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## Farmers walk out of Govt meet

They demand Min's presence; Punjab calls spl session for Bill to negate farm laws

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The stand-off between the Centre and Punjab farmers continues as a delegation of protesting farmers' leaders from Punjab invited for talks by Union Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal on Wednesday here cried foul and walked out of the meeting, demanding the presence of Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar. The agitated farmers claimed the Government is least interested in solving farmers' problems with no Minister present to hear them out.

Amid farmers' protests across the State, Punjab has become the first State to reject the Centre's farm laws. At the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh rejected the farm laws enacted by the Centre and convened a special Assembly session on October 19 to bring a legislation to counter the Centre's farm laws.

The Punjab Cabinet's move is expected to have overwhelming support, with both the ruling Congress and the Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). The CM had announced his Government will fight the "anti-federal and vicious farm laws tooth and nail through legislative, legal and other routes".

Meanwhile, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Government is always open for discussion with farm-



Farmers from Punjab stage a protest outside Krishi Bhawan after they walked out of a meeting with Agriculture Secretary over the new farm bills in New Delhi on Wednesday

ers on the revolutionary farm laws. When asked about boycott by farmers' body, Javadekar said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar have already held one round of discussion with farmer organisations on this issue.

"If someone wants more (discussion), we are always open (to) meet everyone. But Tomarji has an engagement today, therefore he has gone. When he will get free, he is meeting all. There is no problem in this," Information and Broadcasting Minister Javadekar told the media after

the Cabinet meeting.

A delegation of 29 farmers organisations, comprising Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, Jagjit Singh Dalewal, Jagmohan Singh, Kulwant Singh, Surjit Singh and Satnam Singh Sahni, who had come to attend meeting are said to have asked the Secretary what an administrative officer can do when the political leadership was not interested in repealing the recently-passed farm laws and walked out of the meeting.

After a one-and-a-half-hour long meeting with Agarwal, the farmers leaders were seen shouting slogans

and tearing copies of new farm laws outside Krishi Bhawan.

Farmers' leaders Jogjit Singh Dalewal and Jagmohan Singh said at least Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar should have been present at the meeting. The meeting was convened at the Krishi Bhawan amid police security to avoid any protest. Farmers' leaders said that their agitation against the contentious farm laws will continue.

"No proper discussion took place. Neither Union Agriculture Minister nor junior Ministers were present to hear our concerns. We asked why

the Minister is not meeting us, why the Government is playing double standards by calling us here and Ministers holding virtual meetings in Punjab. There was no proper response," Darshan Pal, member of the coordination committee of 29 farmers' organisations, told reporters after the meeting.

BKU leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said the farmers' representatives will meet in Chandigarh on Thursday to discuss the next course of action. "He (Agriculture Secretary) kept saying he wants to act as a bridge and help, etc. We asked why we were called when no Minister was present to talk to us. The Secretary said he will communicate our demands further," said a farmer union leader.

"The meeting was an effort to try and create a false impression that the Central Government is engaging with farmers, when in fact it is going all out to roll out and enforce the anti-farmer laws," the All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) said in a statement.

"First, the Government should be ready to review and if necessary, repeal the three laws. Second, the Government should be ready to consider legislating the minimum support price as a legal right and deal with input cost, food security and other issues," the AIKSCC statement said. Farmers also presented a memorandum of demands to the Government.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Modi to begin NDA's poll drive in Bihar on Oct 22

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

As the poll campaign for the first phase of election in Bihar on October 28 heats up, BJP's national president JP Nadda will again go the State on Thursday for physical campaign rallies and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the main face of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), is expected to swoop down on the State for first series of electioneering from October 22, which, among others, include the Assembly seats of Buxar, Jehannabad and Bhagalpur.

BJP senior leaders, including party general secretary and State-in-charge Bhupendra Yadav and former Maharashtra Chief Minister and the campaign-in-charge Devendra Fadnavis, are drawing up plan for the Prime Minister's rallies as he is seen as the prime mover and shaker of voters in the State with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar facing the anti-incumbency factor.

Modi's rallies are expected to be held in Buxar, Jehanabad, Rohtas and Bhagalpur for the NDA candidates, beginning October 22. The Covid-19 conditions have put extra-pressure on the planners and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is carefully examining the details before giving a go ahead for the physical rallies.

With the pandemic still on surge, rallies ahead of the Assembly elections would be conducted with standard operating procedure and guidelines for safety. On Monday a



Bihar Minister for backward and extremely backward class welfare Vinod Kumar Singh, 55, passed away due to post-Covid-19 complications.

The Prime Minister will also address poll rallies digitally, though number of physical and virtual public meeting is yet to be fixed, said sources, adding total addresses could be more than ten, according to party sources.

Bihar is one of the first of States in the country to go to polls under Covid-19 conditions. Physical rallies are increasingly turning "normal" with political leaders pulling out all full stops to attract voters who, this time, are not swayed by one particular issue or political personality.

BJP president is on a two-day tour of Bihar for electioneering from October 15 and to address rallies at Vikramganj, Karakat (Rohtas), Goh (Aurangabad) and on October 16 campaign in Barahat (Banaka), Hisua (Nawada) Assembly segments.

BJP launched its "Bihar Me Ee Ba" to showcase the infrastructure development in Bihar under the NDA regime. The BJP's video song also mentions the opening of IITs, AIIMS, new bridges as well as improvement in the health and education sector. It talks about transforming Bihar cities into metros like Mumbai and Delhi.

Countering the BJP development plank, the rival alliance leader RJD's Tejashwi Yadav is attacking the NDA Government for miserably failing as a job provider and developing the State. "What did their double-engine govt do in 15 years? It's their attempt to divert from agenda but we want to contest election on agenda," says Lalu Prasad's son and his political heir apparent.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Sharad Yadav's daughter joins Cong, to fight Bihar election

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

Ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, former Union Minister and Loktantrik Janata Dal chief Sharad Yadav's daughter Subhashini Yadav joined the Congress on Wednesday in the presence of local leaders. Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader and former MP Kali Pandey too joined the Congress. Both are likely to contest the upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar and are seeking tickets from the Congress party.

Subhashini Yadav, a social worker, said she is taking the responsibility of carrying on the fight of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, as her father Sharad Yadav has always supported it. "I thank Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for giving me this opportunity. Sharad Yadav is not actively taking part in the Bihar elections as he is not well. He has always supported the 'Mahagathbandhan'. It is my responsibility to take this fight forward and to take Bihar to greater heights," she said.

Kali Pandey said it was a homecoming for him as he had extended support to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1984 when he was a member of the Lok Sabha.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Yogi initiates move to build world-class city by old Ayodhya

PTI ■ AYODHYA

The Uttar Pradesh government has issued a notification to acquire nearly 1,200 acre land to build a new world-class city adjacent to old Ayodhya in line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's ambitious plans for the temple town.

The notification was issued on Monday to acquire a total of 1,193 acre land on the banks of river Saryu along Lucknow Gorakhpur highway, said officials on Wednesday.

For the acquisition of land in Manjha Tiruha, Manjha Baretha and Shahnawazpur areas, the government has also sanctioned a sum of Rs 4,000 crore, Ayodhya Development Authority's Vice Chairman and Municipal Commissioner Vishal Singh told PTI.

Singh said the government has made Uttar Pradesh Housing Development Board the nodal agency to implement the project of building a new Ayodhya and a team of Board officials has reached the temple town for some preliminary works. The new Ayodhya will

have a bow shape aerial look with its roads appearing to be sun rays emanating from the upcoming Sri Ram Temple, said Singh talking of the design specification for the new city.

Several expert engineers and architects are preparing the design for the city, he said.

Singh said Ayodhya, one of Saptapuris the seven pilgrimage centres for Hindus — will be developed as a global pilgrimage city and as a part of the Ramayana Circuit under Swadesh Darshan scheme, connected to Chitrakoot through Ram Van Gaman Marg (the road taken by Lord Ram for his forest-dwelling out of Ayodhya).

Singh said the new city will also be connected to all the major pilgrim centres including those of Varanasi, Allahabad and Gorakhpur.

Singh recalled that after the Bhoomipujan for the construction of Ram Janambhoomi Temple by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5, the chief minister had instructed officials to complete the work of establishing a world-class new Ayodhya on a war footing.

## Waive interest on interest asap as Diwali gift, SC asks Centre

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Centre should implement "as soon as possible" interest waiver on loans of up to ₹2 crore under the RBI moratorium scheme in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, saying the common man's Diwali is in the Government's hands.

The apex court sought know from the Centre as to whether the benefit of loan interest waiver for borrowers of up to ₹2 crore during the moratorium period has "percolated" to the common man.

The court, which observed that it is concerned about how benefit of interest waiver would be given to borrowers, said the Centre has taken a "welcome decision" by taking note of plight of common man but authorities have not issued any order in this regard.

"Something concrete has to be done," a bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said, adding, "Benefits of waivers must be implemented as soon as possible." The SC posted the matter for hearing on November 2.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Centre poised to tackle Covid spike in winter

Process to import 1 lakh MT liquid oxygen started

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure that it is not caught napping in the winters and festivities in the coming weeks when Covid-19 cases are likely to spike, the Union Health Ministry has initiated the process of importing liquid oxygen to meet any unforeseen shortage due to rise in demand for oxygen.

On behalf of the Government, public sector undertaking GLL Lifecare Limited floated a global tender on Wednesday for procuring one lakh metric tonne of liquid oxygen, as per its website.

The oxygen is being procured for various Central and State Government hospitals. The entire exercise of importing and then distributing the medical oxygen is estimated to cost ₹600-700 crore, according to officials in the Ministry.

Even though, Covid cases are on decline as has been shown by the data available from the Government, experts as well as the Government fear that the upcoming festive season and following winter

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL	
CASES: 73,01,870	
DEATHS: 1,11,272	
RECOVERED: 63,76,919	
ACTIVE: 8,12,548	



months may see a spike in coronavirus infections.

On Tuesday, Dr VK Paul, Niti Aayog member (Health), said in the coming winter months, when respiratory viruses are more dangerous, we would have to make efforts to bring a decline in the number of cases.

"Winter season is seen as a breeding ground for viruses and infections. We must remember that the world is also witnessing a second peak. We are also detecting more severe

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	15,54,389	40,859	13,16,769
Andhra Pradesh	7,67,465	6,319	7,19,477
Karnataka	7,35,371	10,198	6,11,167
Tamil Nadu	6,70,392	10,423	6,17,403
Uttar Pradesh	4,44,711	6,507	4,01,306
Delhi	3,17,548	5,898	2,89,747
Kerala	3,10,141	1,067	2,15,149
West Bengal	3,05,697	5,808	2,68,384
Odisha	2,59,541	1,125	2,35,763
Telangana	2,16,238	1,241	1,91,269
Bihar	1,99,549	967	1,87,998
Assam	1,98,213	834	1,67,056
Rajasthan	1,65,240	1,694	1,41,835
Madhya Pradesh	1,55,276	2,686	1,38,158
Gujarat	1,55,098	3,598	1,36,641
Chhattisgarh	1,47,866	1,306	1,19,350

forms of coronavirus cases as the season progresses," said the Niti Aayog member.

"This is the time for it because, during winters, respiratory infections go up and, whatever else we may say for Covid, it is, after all, a disease that affects the respiratory tract and it is well known that respiratory infections happen more during the winter season," Dr Paul said indicating rise in numbers.

A report prepared by the National Centre for Disease

Control (NCDC) too has warned that Delhi might witness an increase of 15,000 daily coronavirus cases during the winter season with festive gatherings, seasonal illnesses and influx of patients from outside adding the city's tally.

As on Tuesday, around 3.97 per cent of the Covid-19 patients were on oxygen support, 2.46 per cent were in ICU beds which are again with oxygen support and 0.40 per cent on ventilator support.

*Continued on Page 11*

## CAPSULE

### INDIA GIVES \$1 MN FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Jerusalem: India on Wednesday contributed \$1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to support Palestinian refugees who have been facing extreme challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a move hailed by the UN body as "timely help".

### MULAYAM SINGH TESTS COVID POSITIVE

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav tested positive for the novel coronavirus, the party tweeted on Wednesday. "Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav has tested positive for COVID-19, and is being monitored by doctors. As of now, there are no COVID symptoms in him," it said.



## Cinemas from today with Covid-19 SOP

STAFF REPORTER/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Theatres and multiplexes will open this week, the earliest on October 15, in several places, including Delhi and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, with stringent dos and don'ts in keeping with the new Covid-19 normal. Sushant Singh Rajput's last theatrical release "Chhichhore" is among the films that will get a big screen re-release on Thursday.

However, theatres and multiplexes will remain closed in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Chhattisgarh.

The SOPs mandated by the Union Government include one seat distance in halls, 50 per cent capacity, masks at all time, proper ventilation and air conditioner temperature set-

tings at above 23 degrees Celsius.

PVR Cinemas, India's largest film exhibitor with 845 screens in 176 properties across 71 cities, on Wednesday said 10 States and four UTs have given their go-ahead for the reopening of cinemas. Accordingly, PVR will start operations in 487 screens from Thursday and hope that other States will soon give their green signal too.

The multiplex chain said it hopes to build customer confidence with an 'Evangelism' phase which will give people a chance to experience its enhanced safety features firsthand. This phase will involve goodwill screenings for the company's employees, health workers and the police force and their children.

*Continued on Page 11*



Floodwaters gush through a street following heavy rain at Falaknuma in Hyderabad on Wednesday

## Pak, China win seat at UNHRC, world criticises UN body

PTI/IANS ■ ISLAMABAD/ UNITED NATIONS

Pakistan along with China, Russia and Cuba won seats on the UN Human Rights Council despite strong opposition from activist groups over their abysmal human rights records.

Hillel Neuer, an international lawyer on human rights and executive director of United Nations Watch based in Geneva, condemned the election of the countries.

Apart from dozens of journalists and activists who expressed outrage, social media influencers like Surendra Poonia questioned the

UNHRC too. "How come your organization is not able to see atrocities on minorities in Pakistan and torture camps in China where Uyghur Muslims are tortured? It is like a brutal killer getting awarded for non-violence," he tweeted.

Last week, a coalition of human rights groups from Europe, the US and Canada called on UN member States to oppose the election of China, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Cuba and Uzbekistan, saying their human rights records make them unqualified.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo slammed the UN body for electing the nations.

*Continued on Page 11*







# 279 test +ve, 475 recover

## Micro-plans for better surveillance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Recoveries continued to outnumber fresh cases as 279 more persons tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday while 475 recovered. The death toll in the state capital is 797 while the number of active cases is 4,393. The total number of recoveries stands at 53,422.

The new patients included 32 from Rae Bareilly road, 28 from Indiranagar, 20 from Gomtinagar, 19 from Chowk, 18 from Alambagh, 17 from Madaion, 12 each from Chinhat & Talkatora, 11 each from Cantt & Aliganj, and 10 each from Jankipuram, Mahanagar & Hazratganj

Seven patients died in Lucknow but only three belonged to the city while the rest to Hardoi, Kaushambhi, Barabanki and Bahraich. One patient, a 67-year-old man from Bahraich, died at KGMU on Wednesday.

Across the state, 2,778 persons tested positive, including 151 in Prayagraj, 173 in Gorakhpur, 149 in Ghaziabad and 139 in Gautam Buddh Nagar, taking the tally to 4,44,711. There were 41 deaths in the state, including four in Varanasi, three each in Gorakhpur & Mathura, two each from Meerut, Agra, Jaunpur & Chandauli, and one each in Kanpur, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Barabanki, Kushinagar,



Health workers conducting Covid test at a shopping mall in Hazratganj

Pioneer

Hardoi, Ghazipur, Bulandshahr, Bahraich, Sonbhadra, Kannauj, Shamli, Etah & Balrampur, taking the toll to 6,507. As many as 3,736 patients recovered, taking the number of recoveries across the state to 4,01,306 even as there are 36,898 active cases.

Meanwhile, the Health department is making micro-plans for better surveillance in both urban and rural parts of Lucknow district and for effective containment of coronavirus infection. A senior official at the CMO office said they have briefed the planning units on how to make 14-day micro-plans in which all the houses will be covered and the same will be ready by Thursday.

He said the quality of surveillance would be better. "It's being done so that there are better teams in the areas and they should know what to do," the official said. He added that the objective is to identify symptomatic patients before their conditions worsens and thus

prevent deaths.

The officials will also be testing all the staffers and doctors at private clinics for the next three days. It has been conveyed to all the rapid response teams. There are several clinics in the city which are registered and the plan is to cover them in the next 2-3 days.

It is being done because both antigen and RT-PCR testing has to be increased and the potential high-risk areas need to be looked into.

There are 620 hospitals and nursing homes in Lucknow which also have to be screened and the staffers and doctors tested by mobile medical units.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor of Atal Bihari Medical University Dr AK Singh has been appointed director of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences. Singh was given the additional charge by the state government on Wednesday. He has replaced Dr Nuzhat Husain. Dr Singh earlier

headed the Plastic Surgery department of KGMU.

Besides, in view of the pandemic, environmental cleaning is a part of standard precautions which should be applicable to all. KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said the sanitisation committee has contributed immensely towards the prevention of coronavirus infection.

"The committee was formed in April under the chairmanship of Prof Monica Agrawal. Members of the committee are Dr Reema from community medicine and public health department, Dr RK Diwan from anatomy department and Dr Suruchi from microbiology department. The objective was to provide guidance for environmental cleaning, decontamination and to make sure that disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly throughout the medical university and associated colleges," he said.

Dr Singh said six sanitary inspectors posted in the medical university and three dedicated sweepers have been involved in environmental disinfection and cleaning of the whole campus round the clock.

"They are looking after sanitisation of all OPDs, wards, all administrative offices, Kalam centre, Shatabdi hospital, guest house, labs, active quarantine areas, holding areas at geriatric mental health, trauma centre and even ambulances. Workers are provided with all personal protective equipment, including cap, surgical masks, eye shields, shield covers, gloves and aprons," he said.

"Sanitary inspectors are linked with members of the sanitisation committee through a WhatsApp group for better communication and coordination of work," he added.

# Woman who attempted self-immolation dies

## Son of former Rajasthan Guv detained for 'instigating' her

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The woman, who attempted self-immolation outside the BJP office in Hazratganj, succumbed to burns at Civil hospital on Wednesday. She had suffered 90 per cent burns. A police spokesman said the dying declaration of the woman, Anjali Tiwari, could not be taken as she remained unconscious.

On Wednesday, police detained son of former Rajasthan Governor Sukhdev Prasad for allegedly instigating her to take the extreme step. The accused was identified as Alok Prasad, who is said to be an office-bearer of the Congress. According to DCP (Central) Somen Verma, Alok told the police that he is the son of former Rajasthan Governor Sukhdev Prasad. He said the Maharajganj police shared with them details of some incidents which took place a couple of weeks back which might have led the woman to immolate herself. "Alok has come on police radar and he is being interrogated," he said.

Meanwhile, the Maharajganj SP denied having any information about the detention of Alok. Sources said Alok, along with some workers, had organised a dharna outside the house of the woman to seek justice for her and allegedly provoked her to reach Lucknow and attempt self-



immolation so that the case could hog the limelight.

"Alok is a person with political ambitions and he possibly wanted to show the UP government in bad light by instigating the woman to attempt self-immolation. His role in other cases like agitation in Hathras over the death of a Dalit girl recently is also being probed," one source said. Anjali Tiwari had a love marriage with Asif Raza after she and her first husband settled for

divorce. She was allegedly forced to convert and her name was changed to Aisha Begum. She alleged domestic violence by her in-laws after her Asif went to Saudi Arabia for work. She alleged that she petitioned her case to local police but it was never taken up. Earlier, Anjali was married to a native of Maharajganj. She later became close to Asif and started living with her. In due course of time, she married Asif.

# Youth rapes 8-yr-old cousin, nabbed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth allegedly raped his 8-year-old cousin in Maal police station area on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. As the girl cried in pain, her family members woke up and nabbed the accused. As per reports, the girl was sleeping when the accused tipped into the house and forced himself upon her.

In the meantime, family members of the girl woke up and reached the room where they saw the accused and nabbed him. He was later handed over to police. Kin of the victim alleged that the police

tried to sweep the case under the carpet. "Mediapersons got a whiff of the incident after which the police swung into action," they alleged.

In another case, a youth was arrested for stalking a girl and passing lewd comments on her, in Chinhat on Wednesday. Manish Shukla allegedly caught the girl by her hand. Later, the girl's parents lodged a complaint against the accused, who was nabbed by police. Girl's parents alleged that Manish used to send obscene messages to her and also stalk her. However, kin of the accused contested the claim made by girl's family, saying Manish

studies in the same school as the girl.

Meanwhile, an 18-year-old girl was killed in a road mishap in Sarojininagar when she was on a morning stroll on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Kiran of Purwa locality in Unnao and was staying in the house of her maternal uncle in Bijnaur, Sarojininagar. Reports said Kiran left her house for a morning stroll and reached Bijnaur market road when a speeding truck knocked her down. Due to heavy impact, she suffered grievous injuries and died on the spot. Police said a case was registered in this connection and further investigation was underway.

# Rape victim commits suicide

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Within 24 hours of the Chitrakoot incident where a minor Dalit girl ended her life after being gang-raped, another minor fed up with constant teasing and police apathy committed suicide in Pratapgarh on Wednesday. The 16-year-old girl ended her life by jumping into a well near her home. The body was sent for autopsy and the police arrested one of the tormentors after a public outcry over the issue.

On Tuesday, three youths had barged into the victim's house at Puasi village in Baghraya police station area and molested her. The tormentors had been sexually harassing the class XI student for the past six months. But every complaint filed by the victim's family was dismissed by the local

police. After the ordeal, the victim's father lodged an FIR naming three neighbours — Gunnu Tiwari, Dabboo Singh and Guddu — on Wednesday. By the time he returned home, the harassed girl chose to jump into a well and end her life. The Baghraya police have now registered a case against the three under POCOA Act and abetment to suicide.

"After the registration of a case against the three miscreants, the police arrested Guddu. Three teams have been formed to arrest the remaining two," Superintendent of Police of Pratapgarh, Anurag Arya, said on Wednesday.

In another shocking incident reported from Hathras, a four-year-old girl was raped by her cousin in Sasni village on Tuesday. A case was registered and the rapist was later arrested.

# Most movie theatres not opening today

**Lucknow (PNS):** Even though the Central and state governments have given green signal for the opening of cinema halls albeit with 50 per cent occupancy from October 15 (Thursday), most of the single-screen theatres and multiplexes will not be opening for now as managers cited various reasons.

In case of the multiplexes, managers said they were waiting for the nod from higher authorities and were still making preparations. Manager of a multiplex in Gomtinagar said they were currently sanitising the halls. Most of the managers were also not sure when the cinema halls would open. However, some of the single-screen theatres will be opening after a couple of days.

A single-screen movie theatre in Aliganj will be opening from Friday. General manager Rajesh Tandon said he knew that most of the single-screen theatres were not opening from October 15.

"It is evident that it will take over two weeks for normalcy to return. Also, there will be new releases only at the time of Diwali and it will take some time

before people have the confidence to visit cinema halls. Response of the audience will also be gauged during this period," he said.

President of UP Cinema Exhibitors' Federation Ashesh Agarwal said they were opening the cinema hall at Nishatganj would be opening on Thursday and they were expecting 15 per cent occupancy. The movies to be screened include 'Thappad', 'Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan', 'Malang' and 'Tanhaji'.

Agarwal said the Covid-19 guidelines issued by the state government would be followed and public should be assured that they would be safe at cinema halls.

"We have made arrangements for contactless ticketing in which the ticket number will flash on mobile. Circles have been made on the ground at a distance of six feet for ticket purchasers. All the staffers have been tested," he said.

He added that the hall would open at 1:45 pm and close at 9:45 pm.

# 151 vehicles for garbage collection

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Municipal Corporation on Wednesday received 151 door-to-door garbage collection vehicles from the state government. Urban Development Minister Ashutosh Tandon flagged off the fleet in a programme organised on Wednesday.

Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and Municipal Commissioner Ajay Dwivedi were also present on the occasion. The municipal commissioner said 220 vehicles had been proposed to be given to LMC by the state government and 151 were already given. "As many as 54 vehicles will be deputed in zone-4 from Thursday itself and the rest in various zones in a phased manner in the next ten days," he said.

Dwivedi said the vehicles that they had were not sufficient. "If you take Indore as

a standard, they have deployed one vehicle for 1,000 houses and considering that, we require 600 vehicles for six lakh houses in municipal areas. Now, we have a total of 420 vehicles and will be able to serve 4,20,000 houses in an efficient manner. We are procuring more vehicles so that each of these zones can be saturated," he said.

"These are advanced vehicles and they have separate apartments for dry and wet waste and a separate box for hazardous waste. We can track their route and we have also prepared their route charts which the vehicles will follow. We are collecting the latitude and longitude location of each house which will be mapped to our system to keep a track and," he said. He added that there would be a team to monitor the movement of vehicles and there would be vehicles in reserve in case of breakdown.

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The borrowers/guarantors in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property, and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Baroda U.P. Bank. The borrowers/guarantors will be required to hand over actual vacant possession of the under mentioned properties as and when demanded by the authorised officer in the case the borrowers/guarantors fails to handover actual vacant possession as and when demanded, the authorised officer will proceed for actual and vacant possession with the assistance of District Magistrate/C.M.M. under section 14 and for further action under other provisions of the act.					
Sl. No.	Name of Address Borrower	Owner of the Property	Description of the Mortgaged Property	Outstanding Dues Rs. Demand Notice	Date of symbolic Possession
1.	Mr. Amar Singh S/o Lalloo & Smt. Rani W/o Mr. Amar Singh both R/o 401 Mangla Vihar IIInd, Kanpur.	Mrs. Rani W/o Amar Singh	<b>RAMA DEVI BRANCH</b> EQM Residential Plot No. 401, Part of Arazi No 1610, Daheli Sujapur, Kanpur Nagar. Total Area: 83.60 sq.mtr. Boundaries: East-Plot of Rajpatti, West-Plot of Sonkar, North: Plot of Amar Singh South: 30ft Road	Rs.1,02,008.30 (Intt. upto 30.09.2019) Demand Notice 24.01.2020	09.10.2020
2.	Mr. Mahesh Mishra S/o Mr. Awadhesh Mishra R/o 128/553/Y Block, IIInd Floor, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur.	Mr. Mahesh Mishra S/o Awadhesh Mishra	<b>SAKET NAGAR BRANCH</b> EQM Complete Part of Third Floor built over 128/553, Block Y, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur Nagar. Covered Area: 108.60 sq.mtr. Undivided Land Share: 41.80 sq.mtr. Premises Boundaries: East-House No. 505, West-40 ft road, North: Plot No. 899 South: Plot No. 868 Flat Boundaries: East-House No. 505, West-40 ft road, North: Plot No. 899 South: Plot No. 868	Rs.27,84,200.00 (Intt. upto 30.06.2019) Demand Notice 24.10.2019	09.10.2020
3.	Mr. Dev Narayan Mishra S/o Ram Narayan Mishra R/o 20, FBlock, Panki, Kanpur	Mr. Dev Narayan Mishra S/o Mr. Ram Narayan Mishra	EQM Residential Property situated at H.No. 524, GBlock Yojna No. 40, Panki S/S, Ganga Ganj, Kanpur Nagar. Total Area: 33.45 sq.mtr. Boundaries: East-7 Mtr Road, West-H. No. 506, North: H. No. 525, South: H. No. 523	Rs.9,56,992.40 (Intt. upto 30.06.2019) Demand Notice 14.11.2019	09.10.2020
Date: 14.10.2020			Authorised Officer, Baroda U.P. Bank		

# Govt insensitive towards women, says Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party alleged that there was no let-up in crime against women as the UP government had become insensitive towards the fairer sex and the disadvantaged sections of society.

The SP alleged that the state government has unleashed repression against youths, farmers and the sections of society dissatisfied with the policies of the Yogi Adityanath government.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav said in a statement here on Wednesday that the tyranny of the ruling class and those protected by them was the cause of the rising tide of crime against women. He said that the Central government had also adopted oppressive policies towards farmers and youth and its attitude was insensitive towards the poor, the women and the weaker sections of society.

"It has started harassing the people in the arrogance of power and thus, it is facing public anger and unpopularity," he said.



## Bank of Maharashtra

भारत सरकार का उद्यम एक परिवार एक बैंक

**Zonal Office, Lucknow:** Plot No. 12, Sector 9, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow - 226022.  
Phone: 0522-2739259 / 2739260, E-mail: recovery\_luc@mahabank.co.in, cmmarc\_luc@mahabank.co.in

### E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra (Secured Creditor), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS and Whatever There Is"** on **19.11.2020**, for recovery of dues as mentioned below due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the borrowers and guarantors as mentioned in below table. Details of the borrower and guarantors, amount due, Possession type, the known encumbrances (if any) along with description of immovable properties, reserve price and the EMD are as mentioned below.

BRANCH:	Gomtinagar, Lucknow, Contact 7054811237	(Sale Notice No. Lko/1-6/2020-21/3)
<b>SL No. 1</b>	<b>BORROWERS:</b> Mr. Sandeep Kumar Singh Rathour S/o Mr. Dharmendra Pal Singh & Mrs. Namita Singh W/o Mr. Sandeep Kumar Singh Rathour, <b>AMOUNT DUE:</b> Rs. 36,21,582 + Unapplied Interest w.e.f. 05.07.2018. <b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY:</b> Plot No. 7 Khasra No. 912-A Gram Bharwara, Ward Chinhat, Lucknow. (Admeasuring 85.88 Sq. Mtr.), (Owner: Mr. Sandeep Kumar Singh Rathour). <b>Reserve Price (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 23.25, <b>EMD (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 2.40.	
<b>SL No. 2</b>	<b>BORROWERS:</b> Mrs. Kavita Singh W/o Mr. Surya Bhan Singh & Mr. Surya Bhan Singh, <b>AMOUNT DUE:</b> Rs. 21,26,718.00 + unapplied interest w.e.f. 05/01/2018. <b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY:</b> Plot no 16 on Part of Khasra No.126,Mohalla/Vill :Khargapur (V Code: 1090), Pargana, Lucknow. (Admeasuring 65.055 Sq. Mtr.), (Owner: Mrs. Kavita Singh and Mr. Suryabhan Singh). <b>Reserve Price (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 18.00, <b>EMD (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 1.80.	
<b>SL No. 3</b>	<b>BORROWERS:</b> M/S Sankalp Stationery Gifts Item and Mobile Centre, Prop.- Mr. Deepesh Chitrawanshi S/o Mr. Santosh Kumar Srivastava and Mr. VivekChitrawanshi S/o Mr. Santosh Kumar Srivastava, <b>AMOUNT DUE:</b> Rs. 10,43,107.00 + Unapplied Interest w.e.f. 08.07.2018. <b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY:</b> C-2167/8 Pargana/Ward: Maithali Sharan Gupta (Code: 050) Village/Mohalla: Indira Nagar Sector-C, Lucknow (V Code: 0049). (Admeasuring 49.30 sq. Mtr.), (Owner: Mr. Vivek Chitrawanshi S/o Mr. Santosh Kumar Srivastava). <b>Reserve Price (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 31.36, <b>EMD (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 3.14.	
<b>SL No. 4</b>	<b>BORROWERS:</b> Mr. Ajay Kumar Mittal S/o Mr. Radhey Shyam Mittal & Mrs. Ranjeeta Mittal W/o Mr. Ajay Kumar Mittal, <b>AMOUNT DUE:</b> Rs. 36,44,834/- + unapplied interest w.e.f. 13.10.2017. <b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY:</b> Plot 1, Khasra 143 ka Minzumila Ward Shaheed Bhagat Singh, code 052, Hardasi Kheda, Lucknow. (Admeasuring 2350 Sq.Ft.), (Owner: Mr. Ajay Kumar Mittal). <b>Reserve Price (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 8.80, <b>EMD (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 2.40.	
<b>SL No. 5</b>	<b>BORROWERS:</b> Mr. Santosh Kumar Sharma S/o Mr. Ramji Saran Sharma & Mrs. Anjali Sharma W/o Mr. Santosh Kumar Sharma, <b>AMOUNT DUE:</b> Rs. 87,31,520.29/- plus unapplied interest w.e.f. 04.08.2017. <b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY:</b> Plot No 77, Khasra No 284/7, Village Gollia, Asra Colony, Pargana Mahona, Tehsil Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow. (Owner: Mrs. Anjali Sharma). <b>Reserve Price (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 8.80, <b>EMD (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 0.90.	
<b>SL No. 6</b>	<b>BORROWERS:</b> Mr. Chandan Tiwari S/o Mr. Jitendra Tiwari & Mrs. Padmaja Pandey W/o Mr. Chandan Tiwari, <b>AMOUNT DUE:</b> Rs. 24,80,427.00 + Unapplied Interest thereon w.e.f. 07.11.2017. <b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY:</b> CTS No./ House No. 2, Khasra No 567, Village Takrohi, Ward Shaheed Bhagat Singh, District Lucknow. (Admeasuring 69.702 Sq. Mtr.), (Owner: Mr. Chandan Tiwari & Mrs. Padmaja Pandey). <b>Reserve Price (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 17.65, <b>EMD (Rs. In Lakh):</b> 1.80.	

**Terms & Conditions:- (All the properties are being put on sale for 2" or more time)**

- The auction sale for all properties will be Online through M/s E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Time, Ahmedabad on **19/11/2020 from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon (IST)** with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes duration each. Last date of submission of bid/tender with EMD is **17/11/2020 up to 04.00 P.M.** The intending purchasers can inspect the property/ies with prior appointment at his / her expenses from **19/10/2020 to 16/11/2020 between 12.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M.** For prior appointment, please contact to Bank of Maharashtra, Gomtinagar Branch (Contact: 7054811237).
- Bidders are advised to go through the Bank's website [https://bankofmaharashtra.in/properties\\_for\\_sale](https://bankofmaharashtra.in/properties_for_sale) and <https://bom.auctiontiger.net> for detailed Terms and Conditions of the Auction Sale & satisfy themselves about the details of property before submitting their bids/taking part in e-auction sale proceedings.

**Date: 15.10.2020 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra, Lucknow Zone**



# 82 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After a long time, the number of COVID -19 cases detected in a day was in two figures as 82 new positive patients have been detected in the district here on Wednesday, increasing the total number of cases to 15,358. However, the day saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 249. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 171 patients and all of them were recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 11,198 as none of the patients has been discharged from any of the hospitals and the number of cured patients from the hospitals has remained at 2,769. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 13,967, leaving 1,142 active patients. The recovery rate has slightly improved to 90.94 per cent but the mortality rate has increased to 1.62 per cent.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day by 11 am, 73 positive patients were detected out of 3,742 received reports. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,63,303 and the results of 1,504 are awaited. Out of them, 2,47,954 were negative, while 15,349 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,79,225. Earlier, a female aged 75 from Hanuman Nagar (Rohania) succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU). With the addition of nine new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,191 including 274 red zones. Three green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,917 green zones with 35 new ones.

Earlier, under ongoing mass/ group antigen tests, one person out of 353 tests was

detected positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura while all 365 were tested negative at adjacent Government Women's Hospital. However, two out of 100 were tested positive at CHC Shivpur, one out of 87 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, four out of 139 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and one out of 317 at SSH BHU. Besides, the Health department has distributed 5,848 Ivermectin tablets to 731 persons. So far, 10.63 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.32 lakh persons and out of them, 8.72 lakh tablets to 1.09 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 304 new cases were found on Tuesday, increasing the total number to 49,767, with maximum 115 COVID-19 positive in Varanasi followed by 33 in Azamgarh, 27 in Sonbhadra, 24 in Chandauli, 23 in Ballia, 21 in Ghazipur, 17 each in Mau and Mirzapur, 13 in Jaunpur and 12 in Bhadohi. Azamgarh has become the fourth district where the cases are more than 5K-mark after Varanasi, Ballia and Jaunpur. Out of the total cases, maximum number of cases was in Varanasi division followed by Azamgarh and Vindhyachal. The best mortality rate (1.25%) was of Vindyachal, while the same was 1.47% in Azamgarh and 1.49% in Varanasi while the best recovery rate was in Azamgarh division (91.62%) followed by Varanasi (91.44%) and Vindhyachal (91.21%). The overall recovery rate in the region was 91.45% while mortality rate 1.45%.

# 154 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

There was relief in the district for the second consecutive day of Covid infection on Tuesday when no infected person died. The number of new infected persons also remained under control among the zero death figures. The patient grew a bit but the number of newly infected was stuck at 154 late on Tuesday night. At the same time, the figure that beat Corona more than the infected remained. 216 people became infection free. Among these, 26 patients were discharged from different Covid hospitals. Home isolation of 190 people was completed.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, on Tuesday, 4,236 suspected infected people were screened in the district. Corona infection was confirmed in 154 people. Out of these, the maximum number of 2,734 patients was tested through antigens, 1,228 RTPCR and 115 people were tested with Trunat. At the same time, 149 people under private pathology centres conducted a Covid test.

Those infected on Tuesday included the manager of PNB branch Civil Lines, the Finance Manager of the same branch, the Assistant Manager of SBI Civil Lines, the Field Officer of SBI Civil Lines Branch. According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr. Rishi Sahai, ARO and Joint Registrar of High Court, Railway Loco Pilot, an army personnel, Medical Officer of PHC Allapur, lab technician of Railway Hospital, Office Superintendent of Railways, Dental Hygienist of CHC Chaka etc tested positive for COVID-19.

In the letter issued from the Chief Medical Officer's office,



it is said that 26 people were discharged from the hospital on Tuesday after treatment. 190 people completed home isolation. It has also been reported that a total of 14,549 people have completed home isolation so far. Although COVID-19 Covid Care Centre Railway Hospital has 12 infected persons admitted here. There are 32 patients admitted in Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, 26 in L-2 Hospital United Medicity and Medical College Rawatpur, 68 in Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital L-2 Hospital. Similarly, there are 20 patients in Hospital Shri Sai Nath Vatsalya AMA Hospital Mohiuddinpur. There are 75 patients admitted to Swaroopnani Nehru L-3 Hospital. All are serious here. However, according to doctors, the condition of all patients is stable.

The number of corona infected has reduced, but still need to be vigilant. Joint Registrar of High Court,

Manager of PNB Civil Lines, lab technician of Railway Hospital, Field Officer of SBI Civil Lines, ARO High Court have also come under grip of corona. The report of the Office of the Superintendent of Railways, Assistant Manager of SBI Civil Lines, Assistant Loco Pilot of Railways as well as an Army jawan has also been reported corona positive.

**REPORT OF 2.80 LAKH PEOPLE WAS NEGATIVE:** In the COVID-19 testing conducted in the district of the 3 lakh samples so far, the report of 2.80 lakh people was negative. The graph of corona infected patients increased rapidly in the district since July. This sequence continued till August, September. The number of infected patients declined slightly from the first week of October. Now this figure is around 150 daily.

Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer for COVID-19, said that till October 12, a total of 3,07,876 people in Prayagraj

were sampled. Of this, only 21,529 people reported positive. This is 6.99 per cent of the total sample taken. Out of the infected, 14,348 people completed home isolation while 5,012 people were discharged from the hospital.

As of October 12, there were only 2,169 corona cases in the district. There was also no death from corona on October 12. The nodal officer said that the percentage of infected is much lower here than in other districts. The death toll is also 288.

So far, only 1.3 per cent people have died due to corona. The corona can be easily defeated if people are alert, apply a mask keeping in mind the physical distance, and also regularly do hand washing and sanitisation.

With all this, people have to take care of their health. Efforts will have to be made to increase immunity also. This is the best weapon to prevent infection.

# Postal stamp is a little ambassador: Yadav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Postage stamps are the drivers of civilisation, culture and heritage of any nation. That is why the postage stamp is called the little ambassador, said the Postmaster General (Varanasi Zone) Krishna Kumar Yadav while inaugurating the Philately Day at Varanasi Head Post Office during the ongoing National Post Day Week being organised by the Departments of Posts which would conclude on Thursday on the occasion World Postal Day. On this occasion, people, especially children, visited the Philately Bureau and got information about postage stamps. The children were elated to see their photos on postage stamps under My Stamp. As many as 75 people created their Philately Deposit Accounts and 80 people got their My Stamp.

Yadav said in his address that Philately is not only a collection of postage stamps, but also its study. Philately has been instrumental in strengthening the education system. There is a story hidden behind



PMG (Varanasi Zone) KK Yadav at Philately Day function in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

every postage stamp and this story needs to be connected to today's young generation. 'The postage stamp is actually a small ambassador who travels to different countries and makes them aware of their civilisation, culture and heritage,' he said, adding that in the area of Philately, many new steps are being taken by the Department of Posts. This will

inspire the youth and children to adopt a good hobby along with knowledge.

Senior Superintendent (Varanasi Eastern Region) Sumit Kumar Gaat informed that postage stamps can be obtained at home by opening a Philately Deposit Account for just ₹ 200. Assistant Director Shambhu Rai informed the children about philately and

their benefits. Senior Postmaster RK Chauhan, Assistant Superintendent of Posts Suresh Chandra, Postal Inspector Brajesh Sharma, Balbir Singh, India Post Payments Bank Manager Sublesh Singh, Public Relations Inspector Anil Sharma, Sriprakash Gupta, Rahul Verma and Roshni were present.

# Ravana, Kumbhkarna effigies not to be burnt this year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

This year, the devotees would not have a glimpse of 'putla dahan' (burning of effigy) of demon King Ravana, his brother Kumbhkarna and his son Meghnad in Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) and Ram Nagar as well on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, as the Ram Leela Committees of both places have voluntarily decided not to hold this religious programme due to COVID-19 pandemic. The internationally famous Bharat Milap of Nati Imli will also not be organised because of the same reason. The Durga Pandals would not be erected on roads and crossings but the same could be erected off the road in the size as per the guideline of the government.

We have decided not to hold the 'Putla dahan' programme (burning the effigies) of demon King Ravana, Kumbhkarna and Meghnad because of COVID-19 and only there will be recital of

Ramayan Paath this year on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, informed the office-bearers of Ram Leela Committees of DLW and Ram Nagar to the DM Kaushal Raj Sharma and the SSP Amit Pathak. The DM along with the SSP was holding a meeting with the office-bearers of Ram Leela and Durga Puja Committees at his camp office here, on Wednesday regarding the organisation of Ram Leela Durga Puja following the guidelines issued by the government in view of COVID-19. It is pointed out that the devotees in thousands turn up at DLW and Ram Nagar to see burning the effigies of King Ravana, his brother Kumbhkarna and son Meghnad. There are festival-like scenes at both places.

The internationally famous Bharat Milap of Nati Imli will not be organised because of COVID-19 pandemic, the office-bearers of the organising committee adding, the famous Nakkatya of Chetganj will

also not be organised this year. Both religious programmes attract the devotees in thousands.

The Durga Puja pandals would not be erected off the road but on the roads and crossings only in the size prescribed by the government, the DM informed adding, only 100 persons could gather at an open place at one time while 200 persons could gather at campus or closed premises. There will be permission of installing only three chandani of 15x5 in size, the DM informed and added, the idols of Goddess Durga and other deities could be installed only in the size of maximum 5 feet in height and 5 feet in width.

There will be separate arrangements of entrance and exit in the pandal and the pandal should not be opened from all around. The organising committee will allow devotees only after their thermal scanning and no sick person should be allowed to enter the

pandal. The programme of public bhoj will remain restricted and only packed prasad would be distributed. The guidelines of COVID-19 would be followed at puja pandal, the DM directed.

The immersion procession of idols could be taken out only on small vehicle Tata Magic and only 10 persons could be in the procession. The dance and throwing of abir-gulal will remain restricted during the immersion procession, the DM informed and asked the office-bearers of Durga Puja committees to make available all information about the place to install the idol/kalash, capacity of place, date of immersion, etc to respective police station by Thursday so that the order of immersion could be determined.

The office-bearers of Durga Puja Committees and Ram Leela Committees informed that they have already cancelled the major programmes in view of the COVID-19.

# NCR acquires new traffic streams with BDUs efforts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

With continuous efforts of Business Developments Units, North Central Railway Limited has acquired many new traffic streams in October 2020. On October 12 Agra division loaded one rake of PSC sleeper from Sholaka Station to Morabad earning revenue of Rs 12.33 lakh. This Railway Material Consignment traffic was lost to road and could be brought to Railways with customer centric approach and

efficient freight train operations.

On Jhansi division efforts of BDUs have fructified and M/s Astech (India) Private Limited has approached North Central Railway for loading of fly ash from power plant siding in Udaipura in Lalitpur-Khajuraho section to different parts of the country which will not only bring additional traffic to Railways but will also be environment friendly through use of fly ash in building construction.

Similarly, Prayagraj division with efforts of BDUs has captured new traffic stream and loaded wheat in 21 BCN wagons on October 14, 2020 from Naini goods shed to Salchapura Station in North Frontier Railway fetching revenue of Rs 25 lakh. Prayagraj division is also working on regular loading wheat and other food-grains from Naini Goods shed to Bangladesh and regular loading is expected to start soon.

**APPROVED :** Ministry of

Railways has approved 196 pairs of 'Festival Special' trains. These Festival Special trains will be operated between October 20 and November 30, 2020.

The fare for these Festival Special services shall be that applicable for special trains.

To clear the festive rush, Ministry of Railways has approved 196 pairs (392 trains) of 'Festival Special' services over Indian Railways.

Zonal Railways will notify their schedule well in advance.

# Iswar Saran College celebrates golden jubilee anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Iswar Saran PG College Prayagraj celebrated its golden jubilee anniversary on October 13, 2020 at its Golden Jubilee Conference Hall, Gandhi Teaching Block. The programme commenced with the lighting of the lam.

The Principal, Prof Anand Shanker Singh, welcomed the chief guest, the Governor Anandiben Patel, who joined the programme through online mode. Distinguished guest were - Prof RR Tewari (Vice-Chancellor, University of Allahabad), RK Srivastava, President, Governing Body, Iswar Saran P.G. College and many others. He delineated the history of the college which started with seven courses through its journey to 35 departments along with FDC (Training & Research Centre) in the present and many other mentioned achievements. This

was followed by a documentary 'A Saga of Golden Journey' representing the past and present of the college, exhibiting its potential for future.

Prof Rajeev Ranjan Tewari, Vice-Chancellor, University of Allahabad, first of all welcomed the Chief Rector of University of Allahabad, Governor Anandiben Patel. He talked about the problems in academics during COVID-19 pandemic and how the University and its constituent colleges sought opportunities in these challenging times. He talked about the positive aspects of pandemic & the way it has developed interest in online mode of teaching & learning. Rajendra Kumar Srivastava, Chairman, Governing Body of the College since 1980 requested the Governor, to give voice to the demand of Iswar Saran P.G. College for the status of Harijan Sewak Sangh University. He

also advocated that Gandhian ideals should be adopted and incorporated in academics to project national sensibility.

This was followed by the release of Golden Jubilee souvenir by the Governor. The Pramila Srivastava Campus was inaugurated along with the unveiling of the statue of Prof Pramila Srivastava, Emirates Professor, Ludwig University, a mathematician and renowned scholar. On this occasion, the Governor also inaugurated the LMS (AVIRAL) of the college.

The chief guest Anandiben Patel began her speech with her blessings and assurance for cooperation in the efforts of Iswar Saran P.G. College to become a Harijan Sewak Sangh University. She also congratulated the Principal for his exemplary guidance and vision. She emphasised on the new provisions in NEP 2020 like Academic Credit Bank and Gender Fund for girl child edu-

cation. She also stressed on the ways and need to reduce the dropout rate of girl child in education and said that it's our responsibility to implement NEP 2020 in body & spirit by conducting programmes in educational institution for character building.

The Public Relation Officer Dr Manoj Kumar Dubey has informed that various faculty members, students and other distinguished guests from various parts of India and abroad were attended the golden jubilee programme through various live online platforms like Facebook, Zoom and Youtube. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Ajay Kumar Srivastava, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Iswar Saran P.G. College. The session was coordinated by Dr. Rachana Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Medieval History.

# 5 of a family killed in mishap

**ALLAHABAD (PNS):**In a

tragic incident, five persons of a family were killed when a Xylo car in which they were travelling fell into a 15 feet trench late on Tuesday night near the Sharda tributary on the Karnaipur-Tilai market road in the district under the Bahria police station.

Three of them belong to a family while two are said to be relatives. Four people were first badly injured in the accident while the condition of a woman was critical but all of them breathed their last in the

hospital.

Sanjay, resident of Bhowanapur, Bahria has his mother-in-law residence at Buapur Saraiya village under Pratapgarh district i.e. at the Ram Singh Patel's place. On Monday, Ram Singh had to perform a religious ceremony. In it, members and relatives of Sanjay's family came in Xylo car. It was also followed by a 'bhandara' a religious feast on Tuesday. After joining, Sanjay's family members and relatives left for home at around 7 pm in Xylo. A total of nine people

were in the vehicle. Sanjay's nephew Pramod Kumar (35), who was driving at around 7:45 pm, reached the Sharda tributary on Karnaipur-Tilai Bazar road. On the turn made here, when the vehicle turned it suddenly became uncontrolled and overturned in a pit filled with water along the road. The people in it started screaming. Hearing the voice, the nearby villagers reached the spot and informed the police. As soon as the news was received, the police reached the spot and engaged in rescue work along

with the villagers. Six people in the vehicle were extricated with the help of locals, in which five were killed. While Seema (45) wife of Ramkumar resident of Raipur police station, Pratapgarh was breathing. She was admitted to the hospital. The dead included driver Pramod Kumar, Sanjay's sister-in-law, Kevala Devi (50) wife of Shivshankar resident of Butterpur Mandhatata, Soni Patel (17) resident of Buapur Sarairaiya and another woman. Police have sent the bodies for postmortem.





The DM City, Alok Tiwari and DIG Police, Parminder Singh holding a meeting for approaching festival and guidelines

Pioneer

# Covid testing camps set up in prominent Kanpur markets

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari, while addressing a Covid testing camp at Gumti No. 5 on Wednesday, said the district administration had taken the initiative to set up such camps in all prominent crowded markets so that people could get themselves tested for coronavirus infection free of cost.

Tiwari said people who had doubts that they could be infected with novel coronavirus should immediately visit such camps to get themselves tested for COVID-19.

He said although there was a decline in COVID-19 cases, but still full care and precautions had to be taken at this critical juncture.

He said some people were

of the opinion that getting tested for COVID-19 was a wastage of money and thus this initiative had been taken by the district administration to conduct Covid test free of cost.

He said if the antigen test turned positive, further tests would be carried out at the LLR Hospital laboratory.

He appealed to the people not to shy of getting themselves tested so that there was no further spread of the coronavirus infection in the city.

He said the camps had been set up in all the prominent markets like Naya Ganj, Harsh Nagar, Gumti and other markets where the shopkeepers and passers-by could get themselves tested for coronavirus infection.

He said in view of the festival period, it was essential that

all persons wore face mask, maintained social distancing and followed all the Unlock guidelines..

He said social distancing was the most effective vaccine against COVID-19.

Later, addressing a meeting at his camp office on Wednesday, Tiwari said in view of the festivals like Navratri, Durga Puja, Dussehra and other religious events, each person should follow the Covid protocol.

He said only festivals which were being celebrated for decades would be allowed and no other organisation will be entitled to carry out any religious celebration.

He warned that there shall be no religious celebration at the roadsides as it was banned.

He said it was essential for

committees organising celebrations of prominent festival to install CCTV cameras to ensure safety and security.

He said roadside temporary vends selling festival items were not permitted and people who set up small roadside function for entertainment were totally banned.

He said in view of approaching winter there was an increased threat of spread of COVID-19 and thus every care had to be taken. He said mask was the best way to drastically reduce the chance of catching any infection.

He said proper parking facilities and sanitisers had to be arranged by the organisers.

DIG Pritinder Singh and several other officials of various departments were present in the meeting.

## 86 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 86 more coronavirus positive cases on Wednesday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 86 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 26,985 cases. He said three COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Wednesday evening keeping the death toll to 706.

The CMO said with 16 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals the cured figure in the city was 6943 and at present 2567 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4550 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## Kalraj Mishra inaugurates Comfest

KANPUR (PNS): Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra while inaugurating a four-day techno-cultural festival, Comfest, at Seth Anandram Jaipuria School here on Wednesday, appreciated the members of the Jaipuria Computer Club for setting another milestone. He also inspired the young minds by his motivational speech.

Comfest is an annual function with a participation of over 55 national and international schools. This extravaganza tests the participants' technical, creative, literary and manageability prowess. Each year Comfest brings an array of diversified events and activities.

Chairman of the Jaipuria Group of Institutions, Shishir Jaipuria, also graced the event and encouraged the students to settle only for perfection.

Principal Shikha Banerjee captivated the audience with her motivating words.

Ishan, the president of Comfest 2020, addressed the gathering and gave them an insight of his emotional journey of being a member of the Jaipuria Computer Club.

He highlighted how Manish Seksaria had always been the true pillar and driving force of this extravaganza.

Aarush Roy, a JCC member, revealed the inspiring journey of ComFest and how it had evolved from a one-day local event to a three-day national affair and eventually a four-day international techno-cultural festival.

The Jaipuria Computer Club also presented the chief guest with an e-certificate and 101 trees were planted in his name in Buxar, Bihar.

This showcased the students' concern towards nature at large.

The day ended with Saket Jaipuria proposing the vote of thanks and concluding the event, encouraging the audience to strive for perfection in each and every endeavour of theirs.

## Woman looted & thrown in bushes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A woman was looted and thrown in the bushes near a field in Shivrajpur police station area. She was recovered in semiconscious state with her clothes torn on Wednesday morning. On getting information from the villagers, the police rushed to the spot and sent the woman to hospital

# DC reviews law & order

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner Preeti Shukla and IG range Piyush Srivastava reviewed the 37 points of priority of the CM during a meeting through Zoom app at the Mirzapur collectorate on Tuesday in which DMs, SPs and CDOs of the division were present. On the occasion DC reviewed not only developmental activities but law and order too. The DC became aware of the progress under recovery of government dues, status of incomplete projects and reasons behind the delay. In view of the forthcoming festivals IG range Piyush Srivastava directed the SPs to remain vigilant about each programme and ensure that the SOs held meetings with the organisers and communicated the direction of DMs. Moreover cases pertaining to harassment of women should be registered without fail and effective legal action should be taken, the DC said. DC Preeti Shukla directed the police to ensure effective action in cases under the Gangster Act, Goonda Act, murder, smuggling, land disputes etc. in the larger interest of controlling crime. In view of elections in Bihar the DC directed the excise department to form a joint team with the police and keep a watch on the state borders linked not only to Bihar but other adjacent states too. While reviewing developmental activities the DC issued a show-cause notice to DC MNREGA Bhadohi for tardy progress under the



scheme. In connection with other developmental activities the CMOs, DPROs, POs ICDS too were directed to get buildings for which the fund already had been released completed without delay. The DMs were directed to make

available the land if construction of any building could not be started due to its non-availability. The officials concerned were directed to complete works under different housing schemes to benefit the deprived persons.

**NABBED:** Madihan police nabbed two accused of theft and recovered ₹9,430 from them on Tuesday. According to the police, Anil Kumar Singh, a resident of Dhanisariya Teliyapur village had lodged an FIR on October 11 that jewellery and cash had been stolen from his house when he had gone to his relative's house along with his family. Acting on the FIR the police was investigating the case when they were tipped off by an informer on Tuesday that two suspect were present near Sonbarsa railway crossing. Thereafter police raided the spot and arrested two accused and recovered the cash from them. During interrogation the accused confessed their involvement in the theft. They disclosed that they had spent the remaining amount along with cash which they had got after selling the jewellery. The accused were later identified as Awadhesh and Lalbabu, residents of Khoradeeh village under Ahraura police station.

## 2,479 tonnes of wheat sent to B'desh

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The marketing efforts of the Business Development Unit (BDU) set up at the headquarters and divisional level on North Eastern Railway (NER), improvement in goods sheds and their expansion, concessions being given by the Ministry of Railways in loading of goods, regular availability of newly-modified goods (NMG) wagons and the increasing speed of goods trains are bringing positive results. Export is getting boosted through the rail route. From Chauri Chaura station of Varanasi division on Tuesday in rake of 42 wagons 2,479 tonnes of wheat were loaded for Darshana station of Bangladesh. Last month from Varanasi division's Chauri Chaura station and Subhagpur station total four rakes of foodgrains were sent to Bangladesh. Apart from their automobiles are being sent to Bangladesh via rail route. The rake of Tata Ace mini-trucks are being sent there from Haldi Road station of Izzatnagar division at regular intervals. Similarly, at Nautanwa station in Lucknow division one rake of Kia Motors vehicles were unloaded and

sent to Nepal. Due to almost double the average speed of goods trains, railway wagons are becoming available for next loading soon. Due to the increase in the average speed of goods trains, travel time has



decreased significantly, due to which the interest of business establishments has increased towards the Railways. As a result of the increase in loading of goods there is also an expected increase in railway revenue, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Panjaj Kumar Singh said.

**BOY FOUND:** Railway Protection Force, NER, makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. In the same sequence, the Railway Protection Force post, Gorakhpur, found a 15-year-

old boy in an unclaimed condition during the patrolling at Gorakhpur railway station on October 12. He was handed over to the Child Line, Gorakhpur. On October 12 one person was caught with two e-tickets jointly by RPF, Crime Intelligence Branch, Varanasi, and RPF post, Varanasi, from Samarth railway station circulating area. Action taken against the arrested person by registered a case under the Railway Act. Besides the RPF post, Gonda, during patrolling found two boys, aged 13 and 15 years respectively, in an unclaimed condition at Gonda railway station on October 11. They were handed over to the Child Line, Gonda. Besides in a joint operation by RPF, CIB Gorakhpur headquarters and RPF post, Mankapur, caught two persons with 13 e-tickets and another with one e-ticket. Action was taken against the three persons and a case was registered against them under the Railway Act. Likewise on October 10 one person was caught by RPF post, Kannauj along with 11 e-tickets and other items. Action was taken against him under the Railway Act and a case was registered against him.

## GM appreciates works done in Izzatnagar div

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER) Lalit Chandra Trivedi through MS Teams did half-yearly review of Izzatnagar division. DRM Dinesh Kumar Singh said that Izzatnagar division had done remarkable work in the direction of transportation of goods. Loading in September this year was almost double compared to the corresponding period last year, he said. Owing to the efforts of the efforts of the Business Development Unit (BDU) good loading was achieved in the automobiles sector. A total of 50 automobiles rake had been loaded so far. Better work has also been done in the field of safety. In this financial year so far deep 45 km screening work has been completed. Besides deep screening of 40 turnouts has been done. The tamping of 530 km has been done

besides of 295 turnout which has strengthened safety and during this period no consequent accident had occurred. Moreover 108 km railway electrification was completed during this period. At Fasad of Tanakpur railway station improvement work has been done. In Mathura and Tanakpur stations arrangements for electronic charting was made. Besides seven mechanical lifting barrier were replaced with electric lifting barrier. During the Covid period, rapid antigen test (RAT) and RTPCR test were conducted on a large scale for the safety of all railway personnel. A 70-bed Covid ward facility was also provided in the Divisional Hospital, Izzatnagar. In the field of digitalisation 100 per cent e-office was implemented in Izzatnagar division. To make the railway's contract system transparent and fast e-platform ie Indian Railways Works Contract Management System (IRWCMS) was implemented and e-passage facility was also started. The GM appreciated the works done in Izzatnagar division.

## Woman, child meet tragic end

CORRESPONDENT ■ MAHOBA

A woman and her child were crushed to death when a truck driver suddenly reversed his vehicle on Pahra Mod under Kabrai police station on Jhansi-Mirzapur Highway on Tuesday. On getting information, the police reached the spot, impounded the truck and after filling the 'panchnama' sent the

bodies of the deceased for the post-mortem examination. The truck driver, however, managed to escape from the spot. Reports said that Ram Sajeevan, a resident of Maudaha town in Hamirpur district, lived along with his family in Kidwai Nagar under Kabrai police station. His wife, Leela (30) had come to a hospital for treatment along with their one-year-old

child Hritikh. After treatment in order to go home she went and stood behind the truck which was parked along the road. The tragedy occurred when the driver suddenly reversed the truck. As a result they died on the spot. They were taken to a hospital with the help of the passers-by where the doctors on duty also declared them dead.

## SP gives tips for effective policing

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

SP Ajay Singh while addressing Sainik Sammelan and crime review meeting at Police Lines asked the police personnel to control crime by keeping themselves safe from Covid. The meeting started with the SP inquiring about the problems of the police personnel of each branch. The SP directed the officials concerned to redress the grievances within the deadline and inform the aggrieved without delay. During the crime review the SP discussed each point of policing and made it clear that no laxity would be tolerated at any level. Regarding the IGRS he directed the authorities concerned to dispose of cases in a time-bound manner and maintain quality so that the aggrieved felt satisfied. Holding discussion over the points, includ-



ing smuggling of liquor/cattle, land mafiosi, cyber crime, murder, loot, hoodliganism, crime against women etc the SP said that instant action should be taken in each matter. In view of Covid-19 he directed the police personnel to follow the norms, keep the premises sanitised and wear gloves. Giving tips for effective policing the SP directed to SOs to keep an eye on the criminals of all categories even the older ones who were apparently not active. He asked the field staff to keep details of residents besides the criminals who were on bail and the new

comers in the area. The meeting was attended by the ASPs, COs, branch heads, SOs, officials from different branches of intelligence, DGC criminal and others.

**DRIVE AGAINST OVERLOADING:** Undeterred by the attack on him ARTO Ravi Kant Shukla continued the drive against overloading and caught five trucks on Tuesday night. Giving details he said that two trucks were handed over to Mandi Samiti police outpost under Katra Kotwali police station and three to Gaipura police outpost under Vindhyaachal police station and a total fine of about Rs 4 lakh would be realised. Reports said that in the attack on Monday night ARTO's government vehicle was damaged and he too had sustained minor injuries. He had informed the administration about the matter. No arrest had been made yet, last reports said.

# Minister for introspection on environmental pollution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Minister of State for Higher Education Nilima Katiyar, while addressing a function at Deen Dayal Research Centre of CSJM University on environmental pollution, called for an introspection as the onus of protecting the environment rested on human shoulders.

She said before the situation went from bad to worse, it was essential that every person should become aware of ones responsibilities.

She said dangerous pollution in the current times, especially in India and that too in metros, was due to ever

increasing vehicular pollution and something needed to be done before it was too late.

Addressing the session, Prof Sudhanshu Rai said air pollution caused by cars was truly one of the biggest challenges and environmentalist were working on it now a days.

He said car manufacture and sale was continuing despite the COVID-19 pandemic. He said although automobiles made life a lot easier but they did have an effect on us. He said the fuel emissions, which were poorly monitored, were breathed and entered into the blood stream and

damaged the organs. He said it was also true about one in every 50 heart attacks was caused or triggered by air pollution.

He said when a human came in contact with toxic chemicals, they stimulated the body's immune system to attack its own tissues, mainly the cells that lined blood vessels.

He added that recent studies had shown that the more that a human was exposed to emissions the more it could lead to behavioural changes and impaired mental function which could be detrimental to a person's learning or memo-

ry. He added that emissions from vehicles also contributed heavily to global warming because of its high carbon dioxide output on a combustible engine. He said unless we do away with engine emissions the situation would remain the same.

He said another alternative was electric cars and quite a number of such cars were out on the roads and being tested and improved every day. He added that cities and towns could help the cause by adopting hybrid public transportation.

He said if people had to go a short distance, they should

ride their bikes or even walk as it would help in controlling air pollution.

Dr Rai said air pollution was one of the most challenging topics that environmentalist were dealing with mainly from car emission. He said due to all the changes that they were working towards and were working hard on all the standards, generations may never be driving fossil fuelled cars in their lifetime.

Those present included Dr VP Kanaujia, Anuradha Singh, Manju Jain, SS Agarwal, Dr Kamayani Sharma, Dr Amarjeet Mitra and several others.





उत्तर प्रदेश स्टेट लोड डिस्रिब्यू सेंटर  
उद्योगवापर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन  
लिमिटेड

ई-निविदा सूचना

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03/UPSLDC/2020-21-UPSLDC, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ में स्थापित Fire / Smoke Detector एवं सम्बन्धित प्रमाणी के कम्प्रीहेन्सिव वार्षिक अनुक्षण एवं परिचालन आदि का कार्य, घरोहर धनराशि रु० 15000.00 निविदा दिनांक 03.11.2020 को 16.00 बजे तक ई-टेंडरिंग वेब साईट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि 04.11.2020 समय 14.00 बजे के उपरान्त एवं भाग-2 (प्रारंभ पार्टस) खुलने की तिथि दशानुसार ई-वेबसाईट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु० 590/- मात्र (रु० 500.00+ GST @18% अतिरिक्त)। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि को अवकाश की स्थिति में निविदा आने के कार्य दिवस पर खोली जायेगी। विस्तृत जानकारी एवं अन्य संशोधनों आदि के सम्बन्ध में सूचना एवं निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाईट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) देखी जा सकती है। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउनलोड अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाईट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) देखी जा सकती है। **क्लैक लिस्टेड फर्म एवं ऐसी फर्मों जिनके विरुद्ध कोई सतर्कता/सीबीआई/जीएचएल रही है अथवा लज्बिता है उनकी निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी।** अगोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता को बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी भी ई-निविदा अथवा सीबी ई-निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विमाजित करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (अधीक्षण एवं मानव संसाधन),** यू.पी. एस.एस.डी.सी. उद्योग वापर ट्रानो कारपोरेशन लिमि, लखनऊ। पत्रांक – 2265, दिनांक – 13.10.2020, “**राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएँ**”।



उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड निविदा सूचना

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य सम्पादन हेतु अनुमती, दक्ष एवं जीओएसओटी में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है जिसका विस्तृत विवरण टेंडर वेबसाईट [www.UPPCTL.in](http://www.UPPCTL.in) पर उपलब्ध है। **ईटी-84 / 2020-21** विद्युत प्रेरण मण्डल प्रथम कार्यालय के कमरों की सफाई आदि का कार्य। **ईटी-85 / 2020-21** विद्युत प्रेरण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 220 / 132 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र पर सिल्टका जेल की आपूर्ति। **ईटी-86 / 2020-21** विद्युत प्रेरण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी०पनकी-दादनानगर एवं पनकी-एम०एस०के०पी० लार्डने के कन्वर्टर बदलने का कार्य। **ईटी-87 / 2020-21** विद्युत 220 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र पनकी के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र आरामपुर पर लान मेन्टीनेन्स का कार्य। **ईटी-88 / 2020-21** विद्युत प्रेरण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र रसूलवादा पर पी०जी० क्लेप एवं टेन्शन फिटिंग की आपूर्ति। **ईटी-89 / 2020-21** विद्युत प्रेरण खण्ड प्रथम कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० डबल सर्किट विल्लीर- रसूलवादा लाइन की पेट्रोलींग एवं अनुक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। **ईटी-90 / 2020-21** विद्युत 220 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र पनकी पर रिचचयार्ड में प्रकाश व्यवस्था के अनुक्षण से सम्बन्धित कार्य। **ईटी-91 / 2020-21** विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, प्रथम कानपुर के अधीनस्थ उपखण्ड अधिकारी प्रथम कानपुर के उपयोग हेतु एक अदद डीजल चलित वाहन, (जीप) चालक सहित 09 महीने के लिए सविदा पर रखने का कार्य। **ईटी-92 / 2020-21** विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, प्रथम कानपुर के अधीनस्थ उपखण्ड अधिकारी विदूर /फूलबाग कानपुर के उपयोग हेतु एक अदद डीजल चलित वाहन, (जीप) चालक सहित 09 महीने के लिए सविदा पर रखने का कार्य। **ईटी-93 / 2020-21** विद्युत 220 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र पनकी के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र आरामपुर पर वार्षिक अनुक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। **निविदा सूचना-टी-84 से 88 तक दिनांक 11.11.2020 एवं टी 89 से 93 तक दिनांक 12.11.2020 को** खोली जायेगी। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल प्रथम पनकी, कानपुर** पत्रांक : 1132 दिनांक 14.10.2020 “**राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाएँ**” उपमोका सेवा हेतु सम्पर्क करें- [www.uppcol.org](http://www.uppcol.org).

# Kerala Cong (M) to join CPM led Left Democratic Front

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Congress (Mani) faction, a political outfit of the Catholic community in Kerala, severed its 33-year-old alliance with the Indian National Congress on Wednesday and moved over to the Left Democratic Front led by the CPI(M).

Jose K Mani, son of late K M Mani, one of the founders of the Kerala Congress, announced his decision to join the CPI(M) camp after a meeting of the high power committee of the faction held at Kottayam. Mani Jr also announced his resignation from the membership of the Rajya Sabha, which he had won in 2018 as a UDF nominee.

This is being seen as the build up to the 2021 assembly election as the CPI(M) badly wants to retain and return to power. Presently, the party is under siege because of scams and corruption charges ranging from Gold smuggling, dates import and LIFE Mission pay off.

It is reported that the CPI(M) leadership has assured the KC(M) that the latter would be allocated 12 to 15 seats in the upcoming assembly election expected to be held in March -April 2021. The CPI(M) leadership hope that it would be able to retain power in the next assembly election in company of the KC(M) faction, which has considerable influence among the Catholic

community in districts like Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Idukki.

“It is a welcome move by the Kerala Congress. The LDF and the Kerala Congress would be in a win-win situation,” said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan about the development. Former chief minister and senior Congress leader Oommen Chandi described Jose Mani’s move as immature and foolish.

Meanwhile, the NCP, a constituent of the LDF expressed its displeasure over the CPI(M) move to accommodate Jose Mani. Mani C Kappen, who had defeated the KC(M) faction leader in the by-poll at Pala necessitated by the demise of Mani said that

he was in talks with the Congress-led UDF.

The CPI(M) had tried its best to derail the presentation of the Kerala Budget by the then Finance Minister K M Mani in the House in February 2016. The assembly witnessed nasty scenes as the CPI(M) MLAs destroyed furniture and computer terminals in the House in their bid to prevent the then finance minister from presenting the budget accusing him of having taken money from liquor mafia to lift the ban on sale of liquor. A criminal case against six CPI(M) MLAs have been filed in the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court at Thiruvananthapuram for destruction of public property.

The Manied Kerala Congress had a brief honeymoon with the CPI(M) in 1980 during the tenure of E K Nayanar as Chief Minister. But Mani switched his loyalty to the Congress-led UDF in 1982 which resulted in the fall of Nayanar ministry. Nayanar in all his interviews and speeches used to ridicule Mani as a person who could not be trusted.

The KC(M) moving to the LDF is likely to see a realignment of various parties in the State in the build up to the assembly election.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS**  
(Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)  
**Application No. 6421 of 2019**  
In the matter of Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 And In the matter of Disputes between

**M/s. TVS Credit Services Limited and Mr. Virender Singh** Arising under Loan Cum Hypothecation Agreement Dated 16.11.2013 bearing Agreement No. UP3040TR00727.

**M/s. TVS Credit Services Limited** Jayalaksmi Estates, New No. 28, Old No. 8, Haddows Road, Chennai – 600 006.  
Represented by Its Authorised Signatory : Applicant

Vs.

**Mr. Virender Singh** S/o. Shripal Singh H. No. 115, Vill. Endhaura, Teh. Ram Nagar, Dist. Barabanki, Primary School, Arnoli Kalan B.O, Uttar Pradesh-225205 : Respondent To

**Mr. Virender Singh** S/o. Shripal Singh H. No. 115, Vill. Endhaura, Teh. Ram Nagar, Dist. Barabanki, Primary School, Arnoli Kalan B.O, Uttar Pradesh - 225205

The above application is posted on **03.11.2020 at 10.30 A.M.** before the Honble Master, High Court, Madras for your appearance. Please take notice and appear on that date either in person or through your counsel failing which you will be set ex-parte and the matter will be decided in your absence.

**M/s. D. PRADEEP KUMAR**  
Counsel for Applicant

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**M/s. D. PRADEEP KUMAR**  
Counsel for Applicant

# Maha Govt decides to operate Metro in Mumbai, Nagpur in phases from today

**Mumbai:**As part of its “Mission Begin again”, the Maharashtra Government on Wednesday decided to allow metro trains in Mumbai and Nagpur to operate from October 15 in a phased manner and do away the health check-up and stamping of domestic passengers arriving at the railway stations in Maharashtra from different parts of the state.

In other guidelines, the state government allowed government and private libraries to function with protocols of social distancing and sanitation norms in place and increased the number of people, while it permitted local weekly bazars, including that of animals, to reopen outside containment zones.

In an effort to control and reduce crowding, the State

government permitted markets and shops to remain open for additional hours from 9 am to 9 pm, with effect from October 15, while the limit on the number of guests who can remain present has been increased to 50 from the earlier 20. While the government has also allowed “Business to Business” (B2B) exhibitions only outside the containment zones and all

types of local weekly markets (bazaars) across the state with effect from October 145, it has decided to do away stamping with indelible ink for domestic passengers arriving at different airports after COVID-19 testing. Though it announced relaxations on several fronts, the state government made no announcement regarding the re-opening of various places of worship. **PNS**

# All 4 labour codes likely to be implemented from Apr 1 next year: Labour Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All four labour codes are likely to be implemented in one go from April 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year, Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra said on Wednesday.

Parliament in its just concluded session passed three labour code bills: the Industrial Relations (IR) Code, the Social Security Code, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSH).

The Wage Code Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament last year.

Last month, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar had said that efforts would be made to complete the labour reforms by implementing the all four labour codes by

December this year.

The labour ministry had circulated the draft rules on the Wage Code Bill last year but held back its finalisation and implementation. The ministry wanted to implement all the four codes and rules under those in one go as all of them are inter-linked.

Talking to reporters, Chandra said, “We have started work on firming up draft rules of the recently passed three labour codes in Parliament. We are trying to

notify draft rules by middle of November to seek feedback. We will give 45 days time for feedback.”He further said that the four codes are likely to be implemented from April 1, with notification of firmed-up rules.

After the passage of a legislation in Parliament, it is sent for the President of India’s assent. The three codes on IR, OSH and social security have already got assent of the President of India. A law comes into force after notification of rules.

Initially, draft rules under a law is notified with a stipulated time period (45 days) to receive feedback. Thereafter, these rules are finalised and implemented for bringing the law into force. Chandra said the labour ministry is expected to get the feedback on three codes on IR, OSH and social security by December-end and thus it would take some time to analyse that for firming up the rules.

# India to have 60,000 start-ups, 100 unicorns by 2025: TiE Global

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to have 60,000 start-ups and 100 companies with valuation of over USD 1 billion by 2025, a TiE Global report, in association with Zinnov, released on Wednesday said.

The report observed that business recovery of start-ups is back on track after the lockdown.

However, 12-15 per cent of start-ups are facing risk of survival and a similar percentage of start-ups have closed their business.

“Despite being in the biggest pandemic we have had, India is going to create same numbers of unicorn in 2020 as we did in 2018 and 2019, which is a testament of our strong ecosystem,” TiE Delhi-NCR president Rajan Anandan said while sharing the findings of the report.

“We do believe that India is on track to have 60,000 start-up by 2025. We are well on track to have 100 unicorns in India by 2025,” he added.

He said investments are

also on track for recovery.

TiE Global is a non-profit organization devoted to entrepreneurs in all industries.

There are around 38,000 active start-ups, out of which 26 are unicorns.

The start-up ecosystem in India had attracted USD 14.5 billion of funding in 2019, the report titled ‘Covid-19 and the antifragility of Indian startup ecosystem’ said.

The report said start-ups are expected to create 1.5 to 1.6 million jobs by 2025.

The study included most of the business data till the end of February and compared it with data till the end of September, Anandan said.

According to the report, direct job creation in the start-up ecosystem will remain flat in 2020 as about 25,000 jobs in several sectors like hospitality, mobility, among others, have been lost, while a similar number of jobs have been created in some sectors like edutech, communications, online fitness, among others, .

## ‘UPI transactions help save 0.10 pc of GDP’

**Mumbai:** Amid the jump seen in unified payment interface (UPI) transactions, a digital economy professor closely aligned with the ruling BJP on Wednesday claimed that the shift to this mode has helped India save over 0.10 per cent of GDP from going out of the country. The uptick in transactions, which touched 1.8 billion in September, has also helped the economy from an “enablement” perspective, Arvind Gupta, a professor of digital economy who spearheaded BJP’s national technology department for three consecutive terms, told reporters. The comments come amid a 10 per cent surge in UPI transactions in September as against August this year, as more people switch to digital payments amid the pandemic. “From the research hat that I wear, I can tell you that the initial study suggests that just by using UPI payments, we have saved upwards of 0.10 per cent of GDP which remains back in the country,” Gupta said at an event organised by the fin-tech Earlysalary.

PTI

## EASTERN RAILWAY TO RUN FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

To clear extra rush of passengers during **Festival season**, following Special Trains will be run as per following abstract timings, dates of run, stoppages and composition :-


02331/02332 HOWRAH-JAMMU TAWI-HOWRAH SUPERFAST FESTIVAL SPECIAL (VIA DANKUNI)					
02331 Howrah-Jammu Tawi		Stations	02332 Jammu Tawi-Howrah		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
—	<b>23.55</b>	<b>↓</b> Howrah	<b>11.30</b>	—	
02.30	02.35	Asansol Jn	08.05	08.15	
04.36	04.41	Jasidih Jn	06.17	06.22	
09.55	10.05	Patna Jn.	01.25	01.35	
13.44	13.59	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn	22.03	22.13	
14.37	14.47	Varanasi	20.55	21.05	
19.35	19.45	Lucknow	15.20	15.30	
07.30	07.40	Ludhiana Jn	03.20	03.30	
<b>13.10</b>	—	<b>Jammu Tawi ↑</b>	—	<b>22.45</b>	

The above Special trains will also stop at Chittaranjan, Madhupur Jn, Jhajha, Jamui, Kiul Jn, Mokameh Jn, Bakhtiyarpur Jn, Patna Saheb, Danapur, Ara, Buxar, Jaunpur City, Sultanpur, Nihalgarh, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur Jn, Yamunanagar-Jagadhri, Ambala Cantt., Phagwara Jn, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt. and Kathua stations enroute. **Days/Dates of Run: From Howrah :** Tuesday, Friday & Saturday– (October) 20, 23, 24, 27, 30 & 31 and (November) 03, 06, 07, 10, 13, 14, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27 & 28 = 18 Trips and **From Jammu Tawi:** Thursday, Sunday & Monday – (October) 22, 25, 26 & 29 and (November) 01, 02, 05, 08, 09, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 23, 26, 29 & 30 = 18 Trips. **Composition:** Composite AC First Class + AC 2-Tier - 1, AC 2-Tier - 1, AC 3-Tier - 4, Sleeper Class-10, General Second Class-3, Pantry Car - 1 & Power Car - 2 = 22 coaches. **Category :** Mail/Express (Superfast).

03185/03186 SEALDAH-JAYNAGAR-SEALDAH FESTIVAL SPECIAL (VIA NAIHATI)					
03185 Sealdah-Jaynagar		Stations	03186 Jaynagar-Sealdah		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
—	<b>17.45</b>	<b>↓</b> Sealdah	<b>07.00</b>	—	
19.11	19.15	Bandel	05.02	05.06	
22.09	22.14	Asansol Jn	01.44	01.49	
03.27	03.50	Barauni Jn	20.39	20.59	
06.23	06.28	Darbhanga Jn	17.20	17.25	
<b>08.50</b>	—	<b>Jaynagar ↑</b>	—	<b>16.00</b>	

03021/03022 HOWRAH-RAXAUL-HOWRAH FESTIVAL SPECIAL (VIA BANDEL)					
03021 Howrah-Raxaul		Stations	03022 Raxaul-Howrah		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
—	<b>15.45</b>	<b>↓</b> Howrah	<b>04.05</b>	—	
18.09	18.13	Bardhaman	01.36	01.40	
20.03	20.08	Asansol Jn	23.26	23.36	
22.10	22.15	Jasidih Jn	21.37	21.42	
01.40	02.00	Barauni Jn	17.32	17.42	
05.00	05.10	Muzaffarpur Jn	13.25	13.30	
<b>09.00</b>	—	<b>Raxaul Jn ↑</b>	—	<b>10.00</b>	

The above Special trains will also stop at Serampore, Seoraphuli (only 03021 will stop), Chandannagar (only 03021 will stop), Bandel, Panagarh (only 03021 will stop), Durgapur, Waria (only 03021 will stop), Andai Jn (only 03021 will stop), Raniganj, Sitarampur (only 03021 will stop), Rupnarayanpur (only 03021 will stop), Chittaranjan, Jamtara (only 03021 will stop), Vidyasagar (only 03021 will stop), Madhupur Jn, Jhajha, Jamui, Kiul Jn, Luckeesarai Jn (only 03022 will stop), Barhiya (only 03022 will stop), Dinkar Gram Simaria (only 03022 will stop), Bachwara Jn, Sathajagat (only 03022 will stop), Dalsingh Sarai, Nazirganj (only 03022 will stop), Ujjiarpur, Samastipur Jn, Khudiram Bose Pusa, Dholi, Motipur, Mehsi, Chakia, Bapudham Mothari, Sagauli Jn and Ramgarhwa stations enroute. **Frequency:** Daily. **Period of run :** **From Howrah –** From 20.10.2020 to 30.11.2020. **From Raxaul Jn –** From 20.10.2020 to 01.12.2020. **Composition :** AC 2-tier - 1, AC 3-tier - 4, Sleeper Class - 8, General Second Class - 4, GSLR/D - 2 = 19 coaches. **Category :** Mail/Express.



OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MAINTENANCE DIVISION, UTTARAKHAND JAL SANSTHAN  
Tarun Vihar Lane -01, Mothrowala Road Dehradun-248001  
Phone/Fax-0135-2671940 Email-eeemdujs@rediffmail.com & eeemdw@gmail.com

Letter No.: 169 / E-Tender Notice /Peri Urban /20-21 Dated: 14.10.2020

**e-Tendering Notice**

1. **Name of the Work:** Construction of Gumaniwala Peri Urban Water Supply Scheme of District Dehradun: Including Review of Design, Laying, Jointing and Testing of Rising Main & Distribution System, Construction of OHT's, Drilling & Development of Tube Wells and all appurtenants Civil and E&M works, SCADA & Automation AMR Metering etc. Including 5 years Operation, Maintenance & Management to achieve pre-defined Performance standards including maintenance of existing system.

2. **Name of Division:** FIU, Maintenance Division,Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Tarun Vihar Lane No-01, Dehradun.

3. **Estimated Cost/Period of Completion:** 1440.00 Lakhs/ 12 months/3 months / 60 months Trial Run/ O&M Period

4. **Publish Date :** 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.

5. **Document Download/Sale Start Date :** 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.

6. **Pre-Bid Meeting Date :** 29.10.2020, 11:00 Hrs.

7. **Bid Submission Start Date :** 07.11.2020, 11:00 Hrs.

8. **Bid Submission end Date :** 18.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.

9. **Physical Document Submission Date :** 19.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.


10. **Bid Opening Date :** 20.11.2020, 11:00 Hrs.

11. **Cost of Tender :** Rs. 5000.00 + GST

12. **Earnest Money :** Rs.29.00 Lakhs

Detailed e-Tender notice & tender document will be published in [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

Executive Engineer (FIU)



Office of Executive Engineer,Maintenance Division Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan  
Tarun Vihar Lane -01, Mothrowala Road Dehradun-248001  
Phone/Fax-0135-2671940 Email-eeemdujs@rediffmail.com & eeemdw@gmail.com

Letter No.:168/e-TENDER Notice/PERI URBAN/20-21 Dated:14.10.2020

**e-Tendering Notice**

1. **Name of the Work :** Construction of Jeevanganrh Peri Urban Water Supply Scheme of District Dehradun: Including Review of Design, Laying, Jointing and Testing of Rising Main & Distribution System, Construction of OHT's, Drilling & Development of Tube Wells and all appurtenants Civil and E&M works, SCADA & Automation AMR Metering etc. Including 5 years Operation, Maintenance & Management to achieve pre-defined Performance standards including maintenance of existing system.

2. Name of Division : FIU, Maintenance Division,Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Tarun Vihar Lane No-01, Dehradun.

3. Estimated Cost/Period of Completion : 5078.00 Lakhs/ 18 months/ 3 months / 60 months Trial Run/ O&M Period

4. Publish Date : 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.

5. Document download/ Sale Start Date : 15.10.2020, 14:00 Hrs.

6. Pre-Bid Meeting Date : 29.10.2020. 11:00 Hrs.

7. Bid Submission Start date : 07.11.2020, 11:00 Hrs. .

8. Bid Submission End date : 18.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.

9. Physical Document Submission Date : 19.11.2020, 17:00 Hrs.

10.Bid Opening Date : 20.11.2020. 11:00 Hrs.

11. Cost of Tender : Rs. 5000.00+GST

12.Earnest Money : Rs. 76.00 Lakhs

Detailed e-Tender notice & tender document will be published in



## LOCKDOWN IMPACT

# Global carbon emissions fall to record low: Study



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Coronavirus-triggered lockdown in the first half of 2020 has led to a decline of 1,551 million tones of carbon dioxide emission which was higher than during the financial crisis of 2008, the oil crisis of the 1979, or even World War II, according to a study by an international team of researchers.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, pointed out that the greatest reduction of emissions was observed in the ground transportation sector, largely because of working from home restrictions. Transport CO2 emissions decreased by 40 per cent worldwide while in contrast, the power and industry sectors contributed less to the decline, with -22 per cent and -17 per cent respectively, as did the aviation and shipping sectors.

“In the first six months of this year, 8.8 percent less carbon dioxide was emitted than in the same period in 2019 - a total decrease of 1,551 million tones,”

said the study which not only offers a much more precise look at COVID-19’s impact on global energy consumption than previous analyses.

“What makes our study unique is the analysis of meticulously collected near-real-time data” explains lead author Zhu Liu from the Department of Earth System Science at Tsinghua University in Beijing. “By looking at the daily figures compiled by the Carbon Monitor research initiative we were able to get a much faster and more accurate overview, including timelines that show how emissions decreases have corresponded to lockdown measures in each country.

“In April, at the height of the first wave of Corona infections, when most major countries shut down their public life and parts of their economy, emissions even declined by 16.9 %. Overall, the various outbreaks resulted in emission drops that we normally see only on a short-term basis on holidays such as Christmas or the

Chinese Spring Festival.”

“The greatest reduction of emissions was observed in the ground transportation sector,” explains Daniel Kammen, professor and Chair of the Energy and Resources Group and also professor in the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley.

Surprisingly, even the residential sector saw a small emissions drop of 3 %: largely because of an abnormally warm winter in the northern hemisphere, heating energy consumption decreased with most people staying at home all day during lockdown periods.”

The authors have stressed that the only valid strategy to stabilise the climate is a complete overhaul of the industry and commerce sector. “While the CO2 drop is unprecedented, decreases of human activities cannot be the answer,” says Co-Author Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, founding director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

## SFJ sedition case: NIA conducts searches at six locations in Punjab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted searches at six locations in Punjab in connection with the Sikh for Justice (SFJ) case relating to hoisting of the so called Khalistani flag by the cadres of the outlawed outfit at the office of the Deputy Commissioner’s Office, Moga (Punjab) on the eve of Independence Day, 2020.

The agency conducted searches at six locations in Ferozpur, Ludhiana and Moga districts of Punjab on Tuesday NIA case relating to Khalistani flag hoisting case.

“This crime was committed by the miscreants who were offered cash rewards at the behest of terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannu of SFJ for this heinous act,” the NIA said in a statement.

The agency further said, “The searched premises belong to the accused Akashdeep Singh, Jogwinder Singh, Inderjeet Singh, Jaspal Singh and Ram Tirath.

The cyber cafe belonging to the accused Jaspal Singh was also searched.”

During searches, various electronic items like pen drives, laptops, hard disc and other incriminating documents have been seized, it said.

The background of the case is that on August 14, 2020, two miscreants hoisted a yellow coloured flag with Khalistan written on it on the terrace of the four-storied building of the Deputy Commissioner Office Complex, Moga (Punjab) and while coming back, they cut the rope of the Indian National Flag hoisted near the main gate and dragged the



**During searches, various electronic items like pen drives, laptops, hard disc and other incriminating documents have been seized, it said**

Indian National Flag along with the rope.

In connection with this incident, a case was registered at Moga police station vide FIR No: 136 of 2020 dated August 14, 2020. The case was re-registered by the NIA as RC-30/2020/NIA/DLI under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections relating to waging war against the nation, conspiracy for waging war against the nation, sedition, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, imputations prejudicial to national integration and Section 2 of Prevention of Insults to National Honours Act, 1972.

Further investigation in the case is continuing.

SFJ is a banned terrorist outfit in India and Pannu has been designated as a terrorist. The SFJ is a project launched and sustained at the behest of Pakistan’s spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to carry out the so -called Referendum 2020 online.

## Strict vigil to be maintained against polluting activities in Delhi, neighbouring towns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In order to step up efforts for ensuring better air quality and address pollution related issues in the upcoming winter season, strict vigil will be maintained against polluting activities in Delhi and neighbouring towns, the Union Environment Ministry said on Wednesday.

Fifty teams of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will be deployed to make extensive field visits from October 15 this year till February 28 next year, it said.

In a statement, the Ministry of Environment said the teams will visit Delhi and NCR towns – Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut in Uttar Pradesh; Gurugram, Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Jhajjar, Panipat, Sonapat in Haryana; and Bhiwadi, Alwar, Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

These teams will specifically focus on hotspot areas where the problem is aggravated, it said.

“Strict vigil will be maintained against polluting activities in the upcoming winter season. On-spot reporting of major air polluting sources such as major construction activities without proper control measures, dumping of garbage and construction waste alongside the roads and on

open plots, unpaved roads, open burning of garbage/industrial waste, etc. will be done using SAMEER App.

“Feedback on polluting activities will be shared with concerned agencies through an automated system, for quick action. Details will also be shared with State Governments. This will help in taking timely actions and monitoring at appropriate levels by the concerned agencies,” it said.

The ministry said that a central control room at the CPCB headquarters has been made functional for keeping track of pollution levels on hour-to-hour basis and overall coordination with state agencies.

In addition, district-wise nodal officers have been appointed for better management and coordination with teams, the ministry said.

“Air quality in winter season is a major environmental concern in Delhi and NCR region. Various efforts are being taken since past five years for air quality management in the region. Although gradual year-on-year improvement in air quality has been observed, a lot needs to be done,” it said.

## Bengal polls: Talks between Cong, Left likely to begin next week over sharing of seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOLKATTA

Talks between Congress and the Left over sharing of seats for the next year West Bengal Assembly elections will begin next week. The Left and the Congress have hit the roads together over the last one year on several issues, opposing the TMC government in the state and the BJP-led government at the Centre. The Left-Congress tie-up bagged 76 seats in the 294-member assembly in 2016.

“Now, this is the time to take forward this alliance to its logical conclusion, and that is sharing of seats for the elections. The preliminary talks will begin next week,” senior Congress leader and West Bengal Congress chief Adhir

Ranjan Chowdhury said on Wednesday. The Lok Sabha MP said TMC and the BJP are trying to polarise the state on communal lines, and it is the duty of the Left and the Congress to provide a third alternative.

The two sides want to begin the talks as early October for the elections likely to be held in April-May next year. “The talks are being started now so that there are no problems at the last moment. We struck a seat-sharing deal for the 2016 assembly elections but it was half-baked. During the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, we couldn’t stitch an alliance as the talks failed at the last moment,” Chowdhury said.

## Urban poor to get concessional finance under Affordable Housing Fund to make houses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to provide housing for urban poor, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Wednesday will provide concessional finance under Affordable Housing Fund (AHF), rebate in taxes and additional floor area ratio for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs). The scheme will be implemented through two models.

To make this a lucrative and viable business opportunity for Entities, Central Govt. will provide Concessional Project finance under Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) & Priority Sector Lending (PSL), Exemption in Income Tax and GST and technology innovation grant for promotion of innovative technologies in ARHCs. Further, State/UT government will provide Use Permission changes, 50% additional Floor Area

Ratio/ Floor space index (FSI) free of cost, Single Window Approval within 30 days, Trunk Infrastructure facility and Municipal charges at par with residential property.

This was announced by Union Housing and Urban Affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri while addressing a webinar at the launch of ARHCs portal. He also released the guidelines and guidebook on this occasion.

According to the ministry, in the first model, the existing government funded vacant houses to be converted into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by public agencies for a period of 25years. The scheme provides an opportunity for all States/UTs to convert their existing vacant houses constructed under various Central/ State Government schemes into ARHCs. A model request for proposal (RFP) has been

shared with all States for customisation and issuance by them to select a concessionaire.

In the second model, vacant land lying unutilised with various Industries, Trade Associations, Manufacturing Companies, Educational/Health Institutions, Development Authorities, Housing Boards, Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other such Entities will be used for ARHCs for a period of 25 years. “By providing with appropriate policy support, enabling suitable provisions and incentives, these available vacant lands can be utilised effectively for developing affordable housing facilities to migrants/ poor,” the ministry said. Further, the ministry will issue Expression of Interest (EoI) for shortlisting of Entities by urban local bodies to Construct, Operate and Maintain ARHCs on their own available vacant land.

## Vardhan launches second phase of CIL CSR to give financial aid to thalassemic patients

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Wednesday launched the second phase of a Coal India CSR initiative to provide financial assistance for treatment of underprivileged thalassemic patients.

Launched in 2017, the Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana is a hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) programme that aims to provide a one-time cure opportunity for haemoglobinopathies like thalassaemia and sickle cell disease for patients who have a matched family donor.

The CSR initiative was targeted to provide financial assistance to a total of 200 patients by providing a package cost not exceeding Rs 10 lakh per HSCT.

Vardhan congratulated the doctors of SGPGI Lucknow, PGI Chandigarh, AIIMS Delhi, CMC Vellore, Tata Medical Centre in Kolkata and Rajeev

Gandhi Cancer Institute, Delhi for the successful transplantation of 135 children without charging any physician fee, according to a Health Ministry statement.

“Data on the prevalence of silent carriers for various haemoglobinopathies show that it is 2.9-4.6 per cent for β-Thalassemia, while it can be as high as 40 per cent for sickle cell anaemia especially among the tribal population. Haemoglobin variants like HBE in eastern India can be as common as 3-50 per cent which calls for more attention to these diseases,” he was quoted as saying in the statement.

He also acknowledged CMC, Ludhiana and Narayan Hrudayalaya, Bangalore who have agreed to provide this advanced care therapy from 2020.

Expressing gratitude to Coal India and their CSR team for providing such opportunity to the BPL patients suffering from haema-

tological disorders and extending the support for another two years from 2020, Vardhan mentioned the issue of high out-of-pocket-expenditure on health services in India.

“People go bankrupt selling ancestral land and the last property paying for their treatment. It is precisely that pain that moved Prime Minister Narendra Modi to introduce the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana for targeted populace,” he said.

Expressing satisfaction that the scheme has been extended to cover aplastic anaemia patients for a total of 200 such patients from this year, he said, “Such cases can be prevented by counselling using the Ayushman Bharat -Health and Wellness Centres network. We have made blood transfusion facilities available in every district hospital while some districts also offer the facility in health centres at sub-district level.

## Bharat Biotech to halve volunteers for speedy clinical trial of Covaxin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based drug phrama Bharat Biotech has decided to cut by half its number of volunteers and subsequently reduce trial sites for the Phase II clinical trials of coronavirus vaccine candidate Covaxin. This may lead to an expedition of phase-2 trials, said a few reports.

According to the reports, the biotechnology firm had enrolled 750 volunteers for the Covaxin trials, but has now reduced the number to 380 who will be dosed with the vaccine.

The number of trial sites would also be reduced accord-

ingly. This may lead to an expedition of phase-2 trials and a possible early start of the third phase - leading to a shortened duration of clinical trials for Covaxin.

The report, citing lead trial investigators, suggests that the decision to scale-down the trial size was based on good zero-conversion or immunogenicity seen in volunteers during phase-1.

The potential vaccine against COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, is being developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the

National Institute of Virology (NIV).

The first phase of Covaxin’s clinical trial involved 375 volunteers. Interim data from phase-1 has not been made public yet.

The reports further suggests that no major adverse reactions have been noted so far, apart from minor side effects such as mild fever and body aches.

Researchers are currently in the process of administering the second dose to participants as part of the phase-2 trial. Two doses of the Covaxin vaccine candidate are to be administered with a gap of 14 days between them.

## Army foils BAT op bid along LoC in Kupwara

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Indian army claimed to have foiled a suspected BAT (Border Action Team) operation along the line of control in Tangdhar sector of North Kashmir’s Kupwara district on Wednesday. Earlier, two weapon smuggling bids were foiled by the alert troops from across the line of control.

It is after a gap of more than six months, heavily armed intruders supported by the Pakistani army had attempted a BAT operation in the area. Earlier, five heavily armed terrorists were neutralised by the elite para commandos of the Indian army in the Keran sec-

tor of Kupwara as they had attempted to infiltrate inside the Indian territory.

Meanwhile, in a separate anti-terrorist operation, two terrorists were gunned down by the joint team of security forces in Chakura area of Shopian on Wednesday.Till the time of filing the report the operation was not called off as thorough searches were still going on in and around the encounter site to rule out the presence of any other hiding terrorist.

Earlier, the operation was launched by the joint team of security forces on receipt of the information about the presence of terrorists in the area. Director General of Police, Dilbagh Singh told reporters,

“so far two terrorists have been eliminated in the ongoing operation and searches were going on to confirm the presence of a third terrorist in the area”.

In a brief statement the twitter handle of Srinagar based China Corps said, “a suspected BAT(Border Action Team) action bid was foiled by the alert troops early Wednesday morning in Tangdhar”.

It further said, “suspicious activity of 3-4 intruders was observed by the alert troops, close to forward post along the line of control.Timely action by the alert troops averted infiltration bid. The entire area was kept under surveillance”, the statement added.

### Bicycle sales in India grow by over two-folds in last five months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People in many cities have to wait to buy a bicycle of their choice due to a massive surge in demand. Bicycle sales in India have grown by over two-folds in the last five months as people are opting for this cheapest mode of transport to cover short to medium amid coronavirus pandemic.

According to the All India Bicycle Manufacturers Association (AICMA), a total of 41,80,945 bicycles have been sold in the country in the five months from May to September 2020. In May, the number of bicycles sold was 4,56,818. This number almost doubled to 8,51,060 in June, while in September, the country sold 11,21,544 cycles in a month.

## Nadda, not Shah, to visit Bengal ahead of Durga Pujas

### Cong, LF alliance talks for next year’s polls soon

SAUGUR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The BJP and Trinominal Congress were trying to polarize the electoralatmosphere which was why they were spreading all kinds of rumors aboutfailed alliance talks between the Congress and Left Front.

Urging the two sides to hasten up the talk process so that the twoparties can hit the streets well before the next year’s Assemblyelections Chowdhury on Wednesday said “the TMC and the BJP are tryingto polarise the state on communal lines, and it is the duty of theLeft and the Congress to provide a third alternative,”adding the twoparties were spreading all kinds of rumours suggesting that theseat-sharing talks between the two sides had proved to be anon-starter.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated development the State BJP leadership on Wednesday said that Home Minister Amit Shah would not be able

to come to Bengal ahead of the Durga Pujas. Instead he would come to the Stateonly after the Pujas.

In Shah’s place BJP president JP Nadda would visit the State onOctober 19. He would go to North Bengal and hold meetings with seniorParty leaders there, sources said.

Referring to how the Left and Congress jointly launched a number ofmovements in the past couple of years he said “a time has come to takeforward this alliance to its logical conclusion, and that is sharingof seats for the elections,” adding the preliminary round of talks onset-sharing between the two sides would begin next week.

Incidentally Left Front Chairman and CPI(M)politburo member Biman Bosehad reported spoken to the Congress leadership asking it to hasten upthe talk process and hit the streets early. Even Chowdhury said the two sides should begin the talks as early aspossible to avoid last-minute “hiccups”. Though the two sides hadjointly contested the 2016 elections their dialogue ahead of thelastyear’s parliamentary elections fail in the last

moment. Chowdhury said that the two sides had fought jointly in 2916 but thetalks were half-baked. In fact the 2016 Alliance jointly picked up 77out of 294 seats whereas the Trinamool Congress won 212. However thecatch was the Left Congress alliance lost out to the ruling outfit inabout 70 seats by slender margin of 150 to 4000 votes which the twosides had blamed on a “partisan Election Commission that ignoredmassive violence during elections.”

Congress MP Pradip Bhattacharya, who is the chairman of thenewly-formed coordination committee, along with Mr Chowdhury and thestate’s Leader of Opposition Abdul Mannan are likely to lead the talkswith the Left parties, Pradesh Congress Committee sources said.

On the alleged rumours being spread by the BJP and TMC, Chowdhury saidthe Congress and Left Front should not pay heed to “canards” beingspread against the alliance.The two parties were spreading rumour that the Congress and Left hadlost reference and so the voters should choose between the TMC and theBJP.

## Gupkar Declaration signatories’ to meet at Farooq’s place today

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A group of mainstream Kashmiri politicians led by a sitting Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah are all set to attend a brainstorming session to review the present political situation and decide their future course of action on Thursday.

Mainly signatories of the Gupkar Declaration have been extended a formal invitation to assemble at the residence of National Conference Chief Dr Abdullah.

Gupkar Declaration is a joint effort of all the regional mainstream political parties – the National Conference, the Peoples Democratic Party, the Peoples

Conference, the Awami National Conference and the CPI (M) - of Jammu and Kashmir to fight for the special status of the erstwhile State.

Earlier, both Dr Farooq and Omar Abdullah had called on PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti at her residence to personally meet her where they extended her an invitation to attend the meeting. Soon after her release late Tuesday night, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti vowed to fight for the restoration of Article 370.

Calling August 5, 2019 a black day, Mufti urged everyone in Jammu and Kashmir to work towards resolving the Kashmir conflict.

Sharing details of the

their meeting former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted,“My father and I called on Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba this afternoon to enquire about her well-being after her release from detention. She has kindly accepted Farooq Sb’s invitation to join a meeting of the Gupkar Declaration signatories’ tomorrow afternoon (Thursday)”.

“Today our visit was without any political motive and we wanted to know her well being.

In the meeting tomorrow, the present political situation will be reviewed and what will be the future agenda of the Gupkar Declaration signatories in one view, that will also be discussed,” he said in another tweet.



## Spat with Governor

Koshyari's letter war with Uddhav Thackeray turns ugly as he goes against the mandate of his post to follow a party line



Gubernatorial assignments have always been politicised regardless of regimes. No matter what the party at the Centre, each has used its chosen Governor to keep a watch on Opposition State Governments and undercut federal powers in the event of a crisis, especially when the Central party, as the main challenger, has been within smelling distance of power. But just because a violation has become a political convention, can one justify its continuity? And by extension does it have to be more flagrant than earlier occasions? It is on this count that Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's letter war with Chief Minister Uddhav

Thackeray over the re-opening of religious places in the State is not only indecorous but challenges the limits of a constitutionally-appointed post. Worse, what could have been a mature confabulation was converted to a media circus as the Governor's letter was circulated widely. Making a case for re-opening places of worship, Koshyari asked Thackeray if he had "turned secular" by keeping them shut. The latter shot back a letter, asking if Hindutva meant simply opening religious places and as a Governor who had sworn on the Constitution, was he denying the secularism enshrined in it? Clearly, Koshyari, who has been used time and again to embarrass the Shiv Sena-led alliance Government, should have clearly kept the arrow in his quiver. For he unwittingly gave the political advantage to Thackeray by trying to expose the latter's commitment to Hindutva. Thackeray may have been vociferous about Ayodhya but in COVID-stressed times and as Chief Minister of the worst-affected State, he has managed the festival season with reason. By confining the Ganesh Mahotsav to a largely indoor celebration, he avoided a super spreader event. And although the Governor has questioned the rationale of opening bars and restaurants and not shrines, Thackeray knows that faith is a heave of emotion that defies protocols and he would much rather go in for a graded opening of these places after assessing the risk of spread. Besides, the Governor, given the gravitas associated with his chair, should not have run down the weight of the word "secular" in his official capacity, no matter what his personal belief systems might be. Also using the religion card is unbecoming of a post that demands reason, neutrality, dignity and integrity. But then Koshyari has been too pliant to walk the thin line between propriety and impropriety, nicety and brashness. Let us not forget that he is the same man who had revoked President's rule in the State in the wee hours and hurriedly sworn in BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis with then rebel Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, ignoring the split mandate in the State. He did not give adequate time to the Opposition parties and even an adrift Sena for crystallising their adjustments before committing to furnishing letters of support. By that yardstick, the Governor seems immune to the adverse criticism that his overstepping of constitutional limits entails. So long as his political purpose is served, in this case going after the Shiv Sena. This explains why NCP supremo Sharad Pawar wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing shock at the tone and tenor of the Governor's letter. He even clarified that while he was not against the Governor's prerogative to discuss matters with the CM, he was against a squabble deliberately played out in the public domain for political gains.

Shaming the regional party, wherever the BJP is the main Opposition, is now more the rule than the exception. In Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankar has been blowing hot on the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress Government at the slightest pretext or the other. The latest spat is over the unnatural death of a BJP MLA and the Governor's letter to vice-chancellors (VCs) asking them to attend a video-conference with him. The VCs refused to attend unless the invitation was routed through the State higher education department. After this Dhankar took to Twitter to defend his partisan action, saying he could not allow students' issues to be "politically caged." His lie was exposed when Banerjee herself revealed all of her Government's communication with the Raj Bhavan before the media. But at least he had done his bit for the BJP's "*Didi hatao*" campaign. All these examples prove there is an internecine plot to erode the spirit of alliance politics in general and the regional ones in particular, making them look like puppets in a shadow play, so powerful that the voter changes his pattern in the next round of elections. The problem with the BJP is that it just can't get out of the whataboutery trap, countering every criticism by citing Congress precedents and repeating every mistake of its rival party that ultimately cost the latter dear. Then how is BJP the "party with a difference?" If Governors are abdicating their role responsibilities and preferring to be agents of the ruling party, then their use is not even ceremonial. For even that demands a degree of integrity and respect for the norms of parliamentary democracy. They are toothless when they recommend President's rule as it is the Central Government which runs the State affairs by proxy with its own team of bureaucrats. Isn't it time then to look at the selection process of the post of Governor itself, provided each party agrees to neutralising it in the first place? The procedure for appointment of the Lokpal could easily be followed to secure the position in a manner that the Governor cannot be recalled or moved at the Centre's whim. But will all parties agree to amend a convention that suits each one of them when each gets the hot seat?

## Needed, an entry test

The criterion to score 100 per cent to enter a top DU college was coming for some time. That doesn't make it less ridiculous



The French term, *fait accompli*, means that things have already been decided in a certain way before those affected hear about it. You can use it to talk about many issues in today's world. It could be used to describe the conditions for Tibetans and Uighurs in China, or explain why a certain case had been decided in a certain manner. But right now, we are using it to describe the cut-offs for admission in Lady Shriram College (LSR) in Delhi University (DU). It is not necessarily the most correct usage of the term but any student who has ever attended DU could see this coming for years now. In that sense, it is *fait accompli*. To the

casual outside observer, who has never needed to worry about college admissions in DU, this might seem ridiculous and indeed it is. So what do the cut-offs really say? For one, absolute perfection in examinations should not be possible in non-mathematical and scientific subjects. But students are now scoring cent per cent in English and Hindi and grade inflation is to blame. Partially this is because certain State boards are giving illogical marks to their students so that they can corner all the seats as was seen in a top college for the last couple of years.

The solution clearly lies in a more realistic evaluation mechanism in our school system. So, is it time to have a singular nationwide school-leaving examination on the lines of the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical seats, the Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE) for engineering and the Common Aptitude Test (CAT) for business schools? It is hard to see why not because the senior secondary board examination system is broken beyond repair and that has allowed several international examination systems to make inroads into India. While that should be welcomed at a level, Indian educators must draw a line in the sand. And this is exactly what the new National Education Policy (NEP) proposes, a single exam that will allow grades to be better calibrated across the nation. The problem is that certain States are opposing the NEP for the sake of opposing any idea by this Government. But these cut-offs should be a wake-up call because no one really knows what is next. And a single national school-leaving exam like most other nations has to become the norm quickly. The Supreme Court has decided once and for all in favour of NEET and the JEE, the NEP should make this law fast.

# opinion08

## Taming the dragon

By joining the Djibouti Code of Conduct as an observer, India gains strategic heft in the Indian Ocean Region and can challenge Beijing's military influence



LOKESH KUMAR

Recently, India decided to join the Djibouti Code of Conduct/Jeddah Amendment (DCOC/JA) as an observer after a high-level meeting held on August 26. This is a group on maritime affairs, including countries such as Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen, all from the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the east coast of Africa and island countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Member nations include South Africa, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. Recently Japan, Norway, UK and the US have also been included as observers of DCOC/JA. So India's inclusion would increase its political stake in these waters and help it use the collective heft with other nations to tame Chinese expansionist tendencies.

The alliance came into being in January 2009 under the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). It initially focussed on piracy and armed robbery against ships in the western IOR, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. In 2017, other issues like the environment, human trafficking and illegal fishing were added. But it is the Jeddah Amendment that is significant. At a high-level meeting of the countries that signed the DCOC in Jeddah in January 2017, 17 signatory nations agreed to adopt a revised code of conduct. They agreed to work closely with the IMO and other stakeholders to build national and regional capacities in addressing broader maritime security issues and enabling the sustainable development of the maritime sector. And at the same time, the code emphasised the important role of the "blue economy" in supporting sustainable economic growth, employment, food security and stability.

The Horn of Africa is of great strategic importance from a commercial and economic point of view because it is coveted by major powers of the world. Djibouti's role is most important here. It may be a small country in terms of area and population but enjoys great geo-strategic importance. It commands the narrow entrance to the Red Sea on the southern end (from the Gulf of Aden side) with Egypt on the



“AS AN OBSERVER NATION, INDIA WILL BOOST ITS INFLUENCE IN THE IOR WITH NEW DIPLOMATIC EQUATIONS. NEW DELHI IS ALREADY STRENGTHENING ITS POSITION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND ITS SURROUNDING WATERS AS PART OF THE INDO-PACIFIC POLICY THROUGH PROJECT MAUSAM, MISSION SAGAR AND INDIAN OCEAN RIM GROUP”

northern end. Every day millions of oil barrels and other oil products pass through this route to different destinations. Due to its important position, it hosts military bases of about nine countries, including the US, France, Italy and China. After the 9/11 attacks on the US, Washington established its largest permanent base in Djibouti, named Camp Lemonnier, which houses at least 4,000 military personnel.

China has also expanded its military cooperation across the African continent in recent years as part of its national defence policy. On July 11, 2017, Beijing sent two warships across the Indian Ocean to Djibouti, the main objective of which was to establish China's first overseas permanent military base. Work started formally on August 1, 2017. Djibouti is at the centre of China's maritime policy as it is located at the northwest end of the Indian Ocean, allowing it to checkmate India. Its naval base here could prove to be the pillar of its oceanic strategy, known as the "string of pearls" or friendly islands in the sea route connecting China to West Asia. It is a crucial link in its ambitious "maritime Silk Route" plan.

The purpose of this network is to ensure the safety of China's trade routes, its raw materials and oil-laden ships and the uninterrupted return of finished goods to Europe via the Gulf of Aden. India's relations with the Horn of African nations like

Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan and Djibouti have been friendly since ancient times. Some historical researchers believe that economic and cultural relations existed between the two regions since 538 BC. All these nations share the same legacy of colonialism as well as the struggle for independence; India continued to support their anti-colonial fight even after attaining Independence in 1947. In the post-colonial period, India established the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP) in 1963. Its relations with the Horn of Africa countries have further strengthened through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), South-South Cooperation and other international fora. Now it is building on this historicity to emerge a key player in the region.

The strategic importance of the Horn of Africa for India can only be known from the fact that President Ramnath Kovind made his first foreign trip to two African countries — Djibouti and Ethiopia. During his visit, he remarked, "India and Djibouti have had historical connections and mutual contacts for a long time. Now we should try to rediscover this shared history and identity. Not only for the old times but to build a contemporary partnership, it is necessary to make the utmost effort to revive this shared heritage of ours. The

potential of marine resources and engagement with the Indian Ocean has immense potential to create a sustainable future." The President also said that "Djibouti is a strategic country, located near the Gulf of Aden. For India, it is an important partner of the Indian Ocean. In 2015, during the Yemen crisis, as part of Operation Relief, at the time of evacuating citizens and people from other countries, Djibouti supported India's efforts."

As an observer nation, India can boost its influence in the IOR with new diplomatic equations. New Delhi is already strengthening its position in its surrounding waters as part of the Indo-Pacific policy through Project Mausam, Mission Sagar and Indian Ocean Rim Group. It can further increase its strategic footprint through blue economy initiatives. This will enable us to sustain the use of ocean resources for economic growth, create better livelihoods and jobs and ensure the health of ocean ecosystems.

On the other hand, Beijing is increasing its clout through its claims in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, the String of Pearls diplomacy and Belt & Road Initiatives (BRI). India can effectively neutralise it if it consolidates its hold in this region alongside the Quad initiative with the US, Japan and Australia.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor, Department of African Studies, Delhi University)

## SOUND BITE

Complacency is certainly not warranted in the face of this register, but nor is an existentially pessimistic fatalism. An exaggerated sense of danger is positively harmful, as is the over application of threats.

Australian Home Affairs secretary  
—Michael Pezzullo



There is no better feeling than playing hockey, and having been away from it, you get a sense of what you've missed out on as well.

Hockey player  
—Varun Kumar



I challenge Nitish Kumar to file nomination papers from any Assembly segment in his home district of Nalanda. I will also file my nomination from the same seat and defeat him.

RJD leader  
—Tejashwi Yadav



Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba has kindly accepted Farooq (Abdullah) Sahab's invitation to join a meeting of the Gupkar Declaration signatories.

National Conference leader  
—Omar Abdullah



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Another failed attempt

Sir — On October 12, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the payment of cash in lieu of Leave Travel Concession (LTC) and ₹10,000 festival advance to Government employees to stimulate consumer demand during the festival season and boost the economy. The Government will also give its employees income tax-exempt cash vouchers in lieu of their entitled travel allowances this year. However, there is a catch. The cash will have to be spent on buying goods that attract 12 per cent or more GST, a condition which totally eliminates the possibility of the cash being spent on food items. Additionally, the Government will, as a one-time measure, give ₹10,000 salary loans to all its officers and employees as a festival advance.

The Retailers' Association of India (RAI) has welcomed the Government's LTC cash voucher scheme stating that it will help its members recover from the loss of business caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the expectation to create a consumer demand of about ₹28,000 crore through this scheme is

rather far-fetched. This seems to be just another attempt to strip the middle class and lure them to transfer their savings to the capitalist.

Bhagwan Thadani  
Mumbai

### State vs judiciary

Sir — It is disconcerting that differences between the executive

and the judiciary have emerged in Andhra Pradesh. In a first, the State has lodged a complaint to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) alleging that the Supreme Court judge, Justice NV Ramana, was interfering in the judicial processes of the High Court. The State has placed material evidence before the CJI, highlighting Justice Ramana's proximity with N Chandrababu Naidu and his

interventions to protect the interests of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, in his letter dated October 6, has expressed that the objective of the letter is solely to inform the Supreme Court about the acts of a few individual judges.

The apex court should take the allegations made by the AP Government seriously and clear



Committees (APMC) directly and deemed markets functioning under them. The farm Acts make no mention of the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) as well, leave aside the support prices based on comprehensive costs plus 50 per cent profits as recommended by the Swaminathan Commission.

Haridasan Rajan  
Kozhikode

the air or else it could affect the faith of the common man in the judiciary. A touch of pragmatism is what the judiciary and the executive need at this juncture as the very credibility of the judiciary as an institution is at stake. The CJI should personally look into the matter and consider initiating steps to ensure that the State judiciary's neutrality is maintained.

Yash Pal Rajhan  
Jalandhar

### Cinema hall protocol

Sir — Cinema halls are all set to re-open across the country. However, strict measures need to be taken so that they don't become spaces of mass infection. Six feet distance should be followed outside the auditoria, common areas and waiting areas at all times. There should also be hand sanitisers, preferably in the touch-free mode, at the entry and exit points as well as common areas within the premises. And the use of face masks must be made mandatory.

Jubel D'Cruz  
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

## Root for green products

Whether electronics harm the environment or not depends on how environmentally accountable the manufacturer is



KOTA SRIRAJ

Most phone and high-tech companies globally are investing in environmental accountability. For instance Apple, which recently launched its new range of products, would be shipping them without the customary charger and headphones being included in the box. Though this might put off quite a few of its customers, it is part of the company's commitment to reduce carbon emissions and ramp up the use of clean energy. With over 700 million headphones and two billion power adapters already out there with the customers, the firm has taken a bold measure to stop including the same in its retail product pack to cut down electronic waste generation at source and reduce carbon emissions, which are generated in the process of mining for precious earth materials. Moreover, due to the removal of the charger and headphones, Apple has been able to reduce the size of its boxes, enabling it to fit 70 per cent more boxes and, therefore, transition to a more effective logistics template. By 2030 the consumer technology giant aims to achieve net zero climate impact from its entire business, including manufacturing, supply chain and product cycles.

Samsung, too, is setting up new standards in conserving the environment through its "circular resource management system" that hinges on recycling, green purchasing from vendors amid effective hazardous material management. The company is focussing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) emissions to the extent of 70 per cent in the near future. Another global tech giant, Nokia, is redefining how products become more environmentally accountable. It calls this "Responsible Technology" and has gone a step further by joining 86 other like-minded companies to ensure that the strategic vision for the group is aligned with reducing the global temperatures by 1.5° Celsius in order to collectively battle climate change. This is in addition to the active initiative currently under way to completely remove single-use plastics across its production spectrum.

For a world that is drowning in electronic waste, especially in countries such as India where e-waste regulations are anything but effective, these firms are setting a benchmark in product responsibility and accountability towards the environment. However, they still have a long way to go since not all products end up getting 100 per cent recycled. The day they can recall their "end of life cycle product" back to the starting point for recycling is the day they can claim 100 per cent environmental accountability. However, their efforts are thought-provoking and make one wonder where do Indian companies figure in comparison? And why do none of the Indian-made products achieve such comprehensive environmental accountability? The answer lies in vision or the lack of it. Much of the corporate social and environmental responsibility in India is aimed at satisfying Government protocols and very little actually percolates to the ground level. One can still see the impact corporate vision has on some social project, but one is hard-pressed to effectively find an environmental project that has the stamp of a sincere corporate effort on it.

Indian manufacturing companies need to build a much-needed environmental dimension into their products. This is no easy task given the fact that sometimes even finding after sales service for many products we buy today can prove to be a harrowing experience. To graduate from this stage to a level where the companies produce a 100 per cent recyclable product is a long journey that needs encouraging policies and incentives from the Government and world-class corporate leadership. In this journey, innovative methods and ideas can lay the foundation for Indian companies to produce environmentally-accountable products. One of the initiatives that can be pursued is to create a category of "green" electrical and white goods which are made of 100 per cent recyclable material and have a clear-cut end of life cycle disposal plan. This category can be promoted and encouraged by the Government through tax and logistics sops besides finance options to manufacture them. On the consumer end, they can also carry compelling finance schemes or lucrative discounts. The clear environmental and viability-related benefits would surely drive manufacturing firms to increase their "green product" portfolio as it would also improve the company's image and standing for being environmentally conscious. Similarly, the drive to produce at the lowest cost and sell at the maximum profit is the root of all evils because in the pursuit of driving down costs, manufacturers disregard all ecological concerns and use suspect material that is environmentally hazardous. Recycling then is impossible. Therefore, to give credence to the concept of "green products", the Government must rein in the supply chain and third-party vendors for whom quality assurance and environmental responsibility are alien concepts. Surprise checks, quality control at Government laboratories and harsh penalties for defaulters can help infuse a new-found respect for the environment. Products that we buy today continue to exist long after we dispose them. Whether they harm the environment or not depends on how environmentally accountable the producer is.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

THIS (TANISHQ) ADVERT IS WRONG ON MANY LEVELS. IT DOES NOT ONLY PROMOTE LOVE-JIHAD BUT ALSO SEXISM.

—ACTOR

KANGANA RANAUT

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



DEAR TANISHQ, MOST PEOPLE ATTACKING YOU CAN'T AFFORD YOU. AND WITH THE ECONOMY DOWN WON'T BE ABLE TO AFFORD YOU IN FUTURE. SO DON'T WORRY.

—AUTHOR

CHETAN BHAGAT

# Children of a lesser god

With caste and gender-based crimes on a continuous rise, we need to look at our history which over time has institutionalised discrimination as a social order



ANURAG TIWARY

With caste and gender-based crimes in India on the rise, some really tough questions need to be answered by us all. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2019 report does a wonderful job in showcasing some extremely relevant data for our consideration. India reported 4,05,861 cases of crimes against women. Assam reported the highest rate of crimes against women at 117.8 per lakh population and Uttar Pradesh (UP) topped the list with 59,853 incidents. From 2018, the rate of crime against women has risen by 7.3 per cent, with the country recording an average 87 rape cases every day in 2019. UP had the highest number of crimes against girl children under the POCSO Act with 7,444 cases, followed by Maharashtra (6,402) and Madhya Pradesh (MP) at 6,053. Other registered cases on the rise were assault, cruelty and outraging the modesty of a woman. On the other hand, crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) saw a seven per cent and 26 per cent rise respectively. Curiously, the report also indicates a consistent decline in conviction rates in caste-related violence in the past three years.

So, why and how did we land here and where are we going? I shall endeavour to deconstruct this by a simple process called reverse engineering. Ours has always been a divided society. Caste and gender-based discrimination weren't a colonial construction in India. It was our own. Our social, economic and legal institutions were all divided and categorised to meet vested interests. What the British did was a mere "reinvoking of the *Varna* system." This, they justified, was necessary to make sense of the complexity that existed within the Indian caste system. As BR Ambedkar said in his *Annihilation of Caste*, the caste system in India had been historically used to perpetuate discrimination in the name of "division of labour" which in fact, according to him, was a "division of labourers."

Such discrimination gave rise to a social and behavioural bias, and in the long run, led to the "upward mobility" of the concept of caste. Since this concept was used to allocate social roles such as one's profession in a hereditary manner, it restricted the social mobility of those groups who were allotted lower roles. This led to a lost individual identity of the members of those groups and instead, in solidarity, gave rise to a "group identity." In modern-day India, we know these groups as SCs, STs, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), women and religious minorities.

**A systemic problem:** Our police force was also not immune to this virus. As caste and gender-based discrimination grew in independent India, privileged upper caste men, who were born, trained and nurtured in a favorable environment, filled the spaces in our administration, including but not limited to, our police force. The problem was further exemplified when we inherited the colonial Indian Police Act of 1861 and other such laws from British India. The Act was brought in after the revolt of 1857 and the purpose behind enacting it was, as David Arnold says, "to establish control, coercion and surveillance over the Indian subjects." So, lack of diversity, an under-represented administration and a law based on tyrannical ideologies became a perfect mishmash for future discriminatory policing in India. This would lay the foundation for perpetration of violence and creation of an extremely patriarchal institution that would survive for decades if not centuries.

**Institutionalised discrimination:** What tran-

“LAWS SUCH AS ABOLITION OF DISCRIMINATION UNDER ARTICLE 17 OF THE CONSTITUTION, SC/ST PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES ACT AND PROVISIONS FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HAVE BY AND LARGE REMAINED SYMBOLIC. THE COMMON CAUSE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF POLICING IN INDIA, 2019, REVEALS SOME SHOCKING NUMBERS. IT SHOWS HOW THE REPRESENTATION OF SCs, STs, OBCs AND WOMEN IS EXTREMELY POOR IN OUR POLICE FORCES. RESERVED POSITIONS FOR SUCH PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN VACANT FOR YEARS



spired, as a consequence, years later, is the institutionalisation of the very same discrimination within our police force. An institution becomes defunct if its working is entirely based on biased and inequitable means. To command confidence, trust and respect of the public, the police administration in a democracy must be diverse and must acknowledge that people from different backgrounds will bring with them skills, experiences and perspectives that are vastly different from others. However, the opposite is true for India.

Laws such as Abolition of Discrimination under Article 17 of the Constitution, SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act and provisions for Affirmative Action have by and large remained symbolic. The Common Cause report on *Status of Policing in India, 2019*, reveals some shocking numbers. It shows how the representation of SCs, STs, OBCs and women is extremely poor in our police forces. Reserved positions for such personnel have been vacant for years. The States topping the list here are Haryana and UP. Furthermore, it shows how such groups are less likely to be posted at officer-level ranks. They are also more likely to face unequal distribution of work wherein they are asked to do their seniors' chores and household work.

One out of four women police personnel reported the absence of a sexual harassment committee in police stations and one out of five reported the absence of separate toilets for policewomen. States like Bihar, Karnataka and Bengal have the highest levels of institutional bias against women in the forces. The report goes on to state that senior police officers think that "women are less hard-working, less efficient and should focus on household duties." Data shows that policewomen are

given in-house tasks like maintaining registers, and so on, whereas, male personnel are given on-field investigation, law and order, policing and patrolling tasks. This has literally been normalised within the working of our police administration, to an extent that it no more looks like discrimination. Instead it is seen as routine division of work, based on natural/biological capabilities.

Shockingly many police personnel think that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) complaints are false and motivated. They also say that members of the transgender community, Muslims, Dalits and so on, are more "naturally" prone to committing crimes. Such institutionalised discrimination against caste and gender reasserts itself like a vicious cycle. It also assists in exercising a lot more political control on those who are vulnerable. The way our police reacts to caste and gender is a mirror image of the political ideology ruling over the State. It is a common phenomenon that majoritarian governments who come to power based on hyper-nationalism and by using the rhetoric of religion, tend to be a lot more misogynist, divisive and religiously intolerant.

Resultantly, constitutional morality isn't their source of power. The increasing nature of politicisation of crimes against women has gained momentum in the last decade, ever since there has been a rise in majoritarian politics. The 2019 report shows how police personnel almost always face political pressure while investigating crimes that have political ramifications. If an honest police officer tries not to be swayed by such an influence, he is met with the "Black Sheep Effect." This is a process of evaluative upgrading of "norm-compliant" members and evaluative downgrading of "deviant" ones. So, the deviant members are usually transferred

to locations where there is less digital and media penetration so that their honesty is less of a problem for the State. It is also seen that there are certain areas where political control is exercised more effectively with the help of the police. In the areas where the majority population is from the Dalit or minority community, the police infrastructure is in shambles. There is a greater lack of adequate training, digital accessibility, vehicles and funding provided to the police. In such a situation, crimes either go unreported or are met with State-sponsored violence in police stations.

Creating such systemic barriers, over a long period of time, for people who have been historically discriminated against leads to a situation of internalised oppression. Paulo Freire, a renowned educator, in his *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, says, "The oppressed, having internalised the image of the oppressor and adopted his guidelines, are fearful of freedom." This fear acts as an incentive for political control. Control on what is reported, what is not reported and how reported cases are dealt with. It is almost like an echo-chamber that incentivises political oppression.

Expecting that such an institution, where discrimination and victimisation is normalised against its own members and has been historically used as a political sidekick, would do justice by protecting those outside the institution against the same evil forces, is simply living in an alternate reality. Public outrage has been misplaced in so far as it consistently demands political reform. The following statement by Ambedkar is of huge significance, "There is a need for social reform before political reform and the latter cannot happen without the former."

(The writer is from the National Law University, Visakhapatnam)

## Behold the COVID theatre of the absurd

The feedback surrounding the myths and legends on managing the pandemic also borders on the weird



KUNAL SHARMA

AISHWARYA BHASKAR

There was a deliberate smashing of pots; people making a clamour. This may be an illustration of a population experiencing traumatic shock. It might have been done in panic but also might have been done to somehow disturb and clear the air," Hays wrote about a supposed act of an angry God when he described the plague in his book *Epidemics and Pandemics: Their Impact on Human History*. But he could have been writing about us in the present day and our initial attempts to keep away a disease that has yet not been properly understood.

"The mask is a tool to make us weak." Our attention turned towards the driver as he detailed the complex

inter-relationship between carbon dioxide (CO2) and the mask. His logic was, as we exhale CO2, the mask forces us to inhale it back, thereby weakening our body's immune system. This was a novel conspiracy theory in a world filled with absurd theories about the pandemic.

Over ten months into the outbreak, the inventory of rumours related to the contagion has managed to transcend boundaries. Creative and inane, such stories multiply as the pandemic refuses to release its grip. While in the early days, most conversations veered around the potency of the virus and the multitude of ways to cure oneself of this dreaded pandemic, they now tend to dismiss the disease as "just another flu." The apparent casualness flies in the face of conventional analysis as awareness about the disease is immense and Indians who lived through the difficult times of the lockdown are cognisant of its life-threatening effects.

However, the current predilection of not wearing masks also comes associated with the sense of

fatality and fatigue, having undergone painful job losses and social stigma for the past few months. Varying from, "It is all God's will" to "Nothing will happen to me" to "We have all caught the disease" to "God cannot kill all the poor" to "If it happens, it happens" to "We don't have money to buy a mask" and a multitude of other reasons, the almost universal lack of interest in wearing a face cover hides an important detail about our social lives. People have been hit hard by the economic impact of the crisis and most have no other option but to step out. They cannot stay in and worry about wearing a mask or maintaining social distancing. They are more concerned about filling their stomachs and meeting their financial needs.

In many ways, the fear of the pandemic, coupled with the spread of fake news in this era of social media and messaging platforms, have led to revisionist theories that at once declare the impact of the Coronavirus a hoax while also pandering to the fear of its supposed effects.

With millions falling prey, there

is an outcry that this generation is paying for its sins. However, William Dunbar said it best when he wrote that, "The fear of death disturbs me" in the *Lament for the Makers*, suggesting perhaps that the human race has faced such threats throughout history. And those dark moments were unique as humanity did not have an answer then just as it doesn't have one now. People in those dark days were prone to succumbing to fear as the rise of a disease, cutting through society without any discrimination, results in helplessness among the rich and the poor alike. This causal relationship between disease and sin is seen also in Greek literary texts, such as Homer's *Iliad* and Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*. *Iliad* opens with a plague visited upon the Greek camp at Troy to punish them for Agamemnon's enslavement of Chryseis.

Humankind has time and again let this fear turn into panic, overwhelming all traces of rationality. This facilitates easier propagation of fake news in the community. The feedback surrounding the myths and legends over managing COVID

also borders on the absurd. Just as the CO2 theory propounded by the driver, more such theories abound in the markets of Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune and Delhi, ranging from guzzling copious amounts of alcohol, to being safe in one's locality, to stopping the consumption of fruits as they are known to carry the virus. The list is endless, and each country, State, city and locality has added a twist to these stories. The challenge for people working in the frontline is to sift through the rumours and convey basic truths about the pandemic and its causes.

However, as we see more complacency creep in, it would do good to understand the underlying fear and weariness that communities are suffering from. For the moment, they face a gun-shaped thermal scanner, an oximeter and endless surveys that have fatigued them. Then there is the unfortunate spread of stigma of an uncommon but not unmanageable disease and the mishandling of dissemination in this very real public health crisis.

The need of the hour is to aggressively push for an overarching

campaign that involves all stakeholders and myriad activities such as posters, stickers, banners, wall paintings, murals, street theatre, songs, tableaux, announcement from religious places, radio campaigns, television ads and as many creative outlets as possible.

As we learn from this crisis, it will bode well to recall that literature has been humanity's constant companion though long periods of uncertainty. And often, when a pandemic hit humankind, there was not much that could be done then as it is now.

The only effective measure back then was what is known today as social distancing and quarantine of the sick which, according to Procopius, the principal Byzantine historian, was done voluntarily by individuals. In this current age, we can strive to be a step ahead, promote social distancing, wear masks and ensure better hygiene in a manner that was not possible in ancient times.

(Sharma is a faculty at Azim Premji University and Bhaskar is an independent researcher)



FOREIGN EYE



### AN URGENT CAUSE FOR DEMOCRACY

For those who believe the judiciary wields far too much power over democracy, increased skepticism of the US Supreme Court would be a welcome development. Law professors RD Doerflinger and S Moyn argue that as contentious as Judge Amy Barrett's nomination is, it has had one benefit: "It's made it clearer than ever that Supreme Court reform is an urgent democratic cause, one that requires rethinking the federal judiciary from the ground up."

(The NYT editorial)



# Sensex extends winning run to 10th day

## BANKING, FINANCIAL STOCKS SPURT

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices defied gravity for the tenth session on the trot on Wednesday as a fag-end rally in banking and financial counters helped offset profit-booking in IT stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened on a weak note but gained ground in the last hour of trade to finish at 40,794.74, up 169.23 points or 0.42 per cent. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 36.55 points or 0.31 per cent to 11,971.05.

Bajaj Finserv led the Sensex gainers' chart, spurring 3.87 per cent, followed by Bajaj

Finance, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, SBI, Tata Steel, Axis Bank, L&T and HDFC.

On the other hand, NTPC, ONGC, PowerGrid, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, ITC and HCL Tech were among the major laggards, dropping up to 4.35 per cent.

Announcing its results post market hours, Infosys said its consolidated net profit grew by 20.5 per cent to Rs 4,845 crore for the September quarter, while it has raised revenue forecast to 2-3 per cent for FY21.

"Initially, the benchmark indices opened in red on the back of unsupportive global cues. Besides, the news of IMF lowering its growth forecast for India for the second time in

four months was also weighing on the sentiment.

However, a sudden surge mainly in the banking and financial counters changed the tone and helped Nifty to pare all its losses and close near 11,970 levels. On the flip side, IT, oil and gas and power traded subdued.

"The rebound is on the expected lines and we expect further surge ahead. Participants should keep a close watch on earnings announcements as well as global markets for cues. We reiterate our view to maintain extra caution in the selection of trades due to limited participation and prevailing volatility," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking.

# India's public debt ratio to jump to 90%, says IMF

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India's public debt ratio, which remarkably remained stable at around 70 per cent of the GDP since 1991, is projected to jump by 17 percentage points to nearly 90 per cent because of increase in public spending due to COVID-19, the IMF said on Wednesday.

"In our projections, the increase in public spending, in response to COVID-19, and the fall in tax revenues and economic activity, will make public debt jump up by 17 percentage points to almost 90 per cent of GDP," Vitor Gaspar, Director of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department told PTI.

"Going forward it is projected to stabilise in 2021, before slowly declining up to the end of the projection period, in 2025.

Broadly speaking the pattern of public debt in India is close to the norm around the world," he said.

According to Gaspar, India's public debt ratio has been remarkably sta-

ble since 1991. It is interesting to note that the debt ratio has been stable at around 70 per cent of GDP over the past decade, he said.

Responding to a question about his assessment of the fiscal situation of India, Gaspar said India has been an important source of growth in the world since the 1991 economic liberalisation reforms.

Real GDP growth averaged 6.5 per cent between 1991 to 2019, and real GDP per capita was multiplied by four over that period. This impressive growth performance helped lift millions of people out of extreme poverty, he said.

The extreme poverty rate, measured as the proportion of people whose income is less than USD 1.90 a day at purchasing power parity (the international poverty line), fell from 45 per cent in 1993 to 13 per cent by 2015 (date of the latest full extrapolation by the World Bank available - last full evaluation, based on household surveys, goes back to 2011), he said.

# Home sales in Delhi-NCR up 38% in Jul-Sept: JLL

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

With the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions, housing demand in the July-September quarter improved and the sale of residential properties increased by around 38 per cent during the period in Delhi-National Capital Region, according to a JLL report.

A total of 3,112 housing units were sold during the period under review, compared to 2,250 units sold in the April-June quarter.

As per the report, most of this traction was witnessed in Noida, which contributed nearly 48 per cent to the overall sales, as it caters to all price segments. Noida was followed by Ghaziabad constituting 31 per cent of the sales and it mainly caters to the mid and affordable segments. Gurugram accounted for nearly one-fifth of the overall sales during this quarter.

"The quarter saw a preference for ready-to-move-in projects by reputed developers. The affordable and mid segment projects garnered more interest

from the homebuyers as compared to high-end and luxury projects," it said.

The emerging corridors of suburban markets such as Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, Golf Course Extension Road and Dwarka Expressway in Gurugram continue to drive sales on the back of expected augmentation in physical and social infrastructure in these markets.

Given the current business environment, developers exercised restraint and caution in launching new projects, JLL said. Three projects were launched during the third quarter in the region, two in Gurugram and one in Noida.

"While the launches were in high-end and upper mid segments in Gurugram, the project in Noida catered to the mid segment buyers," the report said. Real estate developers continue to focus on offloading the existing unsold inventory and completing the projects under construction. Prices remained range-bound across most of the sub-markets within Delhi-NCR during the quarter.

# States must consider cutting stamp duty on property registrations to boost demand: Housing secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra on Wednesday asked states to reduce stamp duty on registration of properties as it will help reduce the overall real estate cost and boost housing sales. Addressing a webinar organised by CREDAI in

collaboration with Nangia Andersen India, Mishra said the government has taken various measures in the past six years for revival of this sector such as enactment of realty law RERA.

The finance ministry as well as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken several steps during the lockdown to address the concern

of the real estate sector, he added.

"Measures taken during the past six years and also during the lockdown have started showing results," Mishra said.

The secretary noted that the property registrations in Mumbai, Maharashtra, have improved and are back to pre-COVID-19 level.

He said the Maharashtra government has taken a good decision to reduce the stamp duty, and many builders have decided to absorb the balance to incentivise the homebuyers.

"We have also written to all the states. I am also following up with different principal secretaries and secretaries of the states to see if

they can come up with such move which will help reduce cost," Mishra said.

The secretary said the real estate is one of the most important components of the Indian economy having immense contribution in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and employment. genMishra asked builders to utilise this pan-

demio time to retrospect and see how they can reduce cost and adopt innovative technologies for sustainable and inclusive development. He asked realtors to participate in the government's newly launched Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) scheme for migrant workers.

## RBI launches survey of manufacturing sector

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday launched the latest round of its quarterly Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS) of the manufacturing sector which will provide valuable inputs for monetary policy formulation. "The survey (Round 51) is for the reference

period July-September 2020 (Q2:2020-21)," the central bank said in a statement. The information collected in the survey includes quantitative data on new orders received during the reference quarter, backlog of orders at the beginning of the quarter, pending orders at the end of the quarter, and total inventories with a breakup between work-in-progress and finished goods inventories.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11917.40	11997.20	11822.15	11971.05	36.55	
BAJAJFINSV	5870.00	6145.00	5855.05	6108.10	240.45	
SRLIFE	788	813.65	776.65	813.35	26.8	
BAIFINANCE	3268.00	3382.35	3232.70	3364.50	91.9	
INDUSINDBK	600	626.45	597.5	622.9	14.7	
ICICIBANK	3943.35	409.25	389	405.75	9.5	
AXISBANK	458	474.65	454	472	10.65	
IT	897	917	887.2	915.4	18.95	
TATASTEEL	370.4	377.25	369.55	375.95	7.6	
GRASIM	743	768	733.45	763.15	13.7	
HDFC	1935.00	1999.00	1919.05	1978.10	34.7	
ULTRACEMCO	4381.85	4499.00	4315.00	4459.00	76.25	
SBIN	1940.5	200.9	1930.5	199.1	3.4	
EICHERMOT	2201.20	2266.90	2190.00	2252.05	32.5	
HDFCLIFE	564.9	574.8	558	573.9	7.2	
HDFCBANK	1195.55	1214.30	1175.50	1213.50	15.05	
HINDUNILVR	2132.60	2165.00	2131.00	2160.00	21.8	
BRITANNIA	3740.30	3801.80	3740.00	3782.10	36.45	
UPL	501.35	513	495.3	511	4.5	
KOTAKBANK	1335.25	1358.00	1324.15	1355.00	10.05	
HEROMOTOCO	3030.00	3332.95	3270.00	3310.00	21.95	
HINDALCO	173	175	171.05	174.4	1.15	
ASIANPAINTS	3037.95	3075.00	3020.00	3049.00	14.55	
ASIANPORTS	2070.00	2085.50	2055.00	2073.45	8.8	
ADANI	349.1	351.2	344.7	350.9	1	
RELIANCE	2278.90	2304.00	2268.50	2283.00	2.3	
NESTLEIND	1564.00	1582.00	1559.00	1567.50	2	
JSWSTEEL	289.25	292	285.5	289.9	-0.05	
TCS	2842.00	2842.00	2787.55	2810.00	-4.55	
DIVISLAB	3156.00	3162.00	3135.00	3131.80	-7.35	
SHREECEM	21088.00	21320.00	20651.40	21040.00	-48	
SUNPHARMA	503.15	520.75	495.3	501.7	-1.45	
GAIL	82.35	82.95	81.2	82.7	-0.45	
MARUTI	7040.00	7075.00	6927.45	6990.00	-42.9	
BHARTIARTL	416.4	419.5	411.3	412.6	-2.7	
TITAN	1224.35	1248.95	1218.55	1219.70	-9.15	
M&M	623.4	627.8	616.3	622.8	-5.1	
CIPLA	788.8	794.55	766.8	780.15	-7.7	
DREDDY	5175.00	5219.75	5090.85	5162.20	-48.55	
ITC	170.55	171	167.05	167.7	-2.45	
HCLTECH	904	910.7	882	887	-13.4	
IOC	75.2	75.9	73.75	74.8	-1.3	
OMF	1162.00	1164.90	1131.10	1138.00	-19.8	
BPCL	37.75	38.89	38.85	38.21	-7	
POWERGRID	160.45	160.8	156.3	157	-3.45	
TECHM	869	873.8	845.6	847.95	-20.25	
TATAMOTORS	133.75	134.65	128.8	130.5	-3.6	
COALINDIA	113.2	113.3	109.9	110.65	-3.2	
ONGC	68.5	68.8	66.65	66.95	-2.15	
NTPC	82.8	83.05	78.1	79.25	-3.4	
WIPRO	365	365	348.3	349.4	-26.55	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27,181.70	27,426.05	27,057.35	27,383.45	199.65	
NAUKRI	3,560.00	3,785.90	3,560.00	3,767.05	187.65	
TATACONSUM	468.7	491.4	463.55	490.35	21.6	
INFRAEEL	182.55	191	181.95	189.5	7.65	
SBICARD	860	895.5	860	891	34.65	
ICICIG	1,208.00	1,249.95	1,203.00	1,248.70	46.3	
ADANIGREEN	719	735	705.1	730.7	25.6	
HINDZINC	208.85	216.15	203	213.1	7	
OFSS	3,054.20	3,223.75	3,045.15	3,150.00	91.7	
DLF	154.9	159.9	153.35	159.15	4.05	
AMBUJACEM	241.95	248	240.15	248	6.25	
IGL	365.45	374	364.3	373.3	7.85	
ICICIPRULI	415	426.5	404.45	424	8.45	
ACC	1,521.80	1,555.65	1,507.20	1,551.50	29.65	
HDFCAMC	2,292.00	2,333.00	2,266.05	2,326.00	41.1	
PEL	1,265.00	1,307.85	1,254.25	1,300.00	22.1	
PFC	84	86.5	83.5	85.95	1.45	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,125.00	1,161.40	1,116.45	1,156.00	17.7	
BANKBARODA	41.5	42.25	40.35	41.9	0.6	
LTI	3,260.00	3,494.70	3,250.00	3,280.00	30.25	
PNB	27.8	28.35	27.5	28.1	0.25	
NMDC	78.5	81.7	77.95	79.95	0.7	
DABUR	513.85	518.5	506.25	517.25	3	
ALKEM	2,685.40	2,715.35	2,655.90	2,700.15	14.75	
CONCOR	362.3	367	358.25	365.5	1.9	
BAJAJHLNG	2,402.00	2,420.00	2,386.50	2,407.20	6.9	
SIEMENS	1,227.00	1,238.55	1,215.90	1,235.00	2.75	
PIDILITIND	1,487.95	1,494.45	1,475.50	1,485.00	2	
UBL	97.44	97.82	95.805	97.2	1.25	
DMAT	1,984.90	2,014.85	1,966.25	1,979.95	2.5	
COLPAL	1,449.05	1,459.85	1,433.25	1,453.95	1.15	
GICRE	121.9	123.4	121.15	121.9	0	
AUROPHARMA	808	816	793.25	809.25	-0.8	
BERGEPAINT	610.3	612.35	603.2	606.5	-1.5	
PGHH	10,122.00	10,148.35	10,018.00	10,099.00	-28.55	
CADILAH	428.5	433.6	422.35	428.45	-1.65	
HAVELLS	698	705.75	694.1	699	-3.05	
BANDHANBNK	315	322.4	311.4	318.95	-1.65	
BOSCHLT	12,159.90	12,392.20	12,005.55	12,190.00	-64.25	
ADANITRANS	298.5	299.3	291.5	295	-1.7	
MCOWELL-N	526.5	527.85	518.5	523.15	-3.25	
HINDPETRO	170.4	170.4	165.2	168.75	-1.65	
BIOCON	452	453.45	444.65	446.1	-5.4	
MOTHERSUMI	111	112.2	109.3	110.5	-1.4	
ABBOTINDIA	16,160.00	16,230.10	15,950.00	16,020.70	-232.5	
MARICO	367.25	369.2	360.6	361.95	-5.4	
INDIGO	1,359.95	1,378.00	1,322.25	1,344.70	-20.65	
LUPIN	1,061.00	1,061.45	1,022.55	1,037.25	-17.95	
TORNTHPHM	2,824.40	2,827.55	2,746.05	2,760.45	-53.35	
GODREJPC	716	719.95	697	698.8	-15.9	
PETRONET	214.95	215.7	207.25	210.35	-5.25	

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	MPHASIS
INFY	1164.7	1164.7	1130.35	1136.1	JRCHESHA
BAIFINANCE	3252.5	3381.7	3232.05	3371.5	MOTHERS
WIPRO	366.6	366.6	348.5	350.15	JINDALSTL
RELIANCE	2284.9	2304.2	2269.55	2287.35	CANBK
HCLITECH	903.9	910.75	881.35	890.1	GROEPIPI
INDUSINDBK	600	626	597.15	622.75	LAURUSLS
NTPC	82.75	83.1	78.1	79.1	ICAUSIL
BAJAJFINSV	5850.1	6140	5850.1	6097.75	SRF
HDFCBANK	1193.3	1214.8	1175.85	1210.85	INDIGO
LTI	3266.65	3498.6	3249.35	3320.8	SAIL
DREDDY	5185	5220.45	5091.9	5121	HINDPETT
SBIN	194.05	200.9	193.05	200.05	DEEPAKKN
HINDUNILVR	2139	2163.9	2131.5	2158.2	M&MFIN
ITC	170.15	170.85	167.1	167.85	GMM
VEDL	99.4	100.4	92.75	98.4	L&TH
TCS	2840.15	2840.15	2788.95	2809.8	MCL
MARUTI	7035	7071.2	6927.6	7006.5	CHOLAFIN
TATAMOTORS	134	134.6	128.8	130.7	ADANIEN
ICICIBANK	394.15	409	389	406.8	SONATSOL
IDEA	8.68	8.68	8.23	8.4	BLISSVS
BHARTIARTL	416	419.4	411.4	413.35	HDFCLIFE
TATACONSUM	469	491.6	463.55	489.9	TATAMTR
HEROMOTOCO	3037.95	3332.95	3020.00	3049.00	HINDALCO
ASIANPAINTS	2070.00	2190.00	2050.00	2080.00	BHARATPP
TELELEASE	2361.7	2371.9	2330.9	2345.55	NATPCOP
SBICARD	860	895	858.65	892	DABUR
TATACHEM	3078	3149.5	3078	3179	UPL
MINDTREE	1596	1604.5	1541.15	1553.35	TVSMOTOC
TITAN	1224	1248.5	1218	1223.35	ADVENVZ
M&M	627.45	627.7	616.45	623.85	AMARAJA
ZEEEL	381.9	188.05	178.6	186	PIDILITIN
AXISBANK	459.8	474.25	454.65	470.9	NMDC
PVR	1230	1272.85	1225.05	1245.5	SHILPAMAL
ALOKTEXT	21.5	22.55	21.45	22.55	GRASIM
IBULHSHGN	147.3	156.85	144.75	155.4	PERFECTO
ADANAGREEN	717.95	734.95	705.85	727.8	SISSISTEN
TATASTEEL	371.4	377	369.75	375.55	PETRONER
LUPIN	1058.25	1060.6	1022.7	1035.5	POWERGRID
NAUKRI	3380.75	3784.35	3579.3	3747.5	MANAPPUR
COALINDIA	1136.5	113.65	109.65	110.35	BANKINDIA



# China, far left ‘desperate’ for Biden’s win: Trump

**Washington:** China and the far left are “desperate” for Joe Biden’s win as the Democratic presidential candidate will “surrender” jobs to China, President Donald Trump said as he returned to the battleground State of Pennsylvania after being treated for COVID-19.

In his first political rally in Pennsylvania, which sends 20 electoral college votes, after he was tested positive for COVID-19, Trump on Tuesday hit hard at his political opponent, alleging that the former vice president is known for “surrender.”

“Biden will eliminate tariffs on China. He’s already said he’s going to take the tariffs off China. There goes your steel industry. There goes your aluminum industry. There goes everything. Allowing them to plunder without consequence,” he said, addressing thousands of his supporters in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

“The one constant in Biden’s platform is surrender.

He surrenders. He surrenders, whether it’s China, whether it’s Cuba. How about Cuba? How about the deal they made with Cuba? How bad was that one? I ended it,” he said.

“That’s why both China and the far left are desperate for a Biden win because he will surrender our jobs to China. China will own the US if that sleepy guy gets the position, okay,” Trump said.

Trump said that over the next four years, he will make America into the manufacturing superpower of the world.

“And we’ll end our reliance on China once and for all. That’s already happening. We’ll hire more police, increased penalties for assault on law enforcement, and we will ban deadly sanctuary cities that people don’t want,” he said.

“Unlike ‘sleepy’ Joe Biden, I will never abandon our nation, and I would never abandon its values. My goal is not to make friends in the DC swamp. My goal is to fight for

you and fight for your family,” said the president amidst applause from thousands of his supporters who came to listen him at a local airport, ignoring the social distancing restrictions of COVID-19.

Trump, 74, said while in 2017, he signed a historic executive order making it official government policy to buy American and hire American, his opponent has put forward a radical plan to eliminate US borders by implementing catch and release programmes that he ended.

“Do you know what catch and release is? You catch a murderer, you catch a rapist coming across our border, and you release him. Catch, you catch him and release him. And you say, I’m sorry, three years from now, please come back for a court case. Nobody comes back,” he said.

“Imposing deadly sanctuary cities and suspending all removals. They don’t want any removals. This is what Biden agreed to with crazy Bernie Sanders.

“When you have people that are in this country illegally, even if they’re murderers, if they’re rapists, no matter what they are, you can’t remove them. We’ve removed tens of thousands of people, including MS-13,” he said. **PTI**

# Trump’s SC nominee grilled on abortion rights, Obamacare

**Washington:** US Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett insisted Tuesday that she had no fixed views on hot-button legal issues as Democrats painted her as President Donald Trump’s vehicle to end abortion rights and kill the popular Obamacare health program.

In the second day of hearings on her hurried nomination, Barrett, who if approved will tilt the high court decisively to the right, told lawmakers she would put personal and religious beliefs aside when deciding landmark cases.

But the 48-year-old judge and devout Catholic could not escape accusations from Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee that she was chosen to achieve Trump’s dream to nullify the Affordable Care Act of predecessor Barack Obama, which extended cheap health care to millions of uninsured Americans.

Likewise, Democrats said she was also picked to lead the court to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which guarantees abortion rights.

“President Trump promised to name a Supreme Court Justice... who would tear down the Affordable Care Act,” Kamala Harris, the Democratic

candidate for vice president, said to Barrett.

The ACA’s benefits, she said, “hinge on this seat and the outcome of this hearing.”

But after more than nine hours of questioning, Barrett held her ground.

“I made no promises to anyone. I don’t have any agenda,” she insisted.

“Judges can’t just wake up one day and say ‘I have an agenda. I like guns, I hate guns, I like abortion, I hate abortion,’ and walk in like a royal queen and impose their will on the world,” Barrett said.

“It’s not the law of Amy, it’s the law of the American people.”

After liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s death last month left the nine-member court with a vacancy, Trump has rushed to fill it at the height of his presidential election battle against Democrat Joe Biden.

A respected Notre Dame law professor but with only three years as an appeals court judge, Barrett is supported by conservatives for her personal opposition to abortion.

Her confirmation by the Republican-controlled committee after two more days of hearings, and by the full Senate before the end of October, remained near-certain. **AFP**

# Uganda police raid offices of presidential hopeful Bobi Wine

**Kampala:** Armed police on Wednesday “besieged” the campaign headquarters of Bobi Wine, a pop star and politician who is seeking Uganda’s presidency in elections set for 2021, an opposition figure said.

Police confiscated items such as security cameras and supplies of red berets that are symbols of Wine’s popular campaign, David Lewis Rubongoya, an official with Wine’s party who is at the scene in the Uganda capital, Kampala, told

The Associated Press.

“They have taken away everything,” he said.

Wine, a legislator whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, was meeting with other leaders of his National Unity Platform party when the police swooped in and cordoned off the area, he said.

Wine and other party officials have not been arrested, he said. But in a Twitter post Wine reported that “comrades had been injured” after police “raid-

ed” his headquarters and seized documents and other items.

A police spokesman did not immediately respond to questions, but authorities frequently accuse Wine and others in the opposition of disobeying orders aimed at protecting public peace.

Wine, who has been arrested many times in recent years, has captured the imagination of many Ugandans with his persistent calls for President Yoweri Museveni to retire. **AP**

# Xi asks China’s Marine Corps to turn itself into elite force

**Beijing:** Chinese President Xi Jinping has visited the headquarters of the Marine Corps, a new force being developed by the Chinese military to back up its navy’s manifold expansion with overseas logistics bases, and asked it to turn into an integrated, capable, flexible and fast-responding elite force.

Xi, who is Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) - the overall high command of the military, besides being the President and the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party, on Tuesday inspected the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy Marine Corps in Chaozhou, south China’s Guangdong Province, official media here reported.

This was Xi’s first visit to

the headquarters of the Marine Corps, which was overhauled in 2017 and became part of the PLA Navy during the military reform launched by him in 2015, state-run China Daily reported on Wednesday.

Under the reform, the PLA slashed three lakh troops from the army and focussed expansion on navy and the air force as part of China’s efforts to enhance its global influence.

In 2017, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported that China plans to increase the size of its marine corps from 20,000 to one lakh personnel for overseas deployment including Gwadar port in Pakistan and military logistics base in Djibouti in the Indian Ocean.

The expansion is planned

to protect China’s maritime lifelines and its growing interests overseas, the report said.

In his interaction with the Marine Corps commanders, Xi asked them to concentrate on fostering their troops’ combat preparedness and stay on high alert.

More realistic battle training must be carried out to enhance skills and more efforts should be made to innovate in terms of combat theories, training methods and task planning, he said.

He stressed that the Marine Corps is an elite amphibious fighting force that shoulders significant responsibilities in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as China’s maritime rights and overseas interests. **PTI**

# 3 election candidates from Myanmar’s ruling party abducted

**Yangon:** Three election candidates from Myanmar’s ruling National League for Democracy party were abducted Wednesday by an unknown armed group in the western state of Rakhine, a party official said.

Min Aung, a member of the Rakhine state parliament, Ni Ni May Myint, a lower house member of the national parliament, and Chit Chit Chaw, a candidate running for the national upper house, were abducted during a campaign trip to villages in Taungup township, NLD party official Momywa Aung Shin said. Elections are scheduled for Nov. 8.

“We don’t know exactly which armed group abducted them. But it’s likely to be one group but I can’t confirm it for now,” Momywa Aung Shin said by phone.

Myo Nyunt, an NLD party spokesman, also said the party could not confirm who the kid-

nappers were.

Since 2018, Rakhine state has been embroiled in a bitter armed struggle between the government and the Arakan Army, which seeks self-determination for the region’s Rakhine ethnic minority. Myanmar has more than a dozen minorities seeking some kind of autonomy, but the well-trained and well-armed Arakan Army is considered to pose the greatest military threat. Human rights groups have accused government forces of abuses against civilians in their fight against the Arakan Army, which has also been accused of abuses.

While no one has claimed responsibility for the abductions, the Arakan Army has gained notoriety for capturing officials and other civilians and exploiting their victims for propaganda purposes by showing videos of them on social media. **AP**

# Russia sets daily infection record with over 14,230 new Covid cases

**Moscow:** Russian authorities have reported a record 14,000 new coronavirus cases , the latest daily spike in infections.

Russia, which has the world’s fourth-largest confirmed coronavirus caseload of more than 1.3 million, has been reporting over 10,000 new cases for 11 straight days. The 14,231 new infections on Wednesday is the highest number since the beginning of the pandemic.

Most of the virus restrictions in the county have been lifted over the summer. Despite the rapid resurgence of the outbreak, Russian authorities have dismissed suggestions of a second national lockdown.

In Moscow, which has been reporting over 4,000 new cases every day since Saturday, officials recommended that the elderly to self-isolate at home and ordered employers to have 30 per cent of their staff work from home. **AP**

# 2 Afghan military helicopters collide, 9 soldiers killed

**AP ■ LASHKAR GAH (AFGHANISTAN)**

Two Afghan army helicopters collided while transporting wounded soldiers in the southern Helmand province, killing nine Afghan service members, the country’s Defense Ministry and local officials said Wednesday.

The two Soviet-era Mi-17 helicopters crashed due to technical problems while taking off in Nawa district, the Afghan

Defense Ministry statement said.

The nine dead were all Afghan crew and soldiers who had been on board the aircraft.

Omer Zwak, a spokesman for Helmand’s provincial governor, said the helicopters were carrying wounded soldiers when they crashed late Tuesday.

He said that over the past week, Taliban fighters have launched coordinated attacks in different parts of Helmand

province, which have intensified in recent days.

Three local officials in Helmand province said the helicopters were deploying Afghan commandos to repel a Taliban attack in Nawa district, and were evacuating wounded soldiers on their return flight. The Afghan officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media about military activities.

# Pakistan says soldier killed by firing from Afghanistan

**Islamabad:** Pakistan’s military on Wednesday said a soldier was killed and another wounded in the country’s northwest by fire from across the Afghan border, a sign of increasing violence in an area that until recent years served as a base for Pakistani and foreign militants.

The attack hit a border security post in Bajur district, a former tribal region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The military statement said the shooting came

from the Afghan side of the frontier, and did not speculate on who was behind the attack.

Similar cross-border attacks in Bajur district killed two Pakistani soldiers in July and September, respectively.

Pakistan’s border areas served as a base for the Pakistani Taliban and other militants until a few years ago, when the army said it cleared the region of insurgents, but occasional attacks have continued. **AP**

**Melbourne:** The Great Barrier Reef in Australia, which is the largest reef system in the world, has lost more than half of its coral population in the past three decades, according to a new study.

The research, published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B, assessed coral communities and their colony size along the length of the Great Barrier Reef between 1995 and 2017, and found that small, medium, and large corals have all declined in the period.

“We measured changes in colony sizes because population studies are important for understanding demography and the corals’ capacity to breed,” said Andy Dietzel, a co-author of the study from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (CoralCoE) in Australia. “We found the number of small, medium

and large corals on the Great Barrier Reef has declined by more than 50 per cent since the 1990s,” said Terry Hughes, another co-author of the study from CoralCoE.

According to the study, the decline occurred in both shallow and deeper water, and across virtually all species — but especially in branching and table-shaped corals.

“These were the worst affected by record-breaking temperatures that triggered mass bleaching in 2016 and 2017,” Hughes said.

Since the reefs are underwater ecosystems home to several interdependent species, the scientists said the loss of these corals means a loss of habitat, which in turn diminish fish abundance and the productivity of coral reef fisheries. **PTI**

## FROM PAGE 1

### FARMERS WALK OUT OF GOVT MEET

Farmers’ leaders who had come in a bus, were mostly senior citizens but had not even worn face masks despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Farmers have blocked roads and railway tracks since September 24 in a protest against legislations they fear could pave the way for the Government to stop buying cereals at guaranteed prices (minimum support prices or MSP), leaving them vulnerable to exploitation by private players. The farmers’ organisations had decided on Tuesday to hold talks with the Centre. Meanwhile, the Central Ministers are reaching out farmers, scientists and agri professionals in Congress-ruled Punjab to clear misgivings about new farm laws.

Eight Union Ministers including Hardeep Singh Puri have been deputed to hold virtual rallies over eight days from October 13 onwards to “address apprehensions” of farmers in Punjab.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Choudhary held a virtual meeting on Wednesday with farmers of Sangrur and Barnala districts.

### MODI TO...

The elections in Bihar will be held in three phases on October 28, Nov 3 and Nov 7 for the 243-seat assembly. In the first phase 71 constituencies, second phase 94 constituencies and in the third and last phase 78 Assembly constituencies would go to poll. With voting for the first phase only two weeks away, the BJP is speeding up with the selection of candidates for the rest of the assembly segments, releasing names of 35 candidates on Wednesday.

### SHARAD...

“I feel honoured to have joined the

Congress,” he said. In 1980, Pandey won the Bihar Vidhan Sabha election as an independent candidate and then won the 1984 Parliamentary elections from Gopalganj in the State. “This is my old home and I am happy to be back to my old home,” he said. Bihar Congress chief Madan Mohan Jha and AICC Secretary for Congress in Bihar Devendra Yadav welcomed the leaders into the party fold.

As the election campaign begins in the poll bound Bihar, the State Congress unit has expressed their eagerness that party leader Rahul Gandhi address as many poll rallies across the State.

Party sources said that the RJD too has reached out to Rahul proposing that he address a couple of joint rallies with the Grand Alliance face Tejashwi Yadav.

### CENTRE POISED...

In March, before the country went into a lockdown, the country had a manufacturing capacity of around 6,400 metric tonne of oxygen per day, of which around 1,000 metric tonne was being used for medical purposes daily while the rest was utilised by industries, said the officials.

“Industries have opened up following unlock procedures and as on September 30, the country’s daily capacity of oxygen production is around 7,000 metric tonne, of which around 3,094 metric tonne is being used for both COVID and non-COVID patients and is just enough to meet the demands,” they added.

“So this one lakh metric tonne of liquid oxygen which is being planned to be procured from foreign countries would create a one month buffer in case demand rises further during the winter season,” the source explained.

### WAIVE INTEREST...

The Centre recently told the apex court

that going any further than the fiscal policy decisions already taken, such as waiver of compound interest charged on loans of up to Rs 2 crore for six months moratorium period, may be “detrimental” to the overall economic scenario, the national economy and banks may not take “inevitable financial constraints”.

The top court is hearing a batch of petitions which have raised issues concerning the six-month loan moratorium period announced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bench, also comprising Justices R S Reddy and M R Shah, said when authorities have decided something then it has to be implemented.

“The government has taken a welcome decision taking note of the plight of common man. But you have not issued any order to anybody.

You have simply given us the affidavit,” the bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

“We are now concerned about how waiver benefit will be given,” the bench said, adding, “We are only asking whether the loan interest waiver has percolated or not”.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, Mehta told the bench that the Centre has taken an “informed decision” and has taken a “huge burden”.

“When Central Government says on an affidavit that it will be implemented then there should not be any apprehensions,” Mehta said. “There is diversity in lending and different modalities are required to be followed”.

He said banks would waive interest on interest and then will be compensated by the government and calculation will have different modalities.

“We are telling you that it is a welcome decision but they want some concrete things,” the bench observed, adding, “we welcome the decision of the Centre, only

thing it should be translated practically”.

The bench said the Centre may take steps to implement its decisions referred to in the affidavits filed in the court.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for banks association, told the bench that banks would implement whatever decision have been taken by the government.

Senior lawyer Rajeev Dutta, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the banks are capitalizing by taking interest on interest on existing loans.

“We are small people with small loans (less than Rs 2 crore). They should not compound the interest in these cases,” Dutta said. To this, the bench said it has already ordered that banks cannot declare NPAs. “We have already passed an order prohibiting classification of NPAs and without a fiscal policy, proposals cannot be altered,” it said, while asking the Centre and banks association as to when the benefits would be implemented.

“For these modalities you require one-month time,” the bench asked.

Salve said, “The complexity is such, it requires time”. The bench, however, said that the decisions taken by the authorities should be implemented now.

### CINEMAS...

The movie screenings will begin from Friday, October 16, and tickets will go live on their website as well as other ticketing platforms from midnight.

Like the others in the business, INOX Leisure Ltd said it has introduced security checks like mandatory masks and temperature checks besides staggered entries, intermissions and exits. The theatre chain will completely rely on e-tickets instead of paper tickets and an all-in-one SMS with links for the QR code, auditoriums seat chart and access to F&B menu.

“We are also looking to innovate with

private screenings, where families or smaller groups of guests can book the entire auditorium and enjoy the content of their choice,” its CEO Alok Tandon said in a statement.

Cinemas have to deal with the double whammy of Covid fears and old content and have their fingers crossed as they prepare to rollout a different kind of movie going experience.

As theatres managements scrupulously sanitise their premises in preparation for the big day and hope for audiences to warily trickle back in, the fare is likely to be a mix of international, Hindi and regional language cinema but basically old titles. It will take a while before new content returns. The release of two major Bollywood movies -- “83”, about India’s cricket world cup victory, and “Sooryavanshi” starring Akshay Kumar -- has been pushed to Christmas and next year, respectively. So, if PVR will screen earlier hits such as Keanu Reeves’ “John Wick 3”, Ajay Devgn’s “Tanhaji” and Tapsee Pannu starrer “Thappad”, Bihar-based exhibitor Vishek Chauhan, who runs the Roopbani Cinema in Purnea will play Rajput-starrer “Chhichhore”.

### PAK, CHINA WIN SEAT AT UNHRC, WORLD CRITICISES UN BODY

Pakistan, China, Russia and Cuba to the agency tasked with defending human rights.

“The election of China, Russia, and Cuba to the UN Human Rights Council validates the US decision to withdraw from the Council in 2018 and use other venues to protect and promote universal human rights.” At #UNGA this year, we did just that,” Pompeo tweeted.

In a secret-ballot voting in the 193-member UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Pakistan secured 169 votes,

Uzbekistan received 164, Nepal 150 and China 139. Saudi Arabia lost the race with just 90 votes. “US commitment to human rights is far more than just words. We have identified and punished human rights abusers in Xinjiang, Myanmar, Iran, and elsewhere, and call for all nations to take this moment to recommit to the #UDHR,” Pompeo said in another tweet.

“The bad news: governments just elected China to the UN Human Rights Council despite its severe repression in Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong

Kong. The good news: the number of governments voting for it declined from 180 last time to 139 now. The fear is melting.” Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth tweeted after the vote.

Pakistan is currently serving on the HRC since January 1, 2018. With its re-election, the country will continue as a member for another three-year term commencing on January 1, 2021.

Under the Human Rights Council’s rules, seats are allocated to regions to ensure geographical representation.

Except for the Asia-Pacific contest, the election of 15 members to the 47-member Human Rights Council was all but decided in advance because all the other regional groups had uncontested slates. To be elected, a country needed to obtain the required majority of 97 votes.

Since the HRC’s establishment in 2006, this is the fifth time that Pakistan has been elected to the United Nations’ human rights agency. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said he was pleased with his country’s re-election to UN Human Rights Council for another 3-yr term.

“We remain committed to upholding human rights for all, prioritizing advancement of tolerance and constructive engagement. We stand resolute against Islamophobia and in support of mutual respect,” Khan said.



## Trend Slazer

### Need to get back in shape: Kangana

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** put on 20 kilos for her role as late Tamil politician J Jayalalithaa in the biopic, *Thalaivi*, and is now working at returning to her earlier size, agility, metabolism and flexibility.

Tweeting a photo from her workout session, Kangana wrote, "I had gained 20 kgs for *Thalaivi*, now that we are very close to completing it, need to go back to my earlier size, agility, metabolism and flexibility. Waking up early and going for a jog/walk... who all are with me?"

She had recently shared that she has completed the latest schedule of the forthcoming biopic.



**'For many years I had the want to go vegetarian but breaking habits are the toughest thing to do. My journey with Climate Warrior taught me a lot of things and I just didn't feel like eating meat anymore. I took a call during lockdown. It was something that happened organically. It's been six months and I'm good and guilt free.'**

—Bhumi Pednekar

Filmmaker **VIVEK RANJAN AGNIHOTRI** says it takes a lot of courage to speak up against the powerful people of the film industry.



Agnihotri opened up on the subject when he expressed his opinion on 34 Bollywood production houses and four film associations filing a civil suit in Delhi High Court against certain news channels for allegedly defaming the industry.

"Can the public sue Bollywood for destroying music, lyrics, language, art, creativity, social fabric and culture of India?" he tweeted.

### Life is like building a spider web: Ethan

Actor **ETHAN HAWKE** compares living life to building a spider web, saying each moment, success and challenges are connected to each other beautifully.

"Life is a lot like building a spider web. You kind of jump from one corner to the next," Hawke said.

"The little journeys don't seem significant. But look back and see the whole journey, you see how they are all connected to each other beautifully. The parts that were most challenging, were where the most growth happened. I'm very grateful to my craft and my profession because it allows you to meet all kinds of people," he added.



□What would you say about the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week (LMIFW) 2020 under the shadow of the Coronavirus pandemic? How is it different?

The India Fashion Week has always been a wonderful affair. However, this year, it has been a learning experience as well as a challenging one for all of us. The restricted movement and social distancing has given the industry a new format — a digital space with grand virtual sets and immersive technologies that will surely build a bridge between the physical and digital spaces. At 'Ashima Leena' (AL), we have been working meticulously to create our collection and have re-engineered our workspace where social distancing and all safety guidelines are being followed.

LMIFW 2020 is different in many aspects. There are more details this time. The digital presentation helps a brand to convey a story and also becomes accessible to a wider audience, increasing the reach of brands as well as designers.

□What were the underlying challenges while holding a grand show like this online?

Well, what poses itself as a challenge today becomes a norm tomorrow. Curating a grand show like this online for the first time was certainly very challenging. However, with the supportive and hard-working team of the FDCL, the entire experience has been creaseless. As we were trying to adapt to using technology to showcase our designs, it also became more inspiring to watch how the show came to life with various added elements — visuals, music, videography — all in sync to create the magic for us. With key elements in mind that tell the story of Ashima Leena such as styling, jewellery, choreography and make-up, we have created our digital show that showcases 'the art of textile crafting' with signature AL styles.

□What do you think is the new face of fashion?

The new face of fashion is definitely digital. New formats have been re-imagined, the entire concept of fashion is being revisited due to the pandemic. I believe with less physical contact, the best way to reach out to our customers is online.

□What have you brought to the table this time? Can you take us through your collection?

# A MAGICAL MIX

As the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week kicks off digitally, designer **LEENA SINGH** tells **AYUSHI SHARMA** that her collection, *Umme Rabab*, represents the serenity and the divinity of a woman



The art of textile crafting is the signature style of my label. It's a magical mix of different kinds of weaves put together to create breathtaking patterns. The collection comprises of re-interpreted, lengthened jackets that can be worn with any of the classic silhouettes, peplums, circular lehengas, appliqué delicate sarees with jewelled tassels with *chanderi* and brocade-woven *Odhni* along with antique gold fabrics. We have used a million tiny hand-embroidered beads and intricately-appliqued brocades that highlight our legacy of fine craftsmanship. Our brilliant selection of hues transform texture into a chromatic scale of magical colours, exuding an old-world charm. Mustard, muted turmeric, soft dusky pink, ivory, pomegranate red, iron black, beaten gold, bold pinks, deep emerald, sand-like beige are some of the shades which come together to create the colour palette of this diverse collection.

The fabric has a blend of many hues and colours, which renders an inimitable uniqueness to the outfits. The collection has interplays of dexterous applique work with brocade fabrics, delicate French knots and detailed *zardozi* embroidery.

□Given a massive crisis like this year, how do you think the fashion industry can be better prepared to face such challenges in the future?

Today, as the world is learning to live in new ways, there are many who are struggling and trying to cope with the changes this pandemic has brought to all our lives. One of the most affected sections has been of the *karigars* (craftworkers) and weavers of our country. We are now supporting them in every possible way. We stand in solidarity with them during these tough times. There are millions of looms across India that are engaged in weaving cotton, silk and other natural fibers to bring out the traditional beauty of India's spectacular heritage. Many generations of weavers have been dependent on this art of weaving and for decades it has provided livelihood to their families. Weavers and specialised textile craftsmen of our country have helped in keeping alive Indian heritage with various techniques of weaving and textile crafting. As we face challenges, we are also given an opportunity to reinvent and reimagine new and improved ways of working. I feel whenever there will be a challenge or such an obstacle, we will find ways again to face them and to work around them as it is imperative to support one another in difficult times like these. (The show is scheduled on October 16.)

lection?

This collection is a tribute to the skilled craftsmen and weavers of our rich textile industry who are struggling for their livelihood today. We have been working with them for the last three decades. The unseen hands of the weavers who have worked relentlessly for decades together have helped bring the brand where it is

today. Their support has truly been immeasurable.

This showcase of our Couture Collection 2020 is titled, *Umme Rabab*, which represents the serenity and the divinity of a woman, who is known for her beauty, eloquence and wisdom. She proved to be the epitome of a modern *maharani* (queen), who is strong-willed and dedicat-

ed but doused in softness and femininity. The collection combines delicate hand embroidery in the form of meticulously curated textiles with classic AL Maharani silhouettes. Through our interpretation, we aspire to reflect a poetic flow in volume, layers and impeccable garment construction, which characterises the unique beauty of *Umme Rabab*.

## Green wonder

Delhi's Sunder Nursery is not just a green lung in the heart of the city but also a place where you can find some great saplings and plants on sale



In 2007, as part of the Commonwealth Games 2010 planning, it had been proposed that a road be built through what we now know as Sunder Nursery to connect Lodhi Road with Ring Road. While urban infrastructure is not a bad thing, this would have been a monumental folly, thankfully many conservationists and the media, The Pioneer among them opposed this plan. Instead in 2010, the Aga Khan Trust, the Archeological Survey of India, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD, which actually runs the 'nursery' bit) and other gov-

ernmental and non-governmental agencies began work on Phase-3 of the renewal of the Nizamuddin area. This has started with Humayun's Tomb and adjoining areas but this phase dramatically improved the 90 acres of land at Sunder Nursery, the eventual plan being to create parks and green areas totalling 900 acres in the heart of the capital.

In 2018, Vice-President of India M Venkaiah Naidu dedicated the park to the citizens of the city.

Today, the park is open from early morning to early evening not just for walkers and joggers but also for those keen on buying plants and saplings for their homes. Indeed, Azim Bagh as the area was known was a green space that was converted by the British into a nursery to grow the trees that would line the roads

of the new capital being built. All the Jamun trees that line Lutyens Delhi's boulevards started their lives as saplings at Sunder Nursery. It is also home to several species of trees uniquely found just there, and any budding arborist will find the area fascinating to visit and discover trees such as the Pink Cedar. The flower gardens are also stunning through the years. And many of the trees, flowering plants and even Bonsai plants are available to the public from the CPWD nursery at prices much lower than that of the myriad private nurseries in Delhi. Buy plants and saplings above ₹500 and your parking fees of ₹75 are reimbursed.

One of the other major parts of the redevelopment completed two years ago was the restoration of several Mughal-era buildings, gardens and tombs. The Sunder Burj, Sunderwala Mahal and the Lakharwala Gumbad are just some examples, making Sunder Nursery a great place to learn history and with the fantastic Humayun's Tomb a short walk away, an outing there should make it more fun for any budding historian.

The Hyundai Venue Sport we drove to Sunder Nursery is the perfect family vehicle for an outing to such an amazing site, not only has the Venue Sport fit in a family comfortably, but its large boot means that you could also buy a large number of saplings to take home and make your house and Delhi a greener space as well.



## A KIND GESTURE

Actor **DIANA PENTY's** *The Khaki Project* raises ₹17 lakh to help 5,800 police personnel in Mumbai. She takes to social media to thank those who extended support

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to prove to be a tough time for everyone, especially the frontline workers. The police department has been faced with grave challenges as they continue to provide assistance and protect citizens on a round-the-clock basis. While many are undergoing treatment after contracting the Coronavirus, many have succumbed to the health crisis while on duty.

During the lockdown, Diana Penty extended a helping hand to police authorities in Byculla to distribute essential equipment to keep health risks at bay. With the aim to provide them with hand sanitisers and eye-wear, she came up with *The Khaki Project* initiative. In association with Salaam Bombay Foundation, the actor has raised more than ₹17 lakh to provide safety essentials to 5,800 police personnel across 34 police stations in Mumbai.

Taking to Instagram, she announced the development. Thanking everyone for their support in raising the amount, she wrote, "Thank you from every corner of my heart to each and everyone of you for your generous contribution towards *The Khaki Project*. Your love and support is what kept us going. A special shout-out to Salaam Bombay Foundation for all the assistance in making this happen. More power to you guys. We are truly grateful for all the things we could accomplish with your kindness."

As the war against the pandemic continues, Diana's noble gestures have surely inspired many across the nation to do their bit to help those working who are tirelessly working on the frontline.







The COVID-19 pandemic has largely hit the State of Odisha. Many organisations and individuals have come forward to supplement the government's efforts to deal with the emergent situation. Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, and its sister institution Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), under the leadership of its founder-professor Achyuta Samanta, have also been taking a series of initiatives since the beginning of the Coronavirus outbreak and have been at the forefront of Odisha's war against the virus.

Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), a constituent of KIIT Deemed to be University, also set up four ultra-modern dedicated to COVID hospitals with the support of the Government of Odisha, located in Bhubaneswar and its three tribal-dominated districts. The hospitals have a bed capacity of 1,200. KIMS COVID Hospital in Bhubaneswar, a 500-bedded state-of-the-art facility including 50 critical care beds, is India's first standalone COVID hospital.

The KIIT & KISS also reached out to various groups facing hardships due to the extended lockdown. The intervention included the distribution of food material and other essentials to over three lakh pandemic-hit people, including the underprivileged people living in various slums, stranded migrant labourers, who were also provided temporary shelter, and people living in containment zones. Community outreach activ-

# EDUCATION FIRST

Founder-professor ACHYUTA SAMANTA of KIIT & KISS institutes of Odisha provided the required study material and other daily essentials to the underprivileged students during the pandemic-induced lockdown



ities of KIIT & KISS strived to reach the hardest-hit and commonly overlooked people — transgenders, sportspersons, physically-challenged, sex workers, etc. They were provided with allowances to cope with the prolonged lockdown. Food materials and cash to meet other expenses for three months were given to priests and other workers of several spiritual centres in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri and nearby towns. The two institutions are providing groceries and cash for miscellaneous expenses to over 40 orphanages, old-age homes and leprosy centres in Kandhamal district.

reopening of KISS.

A series of measures to keep its students safe and healthy as well as ensuring that they remain connected to studies was also ensured. Professor Samanta, who has always put the education of these tribal students above everything else, arranged for the textbooks, study materials and dried food items to be provided at the students' doorsteps at the start of the new academic year. KISS was one of the early institutes to begin online classes and has been maintaining the academic schedule perfectly for students of all levels.

Inspired by the Prime Minister's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India), KISS has levelled up its vocational skill centre during the COVID-19 pandemic. The centre has been scaled up to become a medium-sized industry and is now making 25 different types of vocational products. These products are marketed through well-developed distribution channels, besides fulfilling the in-house requirement of KIIT & KISS. The sale proceeds from the centre are expected to make

KISS self-reliant in the coming times.

In a unique humanitarian gesture, KIIT Deemed to be University has decided to provide free education to the children of the COVID deceased in Odisha. The facility will be available for two academic years — 2020-21 and 2021-22.

KIIT & KISS also paid special attention to the orphan children, belonging to the poorer sections of society, who are vulnerable to become victims of child abuse and human trafficking. The institutes have adopted and are taking care of about 100 such orphans and providing them monthly allowance ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000, depending upon the family size. As and when the academic institutions reopen, they will be provided free education and subsequently complete higher education in the institutes.

It's professor Samanta's personal childhood experience of hunger and poverty after his father's demise at the age of four, which makes him work harder for the society's underprivileged children.

## No looking back

RISHI PALPU, State Vice President, OBC Morcha, (BJP's backward class organisation), Kerala, lists out the initiatives taken for the community during the current crisis

♦What are the major activities of the OBC Morcha?

The OBC Morcha is now emerged as a major force to protect and secure the rights of people from Backward Communities. That was the cause of its birth too. In Kerala, there has been a great negligence towards this issue due to the changing governments. There are many schemes and governing bodies established over the time to benefit them, but they never really got benefitted. It's because our system is not working properly towards their facilities but only their votes. This has to be changed. And OBC Morcha is working to bring that change.

♦Government of India has brought out several schemes to uplift the backward class community. Is OBC Morcha creating awareness on this?

Yes. In Kerala, those schemes has been subverted by other parties. OBC Morcha sees it as a mission to create awareness on schemes. This has become the need of the hour.

♦There has been a loss of lives and employment and the backward classes have been the worst-affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Are you helping them in any way?

Backward classes are certainly the worst-affected. Many families have been rendered penniless. Many lives and jobs have been lost. That's why OBC Morcha has come up with a special mission to take care of the affected people in the community.

We believe in 'Seva Hi Sangathan' (service is organisation). And with that motto, in Thrissur, thousands of families were provided with food kits by OBC Morcha during the lockdown. When online education began, we started to supply tablets and TVs to students from poor families. And we are still continuing this. Timely intervention in matters related to the backward communities is now getting results too.

♦Many people are trying to set up their own businesses but the pandemic has hit them hugely. Do you plan to put forward any schemes for saving such business and thereby people?

The central government led by Narendra Modi ji has already announced many schemes to save these businesses, especially those under MSME sectors. The major need is to create awareness on these schemes and help them to get benefits out of them.



♦What about the students who don't have access to smartphones or technology? How are you helping them stay connected with education during these times?

The OBC Morcha has come up with mission to supply gadgets to those who have no facilities for online education.

♦What is your solution to the growing poverty and suffering amid the pandemic?

There is no single solution for this. The Government of India is working hard and taking measures to help people in the crisis. We have to remain positive and work for a brighter future. The need of the hour is fighting away the pandemic. But for that, all the guidelines from government must be followed.

♦Do you think OBC Morcha can become an umbrella to cater to all the backward classes of the State?

Why not? Yes, it may. We are working towards a great goal of emancipation of backward communities from the clutches of negligence and discrimination. There is no compromise on that. Recently, we took an initiative to bring the *Kumhara* community (potters' community) in Kerala on a single platform to find solution for their problems. They are in crisis while lockdown and pandemic has almost paved the way to death for this small industry. Now, the OBC Morcha has taken up their issues to create a good platform to revive this.

## SRM provides free education to 300 students

Perambalur MP and Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Dr T R Paarivendhar, who had promised to give free education to 300 deserving students from his constituency in the SRM Group of colleges, has completed the promise this year.

In 2019, around the elections, Paarivendhar had given this assurance to the people of his constituency. And after his win by over four lakh votes, he immediately fulfilled his poll promise. A total of 300 students were recently given free education in the colleges under the SRM ambit. This year, too, 1,084 students had applied for free education. Out of them, 300 have been selected based on their marks and the financial situation of their respective families.

Apart from putting their names on the SRM website, a formal invitation will be sent to the students individually, who will then be pursuing education in engineering, agriculture, arts and science as per their preferences.

Paarivendhar has also been taking up various issues of his constituency with both the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State. He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi



on March 18, 2020, to talk about the various needs of the Perambalur constituency.

Among the issues were the need for a railway line via Ariyalur-Perambalur-Thuraiyur-Namakkal. He also took up the issue with Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, who wrote to Paarivendhar that the first survey for the railway line will be taken up shortly.

With Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy, the Perambalur MP took up the issues of railway bridge at Kulithalai-Manapparai, bringing residual Cauvery water through a canal to Panjapatti lake, setting up Kendriya Vidyalayas in Lalgudi and Kulithalai, and establishing cold storage facilities to help small-scale onion farmers in Thuraiyur and Perambalur.

## Nature's Market brings hope



Market power has started changing with the passage of time. Malls and shopping centres were once a boon but in the changing environment, products made in homes have started to gain a foothold in the market.

Many NGOs and local people set up their market near Swarnagiri with similar products. Giving information on the concept of The Nature's Market, Smita Mittal said that she felt that Greater Noida is a promising city and is ready for Sunday market. There are various people who display their organic farms and small businesses. Local producers look for a platform to expand. So we all like-minded people decided to join hands.

What started as a small group conversation on WhatsApp has now become a thing for residents of this place. The stalls at Nature Market offered *Bilona Ghee*, bio-enzyme fertilisers, plant items, Kadaknath eggs, pickles, raw honey, kullu, books and many other handmade items. The shopping process grew more exciting with fresh *litti-chokha* and *idli sambar*. Aditi Sharma, from the Little Munni Foundation, said that such a market is a new ray of hope for people battling the pandemic. She told that the market will take place every Sunday. People were invited to encourage local crafts and direct farming.

## LIC thrives amid crisis

Life Insurance Corporation of India's resilient and quick response in meeting the expectations of the market and the people has brought it exemplary results in the current financial year.

In the half year of 2020-21, LIC has achieved more than ₹25000 crore in first year premium income in Individual New Business performance as on September 30, 2020 as compared to ₹24867.70 crore as on Sept 30 last year. Under its Jeevan Shanti plan, LIC collected ₹11456.41 crore as first year premium as on Sept 30, 2020. ULIP Business of LIC is also doing well this year.

As on Sept 30, 2020 the company sold 16844 policies with a premium of ₹128.63 crore as compared to 12940 policies sold during the same period last year. LIC Pension and Group

Schemes Vertical collected ₹62,112.27 crore as Group Schemes New Business Premium Income as on Sept 30, 2020.

The corporation's composite market share in number of policies and first year premium is 67.82 per cent and 70.57 per cent respectively for Q2.

It has also declared a bonus of more than ₹51,000 crore for its policyholders.

Due to heightened awareness about need of risk cover the policy surrenders have reduced drastically.

The company had invested more than ₹2,60,000 crore this year in debt and equity (as on Sept 30 as compared to ₹244931 crore invested last year during the same period. It has already booked more than ₹15000 crore as profits in the capital market this fiscal so far.



## ANOTHER FEATHER IN THE CAP

The Director (Operations), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Seema Gupta, has been declared the winner of Gold Stevie award in the Lifetime Achievement — Business category in the 17th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business.

The award honours women executives, entrepreneurs, employees and the companies they run worldwide. For this year, the gold, silver and bronze award winners were determined by the average scores of more than 180 business professionals around the world, working on seven juries.

The jury, while recommending Seema's name for the award, was all praise for her lifetime achievements in a key industry usually dominated by men



and for demonstrating her leadership calibre by sustained excellence in her area of work. The jury noted that her career and achievements showed dedication and determination. She could become a role model for the women in engineering field.

The award will be presented to Seema during a virtual awards ceremony scheduled on December 9, 2020.

This global recognition is yet another achievement in Seema's career. She has been earlier conferred with Special Commendation Award for Outstanding Women Manager in Public Sector Enterprises by the President in 2017 and was adjudged as the Best Contributor at the ITOMS 2018 Conference in Malaysia.



Praveen Kumar Mishra, General Manager, along with Senior Officers visited the workshop at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works from October 12 to 14. He inspected various manufacturing group of shops like shell, bogie, wheel shops and new stores ward and steel foundry shop. Newly installed CNC axle turning and hydraulic wheel press machines were also inspected on Oct 12 & 13. He appreciated the installation of new machines and instructed the officials to improve upon the quality in housekeeping and inventory control in store depots. He also visited traction motor shop, VPI plant and electric loco assembly shop and interacted with the staff and supervisors. He was accompanied by the departmental heads, officers, staff and supervisors of respective shops.

## IN SHORT

Kolkata Metro Railway has been upgrading passenger amenities in the metro even during the lockdown and the new normal situation. A new escalator has been commissioned on Wednesday at Kalighat Metro Station by replacing the old one from platform to mezzanine at Dum Dum end. For its commissioning, there has been smooth co-operation of civil and electrical departments.



Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has registered 31.3 per cent growth in sales during the second quarter of FY2020-21. Post lockdown, the company has been witnessing an impressive sales which started in June'20. This has led to the company's H1 sales bounce back to the levels achieved during CPLY. During the Q2 of 2020-21, the saleable steel production also registered a growth of 5.2 per cent over CPLY. The company's strategic marketing efforts and customer-centric initiatives has contributed to this improvement. Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Chairman, SAIL, commented, "The challenges during COVID not only gave us an opportunity to test our resolve in the face of odds but also made us more determined to perform better. Our focussed strategies coupled with zeal of the marketing team helped to leverage every single opportunity in the market."





Kane's experience can help out the younger players. If he bats at number three, he can play bigger knocks but playing at number four is his role right now



I would love to win a game for RCB with the bat. I've been focusing on my batting. When the opportunities come I should be able to step and perform



We need to monitor the wickets and select team accordingly. I think with our team and the depth that we have, we're always going to be one short either way



Sam is a complete cricketer for us. You need a seaming all-rounder. He strikes the ball nicely, he can bat up the order, plays the spinners well. He can give us those quick 15-40 runs

## DC ATTACK BLUNTS RR HOPES



Shreyas Iyer congratulates Shikhar Dhawan after he completes his fifty against Rajasthan Royals

PTI ■ DUBAI

Flavour of the season Rahul Tewatia didn't prove to be third time lucky in what turned out to be an incredible death over performance by the Delhi Capitals pace attack in their 13-run victory in an IPL game on Wednesday.

Anrich Nortje (2/33) was breath-takingly fast bowling in the mid 150 kmph with toe-crushing yorkers while Kagiso Rabada's (1/28) international experience proved to be pure gold dust leaving rookie Tushar Deshpande (2/37) to defend 21 runs in his debut IPL game, which he did with elan.

The result was Rajasthan Royals finishing on 148 for 8 chasing Delhi Capitals' par score of 161 for 7 as Tewatia

couldn't hit the troika of Rabada, Nortje and Deshpande at all.

Royals lost the plot in the last five overs partly due to self-ish approach from senior player Robin Uthappa (32 off 27 balls), who needlessly ran-out a genuine match-winner Riyan Parag.

While skipper Shreyas Iyer's shoulder injury would keep Capitals on tenterhooks, 12 points from 8 games will keep them in good stead as they look to quickly clinch a play-off place. Rajasthan Royals with 6 points from 8 games stay in seventh place and are in danger of missing another play-offs.

While DC were splendid at the death, it was Ravichandran Ashwin's artistry during the

back 10 with clever variations of pace and flight that brought Delhi back in the game. Ashwin finished with figures of 1 for 17 and bowled 10 dot balls out of his 24 balls — on par with the ever-improving Nortje.

Earlier, Shikhar Dhawan and skipper Iyer hit stroke-filled half-centuries but Delhi Capitals lost momentum towards the end to be restricted to 161 for seven after opting to bat first.

The last five overs of the Delhi Capitals innings yielded only 32 runs and they lost four wickets, an indication how they missed Rishabh Pant and Shimron Hetmyer.

DC had a disastrous start to its innings after opting to bat as it lost Prithvi Shaw off the

first ball of the match with a gem of a delivery from Jofra Archer (3/19) that jagged back in after pitching and crashed into the middle stump after getting an inside edge.

To make matters worse for DC, Ajinkya Rahane was holed out to Robin Uthappa off Archer at mid-on an over later.

But then skipper Iyer (53 off 43) joined hands with Dhawan (57 off 33) and the duo initially played cautiously before opening up to take DC forward.

They shared 85 runs for the third wicket off 55 balls to keep DC's momentum going after the early jolts.

Dhawan looked in great nick from the onset, often finding the boundary with his trademark pulls and shots square off the off side.

In the process he scored his 39th fifty in the IPL off just 30 balls but soon after reaching the feat he departed while trying to force the pacer, caught at short third man by Kartik Tyagi off leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal.

His runs came off 33 balls which had six boundaries and two hits over the fence.

After Dhawan's dismissal, Iyer took the onus on himself and upped the ante with some lusty hits and in the process got to his fifty off 40 balls in the 15th over bowled by Jaydev Unadkat, that yielded 17 runs, including two sixes.

But soon after, Iyer departed, caught by Archer at long-off off Kartik Tyagi as he went for another big hit.

Marcus Stoinis (18) and Alex Carey (14) tried their best to add muscle to the scoreboard but were unsuccessful.

## Gayle set for IPL 2020 debut

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Kings XI Punjab will be hoping that Chris Gayle fires on his much-awaited return and they, for once, put up a complete performance in their must-win game against a high-flying Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

The inability to produce an all-round show and close out games they should have won has led to KXIP losing six out of their seven matches.

But KXIP can take confidence from the fact their only win in the tournament has come against RCB, who look a much more potent squad since their last meeting on September 24.

Though the Sharjah wicket has been slowing gradually, the smaller ground dimensions are ideal for someone like Gayle to go on a six-hitting spree.

However, it certainly won't be easy for the 41-year-old to get going from ball one, having not played earlier in the competition.

He would have played the last two games but could not due to food poisoning. Having recovered fully, it will be interesting to see who he replaces in the side.

Benching a yet to fire Glenn Maxwell is one option or the team can bring Gayle at the expense of an overseas bowler and replace him with the available Indian talent.

KXIP are languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top-two leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper K L Rahul (387 at strike rate of

134.84) and his opening partner Mayank Agarwal (337 at 48.14).

Barring Mohammad Shami and Ravi Bishnoi, none of the bowlers have inspired confidence, especially in the death overs.

Not being able to find the right balance despite trying out many options has also contributed to KXIP's rapid slide.

They run into a RCB squad which has grown in confidence by leaps and bounds since their last meeting.

For the first time in only win in the tournament has come against RCB, who look a much more potent squad since their last meeting on September 24.

Their spin pairing of Washington Sundar and Yuzvendra Chahal has proved very effective and the pace department has strengthened with the return of Chris Morris from injury.

"Playing such a side (with the likes of Gayle, Rahul and Agarwal) in a stadium like Sharjah is definitely not going to be easy. It's going to be a bit challenging but I will definitely do my homework heading to the match," Sundar said on the eve of the match.

RCB's last game against KKR was also on this ground, so they come into the match more aware of the gradually changing conditions than KXIP, who played here last on September 27 when the surface was much better to bat on.

With Aaron Finch back among the runs against KKR, RCB's top-four (including Devdutt Padikkal, Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers) can be a nightmare for any team.



## Misbah steps down as Pak chief selector

KARACHI: Former captain Misbah-ul-Haq on Wednesday said he will be stepping down as Pakistan's chief selector next month to focus on his role as head coach of the national cricket team.

Misbah told a media briefing in Lahore that he has informed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that he would be stepping down as chief selector on November 30. He took up the dual role of chief selector and head coach in September last year.

"I will select the squad for the coming series against Zimbabwe but after that I just want to focus on my work as head coach," he said.

Misbah insisted that he had

not quit as chief selector because of pressure from the board.

"No, it is purely my own personal decision and I took it because I think it is not easy doing two high profile jobs at one time. I want to give my best as head coach of the national team. Whoever is appointed as chief selector, I will fully cooperate with him and work to take the Pakistan team into the top three of every format," Misbah said.

Misbah said with time he understood that it would be possible to give his best only to one role. "When I accepted both positions I thought I could manage it but with time I think it is better for me to focus on one job."

PTI

## SA cricket in danger of ban

Cape Town: South Africa is in danger of being banned from international cricket after its Government on Wednesday said that it intended to intervene in the affairs of the sport's national body following revelations of serious misconduct by senior officials.

The statement from sports minister Nathi Mthethwa said he had informed the International Cricket Council of the intended action. The ICC's constitution forbids Government interference and the punishment is normally a ban from international games for the country's teams until the national cricket body is operating independently again.

The tension between the South African Government and CSA relates to a long-running investigation into the affairs of the cricket body, which resulted in the firing of CEO Thabang Moroe for serious misconduct. AP

## Srikanth wins 1st match at Denmark Open

PTI ■ ODENSE

Ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth on Wednesday out-classed England's Toby Pentty in straight games to enter the Denmark Open second round here and likened his return to international badminton after a coronavirus-forced hiatus to "an adventure".

The former world number one, who had claimed four Super Series titles in 2017, beat Toby 21-12, 21-18 in 37 minutes, as the sport finally got going after a seven-month-long break.

"I started off well, but he was good in the second game. I'm playing after a long time. It's like an adventure. This situation is something new. I've never been away for this long, and I'm happy with the way it went," he told



BWF

The fifth seed will next face Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue, who defeated India's Subhankar Dey 21-13, 21-8 in a lop-sided contest.

Former world No 13 Ajay Jayaram also couldn't cross the opening hurdle, going down 12-21, 14-21 to world No 3 Anders Antonsen of Denmark in 37

minutes. Srikanth and Lakshya Sen are now the only surviving Indians in the competition.

Lakshya has already reached the second round with a straight game win over Christo Popov on Tuesday. He will face Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark in the next round.

Srikanth said it will take some time for him to find his best, given the circumstances.

"The last time I played was at the All England where I lost in the first round, so I've not had much of match practice. But I think I'm slowly getting back," said the world No 14 Indian.

"It will definitely take some time, as there are no tournaments after this one. There will be a pause in the season, so it might take time to get used to match feeling."

## Verdasco extends Murray's losing run

AP ■ COLOGNE

Andy Murray suffered another first-round elimination, this time at the Cologne Indoors at the hands of out-of-form veteran Fernando Verdasco.

Verdasco exploited Murray's fragile serve to win 6-4, 6-4 in a match which finished after midnight German time. Verdasco, at 36 one of the few players older than the 33-year-old Murray in the tournament, broke Murray's serve four times — once to love and three times to 15.

Murray lost in the second round of the US Open and in the first round of the French Open. He used wild cards for both of those Grand Slam tournaments and again in Cologne for his first loss on an indoor hard court since the 2015 tour finals.

Verdasco ended a four-match losing run going back to January in the Australian Open and will take on top-seeded Alexander Zverev in the second round after the German player had a bye in the first round.

Eighth-seeded Croatian Marin Cilic had to dig deep to avoid a first-round elimination as he beat Marcos Giron 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Another British player was eliminated as Kyle Edmund lost a tight match 7-5, 7-6 (1) to big-serving South African Lloyd Harris, who hit eight aces.

The second-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut will take on Gilles Simon in the second round after the veteran French player swept past Marton Fucsovics 6-0, 6-3. Bautista Agut has a first-round bye.

## Swiss draw pile pressure on Low

AFF ■ KYIV

Jochim Low's 14-year reign as Germany head coach is under threat after his side's run of poor results continued on Tuesday as they had to come from two goals down to limp to a 3-3 draw against Switzerland in the Nations League.

Germany have drawn four of their last five games — surrendering the lead on three occasions — to leave them second in their Nations League group behind Spain.

They squeezed past Ukraine 2-1 with a full-strength side in Kiev on Saturday and after a 3-3 friendly home draw against Turkey last Wednesday, Low's side were once again guilty of poor defending.

The 60-year-old Low has a German FA contract until the 2022 World Cup.

However, his popularity among German fans has plummeted, from the heights of winning the 2014 World Cup title, since Germany's debacle at Russia 2018 finals when they failed to get out of their group.

The draw with the Swiss will only enhance the domestic criticism of Low from key names within German football such as Lothar Matthaeus and Bastian Schweinsteiger.

Dinamo Zagreb striker



Mario Gavranovic scored goals either side of a deft chip by Remo Freuler as all three Swiss goals came from German mistakes.

Germany fought back behind closed doors with goals by Timo Werner, his Chelsea team-mate Kai Havertz and Serge Gnabry.

### SPAIN GO DOWN

In other games, Substitute Viktor Tsygankov's strike gave Ukraine a surprise 1-0 win over goal-shy Spain in their clash in Kiev. The 22-year-old Dynamo Kiev player had not long been thrown into the fray by coach Andriy Shevchenko when he latched onto Andriy Yarmolenko's superb through ball and fired past an exposed David de Gea in the 76th minute.

It was a shock result after Spain — who had not lost since November 2018 — won 4-0 when the sides met in Madrid just last month, and Ukraine are now only a point behind Luis Enrique's team in League A, Group 4.

Elsewhere, San Marino are the perennial whipping boys of international football but on Tuesday they were able to celebrate claiming their first point in six years thanks to a 0-0 draw in Liechtenstein.

## Neymar breaks Ronaldo's record

LIMA: Neymar scored a hat-trick to become the second highest scorer in Brazil's history as the Copa America champions won 4-2 away to 10-man Peru in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

The goals took Neymar to 64 international strikes, two more than Ronaldo but still well behind Pelé's record of 77.

Peru twice took the lead through Andre Carrillo and a heavily deflected strike from Renato Tapia, but two controversial Neymar penalties, an injury time third and a close range strike from Richardson maintained the Selecao's winning start to qualifying for Qatar 2022.

Elsewhere, Joaquin Correa scored the winner 11 minutes from time as Argentina labored to a 2-1 victory over Bolivia to maintain their 100% record after two matches. While Ecuador totally dominated Uruguay in a 4-2 victory.

Luis Suarez scored his record-extending 61st and 62nd goals for Uruguay with a pair of late penalties that were no more than a consolation.

Radamel Falcao scored an injury time equaliser as Colombia salvaged a point in a 2-2 draw in Chile.

Jefferson Lerma gave Colombia an early lead but Chile turned the match in Quito around by half-time with strikes from Arturo Vidal and Alexis Sanchez.

Gaston Gimenez scored a late winner before goalkeeper Anthony Silva saved a penalty from Yangel Herrera as Paraguay won 1-0 in Venezuela. AFP



## 2010 CWG announcer still waiting for his payment

NEW DELHI: It was October 2010 when India hosted the 19th edition of Commonwealth Games in Delhi where more than 4,352 athletes from 71 nations participated in 21 sports and 272 events. The event was a big hit but also had a fair share of controversies and one such was the underpayment of various officials hired on contractual basis for various events during the 11-day sporting extravaganza. And one such was Delhi-based Vikram Nayar who worked as a sports announcer for the fullbore shooting event.

But even 10 years after the conclusion of Games where he was hired for ₹4500 per day for 11 days, he is still fighting in hope to get his dues cleared, only a part of which he is provided till date.

Speaking to The Pioneer about his decade-old struggle, Nayar said "I was hired as a sports announcer and the amount of ₹4500 per day was promised to me for my services during the entire duration. However I wasn't provided with any contract document and that's why as soon as the games were done, I was sidelined and no payment was



made for my services."

He was offered only one-fifth of the total money that was originally promised and that too after 15 months after wide-spread media coverage.

"I had received my part payment of ₹10,500 after a gap of 15 months. They had no intention to make any payment but after the story about nonpayment got published in one of the leading newspapers they had to do so. And since that day onwards, I have been fighting my battle for the recovery of my balance and justice till date, said Nayar, who was selected as a sports announcer after clearing five rounds of auditions.

In this long decade-old battle to get justice, Nayar has spent more than six times the money that he is originally supposed to receive from the Games federation and knocked doors of various Government officials but all resulted in vain. But he is still hopeful that one day the truth shall prevail and he will get his dues sorted. PNS

## DUGOUT



Sunrisers Hyderabad players Abhishek Sharma, Priyam Garg, Shahbaz Nadeem and Abdul Samad chat with Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni at the end of IPL game @SunRisers



Kolkata Knight Riders wish former captain Gautam Gambhir on his 39th birthday. KKR won two IPL trophies (in 2012 and 2014) under Gambhir's leadership @KKRiders



IPL Twitter handle share Rajasthan Royals Indian all-rounder Rahul Tewatia's throwback picture for 'How it started-How it's going' meme captioning 'Rahul Tewatia's inspirational journey'

### CLOSE TO PERFECT GAME

Relieved and ecstatic in equal measure, CSK skipper MS Dhoni lauded his team's "close to perfect" show in the triumph over Sunrisers Hyderabad that infused fresh life into its faltering IPL campaign. "Ultimately what really matters is you getting two points. What T20s have shown is that there are a few games that don't go your way and then there are some that go your way even when you haven't earned it. Today I felt we did a very good job even in batting," said Dhoni after the match. "There was some purpose with the bat and the batsmen assessed the situation very well. With a total like 160, it all depends on the start you get in the first six overs," Dhoni said. "The fast bowlers did the job, the spinners came into play and it was one game that was as close to being perfect," he added.

### TREND OF LOSSES WAS BECOMING FAMILIAR

CSK coach Stephen Fleming is glad that changes made to the team broke an increasingly familiar "trend of losses" in the IPL and said the side will look to find new ways to achieve match-day perfection in the upcoming games. The most prominent change in Tuesday's win was Sam Curran's elevation to the opener's slot and Fleming said the move provided momentum to the CSK innings. "We have put the onus on the batting group rather than hiding and shuffling it. It was great and Sam provided a little bit of momentum in the front. We wanted to do something different because the trend of our losses was becoming too familiar," Fleming said after CSK's 20-run win over 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	8	3	5	+0.009	6
6	CSK	8	3	5	-0.390	6
7	RR	7	3	4	-0.872	6
8	KXIP	7	1	6	-0.381	2