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China sharpens hacking in disguise

Beijing targets computer networks of countries to attack economies; using Tibetans, Uyghurs to evade scrutiny

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

China has undertaken a major exercise to use Tibetans and Uyghurs of mixed parentage for carrying out cyber-attacks worldwide, targeting computer networks of countries and acquiring their data in order to hit their economies.

The move, according to experts, comes as Chinese telecom companies, especially those related to 5G technology, are increasingly being under scrutiny of various Governments and Beijing's credibility taking a hit due to its suspected role in suppressing information on the origin and spread of Covid-19 in Wuhan, potentially hitting its business prospects.

Amid the expanding Chinese footprint through mega infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing has already put in place an Internet which is parallel to the Internet led by the US dubbed as Digital Silk Road to exploit the same for advancing its strategic and economic agenda, the experts said.

China has been organising the China Skills Competition or the Tibet Autonomous Region Cyber Security Skills Competition in collaboration with the telecommunication firms and engineering/hardware companies and academic institutions to scout talent from the Tibetan and Uyghur communities with mixed parentage to evade scrutiny of the law enforcement agencies in the targeted countries.

While such a Tibetan has been arrested in the US, the setting up of a Software Park in Gilgit-Baltistan region in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir has emerged as a major concern for India, they said.

Earlier this week, Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Skardu to assess the latest situation and operational preparedness of Force Command Northern Areas (FCNA) troops deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) and later inaugurated a state-of-the art Software Technology Park in Gilgit. The Software Technology Park is an initiative of the Special Communication Organisation (SCO) backed by China to carry out cyber-attacks and compromise computer networks in the region. The Park will also seek to gather intelligence to secure the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through data mining and modulating narratives based on such inputs.

India could also be vulnerable to such sophisticated attacks in the cyberspace as major technological upgrades in the telecommunication sector and Information technology-related hardware were majorly sourced from China as late as a few months before the onset of the confrontation between the armies of India and China in eastern Ladakh.

- Beijing has already put in place an Internet which is parallel to the Internet led by the US dubbed as Digital Silk Road to exploit the same for advancing its strategic and economic agenda
- While such a Tibetan has been arrested in the US, the setting up of a Software Park in Gilgit-Baltistan region in POK has emerged as a major concern for India
- India could also be vulnerable to such sophisticated attacks in the cyber space as major technological upgrades in the telecommunication sector and Information technology-related hardware were majorly sourced from China

Shahjahanpur law student turns hostile

Never accused Chinmayanand of sexual abuse, she tells court

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

In a courtroom twist Tuesday to the high-profile case, a law student who had accused former Union minister Chinmayanand of sexually exploiting her disowned her statements to police and now faces a perjury charge.

Appearing before an MP-MLA court in Lucknow, the LLM student categorically denied that she had levelled any allegation against the former Union minister as the prosecution had charged.

At this, the prosecution immediately moved an application under Section 340 of the CrPC, seeking action against her for perjury.

Judge PK Rai directed his office to register the application and asked the prosecution to furnish a copy of the application to the victim and the accused.

The court fixed October 15 for hearing on the application.

The Allahabad High Court in February this year granted bail to Chinmayanand, whose trust runs the Shahjahanpur law college where the woman studied. He was arrested in September last year.

The case was registered under Section 376-C of the IPC, an offence pertaining to the abuse of one's position by a person in authority to "induce or seduce" a woman under his charge to have "sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape".

Chinmayanand (72) also faced charges under Sections 342 (wrongful confinement), 354-D (stalking) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC.

According to government lawyer Abhay Tripathi, the victim had lodged an FIR in this regard with the Lodhi Colony police station of New Delhi on September 5, 2019.

Her father lodged another complaint in Shahjahanpur and both FIRs were merged.

An SIT had recorded her statement. Later, her statement under Section 164 of the CrPC was recorded in Shahjahanpur.

In both statements, she had supported the FIR version but now during the trial, she changed her statement and denied the facts mentioned in the complaint.

Since she has turned hostile, I have moved an application under Section 340 of the CrPC, Tripathi said.

Earlier, the investigation officer had cited 33 witnesses and 29 documentary evidence in the 13-page charge sheet.

Continued on Page 11

Don't recognise Ladakh, reiterates China

Reaction comes a day after opening of strategic bridges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 44 permanent bridges in border areas, China on Tuesday said "it does not recognise the Ladakh Union Territory illegally set up by India" and opposes infrastructure building in the region. It also claimed infrastructure development is the "root cause for tension" between the two countries.

The sharp reaction from Beijing came as eight of 44 bridges are in Ladakh where a stand-off is on between the armies of the two countries for the last five months. Successive rounds of military and diplomatic level talks between the two sides have so far failed to break the logjam.

The seventh round of Corps Commander level talks were held on Monday in which both the countries reiterated their resolve to continue the process of dialogue to disengage and de-escalation. The parleys lasted for more than 11 hours in Chushul on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Issuing a joint statement on the talks, the two countries said on Tuesday the "two sides had a sincere, in-depth and constructive exchange of views on disengagement along the LAC in the Western Sector of India-China border areas."

They were of the view that these discussions were positive, constructive and had enhanced understanding of each other's positions. Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels, and arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement as early as possible.

Both sides agreed to earnestly implement the important understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries, not to turn differences into disputes, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Incidentally, this is the second time the two armies came out with a joint statement. In the first such communiqué after the sixth round of military level talks on September 21, both the countries agreed to refrain from sending more troops to the border and maintain peace.

Against this backdrop when the process of talks is on in the right earnest, Zhao Lijian, spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, on Tuesday while blaming infrastructure projects for tension, said neither country should take action that might escalate tensions. This is the second time in the past few weeks when China has raised questions about Ladakh.

Continued on Page 11

Harinder to be new IMA boss

New Delhi: Lt General Harinder Singh, chief of Leh based 14 Corps known as 'Fire and Fury Corps,' who led the Indian delegation during the seven rounds of Corps Commander-level talks in the last five months on Tuesday handed over charge to Lt General PGK Menon. Singh will take over as the Commandant of the Indian Military Academy (IMA).

Continued on Page 11

3 Covid re-infection cases, ICMR studying

Patients showed more severe symptoms in second re-infection, says studies; 24 cases in world

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday said there are three novel coronavirus re-infection cases — two in Mumbai and one in Ahemedabad — identified in the country which are being studied by the Indian Medical Research Council (ICMR), a research wing of the Union Health Ministry.

Re-infection cases are those cases where people contract the deadly virus for the second time after being cured. This means that even people who have had Covid-19 earlier need to take the same precautions as everyone else. Some studies said patients showed more severe symptoms in the second re-infection.

The premier health research agency ICMR DG Dr Balram Bhargava at a Press briefing here pointed out that such cases of re-infection of the virus were a few, one in Ahmedabad and two in Mumbai.

"As per World Health Organisation (WHO) data, there are about 24 re-infection cases in the world. The criteria to identify a re-infection case is somewhere between 90 and 100 days. The WHO has not yet decided the number of days. However, we're taking cut-off of about 100 days," said Dr Bhargava.

His comments came days after Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "Though there are sporadic reports of re-infection surfacing in various States, careful analysis of ICMR database reveals that many of these cases have actually been misclassified as re-infections."

Dr Vardhan said re-infection cases are under investigation. He said such cases in India were negligible at the moment and were being studied by an expert panel of ICMR.

The first instance of coronavirus infection was recorded in Hong Kong when a 33-year-old man, who was initially infected with the coronavirus in March and made a full recovery, was re-infected more than four months later after a trip abroad, researchers reported in August.

The Lancet Infectious Diseases on Tuesday reported another confirmed case of the Covid re-infection, but a first in the US wherein a resident of Washoe County in Nevada was tested positive on April 18. During follow-up, he tested negative twice in May, but tested positive on June 5.

The Lancet stated the patient showed more severe symptoms in the second re-infection.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 72,33,419
DEATHS: 1,10,584
RECOVERED: 62,93,553
ACTIVE: 8,28,173

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	15,43,837	40,701	12,97,252
Andhra Pradesh	7,63,573	6,291	7,14,427
Karnataka	7,26,106	10,123	6,02,505
Tamil Nadu	6,65,930	10,371	6,12,320
Uttar Pradesh	4,42,118	6,466	3,97,570
Delhi	3,14,224	**5,854**	2,86,880
Kerala	3,03,897	1,047	2,07,357
West Bengal	3,02,020	5,744	2,65,288
Odisha	2,56,937	1,110	2,32,988
Telangana	2,14,792	1,233	1,89,351
Bihar	1,98,223	961	1,86,623
Assam	1,96,786	830	1,66,036
Rajasthan	1,63,219	1,679	1,39,616
Gujarat	1,53,922	3,587	1,35,227
Madhya Pradesh	1,49,761	2,671	1,32,429
Chhattisgarh	1,45,247	1,286	1,16,540

CBI visits crime spot in Hathras

Victim's brother asked to identify the place, cops told to cordon off area

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A CBI team on Tuesday visited the crime spot in Hathras where a 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly gangraped on September 14 and later succumbed to the physical assault.

After reaching the area, the agency team called the victim's brother to identify the place and directed the local police to cordon off the crime scene. The move comes nearly a month after the woman was allegedly raped and assaulted by four men of the village.

A team of forensic experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) is expected to carry out a detailed crime scene recreation soon, officials said.

The victim had succumbed to her injuries at a hospital here on September 29 following which the District Magistrate reportedly ordered cremation of the body against the wishes of the family in the dead of the night which aggravated the furore over the crime incident and the handling of the issue by the local administration.

The Uttar Pradesh Government referred the case to the CBI for investigation. The protests snowballed into a political storm with Congress, Aam Admi Party, Trinamool Congress and other Opposition leaders of the State from the Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal staging massive protests.

Continued on Page 11

HC: Responsibility must be fixed for late-night cremation of victim

Lucknow (PTI): Coming down hard on police and administration officials, the Allahabad High Court has called the late-night cremation of the Hathras woman who died after alleged gang-rape a violation of human rights for which responsibility should be fixed.

In its order after Monday's hearing, the Lucknow bench of the high court warned against character assassination of the victim and urged restraint by officials, political parties and the media.

It also pulled up Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar and Hathras District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar for suggesting on the basis of a forensic report that the woman was not raped. The division bench of Justice Pankaj Mithal

Continued on Page 11

Uddhav, Guv slug it out in 'secular' duel

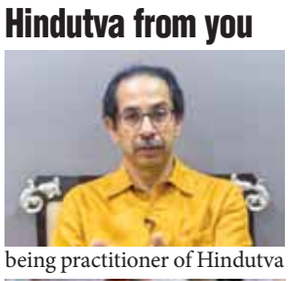
TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

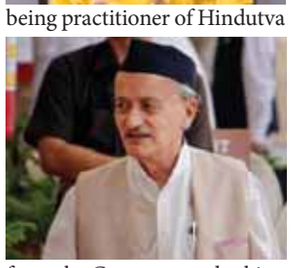
An ugly war of words broke out between Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday over the re-opening of places of worship which were closed down in the wake of Covid 19-triggered lockdown imposed in the State in March this year.

A day ahead of the BJP's proposed launch of a State-wide agitation for reopening of temples in the State, the Governor had on Monday written a letter — which smacked of political overtones — to the Chief Minister, questioning the latter's Hindutva credentials and wondering if Uddhav was receiving any "divine premonition" to keep postponing the re-opening of the places of worship time and again or whether he suddenly turned "secular".

Uddhav, who normally is not agitated over the criticism directed at him or his Government, hit back at Koshyari on Tuesday with vehemence, saying that he did not need any certificate for his being practitioner of Hindutva from the Governor and asking the latter if the latter meant "merely opening of temple means Hindutva and not opening means secular".

To Guv's taunt 'have you turned secular', CM retorts I don't need certificate on Hindutva from you





In a related development, an understandably upset NCP chief Sharad Pawar, whose party is one of the three constituents in the MVA Government in the State, shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, throwing his weight behind the Chief Minister, questioning the contents of the letter written by Koshyari to the Chief Minister and the "intemperate" language in it, saying that the Governor's letter to the Chief Minister "invokes the connotation as if it is written to the leader of a political party".

Koshyari — whose conduct had come in for severe flak in November last year after the hasty manner in which he had sworn in the BJP's Devendra Fadnavis as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra apparently at the behest of the ruling party at the Centre — appeared to exceeded his brief as the Governor, if one were go by the contents of his letter to the Chief Minister.

In his letter, Koshyari wrote to Uddhav: "You have been a strong votary of Hindutva, you had publicly espoused your devotion for lord Rama by visiting Ayodhya after taking charge as CM, you had visited the Vitthal Rukmini Mandir, Pandharpur and performed the puja on Ashadhi Ekadishi...I wonder if you are receiving any divine premonition to keep postponing the re-opening of places of worship time and again or have you suddenly turned `secular' yourselves (sic), the term you hated?".

Taking offence to the Governor's invocation of the words "Hindutva" and "secular", Uddhav shot back in his reply: "True. I practise Hindutva. But, I do not require a certificate from you. Nor do I require such certificates from anyone. The act of according rousing welcome to a person who termed my State or my State capital as Pak-Occupied Kashmir (POK) does not fit into my concept of Hindutva". Through this statement, Uddhav was apparently taking a potshot at Koshyari for meeting actress Kangana Ranaut after her controversial comment of comparing Mumbai to POK.

On Koshyari's comment if Uddhav was receiving any "divine premonition" to keep postponing the reopening of the place of worship time and again and his sarcastic poser to him if he had suddenly turned secular, Uddhav was emphatic when he wrote: "Why this question has come to your mind. Do you feel that merely opening a temple means Hindutva and not opening means secular? As Governor you took oath of office and secrecy as per the provisions of the Constitution, which is based on secularism. Do you agree with that secularism?"

Uddhav went onto add: "You have asked me if I am receiving any divine premonition. You must have personal experience of divine premonition, I have absolutely no idea, I am not that big. I am studying what's happening in other States and trying to implement what is better for Maharashtra".

Alluding to the mention

Continued on Page 11

Mehbooba released from PSA detention

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Former Chief Minister and Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti was set free by the Jammu & Kashmir administration which revoked her detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) late on Tuesday.

Mehbooba was placed under preventive detention ahead of Abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. Later she was slapped with PSA in the month of February 2020. On April 7, 2020 she was shifted to her own house but was barred from speaking to media and meeting others, including her party leaders.

Spokesman of Jammu & Kashmir Government Rohit Kansal announced the decision. He wrote, "Mehbooba Mufti being released today." Mehbooba"s daughter Iltija Mufti also tweeted instantly confirming the news.

Continued on Page 11

Farm experts praise Centre for laws to free farmers from clutches

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when Opposition parties and a section of farmers have opposed the farm Bills, experts and academicians associated with farm sectors have praised the Modi Government for bringing the new legislations saying they will benefit the farmers as well as industries in future.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, met policy experts, industry leaders and academicians associated with the agriculture sector and they were all praise for the new legislation. In a separate meeting, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri also reached out to scientists, professors and senior professionals from the farm sector in Congress-ruled Punjab to clear misgivings about new farm laws.

The Modi Government has assigned several Ministers to meet farmers' organisations and others associated with agriculture to dispel their apprehensions. In Punjab, the BJP's ally SAD, which left the Government in protest against the farm laws, has been agitating while farmers' organisations have blocked railway tracks since September 24.

After his interaction with Singh and Tomar, chairman of Global Food and Retail Council Rakesh Gambhir said it was a good discussion and praised the Government. "In a way these three farm Bills will usher a new era of reforms in the agriculture sector and will give farmers' independence from the clutches of the middle men and help in getting them better prices for their produce," Gambhir told reporters.

Continued on Page 11

UP government issues guidelines for opening of cinema halls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday issued guidelines for reopening of cinema halls and multiplexes from October 15 with 50 per cent capacity and air-conditioners working between 24 and 30 degree Celsius.

Issuing the guidelines, Chief Secretary RK Tiwari said that all cinema halls and multiplexes are bound to follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in letter and in spirit. In case of violation, action would be taken against the guilty, he said.

As per the guidelines, cinemas, theatres and multiplexes will be allowed to open from October 15, almost seven months since lockdown was imposed. Auditoriums, however, will be allowed to operate with only 50 per cent capacity.

Under the SOPs, adequate physical distancing is mandatory inside cinema halls which means that every alternate seat will have to be kept vacant and clearly marked. Moreover, cinemas will also have to provide provisions for sanitisers and hand washing facilities.

Use of the Aarogya Setu app is encouraged and all cinema-goers will be thermally screened before entry. Only asymptomatic individuals will be allowed to enter, Chief Secretary said while issuing the guidelines.

"Adequate social distancing norms will have to be followed in the waiting areas too. People waiting for the show will have to maintain a distance of six feet," he said.

While box office counters will continue to remain open, the government has encouraged online bookings as far as possible. Box office counters, the guidelines say,, will remain open throughout the day and advance booking will be allowed so as to avoid crowding.

Further, floor markers will be placed to guide physical distancing as well as for queue management.

Cinema-goers have been advised to avoid moving during intermission and, as per the guidelines, no delivery of food and beverages will be allowed inside the auditorium.

Only packaged food and beverages will be sold and the number of food counters will be increased so as to prevent long queues.

Chief Secretary said that cinema halls will now have staggered show timings so as to prevent a large gathering outside the auditoriums before a film begins. "The box office and other areas will also need to be regularly sanitised. Inside the auditoriums, the temperature setting of all air conditioners will be between 24-30 degrees Celsius," the SOP said.

Public service announcements on wearing masks, physical distancing and hand hygiene will be made before and after the screening as well as during the intermission. The viewers may also be required to provide their phone number at the cinema hall in order to aid in contact tracing should the need arise.

Advocate kills parents over property dispute

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a gruesome act in Bareilly, an advocate shot dead his aged parents over a property dispute in Meerganj area early on Tuesday morning.

The accused has been identified as advocate Durvesh Gangwar, a resident of the Bahroli village. His father Lalta Prasad Gangwar (76) and mother Mohni Devi (70) were praying at around 5m on Tuesday when the killing took place. Accusing them of bias in division of property, Durvesh started beating up his parents and then shot them dead.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rohit Singh Sajwan said that the accused Durvesh was angry with his parents over the division of property. Lalta Prasad had 85 bighas of land, out of which 30 bighas each had been divided among his three sons earlier.

As per the family, Durvesh alleged that his parents gave more property to others despite he helping them in every way possible. The SSP said that police are on the lookout for Durvesh who is absconding.

Atrocities against dalits continue

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reports of atrocities continued to pour in from across the state on Tuesday with a minor committing suicide following rape in Chitrakoot, three sisters suffering injuries after acid was thrown on them in Banda while in Lalitpur an old man was forced to consume urine.

According to reports from Chitrakoot, a minor Dalit girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by the three men in Kotwali area and on Tuesday the victim committed suicide at her house. According to the victim's family, the girl had gone to the fields to relieve herself in Kaumraha Ka Purva village on October 8 when the three men abducted her.

"My daughter was taken away on a motorcycle by three men on October 8 who sexually assaulted her. Few hours later, we found our daughter lying in a nursery with her hands and legs tied. We tried to know the name of the culprits but she did not respond as she was traumatised by the incident," the mother of the victim said.

The woman said they informed the police about the incident but her daughter did not even respond to police queries owing to the trauma. However, the girl was found dead in her house on Tuesday.

"The girl hanged herself in her house. We are investigating the matter," Assistant Superintendent of Police Chitrakoot, Prakash Swarup Pandey, said. The body of the victim has been sent for postmortem examination, he added.

In another shocking incident, three minor Dalit sisters received burn injuries when an unidentified attacker threw acid on them in Paska village in Gonda district in the wee hours of Tuesday. Two of the girls received minor burn injuries while the third was injured in the face. Kajal (17), Mahima (12) and Sonam (8) were sleeping on the roof of their house when they were attacked by an unidentified person. No arrest has been made so far. The victims were admitted in a district hospital for treatment. The village comes under the Paraspur police circle jurisdiction.

The girls' father Ram Avatar maintained that he had enmity with no one and was clueless about the motive behind the crime. Gonda Superintendent of Police Shailesh Kumar Pandey said that police were questioning the girls and police teams set up to track down the culprit.

The initial probe revealed that the girls were sleeping in a room on the second floor of the house and the attacker climbed up to throw acid from the open window. The cops said the sequence of events suggested that the attacker was aware about the family and knew that the girl sleept in a room on the second floor.

The eldest girl, the officer added, would probably help in tracing the accused and clarify the reason behind the attack.

In another inhuman act, a 65-year-old man was allegedly assaulted and forced to drink urine in Roda locality of Lalitpur. A few days ago, the accused had attacked the elderly man's son with an axe, following which, the father-son duo had lodged a complaint against him. The accused, identified as Sonu Yadav, was irked by the victim's actions and had been forcing them to withdraw the complaint.

On Tuesday, Yadav allegedly forced the Dalit man to drink urine. Identified as Amar, the victim alleged that the accused assaulted him with a stick when he resisted. "When I refused, he attacked me with a stick," he revealed, adding that he had attacked his son with an axe a few days ago and we they complained against him to the police so he was forcing them to make a compromise.

Lalitpur SP Mirza Manzar Beg said that the accused are among influential people in Roda village. He said that the police registered an FIR promptly and arrested the prime accused. Beg added that efforts to arrest the remaining accused were underway.

Two dead, eight injured in Aligarh explosion

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two people died and eight more sustained injuries on Tuesday in an explosion apparently caused by a gas cylinder at a building in the city's Delhi Gate area, police said here.

The condition of at least four of those injured is said to be serious and they were rushed to the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Hospital here, the police said.

Four others have been admitted to Malkhan Singh District Hospital, they added.

As per preliminary investigations, it appears that a gas cylinder exploded in the building, the police said.

Superintendent of Police, City, Abhishek Kumar said police were probing if any manufacturing activity was being carried out on the premises.

Senior police officials said the affected building has been cordoned off as a precautionary measure.

NOTICE

"I /Gurdeep Singh Chawla S/o Late. Santhok Singh Chawla R/o – ½ Block - W-1 Saket Nagar Kanpur, am owner and in possession of House no.- 1/2 Block -W01 Saket Nagar Kanpur Nagar which admeasuring Area 3834 Sq. yards. Kanpur Nagar Mahapalika executed a lease deed in favour of Sardar Santokh Singh Chawala dated 11/04/1974 which registered in Sub-Registrar Kanpur in Serial No.- 1038/1039 on dated 07/05/1974. and Original Attorney which Doc. No.- 2871 dated 19/10/1992, the above both Original Documents has Laminated and I am intending to create equitable mortgage based on above laminated Original Lease deed & Original POA to avail financial assistance/Loan from State Bank Of India, RACPC Kanpur Nagar."

UP Excise Min Ram Naresh Agnihotri tests positive for COVID-19

Mainpuri: Uttar Pradesh Excise Minister Ram Naresh Agnihotri has tested positive for COVID-19.

Speaking to PTI over phone, Agnihotri said he has been undergoing treatment at Max Hospital in Delhi after his diagnosis.

Agnihotri tested positive for the novel coronavirus on October 6. On the same day, he was admitted to Max Hospital.

A second test was conducted on him on Tuesday and the result came positive as well.

The minister exuded confidence that he would defeat COVID-19 and return to work.

On October 2, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya tested positive for COVID-19.

Earlier, Rural Development Minister Rajendra Pratap Singh alias Moti Singh, Ayush Minister Dharam Singh Saini and Youth Development Minister Upendra Tiwari had tested positive for the virus.

Atul Garg, the Minister of State for Medical and Health, Family Welfare, Mother and Child Welfare, and Chaudhary Udaybhan Singh, the Minister of State for Khadi and Villages Industries, Sericulture Industries, Textile, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise, Export Promotion, too had tested positive for COVID-19.

UP Industries Minister Satish Mahana had recently tested positive for COVID-19. UP Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh, Jal Shakti Minister Mahendra Singh and Law Minister Brajesh Pathak too had tested for COVID-19 earlier. *PTI*

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Premises Dept.
2nd Floor, New Building Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR LEASING OF OFFICE PREMISES

Indian Bank, a Public Sector Bank invites tenders under 2 bid system (Technical & Financial Bid) from owners of office premises willing to offer on lease basis (Readily built) in **1. Juggaur, 2. Simau, Distt Lucknow** Measuring- 1400 sq.feet carpet area preferably on ground floor with parking facility for a lease period of 15 years for setting up their Branch/Office. The tender forms can be obtained from the address above from **14.10.2020 to 29.10.2020** on payment of Rs. 250/-(non- refundable) by way of DD/BPO favoring INDIAN BANK. Interested Premises owners can send their bids along with correct address, contact information and photographs of the outside of the premises to the given address within 15 days from this notice. **Last Date for submission of bids is 29.10.2020.** Bids received after the last date of submission will be rejected. The bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever. Proposal from agents/brokers will not be accepted.
Details can be obtained from our Website : www.indianbank.in
Date : 14.10.2020
Deputy General Manager & Zonal Head

Diverse resources prop India to lead global economy: MSME minister

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Micro Small and Medium Enterprise minister Sidharth Nath Singh said that India had a diversity of natural resources which gave it a distinct position to lead the global economy, and hence it was a stated policy of the Union and state governments to efficiently use the resources.

Addressing a seminar on Oceania Session of Reimagining Synergies in Sustainable Resources 'LEADS 2020' organized by FICCI, the UP minister said that there was a need to reset, reorganize and re-innovate government policies and businesses at the Union and state levels. "National development policy is to work on sustainable development goals (SDGs), but the pandemic has thrown challenges at us which needs remodelling of our policy

frameworks. We have been working on UN SDGs since 2019 and amost all ministries have adopted these after a brainstorming session with IIM, Lucknow," said Singh

"The Prime Minsietr's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Jal Mission' visions mean more synergies are needed with the world. The UP government is hopeful of ensuring piped water to each household and farmland by 2022," the minister added.

Singh further said, "From the sustainable side, it completely changes farm economy. Doubling of farmers' income is possible as there is a model - sustainable and innovative. Also, the task of providing everyone with pipe water ensures ease of living."

On the energy sector, the minister said that there was a 6 per cent drop in demand globally, hence, it was important for all to address this globally as well.

"Some countries have better technologies and innovative systems for renewable energy. For countries that haven't developed at that scale, we can join hands happily," he added.

Singh added, "Renewable energy (RE) is an important factor and the state government is working towards 20GW of RE. While many big players have joined hands but there is still huge scope for others under Open Access System policy."

Cong announces candidate for Malhani bypoll

Lucknow (PNS): Earleir announcing six candidates for the imminent Assembly bypolls, the Congress declared its candidate for Malhani seat of Jaunpur. Bypolls are scheduled at seven Assembly segments in Uttar Pradesh on November 3.

State Congress spokesman Brijendra Singh told news persons in Lucknow on Tuesday that party chief Sonia Gandhi after consultations with UP leaders decided to field Rakesh Mishta in the Malhani seat.

The Congress had earlier fielded Dr Kamlesh Singh from Naugawan Sadat (Amroha), Sushil Chaudhary from Bulandshahr Sadar, Sneh Lata from Tundla (SC) in Ferozabad, Kripa Shanker from Ghatampur (SC) in Kanpur Dehat, Mukund Bhaskar Mani Tripathi from Deoria and Aarti Bajpai from Bangarmau (Unnao).

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय उ0प्र0 प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
म.सं.-162, उत्तर मोहाल (निकट चण्डी होटल), राबर्ट्सगंज, सोनभद्र

पर्यावरणीय अधिसूचना दि. 14.09.2006 के अन्तर्गत 'लोक सुनवाई' हेतु आम सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जनपद–मिर्जापुर में अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सैण्ड स्टोन) के खनन हेतु प्रस्ताव उ0प्र0 प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड में प्राप्त हुए हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रख्यापित प्राविधानानुसार लोक सुनवाई का आयोजन अपर जिलाधिकारी की अध्यक्षता में आवेदक / परियोजना के समक्ष अंकित तिथि, समय एवं स्थल पर वैश्विक महामारी कोविड–19 के दृष्टिगत सोशल डिस्टेंन्सिग का पालन करते हुए किया जाना प्रस्तावित है :

क्र. सं.	आवेदक का नाम व पता	परियोजना का नाम	परियोजना का स्थल व पता	क्षेत्रफल	तिथि एवं समय	लोक सुनवाई स्थल का नाम व पता
1	श्री राजेश कुमार सिंह पुत्र श्री राम जी सिंह निवासी :– ग्राम–बरसातपुर तहसील–चुनार, जनपद–मिर्जापुर।	मेसर्स रूद्राबली ट्रेडर्स	गाटा/आराजी नं0 997 मि0 ग्राम–सिंधौरा, तहसील–सदर, जनपद–मिर्जापुर (उ0प्र0)	1.21 हेक्टेयर (12100.00 घनमीटर/वर्ष)	दिनांक 21.11.2020 अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय सिंधौरा, तहसील–सदर जनपद – मिर्जापुर
2	श्री रासबिहारी सिंह, निवासी ग्राम–हिनौती माफी, तहसील–चुनार जनपद–मिर्जापुर।	मेसर्स रासबिहारी सिंह	गाटा/आराजी नं0–428, ग्राम–धूरिया, तहसील–चुनार, जनपद–मिर्जापुर (उ0प्र0)	1.862 हेक्टेयर (18620 घनमीटर/वर्ष)	दिनांक 21.11.2020 अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय धूरिया, तहसील–चुनार जनपद – मिर्जापुर
3	श्री गोविन्द सिंह, निवासी :– ग्राम–बसारतपुर, तहसील–चुनार, जनपद–मिर्जापुर	मेसर्स दीपाली ट्रेडर्स	आराजी संख्या–01, ग्राम–अहिरूपुर तहसील–चुनार, जनपद–मिर्जापुर (उ0प्र0),	1.01 हेक्टेयर (10100 घनमीटर/वर्ष)	दिनांक 21.11.2020 अपरान्ह 04.00 बजे	पूर्व माध्यमिक विद्यालय, सोनपुर, तहसील–चुनार, जनपद–मिर्जापुर

राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड द्वारा पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना संख्या – एस0ओ0 1533, दिनांक 14.09.2006 यथासंशोधित – एस0ओ03067(ई) दिनांक 01.12.2009 के प्राविधानों के अनुपालन में उपरोक्त परियोजनाओं की लोक सुनवाई उपरोक्त सूची में अंकित परियोजनाओं की लोक सुनवाई उपरोक्त सूची में अंकित परियोजनाओं के सम्मुख वर्णित स्थान, दिनांक एवं समय के अनुसार आयोजित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। उक्त परियोजनाओं की लोक सुनवाई हेतु जनता के सुझाव, विचार एवं टिप्पणियां आदि आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। परियोजना से सम्बन्धित ई0आई0ए0 एवं इसका संक्षिप्त अभिलेख निम्नांकित कार्यालयों में उपलब्ध है :–

(1) जिलाधिकारी, मिर्जापुर, (2) कार्यालय जिला पंचायत, मिर्जापुर, (3) उपायुक्त उद्योग, जिला उद्योग एवं उद्यम प्रोत्साहन केन्द्र, मिर्जापर, (4) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, मध्य क्षेत्र, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, पंचम तल, केन्द्रीय भवन, सेक्टर–एच, अलीगंज, लखनऊ, (5) उ0प्र0 प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, टी0सी0–12वीं, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ एवं (6) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उ0प्र0 प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, 162, उत्तर मोहाल, निकट चण्डी होटल, राबर्ट्सगंज, सोनभद्र।

अतः सर्वसाधारण को इस आम सूचना के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि प्रस्तावित अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सैण्ड स्टोन) के खनन हेतु प्राप्त प्रस्ताव के सम्बन्ध में पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति संबंधी प्रकरण के निस्तारण हेतु उक्त अंकित तिथि, समय एवं स्थल पर 'लोक सुनवाई' की कार्यवाही निर्धारित की गयी है, जिसमें वैश्विक महामारी कोविड–19 के दृष्टिगत सोशल डिस्टेंन्सिग का पालन करते हुए आप उपस्थित होकर अपना सुझाव व आपत्तियों प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं अथवा सुझाव/आपत्तियाँ लिखित रूप से इस प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन की अवधि में उपरोक्त वर्णित कार्यालयों में प्रेषित कर सकते हैं।

क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी

Services of two policemen terminated in Mahoba

Mahoba (PTI): The services of two absconding policemen, including an SHO, were terminated Tuesday after the SIT, probing the death of a stone trader due to gun shot wounds in Mohoba district last month, found them guilty in the case, a senior UP police official said.

Indrakant Tripathi, 44, died after accusing the district's suspended SP Manilal Patidar of demanding a bribe to allow the transportation of ballast. Tripathi was found injured in his car with gunshot wounds on September 8, days after he levelled allegations of corruption against Patidar, and died on September 13. His brother has alleged that Patidar had demanded a bribe of Rs 6 lakh from Tripathi and threatened to kill him or send him to jail in case of non-payment within a week.

The SIT, however, has concluded that Tripathi died by suicide. Its probe found the bullet was fired from Tripathi's licensed pistol from the front and it pierced through his neck and got entangled in the car seat behind, police said.

On September 9, Patidar was suspended with immediate effect on corruption charges and a vigilance probe was ordered into his wealth.

On Tuesday, Chitrakoot-Banda range IG K Satyanarain told reporters that the services of Kabrai police station SHO Devendra Shukla and constable Arun Kumar Yadav have been terminated.

Late MP's 'Rasam Pagdi' irks Muslim clerics, family trashes objections

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Normally associated with Hindus, a 'Rasam Pagdi' function organised by late MP Rasheed Masood's family amid chanting of Vedic mantras at his native Bilaspur village of Saharanpur on Sunday, has irked Muslim hardliners.

The 'Pagdi' ceremony is held days after the death of the family' eldest member to chose his successor. The next surviving elder wears the 'Pagdi' — a symbol of honour. The former Union Minister's son Shazan Masood was annointed as head of the family during the function.

Masood passed away after being infected by Covid 19 at a Roorkee hospital on October 5. A video of the event that soon went viral on social media also invited sharp reactions.

Deobandi Muslims clerics who attended the function, not only left the venue as the rituals began but also demanded the late MP's family members to 'seek apology from Allah' (tauba) for indulging in an unIslamic act.

"The 'Pagdi' ceremony was done as per Hindu rituals and some seeers present there chanted Vedic mantras. Tying Pagri and choosing an elder in the family is a good tradition but it should have been done as per Islamic tradition," Maulana Asad Qasmi said on Tuesday.

Reacting t o the criticism, the late MP's son Shazan said, "My family is not affected by the reaction of clerics as it has been a traidtion for ages. Similar functions were organised for my grandfather and uncle by their Hindu friends. My father's entire life was devoted to Hindu-Muslim unity and we respect people's sentiments who wanted to pay tribute to him through the ceremony. Nobody should object to it as Islam respects all faiths."

Congress leader and late MP's nephew, Imran Masood also trashed the clerics' objection. "This is not a new thing. This is their way of paying respect to departed soul. What is wrong in this ? Who are they to come between us and God?", he asked.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

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I, Vijay Kumar age approx 56yrs, S/o Sri Ramesh Chandra, R/o-SS-821 Sector-H LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow informing that my son's name Anand Kumar which was wrongly mentioned in my service record, his correct name is Anand Arya & DOB-13.11.1997.

NOTICE

I, Vijay Kumar age approx 56yrs, S/o Sri Ramesh Chandra, R/o SS-821 Sector-H LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow informing that DOB of my daughter Km. Divya Kumari Arya was wrongly mentioned in my service record, her correct DOB is-26.05.1995

NOTICE

I, Vijay Kumar age approx 56yrs, S/o Sri Ramesh Chandra, R/o SS-821 Sector-H LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow informing that my wife name Vijaya Laxmi which was wrongly mentioned in my service record, her correct name is Smt. Vijay Laxmi & DOB-11.08.1977.

NOTICE

This is to inform that I have change my name from 'Phenkoo Prasad' to 'Prashant Kumar' for all purpose. My father's name is Late Pardeshi. Phenkoo Prasad and Prashant Kumar is one and same person who is R/o SD-04, ITI Township Mankapur, District Gonda UP-271308.

NOTICE

In my daughter's school document, my name is wrongly written as SHAHNAZ ALI. My correct name is SHANAAZ BANO. It school be read as SHANAAZ BANO. in my daughter,s educational documents. SHANAAZ BANO W/o MAHMOOD ALI, R/o - 452/232/22 Pajava, Thakurganj, Lucknow (U.P.).

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I, Vijay Kumar age approx 56yrs, S/o Sri Ramesh Chandra, R/o SS-821 Sector-H LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow informing that my second son's name Jeet Kumar which was wrongly mentioned in my service record, his the correct name is Jatin Kumar & DOB-11.07.2005.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my High School (CBSE Board) Mark-Sheet Roll No. - 5113254 Year 2012 and Intermediate (CBSE Board) Mark-Sheet and Certificate Roll No. 5612571 Year 2014 have actually been lost. Tushar Srivastava S/o Mr. Arun Kumar, R/o Bungalow No. 561, Railgaon Colony, Subedarganj, Prayagraj.

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CM for caution as officials warn of second wave

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Expressing satisfaction over 44 per cent decrease in the active number of Covid-19 cases in the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to remain cautious and alert.

"The unlock will further be increased in future and other activities will also be started gradually. Public address systems and other means of communication should be used to spread awareness continuously about safety and security from the virus," the CM said while presiding over a high-level unlock review meeting at Lok Bhawan on Tuesday. He said people should be inspired and motivated to follow Covid-19 protocols.

Meanwhile, as Uttar Pradesh recorded 3,033 fresh Covid cases hinting that the state is marching on the recovery path, officials have sounded a warning that any laxity could lead to a second wave, as seen in some states and several foreign countries.

"There should be no laxity by people and Health department in prevention of coronavirus infection as there are reports of a second wave in a a couple of states," Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said on Tuesday.

He said that during the past 26 days, the state has witnessed a decline of 44 per cent in cases after witnessing the peak on September 17.

He said 3,033 fresh cases were reported and 3,662 patients recovered on Tuesday. The recovery percentage in the state has also increased to 89.92 per cent. At least 6,466 people lost their lives with 26 fresh fatalities in the last 24 hours.

Directing the officials to monitor the recovery rate in all the districts, the CM said the recovery rate of Lucknow should be improved further. To ensure this, an effective strategy should be formulated and testing be increased in the district, he said, adding that the treatment facilities at SGPGI, KGMU and RMLIMS should be strengthened further.

The CM also asked the Additional Chief Secretary (Health) to ensure increase in recovery rates in Ayodhya, Varanasi and Sitapur.

He said active participation of all sections of the society should be ensured in the 'Mission Shakti' campaign that focuses on safety and security of women and will start from Shardiya Navratra.

Similar programmes related to security of women should also be organised in business organisations and MSMEs, he said. Directing to officials to effectively publish the programmes held under 'Mission Shakti', the CM said stickers should be pasted and a helpline number be released.

The CM said appointment letters would be given away to over 31,000 assistant teachers appointed by the department of Basic Education on October 16 and 'Mission Shakti' would begin from October 17.

The CM directed the officials to organise programmes in all the districts on both the dates and invite the in-charge ministers along with people's representatives. He said all the departments related to women security programmes should submit the work plan by Tuesday itself.

Directing the officials to engage people's representatives in the ongoing cleanliness and sanitation campaigns in the state, the CM said works related to cleanliness and sanitation should be carried out in urban and rural localities. The activities carried out during the campaign should also be publicised widely, he added.

Recovery rate in dist improves to 91.4 pc

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The recovery rate in Lucknow has improved to 91.4 per cent and the total number of people who have defeated Covid-19 at the moment is 53,554. A senior official at the CMO office said the reason for improvement in recovery rate is that the number of severe cases in the recent past has been less. Lucknow is one of the best districts in the state in terms of recovery rate, he pointed out. The official said that from September 15 onwards, 853 teams have carried out surveillance in Lucknow, covered 7,96,198 houses and screened 35,97,000 patients. "There are repetitions in the screening figures since surveillance teams have visited houses more than once," the official said.

He further pointed out that they were increasing the testing and antigen testing was helpful because the results can be had in a short duration. "RT-PCR is used for symptomatic people only while antigen testing for asymptomatic ones. In the current scenario, the percentage ratio of RT-PCR to antigen testing in the district is 55:45," he said.

A drive was carried out by the Health department in which all the dialysis units of hospitals were visited by the Additional CMO and his team. The visit was made to see if the hospitals had effective preventive measures in place and if the staffers were aware enough to go for an immediate test in case of symptoms.

"We observed that when patients come for dialysis, they test positive for coronavirus because some in-house circulations are being carried out in the dialysis units," he said. Two of the hospitals which were not following the norms were warned. Regarding the district administration having already released the guidelines for re-opening of schools and cinema halls, the official said: "We are planning to take the samples of all the staffers at cinema halls and multiplexes. A medical mobile unit will go to all these cinema halls in the next 2-3 days and carry out antigen testing and RT-PCR to prevent the spread of infection," he said.

He added that managements of schools had been provided detailed guidelines. "These guidelines state that there will be no intervals and symptomatic students have to be managed by the staff nurses and proper screening needs to be carried," he added.

Decline continues as 270 test positive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The number of recoveries reached 52,947. Lucknow has witnessed 790 deaths so far while there are 4,593 active cases

The downward spiral continued with only 270 persons testing positive for coronavirus across the state capital while 494 patients recovering on Tuesday. The number of recoveries reached 52,947. Lucknow has witnessed 790 deaths so far while there are 4,593 active cases.

A senior official at the CMO office said the patients included 32 from Gomtinagar, 26 from Indiranagar, 23 from Chowk, 22 from Rae Bareli road, 16 from Cantt, 14 each from Talkatora, Hazratganj & Aliganj, 11 each from Madiaon & Alambagh and 10 from Hasanganj.

As many as 10 patients died in Lucknow and the deceased included four from the state capital while the rest from other districts such as Kanpur, Basti, Siddharthnagar, Amethi, Jaunpur and Azamgarh. A 30-year-old man from Lakhimpur Kheri died due to Covid-19 at KGMU on Tuesday.

Across the state, 3,033 persons tested positive, including 266 in Varanasi, 183 in Moradabad and 148 in Prayagraj, taking the total number of cases to 4,42,118.

There were 29 deaths in the state, including thee in Ayodhya, two each in Varanasi & Sitapur, and one each in Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Meerut, Moradabad, Barabanki, Maharajganj, Etawah, Basti, Unnao, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Auraiyya and Sambhal, taking the toll to 6,466.

Besides, 3,662 patients recovered, taking the number of recoveries across the state to 3,97,570 while there are 38,082 active cases in Uttar Pradesh.

Woman attempts self-immolation at BJP office gate

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Policemen came to the rescue of woman who attempted to immolate herself — Pioneer

Piqued by torture allegedly at the hands of her in-laws, a 35-year-old woman of Maharajganj attempted to immolate herself just outside the office of Bharatiya Janata Party in Hazratganj on Tuesday afternoon. She suffered severe burns and was rushed to a hospital where her condition was said to be critical.

As per reports, Anjali Tiwari was married to a Maharajganj native but the couple settled for a divorce as they had quite a lot of differences. She later came close to a person, identified as Asif Raza and in due course of time, both got married. After a few months, Asif left for Saudi Arabia for work while Anjali stayed back with her in-laws.

She was tortured allegedly by her in-laws even as Asif chose to look the other way.

According to a complaint letter recovered her bag, she was living in a rented house after separation from her first husband and later met Asif Raza who introduced himself as Raj. It was stated that she got pregnant while living with Asif. When Asif came to know she was expecting, he force-fed her some medicine due to which she suffered abortion. She stated that she was married to Raj in the presence of a 'maulvi' and later started living in a house in Mohaddipur and Padri Bazaar in Gorakhpur. She also wrote that her name was changed to Aisha Begum. Police said they were verifying the authenticity of the letter.

Commissioner of Police Sujit Pandey said Anjali got down from an e-rickshaw at Capital trisection and reached gate number 2 of BJP office.

"She set herself on fire in a jiffy. Policemen, including a sub-inspector, somehow doused the flames and rushed her to a hospital," he said.

Pandey said huge force was deployed at the area and the woman did not reach near Lok Bhawan. "Anjali was married to a man of Maharajganj but the couple went for divorce. She wanted to live with Asif Raza but as he left for a foreign country leaving her behind, she attempted to end her life. The case is under investigation," he said.

The incident exposed Lucknow police's preparedness in preventing self-immolation attempts on Vidhan Sabha road and near Lok Bhawan. Recently, the police presence was increased on the road stretch between Capital trisection and Bapu Bhawan crossing following an incident in which a woman of Rae Bareli and her daughter had attempted self-immolation a few months back.

In the incident, the woman had died while her daughter recuperated at Civil hospital. The police had booked several persons, including a Congress leader, for allegedly inciting the woman and her daughter to take the extreme step. The woman and her daughter were being harassed by some influential people of their village and the Rae Bareli police were not helping them. The government had taken a serious note of the incident and asked the Lucknow police to prevent a repeat of such incidents. Police presence was increased on the road stretch and sleuths of local intelligence unit were also asked to keep a close watch on movement of protesters and others.

Woman's body found in canal

Lucknow (PNS): Semi-clad body of an unidentified woman was recovered from Indira canal in Chinhat on Tuesday. Some villagers spotted the body in the canal on Tuesday morning. A police team reached the scene and the body was fished out from the canal. The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained.

Police said the deceased appeared to be aged around 35 years and the body was 20-25 days old. The police said the body flowed from elsewhere. Villagers could not identify the body. A team of forensic scientists also reached the scene to collect evidence. The police suspected that either the woman committed suicide or she was thrown into the canal.

Meanwhile, a group of men thrashed their rival in Chinhat on Tuesday, leaving him injured. The complainant, Monu Mishra of Uttardhauna village in Chinhat, is a native of Bahraich. He was returning home after purchasing goods from Tiwariganj. When he reached near his house, his rivals — Ram Gopal, Ram Teerath, Munaur, Abhishek and others — attacked him with sticks.

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Manager

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Union Bank of India invites sealed offers from eligible vendors to provide 1. Security related equipment 2. Security Guards, in its branches/offices/ATMs located in Kanpur Region. The tender documents along with detailed terms and conditions, will be available on the Bank's web site www.unionbankofindia.co.in and www.eprocure.gov.in from 15-10-2020 to 06-11-2020. The application forms downloaded from websites and accompanied by Pay order/Demand Draft of applicable amount (non-refundable) favoring Union Bank of India, Payable at Kanpur can be submitted on the above address. Union Bank of India reserves the right to reject any Tender /Tenders received without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Regional Head

KGMU OPD services to resume on Oct 19

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

KGMU OPD services will resume from October 19. Spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said that to protect health professionals and workers, OPD attendance will be limited and there will be a pattern of online registration like SGPGI

"Patients must get themselves registered online and no patient will be allowed to enter into OPD premises without prior online registration. Online appointments can be made either through www.ors.gov.in or by calling on 0522-2258880 which will be having 30 parallel lines," Dr Singh said.

He said patients must come only on appointed date and time along with prior appointment proof. "Without mask, no patient or attendant will be allowed entry. A patient along with only one attendant will be allowed on priority if they have recent or not more than 3-day-old RT-PCR negative report from a government institution. Those without a recent RT-PCR report will be screened," he said. Cardiology OPD will run in new OPD block, Orthopaedic, Paediatric Orthopaedic, Sports Medicine, Rheumatology and Physical Medicine OPD will be in the old OPD block. Obstetric and Gynaecology, CTVS, Psychiatry and Respiratory Medicine OPD will run at their respective departments. Geriatric mental health will run in the Psychiatry department.

Govt official found dead in duct at OCR building

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 51-year-old government official working as an arrangement officer (vyavastha adhikari) at Old Councillors' Residence (OCR) building in Hussainganj, who was missing for the last three days, was found dead and the body was recovered from a duct on the second floor on Tuesday.

Police said the official fell in the duct made in the multistorey building for ventilation and died. The body was sent for autopsy and further investigation was underway. His kin accused police of being apathetic as he remained untraceable for three days.

The deceased was identified as Naeem Akhtar who lived in flat number 1103 on 11th floor in B-block of OCR building.

As per reports, Akhtar left his flat around midnight on October 10 but did not return. His wife Sulagna lodged a case at Hussainganj police station but the cops did not visit the flat for investigation.

On Tuesday, some inmates on the second floor felt putrid smell and they informed officials looking after arrangements in the building.

Hussainganj SHO said Akhtar fell down in the duct and died later. "The body was found entangled in the wires protruding in the duct. We have sent the body for autopsy and further investigation is underway," he said.

Sources said the police were obtaining Akhtar's call detail records to find out the names of those who contacted Akhtar on the fateful day.

The ACP said Akhtar committed suicide due to family issues. "He had shared the issue with some of his family members and wished death upon him," the ACP said.

5,21,652 flats under PMAY ready for sale

Lucknow (PNS): UP Housing and Development Board has constructed over five lakh flats under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (PMAY) across the state. According to an official communiqué, 5,21,652 flats are ready for sale across the state while 9,47,523 are still under construction.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has given the target to state authorities to build 16,75,176 flats under the scheme till 2022. It is the dream project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and aims at providing houses to every citizen. The scheme was launched in 2016. With the sale of these flats, a revenue of Rs 8824.98 crore is expected to be generated.

UPSEE results tomorrow

Lucknow (PNS): AKTU will declare the results of Uttar Pradesh State Entrance Examination (UPSEE) on October 15. AKTU spokesperson Asheesh Mishra said nearly 1,20,000 students appeared for the exams which were held for admission to various engineering institutes across the state. UPSEE was held on September 20 had witnessed 84.76 per cent attendance.

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अधिकारी प्रविष्टियाँ

निम्नलिखित कोर्स के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं :–

(क) अल्पसेवा कमीशन (गैर तकनीकी) जे.ए.जी. भर्ती योजना 26वाँ पाठ्यक्रम पुरूष और महिला विधि स्नातकों के लिए अप्रैल 2021 में निर्धारित।

ऑनलाइन आवेदन 13 अक्तूबर 2020 से 11 नवम्बर 2020 तक खुले हैं।

(ख) अल्पसेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) 56वाँ पाठ्यक्रम पुरूष के लिए एवं अल्पसेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) 27वाँ पाठ्यक्रम महिला के लिए, अप्रैल 2021 में निर्धारित।

ऑनलाइन आवेदन 14 अक्टूबर 2020 से 12 नवम्बर 2020 तक खुले हैं।

OFFICER ENTRIES

Applications are invited for the following courses:-

(a) Short Service Commission (NT) JAG Entry Scheme 26th Course for Men & Women Law Graduates scheduled in Apr 2021.

Online applications are open from 13 Oct 2020 to 11 Nov 2020.

(b) Short Service Commission (Tech) Men 56th Course and Short Service Commission (Tech) Women 27th Course scheduled in Apr 2021.

Online applications are open from 14 Oct 2020 to 12 Nov 2020.

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1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से सावधान रहें।
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1. Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.
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davp 10601/11/0007/2021

Delhi's Akshardham Temple reopens

New Delhi: The famous Akshardham Temple in Delhi reopened to devotees on Tuesday after remaining closed for over 200 days due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with special precautionary measures against the virus in place.

Over 700 devotees visited the temple on Tuesday as compared to an average daily footfall of thousands before the pandemic, said temple spokesperson Harish Patel.

Religious places in the city had started reopening in the second week of June under relaxations announced by the central government under Unlockdown 2.0, but Akshardham Temple decided to wait further for the situation to improve.

"We were concerned about health of the people as cases of coronavirus were being reported from all parts of the city. Now, the situation is improving and quite under control," Patel said. Akshardham Temple was closed on March 22 to check the spread of the virus, he said.

The devotees queued up from the evening as entry to the temple started at 5 PM. Wearing of face cover was mandatory for entry and those who did not have masks or anything else to cover their mouth and nose were provided face cover by the temple management.

Patel said extensive preparations were undertaken to ensure safety of people from COVID-19 infection.

"Every square foot of the temple including places visited by devotees is being sanitised at an interval of half-an-hour. Also, the temple premises will be thoroughly sanitised before closure at 8.30 PM," he said. With people visiting many parts of the temple, sanitiser dispensers were kept at close distances. Hand wash points were also readied so that people can clean hands. At entry point, people were allowed in after thermal screening, he said.

For maintaining social distancing, floor markings have been done with a gap of six feet at the sanctum sanctorum and other popular spots in the temple complex, he added.

PTI

Low wind, weather turn Delhi's air 'very poor'

Stubble burning in neighbouring States has added to woes, says pollution body

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality was recorded "very poor" on Tuesday morning. The dip in the air quality for the first time in the season was attributed to low wind speed and temperatures which allowed accumulation of pollutants, said a senior scientist at the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, adding that stubble burning cases have also increased in neighbouring States.

The national Capital recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 304 at 9:30 am, which falls in the "very poor" category. The 24-hour average AQI was 261 on Monday, the worst since February. It was 216 on Sunday and 221 on Saturday. Wazirpur (AQI 380), Vivek Vihar (AQI 355) and Jahangirpuri (AQI 349) recorded the highest pollution levels.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, an increase in farm fires in Punjab, Haryana and neighbouring regions of Pakistan is also going to impact the air quality in Delhi-NCR.

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".

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research, farm fires contributed 3 per cent particulate matter to Delhi's PM2.5 concentration on Monday.

It is likely to be "negligible" for the next two days due to a change in the wind direction from northwesterly to southeasterly, it said.

On Tuesday morning, the maximum wind speed was four kilometers per hour, according to the India Meteorological Department. 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.

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, on 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.

Woman who stays with Hathras victim family is Bhim Army's associate

Hathras: Dr Rajkumari Bansal of Jabalpur, who lived two days in the house of the victim's family in the Hathras case, is associated with the Bhim Army. Officials of the Gwalior Bhim Army have admitted that she is associated with the organization. Bansal has posted many inflammatory messages on her Facebook. Dr. Bansal original hails from Gwalior. In her post of 3rd October, she even wrote that it is a pity that the daughter of Hathras was a Hindu. The postmortem could have been possible if she had been buried. After getting into controversies in the Hathras case, her post has also come under discussion.

Action has been taken against her in Dindori for going from Jabalpur to Hathras without getting permission. Dr. Bansal was posted as a Medical Officer at Dindori District Hospital in 2013. ***PNS***

GK Reddy launches e-Cyber Lab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State Home, G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday launched e-Cyber Lab set up by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) which enables usage of cyber labs virtually.

Reddy said the month of October is observed as National Cyber Security Awareness Month and eCyber Lab will provide virtual experience in investigation of cyber crimes. Minister also inaugurated the 21st All India Conference of Directors of Fingerprint Bureau.

Reddy said that although law and order is a state subject, the Union Government has an important role in monitoring and tracking crime, in modernization of police forces, and in capacity building and in extending assistance to State governments in improving policing.

He added that Union Home Minister, Amit shah has emphasized on importance of modernization of police forces. During the financial year 2019-20, the government of India released Rs. 780 crore for the modernization of police across India.

Emphasizing on the importance of fingerprints, Reddy said that a fingerprint is an essential tool because of its uniqueness, permanency, individuality and ease in acquisition.

He added that the digitization of records and fingerprint data is an important step forward in documenting and tracking crimes and criminals and expressed his confidence thatthe fully computerized National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) would soon become functional and benefit police forces.

Director NCRB, Ramphal Pawar said, NAFIS will be a game changer in investigation of crime . NAFIS will also provide aid to investigating officers in identifying criminals based on their fingerprints on real time basis.

Kerala HC stays CBI probe in LIFE mission

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

As the Kerala High Court stayed the CBI probe into the role of bureaucrats in the scam associated with the LIFE Mission project for building houses for those without roofs over their head, the ruling CPI(M) claimed victory while the Opposition BJP and the Congress termed it as a setback for the Pinarayi Vijayan Government. Justice V G Arun of the Kerala High Court stayed for two months the CBI probe into the role of U V Jose, the CEO of the project. But the judge refused to quash the FIR filed by the CBI in the case. The court also said the investigating agency is at liberty to probe the private contractor Unitac which was building the apartment complex in Thrissur district. The probe against the Government official has been stayed taking into account the contention that the financial assistance received from Red Crescent for the project would not come under the Foreign Currency Regulation Act (FCRA). The judge said that this has the be heard in detail. But the CBI has been allowed by the court to pursue with its probe into the roles played by Swapna Suresh, the kingpin of the gold smuggling scam from whose bank locker the NIA seized crores of rupees alleged to be commission received in the Kerala Government-Red Crescent deal.

Meanwhile political Kerala is in turmoil as Janmabhumi, a Malayalam newspaper which is the mouthpiece of Sangh Parivar published excerpts of Swapna's statement to the NIA. She has reportedly told the NIA team that it was Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who introduced her to M Sivsankar, his former principal secretary with a direction to the latter to offer all help to the controversial woman. Swapna's statement is being seen as a setback to Vijayan, who had claimed that he does not know anything about the controversial woman. The NIA, according to the leaked report, had confirmed that she had visited the office and official residence of Vijayan many times.

The CPI(M) spokespersons remained incommunicado after the excerpts were published giving credence to the reports that chief minister was upset.

MSP will stay; 'arthiyas' in Punjab too will benefit from new farm laws: Puri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday reached out to scientists, professors and senior professionals from farm sector in Congress-ruled Punjab to clear misgivings about new farm laws, saying that the reforms will even benefit 'arthiyas' (commission agents).

The Minister also asserted that the MSP regime will stay. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana and other states are protesting against new farm laws which they feel will lead to procurement in the hands of corporates and the end of minimum support price (MSP) regime.

"In Punjab, some people have been spreading lies, fake propaganda and inciting the farmers against the government by calling the new agriculture laws anti-farmers despite knowing the benefits of these laws for farmers to increase their income," Puri said in a virtual meeting.

Explaining the benefits of the reforms to arthiyas, Puri said the laws will also create new opportunities for them.

Arthiyas can provide better seeds, inputs, knowledge, supply chain assistance apart from their existing roles in mandis, he said in a statement.

"Investments will drive change across the supply chain benefiting all stakeholders to reduce the agriculture wastage which is currently at 30 per cent," he added.

The Minister was interacting with scientists, professors and other senior professionals from the agriculture sector from Taran Taran and Amritsar in Punjab.

During his interaction, Puri also noted that there has been an increase in procurement of grains at minimum support price in Punjab.

Punjab registered an unprecedented increase in kharif paddy procurement that has increased to 26.1 lakh tonne till October 11 of the ongoing kharif marketing season from 7.4 lakh tonne in the year-ago period, he said.

Across India, total kharif paddy procurement rose 35 per cent to 42.5 lakh tonne from 31.7 lakh tonne in the said period, he said, adding that the government has increased by nearly 30 per cent the number of procurement centers from 30,549 in 2019-20 to 39,130 this year. Paddy procurement commenced in Punjab and Haryana from September 26 due to early arrival of the crop, while in other states it began from October 1.

The minister also outlined important steps, including the launch of PM-KISAN scheme, taken by the NDA Government in the last six years for the benefit of farmers.

NCM letter to Bengal Govt on tossing of Sikh's turban

Kolkata: In a new twist to the Sikh man heckling case the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has sought a report from the Bengal Government within the next 15 days asking why the turban of a Sikh person was allegedly pulled off by the state police during a political rally.

The protest rally was organized by the BJP on Thursday when the police pinned down a Sikh man Balwinder Singh carrying a gun. Singh claimed it was a licensed gun and presented himself as the body guard of a State BJP leader.

In the scuffle that took place in consequence to the police bid to arrest the man the person's turban fell off, police administration subsequently said. The man has since been remanded to police custody.

Acting on a complaint from Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga, a senior leader of Delhi BJP unit the Commission wrote a letter to State Chief secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay and DGP where it said "The undersigned is directed to request you to send a report in this matter within 15 days so that the matter could be placed before the commission for its consideration." The letter bore the signature of NCM Joint Secretary, D E Richards. While the State officials would not comment on the NCM letter the TMC leadership dubbed the allegations as "baseless" accusing the BJP, of playing communal politics with the issue. ***PNS***

Leh's 'Fire and Fury Corps' gets new head in Lt Gen PGK Menon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lt General Harinder Singh, chief of Leh based 14 Corps known as 'Fire and Fury Corps,' who led the Indian delegation during the seven rounds of Corps Commander level talks in the last five months on Tuesday handed over charge to Lt General PGK Menon. Singh will take over as the Commandant of the Indian Military Academy (IMA).

Menon was also part of the last two rounds of talks with the Chinese to resolve the logjam at the Line of Actual Control(LAC). He has had a distinguished career in the Army holding important command and staff appointments. He is also The Colonel of the SIKH Regiment.

The officer commanded a Rashtriya Rifles unit in Kashmir valley, an Infantry Brigade along the Line of Control(LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir and an Infantry Division in the Eastern Sector. Prior to assuming command of Fire & Fury Corps, he was Director General Recruiting at New Delhi.

Physical fitness, mental tenacity, desi food helped me overcome Covid: Naidu

New Delhi: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday said despite his age and certain medical problems, he could overcome the coronavirus infection because of physical fitness, mental tenacity and eating only "desi" food. He had tested positive for COVID-19 on September 29 and was found to have recovered from the infection on Monday.

Naidu, 71, was asymptomatic and was under home isolation. His wife Usha had tested negative for the infection. In a Facebook post, he said 13 employees of the Vice President's Secretariat, who had tested COVID-19 positive earlier, have now fully recovered. "Similarly, I am pleased to know that 136 COVID-19-affected employees of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat have recovered. While 127 of the officials are attending office, the remaining are functioning from home," Naidu, who is also Rajya Sabha Chairman, said.

"I firmly believe that in spite of my age and certain medical problems like diabetes, I could overcome the COVID-19 infection because of my physical fitness, mental tenacity, regular physical exercise like walking and yoga, apart from eating only desi (traditional) food," he wrote. Naidu said he has always preferred to eat desi food and continued the same during his self-isolation period. "Based on my own experience and firm conviction, I urge everyone to undertake some of physical exercise daily—be it walking, jogging or yoga. Also, it is important to eat protein-rich food and avoid junk food," he observed. Equally crucial for the people is to not lower their guard and to strictly adhere to protocols such as wearing masks, washing hands frequently and maintaining personal hygiene at all times, the vice president pointed out. During home quarantine, Naidu said he was able to spend a good amount of time by reading newspapers, magazines and articles on various issues, including the pandemic.

While the government has been adopting a well-calibrated strategy to contain the spread of COVID-19, the need of the hour is for people to display a collective determination to defeat the virus by wearing masks, washing hands and following safe distancing norms, he said. ***PNS***

विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल–तृतीय केस्को, कानपुर ''ई–निविदा सूचना अनुभवी एवं कुशल ठेकेदारों से निम्न लिखित कार्यो हेतु आनला. इन ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य से सम्बन्धित निविदा प्रपत्र यू०पी० एन.आई.सी./केस्को की ई–टेंडरिंग वेबसाईट https://etender.up.nic.in/www.kesco.co.in पर उपलब्ध है। वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध निविदा सूचना में व्ययानुमान धनराशि, धरो. हर धनराशि, निविदा मूल्य, कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि, निविदा डालने की तिथि, निविदा खोलने की तिथि तथा अन्य नियम व शर्तो का उल्लेख है। **क्र0सं0** 1 **निविदा संख्या** 22/EUDC-III/2020-21 **कार्य का नाम** विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल –तृतीय के अधीन विद्युत वितरण खण्ड दहेली सुजानपुर के अन्तर्गत दहेली सुजानपुर, कोयला नगर एवं सुजातगंज उपकेन्द्र के कार्यक्षेत्र में जर्जर व पुरानी लाईनों को नये पोल, नये डाग कन्डक्टर व नये ए बी केबिल से बदले जाने के कार्य हेतु। **निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य** 1180.00 (NEFT के माध्यम से) **धरोहर धनराशि** 20,000.00 (NEFT के माध्यम से) **कार्य पूर्ण करने अवधि** 06 माह **निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि व समय** 27.10.2020 समय 14.00 बजे तक **तकनीकी बिड खोलने तिथि व समय** 27.10.2020 समय 16.00 बजे तक **वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि व समय** तकनीकी बिड स्वीकृति के उपरान्त। **क्र0सं0** 2 **निविदा संख्या** 23/EUDC-III/2020-21 **कार्य का नाम** विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल –तृतीय के अधीन विद्युत वितरण खण्ड नौबस्ता के अन्तर्गत के–ब्लाक उपकेन्द्र के कार्यक्षेत्र में जर्जर व पुरानी लाईनों को नये पोल व नये ए बी केबिल से बदले जाने के कार्य हेतु। **निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य** 1180.00 (NEFT के माध्यम से) **धरोहर धनराशि** 5,000.00 (NEFT के माध्यम से) **कार्य पूर्ण करने अवधि** 03 माह **निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि व समय** 27.10.2020 समय 14.00 बजे तक **तकनीकी बिड खोलने तिथि व समय** 27.10.2020 समय 16.30 बजे तक **वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि व समय** तकनीकी बिड स्वीकृति के उपरान्त। अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदाओं को स्वीकार/अस्वीकार करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा। इच्छुक अनुभवी एवं कुशल ठेकेदारों से अनुरोध है कि नियमित रुप से उक्त वेबसाइट का अवलोकन करते रहे, क्योंकि निविदा के सम्बन्ध में कोई परिवर्तन अथवा अतिरिक्त सूचना वेबसाईट पर ही उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (वि०) मण्डल – तृतीय, केस्को, कानपुर 33 केवी एच–ब्लाक उपकेन्द्र, किदवई नगर, कानपुर** पत्रांक : 939 दिनांक 13.10.2020 ''राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें''

डा0 शकुन्तला मिश्रा राष्ट्रीय पुनर्वास विश्वविद्यालय
मोहान रोड, लखनऊ–226 017
वेबसाइट : http://dsmru.up.nic.in

ब्रेल प्रेस निविदा सम्बधी सूचना

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विश्वविद्यालय में ब्रेल पुस्तकों की छपाई हेतु (Heavy Duty and High Speed Braille Embosser) ब्रेल मशीन क्रय किये जाने हेतु बिड डाक्यूमेन्ट वेवसाइट http://dsmru.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध एवं http://etender.up.nic.in पर दिनाक–27/10/2020 को अपराहन 02.00 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 27/10/2020 को अपराहन 03:00 बजे खोली जायेंगी। निविदा प्रपत्र की शर्तें एवं अन्य विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध हैं।

कुलसचिव

AURANGABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
AURANGABAD - 431001 (MS)

E-Tender Notice No:- AMC/Dy.Eng/Zone-07/2020/339
Date:- 07/10/2020

E-Tender in B-2 form for the following work invited by the Municipal Administrator Municipal Corporation Aurangabad (MS)

1. **CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT OF GARDEN ALONG WITH ERECTION OF STATUE OF HON BALASAHEB THACKERAY AS HIS MEORIAL IN AURANGABAD CITY Valued Rs. 21,47,00,102/-**

Please visit https://mahatenders.gov.in for detailed information from Date:- 13/10/2020

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
Chief Account Officer	City Engineer	Administrator
Municipal Corporation	Municipal Corporation	Municipal Corporation
Aurangabad	Aurangabad	Aurangabad

U.P.RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
OBRA-SONEBHADR
UPRVUNL

E-Tender Notice

1. **Tender No: T-44/SE CMC-I/CMD-II/2020-21** online e-Bids are invited for the work of **"Annual Running Operation and Maintenance of AC, Fridge, Air coolers etc in various offices, OTPS.** E-tender has been uploaded on **26.09.2020** on http://etender.up.nic.in Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. **1,50,730.00** only. Time period 02 year, E.M.D. cost **Rs. 3,100.00**, Tender Cost **Rs. 590.00** respectively last date of submission **19.10.2020 up at 18:00 Hrs.**
2. **Tender No: T-45/SE CMC-I/CMD-II/2020-21** online e-Bids are invited for the work of **"Special M&R of Ash disposal pipe line steel bridge at Jharia nala crossing, OTPS.** E-tender has been uploaded on **26.09.2020** on http://etender.up.nic.in Estimated cost of work approximately **Rs. 16,75,389.00** only. Time period 120 days, E.M.D. cost **Rs. 33,600.00,** Tender Cost **Rs. 590.00** respectively last date of submission **19.10.2020 up at 18:00 Hrs. SE, CMC-I**
3. **Tender No: T-13/SE-II/BTPS/CHPOD/2020-21** online e-Bids are invited for the work of **"Assistance in the operation of Tripper of Coal Handling Plant 'B'TPS.** E-tender has been uploaded on **09.10.2020** on http://etender.up.nic.in Estimated cost of work approximately **Rs. 18,71,355.00** only. Time period one year, E.M.D. cost **Rs. 38,000.00,** Tender Cost **Rs. 1180.00** respectively last date of submission **26.10.2020 up at 17:00 Hrs.SE-II**

Total Quality of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Concerned superintending engineer has right to cancel any or all e-Bids without assigning any reason.
Corrigendum, addendum, Extension if any shell be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

No.: 207, Date : 13.10.2020, **"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"**

DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST - III
NANGLOI PH-III NEAR BARAT GHAR: NEW DELHI-110041

"STOP CORONA : Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
N.I.T. No. 11 WEST-III/(2020-21)

S. No.	Description	Amount Put to tender	Tender Fee	Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e-procurement Solution	Last date/time for tender download through e-procurement Solution
1.	Re-grading/replacement of old damaged sewer lines in C block JJ colony Hastsal in Vikaspuri AC-31 under EE(West) III	Rs. 30,85,025/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 62,000/-	12.10.2020 I.D No 2020_DJB _195476_1	27.10.2020 at 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at (**https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) **Sd/-**
Advt No. J.S.V. 181/2020-21 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-III**

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL PROJECT ENGINEER
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT
MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SINGRAULI (M.P.)

email:- piusingrauli@gmail.com ph.no-07805-297421
NIT No 26/2020/CENTRALIZED TENDER/APD/PIU/4134 REWA, DATE: 08.10.2020

Online bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria:

S. No.	Tender Portal No.	Name of work	District	Probable Amount Contract (Rs. in lakh)	Eranest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion (in months i/c Rainy Season)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2020_ PWPIU_ 110007_1	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH SECONDRY SCHOOL BUILDING AT KARTHUA OF R.M.S.A OF SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SINGRAULI, INCLUDING WATER SUPPLY, SENATRY FITTING AND ELECTRIFICATION WORK DISTT SINGRAULI (M.P.) **(SECOND CALL)**	SINGRAULI	62.02	62020.00	10000.00	8
2	2020_ PWPIU_ 110066_1	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDRY WALL, CC ROAD & H.P.C. FOR KRISHI V1GYAN KENDRA WAIDHAN, DISTT. SINGRAULI (M.P.) **(FIRST CALL)**	SINGRAULI	367.36	367360.00	15000.00	12

1 All details relating to the Bid Document (s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website. **http://mptenders.gov.in**
2 Bid Document (s) can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/Debit/Cash Card/internet Banking.
3 The Bid Document (s) can be purchased only online from 10.10.2020 (9.00 AM) to 24.10.2020 (18.00). Other key dates may be seen in Bid Data Sheet.
4 Amendment (s) to NIT, if any, shall be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

G-14851/20
DIVISIONAL PROJECT ENGINEER
PWD PIU SINGRAULI (M.P.)

115 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 115 new COVID-19 patients have been tested positive in the district here on Tuesday, increasing the total number of cases to 15,276. Besides, the day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 247. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 161 patients. Out of them, 158 were recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 11,027 while three have been discharged from the hospitals and the number of cured patients from the hospitals has reached 2,769. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 13,796, leaving 1,233 active patients. The recovery rate has slightly improved to 90.31 per cent and the mortality rate to 1.61 per cent.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day by 11 am, 93 positive patients were detected out of 3,325 received reports. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,58,924 and the results of 1,454 are awaited. Out of them, 2,43,670 were negative while 15,254 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,74,796. Earlier, a male aged 50 from Sindhoura succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU). With the addition of eight new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,183 including 298 red zones. There are 1,885 green zones with 17 new ones.

Earlier, under ongoing mass/ group antigen tests, six persons out of 310 tests were detected positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, while one out of 265 at adjacent Government Women's Hospital, two out of 55 at CHC Shivpur, three out of 45 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, three out of 125 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and five out of 368 at SSH BHU. Besides, the Health department has distributed 5,192 Ivermectin tablets to 649 persons. So far, 10.57 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.32 lakh persons and out of them, 8.66 lakh tablets to 1.08 lakh persons were distributed only by the Health department while rest of tablets by other departments including Supply and Education departments and Civil Defence so far.

In this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) comprising 10 districts of three divisions, as many as 386 new cases were found on Monday, increasing the total number to 49,463, with maximum 198 COVID-19 positive in Varanasi followed by 36 in Jaunpur, 29 in Azamgarh, 28 in Chandauli, 27 each in Sonbhadra and Ghazipur, 14 in Ballia, 12 in Mau, nine in Mirzapur and six in Bhadohi.

₹ 30 cr for promoting fisheries: DC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

DC Deepak Agrawal reviewing development work in Varanasi on Tuesday Pioneer

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal said that for promoting fisheries in the division, ₹ 30 crore grant has been received and a Mandi (market) would be set up at Chandauli. He was reviewing progress made in various development works at a meeting of officers here on Tuesday. In his address, the DC emphasised on increasing the income of the farmers and other producers, highlighting the various types of facilities being given by the Central Government under its economic package which have included opening of APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) office, pack house system, good connectivity, promotion of farm exports, new quality training system for production and processing units, subsidy and loans, he added.

'There is a provision of ₹ 20 lakh subsidy for general category and ₹30 lakh for women and Scheduled Castes for the establishment of recycling aquaculture system,' he said, adding that with a project of ₹ 50 lakh in an area of 1,000 square metres, one can produce 25-30 tonnes of fish every year and ₹12.5 crore fisheries projects for the division have already been prepared. Agrawal instructed the officers of various districts to give all the new fishery ponds on the lease and renew the old ponds apart from and ensuring fisheries there. 'Fish seedling is also a good source of income, in which by spending 11 paise on a seed one can earn ₹1.40 in 90 days,' he said, instructing the officers to ensure forming at least 10 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in every district, helping them get export licenses and promoting farming of vegetables and fruits in clusters so that the farmers can get full benefits. DC said that every facility is available in Varanasi and once farmers get the benefits they would themselves come forward as by quality production one can increase income by 5-6 times. 'There is a scheme of getting Central Government assistance from ₹50 to ₹500 crore for setting up of large units of milk and meat processing. For this, ₹ 15,000 crore have been allocated under the economic package,' he said, appealing to interested persons to make projects by getting information about the entire process from Additional Director (Animal Husbandry). The meeting was also attended by District Magistrates Kaushal Raj Sharma (Varanasi), Navneet Singh Chahal (Chandauli), MP Singh (Ghazipur) and DK Singh (Jaunpur).

BHU, FAARD sign MoU for rural development

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

BHU, FAARD exchanging MoU papers at VC Lodge in Varanasi on Tuesday

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and non-government organisation Foundation for Advancement of Agriculture and Rural Development (FAARD) at the Vice-Chancellor's residence in BHU here on Tuesday to work together for rural development and in the areas of training programmes, transfer of technology and other outreach programmes. Chancellor of Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi and FAARD Chairman Prof Panjab Singh, who is also an ex-BHU V-C and BHU Registrar Dr Neeraj Tripathi signed the MoU in the presence of V-C Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar.

The function was also attended by Director of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Prof Ramesh Chandra, Dean Prof AP Singh, former Director Prof SR Singh, Deputy Registrar (Development) Venugopal, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Dr Rajesh Singh, Foundation Trustee Dr Umesh Singh and other senior BHU officials and FAARD members. With the signing of this MoU, the FAARD, which has been organising many types of technical cooperation, training programmes for farmers in its bid to accelerate the pace of rural development since 2005 and till now has been providing technical support to 18 Farmers' Producers Organisations (FPOs) in various districts of Purvanchal (eastern UP) will help about 40,000-50,000 farmers become self-reliant entrepreneurs.

Apart from this, both BHU and FAARD will form the road map for future agricultural development with the support of ground work being done by the former in rural areas and the efforts being done by the team of scientists from the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU through its strong infrastructure and laboratories. Besides, it will also help the students of BHU prepare a report based on a baseline survey by visiting the villages and seeing the technology demonstrations and innovations in rural areas by some progressive farmers with the support of FAARD.

At present, FAARD is conducting several programmes in different districts of Purvanchal under the Biotech Farmers' Project being funded by the Biotechnology Department, Government of India in collaboration with Indian Institute of Vegetables Research (IIVR-Varanasi) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR-New Delhi). The work is also being done on a large-scale to encourage the farmers in the fields of improved varieties of seeds, training programmes, crops and technical demonstration and exports. Along with this, one village from the selected four districts is also being developed as a model village, where information about health, education, science and other technical knowledge science is being given to the farmers. 'The signing of MoU will give a new direction to the agricultural development in Purvanchal,' said Prof Panjab Singh.

Traders urge SSP to enhance police patrolling in markets

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Making an assertion that the economic activities will increase in the festival season to come, the traders on Tuesday urged the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) to enhance police patrolling particularly in the important markets to instill a sense of security in the business community.

The city has witnessed an increase in the criminal incidents during the last few days and the traders have been the main target of the criminals and the criminals have mainly targeted the traders engaged in the trade of jewellery and big businessmen. Moreover, the economic activities will increase in the festival season to begin with the auspicious occasion of Shasrdiya Navratri beginning from October 17.

In such a situation, the police should enhance their patrolling particularly in the important market during the festival season, urged a delegation of Udyog Vyapar Samiti to the SSP Amit Pathak during its meeting with him at his office in Collectorate, here. The delegation urged the SSP to direct the incharge police stations of city areas to conduct regular patrolling not only during the day hours but also at night to instill a sense of security among businessmen. The SSP himself should monitor this, the delegation added.

The SP, Traffic has issued a new guideline under which the owners of four-wheeler and two-wheelers need to show number plates at both the front and back side of vehicles.

There will be penalty of ₹ 5000 on the mistake in the number plates, the delegation said urging the SSP, the traders are already facing economic crisis because of COVID-10 pandemic and thus, they could be given some months before implementing the guidelines so as they could make correction in the fault on number plates if there is any.

The SSP paid serious attention towards the problems that the delegation put before him and assured of starting the monthly meeting between cops and traders at police station level to establish better coordination to understand the genuine problem. The SSP also assured the delegation to hold a talk with SP, Traffic regarding new guidelines about traffic rule.

The president of Samiti Prem Mishra led the delegation which comprised Srinarayan Khemka, Manish Gupta, Somnath Vishwakarma and Rajnish Kannoujia.

146 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

There was a bit of relief for the denizens related to corona infection. Even after increasing the scope of testing, suddenly the figure of infected persons fell below 150. In the district, 4,707 suspected patients were screened within 24 hours. On Monday night, the number of positive patients was detected only 146. The special thing is that almost two and a half months from July 30, the day came when no one died of Covid infection.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, the corona testing and contract tracing work in the district is being accelerated every day. On Monday, the number of positive patients stood at 146. A total of 229 people beat Corona. In which 23 patients were discharged from various Covid hospitals and Covid care centres.

The number of patients admitted to hospitals is also increasing, 206 people completed home isolation. The number of people living in homes free of corona infection has now increased to 14,359. According to the CMO, 3,136 people have tested through antigen, 1,324 from RTPCR, 118 from Trunat and 129 from private labs during the 24 hours in the district.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, on Monday, the list of Covid positive patients included an Additional Municipal Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation, General Manager of a Diagnostic Centre, lab technician of Kamala Nehru, and veterinarian of Baramb. Along with two advocates, a total of 146 including SBI Life Insurance Sales Associate, Manager of PNB Civil Lines Branch, a JE of Power Corporation, a Loco Pilot of Railways, Assistant Auditor of AG Office, Branch Manager of Baroda Gramin Bank, Inspector of RAF including other people has become corona infected.

HC grants bail to Azam, wife & son

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday granted bail to senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan, his wife, Tazeen Fatima and son Abdullah Azam Khan in a fake birth certificate case pending in Rampur district.

However, the court said that Abdullah Azam Khan and his mother shall be released immediately but Azam Khan will only be released on bail after the statement of the First informant/ complainant in the case is recorded by the trial court.

Justice Sidharth passed the order in bail applications filed by Azam Khan, his wife, Tazeen Fatima and son, Abdullah Azam Khan.

According to petitioners, the offence of obtaining fake birth certificate of Abdullah would not travel beyond the purview of Section 23 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, which provides that any information given for the purpose of being inserted in any register of births and deaths, which is known or believed by person giving information to be false, shall be punished with fine, which may extend to ₹ 50 .

State government opposed the bail application on the ground that the fake birth certificate was used by Abdullah to contest the state election and his father and mother helped him in obtaining the fake certificate and if released on bail applicant will tamper with witnesses.

The court after hearing concerned parties allowed the bail application of three accused.

It is to recall that last year, an FIR was lodged by one, Akash Saxena at Ganj police station of Rampur, alleging that Mohd Azam Khan and Tazeen Fatima have got two birth certificates issued from two places, one dated January 28, 2012, from Nagar Palika Parishad, Rampur and second dated April 21, 2015, from Nagar Nigam, Lucknow, regarding birth of their son, Mohd. Abdullah Azam Khan.

FDP INAUGURATED: A five-day Online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on 'Productivity Enhancement', was inaugurated at the Department of Commerce and Business Administration, University of Allahabad. The programme is being sponsored by AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof RR Tewari focused on various aspects of teaching and learning and role of teachers in productivity enhancement of students. He mentioned about the initiatives taken by the University of Allahabad in meeting the challenges posed by COVID 19 to enhance productivity the importance of enhancing productivity of individuals in personal life as well as workplace. He emphasised on inculcated necessary skills for it

Prof AK Mukherjee, Dean Faculty of Commerce emphasised on the importance of continuous learning for teachers as well as students.

Special guest, Dr Ravindra Soni metioned that AICTE Training and Learning Academy is committed to enhancing technical and life skills in people and it is organising various training programme all over the country with this objective

The Head of the Department Prof AK Malviya welcomed the guests. He said that this is the first ATAL FDP being organised at the University of Allahabad and FDPs play a instrumental role in development of teachers

The coordinator of the FDP, Dr Shefali Nandan outlined the objectives of this FDP and proposed the vote of thanks.

NCR infrastructure development reviewed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

General Manager North Central Railway Rajiv Chaudhry reviewed position of safety, infrastructure development and other important works through video conferencing with PHODs of North Central Railway and Divisional Railway Managers Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra.

At the outset GM congratulated Amitabh DRM Prayagraj Division and PD Mishra PCSO NCR on successful completion of their current assignments and wished them successful future ahead. Chaudhry said that under the able leadership of Amitabh Prayagraj Division achieved many milestones including successful conduct of Kumbh-2019. Through its order dated October 12, 2020 Railway Board has decided to post Mohit Chandra as DRM Prayagraj on completion of tenure of present incumbent Amitabh. Similarly, PD Mishra shall also be joining as Chief Electric Loco Engineer on NCR itself under his lateral transfer from present post of PCSO NCR.

Reviewing safety GM stressed that quality material input and proper workmanship are extremely critical for safe and breakdown free maintenance of assets. He stressed that all user departments must ensure that only proven quality material be used in maintenance and operation of Railway assets. Enhancing safety in rolling stock operation, Prayagraj division has commissioned new Wheel Impact Load Detector (WILD) in UP line between Chunar-Dagmagpur which will help in automatic detection of flat wheel in coaches, wagons and locomotives and other defects causing high impact load and will send alert to control and maintenance personnel without any human intervention. Likewise, Automatic Train Examination System (ATES) capable of identifying hot axle, brake binding etc. in all type of rolling stock and sending alert automatically is commissioned in UP main line at Shikohabad. These equipment are commissioned as part of master plan prepared by North Central Railway for installing automated way side rolling stock monitoring systems at interval of every 100 kms over its entire territory. This safety grid will supplement efforts of enroute train passing staff and will also pave the way for safe and detention free train operations at higher speeds. DRM Prayagraj informed that two more ATES in UP direction one each at Meja and Khaga are under final stages of commissioning and expected to be operational soon. GM Chaudhry stressed that selection of equipment and location should be done as per already finalised master plan so as machine based automatic defect detection capabilities are evenly distributed.

To decongest Kanpur Central Station, Govindpuri is being developed as satellite station for shifting some of the passing and originating trains from Kanpur Central to Govindpuri. Status of works at Govindpuri stations was discussed in the meeting and it was decided that after commissioning of train watering facility at Govindpuri it can function as satellite station to Kanpur Central. Accordingly it was decided to expedite works related to provision of watering hydrant and overhead water tank etc. at Govindpuri station. Besides this, progress of important yard remodeling and associated signaling and TRD works for Kosikalan, Ghasinagar and Kanpur area was also discussed. GM said that planning for non-interlocking (NI) work at these locations be done in such a way to have minimum impact on train operations.

Security arrangement at stations and escorting of trains by security personnel over NCR were also reviewed. GM stressed that in view of ensuing festive season, security arrangement in station and trains be increased and directed divisions to augment resources at required stations and trains.

Minister gives information about govt schemes

ALLAHABAD (PNS): State Cabinet Minister Siddharth Nath Singh is on a visit to Prayagraj these days. At his residence, he gave information about the government's schemes. He said that the target has been set to make people self-sufficient during the infection of coronavirus.

For this, the Ministry of Small and Micro Industries will give loans to 20 lakh new units. This will provide employment to about 40 lakh people. So far, a loan of ₹ 22.50 thousand crore has been given to seven lakh units.

Cabinet Minister Siddharth Nath Singh said that new dyes have been given to the people who make the idol on behalf of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Along with this, the sculptors are also being trained so that they will make the statues of Lakshmi-Ganesh on Deepawali. On the question of inflation, the Cabinet Minister said that prices of goods are controlled. Seasonal is the reason for increasing prices of things like pulses, potatoes, onions.

Cabinet Minister Siddharthnath Singh said that a flyover from Chauffatka to IIIT-A will be built. The scope of smart city will also increase. The Multipurpose Conventional Centre will be built under the PPP model.

Siddharth Nath Singh reacted to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statement about the Prime Minister's plane. He said that he does not understand when Rahul will grow up. It looks like he is still in diapers, he said adding that the CBI is investigating the Hathras incident and the victim will get justice.

Cabinet Minister Siddharth Nath Singh held a meeting with party office-bearers and workers. He asked the party workers to keep in mind the physical distance and apply masks while delivering information about the government's plans to the people. He also solved the problems of people during Prayag stay.

Earlier, reviewing the development works in the city western, directed the officials to complete all the works at a fast pace.

On this occasion, social worker Santosh Gupta distributed sanitisers and masks to the people present on the instructions of the Cabinet Minister.

City unit president Ganesh Kesarwani, Amar Nath Yadav, Kamlesh Kumar, Amar Nath Tiwari, Virender Bahadur Singh, Pawan Srivastava, Anil Singh, Raju Rai, Dinesh Tiwari, etc. were present on the occasion.

SUSPENDED: Two circle officers (COs) have been suspended for negligence in the investigation of the case of kidnapping of a girl in Meja area. Earlier in the same case, two sub inspectors have also been suspended.

Actually, in this case, the High Court had issued instructions for action against the investigating officer and the CO. following which, the ADG recommended the suspension of two COs to the government. Both were suspended on Monday night.

Kanpur witnesses decline in COVID-19 cases: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari, while conducting a surprise raid on Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital, on Tuesday said in view of the approaching festival period there was every possibility of violation of COVID-19 protocol and thus the preparedness of hospitals need not be compromised. He said there had been a decline in COVID-19 cases and even the death figure had come down but that did not mean precautions and care had to be overlooked. He said if COVID-19 patients were arriving less in number then too arrangements need to kept at par with what it was in the present times.

He said all private hospitals need to ensure that they had enough stock of oxygen and medicines and the presence of anaesthetist round-the-clock continues to be a mandatory norm. He said it was a very encouraging indication that there was not even a single patient in the ICU of GTB Hospital. He praised the hospital staff for adhering to the prescribed hospital standards. He said the patients who were being discharged should be asked to keep in touch with hospital authorities as well.

He said festival period will witness people inundating the public places and thus a small callous attitude could spell doom for the entire city. He said COVID-19 was a communicable disease and highly infectious and thus it was essential for every person to maintain social distancing , hand washing the using face mask especially when moving outside. He said all such people who were above 65 years of age should avoid coming out in public places or overcrowded places.

ASSEMBLY POLLS: He said district officials have been directed that there should be full preparedness for conducting the bypoll at Ghatampur and said those people who were COVID-19 patients even had the right to exercise their franchise and said the for them special arrangement for postal ballot be made so that they can cast their votes.

He said those who were undergoing treatment need to contact the election officers of their areas and made an appeal well in advance for the arrangement of postal ballot.

92 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 92 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 92 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 26,899 cases. He said two COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Tuesday evening keeping the death toll to 704.

The CMO said with 49 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals the cured figure in the city was 6927 and at present 2643 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 5977 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Lawyers take out Adhivakta march

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

City lawyers took out an 'Adhivakta march' to press for enforcement of Advocates Protection Act on Tuesday and handed over a memorandum, addressed to the Chief Minister, to the District Magistrate.

It was a joint agitation of lawyers affiliated to Commissionery Bar Association, Sales Tax Bar Association, Upbhokta Bar Association, Income-Tax GST Bar Association, Janwadi Adhivakta Association and Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti. Shouting slogans 'Kalyan Nidhi Badhane Ka Vada Pura Karo' and 'Kalyan Nidhi das lakh karo' etc., lawyers reached at the DM's office in the Collectorate compound and held a meeting there.

Speaking on the occasion, senior lawyer and former president of Lawyers Association Avinash Bajpai said murderous attacks and killings of lawyers would not be tolerated now. State government should immediately enact laws to provide special security to legal fraternity. President of Commissionery Bar Association Dinesh Chandra Verma said as per its promise, the state government should pay ₹15000 (₹5000 per year) for three years to young lawyers towards purchase of books.

City lawyers take out Adhivakta march on Tuesday Pioneer.

President of Sales Tax Bar Association PK Gupta demanded to increase the amount of Adhivakta Kalyan Nidhi to ₹.10 lakh. Convenor of Upbhokta Bar Association Gurmeet Singh said a pension scheme for elderly lawyers be launched by the state government. President of Income-Tax GST Bar Association BL Gupta said the lawyers of the state would be forced to come on street if the state government failed to enforce the Advocates Protection Act soon. Convenor of Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti Pt Ravindra Sharma said the lawyers' demand for enforcement of the Act aimed at providing them the life and social security. ACM (VII) Deepak Lal received the memorandum on behalf of the district magistrate and assured that the same would be sent to the CM for necessary action. Prominent lawyer leaders present in the agitation were Upendra Bhadauria (vice president), Ashwani Anand (treasurer) of Kanpur Bar Association; Vinay Awasthi (general secretary, Sales Tax Bar Association); Ram Narain Singh (President, Upbhokta Bar Association); Suresh Sachan, Vinay Misra, Shabnam Adil, Sangeeta Dwivedi, Naz Madni, Ankur Goel, KK Yadav, Shashi Kant Pandey and Vijay Sagar.

ComFest to be held from today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The annual techno-cultural programme 'ComFest' of Seth Anandram Jaipuria Public School, will be conducted between October 14 and 18 and the chief guest of the function will be the Governor of Rajasthan, Kalraj Mishra. The guests of zero session will be Saurabh Sharma, Vice President, Elsvier Research Solution Sales. ComFest has been regularly held for the past 20 years and had been a four day event every year. However this year it will be a five-day event. The principal, vice-principal, head mistress and students informed the press on Tuesday. On all four days different events will be held. The prize distribution will be by working body member Archana Khaitan.

Jaipuria Public School Principal , teachers and students inform presspersons about Comfest on Tuesday. Pioneer

UPMRC RECORD PERFORMANCE: The Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (UPMRC) created a record by erecting 106 double T girders in just 135 days. After erecting the double T-girders on one side of the Kalyanpur Metro station, the teams of UPMRC engineers had started the erection of double T-girders at the SPM Metro station. The UPMRC engineers were working with full coordination and cooperation which has reduced drastically man power wastage.

The Corridor comprised 9 metro stations and a total of 384 double T-girders were to be used for constructing the concourse levels of these stations. The erection of double T-girders for preparing the concourse level of the metro stations commenced on July 25, 2020 and that was the first time in India when double T-girders were used for constructing concourse level of a metro station. The Managing Director, Kumar Keshav praising the work strategy of the Metro engineers said 'Utilising the time in appropriate manner, is the most important part of our strategy and it is the only way by which we can complete the Kanpur Metro Project's Priority Corridor within the stipulated time.' He said it was a matter of pride that rhythm and speed had been maintained since inception and definitely it will complete the work of the Priority Corridor between IIT and Motijheel on time. He said UPMRC was committed to provide a world class Metro system to the city.

DC makes spot inspection of airport terminal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar, after carrying out a spot inspection of the upcoming airport terminal in Kanpur said the work progress as of now was around 10 per cent and the Government mandate was to get the complete work done in the next 6 to 8 months . The UPRNN, which had undertaken the project had asked for extension till September 2021 because of lockdown and water logging issues.

He said the prominent issues taken up were regarding Link Road from highway, high tension line, underground cabling, water drainage system , uninterrupted power supply system and also related to land additional requirement.

He said for each work the time line had bee fixed and the follow up mechanism was also finalised.

He said the Airport Authorities informed that they were getting full support from District Administration, KDA, Airforce, Nagar Nigam and line department for timely completion of the airport.

It may be mentioned here that the Airport terminal at Kanpur was one of the most important project of Kanpur and Government of UP and local administration was taking all necessary steps to complete the project in time so that the people of Kanpur especially business class and industries were benefitted and prove to be a milestone in the overall Development of Kanpur.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari, KDA VC, Air Cdr Bala Murali, GM Civil AAI, Shivaraju, BK Jha, Airport Director, Anurag, of the construction agency, PWD Chief Engineer and officials of the KNN.

FOOD TRAIL : On the occasion of World Food Day, &TV artiste Yogesh Tripathi, Daroga Happu Singh from Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, goes on a Kanpur Food Trail to share his favourite local cuisine and eateries in the city. He said 'Kanpur which is famous for its leather and textiles is equally famous for its delicacies served across the city.

One must visit the Hanuman Chaat Bhandar and Thaggu Ke Laddoo when in Kanpur. I would urge everyone to savour each bite and respect the food that we have on our plate. It makes a big difference.

Gang of tricksters busted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Babupurwa police have busted a gang of tricksters involved in duping innocent passengers at the Jhakarkati Bus Stand on Tuesday morning.

Police have arrested four tricksters red-handed selling the golden colour metal biscuits to innocent passengers near backside gate of the bus stand.

They were identified as Kalim (35), Babu alias Taj Mohammad (35), Kewle (38) and Shiv Kumar (36), all residents of Gonda district.

Police recovered 13 golden colour metal biscuits, three keypad mobile phones and ₹1840 in cash from them. The modus operandi of accused to dupe people was that after intentionally losing his two valuable biscuits in a crowded place, one of the gang members plays a drama to trace them and disappear empty handed.

Meanwhile, another gang member suddenly recovers the lost biscuits and offer innocent passengers to buy them. The third and fourth gang members present in the crowd agree to buy these biscuits at higher price to earn people's faith to adjudge their value.

People get soon lured to buy these biscuits presuming them to be of real gold. After recovering cash, all the gang members soon disappear from the spot.

During test by the goldsmith, these biscuits were found to be of yellow metal only. Police team was led by SHO Babupurwa Janardan Pratap Singh and Sub-Inspector Arpit Tewari.

Presses to adhere to ECI directives on election material

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional District Magistrate (City) Atul Kumar while addressing a meeting of proprietors and owners of printing press directed them to strictly adhere to the directives of the Election Commission of India.

He said the Code of Conduct had to be followed strictly and they had to fulfil the norms.

He said as per the guidelines, all the printing presses printing election material must ensure that their names and full address detail are also printed. He said violation of this requirement would be dealt with strictly as per law.

He said any material which was related to election and printed in the press need to be printed as per norms boldly, giving full details about the printing press.

He said the printing presses would have to bring to the notice of the returning officer before printing any election material. He said once the approval had been obtained, then only the election material could be printed at the press concerned.

He said this was applicable on all election material, including posters, banners, placards, pamphlets, handbills and other poll related material.

Suicide

KANPUR (PNS): A BTech. (Final Year) student of HBTU committed suicide by hanging himself under the Kalyanpur police station on Tuesday. In the suicide note, he did not mention the cause of incident and held himself responsible for ending his life. Hearing about the incident, kin turned upset. The deceased would have completed his studies this year, they said. According to reports, Jai Prakash Tripathi of Keshavpuram is employed in Agriculture Department. His son Vaibhav (21) was pursuing B.Tech. from Oil Engineering Branch. Father Jai Prakash said as Vaibhav was good at studies, he had been made the Placement Incharge of his Branch. After the death of his mother about six years ago, Vaibhav had become mentally upset. After writing 'I love you very much Mom' in the suicide note, Vaibhav hanged himself.

Accused in TRP scam held

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Under the joint operation of Maharashtra police and Kachhawaan police an accused in connection with the high-profile TRP scam was arrested on Monday night. Giving details, ASP Sanjay Kumar said that at the request of Maharashtra police, Kachhawaan police raided the house of the accused, Vinay Tiwari (32), son of Rajendra Tiwari, a resident of Tulapur village under Kachhawaan police station. He was arrested at the identification of Maharashtra police. The ASP further said during interrogation Vinay Tiwari while confessing his crime had disclosed that he was working in a company which was engaged in installing the machine for measuring the TRP. After completing the legal formalities the district police handed over the accused to Kandivali police of Mumbai.

MEETING: A meeting presided over by the DM was held at collectorate to discuss the projects of Nagar Palika Parishad, Mirzapur, under 12th, 13th and 14th State Finance Commission on Monday. Under the scheme projects pertained to toilets, CC roads, construction and repair of roads, water supply, light etc. were approved for which positive report of the technical team had been received and the rest were left for the next meeting. DM SK Patel made it clear that only after verification of the purchased equipment approval would be given. He directed the technical team to complete the verification without delay. For the proposal under 15th State Finance Commission the DM directed the EO to give priority to sanitation and make available list of purchase of the proposed equipment in advance and after verification of the team the proposal would be approved. The meeting was attended by ADM(F&R), ADM revenue, city magistrate and EO NPP Mirzapur.

CRS inspects second line, electrified section

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the ongoing doubling project on the Varanasi City-Chhapra rail section under Varanasi division of North Eastern Railway (NER) for upgradation in passenger facility and operational ease the inspection of newly-constructed second line and electrified section in Aurihar-Taraon (12 km) rail section was done by Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Lucknow (NE Circle), Mohammad Latif Khan, on Monday. In view of the doubling between Aunrihar-Taraon and 25,000 volts, 50 Hz and AC traction work the CRS via the electric locomotive-driven special vehicle did successful speed trial of 120 km per hour. During the inspection Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)/ Construction of NER RK Yadav, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer AK Shukla, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vijay Kumar Panjiar, Chief Engineer/Construction (headquarters) Santosh Berwa, Deputy Chief Safety Officer Balveer Yadav, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/TRD VK Sharma and senior railway officials and supervisers of Varanasi division, including construction organisation, were present, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) PK Singh said.

The CRS carried out a thorough inspection of traffic management on the double line at Taraon railway station by inspection vehicle. During this time he thoroughly inspected 25,000 bolts, 50 Hz, AC traction power station, including electrification works, new building, passenger facilities, platform length, foot over bridge, station panel, CHC crank handle, station working rule, relay room, point crossing, signal and sighting board etc. On push trolley on the Taraon-Saidpur Bhitri rail section he inspected the 25,000 bolts, 50 Hz, AC traction line fittings, sighting boards, over head lines, power sub-stations, level crossing gates, curvature and bridges. During this time Latif inspected on the doubled rail section between two block sections of Audihar station new line fitting as per standards and new signals installed on them, turnouts, ballast and packing, adequate clearance on curvature, plants and crossing, over head line, railway track fittings, electrified colour light signal, overhead line fittings, relay room, crank handle, block instrument, overlap, signal overlap, fouling mark, foot overbridge, new platform and passenger safety etc. On this section he ensured the installation of boom locks at all level crossing gates as per doubled rail section and of height gauges as per electrified rail section. The doubling of Taraon, Saidpur Bhitri and Aunrihar railway stations falling in this section together with electrification by 25000 volt, 50 Hz, AC traction were inspected according to the standards. It may be pointed out here that under the ongoing doubling project between Aunrihar-Chhapra in Aunrihar-Taraon 12 km rail station the work of newly- constructed second line and electrified section has been completed. This will benefit the trains running on this section in the form of fast and uninterrupted operation.

NCL conferred with 3 ICC PSE Awards

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Miniratna company of the Government of India, was conferred with three prestigious ICC (Indian Chamber of Commerce) PSE Awards on Monday during the 10th India Public Sector Agenda 2020 online meet. The awards were presented by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), one of the nation's premier body of business and industry. NCL has received these accolades for the best and innovative practices in HR management, contribution of women in public sector and operational performance excellence. On behalf of NCL CMD Prabhat Kumar Sinha received the award in an online event. On the occasion CMD and functional directors of the company congratulated the team NCL and dedicated these awards to employees of the company. The '10th India Public Sector Agenda @ 2020' and 'PSE Excellence Award' were organised through online mode in view of Covid-19 pandemic which saw the wide participation of PSE from the nation.

Four apprehended with ganja

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUN

On the directive of SP Yashveer Singh and ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh police apprehended four accused along with 35.5 kg illegal ganja from Rath road overbridge under Kotwali Orai police station. They were identified as Vijay Pal, a resident of of Banda district, Bhupendra Chaurasia and Bharat Chaurasia, residents of Mahoba and Jitendra Chaurasia belonging to Chhatarpur district (MP). SP Yashveer Singh said that it was the joint operation of the Kotwali police, SOG and surveillance team. He added that 35.5 kg of illegal ganja, a Maruti Suzuki car, ₹64,280 and four mobile phones had been confiscated from the possession of the accused. An FIR had been lodged under Section 8/20 of the NDPS Act against all the accused. He said that the ganja was brought from Odisha and the main supplier would be sent behind bars. The team which made the arrest comprised inspector JP Pal, Orai Kotwali incharge, S-I Praveen Kumar, SOG incharge , S-I Ajay Kumar, surveillance incharge, S-Is Chandan Kumar Pandey, Vijay Dwivedi and Mansoor Ansari Singh besides Arun Kumar, Ajay Pratap, Pradeep Kumar, Rohit Rawat, Shailendra Chauhan, Karamveer Singh, Gaurav Bajpai, Jagdish Chandra, Niranjan Singh, Bhupendra Singh, Ashwani Pratap, Vinay Chauhan, Neetu Kumar and Satyaprakash.

Masks, sanitisers distributed

PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the 'Jan Andolan' campaign organised on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and in compliance with the instructions of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal the Civil Defence organisation/Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) on Monday distributed masks on DLW campus and market. All the DLW employees and their family members are being encouraged to wear masks, wash their hands frequently and maintain social distancing. Earlier the Safety Department of DLW under the Jan Andolan against Covid-19 pandemic made the people aware visiting the markets, banks etc. Under the leadership of Chief Safety Officer (CSO) Nitin Mehrotra, Deputy Chief Safety Officer US Srivastava and the team of the Department of Safety made the people aware by distributing sanitisers, masks and pamphlets among them in areas around central market, various banks and the cinema hall and at campus-situated shops and on the road. People were inspired and encouraged by the CSO and his team to wear masks regularly. Pamphlets too were distributed on the occasion to be pasted in front of shops.

Two accused held

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The Badhalganj police arrested two accused along with three stolen motorcycles. The accused were produced by the police in the court on Monday from where they were sent to jail. The arrested accused were identified as Amit Tiwari, a resident of Bairia Khas village under the Badhalganj police station and Kamlesh, a resident of Sidhgour village. SHO Rana Devendra Pratap Singh said that during the patrolling on Sunday night on being tipped off by an informer that some youths were near the Shahi Palace the police team reached the spot. On seeing the men in khaki there they tried to flee but were caught. One stolen motorcycle each was recovered from both of them. Later on clues provided by them the third stolen bike was also recovered. He said that cases were pending against the accused Kamleshwar at several police stations and he had gone to jail earlier too.

Cong, Left slam Govt financial package

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress and Left parties on Tuesday said the Government's latest financial package will not stimulate demand and termed it another "sly attempt" to dazzle people with exaggerated numbers and it was a move to hoodwink people.

Former finance minister P Chidambaram said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcements on Monday were like "dig a mountain and find a mouse", and an attempt to lead people to believe that the Government is hands-on and responsive to the needs of people and the economy ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Rajya Saha member alleged that it is also an admission that the earlier "₹20 lakh crore package" was a failure and termed it a "hoax". He also said that by the latest announcements, the Government is trying to interfere in people's lives by telling them how to spend their own money.

"After carefully reading the statement of the finance minister on the so-called stimulus package, I am reminded of the Hindi proverb 'Khoda Pahaad, Nikla Chuha' or loosely translated, it means 'dig a mountain and find a mouse'. The grand announcement yesterday was no stimulus package to push economic growth, it was another sly attempt to dazzle the people with exaggerated numbers and lead them to believe that the government is hands-on and responsive to the needs of the people and the economy," Chidambaram said at AICC Press briefing.

The former finance minister said it is also a candid confession that the earlier so-called '₹20 lakh crore package was a massive failure'. "It was a failure because it was a hoax," he said.

Chidambaram said the numbers claimed in the package are a "hoax" as the stimulus is not of a value of ₹73,000 crore, as claimed, but merely 0.1 per cent of GDP, as estimated by some economists.

The Congress leader also alleged that the Government is also trying to play the role of "maa-baap" by telling employees what amount and on what goods and when they should spend their own money.

Practise better hygiene during winter: Govt

Seasonal epidemic-prone diseases such as dengue, malaria, H1N1 occur during this period, says Health Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As it warned that Covid-19 is a respiratory virus and most such pathogens escalate during winter calling better hygiene practices, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday issued guidelines for the management of co-infection of the coronavirus with other seasonal epidemic-prone diseases such as dengue, malaria, seasonal influenza (H1N1), etc.

"Given the seasonal pattern of epidemic-prone diseases observed every year in our country, diseases like dengue, malaria, seasonal influenza, leptospirosis, chikungunya, enteric fever, etc. can not only present a diagnostic dilemma but may co-exist in Covid-19 cases. This poses challenges in the clinical and laboratory diagnosis of Covid-19, and may have a bearing on clinical management and patient outcomes," said the statement.

"The scope of this document is to provide clear guidelines on prevention and treatment of co-infections…" the statement further read.

The document is based on the standards set up by inter-

national health agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), which say that apart from fever, patients could present other symptoms mimicking Covid-19 making the diagnosis difficult.

A high index of suspicion must be maintained for these epidemic-prone diseases prevalent in a particular geographic region during monsoon and post-monsoon seasons. Bacterial co-infections must also be suspected in moderate or severe cases of Covid-19 not responding to treatment, said the guidelines.

Despite the possibility of various co-infections, in present times of the pandemic, the approach to diagnosis for Covid-19 essentially remains the same. Testing protocol as per the ministry of health and family welfare and Indian Council of Medical Research guidelines will be followed. However, in addition, further tests for a likely co-infection will also be undertaken, whenever suspected, the ministry guidelines read.

Meanwhile, addressing the media on Tuesday over the COVID-19 situation in the country, VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, said that COVID-19 is a respiratory virus and most such viruses escalate during winter. "We have to be more careful in our hygiene practices as it is a respiratory virus and most respiratory viruses escalate during winter. Behavioural change is necessary, masks are mandatory," he said.

The three-ply masks and homemade masks are beneficial against preventing the transmission of the virus. N-95 masks are beneficial for health workers working in hospitals while surgical masks are effective in general practice use, VK Paul said.

Amit Khare, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also said that the intensive Jan Andolan campaign for Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour launched for two months particularly during festival time, October and November, will continue in various forms till March.

Males constitute 70% of overall Covid-19 deaths

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gender-wise nearly 70 per cent of those who have died due to coronavirus so far are males while age-wise, about 53 per cent Covid-19 deaths are of patients aged 60 and above, about 35 per cent deaths are of patients in 45 to 60 years age group and 10 per cent in 26 to 44 years age group.

Sharing the details of the profile of the people who succumbed to the virus, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, "gender wise, 30 per cent deaths are in female and 70 per cent in male."

He further added, India's case fatality rate is 1.53 per cent compared to 17.9 per cent with comorbid people and 1.2 per cent for people without comorbidities.

As per the existing mortality figures, nearly 17.9 per cent of people with co-morbidities have succumbed to the infection as compared to 1.2 per cent of those who are not suffering from any pre-existing chronic disease conditions.

Among those above 60, the share goes up to 24.6 per cent as against 4.8 per cent in the same age group without any co-morbidities.

Rajesh Bhushan also warned that, "Young people in the country feel that they will not be affected by Covid-19 and even if they are infected they will recover fast. There is a need for the youth to get out of this misconception."

Odisha's plan to fell 1 lakh trees for mining op faces FAC hurdle

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Odisha Government has proposed axing over one lakh trees on behalf of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), a coal mining company jointly owned by the Government of Telangana and Government of India, for conducting mining operations in the Naini block in Angul district in the State.

However, the proposal has been put on hold by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Union Environment Ministry after it found that there were discrepancies in the number of trees that will be felled in various reports submitted by the various agencies.

"As per DFO report, it is 1,06,536 trees, whereas RCCF reported 1,06,209, and the SIR (site inspection report) of Regional office reported 1,05,092 trees," said the panel headed by Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary in the Ministry in minutes of meeting held on September 21, 2020.

The FAC was studying the Odisha Government's proposal for diversion of 783.275 hectares of forest land consisting of 643.095 hectares of reserve forest in Chhendipada and Kankurupal Reserved Forest and 140.180 hectares of village forest land in Chhendipada Range of Angul Division for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) in Angul district, Odisha for SCCL.

According to the SCCL, Naini would boost its output, which was aiming to produce one crore tonnes of coal every year and has targeted commencement of production by February 2021.

A total lease area (912.799 hactares) for mining was sought for 40 years. However, throwing the spanner on the SCCL plans, the FAC had various reasons to defer the proposal. The SIR report which pointed out that elephant movement was reported in the northern and southern part of lease area was yet another reason.

"Also, if the area is mined out, the surrounding villages will be impacted more. So a detailed mitigation plan needs to be prepared for avoiding human-animal conflict in future and for providing safe passage to elephants," said the FAC quoting the SIR report prepared by RK Samal, DIG of Forest in the Central Ministry.

It also suggested constructing an underpass on SH 63 to prevent jumbo getting killed in road mishaps. The Committee also took exception that while the State Government has recommended compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land equivalent to double the area proposed for diversion, it is proposed in reserved forests.

The State Government shall explore the option of finding degraded forest area outside the notified forests considering that the reserved forest option is available for proposals of the Central Government and the CPSU only.

The FAC also expressed its concern over the State Government's proposal to set up a coal washery in the forest land (40 hectares), a portion in the project area.

"The State Government shall explore the possibility of establishing the coal washery, which is a non-site specific use, on non-forest area. The alternatives explored may be submitted," said the FAC which also expressed concerned that the substantial outflow of wastewater from a washery might have negative impact on the flora and fauna of the locality.

"All mitigation measures that are essential to minimise the impact of the proposed washery shall be listed if it could not be located outside forest land," said the FAC.

Movement of elephants has been reported in the northern and southern part of lease area. It is also reported that the proposed Similipal-Satkosia Tiger Corridor is about 8.12 km on the north side of the proposed project. Mining in the area is likely to cause Human-animal conflict in the area. Comments in this regard shall be sought from NTCA and Project Elephant Division of the Environment Ministry, it said.

Poll for 11 UP, U'khand RS seats on Nov 9

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday announced that elections for 11 Rajya Sabha seats – 10 from Uttar Pradesh and one from Uttarakhand – will be held on November 9. The counting will also be held on the same day.

In the last Parliament session, Rajya Sabha bid farewell to 11 of its members who are due to retire in November this year. They include Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav, BSP's Veer Singh and Raj Babbar of Congress. Others who will retire are: Javed Ali Khan (SP), P L Punia (Congress), Rajaram (BSP), Neeraj Shekhar (BJP), Arun Singh (BJP), Ravi Prakash Verma (SP) and Chandrapal Singh Yadav (SP).

Masks, thermal scanning, and use of sanitisers will be ensured to check the spread of coronavirus, which has affected over 70 lakh people in India so far. The government-mandated rules on social distancing will also be strictly followed, the EC said in a statement.

The EC The official statement further said that "chief electoral officers as observers in the two states" have been appointed, and the chief secretaries of the two states have been directed to "depute a senior officer to ensure the instructions regarding COVID-19 containment measures are compiled with while making arrangements for conducting the elections."

Now, cow dung-made diyas on Diwali to boost Modi's AtmaNirbhar Bharat abhiyan

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After promoting use of cow urine and cow dung-based products such as hand sanitisers and face masks to check spread of Covid-19, Diwali this year may see lamps (diyas) candles, dhoop, agarbatti (incense stick), havan materials, shubh-labh, swastik, samrani, hardboard, wall-piece, paper-weight, havan materials, idols of Ganesha and Lakshmiji made out of cow dung, a virtual end of Chinese products. The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) has planned to produce 33 crore eco-friendly earthen lamps (diyas) made from cow dung this festive season, in order to counter Chinese products. It is estimated that about 192 crore kg of cow dung per day is produced in India at present.

"The upcoming campaign to use 'diyas', made from cow dung, will will counter the Chinese made lamps and thus boost the 'make in India' concept of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's atma nirbhar bharat abhiyan. The Aayog is targeting production of 33 crore eco-friendly cow dung made diyas this diwali. There is huge untapped potential in cow dung-based products," RKA chairman Vallabh Bhai Kathiriya said.

"More than 15 States including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, have agreed to be part of the campaign. About three lakh diyas will be lit in the holy city of Ayodhya, while one lakh diyas in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, he said.

"The manufacturing has started. A group of students from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi has come out with an online platform for marketing these cow dung made diyas and have already placed an order for nearly one crore diyas," Kathiriya said. Under the campaign, all gaushalas in the country are passing economic uncertainty because of Covid-19. Making diyas and other products like nameplates and idols using cow dung will help them to be self-reliant.

The Aayog said though it is not directly involved in production of cow dung-based products, it is facilitating and offering training to self help groups and entreprenuers seeking to set up business. According to officials, the process of making these diyas is quite interesting. First, the Gobar is dried and powdered in a machine, following which compostable adhesives like tamarind seed paste is added for binding.

Then, dried herbs are added for fragrance and preservation, the dough is kneaded and placed into diya-shaped moulds. Once dried, the diyas are painted with all-natural colours and ornate motifs. Made out of cow dung, dried and powdered herbs and tamarind seed paste – the cow dung diyas are 100 per cent eco-friendly and can last a long time. Even if they are discarded after the festivities, they will decompose in a jiffy, leaving no residue. The cost of such diyas are between ₹4 to ₹20 depending on their size and decorative intricacy.

Besides diyas, the Aayog is promoting production of other products made from dung, urine and milk such as anti-radiation chip, paper weights, Ganesha and Lakshmi idols, incense sticks, candles among others.

According to Kathirya, many non-governmental organisations are coming forward to supply moulds for making these diyas to farmers and even distributing pre-mix materials used in making these diyas to them.

"Apart from generating business opportunities to thousands of cow-based entrepreneurs / farmers/ women entrepreneurs, the use of cow-dung products will lead to cleaner and healthier enviornment. It will boost up in making cow shelters atma nirbhar too," he added.

RKA brings cow dung-made 'chip'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) has come up with a 'chip' made of cow dung and claimed that it reduces radiation from mobile handsets and it will be a safeguard against diseases.The 'chip', named Gausatva Kavach, is manufactured by Rajkot-based Shrijee Gaushala. According to RKA chairman Dr Vallabhbhai Kathiria, Cow dung will protect everyone, it is anti-radiation... It is scientifically proven...This is a radiation chip that can be used in mobile phones to reduce radiation. It will be safeguarded against diseases."

Snubbed by RJD-Cong, NCP to go it alone

NCP leader said 'Mahagathbandhan' parties should not blame others if they suffer losses in the polls

BIHAR POLLS

Mumbai: The NCP will contest the Bihar Assembly polls independently after it was not allotted any seat by the RJD-Congress alliance with which it wanted to tie-up in the state, senior party leader Praful Patel said on Tuesday.

Patel said the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was ready to go with the 'Mahagathbandhan' (mega alliance) of the RJD-Congress in the eastern state, but it was not ceded a single seat by the opposition combine.

He said it is not possible for the NCP to join forces with its ally in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena, for the October-November polls as its workers from Bihar are for contesting the election independently.

Besides the Shiv Sena, the Sharad Pawar-led party is also an ally of the Congress in Maharashtra.

"We had been with them (RJD-Congress) previously too. Yet, the RJD and the Congress have not ceded a single seat to us this time despite talks. Hence, the NCP will contest the polls independently," the former Union Minister said.

Patel said he had discussed the tie-up issue with Congress leaders Ahmed Patel, Shaktisinh Gohil and RJDs Tejashwi Yadav, who is the face of the opposition alliance. Yet, the Congress did not find it right to leave some seats for the NCP, he said.

The former Union minister said the NCP had demanded only five seats, out of the total 243, as part of the possible understanding among the parties.

On one hand, they say all should come together to face the BJP-JD(U) (in Bihar). But on the other, they do not give importance to other parties. "This position of theirs is very unfortunate," Patel said, hitting out at the opposition alliance. The NCP leader said 'Mahagathbandhan' parties should not blame others if they suffer losses in the polls. He said it is not possible for the NCP to join forces with the Shiv Sena for the Bihar polls.

Our local workers are of the view of contesting the polls independently. Hence, we will not reach any understanding with the Shiv Sena in Bihar, Patel added.

The NCP has not yet announced how many Assembly seats it will contest in Bihar.

However, the party has already announced a list of 40 star campaigners for the three-phase Bihar polls to be held on October 28, November 3 and November 7.

Counting of votes will take place on November 10.

NIA conduct searches in Purnea case

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted searches in connection with the Purnea Arms Case. The house of Chandra Vijay Pratap alias Sushil of Patna and premises of Sanmario Pharmaceuticals Private Limited, Patna were searched. Chandra Vijay Pratap is the Director of the accused firm Sanmario pharmaceuticals.

The case pertains to interdiction of an SUV and seizure of highly sophisticated weapons and ammunition on February 7, 2019 by Purnea Police from three persons---Suraj Prasad, Varengnow Kahorngam and Clearson Kabo. The weapons included two Under Barrel Grenade Launchers (UBGL), one AK series rifle and 1,800 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition which were kept concealed and were being transported by the above mentioned three persons in the SUV. The local police registered an FIR No. 35/19 dated February 7 last year at Police Station Baisi against the three accused persons. The NIA re-registered the case as RC-05/2019/NIA-DLI dated February 28, 2019, under various Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and various provisions of the IPC and Arms Act. During its investigation, the NIA arrested four more accused namely Tripuari Singh, Mukesh Singh, Ningkhan Sangtam and Santosh Singh and filed chargesheet against the seven accused persons.

Explosion in Kolkata club: BJP wants NIA probe

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The BJP has demanded a National Investigation Agency probe into the massive blast that on Tuesday rocked a building housing a local club in north Kolkata's Beliaghata area ripping apart the walls and blowing off the roof of the room where the explosion occurred.

The explosion occurred early on Tuesday morning. No one, however, sustained injuries in the blast that occurred on the second floor of the club building on Beliaghata Main Road, police said adding they were "looking into the matter."

A team of forensic experts reached the explosion site to collect evidence, and sniffer dogs were also pressed into service to gather clues officials said.

"We heard a huge explosion, following which we rushed out of our houses and found two persons fleeing. Their faces were covered... We do not know what exactly happened," a resident of the area said.

Even as opposition BJP upped the ante against the Mamata Banerjee Government, party MP Locket Chatterjee said, "this blast is another instance of criminalization of Bengal and its deteriorating law and order situation," blaming a Trinamool Congress hand behind the blasts.

"Everyone knows that Beleghata is one place in Kolkata where no elections take place… where no one is allowed to vote be it parliamentary or Assembly or municipal elections… this is one region where only goonda raj of TMC prevails. Hence we demand an NIA investigation into the facts that led to the blast,|" she said while police suspected local goons were behind the blast. "It seems that there was a huge stockpile of explosives which were being used to produce country-made bombs when things went wrong leading to the blast," a police officer said.

The impact of the explosion was such that two walls of the room where the materials were stored caved in and the asbestos roof flew off. Window panes of houses about 60 feet away got shattered under the impact of the blast, sources said.

Even as a BJP team led by Chatterjee was prevented from entering the Beleghata area, Bengal Minister Firhad Hakim launched a counterattack on the saffron outfit saying "we are not Gujarat or UP or any other BJP ruled state that crimes and criminals will go unpunished. Any criminal from any party involved in the crime would be brought to book and there is no need for the BJP leaders to create a ruckus to win political brownie points because."

Covid volunteer falls prey to virus

KOCHI: 47-year-old M Padmanabha, a primary school teacher in Kerala's Kasaragod district, succumbed to Covid-19 on Sunday and his relations and colleagues blame the callousness of the State administration for what they claim as a mishap which could have been avoided.

The ground reality is the demise of Padmanabha due to Covid-19 is a bloat on the face of Kerala Government which takes pride in claiming that it has become a role model to the world in managing the pandemic," said Sukumaran Periyachoor, a retired Government Higher Secondary School principal

Padmanabha was one of the 1,740 school teachers deployed in 777 local body wards in the district by the Kasaragod administration to go around market places, businesses, funerals and maidans where people gather to ensure that all adhered to Covid-19 protocol.

Most of these teachers are untrained to undertake such a massive operation which needs basic skills in management of crowd, inter personal communication. "The district has more than 15,000 Covid-19 patients but there are no sufficient medical staff like doctors, nurses and paramedical staff," said Sukumaran. He pointed out that the Kerala Government which boasts itself as the State with India's best health care system was heard accusing the Karnataka Government when the latter shut down the road from Kerala fearing transmission of the disease. Though the Tata Group built a state-of-the-art exclusive Covid Hospital in Thekkil village in the district at a cost of Rs 70 crore where 542 patients could be treated, the Government is yet to appoint a single doctor or other medical staff. The Tata Group handed over the fully equipped hospital to the District Collector on September 9 and the matter ended there. The last one week saw 30 persons in the district succumbing to the pandemic. "Most of the teachers who have been appointed as Covid volunteers are above the age of 50 and this is a matter of concern. *PNS*

8,764 more infected

PNS ■ KOCHI

There was no relief for Kerala despite the reduced number of tests to identify new cases of Covid-19 patients on Tuesday, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Briefing the media at Thiruvananthapuram, the chief minister said 8,764 new persons were diagnosed on Tuesday across Kerala while 21 persons succumbed to the pandemic.

"There are 95, 407 active patients undergoing treatment across Kerala as on Tuesday. I am disappointed with the kind of behaviour shown by some sections of the Kerala society towards my request to observe the Covid-19 protocol," said Vijayan. He said there has been a reduction in the number of tests which should not have happened.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Safety first

J&J halts trials after a participant falls ill. This shows why developers must not cut corners under political pressure

Before there is a sense of desolateness, let's go by certain facts. First, vaccine trials are a time-consuming process of trial and error, of meticulous checks and balances and a constant re-assessment of risks and formulaic tweaks if any to ensure that the final product is safe and effective for the human body. Second, there are a lot of vaccine candidates being tested at various advanced stages of trials with encouraging outcomes so far and there is no reason to lose hope. Which is why Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said that India would have a vaccine for the novel Coronavirus from maybe more than one source by early next year. Currently, two indigenously-developed vaccine candidates, one by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR and the other by Zydus Cadila Ltd, are in phase II of the human clinical trials. The Pune-based Serum Institute of India, which has partnered with AstraZeneca for manufacturing the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine candidate, is conducting phase II and III human clinical trials. So though pharma major Johnson & Johnson (J&J) has halted clinical trials of its variant after a participant fell ill, probably slowing down US President Donald Trump's ambition of rolling out a vaccine commercially before the November polls, there is still hope. The company said that the participant's illness is being evaluated and that it would share more information after a further study into the cause for the adverse reaction to the trial vaccine. This comes on the back of British pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca stopping its vaccine tests after a volunteer fell sick. Though the tests have resumed in a number of other nations like UK, Brazil and South Africa, they are still on hold in the US for further scrutiny. Why people are upset about J&J's sudden halt is because it is among a small group of vaccine makers which has progressed into final-stage human studies. The firm is dosing thousands of volunteers in the first big trial of a COVID-19 inoculation that may work after one shot. Others probably need more than one.

Though J&J is in a mad race to find the silver bullet along with rival drug firms from around the world, both scientists and the healthcare fraternity have time and time again cautioned that pharmaceutical companies must balance time pressures with safety considerations in the crucial last stage of testing. And the fact that two of the frontrunners for the vaccine have halted work on their samples is actually a good sign that developers are not throwing caution to the wind in order to claim the highest price that awaits the one who comes out with the vaccine first. Plus it is a sign that companies are not giving in to political pressure that they are under to deliver a cure fast as the contagion continues to spread and sicken people and economies. No compromises can be made to meet the improbable timelines that are being set by Governments keen to reassure their citizens. Developmental processes that usually take years have been compressed into months, raising genuine concerns over the safety and efficacy of the quick fix shot that will come out eventually. However, the people's faith in the vaccine that comes out eventually will be vital if health authorities hope to be able to convince millions globally that they must get a shot. That's why developers have publicly pledged not to compromise on any scientific requirements for the vaccine. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates gave voice to people's concerns when he said that normalcy would return to the world "when we have not the first generation of vaccines, but one that is super-effective and widely available. Only then all the problems created by COVID-19 can be solved." Then there is the politics of distribution, what with rich nations having already booked the lion's share of an expected rollout and poorer nations having to wait in the queue. For a country like India, it needs to ready a cold chain infrastructure real soon to preserve the vaccines so that they don't lose their efficacy. In that case, normalcy will be a long time coming because we have not even got the first generation of vaccines yet. Till then prevention is the best cure.

They hate love stories

Jewellery brand caves in to vicious trolls, takes down ad celebrating inter-faith marriage. Why let bigotry win the day?

When a corporate giant with an indisputable standing takes down an ad of its jewellery company that celebrates inter-faith marriage and the birth of a baby resulting from that union — simply bowing to the majoritarian sentiment of the day — then we should worry about the India of tomorrow. For it means that the politics of polarisation has completely taken over the cultural domain and the nation's collective mindspace. The ad had a beautiful story of a Hindu-Muslim marriage, where the Muslim mother-in-law is seen to have arranged a *godh bharai* or baby shower ritual for her Hindu daughter-in-law, an example of the inclusivity and love that the brand wanted to communicate. But Right-wing trolls ripped it to shreds, saying it promoted love *jihad.* This after our literature and films have forever celebrated the plurality of Indian life and the countless inter-faith marriages in reality. Besides, the ad showed that the woman was free to pursue her own religion and rituals in her marital home and was not co-opted. The love *jihad* messages flooded social media to such an extent that the company removed the video campaign rather than risk negative publicity. In other words, the boycott calls and the cancel culture are assuming such hydra-headed dimensions that they are potent enough to determine market economics now. The sad part is if bona fide corporations take a step back and let the dominant sentiment take over, it only lionises bigotry. The sadder part is that the same jewellery brand has used its festival campaigns to convey beautiful social messages before. The saddest part is that many controversial ads have been pulled out after a public outcry, mostly because they were of a sexual nature and not for conveying the story of a confluence of religion and culture in family life.

Many proponents of Hindutva claimed victory after the ad was withdrawn but can they ever stop the harmony and plurality embedded in our civilisational DNA? A similar reaction was seen when a detergent brand tried something similar with its Holi campaign last year. The one-minute long video featured a young Hindu girl, who chose to be drenched in colours to protect her young Muslim friend, who wanted to visit a nearby mosque. Some felt that Holi wasn't given due importance and others shuddered at the thought of a Muslim man needing protection from a woman, that too, a Hindu. Advertisers force disruptions in the clutter and make us sit up and think, setting up an alternative or reasoned conversation. Today even that space has shrunk. It isn't news that most Indian families still prefer weddings being arranged within their religion and caste. Those who break the rules and are not privileged with power or education have often witnessed violent consequences, including "honour killings." According to the India Human Development Survey, only about five per cent of all marriages are inter-caste and inter-faith relations are even fewer. A 2016 survey by Social Attitudes Research for India (SARI) found that the majority of respondents opposed inter-caste and inter-religious marriages. In Delhi, about 60 per cent of Hindus said they would oppose a child or relative marrying a Muslim and a similar fraction of Muslims opposed a child or relative marrying a Hindu. In Uttar Pradesh, the prejudice was even deeper — about 75 per cent of Hindus opposed marriages with Muslims, and only a slightly lower fraction of Muslims, about 70 per cent, opposed marriages with Hindus. Not to forget that in 2018, the Facebook page that called for violence against 102 Muslim men, who were allegedly in relationships with Hindu women, had to be taken down. Then there are legal challenges for couples trying to get a marriage registered under the Special Marriage Act, where courts insist on all sorts of conditions like ensuring the marriage notice is publicised in local media. And in all this, love is never under discussion. And after yesterday, it doesn't even make for a story.

Keep the momentum going

The methodology adopted in the next 18 months will be crucial for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress. It will determine their success in the 2024 general elections

AMITABH **SHUKLA**

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, understood to be the de facto president of his party, made a hectic rendezvous in the heat and dust with the farmers of Punjab and to some extent with those in Haryana on the farm Acts. Some observers once again termed his latest avatar as "version 2.0 or 3.0", depending on how they saw the political graph and career of the Gandhi scion.

The visits got good traction in both the States, particularly in Punjab, as the Congress is not only the ruling party there, it is in a position to organise the machinery for protest marches and public meetings. Plus there is resentment against the laws across the State and among all parties, except for the BJP, which initiated the Acts.

The two political protests in a row — first in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, in support of the Dalit woman who was gang-raped by upper caste men, followed by the one in the food bowl of the country, Punjab and Haryana — catapulted him into the public eye. And he did seize the first mover advantage on both these issues. At least now he is being viewed as some sort of a "fighter" rather than a "shirker." Also, since these visits are not related to elections but concern specific issues, the images and footprints of both Hathras and Punjab would remain imprinted on the public consciousness for a while. The image of Rahul being roughed up by cops, consoling the victim's father in Hathras and riding a tractor in Punjab would help his cause immensely in the medium to long run.

But there is a rider. Rahul has shown consistently that he adopts a strategy and abandons it completely and goes for a long political vacation. Hathras and Punjab — the cause of a Dalit girl and farmers, besides other issues of the subaltern — need to be sustained and adopted in the long term political strategy of the Congress and should not remain a photo opportunity alone. Adopted for a while and then abandoned, something which had become Rahul's signature for long, the news-grabbing moments gave his opposition repeated opportunity to project him as a politician aloof from the grind, not suited for the heat and dust or the combative brand of grassroots politics. This image can be altered only when there is consistency in his political approach followed by an action plan for each and every issue which concerns the people at large. You cannot be a part-time agitationist and also a part-time tourist vacationing in a foreign country when face to face with an extremely combative adversary who is better planned and always a step ahead.

Remember the temple-hopping spree of Rahul and his attempt to sport a *Janeu* by proclaiming himself as a Dattatreya Brahmin in the run-up to the last Lok Sabha polls? No one, not even Rahul himself, knows what happened to those half-hearted attempts to play the majority religion card and the efficacy of the strategy itself. No one has even asked him if he had gone to a temple after those photo ops and does he wear a *Janeu* now. Perhaps after getting a thorough drubbing in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress strategists who advised him and he himself realised that this was not going to cut any ice with the voters and abandoned the discourse.

Long ago, when the UPA was in power and Rahul was calling the shots, he used to occasionally visit Dalit hamlets in parts of UP and used to spend the evenings and nights there, trying to understand what the downtrodden faced. Once, in 2009, he even took the visiting British Foreign Secretary David Miliband along with him to spend a night in such a household, which became a media sensation worldwide. But this practice, too, was abandoned summarily, suggesting a lack of consistency and strategy in the political methodology adopted. No one has heard if he ever spent a night in a rural household after the Congress-led UPA was ousted from power in the 2014 general elections.

Remember, the Hathras visit came nine years after his much publicised visit to Bhatta Parsaul village in Greater Noida area during a farmers' agitation, when they were protesting against alleged forcible land acquisition. He was pillion riding a motorcycle then and had entered the village in solidarity with the agitating farmers and sat on a *dharna* with them. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was ruling the State then with Mayawati as Chief Minister and Rahul was detained for a few hours. Of course, the Congress-led Government at the Centre subsequently passed the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, which raised the compensation given to farmers manifold.

Bhatta-Parsaul was a success story of sorts, which led to the passage of a Bill, considered extremely friendly to farmers if any Government/private agency wanted to acquire the land. But Rahul failed to publicise this success story. Perhaps not realising its significance, he and his party let go of an opportunity which could have helped both politically. On the contrary, the Congress became defensive when its political opponents targeted it over the Bill, saying it hampered easy land acquisition and prevented industrialists from setting up new units and giving employment.

Rahul has been put through tough scrutiny all these years, more so in the post-2014 era when the Congress lost to the BJP lock, stock and barrel and the decline continued like a free fall. In 2017, as Congress president, Rahul did a magnificent job for his party by trying to halt the BJP juggernaut in its strongest base for decades — Gujarat. The party lost but did put up a spirited fight against the political giants — Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then BJP president Amit Shah — both from the same State. The performance of the underdog (Congress) was hailed and it was billed as a new beginning, a new dawn for Congress. This performance was followed by Karnataka where the incumbent Congress government did reasonably well and prevented the BJP from claiming power. Victories in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan added to Rahul's stature and the possibilities of a Congress revival became real. But come May 2019 and all advantage was lost. The party simply could not build the momentum or keep the pressure and lost out on issues to tackle its opponent, driven as it was by aggressive nationalism and Hindutva. It simply had no answer to the blitzkrieg launched by the BJP in 2019 and surrendered meekly without even putting up a semblance of a fight.

The question now is when the momentum seems to have slightly become favourable with Hathras and the farmers' issues, will the party, particularly Rahul, be able to sustain it in the medium to long term? That will be a challenge and also provide answers to the political discourse in the run-up to a series of Assembly elections in the next one-and-a-half years.

Many Congress leaders privately say that the practice of starting a campaign or a narrative and then abandoning it midway has to come to an end. A narrative, once adopted and made a part of political strategy, has to continue and given an incubation time. Only then can one build momentum and swing tides of opinion. Partymen need to be consistent and have to hit the streets every two to three weeks to get traction and occupy the opposition space, not wake up every three years.

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, scheduled for February and March 2022, are less than one-and-a-half years away. A State where BJP is firmly entrenched under Yogi Adityanath as Chief Minister, the Congress is still considered to be a rank outsider at this juncture despite Hathras and despite the absence of Samajwadi Party (SP) and the BSP from the politics of agitation. Can Congress fill the vacuum here? Can it spring a surprise? Will the Rahul-Priyanka duo be able to project themselves as some sort of an alternative and replace the caste narrative of SP and BSP? Will they come out with a game-changer? Do they have it in them? This is what Congress leaders and workers alike are asking. For many within the party and outside, the revival of the organisation in UP is the key for success in the 2024 general elections. The road to Delhi goes through UP was an old saying but this holds true even at this juncture where a great churning of the political process is taking place.

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

SOUNDBITE

The Uttar Pradesh Government's politically motivated narrative of justifying and protecting perpetrators of crimes against women has only emboldened criminals across the State.

Congress leader
—Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

I have such respect for people in this country, the way they have handled it (COVID-19 pandemic). It's been an incredible love fest.

US President
—Donald Trump

It's been very important that leaders of poorest nations speak up and speak out about the need for a lighter debt burden from the creditor nations.

World Bank Group president
—David Malpass

We are proud to be a part of the (I-League) tournament that has brought football back, in fact, brought sports back in India.

AIFF referee
—Santhosh Kumar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India's digital ambition

Sir — The process of adopting virtual reality, augmented reality and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has boosted the chances of India's Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector. Companies have cut down work-related travel and are encouraging remote working. Consequently, India has registered a drastic increase in the usage of data and internet in the last few months. In an attempt to make India digitally-enabled post-COVID, the Government launched three schemes in April this year that are estimated to generate around five lakh direct and 15 lakh indirect jobs. However, the Government also needs to integrate the vibrant start-up ecosystem with the digital platform and develop the indigenous electronics manufacturing industry.

Khushboo Ved
Ujjain

Right to equality

Sir — In August this year, the Punjab and Haryana High Court said that a person with a physical disability has the right to continue his/her job and disability cannot be a reason to terminate employment or to reduce one's rank. Prior to that, on July 8, the Supreme Court confirmed that people suffering from disabilities are also socially backward and equally entitled to the same benefits of relaxation as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in public employment and education. While these are significant decisions, there is a need for a strict protocol for institutions to follow in terms of infrastructure for the physically challenged and academic courses crafted to specifically cater to the needs of the disabled people. Their needs in all sectors should be given equal weightage.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Rhea deserves a public apology

Actor Rhea Chakraborty, who was taken into custody during the investigation into the drug angle in Sushant Singh Rajput's death, was finally granted bail on October 7, after she spent a month behind bars. However, there is no denying the fact that in addition to the investigations and interrogations, Chakraborty became the target of patriarchy, politics and media trials. She was subjected to a witch-hunt under the guise of justice for Rajput. Notwithstanding the absence of solid evidence to prove that she had a hand in his death, she was still labelled as his "murderer." Worse, she received rape and murder threats. Many news channels declared her guilty even before the law did. She was subjected to a terrible ordeal while she faced one of the worst media trials that not only infringed on her privacy but also stirred up mob fury.

Chakraborty admitted that the social criticism and media trials had adversely affected her and her family's mental health and that she even had suicidal thoughts. What kind of a democracy are we living in where an accused person undergoes all kinds of mortification, trials and alienation before she is even proved guilty? Nobody can forget the day she was manhandled by the media. A woman's image was tarnished for the vested interests of others. She deserves a public apology from the perpetrators.

Venu GS
Kollam

Impact on farmers

Sir — The farm Acts are here to haunt the nation largely due to the growing mistrust in the Government as it hurriedly pushed through the laws without any conversation with farmers' unions. The first inkling of the Government's intent in the agriculture sector was evident in the report submitted by the Shanta Kumar Committee, which was constituted in August 2014, within three months of the BJP coming to power. The Centre was averse to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) intermediating purchase and storage of agricultural produce. Its deep-seated intention was to dilute its institutional involvement in food procurement and allocation. Recommendations were made for substantial reduction of beneficiaries under the Food Security Act and bringing down the primacy of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) a couple of notches by scrapping bonuses.

The Government, through these Acts, has been quick to take away its protective umbrella and avoid dialogue, leaving farmers to inclement market weather.

In these Acts, there is neither mention of the MSP, nor a mechanism of price stability and guarantees to pre-empt farmers' exploitation by corporates. The Centre should ensure a level playing field for all with safeguards in place for small and medium farmers.

R Narayanan
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Big shoes to fill in Bihar

If Chirag and Tejashwi are not able to benefit from the legacy of their fathers in the forthcoming Assembly elections, then who will?

KALYANI **SHANKAR**

Will the two young leaders of Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) be able to fill the big shoes of their fathers? Lalu Prasad and Ram Vilas Paswan had been players in Bihar politics for decades and held their own despite various ups and downs in their lives. They sensed a political opening in the late eighties to challenge the dominant Congress and succeeded to a certain extent. Now, years down the line, an ailing Lalu is in a jail in Ranchi, serving his sentence in the fodder scam while Paswan passed away recently.

Now, the two young leaders will be playing a much more pronounced role in Bihar politics. They are leading two important caste groups, the Yadavs and the Dalits in Bihar, estimated to be about 24-30 per cent of the electorate. To their advantage, their fathers declared both the young leaders as their political heirs long ago.

The 39-year-old Tejashwi Yadav is the leader of the Opposition alliance called the *Mahagathbandhan* (Grand Alliance). The Congress Party, the CPI, CPI–M and some smaller parties are part of the coalition. This *Mahagathbandhan* will be facing the ruling JD(U)–BJP alliance in the Assembly elections in the State.

Tejashwi is young, ambitious, articulate and has learnt some tricks of politics from his father. Once Lalu went to jail, he grabbed the opportunity and quickly moved to neutralise his opponents. However, Tejashwi has many challenges ahead. The first is to keep the flock together. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, a close confidant of Lalu, resigned as the party's vice-president and left the RJD just before his death last month. Senior leaders like Shivanand Tiwari and some MLAs are leaving the RJD and joining Nitish Kumar's camp. Though Tejashwi has inherited Lalu's name, his identity and political legacy, we have to see whether he inherits his father's vote bank, too. Lalu had carefully built up the Yadav–Muslim (MY) electorate. With his one action of halting BJP leader LK Advani's famous Rath Yatra in 1990, he has claimed secular credentials for all time to come. In all probability this vote bank will remain with Tejashwi.

Then there is the youth vote. There are four crore young voters who should be targetted by the two young leaders. Tejashwi has built up his social media platforms, posters, slogans and election jingles. Though he has studied only up to Class IX, he is also proficient in English. However, Tejashwi has a long way to go as he lacks the political shrewdness of Lalu.

Second, he has nothing much to show for his achievements as he was the Deputy Chief Minister only for 20 months. Third, Lalu overlooked the claims of his elder son Tej Prasad Yadav and daughter Misa Bharti and declared Tejashwi as his political heir, which has created jealousy and trouble in the family. Tejashwi has to sort this out and ensure his family's support. Fourth, Tejashwi got his position on a silver platter. He became the Deputy Chief Minister at the young age of 26 and is now waiting to become the Chief Minister. When the *Mahagathbandhan* ended in 2017, he became the Leader of the Opposition and now the leader of the Grand Alliance. Now is the time for him to show his leadership skills.

Chirag's story is different. He wanted to become a film actor but after failing to make an impact in Bollywood, joined his father in politics and soon rose to become the party chief. He has been involved in many crucial decisions of the party, including the recent decision to go solo in Bihar Assembly polls, leaving the Nitish-led NDA in Bihar.

Ram Vilas Paswan was known as a weathercock and he had worked with eight Prime Ministers, serving in their Cabinets for decades. His recent death would help Chirag in boosting the party but we will have to see how he translates the sympathy factor into votes. Chirag is yet to emerge as a new Dalit icon like his father. He will also face the challenge of galvanising the party workers and consolidate his position. He should be able to make his voters believe that he is the right person to fill the space left by his father.

In Bihar, Dalits comprise over 17 per cent of the population and they are one of the game-changers. While Paswan could keep his Dalit constituency intact by going "solo", Chirag will be allowing the LJP's rank and file to contest the election on a much bigger scale and expand its organisational footprint. Rumours say that he has also sealed a deal with the BJP for the post-election scenario. The two leaders will be facing a formidable combination of the JD(U) and the BJP, who have established leadership, experience, money power, muscle power and the electoral machinery at their beck and call. However, if Chirag and Tejashwi are not able to benefit from the legacy of their fathers, then who will? Could it be the JD(U) or the BJP or the Congress? Probably both might succeed in keeping their flock together if they play their cards well. Or else their voters might move away and then the playing field will be open to all.

(*The writer is a senior journalist*)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

CAN THE PUBLIC SUE BOLLYWOOD FOR DESTROYING MUSIC, LYRICS, LANGUAGE, ART, CREATIVITY, SOCIAL FABRIC AND CULTURE OF INDIA?
—FILM DIRECTOR
VIVEK RANJAN AGNIHOTRI

SIR YOU AND I MADE *HATE STORY* TOGETHER. *BAHUT* TROLLING *HOGI HAMARI SHANT HO JAAO* (WE WILL BE TROLLED A LOT, CALM DOWN).
—ACTOR AND PRODUCER
NIKHIL DWIVEDI

Why Taiwan irks China

Xi is being labelled as a revisionist and expansionist and the world is getting united to counter China's designs under democratic forces by supporting the Taiwanese cause

ANIL **GUPTA**

In an unprecedented move recently, the Chinese embassy in New Delhi issued a series of "directives" to Indian journalists and media houses regarding the coverage of the National Day of Taiwan on October 10. The press release that was issued by the media section of the embassy appeared to be more of a diktat and declared, "We will like to remind our media friends that there is only one China in the world, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate Government representing the whole of China. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory." It further dictated to the journalists, "Taiwan shall not be referred to as a country or Republic of China or the leader of China's Taiwan region as 'President,' so as not to send wrong signals to the general public."

Significantly, no such "advisory" was issued by the Chinese embassy in 2019 on the Taiwanese National Day. What is even more infuriating is that after the event, it issued a statement on "misreporting by the Indian media on Taiwan", seriously objecting to and expressing strong dissatisfaction at some of the journalists referring to Taiwan as a country. "Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. It is an objective fact and a universally recognised norm governing international relations," emphasised the Chinese envoy.

What was so different this year that the embassy issued a virtual threat to the Indian media? China is preparing for the celebration of the 100th year of the formation of the Communist Party of China (CCP) under the watchful eye of its all-powerful President Xi Jinping. The current behaviour of the Chinese diplomatic staff is the manifestation of its "wolf warrior" diplomacy. Xi wants China not only to be powerful but assertive as well. He is aggressively pushing China's "3 W Strategy", which includes media warfare. Xi desires that the CCP should not only control select foreign media but also be able to manipulate it to further its ideology and portray its Comprehensive National Power (CNP).

But why is China so sensitive about Taiwan? It is said that Taiwan would be the main trigger of a Sino-American conflict if it ever manifests. Ironically, the US does not officially recognise the Republic of China or Taiwan. Even India doesn't. Only 17 countries in the world recognise Taiwan. Yet, the US is the biggest arms supplier to Taiwan, its 11th-largest trading partner and avowed guarantor of its sovereignty.

The self-ruled island's uncertain future, amid tensions between Washington and a newly-powerful Beijing, is the greatest unresolved legacy of the Chinese civil war. While China claims Taiwan to be one of its regions and refers to it as Taiwan region, the latter is in no mood to alter the status quo and lose its status as an independent democratic nation. Xi has offered to resolve the matter on the pattern of Hong Kong by advocating the "One Nation, Two Systems" model, which has been rejected by the island nation.

Dwelling into history, the dispute is a legacy of the Mao-led Chinese civil war. The island formally became a Chinese province only in 1887. But China's faltering Qing imperial government was forced to cede it to Japan in 1895 after a brief war. Japan ran Taiwan as a colony until 1945, when it was effectively handed over to Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist (KMT) Government in China. In 1949, Mao Zedong's forces won the Chinese civil war and the KMT fled to the island, ruling it under martial law until democratising it in the 1980s, while the Communists controlled China. It continues to remain a dispute till date since no peace treaty has ever been signed.

> TAIWAN'S LOCATION AND ECONOMY ARE CRITICAL TO CHINA IN ITS PURSUANCE OF BECOMING THE NUMERO UNO WORLD POWER. IF TAIWAN BECOMES INTEGRAL TO CHINA AS DESIRED BY THE LATTER, IT WOULD BECOME A PACIFIC POWER, STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND BE IN A POSITION TO THREATEN VITAL US INTERESTS IN THE PACIFIC REGION. IT WOULD ALSO HAVE THE LEVERAGE TO CUT OFF OIL SUPPLIES TO JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA, IMPORTANT US ALLIES IN THE REGION

However, China's official position on Taiwan is unambiguous. It claims that the latter is, was and always has been an inseparable part of it, and that international law supports such a claim. This is drilled into every mainland Chinese child's mind as part of the CCP's ideology campaign with no second thought on the issue and no public discussion of alternate views being permitted.

The CCP wants outright reunification, the sooner the better, seeing the recovery of the island as the final chapter in the civil war and end of past humiliations when China was forced to cede territory to foreigners. Xi has succeeded in reasserting party control over society, which had loosened to an extent during the era of his immediate predecessors who believed in "collective leadership."

His clarion call to the nation after assuming its control was, "Don't forget the original intention. Stick to the mission." With multifarious threats challenging him, the slogan has become more relevant in the present days and is emerging as a battle cry for unity and perseverance. With increasing US interference in Taiwan and the non-reconciliatory approach of its newly-elected hardliner President, iron lady Tsai Ing-wen, China is becoming increasingly sensitive and restive about Taiwan. On the other hand, Taiwan is becoming more assertive and confident.

During the ongoing pandemic, the Taiwanese were denied entry into various countries which believed them to be Chinese since their passport is of the Republic of China. The Taiwanese Government has, therefore, decided to change the cover of its citizens' passports to read "Taiwan Passport" while retaining the Republic of China in Mandarin.

It has its own currency, the New Taiwan dollar controlled by the central bank of the Republic of China. It is increasingly stamping Taiwanese made goods as "Made in Taiwan" and all this is not going down well with the CCP, which is increasingly threatening to punish the errant island nation. China is also worried and annoyed with the fact that more and more nations are speaking up for Taiwan and are reluctant to back down under Chinese pressure.

Xi is being labelled as a revisionist and expansionist and the world is getting united to counter his designs under the banner of democratic forces and supporting the Taiwanese cause. There are growing voices in India for recognition of Taiwan though that may not be easy due to the prevailing agreements and treaties with Beijing. However, a change in intent and desire to strengthen relations between the two countries has been signalled by the present regime by deputing two of its senior party leaders to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new President.

The CCP is unwilling to settle for anything less than reunification. For Xi it has an additional emotional angle as well, related to his family history. China regards Taiwan as unfinished business as part of the civil war and Xi is a firm believer of this historic mission.

Apart from being an unfinished mission of the civil war, it is the geo strategic location and buzzing high-tech micro-chip industry of Taiwan that is the compelling reason for China to claim ownership of the island territory. Taiwan is also the world's 22nd largest economy and an important supply chain link of Silicon Valley. Many high-tech companies from the mainland have changed base to the island territory with Taiwan emerging as a potential high-tech superpower. It is home to the world's biggest contract chipmaker, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Limited.

Taiwan's location and economy are critical to China in its pursuance of becoming the *numero uno* world power. If Taiwan becomes integral to China as desired by the latter, it would become a Pacific power, strengthen its position in the South China Sea and be in a position to threaten vital US interests in the Pacific region. It would also have the leverage to cut off oil supplies to Japan and South Korea, important US allies in the region. Economically, Beijing would have control over the world's major cutting-edge technologies. All this explains China's sensitivities about Taiwan and its allergy to other nations calling it a "country" rather than Taiwan, Region of the People's Republic of China. The US, on the other hand, does not want to take any chance in the security of the island-nation that may help China fulfil its mission. Stepped-up US support for Taiwan has angered China, which has often cautioned Washington DC that it amounts to US support for Taiwan's independence. If it feels threatened enough, Beijing may forcibly occupy the island by launching military operations across the strait.

With India and China on the verge of war in eastern Ladakh and the heightened anti-China sentiments across the country, the Chinese were apprehensive of the Indian media giving prominence to Taiwan on its National Day. It was to pre-empt the same and gauge India's concerns to its sensitivities that the advisory was issued by the Chinese embassy.

(*The author is a Jammu-based veteran, columnist and security analyst*)

Give MSMEs a competitive edge through IT infra

If we want to develop the 'Made in India' brand and compete globally, we have to upgrade all systems of manufacturing and services

PRIYA **GUPTA**

Knowledge is the key to success. This has been proved time and again by the achievements of start-ups. In almost all fields, new businesses have not only challenged market leaders but also undercut them. Unicorns like Paytm, PhonePe, Flipkart, Netmeds, MakeMyTrip, OYO did not create a new market but rearranged the existing one and became leaders. A similar approach is needed in the manufacturing sector if we are keen to take on the world and are dreaming of becoming a $5 trillion economy.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector is key to the Indian economy as it is one of the biggest job generators. It has also created resilience to withstand global economic shocks and turmoil. With around 63.4 million units throughout India, MSMEs contribute to around 6.11 per cent of the manufacturing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 24.63 per cent of the GDP from service activities, as well as 33.4 per cent of the manufacturing output. Their export share is 40 per cent. The MSME sector is the second-largest employer after agriculture, giving jobs to more than 120 million people in rural areas. MSMEs are now contributing close to 15 per cent to the overall GDP of India.

If the Government wants to support MSMEs and equip them to meet global standards — as in the current scenario we are not only working to "Make in India" but also trying to "Make for the World" — we need to upgrade them in all aspects: Infrastructure, technology, manpower and capital. Plus, in addition to financial and logistics support, MSMEs need information technology (IT) support to upgrade themselves. They can be carriers of knowledge and experience and create a repository for others.

To match international standards and compete globally, upgraded IT infrastructure is needed for MSMEs and if the same is provided by the Government free or at reduced costs, then it will take a huge financial and operational burden off small entities.

In the current scenario, skilled manpower will be a challenge for MSMEs and with shared IT support, they can reduce their dependence on internal staff. Another big challenge in front of MSMEs will be limited budgets for upgradation of their existing IT infrastructure and affordability of operating costs. The requirement of research and development in MSMEs is different from that of big industries as they need cost and resource efficient solutions. MSMEs need continuous upgradation to compete globally and benchmarking is required so that they can produce world-class goods. Big industry players, who are cash-rich, always upgrade by deploying huge capital and beat small competitors like MSMEs.

By introducing shared IT infrastructure from the Government's side, MSMEs can save on capital expenditure and operating costs, giving them better profitability. Owing to the nature of their business and size, most MSMEs don't use a high level of IT support and lack badly in IT infrastructure. As these are promoter/owner-driven and focus more on their core job, their investment in core job IT and research is always lacking.

For example, a small auto-component manufacturer requires designing software to improvise designs or to reduce cost. New software could cost the business ₹5-8 lakh, which is unaffordable for most. By using shared IT services, the manufacturer can improve the design, control quality and deliver a better product under stringent cost control. Such a requirement can be very diverse, starting from basic software, communication or meeting tools to highly-advanced Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solutions. It can be designed or categorised based on the requirement level or reach and can be priced accordingly. The biggest strength of MSMEs is their agility and ease of response to change as per the client's requirement. If the same is supported by IT and other high technology, they can be a double engine of growth for India.

This can be designed on a PPP model and create employment for service providers too. Post the pandemic, the Government is budgeting huge growth in the MSME sector and planning multiple packages for them. IT is a consistent requirement and always looking for upgradation. Hence if the Government can provide IT infrastructure resources at a nominal fee or free of cost, then it will be a huge saving for MSMEs. On the other hand, due to the bulk purchase of such services, their total outgo will be considerably lower as compared to individual purchase.

If we want to develop the "Made in India" brand as a global signature and beat competition around the world, we have to upgrade all systems of manufacturing and service. This can only be done after improving the IT infrastructure. This one-point cost will save and support millions who are looking to grow and make India a manufacturing and services hub.

(*The writer is Associate Professor, Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship, JNU*)

FOREIGN EYE

MINISTERS FAIL THE TEST

Labour MPs should add their voices to those calling for education reforms. But any upheaval must be resisted. The priority now is helping schools and students recover lost ground and raise their level of preparedness, with a focus on the vulnerable. Ministers must lead these efforts and not distract from them.

(*The Guardian* editorial)

the pioneer
LUCKNOW | WEDENSDAY | OCTOBER 14, 2020

Indian economy to contract by 10.3% in 2020: IMF

To bounce back with 8.8% growth in 2021 to regain fastest growing eco tag

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Indian economy, severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic, is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday.

However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 per cent, the IMF said in its latest 'World Economic Outlook' report.

Released ahead of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, the report said global growth would contract by 4.4 per cent this year and bounce back to 5.2 per cent in 2021. The IMF in its report said that revisions to the forecast are particularly large for India, where Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted much more severely than expected in the second quarter.

"As a result, the economy is projected to contract by 10.3 per cent in 2020, before rebounding by 8.8 per cent in 2021," it said.

In 2019, India's growth rate was 4.2 per cent.

According to the IMF, India is among those likely to suffer the greatest damage from global warming, reflecting its initially high temperatures. For India, the net gains from climate change mitigation-relative to inaction-would be up to 60-80 per cent of GDP by 2100.

While estimates of losses from climate change are somewhat smaller for colder regions (for example, Europe, North America, and east Asia), these are likely underestimations as they do not include a number of damages (for example, rise in sea levels, natural disasters, damage to infrastructure from thawing of permafrost in Russia) and negative global spillovers from large economic disruptions in other parts of the world.

World economy in deep recession in 2020, growth to be -4.4%: IMF

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The IMF on Tuesday predicted a deep global recession this year and the world growth to be -4.4 per cent, asserting that the global economic crisis is far from over mainly due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

In its latest World Economic Outlook report, the International Monetary Fund also said the swift recovery in China has surprised on the upside while the global economy's long ascent back to pre-pandemic levels of activity remains prone to setbacks.

This crisis is however far from over. In our latest World Economic Outlook, we continue to project a deep recession in 2020. Global growth is projected to be -4.4 per cent, an upward revision of 0.8 percentage points compared to our June update, Gita Gopinath, the Chief Economist of the IMF, said.

This upgrade owes to somewhat less dire outcomes in the second quarter, as well as signs of a stronger recovery in the third quarter, offset partly by downgrades in some emerging and developing economies.

According to the report, in 2021, growth is projected to rebound to 5.2 per cent, -0.2 percentage points below its June projection.

Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread with over one million lives tragically lost so far, the Indian-American economist said living with the novel coronavirus has been a challenge like no other.

However, she said the world is adapting as a result of eased lockdowns and the rapid deployment of policy support at an unprecedented scale by central banks and governments around the world.

The global economy is coming back from the depths of its collapse in the first half of this year, she said.

Employment has partially rebounded after having plummeted during the peak of the crisis. This crisis is however far from over. Employment remains well below pre-pandemic levels and the labour market has become more polarised with low-income workers, youth, and women being harder hit, she added.

She added the poor are getting poorer with close to 90 million people expected to fall into extreme deprivation this year. The ascent out of this calamity is likely to be long, uneven, and highly uncertain. It is essential that fiscal and monetary policy support are not prematurely withdrawn, as best possible, Gopinath said.

Gopinath said that except for China, where output is expected to exceed 2019 levels this year, output in both advanced economies and emerging market and developing economies is projected to remain below 2019 levels even next year.

Countries that rely more on contact intensive services and oil exporters face weaker recoveries compared to manufacturing-led economies.

The divergence in income prospects between advanced economies and emerging and developing economies, excluding China, triggered by this pandemic is projected to worsen, she said.

The IMF has upgraded its forecast for advanced economies for 2020 to -5.8 per cent, followed by a rebound in growth to 3.9 per cent in 2021.

Markets eke out gains, close higher for 9th day; IT stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended marginally higher after choppy trade on Tuesday, propped up by RIL and IT stocks amid lacklustre cues from the global markets.

Rising for the ninth session in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 31.71 points or 0.08 per cent higher at 40,625.51.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty inched up 3.55 points or 0.03 per cent to 11,934.50.

HCL Tech was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 3.94 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Infosys, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement and Tech Mahindra.

On the other hand, Titan, Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, SBI and Maruti were among the main laggards, shedding up to 2.18 per cent.

According to analysts, the recent recovery in market was led by expectations of fresh fiscal stimulus from the government, but the sops announced have failed to cheer investor sentiment. IT stocks continued to gain momentum ahead of crucial Q2 results and better earnings visibility, they added.

"Market may consolidate due to below than anticipated stimulus package and the large part of the positive Q2 results announced till date is well factored in the prices.

"The momentum may reverse into a narrow-range, in the near-term, while the undercurrent of the rally is still positive and a break-up is likely based on the continuity of positive results, more fiscal measures in the future and developments in the global market. Today, the banking sector lost some grounds due to adjournment of moratorium hearing to next day," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE energy, IT, teck, power, metal and basic materials indices rose as much as 1.54 per cent, while healthcare, consumer durables, finance and bankex ended in the red.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices slipped up to 0.29 per cent. Global equities stumbled following reports that Johnson & Johnson was pausing its COVID-19 vaccine trials because of an unexplained illness in a study participant.

Bourses in Shanghai and Tokyo ended on a positive note, while Seoul was in the red. Hong Kong was closed for a holiday.

Stock markets in Europe were trading in the negative territory in early deals.

NIFTY 50

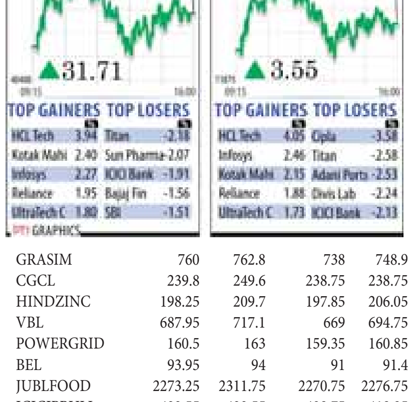
SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11,934.65	11,988.20	11,888.90	11,934.50	3.55
HCLTECH	866.3	906.6	863.3	900.9	35.1
INFY	1,135.55	1,166.05	1,135.55	1,160.00	27.9
KOTAKBANK	1,319.65	1,349.70	1,307.20	1,341.10	28.2
RELIANCE	2,230.60	2,285.75	2,225.85	2,279.00	41.95
ULTRACEMCO	4,448.00	4,525.00	4,339.45	4,380.70	74.4
EICHERMOT	2,184.25	2,235.00	2,178.35	2,215.65	34.3
JSWSTEEL	285	291.1	283.95	289.25	4.1
COALINDIA	113.3	114.65	112.35	114.15	0.95
TECHM	856.9	879.9	851	863.95	7.05
HINDALCO	170.45	174.9	169.75	173.5	1.35
POWERGRID	160	162	159.2	160.85	1.05
HDFCLIFE	564.4	571.95	559.7	567	3.6
BRITANNIA	3,732.00	3,786.30	3,702.65	3,755.00	23.5
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,025.00	3,051.10	2,996.20	3,039.60	16.85
IOC	75.55	76.35	74.55	76.1	0.4
GRASIM	742.8	763	736.95	746.5	1.8
BHARTIARTL	421.15	427.5	413.1	416	0.95
ONGC	69.1	69.75	68.8	69.25	0.1
NTPC	82.8	83.4	82.4	82.85	0.1
SHREECEM	20,951.00	21,700.00	20,850.00	20,974.85	18.75
HEROMOTOCO	3,283.50	3,303.00	3,256.20	3,287.00	2.3
TCS	2,845.00	2,854.90	2,812.20	2,830.50	0.5
HINDUNILVR	2,137.95	2,153.25	2,128.00	2,135.00	-3.4
UPL	507.8	515.55	504.1	504.45	-2.65
ASIANPAINT	2,077.00	2,114.00	2,054.05	2,067.10	-10.75
SBILIFE	790	795	781	786.9	-4.75
WIPRO	377.3	381.7	372.95	375.2	-2.3
BAJAJFINSV	5,900.00	5,914.50	5,825.00	5,870.00	-42.75
GAIL	83.6	84	82.1	83.15	-0.7
TATASTEEL	372	376.25	366.65	367.45	-3.65
BPCL	342.4	343.7	338	338.1	-3.5
LT	907.95	915.7	888.85	896.3	-9.45
DRREDDY	5,230.00	5,322.80	5,157.85	5,165.00	-55.5
INDUSINDBK	611.6	620.75	602.45	606.95	-7.5
M&M	634.35	642	624.35	626	-8.4
NESTLEIND	15,880.00	15,979.25	15,652.00	15,690.00	-212.2
HDFC	1,962.00	1,986.65	1,930.55	1,939.00	-26.4
ITC	172.85	174.85	169.5	169.8	-2.4
TATAMOTORS	135.4	137.1	132.85	133.95	-1.95
HDFCBANK	1,213.40	1,222.45	1,195.00	1,195.25	-18.4
MARUTI	7,135.00	7,185.00	7,022.00	7,028.00	-108.65
BAJFINANCE	3,319.95	3,340.00	3,243.65	3,274.00	-53.2
SBIN	198.65	200	195.1	195.5	-3.2
AXISBANK	465.9	473	459.75	460.05	-7.95
SUNPHARMA	514	519.95	501.6	503.5	-10.4
ICICIBANK	401	401	393.5	395.45	-8.6
DIVISLAB	3,214.00	3,248.00	3,121.10	3,135.45	-71.8
ADANIPORTS	357.65	358.65	348.4	348.6	-9.05
TITAN	1,257.55	1,281.90	1,223.65	1,224.35	-32.4
CIPLA	810	829.05	778.5	784.5	-29.15

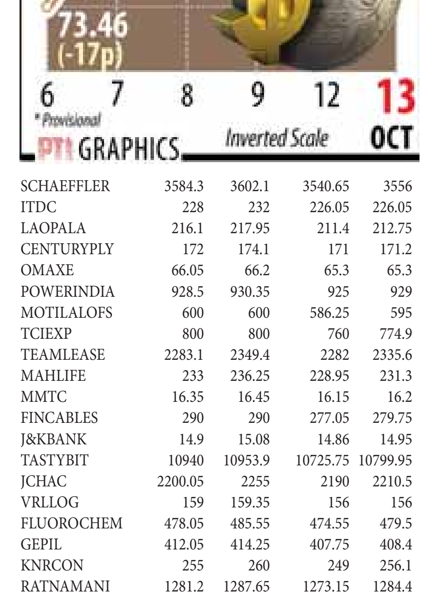
NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27,267.20	27,459.75	27,147.80	27,183.80	-113.55
ADANIGREEN	671	705.1	661.1	705.1	33.55
HINDZINC	200	209.75	198.1	206.4	8.3
NAUKRI	3,492.30	3,655.00	3,490.00	3,608.30	129.15
AMBUJACEM	237	249.35	236.8	241.9	3.5
PGHH	10,040.00	10,168.00	9,961.15	10,140.00	138.75
SBICARD	843.1	861.1	840.1	855.25	10.2
ABBOTINDIA	16,171.15	16,300.00	16,080.00	16,282.00	171.7
ADANITRANS	293	299.5	290.2	296	2.75
GODREJCP	711.4	727.75	703.85	714.2	5.95
LUPIN	1,050.00	1,087.80	1,045.30	1,050.90	4.4
ACC	1,515.00	1,565.90	1,508.00	1,523.00	6.05
COLPAL	1,443.35	1,470.00	1,417.50	1,448.45	5.5
BAJAJHLDNG	2,398.70	2,419.65	2,390.05	2,403.85	5.15
UBL	974.6	975	952.2	972.5	1.6
PIDILITIND	1,478.10	1,498.80	1,473.05	1,481.50	2
OFSS	3,050.00	3,144.00	3,030.00	3,049.00	2.15
MARICO	368.45	373.2	366.15	366.85	-0.2
LTI	3,155.50	3,320.00	3,155.50	3,270.00	-6.7
DABUR	515.9	524.5	512.8	514.4	-1.1
BERGEPAINT	604	615.5	604	607.2	-1.5
ICICIGI	1,202.00	1,240.95	1,200.00	1,203.80	-4.2
HINDPETRO	172.05	173	169.75	170.55	-0.85
GICRE	121.75	123.8	121.15	121.6	-0.65
MUTHOOTFIN	1,145.00	1,148.00	1,120.65	1,135.55	-7
DLF	156.05	159.45	154.6	154.9	-0.95
ALKEM	2,706.00	2,730.00	2,662.00	2,690.00	-17.8
HAVELLS	705	710.4	699.2	700	-5.05
TORNTPHARM	2,840.80	2,896.00	2,807.00	2,819.80	-21
HDFCAMC	2,285.00	2,293.70	2,258.00	2,286.00	-17.2
ICICIPRULI	418	422.2	408.5	414.65	-4.2
MCDOWELL-N	533.95	535.4	525.05	525.5	-5.45
BANKBARODA	41.8	42.15	41.2	41.3	-0.5
TATACONSUM	473.8	477.5	467.05	468.45	-6.25
DMART	2,002.60	2,035.45	1,965.00	1,975.00	-27.6
IGL	373.55	373.55	364.1	366.8	-5.3
PETRONET	218.5	218.95	215	215.3	-3.15
MOTHERSUMI	113.6	114.35	110.95	112	-1.65
INDIGO	1,383.95	1,396.00	1,356.40	1,359.90	-20.4
PFC	86	86	83.85	84.5	-1.5
NMDC	80.4	80.7	78.9	79.15	-1.6
CONCOR	368.8	369	360.25	363	-7.55
PNB	28.4	28.5	27.75	27.85	-0.6
BIOCON	461.9	464.45	450.5	452	-10.65
PEL	1,314.40	1,315.00	1,268.35	1,278.90	-35.5
SIEMENS	1,264.30	1,264.30	1,221.20	1,223.90	-35.65
BANDHANBNK	325	327.6	318.5	318.55	-9.3
CADILAHC	438.5	446.3	427.2	428.9	-12.6
BOSCHLTD	12,576.45	12,600.00	12,061.75	12,160.00	-369.1
AUROPHARMA	830	844	805.6	807.5	-26.65
INFRATEL	187.95	187.95	180	182.6	-6.4

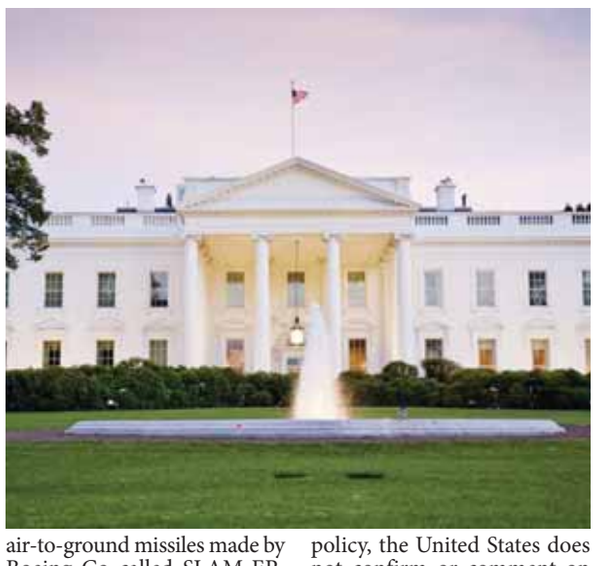
BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
RELIANCE	2232.2	2285.95	2228.2	2280.25
INFY	1135	1165.85	1135	1158
HCLTECH	870	906.7	864.85	900.45
WIPRO	378	381.7	373	375.75
BHARTIARTL	420	427.35	413.25	415.35
TCS	2845	2855	2813.25	2825.65
LUPIN	1049.5	1087.65	1045.1	1056.7
SBIN	198.7	200	194.5	195.65
DRREDDY	5228.8	5321.05	5150.4	5167.2
ITC	172.85	174.8	169.55	170.2
CIPLA	810	829	778.75	788.25
VEDL	98.2	103.95	97.85	99.65
BAJFINANCE	3325	3339.7	3245	3273.2
INDUSINDBK	611.95	620.6	604.45	608.5
MARUTI	7125.2	7188	7023	7031.85
ULTRACEMCO	4300	4524	4300	4382
HDFCBANK	1214.15	1221.5	1195.1	1198.15
ADANIGREEN	669	706.7	661.05	706.7
AXISBANK	467.6	473	460	461.15
TATASTEEL	372.5	376.3	361.75	367.5
IDEA	8.55	8.67	8.47	8.54
TITAN	1260	1281.6	1222.25	1229.75
ICICIBANK	401.6	401.6	393.55	396.15
TATAMOTORS	135.55	137.1	132.85	134.1
LTTS	1648.95	1879	1648.95	1809.45
ALOKTEXT	21.35	23	21.35	21.5
TECHM	857.7	879.65	852	867.4
LTI	3170	3313.45	3144	3266.65
GAIL	84	84	82.15	83.2
ZEEL	191	192.15	181.5	182.45
FRETAIL	69.4	78	66.2	76
HDFC	1957.55	1985.7	1930.95	1942.85
ESCORTS	1255.9	1276.6	1234.4	1240.9
HINDUNILVR	2131.1	2152	2127.05	2139.4
GRANULES	396.25	406	390	392.95
DIVISLAB	3219	3246.05	3120.9	3144.85
GLENMARK	495.6	509.1	490	492.95
MINDTREE	1568	1596.25	1552	1586.25
AUROPHARMA	831.55	843.8	806.3	811.1
COFORGE	2674	2813.05	2642.6	2794.5
LT	906.55	915.5	889.35	896.5
BANKBARODA	41.9	42.15	41.2	41.3
MOTHERSUMI	113.9	114.35	111.15	111.85
IOC	75.7	76.3	74.6	76.15
ASIANPAINT	2072	2112.9	2054.4	2065.7
KANSAINER	476	482.65	475	476
IBULHSGFIN	149.5	152.95	145.8	146.7
ASHOKLEY	73.1	74.6	72.7	73.9
KOTAKBANK	1315	1349.6	1309.6	1344.3
AMBUJACEM	239.25	249.25	237.1	241.8
PAGEIND	20752.6	21344.15	20518.6	20683.95
NAUKRI	3510	3680.35	3500	3607.95
TATAELXSI	1489.9	1493.95	1432	1457.95
ACC	1519	1565.2	1510.55	1520.95
JSWSTEEL	284.25	291	284.1	289.3
DLF	155.8	159.35	154.25	155.05
MGL	808.15	808.15	785.15	787.9
SIEMENS	1261	1261	1223	1231.1
SUNPHARMA	513	519.95	502	503.2
SBICARD	844	860	840.5	856.1
RBLBANK	175	175	168.85	169.7
PEL	1315	1315	1269.05	1278
HDFCLIFE	564.5	571.9	560.05	566.45
SRTRANSFIN	664	667.95	648	651.5
COLPAL	1430.2	1463.45	1418.4	1457
HEROMOTOCO	3285	3300.5	3258.1	3282.7
FEDERALBNK	52.25	53	51.9	52.55
LICHSGFIN	300.1	302.2	286.7	288.35
JINDALSTEL	194	194	191.1	191.65
CADILAHC	438.9	446.05	427.25	431.35
EICHERMOT	2193	2233.4	2180.35	2222
DEEPAKNI	739.95	757	730.25	735.7
TATACHEM	300	308.5	299.8	307.5
BSOFT	193.5	205.8	189	203.5
BLISSGVS	176.8	178.15	170.35	170.65
SRF	4367	4427.7	4332.05	4377
STAR	719	742	717.3	732.4
DMART	2028	2035	1965.05	1976.9
BOSCHLTD	12563.8	12600	12095.15	12200
APOLLOHOSP	2299	2299	2247.45	2250
DABUR	518	524.55	512.9	513.05
M&MFIN	131.95	131.95	126	126.9
TATACONSUM	473.5	477.5	466.95	469.05
BERGEPAINT	604	615.05	604	607.5
LAURUSLABS	333.9	336.5	324	326.7
GMM	3552	3676.7	3524.85	3619
HINDPETRO	172	173	169.7	170.35
BAJAJ-AUTO	3015	3050	3000.05	3035.2
TVSMOTOR	472.85	472.85	457.6	461.3
BIOCON	462	464	449.1	451.2
INFRATEL	188.75	188.75	180	182.05
INDIGO	1380	1395.55	1356.95	1361.2
DIXON	8603.8	9100	8573.45	9033.25
BHARATFORG	460	476.45	455.95	458.1
BANDHANBNK	326	327.5	318.45	320.25
IDFCFIRSTB	31.15	31.5	30.6	31.35
RECLTD	96.9	96.9	91.9	92.55
RAMCOCEM	769.3	798.7	763.35	763.65
BHEL	28.45	28.6	28.1	28.3
M&M	635	641.8	624.5	628.15
PIDILITIND	1480	1498.4	1473.45	1486
SYNGENE	564	572.9	546	551.45
SONATSOFTW	330.5	360	330.5	357.2
PVR	1270	1270	1225.6	1241
THYROCARE	1100	1135.05	1080.65	1092
SHREECEM	21300	21699.85	20900	21068.95
ADANIENT	314.65	317.5	310	314.25
BPCL	343	343.5	338	338.95
JBCHEPHARM	977	1015	948.15	1005.95
HINDALCO	171.8	174.8	170.1	172.05
TATAPOWER	52.9	55.05	52.6	54.05
BRITANNIA	3725	3784.85	3705.1	3744.05
COALINDIA	113.3	114.65	112.4	113.9
UPL	508	515.5	504.25	506.2
PHILIPCARB	126.5	136.1	125.15	135.2
L&TFH	62.85	62.85	60.7	61
BAJAJFINSV	5910	5910	5827.95	5870.75
PERSISTENT	1304	1362	1297.1	1350.7
VINATIORGA	1210	1299	1190	1289.9
GODREJCP	711	727.85	704.6	715.2
NESTLEIND	15900	15983.35	15655.15	15694.8
CYIENT	378.5	381	372	376.85
HAL	761.2	776	753	755.7
CANBK	90.15	90.75	89	89.5
ADANIPORTS	358	358.05	348.25	349.9
BALKRISIND	1385	1422.1	1376.4	1387.25
KPITTECH	113	123.4	111.5	119.15
GRASIM	760	762.8	738	748.9
CGCL	239.8	249.6	238.75	238.75
HINDZINC	198.25	209.7	197.85	206.05
VBL	687.95	717.1	669	694.75
POWERGRID	160.5	163	159.35	160.85
BEL	93.95	94	91	91.4
JUBLFOOD	2273.25	2311.75	2270.75	2276.75
ICICIPRULI	422.55	422.55	408.75	418.95
TRIDENT	8.1	8.34	7.91	8.05
PNB	28.4	28.5	27.7	27.8
JUSTDIAL	415	422.3	406.8	412.1
MPHASIS	1398	1427.8	1384.35	1412.55
IDFC	29.95	29.95	28.8	28.85
EXIDEIND	160	164.95	158.65	160.6
CENTRALBK	12.12	12.12	11.11	11.45
SAIL	33.5	33.75	32.95	33.1
TORNTPHARM	2839.55	2897	2806.75	2818
MCX	1741.6	1775.25	1724.6	1745
AMARAJABAT	728	737.75	720	731.05
INDIACEM	117	120.65	116.75	117.4
JSL	52	53.25	49.1	52.75
LALPATHLAB	2180.1	2180.1	2111.6	2124
ONGC	69.2	69.8	68.8	69.05
MRF	58500	59365.25	58326.9	58517
BATAINDIA	1365	1376	1351.1	1352
GRAPHITE	192.15	203.35	190.85	199.45
FCONSUMER	7.03	7.68	6.96	7.64
SHILPAMED	497.75	507.2	475	483.55
IGL	372.35	373	364.3	366.75
NTPC	82.55	83.4	82.4	82.7
MUTHOOTFIN	1142	1147.15	1122	1136.1
ICICIGI	1204.95	1240	1201	1205.45
ADANITRANS	293	299.1	290.4	295.75
FSL	69.35	73.2	69.35	71.95
VOLTAS	662	681.6	662	663.75
UBL	967.35	974.4	952.6	973.55
GMRINFRA	24	24.55	23.55	23.8
CHOLAFIN	249	249	240.5	242.3
SUNTV	453	453	440	443.2
TATAMTRDVR	59.45	60.1	58.15	58.35
APOLLOTYRE	132.55	133.45	130.3	131.45
KAJARIACER	527.25	537	524.95	532.2
MANAPPURAM	167.45	167.45	162.45	163.9
IDBI	34.5	34.75	34	34.15
CEATLTD	993.8	1027.05	992.7	1021.1
CROMPTON	260.2	278	260.2	277.5
ENGINERSIN	63	63.45	60.65	60.8
NATCOPHARM	923.5	945	923.5	944.35
IEX	193	197.5	188.65	195.7
DALBHARAT	795	829.9	790	792
HDFCAMC	2300	2300	2260	2287
SWANENERGY	135	138.45	132.9	136
PETRONET	217	218.35	215.1	215.65
IRCTC	1339	1348	1334.55	1336.65
NATIONALUM	30.6	30.75	30.2	30.3
MFSL	585	598.45	582	585.65
CRISIL	1743.55	1743.55	1693	1733.6
AMBER	1980	2019	1959.85	1991
CUMMINSIND	432	446.35	425.25	445
SOUTHBANK	6.81	7.04	6.8	6.91
MARICO	367.45	373.25	366.3	366.9
HEG	716.55	746	713.3	728.05
DCBBANK	80.95	80.95	74.65	76.15
CUB	148.05	148.05	143.2	144.4
HAVELLS	702.1	710	698.95	698.95
ABBOTINDIA	16200	16400	16065	16400
ATUL	6076.05	6099.75	5943.8	5951
INFIBEAM	89	89	86.65	87.45
BEML	613.2	634.75	609	628.35
GNFC	208	208	191.1	191.85
POLYCAB	813.55	818.05	801.5	807.5
CANFINHOME	474.75	474.75	453.6	466.8
PFC	85.5	85.65	83.9	84.65
OFSS	3066.95	3145.95	3034	3057
WOCKPHARMA	310.95	315.4	306.05	311.15
INOXLEISUR	283	283	273.35	278
GODREJPROP	917	917	881	894
TV18BRDCST	29.5	30.55	29.5	30.1
JSLHISAR	95.75	98.25	91.9	92.2
SBILIFE	791.6	791.7	781	787
AARTIIND	1009	1009	985.05	995
SPICEJET	48.5	48.9	47.85	48
GUJGAS	293.25	293.25	281	283.6
JKCEMENT	1679	1724	1665	1707.25
BANKINDIA	40.7	41	40.25	40.4
APLLTD	947.95	968.1	942	960.85
GODFRYPHLP	872.5	894	872.5	875.05
JAMNAAUTO	42.8	45.9	42.55	44.3
PGHL	5250.05	5316	5133.5	5189
INDHOTEL	94.9	95.85	93.9	94.45
ADVENZYMES	343.2	349.85	335	336.4
RAIN	94.5	99.95	94.5	99
CENTURYTEX	321	324	316.2	317
FORTIS	134.2	138.4	134.2	136.15
NESCO	513	548	511.05	528
NH	359	365.2	357.1	364.9
REPCOHOME	215.95	215.95	195	197.35
STRTECH	144.6	147.55	142.55	145.4
AJANTPHARM	1540	1593.4	1540	1576
ALKYLAMINE	3107.9	3164	3071.5	3097.3
ADANIGAS	196	196	189.2	190.85
NOCIL	145	145.8	141.95	142.6
JUBILANT	719	719	695	696.85
UJJIVAN	214	219.15	207.25	210.15
CASTROLIND	110.5	110.5	107.05	107.25
ABFRL	128	132.8	125.8	131.5
ITI	123.5	127.75	121.5	126.85
AVANTI	510.6	514	506.3	508.85
LAXMIMACH	3855.05	3931.3	3800	3910
ASTRAL	1170	1179.75	1145	1163.2
VSTIND	3334.85	3338.95	3280	3287.05
PARAGMILK	113	113	107.6	110
ISEC	453.15	474.2	453.15	468.4
CONCOR	372.2	372.2	360.5	363.55
VENKYS	1460	1508.05	1450	1461.25
EIDPARRY	266	271	261.4	263
SUNTECK	252.1	254.85	249	252.5
TORNTPOWER	298.3	301.85	294.35	295.9
GILLETTE	5300	5331.9	5247.2	5276
NMDC	80.7	80.7	79	79.2
SUZLON	2.88	2.91	2.86	2.9
PIIND	2049.95	2051.75	2014.25	2022
INDIAMART	4996.45	5090.85	4968	4995.75
DEEPAKFERT	149.35	151.6	147.85	148.65
SUMICHEM	280	280.85	275.15	276.35
GSFC	63.3	64.55	61.75	62.1
RAJESHEXPO	452.5	453	444.55	448.4
AUBANK	731.2	755	725.65	745
WABCOINDIA	5447.75	5476.25	5400	5400.85
RAYMOND	279.75	282.15	274.5	277.85
BLUEDART	3136.45	3136.45	3016.95	3027.7
PNBHOUSING	364.05	366.35	361.05	363.65
BAYERCROP	5680	5803.05	5660	5709.95
SPARC	171.75	173.7	167.5	169
CREDITACC	703	707	672.3	675
NAVINFLUOR	2068	2072	1990.05	2015.2
IBREALEST	49.5	49.85	48.3	48.45
TRENT	701.95	717.8	684.05	687.4
NAM-INDIA	268.7	275	265	269.05
SUVENPHAR	373.9	373.9	344.75	348.7
OBEROIRLTY	374.5	390.15	370.3	387.3
IRB	107	111.95	105.6	110.3
HFCL	16.25	16.5	16	16.25
DISHTV	13.05	13.21	12.81	12.85
SOLARINDS	1073	1097.7	1050	1050
ABB	866.45	872	856	859.85
ADANIPOWER	36.2	36.4	36.05	36.25
HSCL	50	50.4	49.5	49.55
AFFLE	2800	2800	2700	2730
UNIONBANK	25.25	25.35	24.1	24.25
APLAPOLLO	2670	2850	2670	2790.1
RVNL	18.95	18.95	18.55	18.6
SUDARSCHEM	457	469.25	456.65	466
PFIZER	5093	5093	4955	4997
ERIS	505.5	524.25	486.05	507.55
REDINGTON	116.45	124.9	116	122.9
ALKEM	2700	2726	2664	2688.2
EQUITAS	52.8	53.3	52.45	52.85
SUPREMEIND	1348.7	1426	1332.6	1359
SHK	94.6	94.6	89.05	89.45
JAICORPLTD	83.5	85.1	82.95	83.7
SANOFI	8545	8583.95	8481.4	8529.1
HATHWAY	34.8	34.8	32.5	34.5
HAWKINCOOK	5065	5150	5060	5110
WELCORP	105.55	109.9	105.4	107.3
WABAG	185	187.6	182.7	184.4
3MINDIA	19300	19300	18910	19164.85
ASTRAZEN	4330	4339.85	4282	4297
CESC	590	596.4	585.3	588.15
IPCALAB	2145	2145	2102.05	2135.7
BAJAJELEC	507	512.6	504.5	504.5
METROPOLIS	1992.15	1994.9	1949	1949
PRSMJOHNSN	64.85	70.65	64.45	67.2
DELTACORP	107	107.2	104.75	105.65
GESHIP	220	228	210.85	215
ABCAPITAL	63.5	63.5	61.65	62
SOBHA	258.1	264.5	258.1	260.05
NCC	33	33	32.35	32.35
RADICO	414.2	419.05	407.7	414.6
RALLIS	279.95	282	277.15	281.9
BOMDYEING	62.55	63.2	62.1	62.8
HIMATSEIDE	123.15	126.7	120.8	120.95
JKLAKSHMI	264.6	271.75	264.6	271.15
EIHOTEL	75.7	76.45	73.45	76.05
MIDHANI	190	193.3	189.35	192.2
ZYDUSWELL	1825	1825	1746.95	1752
WELSPUNIND	68.3	68.75	66.4	67.45
FDC	341.65	353.05	337.1	343.7
ZENSARTECH	190.5	198	190.2	192.95
RITES	241	241.9	238.75	239.05
QUESS	406	413.35	404.1	408.5
CHAMBLFERT	163.5	167.65	163.5	166.35
VGUARD	166	166.9	164.25	166
JSWENERGY	56.85	59	56.85	59
INDOCO	245	269	245	260.4
CSBBANK	230.4	230.4	225.35	225.55
FORCEMOT	1043.8	1044.6	1024.5	1031
GODREJAGRO	530.05	535	528.5	531
BALRAMCHIN	155.05	158	154.1	156.35
COROMANDEL	711.5	726.95	705.6	726
CAPPL	559.2	566.6	555.3	557.9
KPRMILL	669.8	675.9	660.75	670.85
ENDURANCE	1112.65	1119.05	1075.6	1097.3
FINEORG	2516.15	2588.7	2516.15	2555
MEGH	75.75	76.6	74.8	75.15
JKPAPER*	90.65	90.65	88.55	88.55
KTKBANK	41.8	42.6	41.8	42
GLAXO	1583.25	1609.15	1560	1564.45
ORIENTELEC	188	188.35	183.95	188
BAJAJCON	183	183	180.3	180.5
ESSELPRO	255.35	258.5	252.3	253.7
SHOPERSTOP	171.95	179	171.8	173.9
TTKPRESTIG	6005.25	6005.25	5813.1	5962
SJVN	21.35	21.35	20.95	21.3
SWSOLAR	215	218.25	210.55	211.6
GSPL	189.95	190.7	181.25	183.7
SUPRAJIT	186.4	194.5	184.7	188.1
NETWORK18	35	36	34.8	35
BLUESTARCO	626.95	628	602.35	608.65
CHOLAHLDNG	402.2	410.15	399.6	401.5
OIL	88.85	88.85	86.6	86.6
PTC	50.3	50.3	49	49.05
SUNDRMFAST	409.3	432	401.5	430
TATACOFFEE	102.15	104.15	101.4	102.8
RELAXO	663	668.3	655.4	667
GUJALKALI	320.05	322.85	316.6	317
BDL	301	304	294.15	301.1
HEIDELBERG	185.85	189.45	185.35	187
INDIANB	58.8	58.8	57.75	58.05
BBTC	1254	1268.9	1238.35	1247.45
DCAL	159.6	161.9	156	157.6
LEMONTREE	27.1	27.1	25.9	26.3
WHIRLPOOL	2151.8	2184.1	2141.1	2149.5
GREAVESCOT	72.6	73.1	71.1	71.2
BIRLACORPN	617	643.05	617	630.75
GRSE	205	205	194	201.35
IRCON	73	75.35	72.8	74.25
SFL	1295	1323.55	1288.7	1301.35
COCHINSHIP	325.5	328.25	312	317.6
JINDALSAW	60.2	61.15	60.15	60.7
PGHH	10001	10192	10000	10192
LINDEINDIA	793.55	799.85	774	775
GALAXYSURF	1800.65	1836.95	1787.85	1788.15
NBCC	23.25	23.25	22.75	22.85
EMAMILTD	338.5	352	334.9	348.95
DBL	334.75	342.15	331.75	338.5
JKTYRE	57.3	57.4	56.55	56.75
PRESTIGE	250.6	256	248.85	254.05
CHALET	128.05	135.9	128.05	134.2
KEI	338.1	341	335	335.7
TIINDIA	599	599	572.45	582.5
PNCINFRA	168	169.05	163.15	166.4
BASF	1465.45	1479.95	1437.1	1450
CARERATING	348	353.35	339.1	340
VAIBHAVGBL	1851.05	1863.8	1850	1860
RCF	45.1	45.1	44	44.4
VARROC	312.2	314	308	310.2
THERMAX	727.5	727.5	712.25	715.6
TATAINVEST	860	869.5	851.6	855
VAKRANGEE	29.35	29.65	28.95	29.1
KEC	350	350	337.5	339.8
DCMSHRIRAM	356.8	356.8	338.1	347
SCI	51.7	51.9	50.7	51
KALPATPOWR*	238.95	238.95	228	232.3
SCHNEIDER	82	82	75.55	76.1
ECLERX	705	719.4	705	712
BAJAJHLDNG	2394.55	2417.25	2393.5	2393.5
BALMLAWRIE	102.05	103.95	101.25	103.5
PCJEWELLER	13.69	14.1	13.38	13.88
CCL	251.9	256.1	250	253.8
AEGISLOG	218.9	223	215	215
TATAMETALI	499	504.55	492.5	498.8
JMFINANCIL	76.4	82.9	76.4	77.15
NHPC	20.1	20.25	20.05	20.1
MRPL	25.95	26.15	25.5	25.75
KRBL	277.25	277.25	268.55	269.5
ALLCARGO	116	117.6	115.6	116.5
MINDAIND	328.3	334.25	325.45	329.4
SPANDANA	571	587.65	555.75	556.65
CHENNPETRO	68	68	66.6	67.15
ARVINDFASN	128	129.2	124.6	125.9
MAHSEAMLES	218	218	214.15	214.25
VIPIND	292.85	294.5	288.35	290.2
UFLEX	318.7	320	316.15	316.2
UCOBANK	11.99	11.99	11.75	11.76
AIAENG	1756.15	1790	1721.5	1790
GARFIBRES	2150	2165	2081	2109
GODREJIND	389	391.55	385.45	387.35
NLCINDIA	50.5	50.75	50.1	50.35
HONAUT	30712.7	30890	30441.5	30489.1
IOB	9.34	9.4	9.21	9.26
IIFLWAM	953	953	890	905.25
ASHOKA	64.7	64.7	61.5	61.55
GICRE	122.4	123.65	121.05	122.4
MINDACORP	69	69.65	68.5	68.7
GMDCLTD	44.2	45.45	43.4	44.55
ORIENTCEM	58.3	60.35	58.3	59.25
UJJIVANSFB	32.9	32.9	31.2	31.4
DHANUKA	738.55	742.35	732.05	735.05
WESTLIFE	401	401.7	388	388.75
HINDCOPPER	32.75	32.95	32.15	32.25
TATACOMM	872	879.6	858	859.35
LUXIND	1440	1462.8	1431.3	1462.8
MAHABANK	11.3	11.3	10.91	10.99
EDELWEISS	60.4	61	59.25	59.6
IFBIND	661.5	666	654.6	656.5
NILKAMAL	1304.3	1320	1291	1308.6
IIFL	76.6	79	76.4	77.75
MOIL	133.6	134.1	131.95	132
AKZOINDIA	2075.7	2076.7	2013.5	2023
TIMETECHNO	41.05	41.3	40	40.2
CARBORUNIV	245	247.75	243	245.9
TVSSRICHAK	1406.75	1413.25	1374.75	1401
PHOENIXLTD	563.7	566.1	557.1	563.4
SYMPHONY	858.75	858.75	843.2	853.4
HERITGFOOD	299	316.15	299	309.65
KSB	470.35	471.15	463.45	465
SKFINDIA	1460	1502.7	1446.65	1454.45
MHRIL	165.95	166.8	164.95	165
TIMKEN	1021	1057.05	1010.5	1023.4
IFCI	5.8	5.88	5.74	5.81
JAGRAN	37.15	37.15	36	36.2
GHCL	148.9	151	146.1	146.15
TCNSBRANDS	375.7	385	373	378.35
NIACL	102.85	104.15	102	102.25
FINOLEXIND	509.4	512	499.1	501.2
TNPL	102	105.65	101.55	104
VMART	1986.25	1986.25	1918.9	1920.35
BRIGADE	166	169.3	164	164.2
JYOTHYLAB	137.05	144.45	137.05	142.05
SIS	358.35	360.55	354.65	357
VTL	753.05	784.5	753.05	775
ASTERDM	137.35	138.2	133.5	133.5
HUDCO	32.6	32.9	32.4	32.4
SOMANYCERA	194.05	198.2	189.2	189.9
GRINDWELL	542.6	543.2	532.6	538.6
JTEKTINDIA	79	79.15	77.85	77.95
GDL	98.95	98.95	95.9	96
NBVENTURES	56.4	56.4	53.55	53.85
AAVAS	1494	1495.95	1462.15	1491.2
MAHLOG	331.55	340.5	330.7	332.8
MAHSCOOTER	2839.15	2907.95	2839.15	2871
GPPL	84	86.85	83	83.5
SCHAEFFLER	3584.3	3602.1	3540.65	3556
ITDC	228	232	226.05	226.05
LAOPALA	216.1	217.95	211.4	212.75
CENTURYPLY	172	174.1	171	171.2
OMAXE	66.05	66.2	65.3	65.3
POWERINDIA	928.5	930.35	925	929
MOTILALOFS	600	600	586.25	595
TCIEXP	800	800	760	774.9
TEAMLEASE	2283.1	2349.4	2282	2335.6
MAHLIFE	233	236.25	228.95	231.3
MMTC	16.35	16.45	16.15	16.2
FINCABLES	290	290	277.05	279.75
J&KBANK	14.9	15.08	14.86	14.95
TASTYBIT	10940	10953.9	10725.75	10799.95
JCHAC	2200.05	2255	2190	2210.5
VRLLOG	159	159.35	156	156
FLUOROCHEM	478.05	485.55	474.55	479.5
GEPIL	412.05	414.25	407.75	408.4
KNRCON	255	260	249	256.1
RATNAMANI	1281.2	1287.65	1273.15	1284.4
CERA	2510.15	2563.5	2500	2534.4
TVTODAY	195.4	197.3	195.35	197
ORIENTREF	191.5	194.8	185.6	188.25
STARCEMENT	83.5	85.45	82.95	83.9
SHRIRAMCIT	916.15	916.35	887.3	895.55
DBCORP	80	80	75.45	75.45
INDOSTAR	287.85	291.4	286.5	289.7
GULFOILLUB	636.35	640	634.05	640
MASFIN	822.45	831.9	815	817.8
NAVNETEDUL	77.45	77.5	76.85	76.85
ESABINDIA	1350	1356.15	1336.65	1356.15





'WH moves forward on arms sale to Taiwan'



Washington: The White House is moving forward with three sales of advanced weaponry to Taiwan, sending in recent days a notification of the deals to Congress for approval, five sources said on Monday, while China threatened retaliation.

The move in the run-up to the Nov. 3 U.S. election, first reported by Reuters, is likely to anger China, which considers Taiwan a wayward province that it has vowed to reunite with the mainland, by force if necessary.

Reuters broke the news in September that as many as seven major weapons systems were making their way through the U.S. export process as the Trump administration ramps up pressure on China.

Leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations and House of Representatives Foreign Affairs committees were notified that three of the planned weapons sales had been approved by the U.S. State Department which oversees foreign military sales, said the sources, who are familiar with the situation but declined to be identified.

The informal notifications were for a truck-based rocket launcher made by Lockheed Martin Corp called a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), long-range air-to-ground missiles made by Boeing Co called SLAM-ER, and external sensor pods for F-16 jets that allow the real-time transmission of imagery and data from the aircraft back to ground stations.

Notifications for the sale of other weapons systems, including large, sophisticated aerial drones, land-based Harpoon anti-ship missiles and underwater mines, to deter amphibious landings, have yet to reach Capitol Hill, but these were expected soon, the sources said.

A State Department spokesman said: "As a matter of policy, the United States does not confirm or comment on proposed defense sales or transfers until they are formally notified to Congress."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said U.S. arms sales to Taiwan severely damaged China's sovereignty and security interests, urging Washington to clearly recognize the harm they caused and immediately cancel them.

"China will make a legitimate and necessary response according to how the situation develops," Zhao told reporters in Beijing, without elaborating. ***AP***

Taiwan denies China spying accusations

Taipei: Taiwan on Tuesday dismissed new spying allegations by China as a further attempt to smear the government of the self-governing island democracy that Beijing claims as its own territory.

The remarks follow a report on Monday night by Chinese broadcaster CCTV featuring a taped confession from a man identified as Cheng Yu-chin, the second such report in as many days.

On Sunday, CCTV broadcast a confession by a man identified as Li Mengju, whose name is also spelled Lee Meng-chu, who like Cheng said he had been working to destabilise China and harm the ruling Communist Party's reputation.

In the same report, CCTV said security personnel had solved more than 100 spying cases as part of an initiative dubbed Operation Thunder 2020.

Taiwanese Premier Su Tseng-chang called the accusations an attempt by Beijing to "defame and create fear," while the foreign ministry's head of European affairs, Johnson Chiang, called the allegations "pure defamation and calumny". CCTV's airing of videoed confessions have prompted lawsuits abroad amid accusations that the accounts were coerced and that the broadcaster is merely a propaganda arm of the Communist Party. ***AP***

Germany: Solidarity with Greece, Cyprus in Turkey dispute

Berlin: Germany's foreign minister headed Tuesday to Greece and Cyprus, pledging "full solidarity" with them in their dispute with Turkey over sea boundaries and drilling rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

Germany holds the rotating European Union presidency and before departing Berlin, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Greece and Cyprus had both German and EU backing but urged an "honest effort on all sides" to find a solution.

Greece on Monday accused neighbour Turkey of undermining efforts to ease a crisis over eastern Mediterranean drilling rights, after Ankara redeployed a survey vessel for new energy exploration in disputed waters — including an area very close to a secluded Greek island.

The move reignited tensions over sea boundaries between Greek islands, Cyprus and Turkey's southern coast, which had flared up over the summer, prompting a military build-up, bellicose rhetoric and fears of a confrontation between the two NATO members and historic regional rivals.

The Turkish search vessel, Oruc Reis, left the port of Antalya on Monday for a mission expected o end October 22. Maas stressed that talks between the nations can only work in a "constructive atmosphere" and appealed "to Turkey not to close the window for dialogue that has just opened with Greece through unilateral measures."

"Ankara must stop alternating between relaxation and provocation if the government is interested in talks, as it has repeatedly said," he said.

Renewed Turkish gas exploration in the disputed areas would be "a major setback to efforts to de-escalate and thus also for the further development of EU-Turkey relations," Maas said. ***AP***

Japan protests to China for entering Japanese waters

Tokyo: Tokyo has lodged protests to Beijing over the entry of Chinese coast guard ships into Japan's territorial waters off disputed East China Sea islands and their refusal to move out for a third day on Tuesday, Japanese officials said.

The two Chinese ships entered the Japanese-claimed waters Sunday morning, appearing to approach a Japanese fishing boat carrying three crew members. They have remained there, while ignoring repeated warnings and exit demands by the Japanese side, Japanese coast guard officials said.

Chinese coast guard vessels routinely violate territorial waters around the Japanese-controlled southern islands of Senkaku, which China calls Diaoyu and also claims.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato said Tuesday that it was "extremely regrettable" that the two Chinese coast guard ships were still in Japanese waters.

Japan "strictly protested" to the Chinese side and demanded that the Chinese ships immediately move out of Japanese waters, Kato said.

He said Japan would firmly defend its territorial waters, land and airspace "with a sense of urgency." Japanese coast guard officials said the fishing boat with the three crew members was safely protected, but declined to give any other details.

The Japanese government says Japan has had ownership of the islands since the late 1890s under international law. Tokyo also says Beijing started claiming its ownership around 1970 when possible undersea oil deposits near the islands were reported.

Japan sees China's military development and increasingly assertive stance in the East and South China seas as a major security threat.

Japan's military invasion of China in the 1930s and 1940s remains a sore spot between the two sides. ***AP***

Malaysia's Anwar meets king in bid to form new Govt

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim said he presented the nation's king on Tuesday with evidence that he has enough support among lawmakers to topple the prime minister and form a new government, an assertion the palace denied.

Anwar said he presented the monarch with evidence of the support he has from over 120 lawmakers, which would allow him to unseat Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

Anwar said the monarch pledged to abide by the constitution, and would consult leaders from other parties before making a decision. He declined to give details, urging Malaysians to be patient and give the king space to review the evidence.

"These documents made it abundantly clear that we have registered a formidable and convincing majority among parliamentarians," Anwar told a news conference after the royal meeting.

"Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has lost his majority and therefore, it would be appropriate for him to resign."

After that news conference, however, the palace released a statement denying that Anwar provided evidence of support. It said Anwar only told Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah how many lawmakers supported him but didn't reveal their identities.

It said the king advised Anwar "to abide by and respect the legal process" based on the constitution.

Muhyiddin, who took power in March after securing enough support in Parliament to unseat Anwar's reformist alliance, has previously dismissed Anwar's claim to a majority.

Muhyiddin currently boasts a slim two-seat majority in the 222-seat Parliament and has been grappling to maintain support amid infighting in his coalition. ***AP***

China FM calls US Indo-Pacific strategy a huge security risk

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

The United States poses a "huge security risk" to Asia by pushing to boost engagement with the region, China's foreign minister said Tuesday during a tour of Southeast Asia, where Beijing and Washington are locked in a battle for influence.

Speaking in Malaysia, Wang Yi said the US's real aim is "to build an Indo-Pacific NATO," in a strategy he said harkened back to the Cold War. Washington is trying to "stir up confrontation among different groups and blocs, and stir up geopolitical competition while maintaining the predominance and hegemony system of the US," Wang said at a joint news conference with his Malaysian counterpart, Hishammuddin Hussein.

"In this sense, this strategy itself is a huge security risk," Wang said.

Wang also urged Southeast Asian nations, which are aiming to draw up a code of conduct with China in the South China Sea, to remove "external disruption" in the disputed waters, but did not elaborate.

FROM PAGE 1

DON'T RECOGNISE LADAKH...

He made these remarks when asked to react to the series of bridges inaugurated in India, including eight in Ladakh and eight in Arunachal Pradesh. "First I want to make it clear that China does not recognise the Ladakh Union Territory illegally set up by the Indian side and Arunachal Pradesh. We stand against the development of infrastructure facilities aimed at military contention along the border area," said the Chinese spokesperson.

"Based on consensus, neither should take actions along the border that might escalate the situation that is to avoid undermining the efforts by the two sides to ease the situation." He also said the Indian side "ramping up infrastructure development along the border and stepping up military deployment is the root cause for the tensions between the two sides".

"We urge the Indian side to earnestly implement our consensus and refrain from actions that might escalate the situation and take concrete measures to safeguard peace and tranquility along the border," said Zhao.

In fact, the stand-offs began in early May in the Galwan valley after a Chinese patrol obstructed an Indian patrol claiming that India was building the 270-km long road there in disputed area. India strongly rejected the Chinese allegation and said the bridge and roads were well within its own territory.

China is rattled by rapid improvement in infrastructure projects in Ladakh and other regions near the LAC in eastern region. These projects including roads and bridges will facilitate faster movement of troops and weapons closer to the border, officials said. Dedicating the bridges to the nation, Rajnath had said after Pakistan, China is also creating a dispute at the border with India as if it was part of a "mission." 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 the tension continues," the Minister said. The bridges inaugurated by him included 10 in Jammu & Kashmir, eight in Ladakh, two in Himachal Pradesh, four each in Punjab and Sikkim and eight each in Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during his visit to Beijing last year, had conveyed to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that there was no implication of the change "for either the external boundaries of India or the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. India was not raising any additional territorial claims." This reiteration was made after abrogation of Article 370 giving special status to Jammu & Kashmir. Jaishankar had also said, "The legislative measures were aimed at promoting better governance and socio-economic development," he had said.

HARINDER TO BE NEW IMA BOSS

Menon was also part of the last two rounds of talks with the Chinese to resolve the logjam at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). He has had a distinguished career in the Army holding important command and staff appointments. He is also the Colonel of the SIKH Regiment.

The officer commanded a Rashtriya Rifles unit in Kashmir valley, an Infantry Brigade along the Line of Control (LOC) in Jammu & Kashmir and an Infantry Division in the Eastern Sector. Prior to assuming command of Fire & Fury Corps, he was Director General Recruiting at New Delhi.

In his farewell message, Harinder Singh conveyed his gratitude and deep appreciation to all ranks of the 'Fire & Fury Corps' for their professionalism and steadfast dedication in the service of the nation, even in the most hostile terrain, weather and altitude challenges faced by any Army in the world.

SHAHJAHANPUR LAW STUDENT TURNS HOSTILE

The Allahabad high court had on February 3, 2020 transferred the trial from Shahjahanpur to the Lucknow's MP-MLA court.

The case first came to light after the woman went missing on August 24, a day after she posted a video on social media alleging that a "senior leader of the sant community" was harassing and threatening to kill her.

Her father filed a complaint with police, accusing Chinmayanand of sexually harassing her, a charge refuted by the former Union minister's lawyer who claimed it was a "conspiracy" to blackmail him.

An SIT was constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government on the orders of the Supreme Court in September to investigate the charges levelled by the woman.

The law student was also later charged with trying to extort money from Chinmayanand. The 23-year-old woman and her three friends were booked on Chinmayanand's complaint that they had demanded Rs 5 crore from him.

The former Union minister alleged that they had threatened to make public video clips that showed him getting massages from the student. She was, however, granted bail in December.

The Supreme Court had last week set aside an Allahabad High Court order allowing Chinmayanand to get a copy of statement of the woman recorded before a magistrate in connection with the case against him, saying "utmost confidentiality is required to be maintained" in sexual exploitation cases.

CBI VISITS CRIME SPOT IN HATHRAS

The Uttar Pradesh Police had registered a case of attempt to murder on a statement by the victim's brother who, as per the FIR at Chandpa police station, had stated that the accused tried to strangulate his sister in a millet field and escaped when she raised an alarm. A notification issued by the Centre at the behest of the State Government directed the CBI to probe, rape, murder and atrocity and "any attempt, abetment and/or conspiracy, in relation to or in connection with such offence(s) and/or for any other offence committed in the course of the same transaction or arising out of the same facts".

"The complainant had alleged that on September 14, 2020 the accused tried to strangulate his sister in the millet field. The case has been registered by CBI on the request of the Uttar Pradesh Government and further notification from Government of India," the CBI had said in a statement after registration of the FIR on Sunday.

HC: RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE FIXED ...

and Justice Rajan Roy reminded the officials about the definition of rape.

The court also directed the state government to lay down modalities for cremation in Hathras-like situations.

The 11-page order, dated Monday, was uploaded Tuesday on the high court website.

The 19-year-old Dalit woman died at a Delhi hospital a fortnight after her alleged rape by four men from her village in Hathras district on September 14.

She was cremated in the middle of the night in her village. Family members claimed that the cremation, which took place well past midnight, was without their consent and they were not allowed to bring home the body one last time.

The hurried cremation fuelled further outrage over the incident and the high court directed senior officials as well as the victim's family to appear before it on Monday.

The next hearing in the case is on November 2, when the suspended Hathras Superintendent of Police Vikrant Vir has also been asked to appear in court.

The court said the cremation without following rituals violated the victim's human rights as well as those of her family and relatives.

The administration had argued that the cremation took place in a hurled manner because it feared law and order problems. But the court was not satisfied with the district magistrate's explanation.

We do not find any good reason on behalf of the administration as to why they could not hand over the body to the family members for some time, say for even half an hour, to enable them to perform their rituals at home and thereafter to cremate it either in the night or the next day," the bench observed.

The court questioned the state government's action only against the then SP and not the DM. SP Vikrant Vir was first transferred out and then suspended.

The court ordered that the probe by a Special Investigation Team or the Central Bureau of Investigation should be kept confidential and not leaked out.

It took note of statements which are "affecting and influencing" the investigation.

The bench said officers not directly connected with the investigation should not make any statement in public on the offence as it could lead to unnecessary speculation among people who may not be aware of the niceties of law.

The order also cautioned the "over-joyous" media.

Without intending to interfere with the right of freedom of expression, we request the media as also the political parties to air their views in a manner which does not disturb social harmony and/or infringe upon rights of the victim's family and that of the accused.

No one should indulge in character assassination of the victim, just as the accused, should not be pronounced guilty before a fair trial. The investigating agency and the courts should be allowed to determine these issues, the bench said.

The HC directed the state government to provide adequate security to the victim's family and ensure that no harm is done to them.

MEHBOOBA RELEASED FROM PSA DETENTION

"As Mufti's illegal detention finally comes to an end, Id like to thank everybody who supported me in these tough times. I owe a debt of gratitude to you all. This is Iltija signing off. May allah protect you".

Former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah also welcomed the release of Mufti and termed her detention "a travesty and against democracy".

"I'm pleased to hear that Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba has been released after more than a year in detention. Her continued detention was a travesty and was against the basic tenets of democracy. Welcome out Mehbooba",Omar Abdullah tweeted.

FARM EXPERTS PRAISE CENTRE FOR LAWS ...

Echoing similar sentiments, chairman of Punjab-based Green Valley Farms RPS Gandhi said there are enormous benefits of the new farm-related legislation but the farmers need to be made aware and educated about it. He said talking to the farmers in their own language is important so that there is no confusion about these three Bills.

"These Acts give freedom to farmers to sell their produce anywhere. They can sell it even at small mandis, set up by Farmer Producer Orgs (FPOs) and can get a good rate without paying mandi fee," Sanjeev Chadha, MD, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd said.

National Seed Association of India (NSAI) president M Prabhakar Rao said the farm laws will boost the development of seed industry. It will benefit lakhs of farmers involved in the seed industry, they are happy with the decision.

Chairman of Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture M J Khan who was present in all the meetings held so far said in a way it is a dialogue process between farmers, key stakeholders in the agriculture sector and the Centre to clear any apprehensions and misgivings about the farm bills. The meetings with a number of stakeholders in the agriculture sector are being held at Singh's residence.

In his meeting with scientists, professors and senior professionals from the farm sector, Puri said the reforms will even benefit "arthiyas" (commission agents) and also asserted that the MSP regime will stay.

UDDHAV, GUV SLUG IT OUT IN 'SECULAR' DUEL

made by the Governor that several delegations had met him during the last three months and demanded the re-opening of places in the State, Uddhav wrote: "You have mentioned that several delegations called on you during the last three months to demand re-opening of places of worship. But, all the three memorandums that you have attached along with your letter are submitted by the BJP and its supporters. My Government has taken serious note of your letter and decision will be taken as early as possible after taking due precautions".

In response to the Governor's references to his reported comment made on June 1 (when the latter embarked on "Mission Beginning Again") that he had dumped the word "lockdown" and the statement that the Chief Minister's statement raised much hope in the minds of the people, Uddhav wrote in the initial part of his letter: "I received your letter asking to reopen all places of worship. My Government is thinking about this. As much we take into account the sentiments and faith of the people, it is our primary responsibility to take care of the lives of the people".

"While fighting a battle against Covid-19, it is as much wrong to impose lockdown all of a sudden, it is equally improper the lockdown at one go. At this juncture, my Government is in the midst of implementing "My family, my responsibility" drive in the State. Under the drive, we are issuing health advisories, creating awareness, conducting medical examinations and wherever necessary we conducting Covid-19 tests and our health machinery teams are visiting each and every house across. We are perhaps the first State in the country to be undertaking such door-to-door visits," he said.

Meanwhile, in his letter to the Prime Minister seeking the latter's intervention to the questionable contents of the letter written by the Governor to the Chief Minister, Pawar said that Koshyari could have "independent views and opinion on the issue" and that he also appreciated the prerogative of the Governor to convey his views to the Chief Minister. "However, I am shocked and surprised to see the letter of the Governor released to the media and the kind of language used in it," the NCP chief said.

Taking serious exception to the "intemperate" language used invocation of the word "secular" by the Governor in his letter to the Chief Minister, Pawar said: "In the very Preamble of our Constitution, the word 'Secular' is added that equates and shields all religions, and hence the chair of the Chief Minister must uphold such tenets of the Constitution, Unfortunately, Hon Governor's letter invokes the connotation as if it is written to the leader of a political party".

Pawar said that in a democracy, he believes a free exchange of views should take place between the Governor and the Chief Minister. "However, the tone and tenor used must always be keeping with the stature of the constitutional post occupied by the individuals. Looking at the turn of events the Chief Minister was left with no option but to release the letter to Hon Governor to the press. I fully endorse the decision of the Hon Chief minister on the issue," the NCP chief said.

Congress State president and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat also hit out at the Governor saying that the language used by the latter in his letter to the Chief Minister was against the Constitution.

"Moreover, a similar situation is there even in Goa, then why the Governor has not issued such a letter to reopen the places of worship there," Thorat said.

SC to pass orders in Prajapati's case on Oct 15

New Delhi (PTI): The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that it would pass orders on October 15 on a plea of Uttar Pradesh government challenging the interim bail of two months granted to gang rape accused and former state minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati on medical grounds by the Allahabad High Court.

The verdict was reserved by a bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah which heard the arguments of Additional Solicitor General ASV Raju on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government and senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who represented Prajapati.

Prajapati, who was a minister in the erstwhile Samajwadi Party government, along with others, is accused of raping a woman and attempting to molest her minor daughter.

At the outset, Raju read out Prajapati's medical report and said that the medical board had stated that he can be treated in the jail itself.

He said that Prajapati has been in jail for months and his condition is said to be stable. Raju added that Prajapati requires no hospitalization for his treatment.

The bench also inquired about the regular bail of the accused and the law officer said it is still pending.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for Prajapati, said that his regular bail has not been decided since May last year and the high court has restrained itself from deciding his applications, as this case was pending.

Inhuman treatment in jail and threat to a person's health are the grounds which cannot be overlooked in the matter, he said, adding that his eight medical reports shows that he is ill, diabetic and suffering from other ailments.

The bench said it is reserving order in the matter and would pronounce its verdict on October 15.

On September 21, the top court had stayed Prajapati's interim bail, granted for two months on medical grounds by the High Court.

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on September 3 had granted the interim bail to Prajapati but he remained in judicial custody as a fresh case of fraud, forgery and criminal intimidation was registered against him.

Care for your future

The healthcare industry is one of the most lucrative industries to explore a career today and its growth is expected to increase manifolds in the coming years. DR MINTU PAL tells you how one can make a career in the sector

The pandemic unleashed challenges for the healthcare sectors like we had never imagined. As the situation went out of control owing to the growing number of cases across the world, the sector revamped steadily to combat the challenges while opening up a plethora of opportunities for Gen Z.

As health is prime importance than anything else including wealth, so health care professional has the responsibility to sustain the world healthy to enjoy the charm of god gifted life; whereas, Pharmacy is the basis of healthcare professionalism.There is no denying the fact that the healthcare industry is one of the most lucrative industries to explore a career today and its growth is expected to increase manifolds in the coming years. While more than a hundred companies across the world are working tirelessly to develop a vaccine for COVID, the healthcare institutions and medical colleges are working in tandem with the new researches that are coming along the way.

Pharmacy is one field that has witnessed a lot of interest by the organisations, Governments in the past couple of the months. As a discipline being versatile and dynamic, the Pharma Industry is certainly a 'sunrise sector' that is constantly growing and evolving.

Therefore if you are looking for a career in the field of pharma, the time is right now. Pharmacy offers lifelong learning and the discipline of pharmacy has a good future, offering wide range of employment opportunities with an excellent salary.

Why Pharmacy as a Career?

Some of the reasons why pharmacy has become the go to career for most of the youngsters today include:

Unique approach to healthcare: Pharmacists play a vital role in connecting patients and medical professionals. The pharmacist often interacts with patients more often than the prescribing medical professional. They help patients understand their medication regimens and improve their health outcomes. This further strengthens pharmacist-patient relationship and helps reinforce the role of the pharmacist as a trusted health advisor.

Diverse career options: Youngsters are always on a look out for careers wherein there is a lot of options to choose from. Pharmacy is one such field that has a pool of career opportunities to explore.From research, to clinical and retail to becoming pharmacists, the aspirants have the flexibility to train for and pursue the career that most closely matches with their area of interest. This also provides them with an upper hand since they can easily switch jobs within their profession.

Flexibility: Everyone strives to get into a job which along with offering them a decent salary rewards them with a life where there is a balance between professional as well as personal life. In this case, the pharmacists have quite flexible working hours. Since they are in demand around the clock, it is possible for them to find work for any shift of the day.

Pharmacists play a vital role in connecting patients and medical professionals. The pharmacist interacts with patients more often than the prescribing medical professional. They help patients understand their medication regimens and improve their health outcomes

Ability to help people: Pharmacists are among the most trusted and accessible health care professionals. This accessibility allows them to perform more patient care activities, including counseling, medication management, and preventive care screenings. Like physicians, pharmacists have an advanced degree and are experts at helping people stay healthy.

The right path to build a career in pharma:

Aspirants can enroll themselves in some of the popular courses such as B Pharmacy, D Pharmacy. There is a lot of scope in specialisations too where the aspirants can opt for short term courses and invest their time in full-time research.

Scope and importance

Research & Development: Pharmacologist, Chemist, Drug discovery/ Process Development, Toxicology Studies, Bioequivalence Study and many others.

Eligibility:

For D.Pharma & B.Pharma: Phy, Chem & Eng as Major Subject. Most of the institutions demand minimum 50 per cent Marks at Higher & Senior Secondary level (Class X & XII) while filing for the applications.

The writer is Senior Associate Professor, School of Health Sciences, UPES

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Imagination is the source of every form of human achievement. And it's the one thing that I believe we are systematically jeopardizing in the way we educate our children and ourselves.
— Sir Ken Robinson

UG PROGRAMMES

The IIIT Naya Raipur has announced admissions open for the application of BTech programs for the year 2020. The institute currently offers three undergraduate programmes: BTech in Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE), BTech in Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) and BTech in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (DSAI).

These credit-based programmes are designed to foster core skills with innovation and entrepreneurship skills among students.

Eligibility: Admission to B. Tech. programmes is based on JEE (Main) rank. There are three different categories through which students are admitted:

- All India Quota (35 per cent seats amounting to 63 seats: 21 in CSE, 21 in ECE and 21 in DSAI): Candidates who completed their school education from any part of India belong to this category. Their eligibility will be as per the business rules of JoSAA 2020. Admissions will be based on JEE (Main) 2020 rank.Candidates seeking admission under this Quota must apply through JoSAA (*http://josaa.nic.in*).
- NTPC Quota (15 per cent Seats amounting to 27 seats: 9 in CSE, 9 in ECE and 9 in DSAI): Candidates employed with NTPC or their wards who completed their school education from any part of India belong to this category. Please visit *https://josaa.nic.in* for eligibility criteria. Admissions will be based on JEE (Main) 2020 rank. All reservations will be as per Government of India norms. Candidates seeking admission under this quota must apply through the institute online portal (*https://www.iiitnr.ac.in/content/btech-admission-2020*).
- Chhattisgarh State Quota (50 per cent Seats amounting to 90 seats: 30 in CSE, 30 in ECE and 30 in DSAI): Candidates who passed both Class X and XII examinations from schools situated in the State of Chhattisgarh belong to this category. The candidates must have scored 50% aggregate marks in Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics (45% for SC/ST/OBC/PWD candidates) in their 12th standard examination. Admissions will be based on JEE (Main) 2020 rank.

The reservation for candidates belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories shall be as per Chhattisgarh Government norms.

Candidates seeking admission under this quota must apply through the institute online portal (https://www.iiitnr.ac.in/content/btech-admission-2020).

Last date to apply: October 15, 2020.

How to apply: Log on to *https://www.iiitnr.ac.in/*.

Efficiency is key

An important component for building an education system that creates employable candidates is to first define the parameters of employability, which need to be valid in entry level jobs, says DR AKHIL SHAHANI

According to studies conducted across various sectors in India, a majority of recruiters do not deem most graduates as employable. As the nation grapples with an economic slowdown and employment crunch in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is incumbent upon us to introspect on the reasons.

Upon further questioning, it was found that recruiters had contrasting definitions of an employable candidate. While some preferred a self-sufficient employee requiring minimal supervision, others looked for tenacity and ambition. Still others search for multitaskers or polyglots. However, while these definitions indicate certain attributes of a candidate's personality, they fail to identify and actually define what recruiters need.This lack of a common framework for defining employability creates a conundrum not only for students searching for these jobs, but also for educational institutions around the world that are expected to create employable graduates.

Another gaping issue is the flawed system used inthe hiring of candidates. More often than not, companies delegate the responsibilities of a recruitment firm to junior level employees, who are left with a large number of resumes to sift through as well as interview potential candidates. These interviews mostly comprise of some standard questions, with the candidate doling out pre-rehearsed answers. Since most colleges prepare their students to clear such interviews, the true employability of a candidate may not be determined until after they are hired. It is no wonder that almost 60 per cent of new entry-level hires do not work out as expected once they join the company.

A key component for building an education system that creates employable candidates is to first define the parameters of employability, which need to be valid in entry level jobs across most industries.

Research across a large number of surveys of employers has determined that the most commonly cited employability traits include:

- **Strong communication skills:** to understand others and convey a point of view effectively
- **Good teamworking ability:** to collaborate with peers to achieve company goals
- **An aptitude for solving problems:** to face new challenges and overcome them
- **Proactivity:** to work without needing constant supervision
- **Professional work ethic:** to deliver what was promised on time

Interestingly, most employers do not want a creative, highly intelligent candidate. Instead they look for employees who can understand the needs of the organisation and their superiors, and deliver efficiently. This is a relatively simple ask and it would be easy for universities to develop an education model that hones these traits.

Faculty, thus, need to make a shift from giving lectures, a one-way communication method,to becoming facilitators for self-discovery, which involves two-way communication and engages students in the quest for new knowledge and skills. Pedagogical innovations already exist, that can aid in this, such as problem-based learning where students work individually or in teams to solve challenges set by their teacher; flipped classrooms where students study the course material before coming to class;case studies or simulations which involve the application of the knowledge learned; and work-study assignments where students intern at a real company and implement a project.

Peter Drucker said: "What gets measured, gets managed". If recruiters and universities could find common ground for defining what makes an employable candidate, they will be able to devise a robust framework to enable the development of a skilled workforce that can match the requirements of the industry and help them achieve organisational goals successfully.

The writer is Managing Director, Shahani Group

Code of change

The OSHWC Code, on a cursory reading, appears to be gender-neutral. The definition of "workers" mentions "persons", sans gender. However, even though the language doesn't show a gender bias, the lack of special consideration for women workers, especially migrant women workers shows that the Code lacks gender inclusivity and equity.

While the Ministry of Labour and Employment told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour that they would "protect the interests of women workers in every industry/establishment and provide safety for them", the OSHWC Code in its current form fails to do so. Systemic sexual violence and exploitation of women — especially in the informal sector (such as brick kilns, construction, factories) — is rampant and under-reported. But the Code does not recognise this backdrop of a strong, existing work-place culture of misogyny and sexism. In fact, it leaves out a large number of women migrant workers who are engaged in the informal sector — e.g. domestic workers, daily wage labourers, etc.

"It's also important to note that while laws exist to protect women from sexual harassment at the workplace, no laws make the process of migration to the workplace safer for women. Women, who migrate for work by themselves or with families, have often reported facing physical and sexual violence during migration. This absence, in a legislation claiming to affirm migrant workers' rights, is glaring," Mishty Varma, a Communications, Policy and Public Affairs Professional, a creative writer, and an ex-journalist, tells you.

A great gap is that women's protections against criminal activities and intent at the work-site are neither stated explicitly nor guaranteed. The Code also needs to be amended to link with existing provisions and laws in our Constitution and the Indian Penal Code which ensure affirmative action for women workers. This can guarantee protections for them against discrimination on the basis of gender, class, and caste. Additionally, agents, employers, contractors and Government authorities must ensure zero tolerance for such instances at the worksite and during migration for women workers, and should be held accountable.

While there is a chapter on women workers' rights, it falls woefully short in addressing the systemic issues women face at the workplace. In fact, the Code prohibits women from working a job if the appropriate Government considers that work "too dangerous", but does not define "too dangerous".

This is extremely discriminatory and prejudicial, and equivalent to prohibiting mobility and migration of women due to their vulnerability to physical and sexual violence, instead of addressing the factors that make them vulnerable. It also raises the question — why, if a work is "too dangerous", are men expected to perform it, while women are asked to stay away from it? It would be far more inclusive and effective for the Code to direct appropriate authorities to provide resources and equipment to make workplaces less dangerous, instead of keeping women workers away from work.

"Further, special provisions prescribed for women in the Code are valid only for workplaces that employ at least 10 workers. In effect, a workplace with nine employees would be exempt from giving these special provisions to women workers. Therefore, the Code needs to lower this threshold for all provisions that offer protection to the most vulnerable workers. The Code must also ensure protective measures are applicable to all workplaces, including the period of migration for workers to reach the work-site," Pompi Banerjee, a psychologist, researcher and human rights activist, and a member of Sanjog, says.

The Code also makes the right of women to work night-shifts (in mines, factories, plantations and beedi/cigar units) subject to conditions prescribed by the appropriate Government, including for safety measures, holidays, and working hours. This makes the right of women to work night-shifts extremely vague and altogether dependent on the whim of the authorities.

Sections that make women's work conditional need to be done away with in the Code. State Governments also need to draft rules that actively encourage women to work across shifts and industries, while guaranteeing their person adequate protections.

ICSL launches Friday@5

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ICSL (International Council for School Leadership) — India's fastest growing community of school leaders has launched Friday@5 — a weekly webinar dialogue series between the educators and experts. This one-hour session is focused on inspiring, enriching, and empowering school leaders to rebuild India as a global superpower in education.

Friday@5 series are being held with a special focus on challenges and problems engulfing school education so that school leaders, teachers and educators understand and try convert problems into opportunities. A successful deployment of these education convos in the initial phase has already begun and have seen close to 1000+ educators registering every week for it across India.

Each conversation of Friday@5 is for 60 minutes duration and has two parts: One, The Experts Panel of 40 minutes where 3-4 experts will provide their insights on a specific topic and the challenges and opportunities and concern thereof. The experts will include practitioners, policymakers, researchers & eminent speakers. Two, The Open Mic of 20 minutes where 10-15 participants share their thoughts on the issue with the audience.

At the core of Friday@5 is the belief that real conversation happens only when diverse thoughts and divergent views are shared amongst all stakeholders.

L2H lab introduces IPA services

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The isolation from the COVID-19 lockdown has manifested a facelift to the mundane performance in businesses through the introduction of RPA-induced roles in acquiring optimum results. L2H Lab, a Chicago based start-up is the latest entrant into the AI (artificial intelligence) sector with its hyper-automated IPA (Intelligent Process Automation) technology that befits and benefits operations for organisations across the globe.

The start-up offers a multitude of AI-enabled RPA services that facilitates three integral industries — Healthcare, Human Resources, and Shared Services (Contact Center, Finance & Accounts, Ticket Management and Customer Query Resolution). Our AI bots automate regular and repetitive tasks using Machine Learning, NLP, Computer Vision and OCR engine to save several hundreds of business hours, drastically slash costs and accelerate productivity and efficiency across business verticals to function error-free, 24*7.

Along with AI and IPA, the company also offers Big Data Analytics Solutions — L2H Lab enables Predictive and Preventive Modelling, through various Data Visualisation tool as well as Machine Learning Algorithms, to enhance decision making capabilities as well as reduce revenue leakage up to 50 per cent.

The services have enabled a 30 per cent boost in Net Promoter Scores, by enabling up to 60 per cent automation of tasks across business functions.

Business markfest at IMS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Noida organised Business Mark fest 2020 online programme for their students. The competition was organised under the aegis of IMS Marketing Club.

The mark fest consists of various competitions like product development, logo making, brochure making and meme making.

In competition, two rounds were kept for the contestants. In whose first round the creations of the students were voted through social media. During the competition, the creations with the most likes, shares and positive comments were selected for the second round. In the second round, 10 selected participants presented their ideas in front of the jury.

Inaugurating the programme, Dean Prof (Dr) Manju Gupta said that nowadays is the time for digital marketing. There is also a lot of potential in this area for students, in the coming time, companies will conduct its business through e-commerce and online.

BE WELL-EQUIPPED

Getting a desired job may not be difficult but it has become more competitive. For young people today, it is more important than ever that they have the necessary skills before they enter the workforce, says PC CHHABRA

The pandemic has set high bars to acquire a reasonable job. There are many reasons for the rise in unemployment, including a lack of jobs opportunities and over-population. In spite of having a higher education, college, degree it has become difficult for youth to give a power kick to their career while everything is on standstill.

Acquiring a desired job has not become difficult but it is more competitive. For young people today, it is more important than ever that they are well-equipped to enter the workforce.

Experts predict that 26 billion or more sensors and devices will be connected to the internet by 2020, bringing in an era of machine intelligence that is already re-framing the world of humans. While the technologists and researchers prepare for the future of digitisation. Despite being educated, many lack the skills they need to get their desired job.

Here are the set of seven fire skills which can up skill the youth to become job ready.

NETWORK BUILDING

Networking is the process of connecting with like-minded professionals maintaining good relations with people who can become your potential partners, investors and more. It can become challenging for a fresher to find the right time, or approach, to speak to someone you don't know in order to let them know about what you represent and what you have to offer. Therefore building a strong network can help get more opportunities.

DIGITAL LITERACY

In order to get groomed for getting a job it has become utmost important to know the digital world. Digital literacy is on the rise, the number is expected to grow at an additional rate of 18 per cent to 536 million. due to the pandemic every industry opted for digital working and it is becoming obvious to look for technical advancement. Digital world is the new parameter to make you more eligible to secure a reasonable job.

Knowing how to create online content, managing social media pages, having ideas of how to edit text, image and video creating and curating content, having full-fledged knowledge of MS-office and many more you are digitally literate.

SELF-EMPLOYABLE SKILL

India is ranked third in entrepreneurship as the new firm creation has gone up dramatically in India since 2014, said the Economic Survey 2019-20.

If you have the will to take responsibility to generate ideas, self-driven work attitude, getting motivated to work, taking risk, responsibilities and ownership of work, having broader perspective and generating ideas that could help in growing individually and company. These skills can possibly make youth more independent and ready to face any job related challenges.

ANALYSING SKILLS

It is the ability to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas and its practical working. It includes rigorously questioning ideas and assumptions rather than accepting the false information. Always having a systematic and consistent approach towards work.

CURIOSITY IN LEARNING

The most important skills needed for future jobs is curiosity to learn, explore. Our future is unrestricted, so there is no limit to what workers in the future may need to learn. Today education is not limited to what is taught in schools, colleges, the scope of learning has become wider employers are looking for well-balanced people with transferable skills with ability to learn and develop.

Today education is not limited to what is taught in schools and colleges, the scope of learning has become wider employers are looking for well-balanced people with transferable skills with ability to learn and develop

Take advantage of training, mentoring opportunities and work on your continuous professional development as you will likely become better at what you do and more requisite to your current or future employer.

SELF-EDUCATION

It is the ability to know yourself, to think objectively and understand everything around you rationally while emotional intelligence refers to the human psyche can develop and improve by learning and practising new skills. Before seeking a job you need to know yourself well enough to know your strengths and weaknesses. When a worker understands him, he can make adjustments where needed and perform at his or her best. Young people who know themselves not only know how to approach and solve problems, but are also better able to work effectively and efficiently.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Time management refers to utilising your time productively and efficiently, for efficient working it is important to prioritiz work, knowing relevance of work, understanding urgency and importance of work with respect to time. Management of time is an essential key to enhance productivity as employers seek for people who work systematically, effectively and efficiently.

The writer is Executive Director, Sanskriti University

'Future of IoT is virtually unlimited'

The global Internet of Things market was valued at $190 billion in 2018 and is projected to reach $1,102.6 billion by 2026. Therefore, a career in this sector is lucrative, says MUBEEN JUKAKU

Mubeen Jukaku
Technology Head, Emertxe Information Technologies

The Internet of things (IoT) is an ecosystem of connected physical devices/objects that are accessible through the Internet. IoT is a system of interrelated devices, digital products, objects, people or animals that are provided with unique identifiers (UIDs) and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring any human interaction. The idea of this article is to provide an overview about IoT building blocks and call out how electronics HW and embedded software play an integral role in IoT.

The IoT architecture is a structure of numerous elements. In simple words, IoT architecture has five major components.

IoT device: It can be wireless sensors, software, actuators and computer devices. They are fixed to a specific object that runs through internet.

IoT Gateway: It is a device or a software program that serves as a connection point between cloud and multiple IoT devices.

Network: This is the bridging element that connects an array of IoT gateways to the Cloud platform by traditional TCP/IP network.

Cloud: It is a platform which takes massive volumes of data generated. They receive them via IoT gateways which in turn has tons of devices behind them.

Applications: The synthesised data for the end user to derive meaningful insights. The application typically provides a User Interface (UI) to the end user.

Knowing the growing need of IoT based skills in the market, the Electronics Sector Skills Council of India and Entrepreneurship, skill the youth of the country specifically in the electronics domain. If you are looking forward to making your career in this domain, you can simply take training from the registered training partners of ESSCI that are available pan India.

The council has prepared two job-oriented courses (QP's) in which the candidates can take training and get the job easily in the IoT domain. They are:

IoT Hardware Analyst: This QP primarily takes a complete hardware perspective. For engineers coming from Electronics/Electrical background, this is an ideal QP if you want to have your career in the hardware aspect of IoT. The QP is designed as a pack of skills that includes circuit design, hardware realisation in terms of PCB, optimisation, verification and validation, and system thinking aspects.

Embedded Full-Stack IoT Analyst: This QP primarily takes the software perspective. With a primary focus on embedded software design, this QP focuses on skill-building. This QP also gives very good focus to inculcate engineering best practices.

According to Fortune Business Insights, the global IoT market was valued at $190 billion in 2018 and is projected to reach $1,102.6 billion by 2026, growing at a CAGR of 24.7 per cent in the forecast period.

The future of IoT is virtually unlimited due to advances in technology and consumers desire to integrate devices such as smartphones with household machines. Also, there is so much data travelling from device to device. Security is another key concern will need to be addressed to keep up with demands.

MINDIT

Due to the pandemic, our dependence on technology has increased manifold. The Prime Minister exhorted citizens to go vocal for local; to turn India into a manufacturing and a technology hub for the world. This shows the relentless drive by the Indian Government to help local industries, small or large, to flourish and fuel economic growth. However, to achieve this efficiently in the new-normal, one of the critical aspects of the strategy is to leverage technology and digital solutions.

One aspect of such a strategy is to think of 'remote-everything' in the manufacturing sector. Remote collaboration, remote engineering, remote manufacturing/testing, remote monitoring and maintenance and remote expert assistance, to name a few. This essential shift in thinking remote-everything will help our industries operate safely, efficiently, and sustainably. In recent singular times, a few other technological advancements like AI, Machine Learning (ML), Robotics and Industrial Internet of Things have improved operational safety and increased business productivity. The 'remote-everything' capability will further enhance their application to help the Indian industry.

While the concept of remote operations is not new, the pandemic has accelerated its adoption and the related innovation. The demand for remote access and remote work will continue to grow as industries adopt and enforce social distancing norms to bolster employee safety related processes. It is estimated that around a million employees from the Indian technology industry will continue to work from home even after the lockdown is lifted completely.

Needless to mention, manufacturing industries are now focusing on strengthening their remote working capabilities, building an effective IT infrastructure, and deploying remote technologies and applications to promote business continuity. Remote solutions are making remote industrial operations easier, safer, and more productive by providing advanced instructions on upcoming tasks, providing expert assistance, and enabling collaboration between various stakeholders who may be geographically separated. All this can now be done through a secured IT infrastructure that assists in maintaining a digital logbook and an audit trail, enable a video chat, sharing critical documents, and closing the loop faster between identification of a critical task and taking an action to close the loop. A manufacturing company can nowcontrol and limit the number of people on-site while the experts continue to work remotely and assist multiple sites/people at the same time. This helps adherence to social distancing and leverages the technology to deploy fewer people.

The acceleration of digital remote technologies and their adoption in the industries is encouraging.However, these technological advancements and remote connectivity often put security of critical infrastructures at risk if ignored.

Organisations leading digital transformation are deploying cybersecurity solutions that drive greater consistency and protection across operational technology (OT) environments. Cybersecurity solutions coupled with other industrial digital/remote technologies help identify insights regarding the vulnerabilities and threats, and avoid expensive downtime due to possible attacks.

Manufacturing operations will rapidly continue to be different from what we have been used to. Manufacturing industries need to invest in the right technologies to adapt and evolve to stay relevant. It is vital to unlock new opportunities that these new technologies offer, to make their future safer, smarter and more sustainable.The future of manufacturing belongs to India and a rapid technologies'adoption will help the nation to take its manufacturing to a thriving future.

The writer is Ashish Gaikwad, Managing Director, Honeywell Automation India Limited

The **University of Bath in the UK invites applications for its international awards**. The 30 studentships are open to the UK/EU and international aspirants to study the postgraduate degree coursework for the academic year 2021-2022.

Award: £5,000

Eligibility: To be considered for this education award, the applicant must be received an offer to study the master's degree program at the university for the academic year 2021-2022. Must attach the copies of your passport, transcripts and exam certificates, especially in subjects related to your chosen degree and CV.

Admission requirements: For taking entrance in the master's degree at the university, seekers are demanded to hold their bachelor's degree certificates with good academic grades in the relevant subject area.

Language requirements: If English is not your first language then you may be required to produce evidence of your English language proficiency.

How to apply: Eligible aspirants are requested to register their interest in this studentship by taking affirmation in the postgraduate degree coursework at the University of Bath.

After being a university, claimants will be automatically considered for this education award.

Application deadline: Apply by January 18, 2021 for a decision by 12 February 2021. Apply by 26 April 2021 for a decision by 21 May 2021.

The **Australian National University is offering the Peter & Lena Karmel Honors** international bursary for the 2021/2022 session.

Award: $5,000 per annum

Eligibility: All nationalities.

Acceptable Course or Subjects: Bachelor of Arts (Visual) with Honours, or the Bachelor of Visual Arts (with Honours), or Bachelor of Design Arts with Honours.

Has an outstanding academic record in Art and has demonstrated a high capacity for achievement in his or her chosen field of Arts practice.

Must provide degree certificates, academic transcripts, and CV with your application.

Admission requirements: Selection based on the merit of Honours application, a recommendation of the relevant head of workshop, academic record, and presentation at the end of semester six exhibition, or equivalent folio documentation.

Language requirement: Students from outside the home country will often need to meet specific English language requirements in order to be able to study at the university.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is March 31, 2021.

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT TOPHIRE
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5563554
Deadline: October 22, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT COINSWITCH
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5563555
Deadline: October 22, 2020

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION AT ZYLA HEALTH
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5563557
Deadline: October 21, 2020

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT SWITCHME TECHNOLOGIES AND SERVICES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5563559
Deadline: October 21, 2020

MIS REPORTING AT EXCITEL BROADBAND
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5563560
Application deadline: October 21, 2020

HR AT CLOVEN MEDIA
Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5563562
Application deadline: October 21, 2020

GSM/LTE HACKING AT RADIOJITTER
Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5563565
Application deadline: October 20, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

'Student safety and support is our priority'

It is important that students continue to benefit from interactive teaching and yet be safe, says RICHARD DAVIES

In the last few months all our lives have been turned upside down due to the pandemic that struck the world. While individuals and business are reacting fast to protect self and societal interest, educational institutions are no different.

At the heart of all educational institutions are its students, a vital global population who are in the process of becoming leaders of tomorrow. How universities react to the pandemic is an important lesson to the students in both empathy and crisis management.

When the pandemic hit, many students left for home and many students choose to stay at the university for personal and logistical reasons. This meant that universities had to take immediate measures to keep staff and students safe while ensuring all the students continued to benefit from an enriched and interactive teaching and learning experience

To protect our international students, we immediately put together a package of virtual support and then with a team of staff, willing volunteers and Students' Union (NUSU) reached out to the 181 international students who had stayed back.

This enabled us to then lend practical, academic, and emotional support. For students whose studies were impacted by the pandemic for various reasons, we provided different support options to allow tailored responses to students' circumstances and to assist students with their finances, we waived all third term rent payments for students who left their university-owned accommodation. We have also been working closely with the large private student accommodation providers and the City Council to agree support.

Challenges are an opportunity to learn and grow towards a better world and u, we are proud that the university that puts its students first. We look forward to welcoming the bright minds to our ecosystem of learning and growing in the year, and years, to come.

The writer is Pro-vice-Chancellor, Global, Newcastle University

IN BRIEF

FREE MOCK TEST WITH VIDEO EXPLANATIONS

The Triumphant Institute of Management Education (TIME) is conducting the Free All India Mock Tests, with video explanations, every week for the students aspiring for Bank PO/clerk and other related exams.

The schedule of the free all India mock tests will be uploaded on aspirants home page. These tests will help to assess the strengths and weaknesses along with an opportunity to compete with a huge student base,

The mock results will be announced by 4 pm on the next day after the exam window is over.

For example: If the window for writing the mock test is Saturday and Sunday, then the result will be uploaded by 4 pm on Monday.

Video solutions will be uploaded on time4bankexams channel on youtube by 5 pm on the next day after the exam window is over. Link: *https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4DSyvmICPs9ZDhYpN2HLPA*

The video explanation of the questions will help the aspirants to plan the strategy, effective time-management and get the best approach to solve the questions including short methods/tricks.

IIT MADRAS DEVELOPS ANTI-BACTERIAL FOOD WRAPPER

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has developed a sustainable antimicrobial wrapping material that can tackle two major problems — prevent packaged food contamination by bacteria as well as reduce the plastic waste generated in the environment when disposing the wrappers. This biodegradable food wrapper has an in-built anti-bacterial compound and is safe for consumption.

Professor Mukesh Doble, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, said: "Our idea is to design a food wrap that will address two major issues, namely Solid Waste and Food Contamination during storage due to bacterial growth. We have developed a biodegradable wrapping material with in-built antibacterial activity to prevent bacterial growth in stored food. The antibacterial compound should be safe for consumption as it is approved by the authorities and does not cause any toxicity."

ONLINE PROGRAMMES FOR NEWAGE WORKFORCE

The upGrad, online higher education company, is ready to offer 15 million youngsters with its diverse portfolio of online programmes that provides relevant skillsets and prepares a future-ready workforce.

These oneline programmess are offered in partnership with renowned national and international universities, which are now looking at online education as a viable option for delivering pedagogy.

The India Skills Report 2020 has pointed out that the country is experiencing a massive skill gap where 65-75 per cent of the 15 million youngsters entering the workforce every year, lack requisite skills and are not ready for new-age jobs.

The company has also announced affordable online higher education for individuals across India, wherein any learner would be able to start university-certified degrees, certificates and diplomas, at an initial payment of ₹10,000 per month.

TODAY

DELHI CAPITALS VS ROYAL RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1

IPL 2020

KL Rahul | 387 runs

Kagiso Rabada | 17 wickets

I just want to keep things simple and hit the hard length over and again. That's something which has been working for me in this particular season

This pitch (Sharjah) was drier. And the day was pleasant so we thought there would be no dew. Barring one superhuman, every batsman struggled on the pitch

AB showed why he is a very good player. To come out there and score 80 runs of the (last) five overs is not an easy one, but I think he made it look much easier than what it was

I'm very happy that I contributed. I surprised myself to be honest. We were headed towards 140-150, and I thought I might try for 160-165, but I was surprised we reached 194

Royals eye revenge against Capitals

PTI ■ DUBAI

Bolstered by the arrival of Ben Stokes, Rajasthan Royals will hope for a stronger show from its slightly off-colour top order when the side tries to settle scores against second-placed Delhi Capitals in their return leg IPL match here on Wednesday.

The Capitals had beaten RR by 46 runs last week and Steve Smith's men will look to return the compliment when they meet for the second time in the tournament.

The last time the two teams clashed, RR didn't have Stokes in the ranks and even though the England all-rounder didn't set the stage on fire in his first game but his presence inspired the former champions to snap a four-match losing streak with a five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

MATCHES	21
DELHI CAPITALS	10
RAJASTHAN ROYALS	11

Stats: Faisel Features

While Stokes will be an important cog in the RR wheel, the team will also have to fix its top order which has been short of runs in the last five games, leaving too much for the lower-order to get.

Skipper Smith and Sanju Samson have failed to make any significant contribution with the bat since setting the Sharjah ground on fire in their first two matches.

Jos Buttler produced a superb 44-ball 70 against Mumbai Indians but didn't capitalise on the starts in the last two matches.

In fact, if it wasn't for Rahul Tewatia, the Royals would still be in the dumps.

The all-rounder, who had blasted five sixes against Kings XI Punjab, once again rescued RR with a 28-ball 45 in their last game against Sunrisers.

Delhi, on the other hand, were brought down by Mumbai Indians in their last game and Shreyas Iyer's men will look to shrug off the odd defeat and get back to the top with a professional display.

The Capitals possess an explosive batting department as well as a formidable bowling unit with Kagiso Rabada emerging as the best bowler this season, snaring 17 wickets so far.

He has been supported well by fellow South African pacer Anrich Nortje (8 wickets) and Harshal Patel.

Ravichandran Ashwin too has bowled well in the powerplay and along with Axar Patel, has done well to suffocate the opposition teams.

However, it was Marcus Stoinis, whose all-round show floored RR in their last face-off and Smith would hope that his side has his match in Stokes.

In bowling, Jofra Archer has led the charge for RR. He, along with the spin duo of Tewatia and Shreyas Gopal, have consistently figured in the XI, which has gone through a lot of chopping and changing.

For DC, Shikhar Dhawan's return to form further boosts their batting order, featuring Prithvi Shaw and Iyer in the top four.

MUCH-NEEDED WIN FOR CSK

PTI ■ DUBAI

A desperate Chennai Super Kings dished out an all-round performance to earn a much-needed win as they stay afloat in the race for the IPL Play-offs with a 20-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad, here on Tuesday.

Shane Watson and Ambati Rayudu shared a 81-run stand to power Chennai Super Kings to 167 for six after electing to bat.

CSK skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni then used seven bowlers, who executed their plans to perfection, to restrict SRH to 147 for eight.

With 57 off 39 balls, Kane Williamson was the top scorer for Sunrisers. He hit seven fours to keep his side in hunt but the steep required run-rate made it tough for SRH after the fall of the Kiwi batsman.

For CSK, the win, their third of the tournament, comes after two back-to-back losses. They now have six points and are placed sixth in the points table. While Sunrisers remain in the fifth spot.

Sunrisers were struck with twin blows in the fourth over with opener David Warner (9) and Mainsh Pandey (4) getting out, but Jonny Bairstow (23 off 24) and Williamson took them to 40 for two in the Powerplay overs.

Sunrisers' problems amplified when Ravindra Jadeja removed the dangerous Bairstow with the team struggling at 60 for three at the halfway stage.

With Priyam Garg (16) by his side, Williamson kept the scoreboard ticking with Sunrisers needing 75 off 36 balls.

But as soon as Sunrisers looked to get back into the chase the youngster was caught at deep midwicket by Jadeja off a Karn Sharma delivery in the 15th over.

Vijay Shankar(12) didn't last long as the New Zealand skipper looked helplessly from the other end.

With the pressure mounting, Williamson had no option but to go for the big shot resulting in him being caught at long-on. Rashid Khan contributed with an eight-ball 14 in a lost cause.

Dwayne Bravo (2/ 25), Karn Sharma (2/37) picked two wickets each while with Sam Curran (1/18), Jadeja (1/21), Shardul Thakur (1/10) claimed one wicket each.

Earlier, Watson's 42 off 38 balls was studded with one four and three maximums, while Rayudu's hit three boundaries and two sixes in his 34-ball 41-run knock.

Jadeja (25 not out) and Dhoni (21 off 13 balls) played quick cameos smashing a total of five fours and two sixes between them in a stand of 32 in just 2.4 overs.

SRH bowlers did a commendable job, claiming four wickets for 47 runs in the last six overs. Sandeep Sharma (2/19), Khaleel Ahmed (2/45) and T Natarajan (2/41) picked two wickets apiece.

Desperate to snap their two-match losing streak, CSK elected to bat. The three-time champions sent young England all-rounder Sam Curran instead of Watson to open the innings with Faf du Plessis. Sharma drew first blood for the Sunrisers, removing du Plessis in the beginning of the third over. The South African sneaked one to Jonny Bairstow off the very first ball he faced for a golden duck.

Curran was off to a bright start, smashing Ahmed for the first boundary of the match in the second over. He continued his onslaught on the pacer by hitting him two fours and as many sixes in the fourth over, quickly racing to 31 off 21-balls.

But Curran's time in the middle was brought to an end by Sharma, who went around the wicket to bowl a good length delivery angled into the leg stump. CSK ended the powerplay at 44/2 with both openers back in the dugout.

With pacer Sandeep Sharma accounting for both openers in the Powerplay, Watson and Rayudu stitched a valuable 81-run partnership. The duo initially kept the score board ticking with occasional boundaries on a dry but weary surface but upped the ante in the 15th over, hitting Rashid Khan for a six each.

Ahmed broke the stand by getting rid of Rayudu, who was caught at long-off by skipper David Warner. Watson soon followed with Natarajan dismissing the Australian. The pacer then went on to claim the wicket of Dhoni as well.

Kohli describes AB's knock as 'superhuman' effort

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli said AB de Villiers' match-wining 73 against Kolkata Knight Riders was a "superhuman" effort as "every other batsmen" struggled on the dry Sharjah pitch.

RCB registered a massive 82-run win on the back of de Villiers' unbeaten 33 ball blitzkrieg on Monday.

"This pitch was drier. And the day was pleasant so we thought there would be no dew. Barring one superhuman, every batsman struggled on the pitch. The talk was around getting 165, but we got 194 you know exactly why. It was unbelievable," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

Virat Kohli congratulates AB de Villiers on fifty IPLT20

"I thought I had a few balls under my belt, and I might start striking. He (de Villiers) just came in and struck the third ball, and said he felt good. You might see a lot of people do what is done in other games, but only AB can did what he did. It was a fabulous knock."

Kohli, who remained not out on 33 from 28 balls, said it was only thanks to the genius of de Villiers that his side got to 194 for two.

"I was happy we could string together a partnership (of 100 runs), and mine was the best seat to watch from."

Talking about the win, Kohli said, "It is a tremendous win against a very strong side. Heading into a busy week for us, it was important to start off well. The bowling unit looks that much more potent with Chris Morris coming back."

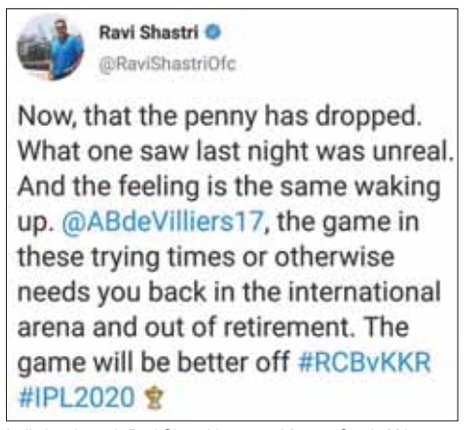
DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE

CSK 'Super Fan' Gopi Krishnan and his family in Arangur, Tamil Nadu call their residence Home of Dhoni Fan @ChennaiIPL

Former Australian cricketer and Rajasthan Royals youth advisor Lisa Sthalekar supervises women's camp at Rajasthan Royals Academy in UAE @rajasthanroyals

A young fan poses with the ball that was hit out of the Sharjah Cricket Ground for a big six by Royal Challengers Bangalore batsman Ab de Villiers in an IPL game on Monday @RCBTweets



India head coach Ravi Shastri has urged former South Africa captain AB de Villiers to come out of retirement and again play international cricket @RaviShastriOfc

MI, DC & KKR TO QUALIFY FOR PLAYOFFS

Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders are three out of the four teams which will qualify for the playoffs in the ongoing IPL edition, feels former Indian pacer Ajit Agarkar. While Mumbai and Delhi currently occupy the top two spots in the points table, KKR are placed at the fourth position. "It's such a close tournament, so many ups and downs, but clearly Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals look like the two best teams — form wise and personnel wise. KKR, in my opinion, got a real bonus win against CSK. They are my third team," said Agarkar while speaking on *Star Sports* show *Cricket Connected*. According to Agarkar, the fourth team to enter the final four will be either Rajasthan Royals or SunRisers Hyderabad.

POINTS TABLE

		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	MI	7	5	2	+1.327	10
2	DC	7	5	2	+1.038	10
3	RCB	7	5	2	-0.116	10
4	KKR	7	4	3	-0.577	8
5	SRH	7	3	4	+0.153	6
6	RR	7	3	4	-0.872	6
7	CSK	7	2	5	-0.588	4
8	KXIP	7	1	6	-0.381	2

When playing for Aus my role is clear, it changes frequently in IPL: Maxwell

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Australian big-hitter Glenn Maxwell has attributed his inconsistent run in the IPL over eight seasons to frequent changes in his role, something that is very clear to him when playing for his country.

Speaking to *PTI*, the Victorian explained why he has realised his potential while playing for Australia and the reason for his inconsistent run in the IPL.

"I probably would not (compare IPL and Australia career). The way I have played international cricket, it has been more of a clearer role. I know exactly how the guys will bat around me," he said.

Having overcome mental health issues last year, it seems Maxwell is back to his best in international cricket. However, the same can't be said about his IPL performances — he has scored 58 runs at 14.50 in seven games so far.

Due to his exploits for Australia, Maxwell has always been sought after in the IPL and most recently KXIP bought him back by paying a whopping ₹10.75 crore at the auction.

"My role in IPL changes probably for most games. In IPL, a lot of teams change their sides a lot. In the Australian set-up we have the same eleven for most of the games, we all know our roles really well," said Maxwell.

He is batting at five for KXIP this season and said his role is to support the top-four.

"When you are only together for two months in the year with IPL, there is going to be chopping and changing. You are always looking for that right team balance. The team you pick at the start of the tournament might not have the balance you think as you progress.

"We feel we are getting closer to that (team balance). I have had different experiences (in the IPL) where I have not quite performed to the level people expect but there has been no lack of trying, (or) putting the effort in training."

With the top-four facing most of the balls, Maxwell feels he has not got enough time in the middle to make an impact. On the bowling front, he has got the opportunity to roll his arm over only thrice in seven games

"This year has been a different role (batting at five) and I am trying to get used to it. I would like to think that I have tried to do my role as well as I can.

"We have got *Nicky* (Nicholas Pooran) batting unbelievably well at four. With his power-hitting, my job has been to get him on strike and be there to help finish off games.

"I have been not out four times (three actually) in seven games which is probably never happened to me in the history of my career. So, it has been a strange transition for me batting at five and one that I feel, I have started to become more accustomed to."

Gayle likely to play against RCB

Dubai: Senior Kings XI Punjab batsman Chris Gayle is likely to play his first game in the ongoing IPL on Thursday after recovering from a bout of food poisoning.

Head coach Anil Kumble had said that the team could not play Gayle against Sunrisers Hyderabad last week because he was down with food poisoning. The 41-year-old also missed the following game against KKR on Saturday.

The 'Universe Boss' had even posted a photo on social media from his hospital bed.

KXIP posted photos of Gayle returning to the nets on Monday.

"He is fine now and it is likely that he will be playing the game against RCB (on Thursday)," a team source told PTI.

KXIP batsman Chris Gayle attends treatment for food poisoning Instagram

The game is at Sharjah, the smallest among the three venues and ideal for someone like Gayle to go on a six-hitting spree. **PTI**

Tokyo to hold gymnastics meet featuring foreign teams

AP ■ TOKYO

Tokyo is planning to hold an international gymnastics meet next month that will exempt non-Japanese athletes from a 14-day quarantine period, an approach that might foreshadow planning for next year's postponed Olympics.

The Japanese Gymnastics Association announced the meet will feature athletes from the United States, Russia, China and Japan.

The one-day event is set for Nov 8 at the Yoyogi National Gymnasium. The Japanese news agency *Kyodo* reported that 2,000 fans will be allowed to attend, and it said athletes' travel will be restricted while in the country.

Kyodo said the non-Japanese athletes will take a polymerase chain reaction test before they leave home, and will also be tested daily in Japan. The event will involve 32 gymnasts — eight from each country.

Tokyo organisers are studying contingencies from next year's Olympics, which are scheduled to open on July 23, 2021. The most difficult problems is how to let 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes compete in Tokyo and keep from spreading the coronavirus.

In addition to athletes, organizers will have to accommodate thousands of team officials, technical officials who run the competitions, media, broadcasters, and sponsors. Also up in the air is the question of having fans attend events, or of allowing non-Japanese fans to even enter the country.

Nadal's Paris record will never be beaten: Murray

PARIS: Andy Murray predicts Rafael Nadal's record of 13 French Open titles will never be beaten as the British former world number one looks to bounce back in Cologne this week from his own Roland Garros disappointment.

Murray, 33, the reigning Olympic champion, crashed out of last month's French Open in straight sets with a lop-sided first round defeat to Stan Wawrinka as he works his way back from hip surgery.

On Sunday, the Scot watched in awe as Nadal, 34, demolished Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 in the final at Roland Garros to win his 13th French Open title.

The Spaniard has also equalled the all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles held by Roger Federer, who hailed Nadal's victory as "one of sport's greatest achievements".

Murray echoed the Swiss legend and doubts anyone will even get close to Nadal's record in Paris.

"It's an amazing achievement. I don't think that what he has done at Roland Garros will ever be beaten. I just don't see it being topped," Murray said in Cologne.

"He is one short of winning the same amount of Grand Slams as (Pete) Sampras did just at one tournament. It's incredible.

"I don't think it'll be repeated and I don't think anyone will be close." **AFP**

Cristiano tests Covid +ve

AFP ■ LISBON

Cristiano Ronaldo has been released from the Portuguese national team camp after testing positive for Covid-19.

A statement released by the Portuguese football federation on Tuesday confirmed the 35-year-old is asymptomatic and feeling fine, but he must now undergo a period of self-isolation.

This means he will miss Portugal's Uefa Nations League clash with Sweden on Wednesday and is also a doubt for Juventus' upcoming fixtures against Crotone and Dynamo Kyiv.

The Serie A club are yet to make a statement but the Portuguese federation confirmed the rest of the Portuguese squad all returned negative Covid-19 test results on Tuesday, and Ronaldo is the only player who must miss the Sweden game.

SAI and NRAI to jointly bio-secure shooting camp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Karni Singh Range will be divided into four "risk" zones to ensure that Olympic-bound shooters can safely resume training at a two-month long national camp which will be conducted from Thursday in a bio-bubble to ward off the Covid-19 threat.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) will take joint responsibility of conducting the camp in a secure environment.

"In order to maintain a secure bio-bubble whereby the athletes can train safely and to prevent a coronavirus outbreak, the responsibility of maintaining the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be shared by the Sports Authority of India and the NRAI," read a statement from SAI on Tuesday.

The camp had earlier been postponed twice because of the pandemic and is expected to feature 32 shooters (18 men and 14 women), eight coaches, three foreign coaches and two support staff. All 15 Olympic quota winners will be a part of it.

"To maintain safety, zoning of premises by nature of risk category to minimise the contact between campers and range personnel has been planned into Green, Orange, Yellow and Red Zones," it added.

The NRAI has made boarding and lodging arrangements at a hotel close to the range, for which SAI is providing support as per existing SOP.

From the hotel to the entry to the shooting range, it would be NRAI's responsibility to ensure compliance of the SOP in order to keep the bio-bubble secure.

Shooters/coaches coming from outside the Delhi-NCR region will have to be quarantined at the hotel for seven days while the locals will require self-isolation at home for a week, after which they will join other campers in the hotel for the entire duration.

Lakshya starts with win in Denmark

PTI ■ ODENSE

Fast-rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen made a successful return to competitive badminton, beating Christo Popov in straight games in the opening round of the $750,000 Denmark Open, which marked the resumption of the international calender after a coronavirus-forced break of seven months.

The 19-year-old Indian, who claimed five titles including two Super 100 tournaments last year, produced a clinical performance to outwit Popov 21-9, 21-15 to reach the second round.

He will take on the winner of the match between Denmark,s Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus and Belgium,s Maxime Moreels.

"I moved quite well, that was the key. In the second game he had a lead but I had made a few mistakes. I was able to cut down on them and find my rhythm," Lakshya, who is currently ranked world No 27, was quoted as saying by Badminton World Federation (BWF).

"I'm very happy to be playing again after seven months and it felt very normal on the court."