talked about Investors Summit in every meeting but was silent on the industries that had set up units in the state. “It will be good if the state government brings out a White Paper on this,” he said. Akhilesh further said that the BJP had not done anything for the cane farmers and in fact

it had betrayed them by not fulfilling its promise of making payment of arrears in 14 days.

“Over 60,000 farmers have committed suicide because they are facing the brunt of unseasonal rains. The compensation that the government has announced has not reached them. The BJP is treating farmer harshly,” the SP chief said.

### RLD URGES GUV TO ‘SAVE DEMOCRACY’

Rashtriya Lok Dal district units across Uttar Pradesh handed over to the district authorities memorandum addressed to UP Governor Anandiben Patel, urging her to save democracy. In Lucknow, the RLD office-bearers handed over such a memorandum to the district magistrate.

In the memorandum, it is alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party government in UP is negating the role of opposition at all levels and is even mocking at the opposition leaders with unrestrained comments.

The memorandum said that the state government's attitude was condemnable as it was weakening democracy at the grassroots level.

The RLD said that there was a spurt in crime cases and crime against women in UP. It said visiting the houses of the victims was the moral duty of the opposition and any restriction on it was undemocratic.

RLD state spokesman Surendranath Trivedi said the BJP governments at the Centre and in UP had always tried to gag the voice of the opposition by asking police to brutally cane-charge the workers and leaders of opposition parties.

### CITYBRIEFS

#### COVID PLEDGE

RDSO director-general Virendra Kumar administered Covid pledge to officials at the mini-conference hall following the launch of Jan Andolan Campaign on Covid-19 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 8. In other directorates and field units of RDSO, senior most officers administered pledge to respective subordinates. Kumar made an appeal to wear masks, follow social distancing and hygiene. Posters and banners were displayed to spread the messages



of Jan Andolan Campaign at prominent locations of RDSO. Efforts will be made in the coming week to publicise the con-

tent among officers and staffers through social media and also encourage them to join the campaign.

#### ADMISSION

Ayush Kumar Yati, a student of City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus I, has been selected for admission by the University of Melbourne, Australia, for pursuing higher studies. Ayush has got this opportunity due to his academic excellence and he attributes his success to the robust academic atmosphere of CMS.



NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Notification No. 87/2020 (Revised)

It is notified for information of general public that Chhapra–Durg–Chhapra Special train will start from 13.10.2020. This train will run with reserved accommodation. Details are as under:–

**05159/05160 Chhapra–Durg–Chhapra Special Train**

**05159 Ex. Chhapra from 13.10.2020 (Daily)**

**05160 Ex. Durg from 14.10.2020 (Daily)**



05159 Chhapra–Durg		STATION	05160 Durg–Chhapra	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
—	07.10	Chhapra	21.50	—
07.36	07.38	Suraimanpur	20.22	20.24
07.47	07.49	Reoti	20.06	20.08
07.55	07.57	Sahatwar	19.44	19.46
08.20	08.25	Ballia	19.20	19.25
08.46	08.48	Chit Baragaon	18.58	19.00
09.08	09.09	Karimuddinpur	18.41	18.43
09.23	09.25	Yusufpur	18.25	18.27
09.50	09.55	Ghazipur City	18.05	18.10
10.55	10.57	Aurihar Jn.	17.10	17.12
11.31	11.33	Sarnath	16.54	16.56
11.49	11.51	Varanasi City	16.40	16.42
12.20	12.30	Varanasi	16.15	16.30
13.06	13.08	Bhadohi	14.38	14.40
13.40	13.42	Janghai	14.08	14.10
14.04	14.06	Phulpur	13.33	13.35
14.58	15.00	Prayag	12.56	12.58
15.15	15.35	Prayag Raj	12.20	12.45
16.00	16.02	Naini	11.40	11.41
16.31	16.32	Shankargarh	10.45	10.46
17.04	17.05	Dabhaura	10.10	10.11
17.30	17.35	Manikpur	09.45	09.50
18.50	19.00	Satna	07.45	07.55
19.28	19.30	Maihar	07.08	07.10
19.56	19.58	Amdara	06.49	06.50
20.45	20.50	Katni	06.00	06.05
22.43	22.45	Birsinghpur	03.50	03.52
23.35	23.40	Shahdol	03.10	03.15
23.54	23.56	Burhar	02.37	02.39
00.05	00.07	Amlai	02.26	02.28
00.25	00.30	Anuppur Jn.	02.10	02.15
01.08	01.10	Pendra Road	01.24	01.26
03.17	03.19	Uslapur	23.46	23.48
03.50	04.10	Bilaspur Jn.	23.10	23.30
04.56	04.58	Bhatapara	22.11	22.13
05.18	05.20	Tildaneora	21.48	21.50
06.00	06.10	Raipur	21.05	21.15
06.46	06.48	Bhilai Power House	20.34	20.36
07.30	—	Durg	—	20.25

Rake Composition—General Class–03, Sleeper–11, AC III–02, AC II–01, AC I Cum AC II–01, Luggage Cum Power Car–02 = 20 Coach

Note: Passengers travelling by these trains have to observed guidelines issued by government regarding prevention of COVID-19.

CPRO/T-21                      Chief Pass. Traffic Manager, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN

यूनियन बैंक

Union Bank of India

Kanpur Regional Office : 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar Kanpur-208005

Head Office : 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI ACT)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 12.11.2020 as under.

Online E-Auction through website <https://bankeauctions.com> • Date & Time of Auction : 12th Nov. 2020 at 10.30 A.M. to 12.00 P.M. (With Unlimited Extension of 10 Minutes), Last Date of Submission of Bid/EMD : 11th Nov. 2020 upto 4.00 P.M.

Branch Rawatpur, Distt. Kanpur A/c No. for Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / BID Amount : e-Auction Sundry Deposit A/c No. : 455201980050000

Inward RTGS Account of Union Bank of India, Branch Rawatpur, Distt. Kanpur, IFSC Code : UBIN0545520

Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Description of Property & Date of Demand Notice & Possession Notice / Amount of Debt	Reserve Price EMD Price Bid Increment Amount	E-Auction Date & Time
<b>Name of Borrower : Maharana Pratap Education Center, Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, G.T. Road, Distt. Kanpur. (1) Chairman : Shri Ram Singh Bhadoriya (2) Secretary : Shri Shailendra Bhadoriya (3) Joint Secretary : Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, (4) Joint Secretary : Smt. Surabhi Bhadoriya, (5) Member : Smt. Sakshi Tiwari, Above All R/o : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, Distt. Kanpur. Guarantor : (1) Shri Ram Singh Bhadoriya (2) Shri Shailendra Bhadoriya (3) Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, (4) Smt. Surabhi Bhadoriya, (5) Smt. Sakshi Tiwari W/o Shri Ratnesh Tiwari, (6) Smt. Shiv Kumari. Above All R/o : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, Distt. Kanpur. (7) Late Shanker Singh Bhadoriya through heirs as (a) Smt. Mamta Singh - Daughter (b) Smt. Neha Bhadoriya - Daughter (C) Smt. Parul Bhadoriya - Daughter (d) Shri Aman Bhadoriya - Son, All R/o : 117/K/5, Sarvodaya Nagar, Distt. Kanpur, (8) Sakshi College of Management and Information Technology through Authorised Signatory Smt. Sakshi Tiwari, Address : 117/L/437, Naveen Nagar, Kakadeo, Distt. Kanpur. (9) M/s Mair Rajput Educational Society through Authorised Signatory Smt. Surabhi Bhadoriya, Address : Adilri High School, Pocket-II, Sector-24, Rohini New Delhi. (10) Maharana Infrastructures and Professional Service Pvt. Ltd. through Authorised Signatory Smt. Surabhi Bhadoriya, Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, Distt. Kanpur. (11) Smt. Nidhi Bhadoriya, Address : 117/K/5, Sarvodaya Nagar, Distt. Kanpur.</b> <b>O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 55,58,76,832.53 + Intt. + Other Charges</b> <b>Details of encumbrances over the property, as known to the Bank - Nil / Symbolic Possession</b> <b>Description of Mortgage Properties :</b>		
<b>(1) Commercial land &amp; building situated at premises No. 117/K/05, Gutaiya Bazar, Plot No. 04 at Block-X/I Rawatpur Crossing, Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property : Shri Ram Singh Bhadoriya, Shri Shanker singh Bhadoriya &amp; Smt. Shiv Kumari. Area : 181 Sq. Yard. Bounded : North- G.T. Road, South- Railway Line, East-Premises No. 117/K/06, West-Premises No. 117/K/04</b>	₹ 1,23,09,000/- ₹ 12,31,000/- ₹ 50,000/-	12-11-20 10.30 am to 11.00 am
<b>(2) Flat No. 216, 2nd Floor Situated at Premises No. 12/483, Macrobertganj, Kanpur. Owner of Property : Shri Shailendra Bhadoriya. Area : 66.44 Sq. Mtr., Undivided Share in Land 30.40 Sq. Mtr. Bounded : North- Flat No. 215, South- Open Land, East-Open Land, West- Common Passage and Flat No. 213</b>	₹ 43,77,000/- ₹ 4,38,000/- ₹ 50,000/-	12-11-20 11.00 am to 11.30 am
<b>(3) Land &amp; Building situated at Khata No. 186, Arazi No. 556. Situated at Mauza Bagdaudhi Kachar, Pargana &amp; Tehsil - Kanpur Nagar Owner of Property : Shri Ram Singh Bhadoriya. Area : 0.0715 Hectare or 715 Sq. Mtr., Bounded : North- Agriculture Land 554, South- Chak Road, East-Agriculture Land 555, West-Agriculture Land 557</b>	₹ 48,27,000/- ₹ 4,83,000/- ₹ 50,000/-	12-11-20 11.30 am to 12.00 pm

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E-AUCTIONS SALE : (1) THE REFUNDABLE Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 10% of Reserve Price shall be payable by interested bidders through NEFT/RTGS/FUNDS Transfer on or before Dt. 11-11-2020 latest by 4.00 pm of Union Bank of India, through Concern branch, Concern A/c Number & IFSC Code or by DD/Pay Order favouring Union Bank of India Concern Branch Payable at District-Kanpur. (2) Bidders are Advised to visit the Bank's Website : [www.unionbankofindia.co.in](http://www.unionbankofindia.co.in) or [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) for detailed terms & conditions of e-Auction sale & other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-Auction. Bidder may also visit the Website : [www.bankeauctions.com](http://www.bankeauctions.com) of service Provider M/s C-1 India Pvt. Ltd. Address : Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gulf Petrochem building, Building No. 301, Gurgaon, Haryana. Pin: 122015, e-mail ID : [support@bankeauctions.com](mailto:support@bankeauctions.com) / Helpline Number: +91-124-4302020/21/22/23/24, (Contact person-Mr. Mithlesh Kumar, Mob-07080804466). (3) The terms & conditions of sale shall be strictly as per the provisions of the Security Interest Rules (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. (4) The Interested bidder may contact the Branch Rawatpur, Distt.-Kanpur, Authorised Officer/Branch Head (Chief Manager) Shri Bal

# Coronavirus graph on decline, health officials still watchful

## 403 test positive, 458 patients recover

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The coronavirus graph in Lucknow is going downwards and the decline is sharp, but the health officials are exercising caution. A senior official at the CMO office said they were observing carefully if it was an actual decline.

On Thursday, 403 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow while 458 patients recovered. A senior official at the CMO office said the patients included 38 from Gominagar, 28 from Rae Bareilly road, 25 from Indiranagar, 24 from Chinhat, 20 each from Alambagh & Talkatora, 19 from Aliganj, 18 from Cantt, 17 from Ashiyana, 16 from Madaion, 13 from Jankipuram, 12 from Mahanagar, 11 each from

Chowk & Naka and 10 each from Vikasnagar and Thakurganj. There were 10 deaths in the district and the deceased included five from Lucknow while the rest from other districts.

Across the state, 3,376 persons tested positive, including 189 in Prayagraj, 180 in Gorakhpur and 121 in Varanasi, taking the tally to 4,27,459. Besides, 45 patients died across the state, taking the toll to 6,245.

"Having a large number of cases is not an issue but we should be ready to fight it out. The cases have come down in Lucknow to less than 500, but we are strengthening containment activities in Gominagar and Indiranagar where more teams will be pressed into service," he said.

The official said that in Aliganj, over 100 teams were going for sample collection. He further pointed out that they were also trying to have inter-departmental cooperation for better containment activities in the district.

"Aanganwadis will be helping us and teachers also have to be involved. At some places teachers were not coming, so the DM said he would direct the DIOS and BSA for involvement of teachers for surveillance," he said. Apart from the regular teams, there are agencies helping the health department with the manpower in containment activities.

Meanwhile, the DM, along with other district administration officials, took a pledge to take all possible means to stop the spread of the deadly coronavirus and also make people aware about the disease. They also vowed to wear a mask and to encourage others to mask up.

Meanwhile, KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri officially inaugurated the 20,000-litre capacity oxygen tank established at KGMU on Thursday.

Spokesperson Sandeep Tewari said the usage of the tank had begun from October 5 itself. The tank has been established for serious patients at the Covid hospital of KGMU.

"It was established in record one month's time by the construction and mechanical engineering departments of KGMU," he said. He added that till now oxygen requirements of the hospital were being done through a 90,000-litre tank set up at KGMU.

# Sniffer dog helps police unravel murder mystery

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The sniffer dog of police helped in unravelling the mystery of Deepika Trivedi's murder case. She was killed during robbery in Banthra on September 28. The police arrested her husband on Thursday and recovered the looted ornaments and tools used in breaking into the house. The police said the accused, Deep Narayan Trivedi of Bainti village in the area, had two wives and they were hostile to each other.

Deep Narayan used to side with his second wife Kusum Trivedi, who happens to be a close kin of Deepika. Kusum and Deepika used to stay in different rooms. On the fateful day, Deepika and Kusum had a verbal spat over household chores and Deep Narayan sided with Kusum. Deepika had an argument with Deep Narayan who flew into rage. He later choked

her throat but he developed cold feet after Deepika died.

To save his skin, he staged the crime scene by breaking into the wall of the room and scattering the articles and hiding the ornaments at different places before calling the police. He also hid the donation box kept in Nareshwar temple to show that thieves struck at the temple. The police said Deep Narayan owned up his crime after 'terahvi' and the police interrogated him. Police said the sniffer dog barked at Deep Narayan on the day of investigation. "It gave us enough hints and we kept a watch on Deep Narayan. We questioned him after 'terahvi' and was shown evidence. He owned up his crime," the police said.

Deep Narayan used to live with Kusum and their children — Shubham (17) and Shivank (13) — while Deepika stayed with her sons Saurabh (23) and Shiva (27).

# Private company employee found hanging in house

**Lucknow (PNS):** A private company employee ended his life at his house in Mahanagar on Thursday. Vinay Raj Singh of Papermill Colony in Mahanagar was found hanging from the ceiling with a curtain tied around his neck. Brother Vijay Raj Singh said Vinay returned home on Wednesday night and had dinner with them. He later went to take a rest in a room on the ground floor. "When he did not wake up this morning, we reached his room which was bolted from inside. As he did not respond to calls, we peeped inside, only to find him hanging.

Meanwhile, body of a missing property dealer was recovered from Sharda canal in Para police station area on Thursday.

Reports said the property dealer Mohammed Shanu (23), also a milk supplier, was a resident of Krishna Nagar locality and was reported missing on October 6.

He had left the house saying he had to go to a site in Chakauli (Kakori). After he remained untraceable, his father lodged a missing report. On Thursday, one of Shanu's friends, who is a driver, spotted his bike parked near the canal. Police teams from Krishna Nagar and Para reached the scene and searched the thickets where the body was found. It surfaced that Shanu, along with one Anil, had gone to Chakauli where a realtor, Aniket, has his office. In the evening, he, along with Anil, left for his house.

# 8-year-old Dalit girl raped by teen

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 19-year-old boy was accused of raping an 8-year-old Dalit girl at a shanty in Nigoha. Arrested later, he was identified as Neeraj Yadav of the same village. The police registered a case of rape and also booked him under POCSO and SC/ST acts. The girl was admitted to a hospital where her condition was said to be critical.

As per reports, the accused spotted the girl playing outside her house around 9 am and an evil design crossed his mind. He took her inside a shanty where he

forced himself upon her. The girl cried in pain but the accused gagged her. The victim remained unattended and unconscious for hours. As she gained consciousness, she started crying. Villagers rushed to the scene and alerted the police. The girl was taken to a hospital where she told her mother the name of the accused. The police launched a manhunt for the accused and nabbed him later.

Sources said the incident made people of the girl's community fume in rage and demanded strict action against the accused.

# IAS officer deprived of bag containing cash, valuables

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Briefcase containing cash and some gold rings studded with precious gems was stolen from the car of an IAS officer in Madaion when he was returning home in Madaion on Wednesday.

As per reports, Vedpati Mishra of Sahara City Homes is posted as special secretary in Science and Technology department. On Wednesday evening, he was returning home when he stopped at a shop near Madaion Kotwali to purchase sweets. His driver

Ver Nitish parked the car on the roadside and went to the shop. When Nitish returned, two youths approached Nitish and pointed towards the bonnet. Mishra said one of the miscreants sprayed some liquid after which he felt breathlessness.

"I came out of the car as I was feeling suffocated and Nitish bent down to check out the bonnet. When I sat in the car, I found the briefcase missing," he told the police. The briefcase had Rs 50,000 in cash and three gold rings studded with gems.

# DM asks various depts to check air pollution

**Lucknow (PNS):** District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash called a meeting on Thursday to discuss measures to check air pollution. The meeting was attended by officials of LDA, LMC, forest, transport, traffic, Awas Vikas, NHAI, industries, PWD, Setu Nigam, UPSRTC and UPPCB. The DM directed all the departments to use green net, anti-smoke guns self dust control audit and sprinkling of water on the construction sites.

Regional pollution control officer gave details about the self dust control. Municipal Commissioner

Ajay Kumar Dwivedi said all the units should use water treated by the STPs of Nagar Nigam for sprinkling water on the construction sites and be in touch with the control room.

The DM said that for enforcement of the various measures related to air pollution, on the insistence of the regional pollution control officer, an in-principle nod has been given to Nagar Nigam for assistance to seek public support. He directed the traffic and transport officials to begin special campaigns from Sunday onwards.

# Trader killed, body dumped in godown

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Unidentified miscreants killed a trader in Itaunja and dumped his body in his godown which they looted from outside before fleeing. The incident came to light three days after the murder when his nephew reached the godown. The victim, identified as Ashish Yadav aka Manu of Khanpur village, was reported missing on October 6 after he left his house for his godown at

Shahpur crossing. He dealt in sale of cattle fodder.

As he did not reach home by night, his family reached the godown but found it locked. They dialled his cell number but it was switched off. They later lodged a missing report even as they kept searching for him on their own. On the other hand, the police sat on the case. On Thursday, Ashish's nephew Rohit reached the godown to open it and was shocked to find his body inside.

**Initial investigation revealed that Ashish was done to death in the godown, located in the basement of his shop**

Initial investigation revealed that Ashish was done to death in the godown, located in the basement of the shop. There were blood stains on the stairs. The police also

found blood stains on the ground suggesting that the victim was dragged after being attacked or killed. The police suspected that the victim was attacked with some sharp-edged weapon, but it could not be recovered. The police suspected that Ashish was killed over a love affair or due to money dispute. The bereaved told the police the name of a man who had threatened to kill Ashish, and he was detained by police.

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**  
**Union Bank of India**

**Kanpur Regional Office :** 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar Kanpur-208005  
**Head Office :** 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI ACT)**

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 28.10.2020 as under.

**Online E-Auction through website https://bankauctions.com • Date & Time of Auction : 28th Oct.2020 at 10.30 A.M. to 2.30 P.M (With Unlimited Extension of 10 Minutes), Last Date of Submission of Bid/EMD : 27th Oct.2020 upto 4.00 P.M.**

**Branch Rawatpur, Distt. Kanpur A/c No. for Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / BID Amount : e-Auction Sundry Deposit A/c No. : 455201980050000 Inward RTGS Account of Union Bank of India, Branch Rawatpur, Distt. Kanpur, IFSC Code : UBIN0545520**

Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Description of Property & Date of Demand Notice & Possession Notice / Amount of Debt	Reserve Price EMD Price Bid Increment Amount	E-Auction Date & Time
<b>Name of Borrower : Maharana Infrastructure and Professional Services Limited (M.I.P.S.), Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, G.T. Road, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). Directors : (1) Smt. Surabhi Bhadoriya, Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). (2) Shri Rustam Digshaw Batliwala, Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). (3) Shri Meet Kamal, Address : 13/117, K-Block, Sarovodaya Nagar, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.) (4) Shri Jai Kishan Pandey, Address : 13/149, Parmat, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). (5) Shri Punyatma Singh, Address : 17, Navsheel Dham, Kalyanpur, Bithoor Road, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.) <b>Guarantor :</b> (1) Shri Shailendra Bhadoriya (2) Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya (3) Smt. Surabhi Bhadoriya, All Address : 117/Q/66, Sharda Nagar, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.). <b>O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 3,26,06,354.00 + Intt. + Other Charges</b></b>		
<b>Details of encumbrances over the property, as known to the Bank - Nil / Symbolic Possession Description of Mortgage Properties :</b>		
(1) Property situated Plot No. 17, Arazi No. 369-B, Sale Deed Dated 05-02-2014 on cover no. 6414, from Page 37 to 52, On Serial No. 698, Baikunthpur, Bithoor, Kanpur. <b>Owner of Property :</b> Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, <b>Area :</b> 83.53 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded :</b> North- Plot No. 18, South- 7.62 Mtr. Road, East-6.09 Mtr. Road, West- Land (Khasra No. 343)	₹ 6,39,000/- ₹ 64,000/- ₹ 25,000/-	28-10-20 10.30 am to 11.00 am
(2) Property situated Plot No. 13, Arazi No. 369-B, Sale Deed Dated 05-02-2014 on cover no. 6414, from Page 53 to 68, On Serial No. 699, Baikunthpur, Bithoor, Kanpur. <b>Owner of Property :</b> Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, <b>Area :</b> 83.53 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded :</b> North-25 Ft. Road, South-Plot No. 14, East-Plot No. 11, West-20 Ft. Road.	₹ 6,39,000/- ₹ 64,000/- ₹ 25,000/-	28-10-20 11.00 am to 11.30 am
(3) Property situated Plot No. 16, Arazi No. 369-B, Sale Deed Dated 05-02-2014 on cover no. 6414, from Page 69 to 84, On Serial No. 700, Baikunthpur, Bithoor, Kanpur. <b>Owner of Property :</b> Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, <b>Area :</b> 83.53 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded :</b> North- 7.62 Mtr. Road, South- Private Plot No. 15, East-6.09 Mtr. Road, West- Land No. 369 & 343	₹ 6,39,000/- ₹ 64,000/- ₹ 25,000/-	28-10-20 11.30 am to 12.00 pm
(4) Property situated Plot No. 15, Arazi No. 369-B, Sale Deed Dated 05-02-2014 on cover no. 6414, from Page 85 to 100, On Serial No. 1234, Baikunthpur, Bithoor, Kanpur. <b>Owner of Property :</b> Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, <b>Area :</b> 83.53 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded :</b> North- Private Plot No. 16, South- Land No. 369, East-6.09 Mtr. Road, West- Land No. 369 & 343	₹ 6,39,000/- ₹ 64,000/- ₹ 25,000/-	28-10-20 12.00 pm to 12.30 pm
(5) Property situated Plot No. 10, Arazi No. 344, Sale Deed Dated 05-02-2014 on cover no. 5875, from Page 307 to 322, On Serial No. 1235, Baikunthpur, Bithoor, Kanpur. <b>Owner of Property :</b> Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, <b>Area :</b> 91.02 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded :</b> North- Other Land, South- 20 Ft. Road, East-Private Plot No. 08, West- Plot No. 12	₹ 6,96,000/- ₹ 70,000/- ₹ 25,000/-	28-10-20 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm
(6) Property situated Plot No. 12, Arazi No. 344, Sale Deed Dated 05-02-2014 on cover no. 5875, from Page 323 to 338, On Serial No. 1235, Baikunthpur, Bithoor, Kanpur. <b>Owner of Property :</b> Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, <b>Area :</b> 91.02 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded :</b> North- Other Land, South- 20 Ft. Road, East-Private Plot No. 10, West- Land of Chhotalal	₹ 6,96,000/- ₹ 70,000/- ₹ 25,000/-	28-10-20 1.00 pm to 1.30 pm
(7) Property situated Plot No. 11, Arazi No. 344, Sale Deed Dated 05-02-2014 on cover no. 5875, from Page 339 to 354, On Serial No. 1236, Baikunthpur, Bithoor, Kanpur. <b>Owner of Property :</b> Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, <b>Area :</b> 91.02 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded :</b> North- 6.10 Mtr. Road, South- Land No. 345, East-Private Plot No. 09, West- Land of Chhotalal	₹ 6,96,000/- ₹ 70,000/- ₹ 25,000/-	28-10-20 1.30 pm to 2.00 pm
(8) Property situated Plot No. 09, Arazi No. 344, Sale Deed Dated 05-02-2014 on cover no. 5875, from Page 355 to 370, On Serial No. 1237, Baikunthpur, Bithoor, Kanpur. <b>Owner of Property :</b> Shri Gaurav Bhadoriya, <b>Area :</b> 91.02 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded :</b> North- 6.10 Mtr. Road, South- Land No. 345, East-Private Plot No. 07, West- Land of Chhotalal	₹ 6,96,000/- ₹ 70,000/- ₹ 25,000/-	28-10-20 2.00 pm to 2.30 pm

**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E-AUCTIONS SALE :** (1) The REFUNDABLE Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 10% of Reserve Price shall be payable by interested bidders through NEFT/RTGS/FUNDS Transfer on or before Dt. 27-10-2020 latest by 4.00 pm of Union Bank of India, through Concern branch, Concern A/c Number & IFSC Code or by DD/Pay Order favouring Union Bank of India Concern Branch Payable at District-Kanpur. (2) Bidders are Advised to visit the Bank's Website : www.unionbankofindia.co.in or www.eprocure.gov.in for detailed terms & conditions of e-Auction sale & other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-Auction. Bidder may also visit the Website : www.bankauctions.com of service Provider M/s C-1 India Pvt. Ltd. Address : Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gulf Petrochem building, Building No. 301, Gurgaon, Haryana. Pin: 122015. e-mail ID : support@bankauctions.com /Helpline Number: +91-124-4302020/21/22/23/24, (Contact person-Mr. Mithlesh Kumar, Mob-07080804466). (3) The terms & conditions of sale shall be strictly as per the provisions of the Security Interest Rules (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. (4) The Interested bidder may contact the Branch Rawatpur, Distt.-Kanpur, Authorised Officer/Branch Head (Chief Manager) Shri Balbir Singh, (M) 9315685194 & E-mail id : rawatpur@unionbankofindia.com, Property inspection Date 26-10-2020 upto 5.00 pm

**STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) / Rule 9 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002**

This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6) / rule 9 (1) of Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the above loan accounts about the holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date.

**Date : 09.10.2020 Place : Kanpur Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India**

**प्रधानमंत्री सुरक्षित मातृत्व अभियान**

**प्रत्येक माह की 09 तारीख को गर्भवती महिला का ख्याल सबसे पहले (अवकाश की दशा में अगले कार्य दिवस पर)**

**सभी सरकारी अस्पतालों में उपलब्ध निम्न मुफ्त सेवाएं-**

समस्त गर्भवती महिलाओं की प्रसव पूर्व जाँचें- हीमोग्लोबिन, शुगर (OGTT), यूरिन जाँच ब्लड ग्रुप, एच.आई.वी., सिफलिस, वजन, ब्लड प्रेशर, अल्ट्रासाउण्ड एवं अन्य जाँचें।

समस्त गर्भवती महिलाओं के गर्भ का द्वितीय एवं तृतीय त्रैमास में कम से कम एक बार स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ अथवा एलोपैथिक चिकित्सक की देख-रेख में निःशुल्क स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण।

टिटनेस का टीका, आयरन, कैल्शियम एवं आवश्यक दवाएँ।

हाई रिस्क गर्भवती महिलाओं की पहचान, प्रबन्धन एवं सुरक्षित संस्थागत प्रसव हेतु प्रेरित करना।

पोषण, परिवार नियोजन तथा प्रसव स्थान के चयन हेतु काउन्सलिंग।

**दिनांक : 9 अक्टूबर, 2020**

**अभियान में प्राइवेट चिकित्सक जुड़ने के लिए रजिस्ट्रेशन करें।**

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नोवल कोरोना की

# 116 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 116 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district here on Thursday, increasing the total number of cases to 14,565. Besides, the district also saw three more deaths, increasing the toll to 237. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 190 patients. Out of them, 183 patients were recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 10,290 and just seven patients have been discharged from the hospitals. With this, the number of cured patients from the hospitals has increased to 2,747. The total number of cured patients is now 13,037, leaving 1,291 active patients. The recovery rate has improved to 89.50 per cent but the mortality rate has increased to 1.62 per cent.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma has directed the Health department to ensure

health check-ups of all the health workers to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and common cancer under the ongoing three-week long 'Fit Health Worker Campaign'. The health check-ups of all ASHA workers, ANMs, staff nurses, lab technicians, medical officers and specialist physicians as well as the sanitation workers, Anganwadi workers and assistants in urban areas, government hospitals, community and primary health centres (CHCs/PHCs), wellness and sub-centres should be checked by October 23.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has instructed all the medical incharges to ensure optimum health check-ups of all health workers.

District Community Process Manager (DCPM) Ramesh Kumar Verma said that a format has been developed at the state level for time-

ly reporting of data on screening of all health workers and the progress of the campaign will be monitored daily at the state level.

Earlier, in the first report of the day by 11 am, 86 positive patients were detected out of 4,147 received reports. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,38,411 and the results of 976 are awaited.

Out of them, 2,23,876 were negative, while 14,535 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,53,805. Earlier, a male aged 60 from Sarnath succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), while a female aged 72 from Dashaswamedh died at Heritage Hospital.

With the addition of eight new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,126 including 293 red zones.

Five green zones have been converted into red zones

again. There are 1,833 green zones with 26 new ones.

Earlier, under ongoing mass/ group antigen tests, four persons out of 507 tests were detected positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura while one out of 366 at adjacent Government Women's Hospital, five out of 104 at Shivpur CHC, 10 out of 189 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and four out of 512 at SSH BHU. However, all the 106 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur were found negative. Besides, the Health department has distributed 4,424 Ivermectin tablets to 553 persons. So far, 10.31 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.28 lakh persons and out of them, 8.41 lakh tablets to 1.05 lakh persons were distributed only by the Health department while rest of tablets by other departments including Supply and Education departments and Civil Defence so far.

# DM flags off LED publicity van

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma flagged off LED publicity van of the Information department from Sewapuri here on Thursday for mobilising the people towards schemes of different departments and public policies of government in Sewapuri development block, selected as an ideal block by NITI Aayog in the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This LED publicity van will carry out propagation work in all gram panchayats of the development block.

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh presented certificates to 19 emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and pilots of 108, 102 and Advanced Emergency Support (ALS) Ambulance Service at his office for providing 24 x 7 services to the people during these difficult coronavirus pandemic period. Dr Singh said that due to efficiency of the staff of the ambulance personnel, the corona patients are being sent to the hospitals smoothly and



DM KR Sharma flagging off LED publicity van from Sewapuri in Varanasi on Thursday

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timely.

On the occasion, Head (Operations) of the company Aniket Palawat also praised the services of the staff. Programme Manager Deepak

Srivastava said that currently there are 28 ambulances of 108, 38 of 102 and three ambulances of ALS service in the district. Out of these, 11 and 1 ALS ambulances of 108 service have

been deployed in Covid operations. Regional Manager Amit Rai, Ambulance incharge Prashant, Avnish, Gaurav and other staff were present on the occasion.

# DLW, NER staff pledge to follow guidelines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In response to the Jan Andolan (mass movement) launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fight the coronavirus pandemic, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal administered oath to the officials of Railway Board, zonal railways, production units, divisions, RDSO, NAIR, CTIs etc. including Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) and Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) through a virtual platform on Thursday. All the Railway officers took a pledge to defend themselves against coronavirus by repeatedly washing their hands, wearing the masks properly, keeping a distance of two yards and continuing to follow the guidelines till we get the vaccine of this disease.

Along with this, all the



DLW (top) and NER (bottom) employees pledging to follow COVID-19 guidelines in Varanasi on Thursday

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employees working in various offices and workshops in the DLW also took a similar pledge which was administered by their superintendents. In the same order, banners and posters have also been placed on all important places in the office premises, workshops and DLW premises as part of the mass movement to prevent the spread of coronavirus pandemic.

Similarly, at Varanasi Divisional Office of North Eastern Railway (NER), the officers also pledged not to relax till the vaccine is not found.

The Railway Minister in his appeal stressed the need for linking all the families of Railway employees through social media so that they can also follow the COVID-19 guidelines and prevent attack of coronavirus.

# Panel to see feasibility for starting course on AI

**VARANASI (PNS):** Considering the importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in various areas, particularly in cyber security, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) is exploring the possibilities of starting a new postgraduate (PG) course on AI. The idea is also in line with the New Education Policy (NEP)-20 which puts a greater emphasis on technology-based learning and skilling as a major part of education. Vice-Chancellor Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar has constituted a committee to explore the feasibility to start the course and various related aspects like preparation of course structure, syllabus, modalities of teaching/ learning programme and the scope of research in this area.

The first meeting of the committee was held on Wednesday which discussed the issue thoroughly and invited suggestions from the members and deliberated over the

proposed course and its syllabus. The meeting was attended by Prof K Subbiah, Prof AK Agrawal, Prof Banketeshwar Tiwari, Prof SK Singh and Dr Anil Kumar Pandey under the chairmanship of Prof Anand Mohan (Member, Executive Council, BHU).

The course in the field of AI will provide trained technical manpower to the country and will be a great asset in the area of virtual world which will not only be useful to society but to the country as a whole as well. The proposed course (Master of Science Artificial Intelligence) will be a course with a technology background and will be the first of its kind when a university will be offering such a course. AI refers to the stimulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions.

**WEBINAR ON ROLE OF TECHNICAL EDUCA-**

**TION HELD:** A webinar entitled 'Role of Technical Education in Self Reliant India' was organised under joint aegis of Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) and Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, New Delhi on Tuesday. The convener of the webinar was Prof PK Mishra from IIT-BHU. The chairperson and keynote speaker of the event was Prof Anupam Shukla, Director, IIIT, Pune. Other speakers were Nikhar Jain, Director, BridgedotsTechservices, Gaurav Kedia, Director, Indian Biogas Association, Siddharth Dubey, Founder, Kognitivus Training and Consulting and Vaibhav Saxena, Founder, www.ipsator.com.

Prof PK Mishra welcomed all the speakers and introduced them with the participants of the webinar. Prof Anupam Shukla stated Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self

Reliant India) is important to improve the economy. He insisted on his stance of trying to stop looking for jobs and start creating them. He also pointed out that 'Make in India' is a big advantage to the entrepreneurs and budding start-ups. "We need to shift the mind-set of students and inter-departmental research needs to be encouraged among college students to increase potential which leads to innovation. Also, nurturing ideas of youngsters will eventually boost the confidence of young entrepreneurs," he added.

Vaibhav Saxena emphasised on what engineers can do to contribute to accomplish Atmanirbhar Bharat. "We need to look out for problems in the government policies and find challenges. We need to solve our problems and thereby generate employment," he stated. Question and answer session was also held. Prof PK Mishra proposed the vote of thanks.

# 196 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Corona figures were also less than 200 on Wednesday night. As many as 196 new corona patients, including three junior doctors of Swaroop Rani Nehru Covid Hospital, have been found infected and two corona patients lost their lives. The total number of corona patients now reached 20,609.

Those infected with corona included Chief Engineer of Railways, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, TTE, clerk of DRM office, Accountant of a private school, Senior Auditor of AG office, S-1 of Police Lines among others. The offices were closed for Wednesday and Thursday due to receiving positive cases in the CGST department. Although, officers and staff are working from homes. These days, the number of corona patients continues to fall by less than 200, the number of patients recovering is increasing. On Wednesday, 252 patients recovered. So far, a total of 18,374 patients have been negative from corona



positive.

Now the number of infected patients started decreasing in Covid hospitals. At present there are 1,955 active patients, of which only 225 patients are admitted to Covid Hospital, the rest of the patients are beating

Corona by staying in home isolation. Covid Care Centre has the highest 85 patients admitted to Kalindipuram, 26 to Railway Covid Care Centre, 38 to Tej Bahadur Sapru, 22 to Sri Sai Nath Vatsalya Covid Hospital, 22 to United and

Covid Hospital SRN at L3.

CMO Dr GS Bajpai said that there is a decrease in the number of corona patients, but for this we need to be cautious. There is a need to be careful until we are able to completely control the corona.

# Negligence of lab technician comes to light

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The negligence of a lab technician has come to light. He neither sampled the suspects nor tested them. After that, he declared the patients positive and negative on his own accord. His negligence was revealed when he made the Assistant Audit Officer posted in the AG audit positive again. When he complained about this, the CMO got the matter investigated in which the negligence of the lab technician was revealed. Now preparations are on to end his service.

On September 22, a resident of Clive Road Assistant

Audit Officer conducted sampling in a private lab to examine corona. 24 received positive reports. She moved into home isolation with the permission of the department. On September 25, the Rapid Response Team reached her home and provided medicines etc. On September 30, the mobile team reached her home. The team took the names and details of all the members but the lab technician did not take any samples. The team also went to the neighbours' house but did not take samples but took only name and details. The lab technician broke all the rules and made the report of all the

people on his own accord. The audit officer was shown positive again and the neighbours negative.

The reality came to light when the Assistant Audit Officer received a call from the Rapid Response Team again on October 1 on mobile and was told that you are corona positive? The team reached her home and started the whole process of home isolation etc. All family members kept saying that she was already positive. Their home isolation is nearing completion. But the team did not listen to one. The victim said that her family was also abused by the Rapid Response

Team.

Chief Medical Officer Dr GS Bajpai said that the lab technician has done a lot of negligence. He is in the process of termination of service. Others involved in this negligence are also being marked and action will be taken against them. A case will also be filed against him.

Nodal Officer for Corona, Dr Rishi Sahai said that lab technician's negligence has come to light in this case. He was with the mobile team for about a week. The person whose report has been taken out, they are being asked whether they were sampled or not, added Dr Sahai.

# Air Force Day celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Headquarters Central Air Command celebrated 88th Air Force Day on Thursday. On this occasion Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Central Air Command paid tributes to the brave-heart Air Warriors who laid down their lives in the service to the nation by laying wreath at CAC War Memorial.

In his message to all Air Warriors and their families Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar AVSM VM ADC, AOC-in-C Central Air Command emphasised on the need to be ever vigilant against any wrong designs of our adversaries and urged all personnel to take pride in the task assigned to them.

He wished all Air Warriors, DSC personnel and civilians good health in this pandemic



time and advised them to take utmost care and precautions in the fight against COVID-19.

# NCR GM administers Jan Andolan pledge to Railway employees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Public Health Response to COVID-19: campaign for Covid Appropriate Behaviour launched over North Central Railway by the General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry who administered 'Jan Aadolan' pledge to Railway employees through video conferencing

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a Jan Andolan campaign on COVID-19 through a tweet from @narendramodi on Thursday. The Jan Andolan Campaign is a low cost, high intensity campaign driven by people's participation for dissemination throughout the country using all media platforms. The campaign emphasises on 'Unlock with precautions' -- COVID-19 appropriate behaviour in the new normal. The three key messages being highlighted are 'Wear Mask, Follow physical distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene'.

Minister of Railway Piyush Goyal administered Jan Andolan pledge to CRB, all members of Railway Board, GMs, DRMs and other senior officials of Railways and PSUs at 11:30 hours. Followed by



NCR GM Rajiv Chaudhry

this GM NCR and NR Rajiv Chaudhry administered 'Jan Aadolan' pledge to Railway officials connected through video conferencing.

North Central Railway has been a leading zonal Railway in running public awareness campaigns on COVID-19, and making coordinated and concentrated efforts to disseminate the message on Covid Appropriate Behaviour by way of posters, banners, billboards, digital displays, auto announcement and publicity using all media

platforms.

On the launching day of this important campaign October 8, 2020 major activities organised over North Central Railway are Jan Andolan pledge at HQ, three Divisional offices, stations and other places by 22,924 passengers, Railway employees and other persons; display of poster/ banner in nine offices, 131 stations and two originating special trains; Covid appropriate behaviour jingle playing at 76 stations through auto announcement

system; sharing of pledge among all railway employee and their family members through message etc.

For spreading the message far and wide and up to the grassroot level detailed action plan for this campaign has been made which includes organising regular pledge taking at stations involving passengers and other locations for railway employees and their family members etc.; besides provision of posters, banners etc. digital displays at station and in trains shall be used to play video clips on COVID-19; extensive use of auto announcement system at stations and other places including trains equipped with this facility; use of all form of media platforms for regular publicity etc.

In addition to above, innovative efforts like digital contactless signature campaign' and provision of 'COVID-19 appropriate behaviour pledge taking corner' shall be done at Prayagraj Jn. which will be replicated at other major stations of NCR in due course based on response received from passengers and other users at Prayagraj Jn. station.



District Magistrate, City, Mr Alok Tiwari, administers oath to officials on COVID-19 on Thursday.

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# Covid: Kanpur DM urges people to remain alert

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari has cautioned the people of Kanpur Nagar to remain alert as the second wave of coronavirus pandemic in prominent cities of India and across the world has been more severe and lowering the guard now could prove costly.

He said keeping this in view, social distancing and wearing mask was the most effective tool to evade infection.

The district magistrate said it was quite encouraging that the fight against COVID-19 in the city limits was effective and successful, as in the past couple of days it had been observed that there was a decline in the number of new

cases.

He appealed to the people to continue with the same vigil and alertness so that the people of Kanpur Nagar may not once again be infected by the novel coronavirus.

Tiwari said the raids on government and private hospitals would continue. He said pathologies and medical oxygen suppliers were being strictly monitored.

The district magistrate made a surprise inspection of Kanshiram Hospital on Thursday to take feedback of its working and the presence of doctors and the static magistrates.

He later told news persons that 15 patients were found in the ICU, nine in the HDU and around 50 in the isolation ward of Kanshiram Hospital.

Tiwari said the hospital management had been directed to provide quality treatment to all the indoor patients and ensure that there was no COVID-19 death. He said an anaesthetist was required to be present in the hospital round-the-clock along with specialists, especially chest specialist.

The district magistrate directed the hospital officials to keep dengue patients in a separate ward. He was informed by the hospital authorities that a six-bed ward had been earmarked for dengue patients.

Tiwari directed the chief medical superintendent to take rounds of the wards and ensure that there was perfect cleanliness and no stagnant water on the hospital premises.

Tiwari directed the chief medical officer to ensure reg-

ular spray of anti-larvae chemicals and to set up two special teams, one for urban and the second for rural areas, for this work. He pointed out that dengue cases had emerged more in semi-urban and rural areas and later spread in the urban areas.

The district magistrate later summoned all officials, staff and employees at the collectorate and administered oath to them for the control of spread of COVID-19. He also asked them to always use face mask or face cover in public places, to maintain a distance of six feet from others and regularly wash hands with soap and also use sanitisers at places.

He said if anyone developed symptoms of COVID-19, then one should get tested for coronavirus infection.

## 112 more test +ve

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 112 more coronavirus positive cases on Thursday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 112 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 26,397 cases. He said three COVID-19 deaths in the city pushed the toll to 698 on Thursday evening.

The CMO said with 19 COVID-19 patients cured in hospitals the cured figure in the city was 6771 and at present 2945 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 5,644 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## Hookah bars a threat to corona spread

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Hookah bar visitors were a potential threat to spread of coronavirus infection. A raid carried out on Wednesday on a hookah parlour being covertly run in Jagaipurwa under Chakeri police station brought to fore that several of its visitors who developed symptoms had tested positive for coronavirus infection.

Chakeri police station incharge Ravi Srivastava said on a tip-off from a doctor, the hookah bar was raided and nearly half-a-dozen people were found to be smoking hookah. They were arrested and later released on personal bond.

Additional Chief Medical Officer Dr Dinesh Kumar said that smoking doubled the risk of having severe COVID-19. He said damage to the lungs from hookah was similar to the damage caused by COVID-19. He added that both hookah smoke and the COVID-19 virus attacked the inner lining of the lungs and the damage to lung cells and inflammation of the tissue weakened the lungs ability to fight off infection.

He said if lungs were already damaged from hookah and other tobacco products, it made it easier for the virus to invade the lung tissue, cause more severe symptoms and increase the risk of death.

Dr Kumar said lung inflammation and cell damage had been seen among hookah users after only a single session and added that hookah use damaged alveoli, the delicate air sacs that brought oxygen to the lungs.

He said similarly COVID-19 also targeted the lining of the alveoli that led to inflammation and difficulty in breathing.

The ACMO said those who were around hookah were also exposed to pollutants in second hand hookah smoke that damaged the lungs.

Dr Kumar said the mouth-piece, the hose and the water in the hookah could harbour and transmit bacteria from one user to another when the hookah was shared and this was a serious indicator that the COVID-19 virus could also spread through hookah sharing in the same way.

## CSJMU to impart training to women entrepreneurs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The government has approved the Rural Entrepreneurship and Women Development Project and sanctioned a sum of ₹ 35 lakh.

Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur, will extend its expertise to set up industries and also impart training, especially to women entrepreneurs.

The university will also set up a centre for women studies to provide guidance, direction and help on setting up industries in the rural areas. The project will take off soon.

This was stated by CSJMU Vice Chancellor Dr Neelima Gupta while addressing a virtual session on Wednesday. She said the government stress was now on rural development.

# Valuables destroyed in blaze

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A devastating fire broke out due to a short circuit in a showroom of a four-wheeler situated on Mirzapur-Chunar Road under Dehat Kotwali police station on Thursday



morning. Besides motor parts other valuables worth several lakhs of rupees were estimated to have been reduced to ashes. The flames could be extinguished after two hours with the help of the fire tenders. The staff informed the Dehat Kotwali police about the matter following which its personnel reached the spot.

**CRIMINAL ARRESTED:** Chilh police arrested a criminal whose name figured in the list of top-10 criminals along with a countrymade gun and cartridges on Wednesday. The Chilh police arrested Pramod Shukla alias Vidambana, a resident of

Semara village under the Chilh police station, along with a countrymade gun and two cartridges. During routine patrolling the police was tipped off by an informer that a hardcore criminal was hatching a conspiracy to commit some crime along with his accomplices in Naraur village. At this the police raided the spot and caught Pramod. About a dozen cases, including those of murder and other heinous crimes, had been registered against the accused in different police stations. After registering the case under relevant sections of law the police sent the criminal to jail. Meanwhile an earlier report said that the Lalganj police nabbed one person and recovered a kidnapped girl recently. As per the reports, a man had lodged a complaint had been lodged on September 17 in which he had stated that the accused had enticed away his daughter. The investigation was on when the police was informed by an informer about the presence of the accused near a petrol pump located at Cheruiram. On the information the police raided the place, recovered the kidnapped girl and arrested the accused who was identified as Rohit, son of Shivpal Yadav, a resident of Semari village under Lalganj

police station.

**THREE KILLED:** Three persons were killed in separate road accidents on Wednesday. In the first incident, Mushtaq, a resident of Bihar, was living along with his relative in Deepnagar under Madihan police station. He was returning after leaving his relative at Suggapakh when he suddenly lost control over his motorcycle and it overturned near Balua village as a result of which he sustained serious injuries. On getting information about the matter the police brought him to a hospital but he was declared as brought dead. The police later took his body into custody for completing the necessary legal formalities. In another incident, two youths, Manoj Vishwakarma and Vijay, residents of Nijamuddinpur under Adalhaat police station, were going on the Mirzapur-Chunar Road when their motorcycle was hit by a hyva near Kapsaur village under Padari police station as a result of which they died on the spot. However, the hyva driver managed to escape from the spot. On getting information SHO Venkatesh Tiwari reached there, informed the kin of the victims about the matter and sent their bodies for the legal formalities.

## 2 held with seven stolen motorcycles

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The Ramgarh Tal police arrested two youths along with seven stolen motorcycles from Hanuman Mandir Rampur Tiraha. The arrested accused were identified as Alok Mishra and Prabhunath Shoria, a resident of Bhti Khoria village under the Khajni police station, SSP Joginder Kumar and SP (City) Dr Kaustubh said at the press conference that Ramgarh SHO Anil Singh and sub-inspectors



SSP Joginder Kumar giving details at Police Lines in Gorakhpur

(S-Is) Manish Kumar Yadav and Bhagwat Chaudhary were on patrol when they tipped off by an informer that some

youths are talking about selling stolen bikes near Hanuman temple Rampur trijunction. Taking the information seriously, the police reached the spot and apprehended the two youths. During interrogation, they confessed their involvement in incident of thefts and then on clues provided by them the police recovered seven stolen motorbikes. A case of vehicle theft has been registered against Alok in Gorakhpur and Sant Kabir Nagar districts.

## Trains diverted due to non-interlocking work

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The following trains have been diverted due to non-interlocking work in connection with patch tripling of lines between Raghavapuram-Kolanoor stations on the Kazipet Junction-Balharshah railway section on South Central Railway (SCR), Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. The 02590 Secunderabad-Gorakhpur Express special train scheduled to run from Secunderabad on October 11 (Sunday) instead of running on Balharshah-Itarsi-Bina-Bhimsen-Kanpur Central-Barabanki will be run on the changed route i.e. Nizamabad-Mudkhed-Pimpalkhuti-Majri Junction. Consequently, the train will not stop at Kazipet Junction, Ramagudam, Mancheril,

Belampalli, Sirpur Kagaznagar, Balharshah and Chandrapur stations. On the other hand, the 02589 Gorakhpur-Secunderabad Express special train scheduled to run from Gorakhpur on October 13 (Tuesday) instead of its scheduled route i.e. Barabanki-Kanpur Central, Bhimsen-Bina, Itarsi-Balharshah will be run on the changed route i.e. Majri Junction-Pimpalkhuti-Mudkhed-Nizamabad. As a result this train not stop at Chandrapur, Ballarshah, Sirpur Kagaznagar, Belampalli, Mancheril, Ramagudam and Kazipet Junction stations.

### TEJAS EXP TO RESUME FROM OCTOBER 17

The railway administration keeping the convenience of passengers in mind is resuming the movement of

82501/82502 Lucknow Jn-New Delhi-Lucknow Jn Tejas Express from October 17. This train will be run six days a week, except Tuesday. The 82501 Lucknow Junction- New Delhi Tejas Express will depart from Lucknow Jn at 06:10 hours, from Kanpur Central at 07:25 hours, from Ghaziabad at 11:47 hours and reach New Delhi at 12:25 hours. On the other hand, during the return journey the 82502 New Delhi-Lucknow Jn Tejas Express will depart from New Delhi at 15:35 hours, from Ghaziabad at 16:11 hours, from Kanpur Central at 20:40 hours and arrive at Lucknow Jn at 22:05 hours. A total of 12 coaches will be attached in this train, including nine of air-conditioned chair car, one of air-conditioned executive chair car and two generator vans, CPRO PK Singh said.

## DM directs officials to expedite works

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan was reviewed through video conferencing on Wednesday in which District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel and CDO Avinash Singh apprised the achievement of the district regarding the jobs made available to migrant labourers as well locals.

In that connection a meeting of Zila Swachh Bharat Mission Management Committee held at collectorate on Wednesday in which the DM directed the officials concerned to expedite the works. Giving details about the progress DPRO Arvind Kumar apprised that under the scheme the district was on seventh position in the state regarding the construction of the community toilets and on eighth under the construction

of Panchayat Bhawan. The DPRO said that under the Nutrition mission the district achieved 23rd position in the



DM SK Patel and CDO Avinash Singh at the meeting held in Collectorate

state and efforts were on to improve the rating. He said that to eradicate malnutrition the department had organised 829 poshan panchayats with the coordination of other associated departments and was active in taking care of all children of the area. In the meeting the DM directed the PO ICDS to remain in close

touch with children suffering from malnutrition and take care of them through the facilities available. In the meeting the PO ICDS PK Singh apprised the DM about the plan which had been chalked out to combat malnutrition.

Meanwhile in view of complaints regarding the movement of overloaded vehicles on Shastri Bridge now the activities there can be monitored by the DM himself from his official chamber. Report said that as the repair work is going on at Shastri Bridge the movement of vehicles weighing more than 15 tonnes has been banned. Taking the matter seriously, the DM directed the officials of UP State Bridge Corporation to install CCTV cameras on the bridge and connect them with DM's office. Now the DM will be able to see the activities on bridge from his office any time.

## SC Prasad assumes charge as PCCM

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Sudhir Chandra Prasad assumed charge as Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) of North Eastern Railway (NER) on

Wednesday. Earlier he was working on the post of Chief Project Manager/FOIS and administration in Northern Railway (NR), New Delhi, CPRO PK Singh said. Born on January 5, 1962, Prasad graduated from Magadh University in 1982 and joined the Railway service as an officer of the 1987 batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS). Besides Operations and Commerce Department, CRIS, CONCOR and Construction Organisation he has efficiently

discharged his duties on key posts in Samastipur Division of North Eastern Railway as Senior Divisional Operations Manager, in Varanasi Division as Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Senior Operations Manager, Senior Divisional Safety Officer, in West Central Railway's Jaipur and Bikaner divisions as Senior Operations Manager, in Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Maligaon as Chief Commercial Manager, Chief Commercial Manager / FM and Chief Passenger Transportation Manager, in Northern Railway, Delhi, as the Chief Claims Officer, Chief Commercial Manager/PM, Chief Commercial Manager / Project. He received skilled training in Singapore and Malaysia too. Prasad is interested in reading books, travelling and various sports. Prasad has extensive experience in railway management and administration.

# Shekhar asks officials to give top priority to revenue collection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar has directed officials to give top priority to revenue collection and has warned that officials who fail to meet the targets will be answerable.

Reviewing the performance of various departments and the progress of the projects of the district in Auraiya on Thursday, Shekhar pointed out that there were many complaints about land-grabbing by land sharks and ordered strong and exemplary action against them.

He said it was a matter of concern that the road were in a shabby condition and directed the officials to make it pot-hole-free by November 15.

He directed the medical authorities to ensure that the blood bank was made operational in the next one month. He said the priority was to make ready the 10-bed ICU of Level-2 Covid facility with full piped oxygen supply by October 15 without fail.

He directed the district magistrate and the district police chief to personally monitor and follow-up the crime cases, FIRs regarding illegal mining and illicit liquor.

He directed the police officials concerned to ensure that



The Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar holds a review meeting at Auraiya on Thursday.

Pioneer

the arms register in each police station was updated and its field verification was done in the next one week.

Shekhar also directed the district magistrate to get all government land identified and located in every village. He said encroachments of any kind on government land and its illegal transfer and mutation should be dealt with legal action and follow-up.

He said all the uncontes-

ted virasat mutation cases (Provision of PA 11) be done for all eligible farmers by November 15 and full report be presented at the commissionerate office.

Shekhar inspected the Level-2 Covid facilities at the 100-bed hospital and interacted with doctors, nurses and paramedics. He later visited the construction site of Bundelkhand Expressway. It may be mentioned here that

around 45 km of the expressway would pass through Auraiya district.

The divisional commissioner said that as per the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) the work was to be completed by October 2021. He said all efforts should be made to achieve the targets in time.

# Futile bid to rob cash from ATM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A futile attempt was made to rob cash from an ATM near Shyam Nagar police outpost under Chakeri police station early Thursday morning.

After cutting the ATM, when miscreants were trying to remove the cash, the alarm rang up forcing them to flee. The police have started investigation. However, the incident exposed the alertness of local police.

According to reports, an ATM of Central Bank of India is installed outside the bank's branch situated about 100 metres from Shyam Nagar police outpost. Around 4 am on Thursday, miscreants broke



the two CCTV cameras of the ATM. Thereafter, they disconnected the external dispenser

from the cabin. However, when they tried to dismantle the cash channel, alarm sounded.

This forced the miscreants to flee the spot.

After the alarm alerted the bank officers, they informed the police at Dial 112 and the cops from Shyam Nagar outpost rushed to the spot and examined the ATM. The bank officials also reached the spot and found the cash in tact.

Bank's surveillance engineer Shailendra Singh said with the help of electronic surveillance, the bank officers were immediately alerted in the event of any mishandling with the ATMs.

Shyam Nagar police outpost incharge Pawan Singh said with the help of CCTV footage, the miscreants would be nabbed.

# 2 suspected ISIS men held in B'luru module

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a business analyst with a bank in Chennai and a rich merchant in connection with the Bengaluru ISIS module case. On Wednesday, the NIA arrested business analyst Ahamed Abdul Cader, 40, of Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu and the merchant Irfan Nasir, 33, of Frazer Town in Bengaluru.

The case was registered suo-moto by NIA on September 19, 2020 after certain incriminating facts emerged about a Bengaluru-based ISIS module during the investigation of Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) case. One Dr Abdur Rahman alias Dr Brave of Bengaluru was arrested in the ISKP case. During his examination, names of his associates surfaced who had travelled to Syria in 2013-2014 to join ISIS, the NIA said in a statement here on Thursday.

"Further investigation resulted in busting of a module wherein it was revealed that accused Cader, Nasir and their associates were members of Hizb-ut-Tehrir, and they had formed a group called 'Quran Circle' which radicalized gullible Muslim youth in Bengaluru and funded their visit to conflict zone in Syria to aid and assist the ISIS terrorists," it said.

"Based on this, the NIA registered RC-

33/2020/NIA/DLI dated September 19, 2020 under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 125 (waging war against any Asiatic Power in alliance with the Government of India) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against the accused persons for having affiliation with the banned terrorist organization ISIS/ISIL/Daesh and for entering into a conspiracy to radicalize and motivate Muslim youth of Bengaluru to join ISIS, and for raising funds to facilitate their travel to Syria," it further said. Cader, Nasir and their associates played a "very significant" role in radicalization of the members of the Group and arranged funds through donations and own sources for visit of accused Abdur Rahman (accused in ISKP case) and other Muslim youth of Bengaluru to Syria to join ISIS. Two of such youth got killed in Syria, the agency claimed.

Searches were conducted at the premises of Cader and Nasir in Gurappana Palya and Frazer Town in Bengaluru on Wednesday. During the searches, incriminating materials and electronic devices have been seized, it said. Both the accused were produced before Special NIA Court, Bengaluru and 10 days' NIA Custody has been granted for interrogation. Further investigation in the case is continuing to unearth the larger conspiracy, it added.

## 5,445 test +ve in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/CHENNAI

There were 90,579 Covid-19 patients across Kerala on Thursday, according to the Department of Health, Government of Kerala. The State on Thursday diagnosed 5,445 new patients while 24 deaths were confirmed due to the pandemic.

The death tally in the State till date on account of Covid-19 reached 930. The only report that offered comfort to the population was the number of per-

sons who recovered from the pandemic on a single day-7003. This is the highest number of recoveries made in a single day till date.

Neighbouring Tamil Nadu diagnosed 5,088 new Covid-19 patients on Thursday. There were 44,437 active patients across Tamil Nadu as on Thursday while the State recorded 68 deaths. Death toll reached 10,052 on Thursday. Chennai recorded 1,295 new patients while the other districts remained static as far as number of new patients are concerned.

## Minister Muralreedharan's Abu Dhabi trip turns more curious

KOCHI: Claims by Smitha Menon, the controversial Kochi woman who had accompanied Union Minister of State for External Affairs to the Indian Ocean Rim Association Council of Ministers held at Abu Dhabi in November 2019 has created more questions. "Menon claims that she has a masters degree in mass communications and has been working as media professional since 2007. If she had gone to Abu Dhabi to report

to the media back home about the IORA meeting, why should she take the approval of the minister for the press release which she prepared?" asked Salim Madavoor, the RTI activist who is pursuing the case. The contention of Salim is that Muralreedharan has violated diplomatic protocol by including a public relations executive in the Indian team that took part in the IORA meeting. But the Indian embassy in UAE had informed Salim that Smitha Menon was not a member of the official delegation. It also revealed that no media in Kerala had carried the report or release sent by Menon, who has been appointed as the general secretary of Mahila Morcha Kerala wing since then. Kerala BJP chief said on Thursday that she was appointed as Mahila Morcha official at his instance and the minister does not have any role in it.

PNS

## 56 Covid cases in Taj city, tally reaches 6,110

Agra: Fifty six fresh coronavirus cases were reported in Agra in the last 24 hours taking the total number to 6,110, the state authorities said on Thursday.

District Magistrate P.N. Singh said so far 5,436 had recovered, while the number of active cases now was 545. The number of samples in the district has gone up to 2,07,022.

Though the daily Covid-19 sample tests continue to remain around 2,500, there has been some respite in the numbers of new cases which in September had gone up abnormally high.

With the rising graph of seasonal viral fever, dengue, and flu, doctors in Agra have advised patients not to rush for Covid tests, but consult family doctors or go to government clinics first.

Doctors said, "Patients with fever should first get the opinion of their family doctors before rushing for Covid-19 tests."

IANS

## Impact-based cyclone warning system to be released by IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) will release a dynamic, impact-based cyclone warning system, aimed at minimising economic losses and damage to property due to the cyclones that hit Indian coasts every year.

There were 21 depressions, eight cyclonic storms, six severe cyclonic storms, six very severe cyclonic storms, four extremely severe cyclonic storms in 2019. Presently, a low pressure is predicted to form over north Andaman Sea and adjoining Bay of Bengal around October 9 and 11. With improved technology and increased use of satellite-guided data in recent years, IMD has managed to better forecast cyclones and issue warnings. The post-monsoon months of October and November offer favourable sea conditions for the occurrence of cyclonic storms, which mainly affect the livelihoods of people of coastal Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. IMD organized an on-line pre-cyclone exercise meeting on October 6 to review the preparedness, take stock of requirements, plan for the cyclone season October-December, 2020 and share new initiatives with stakeholders. Speaking on 'Chasing the Cyclones' at an event, IMD

Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said the new system will give specific warnings. For instance, if a district is to be hit by winds up to 160 kmph, it will warn about the kind of infrastructure that is likely to be damaged and these can be mapped.

Under the system, location or district-specific tailored warnings, which factor in the local population, infrastructure, settlements, land use and other elements, will be prepared and disseminated. All disaster management agencies will make extensive use of cartographic, geological and hydrological data available for the district concerned.

He also informed the stakeholders about various mobile apps launched by IMD including Damini for lightning forecast, Mausam & Umang for weather forecast including cyclone warning and Meghdoot for agrometeorological advisories.

Until now, the IMD gave warnings about the kind of damage expected during a cyclone. Climatologically, Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea normally experience five cyclones annually - one over Arabian Sea and four over the Bay of Bengal. Out of five cyclones, one develops during pre-monsoon season and four post monsoon.

## 'Political leadership of country has lost sense of imagination'

KOCHI: A widely respected intellectual in Kerala who in 2019 wrote a book eulogising Prime Minister Narendra Modi has alleged that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to the throttling of democratic values in India. "Political leadership of the country has lost its sense of imagination and democratic values have been violated all over India," writes R Balashankar, author of the widely acclaimed book Narendra Modi-Creative Disruptor.

Balashankar, who was heading the intellectual cell of the BJP does not mince words while describing the present scenario in India. "The word which we hear regularly is that of social distancing. The strict enforcement of social distancing has led to the creation of more than 130 crore jail cells, each cell inhabited by each Indian. "The official declara-

tion that coming together of individuals and close contacts between persons are not desirable has done lot of irreparable damage to our culture," Balashankar wrote in the recent issue of "Kalakaumudi", a Malayalam weekly known for its Left-of-the-Centre stance.

Balashankar, the former chief editor of RSS mouthpiece Organiser reminds the readers that Amit Shah during his tenure as party president had diligently followed the Mass Contact Campaigns all over India to enlist maximum number of persons in the BJP and also Maha Sadasyatha Abhiyan , through which he held personal interaction with grassroot level workers of the party.

"But everything has gone awry and the BJP has become an inaccessible entity. The first lesson taught in the war against Covid-19 was the necessity to

observe social distancing even between close family relations. This is unheard of," Balashankar wrote.

He reminds readers that before the announcement of total lockdown in the last week of March, there were just 2000 patients and a causality of 200 in the country. Now after the series of lockdowns, which hurt all sections of the society, India has more than 6.5 million Covid-19 cases and more than 1.1 lakh fatalities. "What we see is the sight of gate keepers, policemen, bureaucrats and officials spread across housing colonies to banks to government offices turning themselves into dictators," writes Balashankar.

It is a known fact that there are four pillars of democracy. "Ours is a society which has always held creative expression and freedom of expression as sacred. But now it has

become a cardinal sin to speak anything against the war on Covid-19. All those in power speak the language of war. What kind of war is this? Whom are you waging war against? Those who speak the language of war should understand that in all wars there would be winners.

But this war would not have winners or losers. Humanity itself is the loser," signs of the author.

Balashankar reminds the powers that be about the beauty of Gita Govinda, a poetic work by the 12th century poet Jyadeva in which he delineates the love of Lord Krishna for Radha. Gita Govinda is a work exhorting love as a celebration and that too boundless love and celebration. The melodious lyrics gave rise to a series of choreographic works in many classical dance forms in the sub continent.

## WB: Prasad condemns police attack on BJP march, calls it barbaric

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader and Union Law Minister Ravishankar Prasad on Thursday accused the TMC-led government in West Bengal of "throttling" the voice of dissent in the state and resorting to suppression of legitimate political opposition "even by killing".

He claimed that in the last two-three years, 115 BJP workers have been killed without inviting "any authentic action" from the state police.

Prasad condemned the "barbaric police attack" on the BJP march to the state secretariat in which, he said around 1500 workers and many senior party office bearers were injured and hospitalised when they were

undertaking a "peaceful protest".

He even alleged: 'I have been told that the water (water cannons) had some chemical in it which is why people have been vomiting.' Prasad said outside West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee speaks about preserving democracy and freedom but back home she was not allowing any space to the opposition voice.

"Besides the BJP even CPM members are also being beaten .", he said and quoted past incidents when even then BJP president Amit Shah's helicopter was "not allowed to land" and last minute "changes" were made in the Prime Minister's meeting venue. Prasad said despite the state violence, BJP has won 18 Lok Sabha seats and

would form the next government in the state as "people are yearning for a change". He took to task the 'liberals' who he said keep their mouth shut on the anti-democratic actions' in West Bengal, Kerala or Rajasthan but speak aloud when incidents took place in the BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh where the state government "not only allowed opposition to visit the village in Hathras but on its own also sought a "Supreme Court monitored probe" into the alleged murder of a girl .

Not keen to field queries on Lok Janshakti Party's relationship with the BJP, Prasad said BJP leaders in Bihar have made it amply clear that BJP-JDU-VIP alone are partners in the NDA alliance.

उपरोध पावर ट्रान्समिशन कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-टेन्डरिंग निविदा सूचना अनुमती फॉर्म / डेक्रेटरी से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीलबन्ध निविदाये दो भागों में क्रमशः दिनांक 29.10.2020 को 17.00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन की जाती है। (1) ई-निविदा संख्या 05/विभागाध्यक्ष/गो/2020-21: विद्युत पारंपरिक खण्ड गोण्डा के अर्धिन 132 केवीओ उपकेंद्र करनलगांव पर निम्नोद्योग 132 केवीओ बसकंपलर बे को परिवर्तित कर 132 केवीओ कैसरगांव बे-प्रथम के निर्माण सम्बन्धी कार्य। घरोहर राशि रू 1000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 30.10.2020 को 14.00 बजे, माग-2 (प्राइज पाट) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा, निविदा प्रारंभ मूल्य रू 118.00 (जीएसटीओ सहित)। निविदा प्रारंभ शुल्क एवं इंटरमिडीट अडिवासी अधिनियम, विद्युत पारंपरिक खण्ड, गोण्डा के बैंक खाते में बैंक का नाम - पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता संख्या - 0181002100120697, IFSC Code- PUNB0018100) R.T.G.S. / N.E.F.T. के माध्यम से जमा कराई जानी है तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योज्य यूटिलिटी संख्या, ईएमडी के जमा धनवाशि की स्क्रीनशॉट कापी, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कम्प्लेक्शन मेल की प्रति ई-टेन्डर प्रपत्रों के साथ ऑनलाइन अपलोड की जायेगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साध ही निविदा के माग-1 में तकनीकी बिड (मिन कार्ड, इन्कमटेक्स रिटर्न, जीएसटीओ पंजीकरण की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव इत्यादि), संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। घरोहर राशि / निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर निविदा का माग-2 जिसमें दर्द दी जानी है, नहीं खोली जायेगी। माग-2 में दर्द एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें होनी चाहिये। हार्ड कापी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। निविदा का माग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय : (प्राइज बिड दर्द एवं शर्त) दिनांक 29.10.2020 को 17.00 बजे तक [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर खोलने के उपलब्ध की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम माग रू 30.10.2020 को 14.00 बजे एवं माग-2 (प्राइज पाट) निविदा शुल्क एवं घरोहर धनवाशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात सांख्यिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा / निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार आयोगसाहसकारों के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। घरोहर/निविदा राशि रहित व शर्तों निविदाये स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, आउटलुक, अन्य संशोधनों निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर लॉगआन करें। अडिवासी अधिनियम, विद्युत पारंपरिक खण्ड गोण्डा। संख्या : 3511/विभागाध्यक्ष/गो/ई-टेन्डर/2020-21 संख्या : 5/दिनांक 01.10.2020 "साध हित में विजली बचाय, साधारण बल के स्थान पर एलईडी बल्ब का इस्तेमाल करें"

**OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD KANPUR**  
B.NO.64, SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE MARG, KANPUR CANTT  
UTTAR PRADESH - 208004, Email ID : [ceokanpur@gmail.com](mailto:ceokanpur@gmail.com)  
Ph: 0512-2381285, Fax : 0512-2383600

No. CBK/SS/K-409 **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Date : 08 Oct. 2020

Online tender through one bid system are invited from MES, BSNL, PWD, CPWD & other Central, State & Local Govt approved experienced contractors and registered eligible contractor of Cantt Board Kanpur through the Government e-procurement portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> by the Cantonment Board Kanpur. The sewer works detailed in the table given below.

S. No.	NIT No.	Name of work and location	Last Date of Uploading Tender	Estimated cost of tender (Rs.)
1	CBK/SSA-409/1	Upkeep, Desilting & Maintenance of Sewer Line-Main Holes, Gali pits, Traps in Ward No. 1, 2,3,4,5, 6,7 & 8 Kanpur Cantt.	31-10-2020	33,00,000/-

The detail may be obtain from [www.cbkanpur.org.in](http://www.cbkanpur.org.in) and <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
(A.K. Dwivedi) CEO, Kanpur Cantt.

**Restoration of Lucknow Jn.-New Delhi Tejas Express**

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to restore regular train No. 82501/82502 Lucknow Jn. - New Delhi Tejas Express w.e.f. 17.10.2020 as per details given below:-

82501/82502 Lucknow Jn.-New Delhi-Lucknow Jn. Tejas Express (6 Days a Week)					
TRAIN NO. 82501		STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 82502		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
—	06:10	Lucknow Jn.	22:05	—	
07:20	07:25	Kanpur Central	20:35	20:40	
11:45	11:47	Ghaziabad	16:09	16:11	
12:25	—	New Delhi	—	15:35	

**Days of Run :** Six days in week except every Tuesday  
**Accommodation :** AC Chair Car & AC Executive Chair Car

The passengers shall adhere to the COVID-19 related safety norms and guidelines issued by Govt. of India from time to time

For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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## J&K LG visits family of 3 labourers killed in Shopian

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Reaching out to the families of three labourers, killed in the Amshipora area of Shopian on July 18, Lt- Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday visited Tarkassi village in Rajouri to convey the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the government stands with them in this hour of grief.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha trekked through the dusty approach road using a walking stick.

He was accompanied by one of his senior advisors, Farooq



Khan, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Sanjeev Verma and Inspector General of Police, Jammu range, Mukesh Singh.

Lt-Governor was seated inside the unconstruction home of one of the labourers in the remote village where close relatives of all three labourers were present.

Expressing condolences with the families, the Lt Governor said that the UT Government will extend full support to them and assured that justice would be ensured in the case.

He also conveyed the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the government stands with the aggrieved families in the hour of grief, and they will be taken care of with all support from the government.

Earlier, the Lt Governor while addressing local population at Peeri on the sidelines of the ongoing Back to Village program observed that main objective of his visit to the remote village was to assure the people that Constitution of India is supreme; Government is with the people, and justice and equality shall be ensured by the government.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

E-Tender No.: PRYJ-Sig-16-2020-21 **TENDER NOTICE** Office of Divisional Railway Manager North Central Railway, Prayagraj

Date: 06.10.2020 Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Coordination / North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12.00 hrs. on 29.10.2020. The details of the Tender is as under:-

SN	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx Cost of Work (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Date of Closing of Tender
1.	PRYJ-Sig-016-2020-21	Provision of LAN wiring to various activity centres, sub-divisional offices, field offices and SSE depots of all department, railnet connectivity and other communication facilities for C&W activities and replacement of IT assets for E-office working over Prayagraj division.	₹ 42482278/-	₹ 362400/-	29.10.2020

Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 10000/-, Completion Period: 12 Months, Availability of Tender Form: Tender forms are available on [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) in 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender. Time Date & Place of Opening of Tender: Tender will be opened through E-tender at Office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj on or after pre determined date at 12.30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day. 1046/20 (A)

North central railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) North Central Railway @CPRO NCR

**Office of the CEO & Dean Shyam Shah Medical College Rewa (M.P.)**

No.18004/Estt./Gazz/M.C./Adv./2020 Rewa, Dated 25.09.2020

**REVISED ADVERTISEMENT**

Advertisement No.12627/Esst./Gazz/M.C./Adv./2020 Rewa dated 06.07.2020 was published to fill the vacant post of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Superintendent and General Duty Medical Officer, considering the 27% reservation for OBC. Letter No.1178/4/Pravesh/Court Case/dme/2020 dated 25.07.2020 from Director Medical Education MP Bhopal mentioned that there is a stay on 27% reservation for OBC. Therefore, the above mentioned advertisement is revised with 14% reservation to OBC and invites applications for various vacant posts (with backlog) of teaching cadre for direct recruitment. The details are as follows:

S. No	Subject	Professor				Associate Professor				Assistant Professor			
		UR	ST	SC	OBC	UR	ST	SC	OBC	UR	ST	SC	OBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Anaesthesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
2	Anaesthesia (CVTS)	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
3	Anaesthesia (Neurosurgery)	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
4	Neurology	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	3(1F)	1	1	1
5	Neurosurgery	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	1	1	1
6	Electrophysiology Cardiology	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
7	Paediatric Cardiology	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
8	Interventional Cardiology	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Nephrology	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	3(1F)	1	1	1
10	Urology	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	1	1	1
11	Neonatology	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	3(1F)	1	1	1
12	Cardiac Surgery	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	1	1	1
13	Radiodiagnosis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	Total	18	6	-	-	18	6	-	-	19	12	6	6
		UR	ST	SC	OBC								
	Superintendent	1	-	-	-								
	General Duty Medical Officer (GDMO)	3	1	1	1								

1- Appointment and allocation of reservation is subjected to final decision of Hon'ble High Court Jabalpur.

2- The last date for submission of application form is 14.10.2020. Dates of Interview shall be announced separately on the College Website. The name of the eligible/not eligible candidates shall be displayed on the college website.

3- Number of posts may be increased or decreased.

4- Application fees for Unreserved category is Rs 1000/- and Rs 750/- for Reserved category.

5- The candidates who have applied earlier, need not to apply again. In case of change in category, they have to submit fresh application without any fees.

For details of advertisement and application form visit [www.ssmcrewa.com](http://www.ssmcrewa.com).

Approved by Commissioner Rewa division Rewa.

CEO & Dean  
S.S. Medical College  
Rewa (M.P.)  
G-14786/20



## Ram Vilas Paswan

**JULY 5, 1946 — OCTOBER 8, 2020**

**Name** Ram Vilas Paswan  
**Date of Birth** July 5, 1946  
**Place of Birth** Shaharabanni, Khagaria (Bihar)  
**Spouse's Name** Reena Paswan  
**Children** 1 son, 3 daughters  
**Educational Qualification** MA, LL.B., D.Litt (Honoris Causa) conferred by Bundelkhand University, Jhansi (UP) Educated at Kosi College, Khagaria and Patna University, Patna (Bihar)

### FOUNDER & PRESIDENT:

**Lok Jan Shakti Party**  
 Since November 28, 2000  
**Chairman:** International Dalit and Minority Front  
**Chief Editor:** Nyaya Chakra since 1989  
**Chairman:** Vichar Shakti, since 2002  
**Secretary:** Samyukta Socialist Party, Bihar, 1970;  
**General Secretary:** Lok Dal, Bihar, 1974 and  
**National General Secretary:** Lok Dal,1985-86  
**FOUNDER PRESIDENT:** Dalit Sena since —1983  
**National General Secretary:** Janata Party, 1987-88 and Janata Dal, 1988-90;  
**Secretary:** National Front, 1988-90;  
 Member: Welfare Committee,1977-78, DDA Advisory Council, 1980-85, Parliamentary Committee on Official Language,1980-85 and 1989-95, AIIMS Advisory Committee, 1991-96, and Court of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, 1998-99; National Dalit and Minority Front  
**Chairman:** International Dalit and Minorities Forum, 1994  
**MINISTER OF CONSUMER**



**AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**  
**IN OFFICE**  
 26 May 2014 — 8 October 2020  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, RAJYA SABHA**  
**IN OFFICE**  
 28 June 2019 — 8 October 2020  
 Constituency Bihar

**IN OFFICE**  
 July 2010 — 2014  
 Constituency Bihar  
**MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS**  
**IN OFFICE**  
 23 May 2004 — 22 May 2009

**MINISTER OF MINES**  
**IN OFFICE**  
 September 1, 2001 — 29 April 2002

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
**IN OFFICE**  
 October 13, 1999 — September 1, 2001

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS**  
**IN OFFICE**  
 June 1, 1996 — 19 March 1998

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE**  
**IN OFFICE**  
 December 5, 1989 — November 10, 1990

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, LOK SABHA**  
**IN OFFICE**  
 2014 — 2019

Constituency	Hajipur
<b>IN OFFICE</b>	
<b>1996 — 2009</b>	
<b>Constituency</b>	Hajipur
<b>IN OFFICE</b>	
<b>1989 — 1991</b>	
<b>Constituency</b>	Hajipur
<b>IN OFFICE</b>	
<b>1977 — 1984</b>	
<b>Constituency</b>	Hajipur

## Nitish, Lalu and Sushil Modi fondly remember Paswan

**Patna:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi and RJD president Lalu Prasad on Thursday condoled the death of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan in Delhi. Paswan (74), who was the Lok Janshakti Party patron, had undergone a heart surgery at a hospital in the national Capital a few days ago. His son Chirag Paswan informed about his demise. A veteran dalit leader, Paswan was the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. He was born on July 5, 1946 in Khagaria district of Bihar. The Bihar Chief Minister in his condolence message said "Paswan was a big signature in the Indian politics." He highlighted Paswan's start of political innings with a win in the Bihar legislative assembly election in 1969. Paswan hit the national headlines after a thumping victory from Hajipur Parliamentary constituency for the first time in 1977, he said. Fondly remembering his old ties with the veteran leader, Kumar said "I am personally pained by his death." Jailed RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, who has known Paswan since the 1970s when the former was a student leader and the latter a young member of the Bihar assembly, offered his condolences on his twitter handle. "Shocked by the news of the death of Ram Vilas bhai (brother). Memories of an unbroken friendship that last-

ed for 45 years, during which we waged various social and political battles, are floating before my eyes. Ram Vilas bhai, you left us too soon. "I am unable to say much more. Om Shantii", tweeted Prasad who was also Paswan's cabinet colleague in the UPA-1 government. Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, a senior BJP leader who was like Prasad a dynamic student leader in the 1970s, also recalled his decades old relationship with Ram Vilas Paswan. "He left an indelible imprint as a minister who held numerous portfolios in his career. The people of Bihar can never forget his contributions. "He was a Dalit leader who took all sections of the society

along, a reason why he enjoyed the support of the OBCs and the upper castes as well", Modi said in his condolence message. Former CM Rabri Devi and her son Tejashwi Yadav also condoled the death of Paswan and recalled his close ties with their family. **PTI**



## Govt looks for food delivery start-ups to deliver medicines

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

As the drug companies race to develop the vaccine for the deadly coronavirus, the Government has started exploring the possibility of engaging even food delivery start-ups such as Swiggy and Zomato that can stock and distribute the medicine quickly across the country. At the same time it is also exploring possible cold storage facilities with public and private sector entities in the pharma, food processing and agro business. A draft scheme for the vaccine distribution is likely to be released next week, sources in the Union Health Ministry said adding the online food delivery companies can play a big role in vaccine distribution. Earlier this week, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had said the Government expects to receive and utilise 400-500 million vaccine doses for Covid-19, and cover approximately 20-25 crore people by July 2021 while Dr Randeep Guleria, Director of the AIIMS had said that the vaccine might be available from January end. At least one domestic and three foreign vaccines are likely to be available to India in the coming months. Most of the vaccine candidates will require a cold supply chain, with temperatures that can go well below

- Government, at the same time it is also exploring possible cold storage facilities with public and private sector entities in the pharma, food processing and agro business
- A draft scheme for the vaccine distribution is likely to be released next week, sources in the Union Health Ministry said adding the online food delivery companies can play a big role in vaccine distribution
- According to the Ministry, there are more than 27,000 functional cold chain points of which 750 (3 per cent) are located at the district level and above. The rest are located below the district level. This includes 76,000 cold chain 'equipment', 2.5 million health workers, and 55,000 cold chain staff

zero degree celsius, though most need to be kept at between 2 and 8 degrees celsius. According to the Ministry, there are more than 27,000 functional cold chain points of which 750 (3 per cent) are located at the district level and above. The rest are located below the district level. This includes 76,000 cold chain 'equipment', 2.5 million health workers, and 55,000 cold chain staff. Majority of vaccine candidates are in liquid form except a few freeze-dried products. They are to be administered through intramuscular injection/ route and requirement will be a two-dose regimen. The majority of vaccine candidates would be available in multi-dose vials (2.5, 10, 20, and 50 doses per vial). An estimation of cold chain space needed for vaccines has been made considering 18 per cent of the population would need to be covered within six

months, they said, adding that both the current temperature ranges (+2 to +8 degrees celsius and -15 to -20 degrees celsius) have been considered for the scenario to account for adequate storage in either condition, as per sources. They said there will be a temporary requirement (2-3 months) of surge capacity for large cold storage at the state/regional level to store and distribute large incoming quantities of the vaccine. Cold chain capacity needs to be augmented most in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, Telangana, Delhi, Assam, Jharkhand, Punjab and Odisha. Most of the Southern States are doing well in cold storage facilities. States have also been asked to make a robust plan for vaccine storage and distribution by October 15.

## Govt changed iron ore export policy to facilitate 'theft' of ₹12K cr: Cong

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Thursday alleged that the Narendra Modi Government changed the policy for the export of iron ore to facilitate "theft" of Rs 12,000 crore in export duty since 2014. The Opposition party further claimed that the actual penalty for violation of the iron ore export rules on the private players would amount to nearly Rs 2 lakh crore. Congress spokesperson Pawan Kherra alleged that this policy for the export of iron ore was altered in a hurry right after Prime Minister Modi took charge. "In 2014, the Steel Ministry of India removed the 64% Fe concentration cap on iron ore and along with that gave Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) the permission to export iron ore to countries like China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan," he said. Congress has demanded that the Modi government make the names of the private players, who violated the rules and indulged in export of iron ore pellets, public. It has also questioned as to whether any action was initiated against the Steel Ministry officials

**Congress spokesperson Pawan Kherra alleged that this policy for the export of iron ore was altered in a hurry right after Prime Minister Modi took charge**

"who allowed illegal export to take place". Notably, the KIOCL is an enterprise which comes under the Ministry of Steel and was formed in 1976 for the mining and processing of low grade iron ore. Before 2014, only the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) was allowed to export iron ore, and an export duty of 30% was imposed on such trading. Notably, the MMTC — in which the Indian government has an 89% share — was allowed to export only iron ore with 64% concentration of iron. Congress further alleged that a new policy on the export of iron ore was drawn under which "it was decided that iron ore exports will continue to have a 30% duty on them; however if the same iron ore is made into pellets and exported as pellets then there would be no duty on these exports."

## Force ready for any challenge: IAF chief

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI/GHAZIABAD**

Against the backdrop of A ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, IAF chief RKS Bhadauria said on Thursday his force is ready for any challenge and has "clearly" demonstrated its operational capability in prompt deployment when the stand-offs started. Making these observations in his address to the IAF on the occasion of the 88th anniversary at the Hindon airbase, Ghaziabad, he said the actions during the last few months also showed the IAF's resolve and will to engage with the adversary whenever the need arises. Incidentally, addressing the annual conference ahead of the Air Force Day two days back, the IAF chief had also asserted saying "there is no question that China can get better of us" when asked about the Chinese air power. Addressing the force on Thursday, Bhadauria also assured the nation that the force will evolve and be ever ready to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and interests in all circumstances. Talking about security challenges in eastern Ladakh, the Chief, who inspected the Air Force Day parade, said: "I

would like to commend all warriors for the quick response, in the recent stand-off on our northern frontiers, when we deployed our combat assets at short notice to handle any eventuality, and provided proactive support to all the requirements of deployment and sustenance for the Indian Army." The IAF chief said the evolving threat matrix in the region is becoming complex and it mandates a greater need to have a strong air force to fight across domains and the entire spectrum of warfare. Bhadauria said disruptive technologies and easy access to low cost options like drones are increasingly demanding greater attention to the sub-conventional domain. The recent induction of state-of-the-art Rafale, Chinook and Apache aircraft have added significantly to our combat capability over our

adversaries on the battlefield, Bhadauria said. "Our offensive strike capability has been honed further, with upgradation of our aircraft with weapons and sensors, ably supported by a networked decision making matrix," he added. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh greeted the IAF on its foundation day and said the government is committed to enhance its combat capability. "The nation is proud of its men and women in blue and salutes the prowess of the IAF as it stands ready to face challenges and deter adversaries. We remain committed to enhancement of IAF's combat capability through modernisation and indigenisation," he said. To mark the day, the IAF carried out a spectacular air display at the event showcasing its vintage aircraft and modern fleet including the newly inducted Rafale jets.

### IAF HELICOPTER MAKES PRECAUTIONARY LANDING IN OPEN FIELD IN SAHARANPUR

**New Delhi:** A helicopter of the Indian Air Force made a precautionary landing in an open field in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. The precautionary landing was made after the Dhruv Advance light helicopter(ALH) developed a technical snag in-flight during a routine training mission, the Air Force said.



## SC raps Centre

Top court says freedom of speech is the most abused right while hearing petitions on stigmatising Muslims after the Tablighi meet



Once again it took the Supreme Court to draw attention to the fact that freedom of speech is the nation's most abused liberty in recent times. And Chief Justice of India SA Bobde censured the Government for it while hearing a slew of petitions, alleging how Muslims had been demonised by a section of the media through biased reportage on the Tablighi Jamaat congregation at Markaz Nizamuddin, which became a superspreader event for the Coronavirus. He objected to a junior-level officer for filing a flimsy affidavit on behalf of the Government in the matter, claiming that the petitioners were trying to muzzle the free-

dom of speech by targetting the media and that there was no "bad reporting" as such. "Like you are entitled to say a lot of things, they are too. We must also tell you that freedom of speech is the most abused freedom in recent times," Justice Bobde said while asking the Government to file another affidavit, this time by the Secretary of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, on the petition seeking action against some TV channels for colouring perceptions. He even warned the Government that it "should not make unnecessary nonsensical averments." It is true that the Tablighi meeting in March generated a huge controversy as many cases across the country were linked to those who had attended the gathering. No doubt that was a costly human error, badly compounded by the procedural oversight of the police and authorities. The gathering, which featured sermons, was attended by Tablighi members from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan and Saudi Arabia. Members had also come from Afghanistan, Algeria, Djibouti, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, England, Fiji, France and Kuwait. Not only that, some of the top missionaries from Indonesia, with which we share easier visa rules, entered the country on a tourist visa, avoiding to disclose the purpose or nature of their visit. Many of those who attended then travelled to other parts of the country, making contact-tracing an almost impossible job as they bled into communities. But then there were other social and religious congregations during the pandemic that came with attendant risks and spreads though they didn't get played up to the extent that the Tablighi incident did. Down south, wholesale markets became even bigger super-spreader epicentres. But the majoritarian propaganda machinery was quick to use the unfortunate episode to stigmatise Muslim clusters in general as having a greater chance of a virus spread. So the otherisation and scapegoat politics, that has regrettably now even become a governance tool, should not have been used to cover up for the mismanagement of a public health disaster. It is to be noted that such was the guilt syndrome thrust upon by majority opinion that the recovered members of the Tablighi were among the first plasma donors in the city. Now with the top court seeking to assess bias in media coverage that could have unjustly tainted a community, the hurt may not be taken away but at least be acknowledged.

The top court also asked the Government to bring on record all relevant statutes with regard to regulating TV channels. Recently it restrained a channel from telecasting a controversial programme that sought to "expose" a "conspiracy and jihad to infiltrate Muslims" into the Indian civil services. The court was right to see through the agenda to vilify a certain community on the pretext of an investigation and perpetuate a narrative suited to the political climate of the day. But then how many broadcasts will it stop given the partisan nature of the hundreds of news channels in India today, some of them owned and funded by political parties themselves? How will it manage the whataboutery and a slew of counter-petitions of why a certain programme doesn't deserve to be aired while others do? What is divisive and what is not? Given these observations, the court would then have to become a media watchdog, too, stretching its resources no end. The court mentioned setting up a committee of five citizens who can come up with standards for electronic media but what about existing frameworks, which are toothless at the moment? There is no statutory regulatory mechanism but self-regulatory bodies like the News Broadcasters' Association (NBA), Broadcast Editors' Association and News Broadcasters' Federation have failed to rise to the occasion and ensure a degree of professionalism. Besides, this multiplicity of authorities generates its own politics and lobbies. The NBA does take up broadcast complaints seriously and has a set of ethics but because it comes as just a guideline and is not mandatory, there is no bold punitive action. Usually, errands are let off with an apology or a minor rap on the knuckles. Besides, members of the NBA are from channels themselves and their hands are somewhat tied by the prevalent business model of journalism, the kind that links coverage and pitches to revenue and funding. Till we have a singular code that's trustworthy or effective or till we have a legally empowered regulatory body, there will always be conflict of interest. Our Constitution has guaranteed the right to freedom but it implies we follow our duties and responsibilities. In a democracy, the media is as much accountable to citizens as are other institutions. Yet instead of showing a mirror to society and advocating rights and issues that politics ignores, the media is sadly being either corrected by institutions like the Supreme Court or weaponised as an official propaganda machinery.

## Trumpcard or loss?

Tightening rules for H-1B visas would be counter-productive but the US President needs a sales pitch for polls



With the US presidential elections less than 30 days away and challenger Joe Biden beating Donald Trump in the approval ratings, the incumbent President has literally pulled out what he thinks is his trump card. His administration has tightened rules for the 85,000 annual immigration visas used by technology firms on the plea that the "new system would be better for American workers" as "data" has shown that over "5,00,000 Americans have lost their jobs because of H-1B non-immigrants." Though the move may go down well among Trump's key constituents of conservatives, who want to "make America great again"

and give him a fighting chance at the hustings — which he all but threw away through his reckless handling of the COVID crisis — the US technology industry is up in arms. This is because the new rules that cut back H-1B visas for foreign skilled workers and tighten wage-based entry barriers would make it harder for companies to hire talent. However, this latest decision could face scrutiny from US courts because significant changes have been made by the US Department of Homeland Security and Department of Labour to the definition of speciality occupation and the employer-employee relationship. Plus, the validity of an H-1B visa has been limited to one year from the three years it used to be earlier for technology workers at a third-party worksite. This will negatively impact US firms and Indian services and recruitment companies that often place workers on projects at third-party locations. Plus it will hit Indian tech giants like Wipro, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), who send workers from India to manage important projects. To add to the woes of technology firms as well as applicants, the minimum wage levels at which H-1B employees can be hired have also been increased significantly.

The move is likely to affect Indian techies the most as India and China account for the lion's share of the visas, with India cornering over 70 per cent of them. Now, under the new rules, about one-third of H-1B applicants visas would be rejected as the number of speciality occupations available has shrunk drastically. It might also sour the US' relations with India. The US lacks STEM skills and restricting access to talent could slow down research and development. How exactly Trump hopes to help the US economy with this move is unclear because restricting the H-1B visa programme would lead to an increase in outsourcing, thereby defeating the purpose of bringing the rules in the first place.

# The badlands of UP

The Hathras case shows that the actions of the State are far beyond lawlessness and are firmly sacrilegious. The girl's cremation itself is worthy of judicial action



AJOY KUMAR

I have previously written on how policing developed around the world. It is often believed, though incorrectly, that the police and investigating agencies have been around forever and that they were always set up with the aim of maintaining law and order. History, however, is rarely this linear and the history of policing even more so. In the United States, for example, policing in the 17th and early 18th centuries was different for the North and the South. In its early form, policing was mostly a for-profit venture, where people were hired to protect business interests, including ventures of gambling and prostitution. Ironically enough, these policemen were typically criminals or thugs. In the South, these "police" forces were typically employed as "slave patrols", who took strict and swift action against slaves who tried to protest against their owners. These private police forces eventually took the form of a public-funded police force, but even this step was prompted by merchants and people in power to subsidise the cost of protection. The police forces, in effect, were funded by many but became agents of the few.

As time passed and democracies flourished, with more people participating in the law-making process, the police was reined in through an elected Government that passed laws to regulate its conduct. The judiciary ensured such laws were adhered to and the Press highlighted the abuse of power. At least, that is how a functional democracy is meant to work. However, as the horrific Hathras rape-murder case shows, a different standard seems to apply to Uttar Pradesh.

In Hathras, a small village in UP, a 19-year-old girl from the Dalit community was reportedly gang-raped with her body left broken into pieces. Instead of standing with the victim of this heinous crime, allegedly committed by members of the "upper caste" society, the pain caused to the poor girl's family has only been compounded by the mishandling of processes by the UP Government. Even a cursory glance at the events that have fol-



lowed since this horrific incident shows that while one may be aware of the pathetic state of affairs in India's largest State, one didn't realise just how lawless and perhaps more significantly apathetic Yogi Adityanath's Government is.

Let us first deal with the complete absence of law and order. There has been no clear explanation or rationale provided by the State Government on why exactly the police and the authorities, who were present there, ensured that the body of the deceased was cremated before dawn. The victim of this tragedy was not only the poor girl, whose body was charred, but also the parents who were not even allowed to cremate their daughter in peace. Why was this done? The explanation given by the State is that this move was imperative to ensure that "law and order" was preserved in the State. This would mean that the police can tomorrow stop you from cremating your loved ones as per your tradition because it believes it's good for law and order. The actions of the State are far beyond lawlessness and are firmly sacrilegious.

This act, in and of itself, is worthy of strict judicial action. One would think that the pain and horror inflicted on the poor family would stop here. However, the State Government once again showed us that when it comes to abuse of due process and blatant disregard of the law, its

“  
UNLIKE PEOPLE'S TRUST IN POLITICIANS, WHICH TENDS TO VACILLATE, THEIR TRUST IN THE ADMINISTRATION, WHICH THEY BELIEVE ACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, IS STILL STRONG. THIS PLACES A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY ON THE BUREAUCRACY TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION”

imagination is not inhibited by the boundaries that mere mortals like you and me are constrained by. Only under the present UP Government can the victim's family be asked to undergo a narco-analysis test. A practice that involves drugging a subject to reveal certain facts while he or she is in a semi-conscious state. A practice that has been declared to have no legal validity even when administered on an accused of a crime, forget the fact that the Government wants to conduct this test on the victim's own family.

Now, let's examine the spell-binding television interview given by UP Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), Prashant Kumar, where the officer of the law told us that the forensic report showed that the victim was not raped as the samples had no semen. Someone needs to inform the woefully unaware or blissfully compliant ADG that the law on rape does not actually require any semen to be found and since the Nirbhaya rape case, the law has been explicitly changed to include circumstances where any form of non-consensual penetration of a woman can be classified as rape. Last I checked, the Indian Penal Code applies to all of India, including UP, though with each passing day I am proved wrong. The ADG is also possibly unaware that the samples from the victim on which he sought to rely

were received by the forensic authority 11 days after she was hospitalised and that as per the Centre's own guidelines, the likelihood of finding such direct evidence is greatly reduced after 72 hours.

The problem with statements like this from the police or the conduct of the administration, like the Hathras District Magistrate, is that people actually rely on declarations made by individuals who hold such authority. When a police officer or a bureaucrat says that something is legal or illegal on national television, your default instinct is to believe him. Unlike people's trust in politicians, which tends to vacillate, their trust in the administration, which they (perhaps naively) believe acts in accordance with the law, is still strong. This places a greater responsibility on the bureaucracy to act in accordance with the law and the Constitution. A responsibility that has been unashamedly abdicated in this case.

But how much can we blame the administration if it is made to fit the mould that the party in power sets? The cues given by the BJP through its conduct are embarrassing. Like the head of the IT cell of the BJP, who shares videos of a rape victim without blurring her face even though this is clearly against the law and who talks (without provocation) on national television about phone-tapping by the State of reporters as if it is a given.

It is increasingly apparent that the BJP thinks that the citizens of this country are stupid and are like sheep who will follow where they are led by the most incompetent of shepherds. This is why its leaders throw the most ridiculous conspiracy theories at us, expecting us to believe that a reported incident of caste violence and rape in Hathras is actually a foreign conspiracy. There are almost 10 cases of rape in UP every day, so as per the UP Government, is only this one a foreign conspiracy or are all of these rapes conspiracies too?

Enough is enough. The time is now to tell the shepherd that we are not sheep who will sit idly by as the rule of law is sacrificed to protect the BJP's image. We need to say it loud and clear that the same laws that govern the rest of India apply to UP and to each citizen, irrespective of caste. Sooner or later, they will get the memo.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, a former MP and currently a member of AAP)

## SOUND BITE

There are about 30,000 BARC barometers across the country. Even if just a small number of them has been manipulated, it would have a significant impact on TRP ratings.

**Mumbai Police Commissioner**  
—Param Bir Singh



The Central Government led by Prime Minister Modi has time and again openly exhibited its love for its corporate well-wishers.

**Congress spokesperson**  
—Pawan Khera



The yorker ball is the most difficult ball in this format, and that too when the ball is wet. Despite that T Natarajan bowled in the previous match and sorted out Sunrisers Hyderabad's death bowling issue.

**Former India batting coach**  
—Sanjay Bangar



From now on, masks and protective gear have to be brought with us when we leave our house and worn. We have to wear them all the time.

**Italian PM**  
—Giuseppe Conte



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Is Govt listening?

Sir — The Supreme Court on October 7 said that protesters cannot occupy public places indefinitely as they cause inconvenience for others. This verdict was made on a batch of petitions against the protests at Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, which had become the epicentre of a civil movement against the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). It was on December 15 that at least 300 women, some of whom were even in their 80s, started the sit-in protest at Shaheen Bagh and birthed a crusade. However, the protesters had to vacate the site in March when cases of COVID-19 began rising. "Dissent and democracy go hand in hand", the apex court observed, stressing that protests must be allowed at designated areas. It is true that someone's right to protest should not interfere with the right to free movement of others. However, with an authoritarian Government that does not allow dissent, taking to the streets seems the only way to get them to listen to the public it supposedly represents.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
Mumbai

### Hathras victim deserves justice, not slander

Amid the murky politics over the Hathras incident, Ranjeet Bahadur Srivastava, a BJP leader from Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki, claimed that the 19-year-old woman was having an affair with the accused and called him to the millet field where she was found on September 14. However, this isn't the first time the ruling party has tried to malign the victim's character. One BJP leader held a rally in support of the accused and another said rapes will stop if parents teach their daughters "proper values." The manner in which crimes against women, especially Dalit women, is being approached and dealt with by those in power is outrageous. Such comments from political leaders are not only inappropriate but also set a dangerous precedent that a certain section of the society is above the law. These actions, though not at all a surprise, should not be ignored. Rather the people in question should be punished for obstruction of justice.

While certain political leaders are busy assassinating the victim's character, the UP Government is try-



ing to justify its act of cremating the victim's body without her family's consent and the imposition of Section 144, which was used to alienate the family. In the affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court, the State Government claimed that the above steps were necessary for maintaining law and order.

**NR Salam**  
Jammu

### Drive safe

Sir — Atal Tunnel, the longest highway tunnel at an altitude of more than 10,000 ft, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on October 3 and within days, it has witnessed three accidents. According to the Border Roads Organisation's chief engineer, the accidents occurred due to reckless driving. And many

tourists are said to have been taking selfies inside the tunnel. Under these circumstances, the District Magistrate of Kullu has issued new guidelines, completely banning any unnecessary movement in the tunnel's emergency exits. They have also banned photography and videography from 200 metres before the south portal up to the end of the tunnel. It is crucial that

people follow the new guidelines and not endanger themselves or others.

**M Pradyu**  
Kannur

### Concerns about China

Sir — There's no denying that it is China's recent aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region that has brought the

Quad or the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, a multi-lateral grouping comprising India, US, Japan and Australia, together. For long, it was believed that China's rise would strengthen international rules and commerce in East Asia. However, on the contrary, the Chinese leadership clearly believes that it can use the power differential it has come to acquire to browbeat its neighbours and make strategic gains. This is precisely what we are witnessing with China ramming and sinking fishing boats belonging to other nations in the South China Sea and PLA troops trying to nibble away Indian territory along the Himalayas. What's needed is an effective regional counterbalance to China and this must be anchored by a credible security partnership. It assumes strategic significance that all the Quad members now have agreements among themselves that allow their militaries to access each other's bases and coordinate closely. This needs to be expanded to other East Asian nations to resist China's bullying.

**Sadhasiva Reddy**

Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

FIRST COLUMN

## Coronavirus' invisible helpers

The presence of hormone-disrupting Bisphenol-A in microplastics not only stymies growth and development, it undermines the body's immunity



KOTA SRIRAJ

Microplastics are harming our health in more ways than one. At a time when humanity is battling the COVID-19 pandemic, natural human immunity is essential and of incalculable importance. However studies have shown that microplastics undermine human immunity. The presence of hormone-disrupting Bisphenol-A in microplastics not only stymies growth and development, it plays havoc with our hormones and severely undermines the body's natural immune system. Apart from this, there has been an exponential rise in health problems pertaining to the gastro-intestinal tract. Research is increasingly showing that invisible microplastic particles and polymers in our immediate environment, such as drinking water and food, are emerging as a major cause for worsening human health.

The problem is not new but the symptoms are exceedingly assuming new dimensions as newer human health and environmental problems are emerging. According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and the European Chemicals Agency's classification, any plastic bit that is less than five millimetre in length conforms to the definition of a microplastic. Any ingestion of this directly exposes human organs to a variety of harmful chemicals and pesticides present in them that cause adverse health conditions such as obesity, gastro problems, developmental issues and other body organ related damage. Microplastics that are less than 25 microns are able to enter the respiratory tract and those that are five micron in size are able to get lodged in the lung tissue. This can cause serious health problems. Across the world, microplastics are now considered as the new atmospheric pollutant and the near invisibility of these fragments makes them even more harmful. One can judge this by the fact that at many locations across the world, the average microplastics and fibres in our ambient environment are less than 300 microns in size. The average human hair is of 50-70 microns in diameter, whereas the smallest particle a human eye can see is about 40 microns. This gives us a perspective regarding the pollutant and its size and how this creation of mankind is escaping all global efforts to rein it in.

As we relentlessly create a "plastic planet", the scale of its generation is growing by leaps and bounds. According to a study published in *Science Advances*, some 420 million tonnes of plastics were produced in 2015, which is up from just over two million tonnes in 1950. This 65-year period saw nearly six billion tonnes of plastic ending up either in a landfill or in the environment. The oceans, too, have not been spared with nearly 51 trillion microplastics floating in them today, according to a study published in research journal *IOP Science*. The conditions closer home are not encouraging as studies are showing how India's coastlines are suffering from the impact of microplastics. In southern-most India, microplastics are emerging as a major pollutant and the marine environment, especially along the Kanyakumari coast, is falling victim. These findings came to light in the recent study conducted by the Department of Remote Sensing, Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu. The study covered eight different sampling stations along the 71-kilometre-long coastline comprising both urbanised and non-urbanised natural beaches. The tourist beaches and fishing hotspots saw high incidence of microplastic concentration, thanks to human influence. This study gave baseline data that helped researchers understand the occurrence and distribution of microplastics in near shore sediments.

The role of microplastics can be curtailed through impactful Government regulations and policies. India has both but what is missing is the comprehensive and effective implementation of the same. Even today, at all urban centres, one can still see shoppers and business owners using plastic bags and covers. It is surprising how the Government is unable to come down heavily on the manufacturers of polythene bags and covers. Neither is the Government concerned about waste segregation so that plastic carry bags do not get mixed with recyclable waste. These conditions point to the apathy of the Government towards this rising problem.

In order to flush the system of plastics, the Government must conduct an audit of how much demand exists for these products and identify the suppliers. Then, District Industries Centres (DIC) in areas where these manufacturers are located must ensure that notice is served for ending production. Later, the DIC, along with a financial institution and a technical expert, can work out an alternative and eco-friendly product portfolio for these businesses. The Government must address the concerns of the manufacturers regarding profitability and viability besides addressing technical hurdles. This alone will help prevent them from slipping back to producing plastic products.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

DON'T BE AFRAID OF COVID. DON'T LET IT DOMINATE YOUR LIFE. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DEBATE ON OCTOBER 15 IN MIAMI. IT WILL BE GREAT.

—US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



IF HE STILL HAS COVID, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE A DEBATE. I HOPE NO ONE WALKS AWAY WITH THE MESSAGE THAT IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.

—FORMER US VICE-PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

# Farmers' own middlemen

Growers can empower themselves through a livelihood strategy that collectivises the smaller producers into FPOs which are then integrated into an inclusive value chain



MOIN QAZI

Three new farm Acts were recently introduced in the country. The most important of these, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 is aimed at putting an end to the monopoly of the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) *mandis*. Earlier, under the 1964 APMC Act, all the farmers were required to sell their produce at the Government-regulated *mandis*. The *arhathiya* (middlemen) in such cases helped the farmers in selling their crops to private companies or Government agencies. While APMCs will continue to function, farmers will now have a wider choice. But one of the powerful ways that growers can serve as their own middlemen is through a livelihood and development strategy that collectivises the smaller primary producers into locally-managed Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) which are then integrated into an inclusive value chain. This is a sustainable, market-based approach in which resources of member farmers (for example, expertise and capital) are pooled to achieve more together than they can individually. It enables members see their work through an entrepreneurial lens and confers economies of scale, better marketing and distribution, more investable funds and skills, greater bargaining power, access to credit and insurance, sharing of assets and costs, opportunities to upgrade skills and technology and a safety net in times of distress. The best-known example of an FPO is that of Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd), which is a dairy cooperative with over three million producer members.

In this model, thousands of scattered small farms are systematically aggregated and provided centralised services around production, post-harvest and marketing. This helps reduce transaction costs of the farms for approaching value chains and makes it easier for small farmers to access inputs, technology and the market. It also opens opportunities to bring primary processing facilities closer to the farm gates and helps producers gather market intelligence and manage the value chain better with digital agriculture tools. An FPO is a hybrid between a private limited company and a cooperative society. Hence one can see it enjoy the benefits of professional management of a private limited company as well as reap the benefits of a cooperative society.

Small-holder farmer producer groups are a key medium to build scale on account of the confidence, support and buyer/seller power they provide. They are able to achieve economies of scale through post-harvest infrastructure (collection, sorting, grading facilities), establishment of integrated processing units, refrigerated transportation, pre-cooling or cold stores chambers, branding, labelling and packaging, aggregation and transportation, assaying, preconditioning, grading, standardising and other interventions. The key benefit is the marketing support that links producers to mainstream markets through aggregation of subsistence-level produce into economic lots that can significantly raise the share that peasants get from the money people pay for their food.

The FPOs are owned and governed by shareholder farmers and administered by professional managers. They adopt all the good principles of cooperatives, the efficient business practices of com-

“THE FPOs ARE OWNED AND GOVERNED BY SHAREHOLDER FARMERS AND ADMINISTERED BY PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS. THEY ADOPT ALL THE GOOD PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATIVES, THE EFFICIENT BUSINESS PRACTICES OF COMPANIES AND SEEK TO ADDRESS THE INADEQUACIES OF THE COOPERATIVE STRUCTURE. THE BEST WAY FOR THESE ORGANISATIONS IS TO LEVERAGE THEIR COLLECTIVE STRENGTH THROUGH A FULL VALUE CHAIN FROM THE FARM TO THE FORK”



panies and seek to address the inadequacies of the cooperative structure. The best way for these organisations is to leverage their collective strength through a full value chain from the farm to the fork. The underlying principle is similar to that of the full stack approach. This approach makes the sponsor, catalyst or promoter responsible for every part of the experience. In short, it is a whole-farm systems approach. It creates a complementary support ecosystem that boosts farm yields, reduces negative environmental impacts and increases market access and small-holder farmer incomes. It also provides sustainability interventions, including sustainable irrigation products and practices. Moreover, the value chain uses a business approach in order to make it viable.

Apart from the collective strength that group synergy generates, the support structures help in building the capacities of producers to deal with input suppliers, buyers, bankers, technical service providers, development-promoting agencies and the Government (for their entitlements), among others. One of the FPO's important roles is linking farmers to reliable and affordable sources of financing in the funding ecosystem to meet their working capital, infrastructure, development and other needs. The collective works to reorient the enabling environment by influencing policies in this direction. The extension services available through the collectives include augmenting farmer capacity through agricultural best practices, agronomic advice, training on use of bio-fertiliser, pest management, modern harvesting techniques and access to optimal environmental practices. The success of a col-

lective hinges on many factors: The technical support it receives, its institutional base, social and professional composition, land access and cropping patterns of members and adaptation of the model to the local context.

Sadly, rich farmers are significantly more likely to participate than the less privileged. They often become administrative members and use services substantially more for themselves than for rank-and-file members. It is, thus, necessary to strengthen democratic processes in these institutions.

Most promoters of the value chain are now successfully using the sub-sector approach, which allows for a focus on specific sub-sectors and helps in strengthening the ecosystem within which they are able to transition from a comparative to a competitive advantage. The value chain also facilitates capacity building support and use of modern tools including technology that can help to improve weather forecasting, agricultural processing, soil health monitoring crop identification as well as damage control, and mapping of available water resources. Some of these collectives are using digital tools to make farming climate-resilient, nutrition-sensitive and inclusive. The farmers are also able to achieve increase in the quantity, quality and consistency of production of crops. For achieving better scale, the value chain needs to steward limited resources and build production systems that natural systems can support over time. This logic embraces the use of soil management regimes that incorporate modest, targeted use of synthetic fertilisers to boost farmer incomes and production without affecting the quality of soil. The techni-

cal support is complemented by better water management through rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table; introduction of multi-cropping and diverse agro-based activities; use of low-cost and small plot irrigation technologies, which are commercially viable and environment-friendly. There is also a need for a policy to pool land or increase the size of holdings through collective farming or some other way. Consolidation of small-holders' land holdings through cooperatives can also create synergies, especially for the leasing of large equipment or bulk input orders. It helps in creating cold storage for controlling post-harvest losses. Financing for setting up micro-irrigation facilities and rainwater harvesting modules would help create an infrastructure for sustainable water supply and hence aid farm productivity.

FPOs should also be encouraged to participate in Minimum Support Price-based procurement operations. The eNAM platform can connect farmers with distant buyers. However, the biggest limitation of eNAM and other similar programmes seems to be that the vast majority of farmers are not tech-savvy. This is further compounded by low internet penetration and erratic electric supply. We need robust farmer-producer institutions which will have capital and the risk-taking ability to set up processing zones which are critical for preventing losses on account of rotting food-grains. Together with FPOs, farmers can be their own middlemen and India can finally see the dream of farmers' incomes being doubled being realised.

(The writer is a well known development professional)

# Morality, crime and the confused State

Populist legislation based on subjective concepts of virtue often does little or nothing to address the crimes it pretends to combat



NADEEM PARACHA

The 16th century King of England, Henry VIII, usurped the power of the Catholic Church when it refused to approve his desire to annul his marriage, so he could wed another woman "more worthy of the throne." According to the American professor of law, G Marcus Cole, this is when the State took over the roles that were once the exclusive domains of the Church, i.e. defining morality. Cole says that since the king's authority did not extend to marital issues, Henry simply assumed by force the Church's duties and powers.

Despite the fact that in Europe, politically, the Church and the State began to be separated from the 18th century, there was always a distance between the two, regarding social and

religious matters. For example, issues such as homosexuality, divorce, adultery and so on were hardly ever put before a monarch because these were matters of morality and thus the domain of the Church. But when the political divorce of the Church and the State was complete, citizens expected the State to define morality and legislative laws to punish immorality.

This was easier said than done, because this meant assuming a role that was once the domain of the Church, which had been sidelined because it was thought to be against the principles of enlightenment, such as reason, science and modernity. Nevertheless, according to Cole, ever since Henry's move, the State has increasingly occupied and further assumed the traditional functions of the Church.

The same was the case in Muslim empires, where the monarchs initially let Islamic scholars and judges define, resolve and judge matters of morality and piety. But increasingly, because of issues of morality overlapping political matters, Muslim monarchs began to trespass the domains of the *Ulema* (a body of Muslim scholars) often leaving them fuming. The *Ulema*

believed that the monarchs were interpreting and defining religious laws because of pragmatic reasons, more than their desire to create a morally correct society. It is this approach that still drives the dynamics of the modern State and its legislative relationship with morality. Whereas legislating or enacting laws against crimes such as theft, murder or rape have a tangible necessity to maintain a moral order in society, the problem arises when a State tries to formulate laws against what it believe causes such crimes.

In Pakistan, for example, over the years, governments have often enacted legislation and issued ordinances to deal with what they assume causes crimes such as rape and child abuse. During the Zia-ul-Haq dictatorship in the 1980s, decrees and "advisories" were issued about how men and women (especially the latter) should dress on TV and in public. Zia's "*chaadar aur chaardewari*" (veil and four walls) motto encouraged women to stay indoors and only venture out in a veil, to avoid sexual harassment or rape. This line of thinking was vehemently opposed by various women's organisations. They saw it as an idea

emitting from the psyche of a male dictator who was putting the blame on women for being abused by men.

No serious discussion was ever attempted by the Government to understand the causes behind rape and harassment, beyond that unidimensional rhetorical solution to keep women inside the four walls of the house and in a veil. Of course, the issue of young boys being raped, many of them in madrasas, was conveniently ignored, and so were incidents in which women, who regularly covered themselves in the veil, could not escape harassment.

Second, on September 20, this year, the Pakistani lawmaker Shandana Gulzar Khan quoted figures by the rights group War on Rape in which it was disclosed that, on many occasions, rapists are known to the victims and include family members. So this means a large number of rapes are taking place inside the *chaardewari*.

Recently, the Imran Khan Government, echoing the famous Islamic evangelist, Tariq Jameel, has come up with a similar rationale behind the frightening increase in rape cases of women and of children, both

male and female. According to Jameel, co-education is one reason, whereas Khan, the reasons range from Hollywood and Bollywood films and the Chinese mobile phone app 'Tik-Tok! In Europe and the US, psychologists and psychiatrists have, for decades, been conducting studies whether "obscenity" in cultural products generates actual deviant behaviour. The results have been entirely inconclusive. This is what courts in Europe and the US have been struggling with. Professor of law Daniel Piar says that, from the mid-20th century, courts in the US began to discourage legislation on the basis of morality. Those who support this position give the example of the 1920 prohibition imposed on alcoholic beverages in the US.

It was a decision by the Government based on decades of lobbying by puritanical Christian groups, who often provided "proof" of how alcohol was ravaging the moral fabric of American society. Yet, 13 years later, in 1933, the Government had to repeal the law. In a January 2020 article for *The Atlantic*, Annika Neklason writes that prohibition caused twice the amount of corruption and violence

than the prohibitionists claimed consuming liquor did. Enacting laws to curb an activity, because that activity is defined as being immoral, and the cause behind tangible disruption in society make for a complicated exercise. For example, rape or child abuse are clearly tangible misdeeds. The procedure to determine their cause, however, is the domain of psychologists and sociologists, who must weigh in before the Government can legislate laws to address the causes. But this hardly ever happens in Pakistan, where successive governments and the State often take unilateral action to determine and then define causes in this context and impose curbs against them. The most they do is confer with *Ulema*. Therefore, the determined causes of rape and child abuse draw some entirely knee-jerk rationale that does not go beyond pleas to put women behind walls, wrap them in a veil or ban "obscene" cultural products.

There's another reason why this happens. According to the American scholar of law, Louis Henkin, since it is problematic to substantiate that an activity defined as being "obscene" causes certain criminal offences, courts

and governments forbid them, not because there is proof that they lead to crimes, but because they are deemed offensive to large sections of society. This is common in polities that define themselves as being morally correct.

When recently, PTV aired a segment in which a woman was shown exercising with a male fitness coach, a conservative journalist tweeted, "Is this (the) Islamic Republic of Pakistan?" Of course, he couldn't claim that the segment would lead to any heinous crime, it was just him being offended by it because, in his mind, an Islamic Republic should behave in a particular manner. Anything contradicting this manner needs to be banned because it is offensive.

The American legal philosopher, Lon Fuller, describes this as "morality of aspiration" or a conception of moral principles to which humans ought to aspire. He discouraged legislation based on morality of aspiration because it often ends up enshrining flawed and populist concepts of virtue that do nothing to address the larger crimes that these ideas of virtue are pretending to combat.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

# Sensex reclaims 40k mark after 7 months

**Mumbai:**The BSE Sensex rallied for the sixth straight day to reclaim the 40,000-mark on Thursday, with IT shares hogging the limelight after robust results from TCS indicated that the worst may be over for the software services industry.

After soaring over 400 points during the day, the 30-share benchmark ended 303.72 points, or 0.76 per cent, higher at 40,182.67.

The Sensex has closed above the crucial 40,000-mark after February 25 this year.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 95.75 points, or 0.82 per cent, to finish at 11,834.60.

UltraTech Cement topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 3.24 per cent, followed by TCS, HCL Tech, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma and Tech Mahindra.

India's largest software services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has reported a 4.9 per cent rise in consolidated net

profit to Rs 8,433 crore for the September 2020 quarter, and also announced a share buyback plan of up to Rs 16,000 crore.

On the other hand, ONGC, ITC, Reliance Industries, L&T, PowerGrid and Asian Paints were among the major lag-guards, shedding up to 2.84 per cent.

RIL came under selling pressure after Amazon.Com Inc slapped a legal notice on Future Group over its Rs 24,713 crore asset sale to the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate.

"A good start to Q2 resulted by the IT and banking sector, along with positive announcements like buyback has lifted the market. At the same time, expectation of a stimulus in India and the US has improved.

"Initially, the thought was that the domestic stimulus will be small due to weak fiscal position, which changed positively post few comments from government officials, and now

the expectation has become bigger. "In the US, an intermediary aid has been provided before the final stimulus which is expected post the election. **PTI**

## Rupee gains 9 paise to 73.24 ahead of RBI policy review

**Mumbai:**The rupee strengthened by 9 paise to close at 73.24 against the US dollar on Thursday, supported by positive domestic equities and weak American currency. At the interbank forex market, the rupee traded in a narrow range. It opened at 73.29 against the American currency and gained further ground to settle at 73.24, up 9 paise from its previous close of 73.33. This is the second consecutive session of gain for the rupee. **PTI**

# India's GDP expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal: World Bank

**Washington:** The World Bank on Thursday said that India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal which is reflective of the national lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms due to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the country's economic situation is "much worse" than ever seen before.

The Washington-based global lender, in its latest South Asia Economic Focus report ahead of the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, forecasts a sharper than expected economic slump across the region, with regional growth expected to contract by 7.7 per cent in 2020, after topping six per cent annually in the past five years.

"India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent in the fiscal year that started in March," the World Bank said in the report released here.

Regional growth is projected to rebound to 4.5 per cent in 2021, it said.

Factoring in population growth, however, income-per-capita in the region will remain 6 per cent below 2019 estimates, indicating that the expected rebound will not offset the lasting economic damage caused by the pandemic, it said.

"The situation is much worse in India than we have ever seen before," Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia told reporters during a conference call. "It is an exceptional situation in India. A very dire outlook," he said.

There was a 25 per cent decline in GDP in the second quarter of the year, which is the first quarter of the current fiscal year in India.

In the report, the World Bank said that the spread of the coronavirus and containment measures have severely disrupted supply and demand conditions in India. **PTI**

# MOH nearly doubles fund allocation for highways development programmes in N-East

**New Delhi:** The government on Thursday said it has nearly doubled fund allocation for Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North Eastern Areas (SARDP-NE) in the current fiscal to Rs 760 crore.

A sum of Rs 390 crore expenditure was envisaged to be incurred from National Investment Fund for the region during 2020-21.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in a statement said it has enhanced the allocation of funds for expenditure under SARDP-NE related works during the current financial year and under the revised allocation, almost double the amount originally allocated has been allowed.

"Against the earlier Rs 390 crore expenditure envisaged to be incurred from the National Investment Fund during 2020-21, a sum of Rs 760 crore has been set aside for the same period. **PTI**

# Payout blues: Telcos expected to speed-dial ARPU improvement, raise tariffs, says Icr

**New Delhi:**The telecom tariff hike is imminent as service providers need to make sizeable payouts on statutory dues, spectrum buys, regular revenue share obligations and auction instalments, making ARPU expansion critical, Icr Ratings said on Thursday.

Pointing to the sector's debt levels and the pressing need for companies to bring it down, Icr said that given the "precarious position" of the balance sheet of the industry, "India is likely to give a miss to the 5G call for some time".

Further, it said that despite some easing of competitive intensity, it is still some time to go before the tough competition recedes. This is because it is unclear whether the next round of tariff hikes would be across the industry or limited only to telcos facing adjusted gross revenue (AGR) payment.

"...ARPU improvement and further tariff hikes are on the cards, given the fact that telecom service providers are required to make sizeable payouts in terms of AGR liabilities, spectrum purchase, regular revenue share to the government and auction instalments (which start from fiscal 2023)," Icr said in a statement.

Hence, a sustainable and sizeable average revenue per user (ARPU) expansion is critical.

"While the industry still grapples with elevated debt levels and weak debt coverage metrics, the last fiscal has witnessed some respite in terms of steady ARPU improvement driven mainly by the tariff hikes implemented in December 2019, the deleveraging measures are undertaken by the telcos, and moderation of capex intensity," said Anupama Arora, Vice President and Sector Head, Corporate Ratings, Icr.

And though clarity has emerged around the AGR issues, the relatively short time-frame allowed by the Supreme Court acts as a "dampener". **PTI**

# Jio designed to help India lead fourth industrial revolution: Mukesh Ambani

**New Delhi:**Having missed most of the first three industrial revolutions, India has its chance to lead the fourth industrial revolution through a convergence of its IT prowess, ultra-high-speed internet connectivity and affordable smart devices, billionaire Mukesh Ambani said on Thursday. The richest Indian man, who

heads the nation's most valuable company Reliance Industries Ltd, said his group's telecom and digital unit Jio was conceived to provide the key ingredients needed to lead the fourth industrial revolution.

India missed the first two industrial revolutions and the changes brought

about by them. During the third industrial revolution, where information technology came to prominence, India joined the race but still remained behind, trying to catch up with the leaders. "As we step into the fourth industrial revolution, India has the opportunity, not just to catch up with the leaders but to emerge as a

global leader itself," he said at TM Forum's Digital Transformation World Series.

The fourth industrial revolution, he said, is driven by the convergence of digital and physical technologies such as digital connectivity, cloud and edge-computing. **PTI**

# Banks sanction ₹1.87 lakh cr to MSMEs under credit guarantee scheme

**New Delhi:**The Finance Ministry on Thursday said banks have sanctioned loans of about Rs 1,87,579 crore to 50.7 lakh business units under the Rs 3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector impacted by

slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Of this, about 27 lakh MSME units received cumulative disbursement of Rs 1,36,140 crore till October 5.

The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the Rs 20-lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Abhiyan package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May to mitigate the distress caused by lockdown due to COVID-19 by providing credit to different sectors, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). **PTI**

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11835.40	11905.70	11791.15	11834.60	95.75	
WIPRO	351.00	367.75	346.45	359.90	24.60	
CPLA	775.00	815.60	774.90	812.10	38.50	
ULTRACEMCO	4225.00	4360.00	4214.00	4340.00	126.65	
INFY	1090.00	1124.00	1088.40	1094.50	27.95	
HCLTECH	857.50	879.00	844.90	849.50	21.45	
HDFCBANK	1180.00	1203.00	1163.35	1189.90	27.65	
DIVISLAB	3188.00	3255.00	3172.30	3255.00	73.10	
SUNPHARMA	514.60	526.00	511.75	523.25	11.50	
DREDDY	514.40	521.80	506.00	521.10	10.65	
TECHM	862.00	887.55	857.65	862.50	16.15	
HEROMOTOCO	3250.00	3292.80	3235.65	3285.00	51.35	
GRASIM	765.00	774.70	758.70	769.55	9.90	
ICICIBANK	385.00	389.70	382.65	387.40	4.75	
NESTLEIND	16100.00	16330.00	16052.05	16275.00	160.60	
HINDUNILVR	2147.00	2165.00	2146.25	2160.10	20.75	
HDFCLIFE	586.50	586.50	577.10	584.50	5.55	
TATASTEEL	374.50	383.00	371.70	373.90	2.80	
BHARTIARTL	426.00	435.50	419.10	425.15	2.70	
HINDALCO	172.85	176.45	171.55	173.80	0.95	
M&M	634.15	640.95	627.60	635.30	3.40	
SRBIN	191.35	195.80	190.55	191.60	0.90	
JSWSTEEL	291.50	298.40	287.65	292.65	1.20	
IOC	75.10	75.80	74.30	75.50	0.30	
MARUTI	7090.00	7140.00	7021.00	7068.15	21.25	
BRITANNIA	3798.90	3825.00	3771.50	3796.30	10.35	
SHREECEM	20721.20	20850.00	20490.00	20750.00	37.50	
TATAMOTORS	142.85	143.50	139.60	141.15	0.15	
HDFC	1952.50	1988.45	1938.50	1947.80	-0.95	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3070.00	3110.80	3051.00	3074.35	-3.05	
AXISBANK	455.55	461.65	447.25	452.50	-0.60	
TITAN	1257.00	1262.55	1233.60	1250.05	-1.95	
UPL	513.95	519.85	506.50	510.00	-0.85	
NTPC	83.10	83.35	82.35	82.65	-0.15	
BAFINANCE	3354.00	3388.00	3302.00	3324.90	-6.25	
ADANIEXPORTS	339.10	362.80	356.35	359.85	-0.80	
KOTAKBANK	1326.50	1341.25	1311.25	1320.00	-4.70	
INDUSINDBK	630.00	638.50	614.05	616.35	-2.75	
BAJAJFINSV	5950.00	6032.20	5852.25	5873.05	-32.20	
ASIANPAINT	214.50	2107.95	2072.05	2091.85	-13.15	
BPCL	304.90	345.00	337.60	340.00	-2.25	
RELIANCE	2259.00	2268.00	2222.10	2219.50	-16.00	
SRILIFE	83.25	83.60	81.80	82.95	-0.60	
POWERGRID	160.20	161.10	158.00	158.30	-1.30	
COALINDIA	114.70	115.00	112.65	113.45	-1.00	
LI	890.30	894.00	879.05	880.10	-7.80	
EICHERMOT	1253.00	1226.80	1175.00	1208.00	-30.00	
ITC	27.10	27.40	26.90	26.70	-2.40	
ONGC	70.90	71.00	68.25	68.55	-1.95	
GAIL	86.75	87.15	83.85	84.00	-2.70	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	2748.95	27547.40	27299.10	27489.00	134.05	
LTI	2718.00	2959.00	2718.00	2853.80	186.70	
CADILAH	415.00	438.70	414.20	435.35	22.50	
BIOCON	453.00	473.75	451.15	472.00	19.85	
ADANTTRANS	275.00	284.00	274.50	282.10	10.05	
MOTHERSUMI	117.20	121.00	117.20	120.40	3.35	
INFRAEL	186.85	191.80	184.55	190.55	5.25	
BANKBARODA	41.85	43.45	41.60	42.60	1.10	
ACC	1482.20	1523.65	1468.45	1519.95	38.20	
LUPIN	1030.90	1050.00	1013.30	1048.00	22.10	
TORNPHARM	2815.00	2888.00	2811.60	2872.00	60.25	
AUROPHARMA	828.00	841.80	820.30	839.90	16.70	
IGL	384.25	392.50	383.00	390.60	6.45	
OFSS	3060.00	3079.75	3037.45	3050.00	42.15	
AMBIJACEM	234.80	239.95	231.40	237.60	2.80	
SIEMENS	1280.00	1299.00	1268.35	1290.20	14.75	
MARICO	370.00	374.75	368.75	372.90	3.90	
HAVELLS	684.00	688.70	680.10	687.90	7.05	
BANDHANBANK	322.30	327.20	316.50	317.80	3.25	
HDFCAML	2339.55	2356.00	2321.00	2351.80	24.00	
COLPAL	1445.00	1457.90	1439.55	1453.50	14.35	
BERGEPAINT	612.00	617.40	604.15	613.60	5.65	
UBL	961.10	975.00	938.20	965.00	7.05	
NMDC	82.30	85.40	81.95	82.60	0.50	
CONCOR	367.00	367.40	362.00	366.00	2.15	
DLF	159.80	161.95	157.70	159.50	0.80	
SBICARD	848.00	852.75	841.30	847.00	3.50	
PEC	86.95	89.45	85.85	86.75	0.35	
PNB	28.05	28.70	27.75	27.85	0.10	
ABBOTINDIA	16022.00	16100.00	15900.00	16034.20	29.70	
PETRONET	220.30	222.30	216.70	218.90	0.40	
ALKEM	2746.95	2759.00	2725.00	2735.00	3.45	
PGH	9932.00	9976.45	9860.05	9944.05	8.75	
DMAT	2085.00	2096.00	2045.05	2067.70	1.60	
NAUKRI	3495.00	3520.00	3431.85	3460.00	0.40	
ICICIPRULI	435.00	439.40	428.20	432.85	-0.80	
HINDPETRO	171.35	174.00	169.65	170.70	-0.35	
DABUR	526.65	527.00	516.45	522.50	-1.55	
GODREJCP	732.80	735.85	718.20	726.90	-2.60	
PIDILITIND	1496.00	1513.80	1472.55	1488.00	-5.65	
ADANIGREEN	698.50	725.05	666.60	695.80	-7.50	
INDIGO	1341.30	1355.85	1315.50	1330.00	-3.75	
PEL	1327.00	1340.10	1304.10	1310.00	-9.40	
BAJAJHLNG	2431.05	2452.00	2394.00	2400.00	-27.00	
HINDZINC	212.00	213.80	203.00	207.15	-3.60	
MCDOWELL-N	530.00	535.70	517.40	520.90	-9.15	
ICICIGI	1275.00	1280.00	1237.35	1252.20	-22.65	
GICRE	124.35	127.15	122.10	122.10	-2.25	
MUTHOOTFIN	1180.00	1189.65	1140.70	1147.65	-28.55	
BOSCHLT	13311.00	13311.00	12780.00	12888.85	-333.65	
TATACONSUM	506.80	508.30	485.00	489.00	-16.05	

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
TCS	2825.00	2885.00	2800.00	2824.80
WIPRO	348.70	367.75	346.80	359.45
RELIANCE	2261.80	2268.00	2222.40	2238.90
INFY	1089.00	1123.95	1088.10	1094.00
HDFCLIFE	586.00	587.00	577.20	582.95
INDUSINDBK	620.90	638.20	614.20	617.35
HDFCBANK	1175.55	1203.00	1165.00	1191.90
IGL	385.00	392.40	383.15	390.45
VEDL	123.40	127.10	117.15	117.60
BAFINANCE	3349.00	3398.00	3303.85	3325.80
MINDTREE	1401.00	1556.70	1401.00	1462.15
ICICITECH	855.00	878.80	845.00	849.55
ICIBANK	385.00	389.60	375.75	387.55
CPIA	774.95	814.95	774.95	811.40
HINDUNILVR	2146.00	2164.10	2146.00	2159.70
THERMAX	718.30	764.00	718.00	733.00
TATAMOTORS	142.80	143.35	139.65	140.90
SBIN	191.55	195.70	190.60	191.50
BHARTIARTL	426.00	435.25	419.25	424.50
IDEA	8.57	9.18	8.56	8.93
LALUSLABS	333.70	343.20	327.00	338.30
PERSISTENT	1275.00	1339.00	1275.00	1312.05
IBULHSGFIN	152.90	156.70	147.75	149.95
HDFC	1946.00	1988.00	1938.35	1948.30
MARUTI	7100.00	7188.00	7019.25	7064.60
TECHM	858.20	887.50	858.00	860.00
JUSTDIAL	385.00	452.00	384.75	436.95
ALOKTEXT	24.00	24.80	23.65	24.80
ZEE	209.20	212.95	204.20	205.80
DREDDY	5185.00	5214.90	5065.35	5195.85
CADILAH	412.00	438.50	412.00	435.95
ITC	170.25	170.40	167.00	167.10
ASIXBANK	454.00	461.60	447.35	455.45
KOTAKBANK	1326.00	1340.00	1311.55	1313.00
BANDHANBANK	320.50	327.00	316.50	319.00
JSWSTEEL	291.45	298.35	287.70	292.50
TIITAN	1257.00	1263.00	1234.00	1252.00
TATASTEEL	372.25	382.90	371.90	373.00
ADANI GREEN LT	697.00	725.00	664.75	695.00
LT	89.00	89.00	88.00	88.50
SUNPHARMA	512.20	524.00	512.05	520.00
MOTHERSUMI	117.00	120.90	117.00	120.00
THYROCARE	1125.00	1149.00	1008.00	1010.00
BANKBARODA	41.65	43.40	41.65	42.80
INDIAMART	2699.00	2958.20	2699.00	2865.40
ULTRACEMICO	4216.30	4358.65	4216.30	4340.00
RBLBANK	178.25	180.80	172.70	177.00
MPHASIS	1376.90	1453.75	1368.60	1410.00
BAJAJFINSV	5915.00	6025.95	5852.75	5885.00
LUPIN	1025.95	1049.75	1013.80	1040.00
BPCIL	343.95	344.25	337.60	343.00
ASHOKLEY	77.00	77.70	75.15	76.00
ONGC	71.00	71.00	68.25	69.00
GLNMARK	494.00	502.85	490.50	495.00
APOLLOHOSP	2190.00	2255.50	2190.00	2225.00
HEROMOTOCO	3240.00	3292.00	3239.00	3235.00
FRETAIL	79.50	86.70	79.50	85.00
MGL	828.85	843.55	819.00	835.00
ESCORTS	1246.65	1265.00	1227.20	1235.00
FEDERALBANK	51.25	53.15	51.25	53.00
RELE	99.00	101.75	98.50	100.00
DCLTD	159.00	161.90	157.70	159.00
GMM	3620.10	3685.35	3596.15	3595.00
INDUSTALST	192.75	192.75	192.10	192.00
BIOCON	45.00	473.70	45.00	450.00
REPOCHOME	178.35	175.05	175.50	179.00
SUNTV	468.00	476.05	464.70	466.00
ADANIEN	330.00	330.00	310.35	311.00
COFORGE	2432.00	2553.60	2432.00	2490.00
LICHSGFIN	283.00	293.45	283.00	292.00
EICHERMOT	2256.30	2256.30	2175.00	2200.00
BHEL	28.50	29.50	28.40	28.50
AUROPHARMA	825.00	841.50	820.50	835.00
PVR	1275.00	1284.30	1249.00	1255.00
COALINDIA	114.50	115.05	112.75	111.00
BRITANIA	3819.90	3823.15	3770.25	3795.00
DIVISLAB	3194.25	3257.25	3173.50	3200.00
L&T	62.50	63.55	61.50	62.00
TATACONSUM	506.50	508.30	485.10	485.00
M&M	635.85	641.00	628.00	635.00
PNB	27.85	28.65	27.75	28.00
VOLITAS	680.00	694.35	680.00	690.00
DEEPAKNI	800.95	800.95	755.75	755.00
ASIANPAINT	2109.00	2109.00	2072.80	2095.00
AMBUJACEM	237.15	239.35	231.45	235.00
PIDILITIND	1496.00	1512.85	1472.80	1480.00
IDFCFIRSTB	31.65	31.90	31.15	31.50
ACC	1480.00	1523.55	1469.15	1510.00
UPL	515.95	519.55	506.00	505.00
TATATELXSI	1392.00	1436.05	1391.90	1425.00
TATAPOWER	56.10	56.40	53.80	55.00
BAJAJ-AUTO	3080.00	3111.50	3050.45	3075.00
NTPC	82.80	83.40	82.05	82.80
LALPATHLAB	2200.00	2200.00	2124.95	2135.00
ADANI PORTS	360.00	362.70	356.40	359.00
IRCTC	1361.60	1369.75	1351.00	1355.00
STAR	730.00	731.00	687.10	690.00
INFRAREIL	187.80	191.65	184.70	190.00
WOCKPHARMA	319.00	332.40	313.60	313.00
GRASIM	762.00	774.20	759.00	760.00
SKTRANSFIN	641.50	653.00	633.40	635.00
BELM	608.80	613.00	602.10	606.00
BATAINDIA	1387.00	1390.00	1357.65	1360.00
NMDC	82.25	85.25	82.05	83.00
INDIGO	1349.40	1356.05	1315.80	1325.00
ADVENZYMES	380.45	384.75	342.25	345.00
M&MFIN	128.80	132.25	128.25	128.50

KAMALA OR PENCE FOR VICE PRESIDENT!

Covid, China and jobs dominate debate

**Washington:** The much-awaited vice presidential debate between Kamala Harris and Mike Pence saw the duo sparring on US President Donald Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, jobs, China, racial tensions and climate change, less than four weeks ahead of the election.

Harris, the Democratic Party's vice president nominee described the Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic as the "greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history" of America as she opened the vice debate with a sharp attack on Vice President Pence, who leads the president's coronavirus task force.

Wednesday night's live debate at The University of Utah in Salt Lake City was a civil one between the two leaders, separated by plexiglass barriers, compared to last week's showdown between



AP photo

President Trump and his Democratic challenger and former vice president Joe Biden, which degenerated into insults and name-calling.

Pence, did not interrupt as much as Trump last week during the first presidential debate, but when he did Harris interjected: "Mr Vice-President, I'm speaking, I'm speaking."

During the 90-minute one-off debate before the November

3 presidential election, Harris, 55, and Pence, 61, stuck to their known campaign positions on major topics.

Pence, who entered the debate as an underdog, was seen vigorously defending the actions of the Trump Administration during the past nearly four years.

Harris, who scripted yet another history, by becoming the first person of Indian

descent to be on the stage of a vice presidential debate, charmed with her smiling face throughout while responding to answers to Pence with facts and figures with the same assertiveness as she started her career as a district attorney in San Francisco.

"This administration has forfeited their right to re-election," she asserted at the start of the debate moderated by journalist Susan Page from USA Today newspaper.

"Biden wants to go back to the economic surrender to China that when we took office, half of our international trade deficit was with China alone," Pence fired back during the debate, which moved from one segment to the other every 10 minutes.

Harris slammed the Trump Administration for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic as the country is now the world's worst-hit nation. **PTI**

Trump calls Kamala Harris a monster

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump on Thursday called Kamala Harris, who is making US history as the first Black woman vice presidential candidate, a "monster".

Trump, far behind in the contest for the White House on November 3 and doing especially badly in polling of women voters, used the word twice, calling the Democrat "this monster".

Speaking to Fox Business News for almost an hour in his first interview since falling sick with the coronavirus, Trump said Vice President Mike Pence "destroyed" Harris in their debate Wednesday in Utah.

"Everything she says is a lie," Trump said. **AFP**

Trump: China to pay 'big price' for spreading Covid globally

**PTI ■ WASHINGTON**

US President Donald Trump has warned that China will have to "pay a big price" for the spread of coronavirus globally.

Less than 50 hours after he returned to the White House from a military hospital where he was treated for the deadly virus, Trump in a video posted on Twitter from the Rose Garden outside the Oval Office blamed China for the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The deadly coronavirus originated from the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year and spread across the world, killing 1,054,674 and infecting 36,077,017. The US is the worst-hit nation with 211,793 deaths and 7,549,429 infections.

"It wasn't your fault that this happened. It was China's fault. And China's going to pay

a big price for what they've done to this country. China is going to pay a big price for what they've done to the world. This was China's fault. Just remember that," Trump said in the video message.

Though the president did not give the details of the measures, in recent months the Trump administration has initiated several actions against China, including imposing visa restrictions on the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials. Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have also been reaching out to their counterparts across the world against China.

Trump, 74, and First Lady Melania Trump, 50, were tested positive for COVID-19 last week. The president was taken to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre for treatment, while the First Lady remained at White House.

After four days, Trump was discharged from the hospital on Monday.

On Wednesday, the House Foreign Affairs Committee released its final report on the origins of COVID-19.

"The big takeaway should come as no surprise: China actively lied to the World Health Organisation and did their best to cover up the virus," Congressman Brian Mast claimed.

"China's total lack of transparency and mishandling of the coronavirus outbreak has cost hundreds of thousands of lives, millions of jobs and left untold economic destruction. Sadly, this isn't new behaviour for China. The CCP has a long history of manipulation and it's well-past time we hold them accountable for their crimes. Together, we must ensure that nothing like this ever happens again!" he said.

Protests against new labour law turn violent across Indonesia



Protesters add a bicycle to a burning metro station during a rally in Jakarta on Thursday

AP

**Jakarta:** Protests in many Indonesian cities turned violent on Thursday as thousands of enraged students and workers criticized a new law they say will cripple labour rights and harm the environment.

Clashes between rock-throwing demonstrators and riot police broke out near Jakarta's presidential palace as police tried to disperse the protesters, including workers and high school and university students.

President Joko Widodo is visiting Central Kalimantan

province and was not in the palace.

Police fired tear gas at the protesters from several high schools and universities as they tried to approach the palace compound, turning roads into a smoke-filled battleground. The protesters fought back, hurling rocks and bottles.

An angry mob burned a traffic police post at an intersection near the palace, while other protesters set fires to tires and fibreglass road barriers.

Similar clashes occurred in large cities all over the country,

including Yogyakarta, Medan, Makassar, Manado and Bandung, the capital of West Java province, where police arrested 209 people during two days of violent protests.

Organisers have called for a three-day national strike starting on Tuesday demanding that the government revoke the legislation.

The Job Creation Law approved by Parliament on Monday is expected to substantially change Indonesia's labour system and natural resources management. **AP**

Taliban welcome Trump tweet promising early troop withdrawal

**Islamabad:** Afghanistan's Taliban on Thursday welcomed a tweet from President Donald Trump in which he promised to have the last of the US's troops out of Afghanistan by Christmas.

If that withdrawal happens, it would be months ahead of schedule and the tweet made no reference to a Taliban promise to fight terrorist groups — a previous pre-requisite for an American withdrawal.

America's exit from Afghanistan after 19 years was laid out in an agreement Washington reached with the Taliban in February.

However, that agreement said U.S. Troops would be out

of Afghanistan in 18 months provided the Taliban honored a commitment to fight terrorist groups, with most attention seemingly focused on the Islamic State group affiliate in the country.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed said Trump's statement was welcome and he considered it a positive step for the implementation of the peace agreement between the US and the Taliban.

The Taliban are "committed to the contents of the agreement and hopes for good and positive relations with all countries, including the U.S. in the future," he said. **AP**

Nepal reports record 4,364 Covid-19 cases in single day

**PTI ■ KATHMANDU**

Nepal on Thursday recorded its highest number of coronavirus cases in a single day with 4,364 people testing positive for COVID-19, taking the nationwide tally to 98,617.

The country also reported 12 new deaths on Thursday, pushing the number of fatalities to 590, the health ministry said.

Among the new cases, 2,540 have been reported from within Kathmandu valley alone, according to a health ministry official.

EU calls on Western Balkans to create single economic area

**AP ■ PRISTINA (KOSOVO)**

A European Union commissioner on Thursday urged the countries of the Western Balkans to create a single economic area to better feel the benefits of the bloc's investment plans.

Oliver Varhelyi, the EU commissioner who oversees issues surrounding the bloc's enlargement, was in Kosovo as part of a tour of the Balkans. He urged Kosovo to "speed up the reforms because these investments go hand in hand with the reform efforts."

The EU this week approved a 9 billion-euro (USD 10.58 billion) package of grants for the

Western Balkan countries through 2027.

Varhelyi said they are "in coordination with our international financial institution partners to create an additional 20 billion euros (USD 23.5 billion) in guarantees for the region." The sum would amount to a third of the region's GDP, and the EU expects it to boost the economy by three to four percent.

"It is crucial to have a single economic area in the Balkans, because these investments will only bring the benefits if these investments work regionally," Varhelyi said at a news conference with Kosovar Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti.

Rights group decries Myanmar's camps for displaced Rohingya

**Bangkok:** The de facto detention of 130,000 ethnic Rohingya in squalid camps in Myanmar amounts to a form of apartheid, a human rights group alleged on Thursday in urging the world to pressure Aung San Suu Kyi's government to free them.

The camps are a legacy of long discrimination against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Buddhist-dominated Myanmar and were the immediate

consequence of communal violence that began in 2012 between the Rohingya and the Buddhist Rakhine ethnic group.

The fighting left people in both groups homeless, but almost all of the Rakhine have since returned to their homes or been resettled, while the Rohingya have not.

Human Rights Watch in its new report said inhuman conditions in 24 tightly

restricted camps and closed-off communities in the western state of Rakhine threaten the right to life and other basic rights of the Rohingya.

"Severe limitations on livelihoods, movement, education, health care, and adequate food and shelter have been compounded by widening constraints on humanitarian aid, which Rohingya depend on for survival," the report said.

American poet Louise Glück wins Nobel literature prize

**Stockholm:** American poet Louise Glück won the Nobel Prize in Literature on Thursday for her "candid and uncompromising" work, which looks unflinchingly and with biting humour at the losses and traumas of family life.

She joins a handful of American poets who have received the prize, which has been dominated by novelists throughout its 112-year history. **AP**

The last American to win was Bob Dylan in 2016.

She is also one of the few women — the 16th female Nobel Literature laureate.

The Nobel Committee praised Glück "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal" in the citation read during the announcement in Stockholm by Mats Malm, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy. **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

POLICE, BJP WORKERS CLASH

In the melee, a number of BJP leaders including Arvind Menon and Raju Banerjee were injured. The duo including many others had to be hospitalised. Surya condemned "Mamata Banerjee's policy" for uniting with the TMC goons to attack the protesters who were marching for legitimate causes.

The "Nabanna Chalo" march was called to protest against the alleged "corruption and syndicate raj of the Mamata Banerjee Government which has triggered massive unemployment in the State". In a subsequent briefing, Surya said, "We are fighting against the most corrupt and criminalised Government of the country," adding "the way the police suppressed a democratically hosted rally on Thursday it would go down in the history as a black day."

Explaining why only about 20-odd thousand people had turned up in the march, Dilip Ghosh complained how the buses carrying the BJP workers were stopped at various toll plazas outside Kolkata.

He demanded investigation into how dark blue-coloured water was sprayed on the people that gave burning sensation on the skins." The State Government, however, came out with a different explanation saying holi colour was used to identify the protesters for future action.

the police, sources said.

Meanwhile, even as the Left dismissed the Thursday's skirmish as a fight for power between two corrupt, "communal, blood thirsty, capitalist outfits," State Minister Firhad Hakim said, "BJP is not taken seriously in Bengal as it is a party of extremists."

AIRLINES TO OPERATE ...

will feel more confident once a vaccine is there." Regular international passenger flight services have been suspended till October 31.

The Minister hinted that this suspension is likely to be in place till March-April.

"There are basically three issues to consider before resuming regular international flights. One, resuming domestic connectivity connecting bigger cities to smaller town, which we have already done. Second, the nature of the virus on which I can't comment and the third is international restrictions. Every country wants their people to return, but for others there are plenty of restrictions," Puri said.

The Minister also said the time has come to send a clear message that foreign airlines' flights will not be allowed at the expense of Indian airlines. On September 28, Lufthansa had to cancel its flights between India and Germany from September 30 to October 20 as the DGCA withdrew permission for them saying there are restrictions on Indians who want to travel to Germany and this puts "Indian carriers at a significant disadvantage resulting in inequitable distribution of traffic in favour of Lufthansa".

Channels manipulating TRPs

Mumbai Police bust major fraud, arrest 2

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

In a sensational development, the Mumbai Police on Thursday claimed to have busted a major fraud allegedly involving three television channels — Republic TV, Fakt Marathi and Box Cinema — indulging in the manipulation of Television Rating Points (TRPs) data, and arrested two persons.

Addressing a news conference here, Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh said the owners of Marathi channels — Fakt Marathi and Box Cinema — have been booked under sections 409 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating) of IPC and arrested in connection with the alleged fraud.

Singh said that the officials of Republic TV, including its Editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami, would be summoned for questioning in connection with the alleged TRP data fraud. "Summons would be sent to Republic TV officials either today or tomorrow," the city police chief said.

"The investigations carried out so far have revealed that certain television channels like Republic TV, Fakt Marathi, Box Cinema etc have been indulging in such malpractices. Certain witnesses have come forward to tell us that they were induced by the arrested accused persons and their accomplices for a monthly monetary consideration," Singh said.

The Mumbai Police chief said the Republic TV is a sus-

- Summons would be sent to Republic TV officials either today or tomorrow, the city police chief said
- Republic TV to file a criminal defamation case against Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh
- Editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami denied the allegations against his television channel and said in a statement: "Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh has made false allegations against Republic TV because we have questioned him in the Sushant Singh Rajput case investigation"
- Police recovered ₹20 lakh from one of the arrested accused, while ₹8.5 lakh has been found in a bank locker

pect in TRP manipulation and the police had received data from the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC). He did not rule out the possibility of the alleged TRP fraud happening in other parts of the country. "Several teams have been sent in various States to nab the absconding accused persons," he said.

In a related development, Editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami denied the allegations against his television channel and said in a statement: "Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh has made false allegations against Republic TV because we have questioned him in the Sushant Singh Rajput case investigation. Republic TV will file a criminal defamation case against Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh".

"There is not a single BARC report that mentions Republic TV. The people of India know the truth. Mr Param Bir Singh's investigation in the Sushant Singh Rajput case is under a cloud and this is a desperate measure because of Republic TV's reportage on Palghar, the Sushant Singh

Rajput case or any other case, Goswami said.

Queried if Goswami would be investigated, the Mumbai Police Commissioner said: "Anyone involved in the channel, no matter how much in the top, how senior, will be questioned, and if involved they will be investigated. No one, no matter how senior, will escape". Singh disclosed that the Mumbai Police had shared the probe findings with the Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry.

Giving details of the alleged fraud, the Mumbai Police chief said that acting on a complaint, the crime branch arrested one person from Malad in north Mumbai. In the preliminary enquiry he revealed that he had been working for a company which is a part of BARC.

"One of the arrested accused persons and some of the wanted accused persons were employees of Hansa Research Group Pvt Ltd and they have misused the confidential data which had been entrusted to them. It has apparently been done for wrongful gains of various TV channels which had resulted in wrongful loss to various advertisers



Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh addresses the media at CP office in Mumbai on Thursday

PTI

and their agencies," Singh said.

According to Singh, manipulated TRP ratings adversely result in miscalculated targeted audience for the advertisers. This results in losses of hundreds of crores of rupees because of such manipulations and fake statistics of TRP. The TRP is calculated on the basis of TV channel viewership in a confidential set of households. BARC has installed approximately 30,000 barometers in various parts of the country which monitor various programmes. Based on the statistical metrics, BARC awards ratings to various television channels. The television channels in turn get advertisement money from the advertisers on the basis of these ratings.

In Mumbai, there are 2,000 barometers installed in Mumbai to monitor TRPs. "BARC has given confidential contracts to an agency called 'Hansa' for monitoring these barometers. Accused would ask some households to keep some channels on

even if they were not at home," Singh said.

The investigations revealed that some of the people in whose homes these barometers have been installed have confessed that they were paid Rs 400 to 500 for keeping their TV sets switched on even if they didn't actually watch.

Singh said that the preliminary investigations also revealed that these accused persons had manipulated the sampling metering services by inducing the barometer users by paying them periodically to watch particular television channels. "Many of the people in whose homes these barometers have been installed, have accepted that they have been monetarily beneficial for keeping their TV sets on even if they actually didn't watch," the police chief said.

Having registered an offence at the Kandivli police station, the police produced the two arrested persons before a city court which remanded them in the custody of the crime branch police till October 9.

Trump vows not to take part in virtual debate with Joe Biden

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**

President Donald Trump vowed on Thursday not to participate in next week's debate with Democratic nominee Joe Biden after organisers announced that it will take place virtually because of the President's diagnosis of Covid.

"I'm not going to do a virtual debate" with Biden, Trump told Fox News, moments after the Commission on Presidential Debates announced the changes due to Trump's diagnosis.

That cast serious doubts on whether the event will go forward, even as Biden's campaign vowed that its candidate will participate.

"Biden looks forward to speaking directly to the American people," deputy Biden campaign manager Kate Bedingfield said in a statement. It is more evidence that the race remains defined by the virus, even as Trump has attempted to underplay it.

The announcement from the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates cited a need "to protect the health and safety of all involved with the second presidential debate." The candidates will "participate from separate remote locations" while the participants and moderator remain in Miami, it said. The announcement came a week before Biden and Trump were scheduled to face off in Miami.

## Trend Slazer

### I look up to dad: Tiger

Actor **TIGER SHROFF** says his father, actor **Jackie Shroff**, is his hero and adds that he can never match up to dad.

"A father is every child's icon. Since childhood, I have always admired my dad and have been his biggest fan. I look up to my dad like no other. He is indeed my hero," said Tiger.

"My aim in life is to live for my family and give them 10 times the love and affection that they showed on me throughout my life," added the actor in a video message during an episode of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs*.



### 'Watching Bahubali was an experience that made me want to be a part of these big and grand projects

that entertain the nation. I can only wish and hope that I work hard consistently to be able to be a part of such projects in the future. Rajamouli sir is one of the finest filmmakers of our times and I am a huge fan of his work.'

—Manushi Chillar

Bollywood actor **VARUN DHAWAN** has shared a picture on Instagram of all things lovely. In the image, Varun looks dapper in a denim outfit and he sits in a convertible.

"All things lovely, the view, the car and me," Varun captioned the image.

Recently, Varun posted a video that showed him getting tested for COVID-19.

The actor will next be seen sharing screen space with Sara Ali Khan in the remake of the 1995 hit *Coolie No. 1*, directed by his father David Dhawan.



### Mask bring memories back for Macaulay

Hollywood actor **MACAULAY CULKIN** has found a novel way to spread an important message related to COVID.

The 40-year-old actor tweeted a photo wearing a "Home Alone" mask, which brought back memories of the all-time blockbuster film series that made him a global star as a child actor in the nineties.

"Just staying COVID-safe wearing by the played skin of my younger self. Don't forget to wear your masks, kids," he captioned the photo, in which he poses wearing a mask with a print of his childhood self from the 1990 hit film *Home Alone*, screaming and slapping his face.



## Virtual better than reality



Influencers **MALLIKA DUA**, **DOLLY SINGH**, **RADHIKA BANGIA**, **VARUN THAKUR** and **RAHUL DUA** share some creative and safe ways to keep dating in the new normal

While dating in 2020 might be different, it doesn't mean it has to be any less fun. There are new things to be explored this season. Gen-Z is full of creative life-hackers and there are a lot of firsts to be had with dating in 2020.

Here are some creative tips, tricks and hacks on how to date from some of our favourite influencers and content creators — Mallika Dua, Dolly Singh, Radhika Bangia, Varun Thakur and Rahul Dua. They share some ingenious and safe ways to navigate dating in the new normal.

### Everything Mallika as Sima Taparia taught us about dating this time

Mallika's Scheme-a Auntie is the Tinder and Indian Matchmaking crossover 2020 needed. She has lots of tips and tricks for dating this time. They involve shared menus for virtual dates, sage advice on compromise and so much more. Not surprisingly, like 77 per cent of Tinder members said in a recent poll, Mallika endorses just staying in your PJs for a virtual date.

She says, "A good date is like COVID, available everywhere and possible anytime. It's not a problem if you can't meet anyone in person, you can set up a nice candle light date with them virtually and tie your sibling to a chair so that they don't disturb you."

With a hint of humour, she further says, "Compromise is very important in any relationship. If you want to watch a rom-com and your date wants to watch



a thriller, then you must compromise and watch a rom-com. If you are smart, funny, nice and lovely, you will meet many matches, just make sure your matches know you have other matches too."

### If they can't commit to a mask, how will they commit to you? Dolly's reasons to date

Virtual dating during social distancing means longer conversations, casual clothing and an even sweeter date IRL.

In fact, the year has brought some new ways that you can use on your first date. If you are meeting your date from a distance, Dolly recommends a T-shirt that reads: Sanitise if you like me.

She lists a few reasons to start dating:

□ Use your phone wisely. Download a dating app where you can meet the world.

□ Sometimes virtual is better than reality. It gives you the time to ask all the important questions and reflect.

□ Now meeting will be 100 times more special as you will wait to test negative to finally meet your date.

### Radhika's tips on dating in 2020: How soon is too soon to reply to a text?

Swipe through some memes, do a dance routine and play with your pet before replying to a text. She even has a way to ensure you don't accidentally like your matches posts from 2013.

Radhika lists some tips for matching in 2020:

□ Don't give up easily. Keep swiping till you find the one.

□ Don't reply immediately and don't be desperate.

□ How to prevent yourself from liking their old picture while doing your research? Well, put a tape around your thumb so in case you touch your screen accidentally, you know you are safe.

Lastly, when you are done following all these, whenever you plan to meet them, put on a sexy mask, maintain social distancing and give them a hand sanitiser.

### "Haters gonna hate, daters gonna date." Varun on the dating hacks of this year

What's the most important dating hack of 2020 according to Varun aka Vicky Malhotra? Well, according to him you need to reinvent yourself, replace your profile pictures with those of you doing household chores since in 2020 that is the most attractive quality. Says he, "Please don't be the guy with cliché pictures in leather jackets with sunglasses and a guitar in your hand."

His video on how to hack Tinder in 2020 says, "Whether there's a pandemic or endemic, dating cannot stop. As the famous saying goes, 'haters are going to hate and daters are going to date.' Another important thing about dating this time is that one has to be responsible. Unless it's safe, please don't go out and start dating without mask and other precautionary measures."

He adds, "Online dating is the way to go. And for that you need good internet speed because no matter how good your personality is, if your picture is pixelated, running on 256 kbps in front of a beautiful girl, it's pretty much pointless."

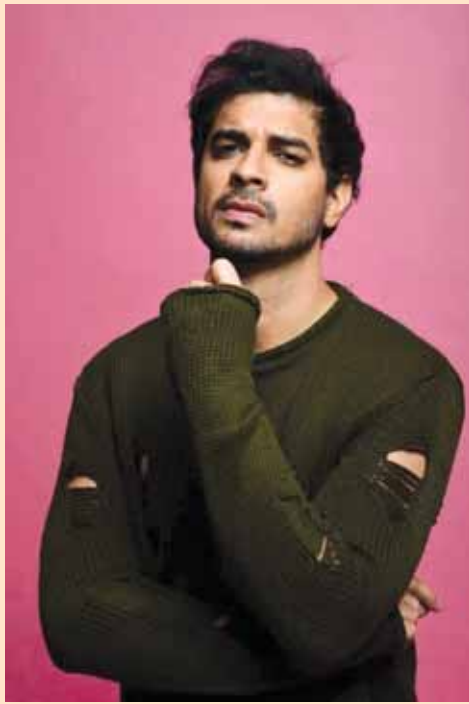
He further advises that you shouldn't try to be something that you are not. Don't have quotes for the heck of it. Don't quote William Shakespeare or Mark Twain for no reason. Just chill out.

### When sanitisers replace perfume: Dating this year as told by Rahul

We're grateful for the scented sanitisers and loving this 2020 dating hack of writing your name on your mask to recognise your match if you do decide to meet IRL.

Trust your elders, especially if it's Rahul with a filter.

## '83 meant for big screen experience: Tahir



The young actor, Tahir Raj Bhasin, will be seen playing the role of Sunil Gavaskar in the Kabir Khan directorial *83*. It is about underdog India's incredible World Cup winning feat in 1983. Tahir is glad that the government has given a green signal for theatres to finally open.

"It is a huge relief that thousands of multiplex employees and businesses that depend on theatres being open will finally get some respite. It is a sector that has endured a very long lockdown. I'm waiting to hear about the film releasing in theatres after this development. It's a film that will transform theatres into cricket stadiums and is meant for a big screen experience!" says Tahir.

He is confident that theatres will do whatever it takes to make movie-watching a safe experience. He also urges people to be responsible citizens in return to fight the virus.

Says he, "Taking precedence over the jubilation of films in theatres are the safety norms that cinema halls and members of the public must adhere to as a combined effort. Wearing a mask, keeping our distance and avoiding stepping out if we exhibit COVID-19 symptoms are a safety self-check we must stick to. As we celebrate the return of the country's favourite form of entertainment, we also must operate very cautiously around the boundaries of the new normal."

## More isn't always better

Volkswagen has added 215 mm to the Tiguan and now calls it the 'Allspace'. But somehow, I preferred the old one



This lockdown has seen the end of automotive journalists like myself jetting off to exotic locations to drive a car, stay in a fancy hotel and return, all usually within 24 hours. Since we are so focussed on the vehicle that we are driving, we really don't get to experience the joys of either the location or the property. Well, those days are long gone, for now at least, and while some readers (and editors) might not lament the end of travel, there was one slight benefit — all automotive writers and presenters got to drive cars at the same time.

The fact is that the lockdown has unfortunately meant that several manufacturers have had challenges sending their fleet of media test-drive cars across the country, and while dealer cars are an option in a pinch, dealers are rarely happy losing a vehicle for a day when they could make actual potential customers drive the car. Because the truth of the matter is that auto journalists don't really buy cars. Well, it's been three years now that I sold my last car.

So, it took a while for me to get my hands on the new Volkswagen Tiguan Allspace. This car is different from the outgoing Tiguan in the sense that it has a 190PS two-litre

petrol engine, and crucially is longer by 215 mm overall, mainly the rear overhang but there is also a 109 mm increase in the wheelbase, something clearly evident on the rear doors. As a result of these extra eight inches, Volkswagen manages to fit in an extra third row. Now, we have seven seats in the Tiguan and if you're wondering where you've seen this story before, there was the Skoda Kodiaq which was the Group's seven-seat competitor in the SUV space, and the Allspace and the Kodiaq are mechanically and structurally the same vehicle. It is just that the Kodiaq isn't on sale right now as there is no BS6 variant, which reduces the possibility of brand cannibalisation inside the group.

So the Allspace is the Kodiaq, but this one should not evaluate it on that front but actually compare this to the outgoing model. Well, truth be told, I liked the old, not-so-long Tiguan. While eight inches

might make a lot of men feel very happy about themselves, it really doesn't do wonders for the Tiguan. Why do I say that? Well, I'm not a fan of extended wheelbase variants unless you're talking of cars like the A8, 7-series and S-Class. That is simply because extended wheelbase vehicles, particularly vehicles not designed to function as limousines, compromise on handling dynamics. Yes, engineers can mitigate the impact of Newtonian physics when it comes to such cars but you keep asking yourself whether it is worth it.

And like many other three-row cars, the Allspace's last row is only to be used in a pinch. Maybe on the school run when you don't have any need to store luggage. That said, with the third row down, you can now store a lot of luggage and by pushing the second row further back, travel in immense comfort. The Allspace is perfect. If you own a Labrador, for example, and want to

take your dog with yourself on a holiday, because you can fit some luggage and a dog, and the dog will find the Allspace a lovely place thanks to features like the panoramic sunroof.

However, I am also a bit disappointed that Volkswagen doesn't offer a diesel option on the Allspace because as nice as the petrol engine is, you wish that it was a bit torquier. It is perfect for urban conditions but on twisty hill roads, you would wish that you had a diesel motor (or a bigger petrol) instead.

So does this car make sense? Well, as compared to other cars in its class, the Allspace which features '4Motion' all-wheel drive is priced at ₹33.24 lakh. It is cheaper than the top-end variants of the Ford Endeavor, Toyota Fortuner and the new MG Gloster, but not quite as large and while it is fabulously well put-together, I am not sure if it has the road presence of the competition.

Nutritionist PRIYA PRAKASH enlists ways in which the Bengal grams or commonly known as chickpeas are the most sought-after ingredients to consume

Chickpeas, which ideally belong to the legume family, have been a part of the middle-eastern, Indian and the Mediterranean cuisine since thousands of years. The two kinds of chickpeas — *Desi* and *Kabuli* — are small and dark, and large and beige-coloured with a thin skin, respectively. Nutrition experts believe that looking around at the market today, we certainly have found a new player in chickpeas. But why? What for? How did they get so popular?

Well, they are known to be a great source of plant-based proteins. They're high in minerals, vitamins and dietary fibre. They can help control the blood sugar levels, in weight management and improve digestive health.

According to a study published in the *NCBI*, 100 gm cooked chickpea has 164k calories, 2.59 g fat, 8.86 g protein, 7.6 g fibre, 27.42 g carbohydrates, 48 mg magnesium, 49 mg calcium, 172 mcg foliate and 168 mg phosphorus.

It is a low and high protein superfood and a great alternative to refined flour which has zero nutrients. Hence, various nutrition companies have developed nutritious gluten gluten-free made of chickpea. So that even when you are enjoying a delicious bowl of pasta, you do not have to compromise on the health factor.

HEALTHY WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Being rich in dietary fibre and high proteins, chickpea keeps you full for a longer period of time. This results in reduced appetite and lower calorie intake which essentially helps in weight management.

BLOOD SUGAR CONTROL

Chickpea have a low glycemic index of 28. It slows the carbohydrate absorption and prevents sudden a spike in blood sugar, making it a good choice for diabetics. The high fibre also helps to prevent inflammation in individuals suffering from Type-1 diabetes.

Aids in digestion, chickpeas include both soluble as well as insoluble fibre, which promotes the growth of good gut bacteria, thereby supporting healthy digestion. The insoluble fibre in regular bowel movements and thus prevents constipation.



BEYOND HUMMUS

HELPS TO PREVENT OSTEOPOROSIS

Chickpea is a good source of calcium, magnesium and potassium — all of which are highly essential for strong bones. It also has the lowest level of phytates among all beans and lentils. Phytates can interfere with the body's ability to absorb calcium. Since chickpeas are soaked before cooking, this step further reduces the phytate levels in it.

CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

The magnesium and potassium content in chickpea helps to maintain healthy blood pressure levels in the body. The soluble fibre helps to reduce LDL or blood cholesterol levels. Both these are known risk factors of heart diseases.

PREVENTS CANCER

Chickpea has a number of cancer-fighting agents such as saponins, selenium, folate and beta carotenes. All these have been known to reduce the risk of developing cancer in breast, lung and colon. Consumption of chickpea also promotes the production of butyrate, which is known to reduce cell proliferation and induce apoptosis, which in turn may reduce the risk of colon cancer.

HEALTHY SKIN AND HAIR

Nutrients like Manganese V Zincins A and B in chickpeas help to reduce wrinkles and age spots. They also help to reduce hair fall and fight dandruff.

Apply a mask made using chickpea flour (*besan*), turmeric powder and water on your face for 15 minutes, wash

HUMMUS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Cooked chickpeas: 1 cup
- Water: 2 tbsp
- Olive oil: 2 tbsp
- Lemon juice: 1 tbsp
- Garlic clove: 1
- Cumin powder: 1 tsp
- Salt: 1/4 tsp

METHOD

- Blend together until smooth and creamy.
- Take a taste test and add more salt if required.



- Sprinkle some chilli flakes and parsley (optional).
- Serve as a healthy dip with pita bread, chips, carrot sticks.

cially for pregnant women or menopausal women, who are at higher risk of being anaemic.

Since they are a rich source of folate, they act as an essential for pregnant women. It helps in the baby's development and prevents neural tube defects. The recommended daily intake of folate for pregnant women is 400 mcg.

The fluctuation of hormones, particularly the decline in estrogen, is the cause of many menopausal complaints or symptoms. Chickpeas are a good source of phytoestrogen, which basically are plant compound that is capise of binding to estrogen receptors and can replace some of the effects of estrogen that is no longer being made. Regular consumption of chickpea thus helps in reducing menopausal symptoms like hot flashes and vaginal dryness.

Tips to use: Apart from the all-time favourite masala, chickpeas can be used in salads, hummus and also as a roasted snack. It can be grounded into flour and used as a thickener in gravies or to make crunchy *pakodas*.

(The writer is Nutrition Coach and Co-Founder of Naturally Yours.)

R E C I P E S

THE DUTCH MULE (COCKTAIL)

WHAT YOU NEED

- Ketel One vodka: 60 ml
- Fresh lime juice: 15 ml
- Ginger juice: 15 ml
- Orange Oleo Saccharum: 15 ml
- Soda water: 120 ml

METHOD

For the Oleo Saccharum

- Peel the entire surface of an orange into a bowl with sugar and muddle well.
- Rest for four to six hours.
- Push the peel to the sides of the bowl, allowing the oil to gather in the centre.
- Remove the peel and chill the syrup before using.

For the Cocktail

- Add all the ingredients to a rocks glass (copper mug if you available).
- Stir to combine.
- Fill the glass with ice and garnish with a slice of lime.

Courtesy: Diageo India.



BROCCOLI AND CORN CUTLET

WHAT YOU NEED

- Potato: 2
- Broccoli: 250 gm
- Sweet corn: 100 gm

- Garlic (minced): 2 tbsp
- Onion (chopped): 1
- Olive oil: 2 tbsp
- Thyme: 10 gm
- Bread crumbs: 500 gm

- Flour: 250 gm
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Oil for frying

METHOD

- Boil the potatoes until cooked

and mash it using fork and allow it to cool.

- In a pan or cooking vessel, add two tbsp oil and heat.
- Once hot, add minced garlic and let it sweat.
- Add finely chopped onion and cook until translucent followed by adding minced broccoli and sweet corn.
- Cook the mixture for about two minutes, add thyme and seasoning.
- Allow the mixture to cool.
- Once the mixture is cooled, mix it with mashed potatoes and add seasoning, if required.
- Shape the mixture into cutlets and store in the chiller for half an hour.
- Make slurry using flour and water with a pinch of salt and pepper each.
- Dip the cutlets into slurry and coat them well using bread crumbs all around.
- Fry the cutlets into medium hot oil until the surface of the cutlets turns crispy.
- Remove excess oil if any through paper towel.
- Serve hot.

Courtesy: Chef Charles Jayakumar, Academy of Pastry & Culinary Arts.



SATAY CHICKEN

WHAT YOU NEED

- Chicken: 500 gm
- Coriander powder: 8 gm
- Curry powder: 10 gm
- Turmeric: 20 gm
- Cumin powder: 8 gm
- Coriander roots: 10 gm
- Garlic: 50 gm
- Oil: 30 ml

METHOD

- Add turmeric, coriander roots, garlic and salt.

- Add other dry ingredients.
- Season the mixture with salt
- Add refined oil and mix it well.
- Pour the marinated liquid over the chicken pieces and allow it to rest for one to two hours.
- Grill it over a pan on medium heat until it is cooked properly.
- Serve hot.

Courtesy: Kiran Chauhan, Head Chef, Krua Thai.

SPICY MANGO PRAWN CURRY WITH KERALA RED RICE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Raw mango (diced): 100 gm
- Prawn (cleaned): 300 gm
- Coconut milk powder: 500 gm
- Oil refined sunflower: 15 ml
- Fenugreek seeds: 0.5 gm
- Mustard seeds: 2.5 gm
- Curry leaves: 5 gm
- Onion (chopped): 250 gm
- Tomato (chopped): 250 gm

- Ginger (chopped): 10 gm
- Ginger paste: 10 gm
- Garlic paste: 10 gm
- Yellow chilli powder: 10 gm
- Kashmiri red chili powder: 5 gm
- Turmeric powder: 5 gm
- Salt to taste
- Tamarind pulp: 50 ml
- Kerala red rice: 100 gm

METHOD


- Heat oil in a sauce pot, add fenugreek seeds and mustard seeds and let it crackle.



- Add curry leaves and chopped onion, cook till onion becomes translucent.
- Add tomato, ginger and chilli and sauté for two minutes.
- Add ginger and garlic paste, cook for another two minutes. Add chilli powder and turmeric. Cook the spices.
- Make coconut milk with coconut milk powder and warm water. Add the coconut milk to the cooking sauce pot and the diced raw mango.

- Let it simmer until the gravy has slightly thickened and mango is tender.
- Add prawns to the curry and cook till done.
- Add tamarind pulp just before removing the sauce pot from heat.
- Wash and soak the red rice for two hours in ample amount of water.
- Boil the rice until done.
- Serve hot mango curry with Kerala red rice.

Courtesy: Vikram Ganpule, Executive Chef at AnnaMaya, Andaz Delhi.



Delhi is in a great rhythm and is doing very well. We've lost a bit of the rhythm and would like to regain some, hopefully, give a tough fight and play a good game

# Royals back at 'happy hunting ground'

Border also criticised the shifting of the Brisbane Test to the back-end. **PT**