WORLD 9

ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN AGREE ON CEASEFIRE IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH **SPECIAL 11** DEAR DOCTOR

KKR BEAT KXIP IN IPL THRILLER **RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD**





USUALSUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Free & fair polls seem impossible in Bengal

he move away from one-party dominance that took place after the general election of 1967 has meant that nearly all political parties have experienced spells in the Opposition, both nationally and at the regional level.

Being the ruling party involves a distinct experience for its members. Apart from normal issues of governance that preoccupies Ministers and a few others, the membership is preoccupied with securing posts that ensures a share of the power the party has secured in Government. This ranges from getting on to the personal staff of Ministers and legislators, securing appointments to Government bodies which can embellish visiting cards and generally basking in reflected alory.

The Opposition experience is altogether different. A party in Opposition doesn't have too much to dole out by way of patronage. There are, of course, the usual quota of appointments in the personal staff of the MPs and MLAs who managed to get elected. But these are few in number and usually taken up those who have been with a politician for long and acquired his/her trust and demonstrated loyalty. Most of the other active members rush to secure party posts of one description or another. I have often been struck by the sheer desperation of people to find a place — however meaningless — in the party's organisational wing. More than anything else it adds to their self-esteem and makes them feel extremely relevant in their own localities. It makes the wait for the next election, when there is another shy at winning power, more bearable.

Opposition politics also involves an additional experience that may not be all that forthcoming when in Government: street politics. Mobilising people for demonstrations and dharnas against the ruling party is the bread and butter of Opposition politics. The belief is that unless an Opposition party is seen to be active on the steets, it will lose its relevance. The conviction may not hold

Mamata has signalled to her party faithful that their political battle with the BJP will have the full backing of the Government machinery. If this pattern persists, the prospects of a free and fair poll in 2021 will be seriously jeopardised

good in an age of 24x7 television and social media But it would be fair to say that this is conventional wisdom. Parties often act according to this belief.

A natural concomitant of street politics is frequent encounters with the local police at dharnas and demonstrations Some of these encounters can be good humoured and experienced policemen know that the Opposition can be 'manage some accommodation, However, inescapably, no agreement is possible

either because the demands are so outrageous or because the police are under instruction from the 'top' to come down hard on the Opposition. Ironically, even this serves a purpose. I know of party apparatchiks who insist that a member is unworthy of assuming responsibilities unless they have experienced lathi blows on the streets. In their world, cerebral politics has no relevance in a political party.

This narration of the political culture that prevails in Indian politics is useful to bear in mind when assessing the widespread disturbances in Kolkata on October 8. The State Yuva Morcha of the BJP had given a call for a mass march on Nabanna, the seat of the West Bengal Government, located just across the second Howrah bridge. Street politics has a long pedigree in Bengal, having been practised at different point by the Left, the Congress and the Trinamool Congress. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made her political mark through street agitations and even now she is most comfortable leading marches or encouraging her party members to fight the Opposition on the streets

The BJP is a relative newcomer to this culture of street protests in Bengal, but in a very short span of time it has learnt the ropes. There is another reason why the State BJP feels the need to be visible on the streets. The local electronic and print media is so tightly in the grip of the ruling dispensation in Kolkata that to attract widespread attention to its challenge to Mamata Banerjee, it has to do things that are dramatic and spectacular. The march on the Government headquarters was precisely such an exercise.

However, to me, a more important question centres on the reaction of the State Government to this street politics. Last Thursday, Mamata Banerjee declared war. She shut the headquarters down, allegedly for fumigation purposes, and instructed the police that the demonstrators must be dealt with as harshly as possible. In simple language it meant that the police were under instructions to beat the BJP workers

black and blue and break up every gathering.

The police followed these instructions faithfully, closed down important arterial roads and showed no tact or restraint in breaking up the four major gatherings in different parts of the city. The beatings were crude and there are video shots of a policeman mercilessly thrashing an elderly man as he tried to shield two children. There is disturbing footage of a Sikh security guard of a politician having his turban pulled off. And there are hospital shots of people with horrible bruises on their backs and legs.

As someone who witnessed a section of the protest march, I can say with certainty that the use of force was disproportionate and aimed almost entirely at teaching the

BJP a lesson. I fear the results will be quite the opposite. What the administration's over-reaction has done is made the BJP raise the ante. There was little prospect that the Assembly election in summer 2021 would be a gentlemanly affair. The spate of political murders and the attacks on BJP leaders has ruled that out. After last Thursday, there is compelling evidence that Mamata Banerjee is over-dependent on the police and administration to exercise political control. This will trigger an appropriate BJP response in the coming days. But more important, she has signalled to her party faithful that their political battle with the BJP will have the full backing of the Government machinery. If this pattern persists, the prospects of a free and fair poll in 2021 will be seriously jeopardised.

Finish rape probe in 2 months: MHA

Advisory to States/UTs on crime against women: Dying declaration can't be discarded

PNS NEW DELHI

A mid criticism of the Uttar Pradesh Police for its handling of the Hathras case, the Union Home Ministry on Saturday issued a fresh advisory to States and UTs on the mandatory action to be taken in cases of crimes against women.

It outlined that the probe in rape cases should be completed within two months, that the dying declaration of a victim can't be discarded merely because it has not been recorded by a Magistrate and that there has to be a mandatory medical examination, with the individual's consent, by a qualified medical professional within 24 hours of receipt of information of such a crime.

The detailed three-page advisory of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) also said there should be compulsory registration of an FIR in case of a cognisable offence under the CrPC, and any failure of police to adhere to laid down rules does not augur well for the delivery of justice.

The law also enables the police to register an FIR or a "Zero FIR", in case the crime is committed outside the jurisdiction of police station, in the event of receipt of information on commission of a cognisable



Activists hold placards during a protest demanding justice for the 19-year-old Dalit woman, who died after four men allegedly gangraped and assaulted her last month, at Ambedkar Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday

offence, which includes cases of sexual assault on women, said the detailed MHA advisory.

"However, even with stringent provisions in law and several capacity building mea-sures undertaken, any failure of police to adhere to these mandatory requirements may not augur well for the delivery of criminal justice in the country, especially in the context of women safety," said the advi-sory, adding that stringent action and investigation must be initiated against the officers responsible for the lapses in handling crimes against the women.

The MHA told the States that the Section 173 of CrPC provides for completion of police investigation in relation to rape in two months and Section 164-A of CrPC provides that in rape or sexual assault investigation, the victim should be examined by

a registered medical practitioner under consent within 24 hours from the time of receiving the information. The advisory said the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, provides that the statement, written or verbal by a person, who is dead, shall be treated as relevant fact in the investigation when the statement is made by a person as to the cause of his (or her) death or as to any of the circumstances of the transaction which resulted in his (or her)

The advisory pointed out that the Supreme Court in a

order dated January 7, 2020 said that "that a particular statement, when being offered as dying declaration and satisfies all the requirements of judicial scrutiny, cannot be discarded merely because it has not been recorded by a Magistrate or that the police officer did not obtain attestation by any person present at the time of making of the statement".

It is necessary to use the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection (SAEC) kits in every case of sexual assault reported for which the Home Ministry

has been regularly conducting training and Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes on procedure for collection, preservation and handling of forensic evidence for police and prosecutors and medical

officers respectively.

In order to facilitate the State police to monitor compliance, the Home Ministry said, an online portal called Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) for monitoring the same has been available exclusively to law enforcement

UP Govt to launch spl drive on women safety during Navratri

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA

As the season of festivals is approaching, the Uttar Pradesh Police on directions of Chief Minister Adityanath on Saturday announced it will carry out a special campaign on the safe-ty of women and girls during the Navratri festival that will

begin from October 17. Additional Chief Secretary Home, Awinish Awasthi held

a meeting with top officials on children, he said. the preparations for Durga Puja and Navratri. During the meeting he directed the officials concerned to ensure the safety of women and to follow the Covid-19 guidelines during festival season.

Awasthi said that a campaign for the empowerment of women will be organised from October 17 to October 25 in the State. The awareness campaign will aim to strengthen the safety of the women and

He said under the directions of the Chief Minister a special police team will be deployed for the safety of women. Orders have also been issued to the officials in this

Awasthi has directed the Anti-Romeo Squad to remain active at crowded and sensitive places. "The mere presence of police helps in controlling crimes," he said.

Continued on Page 4

Schools in UP to reopen for classes 9 to 12 from Oct 19

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar run in shifts and proper atten-Pradesh government on tion will be paid to the health schools for stu- of students dents of classes 9 to 12 will reopen from October 19, after remaining shut for over six months in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Classes will be held in shifts and all necessary protocols including social distancing and proper sanitisation of premises will have to be fol-

lowed by schools, it said.
Students will only be allowed to attend classes after furnishing written permission from their parents or guardians, the government

After proper consideration by the government, it was decided that classes 9, 10, 11 and 12 of all boards outside containment zones will be resumed, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said in a statement.

Classes 9 to 12 will resume with the physical presence of students from October 19, he

Sharma said schools will

classes for 9 and 10 standards will be held. Classes for 11 and 12 standards will be held in the second shift.

He said 50 per cent of the students should be called in every class on one day and the remaining 50 per cent the next day. Arrangement should be made to see that the students sit at a distance of 6 feet from each other, he added.

Sharma said the students would be allowed to attend classes only after they furnish written permission from their parents or guardians as their health and future are impor-

Additional chief secretary, Secondary Education, Aradhana Shukla, has issued an order in this connection and a standard operating procedure (SOP) on health, sanitation and necessary protocols has already been issued for the reopening of schools, the statement said.

Continued on Page 4

Seeking to send a positive sig-nal amid all-round despair due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Centre on Saturday showcased how for the second consecutive day after a month India's active Covid-19 cases remained below the 9-lakh mark as the number of recoveries continued to surpass the

fresh infections' tally.

There are 8,83,185 active cases of Covid-19 which constitute merely 12.65 per cent of the total cases of the country, the Ministry said, adding these are nearly 1/8th of the total cases in the country.

In the last 24 hours, 82,753 patients recovered while there were 73,272 fresh infections. The total Covid-19 recoveries stand at 59,88,822 now while India's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 69,79,423 by early Saturday. The death toll climbed to 1,07,416 with 926

climbed to 1,07,416 with 926 people succumbing to the disease, as per the Centre's data.

"For the second day after the active cases dropped below the 9-lakh mark after a month, the progressive decline continues" it said adding that the tinues," it said adding that the national Covid-19 recovery rate has progressed to 85.81 per

As many as 18 States and Union Territories have recorded recovery rates more than the national average, said the

"This is the result of a collaborative action by States and UTs under the Centre's stratetreatment protocol," it said. As many as 76 per cent of the new recovered cases are

observed to be concentrated in 10 States and UTs namely Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, West Bengal and

India's daily recoveries surpass fresh Covid cases

to contribute the maximum with more than 17,000 singleday recoveries.

The second-most-affected country by active and total cases, and third by fatality, India's coronavirus cases has crossed over 70 lakh on Saturday, India now accounts chhattisgarh, the Ministry and adherence to the standard added. Maharashtra continues cases globally.

Total soars to whopping 70 lakh

CASES: 70,37,329 **DEATHS: 1,08,046 RECOVERED:** 60,45,564 **ACTIVE: 8,82,656**

OIMILO	TO THE CHOLO	DEMINIO	HEOUVEHLED
Maharashtra	15,06,018	39,732	12,29,339
Andhra Pradesh	7,50,517	6,194	6,97,699
Karnataka	7,00,786	9,891	5,69,947
Tamil Nadu	6,51,370	10,187	5,97,033
Uttar Pradesh	4,33,712	6,353	3,87,149
Delhi	3,06,559	5,740	2,78,812
West Bengal	2,91,194	5,563	2,55,838
Kerala	2,79,856	979	1,82,874
Odisha	2,49,693	1,059	2,24,273
Telangana	2,10,346	1,208	1,83,025
Bihar	1,94,966	944	1,83,007
Assam	1,93,387	811	1,63,352
Rajasthan	1,54,785	1,621	1,31,766
Gujarat	1,50,414	3,560	1,30,997
Madhya Pradesh	1,45,245	2,599	1,27,034
Haryana	1,41,090	1,572	1,28,841

China has 60K soldiers along LAC: Pompeo

Talks won't make China change its aggressive stance: US NSA

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

China has amassed 60,000 troops on India's northern border, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said as he hit out at Beijing for its "bad behaviour" and the threats it poses to the Quad countries.

US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said China has attempted to "seize" control of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India by force as part of its territorial aggression The foreign ministers from the Indo-Pacific nations known as the Quad group - the US, Japan, India and Australia - met

in Tokyo on Tuesday in what was their first in-person talks



since the coronavirus pandemic began.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of China's aggressive military behaviour in the Indo-Pacific, South China Sea and along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The Indians are seeing 60,000 Chinese soldiers on their northern border," Pompeo told The Guy Benson Show in an interview on Friday after his return from Tokyo wherein he attended the second Ouad ministerial with his counterparts from India, Japan and Australia.

"They see, the people of their (Quad) nations under-standing that we all slept on this for too long. For decades, the West allowed the Chinese Communist Party to walk all over us. The previous administration bent a knee, too often allowed China to steal our intellectual properties and the millions of jobs that came

along with it. They see that in their country too," he said in the interview. "CCP's

Communist Party) territorial aggression is also apparent on its Indian border where China has attempted to seize control of the Line of Actual Control by force," US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said in a remark on China early this week in Utah.

The Chinese territorial aggression is also true in the Taiwan Strait where the PLA (People's Liberation Army) Navy and Air Force continue to conduct threatening military drills, O'Brien said. "Beijing's signature international development programme, One Belt One Road (OBOR), involves impoverished companies taking on opaque and unsustainable Chinese loans to pay Chinese firms employing Chinese labourers to build their infrastructure," he said. Continued on Page 4

Protesting family cremate body of slain priest after Raj assures aid

PNS NEW DELHI

After a day-long protest with the slain priest Babulal Vaishnav's dead body, his family finally performed his last rites after two days on Saturday when the Rajasthan Government assured it of $\raiset{10}$ lake financial assistance, a Government job and a house under PM Awas Yojana.

Taking to micro-blogging site Twitter, BJP MP Kirori Lal Meena announced that the aggrieved family has ended the protest and agreed to cremate his body after Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh, job for a family member and a house under the PM Awas Yojana. The local SHO was transferred from the area, he added.

Earlier, the family had refused to perform the last rites of the victim priest until their demands of ₹50 lakh and a Government job for a family member were met by the Rajasthan Government.

Job for a family member were met by the Rajasthan Government.

It had refused Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Om Prakash Meena's request to the family to perform the last rites. The priest's death had created national outrage.

Earlier in the day, Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra spoke to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot about the situation as thousands of villagers protested in Rajasthan's Bukna village in Karauli against the brutal murder.

the brutal murder. After the family refused to perform last rites, the Rajasthan government approached the family and announced that it would give the monetary compensation, a house, a job on contract to one of the family members and an assurance that all the

Continued on Page 4

Cabinet nod to enhanced security cover for CM

In a late Friday night move, the Uttar Pradesh cabinet decided to further beef up the security protocol of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

For the last few days, the chief minister has been receiving constant threats to eliminate him and against the backdrop of the development, the chief minister's security will be supersized.

chief minister's fleet will be more secure during road travel and no one will be able to distinguish it. From now on, Yogi Adityanath will be provid-ed protection on the lines of the security protocol of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

For this, the UP cabinet passed the proposal by circulation on Friday. However, no official announcement was made in this regard while an official communiqué on cabinet decisions was released on Saturday evening.

As per government sources, the structure of the chief minister's security fleet has been fixed as per the instructions of the government approved Green Book (revised version, 2017) for the protection of the chief minister. Sources said that now the position of additional vehicle running in the chief minister's convoy will be changed. The additional vehicle is kept as a

PNS LUCKNOW

fter accusing opposition par-

Aties and anti-national forces of

conspiring to incite caste conflict

after the Hathras incident, Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath once

again warned the people to beware

of the divisive elements in the

addressing party office-bearers of

booth, division and sector of

Deoria Assembly constituency

which goes to bypolls on

meeting from his Lucknow resi-

dence on Saturday.



Under the new plan, the reserve for emergencies and operates only between fleet vehicles. At present, the posi-tion of the additional vehicle is changed only in vehicles running for the protection of the prime minister. This change will be recorded in the Chief Minister's Green Book of

Earlier in 2017, the Green Book was reviewed for Yogi's security. Sources said that the security officials studied PM Modi's Blue Book of Security after which they recommended the change.

In view of the terror threat to the chief minister, his security has been reviewed from time to time. Earlier, a decision was taken to make the glass panes of the chief minister's office at Lok Bhawan bullet proof. This plan was prepared on the suggestion of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Similarly, security arrangements have also been strength-

Samajwadi Party and Bahujan

Samaj Party, Yogi exhorted people

to guard against their nefarious

nation is in their DNA. First,

they divided the country and

now they are out to divide the

society on caste, religion, commu-

nity and regional basis," he point-

Disunity, division, discrimi-

Gorakhnath temple in Gorakhpur and CCTV cameras have been installed. Besides, barriers have also been

Meanwhile, the state cabinet also approved a proposal for a light rail transit system to ease traffic in Gorakhpur city and approved a detailed project

report for the project.
Also, a proposal for demolishing some old buildings in Gorakhpur collectorate for construction of new ones also got the cabinet's nod.

It was also decided to run government polytechnics and industrial training institutes (ITIs) on the public-private partnership model.

The government also sanctioned guarantees to facilitate cash credit limit of UP Cooperative Bank and District Cooperative Bank for 2020-21 cane crushing season of cooperative sugar mills. The government raises this limit every year. In another decision, the government, under its Ease of Doing Business policy, empowered deputy excise commissioners to decide on liquor shops, instead of the present arrangement where only excise commissioner and the government are empowered for it.

For increasing the production capacity of liquor, a committee under additional chief secretary (excise) has also been

Yogi asks people to beware of divisive elements

If CM is insecure, what about the public?, asks Akhilesh

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav questioned further beefing up of the security of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday.

"If the chief minister feels so threatened then the state of the security of the common man can be anybody's guess in Uttar Pradesh," the SP chief said in Lucknow.

Yadav said that the security of the chief minister had been beefed up and a proposal was passed by the UP cabinet by circulation and also registered in the Green Book on CM's security.

The SP chief further said that the prime minister's security was detailed in the Blue Book and after its study, the chief minister's Green Book had been reviewed.

"Since the day the chief minister assumed power, his security has been reviewed from time to time. Hence the question arises that if there is so much threat to his security in 2020, what kind of state are the people in,"

Akhilesh pointed out that

as per 2019 report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there was a 12 percent increase in total cases related to harassment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in UP.

"Besides, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of 59,853 cases of crime against women, including 272 cases of rapes of minor girls and 3,065 cases of rapes in 2019," he said.

Taking a jibe at the chief minister, the SP chief said that Yogi Adityanath was so worried about his own security that he did not have time to think about the life of the people of the state.

"If one scans recent cases, even Bharatiya Janata Party leaders are not safe in this regime. The uncle of the BJP MLA from Ghaziabad's Muradnagar was brutally murdered on Friday. Besides, a member of the block development committee was shot at in Azamgarh, while a youth in Mau, a woman in Etawah, an elderly man in Gauriganj (Amethi) were murdered. The police are not paying attention to incidents of crime against women in the BJP rule," he

"These are just the tip of the iceberg. In Mainpuri, a five-year-old girl was raped in Kuravali police station area but instead of bringing the culprits to justice and ensuring medical treatment to the victim, a compensation of Rs 20,000 was provided by the accused in a panchayat to settle the matter. Is it not travesty of justice?' Akhilesh asked.

The SP chief further pointed out that a girl was gang-raped in Atrauli (Aligarh) and a 13-year-old girl was kidnapped and gang-raped in Noida. "Besides, a girl was raped in Banda and in Unnao, after being gang-raped, a victim was thrown on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway," pointed out. The former chief minister of UP said that the reality of the BJP rule in UP was that criminals were scripting a new chapter every day while the ruling party chose to be silent on all these inci-

"Law and order has spun out of government control and all the tall claims of the chief minister have been battered," Akhilesh charged.

Naxal twist to mystery woman at Hathras victim's house

PNS LUCKNOW

n yet another quirky twist to the alleged rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras, the officers probing the case now suspect a Naxal angle on the premise that a woman, who identified herself as the victim's sister-in-law during media interactions, disappeared soon after Close Circuit Television (CCTv) cameras were set up around the perimeter of the

However, the woman challenged the probe team's claim within a few hours in Jabalpur and denied having any Naxal

The investigators have been looking for the mysterious woman who stayed at the victim's house before doing the vanishing act.

The police maintained that during meeting with political leaders and media persons, the woman used to be the central point and spoke on

behalf of the victim's kin. It was further alleged that in several videos, the woman instigated the kin and even tutored them on speaking to

the media. However, the victim's sister-in-law identified the woman as Rajkumari Bansal and said that she was based in Jabalpur.

The disclosure turned out to be true as Bansal appeared in Jabalpur and dismissed the charges of her posing as the victim's sister-in-law or having Naxal links.

Bansal, a physician by profession, works at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Medical College in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh).

The medico said that it was all a figment of imagination of some media channels.

"I was present at the victim's house and if someone identifies me as the fake sisterin-law, I can't help. Did I claim I was her kin. I only speak on the basis of evidence;" she said.

When asked about the purose behind her visit to Hathras, the medico said that it was purely on humanitarian grounds as she was upset with growing "atrocities" in the last few years. "I had planned to extend

some financial help and also gave them my one month's salary. I had planned to return the next day after spending some hours with the family but they requested me to stay there for a couple of days to which I agreed," she explained.

"I learnt that the UP SIT is linking me with Naxals. When they meet me, then only will I know what they are trying to probe against me. I was born and brought up in Madhya Pradesh and started working here," Bansal said.
The medico also dismissed

any links to Bhim Army, but said that she had been active in social work since 2017.

Meanwhile, the Mathura police will enquire about Bahraich-native Masood Ahmed, who was recently arrested along with three others on way to Hathras from Delhi on Óctober 5.

All four are suspected of having links with the Popular Front of India (PFI).

Superintendent of Police of Bahraich, Vipin Mishra, said on Saturday, "A team of Mathura police spoke to Ahmed's father and neighbours in Baraikaji locality of Jarwal Road area on Saturday and took their statements. The team also obtained details about Masood from the local police."

SSP of Mathura, Gaurav Grover, said, "Information and details were collected about the four accused with suspected links with CFI (Campus Front of India), the student wing of PFI. Details about them were also obtained from their Delhi residence. After collecting the evidence, the police will pre-

pare its report."

Meanwhile, a delegation of Akhil Bharatiya Kshatriya Mahasabha led by former Union minister Raja Manvendra Singh met the family members of the alleged rape and murder accused in Hathras and assured them legal help if they were innocent.

"After hearing their statements and checking the facts, we are sure that the youths are innocent. They have been framed by the victim's family to save their own skin," Singh told media persons after meeting

डॉ० अतर सिंह कैलाश कुमारी विधि महाविद्यालय

त्रिवर्षीय पाठयक्रम हेतु, कार्यालय लिपिक, कम्प्यूटर लिपिक, कार ड्राइवर, घरेलू सेविका एवं सुरक्षा गार्ड। योग्यता व वेतनमान बार काउसिंल ऑफ इण्डिया नर्ड दिल्ली एवं विश्वविद्यालय के मानकानुसार । 15 दिनों

सम्पर्क सूत्र- 9839620217, 9936114411, 0512- 2580133

Without naming Congress, Senior citizens account for 45 pc COVID-19 deaths

percent," Prasad said. He said that

comorbidity was the main reason

for such a large number of

deaths, accounting for 74 percent

said the government was con-

cerned about such a high death rate

among the senior citizens, hence it

had asked the people of this age

group to be cautious and follow all

the Covid guidelines and take pre-

4,33,712, out of which 3,87,149

have recovered and 40,210 are get-

ting treatment in hospitals or in

home isolation. The recovery per-

centage in the state has also

their lives to the deadly virus with

A total of 6,353 people have lost

World Bank likely to fund ODOP scheme

week, a World Bank delegation had met senior

officials of the MSME and Export Promotion

Sehgal said that the state government urged the

World Bank to expedite the process of extend-

ing institutional and funding support to the

Bank officials about the ODOP scheme and the

UP government was working closely with dif-

ferent funding agencies to facilitate flow of easy

inaugurated, 20,000 ODOP products have been

benefited with more than Rs 100 crore under

margin money scheme. In order to promote the

ODOP products, the state government had ear-lier firmed up alliances with different organisa-

tions and companies, including e-commerce

credit to entrepreneurs.

integrated with online platforms.

MSME and ODOP enterprises in the state.

Additional Chief Secretary (MSME) Navneet

The MSME department briefed the World

While 13 common facility centres have been

So far, about 3,000 ODOP units have been

increased to 89.26 percent.

The additional chief secretary

casualties.

deaths, 71 percent were males and itive cases in the state has reached

of 51-60 years, the positivity rate is 13 percent but the death rate is 25.3 hours.

ventive measures.

This is to inform that my name was PNS LUCKNOW

GEETA MISHRA before. Now I have changed my name GEETA MISHRA to GITA MISHRA in future known as GITA MISHRA for all purpose

NOTICE

NOTICE

I have changed the name of my son from Krishna Gupta to Adhiraj Gupta. In future he should be known as Adhiraj Gupta-Manoj Kumar Gupta, SS-1/6, Sector-A, Jankipuram, Near Tadikhana Crossing,

NOTICE

I am Sumit Yadav, Add. 105B/4 Vinova Nagar, Gandhi Gram, Kanpur (UP) 208007, I have changed My Son Aniket Yadav's name to Chetan Yadav and in future he will be known by the same name.

NOTICE

I, No. 14640449Y, Rank Nk Name Dinesh Kumar S/o Shripal Mourya Unit Central Command Counter Int. Unit Lucknow do hereby declared that in my service records my wife's name wrongly mentioned as Minu Devi. While her correct name is Meenu Devi and same has to be incorporated in my service

NOTICE

My High School (Roll No.1485124) & Intermediate (Roll No. 974262) Marksheet, Certificate and Experience Certificate & Marksheet (Roll No.83859) of B.Sc. (Maths) & Marksheet of M.C.A. have actually lost somewhere near Kapoorthala. If someone finds it, please contact - Praveen Kumar, R/o 613/P 11C Keshav Nagar-2, Lucknow

Yogi made these remarks while The chief minister said that the BSP and the SP ruled the state for 15 years but had only corruption and anarchy as dubious achieve-November 3, through a virtual He asked BJP workers to

disseminate the message of development initiated in this coun-

Uttar Pradesh Health department on Saturday disclosed

that 74 percent of the COVID-19

deaths were due to comorbidity

while 45 percent of the casualties

were of people above the age of 60

Saturday, Additional Chief Secretary

(Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said

that in the audit report of 6,000

COVID-19 deaths so far of the total

6,353 deaths, it was found that cit-

izen above the age of 60 years faced

rest 29 percent were females while

63 percent were from urban and 37

though the positivity rate of citizens

above the age of 60 years is just 9.4

percent, their death percentage is

45 points. Besides, in the age group

Multilateral financial institution World Bank is likely to fund projects under the

flagship One District, One Product (ODOP)

January 25, 2018, to promote the state's tradi-

tional and indigenous industries in the micro,

small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector

by providing funding, training, marketing sup-

orate with the state under two different pro-

grammes. There is also a proposal to develop an

ecosystem of 14 agricultural and food process-

ing products related to the ODOP scheme to

promote entrepreneurship through integrated

products would be handheld under schemes run

by the Centre and the World Bank. Earlier this

The ecosystem of other ODOP and MSME

The World Bank evinced interest to collab-

The ODOP scheme was launched on

scheme of the UP government.

cluster development.

percent from rural background.

He said of the total 6,000

"But the serious thing is that

the brunt of the disease.

Disclosing these facts here on

try by Prime Minister Narendra "The graph of the BJP is head-

ing north by the day which has in fact upset the opposition apple cart," he said.

Yogi said that as many as 50,000 children died due to encephalitis in the eastern districts of UP between 1974 and 2017.

"Most of these deceased children were from poor families but nobody raised their voice for them. It is the present BJP government in UP that resolved to root out the menacing disease and its tragic aftermath," he empha-

The chief minister also ment.

announced that Deoria medical college would start functioning from the next session and a permanent solution of drainage problem in the district would be found

Yogi also lambasted the SP and the BSP governments in UP for selling out sugar mills one by one and in the process disbalancing the sugar economy of the region, once termed as the Sugar Bowl of

BJP state chief Swatantra Dev Singh exhorted partymen to work on the development model and make people aware of the welfare schemes run by the govern-

"The serious thing is that though the positivity rate of citizens above the age of 60 years is just 9.4 percent, their death percentage is 45

Meanwhile, altogether 3,099 fresh cases of COVID-19 were Prasad said that on Friday a reported on Saturday in Uttar record,1,76,514 samples were test-Pradesh while 4,063 people recoved and now the total Covid tests in the state had reached another mile-Now the tally of confirmed posstone of 1,17,26,075.

points"

He said there were 18,654 asymptomatic patients in home isolation while 3,106 patients were admitted to private hospitals and the rest were recovering in government-run Covid hospitals.

Over 4.11 lakh surveillance teams have covered 1,36,383 areas of the state and visited 2.66 crore houses to check the health of over 13.18 crore people.

Five-year-old girl raped in Sandila

man was arrested for allegedly raping a five-Aman was arrested for anegotal, arrang an Ayear-old girl in Sandila town of Hardoi on

Superintendent of Police of Hardoi, Anurag Vats, said that the girl was allegedly raped by her tuition teacher's brother when she went to his residence to attend classes. The victim was sent for medical examination and the police have arrested

'An FIR will be registered and evidence of the crime will also be collected," the SP said.

Meanwhile in Azamgarh, a 16-year-old mentally unstable boy was caught for allegedly bludgeoning an elderly couple to death with a stone in Garholi village on Friday night. Shrinath Maurya (70) and his wife Maina Devi (65) were sleeping in the veranda of their house when they were killed during the night. The couple's son works in Mumbai and they were alone in the house at the time of the incident. Children playing in the vicinity of the house noticed their bloodied bodies and raised an alarm.

The perpetrator of the crime was later identified as Golu Maurya of the same village. The police said that Golu's family used to keep $\bar{\text{him}}$ locked in room But on Friday night he managed to slir out and bludgeoned the couple.

The bodies were sent for autopsy In Aligarh, three passengers were killed and five injured after the bus they were travelling in overturned in Tappal area. The bus carrying 45 passengers was headed to Delhi from Kanpur when it hit

a road divider in Simrathi locality and overturned. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief at death of the passengers and directed the officials to extend best possible health care to the injured. Efforts were being made to identify the

तातियागंज, कानपुर नगर- २०९२ १७ **आवश्यकता है -** सहायक आचार्य-एलएल.बी.

के अन्दर आवेदन करें। सिटी ऑफिस- 162-ए, अवधपुरी कालोनी , लखनपुर, कानपुर- 208024

SCHOOLSCAN

FIRST PRIZE

Garvita Mishra, a class XII student of City Montessori School, Aliganj Ćampus I, won the first prize in an inter-school instrumental music competition, bringing laurels for the instution. The competition was organised by Mount Carmel College. Garvita mesmerised everyone with her outstanding tabla skills. Judges of the event awarded a certificate to her.

giants Amazon and Ebay, to provide global mar-

keting platforms to such products, including

leather goods, textiles, wood carving, brassware,

exclusive retail outlets to market such tradition-

let will span 100 square metres in prominent

markets, shopping malls, airports, railway sta-

tions etc. This will be partly financially support-

ed by the state government and any government,

semi-government or private organisation can run

exiting China owing to the resentment over the COVID-19 pandemic. The government is tar-

geting to augment MSME exports in the next

three years to touch the ambitious Rs 3 trillion-

Besides, the state government is in the process of rationalising its investment and export promotion policies to attract companies

The state government is planning to launch

As per the proposal, a standard ODOP out-

glassware, marble products, carpets etc.

al products across the country.

these outlets.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR RAIL PASSENGERS **CMS STUDENT WINS** It is notified for information of general

public that Railway Administration will run following special trains:-(1) 09075/09076 Bandra (T) - Ramnagar -Bandra

(T) Special SF train (Weekly) 09075 Ex.Bandra (T) From 15.10.2020 till further advice.

 09076 Ex. Ramnagar From 16.10.2020 till further advice. Days of run & Timings will be same as Train No. 22975/22976

Days	nrum & rm	migs v	viii be same as	11 am 110. 229 / 5/229 / 0.
Train No.	From -To	Days of run	Rake Composition	Stoppages
09075	Bandra(T)- Ramnagar		AC2-Tier-1, AC3-Tier-3,	Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Bharuch Jn., Vadodara Jn., Godhra Jn., Dahod,
09076	Ramnagar- Bandra(T)		Class-4	Ratlam Jn., Nagda Jn, Ramganj Mandi Jn., Kota Jn., Sawai Madhopur Jn, Gangapur City, Bharatpur Jn., Achhnera Jn., Mathura Jn, Hathras City, Kasganj Jn., Budaun, Bareilly Jn., Izzatnagar, Baheri, Kichha, Lal Kuan

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No. 88/2020

= 18 Coaches | Jn., Bazpur, Kashipur Jn. (2) 09021/09022 Bandra (T) - Lucknow - Bandra (T) special SF train (Weekly) 09021 Ex. BDTS From 17.10.2020 till further advice. 09022 Ex. UN From 18.10.2020 till further advice

Days of run & Timings will be same as Train No. 19021/19022.

Train No.	From - To	Days of run	Rake Composition	Stoppages
	Bandra(T)- Lucknow Jn.			Borivali, Boisar, Vapi, Surat, Bharuch Jn., Vadodara Jn., Godhra Jn.,
09022	LucknowJn Bandra(T)	SUN	Sleeper - 9, General Second Class - 4, Break Van - 2	Dahod, Ratlam Jn., Bhawani Mandi, Kota Jn., Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur Jn., Achhnera Jn., Mathura Jn., Hathras City, Kasganj, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Kanpur Anwrganj, Kanpur Central.

These trains will run with reserved accommodation. It is mandatory for the passengers to follow the guidelines issued for prevention and safety from Covid-19.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager, Gorakhpur About any Passenger Amenity Complaint SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955. "DO NOT SMOKE BIDI / CIGARATE IN TRAIN"

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2 girls mowed

down by truck

wo girls were killed in a

Troad mishap while their kin

suffered grievous injuries in

Kakori on Saturday morning. The senior among them was

preparing for UP Police ser-

vices. The deceased were iden-

tified as Khushi Gautam aka Aradhna (18) and Priva (16) of

Sanyasibagh in Malihabad

while the injured as Pinki

Gautam (17) of the same local-

ity. Priya is Khushi's niece

while Pinki is the daughter of

Khushi's uncle. They were hit

by a speeding truck on Lucknow-Hardoi highway.

PNS LUCKNOW

Cases on decline in urban pockets | Property dealer shot at by

317 test +ve, 561 recover

PNS LUCKNOW

The urban pockets in Lucknow have now less than 50 Covid cases each. In some areas such as Aishbagh and Sarojininagar, there were less than 10 cases on October 9 even as Nagram, Maal and Itaunja have very few cases and can be comfortably termed silent zones.

A senior official at the CMO office pointed out that Gomtinagar, earlier, Indiranagar , Aliganj and Alambagh had more than 100 cases each. According to the official, seven lakh tests have been done in Lucknow -3,54,000 through RT-PCR, 3,20,000 antigen tests and 32,000 through TruNat machines — under containment activities.

Meanwhile, 317 persons tested positive for coronavirus in the city on Saturday while 561 patients recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 51,498. There have been 772 deaths till now and there are 5,116 active cases in the state

A senior official at the CMO office said the patients included 30 from Rae Bareli road, 29 from Indiranagar, 28 from Gomtinagar, 15 from Hazratganj, 14 from Madiaon, 13 each from Aliganj & Talkatora, 12 each from Gudamba & Naka, 11 from Jankipuram, and 10 each from Alambagh, Vikasnagar, Chowk and Chinhat. There were 10 deaths in the district and four of the deceased belonged to Lucknow while the rest from other districts.

Five patients died at KGMU, including a 58-yearold man from Lucknow, a 30year-old man from Lucknow, a 52-year-old man from Sitapur, a 65-year-old woman and a 54year-old man from Amethi.

Across the state, 3,099 persons tested positive, including



LMC workers conducting sanitisation inside family court premises on Saturday

161 in Prayagraj, 154 each in Ghaziabad & Varanasi, 153 in Meerut and 151 in Gorakhpur, taking the tally to 4,33,712. There were 60 deaths in the state, including four each in Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Meerut & Azamgarh, three in Prayagraj, two in Kanpur, Gautambuddh

Moradabad, Nagar, Shahjahanpur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Etawah, Chandauli & Mau, and one each in Aligarh, Jhansi, Saharanpur, Agra, Deoria, Jaunpur, Maharajganj, Mathura, Sitapur, Sultanpur, Sonbhadra, Hapur, Ferozabad, Mirzapur, Auraiyya, Jalaun and Shrawasti. As many as 4,063 patients recovered in the state, taking the total number of recoveries to 3,87,149 while there are 40,210 active cases across the state.

Meanwhile, Dr Ishwar Gilada from People Health Organization said that in the Covid-19 era, people were tired

of being told what is not to be done but their new poster clearly mentions what can be done at this stage.

"It is safe getting clothes ironed or laundered. We were surprised to learn from many people that they are scared of getting their clothes ironed or laundered because of Covid scare. Both the activities are safe and ironing or laundry will kill coronavirus," he said.

He pointed out that online shopping is also safe. "During initial part of the pandemic, there was an undue scare of importing coronavirus from parcels. Till date, there has not been a single case of Covid-19 through this mode. One needs to use logic, ensure simple precautions. Use sanitiser to clean hands after handling such parcels, discard and dispose off the outer bag or box,"

Dr Gilada said it was also

Mukhtar's henchmen

A group of miscreants, said to be henchmen of mafiaturned-politician Mukhtar Ansari's protégé in Lucknow, shot at property dealer in Bakshi-Ka-Talaab police station area on Saturday after the lat-ter refused to shell out Rs 5 lakh as extortion. Kin of the victim said he was being terrorised for the last few weeks. Police said they probing into the allega-tions and searching for the

The victim, identified as Sudhakar Singh of Indaurbagh locality, was at a dhaba in the area along with his cousin Ashu Singh when his rival Anuj Singh and his henchmen in different SUVs reached the scene. They started abusing Sudhakar and even lobbed crude bombs at him while one of them opened fire. Sudhakar



people started converging on the scene, the miscreants sped off the scene while issuing threats to the victim. A profusely bleeding Sudhakar was rushed to hospital where his condition was said to be

Preliminary investigation revealed that the victim was attacked around 2:30 pm. The dhaba owner told the police that the group of attackers first had a verbal spat with Sudhakar and one of them shot at him in the meantime. They then lobbed crude bombs and sped off the scene.

In his statement to police, Sudhakar said Anuj and others are henchmen of Mukhtar Ansari and their handler is Babu Singh, who is said to be Lucknow's agent of Ansari overseeing extortion work. He said he was attacked at the behest of Babu Singh who had demanded Rs 5 lakh as extortion money. He said he and others like him used to shell out extortion money goons. Sources said the goons extort money from businessmen and property dealers in the city. "The trend was popular earlier but witnessed a decline during the last few years. However, these goons have started raising their heads

Reports said Priya died on the spot while Khushi and Pinki were rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where Khushi succumbed to injuries. Khushi was preparing for a job in UP Police and would practise running everyday. Inspired by her, Priya and Pinki were also following suit. Khushi's brother Santosh Kumar said she, along with Priya and Pinki, left the house around 5 am and met the mishap.

Gloom descended on the village after the news reached there. Villagers flocked to the scene and flayed the police for failing to regulate the speed of vehicles. They said the girls were running on the edge of the road but recklessness on the part of the truck driver cut short the lives of two promising girls. A case was registered in this connection while police launched a manhunt for the errant truck driver.

SUICIDE

A class XII girl student ended her life at her house in PGI police station area on Saturday. Rashmi Yadav (19) of South City was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around her neck. The incident came to light around 1 pm on Saturday. Her family members took her to a hospital where she was declared brought dead. Her father, Ritendra Kumar Yadav is private company employee. The girl was said to have been upset over some issue.

Illegal liquor manufacturing unit busted; 12 arrested

With the arrest of 12 accused, Sarojininagar police claimed to have busted a manufacturing unit distilling illegal liquor. The team recovered 30,480 bottles of desi liquor, 13,725 litres of chemiliquor, 13,725 nues or enemical/spirit used in preparing alcohol, 77,920 empty bottles, six sacks filled with bottle caps, two cartons filled with wrappers of branded companies of Haryana and Arunachal Pradesh, two RO cylinders and an RO machine besides other

Those arrested were identified as Badelal, Akash Kumar (both of Kushinagar), Arvind Kumar, Sangam, Akash Jaiswal, Akash Jaiswal (II), Pawan Kumar (all of Gorakhpur), Sonu Kumar of Vaishali in Bihar, Gajendra Chauhan of



Mirzapur, Nagendra Chauhan, Raju Chauhan (both of Bhadohi) and Arun Singh of Amethi. The factory was being run near the new tehsil in Sarojininagar and was being run in the guise of a manufacturing unit for sanitisers and RO water plant. It surfaced that the manufacturing unit was being run by Manoj Yadav of Biduna in Auraiyya district and in an under-construction warehouse. Manoj was running the factory in partnership with his relative Vikas Yadav and his friend Manjeet Jaiswal.

fied conman masquerading as a policeman duped a woman of two gold bangles, a gold chain and two gold rings in Viraj Khand locality under Vibhuti Khand police station area on Saturday morning. As per reports, Sunita Tiwari of Viraj Khand went to a temple inside a park close to her house in the morning. She was stopped by a man who, the woman said, appeared to be a Sikh. "He asked me to put off my gold ornaments as theft incidents were witnessing a spurt in the area and it was unsafe to wear ornaments while going out. He then wrapped my ornaments around a piece of paper with which he left along with his aide who was waiting with a bike for him outside," she told the police. A case was regis-

tered in this connection.

Meanwhile, an unidenti-

LU VC asks associated colleges to submit academic audit reports

Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University AK Rai on Saturday directed assoacademic audit reports. A meeting of associated colleges and officials of LU was convened under the chairmanship

The discussion regarding the academic audit was done in the previous meeting and format of academic audit report has been sent by Dean CDC to each college. The VC noted that some colleges had not submitted the required information in the prescribed format while others have not submitted the report.

Rai emphasised that colleges must submit the academic audit reports immediately with complete information to the official mail or send a hard copy to the office of the

The meeting was called to review the preparation of e-content by teachers of the colleges, progress of academic audit report of the colleges for the previous academic session 2019-20, conduct of monitoring of classes by the online teaching by the colleges, payment of salary to approved

gramme on Saturday.

activities are being conducted,

virtually by SGPGI Breast

Health Programme in collabo-

ration with various education-

al institutions, social and cultural organisations to create

awareness about various

aspects of breast cancer, and to

promote breast screening and

early diagnosis of this disease.

monest cancer affecting Indian

Breast cancer is the com-



teachers working in the colleges, admission of students to the new academic session 2020-21, conduct of the forthcoming semester examinations and the lax response to official letters issued by the

The VC informed the colleges about the centralised facility offered by LU for uploading their e-content on the Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Digital Library for the benefit of student community at large, especially those in remote areas.

Regarding online teaching, he stressed on the regular authorities. He asked the managers and principals to keep a record of the classes and should be furnished to the university, when required. Regarding the payment of salary to the approved teachers working in the colleges, the LU VC issued clear instructions to follow the GO in letter and spirit and pay salary in time.

The VC said that the direction given by the university from time to time regarding admission to the new academic session should be adhered to. "The decision regarding the forthcoming semester examination will be conveyed to the colleges and teaching and classes should continue smoothly till then,"

Special lecture on self-reliant India organised

safe going for a walk or jog.

"You do not get coronavirus

infection from going out for a

walk or a jog. What needs to be

avoided is too much socialising,

handshakes, hugging etc," he said. He added that eating

home-delivered food was

Meanwhile, a programme was organised at Collectorate

on the occasion of World Mental Health Day and coro-

na warriors who worked hard for containment of the virus were felicitated by District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash.

CDO Manish Bansal was also felicitated for handling the

Integrated Control and

Command Centre in an effi-

cient manner. Others felicitat-

ed were ADMs, block devel-

opment officers and doctors

from the Health department.

The programme was also attended by CMO Dr Sanjay

also safe.

Lucknow (PNS): AKTU organised a special online lecture under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign, which was Chancellor Vinay Pathak on Saturday. The lecture was organised with collaboration of TEQIP-3 on 'How to be ready for future'.

Chief information officer of RJ Corp Group Kamal Karnataka was the keynote speaker. Prof Subodh Variya said AKTU is working with a commitment for incubation and start-up to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

"AKTU is providing selfemployment opportunities to students of affiliated institutes through programmes such as Kalam Internship League, Start-up Parikrama and Innovation Gallery".

Pro Vice-Chancellor Vineet Kansal said the mantra of vocal for local needs to be imbibed in order to embody the concept of self-reliant India. In this sequence, a district is working in collaboration with MSME department in a prod-

uct programme.

Kamal Karnataka called upon the students to join the self-reliance campaign.

विशेष संचारी रोग नियंत्रण अभियान





घर – घर पर दरतक १ से १५ अक्टूबर, २०२० तक

दिमागी बुखार की रोकथाम के लिये क्या करें























बुखार होने पर बच्चों को बिना किसी देरी के उपचार के लिए सरकारी अस्पताल लायें। कोई भी बुखार दिमागी बुखार हो सकता है।

> टीकाकरण से छूटे हुए बच्चों एवं गर्भवती महिलाओं को सूचीबद्ध कर टीकाकरण किया जायेगा।



नि:शुल्क एम्बुलेंस 108



Breast cancer: Early detection is the key PNS LUCKNOW mated 2.05 lakh women this to estrogen for longer duration. change, consult the doctor. It is year. It constitutes roughly 30 Women who smoke, eat high- $E_{\text{prevention of breast cancer,}}$ per cent of all cancers occurfat diet and drink alcohol are ring in Indian women, and for more at risk of developing which is the most common about half of all cancer-related

type in women in India and deaths in women in India. Even though males do not develop milk producing accounts for 14% of all cancers in women, said Dr Gaurav Agarwal from SGPGI's Breast breasts, a man's breast can still and Endocrine Surgery departdevelop cancer, but it is rare," ment while speaking at the he said. breast cancer awareness pro-He said there are a number He said that a series of

of risk factors known to increase or decrease the risk of breast cancer for individual patients. "Women whose mothers or sisters had breast cancer carry a higher risk of developing this disease. As women get older, they are at higher risk of breast cancer. Women who started having periods earlier or entered menopause later than usual are at a higher risk of developing breast cancer. This is because

breast cancer. Frequent exposure to X-rays and CT scans may raise a women's chance of developing breast cancer. Overweight women are also at a higher risk of developing breast cancer," Dr Agarwal

He pointed out that only a small percentage of lumps in the breast are cancerous. "For reducing the risk of having breast cancer, women should be physically active, control weight, limit alcohol, avoid hormonal contraceptives, limit dose and duration $\bar{o}f$ hormone therapy, avoid exposure to radiation and environmental pollution," he said.

'Women should be aware as to how their breast normalwomen, and will affect an esti- their bodies have been exposed ly look and feel. If you feel any

advisable for women around 40 years to get their mammography done. Mammography is a simple radiographic technique which helps in detecting irregularities in the breast tissue," he He further pointed out

that a vast majority of patients with early-stage breast cancer can be treated with breast conservation and oncoplastic breast surgery without the need for removal of whole breast.

"Oncoplastic breast surgery is a hybrid surgery that expert breast surgeons do to achieve the twin goals of cure of cancer, while also maintaining breast shape, size, contour and symmetry," he said. He added that breast cancer treatment, especially for late stage disease, can be quite long-drawn and

joins **BJP**

PNS DEHRADUN

The original petitioner L against triple Talaq in the Supreme Court, Shayara Bano joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in the presence of the BJP state president Banshidhar Bhagat and other party leaders here on Saturday

Welcoming her to the occasion. party, Bhagat expressed hope that just like the determined manner in which Bano fought against triple talaq in the Supreme Court, she will also work to take forward the ide-

ology of the party. Her rold will be especially important in the minority community, he said.

The BIP state general secretary (organisation) Ajey vice president Kumar, Devendra Bhasin and other office bearers of the party were also present on the

A resident of Kashipur, Bano had approached the Supreme Court in 2016 asking it to hold the practices of talaqe-biddat, polygamy and nikah-

Shayara Bano Bihar's political strongmen feel heat Anant Singh has won three

JD-U. Rama Singh was

also elected as MP from

Vaishali constituency in

2014 on the ticket of LJP

and was part of Narendra

Modi Governmen

strongmen were with the NDA,

they were considered clean but

as soon as they joined the

RID, they have become "extor-

tionists and criminals".

Patna: Bihars political strongmen are feeling the heat ahead of the Assembly polls. Political potshots in Bihar are being aimed at leaders such as Anant Kumar Singh and Ram Kishor Singh alias Rama Singh.

These two are considered as strongmen ('Bahubalis') of central and north Bihar and face a number of criminal cases and both recently joined the RJD. Following their inclusion,

the opposition party is facing huge criticism especially by the ruling NDA leaders.

Gagan's statement came a Chitranjan Gagan, state spokesperson of RJD however day after Sushil Modi attacked the RJD and said that the took a dig at Deputy Chief RJD's socialist leader Raghuvansh Prasad Singh Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and said that when these two fought against such leaders till

elections on the ticket of

Despite that RJD has given tickets to Rama Singh's wife Bina Singh to contest election from Mahanar seat in Vaishali

"RJD has used 'bulldozer' on the ideology of Raghuvansh Babu as well as on poor people of Bihar," Sushil Modi said.

"Anant Singh has won three elections on the ticket of JD-U. Rama Singh was also elected as MP from Vaishali constituency in 2014 on the ticket of LJP and was part of Narendra Modi government. Did they not face criminal charges then? And now, they become tainted as soon as they joined RJD?" Gagan said.

"They were saints when

they stayed in NDA and when they leave, the NDA leaders started calling them extortionists and criminals. NDA does not have any policies and principles," Gagan said.
"The BJP leaders have

already claimed that Rama Singh was part of Narendra Modi government and it is in public domain. Besides, Anant Singh is also associated with Nitish Kumar. Now, I want to ask leaders of both the parties to clarify whom they are calling extortionists, strongmen and criminals?" Gagan asked.

"If Anant Singh and Rama Singh are extortionists and criminals then Nitish Kumar and Narendra Modi shielded them," Gagan alleged. IANS

Centre issues notification for CBI to take over Hathras case probe

New Delhi: The central government has issued a notification for the CBI to take over probe into the alleged gang-rape and death of a 19-year-old woman in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, officials said on Saturday.

The notification has been marked to a suitable branch of the premier agency, and probe teams will be dispatched to the crime scene along with forensic experts immediately after the registration of an FIR, they said.

The Dalit woman had died of grievous injuries at a Delhi hospital on September 29, a fortnight after she was allegedly raped at her village by four upper caste men.

Besides the alleged gang-rape case, the Uttar Pradesh government has sought a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the FIR related to the alleged criminal conspiracy to spread caste conflict, instigating violence, incidents of vicious propaganda by sections of media and political inter-

T Cabinet clears amendments to GHMC Act

Hyderabad: The Telangana to women in the urban body. cabinet on Saturday gave its nod for amendments to Greater Municipal Hyderabad Corporation (GHMC) Act to provide 50 per cent reservation

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

No. CWM-BR-18-19 Chief Workshop Manager (Bridge)/N.E. Railway/Gorakhpur acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the following works- SN: 1. E-Tender No.: CWM-BR-18-2020, Description of Work: Hiring of 09 MT Truck for Bridge Workshop, Gorakhpur Cantt., Approx. Tender Value: Rs. 4,66,700.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 9,300.00, Cost of tender form: 3000.00, Completion period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 12 (Twelve) month. SN: 2. E-Tender No.: CWM-BR-19-2020 Description of Work: Construction of Cannal Bridge No. 93/A by Oper Web Girder (1x61.0M) at Km 125/1 2 between Barhni-Pachperwa stations of Anand Nagar-Gonda section in Lucknow Division of N.E. Railway, Approx. Tender Value: Rs. 1,57,91,115.12, Earnest Money: Rs. 2,29,000.00, Cost of tender form: Not Required Completion period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 08

CPRO/W-111 Gorakhpur About any passenger amenity plaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955 Do Not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

(Eight) month. 1. Date of E-Tender

opening 11.00 Hrs. on 30.10.2020

2. Receipt of E-Tender upto 10.59

Hrs. on 30.10.2020 3. Detailed E-

tender notice, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at

website: www.ireps.gov.in

The Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, accepted the amendments to the GHMC Act of 1955 for providing 50 per cent

GHMC Council. The Cabinet also gave green signal to the small amendments to be made to the Registration Act.

reservation to women in

The Cabinet has approved some amendments to be made to the New Revenue Act so that there would not be any human interference while converting agriculture land to the non-agriculture category.

Amendments to the Non-Agricultural Land Assessment (NALA) Act also received the cabinet's approval.

The Bills for amendments to GHMC Act and other Acts will be tabled during the twoday special session of the State Legislature, beginning on October 13.

The State Cabinet also decided to extend the online registration of properties till October 20. It also discussed the Integrated Township Policy under the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

The Cabinet decided that the government will procure paddy from farmers in villages as was done earlier in view of COVID-19 pandemic. It decided to set up 6 000 paddy purchasing centres and ensure that every grain of paddy is purchased.

AAP to gherao Khattar's Karnal residence today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To protest against the antifarmer and anti-labour laws passed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ruled Central government, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP and Haryana in-charge Sushil Gupta on Saturday said that the party's farmers' cell will hold a "gherao" of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's Karnal residence on Sunday.

Gupta said that BJP Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar always takes antifarmer stand when the time of harvesting

against the anti-farmer and anti-labour laws passed by the BJP ruled central government.

anti-farmer policies of the BJP,"

being harassed in the name of

FARM LAWS

We are fighting on the streets and also fighting against these bills inside the Parliament. The Haryana chief minister always takes anti-farmer stands when the time of harvesting comes. Farmers are facing difficulties in selling paddy crops. In Haryana, around 1500 to 2000 kg millet is produced in one acre of land but the farmers are not getting more than Rs 850 kg due to the

portal, e-payment, registration, gate pass of mandi and other ways. In the last 15 days, farmers had to take the streets," he

Harvana and Punjab are agrarian states where more than 70 percent people are directly and indirectly connected to agriculture. These are the only states where the farmers get 60 percent of the MSP on the

crop. At the same time, in other states only six percent of the grain is sold at MSP," he, adding that now through these ordinances, the Central government wants to end the mandi system of Haryana and

"Farmers in Bihar have good land, get good water for farming and also produce good crops. But due to the lack of MSP on their crop, the farmers have to come to Haryana and Punjab to work. The BJP-ruled central government also wants to bring a similar situation inside Haryana and Punjab," he

Fake stamp paper scam comes back to haunt Bengaluru, 4 nabbed

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru Police busted a fake stamp paper racket and recovered Rs 2.71 crore worth of banned stamp papers from four persons who were arrested in this connection on Saturday. According to the police, the arrested are identified as Hassain Modi Babu alias 'Chhota Telgi', aged 53, resident of Vivek Nagar and Harish Subbaraya, aged 55, resident of Basavesjwara

The other two accused Shavar alias Seema, 42, and Nazma Fathima, 35, are typists working in Kandaya (Revenue) Bhavan in the city, the police said.

Speaking to IANS, the Additional Commissioner of Police, West, Bengaluru City, Soumendu Mukherjee said that Hassain Modi Babu is known as 'Chhota Telgi' among his associates for running this racket for several years. "He used to operate in a very busy area where City Civil Court premises and Revenue Bhavan are situated. Here thousands come to get their documents registered and signed from notary," he said.

Two BSF troopers hurt in Pak ceasefire violation in Poonch

Jammu: Two Border Security Force (BSF) troopers were injured on Saturday in repeated ceasefire violations Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Police sources said two BSF jawans identified as constables Riyaz Ahmad and C.H. Manohar of 72 Battalion were injured after they sustained splinter injuries in Pakistan shelling on the LoC ed ceasefire violations,

in Mendhar sector of Poonch

Defence spokesman Colonel Devender Ânand said that Pakistan violated ceasefire in Khari Karmara sector of LoC in Poonch district at about 8.30 p.m. after violating ceasefire in Mendhar and Mankote sectors of the same district earlier in the day.

During Saturday's repeat-

"Delhi University has

always been very particular

about its cut-off. However, ir

these difficult times of the

pandemic, we completely

understand that students all

over the country are in a state

of panic. I assure you that the

University is entirely consid-

erate about every child's future

and admission process. The

university has an instilled

admission trend with a display

of high cut-offs going up to

off. Even if so, only 10% of the

seats are fulfilled by this cut-

off, leaving a 90% room for the

cut-offs released later which

generally prove to be less and

convenient", said Akshit Dahiya, president, DUSU.

% and above in the first cut

Pakistan has targeted civilian areas in which one woman was also injured.

Since the beginning of this year, Pakistan has violated the bilateral ceasefire agreement signed by the two countries in 1999 with Since January 2020,

Pakistan has violated ceasefire 3,190 times, killing 24 civilians and injuring over 100

'Being chosen to unveil K'taka Dasara celebrations is an honour (general medicine) from implemented the idea of "every

Bengaluru: Elated over Karnataka's decision to pick him to inaugurate the Dasara festivities, famous cardiologist and Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, C.N. Manjunath, asserted that he considers it as a lifetime honour to inaugurate the Dasara Manjunath (63) is one of

the most reputed doctors in the country. He did his MBBS from the Mysore Medical College (MMC) in 1982, MD

Bangalore Medical College in 1985, and DM (cardiology) from the Kasturba Medical College in 1988. Under his leadership, Sri

Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research has recorded 300 per cent overall growth and the bed strength has increased from 330 to 640, exclusively for cardiac care.

Besides introducing the "Treatment First Payment Next" concept, Manjunath has also needy patient should be given quality treatment irrespective of financial affordability".

The Karnataka government picks noted personalities from various fields to inaugurate the Dasara festivities. Last year, the gala event was inaugurated by noted Kannada writer S.L. Byrappa.

Speaking to IANS, Manjunath said that this is also a true honour for several Covid warriors unknown to the

As DU cut-offs touch 100%, DUSU raises concern

high cut off.

New Delhi: Delhi University stated that every student will cut-off for 2020 admissions at a dozen of its colleges, with the cut-off percentage touching 100% at certain colleges. Lady Sri Ram (LSR) College for Women, for instance, is offering admission to BA (H) Economics, BA (H) Political Science, and BA (H) Psychology programmes to students who have got 100% as their best of four subjects

Meanwhile, Kirori Mal College set the cut off at 99% for admission to BA (Hons) in Political Science.

For B. Com (H), the college is accepting admission at and above 99.75% marks.

At Hindu College, the cutoff marks for admission to BA (H) Economics is 99.25%. On the other hand, the

cut-off for evening colleges as well as lesser-known off-campus colleges has gone higher than last year. BA (H) Economics, Political science are among the top courses this

While the unrealistic high cut-off has ensued panic among students and their parents, the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) has

be seen fainting after lighting

In a video that surfaced

Patna: While performing the last rites of his father Ram Vilas the funeral pyre even as his cousins tried to prevent him Veteran politician and

nion mini Paswan passed away at a Delhi hospital on Thursday. Paswan's last rights were

performed at the Janardan alpyre. People around him Ghat on the banks of Ganga in

Chirag Paswan collapses after lighting father's funeral pyre

Chirag Paswan, who was ompanied by his mother and other relatives, suddenly fainted on the ground soon after lighting his father's funer-

Patna's Digha neighbourhood. and help him to the ground. People from different secone of the society attended t

funeral, raising slogans like "Dharti Gunje Asman, Ram Vilas Paswan and "Ram Vilas Paswan Amar Rahe" during the procession from the Paswan residence in Sri Krishnapuri to the Janardan Ghat.

immediately came to his rescue

Many people from different parts of the state turn up in Patna to pay their last respect

to the popular Dalit leader. The body of Ram Vilas Paswan reached Patna from Delhi at around 7.55 p.m. on Friday. Top leaders, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, leader of opposition Tejaswi Yadav, and Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, among many others, paid their last respect to

NIT No. 04502020 dated 10.10.2020 Raising of speed to 160 kmph/200 kmph on existing Ne Delhi-Howrah route (incl. Kanpur-Lucknow) - A mission to achieve a travel time of 12 hours between Delhi & Howrah. Name of Work Construction of Boundary Railway Land in connection witl Mission Raftar at Various Location in LKO-CNB section underADEN-II/LKO. Approximate (1) Rs.5,49,65,979.24 (2) Rs.16,95,17,080.00 (1) Rs.4,24,800.00 (2) Rs.9,97,600.00 **Earnest Money** I. Fifteen Six (15) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter Completion Period 2. Twelve (12) months from the date of issue of acceptance lette 30.10.2020 nder Clos For S.No. 1 to 2 13.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs. Date and Time www.ireps.gov.in

"No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be

entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offers. Even suo-mopost letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void."

(Authority N.Rly HQ letter No 74-W/O/Pt.XXV/WA/Loose Dated: 07.04.2015)

Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender)

DRM/Engineering acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following Single packet system E-Tenders closing date 13.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be

able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received

shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tende

towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manua

payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc., are

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No. 3220202021

Dated 09.10.2020

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-TENDERS on prescribed form for the following works up to 13.30 hrs. on 04.11.2020. The details of the

S Tender N No.		Name of Work	Approx. Cost of work (₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Similar work for Eligibility Criteria	
1		Construction of new building of driver running room at GMC Kanpur in the section of ADEN/HQ/CNB.	₹ 98,77,533.09	₹ 1,97,600.00	Building work	
2		Raising and Improvement of CPC goods shed by using unserviceable sleepers and other works under ADEN/HQ/CNB.	₹ 2,01,50,454.28	₹ 2,50,800.00	Any Civil Engineering work	

copy of certificate as given in tender doucment in standard format for Tender No. 105 & 106 having advertised value more alongwith tender, Para 12.1 (a) Note-(ii) (iii) & (iv) of Tender Doucment for EM Deposit and Para 13.0 (h) of Tender Document for Rate quoting and Performance Guarantee submission. 1060/2020 V

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

N No.		Name of Work	of work (₹)	Money (in ₹)	Building work	
		Construction of new building of driver running room at GMC Kanpur in the section of ADEN/HQ/CNB.	₹ 98,77,533.09	₹ 1,97,600.00		
2	106	Raising and Improvement of CPC goods shed by using unserviceable sleepers and other works under ADEN/HQ/CNB.	₹ 2,01,50,454.28	₹ 2,50,800.00	Any Civil Engineering work	
No ww	te:- 1. /w.irep	on Period: (for S.No. 1) 05 months, (for S.No. 2) 04 months. The complete information along with tender document se.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening is all not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vi	of above E-Ter .e. 04.11.2020.	nders is avai 2. Bids other t	lable on Website than in the form of	

with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. The tenderer shall submit a than 50 Lakh, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 5. The supplier contractor of goods and / or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. 6. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 8. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 9. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 10. Tender on line can be submitted up to 13.30 hrs. on 04.11.2020. 11. Along with other instructions given to Tenderers, Tenderers are required to Pay special attention on Para 10.0 of Tender document for doucment submission

f North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

y @CPRONCR The order is available on the web-

Paswan here on Saturday, from falling down. Chirag Paswan fainted soon ighting the funeral pyre

soon afterwards, Chirag could



FROM PAGE 1

UP GOVT TO LAUNCH SPL DRIVE ...

The DGP added that directions have been issued to all the police stations to put up posters of the campaign at various schools and colleges, and also hold programmes making people aware about this campaign.

While giving instructions to make the patrolling system more effective, he said that foot patrolling should be done continuously. The police department with the help of other agencies would also run campaigns for the security of females and children.

"UP has a policy of zero-tolerance against crimes and due to continuous action by the State Government, there has been a significant reduction in crimes against girls/women," said the

He has also directed the police to take prompt action in cases involving women and girls and deal with such matters sensitively. Officials have also been instructed that strict action will be taken against them if they do not pay attention to such matters.

REOPEN FROM OCT 19

SCHOOLS IN UP TO

site of the department, it said. Before reopening, schools will have

to undertake proper sanitisation and this exercise is mandatory before every shift on a regular basis, the deputy chief minister said. Sanitiser, hand wash, thermal scan-

treatment should be available in all schools, he said. In case of symptoms of cold or fever in any student, teacher or other employees, they will be sent home after primary

ning and arrangement for primary

treatment, the statement said. School buses used by the students should be properly sanitised every day and proper distance should be maintained in seating arrangements, it said.

should compulsorily use masks and the school management should keep reserve masks, it added. Directives have also been issued to continue online teaching and encouraging it. Priority should be given to call-

ing those students to school who do not

have access to online teaching, Sharma

All teachers, students and workers

No student should be forced to come to school, he said.

Uttar Pradesh has reported 4,33,712 COVID-19 cases so far. A total of 6,353 people have succumbed to the disease in the state, according to officials. The number of active COVID-19

cases in the state stands at 40,210,

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said earlier in the

PROTESTING FAMILY CREMATE BODY ...

It had refused Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Om Prakash Meena's request to the family to perform the last rites. The priest's death had created

national outrage. Earlier in the day, Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra spoke to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot about the situation as thousands of villagers protested in Rajasthan's Bukna village in Karauli against the brutal murder.

After the family refused to perform last rites, the Rajasthan government approached the family and announced that it would give the monetary compensation, a house, a job on contract to one of the family members and an assurance that all the absconding accused will be arrested at the ear-

The Government also transferred the police station in-charge of the area. BJP MP Meena, who met the aggrieved family in Bukna, sat on dharna with protesting family members, said the decision was taken after an 11member delegation from the State Government held talks with the family members, who had earlier refused to perform the priest's last rites, demanding arrest of the guilty and compensation from the Government.

A three-member committee constituted by the BJP also reached the village to prepare a factual report on the

Vaishnav's hut in Bukna village in Karauli district was set on fire on Wednesday after he stopped five men who were seeking to encroach lands which were part of the temple where he worked as a priest. In his dying testimony, Vaishnav named six people.

CHINA HAS 60K SOLDIERS...

Many of these projects are unnecessary, shoddily built and are "white elephants", the national security advisor said. "And now these countries' dependence on the Chinese debt leaves their sovereignty eroded and with no choice but to hue to the party's line on UN votes or any other issue that the Chinese Communist Party considers a red line,"

O'Brien also noted that China's other international aid efforts include selling surveillance systems and similar tools of repression to "pariah regimes" around the world, including Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro.

139 COVID-19 patients found | 178 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

many as 139 new ACOVID-19 patients have been detected in the district here on Saturday, increasing the total number of cases to 14,822. Besides, the day also saw four deaths, increasing the toll to 243. During the day, the followup negative reports included 159 patients. Out of them, 156 patients were recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 10,616 and just three patients have been discharged from the hospitals. With this, the number of cured patients from the hospitals has increased to 2,758, leaving 1,205 active patients. The total number of cured patients is now 13,371, leaving 1,212 active patients. The recovery rate has improved to 90.21 per cent but the mortality rate has

Meanwhile, on World ental Health Day, Department of Psychiatry, Institute of Medical Science, Banaras Hindu University (IMS BHU) has unveiled a book to spread awareness about mental health. The book in Hindi aims to make readers aware about various aspects related to mental health. The book, authored by doctors of the Department of Psychiatry, talks about causes, symptoms, treatment and key mental health problems and suggests ways to lead a healthy and happy life. In its message on World Mental Health Day, the Department of Psychiatry, said that Mental Health has always been relevant Health has always been relevant and attains even more importance in the time of pandemic. Realising this, WHO has coined the theme of 2020 as

'Mental Health for all: Greater investment-Greater Access'. Head of the department Prof Mona Srivastava has said that the department is committed to work and strive towards a happy individual, society and

According to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh, in the first report of the day by 11 am, 105 positive patients were detected out of 4,021 received reports. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,47,229 and the results of 559 are awaited. Out of them, 2,32,441 were negative, while 14,788 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,62,206. Earlier, a female aged 61 from Bacchawo (Rohania) and two males aged 75 and 66 from Visheshwargani and Mirapur Basahi respectively succumbed to COVID-

19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU). With the addition of 14 new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,154 including 301 red zones.

One green zone has been converted into red zone again. There are 1,853 green zones with 22 new ones.

Earlier, under ongoing ber of people who died of mass/ group antigen tests, six persons out of 415 tests were detected positive at Shree Shiv corona infection has increased According to CMO Dr GS
Bajpai, 4,883 samples were
taken on Friday, broadening
the scope testing. Of which
3,179 were tested through anti-Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, while two out of 345 at adjacent Government Women's Hospital, four out of 106 at Swami Vivekanand gens, 1,570 RTPCRs and 134 Government Hospital, Bhelupur and four out of 410 at SSH BHU. However, all the 117 tests at CHC Shivpur and were tested with Trunat. According to the report, 178 people have been infected with corona in 24 hours. 188 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar were found negative.

Of the 204 people who became infection-free in the district on Friday, 29 were discharged from various Covid hospitals and Covid care centres. At the same time home isolation of 175 people was completed. With his, 13,835 people have become infection free in home isolation so far. At the same time, 4,926 people have been discharged from various Covid hospitals after becoming infec-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ALLAHABAD

As many as 178 new Covid positive patients have been

found, including vice-chancel-

lors of the SHUATS in the last

24 hours. At the same time, 204

infected patients also defeated

the deadly virus on the same

day. One infected died during

treatment. With this, the num-

According to Nodal officer some work. His health deterifor Corona, Dr Rishi Sahai, orated after he returned from among the infected patients found on Friday, the manager of SBI and PNB, the manager of IFFCO Phulpur, the controller of DRM office, etc had home isolation. tested positive for COVID-19.

Building of Bachcha Pasi demolished

Most of the people in the

infected have applied home

isolation. It was said that the

Vice-Chancellor of SHUATS

had gone to Gorakhpur for

there. He and three of his family, including his wife, have been found to be corona infected. All three have opted for

A total of 203 corona infected patients are admitted in Covid hospitals of the district. Of them, maximum 75 patients are admitted to SRN, 25 in Kalindipuram, 14 in Railway Hospital, 40 in Beli, 25 in United Medicity, 24 infected are being treated at Sainath Vatsalya AMA Hospital.

According to the CMO, on Friday, one patient from the private Covid Hospital Sainath Vatsalya AMA Hospital, three from Kalindipuram, ten from Railway Hospital, four from Beli, three from United and eight from SRN Hospital were discharged and sent home.

DM inspects progress of project at Kaithi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma inspected the progress made in the expansion plan of Markandey Mahadev Temple and Mahadev ghat near the confluence of rivers Ganga and Gomti in Kaithi village here on Saturday, directing the officers to intensify the work. Executive Engineer (EE) of the Irrigation department apprised the DM of detailed work and assured him of completing the work in time. EE also informed that a letter had been sent to the government seeking funds and as soon as the funds would be received, the pending work including the railings on the side of the stairs will be installed for the purpose of security.

In reply, the DM sought the details of expenses. During his visit, the local people complained that there was no approach road to the Sangam Ghat. On the issue of dispute between the managing committee of Markandey Mahadev Temple and the local people, DM said that a team of officials would be sent to resolve the same as the cooperation of the people is important in all development works. Divisional Officer, Forest ADM (Administration), SDM (Sadar), Tourism Officer and some other officers were also

Earlier, Commissioner (DC) Deepak very important instructed the rawal made a hectic on site inspection of ongoing projects increasing the number of work- design is being sent to the gov- the inspection.



DM KR Sharma inspecting Ganga-Gomti Sangam site at Kaithi in Varanasi on Saturday

including Kalika Dham, Konia, ROB Ashapur, Kapasethi and Kazzakpura along with the officers of Bridge Corporation. During his inspection of ₹38.10 crore Kapasethi ROB, the DC was informed that 45 per cent work has been comleted and a portion of bridge is being built by the Railways. Agrawal emphasised on making proper arrangements for rainwater drainage over ROB, service roads and adopting safety measures apart from ensuring to complete the project by June next year.

During his inspection at ₹ 19.13 crore Kalika Dham Varuna Bridge where three spans out of four have been Divisional built, DC terming the bridge as to intensify work by

ers. DC found that the work was going on at a rapid pace at 15.31 crore Ashapur ROB where 75 per cent work has also been completed. Agrawal said that the project should be completed by February next year. However, he found that no work was going on at ₹ 26.21 crore 100-metre-long Konia Ghat Varuna Bridge. Seeing this he instructed the officers to ensure starting of work there immediately. He was informed that about 40 per cent work has been completed. DC asked the engineers to complete the work by February next year. During the inspection of ₹ 62.78 crore 1355-metre-long Kazzakpura ROB Agrawal was informed by the engineers that the sewer lines are creating hurdles so ernment. DC said that the work should be started where no changes in design would be

The DC also asked the officers to seek advice of experts on the modified layout for success of ROB.

DC emphasised to take special care on safety measures during the construction of ROBs and bridges so that no untoward incident happens. According to him, with the construction of these ROBs and bridges, traffic movement towards districts like Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Chandauli and Ghazipur would become smooth. Chief Project Manager of Bridge Corporation Deepak Govil, Deputy Project Manager Rohit Mishra and other offi-

Nihal Kumar alias Bachcha Pasi of Chhota Rajan gang was the fresh victim of the Yogi crack down on mafia dons and criminals here in Prayagraj on Saturday. Two storeyed building of this sharp shooter was demolished by the Prayagraj Development Authority, district administration and the police in Ramman Purva under the Dhoomanganj police station. It was said to be an unauthorised construction.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ALLAHABAD

Bachcha Pasi was involved in Kalaghora shoot out of Mumbai along with Khan Mubarak and Rajesh Yadav whose building was razed to ground on Friday.

There are 38 cases of serious nature crime registered against Bachcha Pasi in different police stations of Prayagraj, including 29 in Dhoomanganj itself. He was also involved in 2006 Kutchery Post Office loot.

Officials are out to pull down illegal constructions of



Uttar Pradesh, and after demolishing over a dozen such construction of mafia don Atique Ahmed and Dilip Mishra besides gang men Kammo,

the ICB machines moved to Ramman ka Purva on Saturday to see the unauthorised building of Bachcha Pasi turned into

debris.

gang Bachcha Passi was associated with the Bahujan Samaj Party of Mayawati, and he was involved in dozens of murder, loot, extraction, goonda tax,

V-C for making BHU a top global institute

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar, highlighting the glorious journey of over 100 years of BHU, said that under the Institution of Eminence, the university is being given an amount of ₹1000 crore for five years. 'In such a situation, it is our duty all should remember that an to take full advantage of this opportunity and make the university reach the Top-500 ranking institutions in the world, he said, appealing to newlyappointed faculty members to work on projects for research within the last one year and the in their areas of interest and to present their plans to the university in this regard. Under the system of providing for the system of providing fast versity had issued advertisegrants to teachers for research, many projects have also vacant posts so that people received grants and many oth- associated with the prestigious

coming day,' he said. Addressing the new facul-

ty members here on Friday, Prof Bhatnagar called upon them to take inspiration from the life and contributions of Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, the founder of BHU as Mahamana connected the best people of the world to BHU and built a great institute. 'We institution can be reached at a new height by bringing the best people in view to make it a globally famous,' he said, adding that about 400 teachers have been appointed in BHU process of appointments to ments globally to fill these ers are expected to get it in the institutions of the world would

get their information and BHU would get the best teachers,' he said, adding that the university is committed to provide all the facilities to the newlyappointed teachers, which will give them a favourable environment for new research so that they can enhance the reputation of the BHU.

'No discovery or innova-tion in the world is possible without universities or institutes, in which case the role of teachers working in the university becomes very important, he said, calling upon the new faculty members to do something which is not only in the interest of the society as well as financially strengthening the institution. He said that there are many faculty members who have worked in renowned institutes of the world and are familiar with the research style there, so they

should include best research practices here as well.

Speaking on the occasion, Director of the Institute of Science, Prof AK Tripathi said that now the time has come for him to rise above the national ranking and concentrate on the global ranking. He said that there are high expectations from new and young faculty members. He said that the creation of new knowledge as well as the creation of intellectual capital is very important, so that the university also ben-

Prof Sanjay Kumar, Coordinator of the Institution of Eminence Programme, BHU, discussed in detail about the scheme. Directors of the institutes, deans of faculties, heads of departments, senior faculty members and officers of the university were also pre-

HC ruling on compounding of illegal construction

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court has restrained Uttar Pradesh government and all the development authorities within the state from compounding any illegal construction pursuant to Compounding Scheme, 2020 notified by the state on July, 15, 2020.

The state government has issued a new Compounding Scheme, 2020, under which various constructions otherwise not permissible in the building bylaws have also been made compoundable.

Hearing a writ petition filed by one Mohd Meherban Ansari and three others, Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra also directed the Additional Secretary of Department concerned to file a reply justifying Compounding Scheme. The court has fixed October 20, 2020 as the next date of hear-

Passing the above directives, the court observed, 'A prima facie perusal of the compounding scheme, 2020 would go to show that the illegalities committed by violating the

Planning and Development Act, 1973 (Act of 1973)by raising illegal constructions are sought to be regularised upon payment of huge composition fee. The authorities of the State Government are expected to act in furtherance of the object of the Act, so as to stop illegal constructions and not to encourage such illegal constructions upon payment of hefty amounts. This would clearly discourage the honest citizens who ensure compliance of laws by obtaining prior permission as per the Act of 1973, inasmuch as they are subjected to stricter norms provided in the building bylaws, while those who violate the law are allowed to raise much larger constructions, which is not even permissible in the building bylaws. The compounding scheme, 2020, otherwise appears to be wholly beyond the scope of the Act of 1973 including Section 32. Section 32 only permits composition of offences and not permits raising of constructions contrary to the building plan. The compounding of development

Act of 1973 is therefore, prima facie, found to be clearly contrary to the aims, objectives and the provisions of the Act of

The court directed the state government to communicate this order to all the development authorities in the state for necessary compliance.

This order was passed on October 7.

HC DIRECTIVE TO KANPUR SSP: The Allahabad High Court has directed SSP Kanpur Nagar to forthwith take out, a Muslim girl who did inter-religious marriage, from alleged confinement of her father and brother and produce her before court on October 12.

The court also issued notices to the father of the woman to file her reply in the case. Justice JJ Munir passed the order on a petition filed by Shikha alias Sheeba and her husband Rohit Rathaur.

According to petitioners, on July 3, 2020 Shikha alias Sheeba converted to Hinduism at an Arya Samaj Mandir of Kanpur Nagar and then she married Rohit on the same day.

Later, the woman's father

lodged an FIR against Rohit but

during investigation she told police that she left her parent's house freely and Rohit did not take her away, forcefully.

In the petition, it was alleged that the woman is 22year-old but in spite of her statement given to police in favour of her husband, she was handed over to her father and brother by SHO of Bilhaur police station of Kanpur Nagar.

that it is not just about rescuing Shikha alias Sheeba from illegal confinement, but also saving her life and preventing her from becoming a victim of honour killing. The court on this directed

Petitioner's counsel argued

SSP Kanpur Nagar to immediately release the woman from the detention of her father and brother and keep her in Nari Niketan till she is brought before court on October 12.

The court while passing the order observed, 'Since, there is a serious threat of Shikha alias Sheeba becoming a victim of honour killing, it is preferable to err on the side of caution.' The court has fixed October 12 as the next date of hearing in

Boy operated for heart hole under RBSK

VARANASI (PNS): A nine- contacted Abid's father Lal month-old boy from Dhaurhra Maniyar Patti village (Cholapur block) in the district, who was suffering with a hole in heart since his birth, was treated successfully under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakarm (RBSK), bringing happiness on the faces of his parents. The child is now fully healthy. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh hailed the efforts of Cholapur RBSK team for its commendable work and expected that similar efforts would continue in the future also. According to Medical Officer Incharge of Cholapur Block Dr RB Yadav, when RBSK team comprising Dr Amit, Dr Pratibha, Poonam Pal and Sanjay Bharti saw Abid suffering from severe congenital defects in his heart and unable to play like normal children, it then heart surgery was per-

Mohammed. The father informed the team that he had approached a private hospital for treatment twice, but due to the high cost of treatment, he was disappointed as he is very poor. Later, after identifying the child by the RBSK team, Abid was referred to Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh, which is contracted by the state government for the treatment of this disease.

In view of COVID-19 guidelines, the child and his parents were tested and when they were found negative, they were sent to Aligarh on October 7 last and then the child was admitted to the hospital. Dr Yadav said that after admission, the medical college did eco examination and other investigations immediately and

formed successfully on October After surgery, the child is fully healthy, bringing cheers on the faces of his parents. 'I did not spend a single rupee during the complete treatment and donated his own blood during surgery,' said Lal Mohammed, praising the hospital for its facilities. RBSK Nodal Officer and

ACMO Dr AK Gupta said that the percentage of congenital defects in children born in the country is about seven per cent and out of them, around one per cent is born with heart holes. 'The most common symptom of heart hole is blueness of hands, feet, tongue, inability to breathe and mother's breast feeding properly apart from getting tired early while playing, said Dr Gupta, adding that to protect children from congenital defects, folic

acid should be fed for three months from the beginning of pregnancy and one red tablet of iron and folic acid daily from the beginning of the fourth month. If the pregnant woman has anemia, then she should take two red iron tablets daily. DEIC Manager Dr Abhishek Tripathi said that

under RBSK, the government provides treatment to children from birth to 19 years for nine different birth defects. Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) among congenital defects is a serious one which is commonly called a heart hole. It usually costs ₹4 to 5 lakh for its treatment, which is done free under the RBSK scheme. Under RBSK, there are 16 teams in rural areas in the district, who visit every village to identify congenital defects and try to treat them.

Preparations for Durga Puja festival stepped up

ALLAHABAD (PNS): The preparations for the Durga Puja festival in Shardiya Navratri have been stepped up. In a short time, Puja Committees are all set to give grandeur to Durga Puja pandal in the city. With the size of the pandals, the number of visitors, as well as social distancing, a guide line for visiting the pan-

created. On the other hand, sculptors have also started finalising the panoramic statues of goddess Durga. This time the Sharadiya Navratri will start from October 17.

undertaken contrary to the

Puja Committees have started preparing for the Navratri festival after the government released the Durga Puja, Ramlila and Chhath Puja dal during the festival has been guidelines. The Bengali Welfare

Association has formed a guideline for this purpose. According to the association's secretary Dr PK Roy, the puja pandals will be made of 15 feet

> Apart from this, two separate pandals of the same size will be made for female and male devotees. At a later time 10 pilgrims will be allowed to enter the pandals. People will

between the shells made in pandals for darshan of Maa Durga. On the other hand, the work of decorating the Durga idols in Colonelganj has been speeded up. Sculptor Tapas Pal, along with 11 of his colleagues, are busy in painting the idols of Maa Durga Mahishasura and Ganesh

DC asks officials to speed up revenue collection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Divisional Kanpui Commissioner Shekhar, while addressing a tax and revenue collection meeting of the Kanpur division on Saturday, directed the officials to meet the given targets within the given time frame.

He asked all the district magistrates of the division to launch a special drive to accomplish the task in one

month's time.

He also directed the district magistrates to identify the gram samaj land that had been encroached and get their physical verification done and file a detailed report in this regard.

The divisional commissioner said if there was any illegal encroachment on the gram samaj land then it be freed and the freed land be included in the land bank.

He stressed on physical verification of gram samaj land, adding that the land be photographed as supporting evi-

He also directed officials to lodge FIRs against all fake registries of lands.

He also asked the officials to cross-check all the land leases given in the past 10 years, and if any lease was found to be illegal or fake, then it be scrapped and legal action be taken against the person concerned.

Shekhar directed the officials concerned of all the major construction projects to carry out physical verification and ensure that the construction work was given further momentum. He said after the physical verification, photographic evidence should be put up as well.

He directed the chief development officers to submit a list of all panchayat bhawans that had been fully constructed.

The divisional commissioner also reviewed the progress of Ayushman Bharat Yojana and golden card preparation and directed the officials of Kannauj to give further momentum to the work.

He asked the district officials to form teams of ASHA, ANM, lekhpal, gram pradhan to complete work on the golden card at the earliest.

Reviewing the progress of ority. the National Child Health Programme, Shekhar said it Rajwaha committees be formed ould be implemented trans



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar holding a divisional review meeting at his camp office

95 more

test +ve

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 95 more coronavirus positive

Anil K Mishra said that 95

more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection

between Friday evening and Saturday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to

26,621 cases. He said one

COVID-19 deaths in the city pushed the toll to 702 on

The CMO said with 27 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals the cured figure in the city was 6825 and at present 2879 active

cases were undergoing treat-ment. Dr Mishra said 5,491

samples were sent for testing in

Leaders of

junior high

meet BSA

school teacher

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Adelegation of Junior High School Shikshak Sangh, led by its district president Yogendra Kumar Singh, met Basic Shiksha Adhikari Pawan

Kumar and finance and accounts officer of Basic Education, Phool Chand Gupta, on Saturday.

The delegation said that teachers would not visit blocks

for corrections in their

salary bills and instead, the

clerk preparing pay sheet should visit the office for

this work for onward signa-

ture of block education officer

in the meeting held every

form arrears (50 per cent for

2018-19 and 25 per cent for

2019-20), a letter was sent to

urged the BSA for completing

entries/affixing photos in online forms for teachers'

identity cards and ending the

compulsion for physical presence of teachers in office for

getting their pay scale sanc-

the state administration.

For the payment of uni-

The teachers' leaders also

delegation of Junior High

the city.

Chief Medical Officer Dr

cases on Saturday evening.

Construction quality found poor at Sajari Asara Awas Yojana: DC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

 $K^{
m anpur}$ Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar carried out a surprise inspection of the Asara Awas Yojana at Sajari, Kanpur Nagar on Saturday. Later, addressing press persons, he

said the quality of construction was found to be "very poor" and 'below standards". Shekhar said the plaster quality was very poor, finishing was poor, and masonry work was

He said in view of the gross negligence in the construction works, a show-cause notice had been issued to the DUDA, construction agency C&DS, Jal Nigam Unit 11, asking why they should not be blacklisted and legal action taken

against the negligent officers for such poor qual-Shekhar said the project was started in the by November 10, 2020 for further action.

year 2014 and around 1,104 houses were being constructed for identified homeless families under the Asara Awas Yojana. He said the total cost of the project was around Rs 51 crore .He said as of now around Rs 42 crore had been received and utilised and the last instalment of the project had been demanded from the government to complete the project.

He said the physical progress of the work was around 80 per cent and out of total 1,104 houses, around 456 houses had been completed. He said a high level technical committee comprising additional commissioner (administration), PWD chief engineer, KDA chief engineer, Jal Nigam EE and KESCo EE would visit site to check the quality of work and also collect samples for testing, if necessary.

The committee will submit a detailed report

parently and in perfect order. He also directed the officials to work out plans to contain the spread of communicable diseases like dengue, with stress on cleanliness drives.

Shekhar also reviewed the Dastak project and directed officials to ensure that all the children below the age of 15 years were immunised. He warned against any laxity in this regard. He also interacted with the Irrigation department officials and said the water must reach the tail ends of canals and silt should be removed from canals on pri-

He said Alpika and ensure that water reached

the fields and officials should submit a report in this regard at the earliest.

The divisional commissioner directed the officials concerned to ensure that the cane dues were disbursed to the farmers at the earliest. He said ponds allocation be done and sheries be promoted. He also said the shops

under National Food Security Programme that were vacant should be allotted as per norms so that public distribution work was carried out smoothly.

He also directed the offi-

cials to prepare PMAY's amended project and forward it to the government at the ear-

liest.

He lashed out at KESCo officials for the poor performance and directed them the streamline the functioning of the power distribution compa-

enue collection at Etawah to be slow and poor and directed the officials to speed up recov-

(mandi tax) backlog should be completed at the earliest.

Senior officials of all districts of the division and various department were present in

cials of the Transport department to speed up enforcement works and recovery as per the

ny by the next month. He also found the land rev-

He said the mandi shulk

They also urged the BSA to write a letter to the Finance Controller, Prayagraj, for removing the anomalies in

tioned.

The BSA assured the leaders to look into their demands.

The delegation comprised of Sangh's district general secretary Dilip Kumar Saini, district secretary Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, treasurer Sayyad Nazir Hussain, Vijay Prakash Srivastava, Vikram Singh and

KUSFTA leaders meet higher education officer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Members of Kanpur University Self-Financed Teachers Association (KUSF-TA) met Higher Education Officer Ripudaman Singh in his office on Saturday and apprised him of the plights of thousands of teachers employed in around 1,100 selffinanced colleges affiliated to the Kanpur University.

Rs.15,000.

Body found in forest identified

Abody was found in the forest of Rajapur Pahadi under Madihan police station on Friday. It was later identified as that of Vijaypal, son of Nandlal, a resident of Patelnagar Bomaila under Handia police station in Prayagraj. An FIR had been lodged at Handia police station on October 1 so the Madihan police referred the case to it.

MEETING: DM Sushil Kumar Patel at a review meeting held at L2 hospital on Friday directed the RRTs to keep an eve on Covid patients who were under home quarantine. Emphasising on their treatment he directed the officials concerned to issue written



helpful in getting proper cure. He directed the field staff to ensure contact trac-

guidelines and ask such

patients to keep updated

with the body tempera-ture which might be

breakfast should be provided timely. The DM was apprised by the officials concerned about the preparations to combat the infection. The DM was apprised about availability of medicines and tests through different sources. The meeting was attended by the officials concerned, including ADM UP Singh, CMO Dr OP Tiwari, ACMO Dr Rai, SIC besides deputy collector and nodal officer for Covid control room Anoop Shukla.

NABBED: Katra Kotwali police on Friday arrested a man impersonating as DIG CBI. As per the reports, a person posing as DIG CBI alighted from a train along with his family sought accommodation along with conveyance facility from the police which was provided to him along with security. Police became suspicious due to his behaviour so the CBI office was contacted to find out the truth. When interrogated he confessed that he was engaged in contract business. At this police lodged an FIR at Katra Kotwali under relevant sections of IPC and sent the accused, Rajiv Singh, son of Udayveer Singh, ing. About the patients admitted in L1 and L2 hospitals the DM made it clear that meal as well as under Banno Devi police station in Aligarh, to jail.

GM praises efforts of Varanasi div

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

 $N_{
m video}^{
m ER\,GM\,LC}$ Trivedi on Friday through video conferencing held a half-yearly review meeting of Varanasi division. It was virtually attended by DRM VK Panjiar, principal head of the department and senior Railway officers of the headquarter and division, CPRO PK Singh said. While reviewing development works, schemes, facilities being provided to traders and industries, earnings from goods and parcel freight on Varanasi division GM said that extensive efforts should be made to increase its income and traders and entrepreneurs should be made aware of the concessions being given by the Railways. For fulfilling the goal of making the railway self-reliant, he laid emphasis on increasing the parcel and freight progressively in comparison to last year. For this along with providing facilities to traders and entrepreneurs, he suggested on bringing maximum goods transport to the division by establishing contact with them. Trivedi praised the works being done by Varanasi division and efforts being made to increase income. DRM Varanasi VK Panjiyar elaborated on development works being carried out for strengthening infrastructure, development for providing facilities to passengers and special efforts being made for increasing income from parcel and freight. He said that electrification work on Varanasi division has been completed at a rapid pace due to which there has been a reduction of about 83 per cent in diesel consumption and expenditure on fuel worth ₹83.66 crore was saved. There has been a lot of improvement in the field of loading in Varanasi division, he said. Wheat and oil cake were also being exported to Bangladesh by NER, the DRM said. Several teams of commercial inspectors had been formed on NER which are working to bring traffic on the railways by going from place to place and are getting good results and loading and unloading was being mechanised, said Panjiar.

This led to more work in less time. He said many facilities, including rest rooms, are being provided to traders and workers at the goods shed. He said that in some goods sheds in Varanasi division lighting has been arranged along the lines of the airport. He said continous efforts for prevention of Covid-19 are being made on . Varanasi division. He said that Covid-19 test of all employees and their families had been conducted and they were motivated to wear masks properly, maintain social distancing and wash hands regularly. In order to reduce the entry of outsiders in the divisional office, an e-samvad room has been set up outside the office. Participating in the Covid-19 Jan Andolan campaign all employees and their families are being linked with it. In order to make the mass movement successful under the awareness campaign posters are being put in all offices, stations, hospitals, residential premises and units. At stations and trains through public awareness system extensive propaganda of messages for protection from Covid-19 was being done.

ADMINISTERED: Under the Jan Andolan

(mass movement) Abhiyan and on the directive of the Railway Board the officers and employees at the RPF Training Centre, Gorakhpur, were administered pledge for protection from Covid-19 and its prevention on Friday. In addition in Varanasi during a security conference organised under the presidentship of PCSC Atul Kumar Srivastava the RPF personnel of Varanasi division and DLW, Varanasi, were administered pledge for otection from Covid-19, CPRO PK Singh said.

FOUND: The RPF post, Gonda, found a nine-year-old girl in an unclaimed condition during patrolling at Gonda railway station on October 7. She was handed over to the Child Line, Gonda. Meanwhile RPF post, Gorakhpur, found a 15-year-old girl in train No 05066 while going to Darbhanga as she was upset with her family. She was handed over to Child Line, Gorakhpur.

Programmes under Jal Andolan campaign continue

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR from Lucknow Jn at 23.35 hrs, from Kota at 18.40 hrs, from

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

On the call of Jan Andolan (mass movement) campaign given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and on the instructions of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, in Varanasi Division of NER and Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) on the second day on Friday. A meeting of health workers was organised at Central Hospital in

cial from October 18 every

Sunday till further notice depart

DLW in which corona warriors, patients and others were made aware to follow were administered pledge under the mass movethe COVID-19 guidelines. Chief Medical Officer Dr Sujit Malli, Chief Medical Superintendent Dr

distributed masks, soaps and sanitisers in the workshops and offices under the leadership of Chief Safety Officer Nitin Mehrotra, Deputy Chief Safety Officer US Srivastava and their team. Along with this, they also public participation in the war against COVID-19. In NER on the instructions of Divisional Railway Manager Vijay Kumar Panjiar, the employees working in remote stations and tracks of Varanasi division

Sawai Madhopur at 20.07 hrs,

ment campaign. The employees of various branch offices of DRM office also pledged to remain vigilant towards Covid-19 guidelines and

crore, showing a growth rate of ed more than ₹ 25,000 crore in more than 500 per cent in pre-Devesh Kumar, other medical officers and health Due to heightened awarethe first year premium income workers were present. Besides, Safety department mobilise others to follow the same. in Individual New Business LIC Pension and Group ness about need of risk cover, Bandra Terminus-Lko spl to run from Oct 17

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Life Insurance Corporation of India, the country's largest life insurer, continued to give outstanding performance even in times of business distress. Its resilient and quick response in meeting the expectations of the market and the people of the nation brought it exemplary results in the current financial year.

The LIC showed sterling performance amid COVID-19 lockdown in half-yearly results ending September 30, 2020 and declared policyholders bonus of more than ₹ 51,000 crore for 2019-20.

In the just concluded half-

year 2020-21, the LIC recordperformance as on September 30, 2020 compared to ₹24,867.70 crore on September

Under its Jeevan Shanti plan, LIC collected ₹ 11,456.41 crore as first year premium as on September 30, 2020. The ULIP Business of LIC

was also very good this year and as on September 30, 2020, the LIC sold 16,844 policies with a premium of ₹ 128.63 crore compared to 12,940 policies sold during the same

Schemes vertical collected ₹ 62,112.27 crore as group schemes new business premium income as on September 30, 2020. The LIC's composite market share in number of policies and first year premium was 67.82 percent and 70.57 percent respectively for quar-

On the claims front also, in spite of severe constraints of lockdown, up to September 30, 2020, LIC settled more than ₹ 82 lakh claims amounting to period last year for first year premium of ₹ 24.24 also declared a bonus of more

than ₹ 51,000 crore for its pol-

the policy surrendered have reduced drastically.

LIC took every available opportunity in the market, investing more than ₹ 2,60,000 crore this year in debt and equity (as at 30.09.2020) as compared to ₹ 2,44,931 crore invested last year during the same period. It has already booked more than ₹ 15,000 crore as profits in the capital market this fiscal so far.

With current trends, LIC is expected to do exceptionally well in the financial year 2020-

The delegation comprised of KUSFTA president Kamlesh Yadav, general secretary Akhand Pratap Singh, Pankaj Chandel, Ajay Tewari, Sanjit Kumar, Arvind Sengar, Amit Katiyar and Sunil.

KUSFTA general secretary Akhand Pratap Singh told media persons that during their meeting with the higher education officer, the latter asked him to submit details of all the 17,318 teachers of selffinances colleges who were getting salary below and above Rs.8,000 per month. The higher education officer also sought details of teachers getting salary below and above

The KUSFTA delegation also told the higher education officer that the teachers of self-finances colleges had not been paid salary during the lockdown since April 2020. He assured the delegation to take up the issue with the respective college authorities for early release of salary.

from Kanpur Central at 01.45 hrs, As per the instructions dissued by the Railway from Kanpur Anwarganj at 02.02 hours, from Kannauj at 03.00 hrs, Board the railway administrafrom Farrukhabad at 04.10 hrs, tion for the convenience of pasfrom Kasganj at 06:25 hrs, from Hathras City at 07:40 hrs, from sengers will ensure the movement of 09021/09022 Bandra Mathura Jn at 09.20 hrs, from Achhnera at 10.35 hrs, from Terminus-Lucknow-Bandra Terminus superfast weekly spe-Bharatpur at 11.40 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 13.50 hrs, from Kota cial train from Bandra Terminus from October 17 and at 15.45 hrs, from Bhavani Mandi at 17.35 hrs, from Ratlam at 21.20 from Lucknow Junction on hrs, from Dahod at 23.05 hrs, on the October 18 till further notice. third day from Godhra at 00.25 hrs, All coaches of this train are of reserved category, CPRO PK Singh said. The 09021 Bandra from Vadodara at 01.37 hrs, from Bharuch at 02.27 hrs, from Surat at 03:27 hrs, from Vapi at 04.40 hrs, Terminus-Lucknow Jn superfast weekly special from from Boisar at 05:42 hrs, from October 17 every Saturday till Borivali at 07.16 hrs reach further notice will leave Bandra Bandra Terminus at 08.00 hrs. A Terminus at 12:55 hrs, from total of 21 coaches, including Borivali at 13:26 hrs, from twoof generator-cum-luggage Boisar at 14:23 hrs, from Vapi van, four of general second class, at 15:20 hrs, from Surat at nine of sleeper class besides one 16:50 hrs, from Bharuch at of second AC and five of third 17:36 hrs, from Vadodara at AC. Meanwhile the railway 18.43 hours, from Godhra at administration will run the 20.00 hours, from Dahod at 09075/09076 Bandra Terminus-21.02 hrs, from Ratlam at 23:05 Ramnagar-Bandra Terminus hrs, on second day from superfast weekly special from Bhawani Mandi at 01:10 hours, Bandra Terminus from October from Kota at 02:45 hrs, from 15 and from Ramnagar from Sawai Madhopur at 04.05 hours, October 16 till further notice. All from Bharatpur at 08:15 hrs, coaches of this train are of from Achhnera at 09.20 hours, reserved category. The 09075 from Mathura Junction at 10:25 Bandra Terminus- Ramnagar hours, from Hathras City at superfast weekly special from October 15 every Thursday will 11.08 am, from Kasganj at 12.17 hours, from Farrukhabad at depart from Bandra Terminus at 13.50 hours, from Kannauj at 05.10 hours, from Borivali at 05:40 hrs, from Vapi at 07:29 14:52 hrs, from Kanpur Anwargani at 16.53 hours, from hrs, from Surat at 08:50 hrs, Kanpur Central at 17.20 hrs and from Bharuch at 09:39 hrs, reach Lucknow Junction at 19.15 from Vadodara at 10.53 hours, hours. During return journey the from Godhra at 11.58 hrs, 09022 Lucknow In - Bandra from Dahod at 13.00 hrs, from Ratlam at 15.00 hrs, from Nagda at 15.55 hrs, from Terminus Superfast weekly spe-

Ramganj Mandi at 17.37 hrs,

from Gangapur City at 21.00 hrs, from Bharatpur at 23.20 hrs, on the second day from Achhnera at 00.05 hrs, from Mathura Junction at 01.30 hrs, from Hathras City at 02:18 hrs, from Kasganj at 03:30 hrs, from Badaun at 04:45 hrs. from Bareilly at 06.10 hrs, from Izzatnagar at 06:54 hrs, from Bahedi at 07:32 hrs, from Kichha at 07:53 hrs, from Lalkuan at 08:45 hrs, from Bazpur at 09.33 hrs, from Kashipur at 10:25 hrs and reach Ramnagar at 11.00 hrs. During the return journey 09076 Ramnagar-Bandra Terminus superfast weekly special from October 16 every Friday till further notice will depart from Ramnagar at 16.30 hrs, from Kashipur at 16.58 hrs, from Bazpur at 17.20 hrs, from Lalkuan at 18.17 hrs, from Kichha at 18.36 hrs, from Bahedi at 18.54 hours, from Izzatnagar at 19:40 hrs, from Bareilly at 20.12 hrs, from Badaun at 21:02 hrs, from Kasganj at 22.50 hrs, from Hathras City at 23.40 hrs, on second day from Mathura Jn at 01:30 hrs, from Achhnera at 02.30 hrs, from Bharatpur at 03.35 hrs, from Gangapur City at 04.05 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 05.45 hrs, from Kota at 07:10 hrs, from Ramganj Mandi at 08.15 hrs, from Nagda at 10:50 hrs, from Ratlam at 11.45 hrs, from Dahod at 13.14 hrs, from Godhra at 14:40 hrs, from Vadodara at 15.52 hrs, from Bharuch at 16:42 hrs, from Surat at 17.40 hrs, from Vapi at 19.14 hrs, from Borivali at 21.20 hrs and reach Bandra Terminus at 22.00 hrs. A total of 18 coaches will be attached in this train.

Young couple commit suicide

LIC records exemplary results

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Ayoung couple committed suicide by hanging themselves together from a tree in Kotwali police area late Friday night as they could not marry

No suicide note was recovered from the spot.

Investigations revealed that the couple were upset after their family members had fixed their marriage else-

deceased girl said that had she informed them about her affair with the neighbouring youth, they would have allowed her marriage with tree.

According to reports, Vijay Laxmi's husband Horilal was a pump operator and he had died a few years ago following prolonged illness. In his place, her youngest son

in a milk agency and he was in love with a girl (20) who lived in a nearby house. Vijay Laxmi said the fam-

ily members of the girl were not ready for her marriage with Ravi. After dinner on Friday, Ravi went to sleep in his room. Around 1:30 am, the girl's father, Madan, and other family members knocked the doors and enquired about Ravi.

When Ravi was found However, kin of the missing from his room, Sachin went up to the main gate to trace him. On returning, he found Ravi and the neigh-bouring girl hanging from a

Mother of the deceased girl said that her daughter had cooked the food on Friday night and she watched TV serials till 12:15 am. On being scolded, she switched off the TV and went to sleep in her Sachin had got a job. Her sec-room. Around 1:30 am, when

ond son Ravi was a salesman the girl was found missing from her room, the family members visited Ravi's house who was also not at home.

PLEDGE TO CONTAIN CORONA

On the directive of the district magistrate to launch mass awareness campaigns to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, officers and employees of Kanpur Development Authority were administered oath in the hall on the first floor on Thursday. They took a vow to contain the spread of coronavirus and following Covid norms by using mask, maintaining twoyard distance, frequent washing of hands etc.

Officer on Special Duty Bhairpal Singh, Renu Pathak, City Planner Jyoti Prasad, Law Officer Shashi Bhushan Rai and Under Secretary KCM Singh along with other officers and employees were present

on the occasion.

38 APPLICATIONS HEARD IN KDA JANATA DARSHAN

In the Janata Darshan programme organised by Kanpur Development Authority on Thursday, 38 applications were received, most of them relating to unauthorised possession, freehold, registry, mutation, refund, etc. Kanpur Development

Authority Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh heard all the applicants and directed the officials to dispose them of within stipulated time limit. Some of the applicants who came to he Janata Darshan on Thursday included Deepa Shukla, Sitaram Verma, Ashish Kumar, Renu Dubey, Ramesh Chandra, Sheela Devi, Satyendra Kumar, Priya Pal and Munni Devi.

provides opportunity to

Army vice chief for self-reliance in making spl winter clothing

PNS NEW DELHI

With the stand-off at the Line of Actual Control(LAC) continuing, the armed forces are preparing for a long haul and digging in for the fast approaching winter months in Ladakh. In this backdron Army Vice Chief Lt. backdrop, Army Vice Chief Lt General S K Saini on Saturday called for attaining self reliance in manufacturing special winter clothing and mountaineering equipment.

His observation here came as the army is gearing up for sustaining thousands of troops in Ladakh where temperature will dip to minus 30 in the next few weeks. Realising the gravity of the situation, the Government has relaxed some procurement rules to enable the army to buy prefabricated huts and additional sets of winter clothing including

A parliamentary committee was also recently apprised of the army's preparedness and assured that more than adequate stocks of winter clothing are available.

Addressing a webinar organised by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, the Vice Chief said "A large number of our troops are deployed in super high altitude areas where

the temperature touches -50 degrees celsius. However, we are still importing cold-weather equipment, mainly due to the lack of viable indigenous solutions. A collaborative effort needs to be put in this field to our vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat."

At present, the Indian troops are deployed at heights of more than 13,000 to 14,000 feet at most of the stand-off sites in eastern Ladakh.

With no signs of the situation improving in the near future, the Indian security establishment has ramped up its logistical support to the front line troops, sources said.

Despite the volatile situation and military build up by both the sides, India has all along favoured talks to resolve the complex issue. The seventh round of Corps Commander level talks are scheduled for

After the sixth round on September 21, the two commanders decided not send more troops to the border. Relative calm prevails since then, sources said.

Meanwhile, Saini also highlighted security of defence establishments and vital installations and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and drones as major threats. On the

security of defence establishments and vital installations, he said efforts have been focussed on this in the last few years as these present "lucrative and high profile targets."

"Though the industry has

stepped up to the challenge, the solutions provided, however, lack innovation and integration," he said calling for efforts to ensure reduction in manpower commitment by integrating physical and electronic surveillance and incorporating automation and innovation.

The IEDs are emerging as the favoured tool for terrorists and anti national elements. "It ends up causing both physical and psychological trauma and seriously impairs own readiness, by forcing us to commit scarce resources for own protection," he said stating technological innovation is key to combating this threat.

The Vice Chief said amongst other threats, drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) stand out in their innovative employment and destructive potential.
Considering their low cost, destructive multi-use and dense proliferation, he said "both hard kill and soft kill counter-drone solutions including swarm technology are the need of the

ruption in social lives.

For instance, IIM Bodh

Higher awareness, investment needed to tackle mental illness Covid-19 pandemic

PNS NEW DELHI

As World Mental Health Day is observed on Saturday this year against the backdrop of Covid-19 pandemic, organizations like WHO and health experts in the sector have stressed on increasing awareness and higher investments to deal with the looming mental health crisis.

"The vast social and economic impact of COVID-19 highlights the critical need for all countries in the Region to invest in quality mental health care, which must be part of an overall increase in health spending," Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia said on Saturday.

The theme of this year's World Mental Health Day campaign is 'Move for mental health: let's invest'.

Dr Smita Deshpande, senior psychiatrist from Delhibased RML Hospital pointed out that even under normal circumstances, good mental health is crucial to the functioning of society. During a pandemic like Covid-19, however, it can affect how we respond and recover. "It is high time that we give importance to this area," she added.

Dr RC Jiloha, ex-psychia-trist from GB Pant Hospital, Delhi pointed out that even people who are not directly impacted with Covid-19 are facing depression and anxiety due to financial stress and dis-

He echoed the WHO survey released recently that reveals that most countries are experiencing some disruption to mental health services, with the greatest impact on community-based and prevention and promotion services. Back home, various organizations including educational institutions have started focusing on this long-neglected mental health arena.

Gaya's mindfulness center 'Samatvam' which aims to hone future leaders to be more



Submit complete safety, immunogenicity data of phase-2 trial of 'Covaxin' trial, Bharat Biotech told

phase-3 randomised dou-

ble-blind placebo-controlled

multicentre trial of its

CoviD-19 vaccine candidate.

tion said that the study

would cover 28,500 subjects aged 18 years and

above and would be con-

ducted in 19 sites - includ-

ing Delhi, Mumbai, Patna and Lucknow -- across 10

Covaxin is going on and the

second dose is yet to be

given to volunteers at some sites. "The company pre-

sented phase-3 clinical trial

protocol along with interim

data of phase 1 and 2 clini-

'Bodhi Pravaah' which will

host a spectrum of activities

such as 'Music therapies',

'ASMR meditation', 'Five sense

meditation, and much more

every Sunday. IIM Bodh Gaya

Director Dr Vinita Sahay spoke

on the importance of mental

health. On the occasion, a

small film, 'What makes you

cal trials," an official said.

The phase-2 trial of the

The firm in its applica-

PNS NEW DELHI

The country's top drug regulator has asked the Hyderabadbased drug manufacturer Bharat Biotech to submit complete safety and immunogenicity data of the ongoing

phase-2 trial of its vaccine candidate 'Covaxin' besides providing some clarifications, before proceeding for the next stage ie phase-3 clinical trials for the vaccine. The pharma firm had

sought the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) nod for carrying out third phase trials. The vaccine candidate

is being indigenously developed by the Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

According to officials,

the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker applied to the DCGI on October 2, seeking its permission to conduct

mindful and grow holistically, partnered with 'YourDost' - an online counseling and emotional wellness coach with an aim to normalize the conversation around seeking professional help to attain mental well-being.

The center also launched its weekly mindfulness series



reforms or investments,

according to researchers.

Indeed, some countries, including the United States, Brazil and Australia, are backtracking on existing laws and relaxing regulations and enforcement actions aimed at protecting nature but not much is happeneing, according to lead author Pamela McElwee, an associate professor in the Department of Human Ecology in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers

University-New Brunswick. "Just last week at the United Nations, more than 60 heads of state spoke at a virtual summit and pledged their support to tackle the biodiversity crisis. But when we look at what countries are doing, either in their prior budget and policies or especially in their post-Covid planning and recovery packages, very few governments are putting their money where

happy' was also showcased, in which students spoke about the things or people that make them beam in joy.

The purpose behind this video was to highlight the fact that often, the things that make us the happiest are very trivial - something which everyone needs to ponder upon," said Dr Nidhi Mishra, Chairperson- Mental Health & Well-being committee, IIM

their mouths are," McElwee pointed out.

'We still see huge amounts of financial support for harmful practices, such as subsi-dizing overfishing or fossil fuel production or building infrastructure that will harm ecological integrity. Only a small number of countries are addressing the biodiversity crisis in the serious manner it deserves.

The paper, by economists, anthropologists and environmental scientists at many institutions on three continents, is published in the journal One Earth. It explores the changes in global economic systems including incentives, regulations, fiscal policy and employment programs - that are necessary to shift away from activities that damage biodiversity and move toward those supporting ecosystem resilience.

The paper observations hold importance in the backdrop of the 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resources which says that unless action is taken, around 1 million species face extinction, many within decades, and the global rate of species extinction will accelerate.

Similarly, on the occasion of the World Mental Health Day, Shri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce in Delhi organized a Mental Health Therapy Webinar in collaboration with its International Cell, SGGSCC wherein Kartik Naidu, transpersonal therapist and trainer, Green Aura Holistic talked about importance of mental health and how the students can help understand and tackle their anxieties.

India agri exports boom during Covid-induced lockdown

PNS NEW DELHI

Despite the on-going coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide lockdown till June, India agricultural exports have been booming the past six months, while many sectors of the economy suffered. Export of essential agricultural commodities between April and

September, 2020 has increased by 43.4 percent to ₹53,626.6 crore as compared to ₹37,397.3 crore in the same period last year. As per the data, wheat export growth recorded to 206 percent, followed by non-Basmati rice 105 percent, refined sugar 104 percent, and groundnut 35 percent. According to agriculture

ministry's data, farm exports

stood at ₹37,397.3 crore during the April-September period of 2019-20. In September 2020, agri exports rose by 81.7 percent to ₹9,296 crore from ₹5,114 crore in September 2019. The balance of trade during April-September 2020 has been significantly positive at ₹9,002 Crore as against trade deficit of ₹2,133 during the same period

Sub-committee for Mullaperiyar dam doing its job properly, Tamil Nadu Govt tells SC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu Government has told the Supreme Court that the subcommittee meant to supervise the safety and other aspects, including water levels, in the Mullaperiyar dam has been doing its job properly.

The apex court had sought a reply from the state government on a plea filed by Joe Joseph in which he expressed apprehensions that there was lack of supervision of safety in the over-a-century-old dam.

In an affidavit, filed through advocate M Yokesh Kanna, the Tamil Nadu government said the plea alleging that it has abdicated its duties was "wholly misconceived".

"The prayer proceeds on an erroneous assumption that the Sub-Committee constituted by the Supervisory Committee amounts to abdication of duties by the Supervisory Committee, constituted pursuant to the directions of this court judgment dated May 07, 2014 ... is wholly untenable," the affidavit said.

The affidavit said the subcommittee is chaired by the executive engineer of the Central Water Commission (CWC) and has members from Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The sub-committee inspects the dam, collects data and gives details to the supervisory committee.

bers do not have any powers to give direction to the states. It is only doing the job of collecting information and data pertaining to the dam once in every two months, and if required, more frequently, as per directions of the chairman of the supervisory committee, and furnishing the same to the committee," the affidavit said.

The contention that there has been inordinate delay in finalising and implementing the Rule Curve and Gate Operation Schedule on the Mullaperiyar dam is wholly misplaced, it said.

The answering respondent states that the operation of the spillway gates during flood time was framed long back during the year 1974, vide... As per the procedure then laid down, based on long experience, before operating the spillway gates during flood time, warning would be issued well in advance to the downstream authorities concerned of the State of Kerala before releasing water through the spillway," it

'The answering respondent ensures and takes care that no release is made without any warning, and sudden releases are not made through the spillway. The releases are made in steps so as not to cause any problem to the people who are living downstream of the dam. Thus, it is submitted that Gate

operation procedure was available for long," it added.

Before operating the spillway gates during flood time, warning would be issued well in advance to the downstream authorities concerned before releasing water through the spillway, the affidavit said.

Tamil Nadu ensured that no water is released without any warning, and sudden releases are not made through the spillway, it said, adding that "the releases are made in steps so as not to cause any problem to the people who are living downstream of the dam".

"The supervisory committee duly assisted by the sub-committee are monitoring the system with reference to all safety aspects of the dam," the affidavit said.

The top court, in 2006, had permitted Tamil Nadu to raise the storage level of Mullaperiyar dam up to 142 ft. It had also permitted Tamil Nadu to carry out further strengthening measures as sug-gested by CWC and had hoped that Kerala would cooperate in the matter.

'The State of Kerala and its officers are restrained from causing any obstruction. After the strengthening work is complete to the satisfaction of CWC, independent experts would examine the safety angle before the water level is permitted to be raised to 152 ft," the apex court had said.

Live demos on e-filing planned for lawyers: Law Ministry official

Dlans are afoot to provide Plawyers and the legal community hands-on training through live demonstrations on e-filing of complaints, summons and payments once the coronavirus-induced restrictions are lifted and courts resume normal functioning, a senior official said on Saturday.

The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry, in association with the e-committee of the Supreme Court, plans to start such live demonstrations.

While e-filing videos have been uploaded on YouTube and manuals are available for download, since everyone is not tech savvy, live demonstrations will start soon in the corridors of courts, said Joint Secretary in the Department of Justice G R Raghavender.

He made these remarks at a webinar on enforcing contract organised by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM).

Noting that India is planning to further improve and break into top 50 in terms of the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking, he said enforcement of contracts is a key performance indicator.

Îndia has moved from the rank 178 in 2016 to 163 in

"A lot has been done but the impact has not been felt," he

ASSOCHAM statement.

The enforcing contract indicator is measured on the basis of three important parameters -- time estimate, cost estimate and quality of judicial process index. He explained that in India,

for resolving a commercial dispute in a district commercial court it takes 1,445 days which is worse than South Asian average of 1,101 days, in OECD high-income countries it is just 557 days, in Singapore and New Zealand it takes 164

While in terms of cost estimates, in India 31 per cent goes as the legal expenditure of the dispute, whereas in South Asia it is 29.6 per cent, in OECD countries it is 21.5 per cent and in Iceland it takes only nine per cent, in Bhutan it is 0-1 per cent.

In terms of the quality of the judicial process index, it has an 18-point score.

"India's score is 10.5, despite scoring above average we still have not fared better, while South Asian average is 7, OECD is 11 and in top 20 countries it is 15.5 per cent," he said according to the statement.

Noting that case management needs to be improved to reduce the time taken and reduce pendency, he suggested that lawyers need to use court management tools available on the department's website.

6 Rajasthan civic bodies to go to polls in two phases from Oct 29

¬he State Election Commission of Rajasthan on Saturday announced the election for the six municipal corporations in Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota.

Under this, voting for ward councillor in these corporations will be held in two phases, according to the Election Commission spokesman.

The public notification for

the election will be released on October 14. In the first phase, on October 29, voting will be held for Jaipur Heritage, Jodhpur North and Kota North Municipal Corporation while Jaipur Greater, Jodhpur South and Kota South municipal corporations will go to polls on November 1.

There are 35.97 lakh eligible voters in the six municipal corporations, including over 18.76 lakh male and 17.21 lakh female voters.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president J P Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other BJP leaders during BJPs Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting to discuss candidate list for Bihar Elections 2020 in

CRPF probing video of troops alleging non-availability of bulletproof vehicles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Reserve Police Force on Saturday said it is looking into the "authenticity" of a video, posted by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Twitter, in which some troops allege that they are being made to move for operational duties in a non bullet proof vehicle.

"CRPF has adequate protective vehicles to meet varied operational requirements," force spokesperson Deputy Inspector General Moses Dhinakaran said in a state-

"The authenticity of the video is being probed into by CRPF," the statement said.

The about 3.25 lakh personnel-strong CRPF is the lead internal security force of the country and is deployed extensively for conducting anti-Naxal operations in various states.

Gandhi attacked the government over provision of non-bullet proof vehicles for soldiers, while spending Rs 8,400 crore to procure aircraft for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Is this justice?" he asked on Twitter along with a video of a purported conversation among soldiers being transported in non-bullet proof **Gandhi attacked** the government over provision of non-bullet proof vehicles for soldiers

"Our jawans are being sent in non-bullet proof trucks to get martyred and a Rs 8,400 crore aircraft is brought for the PM! Is this justice," he said in a tweet in Hindi. The video shows a conversation between soldiers objecting to their transportation in a non-bullet proof vehicle, while their seniors were using bullet-proof vehicles.

They also complained that by doing so their lives were being compromised and the authorities were playing with their and their families' lives.

The government has brought two VVIP planes for travel of the President, Prime Minister and Vice President, even as it maintained that the process for procuring the two aircraft had begun under the UPA government, and the current dispensation has only brought it to a logical conclu-

Gujarat's coronavirus case tally crosses 1.5 lakh mark

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

 $T_{\text{Coronavirus cases in}}^{\text{he total number of}}$ Gujarat crossed the 1.5 lakh mark and rose to 1,50,415 with addition of 1,221 cases on Saturday, the state health department said.

The state's COVID-19 death toll rose to 3,560 after ten more patients succumbed to the virus, it said. At the same time, 1,456

patients were discharged, taking the tally of recovered cases to 1,30,897

Gujarat's recovery rate thus improved to 87.02 per cent, the department said in its release. As many as 51,288 tests

were conducted in the state in the last 24 hours, at the rate of 789.05 tests per day per million population, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 49,61,455.

Surat continues to report the highest number of daily cases in the state, with 252 cases recorded in the district on Saturday.

Ahmedabad remained at the second spot with 176 new cases, followed by Vadodara with 119 and Rajkot 114 cases. Among other districts,

Jamnagar reported 96 new cases, Gandhinagar and Junagadh 37 each, Mehsana 35, Banaskantha and Bharuch 34 each.

Stimulus hopes _____

Healthy Q2 expectations to keep sentiments high

IANS NEW DELHI

The accelerated rise in equities will continue at least in the near future, as investors expect a stimulus bonanza for the economy right before the start of the festive season.

Accordingly, traders are also expected to remain invested on the back of anticipated healthy quarterly results and the Reserve Bank's decision to continue with the accommodative policy.

However, volatility might rise on account of profit booking due to expensive propositions along with the upcoming macro-economic inflation and industrial data points.

"After a large weekly gain, the Nifty is close to a resistance band of 12,113-12,246. Hence the Index may inch up gradually, we may see a lot of stock and sector performances based on results and other announcements," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities, told IANS.

"For traders this is a good period for short term flipping. The support from RBI in its recently concluded MPC meet

removes one macro concern." "Hence the correction in terms of index also may be limited as and when it begins. Banks seem to have some more upside in store."

The Reserve Bank made an expected move last Friday by retaining key lending rates, but cheered investors and home buyers by giving a liquidity boost and an optimistic outlook. The RBI said it will resort to on-tap long-term repo operations and open market bond purchases to ensure liquidity in the banking system.It has also eased capital requirements on home loans to spur lending to the real estate sector. Developments around stimulus package both from the US and the Indian government would keep the sentiments

Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. "Going ahead, market is expected to remain positive but with very sector or stock specific actions. Investors would now track earnings season and watch out for management

positive,a said Siddhartha

A positive outlook guidance from IT majors might also trigger fresh buying, cited ana-

Next week, IT firms Wipro, HCL Tech and Infosys may give some guidance on the outlook.

"Markets are expected to continue their rally in the short-term in anticipation of further measures from the Indian government to provide a bonanza of stimulus," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Úpcoming hearing of moratorium is also expected to drive the domestic market next

According to S. Hariharan, Head - Sales Trading, Emkay Global Financial Services: "As Nifty approaches lifetime highs, we can expect rotation of performance among sectors with sideways movement in broader indices and a consolidation of strong market performance."

"Defensive sectors can be expected to outperform in the near-term in such a scenario. Overall fund flow picture remains strong with DIIs and FIIs net buyers incrementally over the last few sessions.

On path to recovery: Sept tendering and awarding grows 43%

 $E^{\rm conomic\ activity\ hit\ by}_{\rm Covid-19\ pandemic\ may}$ be gradually returning back to normal levels of last year as tendering activity, a good barom-eter to gauge the level of economic activity, growing by a staggering 43 per cent in

staggering 43 per cent in September as compared to same month last year.

Though the high growth during the month is largely on the back of low base YoY, still tendering in September has reached the highest level since March 2019. Emkay Global March 2019, Emkay Global Financial Services said in a research report.

With the gradual lifting of the lockdown, tendering and awarding activity had picked up in July but slipped again modestly in August and was still below the normal run-rate despite a low base, it h as licked up now in September.

The bulk of the pick-up in tendering during the month was driven by Water Supply (up 24 per cent yoy) and Roadways (up 57 per cent yoy) while Irrigation (down 34 per cent yoy) was weaker than recent run-rate.

Average monthly run-rate of tender value after FY19 has been around Rs 45,000 crore as

compared to which September 2020 was at Rs 74,100 crore. The September 2020 tendering activity is still down 15 per cent voy despite a low base in the second half of the previous comparable period.

Emkay said that despite

signs of a pick up, in FY21 with the fiscal situation of both the Centre and State governments already under pressure and further worsening likely due to Covid-19, tendering and awarding activity should remain subdued.

The awarding activity in September 2020, in value terms, was up 25 per cent yoy. The total awards stood at Rs28700 crore for the month which compares with a monthly run-rate of Rs 30,000 crore until FY19 and

L&T has so far reported an order inflow (ex-services) of only Rs 17,500 crore for the entire Q2FY21 as compared to a normalized run-rate of more than Rs 30,000 crore, the brokerage said. The breakdown of the orders suggests that bulk of the increase is due to orders such as a charter lease of FPSO from ONGC and renewable energy sector orders bagged by Sterling & Wilson, some of which may not be relevant or

No change in

Bank credit offtake remained poor in **Apr-Sept: RBI report**

IANS MUMBAI

Although the banks remain flush with liquidity and interest rates lowered significantly, credit offtake from banks was very low and "anaemic" during the first half of the current financial year (2020-21).

The low credit offtake can be attributed to the weak demand and persistent uncertainty amid the pandemic. "During H1 2020-21, bank

credit offtake was anaemic, reflecting weak demand and uncertainty in the wake of the pandemic," showed the Monetary Policy Report for the October 2020 released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

It showed that non-food credit growth (y-o-y) was 5.1 per cent as of September 25, 2020, lower than 8.6 per cent a year ago, driven by weak momentum and base effects.

It noted that the slowdown in credit growth was spread across all bank groups, especially foreign banks.

Credit growth of the public sector banks remained modest, although with some uptick since March 2020.

"Of the incremental credit extended by the scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) on a

agriculture registered some improvement in July 2020, the momentum could not be sustained in August

year-on-year basis (September 27, 2019 to September 25, 2020), 62.3 per cent was provided by the public sector banks and 41.2 per cent by the private sector banks, while the share of the foreign banks turned negative," said the

The deceleration in nonfood credit growth was broad-based, with credit offtake slowing down in all the major sec-

Though personal loans and credit to agriculture registered some improvement in July 2020, the momentum could not e sustained in August.

Credit growth to services and industrial sectors has also tapered off after showing some promise in the Q1 of FY21.

Personal loans accounted for the largest share of total credit flow in August 2020, followed by services. While the share of personal loans, services and agriculture increased in August 2020 vis-a-vis the previous year, the share of indusGoyal reviews progress of Pragati Maidan convention centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ommerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Saturday reviewed the progress of construction activities at Pragati Maidan which is being redeveloped into an Integrated Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC).

Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs H.S.Puri, Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister, P K Sinha, Officers from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, ITPO, NBCC, and other agencies involved in the activity took part in the virtual meeting, an official release said.

After going through the presentations and videos on the status of the construction activities, Goyal expressed satisfaction over the progress, as all the critical activities are under

Construction activities, which had suffered earlier due to lockdown and subsequent migration of labour, gained momentum in June, and the same is being maintained. About 4800 workers are presently engaged in various activities at the site. The complete project is likely to be handed over by October 2021.

Despite odds, fund raising via equity issues jumps 28% in Apr-Sept

IANS MUMBAI

The pandemic may have brought economic activities to a standstill but fund raising through public and rights of issue of equities increased nearly 28 per cent to Rs 76,830 crore during the first half of financial year 2020-21. During the same period last year, last fiscal, funds worth Rs 60,133 crore were raised through issue of equity shares. "Resource mobilisation through public and rights issues of equity increased to Rs 76,830 crore during H1 2020-21 from Rs 60,133 crore October 2020 released by the eserve Bank of India (RBI)

It also showed that Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) turned net buyers in the Indian equity market after panic sales in March due to flight to safety.

Mutual funds, however, were net sellers to the tune of During the same period last year, last fiscal, funds worth ₹60,133 crore were raised through issue of equity shares

Rs 24,801 crore during first half

After undergoing intense volatility in the fourth quarter of 2019-20, following the COVID-19 outbreak with a massive disruption in business activity, the Indian equity market made a strong V-shaped recovery in the first half in the corresponding period of the previous year," said the Monetary Policy Report for gained 46.5 per cent in Aprilgained 46.5 per cent in April-September 2020-21 after hitting 25 981 on March 2020. Strong rallies in global equity markets on the back of massive fiscal and monetary stimuli in major countries and the measures undertaken in India boosted domestic market

Trade bodies urge Centre to set up shipping regulator to control surging freight charges

this problem.

avirus crisis.

September.

ation where cargo is lying at ports. We urged the govern-

ment to set up a shipping reg-

ulator to control the freight

rates," Budhia said, adding

that exports have started to

After contracting for six

months in a row, the country's

exports grew by 5.27 per cent

to USD 27.4 billion in

The shipping companies have raised freight rates due to

falling imports from China as

liners do not have much cargo

while they are returning, an official of the engineering

exports uncompetitive in the

global markets," an EEPC offi-

cial said. After witnessing a

sharp fall, engineering exports

have somewhat steadied,

though the contraction con-

exporters' body said.

tinues, he added.

pick up despite the coron-

PTI KOLKATA

 $S^{\text{everal trade bodies have}}_{\text{urged The Centre to set up}}$ a regulator to deal with the rising freight charges, amid the problem of container shortages

that exporters are facing.
Engineering Export
Promotion Council of India (EEPC) claimed that shipping lines are demanding high freight charges as inward traffic from different countries, particularly from China, has declined for which the exporters are required to pay a higher amount for outbound consignments.

"Imports from China have fallen and the liners have increased freight rates. No empty after delivery of export consignments," Sanjay Budhia, chairman of CII national committee on exports and imports,

He said all the exporters across the country are facing

petrol, diesel prices for over a week now IANS NEW DELHI This is leading to a situ-

F uel consumers did not face any change in petrol and diesel prices for the entire week as stable global oil prices ensured that oil marketing companies did not need to go for a revision. Diesel price has stayed at

the same level since last Saturday, completing one full week when the fuel did not see any revision. Petrol prices have been stable for a longer period, completing 18 days on Saturday. With no revision in fuel prices on Saturday, in the national capital, diesel continues to be priced at Rs 70.46 per litre. Similarly, prices of the fuel in Mumbai, Chennai and ₹75.95 and ₹73.99 respective-

The price of petrol in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata remains at ₹81.06, ₹87.74, ₹84.14 and ₹82.59 per litre respectively.

Worst is over, economic recovery faster than expected: Keki Mistry Mistry said housing and of December, the economy would be at the pre-COVID

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd's CEO Keki Mistry on Saturday said the "worst is behind us" and the economic recovery has been faster than

Stating that the December quarter growth could outperform the expansion logged in the corresponding quarter a year ago, Mistry said that the Indian economy has shown its resilien-

Benign interest rate regime will continue going forward and that rates will go up only after economic activity gathers more pace and inflation pressure rises, Mistry, vice chairman and CEO, HDFC Ltd, said at an online dialogue organised by the All India Management Association (AIMA).

interest rates have bottomed

The government should identify the job creating sectors and address their issues on priority, AIMA said in a release quoting him.

real estate sector is the biggest employer in the economy after agriculture, and that 80 per cent of the workforce in the sector require minimal skills.

He also sought priority support for the manufacturing sectors. Talking about the repayment issues in the housing and the real estate sector, Mistry said that he expected non-performing loans to be in single digits. The veteran financial sector player also said that most of the job losses during COVID-19 were confined to low-income workers and the job losses for the kind of people who borrow money were

not alarming. The non-performing individual loans could be in the range of 2.5-4 per cent, which is also the extent of loans that the RBI has allowed to restruc-Mistry added

On the economic condition, Mistry said the Indian economy had proved to be resilient.

'The worst is behind us and the recovery has been faster than expected. By the end levels for most sectors. The December quarter growth could be better than the growth in the December quarter last year," he said.

However, Mistry qualified his optimism saying that a lot depended on whether another virus wave hits in the winter. Still, he said, the government was aware that India could not afford another lockdown.

Job creation and leaving money in the hands of the people should be the top two priorities of the government, Mistry said. Consumption being 60 per cent of the Indian economy, the recovery and growth efforts have to be led by boosting consumption, he said.

The cost of lowering taxes would not be too high whereas the benefits from highweigh the revenue loss to the government. While the corporate tax rates had gone down, the peak rate for individual tax rate had gone up from 35 per cent to 44 per cent," Mistry

Govt against further relief on loan moratorium

has told the Supreme Court that going any further than the fiscal policy decisions already taken, such as waiver of compound interest charged on loans of up to Rs 2 crore for six months moratorium period, may be "detrimental" to the overall economic scenario, the national economy and banks may not take "inevitable finan-

cial constraints". The Union Finance Ministry, through its additional secretary Pankaj Jain, filed the affidavit in compliance of the top court's October 5 order asking it to place on record the KV Kamath Committee recommendations on debt restructuring in view of COVID-19 related stress on various sectors as well as the notifications and circulars issued so far on the loan moratorium and financial difficul-

Prior to this, the Centre had told the top court that it cy decisions under the 'Garib

Chairman A Sakthivel said the

caution-listing of exporters had

become a threat since the out-

exporters in realization of their

It will provide flexibility to

break of coronavirus.

pound interest (interest on interest) charged on loans of up to Rs 2 crores for a six-month moratorium period announced due to the pandemic from individual borrowers in eight categories - MSME, Education loan, Housing Loan, consumer durable loan, credit card dues, auto loan, personal loans to professionals and consumption loans. The court, on October 5,

had observed that the Centre's affidavit did not contain necessary details and had asked the Centre and the RBI to file fresh ones in the case. In the fresh affidavit, the

Centre referred to its various fiscal policy decisions and the Reserve Bank of India and expressed inability in expanding the scope of reliefs already provided to different sectors.

"It is... submitted that while taking... decision and to supplement the earlier fiscal poliNirbhar"packages entailing substantial financial burden, the respondent government has rationalised the fiscal impact of the same, and that going any further than what has been decided and submitted to the hon'ble court may be detrimental to the overall economic scenario, and the national economy or the banking sector may not be able to take the inevitable financial constraints resulting therefrom." The official said the Centre's decision with regard to the question of waiver of interest on interest to bear the burden of compounding of interest in respect of certain categories of loans was taken in the larger public interest only in the specific context of the pandemic, which is, by itself, an

unprecedented situation. Such fiscal policy decisions are taken after an elaborate exercise of gathering of facts, careful assessment of

various alternatives, keeping in mind the economic impact on financial strength of stakeholders and all other relevant factors, more particularly during the pandemic when the global fiscal scenario is equally bad and the fact that it is uncertain as to till what date the present global and national economic stress will continue, the affidavit said. The Centre said that the

recommendations of the Kamath Committee have been broadly accepted by the RBI and the panel found "variable impact of the pandemic across several sectors, with varying degrees of severity and varying nature of problems".

"A perusal of the entire report would show that it is neither possible nor desirable to arrive at any one particular formula, whether sector-specific or otherwise, to deal with the stress situation arising from the unprecedented pandemic," it petitions.

The Kamath panel had made recommendations for 26 sectors that could be factored by lending institutions while finalising loan resolution plans and had said that banks could adopt a graded approach based on the severity of the coronavirus pandemic on a sector.

It said that the government extended relief through the 'Garib Kalyan package of Rs 1.70 lakh crore and the Aatma Nirbhar package.. of Rs. 20 lakh crore" and various measures have also been taken by RBI to mitigate the adverse financial

It said relief such as "extension of moratorium, applicability of the resolution framework, fixation of interest rate, transmission of rate cuts, delinking of interest rate from credit rating of the borrower and moratorium on repayment of non-credit instruments" have been sought in the

Agri exports rise 43.4 pc in Apr-Sept: Govt

Exports of agri-commodities to by 43.4 per cent to ₹53,626.6 crore in the first half of the current fiscal notwithstanding the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, the Union Agriculture Ministry said on

Saturday. Farm exports stood at ₹37,397.3 crore during the April-September period of the 2019-20 fiscal, it said.

In September 2020, agri exports rose by 81.7 per cent to ₹9,296 crore from ₹5,114 crore in September 2019.

The consistent and concerted efforts of the government to boost agricultural exports are bearing fruit as despite of the on-going Covid-19 crisis, the export of essential agri commodities for the cumulative period of April-September, 2020 has increased by 43.4 per cent to ₹53,626.6 crore," the ministry said in a statement.

Positive growth was recorded in export of groundnut (35 per cent), refined sugar (104 per cent), wheat (206 per cent), basmati rice (13 per cent) and non-basmati rice (105 per cent) during the April-September of this fiscal from

Furthermore, balance of trade during April-September 2020 was significantly positive at ₹9,002 crore as against trade deficit of ₹2,133 crore in the said period, it added.

To boost agri exports, the government announced Agriculture Export Policy, 2018 which inter-alia provides for cluster-based approach for export-centric farming of cash crops like fruits, vegetables, spices, etc.

Whereby clusters for specific agri products are identified across the country and focused interventions are carried out in these clusters.

Eight Export Promotion Forums (EPFs) have been set up under the aegis of agriexport promotion body APEDA to boost export of agriculture/ horticulture prod-

The EPFs are created on banana, grapes, mango, pomegranate, onion, dairy, rice bas-

mati and rice non-basmati. The EPF are making concerted efforts to identify, document particulars of, and reach out to stakeholders across the entire production/ supply chain of export for increasing these exports significantly to the global market, through various interventions, it said.

That apart, the government has also announced Agri-Infra Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore to improve agri business environment which will promote agri exports in due course, the ministry said.

I-T dept raids Ahmedabad-based real estate group

IANS NEW DELHI

business.

The Income Tax (I-T) L Department, based on credible intelligence, performed a search and seizure action in Ahmedabad on a group engaged in real estate, construction and land trading

The search was conducted at 27 premises on Thursday, which included the offices and residences of some associates of

During the search, unexplained cash of around Rs 69 lakh and jewellery worth around Rs 82 lakh were seized.

Besides, 18 bank lockers have been found and placed under restraint. A large number of incriminating documents and digital data in mobile phones, pen drives and computers have also been found and seized.

The group had around 96 companies at a few common addresses, which were being used for routing money and for land holding. Most of the companies were found to have no real business and very few returns of income have been filed. Many have not filed returns with the ROC. Some directors of these concerns, other than the main family members, have accepted to be dummy directors with mere signing roles. Innovative methods of tax evasion by increasing the cost of properties through intra-group transactions, on which tax is not paid, have been noticed by the department.

Exporters welcome RBI's relief measures

the system-based automatic was a threat to many exporters, caution-listing of exporters is a Sakthivel said. big relief to the industry at a RBI introduced Export time when the trading com-Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) in 2014 for all banks to bring munity is battling the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, say exporters. Apparel Export their transactions with the Promotion Council (AEPC)

New Delhi (PTI): The Reserve the pandemic-related payment

Bank's decision to discontinue difficulties, its continuation

exporters online. In 2016, it launched the system-based automatic caution-listing wherein exporters were put on RBI's caution list if any shipping bill against them remained open for more export proceeds. Considering than two years in EDPMS and

there was no extension granted by the bank or RBI.

Besides, the authorized dealer (AD) banks also recommended names of exporters to be put on caution list.

The automatic listing of exporters in RBI's caution list can further worsen the plight of exporters by denying them packing credit and the delay in bank documents can lead to high demurrage charges, he

Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) President S K Saraf said it was

a long pending demand of the exporting community. "It was a threat, more so,

since the outbreak of coronavirus as exporters were not in a position to approach banks physically to get exports realisation entries updated in the EDPMS Module," Saraf said.

RBI's decision will provide a big relief to exporters particularly since in a large number of cases the entries remain non-updated at the end of AD banks due to numerous factors. The onus will be on AD

banks to update exports remit-

tance and if payment is not realised, to report the same to RBI for appropriate action. The new mechanism strikes a nice balance between the responsibilities of exporters and bankers while simultaneously ensuring that realisation of exports proceeds is constantly monitored," he said. After contracting for six

months in a row, India's exports grew by 5.27 per cent year-onover the year-ago, it said. year to USD 27.4 billion in September while trade deficit narrowed to a three-month low of USD 2.91 billion.

TRUMP VS BIDEN

2nd presidential debate cancelled

Washington: The second presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden set for October 15 has been cancelled, the organisers have announced, after the incumbent US President refused to do a virtual face-off with his Democratic challenger despite concerns over his COVID-19 diagnosis.

In a statement, the nonpartisan (CPD) confirmed on Friday that the second version scheduled to be held in Miamai, Florida, would be scrapped. The CPD said it was preparing for the next debate to held on October 22 in Nashville, Tennessee, less than two weeks ahead of the November 3 presidential election.

The first presidential debate between Trump and Biden was held on September 29 in Cleveland, Ohio. The one-off debate between the vice presidential candidates Mike Pence and Kamala Harris took place on October 7 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"On' October 8, CPD announced that for the health

scheduled for October 15 in Miami, would be conducted virtually," the CPD said in a statement, officially announcing the cancellation of the second debate.

"Subsequently, the campaigns of the two candidates who qualified for participation in the debate made a series of statements concerning their respective positions regarding their willingness to participate in a virtual debate on October 15, and each now has announced alternate plans for

"It is now apparent there and safety of all involved, the will be no debate on October second presidential debate, 15, and the CPD will turn its

attention to preparations for the final presidential debate scheduled for October 22," the CPD added

The cancellation is the culmination of a furious 48-hour back-and-forth between the commission and the Republican and Democratic campaigns over the format of the second presidential debate.

The commission, with the backing of their health advisers, announced on Thursday that -- because Trump tested positive for the coronavirus -the debate that was scheduled for Miami would be held virtually, with the two candidates appearing from remote loca-

Trump swiftly rejected that American people together," his campaign spokesman Andrew plan, saying he would not show up and setting off a series of Bates said.

"It's shameful that Donald Trump ducked the only debate in which the voters get to ask the questions -- but it's no surprise. Everyone knows that Donald Trump likes to bully reporters, but obviously he doesn't have the guts to answer for his record to voters at the same time as Vice President Biden."

Trump's communications director Tim Murtaugh criticised the "biased" commission for cancelling the second debate, saying "there's no medical reason to stop" it.

The primary mission of the Commission on Presidential Debates is to ensure, for the benefit of the American electorate, that general election debates are held every four years between and among the leading candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States.

The CPD has sponsored general election presidential debates in every election since 1988, according to the com-

'Any peace deal with Taliban will not be detrimental to India's nat'l security'

New Delhi: Any peace deal with the Taliban "will not and should not be detrimental" to the national security of any country including India, and it is for New Delhi to decide whether to engage with the militant outfit, top Afghan peace negotiator Abdullah

Abdullah said on Saturday. In an interview to PTI, Abdullah, the chairman of the powerful High Council for National Reconciliation, also dispelled India's apprehensions that a prominent role for the Taliban as part of a possible outcome to the ongoing intra-Afghan peace talks could be detrimental to its strategic interests.

"It is not in our interest if any terrorist group has any foothold in Afghanistan. The agreement should be one which is acceptable to people of Afghanistan. It should be dignified, sustainable and durable, Abdullah said.

The influential Afghan leader also said if a peace deal is struck with Taliban, then all other terror groups "freelancing in mountains and deserts of Afghanistan and launching attacks on us or any other nation" will have to cease their

"Peaceful settlement will not be and should not be detrimental to any country's national security including India. India is a country which has helped Afghanistan, con-tributed to Afghanistan. It is a friend of Afghanistan," he said when asked whether he can assure that the outcome of the peace talks will not be detrimental to India's security inter-

There have been appre-hensions in New Delhi that Pakistan might leverage its influence over the Taliban to step up cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir if the militant group regains political prominance after a possible peace deal between it and the Afghan government.

Abdullah arrived here on Tuesday on a five-day visit as part of his efforts to build a regional consensus and support for the historic Afghan peace process.

During his stay, he briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the peace talks, and held

Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit

Asked whether he got any indication of India's willingness to engage with the Taliban, Abdullah said,"personally, I encourage engagement of India in the peace process. I did not make the suggestion. It is for India to decide how to engage with a group or not engage with a group. I did not pursue it," he

The Taliban and the Afghan government are holding direct talks, aimed at ending decades of war that has killed tens of thousands of people and ravaged various parts of Afghanistan. September

an Indian delegation attended the inaugural ceremony marking the launch of direct talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government in Doha. Jaishankar joined it through a video conference which was attended by a number of key leaders from several countries including US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Nearly 50,000 voters received wrong ballots: Ohio county

Columbus: Nearly 50,000 voters received incorrect absentee ballots in the county that is home to Ohio's capital and largest city, elections officials said Friday as they promised corrected ballots would be mailed within 72 hours.

With about 240,000 ballots mailed, that meant one in five voters received a wrong ballot.

The error happened Saturday afternoon when someone changed a setting on a machine that places absentee ballots into mailing envelopes, Franklin County elections officials said Thursday.

Some ballots had an incorrect congressional race, while others had the correct information but were sent to voters in a different precinct. The Franklin County Elections Board said 49,669 voters received incorrect ballots out of 237 498 that were mailed

That represents 6 per cent mately 880,000 registered voters, and 0.6 per cent of the 8 million voters registered statewide in the presidential battleground.

The process to print, stuff the replacement ballots in envelopes and mail them was underway Friday, the Franklin County Elections Board

The board also said it will mail postcards to all affected voters detailing the situation and highlighting voters' options moving forward. Those options include voting in-person at the board's offices on the city's

The elections board said multiple checks are in place to ensure only one voter can cast a ballot, including rejecting any replacement ballots if someone went ahead and voted in person. The news of the incorrect

ballots brought renewed focus on an election seeing an unprecedented number of absentee ballot requests, spurred by the coronavirus pandemic and concerns about elections chief announced that Ohio's 88 elections boards received a record number of absentee ballot applications.

Armenia, Azerbaijan agree on ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh

events that put the future of all general election debates into

The Trump campaign has alleged that the commission

was "biased" towards Biden,

while the Democrat's team

accused the president of duck-

more than 213,000 people in

the US where 7,664,000 con-

firmed cases have been report-

ed, making the country the

cancellation of the second pres-

idential debate in a statement

through a spokesperson, call-

ing it "shameful" that President

Trump "ducked the only debate

in which the voters get to ask

looks forward to making his

case to the American people

about how to overcome this

pandemic, restore American

leadership and our alliances in

"Vice President Biden

Biden has reacted to the

world's worst-hit nation.

Trump has been accused of downplaying the seriousness of COVID-19, which has killed

ing the debate.

Moscow: With Russia's mediation, Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh starting Saturday following two weeks of heavy fighting that marked the worst outbreak of hostilities in the separatist region in more than a quarter-century.

The countries' foreign ministers said in a statement that the truce is intended to exchange prisoners and recover the dead, adding that specific details will be agreed on later. Minutes after it entered force at noon (0800 GMT), Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other of breaching the cease-fire with new attacks. The claims couldn't be independently verified.

The announcement of the truce followed 10 hours of talks in Moscow sponsored by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who read the statement. It stipulated that the cease-fire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict.

If the truce holds, it would for Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia but also cultivated warm ties with Azerbaijan.

The latest outburst of fight-



ing between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces began September 27 and left hundreds of people dead in the biggest escalation of the decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh since a separatist war there ended in 1994. The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by

The talks between the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan were held on invitation from Russian President Vladimir Putin who the cease-fire in a series of calls with President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Armenia's Prime

Armenia.

Minister Nikol Pashinian. Since the start of the latest open to a cease-fire, while Azerbaijan insisted that it should be conditional on the Armenian forces' withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh, arguing that the failure of international efforts to negotiate a political settlement left it no other choice but to resort to

Russia has co-sponsored peace talks on Nagorno-Karabakh together with the United States and France as cochairs of the so-called Minsk Froup which is working under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. They haven't produced any deal, leaving Azerbaijan increasingly exasperated. AP

Taiwan's leader hopes for reduced tensions with China

Taipei: Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said on Saturday she has hopes for less tensions with China and in the region if Beijing will listen to Taipei's concerns, alter its approach and restart dialogue with the self-ruled island democracy.

Speaking at Taiwan's National Day celebrations on Saturday, Tsai took note of recent remarks by Chinese leader Xi Jinping in a video message to the UN General Assembly that China would never seek hegemony, expansion or to establish a sphere of influence.

"As countries in the region and around the world are now concerned about China's expanding hegemony, we hope this is the beginning of genuine change," Tsai said in her annual address at the Presidential Office in downtown Taipei.

If Beijing can "heed caster CCTV. it handles cross-strait relations, and jointly facilitate cross-strait reconciliation and peaceful dialogue, I believe that regional tension can sure-

ly be resolved," Tsai said. China's ruling Communist Party claims the self-governing

island as Chinese territory to be annexed by force if neces-Beijing cut contacts with Tsai's government following her election to a first term in

2016 and has steadily increased diplomatic, military and economic pressure on the island of 23 million people to compel her to endorse its contention that Taiwan and the mainland constitute a single Chinese nation, which it refers to as the "1992 Consensus." In Beijing, a spokesperson

for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office responded to Tsai's address by renewing China's demand for concessions and accusing her of "dis-rupting the exchanges and cooperation" between the sides, according to state broad-

Zhu Fengli Tsai of "deliberately misleading the people of Taiwan" and warning the Taiwan authorities to adhere to the 1992

Nepal records highest single day spike of over 5,000 new COVID cases



Kathmandu: Nepal on Saturday reported the highest single day spike of 5,008 new COVID-19 cases, taking the national tally to 105,684, the health ministry said.

A total of 19,320 PCR tests were conducted in the last 24 hours across the country.

This is the highest singleday COVID-19 spike in the country since the first case was reported on January 23 this

As many as 1,229 people were discharged during the period from hospitals after recovery. With this, the number of total recovered patients has reached 74,252.

A total of 1164,557 PCR tests have been conducted across the country so far, it said. At present, there are 30.818 COVID-19 active people across the country.

The total number of COVID-19 deaths in the coun-*AP* | try has reached 614.

UK plans new 3-tier system | Pak Opposition parties come out openly against powerful military of COVID-19 lockdown

Minister Boris Johnson is set to unveil a new three-tier system of measures alongside local regions across the country being handed greater decisionmaking powers as part of efforts to slow the spread of coronavirus.

The new so-called traffic light system, to be laid out in the House of Commons on Monday, will see the most severe measures imposed for areas of England fall within the third tier and people being ordered not to have any social contact with anyone outside their household together with the expected closures of pubs, bars and restaurants where some of the highest numbers of cases are occurring.

Tier one is likely to see people expected to follow the rule of six on gatherings and maintain social distancing. Tier two could ban households from mixing in homes, gardens, pubs, bars or restaurants.

According to a letter seen by the BBC, the details of each tier, including the level of infection at which an area would qualify for it and the nature of the restrictions, are being debated this weekend.

Johnson's Chief Strategic Adviser Edward Lister has written to the members of Parliament to highlight engagement with local authority lead-

ers as part of the process. It comes amid mounting criticism of the government using a top-down approach by shutting down parts of northern England without a full engagement process with the local authorities.

The new socalled traffic light system will see the most severe measures imposed for areas of England fall within the third tier and people being ordered not to have any social contact with anyone outside their household...

The government is operating under the misguided, arrogant and counterproductive view that Whitehall knows best, that decisions can be made behind closed doors, without any real consultation or even picking up the phone to those on the frontline, Opposition Labour Party Leader Kier Starmer wrote in The Daily Telegraph' earlier in the week.

Meanwhile, the British Medical Association (BMA) also criticised the government's approach to reduce the spread of the virus and called for compulsory face coverings across all settings.

COVID-19 is just as infectious in offices as in supermarkets. We need clear consistent policy now requiring masks in all settings where people mix outside their household and not 2 metres apart, said Dr Chaand Nagpaul, BMA Council Chair.

A number of areas in the northern and Midlands of England are already subject to stricter restrictions, with the new tiered system being designed to try and better organise the differing set of rules for different parts of the UK.

Public Health England's national infection service warned that the number of cases was rising all over the country, but more quickly in the North East, North West and Yorkshire and Humber than the South. Liverpool Mayor Joe Anderson said he expected Liverpool where there are currently 600 cases per 100,000 people to be placed in tier three, under the highest set of restrictions.

Other cities, such as Leeds and Sheffield, could fall in the top tier. There is also a debate about whether the tiers should be tightly drawn around larger cities, or include the suburbs where infections are less.

Meanwhile, London Mayor Sadiq Khan repeated his warnings that tougher restrictions in the UK capital are inevitable.

You've got three buckets: level one the least restrictions, level three the most similar to lockdown-type measures. What's clear to me is that it's inevitable there will be additional restrictions in London, he told LBC Radio.

And one of the things we are discussing as one London that's me and the 32/33 boroughs is what we think the right level should be and then work with government to make sure we have the right level there, he said.

Karachi: For the first time,

Pakistan's two major Opposition parties have come out openly against the country's powerful military, accusing it of rigging the 2018 elections that brought Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaaf party to power.

In the past, political leaders have only indirectly pointed to the involvement of the military establishment in the country's political affairs but this is the first time that the leaders of the two main Opposition parties -- the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) have openly criticised the military.

Former prime minister and PML-N supremo Sharif, who is in London since November last year and facing a number of corruption cases, fired the first salvo at the inaugural meeting of the Pakistan Democratic Movement, an alliance formed by Opposition parties last month to oust Prime Minister

Khan. Sharif alleged that the military rigged the 2018 elections to bring Prime Minister Khan to power.

He said interfering in politics in uniform amounts to treason under the country's

Constitution. His allegations sparked an angry response from Khan, who said Sharif was "playing a very dangerous game" by humiliating the military and intelligence services. He dismissed the allegations of rigged elections as baseless.

Sharif served as Pakistan's prime minister three times, first removed by a president in 1993, then by military ruler Pervez Musharraf in 1999. A

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

After Sharif, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday accused the military of rigging the 2018 elections.

Bilawal warned that any interference in the coming legislative assembly elections in Gilgit-Baltistan would lead to a strong reaction from his party, including a siege of Islamabad and a sit-in in the city.

"Such things were never witnessed even in dictatorships Musharraf," Bilawal was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspa-

"I wonder how you deploy a soldier inside and another outside the polling station. That was so strange. Even if you (military establishment) have done something wrong or not, you would be blamed either way. This should not happen," he said.

He said the "PPP would not allow anyone to steal the peoples mandate in the coming elections in Gilgit-Baltistan."

Report: 29 million girls, women victims of modern slavery

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Anew report estimates that 29 million women and girls are victims of modern slavery, exploited by practices including forced labour, forced marriage, debt-bondage and domestic servitude.

Grace Forrest, co-founder of the Walk Free anti-slavery organisation, said Friday that means one in every 130 women and girls is living in modern slavery today, more than the population of Australia.

"The reality is that there are more people living in slavery today than any other time in human history," she told a UN news conference. Walk Free defines modern

slavery "as the systematic

where one person is exploited by another for personal or financial gain," she said.

Forrest said the global estimate of one in 130 women and girls living in modern slavery was made based on work by Walk Free, the International Labour Organisation and the International Organisation for Migration, both UN agencies.

What this report has shown is that gender stacks the odds against girls from conception throughout their lives," she said.

According to the report, titled "Stacked Odds," women account for 99 per cent of all victims of forced sexual exploitation, 84 per cent of all victims of forced marriage, and 58 per cent of all victims removal of a person's freedom, of forced labour.

Pak Army's actions guided by Constitution: Gen Bajwa

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Saturday said that the military's all actions were guided by the Constitution and were in the "national interest". Addressing a passing out

parade of cadets at the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul, Gen Bajwa said the army would continue to support the government and defend our democratic values to the hilt". The powerful army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy. Gen Bajwa's remarks came amid allegations by two major Opposition parties that the powerful army rigged the 2018 elections that brought Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf party to

power. In the past, political

leaders have only indirectly pointed to the involvement of the military establishment in the country's political affairs but this is the first time that the leaders of the two main Opposition parties - the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim

League Nawaz (PML-N) have openly criticised the military. Gen Bajwa said that all actions of the army were guided by the Constitution and the national interests of Pakistan. He also said that the army would come to the support of the government, whenever asked according to the guidelines of the Constitution and the law. "We Pakistanis have proved that we can do wonders when we keep our national interests above our parochial, institutional and personal interests," he said.

Three-time former prime minister and PML-N supremo newspaper.

Sharif, who is in London since November last year and facing a number of corruption cases, last month alleged that the military rigged the 2018 elections to bring Prime Minister Khan to power. He said interfering in politics in uniform amounts to treason under the country's Constitution.

His allegations sparked an angry response from Khan, who said Sharif was "playing a very dangerous game" by humiliating the military and intelligence services. He dismissed the allegations of rigged elections as baseless. After Sharif, PPP chairman

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday accused the military of rigging the 2018 elections.

"Such things were never witnessed even in dictatorships of General Zia and Gen Musharraf," Bilawal was quoted as saying by the Dawn

HOME THEATRE

Peppy and fun



*ing: Yami Gautam, Vikrant Massev. Suhail Nayyar, Rajiv Gupta, Ayesha Raza Rated: 5.5/10

Tf one is looking for a movie that is not thought provoking or makes one to an introspection, then Ginny Weds Sunny is the perfect film to watch. Sit back and enjoy the lighter moments that it touches upon -Punjabi people who believe that there are only two things that they have to call their own — emotions and paneer.

Directed by debutant Puneet Khanna, Ginny Weds Sunny is sweet, peppy and fun for most of the time. Other times, there is confusion — whom to marry. Definitely a big problem for our hero played by Vikrant Massey (Sunny) who is desperate to get married so that he can open his restaurant. Go figure this one out and unravel it. But then, the film is set in Delhi-NCR. People living here will understand the dilemma, our protagonists face.

While the film has a few drawbacks, there are plenty of laughs. Take this for example. Ginny's real name is Princess Simran — not that she is from the royal

family. But they are Punjabis and what more can be expected of them Or the Jonty Weds Rimpi sign or the fun interaction between Rajiv Gupta (Sunny's father) and Ayesha Raza Mishra (Ginny's mother). Their dialogues are funny and entertaining. Unfortunately, their screen presence is limited and hence one doesn't get to see much of their rather great performance here.

Massey and Gautam are brilliant as well. Though Ginny's character lacks the conviction she wants to portray. She says she doesn't need a man in her life, but she wants to get married. She gets angry when she feels that Sunny has betrayed her, yet when he is all set to marry another, she wants to marry him. And which man spends an entire day with a woman, when he is getting married to another the next day? But then the title of the movie gives the entire plot away. No guesses what happens in the end despite the twists and turns

The soundtracks and the songs are peppy and one will hum them for the next few weeks and Mika and Badshah's Sawan Mein Lag Gayi Aag is bound to be played by almost all DJs in the coming weeks.

Overall, the movie is a light entertainment.

Nice, sweet & funny

Netflix

*ing: Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Julie Bowen, Ray Liotta, Rob Schneider, June Rated: 5/10

ince Halloween is an alien concept for Sus here in India, we really don't understand what the hullabaloo is all about. But that doesn't mean we don't understand how big this is world over with some of the witchery magic ending up in our backvard.

Most of us have grown up listening to stories about how people were executed between 15th and 18th centuries.

We have also heard of Salem, Massachusetts, US, a town for its witch trials. Now, bring the two together and one has Hubie Halloween even though it is not one till October 31. Why would the makers want to release the movie at least three weeks in

advance, makes one scratch one's head.

The sad part is that the movie is sad for the most part. Imagine a grown 40something man, still continues to be bullied and not just by people his age but kids too.

Why? Because of his way of talking or because he is too nice or because he gets spooked easily? Apparently, it is all three. But if one can get past this, Hubie Halloween is a nice, sweet and funny film to watch.

Sandler with his funny accent, sometimes difficult to follow what he is saying is entertaining as he rides through the Salem streets ducking things that are thrown at him by people and kids alike.

For most part, one will end laughing till

something happens to make you cringe. But these are far between and one can enjoy Sandler's goofiness and part stupidity.

While nothing here is original, nobody said that stupidity can't be funny and make one laugh.

— Shalini Saksena



Plan Your Day



mazon Prime Video on October 9 announced a brand new slate of nine highlyanticipated movies that will premiere directly on the streaming service. Anticipated movies that will premiere diversel line-up features titles such as Spanning five Indian languages, the diverse line-up features titles such as Coolie No 1 starring Varun Dhawan (Judwaa 2, Street Dancer 3D) and Sara Ali Khan (Simmba), Chhalaang starring Rajkummar Rao (Trapped, Stree) and Nushrat Bharucha (Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety), Durgavati starring Bhumi Pednekar (Shubh Mangal Savdhaan, Toilet: Ek Prem Katha), Bheema Sena Nala Maharaja (Kannada) starring Aravinnd Iyer, Middle Class Melodies (Telugu) starring Anand Devarakonda, *Maara* (Tamil) starring R Madhavan, and *Manne Number 13* (Kannada) starring Varsha Bollamma (Bigil), Chetan Gandharva (Melody) along with previously announced Zakariya Mohammed's Halal Love Story (Malayalam) and Suriya starrer Soorarai Pottru (Tamil). The movies will premiere exclusively on Prime Video within 2020 and will be available in more than 200 countries and

The new slate follows the successful launch of the first wave of direct-toservice premieres of 10 films across five languages, which led to Amazon Prime Video expanding its footprint in India with viewership for these movies coming from over 4000 cities and towns, across the country. Viewership titles in languages such Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam received more than 50 percent viewership from customers outside the home states, with customers from Lucknow, Kolkata, Pune and beyond streaming Penguin, Ponmagal Vandhal, Law, French Biriyani, Sufiyum Sujatayum, CU Soon V and Nishabdham. The movies were also streamed and enjoyed by TV audiences in 180 countries and territories, allowing Indian filmmakers to reach a wider audience through Prime Video's global presence. Hindi titles Gulabo Sitabo & Shakuntala Devi emerged as the two most watched movies since the launch of Prime Video in India. Gulabo Sitabo and Shakuntala Devi were also the most watched Hindi movie on Prime Video globally!

"Gripping content transcends geographical boundaries. The audience are always on the look-out for great entertainment, and good content will always find an audience. The resounding success of our first wave of direct-to-service movie premieres is a testament to that. This further reinforces our commitment to offering our customers a selection of riveting movies, cinematically produced, across a wide range of genres and languages," Vijay Subramaniam, Director and Head, Content,

'Proud of what I have achieved thus far'

KRITI VERMA, a GST Inspector with Mumbai who was last seen in Bigg Boss 12 and given the Young Achiever Award by Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA how she ended up on TV, her association with #vocalforlocal and upcoming projects

■How did you get into TV? I love watching the *Roadies* Xtreme show. My job in Mumbai meant that I was able friend. Everyone, since I was a child, would tell me that I exuded confidence. I am also health conscious and work out but am not a fitness freak. People think that Roadies is all about being fit but this is not the case. One just has to follow a healthy lifestyle. What the show is looking for is how

candidate for the show. ■From a GST Officer to Bigg Boss 12. How did that happen?

confident one is and the 360-

degree dimensional personality.

This made me an ideal

Bigg Boss 12 was offered to me after Roadies Xtreme. In that show, I was the most popular contestant. That is how the *Bigg Boss* team contacted me. I saw no reason to turn it down. After all, it is a Salman Khan show. I am sure there are very few people who would turn down the opportunity to be part of a show where he is the host.

■How have the two shows changed your life?

The shows have definitely changed my life for the better. Before I was on TV, I was a GST officer and the girl next door. People in the neighbourhood don't recognise you apart from those with whom you work. After these two shows, people on the street stop and acknowledge me and greet me and shower so much love and warmth sometimes it is overwhelming. I get gifts from people (fans).

■Was it tough to be in front of the camera for the first

It was not that tough. I have always been a confident person. I used to participate in extracurricular activities in school. I represented India in Pakistan at the International Theatre and Dance Festival. Facing the camera was not as challenging. ■You are a GST officer and Bigg Boss as a show is different. Was it tough to perform for the House and vet be within the ambit fit for an Inspector?

My being a GST Inspector actually helped me when I was



in the House. I was clear when I entered the show that I would not compromise on the reputation that I have to maintain because I am a Government servant primarily. I have to at all times uphold my dignity and dignity of my

office. The GST was introduced in India right before I entered Roadies Xtreme. Because of that people came to know more about GST, the rules and how it works. There was an article in a newspaper that said that I have taken GST on a national level. This made me

What was your family's reaction when you told them

Actually, my family has always been supportive of whatever I have wanted to do. They were proud when I became a GST Inspector. Almost 32 lakh people took this exam and only 3,000 were chosen. I was one of them. My parents were thrilled for me. Doing a TV show was a feather in cap. Due to my popularity, people now recognise my parents too. They are happy that I have met Salman Khan and Rannvijay Singh.

■Do your colleagues see you in a different light now?

I have not changed. I am the same with my friends. I am a grounded person. But people who don't know me, think that I am a celebrity. But that is not the case. Of course, fans send me gifts or just land up to get a selfie at the office address. People at the office smile and look at me a bit differently.

■ Is it difficult to do your job when you are out in the field? Sometimes, it does. It does become difficult to do the

work that I am supposed to. Bigg Boss as a format is so different for the other shows on TV. Also, it is not always possible to get leave to be on TV. My department has been very kind to me but it is not fair to keep asking for leave all the time. Î try to either push the work over the weekend or do it after office hours.

■How did you get associated with #vocalforlocal?

I take pride in being an Indian. I support Indian products and services. This initiative is taking things on a much larger platform to the public. This is a great app and each Indian must subscribe to

■Are there any upcoming projects?

I have signed a film as a lead. The shoot was to begin in April but now it has been postponed for November-December. I have done a web series as well. There is a music video that I am part of. The lockdown has put things on a slow burner but things will get back on track soon.

Sambhavna is back

After a hiatus, SAMBHAVNA SETH is back on TV with &TV's Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari. She speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about her role, You Tube channel and how has her life changed after she started vlogging

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he is known for her straightforward attitude and doesn't believe in sugar coating things at all. Not to mention her passion towards whatever work she takes up, be it playing her true self in *Bigg* Boss or Shah Turkan in Razia Sultan or Mahua in Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe

Meet Sambhavna Seth, an actor, dancer and also a vlogger, who is creating waves on social media with her YouTube channel, Sambhavna Seth Entertainment. that has recently reached the 1M milestone.

Ask Seth of what attracted her to play Mahua and she is quick to reply — the quirkiness and lots of shades in the

"Mahua is neither a negative nor a positive character. There are many shades to it. This was one of the reasons that I said yes to the role. Also I haven't done a comedy show before, so I got to do something different in this show. The character does have grey shades but then there's a reason behind it, otherwise Mahua is a very good and loving person," she tells you.

The role, she says, gave her space to not just act but also show her groovy moves with a pinch of comedy.

"I have only played out and out negative roles till date. Mahua was something different and I was very excited to play it," she adds.

During Corona, this is Seth's first outing and her experience, she says, has been good.
"One can't just stay cooped up

in his house. Yes, things are not too good, but then we don't have an option. Corona is for real and it can happen to anyone any where. In such a situation, there are only two options — one, live with the constant fear of catching infection and two, take precautions and face things. But this doesn't mean one has to go out for no reason. We have to accept the fact that this virus is not going anywhere till the mid of 2021 atleast. Hence, we can't live with the constant fear. Also, work is just as important," Seth explains.

Apart from her work in the industry, what earned Seth much love and fame is vlogging. So much so that she is often stopped by her fans on road to click a picture or two.

"I call myself an accidental vlogger. Vlogging was not on my cards at all, it was my husband Avinash, who encouraged me to take this up. And once I stepped into this, there was no looking back. It has become a hobby now," she tells

It is because of vlogging, she says, that she is able to showcase her true self and change people's perspective towards her. "I was misunderstood for all these years. It was only when I started vlogging that I was able to show people how actually Sambhavna is. The audience got to know about the re The way people perceived I was, did bother me a lot. It felt bad when people said something negative about me," she while vlogging is not everyone's cup

of tea, Seth feels that it is not that difficult. However everything has its pros

"If you are showing your true self in your vlogs than vlogging is not tough. The challenge comes in when people try to act differently in front of the camera. But yes, now people come to my house and at my shoots, even during the pandemic I have people waiting outside my building. It becomes a bit difficult to stop them and ask them not to. People recognise me whenever I am out on the road and come to meet me. It does feel that our lives are quite public but then it's fine. It is because of their love that I am here. And it is much better from the days when people didn't know me and spoke rubbish about me. Now they atleast know me and love me for who I am," she says.

She tells you that out of dancing, acting and vlogging, dancing comes naturally to her and vlogging is where her heart is.

"I am a born dancer. I can dance with my eyes closed. Dancing comes easy to me. Even on the sets of Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari, there was no assigned choreographer. They just played the

song and I started dancing. As far as acting is concerned, it doesn't come naturally to me, but if others can do it, I can do it too. A dancer can definitely be a good actor, but an

> dancer. And vlogging is something very new to me, but I enjoy doing it. I switch on the camera and start talking, that is all. So both dancing and vlogging actually come naturally to me," she tells you.

actor is not always a good

For all those aspiring vloggers, Seth has a piece of advice to share.

"Be true to your self. Don't imitate others, it wont help you in the long run. Come up with your original content. Be inspired from popular vloggers but don't become one if you don't want it from all your heart," she tells

o matter how sick one feels, but just when we enter a doctor's clinic and spot the man in a white coat festooned with a stethoscope, all the pain seems to disappear. Such has been our faith in the doctors who are considered nothing less than a God in a country like ours. The pandemic seems to have highlighted the importance of doctors even more, not that they were considered any less before.

However, what can't be ignored is the fact that around 515 doctors have sacrificed their lives in the fight against COVID-19. The question here is why? Perhaps because our fragile healthcare system could have done nothing much to save them, because this is how unprepared we were in the fight, to say the least.

Not only doctors, but several nurses and other healthcare workers have fallen prey to the disease, may be because they didn't have proper safety gears. Whatever the reason may have been, the loss in itself is huge and terrible.

Dr Shuchin Bajaj, Founder-Director, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals, tells you that the scariest part is that more than 2,500 family members of the doctors have lost their lives too.

"Doctors have been at the frontline of the fight against COVID and it's no wonder that more than 500 doctors have been martyred during this war. The scarier part is more than 2,500 family members of the doctors have lost their lives because the doctors had got the infection home. The Government has put healthcare at the bottom of its priority for a long time and no election in India has been fought with healthcare as the main agenda, contrary to the Western countries like the US, UK and the European countries where healthcare is the biggest election manifesto in every polls," Bajaj says.

Bajaj says.

He adds that the National Health Service has been the topic of every election that has happened in the UK. "The Obama care bill was the biggest issue in the last elections, which the Republicans had fought on. Healthcare has been the biggest issue in all of the countries but in India. The Government has really disregarded it completely and the healthcare expenditure in GDP in India is lower than each and every country in the world. It's worse than countries like Cambodia too. So, nobody is prepared and the poorest of the poor goes to private healthcare facilities and they have to sell their houses and lands to access healthcare. Supply chains were completely broken when pandemic hit. The Government doctors especially had to work without masks, PPEs and that's how they got the infection. The infection load was very high because they were seeing so many patients continuously. That's why there were so many lives lost," he explains.

So, the blame, he says, is completely on the Government. "They are never ready to fight any health challenge. They have outsourced it conveniently to private healthcare. The Government needs to reconsider its priorities and work on the health sector a lot by increasing the expenditure, make sure that the Government healthcare facilities are as good, if not better than the private. We need to protect our doctors and nurses because each doctor treats hundreds and thousands of patients. One loss of a doctor's life is a huge loss for the Government as it spends crores on one doctor's training to treat natients. And if a doctor at the prime of his life, it's a big loss to the entire community. So, we need to protect them by ensuring good quality masks, PPEs and well-equipped infrastructure. We also need to ensure that there are sufficient doctors so that one doctor doesn't have to work 24X7 and gets enough time to rest in between to rebuild his immunity, which is of utmost importance today," Bajaj tells you.

Commandar Navneet Bali, National Convener, AHPI, tells you that since the pandemic has broken out a huge shift has been witnessed in the healthcare sector. "Since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, a huge shift is witnessed in the private as well as public healthcare sector. Many organisations came forward to help and also many companies started manufacturing ventilators which helped in fighting the pandemic to a great extent. Surely we need to do better as far as the healthcare infrastructure is concerned. We also need more workforce. Hence, the recently launched two-year diploma courses by the Government are much appreciable as our country needs more specialised healthcare workers," he

Saving ourselves from this virus and taking care of ourselves and our family members in order to reduce the burden on the healthcare workers, he says, is one of the best ways to convey our regards and to thank them. "Wearing a mask is a must. Remember, our careless attitude has been one of the reasons behind the increasing fatalities. Our society needs to learn several things at different levels. Since the outbreak, we have even come across reports people misbehaving with doctors and assaulting them. This is unfortunate and makes us think that a lot has to be done even now to acknowledge the valuable contribution of our doctors and pay them much needed respect. This is not the first time we have witnessed a pandemic, but now is the time to learn from the past and present as well and be prepared for the future," Bali tells

Dr P Venkata Krishnan, Consultant — Internal Medicines, Paras Hospital, Gurugram, tells you that if the infrastructure was in place, we could have been able to save the lives of a lot of doctors. "A lot of doctors could have been saved, if our healthcare system was in place. Our healthcare infrastructure lacks many things. First and foremost, the cost of our healthcare services is very low as compared to the other countries. Secondly, the Government had not put adequate precaution for doctors. The Government should have asked the doctors above 55 years of age at the Government hospital to not to come on active duty till the disease is completely understood. Third, there were not enough

DEAR DOCTOR

According to the list put out by IMA, at least 500 doctors have lost their lives in the fight againt COVID-19. The unfortunate event raises many questions as to who is to be blamed for the loss. MUSBA HASHMI speaks to doctors and experts who analyse the situation and tell you if these could have been saved



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Protect the Couple and Single Doctor Setups

IMA dedicates the sacrifice of 515 Indian doctors in the fight against Covid 19 pandemic to the nation. We salute the martyrs. We salute all the nurses and the health care workers who sacrificed their lives as well.



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Dr. Rajan Sharma National President, IMA

protective gears available for doctors at the frontline. That's why many Government doctors got affected in the course of the disease. The Government should provide social and financial security to the doctors, who are actively on the line of duty. Hospitals suffered huge losses during the lockdown, forcing many doctors to come outside and earn. As a result, the healthcare professionals got the blow of the pandemic directly on them and as a result a lot of lives have been lost," he tells you.

Recently, the Centre has said that there is no database of deceased doctors, Dr Amitabha Ghosh, Senior Consultant — Internal Medicines, Columbia Asia Hospital, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon, has a take

on that. "I don't have an idea about what the Centre has said in view of the deceased doctors list. But if such a comment has been made and if its true, then its unfortunate," he opines.

In order to improve our healthcare infrastructure, he says, the annual budget allocated should be increased. "Then only we will be able to provide more manpower and implement things in a more systematic way," Ghosh adds.

Dr Anand Bansal, Medical Director, Action Group of Hospitals, tells you that instead of playing the blame game, it is high time that we should focus on that no more lives are lost in this fight.

"It is unfortunate that we lost many of

Dr. Ketan Desai Past President, WMA

our doctors in this fight against pandemic but instead of blaming, we surely need to introspect and work for a solution collectively. The need of the hour is to ensure safety and security of our doctors and also provide best treatment facilities to get rid of this infection as soon as possible. They should be provided PPE kits, good quality masks and a favourable working environment to treat patients. Also society should learn to respect doctors' instructions and Government guidelines and stop living in oblivion," he asserts.

Infrastructure, he says, is prime in healthcare, especially when it comes to private sector apart from beds and proper medication there should be enough space

to cope with other needs of the hospital. Take for example if a doctor is serving in a private hospital and is not able to go back home, then there should be proper space and arrangements for them to take rest and stay overnight in hospital. Also there should be subsidies for life saving equipment used in hospitals like ventilators and testing kits. The Government should provide ventilators at very economical costs; plasma donation should be rewarded and encouraged widely across the society. "Remember, pandemic outbreaks never come with alarms, all we can do is take lessons from history, and work with a holis-

tic approach," Bansal says. small token of a Bansal tells you.

workers is to show respect and consider them as soldiers, if not more. "They are also fighting our country's enemy in order to save our lives while putting theirs at risk. Government should ensure their safety, security and reward them for their work. Society should learn to respect them. The recent unfortunate news reports about violence with doctors during the lockdown were disappointing and heartbreaking; our society also needs to learn at large. Stay at

home as much as possible, follow social dis-

tancing and wear a mask in public places.

Dr. R. V. Asokan

Hony. Secretary General, IMA

take Saving ourselves from this virus will also add to our doctors' respect and will be a small token of our love towards them,"

Bansal tells you.



I'm really happy with the way we came out in the second innings. We thought it was an under par score but it was stopping on the wicket and he bowlers really did well



We are not playing good enough over the 40 overs, and not executing when the pressure is coming on and you can't win many games



The pitches in Guyana are pretty similar to what we get here and in the Indian sub continent with regards to spinners. I had no choice but to adjust to it and get better.



When Hetmyer and I were batting, we were thinking to score somewhere around 165-170 because this was a considerably slower wicket than we had played on earlier.

EVERY INCH KKR make yet another stunning

Shubman Gill plays a shot during Indian Premier League at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi

comeback in late two-run win over Kings XI Punjab

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

unil Narine and Prasidh Krishna Sdisplayed ice-cool temperament at the death as Kolkata Knight Riders pulled off a stunning two-run victory over a self destructive Kings XI Punjab in an IPL game on Saturday.

Dinesh Karthik's side pulled off yet another Houdini Act after they were seemingly down and out when KXIP opening pair KL Rahul (74) and Mayank Agawal (56) had put on 115 runs in 14.2 overs while chasing 165. It looked like it would be only a matter of time when KXIP would wrap up the match and snap their four-match losing streak.

But in the end, KXIP made a mess towards the end of their run chase to suffer their sixth defeat from seven matches and fifth on the trot while KKR notched up their fourth win in six matches. KXIP will now need a mathematical miracle to

The Mohali-based outfit needed 22 from the final three overs but the match turned on its head in the 18th over. Nicholas Pooran (16) gifted his wicket in the over bowled by Narine who conceded just two runs.

Needing 20 runs in the last two overs, KXIP lost two wickets in the space of three balls, including that of Rahul, in the penultimate over

bowled by pacer Prasidh Krishna. KXIP needed 14 runs from the last over and six of the final delivery to take the match to Super Over but Glenn Maxwell could only score a boundary for KXIP to lose the match by two runs.

Earlier, Rahul and Agarwal, the top two run getters in this IPL, avoided taking undue risk while getting the odd boundaries to keep the ask ing rate under control. They were 47 for no loss after powerplay with Pat Cummins bowling three of the first

Rahul was dropped by Andre Russell off the bowling of Prasidh Krishna in the second over when he was on two. Russell hurt himself while fielding after a few overs but returned in the 11th over only to ave the field again in the 13th over.

KXIP were 76 for no loss at the halfway mark and the duo kept on getting the ones and twos without much trouble with the KKR suddenly finding a death over bowler less without Russell.

KKR finally got the breakthrough with Agarwal holing out to Subhman Gill in the 15th over but new man in Pooran went for an unnecessary shot that led to his and

Pulse was racing inside but I kept calm: Narine

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Kolkata Knight Riders spinner Sunil Narine said he was feeling the pressure but managed to keep his calm while bowling a successful final over that earned his team a narrow two-run win against Kings XI Punjab in an IPL match here on Saturday

KKR were seemingly down and out when KXIP needed 22 from the final three overs but Narine tilted the match in his side's favour by dismissing Nicholas Pooran and conceding just two runs in the 18th over. Narine also bowled the final over of which

KXIP's downfall.

Opting to bat, a counter-attacking 58 off just 29 balls by skipper Dinesh Karthik and opener Shubman Gill's 57-run knock ĥelped KKR post 164 for 6.

Karthik's decision to bat first seemed to be backfiring as KKR were struggling at 63 for 3 in the 11th over but he changed the complexion of

KXIP needed 14 runs. They needed a six off the final ball to take the match to Super Over but Glenn Maxwell could only score a bound-

ary to hand KKR a two-run win. "When the last ball went up in the air, I thought I was going to bowl full and wide, I bowled full and wide, but then I thought I had made a mistake," Narine said at the post-match presentation.

"It is not ideal (for me to bowling at the death) but someone has to do that. I am used to doing it in the past. Inside the pulse is racing, but this calm is just how I am," the West Indian off-spinner added.

the innings with a magnificent knock which included eight fours The KKR captain, who was run

out in the last ball of the innings, had some exquisite shots and his placements were brilliant, besides his topclass running between the wicket. His fifty came off just 22 balls.

Kohli takes RCB to easy victory

The victory against Chennai Super Kings on Saturday was closest to perfection, feels Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Viat Kohli who is pleased as punch to end up with

two more points in his kitty.

For Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the fifth defeat has led to an admission that the batting unit has not clicked and he expects his players to take a more fearless approach in the second half of the campaign.

RCB beat CSK by 37 runs in an IPL encounter which too them to eight points from six games.

"It was one of our most complete performances. We got into a bit of a tricky position in the first half," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"From there on, we pushed forward. We spoke during the second timeout (with the bat) that 140-150 would be good. Ended up getting more than that. It was a tricky pitch," Kohli further added.

The skipper spoke about need to build on the momentum as they have some back-to-back games com-

"Really pleased to get two points. We have back-to-back games coming up, so important to build momentum?

"It's about understanding the con ditions and respecting the game. Instead of trying to hit every ball into the second tier of the stadium. Having played so much cricket, especially T20 cricket, I have learnt that if you are set at the death, you can capitalize," Kohli said. "I think the last 4

overs when we were bowling (didn't go to plan), before that the bowlers had done a good job, we needed to close it nicely. Batting has been bit of a worry and today also it was evident," Dhoni said.

Dhoni without naming said that even as they do permutation and combination, the problem areas have remained same as they are keeping too many runs to score after 15th or 16th over.

We need to do something about it. We can't just keep turning up.. it is almost the same thing that is happening maybe the individuals are different but I think we are better off playing the other way round - play the

"Even if you get out it is fine because we can't leave too many after the 15th or 16th over that just puts too much pressure on the lower order batsmen."



Mumbai locals Prithvi Shaw and Yashasvi Jaiswal chat after end of IPL game against Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals Rajasthan Royals/Twitter

POREL WILL GET GAME SOON

Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul has stated that pacer Ishan Porel "will soon get a game" in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) "Look, he's been very good, he's bowled well in the nets. I've been impressed with how he's been bowling. He's had a great first class season as well so yeah, some exciting guys in the line-up and one of them being Ishan. Sure at some point, he'll get a game," the official Kings XI website quoted Rahul as saying ahead of their match against Kolkata Knight Riders to be played on Saturday. Alongside Porel, another player who could be spotted in Kings XI colours soon this season could be the Chris Gayle. Head coach Anil Kumble revealed that Gayle was in fact due to play against SunRisers Hyderabad, but couldn't make the cut in the end due to health reasons

DC UP FOR ANY CHALLENGE

Delhi Capitals head scout Vijay Dahiya has been pleased with the performance of his team so far in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League.On Friday, Delhi moved to the top of the points table after beating Rajasthan Royals by 46 runs. Having been invited to bat first on a high-scoring Sharjah pitch, Delhi Capitals posted 184-8, presumably a below-par score at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. However, the bowlers rose to the occasion and helped the team to bag their fifth victory of the season by a margin of 46 runs. "It was a team game played by the individuals - you play your role, you play your part or sometimes you do something extraordinary, and this is the whole crux of this team,"

PUNTER WORKING ON HETMYER

Learning the art of playing a perfect pull shot from the peerless Ricky Ponting is a dream that Shimron Hetmyer is living during his stint with the Delhi Capitals. "It's been fun to be around Ricky. A very good guy. He is right now working on my pull shot. He has observed that in last few games, people have been bowling short to me. So far he is working on my pulling and he has done one hell of a job with me," Hetmyer sounded like a disciple in awe of his mentor while talking about the Capitals head coach. "He is teaching me the art of being a better finisher and I am getting there gradually.

WE LET DELHI OFF THE HOOK Rajasthan Royals skipper Steve Smith said they let Delhi

Capitals off the hook by conceding an extra 15-20 runs in their Indian Premier League match on a slow Sharjah pitch."I think the wicket did slow down a bit, probably it was not that good as it was in our first two games, but having said that, we probably let them off the hook in the first innings, we probably let them get 10-15 too many," Smith said. Smith added, "During the chase, we lost wickets again, I got out, we just kept on losing wickets at regular intervals, and chasing 180 odd on a wicket that has slowed up is not easy." "We always knew 180 would be a tough chase, we needed to string together partnerships but we were not able to do that," Smith said.

Stokes set for Royals return



Bruised and battered after a string of defeats, Rajasthan Royals will hope the presence of Ben Stokes gets the adrenaline flowing as they seek a revival of fortunes against a chargeď-up Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League on Sunday. Rajasthan are struggling at the penultimate spot on the points table after two wins and four straight defeats,

out of their six games so far and occupy the third position.

The Royals will be relieved to have the services of Stokes who completes his mandatory quarantine on Saturday. His absence has severely impacted the team's campaign, as the inaugural season champions struggled to figure out their best combination.

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

It was Stokes' father who reminded the star all-rounder of his duty towards his job and that might be playing in the 29-yearold's mind.

Capitals' skipper Shreyas

Iyer has been very impressive

so far both as a batsman and as

the leader of the pack. It will be

interesting to see how he uses

his resources against his in-

form counterpart Rohit

Sharma and his smashing mid-

dle-order due of Hardik Pandya

plexion of the game within

minutes and handling them

will be the key. Krunal Pandya,

They can change the com-

Iyer has the exciting South

and Kieron Pollard.

World Cup winner, who has been out of action for some time now, is afforded the luxury of some practice or is played straight up.

"Stokes hasn't had a lot of practice, he gets out of quarantine tomorrow, so we'll see if he plays the day after tomorrow," skipper Steve Smith had said after the match against Delhi Capitals.

Rajasthan, having lost to Delhi Ćapitals by a big margin of 46 runs, will look to stage a

An aggressive bowling display coupled with some good fielding saw them restrict Delhi Capitals to 184 for eight. However, the batsmen, save Yashasvi Jaiswal (34) and Rahul Tewatia (38), struggled during the chase.

Smith and Sanju Samson — will again need to live up to the expectations by contributing in a big way. Samson (176) and Smith

(157) scored runs in their first two matches, twice taking the side past the 200-mark. Rajasthan's bowling is shoul-

dered by pacer Jofra Archer and spinners Tewatia and Shreyas The Royals were off to a fly-

ing start, winning both their games at Sharjah but the former champions have since struggled to replicate those performances.

Having a slightly better season than their beleaguered opponents, Sunrisers were on their way to suffer back-to-back defeats before opener Jonny Khan helped them beat Kings XI Punjab by three wickets on Thursday.

For Sunrisers, Bairstow has been in prime form this season, smashing 97 off 55 balls against KXIP, and the English opener was at his explosive best against the Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore, too.

Skipper David Warner, who has scored 227 runs so far, would like to carry on with his good form after smashing 52 off 40 balls in the last match.

Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson are batsmen who can use the long handle to good effect while youngsters Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad and Abhishek Sharma are trying to carve a niche for themselves.

POINTS TABLE									
			Р	W	L	NRR	PTS		
1		DC	6	5	1	+1.267	10		
2	HOIANE	MI	6	4	2	+1.488	8		
3	•	KKR	6	4	2	+0.017	8		
4	*	SRH	6	3	3	+0.232	6		
5	8	RCB	5	3	2	-1.355	6		
6	1,0	CSK	6	2	4	-0.371	4		
7	(1)	RR	5	2	3	-0.826	4		
8	0	KXIP	7	1	6	-0.381	2		

'OPPERS

 $M_{
m expected}^{
m any\ small\ battles\ are}$ the season's two most consistent teams — Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals — cross swords in a clash of equals in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

Be it a potent top-order, a strong middle-order or a lethal bowling attack, there is hardly anything that separates the

If at all one team has a slight upper hand in any department, it's the experience in Mumbai Indians' pace bowling arsenal. Both Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, with years of experience behind them, could be the difference in the most sought-after contest of this edition.

It means that Shikhar Dhawan will have to strive harder to give the Capitals a solid start. The left-handed batsman has got starts in M the last few games but needs a bigger innings under his belt and if it comes in a big contest, Capitals will have gained

In a way, young Prithvi Shaw and the in-form Rishabh

Pant will face their first stiff test when they face Bumrah and Boult, who can trouble any batsman with their pace and accuracy.

The good news for Capitals is Shimron Hetmyer getting his touch back with the innings against Rajasthan Royals on Friday. He seemed to be the only weak link in Capitals' ranks but his six-laden knock against Royals has removed

too, is capable of conjuring up cameos that can turn things around for Mumbai Indians. African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortze to do the job in that department. The guile of Ravichandran Ashwin further adds sting to Capitals' attack.

Axar Patel has nicely settled into the side after he replaced the injured Amit Mishra. His all-round ability is another plus for the Capitals.

At the big Abu Dhabi ground, a score in the vicinity of 170 is normally par for any other side in the IPL, but for Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, even 200 may not appear safe.

'I feel uncomfortable on being compared with Rohit'

Pakistan's young batsman Haider Ali says while he admires India's Rohit Sharma and wants to play like him but comparisons with the Indian great makes him uncomfortable.

Haider, who made his T20 debut for Pakistan recently on the England tour and scored a blazing half century, said Rohit is a very accomplished player and there was no comparison with him.

Haider insisted he had a long way to go to be recognised as a top

"He is a top batsman and I feel uncomfortable when anyone compares us. There is no comparison. He has already achieved so much," said Haider. The youngster said he had

learnt a lot just by watching videos of other great batsmen and conceded he loved watching Rohit's innings and taking tips from

The youngster said that he would love to be part of Pakistan's team in all three formats and not just be confined to one format. "I can perform in all three for-

mats as I enjoy playing in them. I

had a good first class season and



our coach, Muhammad Wasim had given me good guidance at the Northerns side," he said.

Haider, 20, said playing domestic cricket was important for any young player and if a head coach gives confidence to his player at this level it makes a big difference to the development of that player.

'I have always felt that if your coach gives you confidence it makes a big difference to the confidence of a player and he performs to his full potential."

India's short quarantine request likely to be rejected

PTI ■ SYDNEY

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly's request for a shorter than mandated quarantine period for the Indian team in Brisbane, ahead of its tour of Australia, is likely to be rejected, said a report in

the Sydney Morning Ĥerald. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the rules of the game, which restarted with the Test series between England and the West Indies in July. Players have to be in quarantine for two weeks and be tested for the virus

before they can take the field. 'Queensland health officials are set to make cricket's most powerful nation adhere to strict national protocols, details of which have delayed Cricket Australia announcing a revised schedule for its USD 300 million summer," the daily wrote in its report.

India is keen on a reduced quarantine and wants the players to be allowed to train in a biosecure bubble instead of being restricted to a hotel

can take a toll on the fitness of its players.

"We just hope the number of quarantine days get reduced a bit. Because we don't want the players to go all that far and sit in hotel rooms for two weeks. It is very, very depressing and disappointing. We are looking at that, the quarantine thing," Ganguly had said in

July.

The report added that the BCCI has filed an application, requesting that an extended playing squad, coaches, support staff and families land in Brisbane days after the final of the ongoing Indian Premier League in the UAE on November 10, which is under consideration.

"Queensland Health is currently assessing an application received from the Indian cricket team. We will work directly with the team as the assessment progresses,"

a QH spokeswoman said. India are set to travel to Australia with a jumbo squad

room, which, the BCCI fears, comprising 23 to 25 playing members across formats considering the requirements of the series to be played in biobubble amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Test specialists Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari and the support staff led by head coach Ravi Shastri are likely to have a six-day quarantine in Dubai during the business end of the IPL before flying off to Australia.

It is understood that the two-sides will play the whiteball series before the Test with the three-match ODIs in Brisbane (tentatively November 26, 28 and 30), followed by T20s at the Adelaide Oval (December 4,

6, 8).

The four-match Test series is slated to start on December 17.

Recently, the New Zealand's women's team also had to go through a 14-day quarantine in Queensland, where it was allowed to train, before its series against

after all, only her seventh major tourfourth round. weeks made this outcome less of a surteen to win the women's title at the

IGA IS NEW FRENCH OU **AP** ■ PARIS "A great tournament, A great match,"

7 ith the poise of a veteran and the shots of a champion, 19-year-old Iga Swiatek picked the perfect place for her first tourlevel title: the French Open. Unseeded and ranked mere-

ly 54th, Swiatek grabbed the last six games to beat Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the final at Roland Garros on Saturday, becoming the first Polish tennis player to win a Grand Slam singles trophy.

When she smacked one last forehand winner to the corner to end things, Swiatek placed her right hand over her mouth then crouched, shaking her head.

"It's crazy. Two years ago, I won a junior Grand Slam, and right now I'm here. It feels like such a short time," Swiatek said, her voice cracking. "I'm just overwhelmed." Hard to believe? Maybe. This was,

nament; she'd never been past the But the way she played these two

Swiatek is the first woman to triumph in Paris without ceding a set since Justine Henin in 2007. She lost only 28 games across seven matches, too. She is the first

French Open since Iva Majoli in 1997. And Swiatek did it with victories over such opponents as 2018 champion Simona Halep and 2019 runner-up Marketa

Vondrousova, both by scores of 6-1, 6-2. So it made sense that Swiatek would be able to get past Kenin, a 21-year-old American who was trying to claim her second major title of 2020 after winning the ners. Australian Open in February.

Kenin told Swiatek during the trophy cer-

Kenin was 16-1 in Grand Slam matches until Saturday. But she dealt with a leg issue in the second set and showed frustration by kicking her red-white-and-blue racket after lost points.

And then there was this: She ran into the composed Swiatek, who only recently completed her high school studies, listens to Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns N' Roses before walking on court, travels with a sports psychologist and meditates during changeovers, breathing slowly with her

"I was just mentally consistent," Swiatek said. "I felt like today was really stressful for me, so it was kind of hard.' This weekend is the culmination of an unusual two weeks, to say the least.

The tournament was postponed form May-June to September-October because of the coronavirus pandemic; the recently rising number of COVID-19 cases in France led the government to limit the number of spectators allowed on the grounds to 1,000 each day.

Some top women, including 2019 champion Ash Barty and three-time major champ Naomi Osaka didn't enter the event; 23-time Slam winner Serena Williams withdrew before the second round with an injury.

The temperature was in the mid-50s (low teens Celsius), with a slight breeze, and the hundreds of fans scattered in Court Philippe Chatrier were mostly subdued - other than a group that would shout out Swiatek's first name, stretching it out over several seconds each time to sound like "Eeeeeeeeeegah."

At the changeover after the third game of the second set, Kenin was visited by a trainer and went off the court for a medical timeout, then returned with her left thigh wrapped.

Kenin said after her fourth-round match Monday that she had slipped and maybe pulled something during practice the day before.

While Kenin was gone, Swiatek tried to stay warm by pulling on a white jacket and hitting some serves, earning applause from spectators.

When play resumed, Swiatek needed only 12 more minutes to wrap up the victory, finishing with a 25-10 edge in win-

It's Rafa vs Novak

Go all the way back to June 8, 2006, when Rafael Nadal moved on at the French Open after his 19-year-old, 63rd-ranked opponent in the quarterfinals quit because of a bad back while trailing two sets to none.

That opponent's assessment of Nadal after facing him for the first time as pros: "He's the best on this surface, but he's not unbeatable. That's for sure. Hmmmm.

That foe? Novak Djokovic. Fast-forward to the final at Roland Garros on Sunday, when No. 1 Djokovic and No. 2 Nadal will stand across from each other once again at Court Philippe Chatrier, only this time in October after the tournament was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

It will be their 56th tour-level meeting - more than any other pair of men in the Open era, which dates to 1968.

And let's not forget the big picture: This match carries significant weight in the Grand Slam standings that so many fans, and the players themselves, keep tabs on.

Roger Federer, who is 39 and missed most of this season after having two knee operations, owns the men's record of 20 major championships. Nadal, who is 34, is next among men with 19; Djokovic, 33, stands third with 17.

After Sunday, either Nadal will pull even with Federer for the first time since they were tied with zero apiece, or Djokovic will gain on the leading duo and the totals will read 20-19-18.

For now, this is how each has filled his trophy cabinet: - Djokovic: 8 at the Australian Open, 5 at Wimbledon, 3 at the U.S. Open, 1 at the French Open; - Nadal: 12 at the French Open, 4 at the U.S. Open, 2 at Wimbledon, 1 at the Australian Open; - Federer: 8 at Wimbledon, 6 at the Australian Open, 5 at the U.S. Open, 1 at the French Open.

All three are greats of the game, regardless of where the numbers end up, of course.

Still, as much as Nadal wouldn't engage in a discussion about his chance to catch Federer after beating Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (0) in the semifinals Friday, he did acknowledge that "it's good for tennis" if others talk about it.



Rafael Nadal clenches his fist after winning the first set

Rest assured, they will. Much in the way that for years, people will debate which of the Big Three duos had the most intriguing head-to-head matchup: Federer vs.

Nadal, Djokovic vs. Federer, or Nadal vs. Djokovic. "He's definitely my greatest rival," Djokovic said about Nadal on Friday after getting past Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1 in the semi-

"Playing him in so many great matches, of course the past will have some effect, in terms of respect towards each other, I guess -- motivation to get out on the court and play your best, knowing that we both have to be at our best in order to win against each other."

Nadal called Djokovic, who is 37-1 in 2020, the lone loss via disqualification at the U.S. Open last month, "one of the toughest opponents possible." "The only thing I know is: To play against Novak, I need to play my best. Without playing my best tennis, (the) situation is very difficult,"

Fighter Tsitsipas is one of world's best player

IANS PARIS

eventeen-time Grand Slam Schampion Novak Djokovic has heaped praise on Stefanos Tsitsipas, saying the Greek is a fighter and one of the best players in the world.

On Friday evening, Djokovic survived a fightback from fifth seed Tsitsipas as he had to battle it out for almost four hours to secure a hard-fought 6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1 semi-final win in the ongoing French Open.

"Credit to him (Tsitsipas) for fighting back. He just played terrific tennis, especially in the fourth set when he was facing break points... He's a fighter. He's one of the best players in the world...There was a lot at stake for him," said Djokovic after the match as per the ATP

Tour website. "He was motivated to try to turn the match around, which he did very well. But in the end I think he ran out of gas. That's when I stepped it up, used my opportunities when they were presented in the fifth and closed out the match in a great fashion," he

Djokovic started his 10th Roland Garros semi-final in great form, winning the first two sets quite comfortably. But as the match began to slip away from Tsitsipas, the world number six took risks and fired his backhand down the line regularly to turn the match in his favour and won the next two sets.

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazil and Colombia had no trouble beating two of the weakest South American teams to score their irst wins in the opening round of

World Cup qualifiers. The matches took place without fans due to health protocols from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brazil easily beat Bolivia 5-0 in rainy Sao Paulo while Colombia scored all of its goals in a 3-0 victory in the first half in Barranquilla.

After the first round, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay and Argentina lead with three points. Peru and Paraguay have one. Ecuador, Chile, Venezuela and Bolivia have none.

All five matches in the second round will be played on Tuesday: Peru vs. Brazil, Bolivia vs. Argentina, Chile vs. Colombia, Ecuador vs. Uruguay and Venezuela vs. Paraguay. Neymar, experiencing back pain

Bobby's back

Firmino nets twice in Brazil's 5 goal win over Bolivia

ahead of the match and who was only confirmed in the starting lineup at the last minute, had two assists. He had more trouble with the pouring rain in Sao Paulo than with Bolivia's chaotic defenders who barely

touched him during the match. Defender Marquinhos opened the scoring in the 16th minute with a header. Roberto Firmino netted the first of his two goals in the 30th minute, just pushing the ball into an empty goal after a low cross from Renan Lodi.

Firmino made it 3-0 in the 49th minute, assisted by Neymar, putting the ball between the legs of goalkeeper Carlos Lampe. Then 19-yearold striker Rodrygo scored his first for the national team with a header in the 66th minute.

Philippe Coutinho ended the rout in the 73rd minute with a header, also assisted by Neymar.

"The team took this very seriously, we were very respectful," said Brazil captain Casemiro.

"We still need to improve teamwork. Match by match we will get

Brazil coach Tite said the team will continue to play aggressively.



qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

clash against Argentina at altitude. The team is in crisis due to a political dispute involving the country's Soccer body and major teams.

Colombian goal in first-half stoppage time. He dribbled past Jhon

The match in Barranquilla was marked by a serious left-ankle injury to Colombian defender Santiago Arias after he tackled Venezuelan striker Darwin Machis in the first few minutes.

Machis was initially sent off, but video review reversed the decision after it became clear the Venezuelan had not touched Arias.

Colombia showed why it is one of the favorites for one of the four direct South American berths in the Qatar 2022 World Cup in the 16th minute when Duván Zapata calmly scored from close range after a low cross by Juan Cuadrado.

Ten minutes later Johan Mojica bulldozed through the Venezuelan

Bolivia left some of its players defense from the left and assisted in La Paz, looking towards the Luis Muriel to add a second with a classy right-foot touch. Muriel scored the third

> Chancellor and beat goalkeeper Wuilker Fariñez with a hard left-foot Venezuela coach José Peseiro,

who was in charge of the team for the first time, could not do much in the second half - he met most of the players only days ago. His predecessor Rafael Dudamel left the job at the beginning of the year after a dispute with the country's soccer body.

"Since the first minute we imposed our game and that's why we won," Zapata said.

"Also, a good team is one that defends well. Today that was the key. Holding our lines in the back allowed us to use our talent up

Bottas takes Eifel pole

AP ■ NURBURG

Valtteri Bottas ended Lewis Hamilton's run of five consecutive Formula One pole positions by claiming first place on the grid at the Eifel Grand Prix on Saturday.

Hamilton briefly sat atop the time charts after toppling Max Verstappen in the third session, but his teammate Bottas sped through seconds later with an unbeatable time, fastest in all three sectors of the Nürburgring track.

"It's such a nice feeling when you get it done the last lap," the Finnish driver said, adding his final run was "spot on." Bottas' time beat Hamilton by .256 seconds and Verstappen by

Ferrari recovered a little ground after a miserable run of races, with Charles Leclerc qualifying fourth and Sebastian Vettel 11th.

Teams went into qualifving with much less information about the track conditions than usual after bad weather wiped out both Friday practices, leaving only one hour on Saturday



for teams to get the most grip from their tires in chilly conditions in western Germany

Sunday's race could be held in temperatures of just degrees Celsius (47 F), making it easily one of the coldest races in recent years.

"If it's any colder than this, I'm going to have to race with my scarf on," Hamilton joked after qual-

ifying. The cold makes it hard to get heat into the tires, which can cause understeer. Driving slowly behind the safety car if there's an to perfect the setups. accident will cause the tires to cool down even more. However, the weather could also allow drivers to use the same set of tires for longer.

"We're all in the same boat. I don't really know how far the tires will go, but when it gets a bit cooler, generally they can go a bit further," Hamilton said.

Hamilton will have to overtake his teammate on Sunday if he's to match Michael Schumacher's record of 91 wins in F1. Bottas is hoping he can stage a comeback in the title race after cutting Hamilton's lead to 44 points with a win two weeks ago in Russia.

Mercedes drivers have taken pole for every race this season, with eight for Hamilton and three for

Nico Hülkenberg woke up on Saturday expecting to be a pundit on German TV for qualifying. He ended up driving for Racing Point after Lance Stroll felt unwell. He was in the nearby city of Cologne and joked it was like "a heart attack" when he got a call from the team. Hülkenberg missed practice and had just four laps in qualifying as he placed 20th and last.

All players will be treated equally regardless of their stature: Fowler

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Newly-appointed East Bengal head coach Robbie Fowler on Saturday said they would aim to create a team which dominates ball possession and where all players are treated equally

regardless of their stature. With a late inclusion to the top-flight Indian Super League, East Bengal appointed the former English International and Liverpool legend with less than two months left for the scheduled start of the tour-

'We have been working very hard to bring in not only good players but great players. As far as I'm concerned, we have got a team full of marquee players," Fowler said in his first media interaction after his appoint-

bring out the best in everyone. We're gonna have a team who will work all the same. No one will be treated differently than anyone else, regardless of whatever

"Our aim is to try and captain

"We will create a team Indian players.

that will work very well with each other. We want to be a possession-based team. We want to get results. Fundamentally football is all about getting the right results. The addition of East

Bengal would take the seventh edition of ISL to a new high, Fowler said. The ISL is a relatively new league as we know. I

think it's got better every single season. Hopefully now with the addition of us, we can make the league a little bit bet-

Fowler will come with a star-studded backroom staff includformer ing former Manchester City midfielder Tony Grant former \ India

Renedy Singh as his deputy who are tasked to rope in foreign and

"His (Renedy's) stature in Indian football is absolute-right, getting the right methly great. We know as a coach how good he is. As a player, he was successful. He knows most of the local players. We've been speaking about the players who are right for us. Renedy has been instru-

mental," the 45-year-old said. Fowler last managed A-League side Brisbane Roar FC and transformed the side from being 10th in the league to fourth position, building a strong defensive side who conceded just 25

goals in 24 matches. "We've had a history where we've built a team magic. "We know the histothat struggled and made them successful in Australia. So you know we could do it again. It is a challenge,

ves players, fans and football clubs to achieve the very best," he said. various games throughout but it's a challenge that we've accepted and would look to do very well," he

said before it's about

our careers, and played various derbies that have been incredibly huge. We know what it means to the football clubs, to the fans," the Premier League's all-time seventh highest goal scorer with 163 goals to his name

right, getting the right meth-ods and ethics into the play-

ers. It's a challenge that we

can't wait to get started with."

the competition, a little bit

more successful. We want to

be as successful as we can.

Obviously no other League,

no other place is massively

important," Fowler said from

board with his deputy Grant,

Brisbane Roar conceded 71

goals from 27 matches in

2018-19 as the duo would

look to replicate the same

ry between East Bengal and

Mohun Bagan. With foot-

ball, rivalry is healthy. It dri-

"We've been involved in

Before Fowler came on

is home in Liverpool.

"Not only the team, but

Swimming Fraternity welcomes resumption of Olympic training

PTI NEW DELHI

The Indian swimming fraternity has welcomed the ▲ decision to reopen swimming pools across the country after Sports Ministry issued the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on Friday.

Virdhawal Khade one of six Indian swimmers who have achieved the Olympic qualification B mark and who participated in the 2008 Olympics welcomed the deci-

"It is an excellent decision. I am glad the swimmers will get a chance to get back to full form and race again soon. I hope the state governments take decision to fully support the decision taken by the centre at the soonest and 100% of the competitive swimmers can start training again," Khade was quoted as saying in a press release.

In August, SAI had sanctioned a two-month training camp in Dubai, attended by swimmers Srihari Nataraj and Kushagra Rawat, both of whom have achieved the B Qualification mark along with Sajan Prakash. Though he had trained in Dubai, Nataraj is happy to be training in India once again.
"I'm very glad that swimming pools are opening up

in India, being able to train by staying at home does make me a feel a lot better especially due to the fact I have my entire support staff available and the schedule can be designed for maximum efficiency," Natarai said. Despite the delays brought upon by the Covid-19 pandemic, a postponed Olympics may just help Indian swimmers and Dronacharya awardee coach Nihar

tive step in this regard. "I am very optimistic that our Olympic B qualifiers will work very hard to attain the A qualifying time and all our swimmers across the country are very enthusiastic about resuming their training," Ameen said.

Ameen has said the resumption of training is a posi-





'I am most comfortable doing theatre'

■ How did you get into acting at such an early age?

A friend of my father had a film

There was a unique factor. Due to pandemic, everyone was shooting fi magazine. He asked my father why he didn't let me act for a role. My father said no. He told my father that it was all clean. There was a bit of back and forth. My father agreed and I was in. What

Talktime

RUKHSAR REHMAN

mantra that keeps her going

and upcoming

projects

was such that it was possible to do the same. This got me interested. Also, the story was well-written. Of course, my family stepped in, my husband and daughter helped a lot. It was not just about shooting but setting up the place, acting and then sending the footage to the makers. I don't think I would have been able to manage all this on

There was a unique factor. Due to the

pandemic, everyone was shooting from

home. The good thing was that the story

my own. I understand that this is your debut with the web series. What was the attraction of venturing into digital space?

Actually, I had done a web series called *Haq Se* in

2018, a take-off on Little Women based in Kashmir that streamed on ALTBalaji app. But The Gone Game made more noise, hence peo-

ple think that this is my debut web series. I have been saying this for long, in films, there is a female antag-

I would like to explore comedy as a genre. Most people think that I can't pull it off. But I know that I can be

good at it. I would

also love to play a

character in period

drama

being written for women. But of late, in Indian web series, a lot of good roles are being written for women of all ages. This has drawn me to it. Then things end in a time-bound manner which is good. ■ Why can't we replicate good content in TV and films?

ideas. They are of the opinion that if they are making films, it has to be of a certain kind, if it is a web series, it has to be of a certain kind. Having said this, cinema has wider reach and old-age charm to it even if TV and web series are viewed by more

I think that every maker has a set of

people.
■ You have done TV, films and stage shows. Where are you most comfortable?

I am most comfortable when I am on the stage; when I am doing plays. That is where I am at my best.

■ What lesson should we take away from this pandemic?

While there is a huge lesson to take away but unfortunately, nobody is willing to make changes in their lives. There is a need to unite and walk forward as one. While there is bound to be jealousy, there to be more health conscious as well. I have learnt that material things don't give you peace or happiness.

■ Is there a mantra that has kept you going in the industry?

I enjoy my work. Whenever a project comes my way that I know I will love doing, I take it up and it keeps me going. I know that this is my career, this is what

■ Is there a character that you loved playing?

I loved playing the role in Sarkar (2005). I played Amrita (Vishnu's wife). I loved doing *D-Underworld* and *PK*. All the three characters I played were so different from each other.

Is there a genre that you like to explore?

There is comedy. Most people think that I can't pull it off. But I know that I can be good at it. I would love to play a comic role and also a character in peri-

od drama. ■ What are your future plans?

There is another web series. But it got postponed. But hopefully we will start shooting in November.

The pandemic has hit all sectors and film shoots is just one of them. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with SANDEEP A VARMA and RAJESH BUTTA about how they came up with the idea of Filmboard, how will it help and its benefits, among other things

Rajesh Butta and Sandeep A Varma

→ hat film shootings or for that matter TV and web series shootings have suffered a hard blow from the pandemic is a no-brainer. Though the industry has started to get bac track gradually, a lot has changed in the process. Not that it has been any easier before, but COVID-19 has definitely added to the woes of the makers.

With limited cast and crew, a mandatory six-feet distance between people and a walk-in sanitising tunnel, a much dramatic movie scene has come to life today, all thanks to COVID-19.

What comes to the rescue during such a time is Filmboard, a brainchild of Sandeep A Varma, filmmaker and Co-Founder and Rajesh Butta, serial entrepreneur and Co-Founder, is sure to help you complete your dream project without much hassle and over-bud-

geting.
"Rajesh and I are BITS Pilani batchmates. That was 10 years back. After that our paths changed and we went ahead to pursue what we loved. I did a course in advertising and started making ad and feature films. Rajesh on the other hand remained true to his education and became a civil entrepreneur. We were habituated to complete the projects that we were offered on time and within the cost that we had only set for a particular project. So about 95 per cent of the time that did happen and the costs didn't increase much. But when I came into filmmaking, most of my films went over budget. I realised that this didn't bother my filmmaker friends much because it happens with most of the projects, but for me it was intolerable," Varma explains.

do something about it. "The question that hit my mind was why did this happen and how we can sustain like this considering India is one of the largest film producing countries in the world and also the fastest growing. I had some ideas as to why it is happening and how it can be solved. Then fortunately, I met Rajesh after many years at a college reunion. I spilled all my ideas in front of him. He had different perspectives to my idea and explained how technology and an extensive database can help sort this out. This is how Filmboard, a novel marketplace for filmmaking where one can find everything in their budget, was born in 2017," Varma tells you.

One of the main reasons behind over-budgeting of projects, he says, is lack of professionals in the industry. "When a producer plans a film or a series, he is sure about two-three factors which ultimately helps in the decision making process. One, he knows the director. Two, he knows what the script is about. Three, he knows who are the top actors in the project. But there is much more that goes into the process. This is all Above The Line (ATL) things where the producer is negotiating and making direct pay-

When I came into filmmaking, most of my films went over **budget. I realised** that this didn't bother my filmmaker friends much because it happens with most of the projects, but for me it was intolerable.

This led to the birth of Filmboard — Sandeep A Varma Filmmaker and Co-Founder, **Filmboard**

provisioned on the set which includes, camera charges, food and logistics, art director and property charges and

many others. This provisioning is done by thousands and thousands of line producers who are operating individually all over the country. These people have no training at all. They are the ones who came into the industry to become actors, but since all the other fields including camera handling require expertise, they chose this field of work. ments to the concerned people. Then there is Below The Line (BTL), that is The BTL part of the money is about 80 to the mobile phone's camera and the per cent of ATL budget. With these picture has to be clicked then and there,

untrained people, there is no transparency in the finalising of things. Hence, the budget keeps on increasing for several reasons, including poor camera quality, among others,

At Filmboard, he says, they have tied-up with national level brands for catering services, who will supply hygienic food which is untouched by human hands to the shoots, especially during COVID. "The perception will be that the cost of this food will be too high. But, the reality is that the rates are negotiable and are of the same rates as of the local catering walas. In short, we are organising this process and putting it on one single platform for everyone to see and decide what to choose and what not," Varma tells you.

Not only catering services, one can find everything from an actor, to spot boys and from producers to camera man at a single destination and at the price of their choice and budget.

Recently, they have also launched the COVID action plan via an app on their website to help simplify the process and not to mention within the allocated budget. "The app allows people to see if proper precautions are being taken at the shoot. There is an assigned officer who visits the shoots to check that all precautions are being followed. He then clicks and uploads a picture of the respective crew member on the app itself to verify it. To enhance the security, the photo option will redirect one it can't be hampered," Butta tells vou. In case of any violations, Butta says, proper actions are taken against the offender.

brands like Radio Mirchi, Gaana.com and Rebel Foods. "We have worked with big brands but on comparatively smaller projects. As we go forward, we see us doing larger projects. In 2021, we will be doing feature and animation films and our area of work will be focused towards OTT platforms, Varma tells you.

There is much more on the duo's cards in order to make the website better than ever. "This is the Version 3 of the website, but we will be going up to Version 5 and will revamp the website completely. For this, we have planned few technology-led innovations. One of them is AI-enabled auditions. In any particular audition, there is a queue of around 200 aspirants. From such a huge chunk, it is difficult to select one. Through this feature, AI will be shortlisting candidates on defined parameters, including voice clartiy and eye con-

tact. About 70 per cent of the audition process can be done through this tech-nology and the process becomes easier and less time consuming. The shortlisted contestants can then decided

tells you.

accordingly, Butta

parsley, finely chopped
50g California

Walnuts, finely chopped

■ Preheat the oven to 200°C.

■Cut the baguette in half and

with each half, make deep slits

diagonally at two cm intervals

making sure not to cut all the way

through. Place each on a large

garlic, parsley and walnuts, season

and spread into the slits. Wrap

loosely in foil and place both on a

large baking tray.

Bake for 10 minutes, unwrap

■Blend together the butter,

PREPARATIONS:

piece of foil.

I don't want to restrict to a genre'

Music composer-director KARAN KULKARNI, who has composed music for Shakuntala Devi and background score for Breathe: Into The Shadows, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how he got interested in music and if there is a formula for hit music

■ What are you working on at present?

I am working on a lot of TV commercials right now. A lot of shoots are on the cards while not are on the shooting stage but they will get there.

■ What were the challenges that came with Breathe: Into The Shadows?

The main challenge about giving music for any web series is the more specific Breathe: Into The Shadows is the length of the music. This web series has 12 episodes of 45-50 minutes each. This means creating music for around five-six hours. Compared to a film, this is a lot of work, like doing three-four films. Also, given that this was a web series releasing for me on a big OTT platform we had to keep in mind how it will sound on TV or

■ Is giving a background score different from composing for a song?

When it comes to composing, it is the same since at the end of the day it is all about making music. There is really no difference here. One can say that songs garner a lot more attention, that is how it has been historically and people sing songs. Background score is music without singing and we are trying to follow the story and support it. In a song, we are just making

■ In Hollywood, background music tends to stay with us and we identify the movie by it, why is it different in Bollywood?

It is the nature of things. People pay more attention to songs since there is a singer — there is a face, there is a voice, they identify with him and sing along People enjoy it separately too. But when it comes to the score, it is identified and tied with the film. When you listen to it, you listen to it with the film. We do have a lot of musicians who are very talented and give great background scores but we don't pay attention to it and they prefer to remain in the background. We pay more attention to films. So, it is a bit of all the above.

■ How did you get interested in music?

I was 15 when I started to play the guitar. This is probably how things start for many musicians. One thing led to another. I started to study it and got into music with a computer. I did a music production course in Australia. I came back and started getting work and here I am.

How was the experience of working on Shakuntala Devi and then Raat Akeli Hai?

On one hand, Raat Akeli Hai, it is dark and is a mysterythriller. The sound and way you compose is different. Shakuntala Devi is brighter and more mainstream. Just the choic-

es, sound, genres and characters you deal with here is slightly different. It is not a major thing to overcome. The industry we work in, requires us to work on all kinds of genres. I have had the opportunity to work on all kinds of music.

■ Is there a formula for hit music?

I don't believe this. Upbeat dance music has been pushed a lot. But there are listeners for all kind of music. Music is so wide. It is not just happy

and item numbers and sad. There is melancholy and contemplative. One can make songs on these. There is a reason why certain kinds of music works because they are being promoted since they understand this. They get played a lot. But if you play any kind of music a lot, there will be listeners. If one looks at the history of music, as long as it is good music, it will

■ What kind of music would you like to create?

It is to create something new. I don't want to restrict myself to a genre. I want to challenge myself and be interesting.

■ Is it tough to experiment given there is so

much competition? Definitely. Everyone is connected to the Internet. They have heard everything that is coming out of Africa, the US and Japan. One knows all the sounds. It makes it tougher to be innovative. But every human being is unique and what he will create will be different. This will set you apart. Indian listeners have always evolved. There is a misconception. It is the people who are selling us the

music who are not evolved. ■ What do you agree that working for digital

space is better than working for the industry?

I totally agree with this 100 per cent. When you release something in theatre, there is someone involved and there is a lot of control on what they think is correct and what they think will work or not. All artists believe that the audience is ready if you sell it to them properly. People are watching Netflix, Amazon and stuff on the Internet. They are exposed to a lot of things globally. There is no need pleasing others. People have started to relax a bit since they are competing with global content.

SPICE UP YOUR IPL EVENINGS

With the cricket fever taking over the country, it is time to ramp up our snack game too! So, load up on these healthy and flavourful snacks with the added goodness of California Walnuts to keep your energy levels high during

CALIFORNIA WALNUT NACHOS WITH GUACAMOLE

INGREDIENTS:

- Nachos:
- ■140g maize flour ■120g sunflower seeds
- ■60ml extra virgin olive oil ■1 ½ teaspoon salt
- ■125ml water Guacamole:
- ■1 medium tomato
- ■20g California walnuts
- 2 avocados
- ■Half onion

■1 teaspoon cayenne

- ■Salt to taste
- ■1 tablespoon fresh coriander leaves

PREPARATIONS:

- Nachos:
- ■Preheat the oven to 220°C. ■Chop the sunflower seeds and wal-
- ■Put all the ingredients of the nachos in a big bowl and mix them with a wooden spoon. Add oil and combine it. Add water little by little, until the flour sticks together and forms a nice dough

- ball. If it's wet, continue mixing up until
- ■Divide the dough in two balls and place one of them between two baking sheets. Using a rolling pin, extend the dough until it has a thickness of 2 mm and mark with a knife the lines to break
- or separate them. Retire the baking sheet off the top of the dough and place them in an oven tray. Bake around 10 minutes or until it turns gold. Let it cool and chop. Repeat with the same with the other ball.

GUACAMOLE:

- place it in a bowl. Using a fork or a wooden spoon, smash the avocado flesh and pour lemon juice so they do not rust. ■Add tomato, onion, salt, cayenne
- and coriander into the bowl. Mix it until

CALIFORNIA WALNUT GARLIC BREAD ■½ x 25g pack



■Cut tomato and onion in little

■ Cut avocados, retire the filling and

■Serve it with the walnut nachos. By Chef Sabyasachi Gorai

INGREDIENTS:

■100g butter, softened ■4 cloves garlic, crushed

■1 French baguette

butter has melted.

the foil to expose the top of the bread and cook for a further 10 minutes until golden and the

- By Chef Neha Deepak Shah



Creating content that can go viral is the holy grail for most marketing companies today, writes RAJA SAHI, as he advocates careful consumption of what is being thrown at us in the name of entertainment

on't we love to be entertained. What started many thousands of years ago as cave art and guttural sounds around an evening fire has now become much more refined as endless series of content to see on YouTube, Netflix, Amazon, and the like. We have a near infinity of books that we can read both digitally and physically. We have so many TV channels to choose from that many of us feel like giving up during the selection process itself. And, if you wanted a quick fix, you can go check out the latest gossip on one of the WhatsApp groups you are in or just go to *TikTok*, make one choice and then let the application take it from there

Being 46 and having grown up in New Delhi, entertainment for me, when in my teens, consisted of reading the newspaper in the morning and, after that, mostly of visiting someone's house and enjoying playing some board or card games there. The days of cable TV, smartphones and the capability to see whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted to, was still quite a few years

Look around you for a second. If you are affluent enough, and at home, chances are there is a TV, with a remote, nearby somewhere and that you are in possession of at least one smart mobile device. You are therefore just one or two button clicks away from choosing whatever form of entertainment you want, right from the luxury of wherever you are sitting right now.

DEMOCRATISING CONTENT CREATION

We are what we eat and breathe, but we, usually, become what we see. Our brains love learning and we are all sponges when we sit in front of our chosen entertainment medium. Be it a print newspaper or an electronic medium. We enjoy knowing about others and, in turn, we desire to tell others what is happening to us.

Technology has made things much easier. Any one of us, with enough drive, can decide to become an *Instagram* influencer, a *YouTube* celebrity or a *TikTok* personality. No need to purchase an expensive camera rig or procure and learn how to operate a very complex video editing software. Just using a smartphone, you can do whatever you wish.

The near ubiquitousness of mobile devices and the availability of free or really cheap software for the same has allowed for user generated content (UGC) like never before. Furthermore, platforms such as *YouTube* and *TikTok* allow for the distribution of such content in a very easy manner. You can even take steps on those, and other, platforms to market the content and make sure that it gets the desired number of eye-

balls on it. At one point, people needed to build bridges and buildings to be remembered. Now, all you need is an *Instagram* account. If you are an author you can publish and print books on demand. If you are an artist you can go to a website like *Etsy* and, suddenly, the whole world is your oyster.

EFFECTS OF COMMUNITY, INFLUENCERS AND MARKETING

A good word from someone you know goes a long way. Content aggregation platforms know this. Most applications and ecosystems are now designed with recommendation engines in mind. You are told what your friend watched or what someone else experienced so that you can be catalysed into taking a similar decision.

Apps and platforms are designed with liking content in mind so that everyone can be a critic. We are provided with the ability to share our experiences and this data is harvested, accumulated and shown to the crowd in a, supposedly, averaged sense. We, as a part of the crowd, are then influenced by this data that we are shown. Would you not go to a place that had a higher Zomato rating than a lower one? Wouldn't you rather buy that brand of clothing that the YouTuber you had subscribed to spoke about? Be careful to separate the wheat from the chaff though. You need to have an understanding as to which endorsement was paid for and which was not.

Chances are quite good that the first few entries you see on Zomato or Google are there because someone paid for them to get that top billing. Entertainment and content ecosystems similarly also allow for audience targeting. Advertisers and promoters can choose data sets that include you based on your geography, your marital state, your economic status, your earlier purchasing activity, the list only goes on and on.

Additionally, content is now being created, keyworded and headlined in ways that are engineered to grab our attention. Something gossipy or scandalous is always more likely to get hits. After all, why should one create content that only thousands will see when you can create something else that hundreds of thousands may be interested in so that you can get a higher rating or more ad revenue from the same? Creating content that can go viral is the holy grail for most marketing companies today.

DATA DRIVEN CONTENT CREATION AND PROMOTION

When *Netflix* started, they only shipped DVDs that were created by others. Even when they started streaming content, they had no choice but to license the same from other film and TV studios and related pro-



WE AS CONSUMERS MAY BE GETTING WHAT WE WANT, BUT, THERE IS AN UGLY SIDE TO IT TOO. WE ARE NOW SUSCEPTIBLE TO FILTER BUBBLES. THIS IS WHEN A PLATFORM, IN FILTERING CONTENT THROUGH TO US THAT THEY THINK WE WILL LIKE, ONLY PROMOTES CONTENT TO OUR **IMMEDIATE ATTENTION** THAT CLOSELY MATCHES WHAT WE HAD CONSUMED IN THE PAST. IN DOING THIS, WE HAVE THE RISK OF GOING INTO A FILTER BUBBLE duction companies. But *Netflix* understood that, if they wanted to remain masters of their own destiny, then they needed their own catalog of content. Since *Netflix* had been shipping discs and streaming for a bit of time now, they had access to a lot of data. Data that we consumers had given them. All the shows we saw, that we stopped and never went back to, the genres of content that we consumed more than others, all gave *Netflix* a lot of valuable information about our behaviour as consumers.

Using this data, they figured out that actor Kevin Spacey and director David Fincher would be a great sellable combination for their viewers. They also realised that a lot of people liked political dramas. Thus, the US episodic version of *House of Cards* was conceptualised and executed. As the numbers had suggested to them, it was a blockbuster hit for *Netflix*.

Big data technologies are also being used by platforms like Facebook, YouTube and TikTok in order to promote content that they think we will like. Clearly, it is in their best interest to have us glued to our screens consuming as much content, as is possible, from them. So, they pattern match what we see, what our friends see, what others, as a group see, and then provide recommendations to us. If you have not wanted to leave your screen and, at some point, noticed that what started as a two min viewing session for you, became a two hour marathon, then you can rest in peace with the knowledge that the algorithms and the artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) models that the programmers have created, are doing their job pretty well.

Yes, we as consumers may be getting what we want, but, there is an ugly side to it too. We are now susceptible to filter bubbles. This is when a platform, in filtering content through to us that they think we will like, only promotes content to our immediate attention that closely matches what we had consumed in the past. In doing this, we have the risk of going into a filter bubble. A bubble where we only see what reinforces what we saw before and hardens what philosophies we may hold. In not being showing a diversity of content, and in us choosing not to search for it, we now have the risk of going deeper into a rabbit hole that we may be in. We become more prone to see only our side of an argument and not see the other side, though the other side may be in exactly the same position as we are.

This becomes an endless feedback loop. The more we see something, the more the platforms show it to us, the more they provide information to the creators that the something we saw is what we want and the more, new, closely matching things are created in turn to feed our demand.

CHANGING REALITY

Of late, newer forms of immersive entertainment experiences like augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) have started emerging. AR and VR are still in their nascent stages. As these technologies and platforms develop, how will we adapt to them, sociologically speaking? What sort of content will we create for them? Will we look at them simply as ways to augment our current entertainment experiences? Games and simulations that straddle the digital and real worlds, perhaps making a Minecraft building inside your house or looking at yourself virtually trying on a new lipstick when you visit Sephora. Or, will we use these technologies in ways that tangibly benefit us as a whole? Using them one can create 3D digital art and edifices impossible in the real world. We can attend college with friends and go on vacations with family just as they were right next to us. Will we give up the real world as we know it and accept a digitally enhanced version of the same? Or will we be creative and driven enough to make both the real and the digital worlds as beautiful as we can in lockstep?

THE FUTURE

Simply put, the future is what we make of it. We, as consumers of all that is presented to us, make active choices, every second of every day. These choices matter. Even if we are not paying attention, the machines are. As are the people that read the reports generated by the machines and take decisions on how to give us more of what we

Yes, we may be knowing, sentient beings. However, we can also be addicts and slaves to our desires. We can choose to consume something just to pass our time. Or we can choose to create something new, something of value. Both of value to us and to others. Something that we create, not just because we desire the celebrity or the money, but because we know that in our creating it and in others viewing it, both parties derive some wholesome benefit from what exists as the end product. Technology should be looked at as a vehicle that we can choose to drive wherever we wish. So please be careful of what you do with that vehicle. There are many paths ahead for our individual and collective journeys that we can choose from. Let us try to head in directions that bring us together, that make us happier, and those that we can look back at proudly many gen-

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SANITISE YOUR MIND

By daily meditation and cultivating ethical virtues, we can lead a godly life, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH as he explains the need for introspection

octors often prescribe a medication called cortisone to reverse inflammation and swelling of some bodily organs. However, doctors caution to use it only sparingly as over time, cortisone has the effect of breaking down the bodily organs. It ultimately weakens parts of our body. Organs start having trouble. Thus, instead of keeping the body strong, over time we are making weaknesses in the body. We may only use cortisone prescribed by the doctor for extreme circumstances, but what scientists and doctors have come to realise is that we produce our own natural cortisol in the body. We have hormones such as adrenaline and cortisol which are released when we are in fear. These hormones give the body the fight or flight reaction. It either gives the body a burst of strength to fight off a threat to our lives, or to give us the speed to run faster to escape a predator. These are useful hormones for survival. However, in modern times, we no longer face threats such as running away from large ele-phants, lions, bears, unless in a jungle. Instead, we react to problems that are not life threatening with same fight or flight hormones.

Since people do not know how to deal with problems in a calm way, they deal with them with anger. When angry, we are releasing the cortisol and adrenaline hormones into our system. When we stay in an angry state for a long time, the cortisol rushing through our system begins to cause damage to our organs just as prescribed cortisone can do when administered too frequently to the body. We are causing problems to our physical body, which is supposed to remain sturdy and strong for the work that our mind needs to do to help our soul go back to God.

Similarly, the cortisol in the body affects the mind. When angry, it keeps our attention focused on negativity. Instead of focusing on the true purpose of life which is to know God, we are focused on the problems of the world.

There are many ways our misdirected attention distract us from focusing on God. The saints exhort us to live as if we were godly. By daily meditation and cultivating ethical virtues, we can lead a godly life.

How can we purify our mind and

Self introspection is a chiseling tool for us. If we are a clay sculpture,



self introspection is a chisel by which we can smooth our rough edges and imperfections so we can be the masterpiece God intended us to be. The imperfections are not just for the sake of beauty. The imperfections are the flaws that the mind uses to keep us from returning to God. The imperfections are the weaknesses we have in which the mind wins

imperfection of anger, the mind uses that to its advantage to keep our WITHIN US

IF WE RECOGNISE THE IMPERFECTIONS THROUGH THE PROCESS OF INTROSPECTION, WE CAN OVERCOME EGO AND GAIN HUMILITY. WHEN WE GAIN HUMILITY IN LIFE, THEN, THE LIGHT WILL POUR AND WE CAN SHIFT OUR AWARENESS TO THE REGIONS OF LIGHT

mind engaged in thoughts of getting even with someone, feeling hurt by someone, feeling injustice, or wanting to seek revenge. All these thoughts occupy our mind and do not let it be calm. When we are angry, we become absorbed in the reason for the anger, and we feel upset over what someone has done to us. We ruminate in our minds what to do about it. Some people dwell on their thoughts of anger for a few moments and some people

carry their anger over years. Think of how much of our lifespan is spent in anger. Then think of what better use we can make of our time by meditating or remembering God. Self Introspection shows us whether we are wasting our time with useless anger, or whether we can make better use of the time by sitting with a still mind and remembering God. The choice is ours to make. Self introspection helps us to make the correct choice.

Another example of how we can use the tool of self introspection to help us progress spiritually is to weed out greed. Greed keeps us engaged in wanting more and more of the world. The mind finds this easy to use as a way to keep us from finding God. The world has no dearth of offerings that instil in us a desire to have more and more.

Ego is another imperfection that the mind uses to its advantage. It makes us think too much of our-selves instead of thinking about God. Ego makes us think we are intelligent, beautiful, rich, powerful, and gifted and hence better than others. It makes us forget God. We may even think we do not need God. We forget that God is the giver of any gifts we have. When we forget God, the mind fills us with the thoughts of ourselves. We start thinking more about our wealth, our beauty, our intelligence, and our talents. Instead of stilling our mind in meditation, our mind thinks about its vast kingdom of gifts and dwells on them. We may even begin to hurt others who do not have the gifts we have. Then, we begin thinking about not only how great we are but also how insignificant everyone else is. The mind is happy that it has distracted us. If we recognise this imperfection through the process of introspection, we can overcome ego and gain humility. When we gain humility in life, we are like an empty cup waiting to receive God's gifts. Then, the Light will pour forth and we can shift our awareness to the regions of Light within us.

Therefore, we may have received the grace to have a connection to the Light and Sound of God but we need to be careful and vigilant in our introspection to sanitise our mind of any imperfections that it may use to distract us. In this way, we can make choices that will lead us back to God. We can then choose the soul by switching our attention to absorption nal ecstasy that awaits us within through the practice of meditation.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK

The Corona Kerfuffle



▶ The one word that describes the global response to coronavirus pandemic is kerfuffle. As confusion, chaos, and cacophony still reign supreme, the considered response is drowned in the din. It is ironic that the human mind is still clueless about a plausible solution to the problem, our reactions largely replicating that of the experimental pigeon in a Skinner's box. Psychologist BF Skinner in his famous operant conditioning experiments on learning had placed a hungry pigeon in an apparatus he had designed and hence it is called the Skinner's box. The box was so designed that there is a button on one side which when pecked by the pigeon would give a food pellet with a tinkering sound. But pigeons are not supposed to peck buttons so the animal has to learn the response. However, if was first important to lead the animal to the button and for this Skinner devised a mechanism called successive approximation. Thus, for every move towards the button, the animal would be rewarded with a food pellet so that it is able to reach to the button in due course. Interestingly, it also made the pigeon acquire a superstitious behaviour, that is, it would link reward with the move it made in the process of reaching the button. So if the button is on the left and the animal takes two steps left and gets a food pellet it would repeat the move thinking that food pellet came as a result of taking those steps to the left. Similar is the global human response to the pandemic. Everyday one new solution is being suggested, and as weird as injecting sanitisers or drinking a few drops of Dettol mixed in water. Despite world level agencies of health, like WHO and others, which spend billions of dollars on health care research, pointing out that the virus can be deactivated by simple soap solution and can be kept at bay by cloth masks. Unfortunate, but the response is a large scale trial and error exercise, a kind of solutioneering rarely seen before. The trillion dollars' pharma industry is helpless and the all knowing medical fraternity befuddled as governments all over are trying to deal with it with a heavy handed bureaucracy imposing extreme laws. Rather than administrate, there is need to innovate. But amid all this Kerfuffle, the thing that has been proved beyond doubt is that the grandmother's prescriptions had much more science behind them than what medical science touted. Interestingly, many such prescriptions are working too, while so-called well researched medical solutions are not. In these corona times when there are too many questions and too few answers, we now realise how and why our spices exports in ancient times made the subcontinent the prosperous Golden Bird. While corporate hospitals are charging a fortune from the Corona patients, the medicines provided are largely desi but for those strong antibiotics and antiviral drugs that work less and damage more. It is time we reconsidered our views on these home made potions which form a part of what the west calls alternate medicine. Medicine" after all when they are working in many cases.

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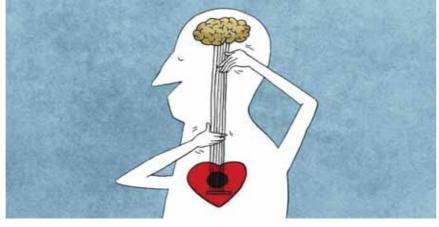
Music therapy for soul

Music can be healing, energising, reflective, contemplative, expanding, and rewarding in many ways. Try it to discover its benefits, says NANDAN GAUTAM

The bigger than the creation of sound, is why living beings prefer some sounds to others. Why do one set of frequen-cies feel sweeter than another? And how is it possible that just a few notes placed together in a specific way can bring tears to our eyes? Studies have shown that cows produce more milk when they are listening to music. And not just any music. In one study, Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony and Simon & Garfunkel's Bridge Over Troubled Water were their favourites!

Shakespeare was not a scientist, nor a mystic. But he understood human beings their characters, their motives and the passions that drove them. He had tremendous insight into human psychology. He knew that music was deeply connected to the very essence of the soul. Another revealing fact is that the Sama Veda, written around 1200 BC, (considered to be the Rig Veda set to music) combined text and philosophy with melodic and rhythmic motifs. And Lord Krishna himself states in Chapter 10, Verse 22 of the Bhagvad Gita "I am the Sama Veda amongst the Vedas...". The ancient ones knew the power of music.

Why look to others and ancient texts for proof that music can heal and transform us... It's obvious that music can move us, transport us to another dimension. Music is as essential to humans as our own breath. People say music is a language but there is one essential difference — languages point to something else. They refer to something outside of the words. Music refers to itself. It has no inherent meaning other than what we ourselves perceive. The C Major chord is a happy sound. The C Minor is a sadder, more melancholic sound. Rag Yaman is a happy raga. Malkauns raga creates a sense of longing or sadness. But if one were to ask why, there is no answer. There is simply no logical reason why a certain combination of notes should make us happy and another



make us sad. Even though there is no logical reason for this, does not make it untrue. Could this be in fact a 'proof' of that fact

that we do have something intangible like a soul? So far science has not been able to see it nor capture it or measure it. But then, nor has science been able to measure happiness, joy, a sense of peace or bliss. Children who study some form of music in school have been found to perform much better in all the other subjects. So we have empirical evidence that music is highly effective in not only calming us but even sharpening our other areas of the brain. And yet when we attempt to get the exact formula for which notes can heal us or be therapeutic to us emotionally and physically, it's impossible.

People are not machines. They are unique. What is pleasing and relaxing for one person may not be for another. So the best way to actually find the truth about something is not to find the absolute truth but to find 'your own' truth. This may look illogical because truth should be common to all. But as often as it is, it also isn't. To find out if anything works, one has to try it. Yoga

has been tremendously effective in helping people with back problems and depression. But if you're searching for a definite proof, you may not find it.

Music can be healing, energising, reflective, contemplative, expanding, and rewarding in many ways. But the only way to discover this is to try. Experiment. The next time you are upset, sad or angry, instead of calling your friend and complaining about what is wrong, try listening to Mozart's 40th symphony. Or try playing the *Raga* Malkauns by Rashid Khan, a melancholic but haunting piece that can literally transform your sadness into meditation. If you're feeling depressed try listening to Rag Rasiya by the legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar. And if you're feeling lonely or alone try 'Au Lait' or 'If I could' by the Pat Metheny Group. At the end of the song, you may have made peace with your loneliness and gotten a little bit closer to what the true nature of your soul is — oneness

The writer is a Baku-based writer and composer. His metaphysical novel The King of the Sea, comes with a two-album soundtrack

We are important to God

No matter what our numbers, being a part of God himself, we will always be of consequence to God, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

≺hough God is one, and is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, we, small souls, are important to Him. After all, we are parts of Him. (The Gita 15.7) This fact never changes, i.e. God always remains the whole and we continue as parts only. This is the Cosmic Design, and this is how it can be.

We are aware that God creates, keeps it functioning till the time of dissolution comes and, then. He activates "pralaya" and the material creation as we see it now is no longer there. These are the major activities of God. Then, He is always busy in doing His duties, which are many. In Bhagawad Gita, He makes it quite clear that His eyes, ears, etc. are pervading all. (13.13)

Then, He is privy to everything we think of. As a matter of fact, God and us, individual souls, only know our innermost secrets; nothing is unknown to God. (13.2) Then comes the reward part. All prayers made by whoever are responded to in an appropriate manner, which God and God alone decides. No prayer is ever wasted. (2.40) God must respond but not necessarily the way we want. I have prayed all of my life, but God has invariably given me what turned out to be highly beneficial to me, whereas my prayers were for something else, which were not in my favour. By the way God is never a debtor; He doesn't have to be. Remember whatever we see is owned by Him only; we only get to use them as ordained by our karmaphalas.

God guides if prayed to. There is a catch here though. One must have become purified enough to be able to receive God's guidance. Similarly, God helps when prayed to. There is a difference here also; we must deserve His



help. God supports His devotees as only He can, being omnipotent. Don't we always need support from others? Is God not the best choice? Besides guidance, God also gives intuitions to those connected with Him and are able to receive God's communication. God sometimes forgives our earlier indiscretions if He decides that justice will be served better that way. However, it must be remembered that God always upholds "dharma" and will do nothing against it. Does God not incarnate to re-establish dharma? (4.7-8)

Only God can give peace. He, who can really protect, is the one who can give peace. God is that person. God uses human beings as His instruments, as He famously used Arjuna in the Mahabharata. However, the responsibility lies with the Lord only. To advanced devotees God begins to respond. Finally, God liberates the best devotees from the painful cycle of

birth and death. Those, who haven't traversed the spiritual path, have no idea what they are missing. The quality of life for them

will be ordinary at best, while a common man may assume that whatever he has achieved is the best possible. How wrong one can be, ask a devotee. In the material world things are changing in many ways like this virus suddenly appeared, though this is rare, i.e. once in a hundred years. We need God's help to navigate through life right now.

Therefore, let us get started, if not already; let us connect with God. There are three stages in our relationship with God. The first is to pray for getting out of trouble or for getting something material. The next stage is to do some rituals, normally not with much love for God. The third and the final stage is to do spiritual practices with love for God. He is always available. We, all, are important to Him, no matter how many we are. We will never become zero, being parts of God, therefore, we will always be of consequence. No one should ever lose hope, even though feeling lost. God is waiting for us to make contact, to link.

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Auditor should not venture into domain of policy auditing

KK Srivastava the interormer top CAG official nationally acclaimed poet and author's recent book "Esthetic Blend of Flames of the Minds" on "Mann Ki Baat" programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been well appreciated as it brings out the best features of 60 long episodes of "Mann Ki Baat" in just 4,000 words. Srivastava, before retiring as Additional Deputy CAG last month, had a long career, spanning over 36 years, believes an auditor should not venture into the domain of policy auditing as that means an attempt to usurp the role of a public representative. In a freewheeling conversation with The Pioneer's Swarn Kumar Anand, KK Srivastava talks about his experiences and more...

The Pioneer: On Google, I read articles; your conversations with poets/writers about your fourth book Soliloquy of a Small-Town Uncivil Servant, and articles you wrote. I want to engage you with some articles and your service experiences. Leading a retired life, is spending time an issue?

KKS: No. I spend much time in thinking; I take out books I have not read for decades. Before Covid-19 pandemic, I occasionally used to meet friends from your fraternity over lunch or dinner in Press Club of India. The milieu and discourses with journalists and writers are soothing. I often write articles/reviews. Now retired, I try to spend some time in company of my wife which, for reasons best known to her, she does not seem to relish much

The Pioneer: I understand you wrote your first review in 2011. You analysed a single, short poem, T by a Romanian poetess. It is a long psychoanalysis of a small poem. Please give some background.

KKS: I don't remember if it was the first review but certainly it was one of the earliest ones. I knew Veronica's works earlier. She is sober, quiet and perceptive with limited literary output. This poem ran on her imagination of an arriving train at a platform. I analysed it which became longish. In Soliloquy of a Small-Town Uncivil Servant, she went through two sample chapters and made suggestions. In 2013, introduced her to World Poetry, Canada International. They published her. I don't know if she still writes or not.

The Pioneer: What prompted you to write 'Esthetic Blend of Flames of the Minds' on "Mann Ki Baat" programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is a mammoth piece which brings out the best features of sixty long episodes of "Mann Ki Baat" in just four

thousand words. KKS: Because it is apolitical and creative. "Mann Ki Baat" is about creativity of not only one mind i.e of that of the Prime Minister but of minds of millions of Indians. It connects Indians to India and India to Indians. Being collective thoughts of millions of Indians, "Mann Ki Baat" represents an unprecedented oneness between the Prime Minister and the people of the country and vice versa. Listening to "Mann Ki Baat" is a must for all public, including civil servants. They ought to know India, its past glory and emerging NEW INDIA through the minds of millions of Indians. It gives physical, mental and spiritual

The Pioneer: You reviewed Vinod Rai's book, Not Just an Accountant: The Diary of the Nation's Conscience Keeper in Kitaab Singapore. How did you view the book as a review-

KKS: I read a much lesser publicised book by another CAG, late CG Somiah: The Honest Always Stand Alone. Somiah's was a complete book: a book of ease, Rai's was a hurried attempt. As a critic, I have to do justice with a book being critiqued. For me the book: its content, threads, influences and temperament matter. The writer stays invisible. I liked Somiah's book. It offered his

holistic life story. You digest complete, not partially covered periods unless you have the second volume. If you read my review in Kitaab Singapore, you will find in second but concluding paragraph my expectations of the same from Vinod Rai. Six years past, I am not sure if second volume came about his whole life experi-

The Pioneer: Who are the writers in India you interact with or living Indian writers whose works you read?

KKS: Jayanta Mahapatra, the renowned poet from Cuttack, Odisha. He is above ninety and we have been exchanging hand-written letters for last fifteen years. His mental and intellectual alertness is amazing. Sometimes, I phone him. When he returned Padma Shri in November 2015, I wrote to him why I expected him not to do so. Columnist and writer A Surya Prakash's books and articles interest me. critiqued Chief Editor of Indian Express Raj Kamal Iha's book SHE WILL BUILD HIM A CITY in my fourth book and currently reading his latest book *The CITY AND THE* SEA. I cherish eccentricity of his hallucinating themes in stylish prose. I planned to call on him after retirement but Covid has vitiated everything. I am also reading Vinod Kumar Shukla's Hindi poems.

The Pioneer: You had a long career, spanning over thirty-six and half years. You went from capacities Deputy Deputy/Senior General, Accountant Accountant General, Principal Accountant General, to Pondicherry, Allahabad, Bombay, Ranchi, Jaipur, Rajkot, Delhi as Chief Auditor, New Delhi Municipal Corporation, Gwalior, Thiruvananthapuram and at the end CAG office Delhi and superannuated as Additional Deputy CAG. Your vast experience across the country and varied literary background gives you an enviable position to share your experiences with readers and civil service aspirants.

KKS: I feel amused you took the trouble of seeing my profile. If I saw India, its people, its cultural and intellectual strength, its different shades, it is through the organisation of CAG of India. Mine being a Central service with all India transfer liability, my postings to so many different places taught me uniqueness of Indian people: the oneness within different shades. I could know life people live. I could handle tough associations in places like Allahabad, Ranchi, Rajkot, Gwalior

Thiruvananthapuram. With my growing experience, I could easily relate to staff, their anxieties and strength. When I got posted as Principal Accountant

General, Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram, the very next day of my assuming charge, I visited each section, met and shook hands with each and every member of staff. Towards the end, I visited Association room and met members of the association present there. The depressing atmosphere started becoming diminutive immediately. I did this every station I was posted to. It gave me confidence; it gave the staff confidence; it gave a relationship of ease vitally needed to run a big office. Similarly, I had interaction with Principal Secretaries in various States. In retrospect I feel happy to have an augmented life, courtesy learning from experiences of life of thousands of wonderful people.

The Pioneer: Did these transfers never affect your fam-

KKS: The family stayed with me throughout.

The Pioneer: We hear various State Governments don't respond to audit. Which State was most responsive to audit? Please share a few experiences?

KKS: I had cordial relationship particularly with Principal Secretaries (Finance) in every State. It facilitated response from Government. But Gujarat, where I was stationed at Rajkot,



draft report himself and

requested authorities to

respond and give com-

ments/constraints, if any. He

wanted me to appreciate and

reflect these in the review. I

learnt a lot from him during

discussion. At the end, both

audit and administration were

satisfied. I moved from Gujarat

but think the review featured in

the Audit Report.

Kerala was equally responsive at very high level, though I was heading Accounts Office. Early 2016, perhaps January or February, one evening, ACS (Finance) telephoned me regarding a portion of work of our office and told me to meet Chief Minister without any delay. I sought appointment from him. Next day, it was a State holiday but he called me at his residence. I briefed two other PAsG located at the station and urged them to accompany me. They promptly agreed. Next day, we met the Chief Minister and I explained to him how functioning of that work had improved very significantly in our office and showed him data. My two colleagues supported my contention wholeheartedly. Then he came up to the door where I, folding my hands, said, 'Namaste, Sir. Kindly keep our request in view. Our office is performing well." He looked at me; it was reassuring. That important portion of work stayed with us. On taking over as DG in CAG office, I called on my earlier boss and told her about that episode saying "Ma'am, I did not bother you. I solved it locally." Appreciating it, she told, "That's why we call you, KK." Unfortunately, we lost her sometime back. Normally, I tried to solve issues without flagging these as big

The Pioneer: Recently, when GC Murmu, an IAS officer of 1985 batch, was appointed as CAG, there were talks about his superseding six IA&AS officers (three from 1983 and three from 1984 batch). Is it IAS versus IA&AS issue? Is it discouraging for the officers and organisation?

KKS: When I joined the

service at the then Staff College, Shimla, a faculty member explained to us the meaning of the word, "cadre" in the context of IA&AS as a cadre. He clarified that the post of CAG is an ex-cadre post. The post of CAG is not a cadre post for IA&AS. Second issue is IAS versus IA&AS. No doubt IA&AS as a service is an excellent service, but its aspiring members cannot claim a comparison with IAS officers when it comes to appointment of CAG. IAS officers have wide range of experiences from the lowest ebb in a district to the top posts of Secretary to Government of India. They work with different regimes of political leadership which is a big learning opportunity for them. They have public dealings, they meet public, come to grips with people's grievances on day-to-day basis; they are a part of micro and macro socioeconomic problem solving process. They prepare groundwork for political leadership in deciding policies and under-

making. They are certainly better placed as compared to any other service including IA&AS, to occupy the chair of CAG of India. I agree that knowledge of audit and accounts may be beneficial for an outsider CAG, but that knowledge alone is not the sole criterion. Wise people accept immutably universal facts and don't lament over spilt milk at the last moment.

The Pioneer: What about the supersession of six IA&AS

officers KKS: My answer is embedded above. I will clarify my understanding once more. Supersession is within a particular service. Supersession is never with reference to other services. It is unbelievable that an IA&AS officer of 1983 batch has been superseded by an IAS officer of 1985 batch, though it quite possible and a fact an I A&AS officer of 1983 batch being successfully superseded by IA&AS officers of 1985 batch and who knows it better than me. Hence, GC Murmu has superseded no IA&AS officer. The post of CAG is a con-

Minister has the final word on his selection. I visited GC Murmu's Wikipedia page. Though it might seem preposterous on my part to say so, in my view, he is a very suitable selection for the post of present CAG and seems to be a down to earth man. Organisation needs such a CAG.

The Pioneer: It is alleged that there is lack of transparency in selection of CAG. How would you react?

KKS: First, I have no means to ascertain whether the process is transparent or not. Second, as I understand this issue has also seen judicial scrutiny in the past. Third, if certain individuals and groups think process is non-transparent, they should take timely and appropriate steps to elevate discussion, debates to higher

The Pioneer: Why only IAS officers? Why not other professionals like economists, chartered accountants, academics, scientists or even jour-

KKS: I tend to agree. This should be debated in various forums.

The Pioneer: As a writer, your perception of issues will have a more matured interpretative value. A person can draw meaningful conclusions from your views. What are your suggestions to new CAG?

KKS: I am not sanguine if others will be so sure of what you say but still I will share my honest views. My point of view is CAG of India means he is CAG for 138 crore Indians. Audit Reports get processed and discussed through Public Accounts Committees and COPU. That is a fine arrangement constitutionally mandated. We chalk out audit plans for both Centre and States. I don't find any say by even a segment of Indian population on their suggestions. There is Audit Advisory Committee where experts are invited but these experts are not substitutes for 138 crore people. Therefore, my first suggestion to new CAG will be to open its website for one month in advance before the process of preparation of Audit Plans begins. During that month, public should be free to offer suggestions for topics to be covered in audit in next audit cycle. It will have two advantages. First, when nation is aiming to become an inclusive society, audit should open its gate to inclusion of nation's population. Let people express themselves. CAG's decision on audit plans will be final. Second, it will increase awareness in public about this august institution which is not there at present as it should be. When Sustainable Development Goals were being

finalised, views were called

from across countries through

Second, last month, I wrote

an article Kiran raises hopes for a robust New India. Late evening of the day article appeared, I got a call from a Professor of Psychiatry, AIIMS who had read the article. He invited me to join as a panelist for a webinar on "India's first Mental Health Access Summit", organised by AIIMS in collaboration with Mental Health Foundation, India. I participated in it on 4th of this KKS: I think an auditor month. I shared my little bit with mental health professionals. The picture of mental health issues that came during

panel discussion was alarming. An All India Performance Review on Assessment of extent of mental disorders, population affected, availability of infrastructure and prearedness to handle this invading behemoth is the need of the hour. This report will be very handy to Government, Medical Institutes, and NGOs generating keenness in Public Accounts Committee and public. I am not sure if this exercise was done in recent past. CAG may like to consider it.

The Pioneer: I came across an interesting set of statistics. I saw profile of some officers in different batches from 1981 to 1990. There were/are some officers who stayed/are staying in Delhi and adjacent States like Jaipur, Chandigarh, Faridabad or even Noida for 20/25 years, including deputation period in different spells. They had/have repeated postings in Delhi/CAG office. A few of them from this group went abroad for posting. This trend is seen even in case of currently serving officers. There are clusters of some officers having these three commonalities in selected batches spending almost 60 to 70 per cent of their service in Delĥi and around places alone? It seems there is an elite group. Does it not affect efficiency?

KKS: You remind me of a Hindi proverb, "Haath Kangan ko Arsi Kaya." The same thing has been felt by a majority of IA&AS officers over last so many years, even decades. Statistics is cited and statistics does not tell lie. Your observation is correct. It might affect efficiency at various levels.

The Pioneer: What are the expectations from new CAG in this respect?

KKS: New CAG may like to look into trends flagged. He may like to consider institutionalising steps as he deems necessary so that these end and corrective measures are taken. The new CAG seems to be a down to earth man.

The Pioneer: There have

been media reports about delay in finalisation of audit reports in recent past. Any comments?

KKS: During last about three years before retirement, I had nothing to do with processing of audit reports. Therefore, I cannot answer your question.

The Pioneer: Any comments on delay in placing the reports in Parliament/ Assemblies.

KKS: The decision to place the reports has to be taken by the Government. The CAG has no role in it. His role ends with sending the reports to the President and Governors with the request to cause these to be laid in Parliament/State Assembly.

The Pioneer: Some audit reports become controversial.

KKS: Late ST Kenghe was Director of IA&AS Staff College, Shimla when I was a probationer. He was a scholar. He quoted in Sanskrit from Vedas and Upanishads while talking to probationers. He was fond of saying, "Act as an auditor but don't adopt holier than thou attitude". He wrote the same thing in an article published in a book during late TN Chaturvedi's period.

Two lessons emerge from above. An auditor should never think he is a paragon of virtue. Second his reports should speak, if at all necessary. Controversies arise if an auditor talks about his "achievements". An audit report is a consequence of incessant hard work of more than hundred staff/officers. It should be kept in view. If these two criteria are respected, Reports will be

The Pioneer: There were issues in the past weather an auditor can audit policies. What are your views and what role do you envisage for audit in current times?

should not venture into domain of policy auditing, Let me explain how I look at it. Political parties when they go to elections, go with their manifesto: a set of promises made to people. When a party comes to power, in order to convert the manifesto into action, they decide policies. Thus, a policy links public representatives and people through manifesto. Once an auditor tries to audit policies, he starts meddling with this link and thereby tries to usurp the role of a public representative which is barred in constitution. But he can always audit the outcome of policy which is normally done. Coming to the role of audit in current times, late CG Somiah, the then CAG's advocacy "Audit as an aid to administration" should be respected and followed. Audit should facilitate reforms undertaken by Government and help in formation of a NEW INDIA.

The Pioneer: Any advice to

young IA&AS officers? KKS: It is said of the community of auditors they never welcome advice to them but are first to offer unsolicited advice to others. It's in lighter vein. Audit organisation has intelligent and hardworking young officers. They should work for the organisation which has a long, glorious history. They should not suffer from 'fixity and rigidity' and should contribute to 'collective personality' of IA&AS and thereby strengthen the hands of CAG of India. Therefore, they should ponder over and learn from these lines of Salman Rushdie's THE GOLDEN HOUSE, "In these our degenerate times, men bent on nothing but vainglory and personal gain-hollow, bombastic men for whom nothing is off-limits if it advances their pretty cause... and calling all who oppose them liars, envious, little people, stupid people, stiffs, and in a precise reversal of the truth, dishonest and corrupt." My best wishes to them.

The Pioneer: Do you have any plans to write your autobiography?

KKS: The bridge is not visible to me. We will cross it if it ever comes.



The post of CAG is not a cadre post for IA&AS. Second issue is IAS versus IA&AS. No doubt IA&AS as a service is an excellent service, but its aspiring members cannot claim a comparison with IAS officers when it comes to appointment of CAG. IAS officers have wide range of experiences from the lowest ebb in a district to the top posts of Secretary to **Government of India.**

























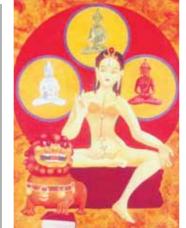




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week be careful of wishful thinking. You are a dreamer who sees only beauty, outward attraction and excitement. Things will be omerang if you continue to stav in your dreams and fantasies. Stav away from bad habits and bad company. Resist any temptations. Professionally, you are likely to take your business into a partnership where you will experience understanding, harmony and big motives between two people. The seed sown now will blossom into a tree of appreciation. On the personal front, you are rich by heart and your pocket, too. The week just reminds you to appreciate the sensual, luxurious side to life that often makes living more pleasurable. You believe in quality over quantity. Learn to enjoy a full and joyful life.

Lucky number 2 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you may find yourself ignoring your health. You consider pleasures in simple traditions and rituals. You need to listen to your body and understand what you are feeding it. Pay attention to any health related needs and take timely action. Home-made remedies will help you in healing. Other modes of healing could make a big hole in the pocket. For the past few weeks, your focus was mainly on your financial security. On the career front, you will need to adapt to the existing set of beliefs that are already in place, instead of being innovative. Personally, this is the time to value the relationships and understand that every bond in life has its meaning. If required, take help from a psychotherapist or a spiritual mentor to whom you turn for wisdom

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This is a good week for you. You are quick, mentally and physically, and filled with anticipation. Those suffering from an ailment will recover fast. This is the time to indulge in mental activities of all kinds, including learning, exploring, and researching. On the professional front, you are filled with fresh energy and feel like an avid learner and an excellent student. This will lead you to learn various skills. You could prove a smart salesperson for the company. With your skills, you have achieved some unexpected target for the company you are working with. Your appraisal is likely. On the personal front, the time seems to be favourable. Those already in a relationship, it is possible that it will deepen and become

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week your health will be at its best. You will experience harmony in your thinking and personality. You will be calm, friendly and will support others. You give other people their space and are tolerant of their needs. You can create a safe and trusting environment for them and become their influence. This demonstrates a level of soft control and persuading others to your way of thinking. On the career front, long time challenges will be met. You will be focussed on what you need to do. In this process, you will regain your self-confidence. On the personal front, you beam with happiness and enjoy the relationships. Your dreams have become reality and relationships will find a new meaning. Married couples will experience a stronger bond.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you are filled with imagination and feel physically comfortable. The negativity of the past is fading away and will enjoy high stamina and creativity. You are likely to work hard with a lot of enthusiasm to fulfill your dreams. New interests will draw your attention. Your practical approach will lead you to success. Professionally, work plans held up due to obstacles will start opening up with fruitful results. This week you can afford to take the risk as you shall find takers for your plans. Your past investment of money and energy will start showing dividends now. You will be able to do justice to your professional and personal responsibilities. Married couples will enjoy marital bliss. Couples staying separately are likely to settle their disputes amicably

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Beige



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you need to listen to your body with great care and compassion. Half of the problems will get sorted with a positive attitude. If you are having health issues like back pain, low energy, or any other problem, do take care. Revisiting your spiritual rituals is on the card. It might be helpful to give you the time and space to get insight that might be healing for you. Career-wise, you seem to be in an offbeat mood and not satisfied in your current job, this is the right to switch the job. Prepare your resume, do research work, which company need your profile and prepare yourself for the interview. You are very sensitive and emotional this week. Even a small matter could make you cry. Your mood swings, overdemanding nature could make your partner irritated.

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Sky Blue **Lucky day** Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Let go of all the past worries and live in the moment. This week depression, isolation and insecurity are likely to cause harm. Try to keep these away from you. Your positive mindset will not only help in making you a successful person but also stay in great health. This week avoid red colour. On the career front, you are likely to discover a skill which was unknown to you all these while. With a new week, you are set on a new path, realising your potentials and weaknesses. Those who are looking to start their career may have to train yourself to specialise in one field. On the personal front, you tend to lose your temper at the slightest provocation and this will affect your relationships with vour family and friends.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Grev Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You are being careless when it comes to your health and will soon suffer the consequences as well. You need to avoid stress and anxiety this week. Relax and take advice from a health professional. Health is the greatest wealth, therefore, take time out for yourself. Make a resolution that you will do some kind of physical exercise for at least 30 minutes. Professionally, cards indicate a good message for you. Your partner and you have a perfect understanding of professional matters and work for the same motive. Balance and determination are the keys to your success. On the personal front, your critical and analytical nature is at its peak. This may cause conflict in your love life. Let your partner grow. Give them a chance to express

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

There is a sparkling and refreshing factor in your personality that makes you a distinct person this week. Your courage and risk-taking ability will open up new areas in life. You feel healthy and fearless. You have the enthusiasm to experience, to discover and enjoy life. You believe in yourself and follow your heart. Believe in yourself and have no room for fear. Career-wise, you will notice growth in your profession. You will attain the highest potential in your life, reaching a state of renewal and new beginnings. Your emotional strength is your greatest tool to win all challenges in life, be personal or professional. Support of near and dear ones is on the cards. Have blind faith in your relationship.

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you will take life as it comes and not be worried about anything. Be cautious in your diet and check unhealthy eating habits, as it may take a toll on your health. You may face health issues like weight gain, lethargy and low stamina. Whatever you want to indulge in, don't compromise on health. Exercise regularly to be on a good track. This week on the career front, work will pick-up speed. It will be important for you to keep your balance in every possible way. Seniors will have high expectations of you. Don't get nervous. Your communication is your tool, use it for everyone's good. On the personal front, you are optimistic. Your networking with people is strong. You will enjoy fulfillment in relationships. With your partner's emotional support, you will feel protected

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week your health needs attention. Avoid any kind of physical and mental stress. The balance between body, mind and soul is required at this time. Some external negative forces are working against you. You may feel helpless as something comes to a sudden end, and you feel as if you are being attacked or backstabbed by someone. On the career front, work is satisfactory and you are happy about it. New opportunities and new creative plans are indicated. New projects are likely to open up in front of you. On the personal front, you may feel suffocated with no scope of self-expression in love. Those who are looking for love should have patience. Those facing a rough time in married life should adopt the right attitude towards your marriage and partner.

Learn to bear with the truth

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You tend to think with your heart, rather than your mind. You may lack rationality but you are highly intuitive. You are nurturing and caring for others' needs. Women are likely to suffer from hormonal problems, thyroid or menopausal issues. If that be the case, get yoursel checked and take medication before it aggravates. On the career front, your personal value system and what you believe will bring you the ultimate fulfillment and happiness in your life. An appraisal or a very lucrative offer in on the cards. Try to look for opportunities that make you feel satisfied and are aligned with your values. You have to do what feels right to you. The week is good for your emotional happiness as well. The ultimate satisfaction of a long-term relationship is indicated

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

any a times a counsellor has to

moments. Taking it as a part

bear with unpleasant

of professional hazard, he has to digest

remain stuck to their own delusionary

dream perceptions, not keen to look

beyond in search of a better option if

go on their own. Such people wish to

meet a counsellor, but not to seek hon-

and just wish confirmation. They can't

digest if an honest consultant ever tries

Recently, I had to digest unsavoury

remarks made by such a person, which

got communicated by a dear friend

who had introduced him to me. This

man wanted resolution to some of his

cially and otherwise quite comfortable

while in USA, but had to bear with fre-

quent job changes — six career changes

in four years. I could not bear with

concerns: "Sir, although I was finan-

be vetted by some others. So, they

est opinion. They rather try to put

to make them aware of truth. Such

people vent out their frustration on

the consultant.

their idea in the consultant's mouth,

any. Some of them even lack the will to

it all without any sense of rancour or

displeasure. There are people who

social environment either. So, I quit my job in a state of desperation, with the intent to build up my career here in my native country. Almost a year has gone bye, and I am yet to find a job. When do I get a job and where? Recently, I liked a girl, but she doesn't seem to be coming around, as she is stuck to her old boyfriend. I am not able to get along with my parents either. Please

show me the way." Well, everybody comes to this world with their own Karmic carryover from the past, which they have to bear with. A look into your chart reveals that you are running Venus dasha, which being 2nd lord identified with earning, is posited in the 10th house identified with career. So, your career has to go strong. But then Venus is combust, and occupies the constellation owned by Moon conjunct Mars, both tenanted in a movable sign. So, you were due for frequent career changes, so long as the sub-periods of planets occupying movable signs were operative. That often proved emotionally upsetting. Those sub-periods being over, you may have long tenure now. But 'change being your nature', you



can't stick to a job for long. In so far as being ignored by a girl already in relationship with someone else is concerned, how can you expect from her to submit to your asking? About your career prospects, it is expected to flourish in a foreign land, and so, you may

The problem with you, however, is that you seem to be stuck to your own self-assumed delusionary perceptions, quite distant from ground reality, coming as it may as both the luminaries are placed adverse to mischievous Neptune. You won't look beyond for a reality check. You won't acknowledge truth on its first appearance. You rather

have to seek a job abroad once again.

prefer to pursue your dream perceptions on hope against hope till pushed to the wall. Given the present direction – the progressed Sun placed adverse to natal Neptune, this attitude is playing out to its full.

You are born in an Aries lagna, a fiery and a movable sign, with its lord Mars in debilitation, which is conjunct mind signifying Moon in a watery sign and in another movable sign Cancer. That, in the first place, reflects your impulsive, aggressive, irritable, impatient, intolerant and a domineering

nature. You wish to live in a demanding mode. In fact, 'my way or highway' seems to be your approach. Second, you wish to be always in the lead, and resent subordination, even of your seniors. Third, you are rash and jump into action without applying proper forethought. You apply your mind only when you land into problem. Fourth, you are emotionally volatile, and so get over-exercised even on trivial issues,.

Intelligence signifying Mercury is placed adverse to erratic Rahu, which makes you restless, often engaged in conflicting thoughts. Consequently, you fail to look at issues in hand objectively. The result is there to see. You must remember that the world doesn't necessarily move to your asking. You need to work upon your fault lines, particularly inter-personal relationship skill, otherwise it will be difficult to get along with any, and hold on to any relationship for long either.

The man did not like being shown his mirror image, and hence his out-

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