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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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13 VIVACITY

# China-Pak nexus to keep border hot: Rajnath

## Defence Minister inaugurates 44 bridges, mostly in border areas, to boost military infrastructure



Four among 44 bridges, built by BRO across seven States and UTs, which were dedicated to the nation by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday

PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with China continues at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan remains hot, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday threw open 44 bridges, mostly in border areas, including Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand, as part of India's rapid enhancement of its military and infrastructure capabilities to counter

any challenge from the two adversaries.

This comes at a time when scientists have also been conducting successive missile tests for operational readiness in the last few weeks.

Dedicating the strategically important bridges in seven States, including eight permanent bridges in Ladakh, to the nation virtually, Rajnath Singh minced no words in saying that after Pakistan, China is also creating a dispute at the border with India as if it was part of a "mission".

India is not only facing the situations along the frontiers resolutely, but it is also bringing in major development, including in border areas. "You are well aware of the conditions created along our northern and eastern borders. First it was Pakistan, and now also by China, as if a border dispute is being created under a mission. We have a border of about 7,000 km with these countries where tension continues," the Minister said.

As regards the bridges, a majority of them is expected to

significantly improve movement of troops in areas along the border with China in Ladakh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh sectors, officials said.

Rajnath said in the challenging times of Covid-19 and despite the border tensions and disputes caused by Pakistan and China, the country was not only resolutely facing them but also bringing about historical changes in all sectors of development.

The Defence Minister also laid the foundation stone for Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh. This 450 metre-long tunnel would ensure all-weather connectivity across Nechiphu pass. The bridges included 10 in J&K, eight in Ladakh, two in Himachal, four each in Punjab and Sikkim and eight each in Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh.

In his address, Singh complimented the BRO for their achievements in improving infrastructure in border areas and said that dedication of 44 bridges in one go in itself was a record.

He said the annual budget of the BRO that varied from ₹3,300 crore to ₹4,600 crore in years between 2008 and 2016, saw a substantial rise and is pegged at over ₹11,000 crore in 2020-21. "There was no reduction of this budget despite Covid-19," he said.

Underlining the significance of these projects, Rajnath said construction of the bridges

will benefit both the civilian population as well as the military in the areas.

"Our armed forces personnel are deployed in large numbers in areas where transport is not available throughout the year," he said, noting improvement in border infrastructure will significantly help armed forces.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicates 44 major permanent bridges to the nation from New Delhi on Monday

PTI

## 'Who will blink first' delays India-China peace resolution

### Both agree to refrain from sending more troops to border

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China on Monday failed to break the logjam even as they reiterated their resolve to hold a sustained dialogue to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh and refrain from sending more troops to the border. Both the sides also agreed to hold another round of military-level talks as soon as possible for disengagement and de-escalation.

The two sides reaffirmed these commitments during the seventh round of Corps

Commander-level talks in Chushul on the Indian side of the LAC in Ladakh.

China insisted that India withdraw its troops from the south bank of Pangong Tso (lake) before it pulls back its troops. India was firm that China has to take the lead in disengaging and only then it will gradually start the withdrawal process from the confrontation sites.

Elaborating upon the talks, sources said here later India wanted China to show its intent in bringing down temperature at the volatile border. This firm message was conveyed by the Indian delegation led by 14 Corps chief Lt General Harinder Singh. The other officials included Lt General

PK Menon who will replace Singh as the 14 Corps chief after Singh moves as the Indian Military Academy (IMA) chief next week. The Chinese delegation was led by Major General Liu Lin.

Both the delegations included Foreign Ministry officials thereby indicating keenness by both the countries to find a solution at the earliest. Naveen Srivastava represented the Indian Foreign Ministry in Monday's talks, officials said.

Reviewing the current situation at the 1,700-km long LAC in Ladakh, both the commanders expressed satisfaction over relative calm prevailing at the border since September 10.

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## Steps to create ₹1-L cr additional demand

### Cash in lieu of LTC, ₹10,000 advance to Govt staff, 50-year interest-free loan to States to boost eco

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced a payment of cash in lieu of LTC and ₹10,000 festival advance to government employees to stimulate consumer demand during the festival season and boost the economy.

She also announced additional capital spending and ₹12,000 crore, 50-year interest-free loan to States to boost the economy that has been battered by the pandemic and the resulting lockdown.

At a news conference, she said the Government will give its employees income-tax-exempt cash vouchers in lieu of their entitled travel allowances this year.



This cash will have to be spent on buying goods that attract 12 per cent or more GST — a condition which eliminates the possibility of the cash being spent on food items.

Central public sector enterprises and banks will also follow the cue and give cash in place of leave travel concession (LTC) as travelling during the pandemic is near to impossible.

Additionally, the government will as a one-time measure give ₹10,000 salary loan to all its officers and employees as festival advance.

These two measures are "expected to create a consumer demand of about ₹28,000 crore", she said.

The Government, which had in May announced a ₹20 lakh crore "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" stimulus, is pushing ahead with a full opening to try to boost the economy ahead of the usually high-spending festival season. A tough lockdown imposed to stem the spread of coronavirus had resulted in the economy contracting by a record 23.9 per cent during April-June.

Together with the loan to states and additional capital spending, Sitharaman said, "very rough estimate is that potential private sector spending through LTC tax benefit will be at least equal to the government employee-led demand of ₹28,000 crore and the total additional demand estimated to exceed ₹1 lakh crore".

She further said that the measures by the Government to stimulate demand must not burden the common citizen with future inflation and must not put Government debt on an unsustainable path.

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## India's Covid-19 biomedical waste woes enormous

### 150 tn waste generated daily with worst-hit Maha contributing maximum 30 tn/day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is generating 150 tonnes for 1.50 lakh kilograms of Covid-19 biomedical waste daily. And Maharashtra — the worst-affected State — is contributing the maximum to it with 30 tonnes or 30,000 kg every day. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in the last four

months, India generated over 18,000 tonnes of Covid-19 biomedical waste, calling for urgent remedial steps to treat the menace.

"Since June, all States and Union Territories have generated 18,006 tonnes of Covid-19-related biomedical waste which is being collected, treated and disposed of by 198 common biomedical waste treat-

ment facilities (CBWTFs)," said the country's top pollution regulator body.

Covid-19 biomedical waste includes PPE kits, masks, shoe covers, gloves, human tissues, body fluids like dressings, plaster casts, cotton swabs, beddings contaminated with blood or body fluid, blood bags, needles and syringes.

As per data, Maharashtra



generated 3,587 tonnes of Covid-19 waste in four months since June, followed by Tamil Nadu (1,737 tonnes), Gujarat (1,638 tonnes), Kerala (1,516 tonnes), Uttar Pradesh (1,432 tonnes), Delhi (1,400 tonnes), Karnataka (1,380 tonnes) and West Bengal (1,000 tonnes).

Around 5,490 tonnes of such waste was generated in September, with Gujarat contributing the maximum 622 tonnes, followed by Tamil Nadu (543 tonnes), Maharashtra (524 tonnes), Uttar Pradesh (507 tonnes) and Kerala (494 tonnes). Delhi generated 382 tonnes of Covid-19 bio-medical waste in September, according to the CPCB data.

As per CPCB guidelines, used PPEs like face shields, goggles, hazmat suits, plastic coverall, used masks, head

cover, shoe cover etc generated from Covid-19 isolation wards at healthcare facilities shall be segregated and sent to common facilities for disposal as per Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 (BMWWM Rules).

However, used PPEs like masks and gloves generated in common households, commercial establishments, institutions, etc are required to store separately for a minimum 72 hours for disposal along with solid waste after cutting or shredding.

The apex pollution body had in May developed the "Covid-19 BMW" mobile application to monitor coronavirus-related biomedical waste and to compile the data through electronic manifest system.

Continued on Page 11

## Modi to virtually address Bengal during Durga Puja

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Prime Minister will for the first time in his seven-year-rule virtually address the Bengali population on October 22, the Maha Sashthi Day (sixth day of the pujas), the State BJP leadership said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji will deliver a virtual address on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja," senior leader and party's observer for the State Kailash Vijayvargiya said on Monday.

Modi is likely to address the people of the State on October 22, he said.

Home Minister Amit Shah too will reach out to the Bengali population, the senior leader said. "We do not have the dates as yet but we are trying to bring Amit Shah ji in Bengal before Durga Puja," Vijayvargiya said, adding the Home Minister would visit North Bengal during this period.

## Cremated without our consent: Hathras victim's family maintains stand in HC

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Family members of the Hathras woman who died after being allegedly gang-raped maintained before the Allahabad High Court Monday that she was cremated in the middle of the night without their consent and their lawyer said they wanted the trial shifted out of the state.

Hathras District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxar and Superintendent of Police Vineet Jaiswal told the court that the decision on the cremation was taken by the local administration and police, and there were no instructions or pressure from the state government.

Senior Uttar Pradesh administration and police officials, also summoned by the court, said the late-night cremation was due to law and order considerations.

Justices Pankaj Mithal and Rajan Roy fixed November 2 as the next date of hearing.

The 19-year-old Dalit woman died at a Delhi hospital a fortnight after she was allegedly raped by four upper-caste men at her village in UP's Hathras district on September 14.

There was outrage over her hurried cremation at her village with her family claiming that it was against their wishes and they were not even allowed to bring the woman's body home one last time.

The high court had then summoned top UP administration and police officials as well as the victim's family to depose before it on the issue.

Her parents and three brothers were brought amid tight security to Lucknow on Monday, over an hour before the hearing was to begin.

UP Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi, Director General of Police HC Awasthy and Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar also appeared before the court, which had said it was shocked by the episode when it issued the summons.

Senior advocate JN Mathur, who was appointed amicus curie by the court, pleaded that every citizen had the right to be cremated with dignity by the family members as per their religious practices.

He cited Article 25 of the Constitution on the right to practice one's religion freely.

Family's counsel Seema Kushwaha asked the court to transfer the probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation and the trial to Delhi. Additional Advocate General VK Shahi, who represented

the state government, said the investigation has already been handed over to the CBI.

"The family wants the case to be transferred to Delhi or Mumbai, Kushwaha told reporters outside the court. The family also asked that they should be provided security," she said.

They did not want the report of the investigation to be made public, according to the lawyer.

VK Shahi told reporters that the next date of hearing has been fixed for November 2.

"On behalf of the government, we have filed our affidavit. All family members of the victim appeared in court, and the court questioned them. The court questioned Additional Chief Secretary (Home), ADG Law and Order and District Magistrate of Hathras," he said.

## UP govt clears appointment of over 31k asst teachers

### Recruitment subject to SC order on issue

Lucknow (PTI/PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday said it has cleared the appointment of 31,277 assistant teachers in the Basic Education Department but the final recruitment would be subject to the Supreme Court order on the issue.

An official spokesman said the government's decision to appoint 31,277 assistant teachers in the first phase has been taken in pursuance to the Supreme Court direction on the issue.

An interim list comprising 15,933 unreserved category candidates, 8,513 of the OBC category, 6,615 of scheduled castes category and 216 of the scheduled tribes category has been uploaded on the departmental website, the spokesman

said. The counselling of selected candidates would be held in various districts on October 14 and 15 and the appointment letters would be issued on October 16, the spokesman said. These appointments, however, would be subject to the final decision of the Supreme Court. The permission of the Election Commission has been taken in this regard as notification for byelections on seven assembly seats in the state has already been issued.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had last month directed the Basic Education Department to make the appointments.

The Department had conducted the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for the recruitment of 69,000 teachers on January

6, 2019. A day later, the government had fixed a 65 per cent cut-off for the general category candidates and 60 per cent for the backward and other reserved category candidates.

The order, however, was challenged by some students in the Allahabad High Court.

The high court on March 29 passed an order in favour of the Uttar Pradesh government on the main petition of Ram Sharan Maurya versus state government and others.

Deciding on a special leave petition (SLP), the Supreme Court on May 21, 2020 directed the state government to complete the recruitment process on all posts except those of assistant teachers which are held by Shiksha Mitras, the official added.



# Covid: CM advises caution at all levels

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed satisfaction that over 1.20 crore Covid tests have been conducted in the state so far and said the testing should be ramped up further. “Exercise caution at all levels and ensure protection and treatment facilities are in order to break the chain of infection,” the chief minister said while presiding over a high-level Unlocked review meeting at his official residence here on Monday.

He directed the officials to link Level-3 Covid hospitals with virtual ICUs of SGPGI and Level-2 hospitals with virtual ICUs of KGMU. “Through this arrangement, the patients will be able to get expert advice from the senior consultants of both the medical institutions,” he said.

He also asked the officials to operationalise the Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC) to full capacity in all the districts with their proper monitoring by the district magistrates and the chief medical officers.

Reiterating that mass awareness about protection from COVID-19 was the need of the hour, the chief minister said that public address systems should be



“THROUGH THIS ARRANGEMENT, THE PATIENTS WILL BE ABLE TO GET EXPERT ADVICE FROM THE SENIOR CONSULTANTS OF BOTH THE MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS”

used to spread awareness. He said that people should be sensitised about the Covid protocol.

He said the special sanitisation and cleanliness drive being conducted in the state should be taken up in an active manner in urban and rural areas alike with spraying of anti-larva chemicals

and lime powder. He stressed on proper monitoring of the drive to ensure that the work was seen on ground level.

The chief minister asked the officials to ensure proper power supply during the festivals. He also directed the officials to make efforts to control the prices of veg-

## Active Covid cases in UP touch 10-week low

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After 10 weeks, Uttar Pradesh touched the August 2-mark as the active COVID-19 cases came down to less than 40,000 despite 2,234 more people testing positive for coronavirus infection, giving a big respite to the administration and the health officials.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said that after 10 weeks, the total active COVID-19 cases in the state had come down below the 40,000-mark on Monday.

“On August 2 last, the state had below 40,000 active cases,” he said during his daily press briefing here on Monday.

The additional chief secretary said that 2,234 fresh cases of COVID-19 were reported on Monday while 3,342 patients had recovered.

“It is for the first time after July 7 that the number of fresh

cases in the state has come down to 2,234 in a day after touching the mark of 71,030 cases in a day on September 11,” he said.

Prasad said that the tally of confirmed positive cases in the state had gone up to 4,39,161 out of which 3,93,908 had recovered and 38,815 were admitted to the hospitals or were in home isolation. He said the recovery rate in the state had also gone up to 89.70 percent.

On Sunday, 1,42,244 samples were tested. “There are 17,741 asymptomatic patients in home isolation while 3,175 patients are admitted in private hospitals,” Prasad said, adding that till date 2,42,262 patients had preferred home isolation out of which 2,24,521 had recovered.

Over 4.14 lakh surveillance teams have covered 1,37,803 areas of the state and visited 2.68 crore houses to check the health of over 13.25 crore people.

etables and pulses. Yogi asked the district magistrates to take action

in this regard and ensure that the citizens got essentials at fair prices.

## PepsiCo to start potato chips manufacturing unit in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Food and beverage major PepsiCo India said that it had plans to invest Rs 814 crore in setting up a greenfield potato chip manufacturing plant in Uttar Pradesh over the next three years.

The unit, to be set up in Kosi, Mathura on 35 acres of land provided by UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA), is in line with PepsiCo’s goal to double its snacks business in India by 2022.

Expected to commence commercial production by the middle of 2021, the unit will facilitate direct and indirect employment to about 1,500 persons.

PepsiCo India Chairman Ahmed El Sheikh said that the initial investment was pegged at Rs 500 crore but was revised to Rs. 814 crore. Significantly, raw material (potato) would be procured from local farmers.

“PepsiCo is committed to growing its food and beverage business sustainably in India. We have a long relationship with the people of Uttar Pradesh. As we look to double our snacks business over the next few years, we intend to invest Rs 814 crore approximately to expand our footprint in UP,” El Sheikh said.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the project was signed between the company and the UP gov-

ernment at the ground-breaking ceremony of Investors Summit in July, 2018.

To enable the supply chain, PepsiCo will set up a cold storage and would also give an impetus to the development of ancillary and other support industries in the state.

PepsiCo India currently sources all potato used in Lay’s and Uncle Chippies from local farmers under its agri-programme working with over 24,000 farmers across 13 states.

Infrastructure and Industrial Developmental Commissioner Alok Tandon said, “An MoU was signed by PepsiCo to set up this project with an investment of Rs 500 crore at UP Investors Summit-2018. The project started with the arrangement of land at ground-breaking ceremony held in July, 2019. As a result of MoU tracking, land allocation and labour related reforms, a transparent investment system is being set up in Uttar Pradesh to suit industries, as a result of which PepsiCo has increased its investment from Rs. 500 to Rs 814 crore.”

In the last three decades, PepsiCo has been producing carbonated soft drinks and non-carbonated beverages in UP through franchisees since 1990. Such units are functioning in Greater Noida, Kosi, Sathria-Jaunpur, Kanpur Dehat and Hardoi .

### MP girl escapes captor

**Hathras (PTI):** A 17-year-old girl from MP escaped from the captivity of a man who was taking her to Delhi on pretext of imparting sewing, embroidery training, and walked for days to reach here before she could get police help.



### NOTICE

I have change my name Uzma Parveen to Uzma Parvez W/o Parvez Alam for future purpose. Atta Nagar, Kunda, Pratapgadh.

### सूचना

मैंने अपना नाम Arafat Ahmad से Arafat Ahmad कर लिया है। अतः मरिचि में मुझे Arafat Ahmad के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जा।। नाम Arafat Ahmad, फ़ाता – 97 / 154, लताक महल, कानपुर।

### NOTICE

Notified that CBSE Board, New Delhi Marksheet of my daughter Sonal Katiyar High School (Roll No. 5219861, Year 2012-14) & Intermediate (Roll No. 5651245, Year 2016) have been really lost. Pankaj Katiyar, Plot No.68, Emerald Garden, Swaroop Nagar, Kanpur.

### सूचना

एतद् द्वारा ज्ञात हो कि मेरे पुत्र प्रणव गुप्त व पुत्राक्ष गुप्ता गुप्ता से अब मेरे सम्बन्ध मरुत रूप से समाप्त हो। अतः मेरे द्वारा दिनांक 16.12.2014 को समाचार पत्र पारनेयर में प्रकाशित सम्बन्ध विच्छेद सम्बन्धी सूचना निरस्त समझी जाये। रघुवंश कुमार गुप्त पुत्र रघु रघु रघु रघु रघु, 19 / 47, रमनारायण बाजार, कानपुर।

### NOTICE

I, Army No. 15446621-X, Rank-HAV, Rajendra, Unit 1 Military Training Battalion, AMC, C & C , Lucknow. R/o Village Chandora Khurd, Teh. Multai, Dist. Betul (M.P.) In my service record my Son name mentioned as Kartik where as his correct name is YQJIT BUWADE, his name should be corrected in service records.

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## Yogi most sought after campaigner in Bihar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The pro-active action taken by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in carrying forward development projects in Uttar Pradesh in the last three years has made him the most sought after campaigner in the Bihar elections as the party candidates have requested him to address rallies in their constituencies.

Sources said that the central leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party had planned his rallies in Patna, Gaya, Nalanda, Siwan, Hajipur, Bhagalpur, Baksa, Bhojpur, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj and Darbhanga.

“Yogi will also be wooing voters in northern Bihar, Mithilanchal and districts of central Bihar,” a senior government official said. The UP chief minister was also a popular face during the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Assam and the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Yogi Adityanath is a popular face in Bihar because of his image of being a strict administrator and for his effective handling of the 2019 Kumbh, law and order after the Ram Jannabhoomi judgement of the Supreme Court and thereafter the laying of the foundation stone of the temple and his effective policies of providing employment to lakhs of migrant labourers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Besides his spotless image, people in Bihar also have a lot of reverence for Yogi as the head of the Goraksh Peeth which has lakhs of followers in the state, BJP leader Vijay Bahadur Pathak said.

## Akhilesh urges youth to follow Lohia’s path

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said that the younger generation of the country could take inspiration from socialist ideologue late Ram Manohar Lohia, who dreamt of world citizenship.

After paying tributes to Lohia on his 53rd death anniversary in Lucknow on Monday, Akhilesh said that socialist ideology would always be relevant.

“Adopting Lohiaji’s ‘sap-takranti’ concept against social injustice and inequality, the SP is determined to take his ideas to the people. Lohiaji always debated on various aspects of Indian politics, society and culture, on its goodness and evils and expressed his views without fear or favour,” he said.

The SP chief advised, “The young generation of India will get direction and inspiration from these ideals. Lohiaji’s contemplation was not bound by the limits of nation state as he used to dream of world citizenship.”

Akhilesh emphasised that Lohia first stressed on giving respect and status to the backwards, women and minorities. “He formulated the principle of special opportunity for the weaker sections of society. Samajwadi Party has always

been fighting for social justice and during our regime, the interests of Dalits, deprived, backwards, women and other weaker sections were taken care of,” he claimed.

The former chief minister of UP said the present BJP regime’s achievements in the last three-and-half years was inflation, hunger, unemployment, injustice and atrocities. He alleged that the present government was most insensitive towards the respect and security of women and there was a serious crisis of law and order in the state as people felt scared and criminals were fearless.

“Besides, COVID-19 has wreaked a havoc and the government has taken little measures to control it. There is chaos in the field of health education. Government machinery is brazenly being misused and political adversaries are being targeted,” Akhilesh lamented.

### RLD HOLD KISAN MAHAPANCHAYAT

The Rashtriya Lok Dal held a kisan mahapanchayat in Mathura on Monday to consolidate its vote bank after its workers led by party vice-president Jayant Chaudhary were cane-charged during their visit to the village of Hathra rape and murder victim.

## UP govt urges HC to dispose of cases of crimes against women, children on priority

**Lucknow (PTI):** The Uttar Pradesh government has requested the Allahabad High Court to ensure disposal of cases related to crimes against women and the POCSO Act on priority basis, a senior official said on Monday.

The government also sought directions to all district and sessions court judges to ensure speedy disposal of such

cases, said Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Awasthi.

This comes days after the death and alleged gang-rape of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in the state’s Hathras district. The incident has triggered widespread outrage across the country. The Uttar Pradesh government made the request in a letter written to the Registrar of

the high court. The letter was written by Awasthi on behalf of the state government.

In the letter, the government urged the court to hear and dispose of cases related to crimes against women and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act cases on priority.

It also requested the court to direct all district and sessions

court judges to ensure speedy disposal of such cases.

Despite the obstacles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, accused in 612 cases of crimes against women were awarded punishment and a total of 1,835 such cases were disposed of from January to September this year, the letter stated.

Punishment was awarded to accused in 151 cases under

the POCSO Act, it said.

Citing the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, the government said Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of convictions in cases of crimes against women 2019 in the country.

It said it will run a special campaign on the safety of women and girls from October 17 to 25.

## Govt braces to thwart liquor smuggling to ‘dry’ Bihar

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has stepped up vigil in eastern districts bordering pool-bound Bihar, ostensibly to thwart cross-border liquor smuggling.

With Assembly elections due in November and Bihar being a dry state, high volume liquor smuggling to woo voters is a strong possibility.

Liquor smuggling from neighbouring Haryana and Punjab is quite rampant in western districts of UP. The bacchus is then surreptitiously transported to other districts and eastwards too.

In the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the UP Excise department had seized nearly 1.7 million litres of illicit liquor, valued at more than Rs 45 crore. Additional Chief Secretary (Excise) Sanjay Bhoosreddy said that the Excise and Police departments had prepared a roadmap to set up special checkpoints in border areas to check trade and smuggling of illicit liquor.

Besides, officials will also monitor shops and other businesses along UP-Bihar border for possible illicit liquor trade and overcharging.

Regular inspections have been mandated to check unscrupulous liquor trade and supply, which not only robs the state government of excise revenue, but exposes consumers to health hazards of sub-standard products.

“Necessary instructions have been issued to departmental officials and shop owners have been warned of strict action in case of overcharging of products,” Bhoosreddy said.

Meanwhile, the Excise department is also accelerating its vigilance activities against manufacturing of illicit liquor in the state. In September, 2020, the Excise department had arrested 2,800 persons and seized 328 vehicles for illicit liquor trade. A large quantity of liquor was also impounded.

## Kanpur’s ‘Satta King’ netted in Jaipur

PNS ■ KANPUR

Running a multi-crore rupee cricket betting ring Estimated at several crore rupees, notorious Kanpur bookie Sonu Sardar was arrested in Jaipur on Monday after being on the lam for the last one month.

The Kanpur police had unearthed a gang involved in IPL betting racket about a month back. A police team led by SP (West) Anil Verma and SP (South) Deepak Bhuker had busted an international gang with the arrest of six bookies from Nazirabad, Fazalganj and Kakadeo police station areas. A recovery of Rs.93.72 lakh (Indian) and Rs 27,000 (Nepalese) was also made from them.

However, just before the raid, mastermind Sonu Sardar managed to escape and settled in Jaipur to run the racket with the help of bookies of Sri Lanka and Nepal.

The Kanpur police had been on his trail for the past one month. On a tip-off, a police team was earlier sent to Jaipur to nab him but it had returned empty handed as Sonu Sardar kept changing his locations.

With the help of electronic surveillance and police informers, Sonu Sardar’s presence in Jaipur was confirmed. Immediately, a police team was again sent to Jaipur and it succeeded in arresting him on Monday, SP (South) Deepak Bhuker, adding that interrogation of Sonu Sardar would reveal the names of many other big bookies.



# Health dept preparing for second wave

## Downward trend continues with only 307 new cases in state capital

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Health department is gearing up for a likely second spike of the coronavirus cases with Unlock 5.0 starting from October 15. A senior official at the CMO office said it was an upcoming challenge and since they were anticipating the rise in coronavirus cases in the second wave, they were re-arranging their planning at the working units in both urban and rural areas of the district.

He said the second spike might come soon with schools, cinema halls opening from October 15. "We are revising our micro-plans and more manpower will be enforced. We will be focusing on areas at higher risk," he said.

Meanwhile, the downward trend of cases continued with 307 persons testing positive for

coronavirus in Lucknow on Monday. Besides, 457 persons were discharged, taking the recoveries to 52,453. There have been a total of 781 deaths so far while the number of active cases is 4,821.

A senior official at the CMO office said the patients included 28 from Rae Bareilly road, 27 from Indiranagar, 23 from Gomtinagar, 19 from Chowk, 16 each from Alambagh & Cantt, 15 from Hasanganj, 14 from Madaon, 12 each from Jankipuram & Mahanagar, 11 from Talkatora, and 10 each from Aliganj & Vikasnagar. Sixteen patients died in Lucknow and the deceased included six from the state capital and 10 from Varanasi, Sitapur, Barabanki, Amethi, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Ayodhya and Sultanpur. Three patients died at KGMU, including a 74-

year-old man from Barabanki, a 44-year-old man from Sultanpur and a 62-year-old man from Ayodhya.

Across the state, 2,234 persons tested positive, including 148 from Prayagraj, 121 from Gautam Buddhagarh and 116 from Meerut, taking the toll to 4,39,161. There were 44 deaths across the state, including five in Meerut, three each in Gorakhpur & Moradabad, two each in Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra, Lakhimpur Kheri & Deoria, and one each in Gautam Buddhagarh, Aligarh, Saharanpur, Barabanki, Jaunpur, Maharajganj, Azamgarh, Bulandshahr, Basti, Sitapur, Unnao, Sultanpur, Chandauli, Bahraich, Sonbhadra, Amroha, Kannauj and Fatehpur, taking the toll to 6,438. Besides, 3,342 recovered, taking the recoveries

across the state to 3,93,908. There are still 38,815 active cases in the state.

A senior health official said the active age group of 21-40 years was the worst-hit at the moment as they were roaming around freely and getting exposed to the virus.

Asked about people not wearing masks or following social distancing, he said it was difficult to force people for a long time. "Another issue is that the patients who have recovered are also roaming freely, thinking that they would remain immune to the virus for the next six months. The rush on roads has increased and people are going about their normal business even as shops are also opening without any restrictions," he said.

Regarding private hospitals burning a hole in the

pockets of patients, the official claimed there were one or two complaints. "We have only capped the admission charges but when a patient goes for treatment, there are certain things which are not under our control," the official said.

Meanwhile, SGPGI director Dr RK Dhiman said they would be starting the phase-3 trial of Covid-19 vaccine by the end of October. "DCGI would be looking at the results of the second phase, and the final approval will be given after that," he said. He added that the volunteers would be available within a week.

He said it was necessary for the volunteer to have had no exposure to coronavirus. "We will be giving them vaccine and placebo, which looks like a vaccine. No volunteer will know whether they have

been given the vaccine or not," he said.

Dr Dhiman said all age groups would be covered as would those having co-morbidities. The SGPGI director said though it was a year-long process, it would give an intermediary analysis.

Besides, KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri has constituted a kitchen monitoring team consisting of members from employees, residents and nursing associations who keep track of food preparation and distribution, including serving the food to patients directly on their beds.

Environment department, along with senior dietitians Sunita, Dipti and Vidya Priya, has been overseeing the kitchen services and the mission is to provide a healthy diet to all the healthcare workers and patients.

# Dist adm releases SOPs for cinema halls, schools

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The district administration has released the SOPs for the re-opening of cinema halls opening on October 15 and schools on October 19. DM Abhishek Prakash said classes IX & XII would resume from October 19.

As per detailed guidelines released by the district administration, all the schools should be open and airy and there should be a provision for washing hands along with other instruments such as infrared digital thermometers. School vehicles should be sanitised before and after use.

There should be committees of teachers and students formed and tasked with monitoring of cleanliness and other similar things. Students should be sitting six feet apart in view of social distancing which also has to be maintained in staff rooms and other places where there is possibility of public contact.

There should be separate entry and exit timings for different classes and if there are different gates, different classes should be assigned separate gates for entry and exit. Signages should be put in different parts of schools as a reminder for social distancing and circles be drawn outside washrooms, reception area and different lanes be assigned for movement of students.

Flexi time-tables should be made for the different classes with a number of options that could include holding classes in two shifts or holding classes in bigger halls, if the size

of classes is small.

No programmes should be organised which could lead to assembly of crowds and even parent teachers meeting should be held virtually.

The consent of parents is important and students who want to study from homes should be allowed so. Attendance should be flexible and policies should be framed for sick leave.

Before the opening of schools, awareness programmes on Covid-19 should be organised for the staff, students, parents and teachers both offline and online. Once the schools re-open, the premises have to be kept clean and a daily record has to be kept for the same. Students should wear mask and must not exchange the same. They should be encouraged for eating home-cooked food and not exchanging their lunches, and vendors should not be allowed on school premises.

There are also guidelines for the differently-abled students and for schools with no online arrangements. Cinema halls and multiplexes will also re-open on October 15 as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under which the occupancy will not be more than 50 per cent. There will be staggered show timings at the multiplexes, digital no-contact payments and frequent sanitisation of the entire premises. AC should be set in the range of 24-30 degrees and delivery of foodstuff and beverages inside cinema halls will be prohibited.

# Youth working at CM helpline hangs self over failed love affair

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth working at the Chief Minister Helpline (1076) ended his life at his house in Ghazipur police station area on Sunday night. There were reports that he took the extreme step over a failed love affair. Shivam Pandey (22) of Sitapur was staying at a rented accommodation in Hariharnagar along with his colleague Adarsh, also of Sitapur.

Adarsh returned to his house around 11 pm on Sunday and found the doors bolted from inside. He gave a call to Shivam but the latter did not respond. Some other tenants also reached the scene and broke open the door, only to find Shivam hanging from an iron grill in the kitchen.

"Shivam was a bachelor. We talked to his room partner Adarsh but he also failed to explain the reason. The family of the deceased was informed about the incident and the body was sent for autopsy. A suicide note was recovered in which Shivam stated the reason. Shivam was in love with a girl who dumped him. He stated in the suicide note that he failed in love and so he decid-

ed to end his life," Ghazipur SHO said.

Sources said Shivam was under mental duress due to the above-mentioned reason for a long time and his condition worsened as he sought no counselling.

In another incident, a 14-year-old girl ended her life after she was scolded for excessive use of mobile phone, in Gomti Nagar police station area on Monday. Reports said the girl was staying with her brother-in-law (elder sister's husband) in Gwari locality. Around 8:30 am, she was using her mobile phone when her brother-in-law scolded her for sticking to the mobile all the time and not doing any household work. Upset over that, the girl went inside her room and consumed some poisonous substance. She was rushed to Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences where she was declared brought dead.

"Kajal used to stay home and cook food for the family. Her brother-in-law is a labourer," the police said. The body was sent for autopsy her parents, who are natives of Bahraich, were informed about the incident.

# Massive fire destroys 50 shanties

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A mysterious fire reduced to ashes nearly 50 shanties in Dhubighat Mohalla under Bazaarkhala police station area on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. Huge police force cordoned the area as 10 fire tenders were pressed into service. Police said though there was no casualty, household goods, foodstuff and other belongings of the dwellers were gutted. The police were at the loss for words when asked about the cause of fire outbreak. However, they suspected short-circuiting could well be a reason.

Bazaarkhala SHO said the fire broke out in shanties located in Ram Nagar Dhubighat Mohalla around 1 am on Monday. He said senior police officers reached the scene and took stock of the rescue operation which continued for hours. There were reports that a 50-year-old labourer, identified as Puttan, suffered minor burns.

As per reports, the fire broke out in one of the shanties around 1 am and soon, the flames engulfed neighbouring hutments. Due to the massive fire, LPG cylinders inside the shanties exploded one after another, making the rescue operation difficult.

Incharge of Aishbagh police outpost Sub-inspector Rakesh Chaurasia started tak-



ing out the gas cylinders from the shanties to prevent more explosions. He also rescued

those trapped inside the shanties on fire.

The fire spoiled the future

plans of many dwellers. The marriage of Shabnam's daughter Tabassum is scheduled for October 30. She had made all the arrangements for the marriage but fire devoured everything that she had. Likewise, the marriage of Meera's daughter Shagun is scheduled for Diwali and she had collected several items for the occasion, but she had little idea about what was in store.

Families have been living in the area for about 70 years. The shanty-dwellers expressed surprise and suspected some mischievous with a view to getting the shanties removed from there.

# Stolen buffalo helps cops identify its real owner

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After attracting attention for all the wrong reasons, the UP Police got a respite when it solved a buffalo theft case by getting help from the bovine in Kannauj.

Instead of ascertaining the rightful claimant, the probing cops left the decision with the stolen buffalo to return to its owner. The district police asked the two men laying their claims on the buffalo to call it towards them and said to whomsoever it would go, that person would be the real owner.

**Instead of ascertaining the rightful claimant, the probing cops left the decision with the stolen buffalo to return to its owner**

Three days back, a buffalo owned by Dharmendra was stolen from Alinagar area of Tirwa Kotwali area. Around the same time, another cattle theft case was reported by Virendra. After much effort, the local police managed to recover one of the buffaloes. Later both Dharmendra and Virendra were intimidated about the recovery. At the police station, both lay claims on the recovered bovine, creating a piquant situation for the cops.

The baffled officials decided to ascertain the owner in a unique way and left the buffalo to choose its real owner. On being let off the hook, the buffalo walked to its owner, providing the much needed respite to the men in khaki.

# Two dead, one injured in Azamgarh clash

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A clash over a long-standing personal enmity culminated in the death of two persons and injury to a third in Nizamabad area of Azamgarh on Monday morning.

As per reports, four persons riding two motorcycles reached Chakiya Hussainabad village where they had an altercation

with Wasif which started the clash. As the two groups came to head, knives were freely used in which Wasif and his friends Asmar (24), Kazim (22) and Mushir (22) were critically injured.

The victims were rushed to a hospital where Asmar and Kazim succumbed to their injuries while Mushir's condition was stated to be critical.

Upon being informed, Superintendent of Police of Azamgarh, Sudhir Kumar Singh, rushed to the spot with police force and started preliminary inquiry. Later several teams were formed to track down the assailants and three persons were detained.

Meanwhile, a married woman committed suicide by consuming some poisonous

substance in Muzaffarnagar on Sunday evening. The woman and her husband had been living separately for some time after a dispute and on the previous evening, she consumed a poisonous substance. Her neighbours rushed her to a hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Meanwhile, in Lucknow two youths suffered injuries

when a mini-loader hit their bike at Mirzapur culvert in Jankipuram on Monday. The injured were identified as Danish and his neighbour Asif, both of Muslim Nagar locality in the area. The loader driver sped off the scene abandoning the vehicle at the spot after the incident. Police said Danish suffered serious injuries in the incident.

# Narrow escape for two policemen



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two cops moving on a bike had a providential escape as the vehicle caught fire around 1 pm on Monday. Reports said head constable Arun Kumar Dubey and constable Ramendra Kumar were on

duty under security arrangements for the ongoing exams in the city on Monday. When the cops were going towards Jeevan Plaza, the bike went up in flames. The cops hurriedly got down the motorcycle and later called fire officials. A team of firefighters reached the placed

and doused the flames. A police spokesman said the bike caught fire due to unknown reasons. He said the motorcycle was completely burnt in the incident and the policemen had a providential escape. "The matter is being investigated," he said.

# Commissioner meets cinema hall reps

Lucknow (PNS): Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar on Monday held a meeting with the representatives of various cinema halls in the city in connection with their reopening from October 15. Senior district administration officials, along with the deputy director, attended the meeting.

The commissioner said all the cinema halls would have thermal scanners and sanitisers along with Covid-19 help desks. He said all the details of viewers and their contact numbers should be noted down and if there were any visitor with Covid symptoms, the Integrated Control and Command Centre should be informed so that appropriate action could be taken.

He said cinema hall owners and managers would also have to submit certificates before re-opening that all the employees had undergone Covid tests. "Downloading Aarogya Setu app in mobile phones is mandatory for the viewers and there will be no entry without the app and mask. All the security staffers have to ensure wearing of masks," he said.

# LMC to develop industrial areas



Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia presiding over LMC house session on Monday

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The industrial areas will be developed after they are handed over to Lucknow Municipal Corporation, which will spend 60 per cent of the earning received on development works. Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia gave these directions at the LMC house which met on Monday. The mayor said the handing over process should be expedited. Other issues taken up the mayor included instal-

lation of late BJP leader Lalji Tandon.

Bhatia said she had already released the third instalment of the development fund of Rs 32 lakh. Corporators raised the problems faced by people due to roads dug up by Jal Nigam without any prior information. They said the money for road cutting, which was supposed to be deposited by Jal Nigam, was not deposited. The mayor directed the municipal commissioner to take up issue with the state

government and get the money deposited. She also gave directions for road construction.

The proposal for adding new mohallas to Haiderganj ward was also approved with a view to increasing the income of LMC. The rate of Community Centre in Ganeshganj was fixed at Rs 38,500 and it was also decided that Pandit Deendayal Gate would be constructed on the main road in Rajendranagar ward at a cost of Rs 24 lakh.



# 198 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has crossed the 15K-mark as 198 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district here on Monday, increasing the total number of cases to 15,161. Besides, the day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 246. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 88 patients and 80 of them were recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 10,869. Besides, eight have been discharged from the hospitals and the number of cured patients from the hospitals has reached 2,766. The total number of patients who have been discharged from the hospitals is 13,635, leaving 1,280

active patients. The recovery rate has slightly declined to 89.93 percent but the mortality rate has improved to 1.62 per cent.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh reviewed the progress made in COVID-19 and other national health programmes both in urban and rural areas in the district and expressed his anguish over the absence of medical incharges of Madanpura, Benia Bag, Sikraul, Durgakund, Seva Sadan, Bhelupur, Badi Bazar and Jaitpura UHPCs in the meeting. He instructed all the medical officers to launch a special vaccination drive on every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to achieve a

cent per cent target. The meeting was also attended by ACMOs Dr BS Rai and Dr AK Maurya.

According to the CMO, in the first report of the day by 11 am, 37 positive patients were detected out of 3,784 received reports. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,54,984 and the results of 1488 are awaited. Out of them, 2,39,984 were negative while 15,000 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,70,890. Earlier, a male aged 60 from PWD Colony succumbed to COVID-19 at Apex Hospital while another male aged 69 from Sibra died at Heritage Hospital. With the addition of 10 new red zones, the total

number of hotspots has increased to 2,175 including 307 red zones. Three green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,868 green zones with eight new ones. In this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) comprising 10 districts of three divisions, as many as 355 new cases were found on Sunday with maximum 141 COVID-19 positive in Varanasi followed by 42 in Ballia, 41 in Sonbhadra, 22 in Azamgarh, 21 each in Jaunpur and Mau, 18 each in Chandauli and Mirzapur, 16 in Bhadohi and 15 in Ghazipur. With this, the total number of COVID-19 positive cases has inched further close to the 50K-mark, reaching 49,077.

# Make India a ‘Vishwa Guru’ again: Anandiben Patel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Governor Anandiben Patel has called upon the educationists to cooperate in effective implementation of New Education Policy (NEP), 2020 so that India can become ‘Vishwa Guru’ (world leader) again. ‘Education should be in the national needs and circumstances but it was lacking in the era of slavery. The expected reforms were also not done in independent India due to many reasons, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken initiatives to overcome these shortcomings,’ she said, adding that in new NEP-20, thrusts have been given on development of Indian languages, civilization, culture and social values and it is an opportunity for the our universities to establish new dimensions.

She was addressing the National Vice-Chancellors’ Summit on the theme ‘NEP: At a glance’, which was organised

online through Google Meet on Sunday for the first time in the history of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) under the aegis of its UGC-Human Resource Development (HRD) Centre in which about 40 V-Cs from across the country participated. ‘BHU is known as the capital of ‘Sarvavidya’ and its founder Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya had emphasised the independent education in the country at a time when education system had come to a standstill and the western education was being imposed,’ said Anandiben.

Chief patron of the programme and BHU Chancellor Justice (retired) Girdhar Malviya said that the responsibility of implementing the NEP-20 properly is on the students and teachers so that the country can move forward on the path of progress as per the dreams of Mahamana.

He said that the policy should create such an educa-

tional environment in all universities and colleges so that teachers can feel its speed and energy in their classes.

Presiding over the programme, BHU V-C Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar said that along with innovation, qualitative research is needed to serve humanity. ‘Only the quality of research is capable of taking us on the path of progress. If children are taught in their language from the beginning, then their thinking is more developed, so its importance is well known,’ He said, welcoming the efforts of making the curriculum efficient in the new policy.

Earlier, Director of HRD Centre Prof Pravesh Kumar Srivastava welcomed the guests and Manglacharan was recited by Anita Manish Jain. Coordinator Dr Sanjeev Saraf conducted the programme, while Dr Ram Kumar Dangri proposed the vote of thanks. The V-Cs of different univer-

sities who also participated were VK Jain ((Tezpur), HCS Rathore (Gaya), RS Dubey (Gujarat), Saket Kushwaha (Arunachal), RP Tiwari (Punjab), Aahi (Sagar), Rajneesh Kumar Shukla (Wardha), Sanjay Singh, Alok Rai (both Lucknow), Nawang Samaten (Sarnath), Rajkumar (Punjab), G Suresh (Bhopal), Thapak (Chhatarpur), Rajesh Kumar Singh (Gorakhpur), TN Singh (MGKV), RS Singh (Ayodhya), Rajaram Shukla (SSU), Jayant Sonwalkar (Bhopal), RL Godara (Kota), Rajeev Jain (Jaipur), Renu Jain (Indore), Asha Shukla (Mau), Nirmala Maurya (Jaunpur), Kalpalata Pandey (Ballia), Gulab Jaiswal (Patilputra), KP Singh (Rajarshi Tandon Allahabad), Gautam (Chitrakoot), RS Yadav (Purnia), America Singh (Udaipur), Tarkeshwar Kumar (Hisar), Anamik Shah (Gujarat Vidyapeeth) and Kempa Raju (Bangalore).

# DM inspects Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma inspected Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg and took stock of the arrangements at all the Parao (stoppages) here on Monday. At first, he offered prayer at Kashi Vishwanath temple as per tradition and then started making inspection of other sites, dharmshalas and other facilities on Panchkoshi Marg. At every stoppage, he talked to the devotees and inquired about the facilities at different temples by concerned priests and officers. He also saw the arrangements at different dharmshalas built at various stoppages of this pilgrimage journey and asked about the details of facilities available there from their concerned administrators. During his inspection, he also gave several necessary directives to the officers and employees of concerned tehsils and blocks in view to provide better facilities to the devotees.

Describing the importance of Panchkoshi Yatra during forthcoming Karthik month,



DM KR Sharma inspecting Kardmeshwar Mahadev of Panchkoshi Marg in Varanasi on Monday

Pioneer

the DM said that the journey of pilgrims should be made easy and convenient on priority basis.

He instructed the concerned offices that prior to that all the arrangements including cleanliness, supply of pure drinking water and maintaining of toilets and bathrooms etc. in Dharamshalas should be completed, otherwise, strict action will be taken against the

guilty personnel. He also warned all those involved there in illegal encroachments of dharamshalas and other places.

Sharma said that there is a lot of scope for the tourism development through Panchkoshi Yatra as the people of the nearby surrounding districts knows the importance of this important religious Parikrama. He said that the entire Panchkoshi route would

be developed soon in view to boost tourism also.

In the Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg, there are five main stoppages and they are Kardmeshwar Mahadev, Bhim Chandi, Rameshwar Mahadev, Panch Pandav and Kapildhara. The devotees start yatra from Manikarnika Ghat via Kashi Vishwanath temple and complete it at Addi Keshwar Ghat.

# 163 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of corona infected persons declined on Sunday. This is because as many as 163 new Covid positive patients were detected in the last 24 hours. At the same time, 199 people beat Corona. Out of these 23 patients were discharged from various Covid hospitals. Home isolation of 176 infected persons was completed. Earlier on Saturday, 218 were found infected.

CMO Dr GS Bajpai has so far the number of corona infected has increased to 21,322 in the district with 163 new Covid infected. At the same time, the number of deaths due to infection has reached 288 with two deaths took place on Sunday. Among the two people who died, one was suffering from cancer and the other from liver cirrhosis. Both died within hours of their admission to the hospital.

So far, 14,153 people in the district have become infection free by completing home isolation with 176 people. During the Corona period, 4,974 people have been discharged from various hospitals, Covid care



centres. The number of active patients in the district is 1,907.

214 people are being treated at various Covid Hospitals and Covid Care Centres. Out of these, 74 are admitted to L3 Hospitals SRN, Kalindipuram 23, 10 in Railway Hospital, 59 in Beli Hospital, 27 in United Medicity, 21 patients are admitted in Sainath Vatsalya AMA

Hospital.

The new infected included two bank managers as well as four health workers. According to the Nodal Officer for Corona Dr. Rishi Sahai, the Covid report of Kotak Mahendra Bank manager and Branch Manager of SBI has come positive. At IFFCO, the manager, a primary school teacher, CRPF

and two constables, senior accountants of AG office are also in the list of infected. On Sunday, the medical officer of Koraoon CHC, Asha worker of Dhanupur, AYUSH doctor of CHC Koraoon and dental hygienist Corona of CSC Chaka were infected. The other infected also have two advocates of Allahabad High Court.

# House of Ram Lochan demolished

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Criminal Ram Lochan Yadav, brother of former SP MLA Vijma Yadav was the target of the Prayagraj Development Authority which demolished a house and a guest house on Monday, raised by Ram Lochan in Kanhaipur area under the Dhoomanganj police station worth crores of rupees.

The demolition team, backed by the district administration and the police reached Kanhaipur with JCB machines and bulldozers to see the job done.

This action was a part of drive initiated against the mafia dons and criminals in Uttar Pradesh by the Chief Minister. Unauthorised buildings of such persons are being pulled down on a regular basis in Prayagraj, and the turn of Ram Lochan came after dozens of buildings of Atique and his associate including relatives and gang men, Dilip Mishra, and shooters of Chhota Rajan gang Rajesh Yadav and Bachcha Passi.



This huge land was illegally occupied by Ram Lochan, said the officials and added that the building was constructed without an approved blue print

of the plan. Name of Ram Lochan figures on eighth position in the list of land mafia. There are several criminal cases of serious nature, including

murder, against Ram Lochan mainly registered at Dhoomanganj police station besides other police stations.

# Woman burns herself alive after being sexually assaulted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A woman belonging to Scheduled Caste burnt herself alive after being sexually assaulted by a man and being humiliated on mobile by his family members in Shankargarh area. The woman was admitted to SRN Hospital in a very critical condition where she died on Monday morning.

The police were also silent after the incident. After the protest being raised by the people of the Shankargarh, the silence of the police was broken and the accused was immediately arrested and sent to jail. After the arrest, a press note was issued stating that the section on abetment to suicide has been added in the FIR.

Gudiya (name changed), (22) from Shankargarh had a

friendship with Ashutosh Soni from Kanak Nagar town. Ashutosh made physical relations with the woman many times by convincing her to marry him. A few days ago Gudiya talked about marrying Ashutosh and said that he should come to her house and talk to her parents. On hearing this, Ashutosh categorically refused saying that he would not be able to get married to her.

Gudiya had talked to her parents. She was shocked to see Ashutosh's attitude. Many times on mobile she tried to convince Ashutosh but he was not ready to accept it. He started humiliating her on mobile by accusing her character. On the evening of October 4, Gudiya spoke to her parents and once again spoke to Ashutosh but he insulted Gudiya over the

phone. On the morning of October 5, Gudiya lodged a complaint against Ashutosh at the police station for outraging her modesty on the pretext of marriage. A section of SC/ST was also imposed on Ashutosh.

Ashutosh and his family had got an inkling of the registration of the FIR. After the FIR, Gudiya called Ashutosh again and said that there is still time for him. She asked Ashutosh If he agrees to the wedding, she will withdraw the FIR lodged against him, but Ashutosh threatened her and blasphemed her character saying she has done it all for money. The more money she asks for, the more money she will be given. Ashutosh told the same to Gudiya's father. Gudiya was all shell shocked after hearing about money.

Upset over the issue,

Gudiya went to her room and set herself ablaze. Hearing her screams, the housemates reached the spot and tried to rescue her but it was quite late. Gudiya was badly scorched. She was first admitted to a nearby hospital then to SRN Hospital. Gudiya breathed her last on October 10 after struggling for five days in the hospital. Police wake up after news of her death spread like a wild-fire and protest spilled after it.. On Sunday, police arrested the accused Ashutosh. The cops also issued a release that the section on abetment of suicide on the accused has also been increased. The police had filed a report on the girl's complaint on the same day. The accused was being searched. He was arrested on Sunday evening and was sent to jail, said the SSP Sarvshresth Tripathi.

# BHU students for early start of classes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A section of students reached the Central office in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Monday, demanding an early starting of academic activities on the campus. In a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor, they said that for the last seven months, all the education activities have remained suspended. They said that meanwhile, by maintaining COVID-19 guidelines the university had conducted its postgraduate and undergraduate entrance examinations.

They further said that though the new session has been started but regular classes are not being conducted in any department. According to them, by following COVID-19 guidelines train and air services, industrial activities, par-

liament session etc. have been started and even elections are going to be held but the students are still being deprived of studying in their classes, and due to this, they are facing their future dark. They urged the university administration to consider the matter keeping in view of future of the students open the classes, hostels, libraries and laboratories in the university.

**TRIBUTES PAID TO LOHIA:** To mark the death anniversary of Dr Rammanohar Lohia, the Samajwadi Party (SP) on Monday organised a programme at party office in Orderly Bazar here. Paying their rich tributes to this great social leader, the SP leaders said that the mantra of continuous struggle given by Lohia Ji, is the success of socialists and added,

the discipline and the equal opportunity to one and all in the organisation would be real tribute to this great personality. There is need to re-explain the ideology and strategies of Lohia Ji because there are some who are making an abortive attempt to establish the communal based politics in the guise of socialism. They emphasised on establishing a tradition of paying respect to female leaders and workers in organisation. City president of SP Vishnu Sharma, ex-MLA Abdul Samad Ansari, City Chief of party women's wing Puja Yadav, Jitendra Yadav, Pradeep Jaiswal and Dr Anand Prakash Tiwari mainly put their views.

**DEMAND TO WAIVE OFF SCHOOL FEES:** Annoyed with the high-handedness of the management of private schools, the Jan Adhikar

Party (JAP) on Monday staged a protest demanding the government to issue directive to waive off school fees in order to give a relief to parents and guardians of students.

The parents and guardians of students are facing acute financial crunch as the lockdown and unlock laid an adverse impact on their income and in the result, they are not in position even to meet their both ends, the agitated activists of JAP expressed adding, so in such, condition, the government should issue directive to the management of private, convent and missionary schools to waive off school fees. Staging a protest at Shastri Ghat here, the JAP workers said that no single class was run since the new academic session began and thus the schools have no right to realise the fees

# NCR achieves new milestones in safe train operation

**ALLAHABAD (PNS):** North Central Railway has achieved new milestones in safe and efficient train operations. Prayagraj Division has set a new record in throughput of freight trains while booking of crew as per rule remained highest in NCR among all Zonal Railways. In a record performance, throughput of Prayagraj Division on October 11 was 350 freight trains which is 21 trains more than the previous best of 329 trains on October 1 this year.

As many as 350 freight trains interchanged by Prayagraj with adjoining divisions include 174 incoming and 176 outgoing freight trains with interchange

of whopping 17,129 wagons. This highest interchange includes made-over of 58 goods trains to Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya division which is one train plus as compared to previous best of 57 trains made over to then Mughalsarai division way back on January 30, 2016.

GM NCR and NR Rajiv Chaudhry complemented Prayagraj division for achieving this rare feat in freight train operations. With sustained efforts for increasing freight loading and revenue, North Central Railway, till September 2020 has loaded 7.2 million tonnes freight with originating freight revenue of ₹ 765.93

crore which is ₹72.97 crore higher as compared to ₹ 692.96 crore revenue in the same period of April to September last year. Continuing this positive trend freight loading till October 11 is 4.9 lakhs tonnes which is 90000 tonnes higher as compared to same period of October last year. As on October 11, 2020, average speed of goods train on NCR was 44.93 kmph registering growth of 82.5 per cent in the period of April to October over last year. This quantum improvement in train operations has been possible with immaculate maintenance of assets and sustained focus on

safety in train operations. Following proper rest and duty schedule for running staff play a very crucial role in safe and efficient train operation. To ensure that crew reporting for duty are properly rested, Railway follow strict booking and resting cycle for crew and provides quality resting facility at out stations in running rooms equipped with proper fooding and lodging facilities. Crew booking through crew management system (CMS) ensures that each crew gets adequate rest in specified period. North Central is leading Railway among all zones in booking train running staff as per rule through CMS.





Divisional Commissioner, inspecting the Parmat Ghat on Monday.

Pioneer

## DC asks local admn to take steps to keep Ganga clean, free flowing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar, while carrying out a surprise inspection of sewage pumping station on Monday, said the government was fully committed to the cause of Nirmal and Aviral Ganga, and thus the onus rested on the local administration to ensure that all possible and necessary steps were taken to keep the Ganga clean and free flowing.

He said the onus of keeping the river Ganga clean and sacred rested on Kanpur Nagar Nigam and Jal Nigam and failure to do the assigned task would invite strict action.

He said there had been umpteen complaints in the electronic and print media that

massive untreated sewage was entering the river Ganga through Parmat storm drain. He said however it had come to light that the Parmat storm drain two days back had been emptying into the river. He said at the time of inspection, it was found that there was no discharge of sewage into the river.

He said the officials disclosed that two days ago massive sewage was entering the Ganga mainstream. He said this was due to some technical fault at the pumping station and the sewage had flowed into the river. He said the officials of the district administration, KNN and Jal Nigam were directed to ensure that the fault was rectified immediately and ensure that sewage did not enter the river Ganga.

The divisional commissioner said due to domestic sewage discharge in small quantities, including the local industries situated on the downstream of the pumping station, the water was being polluted. He expressed concern over the failure of the authorities to run the pumping station constantly and said in case of power breakdown, that treatment plants should have power backup through generators.

He warned the officials to ensure that the plant remained operational 24 hour a day and said its supervision should be prompt and effective.

He said the government had focused on comprehensive upkeep and cleanliness of the river Ganga. He said a holistic approach of the Narendra

Modi government had helped to address fragmentation of activities related to water and its allied subjects into various ministries and departments.

‘Aviral’ or uninterrupted flow is one of the visions of the flagship ‘Namami Gange’ project and the minimum environmental flows for river Ganga has been notified, from its origin to Unnao, specifically at locations downstream of structures and projects meant for diversion of river flows for various purposes like irrigation, hydropower, domestic and industrial requirements.

During the inspection, the divisional commissioner was accompanied by officials of Kanpur Nagar Nigam, Jal Nigam and Irrigation department.

## Farmers advised to adopt bio-farming

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Farmers Prosperity Commission Chairman Srikrishna Chaudhary, while inaugurating the Farmers Technical Fortnight at CSA University of Agriculture and Technology on Monday, said the unrestricted use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides had drastically reduced the fertility of the soil.

He said constant use of chemicals made the land barren. He said if people did not become aware of this, it would be too late.

He said natural farming meant chemical and pesticide-free agriculture and the onus of adopting zero budget farming rested on the farmers only. He said for this the farmers would have to adopt bio-farming.

Discussing natural farming, he said if differed from organic farming in that practi-

tioners did not plow the land, use fertilisers or agrochemicals, or try to eliminate weeds and insects.

He said that it had come to light that productivity of natural farming was about the same as that of mainstream organic farming, adding that the higher labour intensity hindered commercialisation.

He said the absence of commercial intention, however, appeared to be an advantage that made natural farming easy to start for lay persons.

He said it also gave an improved self-sufficiency and a feeling that they were getting to know the essence of nature.

Chaudhary said farmers practising zero budget natural farming either of small land holding or large land holding prepared low cost cow urine and dung based formulation on farm by procuring the required

inputs locally from the village. He said there was no specific time series data on disguised unemployment in the country as the phenomenon was not easily amenable to measurement.

He said cow dung was a cheap and easily available bio resource in India and many traditional uses of cow dung were already known.

He said cow dung harboured a diverse group of micro-organisms that may be beneficial to humans due to their ability to produce a range of metabolites.

He said along with the production of novel chemicals, many cow dung micro-organisms had shown natural ability to increase soil fertility through phosphate solubilisation.

He said cow dung in India was also used as a co-product in agriculture, such as manure,

biofertiliser, biopesticides, pest repellent and as a source of energy.

He said cow dung was the major source of biogas or gobar gas production also.

Chaudhary said some progressive farmers undertook the process of vermicomposting by the use of earthworms and further they used the same in their agricultural land and vegetable gardens.

He said some farmers had successfully used this vermicompost for organic mushroom cultivation thus making it a perfect compound to be used in organic farming.

He added that cow dung had been found safe for environment as it did not cause pollution as caused by the burning of petroleum products and forest timber.

Dr Jitendra Prasad also addressed the meeting.

## 93 more test +ve

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 93 more coronavirus positive cases on Monday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 93 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Sunday evening and Monday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 26,807 cases. He said no COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Monday evening keeping the death toll to 703.

The CMO said with 19 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals the cured figure in the city was 6878 and at present 2731 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 5342 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## GSVMMC to be made a diagnostic hub

KANPUR (PNS): GSVM Medical College Principal Prof RB Kamal said the government had given a nod for making the medical college a diagnostic hub through the PPP (Private Public Partnership) model to cater to the needs of the patients from surrounding districts like Jalaun, Banda, Kannauj and a few more.

The government has incorporated three small medical colleges with a big one to upgrade it to a diagnostic hub which will be run on PPP basis.

Prof Kamal said this decision had been taken by and government on the initiative of Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna.

He said very soon an ultra-modern CT scan machine would be set up and it would cater to the needs of the patients of the surrounding districts.

He said currently all the serious patients were referred to LLR Hospital and the medical college and thus it had been decided to set up a diagnostic hub in Kanpur so that patients of rural and surrounding districts could have easy access to health care.

Prof Kamal said it would be set up separately and the medical college administration had been asked to identify land which could cater to the needs of the people from all around and had proximity with the medical college and LLR Hospital as well.

He said in the next phase, an MRI machine would be set up and people could avail themselves of the facility on highly subsidised cost. He said one CT scan was already sanctioned for the COVID-19 patients and with another there would be two CT scan machines.

## IRAD app to give policeman access to accident database

KANPUR (PNS): The Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) app will assist in the improvement of basic structure of the roads.

Besides, it will also help in identifying the accident-prone areas.

According to Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Basant Lal, for the successful operation of this app, a training programme for the cops had been organised at the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) control room. In the first phase, 160 cops would be trained in batches of 40 trainees. The two-hour training programme would start from 11 am daily.

Lal said the use of this app was also essential to prepare database of road accidents.

The cops would be required to download this app on their mobile phones.

They will find there four forms to fill in different information which include the number of damaged vehicle, manufacturing company, distance between the spot of accident and police station, type of injury, time taken in sending the injured to hospital, time taken in starting treatment, condition of road at the spot of accident, history of accidents at the spot, etc.

## ‘Scheme a revolutionary step for nation’

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

UP Minister of State for Energy Ramashankar Singh Patel said property card popularly known as ‘Gharauni’ was a way to strengthen rural economy. He said this during the launching ceremony of property cards in the district at Shahpur Chausa village under City block on Sunday. He termed the scheme as a revolutionary step for the nation. He said that drone survey

would help in minimising minor disputes related to paths and streets in rural areas. He said that



under the process even owners of vacant ‘abadi’ land would get right of legal ownership along

with its value. Enumerating the merits of the scheme the minister said that valuable properties would open the way for investment and there would be no problem for their sale and purchase. He said that such scheme would prove to be one of the ways of making the nation self-reliant. Proposing vote of thanks DM SK Patel apprised the minister that through other programmes too total 482 property certificates were issued under on the day and rest were in process.

## Girls honoured for excelling in academics

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Majhawaan MLA Shuchismita Maurya while addressing a function organised under ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ programme at zila panchayat to mark International Day of the Girl Child on Sunday said that days had become the thing of the past when girls were considered merely as housewives as now they were working in every sector, even defence. She expressed contentment



allocated ample fund so they should avail themselves of it. Meritorious girls who had excelled in their academic career were honoured on the occasion.

over the positive change that almost entire society was interested in their education. Emphasising over the importance of education CDO Avinash Singh advised the girls to study to accumulate knowledge. Few hours of concentrated study was more fruitful, he said and added that for promoting girls government had

## NCL CMD for following all safety norms

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

NCL, a Government of India Miniratna company, has taken another step to protect its personnel in which through webinar various technical aspects of safety will now be explained. The formal launch of these webinars lasting next three months was done by NCL CMD Prabhat Kumar Sinha recently. On the occasion NCL Director (Personnel) Bimlendu Kumar, Director (Finance) Ram Narayan Dubey, Director (Technical/Project & Planning) SS Sinha, NCL Chief Vigilance Officer AK Srivastava were present. CMD NCL PK Sinha stressed on ‘safety first’ and asked the personnel to follow all safety standards even while doing small tasks. For



NCL’s excellent performance in production and despatch and its work culture he gave the credit to its employees and said that even in difficult situation like Covid-19 they did excellent work with safety. GM (Safety and Rescue) PD Rathi gave details of the webinar and explained its main objective. Training centres of all NCL projects will be connected in the webinar. Chief Manager Prakash Rai and senior manager Sanjeev Kumar explained in detail various provisions of safety in mines in the technical session held during the webinar. Meanwhile NCL in order to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi 151st birth anniversary is observing October as ‘Cleanliness Month.’ A national-level webinar was organised in NCL from October 5 to 9 on the topic ‘Swachhta Hi Seva’ (cleanliness is service). Through this webinar organised in col-

laboration with NCL IIT-BHU, experts who have successfully executed major action plans regarding cleanliness across the country shared their experiences. Environmentalist Ajay Jain discussed in detail solid waste management implemented in Indore due to which it for the past many years has been at the top in cleanliness survey. Other speakers discussed topics like solid waste management, waste disposal, household waste collection and recycling and making people aware about cleanliness. Personnel from welfare, civil, CSR, environment and other departments of all NCL projects were present. Under Cleanliness Month all units of NCL are conducting cleanliness-related activities on a large scale in their surrounding areas. Efforts are being made to connect people from the neighbourhood with this campaign.

## Trains to be short-terminated/short-originated

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to farmers’ agitation in Punjab the following trains will be short-terminated/short-originated and diverted, CPRO PK Singh said. The 04649 Jaynagar-Amritsar special train departing from Jaynagar on October 13 will be short terminated in Ambala. As a result this train will remain cancelled between Ambala-Amritsar. The 04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar special train departing from Jaynagar on October 12 and 14 will be short terminated at Ambala. As a result it will remain cancelled between Ambala-Amritsar. The 04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar clone special train departing from Jaynagar on October 13 will be short terminated in Delhi. As a result it will remain cancelled

between Delhi-Amritsar. The 02407 New Jalpaiguri-Amritsar special train departing from New Jalpaiguri on October 14 will be short terminated at Ambala. As a result it will remain cancelled between Ambala-Amritsar. The 05933 Dibrugarh-Amritsar special train departing from Dibrugarh on October 13 will be short terminated in Ambala. As a result it will remain cancelled between Ambala-Amritsar. Meanwhile the 04650 Amritsar-Jayanagar special train departing from Amritsar on October 12 and 14 will be run from Ambala. As a result this train will remain cancelled between Amritsar-Ambala. The 04674 Amritsar-Jayanagar special train departing from Amritsar on October 13 will be run from Ambala. As a result this train will remain can-

celled between Amritsar-Ambala. The 04652 Amritsar-Jayanagar clone special train departing from Amritsar on October 14 will be run from Delhi. As a result this train will remain cancelled between Amritsar-Delhi. The 04654 Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri clone special departing from Amritsar on October 14 will be run from Saharanpur. As a result it will remain cancelled between Amritsar-Saharanpur. The 05909 Dibrugarh-Lalgahar special train departing from Dibrugarh on October 11, 12 and 13 will be run on the diverted route of Rohtak-Bhiwani-Hisar-Hanumangarh. The 05910 Lalgahar-Dibrugarh special train departing from Lalgahar on October 12, 13 and 14 will be run on the diverted route of Hanumangarh-Hisar-Bhiwani-Rohtak.

## Dr Ambedkar Nagar-Kamakhya spl to run from Oct 15

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

As per the instructions of the Railway Board the railway administration is running additional special trains for the convenience of the passengers. Under it the movement of 09305/09306 Dr Ambedkar Nagar-Kamakhya-D r Ambedkar Nagar weekly express special train will be done from October 15 every Thursday from Dr Ambedkar Nagar and from October 18 every Sunday from Kamakhya till further notice. The day and timing of running of this train will be as per the regular train number 19305/19306 Dr Ambedkar Nagar-Kamakhya Express. In addition to it the 09063/09064 Udhna Jn-Danapur-Udhna Jn biweekly special will be run from Udhna Jn from October 17 every Tuesday and Saturday and from Danapur from October 18 every Wednesday and Sunday till further notice. The day and timing of running of this train will be as per the regular train No 19063/19064 Udhna Jn-Danapur-Udhna Jn Express. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category, CPRO PK Singh said. Besides, passengers will have to comply with Covid-19 norms while travelling. The 09305 Dr Ambedkar Nagar-Kamakhya weekly express special will from October 15 every Thursday depart from Ambedkarnagar at 12:45 hrs, from Indore Jn at 13:55 hrs, from Dewas at 14:38 hrs, from Ujjain at 15:45 hrs, from Shujalpur at 17:06 hrs, from Sant Hardaramnagar at 18:20 hrs, from Vidisha at 19:24 hrs, from Bina at 21:05 hrs, from Lalitpur at 21:52 hrs, from Jhansi at 23:22 hrs, on the second day from Orai at 00:39 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 04:05 hrs, from Lucknow at 05:45 hrs, from Sultanpur at 07:50 hrs, from Jaunpur City at 09:16 hrs,

from Varanasi Jn at 11:45 hrs, from Aunrihar at 12:23 hrs, from Ghazipur City at 13:00 hrs, from Ballia at 14:00 hrs, from Chhapra at 15:50 hrs, from Sonpur at 16:53 hrs, from Hajipur from 17:15 hrs, from Barauni at 19:20 hrs, from Begusarai at 19:38 hrs, from Khagaria at 21:31 hrs, from Mansi at 20:43 hrs, from Naugachia at 21:33 hrs, from Kathar at 23:45 hrs, the third day from Kishanganj at 01:40 hrs, from Newjalpaiguri at 03:45 hrs, from Binnaguri at 06:05 hrs, from Hasimara at 06:56 hrs, from Alipurduar at 08:00 hrs, from Kokrajhar at 09:13 hrs, from New Bongaigaon at 10:22 hrs and will reach Kamakhya at 13:50 hrs. During the return journey the 09306 Kamakhya-Dr Ambedkarnagar Weekly Express Special will from October 18 every Sunday depart from Kamakhya at 05:35 hrs, from New Bongaigaon at 08:35 hrs, from Kokrajhar at 09:03 hrs, from Alipurduar at 10:02 hrs, from Hasimara at 10:50 hrs, from Binnaguri at 11:25 hrs, from Newjalpaiguri at 13:50 hrs, from Kishanganj at 15:00 hrs, from Katihar at 17:10 hrs, from Naugachia at 17:59 hrs, from Mansi at 18:44 hrs, from Khagadia at 18:54 hrs, from Begusarai at 19:22 hrs, from Barauni at 19:55 hrs, from Hajipur at 21:40 hrs, from Sonpur at 21:52 hrs, on the second day from Chhapra at 00:15 hrs, from Ballia at 01:36 hrs, from Ghazipur City at 02:55 hrs, from Aunrihar at 03:57 hrs, from Varanasi Jn at 05:10 hrs, from Jaunpur City at 06:13 hrs, from Sultanpur at 08:05 hrs, from Lucknow at 12:10 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 14:20 hrs, from Orai at 16:36 hrs, from Jhansi at 19:05 hrs, from Lalitpur at 20:11 hrs, from Bina at 21:30 hrs, from Vidisha at 22:30 hrs, on the third day from Sant Hardaramnagar at 00:27 hrs, from Shujalpur at 01:27 hrs, from Ujjain at 03:20 hrs, from Dewas at

04:14 hours, from Indore at 05:25 hours and reach Dr Ambedkar Nagar at 06:05 hours. A total of 22 coaches will be attached in this train, including one of second AC, four of third AC, 10 of sleeper class, four of general second class, one pantrycar and two of generator-cum-luggage van. The 09063 Udhna Jn-Danapur biweekly special train will from October 17 every Tuesday and Saturday depart from Udhna at 08:20 hrs, from from Nandurbar at 10:28 am, from Jalgaoon at 12:43 hours, from Bhusaval at 13:20 hrs. from Khandwa at 15:20 hrs, from Itarsi at 18:05 hrs, from Pipariya at 19:08 hours, from Jabalpur at 21:55 hrs, from Katni at 23:15 hrs, the second day from Satna at 00:40 hrs, from Manikpur at 02:32 hrs, from Prayagraj Jn at 05:10 hrs, from Gyanpur Road at 06:31 hrs, from Varanasi Jn at 08:15 hrs, from Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Jn at 09:22 hrs, from Buxar at 10:34 hrs, from Ara from 11:30 hrs and reach Danapur at 13:35 hrs. During the return journey the 09064 Danapur-Udhna Jn biweekly special will depart from Danapur from October 18 every Wednesday and Sunday at 16:40 hrs, from Ara at 17:12 hrs, from Buxar at 18:06 hrs, from Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Jn at 20:09 hrs, from Varanasi Jn at 21:15 hrs, from Gyanpur Road at 22:12 hrs, the second day from Prayagraj Jn at 00:55 hrs, from Manikpur Jn at 02:45 hrs, from Satna at 04:05 hrs, from Katni at 05:40 hrs, from Jabalpur at 07:25 hrs, from Pipariya at 09:40 hrs, from Itarsi at 12:10 hrs, from Khandwa at 15:20 hrs, from Bhusaval at 17:10 hrs, from Jalgaoon at 17:55 hrs, from Nandurbar at 20:18 hrs and reach Udhna at 22:45 hrs. A total of 23 coaches including one of second AC, five of AC third, 11 of sleeper class, four of general second class, one each of SLR and SLRD, will be attached in this train.

## Murdered man’s wife commits suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Upset by the murder of her husband, a woman attempted to commit suicide by consuming poisonous substance and then slashing her wrist in Ghatampur Kotwali police area on Monday morning.

Seeing the blood coming out of the bathroom, when her children raised an alarm, the neighbours rushed to the house and after breaking open the doors, got her admitted to hospital.

According to reports, Kishan Dulare of Sakahhari village in Sajeti had retired from the State Bank of India. His only son, Ravi Mohan (40), of Vasant Vihar in Ghatampur was a medical practitioner though he had no valid degree.

On October 5, he had left

on motorcycle to see his ailing cousin who was admitted in a city hospital and went missing.

Ravi’s wife Renu had lodged a complaint about his disappearance at the Ghatampur Kotwali police station. The next morning, the body of Ravi Mohan was recovered in Baberu police station area of Banda district.

The deceased was identified as Ravi Mohan by the kin living in Banda. The post-mortem report revealed that Ravi Mohan was murdered.

On Sunday evening, when Renu went to the local police outpost and the Ghatampur Kotwali to file a complaint about the murder of her husband, she was sent back by the cops who said the FIR of the case would be registered at

Baberu police station.

Early Monday morning, Renu locked herself in the bathroom and after consuming some poisonous substance, slashed her left wrist. Seeing the blood coming out of the bathroom, her sons Anmol (8) and Tapu (5) raised an alarm after which the neighbours rushed to the house and admitted Renu to the community health centre from where she was referred to UHM Hospital.

Police recovered a suicide note and two empty sachets of insecticide from the bathroom.

Renu suspected the role of a bachelor relative living in her house during the lockdown in the murder of her husband.

She had mentioned this in the complaint she wanted to file at the police station.

According to a kin, 15 minutes after the departure of Ravi Mohan from the house on October 5, the relative living at his house had also left on his Maruti van and returned around 11:30 pm with the vehicle washed/and cleaned.

Since the incident, he is also missing and his mobile phone is switched off.

### CAMP ORGANISED

A health camp was organised at the LLR Hospital separately from the hospital.

Often a large number of patients come to the city for testing and thus there is an increased pressure on the LLR Hospital.

The decision was taken by the chief medical superintendent and 65 patients underwent testing for coronavirus infection.



# PM to address Bengal during Durga Puja

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With most political outfits beginning to play to the Hindu gallery for a change, Goddess Durga seems suddenly to have become the politicians' most adorable deity ahead of the next year's Assembly elections — scheduled to take place in less than seven months time.

Days after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced ₹50,000 each, for the committees organising Durga Puja it is the turn of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliver a virtual address to the people of Bengal on Durga Pujas.

The Prime Minister will for the first time in his seven-year-rule virtually address the Bengali population on October 22, the Maha Sashthi Day (sixth day of the Pujas), the State BJP leadership said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji will deliver a virtual address before the people of Bengal on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja," senior leader and party's observer for the State, Kailash Vijayabargiya said on Monday. Modi is likely to address the people of the State on October 22, he said.

Not only the Prime Minister Home Minister Amit Shah too will reach out to the Bengali population ahead of the Pujas, the senior leader said.

"We do not have the dates as yet but we are trying to bring

**Mamata Banerjee, who was inaugurating the yearly edition of Trinamool Congress mouthpiece Jago Bangla, said "The BJP is the worst pandemic... I have not seen a bigger pandemic than the BJP ... it is worse than the corona virus"**

Amit Shah ji in Bengal before the Durga Pujas," Vijayabargiya said adding the Home Minister would visit North Bengal during this period.

The Prime Minister's bid to address the Bengal electorate comes days after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced ₹50,000 each for the various clubs organizing Durga Puja apart from announcing honorarium for the Hindu priests much in the line of her previous announcement of monthly allowances to the muzzezims and moulanas in 2013.

Meanwhile, in a related development the Chief Minister on Monday attacked the BJP comparing it with a pandemic for "using all kinds of dirty tricks to infect the collective mind of Bengali people".

Banerjee who was inaugurating the yearly edition of Trinamool Congress mouthpiece Jago Bangla said "the BJP is the worst pandemic... I have not seen a bigger pandemic than the BJP ... it is worse than the corona virus".

Slamming the saffron outfit for "setting one community against the other for winning

the elections," Banerjee said "they are playing all kinds of dirty games to win the elections but it is not easy to capture Bengal without knowing its culture. The BJP does not know the culture of Bengal which is tolerant, secular and enlightened. They will never win the elections ... the people have understood their politics and will give them a befitting reply in the coming elections."

Earlier the Chief Minister on Monday came out with a "special Puja gift for the corona patients" reducing the fees for corona tests to ₹1,500 per case.

"The Chief Minister has been pleased to reduce the rate for corona test to ₹1,500," State Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay said. Earlier it was ₹2,250. The Chief Secretary also said that the Government had decided to add about 600 more corona beds to the ICUs across the State for treating the corona patients adding "the Government has also asked the non government ambulance service providers to reduce their fare for carrying the corona patients."

Besides, during the Pujas the Government also decided to cancel the leaves of all the doctors and other medical staff. This apart, a round-the-clock monitoring centre would be opened at Nabanna the State secretariat, the Chief Secretary said.

# 180 ultras killed, 55 soldiers martyred this year: J&K DGP

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Every single security personnel including jawans of the Indian Army, who laid down their lives in the line of duty this year, went down only after eliminating at least three terrorists in different anti terrorist operations across Kashmir valley.

Director General of Jammu & Kashmir Police Dilbagh Singh on Monday said, "a total number of 180 terrorists, 20 more than the previous year tally of 160 have been neutralised till date in 75 successful operations while 55 security personnel including 15 army men have sacrificed their lives in action".

He said a total number of 19 jawans of Jammu and Kashmir police, 21 CRPF personnel and 15 Indian Army soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice so far.

On Monday, the joint team of security forces gunned down two more Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists, including a

top Pakistani commander involved in targeted killing of security forces in the recent weeks. A total number of 18 terrorists have been gunned down in eight encounters in and around Srinagar only.

In the last five days the security forces have flushed out 10 terrorists in four different operations in the Sujan area of Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama and Srinagar, he added while patting the back of the security personnel for conducting successful operations without suffering any collateral damage.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Monday, Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh said, "a total number of 10 terrorists have been neutralised in four different operations in the last five days in Kashmir valley". He said, the top LeT Commander gunned down in Rambagh area of Srinagar on Monday has been identified as Saifullah (a Pakistani National) while his local associate has been identified as Irshad Ahmed Dar @

Abu Usama resident of Pulwama. Referring to total arrests made so far DGP said, "180 terrorists and their associates/Over ground workers have been arrested while a total number of 26 terrorists have joined the mainstream after laying down their arms before the security forces.

As per police records, the LeT Commander Saifullah infiltrated earlier this year and since the last two months had shifted his base from north to south Kashmir. He was involved in planning & executing several major terror attacks on security forces which includes killing of a CRPF officer at Chadoora

on 24/09/2020 and 02 CRPF personnel at Kandizal area of Pampore on 05/10/2020. He was also part of the group involved in killing of two police personnel at Nowgam Srinagar on 14/08/2020. Besides, he was also involved in firing on convoy on 21/09/2020 in Nowgam area.

## PSA against 3 Shopian schoolteachers as students' role found in terror activities

**Jammu:** Cracking its whip, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday said it has booked three teachers of a religious school in Shopian district under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) after it came to the fore that some of its students and alumni were found involved in terror activities.

The religious school in south Kashmir's Shopian district had recently come on the radar of the investigating agencies after 13 of its students were

found to have joined ranks of different terrorist groups. Students from Kulgam, Pulwama and Anantnag districts of South Kashmir are enrolled in the school.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Monday, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range Vijay Kumar told reporters, the said school is affiliated with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) outfit.

He also identified the name of the school as Siraj-

uloom Imam Sahib. "It is not that this school has not been under observation. We have already booked three teachers of the school namely Abdul Ahad Bhat, Rouf Bhat and Mohammad Yusuf Wani under the PSA".

He said about half a dozen other teachers of the school were under surveillance.

(Conduct of) five to six teachers of the school are under surveillance (under Section 107 CrPC).

## Demand for brass idol up in Navratri CPI MP files pleas in SC against farm laws

PNS ■ ALIGARH

There is a worldwide demand for lock hardware as well as brass idols, statues and other brass household decorations, temple and church bells and European figures in the developed countries. Due to corona crisis, this business has fallen to 70%. Restrictions in temples on Shri Krishna Jannashthami faded away from the shine of this brass statue business. Now from 15 days, the idol makers have started getting orders which have risen from 25% to 30%. Navratri starts from 17th October.

There is a demand for brass idols in various forms of Goddess Durga in Navratri. Orders for Deepawali have started coming from abroad. Demand for Lakshmi Ganesh's brass sculptures has also increased. Most consignments are shipped by courier for urgent delivery.

The work of brass idol was affected since 22 March due to the closed markets in other states of the country with restriction of Covid-19 and the production was halted in all the factories due to lockdown. Brass idol trading season starts from June.

**New Delhi :** CPI MP Binoy Viswam on Monday filed a writ petition in Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the newly enacted three agriculture laws. Urging the apex court to strike down the laws as unconstitutional, the MP in his petition alleged that the legislations violate the federal structure of India's constitutional framework.

"The challenge proceeds on two levels: At the first level, the petitioner claims that the passage of two of the farmers' Bills in the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote deprived it of chance to properly deliberate and vote on the statutes prior to its

passing," the Left leader said in a statement. According to Viswam, "this violates Articles 100 and 107 of the Constitution of India, depriving the Upper House of proper consideration of the bill passed". On the second level, Viswam challenges the statutes on various grounds as being in violation of Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Constitution.

"The petitioner also charges parliament to have no legislative competence to enact the legislations as being in violation of the division of subjects under Schedule VII of the Constitution," the statement said. **PNS**

## CSC partners with IIT Bombay to provide IT courses to rural youth

**New Delhi:** The Information Technology Ministry's digital arm Common Services Centers (CSC) has partnered with IIT Bombay through its Spoken Tutorial initiative to provide various IT courses for youth in rural India to enhance their job readiness in IT and related sectors.

The courses available as Free and Open Software (FOSS) will be delivered through CSC Academy centers at the block level across the country in

audio-visual mode. The audio lessons under the Spoken Tutorial are available in all 22 official languages of India. The course delivery is unique as the youth can study IT programming courses at the CSC Academy centers. There will be trained resources at each of the CSC Academy to support the students in learning. Help Desk facility will also be provided by IIT Bombay to address the queries of the students.

"It has been our endeavour to provide quality education to students and youth in rural areas to bridge the digital divide. Our association with IIT Bombay is a significant step in that direction. Availability of courses in 22 languages will increase its uptake among the youth in rural areas, contributing to an Atma Nirbhar Bharat. This will also support in skilling the youth to meet

the emerging technological challenges," CEO CSC Dr. Dinesh Tyagi said.

Elaborating on the partnership IIT Bombay Director Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri said with this ICT program we can bridge the digital divide between rural and urban areas. "Language will not be a barrier for learning as this training program is available in 22 official languages of India.

With proficiency certificate, youth from rural areas will come up very strongly in the job market and India will become Atma Nirbhar." CSC Academy provides access to professional learning for learners of diverse backgrounds and educational needs. CSC has planned to set up 7,000 CSC Academy centres (one in every block) across the country, out of which more than 5000 are in place. **PNS**

## 7 gangrape woman in Buxar, kill son

**Patna:** Seven men in Bihar's Buxar district gangraped a woman and killed her 5-year-old son, an official said on Monday. One person has been arrested.

The incident was reported near Chaigam village on Saturday. A man hunt is underway to nab the others, police said.

The victim had visited a bank in the village to deposit money. While returning home, she was intercepted by the accused and taken to a nearby forest area, where they took turns raping her.

Their brutality did not end there. The accused then strangled the mother and son (who had accompanied her) using ropes and threw them in to a canal.

The men thought them to be dead. However, passersby rescued them and took them to Sadar hospital where doctors declared the child brought dead. The woman survived. "The medical examination of the victim is complete and report is awaited. We have arrested one of the accused named Munni Ram and raids are on to nab others," said KK Singh, SDPO of Dumraon range.

RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha slammed the law and order situation in Bihar. "It is pathetic. Similar to Hatras. The CM and deputy CM have no control over law and order in the state."

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Covid-19 pandemic which is getting propagated in large numbers across the State has put parents and teachers in Kerala in a quandary. With the Test Positivity Rate (Number of persons per million testing positive) showing 15 per cent in the State and the number of active Covid-19 patients breaching the one lakh mark, an uncertainty stares at the future of school students.

Students with whom The Pioneer interacted expressed their unhappiness over the on-line classes. "We miss the classroom ambience and the inter personal contacts with teachers," said Jaya Krishnan, a 9th standard student in a reputed school in Ernakulam. He said class room sessions make learning an interesting experience.

"The only relief we get is that

we need not carry heavy textbooks and notebooks to school. We also miss the cricket and football maidans which had offered us a refreshing feeling," said Jaya Ram, his twin brother.

But C Prakash, a scientist-turned-teacher in Aluva is faced with a problem. "How to make these students follow social distancing norms as mandated by medical experts? Children are children and they do not like either parents or teachers making them obey with an iron hand. There should be a way out of this," said Prakash.

Dr C K K Nair, former principal scientist with Atomic Energy Commission and an authority on genetics engineering said the only option was to keep the little students at home and teach them through on line. "It is not a permanent affair. We have to ensure the safety of their health and this

is a contagious disease. The parents and teachers could handle this situation," said Dr Nair.

There are medical experts like Dr C V Krishnaswamy who are firm in their view that educational institutions should remain shut throughout the period of pandemic. "We should treat this as a natural disaster. Since the vaccine is yet to take shape and the Government is no mood to incorporate the Ayurveda/Homeopathy branches in the treatment protocol, all we can do is to wait, wait patiently for the pandemic to subside," said Dr Krishnaswamy.

Professional colleges in Kerala, especially those teaching law, humanities and social sciences have successfully switched over to online format which has been widely welcomed by the student community and teachers.

## TURBAN CONTROVERSY

# NCM seeks report from WB Govt within 15 days

**Kolkata:** The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has sought a report from West Bengal Government within the next 15 days on the issue of the turban of a Sikh being allegedly pulled off by the State police during a political rally last week, sources in the NCM said.

In a letter to West Bengal Chief secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay and DGP of the State police, the NCM said the commission had received a complaint from Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga, a senior leader of Delhi BJP unit, on the alleged pulling off of the turban of a Sikh private security officer on October 8.

The undersigned is directed to request you to send a report in this matter within

**A controversy had erupted on Thursday after the West Bengal police allegedly assaulted a Sikh and pulled his turban during a BJP rally in Howrah.**

The police had said that the man, identified as Balwinder Singh was carrying a firearm during BJP's march to the state secretariat on October 8 and that his headgear "had fallen off automatically in the scuffle that ensued".

The BJP has accused the Trinamool Congress government in the state of hurting the sentiments of the Sikhs. The TMC in its turn has had dubbed the allegations as "baseless" and said accused the BJP, which it has criticised on a number of occasions on a variety of issues, of "trying to communalise the issue". **PTI**

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## 5,930 more test +ve in Kerala

**CHENNAI/KOCHI:** The Kerala Government has found a new method to bring down the number of new patients afflicted with Covid-19. On Monday the State saw the number of new cases diagnosed with the pandemic getting limited to 5,930 as per the press release issued by the Department of Health. The day saw authorities testing 38, 259 samples.

"There is some discrepancy in these numbers because it is not possible to bring down the number of new patients by half within 24 hours. On Sunday, the State tested 9,347 new cases but the number of samples tested were 62,000," said a senior Government doctor who has been cynical from the beginning about the figures released by the Government.

Out of the 5,930 persons diagnosed with Covid-19 on Monday, 4,767 contracted the pandemic through social contacts. The day also saw 195

health workers getting afflicted with Covid-19.

As 7,836 patients were cured and were discharged from hospitals, the total number of patients undergoing treatment for Covid-19 stood at 94, 388.

Meanwhile, the number of new Covid-19 patients in Tamil Nadu came down to 4,879. The bulletin issued by the State Health Department said that 80,162 samples were tested on Monday. Number of fatalities during the last 24 hours were 62 which took the tally till date to 10,314. Total number of Covid-19 patients in the State were 43, 747, less than half of that in Kerala.

Number of new patients in Chennai came down to 1212, while that of Coimbatore read 393. The three districts in Chennai cluster also showed considerable decrease in the number of new patients diagnosed with the pandemic on Monday. **PNS**

## Andhra HC asks CBI to probe alleged derogatory comments against judiciary

**Amaravati:** Expressing displeasure over the investigation by the Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (CID), the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday directed the CBI to probe the alleged derogatory comments made by a few YSR Congress leaders against the judiciary.

A bench comprising Justices Rakesh Kumar and J Uma Devi, directed the CBI to register an FIR in the case and submit its report within eight weeks. The court expressed displeasure over the manner in which the state CID had conducted the investigation in the case. The court also directed the state government to cooperate with the CBI.

A few YSR Congress leaders allegedly posted derogatory remarks against the judiciary on social media platforms following a few verdicts that went against the interest of the Andhra Pradesh state government. On the directions of the High Court, the Andhra Pradesh HC Registrar General lodged a complaint with the CID.

The state police wing has reportedly booked nine people in the case, so far. The court took serious note of the comments made by AP Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram, Deputy Chief Minister Narayana Swamy, MPs V Vijayasai Reddy, Nandigam Suresh, former MLA A Krishna Mohan and other leaders belonging to the ruling YSRC party and questioned the CID why cases were not registered against them.

"Their (YSRC leaders') comments are perilous to democracy and amount to an attack on the judiciary. If some ordinary person makes any comment against the government, cases are promptly registered against such persons. When persons in power make comments against the judges and the courts, why are they not penalised? Looking at things, we are left to infer that a war has been declared on the judiciary," the HC bench commented during a hearing last week. **PTI**



### लखनऊ नगर निगम, लखनऊ

टी०प०न० मार्ग, लालबाग, लखनऊ, फोन०कॉड 0522-2612639  
ई०टेण्डर पोर्टल - <https://etender.up.nic.in>

ई-निविदा सूचना सं०: 80/मुअ/2020-21 दिनांक: 12.09.2020

ई-निविदा प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत निविदा सूचना

ई-निविदा प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत दिनांक 22-10-2020 को कुल 12 कार्य हेतु द्विलीफाफा पद्धति पर ई-निविदाये, ई-निविदा <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर निविदा के साथ जमानत धनराशि एवं निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर निविदा के लिए <https://induscollect.indusind.com/pay/index.php> पर लागू करने के जमा किया जायेगा। ई-निविदा दिनांक 22-10-2020 को अपराह्न 15:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर प्राप्त की जायेगी जिन्हें दिनांक 22-10-2020 को 16:00 बजे निविदा समिति के समक्ष खोला जायेगा। किसी भी ई-निविदा को स्वीकार एवं अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार समक्ष अधिकारी में निहित होगा। अन्य समस्त नियम/शर्तें यथा कार्य का नाम, आगमन धनराशि, निविदा प्रपत्र की धनराशि एवं जमानत धनराशि तथा निविदा प्रपत्र पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

मुख्य अभियंता  
लखनऊ नगर निगम

## 5 held for duping passengers on pretext of getting train, bus tickets confirmed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested five members of a gang which used to allegedly dupe people on the pretext of getting their bus or train tickets confirmed. The accused have been identified as Sanjay Yadav (40), a resident of Sultanpuri, Lal Babu Sahani (27), a resident of Samaypur Badali, Santosh Kumar (27), a resident of Badali and Rakesh Mandal (26) and Rajeev Mandal (22), residents of Shakurpur.

According to Vijayanta Arya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

(DCP), Northwest district, a man named Sanjay Kumar lodged a complaint on October 6 at the Mahendra Park police station in which he alleged that he was duped by some people on the pretext of getting confirmed bus tickets.

"The man told the police that on October 5, he, along with his 15-year-old son, had come to Singhu Border from Rai in Sonapat to board a bus to his native place in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki. He and his son first boarded an e-rickshaw from Singhu Border to ISBT in Kashmere Gate. Three men also

boarded the e-rickshaw along with them. They pretended that they were also going to Lucknow and tried to befriend him," said the DCP.

"The accused asked Kumar if he had a train or bus ticket to travel to Barabanki and when they got to know that Kumar did not have it, the accused asked him to come along with them to a ticket booking office at Jahangirpuri," said the DCP.

"The complainant and his son de-boarded the e-rickshaw in Jahangirpuri. Another man, pre-

tending to be an agent, approached Kumar and asked him to provide his ATM card and pin number so that he could buy the bus tickets. Kumar gave his ATM card and pin number to his son and sent him with them to buy tickets," said the DCP. "One of the accused, who stayed back with Kumar also left after 20 minutes, after telling him that he was going to check whether tickets have been booked or not. Thereafter, Kumar got nine messages on his mobile regarding withdrawal of Rs 68,500 from his account," said the DCP.

"During investigation, police scanned the CCTV footage and on Saturday, all five accused were apprehended from near Haiderpur metro station. On interrogation, the accused told the police that they used to dupe people after befriending them by posing as passengers or ticket agents," said the DCP.

"The accused said during festive seasons, the number of people commuting from Haryana, Punjab and Delhi to Bihar and UP increases and the victims easily get trapped as they are in need of confirmed tickets, the DCP said.



# Actor Khushbu ditches Cong, joins BJP

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHENNAI**

Yesteryears' actress Khushbu Sundar, for whom fans built a temple and an idli was named after her, ditched the Congress and joined the BJP on Monday.

"The nation has to move forward and we need somebody like our Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take the country in the right direction. I am completely at service to the BJP and I promise to do my best and to the responsibilities that will be given to me," said Khushbu after she was issued primary membership by CT Ravi, national secretary of the BJP, at the party headquarters in Delhi. She later met BJP president JP Nadda.

Earlier, she dispatched her letter of resignation from the Congress to party chief Sonia

Gandhi saying: "Few elements seated at a higher level within the party, people who have no connectivity with the ground reality or public recognition are dictating terms and people like me who wanted to work for the party sincerely are being pushed and suppressed."

Khushbu, known to be hand-picked by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi joins the list of other party spokespersons like Tom Vadakkan and Priyanka Chaturvedi who quit to join the BJP and the Shiv Sena respectively. Another spokesperson Sanjay Jha was suspended from the party recently.

"I will work like any other party workers," said the actress who also worked in Hindi films like Sunil Dutt-directorial 'Dard ka Rishta' wherein she played the role of his daughter.



BJP national president JP Nadda greets Tamil film actress and former Congress spokesperson Khushbu Sundar at party HQ in New Delhi on Monday PTI

She was the national spokesperson of the Congress since joining the party in 2014. During 2010 to 2014 she was in the DMK as the blue-eyed girl of the then party supremo M

Karunanidhi.

"It will not have any impact on Tamil Nadu politics," Dinesh Gundu Rao, the Congress's in-charge for Tamil Nadu, said.

Narayanan Thirupathi, BJP spokesman, said Khushbu's joining the party would make it more acceptable to the people of the State because of her popularity and acceptability.

But Sam Rajappa, veteran commentator and columnist, said Khushbu joining the BJP would not make any impact in Tamil Nadu politics.

The BJP in Tamil Nadu is facing an identity crisis and Khushbu's entry would not add much fragrance or flavour to the party, according to R Rangaraj, author and scribe.

He pointed out that the AIADMK with which the BJP has an alliance kept the latter away from recent assembly by-elections in Tamil Nadu as the former believes that the defeat in 38 out of the 39 seats in the Lok Sabha election was due to an anti-BJP wave in Tamil Nadu.

## UP Govt 'unethical', not doing its job, say Cong leaders RaGa, Priyanka

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Stepping up their attack on the Uttar Pradesh Government over the Hathras case, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday accused it of being insensitive and unethical, and said authorities are indulging in victim-blaming instead of putting criminals in jail. The Congress also launched a social media campaign, urging people, especially women, to speak up for the Hathras victim.

"The Government's attitude in the Hathras incident is inhuman and unethical. They are engaged in protecting the criminals rather than helping the victim's family," Rahul Gandhi said. "Let us take one step towards change, let us raise our voice against the injustice being done to women all over the country," he said in a tweet

in Hindi, using the hashtag "SpeakUpForWomenSafety". A 19-year-old Dalit woman from Hathras district was allegedly raped and attacked by four men, and she later succumbed to injuries at a Delhi hospital.

The former Congress president said a few days ago, before he could reach Hathras, he was stopped by authorities. "I fail to understand, why was I stopped and not allowed to meet with the Hathras victim's family," he said.

Rahul alleged that the moment he reached the victim's house and talked to her family, the government started attacking the family. "It is not

the government's job to help and protect the perpetrators of the crime but send them to jail and help the victim get justice.

The Uttar Pradesh government is not doing its job and that is why I am being stopped," he said in a nearly two-minute video attached with his tweet. The video clip also shows footage of his visit to Hathras and how he was stopped.

"I want to tell the petitioner to start doing its job of sending the criminals to jail and protect the victims. This is not the story of just one woman, this is the story of lakhs of women in India. Lakhs of women are looking up to the Government, which is not doing its work," he said.



### SC seeks Centre's reply on PIL for equal protection of law to transgenders in sexual offences

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Centre's reply on a PIL seeking equal protection in law to transgender people on the grounds that there was no penal provision which protects them from offences of sexual assault. A Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde said it was a "good case" which needed hearing.

The Bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, asked senior advocate Vikas Singh, representing petitioner lawyer Reepak Kansal, to file details of cases where the court had passed orders in the absence of laws to deal with issues.

In a hearing conducted via video conferencing, the bench referred to the framing of the Vishaka guidelines to deal with sexual harassment of women at work places and the decriminalisation of consensual gay sex by the apex court in the absence of laws. Singh said he would be filing such details as asked by the court.



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

More than 52,000 voters, who are either senior citizens above 80 years of age or are people with disabilities, have opted for postal ballot in the first phase of Bihar elections to be held on October 28.

According to the Election Commission (EC), Booth Level Officers (BLO) in 71 constituencies spread across 16 districts of the state had approached over four lakh voters of the two categories.

The remaining electors have preferred to visit the polling booth to cast vote.

Those who have opted for the facility would be provided postal ballots on a pre-informed date by the concerned returning officers with proper security and videography arrangements to ensure secrecy, safety, and transparency in the process. Bypolls are to be held on November 3 and November 7. BLOs will visit homes of approximately 12 lakh such electors in Bihar in the next two phases of elections to help them exercise the postal ballot option.

An official explained that this postal ballot facility is different from the one extended to service voters.



## IIT-M develops anti-bacterial food wrapping material

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, have developed an environment-friendly anti-bacterial food wrapping material that is also fit for consumption.

According to the team, which has also filed a patent for the wrapper, its product can tackle two major problems -- prevent packaged food contamination by bacteria and reduce the plastic waste generated in the environment when disposing the wrappers.

"We have developed a biodegradable wrapping material with in-built anti-bacterial activity to prevent bacterial growth in stored food. It degrades at various environmental conditions with the rate of degradation varying from 4 to 98 per cent in 21 days, thus playing a major role in plastic waste reduction," said Mukesh Doble, Professor, Department of Biotechnology.

The films developed by researchers were made with polymeric blends containing starch, polyvinyl alcohol, cyclic beta glycans (CBG). The composition was optimised to achieve the best film with a smooth texture, flexibility, uniform thickness and good clarity.

"Our anti-bacterial coated polymer wrapper was used for wrapping paneer, meat and chicken and its performance was tested. Samples were placed in 4



degrees Celsius and 30 degrees Celsius for 10 days and tested for the effect of the coating on reducing the bacterial growth with respect to the uncoated wrapper," said Puja Kumari, research scholar at IIT Madras.

"Our study found that 99.999 per cent reduction in bacterial colonies was observed in food samples wrapped with our anti-bacterial wrap and stored at 30 degrees Celsius for 10 days when compared with a plain wrapper. This study also suggests that our anti-microbial wrapper can, to some extent overcome, the reduced availability of cold storage units," she added.

Packaging is projected to grow into a US\$72.6 billion industry in India by 2020 from about US\$31 billion in 2015, with a proportionate rise in waste volumes. According to a report by World Economic Forum, if no immediate steps are taken, oceans may have more plastic than fish (in terms of weight) by 2050.

## Farooq's J&K row: BJP calls it seditious

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The BJP on Monday condemned former Chief Minister and National Conference head Farooq Abdullah and called his statement that he hoped Article 370 will be restored in Jammu & Kashmir with China's help, as "seditious".

"On September 24, Farooq Abdullah said that if you go to Jammu and Kashmir and ask people if they are Indians, then people will say that we are not Indians. In the same statement, he also said it would be good if we could join China," BJP National spokesperson Sambit Patra said in a Press conference here describing Abdullah as a "repeat offender".

He said Abdullah's statement is a reflection of his mindset. "In a way, Farooq Abdullah justifies China's



expansionist mindset in his interview. At the same time, another traitor comments that if we get a chance in future, we will bring Article 370 back with China."

"Questioning the sovereignty of the country, questioning the independence of the country. Does it suit an MP? Aren't these anti-national things? The same Farooq Abdullah had asked whether PoK belongs to India's father that it will take PoK, as if Pakistan had worn bangles," Patra said adding, "The kind of

softness Abdullah has shown for Pakistan and China raises a lot of questions."

The BJP spokesperson saw Abdullah and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi as "co-brothers" toeing the same line

Attacking Rahul for questioning India's surgical strikes and air strikes on Pakistan, Patra said now Farooq Abdullah has become a hero in China.

He said Raul's comments on J&K following abrogation of Article 370 were quoted by Pakistan premier Imran Khan.

"Only Farooq Abdullah says this is not so, if you go into history and listen to the recent statements of Rahul Gandhi, you will find that these are two sides of the same coin."

"This is the same Rahul Gandhi who said a week ago that the prime minister is a coward, the prime minister is hidden, scared," the BJP spokesperson said.

## SC to hear plea by journalists' body over arrest of Kerala scribe

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday said it will hear after four weeks a plea of journalists' organisation against the arrest of a scribe by UP Police in Mathura while he was on way to Hathras, home to a Dalit woman who died after being allegedly gangraped by four upper-caste men.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde asked the petitioner to amend the petition and observed that they should approach the Allahabad High Court for the relief. The Kerala Union of

Working Journalists (KUWJ) had filed a habeas corpus petition in the top court against the arrest of the journalist, Sidhique Kappan.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioner, told the bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, that Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act charges have been added in the case and no court in the State will give his client any relief.

"UAPA has been invoked. No court will not give me bail

and the case will go on for years. This is a Habeas corpus petition but we can file a fresh petition under Article 32 of the Constitution which came be entertained by this court," Sibal said after the apex court mentioned that the petitioners should approach the Allahabad high court for relief.

The apex court, however, said that habeas corpus petition can be only filed by family members. Sibal then sought time to amend the petition after which the matter was adjourned.

Priyanka said crimes against women are rising and instead of listening to the truth

and the voice of the victim women, allegations are levelled against them and they are

defamed. "This is the most shameful and cowardly act," she said.

## DRDO's Nirbhay missile aborts trial after technical snag

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The DRDO on Monday launched the indigenously designed and manufactured Nirbhay subsonic cruise missile, with a range of 700 to 1,000 km, but aborted the trial after it developed a technical snag on Monday off Balasore integrated test range, Odisha at about 10.30 am.

Scientists are now analyzing the snag before conducting the next test shortly, sources said here.

The DRDO has already carried out several successful trials of the 'Nirbhay' missile since October 2014. Some of these missiles along with Brahmos supersonic cruise missile and Akash are now deployed at some crucial sites close to the LAC since the stand-offs with China began in mid May.

Powered by a solid rocket motor booster developed by the Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), the Nirbhay missile has an operational range of 1,000 km, officials said.

In the last few weeks, India has test-fired a number of missiles including a new version of the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos and anti-radiation missile Rudram-1. India also carried out successful test-firing of a laser-guided anti-tank missile and nuclear-capable hypersonic missile 'Shourya'.

The successful test firing of Rudram-1 is seen as a major milestone as it is India's first indigenously developed anti-radiation weapon.



## Coronavirus may survive up to 28 days on common surfaces

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Reinforcing the need for good practices such as regular hand washing and cleaning surfaces, a study has found that novel coronavirus responsible for Covid-19 may survive for up to 28 days on common surfaces, including banknotes, glass — such as that found on smartphone screens — and stainless steel. The laboratory study by Australia's national science agencies is published in the Virology Journal.

The research, undertaken at the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP), found that SARS-CoV-2 survived longer at lower temperatures and on non-porous or smooth surfaces such as glass, stainless steel and vinyl, compared to porous complex surfaces such as cotton.

The researchers at CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, also found that the novel coronavirus survived longer on paper banknotes than plastic banknotes.

"Establishing how long the virus really remains viable on surfaces enables us to more accurately predict and mitigate its spread, and do a better job of protecting our people," said CSIRO Chief Executive Larry Marshall.



"At 20 degrees Celsius, which is about room temperature, we found that the virus was extremely robust, surviving for 28 days on smooth surfaces such as glass found on mobile phone screens and plastic banknotes," Debbie Eagles, Deputy Director of ACDP added.

For context, similar experiments for Influenza A have found that it survived on surfaces for 17 days, which highlights just how resilient SARS-CoV-2 is, the researchers said.

The study involved drying the virus in an artificial mucus on different surfaces, at concentrations similar to those reported in samples from infected patients and then re-isolating the virus over a month.

Further experiments were car-

ried out at 30 and 40 degrees Celsius, with survival times decreasing as the temperature increased. The study was also carried out in the dark, to remove the effect of UV light as research has demonstrated direct sunlight can rapidly inactivate the virus.

"While the precise role of surface transmission, the degree of surface contact and the amount of virus required for infection is yet to be determined, establishing how long this virus remains viable on surfaces is critical for developing risk mitigation strategies in high contact areas," Eagles said.

According to Professor Trevor Drew, Director of ACDP, many viruses remained viable on surfaces outside their host.

### SC notice to Centre on pleas against farm laws' Constitutional validity

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Centre on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the newly enacted three contentious farm laws. A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde issued notice to the Central Government and sought its reply within four weeks. The three laws — Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and The Essential

Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020 — took effect from September 27.

The bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, was hearing pleas filed by Rashtriya Janta Dal lawmaker from Rajya Sabha, Manoj Jha; Congress Lok Sabha MP from Kerala, TN Prathapan and DMK Rajya Sabha MP from Tamil Nadu, Tiruchi Siva, and a petition filed by Rakesh Vaishnav.

The petitions alleged that the three farm laws passed by Parliament would dismantle the Agricultural Produce Market Committees system intended to ensure fair prices for farm products.



## Betting on Taiwan

India should stay just under the diplomatic threshold and engage more visibly with Taiwan, especially in economic ties, to keep China in check



In any other year, the Taiwanese National Day celebrations in India wouldn't have assumed such political proportions had both nations not been at the receiving end of China's maximalist ambitions. So they needed to make a statement about standing by each other in the face of a shared geo-political threat. In a move laden with a message to China, posters of the event were put up outside the Chinese embassy by a ruling BJP member, though they were taken down later on the grounds of not having the required permission. But they had served their purpose. Similarly, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen thanked "dear friends in India" for sending wishes for the annual celebration, clearly intended to rile up China further after its embassy issued a "letter" to the Indian media to not cover Taiwan's National Day as it would violate our "One China" policy. Not only that, she even mentioned the Ladakh standoff in her speech among many examples of Chinese expansionist tendencies in the region. What China does not understand is that the Indian media is free to pursue its own policies independent of the official Government line and is not beholden to follow it. The "One China" policy means that the Government doesn't have diplomatic ties with Taiwan, though both sides have trade offices which operate as de-facto embassies. Beyond the officialese, Taiwan has always been building stronger economic and cultural associations with India. In fact, it is looking at India as a potential business destination as the US trade war with China has pushed its companies to look for newer markets. Besides, to counter China's colonial takeover of the economic and cultural space in south and southeast Asia with its Belt and Road Initiative, Taiwan has set up its own southbound policy. This focusses on strengthening ties in the areas of culture, tourism, education and trade with 18 southeast and south Asian countries, with India being pitched as one of the pivotal collaborators. The new President is pursuing this aggressively one-on-one with each nation. Trade between India and Taiwan will likely touch \$10 billion over the next few years and this has led to synergies across sectors with consistent media coverage of the same. Little wonder then that the Ministry of External Affairs dismissed the Chinese embassy's instructions, saying the "free" Indian media would report "as it sees fit." China must realise that the Indian media does not operate by the rules and framework of its own Press, which is an extension counter for its propaganda. And as a free medium in a democracy, India allows debates and discourse on everything, including foreign policy, and allows even dissent. Besides, it has only to measure the coverage and importance that Chinese President Xi Jinping is given whenever he visits India. The Government may have to be vigilant about sensitivities and anxieties but the Indian media is well within its right to criticise China and give space to Taiwan. Even if China insists on "good faith", it must realise that it has long broken that understanding with predatory moves in Ladakh and insisting on reclaiming border positions from 1959. And in a hostile environment, diplomatic niceties cannot be expected. Still India has never subverted the rule of law so far despite Chinese provocations.

Meanwhile, Taiwan, too, has used its National Day to reassert its political and cultural identity and undercut its existence as tied to the mainland. It commemorates a 1911 uprising in the central Chinese city of Wuhan against the nation's last imperial dynasty. This led to the creation of the Republic of China, which leader Chiang Kai-shek then brought to Taiwan seven decades ago when he fled Beijing as the Communist Party took power. It is just about remembering a historical event but allows Taiwan to technically bypass anything that would suggest total independence. Yet it allows it wiggle room to assert its historical, political and cultural identity subtly. And leverage itself vis-a-vis China, which has been breathing down on it by sending jets in the Taiwanese straits. As far as India is concerned, it can use its proximity to Taiwan more effectively and discomfort China just like it does by using Pakistan against us. The first blow could be economic, by reducing dependence on Chinese goods and moving to high quality Taiwanese products, particularly in the technology and electronic space. The Government has been overtly careful about relations with Taipei for fear of a Chinese hitback. In return for increased Taiwanese investment, it can widen its access to our markets and act as an enabler of Taiwan's inclusion at all global commercial and strategic bodies and cooperation groups. This way it can have an ally in China's immediate neighbourhood and use it as an irritant alongside the Quad initiative with the US, Australia and Japan. That China is uneasy about the Indian attempt to encircle it is evident from its mouthpiece *Global Times*, saying such closeness to Taiwan would "only exasperate the already soured China-India ties." In fact, India can very well use Taiwan and the Tibet question — by joining the US-led campaign on the latter — to force China into yielding some ground at the negotiating table. Intransigent though it might be, Beijing realises that it cannot risk open hostility with India in a post-pandemic world where opinion is loaded heavily against it. Besides, India can stay just under the diplomatic threshold and niggles China. Instead of being muted, it can be visibly seen to heighten its confabulations with Taiwan and Tibetan representatives, just about enough to pressure China. It is high time we tweak our status quoist positions.

Meanwhile, Taiwan, too, has used its National Day to reassert its political and cultural identity and undercut its existence as tied to the mainland. It commemorates a 1911 uprising in the central Chinese city of Wuhan against the nation's last imperial dynasty. This led to the creation of the Republic of China, which leader Chiang Kai-shek then brought to Taiwan seven decades ago when he fled Beijing as the Communist Party took power. It is just about remembering a historical event but allows Taiwan to technically bypass anything that would suggest total independence. Yet it allows it wiggle room to assert its historical, political and cultural identity subtly. And leverage itself vis-a-vis China, which has been breathing down on it by sending jets in the Taiwanese straits. As far as India is concerned, it can use its proximity to Taiwan more effectively and discomfort China just like it does by using Pakistan against us. The first blow could be economic, by reducing dependence on Chinese goods and moving to high quality Taiwanese products, particularly in the technology and electronic space. The Government has been overtly careful about relations with Taipei for fear of a Chinese hitback. In return for increased Taiwanese investment, it can widen its access to our markets and act as an enabler of Taiwan's inclusion at all global commercial and strategic bodies and cooperation groups. This way it can have an ally in China's immediate neighbourhood and use it as an irritant alongside the Quad initiative with the US, Australia and Japan. That China is uneasy about the Indian attempt to encircle it is evident from its mouthpiece *Global Times*, saying such closeness to Taiwan would "only exasperate the already soured China-India ties." In fact, India can very well use Taiwan and the Tibet question — by joining the US-led campaign on the latter — to force China into yielding some ground at the negotiating table. Intransigent though it might be, Beijing realises that it cannot risk open hostility with India in a post-pandemic world where opinion is loaded heavily against it. Besides, India can stay just under the diplomatic threshold and niggles China. Instead of being muted, it can be visibly seen to heighten its confabulations with Taiwan and Tibetan representatives, just about enough to pressure China. It is high time we tweak our status quoist positions.

## Twin feats

As 'emperor of clay', Rafael Nadal equals Roger Federer's feat while Lewis Hamilton equals that of Schumacher



The year 2020 will go down as a weird year in more ways than one. The finals of the French Open tennis tournament and a Formula 1 Grand Prix race in Germany taking place on the same Sunday is far from usual. Instead of huge crowds enjoying the long days of the northern European summer, the French Open and Eiffel Grand Prix at the Nurburgring saw a sparse scattering of spectators, even though that in itself was unthinkable a month ago. But the few who attended saw history being made. In tennis, the man from Mallorca, Rafael Nadal, won his 13th title in Paris in the last 15 years, not only equalling Roger Federer's record of 20 men's

singles Grand Slam tennis titles but also reaffirming his title as the "Emperor of the Clay Court." And the man he defeated, Novak Djokovic, is no slouch either, forming the third arm of the tennis triumvirate. Since 2003's Wimbledon Championship won by Federer till the tournament that just ended in Paris, these three men have won a simply astounding 57 of the 71 Grand Slams on offer. Yet, among them, only Nadal has made a championship truly his own. Federer has held the record for more than 11 years, from his Wimbledon 2009 win right after he broke Pete Sampras' record of 14. And Nadal's game rose to the occasion as he excelled his own style and tactics and demonstrated a rare tautness.

Then there is Lewis Hamilton, a man who clearly dominates his sport by a country mile. On his way to equalling the legendary Michael Schumacher's record of seven world titles at the Nurburgring, a race track close to the German driver's hometown, he created a record of 91 Formula 1 race wins. If the British driver keeps on racing in 2021, no one will bet against him becoming the first man to win 100 Formula 1 races and setting a new record of world titles. Then there were heart-touching moments. Just as Federer had warm words of encouragement for Nadal, Schumacher's son, Mick, presented Hamilton with one of his father's helmets. Had he been well, Schumacher would have himself been there. Like Nadal, Hamilton has others nipping at his heels. Unlike Nadal, he has no other person with whom he needs to share the greatness in his generation. Of course, one can argue that tennis is a sport where the quality of the equipment does not make such a great difference but Hamilton is at another level. The world might have lost a great summer of sport in 2020 but we are in for a fantastic autumn of sports.



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

The new farm laws might not be as disruptive as their critics want us to believe. They are apparently as logical and timely reforms as interventions like State procurement and notifying of Minimum Support Price (MSP) had been in the mid-1960s. The ruling and Opposition parties are engaged in a wholly avoidable fracas, both refusing to view things in totality. The Opposition is indulging in loathing and fear-mongering, reminiscent of the times when economic liberalisation was introduced in 1991. Paradoxically, it was the Congress' Government then. The party now is behaving differently when in the Opposition.

The Government's cavalier attitude to the Opposition parties' stance is equally uncharitable. Motives have been imputed to their decision. They are accused of having a vested interest in the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC)-run *mandis*, besides being friendly towards the middlemen who call the shots in those market yards. Ironically, on the National Agriculture Market portal (eNAM), started by the present Government in 2016, there were no less than 83,958 commission agents registered as on August 31. Why is the Government promoting middlemen here?

The fear that APMC-run *mandis* would be abolished is largely unfounded. The eNAM platform can today boast of connecting about a 1,000 of them across 18 States and three Union Territories (UT). However, the passage of the Bills was not preceded by any kind of consensus-building. There was no dialogue with the farmers' unions, State Governments or the Opposition parties. The laws were rushed through the Ordinance route on June 5. This starkly contrasts with the spirit of federalism and the consensus model that marked the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The matters concerned with agriculture being under the State list in Schedule VII of the Constitution called for Centre-State consensus.

The legislative competence of Parliament to discuss a Bill on a subject placed in the State list (Schedule VII of the Constitution) was questioned by some members. However, we have precedence of the Seeds Act, 1966, which is a

# Consensus is vital

Had the Government chosen a Standing Committee scrutiny or even had a dialogue with farmers, the opposition to farm laws could have been avoided



Central legislation. It was one of the key legislations enacted during the Green Revolution era. Still, one is reminded of how the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government approached the contentious subject of contract farming. This was envisaged in the National Agriculture Policy 2000. Instead of bringing a Central law, the Government in 2003 circulated a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act to the States for adoption in 2003. The ensuing UPA-I Government continued the policy. Contract farming was included as an option in the National Farmers Policy (2007). By August 2007, a total of 15 States had brought amendments in the APMC (Regulation) Acts based on the model legislation.

Why did the four Labour Codes, recently enacted, did not become a source of dispute despite the presence of controversial provisions? This was because the Codes, meant to reduce 29 existing labour laws into four legislations, were vetted by the department-related Standing Committee of the Lok Sabha. It was chaired by Bhartruhari Mahab of Biju Janata Dal. The Government agreed to several suggestions of the committee.

How justified is the claim that previous governments had kept the farmers in chains? Such a view stems from inadequate appreciation of facts. Definite pro-farmer measures were taken by Indian National Congress since 1937 when it formed gov-

ernments in coalition in seven out of 11 provinces (under Government of India Act 1935). These included debt relief measures, tenancy reforms and licensing and regulation of money lenders and so on. But separation from Burma (now Myanmar) from the Indian Union in 1937 stressed rice availability in India.

India's agricultural policy since Independence was aimed at attaining food security. With fragmented landholdings, inadequate electricity supply, pitiable irrigation facilities and poor acreage, production was insufficient. To bridge the requirement and availability of food grains, India entered into an agreement with the US under their Public Law 480 on August 29, 1956. It allowed India to obtain wheat, rice, cotton, dairy products and tobacco in Indian rupees. It could not, however, be denied that import of food grains, in excess of the market requirement, de-incentivised the farmer to produce more. The production increased as the imports were brought down to realistic levels around 1966. However, the completion of the Bhakra-Nangal Dam on Beas-Sutlej (1963) was an achievement of the Jawaharlal Nehru Government, which accelerated the advent of the Green Revolution.

The current regime of MSP and Government procurement is a legacy of the short-lived Lal Bahadur Shastri Government (June 11, 1964 to January 10,

1966). It had its origin in the decline in wheat production, consecutively between 1962 to 1964, and decline and marginal recovery of rice production during the corresponding period. This compelled the Government to revisit its open market policy for wheat and modest control on transport and sale of rice. The severity of the food shortage could be understood from the sheer number of speeches that Shastri delivered on the subject as the Prime Minister. His *Selected Speeches*, published by the Publications Division, Ministry of I&B (1972) categorises a total of 10 under "Food Problems."

The Shastri Government moved in towards a regime of greater regulation and control on sale, purchase and movement of food grains. On January 1, 1965, two new organisations were created, which became the hallmark of the Government's intervention in the agricultural sector. These were Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Agricultural Prices Commission (now Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices). The ambit of Government procurement, which was limited to a few edible items in the beginning, now extends to 23 items (in addition to sugarcane).

The developments since the Green Revolution (1967) have led to the growth in acreage and food surplus situation. Time is ripe for addressing the

neglected problem of agricultural marketing. In pursuit of doubling the farmers' income by 2022 (from the level of 2016), the Narendra Modi Government formed a committee led by Ashok Dalwai, IAS. The committee produced a 14-volume eminently readable report. Though the decision to "liberalise" the farm was not among its direct recommendations, one has to realise that significant decisions are always political rather than bureaucratic in nature. The farmers must have better alternatives for remunerative pricing with legal safeguards. Even today, there is no legal restriction on farmers selling his/her product in the open market. What cripples the farmer, however, is not merely the logistical problem but also the absence of a legal architecture to protect his/her interests.

A single line in these Acts, like "notwithstanding anything contained in the aforesaid sections, no trade transactions should take place below the notified MSP", would have allayed the misgivings of the farmers. A line in time could have saved the Government from putting eight Cabinet Ministers on ground (not including the Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar) to convince agitating agriculturists.

(The writer is an author and independent researcher based in New Delhi. The views expressed here are personal)

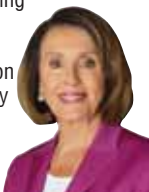
## SOUNDBITE

Like in Rajasthan, the attack on a temple priest in Gonda district by the land mafia to grab the temple land is shameful. Now, even the saints are not safe under the Government led by a saint.



BSP leader  
—Mayawati

In terms of addressing testing, tracing and treatment, what the Trump administration has offered is wholly insufficient.



US House Speaker  
—Nancy Pelosi

Whether you call them Farooq Gandhi or Rahul Abdullah, there's no difference between the two. Both are the same, totally same. Both are two sides of the same coin.



BJP spokesperson  
—Sambit Patra

Roland Garros means everything to me. We've played plenty of times together. One day wins one, another day wins the other.



Tennis player  
—Rafael Nadal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Control air pollution

Sir — The air quality index (AQI) in the capital remains "poor" as there has been a rise in the concentration of both PM10 and PM2.5 pollutants. According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), PM10 pollutants are expected to reduce to 238, a scale which falls under the "moderate" category, during this week while PM2.5 pollutants are expected to reach 117, which falls under the "poor" category. SAFAR also estimated around 448 stubble-burning fires on October 10. However, due to the transport-level wind speed, which is not so calm, the high accumulation of pollutants in Delhi is not happening. It is said that the impact of stubble fire is likely to reduce due to change in wind direction. This comes as good news as high pollution levels coupled with the ongoing pandemic will be life-threatening. The Government should take strict measures to ensure the AQI level doesn't increase. Also, as the festive season approaches, a blanket ban on fire crackers should be announced.

Nihal Raj  
Noida

### Protest is a salient feature of democracy

The problem with the ruling by the Supreme Court on protests in public places vis-a-vis Shaheen Bagh is that it verges on a judicial certainty and might render democracy less vibrant. It is paradoxical that a peaceful democratic protest that won wide approbation as an assertion of people's power and as a template for the conduct of the protesters and the rightness of their cause was termed as an "encroachment" and an "obstruction." The site was only incidental to the protest, its proximity to the protesters' homes explained its choice. The intention of the protesters was bona fide, it was to persuade the Government to revisit a discriminatory law and not to block the thoroughfare. The inconvenience caused to commuters by "occupation" of a narrow part of a wide road (half of it was barricaded by the police) cannot be measured against the larger consequences of the amended law.

On the face of it, the ruling looks acceptable as it guarantees the right to free movement, but it may, in effect, emasculate protests. When it comes to accord-



ing democratic space for citizens to protest, laws have to be enforced in a flexible manner. One of democracy's strength is its resilience to accommodate protests and respond to them creatively. The apex court needs to revisit India's history and then decide if a designated area for protests really justifies its cause?

G David Milton  
Maruthancode

### Farmers' issue

Sir — The Government had set a target of doubling farmers' income by the year 2022 but given the economic state of the country, this won't be possible any time soon. Adding to it, the three farm Acts that were recently passed by Parliament would lead to farmers being "reduced to farmworkers" and big corpora-

tions taking over "large swathes of land". The Opposition needs to continue opposing the Acts and pressure the Centre for pro-farmer reforms that include the Minimum Support Price (MSP) guarantee. Farmers should be free from exploitation not only by intermediaries but also by corporate giants.

Abdussalam  
Mumbai

### CBI takes up Hathras

Sir — The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the investigation of the gang-rape and murder case of the 19-year-old Dalit woman of Hathras, Uttar Pradesh. The agency's move came almost eight days after UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recommended a CBI probe, amid a growing political

storm over the death of the victim and her hurried cremation by the administration in the absence of her family. The Opposition has even called for the CM's resignation over the issue. The CBI has already registered a case against one of the accused, earlier registered at Chandpa police station in Hathras. This will be a chance for the Centre to separate itself from the UP Government that has been grossly mishandling the case. The CBI shouldn't let the State manipulate the findings and build a strong case based on facts and make sure that the victim gets justice.

Bhagwan Thadani  
Mumbai

### Strict punishment

Sir — Angry with his wife for refusing to source money from her parents, a 26-year-old man in Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru, has allegedly burnt her private parts. The police should take strict action against the culprit and the victim needs to be given security.

MN Qasmi  
Kolkata

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

## Feminine but not weak

Women have been fighting many battles for long and this time is no exception. Let us take care of the elderly, the children and be kind yet strong



POOJA CHAUHAN

You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have,” goes a famous saying. It resonates with the situation that the world is going through now and echoes the emotions that all of us have been experiencing over the past few months due to the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. The new work from home routine, along with managing home schooling, parenting and household responsibilities are forcing us all, particularly women, to stretch our time and strength to the limit. The numerous tasks are lined up like dominoes every day and each role commands meticulous precision and cautious treading, lest one incorrect step creates a devastating cascading effect.

As the pandemic confined us to our homes, the constant feeling of being overwhelmed kept coming back. And as I looked around and connected with other mothers and working women, the same sentiments were echoed by all. However, women are not frail creatures mentally. Right from Jijabai, the exemplary mother of the Maratha warrior king Shivaji, to Jacinda Arden, the youngest Prime Minister in the world who was lauded for her effective leadership in pandemic management in New Zealand, the examples of strong women are far too many. In fact, Arden saved her country from the serious repercussions of Covid while also fulfilling her responsibilities as a nursing mother of twins. Young mothers can relate to her as they juggle between working for or leading organisations, nurturing children and managing homes and careers. We all can really try and do the perfect “balancing act.”

Women across the globe experienced a profound shift in their lives as the unprecedented circumstances led to a loss of normal routines and managing tasks with an intensity that never existed before. Tasks that had previously been distributed among various stakeholders, including grandparents, house helps and even schools, have fallen squarely on parents and even more disproportionately on women. But women have risen to so many challenges before as well. It is the unique ability that women have of empathy, trust and effective communication that has led them in managing this uncharted territory. Women have a whole mix of life's experiences with them, which makes them the right candidate to take charge of this pandemic. They become fiercely protective of their families and specially of their children and it is this attitude in the midst of the Coronavirus outbreak that has stopped many women from venturing out of their homes without a solid reason for it.

The resilient core of women and their empathetic outlook towards society make them strong individuals and it is precisely because of this reason that seven out of every 10 health workers are women, says a World Health Organisation (WHO) study. But in all this chaos lies an opportunity to learn. Seeking help from the family and their cooperation in managing everyday jobs is something women will have to do. Even a “supermom” cannot do everything alone. One cannot expect the work of a parent, teacher, homemaker and a working woman to be accomplished in the same 24 hours with outstanding results. This time away from school has also given parents, particularly mothers, an opportunity to train and guide their children and make them step up and take on more responsibilities. Dividing household chores, setting up rewards for completion of dedicated tasks or even applauding their efforts would go a long way in inculcating a sense of responsibility in young minds.

We must thank the world for allowing technology to be an integral part of our lives today as it has played a key role in helping us to adjust to this new normal. It made life bearable during the lockdown by keeping us occupied with entertainment, enabled communication and made accessibility to education and the necessities of daily lives easy, at the click of a button. Not only that, technology has aided millions in keeping their jobs and meeting their professional commitments by allowing online access to work and managing responsibilities without having to venture out.

The outbreak has not only changed the course of lives of people all over the world but has also created a humanitarian revolution that will lead to the emergence of better human beings globally. We have great opportunities to be humane today, be it towards our loved ones, families, co-workers or even a stranger on the street struggling with life's problems. By serving, helping, giving to others and by taking time out for ourselves, going back to the basics and respecting nature, COVID has made us evolve as humans. It is important for women to support other women in these trying times. Women have been fighting many difficult battles for long and this time is no exception. Let us together take care of the elderly in our families and around us, nurture children, take care of the men and be compassionate yet strong.

(The writer is Chairperson, Amity Humanity Foundation and Amity School of Film and Drama)

A LOT HAS BEEN GOING ON, A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE A LOT TO SAY. THINGS ARE CONFUSING AND STRESSFUL. BUT I'D LIKE TO THINK I'VE FIGURED SOME STUFF OUT.

—FILM DIRECTOR  
IRA KHAN



THERE CAN BE MANY REASONS FOR DEPRESSION BUT IT'S GENERALLY DIFFICULT FOR KIDS FROM BROKEN FAMILIES. A TRADITIONAL FAMILY SYSTEM IS VITAL.

—ACTOR  
KANGANA RANAUT

# A step in the right direction

It is good that the RBI has kept the repo and reverse repo rates unchanged or else in the current economic scenario any further cut would have been infructuous



UTTAM GUPTA

In the last bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) review announced by its Governor Shaktikanta Das on August 6, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had kept the policy repo rate unchanged at four per cent. It had also kept the reverse repo rate or the interest rate the banks get on their surplus funds parked with the RBI unchanged at 3.35 per cent. It continued with the “accommodative” stance of the monetary policy as long as necessary to revive growth and mitigate the impact of COVID-19, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target.

In the build-up to the next bi-monthly review (originally scheduled for October 1, which was postponed to October 9, due to the delay in appointment of three external members of the MPC), there was an expectation that there wouldn't be any changes this time round. Things have happened on expected lines even as the RBI has maintained status quo on key policy rates.

There are four major reasons as to why any further action in gliding the policy rate on the downward trajectory — as demanded by a certain section of the industry — was totally unnecessary.

First, ever since the incumbent Governor took charge (December 2018), the RBI has handed out a cumulative reduction in repo rate of 2.5 per cent. Of this, during 2019, a total cut of 1.35 per cent was delivered in five instalments, the last one being under the policy review announced on October 4, 2019. This brought down the rate from 6.5 per cent in the beginning of the year to 5.15 per cent on its close. The apex bank also tried to boost the economy by pumping liquidity using policy instruments such as Open Market Operations (OMOs).

The above policy moves were made in the backdrop of the slide in the real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth that had commenced in the third quarter of the financial year (FY) 2018-19 and continued all through FY 2019-20, the intent being to not just contain the slide but also to revive it. Yet, the deceleration continued with growth plunging to a little over three per cent during the last quarter of FY 2019-20 and the yearly figure settling at a low of 4.2 per cent. But that did not deter Das from continuing with a cut in the policy rate.

On March 27, he reduced the policy rate by 0.75 per cent. This was followed by a further cut of 0.4 per cent on May 22, thus delivering a total reduction of 1.15 per cent post-pandemic. Das also announced on March 27 and April 17 measures like reduction in the cash reserve ratio (CRR), auction of Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations (TLTRO), hike in accommodation under the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and so on, to inject total liquidity close to ₹5,00,000 crore.

Despite these measures, growth during the first quarter of the current FY plunged to minus 24 per cent. During the second quarter ending September 30, though the situation was not as bad, the growth was still lower than during the corresponding quarter of 2019 (for the whole of the current year, Das has projected a decline of 9.5 per cent — that, too, is predicated on positive growth during the last quarter). These trends clearly show that neither reduction in policy rate, nor pumping liquidity in the system are working.

Second, according to Das, of the 1.35 per cent reduction in the policy rate during the pre-COVID phase, only about 0.6 per cent was transmitted by

“A HOLISTIC APPROACH IS NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE STRUCTURAL CONSTRAINTS OF THE ECONOMY. THIS SHOULD ENCOMPASS POLICY REFORMS TO LIFT BUSINESS SENTIMENT AND BOOST INVESTMENT; TACKLE NPAs ON A WAR FOOTING; GOAD BANKS INTO PROACTIVELY TAKING UP PROJECT LENDING; AND RESULT IN STERN MEASURES TO DEAL WITH SCAMS WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION. WITHOUT THESE, ANY STIMULUS WON'T BE OF MUCH USE IN LIFTING THE ECONOMY”



banks by way of corresponding reduction in the lending rate. If transmission is not even 50 per cent then, why keep harping on a cut in the policy rate. Are we to infer that banks are pocketing the differential? The truth is, we are trying to see a strong correlation which either does not exist or is very feeble, if at all there is one. A bank fixes the interest rate it charges from borrowers based on the interest rate it pays on deposits, plus cost of its intermediation. It has also to factor in the cost of non-performing assets (NPAs) or loans which can't be recovered. Even as the policy rate is posited as an external benchmark for determining lending rate, the latter can't exactly follow the movement in the former. A perfect correlation would have been possible if only the RBI was its sole source of funding; but that is theoretical, to say the least. Third, despite the RBI opening several taps and banks flushed with funds for onward lending (this was done during FY 2019-20 and on a much larger scale during the current year), the latter have not stepped up lending. During 2019-20, bank credit grew by 6.1 per cent, less than half of the 13.4 per cent growth registered during 2018-19. The trend has got aggravated during the current year. Overall non-food credit off-take from the banking system declined by ₹1,40,000 crore to over ₹90 lakh crore during April-July, 2020.

On April 17, while announcing reduction in the reverse repo rate from the existing four per cent to 3.75 per cent, Das had argued it would goad banks to lend to businesses instead of parking excess funds with itself (they were then holding a gargantuan ₹6,90,000 crore with the RBI). The rate has since been further lowered to 3.35 per cent to ensure that banks don't keep the money with the apex bank; instead lend. Yet, the excess funds parked

by them have crossed ₹8,00,000 crore. Apart from the disruption caused by the contagion and the resultant compression in demand for credit, sanctions and disbursements have also been impacted by the banks' increasing risk-aversion and conservative approach to lending.

Fourth, the initial uninterrupted spell of lockdown for three months and even thereafter, intermittent lockdowns at the State/local level, have exterminated demand on a scale never seen before. Apart from lakhs of businesses downing shutters, millions losing jobs or facing cut in wages and salaries, even those who survived the COVID onslaught and had surpluses, could not spend (due to the sheer compulsion of “social distancing”, forcing prolonged closure of a vast swathe of businesses especially in the service sector, like restaurants, cinema halls, multiplexes, tourist destinations and so on).

The gravity of incapacitation engineered by the pandemic can be gauged from the fact that currently, cash with the public is at a historic high of about ₹26,00,000 crore or 15 per cent of the GDP (assuming 10 per cent contraction in nominal terms during FY 2020-21) — up from the ₹17,00,000 crore it was at the time of demonetisation in November, 2016.

A major factor that has a profound impact on demand has a lot to do with scams galore. These involve siphoning off funds from banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) or even directly from the public (say by builders) and so on. Running into hundreds of thousands of crores, these add to the personal wealth of a select few, which is either stashed abroad or kept within India as “undisclosed income” (black money). Had this money remained with millions to whom it actually belongs, this would have added hugely to the purchasing

power, reduced the NPAs of Banks/NBFCs and increased their ability to lend more.

Unlike the pall of gloom surrounding the August meeting of the MPC, this time the RBI exudes confidence even as the Governor sees the “Indian economy entering into a decisive phase, seeing easing of contraction in various sectors. Deep contractions of Q1 are behind us and silver linings are visible in easing caseloads across India.” He also sees retail inflation to be moderating from the third quarter onward, driven by a bright agriculture outlook and oil prices remaining range-bound. The Governor has also promised measures as necessary “to assure market participants of access to liquidity and easy finance conditions” (₹20,000 crore-OMO auction next week and On-tap TLTROs of ₹1,00,000 crore to be made available till March 2021 — linked to the repo rate — are some of the steps in this direction).

These are add-ons to the existing pool of measures in the same category. Just as those measures failed to deliver, it is unlikely that these incrementals will do any better. It is good that the RBI has kept the key policy rates like repo and reverse repo rates unchanged or else in the current scenario, when the economy is besieged with structural constraints, any further cut thereof would have been rendered infructuous. A holistic approach is needed to address the structural constraints of the economy. This should encompass policy reforms to lift business sentiment and boost investment; tackle NPAs on a war footing; goad banks into proactively taking up project lending; and result in stern measures to deal with scams with greater emphasis on prevention. Sans these, any stimulus won't be of much use in lifting the economy.

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

## A free constitutional body for SCs/STs needed

Article 338 and 338A of the Constitution have to be amended, conferring powers upon the commission to take action against State offenders



CHITTARVU RAGHU

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was enacted with the objective of protecting marginalised communities against discrimination and atrocities by the upper castes and the rich and privileged. Section three of the Act enunciates the nature of various actions against a SC/ST person to constitute an offence punishable under it.

The provision stipulates that any act, which is derogatory to human dignity, constitutes an offence under the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989. The Supreme Court, too, in the Nandini Sundar case, observed that the Constitution itself, in no uncertain terms, demands that the State shall

strive incessantly and consistently to promote fraternity among all citizens such that the dignity of every person is protected, nourished and promoted. The conduct of the police in cremating the Dalit gang-rape victim from Hathras, allegedly without the consent of the family members, constitutes an offence under the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989.

The Hathras gang-rape and the subsequent events leading to the cremation of the victim by the police in the dead of night raises the question whether the State had responded to the incident as required? The incident shows that the atrocities committed against the Dalit girl were two-fold. First, the gang-rape of the victim by the accused, who allegedly belong to the upper caste and second, the conduct of the police in cremating the body after sunset, allegedly without the consent of family members.

The conduct of the police raises a suspicion that officials were trying to protect the accused. She was allegedly attacked on September 14 and succumbed to her injuries on September 29. A statement has been

made by the police that the post-mortem report does not disclose any evidence of rape. Obviously since the post-mortem was conducted after a lapse of more than eight days of the alleged incident, there is a big possibility of the evidence of rape getting erased. However, there is a dying declaration made by the victim that she was subjected to gang-rape, which is admissible in evidence.

Now the issue is whether the State can remain a silent spectator without responding against the alleged conduct of the police in cremating her body without the consent of the family members, which also constitutes an atrocity under the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989.

The response of the State in the present scenario is only at the mercy of the politicians who are running the Government. There is no “body” constituted under the Constitution, which in such circumstances can take cognisance of the conduct of the erring officials involved in the alleged crime and take necessary action against them without the interference of the Government.

Though Article 338 of the

Constitution contemplates the setting up of the National Commission for SCs and Article 338A of the Constitution constitutes a commission for STs, they are only recommendatory bodies. The Constitution only confers power upon them to prepare reports and the President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament, along with a memorandum, explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of such suggestions.

Obviously the President will be acting on the aid and advice of the Ministers. Therefore, the commission cannot take action against the people, who are involved directly or indirectly in the entire episode. The implementation of the recommendations of the commission is within the domain of the political system. Therefore, there is no other Constitutional provision or a created body, which comes to the rescue of the victim when the Government does not respond in a proper manner.

There has to be a mechanism pro-

vided by the Constitution to respond to such a situation. The apex court, while deciding the review petition of Dr Subhash Kashinath, observed that the prevailing conditions in various areas of the country show that the SCs/ STs are still struggling for equality and for exercising civil rights. They have been suffering ignominy and abuse and they have been outcast socially for centuries. It was also observed that every person has the right to live with dignity and the right to die with dignity, too.

In fact, the Supreme Court, while upholding the constitutional validity of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989, observed that all the three ideas, liberty, equality and fraternity, are intimately linked. The right to equality sans liberty or fraternity would be chimerical, as the concept known at present would be reduced to equality among equals, in every manner a mere husk of the grand vision of the Constitution.

Likewise, liberty without equality or fraternity can well result in the perpetuation of existing inequalities and worse, result in licence to indulge in society's basest practices. It is fra-

ternity, poignantly embedded through the provisions of Part III, which assures true equality, where the State treats all alike, promises the benefits of growth and prosperity to all, with equal liberties to all, and what is more, guarantees that every person treats every other citizen of the country in a like manner.

Obviously, the State actors at the higher level due to political interference would not respond as the situation mandates. There has to be an independent body which can spring into operation to take necessary action against erring State officials. Therefore, Article 338 and 338A of the Constitution have to be amended, conferring powers upon the commission to take necessary action directly against the State or non-State actors who indulge in illegal acts. Unless such a suitable amendment is made incorporating such powers, justice cannot be done to victims and there cannot be any effective implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989.

(The writer is Advocate, at the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Courts)



### PROTECT THE CONSUMER

To truly put an end to illicit activities that harm the consumer, the Government of Nepal and lawmakers must have the will to push through stronger measures. It may be too much to ask our subpar leaders and representatives to forgo relations with their alleged corporate masters, but the least they can do is set up a consumer court system in the country that will quickly and satisfactorily resolve consumer protection issues. (The Kathmandu Post editorial)



# Industrial production contracts 8 pc in Aug

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industrial production declined by 8 per cent in August, mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation sectors, official data showed on Monday.

According to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data, manufacturing sector production registered a decline of 8.6 per cent, while the output of mining and power segments fell 9.8 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively. The IIP had contract-

ed by 1.4 per cent in August 2019. "It may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the COVID 19 pandemic," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in a statement.

"With the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in the economic activities by varying degrees as well as in data reporting," it added.

Meanwhile, the contraction in IIP in July has been

revised to (-)10.8 per cent from the (-) 10.4 per cent provisional data released last month. Similarly, May IIP has been revised marginally to 33.4 per cent contraction from 33.9 per cent decline.

The decline in IIP for June remained unchanged at (-) 15.8 per cent.

The government had imposed a lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19 infections on March 25, 2020.

The IIP had shrunk by 57.3 per cent in April as most industrial and commercial establishments

remained closed.

As per the latest data, the manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the IIP, recorded a decline of 8.6 per cent in August 2020, as against a contraction of 1.7 per cent in the same month last year. Similarly, mining sector output fell 9.8 per cent as against a flat growth in August 2019.

Power generation shrank by 1.8 per cent, compared to a contraction of 0.9 per cent a year ago.

Output of capital goods, which is a barometer of

investment, fell by 15.4 per cent in August as against a contraction of 20.9 per cent earlier. Consumer durables output also declined by 10.3 per cent, as against a contraction of 9.7 per cent in August 2019.

Consumer non-durable goods production fell 3.3 per cent, compared to a growth of 3.1 per cent a year ago.

The IIP for April-August period has contracted by 25 per cent, according to the data. It had registered a growth of 2.5 per cent during the same period last fiscal.

## Markets close in green for 8th day; pare early gains as FM sops fail to cheer investors

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks pared early gains but managed to end modestly higher on Monday after the finance minister announced fresh stimulus measures to revive festive demand and boost the economy. After rallying nearly 400 points in the morning, the 30-share BSE Sensex buckled under selling pressure in afternoon trade, before ending 84.31 points or 0.21 per cent higher at 40,593.80.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty rose 16.75 points or 0.14 per cent to close at 11,930.95.

Both the key indices have extended their winning streak to eight sessions. In a bid to stimulate consumer demand during the festival season and boost the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced payment of cash in lieu of LTC and Rs 10,000 festival advance to government employees.

She also announced additional capital spending and Rs

12,000 crore, 50-year interest-free loan to states to boost the economy that has been battered by the pandemic and the resulting lockdowns.

ITC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 2.59 per cent, followed by Infosys, Asian Paints, HCL Tech, PowerGrid, Maruti, TCS and ICICI Bank. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, ONGC, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank and Bajaj Auto were among the main laggards, shedding up to 2.33 per cent.

## LTC scheme: Employees may have to spend over ₹1 L for reimbursement

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's measures to boost consumption demand by providing more money into the hands of individuals would require a central Government employee to spend in excess of ₹1 lakh to claim leave travel concession reimbursement of just over ₹30,000.

As per the LTC fare schedule provided by the finance ministry, the deemed airfare (round trip) for a person entitled to travel business class is ₹ 36,000 while those entitled for economy class air travel and rail

travel (any class) is ₹20,000 and ₹ 6,000, respectively.

What this means is that under the special cash package involving LTC, an individual will have to spend in excess of ₹1,08,000, ₹60,000 and ₹ 18,000, respectively between now and March 31 to get fare reimbursement as per entitlement for unused portion of LTC. Similarly, for getting 10 days' reimbursement of leave travel encashment available under LTC package to Government employees, an individual will have to spend value equivalent to the encashment to get the refunds.

"The LTC money of Government employees to buy consumer goods would dry up those funds for the travel sector. Additionally, it would also send a vote of no-confidence to the tourism travel and hospitality industry which was looking to get back on its feet after 'Unlock'. Since this (LTC) is a 4-year block scheme, it will also cut away funds for future travel demand source for the next year when the LTC block ends in 2021," Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) said, reacting to the

Government's announcements on Monday.

Central Government employees get LTC in a block of 4 years (one to anywhere in India & one hometown or two for hometown).

The entitlement for air or rail fare, as per pay scale, is reimbursed and in addition, leave encashment of 10 days (pay + DA) is paid.

The government has allowed reimbursement scheme for LTC as due to Covid-19, employees are not in a position to avail full quota of LTC in the current block of 2018-21.

## Rupee drops 12 paise to 78.28 on strong dollar

Mumbai: The rupee snapped its three-session winning run on Monday, declining by 12 paise to close at 73.28 against the US dollar amid weakening Asian peers against the greenback. Starting off on a bullish note, the Indian currency touched the day's high of 73.06 before losing momentum. It swung 25 paise during the session. Clocking its first loss in four sessions, the domestic unit finally settled 12 paise lower at 73.28 against the American currency.

## CAI revises cotton production upwards to 360 lakh bales for 2019-20

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Cotton Association of India (CAI) has increased the estimate for cotton output by 5.50 lakh bales to 360 lakh bales for the 2019-20 season in its September estimate due to higher production in the central zone.

The total cotton production in 2018-19 (October-September) stood at 312 lakh bales, the CAI said in a statement on Monday.

CAI in earlier its estimate had pegged the production at

354.50 lakh bales for the 2019-20 season.

The production estimate for the central zone has been increased by 5.50 lakh bales that is 2.50 lakh bales each in Gujarat and Maharashtra and 50,000 bales each in Madhya Pradesh.

The total cotton supply till the end of the season, that is up to September 30, was at 407.50 lakh bales, which consists of the opening stock of 32 lakh bales at the beginning of the cotton

season on October 1, 2019, crop for the season estimated at 360 lakh bales and imports estimated at 15.50 lakh bales.

The imports are estimated to be lower by 16.50 lakh bales compared to the previous year's estimate of 32 lakh bales.

Domestic consumption for the entire crop year, that is up to September 30, has been estimated at 250 lakh bales.

The CAI has retained its export estimate for the season at the same level as estimated by it previously, that is 50 lakh bales. The carryover stock estimated at the end of the season is 107.50 lakh bales.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11973.55	12022.05	11867.20	11930.95	16.75	
INFY	1123.00	1140.00	1112.10	1139.20	32.4	
ITC	17.05	17.52	17.0	17.245	4.6	
UPL	499.9	508.3	493.15	507	9.7	
CIFLA	805	819.75	800.15	817.65	14.5	
ASIANPAINT	2067.90	2086.45	2041.25	2086.00	35.4	
DREDDY	5158.10	5238.00	5111.00	5233.00	80	
WIPRO	377	379.8	369.1	379.5	5.5	
HCLTECH	860.8	871.95	857.15	866.2	10.45	
HINDALCO	174	175	169.7	172	2	
MARUTI	7110.00	7135.00	7005.00	7135.00	72.6	
POWERGRID	159.2	162.8	158.55	159.55	1.55	
DIVISLAB	3192.30	3215.00	3152.05	3214.00	24	
ICICIBANK	403.45	410	400.7	404.15	2.65	
TECHM	861	864.8	848.4	858.95	4.8	
ANDHAPORTS	359.1	362.85	355.05	358.95	1.75	
TCS	2815.50	2854.00	2800.75	2826.15	13.2	
SBIN	199.7	205.95	197.25	199	0.7	
HDFC	1965.00	1998.95	1942.30	1963.95	6.3	
BAFINANCE	3350.00	3379.40	3305.00	3370.75	9.15	
TATASTEEL	373.5	375.15	362.5	370.5	0.5	
ULTRACEMCO	4300.00	4361.00	4246.40	4308.00	9.65	
TITAN	1260.10	1261.35	1236.00	1257.55	2.35	
SUNPHARMA	5149	517.35	509.3	513.7	0.8	
M&M	637.9	639.7	630	634	0.8	
RELIANCE	2235.00	2255.75	2226.35	2236.00	2.55	
HINDUNILVR	2145.20	2147.60	2123.30	2140.30	0.65	
BAJAJFINSV	5965.50	6000.00	5891.00	5904.00	-11.2	
AXISBANK	473.5	480	462.3	466.85	-1.5	
BRITANNIA	3769.10	3774.30	3732.30	3734.90	-10.2	
NTPC	83.65	84.55	82.4	82.6	-0.3	
ITEL	916.95	925.75	902.05	905.05	-3.4	
KOTAKBANK	1328.00	1338.20	1307.50	1312.85	-7	
GRASIM	746.15	758.35	738	739.4	-5.7	
NESTLEIND	16100.00	16149.60	15860.00	15899.95	-134.15	
SHREECEM	21165.00	21397.95	20845.05	20950.00	-248.5	
IOC	76.5	77.45	75.1	75.6	-0.9	
BPCL	347	349.8	340.5	340.8	-4.2	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3051.00	3074.65	3011.10	3018.50	-41.3	
HEROMOTOCO	3350.80	3355.55	3273.75	3281.70	-45.7	
COALINDIA	115.3	115.5	112.8	113.15	-1.65	
SBILIFE	812.9	812.9	787.2	794.5	-11.75	
EICHERMOT	2233.00	2233.00	2171.15	2184.25	-33.7	
HDFCBANK	1231.55	1242.75	1205.60	1214.50	-19.05	
ONGC	70.3	70.6	68.8	69.2	-1.1	
INDUSINDBK	628.2	632	610.5	613	-10.05	
TATAMOTORS	139.65	139.65	133	135.9	-2.55	
HDFCLIFE	576.45	577	560.2	562.8	-1.1	
GAIL	86.4	86.5	83.25	83.45	-2.25	
JSWSTEEL	294.9	294.9	279.35	284	-8	
BHARTIARTL	428	430.6	411.85	413.25	-11.95	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27,486.50	27,539.80	27,181.20	27,297.35	-112.95	
LTI	2,937.25	3,512.70	2,936.00	3,199.00	271.75	
BIOCON	452	463.65	443.85	462	10.1	
MCDOWELL-N	523.15	536.65	523.15	530.5	9.15	
ADANTRAN	294.95	295	282.35	294.5	4.5	
TORNTHAN	2,820.00	2,849.30	2,797.00	2,841.05	41.35	
LUPIN	1,030.00	1,049.00	1,025.00	1,043.40	14.2	
INDIGO	1,370.00	1,389.75	1,355.20	1,386.00	18.8	
INFRATEL	186.6	192.9	186	188.5	2	
BERGEPAINT	603.1	612	593.55	607.95	5.35	
NAUKRI	3,479.95	3,545.55	3,458.80	3,480.00	23.1	
ACC	1,501.10	1,529.80	1,473.10	1,517.25	10.05	
BANDHANBANK	327.4	332.35	322	327.5	2.05	
RATNAM	474.5	483.6	470.35	474.05	2.8	
PGH	9,961.15	10,026.05	9,938.00	10,020.00	48.55	
CONCOR	372.95	378	369	371.1	1.6	
ABHINDIA	16,120.00	16,187.00	16,050.80	16,100.00	63.95	
PIDILITIND	1,478.60	1,497.50	1,465.00	1,477.50	5.4	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,150.00	1,164.80	1,134.00	1,146.00	3.55	
CADILAH	438	443.15	430.75	438.5	0.5	
GICRE	123.7	124.9	121.9	121.9	-0.05	
PETRONET	218.05	222.35	217.65	218	-0.15	
AUROPHARMA	834.55	846.8	828.1	832.05	-2.5	
AMBUJACEM	238	242.35	233.2	238.5	-0.85	
MARICO	370.95	372.45	364.05	367.95	-1.4	
PEL	1,331.65	1,339.00	1,295.05	1,313.00	-6.8	
SBICARD	850.1	855	839	846	-4.65	
DABUR	520	521.4	512.75	516.2	-2.9	
ALKEM	2,743.25	2,743.25	2,700.00	2,704.00	-19.8	
DLF	158.4	160.15	155.1	155.8	-1.2	
BAJAJHLING	2,424.40	2,424.40	2,375.00	2,380.20	-18.5	
NMDC	81.65	82.35	80.4	80.8	-0.75	
PEC	87.15	88.5	85.3	86.15	-0.85	
HAVELLS	712.95	712.95	703.0	703.05	-7.15	
SFO	3,050.00	3,135.05	3,040.00	3,042.15	-31.6	
BOSCHLTD	12,738.00	12,819.45	12,491.05	12,579.00	-158.8	
COLPAL	1,467.00	1,471.00	1,430.05	1,443.35	-19.5	
GODREJCP	722	723	700.5	708.85	-11	
PNB	29.3	29.75	28.25	28.4	-0.5	
SIEMENS	1,281.55	1,288.25	1,255.75	1,260.00	-24.05	
ADANIGREEN	683.95	702	660	671	-12.95	
UBL	994.2	996	966.3	968.5	-2.95	
IGL	383.5	384	370.6	372.85	-8.65	
DMAT	2,072.00	2,084.00	2,005.10	2,008.40	-49.2	
HINDPETRO	177	177.15	170.75	171.35	-4.65	
ICICIPRULI	430.4	432.45	416.7	417.65	-11.9	
HDFCAMC	2,374.70	2,374.70	2,282.15	2,302.00	-65.8	
ICICI	1,242.00	1,262.40	1,204.45	1,211.90	-35.65	
HINDZINC	200	207.75	197.3	198	-10.6	
BANKBARODA	44.4	45.55	41.2	41.9	-2.4	
MOTHERSUMI	122.15	122.15	110.8	114	-7.1	

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	SBILIFE	815.95	815.95	788	791.6
HDFCBANK	1235	1242.5	1206	1213.4	L&TFH	63	63.85	61.75	62.4
KOTAKBANK	1326.1	1357.95	1308.25	1312.8	SBICARD	846	854.75	840	844.8
WIPRO	378	379.7	369.5	377.55	AFLE	2848	2900	2771	2783.3
VEDL	109.9	109.9	94	96.95	NAUKRI	3462.5	3543	3462	3476.15
ITC	169.95	175.2	169.95	172.2	NESTLEIND	16145	16145	15861.75	15900.6
INFY	1120	1139.8	1112.25	1132.3	APOLLOTYRE	137.5	138.65	131.85	132.25
RELIANCE	2233.5	2254.85	2226.85	2236.6	ADANIGREEN	684	701.9	661	673.05
TCS	2818.9	2853.65	2802	281.2	GAIL	87	87	83.2	83.6
SBIN	200.05	205.85	197.25	198.65	KANFINRA	23.9	24.7	23.5	24.25
ICICIBANK	404.25	409.95	400.5	403.85	CGCL	241.5	250	238.75	239
AXISBANK	473.35	479.9	462.3	467.95	HAVELLS	715	715	701	704.05
TATAMOTORS	139.55	139.85	133.05	135.85	BRITANNIA	3769.1	3769.1	3724	3730.9
ZEE	197.5	197.9	186.5	189.8	ADANIPORTS	360	363	355	358
DIXON	8550	8606.1	8419.4	8451.95	COLPAL	1469.8	1470	1432.05	1442.7
IBULHSGFIN	158.7	160.8	150	150.5	MESCO	523	529	511	512.1
BAFINANCE	3353	3380	3305.7	3325.1	SUNTV	465.8	466.5	447.2	449.75
LAURUSLABS	327.2	334.5	316.3	331.9	MUTHOOTFIN	1165	1165	1134.6	1142.35
DREDDY	5159.95	5246.5	5111.65	5219.35	PHOENIXLTD	565.05	578	562.8	565.7
INDUSINDBK	629.4	631.45	610.55	613.9	SYNGENE	571.9	571.9	558.8	560.05



PORTLAND PROTEST

# Roosevelt, Lincoln statues vandalised



Statues of former presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln toppled by protesters in Portland's South Park Block. AP

**Portland (US):** Protesters overturned statues of former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln in Portland, Oregon, in a declaration of “rage” toward Columbus Day. Protest organisers on Sunday night dubbed the event “Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage,” in response to Monday’s federal holiday named after 15th-century Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, a polarising figure who Native American advocates have said spurred centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas. The group threw chains around Roosevelt’s statue, officially titled “Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Rider.” They

threw red paint on the monument and began using a blowtorch on the statue’s base, news outlets reported. The crowd pulled down the statue just before 9 pm. The group later turned their attention toward Lincoln’s statue, pulling it down about eight minutes later. Historians have said Roosevelt expressed hostility toward Native Americans, once saying: “I don’t go so far as to think that the only good Indians are dead Indians, but I believe nine out of every 10 are ...” Protesters spray-painted “Dakota 38” on the base of Lincoln’s statue, referencing the 38 Dakota men Lincoln approved to have hanged after the men were involved in a vio-

lent conflict with white settlers in Minnesota. After toppling the statues, the crowd began smashing windows at the Oregon Historical Society and later moved onto the Portland State University Campus Public Safety office. Police later declared the event a riot and ordered the group to disperse. Police said anyone involved in “criminal behavior, including vandalism” was subject to arrest. It’s unclear if any arrests were made. The monuments are the latest statues to come down in a wave of removed monuments and protests sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody. AP

# Armenia, Azerbaijan report attacks despite ceasefire deal

AP ■ YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

Armenia and Azerbaijan on Monday accused each other of attacks over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh despite a ceasefire deal brokered by Russia in an effort to end the worst outbreak of hostilities in the region in decades. The ceasefire came into effect on Saturday, but was immediately challenged by mutual claims of violations that persisted throughout the weekend and continued on Monday morning. Armenian Defence Ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanian said on



A man stands amongst the damage a day after shelling by Armenian's artillery during fighting over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh in Ganja, Azerbaijan on Monday. AP

Monday that Azerbaijani forces were “intensively shelling the southern front” of the conflict

zone. Azerbaijan’s Defence Ministry, meanwhile, insisted

that Azerbaijan was observing the ceasefire but accused Armenian forces of shelling the Goranboy, Terter and Agdam regions of Azerbaijan that lie around Nagorno-Karabakh. The recent bout of fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces started September 27 and has 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 Armenia. The foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan

signed a truce in Moscow after Russian President Vladimir Putin had brokered it in a series of calls with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian. The cease-fire took effect at noon Saturday, after talks in Moscow that were sponsored by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The deal stipulated that the cease-fire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict. If the truce had held, it would have marked a major diplomatic coup for Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia but has also cultivated warm ties with Azerbaijan.

# EU weighs Russia sanctions over Navalny poisoning

**Brussels:** European Union foreign ministers were weighing Monday whether to impose sanctions on Russian officials and organizations blamed for the poisoning of opposition leader Alexei Navalny with a Soviet-era nerve agent. The ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, are considering a proposal from France and Germany to freeze the assets of those suspected of involvement and ban them from travelling in Europe under sanctions to combat the use and spread of chemical weapons. Navalny, an anti-corruption investigator and major political opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, fell ill on August 20 during a domestic flight in Russia. He was flown to Germany for treatment two days later and is

still recovering there. Last week, tests conducted at labs designated by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed that Navalny was the victim of a Novichok nerve agent. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Monday that given the OPCW’s findings, it is now “objectively clear that this is a breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention, one that cannot remain without consequences.” In a statement on Friday, France and Germany said that despite repeated calls Russia has provided “no credible explanation” for what happened and that “there is no other plausible explanation for Mr Navalny’s poisoning than a Russian involvement and responsibility.” AP

# HK’s Lam delays policy address until Beijing visit



**Hong Kong:** Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said on Monday that her annual policy address scheduled for this week will be delayed until she travels to Beijing to ask the Chinese central government for help with measures to help her city’s battered economy. Lam’s announcement comes just two days before her policy address was scheduled to take place, and amid reports that Chinese President Xi Jinping would be travelling to the Chinese southern coastal city of Shenzhen to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the special economic zone. The leader of Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous Chinese territory, typically gives a policy address at the start of each legislative year, but Lam said that

this is a convention that is not “cast in stone.” She said she is postponing the address after submitting several proposed measures to Beijing seeking their support to help boost Hong Kong’s economy, which has taken a battering due to the coronavirus pandemic and months of anti-government protests last year. Lam said at a news conference that she will travel to Beijing at the end of October to participate in meetings with

various ministries and commissions and see if the central authorities will support the proposed measures. She declined to give details on the proposals. Lam added that gaining the support from the central authorities in Beijing would allow her to give an address later in the year that will boost the confidence of the city’s economic revival. “For our economy to revive, we need the support of the mainland. We have to better integrate into the national development plan,” she said. “The supporting policies of central authorities would go a long way to boosting the confidence in our economy as well as the revival of economic activity in Hong Kong,” she added. AP

# China announces new rules for Muslims visiting Saudi Arabia for Haj

**Beijing:** China has released new regulations for Muslims visiting Saudi Arabia for annual Haj stipulating that the pilgrimage should be organised only by the country’s Islamic Association and pilgrims should follow Chinese laws and oppose religious extremism. There are 20 million Muslims in China, mostly Uyghurs - an ethnic group of Turkic origin - and Hui Muslims, who are of Chinese ethnic origin. Both Uyghurs and Hui Muslims have a population of about 10 million each, according to an official white paper. About 10,000 Chinese Muslims perform Haj every

year. The new regulation issued for Haj pilgrimage has a total of 42 articles, including one that stipulates that Chinese Muslims’ pilgrimage should be organised in accordance with laws, and the Chinese Islamic Association is the only organisation that is authorised to arrange for Chinese Muslims to go to Mecca in Saudi Arabia to perform Haj. No other organisation or individual should organise the trips, and Chinese citizens should meet basic requirements when applying for the Haj, the regulation, which would be implemented from December 1, stipulates, state-run Global Times reported. PTI

# China says it has captured a group of Taiwanese spies

**Taipei:** China says it has captured people spying for rival Taiwan and cracked a series of espionage cases. Reports by state TV and other outlets Sunday said multiple suspects were detained but gave no numbers or identities for most of them. China and Taiwan split amid a civil war in 1949 and have extensive business ties but no official relations. Both sides regularly gather intelligence on each other. Security personnel solved more than 100 spying cases part of an initiative dubbed Operation Thunder 2020, China Central Television reported. CCTV identified one suspect as a Taiwanese man, Li Mengju, who it said took

photos of paramilitary armed police in Shenzhen, a city that borders Hong Kong. It said he was detained in August at a Shenzhen border crossing. “The pictures and videos he shot are enough for professional espionage organizations analysis. It is enough for them to assess our entire troop’s numbers and equipment status,” said an unnamed police officer interviewed in the segment. It is unclear what other information Li was accused of gathering or what other detainees were accused of. Taiwan’s Mainland Affairs Council said Monday the accusations are purely “political speculation” from the Chinese side. AP

# US forces hit Taliban with air strikes in Helmand

**Lashkar Gah (Afghanistan):** American forces conducted over the past couple days several airstrikes in support of Afghan security force under attack by Taliban in the southern Helmand province, the spokesman for the US military in Afghanistan said on Monday. Col Sonny Leggett confirmed on his twitter account that the strikes over the past two days in Helmand did not violate the U.S.-Taliban agreement signed in February. “The Taliban need to immediately stop their offensive actions in Helmand Province and reduce their violence around the country. It is not consistent with the US-Taliban agreement and under-

mines the ongoing Afghan Peace Talks,” Leggett’s tweet said, quoting Gen Scott Miller, the Commander of the US Forces in Afghanistan. Leggett said that US forces have and will continue to provide support in defense of Afghan national security forces under attack by the Taliban. The announcement of US strikes comes after a gun battle on Monday was reported in and around Lashkar Gah, the capital city of Helmand province. Eyewitnesses said there is sporadic shooting inside the city and residents have fled from the Nad Ali and Nawa districts because of the fighting. Omer Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor in

Helmand, said Taliban fighters had started their coordinated attacks in different parts of the province over the past week and that these had intensified over the weekend. “The Taliban have destroyed several bridges over the main highway, so the highway is closed right now and no one can travel,” said Zwak. Representatives of the Afghan government and the Taliban are holding intra-Afghan negotiations in Qatar, a Mideast country where the Taliban have had a political office for many years. The negotiations are meant to end the country’s decades-long war, following a US-Taliban peace deal signed in February in Doha, Qatar’s cap-

# China to test 9 million after Covid outbreak

**Beijing:** Chinese health authorities will test all 9 million people in the eastern city of Qingdao for the coronavirus this week after nine cases linked to a hospital were found, the government announced Monday. The announcement broke a two-month streak with no virus transmissions within China reported. The ruling Communist Party has lifted most curbs on travel and business but still monitors travelers and visitors to public buildings for signs of infection. Authorities were investigating the source of the infections found in eight patients at Qingdao’s Municipal Chest Hospital and one family member, the National Health Commission said.

## FROM PAGE 1

### CHINA-PAK NEXUS TO KEEP BORDER HOT: RAJNATH

Despite unprecedented snowfall breaking a 60-year record, all strategic passes and roads were cleared for traffic about one month before their average yearly opening dates, officials said. Rajnath said he was happy to know that over 2,200 kilometers of roads have been cut by the BRO during the last two years, using the latest technologies, and state-of-the-art equipment. Also, surfacing was carried out on about 4,200 kms of roads, he added. India is expediting work on several key projects including on a strategic road linking Darcha in Himachal Pradesh with Ladakh that will criss-cross a number of high-altitude snow-bound passes. The nearly 290-km-long road will be crucial for the movement of troops and heavy weaponry into the frontier bases of the Ladakh region and will provide a crucial link to the Kargil region. The Minister also said in addition to expediting road construction, the BRO has laid special emphasis on construction of bridges by completing 28 major bridges last year while 102 major bridges are being completed this year. Fifty-four of these bridges have already been completed. Over 60 Bailey Bridges have also been constructed by BRO to meet immediate requirements of armed forces and people living in remote areas.

### ‘WHO WILL BLINK FIRST’ DELAYS INDIA-CHINA PEACE RESOLUTION

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi held bilateral talks in Moscow that day over the Ladakh issue. Both the Ministers agreed to continue dialogue

and maintain peace and tranquility for early disengagement. Later, the two Corps Commanders held extensive sixth round of talks on September 21 and issued a joint statement agreeing not to send more troops to the border. This step was taken as a confidence building measure. During the latest round of talks, the two commanders also focused on ways to thinning out additional troops from the depth areas and withdraw heavy weapons. However, both the sides are yet to pull back as India is wary of the Chinese, sources said. At present, more than one lakh troops of both the armies are deployed at the LAC besides heavy weapons. As China stationed more than 150 aircraft in the Tibet region since the stand offs began in early May, the IAF also deployed all its frontline aircraft all along the 4,000 km long LAC from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. The newly inducted Rafale jets are now flying regular sorties in Ladakh along with SU-30s, Mirages and MIG-29s. Not willing to take any chances, the Indian armed forces are preparing for a long haul and supplementing its logistics resources for winter deployment in Ladakh. Also, additional troops trained in mountain warfare were kept in reserve. Most of these personnel have served long stints in the Siachen glacier and other such tough places and are battle hardened, they said. INDIA’S COVID-19 BIOMEDICAL WASTE WOES ENORMOUS This application tracks Covid-19 waste at the time of generation, collection and disposal. The Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016, define biomedical waste as “any waste that is generated during the diagnosis, treatment or immunisation of human beings or

animals or research activities pertaining there to or in the production or testing of biological or in health camps”. Therefore, broadly, any waste generated from treating patients comes under the ambit of biomedical waste. STEPS TO CREATE ₹1-L CR ADDITIONAL DEMAND “Today’s solution should not cause tomorrow’s problem,” she added. Sitharaman said the Central Government employees get LTC in a block of 4 years (one to anywhere in India and one hometown; or two for the home town). Air or rail fare, as per scale/entitlement, is reimbursed and in addition, leave encashment of 10 days (pay plus DA) is paid. Due to Covid-19, employees are not in a position to avail LTC. In lieu of one LTC, a cash payment will be made — full payment on leave encashment and payment of a fare in 3 flat-rate slabs depending on the class of entitlement. Fair payment will be tax-free. An employee, opting for this scheme, will be required to buy goods/services worth 3-times the fare and 1-time the leave encashment before March 31, 2021, she said adding money must be spent on goods attracting GST of 12 per cent or more from a GST registered vendor and through digital mode. If Central Government employees opt for it, the cost will be around ₹5,675 crore. Employees of public sector banks and PSUs will also be allowed this facility and estimated cost for them will be ₹1,900 crore. The tax concession will be allowed for State Government/private sector too, for employees who currently are entitled to LTC, subject to following the guidelines of the central government scheme. Demand infusion in the economy by the Central Government and central PSE/PSB employees is estimated to be

₹19,000 crore. Demand infusion by state government employees will be ₹9,000 crore. She said festival advance along with other similar advances were abolished on the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission. It is proposed to restore the festival advance with one-time interest-free advance of ₹10,000 to be availed by March 31. The amount is supposed to be recovered in maximum 10 instalments. The outgo under the head is expected to be ₹4,000 crore, she said adding if 50 per cent adoption by states is taken into account, another ₹4,000 crore festival advances would be disbursed. Employees will get pre-loaded Rupay card of the advance value. The Government will bear bank charges in this regard. The finance minister said ₹25,000 crore additional budget will be provided towards capital expenditure on roads, defence infrastructure, water supply, urban development and domestically produced capital equipment for defence. This is over and above the ₹4.13 lakh crore capital expenditure announced in the Budget for 2020-21. Also, a special ₹12,000 crore interest-free, 50-year loan will be given to states for capital expenditure. Of this, ₹1,600 crore will be for the North-Eastern states and ₹900 crore for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Other states will get ₹7,500 crore in proportion to their share in Finance Commission devolution — 50 per cent initially and balance after use of the first instalment, she said adding the remaining ₹2,000 crore will be given to states that implement pre-agreed reforms. Sitharaman said ₹36,000 crore additional consumer demand will be created (₹ 28,000 crore through LTC voucher scheme plus ₹8,000 crore through festival advance scheme). Also, Rs 37,000 crore of additional central and state capital expenditure will be incurred. Total boost to demand is estimated at Rs 73,000 crore by March 31, 2021, she added. PTI

# Delhi’s air quality ‘poor’; wind direction shift may improve it

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Air quality in Delhi and neighboring States was recorded in the “poor category” on Monday with the concentration of fine particulate matter — PM 2.5 and 10 increasing to the highest recorded level this season so far. The city recorded an overall AQI of 240 at 10 am. According to Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), SAFAR, the air quality index (AQI) was likely to improve slightly in the coming days due to a change in the wind direction. The city recorded an overall AQI of 240 at 10 am. The 24-hour average AQI was 216 on Sunday and 221 on Saturday. The AQI in Jahangirpuri (301) and Vivek Vihar (316) hit the “very poor” category. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered ‘good’, 51 and 100 ‘satisfactory’, 101 and 200 ‘moderate’, 201 and 300 ‘poor’, 301 and 400 ‘very poor’, and 401 and 500 ‘severe’. PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR stood at 242 microgram per cubic meter (µg/m3) at 9 am -- the highest this season so far, according to CPCB data. PM10 levels below 100 µg/m3 are considered safe in India. PM10 is particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers and is inhalable into the lungs. These particles include dust, pollen and mold spores. The levels of PM2.5 —

finer particles which can even enter the bloodstream — were 106 µg/m3. PM2.5 levels up to 60 µg/m3 are considered safe. Delhi’s air quality had turned poor on Wednesday, the first time in since June 29, with the Central Pollution Control Board recording a 24-hour average AQI of 215. SAFAR said as many as 448 farm fires were observed in Punjab, adjoining Pakistan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which impacted Delhi’s air quality on Sunday. However, the wind direction will change from north-westerly to southeasterly and the impact of farm fires will reduce, it said. Delhi’s minimum temperature settled at 19.4 degrees Celsius. The maximum wind speed was 4 kilometers per hour. Low temperatures and stagnant winds help in accumulation of pollutants near the ground, affecting air quality. With Delhi-NCR bracing for months of poor air quality, experts have warned that high levels of air pollution can aggravate the COVID-19 pandemic. High level of air pollution in Delhi is a year-round problem, which can be attributed to unfavourable meteorological conditions, farm fires in neighbouring regions and local sources of pollution. According to an analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, a Delhi-based think tank, transportation contributes the most

-- 18 to 39 percent -- to Delhi’s air pollution. Road dust is the second largest source of air pollution in the city (18 to 38 percent), followed by industries (2 to 29 percent), thermal power plants (3 to 11 percent) and construction (8 percent). This year, the Delhi government has launched a massive anti-air pollution campaign -- “Yuddh Pradushan Ke Viruddh” -- which is being led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Environment Minister Gopal Rai. A “green war room” with a 10-member expert team has been set up at the Delhi Secretariat to monitor the steps being taken to deal with high levels of air pollution in winters. The environment department has also taken stern action against project proponents at large construction and demolition sites flouting dust control norms. The government will also start the spraying of “Pusa bio-decomposer” solution in non-basmati rice fields in the national capital, starting Tuesday. The solution, experts say, can turn the stubble into manure in 15 to 20 days and therefore, can prevent stubble burning. Starting October 15, stricter measures to fight air pollution will also come into force in Delhi and its neighbourhood as part of the Graded Response Action Plan, which was first implemented in Delhi-NCR in 2017.



**DOCYARD**  
DR AMOD MANOCHA

Senior Consultant & Head, Pain Management Services  
**MAX SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL, SAKET**



## Know your pain

Pain remains one of the commonest reasons for medical consultation, affecting the lives of more people than heart disease, diabetes and cancer combined. Most of us have endured finite episodes of severe pain whether that be a fractured bone, toothache or headache, and are fortunate to remember these as distant memories. Some are, however, denied this luxury of forgetfulness and suffer from chronic pain which simply explained is pain persisting beyond the healing period of three-six months.

Persistent pain beyond this period can lead to changes in the nervous system and transform into continuous pain even after the original cause for the pain is removed, and hence timely treatment is a priority. Chronic pain conditions are amongst the leading causes of disability as even mild joint pain can have a debilitating impact on mobility and quality of life. In contrast acute pain, such as after an injury, has a distinct beginning and end and abates with healing or appropriate treatment.

Preconceived notions such as accepting pain as a part of ageing can be detrimental. Social fabric and cultural values uniquely influence the way pain is interpreted and treated. One can appreciate how popular Bollywood dialogues such as “*Mard ko dard nahi hota*” may influence expression and acknowledgement of pain. Beliefs like these can become a hindrance in seeking timely medical advice and hence there is a dire need to raise awareness. It is indeed ironic that despite the high prevalence, knowledge about pain is lacking and misinformation abounds amongst patients and care providers.

The complexities of pain and the fact that surgery or pills cannot resolve all pain issues has been long recognised. After all it is the pain which brings a patient to the hospital whether it's a slipped disc or a cancer

**Chronic pain conditions are amongst the leading causes of disability as even mild joint pain can have a debilitating impact on mobility and quality of life. In contrast, acute pain, such as after an injury, has a distinct beginning and abates with healing**

hiding deep inside the tummy, so why should the treatment of pain be a second priority.

It is time chronic pain is managed as a disease and not as a symptom. In certain situations where the root cause cannot be removed the emphasis shifts to management of pain and prevention of flare ups. Like Diabetes and high blood pressure, pain therapy needs to be adjusted from time to time. Often this concept is not well appreciated, and suffering is prolonged in the quest for a cure.

Early initiation of treatments is a priority in conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis as this reduces the detrimental disease consequences and long-term disability. This raises a need for a robust primary health care system with established care and referral pathways.

The impact of pain is not just limited to physical suffering as it affects all aspects of one's life. It is not uncommon for people to become irritable, depressed, anxious, socially isolated, develop strained relations, have financial and work problems. In chronic pain the disability is not always visible, making it challenging for others to appreciate what one is going through. Often the lesser known pain conditions fall between medical specialities with no one being able to pinpoint the root cause and the patients keep seeing one specialist after another with a battery of investigations coming back as normal.

Increasing emphasis on the quality of life is challenging the medical fraternity to improvise and keep pace with community expectations. A number of new drugs and interventional options for pain treatment have been developed in the last few years. Unfortunately, not all of these are available in India currently, but it is only a matter of time. Newer drugs such as a strong Capsaicin patch, used in patients with localised nerve pain, have the potential to relieve pain for months with just one application and have minimal side effects. New medications for relieving constipation have helped improve the tolerability of existing strong morphine like painkillers.

## SUMMERCoolERS

**GILOY:** Also known as the heart-leaved moonseed, Giloy is an Ayurvedic herb that is known for its immunity boosting properties. Giloy is anti-toxic, antipyretic (that reduces fever), anti-inflammatory, antioxidant. This classical medicine is the ultimate answer to all health anomalies and acts like a *surasaksha kawach* during the current time. It also improves platelet count in dengue fever and reduces the chances of complications. Regular intake of giloy helps to improve immunity during dengue and also for a speedy recovery. For better results boil giloy juice with few *tulsi* leaves and drink to increase platelet count. It also helps to enhance the production of insulin which ultimately controls the blood sugar levels. Giloy is also useful for Diabetes complications like ulcers, kidney problems.



## JOINTS SPEAK

World Arthritis Day is celebrated on October 12. Study suggests that the disease affects around 15% which is about 180 million people in India. DR AJAY GUPTA tells you how one can track the symptoms and manage it

The World Arthritis Day is celebrated each year on Oct 12 since 1996. It is observed to raise awareness about arthritis around the world. Arthritis affects around 15% people which is about 180 million people in India. The World Health Organisation data show that 0.3-1% of the world's population has rheumatoid arthritis and 18% women while around 10% men above 60 yrs have “symptomatic osteoarthritis”. Commonly known as *gajgaya*, which means inflammation and swelling in the joints, Arthritis is often misunderstood as the disease of the old age.

Arthritis is broadly classified into two types: Inflammatory and Degenerative. Degenerative, known as osteoarthritis is the disease which comes with age (>50 years) and has a high association with being overweight. Inflammatory arthritis affects the individual from as early as an infant of two years to 40-50 years. Most of patients fall in the young age group of 20-40 which is their peak time for the careers and family. Osteoarthritis (OA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are two of the most common types of arthritis. But there are around 50 types of arthritis which can affect people.

### SYMPTOMS

If you experience joint pain, stiffness, and swelling, pain in the hand and foot joints along with swelling, severe backache and neck pain, then it could be arthritis. There are some very early and peculiar symptom such as the night pains and morning stiffness which lasts for 30-40 minutes and patients find it difficult to start their day.

Some arthritis effects our internal organs as well causing non-specific symptoms of low grade fever (without a cause), bluish discoloration of hands, mouth ulcers, hair fall, rashes over the body. Arthritis is a common feature of autoimmune diseases like Rheumatoid Arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Gout, Lupus (SLE), Sjogrens Syndrome, Scleroderma, vasculitis which are categorised under inflammatory arthritis.

### DIAGNOSIS

The complete physical examination, medical history, radiological & following laboratory investigations are commonly used to diagnose arthritis: CBC , ESR ,C-Reactive protein, ANA, RA factor , Anti-CCP , Complement levels , Uric acid , Urine R/M, Examination of synovial fluid via Arthrocentesis , HLA-B27 (for ankylosing

## Exercise is key

Management of arthritis include a few simple lifestyle changes, which include:

■ **Physical therapy:** A course of physical therapy is often recommended by doctors for patients to overcome some of the challenges and regain some extent of control of mobility. It is an important part of arthritis treatment, and it includes different physical exercises that help strengthen the muscles around the affected joints. Walking, swimming and cycling are some of the most effective joint-friendly physical activities that are appropriate for adults with arthritis.

■ **Organised lifestyle:** Stay aware of your condition, keep track of the symptoms, and always stay on the toes about the consultations and follow-ups with your doctor regarding your condition.

■ **Learn to manage pain and fatigue:** For an arthritis patient, learning to manage the pain and fatigue is like taking control over your condition. It is the key to living comfortably.

■ **Stay active:** Avoid lazing around, and try to exercise and stay active as much as possible. It is not just beneficial for management of arthritis, but also good for overall health.

■ **Remember to rest:** Staying active is important, and so is getting enough rest. It will provide relief to your joints and save them from exhaustion.

■ **Eat a healthy diet:** A healthy diet helps in managing the body weight and control inflammation.

Try to avoid refined and processed food as much as possible, and consume more foods that are high in antioxidants and have high anti-inflammatory properties.

Although arthritis cannot be cured completely, it can be effectively managed with the right treatment and simple lifestyle changes. Just make sure to always stay in touch with your doctor to consult any changes in symptoms, and take your medicines on time.

The writer is Dr Naval Mendiiratta

spondylitis) and others. Clinician/rheumatologists help is required in narrowing the diagnosis and individualising the treatment according to a particular case, as arthritis behaves differently in every individual. But what is most important to understand is not to self-medicate by using painkillers, as they do not halt the disease, rather they will lead to unnecessary side effects. The diagnosis of arthritis starts with the first step of going to see a specialist. Upon confirming the symptoms, it will take extraction and analysis of inflammation levels in the blood and joint fluids for an expert to determine the kind of arthritis one may have.

### MANAGEMENT

The management of arthritis begins with reducing the amount of pain that

one is experiencing, preventing further damage to the affected areas, as well as improving or maintaining function and quality of life. With that mind, doctors often prescribe a combination of treatment methods, including anti-inflammatory and pain relieving medications, to achieve the best results.

The writer is MD, Head Autoimmune Diagnostics, SRL Diagnostics

## DadiKaKehna

*In pursuit of that flawless skin, we all have tried almost anything and everything for atleast once. But sometimes putting too much of cosmetics can cause break outs. ROSHANI DEVI shares easy tips that can help*



Cosmetics are everyone's best friend. But sometimes they can do more harm than good on skin. The most common of them being break outs. While acne and pimples not only look unappealing, they are painful too. Here are a few tips that may help.

Take green tea and apply it on the affected area. Leave it for sometime and then rinse it off. This may help reduce the redness and discomfort. Repeat this twice a week.

Tea tree oil can do wonders too. Combine one tea

spoon of tea tree oil with carrier oil. Dip a cotton swab into it and apply directly to the affected area. Moisturise skin, if needed. Repeat this twice a day.

Aloe vera can help too. Scrape out some fresh aloe vera gel and apply it on your skin. It will help fight bacteria and reduce redness and inflammation.

Apart from the home remedies, one easy way to prevent skin break outs is to do a patch test before you use any new cosmetic product and remember sleeping with make-up on is a big no-no.



## TIPTOP

The global pandemic has pushed everyone inside the four walls of their home, making people rethink their movements and actions. Plix, a plant based nourisher has launched a campaign #MyUnlockStory to create an awareness about the importance of building strong Immunity and holistic living.

The campaign conceptualised and executed by Gozoop kicked off on October 5 with Rannvijay Singha leading the cause by posting a video on Instagram talking about, how important it is to take care of our health and build a strong immunity especially now that we enter the Unlockdown phase and help the nation get through the pandemic together. Rannvijay also urged everyone to share their inspiring stories on how are they fighting the pandemic and encourage other people.

Since the day it has kicked off till now the campaign has seen a unique traction

of 13million users on Instagram. On the first day of the campaign itself we saw an engagement of over 3 million people across the social media channels.

As a part of the campaign, Plix has opened up a challenge where the users on Instagram has to post a picture with a mask and talk about how they have unlocked their immunity during the pandemic. The best story will receive a hamper worth ₹20,000 from Plix.

Speaking about the initiative, Rishubh Satiya, Founder & CEO, Plix said: “Based on our research we saw that people have been overworking due to the work from home setup and many have tend to ignore their health needs. With the help of collective participation and support to this movement we aim to educate people about the importance of immunity and holistic living and that everyone should be taking care of their nutritional needs.”

### SLIMLINE

This World Mental Health Day, commemorated on 10th October, sees the launch of Mann Talks, an initiative to empower individuals, from underserved sections of the society, to take charge of their mental health by offering free and holistic tech-enabled mental health solutions.

The initiative is founded on the belief that mental health is an integral and essential component of health. By democratising access to information, strengthening support systems and

providing quality services, Mann Talks hopes to transform lives.

The initiative believes in taking a collaborative approach and has partnered with pioneering organizations in the social sector including Dasra, iCALL and White Swan Foundation for mental health. Mann Talks has a three-pronged approach, a helpline, a digital portal and on-ground activations. The helpline (8686 139 139) will assist in free and confidential, emotional and psychological consultation through a team of trained mental health professionals.

## MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

Indian cuisine is all about lots of spices and oil. This usually freak out a lot of fitness enthusiasts, who often get confused

between using ghee or oil. HONEY THAKER shares tip to simplify your decision-making

The dilemma of choosing between *ghee* and oil is something that most of us face almost every day. This happens because we fail to understand that there's nothing 100 per cent perfect. Everything has its pros and cons. Therefore, choosing the right oil or choosing between *ghee* and oil depends on your health goals. So, let's talk about the benefits and the disadvantages of ghee and one of the most commonly used vegetable oils.

■ **Ghee:** *Ghee* is a type of highly-clarified butter that originated from the Indian sub-continent and is most commonly used in South Asian cooking. *Ghee*, just like butter, is made using cow's milk. The quality of it depends on the source of milk. *Ghee* processed using grass-fed cow's milk is of the optimal quality and provides several health benefits.

It is enriched with Vitamins A, D, E, and K. It is lactose-free and contains no sugar or salt. It is also said to be rich in antioxidants and antibiotics and has anti-inflammatory properties.

### BENEFITS:

■ Ghee increases the availability of certain enzymes in the body that help in detoxification.

■ It is enriched with antiviral and antibacterial properties that help your body fight against illnesses.

■ It has antioxidants that help reduce wrinkles and signs of aging that make your skin look younger and radiant.

■ It works wonders for your digestive tract, eyes, bones, skin, and hair health.

■ It also helps your heart and boosts immunity.

### DISADVANTAGES:

The only disadvantage it can be stored as fat in your tummy if you eat more than the required amount. On average, a healthy adult can have two to three spoons of ghee every day. Another potential setback is that in some cases of ghee consumption by lactose-intolerant people may cause health concerns.

■ **Oil:** Vegetable oils are derived from plants and fruits. There are several different types of oils and they all have pros and cons. Let's discuss a few of the most common vegetable oils used for cooking, here.

■ **Sunflower Oil:** Sunflower oil is extracted from the seeds of the flower and is very commonly used.

■ **Benefits:** Sunflower oil is rich in omega 6 and linoleic acids. Contains essential nutrients that can help lower the risk of heart diseases and also blood cholesterol. Sunflower oil also aids in digestion and is good for your immunity, skin, and hair.

■ **Disadvantages:** A diet that is high in sunflower oil may increase blood sugar levels. It may also cause allergies in people who are allergic to the Asteraceae/Compositae plant family.

Both *ghee* and oil are beneficial for health; however, moderation is the key. Additionally, it is vital to consult your healthcare professional to learn which one is right for you based on your health conditions.

The writer is Head Nutritionist — Fitness Science & Nutrition, Purenutrition.in.



## TrendSlazer

### Kangana takes on Ira Khan

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** reacted to the news of **Aamir Khan's** daughter **Ira Khan** battling depression.

Ira had opened up on her tryst with clinical depression on the occasion of World Mental Health Day on Saturday. Reacting to Ira's confession, Kangana tweeted, "At 16, I was facing physical assault, was single handedly taking care of my sister who was burnt with acid and also facing media wrath, there can be many reasons for depression but it's generally difficult for broken families children, traditional family system is very important," wrote Kangana.



**'In our country, TV is surely a widely watched medium of entertainment. We have seen during the lockdown how the consumption of home entertainment has increased. It is true that people consume entertainment on phone, but in small towns people still have a TV set, and watch shows and films together. So we have a great reach there.'**  
—**Gulshan Devaiah**

Rapper **Yo Yo HONEY SINGH** believes that struggle teaches a person a lot in life. He says his struggle has helped him change a lot with time.



"There is no fun in success if there is no struggle. I have learnt a lot. There was struggle in the beginning, it exists even today and will be there tomorrow. Without struggle, there would be no vigour to fight. I feel it's important and a good thing," he said.

Recently, he came out with his new track *Billo Tu Agg*.

### Tom Parker has brain tumour

**TOM PARKER**, lead vocalist of the British-Irish boy band *The Wanted*, has been diagnosed with a brain tumour.

"Hey guys, you know that we've both been quiet on social media for a few weeks and it's time to tell you why. There's no easy way to say this but I've sadly been diagnosed with a brain tumour and I'm already undergoing treatment. We decided, after a lot of thought, that rather than hiding away and trying to keep it a secret, we would do one interview where we could lay out all the details and let everyone know the facts in our own way. We are all absolutely devastated but we are going to fight this all the way," he wrote on Instagram.



With 'unlock 5' underway and life moving back to normalcy in India, the interaction among friends, colleagues and companions have moved up a notch higher. Having to cope up with their partners for months in a closed space due to the lockdown, the over the top excitement due to change of scenery has proved too much for some.

A study conducted by a dating app, Gleeden, discovered that 37 per cent of its Indian users had an affair with their colleagues after getting back to their offices following lockdown.

For some, getting back to work meant not only a return to socialising in the office environment but also a chance for irresistible dalliances with co-workers. When questioned about the reasons behind their unfaithful

## A WORK AFFAIR

Is the return to normalcy at office spaces triggering infidelity in the country? A dating app throws up stunning revelations

encounters, 37 per cent confessed that it was due to a pure craving for sexual intercourse, while 33 per cent of the users admitted that they enjoy someone other than their partner finding them attractive. About 30 per cent of them said that they cheated to feel desirable again.

An user, who is married since the past seven years with two children, expressed that cheating on her partner was inevitable after the stress he endured during the lockdown.

She shared, "Staying at home



with two playful kids and an alcoholic husband during the course of the lockdown was a nightmare. Me and my husband fought daily and our sexual life was also unstable due to various other reasons. On top of that he also abused me verbally and sometimes physically to take out his frustration from work. I also hardly felt that longing and affection from his end while making love. This not only created a mental blockage but I also started doubting myself. So as soon as the government eased the restrictions and my office opened up, I felt free. I hooked up with an office colleague of mine with whom I shared a friendly relation before the lockdown and am pleased to feel wanted and desired again."

Another user said that he has been chatting with his love affair

on the app since the past five months and is planning to finally meet her once their offices reopen. He said, "I met a girl who is married with a kid, just like me. Coincidentally, we both share the same building premises in which our offices are located. We chatted for over five months now and during that period, we came quite close to each other. We both love our spouses but we really want to try out this romantic fling outside our wedlock. I guess we are desperately waiting for our offices to open so that we can finally meet."

The survey also gave out a shocking result as more than 60 per cent of the total surveyed members confessed that the lockdown had a negative impact on their relationship, both emotionally and physically.



▣**At wildlife SOS, what are the initiatives undertaken to tackle poaching of tigers?**

The Wildlife SOS anti-poaching unit — Forest Watch — uses undercover informers to gather intelligence on wildlife traffickers and transactions. It then passes on the information to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, the Forest Department and the Police who are the authorised agencies to enforce the law and take legal action against such offenders.

▣**What kind of challenges did you face while uncovering the poaching gangs and their malpractices?**

To track poaching gangs and wildlife traffickers is a very dangerous activity. These gangs are filled with malevolent agents who mostly have commercial profit in mind. While some of them are genuinely victims of poverty and harsh conditions, many of them do it for the massive profits to be gained from illegal trafficking. In such cases, there's never-ending threat to those working against them.

It is not just the fear of animals like tigers, leopards and elephants getting poached that bothers us. In some communities, whether due to fiscal troubles or otherwise, animals like Chinkara are often hunted for bushmeat. In such cases, there's a very faint line between ethics and reason because one can't argue with someone over morals when they are living on an empty stomach. Many organisations also depend on informers who are mostly members of the same community — there's a constant fear of being uncovered.

Human-animal conflict comes as another challenge for us. When the farms of those living on the fringes of the forests are marauded by rampaging elephants or domestic dogs are carried off by leopards, it is hard to explain the concept of co-existence to people. Last, but not the least, we also have fund constraints. As an NGO, we constantly depend on funds for conducting our anti-poaching operations.

▣**How relevant do you think shows like *Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers* are to spread the word?**

I am glad to associate with the channel and this show to spread awareness around tiger poaching. The series sheds light on illegal tiger trade around the world and how it is threatening the survival of the species.

I believe Sony BBC Earth, as a channel, is making some really relevant content that depicts the plight of endangered animals. We must honour India's diverse yet fast disappearing wildlife heritage and it is the need of the hour to encourage positive environmental action by inspiring people to actively participate in working to improve and protect it.

▣**Is it possible for the common lore to take steps at an individual level to curb the growth of illegal animal trade? Is there any helpline number or measures included for the public to report such events?**



## MAJESTIC LIVES MATTER

**KARTICK SATYANARAYAN** of Wildlife SOS says since India is home to 70 per cent of the world's tiger population, it's crucial for every citizen to take responsibility to protect the species. By **TEAM VIVA**



Awareness and knowledge are two very powerful tools in propagating this ideology. As responsible citizens, we must educate ourselves about the issues surrounding the plight of tigers and other endangered wildlife populations in India. Here's how you can contribute to make a difference:

- ♦Follow Wildlife SOS conservation efforts on social media and stay informed

about current affairs

- ♦Share @wildlifesos stories on social media platforms to spread the word
- ♦Become a monthly supporter of conservation groups like Wildlife SOS and help increase the impact

▣**Tell us about your victories in the last couple of years while working at Wildlife SOS.**

Some of my key projects are:

- ♦Eradicating the illegal practice of dancing bears in India
- ♦Providing alternative livelihood to tribal communities engaged in wildlife poaching
- ♦Human-wildlife conflict mitigation with special focus on leopards, bears, elephants and reptiles
- ♦Wild elephant radio collaring and

Early Warning System (EWS) establishment

- ♦Leopard protection and conservation
- ♦Established anti-poaching unit — the Forest Watch
- ♦Habitat conservation and restoration
- ♦Established wildlife rescue hotline at multiple locations
- ♦Conservation education and public awareness

▣**What is the kind of support that such organisations require?**

India is home to about 70 per cent of the world's tiger population, thereby making our role in ensuring the survival of this species crucial. If we lose the tiger, the loss would be irreversible and shameful.

The need of the hour is public education and awareness. The fact that we have wild tigers, elephants, leopards, bears and a wealth of wildlife living cheek by jowl amid us in one of the most densely-populated countries in the world is a sign that there is still hope. If each one of us works and does the right thing to help protect and conserve wildlife, then we can certainly make a difference. It is extremely challenging to run a non-profit organisation and to also find people who can stay committed to the cause. We rely completely on donations and grants to meet the needs of the animals under our care and to support our conservation efforts.

(The series starts on October 17 at 10 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

Actor **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** credits Kishore Kumar for inspiring him to push boundaries

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana has revealed a massive secret. He shared that it was Kishore Kumar who made him confident enough to pull off the role in *Dream Girl* that saw him speak in a woman's voice.

Ayushmann said, "When you look back to his film *Half Ticket* in the song *Aake Seedhi Lagi Dil Pe*, he sang in both male and female voices! Not many know



## A secret revealed

this but the fact that he could pull it off with ease made me confident that I could do something like *Dream Girl*. I drew courage from this because I had a reference point."

The actor, who has delivered eight hits in a row, has been voted as one of the most influential people in the world by TIME magazine. On Kishore's 33rd death anniversary, Ayushmann fondly remembered him saying, "Kishore Kumar is and will always be an institution and he has been a huge

inspiration to me. He is a legend because he was always creatively restless and fearless and I love that about his legacy. He was always the one to experiment and take risks."

He shared that Kishore has shaped him as an artiste. "His versatility and genius is a huge motivator and he has set such high standards for all of us to live up to. Whenever I face a creative block, I think of Kishore sir and I snap out of my life state. That's how deep an impact Kishore

Kumar has had on my life. He had a magical voice. He could sing any genre of music — be it soulful, peppy or even sad. He had a different perspective to life and a unique sense of humour," said he.

The actor will be seen playing an athlete in the forthcoming film, co-starring Vaani Kapoor and directed by Abhishek Kapoor. It is pitched as a progressive love story. The yet-untitled film is set in north India and shooting begins in October. It is slated to release worldwide in theatres next year.



