

## OPINION 8

TELEVISION AND  
ITS WARTS

## WORLD 12

BIDEN VOWS TO REPEAL 'MUSLIM BAN'  
IMPOSED BY TRUMP ADMIN IF ELECTED

## SPORT 14

MORGAN REPLACES  
DK AS KKR CAPTAIN

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KANGANA TO  
PLAY A SPY IN  
HER NEXT  
13 VIVACITY

## SC panel to stub out burning problem

Justice Lokur committee formed to take steps to prevent stubble fires in Punjab, Haryana, UP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stepping in to ensure that the residents of Delhi-NCR are able to breathe in fresh clean air, the Supreme Court on Friday appointed retired apex court judge Justice Madan B Lokur as a one-man committee to take steps for preventing stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh — wherein incidents of burning of paddy crop residue have doubled up this year compared to last two years during the corresponding period.

Stubble burning in the three neighbouring States is one of the major sources of pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). Between October 1 and 15, as many as 4,644 paddy crop residue burning incidents were detected in the three States, with Punjab leading the pack with 3,516 incidents. Comparatively, the three States combined reported 2,119 such incidents in 2019 and 2,151 incidents in 2018.

While directing that National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts be deployed for assisting the panel, a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde also rejected the objec-



Pollution levels reduced slightly in the national Capital on Friday with favourable wind speed helping in dispersion of pollutants, according to India Meteorological Department officials. (In pic) A view of the India Gate shrouded in haze in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

tion of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on the appointment of the committee saying the States concerned have already been heard.

The apex court directed the court-appointed Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) and chief secretaries of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar

Pradesh to assist the Lokur panel to enable physical surveillance of fields where stubble is burnt.

"We just want that people of Delhi-NCR can breathe fresh air without any pollution," said the bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

- The bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde rejected the objection of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on the appointment of the committee
- The SC directed the court-appointed Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) and chief secretaries of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to assist the Lokur panel to enable physical surveillance of fields where stubble is burnt.
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Mehta, who appeared for the Centre, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, told the bench that they may have "some reservation" over appointment of the one-man committee and urged that the EPCA should be the monitoring authority for preventing stubble burning.

"We must not trouble Justice Lokur," Mehta said, urging the bench to post the matter for hearing after Dussehra vacation on this issue. He said no notices were issued to the Centre and the concerned States on the issue of appointment of a committee.

"We have not given some extraordinary power to Justice Lokur," the bench said, adding, "We have heard the States and you (Mehta) were not there when we were dictating order for half an hour."

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, who

also appeared for the Centre, told the bench that the court may select the committee member from a panel of names.

The top court directed the States concerned to provide adequate security, secretarial infrastructure and transport to Lokur panel. It said the panel shall submit its report on stubble burning fortnightly to the apex court.

During his tenure as an apex court judge, Justice Lokur had dealt with pollution matter which included the aspect of stubble burning.

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has, however, contended that only 4 per cent pollution is due to stubble burning and 96 per cent of it is due to local factors like biomass burning, garbage dumping, unpaved roads, dust, construction and demolition

activities. He has flagged off 50 inspection teams of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for field visits to keep a watch on pollution hot spots.

The SC bench was hearing a plea filed by one Aditya Dubey who has raised concern over pollution caused due to stubble burning. During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner, told the bench that a one-man committee headed by Justice (ret'd) Lokur be constituted as he has the experience in dealing with environment issues.

The bench observed it has no problem in appointing a commission and asked Singh to take consent of Justice (ret'd) Lokur. Singh later told the bench that he has talked to Justice (ret'd) Lokur and he is ready.

## Govt to revise girls' legal age of marriage: Modi

PM says decision soon after report by panel set up for this purpose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Government will soon take a decision on revising the minimum age of marriage for girls after it receives the report from the committee set up for the purpose.

He said he has been receiving letters from women from across the country, asking about the report of the committee and when the Government will take a decision on it. "I want to assure them, the Government will soon take its decision after the submission of the report," Modi said.

Addressing a video conference here after releasing a commemorative coin of ₹5 denomination on the 75th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organisation

(FAO), the Prime Minister maintained: "There is an important deliberation going on to decide what should be the ideal age of marriage for daughters."

He pointed out that the girls' gross enrolment ratio in education has turned higher than that of boys for the first time in the country because of several efforts taken by the Government in the last six years.

On June 20, this year, the Women and Child Development Ministry set up the committee, headed by former Samata Party leader Jaya Jaitley, to review or reconsider the legal age for women.

Before 1978, the legal marriage age for the girl was 15 years. It was changed in 1978 by amending the erstwhile Sarda Act of 1929. As of now, a girl is allowed to get married legally when she is at least 18 years old.

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## SC seeks AG help to quash MP HC bail to molester if victim ties rakhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought Attorney General's assistance on a plea for stay on the Madhya Pradesh High Court order which granted bail to an accused in a molestation case on the condition that he would request the alleged victim to tie him "Rakhi".

A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar issued notice to the officer of Attorney General K K Venugopal on an appeal filed by nine women lawyers who have said that courts across the country should be restrained from imposing such conditions as these are "against the principle of law".

The HC, in its July 30 order, had granted bail to the accused and imposed a condition that he along with his wife shall visit the house of the complainant and request her to tie "Rakhi" to him with the promise to protect her to the best of his ability for all times to come. Senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, appearing for the petitioners, including lawyer Aparna Bhat, told the bench that the appeal has been filed in a "extraordinary circumstance".

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## CAPSULE

### MEA: PAK TERROR SPOILS BILATERAL RELATIONS

**New York:** Terrorism remains publicly acknowledged by the Pakistan Government as a policy that they justify, making it very hard to conduct normal relations with it, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

### GHULAM NABI AZAD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

**New Delhi:** Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Congress veteran, on Friday tweeted that he has contracted the novel coronavirus and has been under home quarantine.

### KEJRIWAL SEEKS CHANGE IN DELHI UNIVERSITY ACT

**New Delhi:** Expressing concerns over higher cut-offs for admission in Delhi University colleges, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said he has written to Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank seeking amendment in the DU Act so that more colleges and universities can be established in the city.

## 4 more Rafales in Nov to give fillip to op readiness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With stand-off continuing at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India's operational readiness will get a boost with the arrival of the second batch of three to four more Rafale fighter jets in early November. The first batch of five jets, which joined the IAF in September, is now flying regular sorties along the border in Ladakh as part of the country's overall preparedness to meet any challenge from China.

The induction of more Rafale jets will enhance the IAF's overall readiness as it has already deployed all its front-line jets, including the SU-30s, MIG-29s and Jaguars, at critical forward bases stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal in the east.

The new arrivals will get operationalised within a few days for active duty. They will join the current lot of Rafales at the Ambala airbase.

In a related development, an IAF team, led by Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Projects) Air Vice Marshal N Tiwari, is in France now reviewing the Rafale project as part of the annual routine meeting.

At least, 10 to 12 IAF pilots are now undergoing training in France on the Rafale medium multi-role fighter aircraft, they said adding the training schedule will end by March next year.

As per the overall plan, the IAF will have two squadrons (one squadron has 18 jets) of Rafales based at Ambala in north India and Hashimara in West Bengal in the east.

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## Court admits plea to remove mosque from Krishna Janmabhoomi

**Mathura:** A local court in Mathura on Friday admitted a plea that seeks to remove a mosque adjacent to the Krishna Janmabhoomi.

The court of district judge Sadhna Rani Thakur has fixed November 18 as the next date of hearing in the case.

Earlier in October, a civil court in Mathura had dismissed a plea seeking a judgment to remove the Shahi Idgah Mosque. The petitioner had alleged that the mosque was built over Krishna Janmabhoomi.

Mathura is considered to be the birthplace of Lord Krishna.

The mosque in question was built in the 17th century. According to petitioners, it was built at the birthplace of Lord Krishna, within the 13-acre premises of the Katra Keshav Dev temple. IANS

## Modi to go full throttle in Bihar; BJP distances itself from LJP

Party dubs LJP vote katua, but Chirag calls himself ardent admirer of PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the main face for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), will go full steam campaigning in Bihar by holding as many as 12 rallies, starting next Friday, for the upcoming Assembly polls in the State.

Of these rallies, three each would be held on the days when the first (October 28) and second phase (November 3) of polling will be on in other constituencies in the State. The elections in Bihar are being held in three phases on October 28, November 3 and November 7 for the 243-seat Bihar assembly.

"On October 23, PM Modi will hold rallies in Sasaram, Gaya and Bhagalpur. On October 28, he will hold rallies in Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Patna. On November 3, he will hold rallies in Chhapra,



East Champaran and Samastipur. On November 3, rallies in West Champaran, Saharsa and Araria will be held," former Maharashtra Chief Minister and incharge of BJP in Bihar Devendra Fadnavis said during a Press conference.

The BJP, in the meantime, continued to distance itself from the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) and even dubbing it a "vote katua" (vote-cutter) party. But then, LJP leader Chirag Paswan too continued to play his part to create confusion among the NDA ranks by reiterating his reverence for Modi and wishing to see the next Bihar Chief Minister from the BJP.

The BJP is seeking to reassure Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar that it is not providing any tacit support to the LJP against him. "Chirag has chosen a separate path in Bihar, he is trying to mislead people by taking names of senior BJP leaders. We don't have any B or C team. The NDA will get a three-fourth majority. Chirag's party will be left as a vote-katua party," Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

As all senior BJP leaders, including party president JP Nadda, have hit the ground to take the BJP-JD(U)-VIP alliance forward in Bihar, the LJP seemed to be playing truant by "loving BJP" and "hitting" JD(U).

"I don't need to use the PM Modi's photos for campaigning. He lives in my heart, I am his Hanuman. If needed, I'll tear open my chest and show it," said Chirag even as the BJP hit out at him.

Other senior BJP leaders, including party general secretary Bhopender Yadav, too hit out at Chirag, who walked out of the ruling NDA in Bihar and deciding to contest the Assembly polls on its own.

Continued on Page 12

## 31,277 asst teachers get appointment

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handed over appointment letters to 31,277 assistant teachers selected by the UP Basic Education Board (UPBEB) for appointment against 69,000 vacancies of 2019.

"Basic education is the foundation of the entire system and thus teachers appointed by the Basic Education department have a huge responsibility on their shoulder. You are not only a teacher but also a friend and a guide for the student. You will be playing a crucial role in nation-building and its future," Yogi said while presiding over a ceremony virtually on Friday.

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## Shaurya Chakra awardee killed in Tarn Taran

His security was withdrawn recently

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh Bhikhiwind, who had fought bravely against terrorism for years and was repeatedly attacked by terrorists in the terror-infested area, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in

Tarn Taran district on Friday. Many documentaries have been made on his bravery.

Only a year ago, the security cover to 62-year-old awardee was withdrawn by the State Government on the recommendation of Tarn Taran police.

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday ordered the constitution of a Special Investigative Team (SIT), headed by DIG Ferozpur, to probe all angles

of the fatal attack on Balwinder Singh.

The motorcycle-borne miscreants attacked Balwinder when he was at his office, adjoining his home, in the district's Bhikhiwind village, the police said, adding that the accused then fled the spot.

Condoling the death of Balwinder, the CM has directed DGP Dinkar Gupta to ensure speedy investigation to identify and bring the culprits to book at the earliest.

CCTV footage from the area shows that two unknown assailants arrived at the house of the deceased in the morning and one of them entered the premises and fired at Balwinder Singh at point-blank range.

The details of the vehicle and its registration number are being probed, said the DGP.

A case under sections 302, 34, of the Indian Penal Code and 25, 27 of the Arms Act has been registered against unknown persons.

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

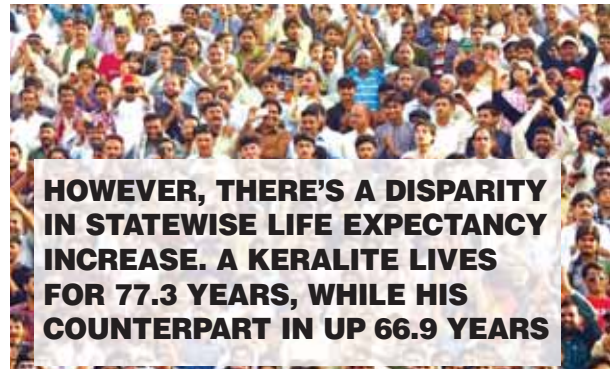
Over the last three decades, Indians have been increasingly living longer. On an average, Indians now are living a decade more than those during the early nineties. The life expectancy in India has risen from 59.6 years in 1990 to 70.8 years in 2019.

There's a disparity in Statewise life expectancy increase though. An average Keralite now lives for 77.3 years while his counterpart in Uttar Pradesh for 66.9 years.

Nevertheless, both, as also from many other States, share a commonality — the quality of life is missing as they live more with illness and disability, according to the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study, published in the Lancet journal on Friday.

The culprits, as the study pointed out, were air pollution, hypertension, tobacco use, poor diet and high blood sugar levels, the top-five risk factors for deaths in India in 2019.

The rising chronic illness can also fuel the Covid-19 death tally as people with comorbidities are vulnerable to



**HOWEVER, THERE'S A DISPARITY IN STATEWISE LIFE EXPECTANCY INCREASE. A KERALITE LIVES FOR 77.3 YEARS, WHILE HIS COUNTERPART IN UP 66.9 YEARS**

the deadly virus.

The study assessed more than 286 causes of death and 369 diseases and injuries in more than 200 countries and territories across the world and noted that India has gained more than a decade of life expectancy since 1990, but with wide inequalities between States.

However, it said the increase in "healthy life expectancy" in India has not been as dramatic as the growth of life expectancy since "people are living more years with illness and disability".

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan too had on Thursday

stressed the need to move from food security to nutrition security to achieve the goals of the "Eat Right India Movement" and urged other Ministries concerned to form a joint platform to determine common goals and strategy and synergise their actions.

The GBD study found that the largest contributors to increasing health loss in India over the last 30 years were non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like ischaemic heart disease, COPD, diabetes, and stroke.

In 2019, the research noted that the top-five risk factors for death in India were air pollu-

tion (contributing to an estimated 1.67 million deaths), high blood pressure (1.47 million), tobacco use (1.23 million), poor diet (1.18 million), and high blood sugar (1.12 million).

"Over the past decade there has been more than 0.5 per cent annual increase in the exposure to several highly preventable risks such as obesity, high blood sugar, alcohol use, and drug use globally," said study lead author Christopher Murray, Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington in the US.

"We are failing to change unhealthy behaviours, particularly those related to diet quality, caloric intake, and physical activity, in part due to inadequate policy attention and funding for public health and behavioural research," Murray said.

The scientists said several of the risk factors and NCDs highlighted by the study, including obesity and diabetes are associated with increased risk of serious illness and death from Covid-19.



# WAY FORWARD TO BEING AN IDEAL INVESTMENT DESTINATION

Banking on its recent developments towards reforming investment policies in the state, Government of Uttar Pradesh is currently projecting the state as an exemplary hub of 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives

The state is home to many prestigious national-level research and training institutions, such as the IIT-Kanpur, IIT BHU-Varanasi, IIM-Lucknow, the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology-Varanasi, etc.

THE ONGOING US-China tensions and PM Modi's clarion call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Vocal for Local' have given a new direction to the Indian economy. The world is now looking at India with hopeful eyes. There are currently many global companies planning exit routes from China, with many of them known to be interested in establishing their foothold in India. In such a scenario, the state of Uttar Pradesh emerges as an ideal destination for global investments, considering huge land reserves, manpower, good connectivity, presence of MSMEs and the recently launched New Investment Policy.

To woo global investors, especially companies exiting China, "the UP government had recently eased norms for allotment of industrial land to fast-track land allotment by fixing timeline of 15 days for mega, mega-plus and super-mega category of industrial investments. The new land allotment norms covered all big industrial enclaves, including Noida, Greater Noida, Yamuna Expressway and others."

With a spate of reforms, infrastructural projects and the New Investment Policy, Uttar Pradesh is currently seeing new developments in almost every sphere of life. The upcoming Gorakhpur Link Expressway and Purvanchal Expressway in eastern UP, and Bundelkhand Expressway and Defence Corridor in the Bundelkhand region are the prime examples of bringing development to the most backward regions of UP. Moreover, the 8-lane Ganga Expressway, connecting the eastern and western regions of Uttar Pradesh, will not only provide faster connectivity between Meerut and Prayagraj but will also improve overall infrastructure and logistical facilities – considered essential for driving industrial, economic and social growth.

Being the biggest emerging investment market in India, Uttar Pradesh offers enormous possibilities of enterprise and success coupled with its industry-conducive climate. It has many initiatives and measures at place to make investments a hassle-free process for domestic and foreign



**"Procedures and processes are being simplified and rationalized further, so that, entrepreneurs are guaranteed the best services, support and facilities right from the inception to the implementation of their projects becoming functional."**

investors, including investor-friendly, government-simplified procedures, speedy online approvals through the Web-based application - NIVESH MITRA, and high-level committees to monitor the implementation of projects. The State Government is relentless in its pursuit to make Uttar Pradesh a power surplus State, so as to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Industries. Uttar Pradesh is also "one of the first states to introduce 'Single Table System' and formulate its own Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy along with other industry-friendly policies as well as clearly defined guidelines for PPP projects for transparent bidding process with promise of profits and gains."

The state boasts a friendly industrial and 'ease-of-doing business' environ-

**UTTAR PRADESH is a land of infinite opportunities. It is India's third largest economy, contributing nearly 8% to the national GDP. UP is the country's largest market and has the largest manpower base. With a high focus on maximising its demographic dividend, the state government is emphasising on industrial and infrastructure development for large-scale job creation. More than 2,600 startups have been established in the last three years.**

**Recently, we have released the UP Startup Policy 2020 to promote fledgling units in sectors like health, power, education, tourism, transport, agro, food processing, etc. The new policy is aimed at creating 100 incubators in the state, with at least one in each district. The government is working towards creating an ecosystem to promote at least 10,000 startups.**

**Yogi Adityanath,**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

ment due to the presence of readily available labour assets coupled with a big pool of highly skilled human resources in diverse fields. The state is home to many prestigious national-level research and training institutions, such as the IIT-Kanpur, IIM-Lucknow, the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology-Varanasi, etc.

In keeping with the best business practices, the timelines for obtaining various approvals from different departments have already been defined.

To encourage investors and promote business opportunities, a robust investor and industry-friendly policy framework – the New Investment

Policy – was recently cleared by the UP state cabinet with an active involvement of industrial and business bodies and thoughtfully devised facilitation mechanisms. As per sources, "Procedures and processes are being simplified and rationalized further, so that, entrepreneurs are guaranteed the best services, support and facilities right from the inception to the implementation of their projects becoming functional." Not withstanding the current economic problems created by COVID-19, it is believed that "government support and incentives, self-resilient markets and ever increasing huge domestic demand continuously create ample space for hectic economic activity in all spheres, opening avenues of immense opportunities for progress and growth."

With an aim to carry out "restructuring" of MSMEs in the state, major policy changes have been introduced by the State Government to make the import of raw materials duty free, give subsidies to companies moving out of China and an ambitious, 300-acre "plug and play" MSME park slated to come up along the Yamuna Expressway. The "plug and play" park will give MSMEs to come and set shop, complementing the changes in the MSME Act "that is now allowing one to apply on the portal and start work immediately while giving time up to 3 years to take the necessary NOCs." Similarly, the State Government is also bringing a leather park in Kanpur and a textile hub in Gautam Buddh Nagar.

The State Government has identified

land in Pilibhit and Lalitpur to carry out Central Government's aim of setting up three pharmaceutical parks and four medical devices parks. For medical devices park, the State Government has zeroed in on Prayagraj and Unnao. The State Government has also requested for a dry port as UP is a landlocked state. The State Government is also looking to introduce Bonded manufacturing concept in the state. In bonded manufacturing, when you import you do not need to pay a duty upfront. For Logistics industry, the UP government has changed its policy and given the sector an industry status and changed the floor of acquiring land for logistics from 50 acres to 25 acres. In electronics, the UP government is moving away from SGST-based incentives to capital investment-based investments. The State Government is also coming up with a top-up subsidy over and above what the Government of India is giving on refurbished plant being moved out of China. In the food processing sector, the UP government is making it simpler for farm land to be converted to industrial land which is encouraging.

Overall, it is the result of these investor-friendly policies and the state's relentless commitment to strengthen commercial opportunities for stability and growth that Agra recently became the first city in Uttar Pradesh to benefit from COVID-19 crisis and recent policy changes. Due to growing anti-China sentiment, a German footwear brand has recently announced its decision to shift its entire production from China to Agra, with a capacity of over three million pairs annually and an initial investment of Rs 110 crore in the first phase. Agra being a strong leather hub is set to benefit in a huge way. The State Government is currently looking to welcome a Japanese delegation in November that is keen to look at food processing, electronics and logistics sectors, thanks to the state government's proactive measures regarding increasing and supporting investment opportunities in the state.

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## ODOP SCHEME IS SET TO HIGHLIGHT SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES OF UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh is known for its wide array of exclusive products, including wheat-stalk craft, renowned chikankari and zari-zardozi work on clothes, fancy glassware, etc. Such products are manufactured in the villages of UP that are not known to the general public. The ODOP scheme is to help these local and specialized products and handicrafts get the limelight to showcase the state's rich cultural heritage. The scheme aims to promote each district's signature industry or specialised product.

THE YOGI Adityanath government's flagship 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme will go a long way in repositioning Uttar Pradesh as the land for preferred investment destination, as the state boasts large land reserves, good connectivity and huge manpower for any industrial setup.

In a state as vast as Uttar Pradesh, it won't be wrong to say that it is the heart of MSME sector in India, given its huge and diverse population engaged in various commercial and traditional industries. According to estimates, "UP is home to nine million MSMEs with the sector forming the industrial

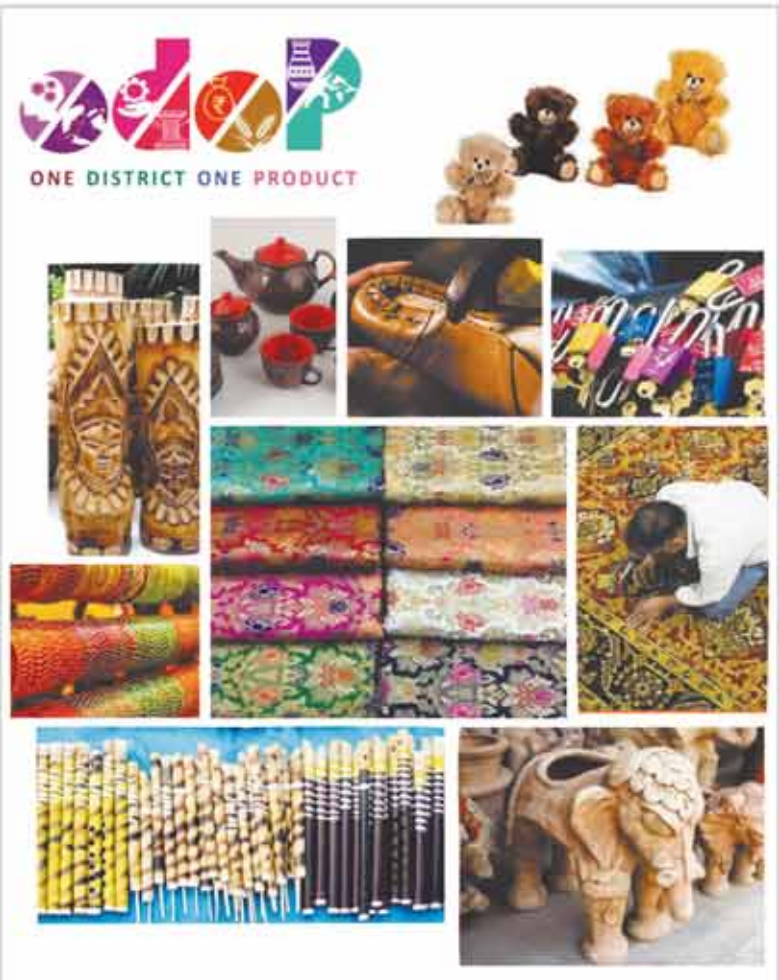
backbone of the state. It contributes 60 per cent to UP's annual industrial output and directly employs 50 million people."

To provide a boost to such signature industries in the state, One District One Product (ODOP) is the flagship scheme of the Yogi Adityanath government, launched in 2018, to promote the traditional and indigenous industries and handicrafts by facilitating state support in terms of setting up of new enterprises, bank credit and marketing. This innovative scheme was basically launched to promote the MSME sector in Uttar Pradesh.

In fact, Uttar Pradesh is known for its wide array of exclusive products, including wheat-stalk craft, renowned chikankari and zari-zardozi work on clothes, fancy glassware, etc. Such products are manufactured in the villages of UP that are not known to the general public. The ODOP scheme is to help these local and specialized products and handicrafts get the limelight to showcase the state's rich cultural heritage. The scheme aims to promote each district's signature industry or specialised product.

UP Government firmly believes that the ODOP Scheme will play an important role in turning the state into a USD 1 trillion economy by 2024. Districts devoid of any signature industry were suggested to project their agriculture or agricultural product to boost their economy and, ultimately, gain recognition via that product. For instance, "the gurbh (jaggery) of Muzaffarnagar made it to the ODOP list. Today, there are 118 varieties of gurbh being made there, and a festival dedicated to 'gurbh' called 'Gurbh Mahotsava' is also held."

India is likely to benefit in a big way due to the ongoing China-India conflict and PM Modi's clarion call for



Atmanirbhar Bharat. In this regard, the State Government is looking to tap the lucrative global textile supply chain by providing a competitive avenue to international buyers, who are currently procuring textile and fabrics from China. The idea is to provide an

alternative vendors base in UP to international buyers sourcing goods from China. Later on, buyers' suggestions can be incorporated in the new export promotion policy to make it more contemporary and competitive.

**Raw material bank and general processing center to be started soon in Lucknow under Common Facility Center (CFC) Scheme. Work of artisans will become easier after the CFC get operative.**

**To promote ODOP products, ODOP Cell has made tie up with e-Bay, Amazon and Flipkart to provide global market for artisans.**

To counter the economic impacts of COVID-19, the UP government will host e-exhibitions during the current FY 2020-21. The Yogi government has also offered to help exporters participating in e-exhibitions under the flagship Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme. The UP Export Promotion Council will also organise e-exhibitions for the state exporting firms, for which a blueprint is being charted out.

Despite the current economic challenges induced by COVID-19, the Yogi government has decided to double the exports of MSMEs in the coming three years to touch Rs 2.40 trillion. During FYs 2018-19 and 2019-20, the MSME exports from UP stood at nearly Rs 1.14 trillion and Rs 1.20 trillion respectively.

Yogi Adityanath had recently "directed officials to expedite the action plan to leverage the loan

component of Rs 15,000 crore for the domestic MSME sector in the federal economic package of more than Rs 20 trillion announced by the Centre to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown."

The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry is preparing an institutional mechanism to promote the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, first started by the Uttar Pradesh government, at the national level to tap the rural economic potential of the country and identify one product per district. In this regard, The ministry has scheduled a video-conference meeting with the Industry Ministers of all states and Union Territories later this month to discuss how the movement could be taken further. According to Principal Secretary (MSME and Export Promotion) Navneet Sehgal, the movement was a "great success" as it helped the state increase its exports by around 30 per cent. It is proposed to drive the movement on a mission mode with specific targets set to be achieved by 2022 when the country would be celebrating the 75th year of independence.

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## शारदीय नवरात्र के पावन अवसर पर 6 माह का प्रदेशव्यापी अभियान



नारी सुरक्षा  
नारी सम्मान  
नारी स्वावलंबन



शारदीय नवरात्र, 2020 – बासन्तिक नवरात्र, 2021



का

## शुभारंभ

### आनंदीबेन पटेल

राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

स्थान: राजभवन, लखनऊ

### योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

स्थान: पुलिस लाइन, जनपद-बलरामपुर

(लखनऊ में)

स्वाति सिंह

राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार), महिला कल्याण तथा  
बाल विकास एवं पुष्टाहार, उत्तर प्रदेश

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

(बलरामपुर में)

पल्लूराम

विधायक, बलरामपुर

शैलेश कुमार सिंह 'शैलू'

विधायक, गैसडी

कैलाश नाथ शुक्ला

विधायक, तुलसीपुर

राम प्रताप वर्मा

विधायक, उतरौला

दिनांक : 17 अक्टूबर, 2020 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे

### शुभारंभ के अवसर पर मुख्य कार्यक्रम

- ♦ 'लोगो' का अनावरण ♦ एल.ई.डी. वैन का फ्लैग ऑफ ♦ WCPO के 'लोगो' का अनावरण ♦ 112 और 1090 एकीकृत सेवा का शुभारंभ
- ♦ डाटा विश्लेषिकी केन्द्र का लोकार्पण ♦ साइबर फोरेंसिक सेंटर का लोकार्पण ♦ पिक बूथ लखनऊ का शुभारंभ ♦ सेफ सिटी गैलरी का उद्घाटन
- ♦ पिक पेट्रोल का फ्लैग ऑफ ♦ ऑनलाइन फैमिली काउंसिलिंग का शुभारंभ ♦ क्रेच का शुभारंभ ♦ ऑपरेशन शक्ति कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ

### अभियान के प्रथम चरण (17-25 अक्टूबर, 2020) के अंतर्गत मुख्य कार्यक्रम

लैंगिक आधारित संवेदीकरण कार्यक्रम, वेबिनार, आत्म सुरक्षा प्रशिक्षण, कार्यशाला, कॉरपोरेट एक्टिविटी, वॉयस मैसेज, साक्षात्कार, प्रशिक्षण, दुर्गा पूजा पंडालों में कार्यक्रम, पुलिस थानों पर कार्यक्रम, ग्रामीण स्तर पर जागरूकता कार्यक्रम व नुक्कड़ नाटक

### नारी शक्ति से संवाद (18 अक्टूबर, 2020)

महिला नगर पंचायत अध्यक्ष, महिला ग्राम प्रधान, महिला पार्षद तथा स्वयं सहायता समूहों से जुड़ी महिला प्रतिनिधियों से मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा **वर्चुअल संवाद**

### महिला सशक्तिकरण के लिए उठाए गए महत्वपूर्ण कदम

- आपराधिक मामलों में अभियुक्तों को सजा दिलाने में देश का अग्रणी राज्य
- 81 मजिस्ट्रेट न्यायालय, 81 अपर सत्र न्यायालय और 218 नए फास्ट ट्रैक कोर्ट की स्थापना
- बालिकाओं को 'मुख्यमंत्री कन्या सुमंगला योजना' का लाभ
- 'महिला एवं बाल सुरक्षा संगठन' की स्थापना
- 'एंटी रोमियो स्कॉयड' का गठन
- हिंसा से पीड़ित महिलाओं के लिए वन स्टॉप सेंटर की स्थापना
- बालिकाओं को स्नातक स्तर तक निःशुल्क शिक्षा
- 'मुख्यमंत्री सामूहिक विवाह योजना' में सहायता राशि बढ़ाकर ₹. 51 हजार की गई
- 'बेटी बचाओ-बेटी पढ़ाओ' अभियान का संचालन
- 'प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना' से 24 लाख से अधिक महिलाएं लाभान्वित
- 1 करोड़ महिलाओं को 10 लाख स्वयं सहायता समूहों से जोड़ने का लक्ष्य
- 58 हजार महिलाओं की बैंकिंग कॉरिस्पॉन्डेंट सरवी के रूप में नियुक्ति

#### हेल्पलाइन



1090 वीमेन पॉवर लाइन  
181 महिला हेल्पलाइन  
1076 मुख्यमंत्री हेल्पलाइन  
112 पुलिस आपातकालीन सेवा

1098 चाइल्ड लाइन  
102 स्वास्थ्य सेवा  
108 एम्बुलेंस सेवा

दो गज़ की दूरी  
मारक है जरूरी



1800-180-5145



# Cabinet nod to festival advance for state staff Govt announces MSP for corn

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

It is good news for the state employees as the Uttar Pradesh government has allowed advance payment during festivals and approved cash vouchers for employees in lieu of LTC (leave travel concession) so that they may celebrate festivals with traditional gaiety.

The state government also announced a minimum support price (MSP) for corn.

These decisions were taken at a cabinet meeting held in Lucknow on Friday.

A state government spokesman said that the advance facility would be available to all the state government employees and would be applicable till March 31.

“Under the scheme, the employee will be paid an interest-free advance of Rs 10,000 as special festival package and this can be repaid in 10 instalments,” the spokesman said.

However, the decision would burden the state exchequer with Rs 1,000 crore.

The spokesman said that once an employee applied for the loan, his head of the department would provide him with a pre-loaded SBI Pay-card through which he could withdraw the money as per his requirement.

“The employee can avail this advance for all festivals listed in the holiday list of the state government,” he said.

Earlier this week, the Union government had announced a similar interest-free festival advance to all its officers and employees as part of plans to increase consumer spending to spur demand in the economy.

## Focus on prevention, contact tracing to contain coronavirus spread: Yogi

**Lucknow (PNS):** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that to contain the spread of coronavirus infection, it should be ensured that all preventive protocols were followed strictly and contact tracing was intensified.

“Continuing with 65,000 RT-PCR tests daily, 1.5 lakh to 1.75 lakh Covid tests should be conducted every day,” the chief minister said while chairing an Unlock review meeting at his official residence in Lucknow on Friday.

After reviewing the current situation in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Meerut, Jaunpur and Pratapgarh districts, Yogi said that the recovery rate should be bettered.

Directing officials to maintain treatment standards at hospitals, the chief minister said that it should be ensured that the patients got medicines

and nutritious food on time. “Doctors should take regular rounds of wards and check the oxygen level of COVID-19 patients at regular intervals and if required, use HFNC (high flow nasal cannula) therapy,” he said.

Yogi said that paddy purchase centres should be operated effectively and social distancing should be followed strictly there.

“The farmers should be encouraged not to burn stubble and should be made ware of the hazards of stubble burning and the pollution caused by it. Besides pollution, stubble burning reduces soil fertility. Instead, the farmers should be encouraged to prepare compost from it. This would not only help in stopping air pollution but also make compost available with them,” Yogi said.

As travel is difficult to undertake during the pandemic, the government will pay entitled fare as cash vouchers which have to be spent by March 31, 2021.

Besides, 50 percent of the proposed money will be paid in advance while the rest will be paid on return from the tour.

Government payout on cash-in-lieu-of-LTC will be Rs 960 crore.

The state government also announced MSP for corn which will be Rs 1,850 per quintal and the purchase period will be between October 17 and January 15.

## CM: Govt working for branding of Kala Namak rice globally

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Uttar Pradesh government was working to ensure global branding of Kala Namak variety of rice on the lines of Basmati rice.

Yogi said that a project for promoting Kala Namak rice had been prepared in association with the International Rice Research Institute at Varanasi, Indian Agriculture Research Institute and Acharya Narendra Dev Agriculture University of Faizabad.

Addressing farmers and industrialists virtually at the CII Agro & Food Tech, 2020 on the Indian Agriculture Week on Friday, the chief minister said that Kala Namak rice had already been included in the One District, One Product scheme for Siddharthnagar. Besides, he said, it had got a GI (geographical indication) tagging in 11 districts of eastern UP.

Yogi pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic had affected almost every

sector contributing to the economy except agriculture, which had seen a significant growth and contributed to the state as well national GDP.

The chief minister that the state government had accorded top priority to the development of farm sector and the welfare of farmers.

He said that with the objective of farmers’ well-being, all sugar mills of the state had continued normal cane crushing operations during the lockdown from March 25 to mid-May.

Yogi said that 92 percent of the farmers in the state were marginal and there was a need to organise the sector to strengthen them financially.

He said that to achieve this, the government had already announced a policy for FPOs (farmers producers organisation) and the process of constituting the FPOs at block level was underway.

Yogi congratulated the CII for putting together this initiative and said that he was confident that a large

number of farmers would be able to benefit from it.

He also urged entrepreneurs in the sector to come forward and set up processing units in UP which was naturally so endowed.

Chairman, CII Agro & Food Tech 2020 & Chairman and Managing Director, DCM Shriram Ltd, Ajay Shriram noted that the participation of the country’s largest agricultural state in the summit was encouraging.

Shriram said that the agenda of One Nation, One Market was the need of the hour and it would give growers the freedom to sell their produce as per their will.

He remarked that technology coupled with farming techniques would pave the way forward for the growth of the agriculture sector.

Nikhil Sawhney, Chairman, CII Northern Region and Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Triveni Turbines Ltd, said that the various recent policy reforms undertaken by the

government would give the much needed impetus to the micro, small and medium enterprises sector and entrepreneurs in the state. He also pointed out that the agricultural sector, industry and education collectively needed to grow for the overall development of the state. “Uttar Pradesh is the largest agricultural and dairy producer hence it is a crucial market for food processing as well,” he added.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry, congratulated the government for its good governance and the trust it had built.

“The improved ranking in the ease of doing business parameters have further infused confidence amongst business owners to look at UP for their investments,” he said.

He said the CII had developed a business service unit specifically for FPOs to equip them with market linkage and it aimed to connect 25,000 farmers by 2025.

## UP govt cracks the whip on sugar mills defaulting in cane due payment

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the 2020-21 cane crushing season to commence soon, the Uttar Pradesh government cracked the whip on private sugar mills defaulting in payment of cane arrears of the last season.

On the direction of the Cane department, the district magistrates have issued recovery certificates (RCs) against sugar mills owned by big players Bajaj Hindusthan, Modi and Simbhaoli.

The four defaulter mills are Sujapur-Budaun (Yadu Group), Chilwariya-Bahraich (Simbhaoli Group), Modi Nagar-Ghaziabad (Modi Group), and Rudhauri-Basti (Bajaj Hindusthan Group).

The RCs have been issued under Sections 17 (4) and 18 (3) of the UP Sugarcane (Supply and Purchase Regulation) Act, 1953. The action was taken after these mills failed to settle payment commitments despite repeated warnings by the government.

The RC empowers the district administrations, if need be, to seize movable and immovable assets, including sugar stock,

for auction to settle dues of the farmers.

Private sector sugar mills, numbering 94, collectively owe farmers’ arrears of nearly Rs 7,500 crore for the previous 2019-20 season. Sugarcane Commissioner Sanjay Bhoosreddy said that stricter action would be taken if the mills failed to clear farmers’ dues. He said that about 80 percent of payment for the 2019-20 season had been made and for the remaining, follow-up action was being intensified. “If we exclude top defaulting mills, the payment percentage would improve to 90 points. Some mills have even settled 100 percent of their cane dues,” he said.

Meanwhile, of the total dues of Rs 7,500 crore, the state mills are due to get Rs 3,000 crore under different Central schemes, including buffer subsidy, production subsidy, transport subsidy and maximum admissible export quantity (MAEQ). Besides, about Rs 1,000 crore will be sent directly to farmers’ accounts through escrow account after receiving payments from the Energy department for the supply of cogenerated power.

Bhoosreddy said that under the cur-

rent regime (April 2017- October 2020), a record cane payment of over Rs 1.07 lakh crore was made to farmers, including Rs 35,423 crore in 2017-2018, Rs 33,048 crore in 2018-19 and Rs 27,928 crore in the crushing season 2019-2020, as well as Rs 10,659 crore payment pertaining to previous crushing seasons.

UP is the country’s top sugar and cane producer, and logged 12.65 million tonnes (MT) in sugar output in the 2019-20 season, which was more than 45 percent of India’s sugar production of 27.2 MT.

The state’s annual sugarcane economy is pegged at nearly Rs 50,000 crore. According to preliminary estimates, UP has a bumper cane crop in 2020-21 season spanning 2.29 million hectares (MH). According to a preliminary report of the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), the domestic sugar production is estimated at 30.5 MT in 2020-21, which will be 12 percent higher than 27.2 MT in 2019-20. UP is estimated to have sugar output of 12.3 MT in the coming 2020-21 season, which is due to start crushing soon.

**उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा जारी किया गया**

**लालू प्रसाद यादव**

आधुनिकीकरण के माध्यम से

कार्य हेतु अनुमति देकर/फर्मों से मोहर

बन्द निविदा दो भागों में **निविदा संख्या-45,**

**दिनांक 30-10-2020 को 14.00 बजे तक**

आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन 15.00

बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से उपस्थित इच्छुक

निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों की

उपस्थिति में आहोस्ताखारी अथवा अधिकृत

प्रतिनिधि द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा के प्रथम

भाग में घोषित धनराशि, अनुभव का विवरण,

व्यापार कर/आयकर/सेवाकर का रजिस्ट्रेशन

प्रमाणक तथा दूसरे भाग में दरे एवं वाणिज्यिक

नियम व शर्तें होंगी। निविदा की वेबसाइट खलने

की तिथि से 90 दिन होगी। घोषित राशि की

प्रत्येक निविदा के अनुसार होगी, जो बैंक

ड्राफ्ट/सीडीआई/एफडीआई के रूप में

अभिप्राय अतिरिक्त, विद्युत पारंपरिक खण्ड,

गोष्ठा के पदानाम में बचक होगी अथवा

निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क एवं ईएमपीडी अभिप्राय

अतिरिक्त, विद्युत पारंपरिक खण्ड, गोष्ठा के बैंक

खाते में बैंक का नाम-जाय नेशनल हो, खाता

सं- 0181002100120697,

आईएफएससी कोड- PUNB00181001

आरओपीडीएस/एनएफडी के माध्यम से

जमा कराई जा सकती है तथा बैंक में जमा

किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योग्य यूटीआई

संख्या, खाते का नाम, निर्गतकर्ता बैंक

अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता

द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षरित पे-इन रिलफ की स्कैन

कॉपी, ईएमपी के लिए बैंक गारंटी की स्कैन

कॉपी, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कम्प्यूटर नेट की

प्रति टेम्पलट प्रपत्रों के साथ जमा किया जाना

अनिवार्य है। घोषित धनराशि के बिना एवं

सर्वत निविदाएं स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी।

निविदा प्रपत्र नकद या बैंक ड्राफ्ट अथवा

आरओपीडीएस द्वारा भुगतान कर **निविदा**

**खलने की तिथि को 12.00 बजे तक** अभिप्राय

अतिरिक्त, विद्युत पारंपरिक खण्ड, गोष्ठा के

कार्यालय से कम/प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

निविदा का मूल्य रु 236/- (कर सहित)

निविदा खलने की तिथि को अवकाश की

स्थिति में, निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस में

निष्पत्ति समय तक प्राप्त कर खोली जायेगी।

आहोस्ताखारी को किसी या समस्त निविदाओं

को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

विस्तृत विवरण [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) वेबसाइट

पर भी देखा जा सकता है एवं निविदाएं

डाउनलोड करके उसके साथ निविदा मूल्य

का ड्राफ्ट संलग्न कर भी स्वीकार्य है।

**1. निविदा सं-45/विभाग/गो/2020-21:**

विद्युत पारंपरिक खण्ड बहराइच के अन्तर्गत

अभिप्राय अतिरिक्त, विद्युत पारंपरिक खण्ड,

बहराइच हेतु 01 अदद वाहन उपलब्ध कराने

सम्बन्धी कार्य। घोषित राशि **रु 2,000/-** मात्र। **अभिप्राय अतिरिक्त विद्युत**

**पारंपरिक मण्डल 220 केवीओ उपकेन्द्र परिसर**

**जेल रोड, गोष्ठा संख्या-1868/**

**विभाग/गो/गो/टेन्डर नं-45 ईटीपीडी/**

**गो/2020-21, दिनांक- 14.10.2020** “राष्ट्र

हित में बिजली बढ़ाये साधारण बल के स्थान

पर एलईडीओ बल का प्रयोग करें”



**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from MISBA MUHTAR TO MISBA KHATOON, Misba Khatoon w/o Mohd.Mukhtar R/o 89/194-A Flat No. 401, Bansmandi, Kanpur.

**NOTICE**

My original allotment letter issued by KDA has been lost somewhere. Anybody getting it has no right of its use. House No. MIG-112, Sector-3, Hemant Vihar, Barra-2, Kanpur. Kailash Nath Awasthi Mob 7068004354.

**NOTICE**

I Amruta Vaishampayan D/o Shri. Arvind V. Vaishampayan R/o C-15, Sector A, Mahanagar, Lucknow-06, have irretrievably lost my Statment of Marks & Passing Certificate bearing Index No. B/8913/125 of ISCE 2008.

**NOTICE**

Army Mo-22051129X Sepoy Javed Alam S/o Khurshed Alam R/o personal line ADM BATTALION. AMC CENTRE AND SCHOOL COLLEGE. CANTT LUCKNOW. Declare that in my service Records and high school marksheet, my father's name is wrongly mentioned as Khurshed Alam has correct name Khurshed Alam for all future purpose.

**NOTICE**

आवश्यकता है

श्री के.एन.सिंह महिला पी.जी.कॉलेज नगर क्षेत्र जीयनपुर आजमगढ़ सम्बद्ध पी.जी.सिंह पूर्वोक्त विद्यार्थी के नाम पर स्वीकृति योजना अन्तर्गत प्रचार एवं स्नातक स्तर पर वाणिज्यसंकाय के 6 प्रवर्तकों के रिक्त पद हेतु शासन / (यूजीसीसी) / विश्वविद्यालय परिनियमवली के अनुसार सैद्धिक अर्हता एवं वेतन मान योग्यताधारी अपने समस्त सैद्धिक प्रमाण-पत्रों की प्रमाणित फोटो प्रति सहित विज्ञापन प्रकाशित होने के 21 दिन के अन्दर आवेदन करें। (राजबहादुर सिंह) 9415655040, 9415582141

## Govt under fire over Ballia murder, MLA’s defence

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With Bharatiya Janata Party legislator from Ballia coming out in open support of a small-time party worker who gunned down his rival in the presence of a sub-divisional magistrate and a circle officer in Ballia on Thursday, leaders of opposition parties attacked the government over the sharp dip in law and order.

Small time BJP leader Dharendra Singh opened fire with his licensed rifle at his rival Raj Prakash (46) killing him in the presence of the SDM and the CO during a meeting to allot ration shops to women self-help groups in Durjanpur village of Ballia.

Initially nabbed by the cops, the assailant managed to escape.

The CO, the SDM and other cops present on the scene were later suspended by the chief minister.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA from Bairia seat (Ballia) Surendra Singh defended the assailant saying, “The incident is upsetting and should not have taken place. But I condemn the biased probe of the police. Nobody is looking at the pain of six women who were injured in the incident. Dharendra Singh fired in self-defence.”

“Had he not opened fire, then dozens of his kin would have been killed. Wrongdoers should be punished under law. What happened shouldn’t have happened but the police should also act against other groups which attacked women with

sticks and iron rods,” Singh added.

The Bairia MLA confirmed that assailant Dharendra Singh headed the BJP’s Ex-Servicemen unit in Ballia district.

“This is a casualty that can happen anywhere. In this incident, there was stone-pelting from both sides. The law will take its own course in the matter,” the legislator said.

Meanwhile, averring that UP was unsafe for women, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath did not have the time to call a special session for this and was busy in photo sessions. In a tweet, Priyanka Vadra posted, “A total of 13 horrific incidents of crimes against women have occurred in the past one week in UP. As per reports, victims were murdered in four incidents or they committed suicide. This state of women security is disturbing. The CM does not have time to conduct a ‘special session’ on this. Yes, the photo session is going on.”

The Congress leader also presented details of date-wise crimes with the tweet, including the rape of a girl in Noida on October 9, of a five-year-old girl in Haridwar on October 10, gang-rape by polytechnic students in Jhansi on October 11, rape reported from Gonda, Hathras, Pratapgarh, Hapur, Chitrakoot on October 13 among others.

On his part, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav

## The Bairia MLA confirmed that assailant Dharendra Singh headed the BJP’s Ex-Servicemen unit in Ballia district

took a jibe at the Yogi government over the incident and tweeted, “Now with a ruling party man involved in the sensational crime, it is to be seen whether the police SUV would also turn upside down.”

Condemning the incident, Bahujan Samaj party supremo Mayawati on Friday said that the Yogi government should focus on improving the deteriorating law and order situation. In a tweet, Mayawati said, “The Ballia incident in UP is extremely worrying and in view of the frequent cases of atrocities against women and girls, it is clear that law and order has died here. It would be better if the government pays attention to this.”

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar alias Ravan also targeted the law and order situation and highlighted the rape of a Dalit minor in Barabanki.

On Friday, Ravan tweeted, “The Barabanki incident was a horrific crime. The Dalit girl was tied by her legs and hands and thereafter gang-raped. The victim’s private parts were crushed by the accused mercilessly.”

## Govt asks STF to probe conspiracy to create strife after Hathras incident

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Hathras incident is yet to submit its report, the state government has ordered the Special Task Force (STF) to probe a possible conspiracy angle to incite ethnic and communal riots in the backdrop of the incident.

Earlier, on the basis of the SIT input, the state government had suspended five police officials, including the SP of Hathras. The probe into the alleged rape and murder of the Dalit girl has now been taken over by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) said through a release on Friday that the case of conspiracy to incite strife on ethnic and communal angles after the incident registered at Chandpa police station (Hathras) would now be probed by a special team of the STF.

It further said that the STF special unit was set up to expose conspiracies after international efforts to discredit the Yogi Adityanath government surfaced during the probe.

“Large funding and conspiracies were hatched to discredit the Yogi government from Islamic countries, including Pakistan, the UAE and Bangladesh. Besides spreading fake information, morphed photographs and rumours, a big effort was made to spread ethnic and communal strife in the state by inciting the victim’s circuit,” it

added.

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is already quizzing four arrested members of PFI in this case. On October 7, the four PFI members were arrested in Mathura while coming from Delhi and an FIR was lodged against them on charges of disrupting

peace as part of a larger conspiracy.

After being reportedly raped and later murdered on September 14, the 19-year-old Dalit victim of Hathras died at Delhi’s Safdarjung Hospital on September 29. All four accused in the incident have been arrested and are in jail.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**Second Corrigendum**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Due to some technical/administrative reasons tender shown at S.No. 1(b) & 1(c) of tender notice no. 03/W/BWS/CB/2020-21 dated 15.09.2020 are hereby canceled.

Other terms and condition will same as earlier. 2237/2020

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004**

No.: JDA/EE&TA to Dir.Engg.-II/2020-21/D-246 Date : 16.10.2020

**NOTICE INVITING BID**

**NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Eng-II/15/2020-21**

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given :-

S. No.	Zone	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount (Rs. in Lacs)	Last Date Bid Invited Online
1.	Executive Engineer-12A	117 2020-21	Renewal of Approach Road from Kalwar Road to Hatoji Kardhani Extension, Zone-12A, JDA Jaipur. (UBN No.: JDA2021WSOB00221)	265.97	09.11.2020 Up to 6.00 PM

Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at concerned Executive Engineer’s office or the website of State Public Procurement Portal website [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in), [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) and [www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in)

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be :- 1. Registered on JDA website [www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in) for participatin in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the Bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL Processing Fee and Bid Security Deposit, online only. 2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) for online e-Bid submission.

**Executive Engineer-II**  
**TA to Dir. Engg.-II**

Raj. Samwad/C/2020-21/5727

**Odisha Coal and Power Limited**  
(A GOVT. OF ODISHA COMPANY)

Zone-A, Ground Floor, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar – 751023, Odisha.

Phone No: 0674-2300654 / 2300664, Website : [www.ocpl.org.in](http://www.ocpl.org.in)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

NIT No: OCPL/SUP-117/2020 Date: 17/10/2020

Sealed bids in prescribed format are invited from Original equipment manufacturers (OEM)/ agencies for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Cost of Tender Paper	BID Security	Availibility of Tender Document on website	Last date of download of Tender Document	Last date of Submission/ Opening of bid
1	Supply and installation of Automatic Bomb Calorimeter with accessories in the Coal laboratory at Manoharpur Coal Mines, Sundergarh.	Rs.1180/- (Rupees one Thousand and one hundred and eighty only), including GST.	Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only).	07.00 AM on 17/10/2020	30/10/2020 (05.00PM)	03:00 PM on 05/11/2020  03.30 PM on 05/11/2020

For further details, bidders may visit our website, i.e. [www.ocpl.org.in](http://www.ocpl.org.in) . Any clarification may please be addressed to the undersigned at the above address or by email to: [a.kanungo@ocpl.org.in](mailto:a.kanungo@ocpl.org.in).

Sd/-

**Add. General Manager (Commercial & Contracts)**

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group’s will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.



# Active cases in dist come down to 3,323

296 more test Covid positive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Out of over 58,000 Covid-19 patients in the district, the active cases have dipped to 3,323 while the recovery rate has increased to 93 per cent. A senior official at the CMO office said they have also activated their infection prevention team to further help in curbing the spread of infection. The team consists of five members, including the ACMO, one member each from WHO & UNICEF and one specialist.

The team has to visit private hospitals to prevent the spread of infection under the direct charge of CMO. With less workload, all the preventive measures will be strengthened to check the spike again.

The mobile medical units testing the staffers at cinema halls have discovered some positive cases. "Those who have tested positive will be isolated and cinema halls concerned will be sanitised," the senior official said.

The special surveillance teams will begin their work of micro-plans implementation from Saturday.

Meanwhile, 296 persons tested positive for coronavirus in the city on Friday while 506 recovered. The death toll in the state capital is 806. The new patients included 29 from Indiranagar, 25 from



Gomtinagar, 22 from Rae Bareilly road, 21 from Alambagh, 18 from Chowk, 13 from Chinhat, 11 each from Gudamba, Jankipuram & Aliganj, and 10 each from Ashiyana, Mahanagar & Thakurganj. As many as 7,516 samples were collected under contact surveillance. Four patients died in Lucknow and three of them belonged to the state capital while one to Sitapur. Three Covid-19 patients succumbed at KGMU, including a 37-year-old woman from Hardoi, a 45-year-old man from Rajajipuram and a 65-year-old man from Barabanki.

Across the state, 2,610 persons tested positive, including 78 in Kanpur, 199 in Prayagraj and 146 in Gorakhpur, taking the tally to 4,49,935. There were 49 deaths across the state, taking the toll to 6,589. Besides, 3,538 patients recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 4,08,083. There are still

35,263 cases in the state.

Meanwhile, KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said despite numerous challenges in Covid-19 times, laundry services have always remained functional.

"We needed 1,000 bedsheets to be washed daily. Our laundry is equipped with three washers, three hydro-extractor, three steam irons and four dryers. Around 25 employees worked relentlessly to keep the services running," he said.

He said the staffers ensure personal safety measures to linen from Covid hospitals and the laundry is sterilised regularly. "Separate machines are used for the clothes of Covid patients and they are soaked in hypochlorite solution for half an hour. Washing soda, bleach and sodium hypochlorite are used as disinfectants. The KGMU administration is providing all necessary support to the laundry team," Dr Singh said.

# NEET: Technical glitch a bummer for candidates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

City achievers were overjoyed after cracking NEET, results of which were declared on Friday. The exams are conducted for entrance to various medical institutes across the country. However, a bummer was that though the results were declared late afternoon, students could not view them because of the heavy rush on the site which virtually crashed. It was late in the evening when the students were able to access their results and ranks after facing technical glitches.

Ekta Thakur, who secured 651 marks and an all-India rank 3639, said it was her third attempt and she was happy to have finally cracked it. Daughter of a businessman, Ekta said she would be the first person to become a doctor in her family. "I am happy with my rank but this time the merit has gone very high. I am hoping to get Kanpur Medical College with this rank," she said.



Murad Ali

She said she was so keen on becoming a doctor that she made three attempts. About her success mantra, she said she was regular in coaching and followed what the teachers advised and was consistent with her efforts. "I am looking forward to becoming a gynaecologist," she said.

Murad Ali, who secured AIR 2329 with 660 marks, said it was his second attempt at NEET. Admitting that he was not too happy with his rank, he said he was hopeful of going to KGMU.

"I am interested in going to KGMU and will explore more choices at the time of counselling," he said. He



Deepak Mishra

added that the success mantra was being consistent and clearing doubts with the help of teachers and taking regular mock tests. He said he would be the first person in his family to become a doctor and was keen on serving the country.

Deepak Mishra, who secured AIR 3770 with 650 marks, said it was his second attempt. "I think I will get KGMU with this rank but one has to wait till the counselling begins," he said. He admitted that he was happy with his rank. About his success mantra, he said he joined various test series for regular practice.

## 'Pandemic brought all scientists together'

**Lucknow (PNS):** Under Vigyan Setu, a lecture series on Covid-19 was organised by Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS). A webinar-cum-interaction was organised on Friday which featured a talk by Biotechnology department (GoI) secretary Renu Swarup, who said that the pandemic has brought all the scientists together.

INSA programme consultant CM Nautiyal said INSA and INYAS have come together to ensure that the voice of science reaches people and the series helped the young researchers come face to face with doyens. Deliberating on 'S&T for Addressing Societal Challenges - Learning from

Covid-19', Swarup said that coronavirus posed a challenge but virtual meetings was a befitting response. "The pandemic has brought scientists from across the world together and data sharing is at its zenith. One could never have imagined that reaching from genetic sequencing to phase-3 trials would be possible in months," Swarup said.

# Elaborate bandobast for Navratri

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Elaborate security arrangements have been made by police to ensure that Navratri and Dussehra pass off peacefully. Commissioner of Police SK Pandey said besides maintaining law and order, the police were tasked with ensuring adherence to Covid-19 guidelines issued by the state government.

He said instructions had been issued to officers not to be harsh with people but convince them politely for following the guideline in their own interest. Police personnel will be deployed at crucial points and places of worships.

A special team of constables will be active all over the city to prevent eve-teasing. There were several complaints of eve-teasing last festival season.



Women making purchases for Navratri on Friday

Pioneer

son. Police personnel will be conducting a route march in sensitive and hypersensitive areas across the city. The police will also take

help of peace committees set up at grassroot level and picket duties will be strengthened. Night patrolling will also be enhanced during this period.

Station officers and beat inspectors have also been instructed to keep an eye on mischief-mongers and take prompt action, if need be.

## Minister: Focus on biz-friendly policies

**Lucknow (PNS):** The trade and investment between Ontario and Uttar Pradesh can be enhanced to great heights with more focus and work on government policies to offer more favourable business-friendly conditions and environment.

This was stated by Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Investment and Export Sidharth Nath Singh in his keynote address at a webinar organised by UP Chapter of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce. He said that after all the years of wisdom and under the challenging conditions, the pandemic, as nemesis, brought upon the global economy the sustainability concept which could not be ignored, and therefore, for the industry to be more efficient, the focus should not be only on price but also on sustainable price.

The minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a special 3-day session was organised on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti last year for the current assembly of UP government at one of the premiere IIMs and 17 ministries were discussed upon and ways of making sustainable development goals for them were strategised. The session was attended by almost all the bureaucrats and ministers from the current cabinet of UP, including the Chief Minister himself, based on which the government came up with creative policy making guidelines for the state, Singh said.

## Minor girl gang-raped

**Lucknow (PNS):** In yet another horrifying incident, an intermediate girl student was raped by two men in a forest stretch in Orai area of Jalaun on Friday. The 17-year-old girl's mother was admitted to the District Hospital after she developed a complication. Around Thursday midnight, the girl left for the hospital when she was intercepted by two persons midway. The miscreants dragged her to a forest area and took turns to rape her.

After regaining consciousness, the victim, along with her family members, approached the local police station and lodged a case against the two. While she was being dragged to the secluded area, one of the miscreants had called his aide by his name which the victim remembered and it ultimately helped in tracing the accused.

Jalaun SP Yashveer Singh said that the police arrested both the accused, identifying them with the help of

Facebook. One of the accused, Gaurav Soni drives a three-wheeler in Orai. He was arrested from his house. Later, he disclosed the name of his partner in crime as Neeraj Soni, who was also nabbed after a late night raid. The accused were charged with rape and booked under Section 3/4 of POCSO Act.

Meanwhile in Banda, a nine-year-old girl raped by her neighbour two days ago and undergoing treatment at District Hospital, was referred to a Kanpur hospital for specialised treatment.

A Banda District Hospital spokesman said, "The girl continued to be serious due to excessive bleeding and was hence admitted to Kanpur hospital for better treatment."

The victim was raped by a 22-year-old accused while she was alone at her village home in Bisanda police station area on Wednesday. The child's mother came to learn about her ordeal after she returned home late in the evening.

## 132 file papers for bypolls

**Lucknow (PNS):** As many as 132 nominations were filed for the November 3 bypoll to seven Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh. On Friday, the last day of filing nominations, 65 candidates filed their papers for respective seats. The bypoll results would be declared on November 10. On Friday, Election Commission sources said that the highest number of 22 nominations each were filed for Malhania (Jaunpur) and Naugawan Sadat (Amroha) seats, while in Deoria it was 21 and 19 each in Ghatampur (Kanpur Dehat) and Bulandshahr seats.

A total of 15 candidates filed their papers from Bangar Mau seat (Unnao) and 14 in Tundla (Agra) Assembly seat. Scrutiny of papers would be held on Saturday and candidates could withdraw nominations till October 19. All four prominent parties - the BJP, SP, Congress and BSP have fielded candidates and most of them have filed their nominations. Of the seven seats going to bypoll, only Malhania seat was held by Samajwadi Party while the rest were won by the ruling BJP.

# 3 mobile-snatchers land in police net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three persons were arrested on the charges of mobile-snatching from Capital Colony in Gaughat under Thakurganj police station on Friday morning. They were identified as Aditya Singh, Arshad and Rakesh.

Eight smartphones and Rs 1,000 in cash were recovered from their possession. Police said the accused would target people between Hanuman Setu and Vivekanand crossing.

They would either snatch mobile phone from people or steal them. Over a dozen complaints were lodged at Mahanagar police station in the past one year and the police launched a drive to nab them. The cops sought help from informers and managed to trace the location of the accused with the help of electronic surveillance.

A raid was conducted at 11 pm on Thursday and managed to nab Aditya Singh, who is said to be the mastermind.

Later, Arshad and Rakesh were picked up from their hideout.

In another case, a 30-year-old man, identified as Arvind, who was carrying a cash reward of Rs 10,000, was arrested from Mohanlalganj area on Friday morning.

The police said they were conducting hectic searches to arrest him for the last one year. He was involved in robberies, extortions, thefts and other incidents. Over two dozens cases had been registered against him. The police nabbed him with the help of village guards late night Thursday. He was arrested after he confessed to his crime.

Meanwhile, two persons involved in buying and selling land using fake documents were arrested on Friday afternoon. They were identified as Sandeep Rathore and Nekapal alias Nikki. They were arrested after a thorough probe following eight complaints lodged against them at Gomtinagar police station.

## Fellowship for BBAU research scholars

**Lucknow (PNS):** Eight research scholars of BBAU's department of Pharmaceutical Sciences were selected for extramural fellowship (SRF) invited under ICMR Extramural Fellowship Proposals Scheme. "The results of the extramural fellowship proposals (January 2020 cycle) invited under ICMR Extramural Fellowship Proposals Scheme were declared on October 15. From a total of 815 fellowship (SRF/RA) proposals which got technically approved, eight research scholars of BBAU were selected.

They include Muejeba Rehman, Raviraj Pal, Raquibun Nisa, Prashant Pandey, Samipta Singh, Payal Deepak, Neha and Richa Anand. These students submitted their proposals under diverse research areas such as targeted delivery for rheumatoid arthritis, cancer biology and nanotechnology, atherosclerosis, gene delivery etc.

**NOTICE**

This is to inform to all that my documents i.e (1) Uttar Pradesh Awas Vikas Parishad's registered deed of residential plot no 14/267 allotment refer to dated 07/01/2015 letter no 1278/ssa.pra/vna and 2-Uttar Pradesh Awas Parishad's original copy of exchange deed's dated 10/04/2015, registered on bahi no-1, Jit no-11088 page no 343 to 374 serial no-1971 in office of Sub Registrar, IInd, Original page of Section-80, lost anywhere in mahanager K0. If any one had found the original copy's of aforesaid documents. Please inform to me at-Mr. Asif Khan SO Street Tahir Khan RDC-471, Sector-8, Mahanagar Lucknow. Or my mobile number 8840207737 Use of aforesaid paper is illegal.

**Public Notice**

All the common people are informed that Upanasa Singh wife of, Briendra Singh is the current owner & occupier of Land Gata No 180 is under total area of 87.97 sq. Mtr - Uttara Gaun Lalgaun, RaeBareilly. The previously executed sale deed of the above property dated 24.02.2014 Book No. 1 Vol. 1732 Pages 249/282 The SL. 547 SRO Lalgaun, has been lost. Current owner mortgage the above property in favor of LIC HFL Branch Raebareilly. If there is any objection to any persons in respect of subject property and sale deed then the issue of objection to the following address within fifteen days from the date of publication. CONTACT FOR OBJECTIONS SANJEEV KUMAR SHUKLA, ADVOCATE S-LEGAL ASSOCIATES, ABOVE CANARA BANK, SUPER MARKET RAE BAREILLY (U.P.) Mob. No. : +91 9415190904

**RAJASTHAN STATE GANGANAGAR SUGAR MILLS LIMITED**  
23 F Teh- Srikanpur, Sri Ganganagar - 335027 (RAJ.)  
Ph. 01501-248015, 248064, Fax- 01501-248016  
निविदा क्र०/क्रय/5/20-21/23एफ. सुगर फैक्ट्री/ दिनांक:- 14.10.2020

**निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

S. Item N. O.	Invited From	Tender Type	UBN No.	Last Time & Date of submitting Bids	Opening Time & Date of Bids
1. Operation and maintenance of Distillery (Capacity 30 KL/DP with 1.2 MW biomass based power plant) with material conversion cost basis on Molasses method	Eligible bidders	Online	GSM2021 WSOB001017 2020_RSGSM_203128	05-11-2020 Upto 06:00 PM	06-11-2020 At 11:30 AM

Details may be seen in the Bidding Document from govt. websites eroc.rajasthan.gov.in www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.rajesxice.gov.in. Bidder may submit their bids in the office before due date and time. Further updates if any, about the bidding will be available only on these websites therefore interested parties are advised to visit these websites regularly for updates. Raj.Samwadi/C/20/5722 General Manager

**कादं सं. 26(1)/Estate/2020-21**  
**राष्ट्रीय शर्करा संस्थान**  
आईईएसओ 9001:2015 प्रमाणित संस्थान  
उपभोगका मामले खाद्य एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय  
(खाद्य एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग)  
(भारत सरकार)  
कल्याणपुर, कानपुर  
दिनांक : 16.10.2020

**विधि विस्तार सूचना**

संदर्भ: 26(1)/Estate/2020-21 दिनांक 18.09.2020

"Boring of tube well of size 6" and depth 300 feet (approx.)" हेतु दिनांक 18.09.2020 को समाप्त पत्रों में प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना के अन्तर्ग में निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 26.10.2020 तक विस्तारित की जा रही है। विस्तृत विवरण संस्थान की वेबसाइट www.nsi.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। अन्य शर्तें अनिवार्य तः रहेंगी। (श्री) जाहर सिंह) सहायक आयुक्त शर्करा प्रौद्योगिकी एवं वित्त प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

**छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) / / सर्व संबंधित को सूचना / /**

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जात है कि मेसर्स पथराकुण्डी लार्ड्स स्टेन माईन (श्री अवधेश जैन) ग्राम-पथराकुण्डी, तहसील-तिल्दा, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) द्वारा खसरा नं. 314/2 एवं 315/2 कुल लीज क्षेत्र 7.044 हेक्टेयर में चूना पत्थर खदान (मुख्य खनिज) क्षमता-94,500 टन/वर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति बाबत लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 18/11/2020 को समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे से परियोजना स्थल पंचायत भवन, ग्राम पंचायत भरुवाडीह कला, तहसील-तिल्दा, जिला-रायपुर में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-

- लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल/सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मार्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
- कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/पहन हेतु डाफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सीडी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (डब्ल्यू.सी.जेड) पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, ग्राउण्ड फ्लोर, ईस्ट विंग, न्यू सेक्रेटरेट बिल्डिंग, सिविल लाईन, नागपुर (महाराष्ट्र), कार्यालय कलेक्टर रायपुर, जिला-रायपुर, मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, जिला-रायपुर, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला-रायपुर, कार्यालय, सरपंच, ग्राम पंचायत नहरडीह, भरुवाडीह कला, तहसील तिल्दा, जिला-रायपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, जिला-रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है।

हं/- सदस्य सचिव

क्रमांक 1529 शेका/तक/छ.प.सं.म./2020 छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, दिनांक 16/10/2020 नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION**  
1, NAWAB YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINES, Prayagraj-211001  
FAX No. : 0532-2408826 www.core.indianrailways.gov.in

**Tender Details CORRIGENDUM-2** Publish Date: 14.10.2020, 18.16

**Tender No.ELCORE-OHE-EPC-09A** Closing 01.12.2020 (Open Tender) Date/Time 15.00

**Name of Work:** EPC TENDER: Request for Proposal For Electrification of Railway Lines in Birur (Excl.)-Talaguppa(Indl), Chikbanavar (Excl)-Hassan (Excl), Chikmagalur (Incl)-Kaddur(Incl) and Hospet (Excl)-Swamihalli (Incl) Sections of South Western Railway On Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode. [Bid/Packge No. EPC-09A].

**Items Modified**

**NIT Header**

Field Name	Existing Value	Modified Value
Tender Closing Date Time	17.11.2020 15.00	01.12.2020 15.00
Bidding Start Date	03.11.2020	17.11.2020

PR/548/2020 ADK "Serving Customers with a Smile" www.ireps.gov.in

**ASSAM UNIVERSITY (A Central University) SILCHAR-788011**

Employment Notification No. 3/2020 Dated 21st September, 2020 Online applications are invited from Indian nationals for filling up the following Group-A, B & C Non-Teaching positions in Assam University.

**Group-A**  
(i) Registrar\* (1,UR), (ii) Finance Officer\* (1,UR), (iii) Librarian\* (1,UR) (iv) Director\*, College Development Council (1,UR), (v) Assistant Registrar\* (1,OB)  
Pay in pay matrix : Rs. 1, 44,200 (Level-14: Rs. 1, 44,200-2, 18,200) & (Level-10: Rs. 56,100-1, 77,500)

**Group-B**  
(i) Hindi Translator (1,UR)  
Pay in pay matrix : Rs. 35,400 (Level-6: Rs. 35,400-1, 12,400)

**Group-C**  
(ii) Multi-Tasking Staff(MTS)(2; 1 SC, 1EWS)  
Pay in pay matrix: Rs. 18,000 (Level-1: Rs. 18,000-56,900)

\*The Post of Registrar, Finance Officer and Director, College Development Council is tenure post for a period of 5 (five) years and she/he shall be eligible for reappointment. Candidates who have already applied against the employment notification no 1/2020-RECT dated 01.01.2020 and 2/2020 dated 28.05.2020 for Group-A posts need not apply again for the said posts.

Last date for submission of online application form, payment of fees and application form PDF download is **30th October, 2020 up to 5.00pm.**

Last date for submission of downloaded application form along with the enclosures is: 6th November 2020 up to 5:00 p.m.

The detailed Eligibility criteria, pay matrix, general instruction as well as other details like mode of submission of forms & fees etc. can be seen & downloaded from Assam University website <http://www.aus.ac.in>.

davp 21240 / 11 / 0015 / 2021 Sd/- Registrar i/c



# Navratra begins today amidst COVID-19 guidelines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

All the preparations have been completed at most of the Durga temples in this holy city of Lord Shiva for the Shardiya Navratra beginning from Saturday. Though the district administration has issued its COVID-19 related guidelines, it is expected that during this second Navratra of the year, religious fervour would be seen at various temples, contrary to the first (Vasantik Navratra) when all the temples remained closed due to nationwide lockdown. This time, the Navratra will be nine days, though Navmi and Dashmi fall on the same day on October 25.

This holy city has separate temples of all the nine Devis and nine Gauris where the devotees offer prayer on different days during Shardiya and Vasantik Navratras respectively. With the opening of famous Durga Mandir, where normally rush is seen during all the nine days during both the Navratras, it is expected that religious fervour would be seen there as even on the eve of beginning of festival, rush of devotees was seen at various shops there to purchase coconuts, chunnis and other puja articles as a huge number of people observe the nine



Devotees purchasing chunnis and puja articles on eve of beginning of Navratra in Varanasi on Friday

days fast at their own houses by installing Kalash.

Besides, all the preparations including barricading have been completed at Shailputri Devi temple at Alaipura near Shakkar Talab behind Varanasi City railway station. On the first day, a large number of devotees are expected to turn out there. The devotees will throng Brahmcharini Devi (Brahma Ghat) on the second day, followed by Chandra Ghanta Devi (Chowk), Kushmanda Devi (Durga Kund), Skanda Mata (Bageshwari Devi at Jaitpura), Katyayani Devi (Sangtha

Mandir, Manikarnika Ghat), Kalratri (Kalka Gali Dashaswamedh), Maha Gauri (Annapurna Mandir near Kashi Vishwanath temple) and Siddhidatri Devi (Siddh Mata Gali near Golghar) during the other days of Navratra.

Not only this, thousands of devotees through buses and other vehicles are also expected to rush Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district to offer prayer at Maa Vindhyavasini Devi during Navratra. As several routes are available to visit there, it is expected that good number of devotees will go there as the temple has already

reopened there. According to the district administration of Mirzapur, no devotees would be allowed into the temple premises without wearing masks and social distance would be maintained during the festival. The devotees would also not be allowed to touch the idols and enter the Garbgrhi of Maa Vindhyavasini Devi. Both the Railways and Roadways have made some arrangements for the conveniences of the devotees. Earlier, UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal has instructed the officers of Jal Nigam, Nagar Nigam, Jalkal, PWD and others to ensure repairing of all the roads approaching the nine Durga temples within a couple of days so that the devotees would not face any inconveniences. Meanwhile, there are doubts over the conduct of nine days of Durga Puja at Townhall because at the same place, from October 19, Nagar Nigam session is scheduled to be started. About half a dozen places, the committees celebrate nine days long Durga Puja while the majority of puja pandals do the same either three or five days. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is expected that no big extravaganza would be seen during Durga Puja this time in this 'Mini Kolkata'.

## 82 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 82 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district here on Friday, increasing the total number of cases to 15,597. The day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 251. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 197 patients. Out of them, 193 have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 11,558 and four have been discharged from the

hospitals, increasing the total number to 2,773. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 14,331, leaving 1,015 active patients. The recovery rate has slightly improved to 91.88 per cent and mortality rate to 1.60 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 38 positive patients were found out of 3,382 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,71,490 and the results of 1619 are

awaited. Out of them, 2,55,937 were negative, while 15,553 positive.

The total number of samples collected was 2,87,514. Earlier, a male aged 62 from Sikraul succumbed to COVID-19 at Heritage Hospital. With the addition of 14 new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,213 including 280 red zones. Two green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,933 green zones with two new ones.

Under ongoing mass/group antigen tests, one person out of 355 tests was detected positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura while all the 345 tests at adjacent Government Women's Hospital were found negative. However, two out of 97 tested positive at CHC Shivpur, one out of 104 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, two out of 148 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and three out of 456 at SSH BHU.

## Upendra gives appointment letters to teachers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In response to the appointment letters given by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to 31,277 of the state through digital platform, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) Upendra Tiwari provided letters to 230 newly-appointed teachers of Varanasi and 1,600 of Jaunpur districts and at a function held here which was directly linked with CM's programme, he gave the letters to five, bringing rare happiness on their faces here on Friday. Later, at another function he gave letters to other newly-appointed teachers.

Newly-appointed assistant teacher Risha Kumari praised Yogi Government for its efforts and adopting of transparent system in recruitment. Interacting with Risha after digitally launching the distribution programme of appointment letters to selected teachers by Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Council, CM emphasised that the appointment letters are being given



UP Minister Upendra Tiwari, along with newly appointed primary school teachers in Varanasi on Friday

before the beginning of Navratra. Upendra Tiwari presented letters to five including Sonal Chaturvedi, Risha Kumari, Manoj Kumar, Priyanka Singh and Shashank Singh and wished them for a bright future.

Speaking on the occasion, Tiwari said that UP is being headed towards becoming 'Uttam Pradesh' under Yogi Adityanath Government by seeing continuous improve-

ment in every field. 'There has been widespread improvement in the field of education as well. In basic education, 1.34 crore children were educated in 1,59,000 primary schools but at present the number of children has increased to 1.80 crore, he said, adding that the CM has always thought that the standard of education in the primary schools should be above the convent schools and UP is the first such government in the

country, which provided free uniforms, shoes, stockings, sweaters etc. to the children studying in primary schools and as a result of this policy, the number of new children in primary schools has increased by more than five million.

The function was also attended by MLAs Dr Awadhesh Singh and Surendra Narayan Singh and District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma.

## BoB holds mega loan camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To mark the World Food Day, the Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Friday organised Mega Loan Distribution Camp and Kisan Mela and distributed loans among farmers.

The BoB organised farmers' fortnight from October 1 to 16 on the occasion of World Food Day. The bank organised a mega camp at its regional office, here besides the same camp at all branches in the district on the closing day of fortnight. The chief guest of mega camp and Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal, while addressing the gathering said that the Varanasi division has succeeded in securing first place in executing work under Prime Minister Swanidhi scheme adding, all the banks in gener-



BoB organising a programme on World Food Day in Varanasi on Friday

al and the BoB in particular played the appreciative role for this achievement.

Regional Manager Ranjit Kumar Jha said that India's soul resides in villages and more than 60 per cent population of

the country are engaged with the agriculture profession and added, the farmers' work is great because they manage food for all of us by producing foodgrain. He apprised the farmers and beneficiaries about

the approval and distribution of loan and assured the farmers that all 74 branches falling in this region of bank are completely committed to serve them. The stalls were also installed in the mega camp to apprise the farmers about various schemes being run for their welfare.

General Manager and Zonal Head, Lucknow Zone Brajesh Kumar Singh joined the mega camp virtually and said that the BoB is coordinator of Uttar Pradesh State Level Bankers' Committee and added, the bank's all branches and staff are committed to benefit the beneficiaries of various government schemes.

The AGM Narendra Pal and Sub-Regional Head Swapn Kumar Dey were among prominent present on the occasion.

## 194 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Although coronavirus infection has reduced in the district, the number of patients is also being found continuously. Now 194 new infected patients have been found while one died in the last 24 hours on Thursday. The SDM of Karchana Tehsil are also among those detected infected. Apart from this, a dozen health workers and bank workers have also been found corona positive. The number of corona patients has now reached 21,978 and the death toll from corona has reached 290.

Gynecologists and staff nurses of Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital are also among those who got corona infected. Apart from this, Staff Nurse of United Hospital, Health Worker of Karchana Community Health Centre, Cash Officer of State Bank, Jasra, DEO of TB Sapru Hospital, Asha Worker of Dhanupur, CRPF constable of Phaphamau, Manager of Naini UPSIDC, Chief Engineer of Subedarganj Railway Station The report is positive.

CMO Dr GS Bajpai said that the pharmacist, assistant loco pilot posted at Dr Gaurav Agarwal's clinic, Professor of Saidabad PG College, Recovery Officer of Bank of Baroda, SI of RAF, Secretary of Co-operative Bank and doctors of Manohar Das Eye Institute have also been found infected. Most of these patients have been given the facility of home isolation, the remaining patients are being



An employee thermal screening visitors before they are allowed entry in the planetarium at Anand Bhawan in Prayagraj

kept in Covid Hospital or in Covid Care Centres. On Thursday, 147 patients also recovered, with 24 patients discharged from Covid Hospital and 123 patients exiting home isolation.

Meanwhile, an online seminar on World Hand Washing Day was organised at Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Government Post Graduate College, under the auspices of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat and National Service

Scheme, organised on Thursday. Chief speaker Senior Medical Officer Government Hospital Ghazipur, Fatehpur Dr. Kaustubh Mani Mishra gave special emphasis on behavioural change in prevention of corona, hand washing correctly, use of masks and gloves, physical distance and balanced diet was important. College Principal Prof Sunanda Chaturvedi said that washing hands and feet before

coming from outside and before meals has been our ancient tradition, which we ignored with changing times. Now in the present time we have required our behaviour change. Therefore, we have to make everyone aware of the formation of healthy habits, only then we will be able to win the battle with corona. The programme was conducted by Dr Neetu Singh, the nodal officer of Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

## HC directs DGP to file affidavit on wearing of masks by people

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court has directed the Director General of Police (DGP) of the state to file his affidavit mentioning the steps taken to ensure cent per cent wearing of masks by the people and also maintenance of social distancing across the state in order to check COVID-19.

Hearing a PIL relating to COVID-19, a division bench comprising Justice Siddhartha Varma and Justice Ajit Kumar observed, 'It was informed to the court that not only in Prayagraj but all over the State of UP, people were not taking seriously the wearing of

masks and they were not maintaining social distancing.

It was informed that buses, tempo and auto-rickshaws were loading people to an extent which defies any kind of social distancing. We have seen that the police and the administration have worked together tirelessly but yet they have not been able to achieve the desired results.

It may be here mentioned that the time has now come when the Director General of Police (DGP) of the State of UP should take the call and come up with a definite modus operandi by which he proposes to see that 100 per

cent people would wear masks and they would also maintain social distancing. This matter has to be taken up at the highest possible priority.'

Taking a serious note of the fact that people have again re-encroached those places after the leaving of the team of Nagar Nigam and Prayagraj Development Authority, the court directed the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Prayagraj to see that all re-encroachments are removed.

Besides, on an information given that the work of fogging and sanitisation by the Nagar Nigam was not being done properly, the court has

directed that the work of fogging and sanitisation be done properly not only in Allahabad but it should be done all over the state.

While directing to place this case on October 21, 2020 for the next hearing, the court directed that a copy of this order shall be made available to the Chief Secretary of the state, the Director General of Police (DGP), Uttar Pradesh and all the district magistrates, senior superintendents of police/ superintendents of police and the chief medical officers of all the districts of the state through registrar general of this court forthwith.

## Global Handwash Day observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Global Handwash Day was observed at Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology And Sciences (SHUATS), Prayagraj.

The Coordinator of National Service Scheme (NSS) Dr Rohit Lal said that this day is celebrated to spread awareness about hand hygiene as hands are the most common medium of transferring viruses to mouth and getting infected. With the world facing the COVID-19 pandemic, washing hands and maintaining hand hygiene has become all the more important and need of the hour. He said that under the guidance of Pro V-C (Admin.) Prof SB Lal and Registrar Prof Robin L Prasad

various activities including online poster competition, hand washing campaign, and awareness programme were conducted on world hand wash day. Programme Officer Satyam Kesari contributed in organising the competition and awareness programme successfully. Satyam Kesari said that NSS volunteers promoted online awareness and proper hand washing steps as well as offline in home and nearby, maintaining safe distance.

**NAVRATRA BEGINS TODAY:** The Shardiya Navratra, symbol of sacrifice, penance and dedication will be beginning on Saturday. The Devi temple will be decked up after nearly seven months of silence. Devotees come from far and wide to

visit Siddhapeeth Maa Lalitha Devi, Siddhapeeth Maa Alopshankari and Siddhapeeth Maa Kalyanidevi Temple. In order to get the desired fruit, devotees will offer prayer with offering coconut, chunri.

Special vigilance will be taken in the Devi temples in view of corona infection. The devotees will be stood within two yards. Only the devotee wearing a mask will be able to enter the temple. There is a directive not to gather too much crowd in the temples in view of corona infection.

This is the reason that the temple administration is working as per the guidelines. Separate lines will be made for female and male devotees. Their entry and exit will be different. Volunteers

will be put in place along with police personnel for two yards and following the wearing of masks. They will constantly warn people.

Maa Alopshankari temple was sanitised in view of Navratra. Srimanta Jamuna Puri said that the temple premises have been sanitised and the place of philosophy and ritual has been arranged. The devotees have been instructed to put on masks and bring sanitisers. The shopkeepers selling garland, flowers, coconut, prasad and toys near the temple of Maa Alopshankari and Maa Lalitha Devi have been instructed to sanitise and sell everything. The temple management has instructed the shopkeepers to sit with masks so that the devotees also follow it.

## World Food Day celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Every year SHUATS celebrates World Food Day with various events and competitions, it is celebrated as a reminder of the importance of Food Security and encourages the students to join in the worldwide fight against hunger. Unlike every year, this year's programme was organised online.

The Department of Food Processing, VIAET, SHUATS hosted various competitions such as essay writing, poster presentation, etc and also organised lectures on the theme 'Food Security and Healthy diet'. The function was inaugurated by Prof AKA Lawrence, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic affairs),

who encouraged the students to play their part by embracing the modern techniques for Food Safety. Deputy Dean of VIAET, SHUATS, Dr Deepak Lal also explained the importance of Food Security.

The special guests in the programme Dr. Alok Kumar Srivastava, Chief Scientist and Director, CSIR, Mysuru and Dr. Rajkumar Arjun, Scientist, ICAR, CASHEW Research Institute, Karnataka elaborated in detail through lectures about the various techniques and modern technologies that can ensure Food Security.

The programme was planned and well executed by members and staff advisors of The Society of Food Engineers & Technologists Dr RN.Shukla, Er.Aditya Lal, Er.

Chitra Sonkar and Er. Hena Imtiyaz.

Er. Dorcus Masih, officiating Head, concluded the programme by thanking all the authorities of the university, special guests, judges, society members, faculty members and students.

**A L U M N I INTERACTION WEBINAR:** Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad is organising its first Alumni Interaction Webinar titled 'Getting Connected Again' on September 17 at 6:30 pm.

Prof P Nagabhushan, Director, IIIT-A will address the alumni as the chief guest of the Alumni Interaction Webinar. He will be addressing the audience to narrate

about his vision towards building strong relationship between Alumni and their Alma mater i.e. IIIT-A.

Alumni will also get an opportunity to tell about their success journey after passing out from IIIT-A and also tell us how they would like to support/ contribute to their Alma mater with an aim to make it one of the top institutions of the world.

Prof Anupam Agrawal, Dean, TPA said that the institute had received a good response from our alumni from India as well as abroad. The institute has invited its faculty members, officers, staff and current students to which will enable our alumni in building stronger association with their alma mater.





The District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari inspecting the Sarsaul Gau Sanrakshan Kendra on Friday

Pioneer

## Each nyay panchayat to set up one cow protection centre: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari has ordered the setting up of at least one cow protection centre in all the nyay panchayats.

Addressing a meeting at Sarsaul Gau Sanrakshan Kendra on Friday, the district magistrate asked the officials concerned to identify barren land for the gaushalas (cow shelters) and set them up on a war footing.

He said each gaushalas should have a huge manure dumping pit so that organic fertiliser could be made from it for

farming.

He said to make the gaushalas economically feasible and self-dependent, the manure should be used for manufacturing various indigenous products.

He said the cow shelters would also prepare earthen lamps for Diwali, cow dung cakes for fuel, flower pots of cow dung that would be manufactured through self-help groups.

He directed the officials to ensure that this directive were implemented in the right earnest.

He also took a feedback on the number of milch cattle

present in the cow protection centres.

He found that there were 106 cows and three milk giving cows had been loaned to the family of malnourished children.

He also inquired about the availability of fodder and water. He was informed that there was a submersible pump which catered to the need of cattle and a veterinarian visited the centre for the treatment of the ill cows.

The block development officer informed the district magistrate that napier grass was being grown as it grew faster and yielded more.

The district magistrate appealed to the people to ensure that this Diwali they used earthen lamps manufactured at cow protection centres as this would give a boost to the cottage industry.

He said unless the people preferred these indigenous products, there was no other way to promote cottage industries which were the means of livelihood for the rural people.

He said if there was any need for help for these centres, they should contact the officials at the earliest and advised them to ensure cleanliness in the centres.

## 74 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 74 more coronavirus positive cases on Friday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 74 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Thursday evening and Friday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 27,148 cases. He said one COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Friday evening keeping the death toll to 709.

The CMO said with 37 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals the cured figure in the city was 7013 and at present 2417 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4089 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## Court to hear We Banker plea on Oct 22

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The court has set October 22 as the next date for hearing the petition filed by the United Forum of We Banker.

Counsel of the Union Government, MK Singh, produced in the court the Union Labour and Employment Ministry's letter which stated that the matter was still pending in the office of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) and the next date of joint discussion would be fixed after consultation with both the parties as the IBA had informed that they were in the process of resolving the dispute through bilateral talks.

It may be mentioned that in a letter dated June 11, 2020, the conciliation officer had communicated to the Central government that the talks for conciliation between the employees union and the Bankers representative had failed.

The court asked Additional Solicitor General of India SP Singh to remain present in the court on the next date of hearing with proper instructions.

## Panel for removing railway track

KANPUR (PNS): A survey team set up to study the possibilities of removal of the railway track from Anwarganj to Mandhana has submitted its report to the Railway Ministry.

The team, led by the superintending engineer of National Highways (PWD), has recommended the diversion of Anwarganj-Mandhana railway track to overcome the problem of massive jam as it was not possible to construct railway over bridges (ROBs) at different places on this route in the city.

The railway track from Anwarganj to Mandhana runs parallel to the GT Road. There are 18 level crossings between Anwarganj and Mandhana. Due to frequent movement of trains and closing of the level crossings, commuters are caught in massive jam at Jarib Chowki, Gumti No.5, Coca Cola crossing, Rawatpur, Geeta Nagar, Sharda Nagar, Polytechnic crossing, Pulse Research Institute, Bagia crossing and Kalyanpur crossing.

People's representatives and other media organisations have apprised the Railway Ministry several times in the past about the massive jam on GT road due to 18 level crossings situated in the busiest localities of the city. Bharatiya Janata Party parliamentary member Satyadeo Pachauri had also raised the issue in Parliament.

With a view to resolve the citizens' problem, the North Central Railway authorities had set up a committee led by NH (PWD) Superintending Engineer SA Usmani which has now submitted its report.

The committee, while recommending the removal of railway track from Anwarganj to Mandhana has suggested to link the track for onward journey at Panki.

Committee Chairman SA Usmani said he had recommended the diversion of the Anwarganj-Mandhana track to the Railway Ministry.

## Woman, grandson murdered

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

A woman and her 12-year-old grandson were murdered in Ramjanakinagar under the Shahpur police station. The cause of the murder could not be ascertained so far but the police was looking at it by linking it to a property dispute, last reports received here said. The couple had a rift for the past seven years. According to a report received here, the bodies of Chanda (62), wife of Virendra Singh, a resident of Ramjanakinagar, and her grandson, Naitik (12), were recovered from the house in Naya Tola, Ramjanakinagar. The news created a sensation in the area. Both of them were attacked with a sharp-edged knife. On getting information the police swung into action. A forensic team and a dog squad were pressed into service. Reports said that there was a rift between Virendra Singh and his wife for the past seven years. After Virendra Singh had expelled his wife from the house, she had started living in a rented house in Pachpedwa. Just a week ago the two reached an agreement and Virendra had given his wife Chanda three rooms in the house. Thereafter she started living there. In one portion Virendra Singh lived along with his son,

Vishal, and daughter-in-law while his wife, Chanda, with their grandson, Naitik. Their daughter, Soni used to come occasionally and stayed with her mother. Initial investigation revealed that Bhagwandas, father of Virendra Singh, originally from Shahjahanpur district, had come here in connection with the job in the railway. Later Virendra Singh also got a job in the railway here. They got their house constructed. Virendra Singh had three sons and a daughter. However, his two sons had died and both of them were unmarried. His daughter, Soni, was married to a main belonging to Mehdaal area of Sant Kabir Nagar district.

THREE MISCREANTS APPREHENDED: The STF and Crime Branch arrested three miscreants who looted people after giving them lift in



the car and then administering some intoxicating substance

to them. During interrogation the three criminals confessed their involvement in four incidents in the district. The victims have identified them. Reports said that the same gang was involved in the incident in which a former minister's gunner was looted about a year ago. They had deprived him of his carbine. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jyendra Kumar and SP (City) Dr Kaustubh on Thursday gave information about the culprits at a press conference organised at the Police Lines. The arrested criminals were identified as Pankaj, a resident of Ledaura village under the Ahirwala police station of Azamgarh district, Akhilesh, a resident of Bilariaganj area in Azamgarh, and Ram Avtar, a resident of Bialarouva village in Azamgarh. The police produced all the accused in the court from where they were sent to jail. Meanwhile an earlier report said that a police team constituted on the directive of the SSP, under the supervision of SP (City) Dr Kaustubh and under the leadership of CO Cantt Sumit Shula arrested a vehicle thief Arvind Nishad recently. On clues provided by him a stolen motorcycle was recovered. The accused was arrested from Char Phatak Chauraha under the Cantt police station, police added.

## Sewing machines distributed

CORRESPONDENT ■ RAE BAREILLY

NTPC Unchahar, as a part of its community development initiatives, distributed sewing machines and certificates among young girls from the neighbouring areas on International Day of Rural Women on Thursday. The NTPC believes rural women are the agents

of socio-economic development. A sustainable future requires an optimal engagement of rural women, including young girls, who can lead the transformation and be agents of change in all aspects of their daily lives. Therefore, as a part of the skill development programme the girls were provided formal training in sewing. Through training and distribution of sewing machines, NTPC aims to equip girls with requisite skills and resources to strengthen their livelihood opportunities. During

the programme Covid-19 protocol was followed. The chief guest at the event was Chandrakala Mishra, president, Priyadarshini Women's Club, who interacted with young girls on the occasion and praised the works done by them after training. She further said that the purpose behind conducting the sewing training course was to ensure that the young girls could become self-

reliant and start their own business. Additional General Manager (AGM), Human Resources (HR), V a n d a n a Chaturvedi also spoke on the occasion. President of Priyadarshini



Women's Club, Chandrakala Mishra, Sharvani Banerjee, Vidya Jha and AGM (HR) Vandana Chaturvedi provided sewing machines to the girls on the successful completion of their four-month-long training. Senior members of Priyadarshini Mahila Club were also present during the programme.

## Timetable for puja spl trains announced

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

In view of the forthcoming festivals the following special trains will be run between October 20 and December 2 by the railway administration for the convenience of the passengers. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 norms, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) PK Singh said.

The 05115 Chhapra-Delhi weekly puja special will from October 24 to November 28 every Saturday leave Chhapra at 11.15 hrs, Ballia at 12.28 hours, Yusufpur at 13:15 hours, Ghazipur City at 13:41 hours, Aunrihar at 14:40 hours, Dobhi at 15:15 hrs, Kerakat at 15:25 hours, Jaunpur at 16:40 hours, Shahganj at 17:15 hours, Akbarpur at 17:56 hours, Faizabad at 19:00 hours, Lucknow (NR) at 22:35 hrs, on the second day Hardoi at 00:58 hrs, Shahjahanpur at 02:55 hrs, Aonla at 04:58 hrs, Chandausi at 06:10 hrs, Moradabad at 08:03 hrs, Amroha at 08:35 hrs, Hapur at 09:38 hrs, Ghaziabad at 10:29 hrs, Delhi Shahadra at 10:53 hrs and reach Delhi at 11:20 hrs. During the return journey the 05116 Delhi-Chhapra weekly puja special from October 25 to November 29 will every Sunday leave Delhi at 14:00 hrs, Delhi Shahadra at 14:16 hrs, Ghaziabad at 14:54 hrs, Hapur at 15:30 hrs, Amroha at 16:30 hrs, Moradabad at 17:20 hrs, Chandausi at 19:00 hrs, Aonla at 19:55 hrs, Shahjahanpur at 23:17 hrs, on second day Hardoi at 00:15 hrs, Lucknow (NR) at 02:05 hrs, Faizabad at 05:05 hrs, Akbarpur at 06:15 hrs, Shahganj at 07:15 hrs, Jaunpur at 08:30 hrs, Kerakat at 08:59 hrs, Dobhi at 09:08 hours, Aunrihar at 09:37 hours, Ghazipur City at 10:33 hours, Yusufpur at 10:50 hours and Ballia at 11:58 hours and reach Chhapra at 13:20 hours. A total of 20 coaches, including two coaches of GSLRD, eight of general second class, seven of sleeper class, one of AC second and two of AC third. The 05101 Chhapra-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT-

Mumbai) weekly puja special train will from October 20 to November 24 every Tuesday leave Chhapra at 21:15 hours, Siwan at 22:10 hours, Bhatni at 22:55 hours, Deoria Sadar at 23:20 hours, on second day Gorakhpur at 00:40 hrs, Basti at 01:43 hrs, Gonda at 03:15 hrs, Badshahnagar at 05:30 hrs, Aishbagh at 06:25 hrs, Kanpur Central at 08:00 hrs, Orai at 09:57 hrs, Jhansi at 11:55 hrs, Bhopal at 16:35 hrs, Itarsi at 18:15 hrs, Khandwa at 21:00 hrs, Bhusaval at 22:55 hrs, on the third day Manmad at 01:10 hrs, Nashik Road at 02:10 hrs, Kalyan at 05:03 hrs and reach CSMT at 06:15 hrs. During the return journey the 05102 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus-Chhapra (Mumbai) weekly puja special train from October 20 to November 27 every Friday will leave CSMT (Mumbai) at 15:30 hours, Kalyan at 16:33 hours, Nashik Road at 19:25 hours, Manmad at 20:40 hours, Bhusaval at 23:25 hours, on second day Khandwa at 02:35 hours, Itarsi at 05:10 hours, Bhopal at 07:20 hrs, Jhansi at 11:45 hours, Orai at 13:07 hours, Kanpur Central at 17:20 hours, Aishbagh at 19:25 hours, Badshahnagar at 19:45 hours, Gonda at 21:50 hours, Basti at 23:05 hours, on the third day Gorakhpur at 00:55 hours, Deoria Sadar at 01:41 hours, Bhatni at 02:15 hours and Siwan at 03:05 hours and reach Chhapra at 04:40 hours. A total of 19 coaches, including two coaches of generator-cum-luggage van, and 17 coaches of general second class, will be attached in this train.

RAMNAGAR-AGRA FORT SPL TO RUN FROM OCT 20

The railway administration for the convenience of passengers during the festivals will run the 05056/05055 Ramnagar-Agra Fort-Ramnagar triweekly puja special train between October 20 and November 30. All coaches in this train will be of reserved category and passengers will have to follow the Covid-19 norms, CPRO PK Singh said. Reports said the

05056 Ramnagar-Agra Fort triweekly puja special train will from October 20 to November 29 leave Ramnagar every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday at 17:50 hours, Kashipur at 18:20 hours, Bazzpur at 18:50 hrs, Lalkuan at 19:36 hrs, Pantnagar at 19:48 hrs, Kichha at 20:00 hrs, Baheri at 20:18 hrs, Izzatnagar at 21:10 hrs, Bareilly City at 21:35 hrs, Bareilly at 21:55 hrs, Badaun at 22:55 hrs, Soron at 23:38 hrs, the second day Kasganj at 00:30 hrs, Sikandra Rao at 00:57 hrs, Hathras City at 01:32 hrs, Mathura Cantt at 02:57 hrs, Mathura Junction at 03:15 hrs, Achhnera at 03:57 hrs, Idgha Agra at 04:22 hrs and reach Agra Fort at 05:00 hrs. During the return journey 05055 Agra Fort-Ramnagar triweekly puja special will from October 21 to November 30 every Wednesday, Saturday and Monday leave Agra Fort at 13:05 hrs, Idgha Agra at 13:19 hrs, Achhnera at 13:52 hrs, Mathura Jn at 14:55 hrs, Mathura Cantt at 15:07 hrs, Hathras City at 15:43 hrs, Sikandra Rao at 16:09 hrs, Kasganj at 16:55 hrs, Ujhani at 17:43, Badaun at 18:01 hrs, Bareilly at 19:15 hrs, Bareilly City at 19:33 hrs, Izzatnagar at 19:57 hours, Baheri at 20:35 hrs, Kichha at 20:55 hrs, Pantnagar at 21:10 hrs, Lalkuan at 21:40 hours, Bajpur at 22:23 hrs, Kashipur at 23:05 hrs and will reach Ramnagar at 00:15 hours. A total of 16 coaches, including two of SLRD, six each of general second class and sleeper class, one each of AC third and AC second, will be attached in the train.

LUGGAGE RECOVERED

The Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER), makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. Reports said that in the same sequence unclaimed luggage was unloaded from coach S-3 of train No. 01107 by Railway Protection Force post Manduadih recently. After contacting the person concerned, the luggage was later safely handed over to the individual mentioned by him.

## Divisional commissioner inspects PWD CE office

### Orders action against absent staff

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar carried out a surprise inspection of the office of the PWD chief engineer on Friday and found that out of the 14 staff members only six were present in the office and in the chief engineer's office, five personnel were absent at 10:40 am. He directed the officials to stop the salaries of the absentee staff and also to issue show-cause notices to them.

The divisional commissioner said he had been informed about the late arrival of officials and staff in the office and thus strict action was in the pipeline to streamline the arrival of officials and staff on time.

He said the officials were required to reach the office on time and look into public grievances and also ensure that they were resolved with-

in the stipulated time frame.

He said it was a matter of grave concern that the office records were very shabby and in poor conditions in absence of proper upkeep and maintenance and this amounted to dereliction of duty.

Divisional Commissioner issued strict orders that all the record which were in a mess be set right in the next 15 days failing which strict action would be taken against the official concerned.

He said office incharge must be assigned the task to strictly monitor punctuality and presence in office daily and this had to be done daily and informed to the divisional commissioner's office without fail.

Both the chief engineer and superintending engineer were not available in the office as they had gone to Lucknow for meeting in

UPRRDA.

Meanwhile, the divisional commissioner carried out an early morning tour of the city on Friday and found that the cleanliness work was sub-standard and carried out at a poor pace although it could be done faster provided the Kanpur municipal commissioner, additional municipal commissioner and senior KNN officials personally toured the city early in the morning and ensured that the safai karmacharis collected garbage and took it to the dumping and processing site.

He made it mandatory for safai nayaks to photograph and make video clips of the cleanliness work and forward them to the KNN authorities regularly.

He said it was a matter of grave concern that the complaints of dirt, garbage, choked sewers reached the call

centres and help desk but kept lying pending. He directed the officials to ensure that the complaints were disposed of the same day.

He said burning of garbage was a major reason for the air pollution in the city.

He pointed out that the government had banned burning of garbage and directed the municipal commissioner to lodge FIR against those who burn garbage and take legal and administrative action.

He said there was a need for creating awareness to dump garbage in bins set up on roadsides. He said the dry and wet garbage had to be kept in bins separately.

He said every effort need to be made to ensure that littering was stopped by all means. He said roads which had caved in be repaired immediately and public toilets be cleaned and sprayed.

## Mayor faces ire of mini-dairy owners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Mayor Pramila Pandey had to face the wrath of mini-dairy owners when she along with Kanpur Nagar Nigam officers and Bharatiya Janata Party workers visited the Railway grounds in Govind Nagar to catch their cattle on Friday afternoon.

Seeing the cattle-catching squad headed by the mayor and accompanied by KNN officers and BJP workers, all the mini-dairy operators cornered and pelted stones at them, injuring a ruling party worker.

Mayor Pramila Pandey said on a tip-off, she had proceeded to the Railway grounds with City Health Officer Dr Ajay Sankhwar, Zonal Health Officer Arvind Yadav, corporators Girish Chandra, Pramod Jaiswal, former corporator Sandeep Jaiswal and other party activists. After marching towards

the Haluwakheda, around 300 metres away from the Railway grounds, she found several buffaloes tied with the hook there. As she directed the officials to count the buffaloes, the mini-dairy operators indulged in stone-pelting and abused the mayor and the officials accompanying her. In the stone-pelting, BJP worker Sukhwant Singh was injured.

When the mayor's gunner started to make a video of the incident, the mini-dairy operators disappeared from there.

The mayor said eight buffaloes and nine cows had been impounded by the KNN te a m . Govind Nagar Station House Officer Anurag Mishra said on receipt of complaint, FIR would be lodged against the assailants.

The mayor said after she asked Govind Nagar Circle Officer Vikas Pandey to send a police force, the mini-dairy

operators attacked them. Even after one hour, when the CO failed to reach the spot with police force, she asked SP (South) Deepak Bhuker to send a force.

The mayor said she would file a complaint to DIG about the failure of the CO to send the police force.

GSVMC FIRST YEAR MBBS EXAM FROM NOV 1

Chief Medical Superintendent and acting Principal of GSVM Medical College, Dr Richa Giri, said that the MBBS first year examination would start from November 1 after the nod of the district administration.

She said the Medical Council of India, which had raised an objection over the holding of the examination, had directed the medical college to ensure that it conducted practical classes at least for two months prior to



## China’s bluster

Beijing will continue to make tall claims, hoping to coerce us in a bloodless war. New Delhi must encircle it in the neighbourhood



For years together, China’s intimidatory tactics and surreptitious salami slicing of territories had gone unchallenged along our Himalayan border. A logistically disadvantaged India meant that China could keep a fairly low-cost vigilance operation and easily push its ultimate aim of controlling the Karakoram, Central Asia and beyond with Pakistan as the key conduit. But that has changed recently. Irrespective of the clash at Galwan, infrastructure development in border areas, particularly Ladakh, has been ramped up on our side over the last few years. Better roads have meant that we can rush supplies and reinforcements to our frontier posts and amass a presence quickly, something which was China’s forte for long. With its strategic edge compromised and now that our troops have shown in Galwan that they are as adept in mountain warfare and capable of giving a bloody nose to marauders, Beijing has realised that its ambush tactics can no longer “shock and awe” us. And given that the nature of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is not codified despite India’s best efforts in forcing China to a discussion on it, perceptual differences mean India is now more vociferous about its rightful claims, too. Post-Galwan, it is determined to not give up its acquired positions and ridges and stare down at China with the same gusto. This explains the rather hyperbolic and impassioned war cry by Chinese President Xi Jinping, asking his troops to be ready for war, while his administration objected to the opening of 44 bridges in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, saying they were “the root cause for tension between the two sides.” This came barely a day after Beijing declared that it considered both Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh illegal. Of course, India categorically rejected this latest missive, saying China has no locus standi to comment on its internal matters. This even as Minister for External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said that since peace talks with China were still on, he would not like to hazard an assessment. But his measured response was contradicted by Xi’s provocation, clearly as part of his relentless effort to wear us out in the war of perception. For the first time, if anything, this betrays China’s anxieties over what it had assumed would be a cakewalk, namely browbeating India. It may even tempt India into a limited theatre of war and then try to extract a give-and-take formula but it is getting exasperated with us refusing to bite the bait. The Siachenisation of Ladakh would cost it, too. Hence the stepped up rhetoric in the hope of getting some leeway in Ladakh. At best, the diplomacy is just a diversionary tactic as Beijing will not forfeit this geographical wedge between Gilgit-Baltistan in the west (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir), where it is invested in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and Aksai Chin in the east. It is an irritant to its regional supremacy, strategically and economically. And it wants an unhindered run of the highway from Xinjiang to Tibet, 179 km of which is under Indian shadow. As it is, by agreeing to a buffer zone, we have ceded our right to monitor forward areas in the Pangong Tso region. We should be wary of the fact that the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), which has been pitching tents, building roads and marking territories since 2013 and which takes orders from Xi himself, intends to keep the LAC hot. And challenge us routinely on a battle of nerves, hoping to coerce us in a bloodless war if possible.

India is already working on a multi-pronged global approach to rein in the dragon’s territorial and economic imperialism. It is challenging China in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), neutralising the latter’s maritime conduits and engaging with South and Southeast Asian nations that have been held hostage by Beijing’s debt-trapping economic bailouts. And to counter our greedy neighbour’s “string of pearls” diplomacy, which means having strong military and economic ties with all our neighbouring nations and laying siege to our national interests, we, too, have rolled the dice. The Government is bolstering defence cooperation in the neighbourhood, leasing out a submarine to Myanmar and arming it with torpedoes. We have begun ramping up the naval strategy around the Malacca Straits, which happens to be China’s trade and strategic corridor. India has deployed its vessels to keep a check on any activity of the Chinese Navy and is planning to maintain hawkish patrols through autonomous underwater vessels, unmanned systems and sensors. It has got more active in the Quad initiative with the US, Japan and Australia and is using its international goodwill as a nation that respects “rule-based order” to build a case against China’s “wolf warrior” tactics. Diplomatically, India should be transactional in its approach to China and lay down in no uncertain terms that the latter’s avarice for global domination would only push the second-largest Asian entity towards the US-led bloc. In fact, we have to be overt about our strategic partnership with the US but it wouldn’t be too invested in a theatre where it is not the dominant player. Besides, it may not want India to become too formidable in its quest to blunt China. Russia, for all its deepest desire to counter-balance China’s growing heft and leverage itself vis-a-vis the US, is compromised by economic dependencies. So, India is pretty much on its own and has to use every multi-national forum, alliance and bilateral ties to make enough noise about the asymmetric relationship with China. And it must girdle up with nations that are directly under our neighbour’s threat in the region to stand up and be counted.

## New timetable

The Indian Railways plan to reduce mail and express train services has angered some people but it is a necessary step



When the Railway Budget was presented separately until recently, concerned Ministers used to shower their largesse upon their home States as well as those of their friends. These usually included the construction of factories, yards, the creation of new zones and additional stops for trains. For example, the Rajdhani Express to Howrah started stopping at Etawah when Mulayam Singh Yadav dropped out the Government in the mid-1990s. But as the middle-classes desert express trains for the convenience of flights, now increasingly affordable and much, much faster, the Railway Board has smartly decided that its post-pandemic timetable, as passenger services return to normal, will not only do away with 600 mail and express trains but also upwards of 10,000 halts for many fast trains. While there is no doubt that the Railways do provide connectivity to interior locations of the country, there needs to be a serious re-planning of long-distance train services. It would make much more sense for fewer long-distance trains that can be coupled with better regional services to connect small towns to big cities as is being done in the National Capital Region (NCR) with the new Regional Railway. Of course, not everyone can afford flights. In fact, as we all learnt during the lockdown, many of India’s poorest migrants can barely afford trains and the Railways must continue to remain an option for those at the lowest rungs of the economic ladder. At the same time, they have to also become more competitive with airlines and make sense for those who have taken wings. Nobody wants to spend 16 hours in a train when a flight, even with travelling to and from the airport and security, will take under six hours and offer multiple time options.

At the same time, less passenger congestion on the tracks will help the Railways make hay, thanks to superior freight services. Many car companies are now using the Railways to send their products from their factories to major hubs as this is more efficient and better for the environment. These services don’t just keep the economy running smoothly but also help the Railways subsidise passenger services. There will be politicians who will scream and shout about this decision but this is actually a step forward and the Railways have to be complimented.

## Television and its warts

### The print medium has the responsibility of countering the socially and morally devastating effect of the deplorable fare that some channels are churning out



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The character assassinations and defamatory campaigns, witnessed on some television channels by some anchors and reporters against individual film personalities and the Mumbai movie industry, have understandably been strongly condemned. While the public response has mainly been focussed on the campaign and its gross violation of the principles of fair play, there is a compelling need to examine the character of television itself as a medium and its impact on society.

As a medium, television combines unfolding visuals with verbal narratives, besides bringing distant events to the homes of viewers, giving them a feeling of being in the midst of an unfolding development or its aftermath, with all its sights and sounds. In contrast, radio, which provides only audio accounts, does not give the feeling of being there and seeing it all. Not surprisingly, television coverage attracts more people than radio reportage and provokes more intense public reaction than radio.

The question arises: What are the consequences of its impact? One frequently heard in the 1960s that television coverage brought the horrors of the Vietnamese War into American drawing rooms and was a major factor in triggering massive protest demonstrations and rioting, hastening the United States’ withdrawal from Vietnam. Why go so far? We are now witness to the investigations into the rape and murder of a 19-year-old girl in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, in the aftermath of a nationwide uproar sparked principally by television reports.

Pieces in the print media — daily newspapers and magazines — have cost important people their perches. Newspaper reports have caused riots, violent demonstrations and general strikes, paralysing entire countries. This, however, was when newspapers and magazines constituted the dominant media. Now television has replaced them. This is the result not only of the pronounced edge that audio-visual reportage has over audio or print coverage, but of the fact that reports appear on television the same evening — or even earlier. An event has occurred, and by the time it is in newspapers the next morning, people already know the broad



contours of what has happened.

There is, however, a fundamental difference in popular response to television and print medium coverage respectively. It lies in not just the actions they trigger but the mindsets they create. This, in turn, follows from a basic difference in the character of the two. Visual images constitute the USP of television. An image is recognised; the mental process involved in cognition. A printed word is first decoded from the combination of the letters that constitute it, and is then linked by a mental process — association — to an object or an image. The ability to associate is central to the process of rational thinking and the latter is the principal instrument in the formulation of systems of thought or critical examination of the import of events.

Cognition primarily involves visual identification. It is not an act of intelligence though it can lead to one when externally stimulated. Much depends on the nature of the stimulus. In *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, Neil Postman states that entertainment is “the supra-ideology of all discourse on television. No matter what is depicted and from what point of view, the overarching presumption is that it is there for our amusement and pleasure.” This is hardly surprising. A very large section of people wants entertainment. Hence programmes that entertain earn

higher Target Rating Points (TRPs) than those that do not, and advertisers, who sustain media, also prefer these.

There are doubtless television channels that consciously try to tread a different path and come up with programmes that inform and promote socially and politically relevant discourse. But even their programmes have an ambience of entertainment as they are preceded, followed and punctuated by music and advertisements featuring visuals of attractive models and products in the most arresting possible settings. For example, the advertisement of a car or a motorbike often shows it in shining colours, driven by a beautiful model or her equally attractive male companion, through a picturesque landscape. People enjoy watching these, sometimes more than the programmes themselves.

This writer has no quarrel with entertainment. Life would be terribly boring without it. He also believes that each person is entitled to his/her brand of entertainment within the limits prescribed by law and a very liberal definition of decency. There is, however, a dark dimension to what is happening now. Viewers, who remain glued to television sets while some anchors, reporters and talking heads gloat over the travails of film personalities and berate them hour after hour, behave in the same manner as the crowds in ancient Rome’s

Colosseum, who roared in delight as a gladiator killed another or a lion. By catering to them, the mindset that television engenders is that of wanting to be perennially and brutally entertained. The result is a progressive coarsening of sensibilities and erosion of the virtues of compassion, tolerance and a sense of fair-play.

This is the most detrimental effect of television as a medium that needs to be countered. The print media is a very different cup of tea. It is the outcome of the written culture. Alvin Gouldner states in *The Dialectic of Ideology and Technology: The Origins, Grammar and Future of Ideology*, that writing confers a permanence to statements that verbal articulation does not. He argues that it also confers a certain finality. A mistake made during a conversation may be corrected then and there. A printed word cannot be easily recalled for correction once widely circulated. One, therefore, carefully seeks to avoid mistakes, embarrassing statements and faulty arguments while writing. This contributes to the drafting of informed and reasoned texts.

Besides, while one can interrupt and resume a conversation, one cannot do so in a written text where one has to proceed from premise to conclusion, rationally and convincingly, step by step — a process that leads to rational articulation and critical thought.

Doubtless, written communi-

cation lacks the advantages that a speaker has at a lecture. He/she can convey a great deal through gestures, facial expressions and body movements; a listener/ viewer can also glean considerable information about the speaker and what he/she is saying and stands for. Equally, excessive focus on the speaker can distract attention from the substance of the speech. There is no such distraction when it comes to looking at a printed text. The reader can concentrate solely on the latter, absorbing its contents and reflecting on the same. Reading conduces to thought and thought spurs further thought. This fact, as well as the capacity for rational argumentation from premise to conclusion that the print medium promotes, has led to the rise of great systems of thought which have come to be known as ideologies.

That is another story. What is important now is the fact that the process of critical thinking can — and often does — mediate in a person’s internalisation of the information generated by the print medium. Given this and some other of its attributes, those associated with it have a responsibility in countering the socially and morally devastating effect of the kind of deplorable fare that some channels are churning out. The process must begin by making people aware.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

## SOUNDBITE

The events (Australia’s three biggest golf tournaments) rely on significant support from players and tours around the world. Given the quarantine restrictions, we believe the field strength of all three events would be severely compromised.

**PGA of Australia chief executive**  
—Gavin Kirkman



India is fighting a strong battle against malnutrition during COVID crisis with the help of farmers, *anganwadi* workers, scientists and ASHA workers.

**Prime Minister**  
—Narendra Modi



The three panels will make recommendations for pre-primary, secondary and higher secondary education after studying the infrastructure available in Goa.

**Goa CM**  
—Pramod Sawant



Peaceful transfer? I absolutely want that. But ideally, I don’t want to transfer, because I want to win. I want it to be an honest election.

**US President**  
—Donald Trump



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Caste-based atrocities

Sir — Amid the nationwide outrage over the rape-murder case of the 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras, three minor sisters, belonging to the same community, were attacked with acid in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. The sisters, aged 17, 12 and eight, were sleeping on the second floor of their house in Parasapur area, when someone threw acid on them in the wee hours of October 13. While the victims’ parents rushed to their rooms after hearing their cries to find them writhing in pain, the attacker managed to escape. The police suspect that someone from their locality might have perpetrated the crime. The eldest sister suffered major injuries on her face and chest while the other two suffered minor burns on their hands. So while the State Government and its police are ruthlessly trying to save the culprits of the Hathras case, there seems to be no end to caste and gender-based atrocities. The Centre and the judiciary need to urgently intervene and ensure that victims of the Dalit community get justice.

**NR Salam**  
Jammu

### Safety must take precedence

A Governor is supposed to be politically neutral and non-partisan. But Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari made no effort to conceal his political preference in his letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray calling for an early re-opening of temples in the State. His queries to the CM that if he had “suddenly turned secular” and had any “divine premonition to keep the temples closed” said it all. Simply put, the letter was unworthy of a Governor.

As a Governor, Koshyari is supposed to know that secularism is an inalienable part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Sadly, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) *pracharak* in him got the better of him. Koshyari gave the CM lessons on Hindutva, underscoring the fact that the former himself needed lessons on secularism. His fealty to the ruling party at the Centre, as against his oath of allegiance to the Constitution, seems to have closed his mind to the bigger need for safety. Koshyari’s missive to the CM, arguing for re-opening of temples, was not backed by scientific advice.



The containment of the pandemic must take precedence over visiting places of worship, be they temples, mosques or churches. It would be the height of folly to let people congregate in a place of worship in this pandemic, unmindful of its possible consequences.

**G David Milton**  
Maruthancode

### Kashmir’s future

Sir — The release of the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mehbooba Mufti, after her detention for more than a year under the Public Safety Act (PSA) ahead of the Centre’s decision to abrogate Article 370, was needlessly delayed. But, as it seems now, it

has dawned on the ruling dispensation that the presence of the local leaders is crucial to negotiate the future of the Union Territory (UT). Even after a year of restrictions on the citizens, the Centre still lacks a clear roadmap. Rather, the blanket hold on the Press, the promulgation of Section 144 and its unending nature are a poor reflection on governance. This has only caused

damage to the region’s economy and worse, our national fabric. Previous Governments at the Centre and J&K were not naive, they carried a delicate political suitcase for decades.

Now, the Centre has two options — either run an inanimate State to all-round disillusionment or gather its wits and acumen to infuse the real meaning of integration of the UT with

the pulse of the nation, with or without Article 370 and any other legalese. Winning over the hearts of the locals is crucial for a democratic bulwark against further socio-political attrition and an invitation to outsiders to meddle in the region.

**R Narayanan**  
Mumbai

### Finding solutions

Sir — The overall air quality level (AQI) of Delhi is deteriorating by the day. On October 16, the Supreme Court constituted a one-member committee, headed by Justice Madan B Lokur, to carry out physical surveillance of farm fires in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh causing air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) and submit a report after the Dussehra vacation. The committee will also suggest additional methods for preventing the burning of stubble. This comes as a ray of hope as Delhi continues to battle both air pollution and the pandemic.

**Devendra Khurana**  
Bhopal

Send your feedback to:  
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FIRST COLUMN

## Democracy not dead in Bolivia

Morales' time is up but the MAS under Arce's leadership could still win this poll and if it doesn't then Mesa might become President



GWYNNE DYER

The quotation is usually given as, "Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely." However, English historian, politician and writer Lord Acton's original remark went on to say: "Great men are almost always bad men." And so they are. This is not to say that all bad men in power are also great men. President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, in power for 26 years but currently fighting eviction after another rigged election, is clearly a bad man, but he is also a petty man of no discernible merit. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia for 14 years, is certainly a great man: The first person of indigenous descent ever elected to lead a country where only five per cent of the population is of European origin. But he was ousted from power late last year, and he deserved to be. (He is sitting out the October 18 election in exile in Argentina.)

This has been taken by most people elsewhere (and not just people on the Left) to mean that there was a "coup" in Bolivia last year, and that democracy there is in danger, or even at an end. That impression was reinforced by the fact that the caretaker President for the past 11 months has been an extreme Right-wing politician. But it wasn't really a coup; more of a car-crash. The presidential election last year was followed by weeks of popular protests claiming that it had been rigged to give Morales a narrow victory in the first round of voting.

Morales resigned when an investigation by the Organisation of American States reported that there had been "serious irregularities" in the vote and "clear manipulations" of the voting system. That was the right thing to do, but then his party, the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), made an incredible blunder.

It boycotted an ad-hoc meeting held by the Opposition parties, the Catholic Church and representatives of the European Union (EU) to choose an interim President. All the senior MAS officials having resigned together with Morales, the choice fell on the second Vice-President of the Senate, an obscure politician called Jeanine Añez, who turned out to be a monster.

Within a week, journalists were digging up racist tweets in which she called Morales a "poor Indian" and declared an indigenous new year celebration "Satanic." In the same week, she fired all the military top brass, replacing them with her own appointees and gave the police and soldiers blanket authority to use lethal force against protesters. At least 28 were killed in the State-sponsored violence.

Añez seemed well on the way to enshrining the rule of the extreme Right. Morales was banned from seeking the presidency again and in May she declared that she would run for the presidency herself when the election was re-run. But now that election, much postponed because of COVID-19, has come round at last — and she has just withdrawn her candidacy.

It turns out that mourning for the death of Bolivian democracy has been a bit premature. The leading candidate in this election is still from the MAS: Luis Arce, a former Economy Minister who oversaw the nationalisation programme under Morales. Arce's main opponent is the same man Morales faced last year: Ex-President Carlos Mesa, a former journalist and professor who is Centre-Left politically. Añez withdrew to give the other hard-Right candidate, Luis Fernando Camacho, a better chance of getting through to the second round, but he still probably won't make it.

The second round remains the key issue. The rules say that the leading candidate wins in the first round if s/he gets 40 per cent of the vote, and is at least ten points ahead of the nearest rival. If not, the two leading candidates go through to the second round — but then the supporters of all the losing candidates will probably unite behind the challenger to defeat the socialist (who is invariably the leader in the first round).

Morales did not have a 10-point lead over Mesa last year when 85 per cent of the votes had been counted — but then the "quick count" stopped for no clear reason for a full day, and when it resumed Morales ended up with a 10.1 per cent lead. So no second round: Morales wins. That's when the mass protests started, and rightly so. An unexplained halt of that duration in the vote-counting always means they are fixing the outcome. Given Morales' past record — he held a referendum to end the two-term limit on the presidency, lost it, then got an MAS-dominated court to set the referendum result aside and end term limits — not too many people were willing to give him the benefit of the doubt.

Morales' time is up, but the MAS under Arce's leadership could still win this election, and if it doesn't then Mesa will probably become President, which would not be a disaster either. Democracy is not dead in Bolivia.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work'.)

PEOPLE SELLING POISONOUS SUBSTANCES ARE ENEMIES OF SOCIETY. THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED. EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO SEND THEM TO THE GALLOWS.

—MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



WITH THE RETURN OF THE SHIVRAJ GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE, LIQUOR MAFIA, LAND MAFIA, DRUG MAFIA, ALL TYPES OF MAFIA HAVE BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN.

—CONGRESS LEADER KAMAL NATH

# Make local governance vocal

If local bodies are to play a more active role, it is important that the municipal cadre structure as it exists today undergoes a substantial change



M RAMACHANDRAN

After the Central and State governments, it is the Urban Local Body (ULB) or panchayat that is the closest to the people. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 recognised municipalities even though the Municipal Corporation of Chennai had existed since 1688 and that of Kolkata and Mumbai had been there since 1726. Local government is a subject in the State list and though the 1992 Amendment provided constitutional status to municipalities, the prerogative of the respective State legislatures to determine the powers, functions and responsibilities of municipal bodies was maintained. So even though the legitimacy of the ULBs had been ensured, the amendment by itself did not lead to any structural change in the municipal system.

States have built upon this requirement of providing governance through local governments, thereby taking it closer to the people, albeit differently. The 18 functions, which could be assigned to ULBs as per Schedule 12 of the Constitution, have been handled differently by different State governments. Some have transferred all these functions but many have done it partially. And even when this is done, the issue of funds, functions and functionaries fully getting assigned to the ULBs continues to remain live because there is a lot missing in this regard.

The Central Government has made efforts — through the linking of Central schemes for urban areas with the reform agenda — to ensure transfer of all these functions to the urban bodies and to make them effective in line with the principle of subsidiarity. Why cannot our ULBs be fully responsible for key areas of activity affecting the lives of each one of us, such as water supply, waste management, drainage, sewage, city transport and e-governance? One reason cited as to why the urban bodies are not able to do this is that since the Constitutional Amendment did not lay down the revenue base for the ULBs and the State Finance Commission (SFC) mechanism has not worked effectively to bring about change in this regard, empowering them to improve own fund generation and ensuring better devolution of finances from the States are major requirements. As an example, it may be mentioned that municipalities in Brazil enjoy broad autonomy in regard to levying taxes and their Constitution defines a system of unconditional transfers between the federal, state and municipal governments.

It is worth considering whether like the Union and State lists in the Constitution, we can have a local bodies' list as well. If local bodies are to play a more active and accountable role in the case of functions assigned to them, it is important that the municipal cadre structure as it exists today undergoes a substantial change.

These are days of specialised work and each area of municipal administration needs competent professionals to oversee performance and to plan appropriately for the future. A typical city corporation in a State like Karnataka today has five main heads next to the Municipal Commissioner, namely the chief accounts officer, chief engineer, revenue officer, chief development officer and chief health officer. Solid waste management is a complex subject today, needing proper leadership. Raising resources, tying up for public-private partnerships, environment management, urban mobility are all areas which require competent professional lead-

“THE SWACHH BHARAT MISSION HAS PROVED HOW USEFUL A CONTRIBUTION LOCAL LEADERSHIP CAN MAKE WHEN IT GETS ACTIVELY INVOLVED. WITH FORMAL MECHANISMS COMING INTO EXISTENCE, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BETTER IMPLEMENT GOALS OF SCHEMES LIKE THE ATAL MISSION FOR REJUVENATION AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN TERMS OF COVERING ALL HOUSEHOLDS WITH WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE”



ership at the local body level. Norms of staffing pattern, too, require review. Our urban bodies should be able to focus on the best possible service delivery and have to be accountable for the same.

The importance of a shift from infrastructure creation to delivery of service outcomes has to be recognised at the local level. Are our local bodies in a position today to talk confidently about say, water supply, in terms of coverage, per capita supply, extent of continuity of supply, quality, metering, extent of non-revenue water, cost recovery, efficiency in collection of water charges, efficiency in the redressal of complaints and all such basic matters? Can they present before the residents the roadmap for making water available 24x7 as per norms, to all the households of the city/town representing future requirements as well?

The 13th Finance Commission had said that State Governments must gradually put in place standards for all essential services provided by local bodies and the 14th Finance Commission repeated the point that ULBs will have to measure and publish service level benchmarks for basic services.

Here, let me refer to one global example of how accountable the public service utility overseas feels to the consumer. The head of a private water utility in London accepted through a public statement in 2019 that it had not met the water leakage target for the year. And finding it unacceptable, apologised wholeheartedly and assured that the penalty it will pay for this, as determined by the water regulator, will be transferred to the customers through their bills from the next year. That is how a utility is subjected to the norms of accountability of performance.

In order to take local governments closer to the people, there are two measures, which if made effective and functional, can make a big difference as far as making local governments "vocal." The Constitution amendment provides for

ward committees to be constituted below the level of the local body council. Each State Legislature has to make provisions for this and see to it that they become functional.

The Centre had circulated to the States a model Nagar Raj Bill, which had listed their functions, their rights and duties as well. Such ward committees can play a proactive role in preparing ward budgets, supervision and coordination of various development works, ensuring universal access to the key public services and overall, this mechanism can be converted into one where people of the area can proactively contribute to the development agenda. It is for the States to legislate for their constitution and make them effective. Most of the States have not taken this agenda forward. Recently, the performance audit of Karnataka local bodies by the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out that ward committees have not been constituted in any of the city corporations except in Bengaluru.

Yet another step which can take local governments closer to the people is constitution of area *sabhas* at the level of each polling station or a group of polling stations, as decided by each State Government through a legislation.

The community participation law, which each State Government was expected to legislate as part of the reform agenda under the national urban mission, was to make such a provision. But except for a very limited number of States like Andhra Pradesh, the agenda has not been taken forward. In making local "vocal", both ward committees and area *sabhas* can play a key role in generating and maintaining basic data/information about the residents, constantly monitoring service delivery, reporting deficiencies, providing a network which can promptly and efficiently highlight issues and requirements, encouraging citizen participation and promoting local leadership — the

very essence of local governance.

Visualise a situation where, like in the context of the current pandemic, the area *sabhas* could have provided inputs to the local body administration about people needing help, who are single, disabled, living alone, needing constant medical attention, migrants and workers who are stranded and need support, linkages required with supply of certain essential items locally not available, deficiencies in service delivery and so on. This in turn could have positively influenced more informed decision-making at the local body level.

One such proactive example which was noticed recently was the Gurugram city administration utilising the otherwise idle city buses to go to different parts of the city to provide provisions and such essential items as per a pre-published rotation arrangement.

Local governments can be made "vocal" as far as areas of local administration are concerned. This will give people the feeling of being participative in the process of governance. States have to take the initiative to legislate for these institutions at the local level. It is time that the State Governments recognise the effective role local bodies can play in areas earmarked for them. Some changes have to come about as regards to resource position, professionalisation of cadres and encouraging the growth of both local accountability and improved performance at that level.

The Swachh Bharat Mission has proved how useful a contribution local leadership can make when it gets actively involved. With formal mechanisms coming into existence, it should be possible to better implement goals of schemes like the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation in terms of the primary purpose of covering all households with water supply and sewerage.

(The writer is a former Secretary in the Ministry of Urban Development)

# Hybrid regimes and their electoral authoritarianism

However, even sham polls can create new power centres and give the Opposition access to constitutional tools that it can turn against such a govt



NADEEM PARACHA

The term "hybrid regime" has gained increasing currency in Pakistan among analysts and politicians. It is specifically used to explain the existential nature of the current PTI-led coalition Government, which came to power after the July 2018 polls. The elections were severely criticised by various parties for being "rigged," whereas a December 9, 2018 report by the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) found "various irregularities" in the electoral process.

The Government's critics insist that institutions such as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) — at the behest of the so-called "military-establishment" — tampered with the

voting and counting processes. They claim that this was done to aid Imran Khan's Centre-Right PTI, so it could gain just enough seats to form a coalition Government, especially at the expense of the country's two other mainstream parties, the centrist PML-N and the liberal-Left, PPP. Over the decades, the relationship of these two outfits with the military-establishment has continued to deteriorate.

Observers and analysts, who subscribe to this view, use the term "hybrid regime" in a negative light to explain the current Government as an artificially bolstered civilian vessel of the military establishment, propped up so that the latter can sustain its political influence within a semblance of democracy and without the controversial complexities of direct intervention.

However, interestingly, even though the Government and its supporters rubbish such claims, there have also been those within them who have used the term in a positive manner, to mean that the Government and military-establishment are on the same page.

Nevertheless, "hybrid regime" as a concept and reality has come under increasing scrutiny and criticism by political scientists. But this criticism was missing when the Hungarian sociologist Elemér Hankiss first used the term. Hankiss used it in the 1990s to describe the communist regime of János Kádár in Hungary. Kádár was appointed by the then Soviet Union as Hungary's premier in 1956, after a popular uprising in Budapest against the preceding Communist set-up was crushed by Soviet forces.

Hankiss treaded a fine line between the democratic aspirations of the protestors and Soviet-style authoritarianism by introducing civil, cultural and economic reforms that were a departure from the previous "Stalinist" model of authoritarianism. But he maintained the political supremacy and monopoly of the Hungarian Communist Party.

However, Hankiss' term was quickly picked up by European and American political scientists to mean a transitional period in former communist countries and non-communist dictatorships, which began to

adopt increasing democratic reforms and mechanisms after the end of the Cold War in 1991. Till the 1980s, countries going through this process were described as "transitional democracies." But this term was replaced with "hybrid regimes" in the post-Cold War period.

In an essay for the January 2012 issue of the *Journal of World Politics*, the American political scientist, Yonatan Morse, writes that initially, there was an element of optimism in the term, because most political scientists believed that hybrid regimes would eventually evolve into becoming full-fledged liberal democracies. Their optimism can be understood in the context of an unprecedented occurrence at the end of the Cold War, which saw numerous authoritarian systems across the world erode and/or adopt democratic electoral and constitutional tools and reforms.

In 2002, the American author and political analyst Thomas Carothers nudged political scientists to study the term "hybrid regime" without the optimism attached to it, and without the assumption that

such regimes would transform into becoming liberal democracies. Second, hybrid regimes were not homogenous. After Carothers' essay (published in the June 2002 issue of the *Journal of Democracy*) a conceptual shift occurred in the study of "hybrid regimes."

According to Morse, the common practice and theme in most "hybrid regimes" is "electoral authoritarianism" and that's how most of them are now understood (as opposed to earlier, when they were seen as political systems transitioning to liberal democracy). In electoral authoritarianism, elections do not stand up to democratic standards of being free and fair.

Such elections continue to, directly or indirectly, keep an authoritarian constant in power, but give it democratic "legitimacy" and the authority to alter the constitution to sustain its monopoly over large areas of power that it had earlier accumulated as a non-electoral entity, before the system went hybrid.

This arrangement can be seen in countries where once-dictatorial cliques reinvented themselves as

"popularly elected" entities through sham elections. They pay lip-service to democratic rights and manipulate the judiciary and an "elected" Parliament to do their bidding. Examples in this respect include former "strongmen" in certain African countries and in former Soviet republics in Central Asia, and Vladimir Putin in Russia.

Another manifestation of electoral authoritarianism is when a powerful State institution, such as the military, gets one of its high-ranking former members elected through a questionable voting process and continues to manipulate elections and alter the Constitution to keep him there (e.g. Egypt's Abdel Fattah el-Sisi).

Or the institution may nourish the rise of an easily-manoeuvred and manageable "democrat," and aid him to come to power through a tampered election (for instance allegedly in Pakistan).

Yet another manifestation is when a genuinely popular figure/party is elected through a fair election but, once it becomes an established incumbent, it begins to

alter the Constitution and laws to aid its continuation (Erdogan in Turkey).

All these manifestations of "hybrid regimes" claim to be democratic but resort to undemocratic practices, including usurping civil rights, using strong-arm tactics and State machinery to browbeat the Opposition. However, according to Morse, electoral authoritarianism and/or "hybrid regimes" can become problematic for those who impose and retain them.

Morse writes that electoral authoritarianism can be a "double-edged sword" because even the process of sham elections has the potential of creating new power centres and can also give the Opposition access to certain constitutional tools which can be turned against "hybrid regimes" — especially if, because of an assortment of economic, political or existential threats and challenges, the polity pours out on the streets to protest. One can thus conclude that a "hybrid regime", such as the one currently in Pakistan, inevitably heads that way.

(Courtesy: Dawn)



## CBI CONDUCTS RAIDS

# Tech help scam busted, ₹190 cr found

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The CBI on Friday recovered digital evidence, various incriminating documents and also bank accounts and fixed deposits worth ₹190 crore besides ₹25 lakh in cash and gold worth ₹55 lakh during searches in multiple cities against firms that posed as representatives of reputed firms like Microsoft to dupe the victims by offering technical support for non-existent problems.

The CBI had conducted the searches recently at various locations including Jaipur, Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad and Mainpuri (Uttar Pradesh) at the premises of private companies and residential premises of accused persons in an on-going investigation of a case.

The agency had earlier registered a case on a complaint against six private companies—Softwill Infotech Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, Innovana Thinklabs Ltd, Jaipur, Benovellient Technologies Pvt Ltd, Noida,



Systweak Software Pvt Ltd, Jaipur, Saburi TLC Worldwide Services Pvt Ltd, Delhi and Saburi Global Services Pvt Ltd., Gurugram and unknown others alleged to be involved in technical support fraud scheme.

“It was alleged that these companies would contact the victims via internet pop-up messages that falsely appeared to be security alerts from Microsoft or another well-known company. The pop-up messages fraudulently claimed that the consumer’s computer was infected by a virus. It would then run a scan on the consumer’s computer, falsely confirming the presence of a virus and malware. A toll free number would be given, where the victim will contact, and call would land up in their call centres. These com-

# ED attaches DMK MP’s property worth ₹8.60 cr

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday issued seizure order under Foreign Exchange Management Act seizing properties held by DMK MP Gautham Sigamani to the tune of ₹8.60 crore.

The seized properties are equivalent to the value of the illegally acquired foreign security and non-repatriation of foreign exchange

panies would then take remote access of the victim’s computer and would convince the victim of the presence of non-existing problems and then would make them pay hundreds of Dollars for unnecessary services and

earned abroad till date in contravention of Section 4 of FEMA, the ED said in a statement.

The ED probe revealed that in March 2008 Sigamani, being a Person Resident in India, made overseas investment of USD 1,00,000 (₹41,57,225) in acquiring 2,45,000 shares of PT Excel Megindo, Jakarta and USD 55,000 (₹22,86,924) in Universal Business Ventures, UAE without RBI approval

and thereby contravened the provisions of Section 4 of FEMA for the said acquisition of foreign security, it said.

Further, Sigamaniv failed to repatriate profits amounting to ₹7,05,57,237 earned by him from Universal Business Ventures, UAE for the period from Financial Year 2008-09 to 2012-13 and continued to hold the same abroad till date in contravention of FEMA, according to the ED.

countries to identify the network, dismantle their infrastructure and bring the perpetrators of crime to justice.

The US Department of Justice and CBI collaborated in this regard.

## CALCUTTA HC TO DURGA PUJA COMMITTEES

# ‘Use Govt funds for secular works’

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

In a judgment that raised questions on the constitutional decorum of sponsoring religious festivals by secular Governments, the Calcutta High Court on Friday effectively segregated secular and religious works professed to be performed by various community-based Durga Puja committees often patronized by the democratically elected Governments.

In a hard-hitting order the Division Bench of Justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee directed the thousands of Durga Pujas committees that recently received

Government grants of Rs 50,000 each to use such funds only for “secular purposes” like procuring logistics to prevent proliferation of corona virus and strengthening police-public bonding.

The clubs were also directed to present detailed utilization reports of the fund of Rs 50,000 to the Government for audit. The purchase of logistics like masks, sanitisers, and other relevant equipment should be supported by bills of purchase the Court said.

The Court apportioned 75 per cent of the allocated fund towards the purchase of masks, sanitisers and face shields, while the remaining 25 per cent

was asked to be spent for strengthening public-police bonding and inclusion of more women in community policing.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had announced on September 24 the Rs 50,000 grant for each of the 36,946 Durga Puja committees in the state.

She said that her Government had decided to make a grant of Rs 50,000 each to the Durga Puja committees this year round as “we are in a difficult time for the pandemic situation and it has been very difficult for the community Puja committees too to organize Pujas.”

Earlier Sourab Dutta a

CITU leader had moved a petition on October 9 challenging the grant and other doles such as discounts on application fees for permissions from fire brigade and power distribution companies saying such a grant was against the concept of secularism and hurt the fundamental rights provided in the Constitution.

Even as the state Advocate General Kishore Dutta said that the funds allocated by the Government were to be used for “secular purposes” like purchasing safety equipment and for public-police bonding the Court tended to ensure that the funds were indeed spent for the

purposes as claimed by the Government.

The matter would be taken up for hearing before the Court after the Durga Pujas.

Meanwhile, though the Trinamool Congress refused to react to the Friday’s order, senior leader and MP Saugato Roy said that it would hurt the common people. “I do not want to make any comment on the order as such but I feel that the common people will be hurt by it.” He also would not say whether the Government would prefer an appeal in the Supreme Court. “It is for the State Government to decide whether it would appeal before the Supreme Court or not.”

# Kerala Cong(M) leader’s 1st visit to CPI(M) State HQ in 39 years

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

Politics in Kerala took a new turn as Jose K Mani, leader of the Kerala Congress(Mani) faction called on CPI(M) State General Secretary Kodiyyeri Balakrishnan at AKG Centre at Thiruvananthapuram on Friday.

This is the first ever visit by a Kerala Congress (Mani) faction leader to the CPI(M) State headquarters in the last 39 years. Balakrishnan who addressed the media after the visit of Jose K Mani said that the decision of Kerala Congress (Mani) to cast its lots with the Left Democratic Front was because of the anti-communal and anti-imperialist policies pursued by the CPI(M).

“The foundation of the United Democratic Front led by the Indian National Congress has been shattered. This is because of the failure of the Congress to take a strong anti-communal stance against the RSS. All sections of people in the State trust the development ini-

tiatives of the CPI(M). Ours is the best State in India only because of the development agenda of the CPI(M),” said Balakrishnan.

He said even Pope Francis has accepted the fact that capitalism all over the world was collapsing. The CPI(M) leader addressed the Pope as “His Holiness Pope” as part of his party’s changed attitude towards the Catholic Church.

But Balakrishnan got annoyed when reporters asked him about the CPI(M)’s agitations against Jose’s father late K M Mani, founder of the Kerala Congress who was the finance Minister of Kerala during 2011 to 2016. The Marxists did not allow Mani to present the 2016 budget in the Assembly accusing him of “massive corruption” in the bar license scam. The party leaders had alleged that Mani had a number of currency counting machines at his residence.

“You cannot expect me to answer the questions raised by Oommen Chandi, the former

chief minister. Why can’t you go and ask him the same question,” retorted a visibly annoyed Balakrishnan.

Though the number of Covid-19 patients in the State has shot upto 95,008 by Friday evening, the CPI(M) secretary said Kerala has the best Covid management system in place.

A Jayashankar, Kerala’s leading political commentator and author, said the move by Kerala Congress (Mani) to move over to the LDF would result in the disintegration and destruction of the party. “In 1980, Mani (founder of Kerala Congress) joined the CPI(M) camp in company of the Congress faction headed by A K Antony. The Antony faction returned to the parent party by October 1981 because of the CPI(M)’s arrogance and high-handedness. Mani did not continue in the CPI(M) camp for long because he got a better deal from the Congress high command,” said Jayashankar who also said the CPI(M) was unlikely win the next assembly election.

## India, US to discuss ways to bolster defence ties

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

India and the US will discuss the entire range of defence ties and explore ways to further enhance co-operation through joint exercises during Army Vice chief Lt General S K Saini’s four-day visit to America beginning Saturday. His visit comes ahead of the proposed 2+2 dialogue between defence and foreign ministers of the two countries in New Delhi on October 26-27. It will be third 2+2 dialogue between the two countries in the last three years. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will hold extensive discussions with their US counterparts Mark Esper and Mike Pompeo. The meeting will take place in the backdrop of ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh with China.

The first 2+2 dialogue was held in Delhi in September 2018 after the mechanism was

approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump. The second edition of the dialogue took place in Washington in December last year. The new framework of the ministerial dialogue was initiated in order to provide a forward-looking vision for the strategic partnership between the two countries.

In the parleys, both sides are also expected to delve into the situation in the Indo-Pacific region as well as in India’s neighbourhood besides key bilateral issues. On the Vice Chief’s schedule, the Army said the aim of the visit is to enhance military cooperation between both the Armies. He will visit the US Army Pacific Command, the Army component of Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) and exchange ideas extensively with the military leadership apart from witnessing training and equipment capabilities of US Army.

## Central teams sent to Kerala, K’taka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Bengal to tackle surge in Covid

**New Delhi:** The Union Health Ministry on Friday rushed high-level Central teams to Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal which have been reporting a surge in the number of new Covid cases in the recent days to help them manage the disease.

Each team comprises a joint secretary who will be the nodal officer for the concerned state, one public health expert, and one clinician to look after infection prevention practices, clinical management protocol being followed by the state, the Ministry said in a statement on Friday.

Kerala has reported a 3,17,929 cases, amounting to 8,909 infected per million. Recoveries are at 2,22,231, and active cases at 94,609. The state has reported 1,089 deaths so far and has a positivity rate of 16.6 per cent.

Similarly, Karnataka has 11,010 cases per million, with a recovery rate of 83.35 per cent and positivity rate

of 11.5 per cent. It has so far reported 7,43,848 cases and a death toll of 10,283. Rajasthan has registered 1,67,279 cases, with number of fatalities at 1,708. Positivity rate is at 5.3 per cent while West Bengal has 3,09,417 cases amounting to 3,106 cases per million. Case fatality rate is 1.90 per cent and the positivity rate is 8.2 per cent.

These teams interact with the authorities and get a first hand understanding of the challenges and issues being faced by them so as to strengthen their ongoing activities and remove bottlenecks, if any.

“The teams will support the states’ efforts towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures, and efficient clinical management of the positive cases. The central teams shall also guide in effectively managing the challenges related to timely diagnosis and follow up,” the ministry said.

**PNS**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Much to the delight of the environmentalists, particularly bird-lovers, the Asan Conservation Reserve in Uttarakhand’s Dehradun, which is home to various winged guests, has been recognised as wetland sites of international importance under the treaty of Ramsar Convention.

In January this year, 10 wetlands in India were recognised by the Ramsar Convention as sites of international importance.

With this new addition, the country’s wetlands tally now stands at 38, the highest in South Asia. The Asan Conservation Reserve, home to rare species, is a fish spawning ground and has a lot of biological diversity and is the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be recognised by Ramsar.

The convention, signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, is one of the oldest inter-governmental accord for preserving the ecological character of wetlands. Also known as the Convention on Wetlands, it aims to develop a global net-

work of wetlands for conservation of biological diversity and for sustaining human life.

In February this year, the government had proposed 10 more sites to be declared as sites of international importance, including the Asan Conservation Reserve.

Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines. If the nine other proposed wetlands are approved by the Ramsar Secretariat, India will have 47 sites protected internationally.

In January this year, 10 wetlands in India that bagged Ramsar tag are Nandur Madhameshwar in Maharashtra, Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal in Punjab, and Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and Sarsai Nawar in Uttar Pradesh.

The other Ramsar sites are in Rajasthan, Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

# Forces catch OGW who ran away with 2 AK rifles

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

In a dramatic sequence of events an Over Ground worker (OGW) was caught alive by the joint team of security forces while another Special Police Officer, who had earlier decamped with two AK rifles from a security camp two days ago, managed to flee after an initial exchange of fire with security forces in the Chadoora area of Budgam on Friday.

The entire sequence of events was caught on camera where a senior army officer supervising the operation on ground zero was seen repeatedly making an appeal to the OGW to surrender his weapon and walk towards the security personnel without fearing for his life.

In one of the videos which went viral on social media platforms the army officer was seen instructing his soldiers to serve water to an OGW and stay away from him so that he can feel comfortable and not threatened due to the presence of a large number of soldiers surrounding him.

In another video, the father of an OGW who was identified by the police as Jehangir Ahmad Bhat, was seen touching the feet of a senior officer and thanking them for saving the precious life of his son. Several other security personnel were seen patting the back of an OGW and congratulating his father over safe home coming of his son.

Sharing details of the incident, a Jammu and Kashmir police spokesman said, “On a specific input regarding the presence of deserted SPO who decamped with 02 AK 47 rifles

two days ago along with his associate in Chadoora area of Budgam, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, 53RR and 181Bn CRPF in the said area”.

“As the joint team reached near the target location, the hiding deserted SPO alongwith his associate fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated by the joint team leading to a brief gunfight. During the ensuing gunfight, the SPO managed to escape from the spot however, his associate was captured alive. The captured associate has been identified as Jahangir Ahmad Bhat, a OGW and a notorious stone pelter”, the police spokesman said.

One of the AK 47 rifles decamped by the deserted SPO was recovered from his possession. IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar appreciated the police and security forces for showing maximum restraint by arresting the terrorist associate during the live encounter. He also appealed to the family of SPO Altaf to help police in bringing him back.

Inspector General of Police Kashmir range Vijay Kumar Friday also claimed to have busted the terror module responsible for recent strikes on the security forces in and around Srinagar city.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar IG Kashmir told reporters, “the police teams constituted to probe the terror strikes have arrested six terrorist associates who had provided shelter, transportation and also conducted reece of the security force deployments where the terror strikes were launched”.

The teams were also able to

seize 06 different vehicles used to carry out these terror crime attacks, he added.

According to a police spokesman, “a series of attacks took place from 14th August 2020 till 5th October 2020 within the jurisdiction of Police Station Nowgam and Chadoora which include attack on Police and SSB party at Gulshan Nagar Nowgam in which two personnel of JKP attained martyrdom & another was injured and 01 INSAS rifle was also snatched by the terrorists, attack on CRPF party of 117Bn at Kaisarmullah Chadoora in which one CRPF personnel attained martyrdom and his weapon was also snatched, attack on ROP party of CRPF 110Bn near Taingan New Bypass in which 2 CRPF personnel attained martyrdom and 4 others were injured and attack on ROP party of 110Bn CRPF on New Bypass”.

In a separate incident, an underground hideout of LeT terrorists was busted by the joint team of security forces in the nursery area of the village Kawani Awantipora near river Jehlum bank, Awantipora.

According to a spokesman of Jammu and Kashmir police, “based on credible input regarding presence of terrorists of Lashkar- e- Taiba near Village Kawani in Awantipora a joint team of Police with 55 RR and 185 BN CRPF launched a search operation. During searches one large underground hideout of Lashkar- e- Taiba outfit was busted and destroyed. The security forces recovered one pistol, pistol magazines, 3 grenades, 2019 AK rifle rounds.

# 3 billion people globally lack handwashing facilities at home

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

At least 40 per cent of the world’s population i.e. 3 billion people, do not have access to handwashing facilities even though handwashing with soap is an integral part of protecting oneself from the deadly coronavirus.

The new Unicef estimates also painted a grim picture regarding the handwashing facilities in schools across the

world. Consider this: Forty-three per cent of schools globally also did not have handwashing facilities, this means that millions of school-age children do not have access to water and soap.

Handwashing is the simplest and easiest way to prevent Covid-19.

Kelly Ann Naylor, Associate Director of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at

UNICEF said in a statement that handwashing is one of the simplest ways in which one can protect themselves and their loved ones from this epidemic.

Naylor also added that the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted a very crucial problem that handwashing facilities still remain out of reach for millions of children, be it where they live or learn.

# Kerala gold smuggling case: BJP demands CM’s resignation

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The BJP on Friday alleged that the accused in the Kerala gold smuggling case are “hand in glove” with the people in power and demanded the resignation of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. “The moral authority of the Chief Minister is lost. The BJP has been demanding, the people of Kerala have been demanding that the chief minister should resign owning moral responsibility of the whole incident,” said Union Minister and Kerala BJP leader V Muralaeeharan.

Muralaeeharan said the Left government in the state had first asked the Centre to order a probe into the matter and has now moved court against the CBI, claiming that

agency does not have the authority to investigate.

“This shows that those involved in smuggling gold are hand-in-glove with those in power,” he alleged, adding that this case is distinct from other cases of gold smuggling because it is “directly” linked to the chief minister’s office. Vijayan has been changing his stand on the matter from the day the case was registered and accused were arrested, Muralaeeharan claimed.

The Union Minister noted that the case relates to the seizure of 30 kg of gold in Thiruvananthapuram Airport on July 5 after the precious metal was found camouflaged in diplomatic baggage.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the

Enforcement Directorate (ED) are probing various angles of the case and several people, including two former employees of the UAE consulate in Thiruvananthapuram have been arrested by central agencies in connection with the case.

The BJP leader claimed that efforts have been made to destroy evidence and mentioned a fire incident in a government department, allegedly linked to the case. The principal secretary to the chief minister has been suspended as well, he said.

The gold smuggling issue has been snowballing in the state for months and come to the centre state of political theatre in the Southern state as pressure increasing on the Chief Minister from his political rivals.

# Maha opens local train services for women for specified time from today

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

In what came as a pleasant surprise for women commuters, the Maharashtra Government on Friday announced that it would allow all ladies to travel by suburban trains for a specified number of hours during a day in Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) from Saturday.

Unveiling a major lockdown unlocking measure for women commuters, Maharashtra’s Disaster Management, Relief & Rehabilitation Secretary Kishor Raje Nimbalkar wrote to the General Managers of Western Railway and Central Railway.

“During the said time period, entry may be allowed to all ladies having valid tickets and to all emergency staff as well. QR codes will not be required for ladies travelling during the said time period,” Nimbalkar said.

The local train services to

trains from 11 am to 3 pm and from 7 pm till end of the last services operated for the day.

“It is requested that local train services may be made available to all ladies from 11 am to 3 pm and again from 7 pm onwards till the end of local services for the day, with effect from October 17 in Mumbai and MMR,” Nimbalkar wrote in his letter to the General Managers of Western Railway and Central Railway.

all the personnel of all sectors that have been notified as the emergency services till date shall continue as being provided currently i.e., for the entire day. “You are requested to also increase the frequency of local trains as per the increased demand,” Nimbalkar stated in his letters to both the Western and Central Railway GMs.

Though the state government has asked the women commuters to travel during the non-peak hours of the morning, the state government’s move is bound to help thousands of women commuters who travel to downtown Mumbai and other parts of Mumbai where offices and business establishments are located.



# FinMin kick-starts Budget making exercise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Friday kicked off the exercise to prepare the annual Budget for 2021-22 amid the urgency to push economic growth hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The upcoming Budget will be crucial for the country as it will have to deal with impact of pandemic which has affected all segments of the economy, including revenue collection, disinvestment, expenditure, exports and food prices.

The economy is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, according to an IMF forecast. Even the Reserve Bank of India expects the economy to shrink by 9.5 per cent in the current financial year.

As per the finance ministry schedule, the nearly one-month long exercise to finalise the Revised Estimate (RE) for

2020-21 and Budget Estimate (BE) for 2021-22 began on Friday. The meetings will conclude on November 12.

Officials of the Department of Financial Services, as well as ministries of MSMEs, housing, steel and power were among those who participated in the first meeting, as per the schedule. "This year, however, keeping in view the COVID-19 situation and the need to maintain social distancing, the number of participants for the pre-budget meetings may be restricted to a maximum of 5 officers (for each meeting) from a Ministry/Department, not below the rank of Director/DS," the Budget Division of the finance ministry had said in a notice.

It will be the third Budget of the Modi 2.0 government and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Budget 2021-22 is likely to be presented on February 1. The Prime Minister

Narendra Modi-led government scrapped the colonial-era tradition of presenting the Budget at the end of February. The then finance minister Arun Jaitley had for the first time presented the annual accounts on February 1, 2017.

With the preponement of the Budget, ministries are now allocated their budgeted funds from the start of the financial year beginning April.

This gives government departments more leeway to spend as well as allow companies time to adapt to business and taxation plans.

Previously, when the Budget was presented at the end of February, the three-stage Parliament approval process used to get completed some time in mid-May, weeks ahead of onset of monsoon rains.

This meant government departments would start spending on projects only from August-end or September, after the monsoon season ended.

# RBI to conduct OMOs in SDLs worth ₹10,000 cr

IANs ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced the purchase of state development loans worth ₹10,000 crore under open market operations.

The auction will be conducted on October 22.

The RBI, in a statement, said that it has been decided to conduct a purchase auction of SDLs under OMOs for an aggregate amount of ₹10,000 crore on October 22, keeping in view that this is the first ever OMO purchase of SDLs.

"Depending on market response, the size of the auctions may be enhanced in the subsequent auctions.

"Accordingly, RBI will purchase the SDLs... through a multi-security auction using the multiple price method."

Earlier this month, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, in the Statement on

**RBI will purchase the SDLs... through a multi-security auction using the multiple price method**

Developmental and Regulatory Policies', said: "In order to impart liquidity to SDLs and thereby facilitate efficient pricing, it has been decided to conduct open market operations (OMOs) in SDLs as a special case during the current financial year."

"This would improve secondary market activity and rationalise spreads of SDLs over the Central government securities of comparable maturities. This measure, along with the extension of HTM (Held to Maturity Category) till March 2022, should ease concerns about illiquidity and absorptive capacity for the total government borrowing in the current year."

# Markets back to winning ways as banking, metal stocks sparkle

LOG WEEKLY LOSSES

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian equities resumed their upward march on Friday following the massive selloff in the previous session, with banking, metal and IT counters leading the rally. After fighting bouts of volatility, the BSE Sensex closed 254.57 points or 0.64 per cent higher at 39,982.98.

On similar lines, the NSE gauge Nifty settled 82.10 points or 0.70 per cent up at 11,762.45.

Tata Steel topped the Sensex gainers chart with a jump of 5.38 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, PowerGrid, Ultratech Cement, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank and ONGC.

Of the 30 Sensex constituents, 24 ended with gains.

HCL Tech was the biggest laggard, tumbling 3.76 per cent, despite the company posting an 18.5 per cent rise in September quarter net profit at Rs 3,142 crore.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Asian

Paints, Nestle India and Sun Pharma were the other losers. On a weekly basis, the Sensex lost 526.51 points or 1.29 per cent, while the Nifty declined 151.75 points or 1.27 per cent.

"The market has lifted marginally after yesterday's deep fall, but the overall trend is still fragile. The market trend has turned weak due to high stock prices in spite of lack of required fiscal support and rising spread of COVID impacting economic recovery. The quick bounce of the market to above last high and near the pre-COVID level, has brought volatility, which can stay for some time.

"For Nifty a strong support is at 11,500 limiting the downside, in the near-term. The market will look forward, with high hopes to Q2 results and update on stimulus plans. IT, telecom, pharma and banks will be the sectors under focus with a positive bias," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

# Rupee closes flat at 73.35 in restricted trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Friday settled almost flat at 73.35 against the US dollar in the absence of any fresh trigger.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 73.41 against the greenback and moved in a narrow range during the day in lacklustre trade. The rupee closed at 73.35, higher by just 1 paise from its previous close of 73.36. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.16 per cent to 93.70.

"There are no fresh cues in the market to react to and that is why we are seeing USD/INR spot consolidating in between 73-73.60.

# Farm sentiments remain positive led by good monsoon: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Farm sentiments have remained buoyant mainly driven by healthy monsoon and further optimism of a

good kharif crop, according to a report.

Agriculture income is likely to benefit over the medium term aided by increased government focus on rural

income coupled with the recently introduced farm reforms, Icra Ratings said in the report.

Moreover, it said the rural household incomes have

stayed resilient in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and have been supported by healthy farm cash flows across regions, aided by high levels of rabi procurement under var-

ious government schemes after a season of bumper harvest.

Further, increased government support through schemes like MNREGA and

PM-KISAN have helped in creating employment and easing liquidity pressure on rural incomes, brought about by large scale reverse migration from urban to rural areas

post the imposition of the nationwide lockdown, it added.

"While the sudden imposition of nationwide lockdown had led to fears of dis-

ruption in the Rabi procurement process, the same was mitigated by prompt lifting of restrictions by the government for agricultural activities.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY50	11727.40	11789.75	11667.85	11762.45	82.10	
JSWSTEEL	291.50	312.45	290.75	311.35	19.80	
TATASTEEL	377.10	395.90	375.20	393.80	19.90	
BPOCL	328.90	343.40	327.50	341.00	14.35	
HINDALCO	174.10	180.55	172.35	180.00	6.35	
DIVISLAB	3114.90	3232.90	3114.90	3224.40	113.00	
HDFCBANK	1180.00	1203.50	1173.00	1203.35	34.10	
KOTAKBANK	344.35	354.75	341.95	352.00	9.20	
GRASIM	752.95	776.65	750.00	769.00	18.90	
SHREECEM	20780.00	21324.55	20650.00	21147.00	504.75	
ULTRACEMCO	4383.95	4496.00	4380.00	4484.65	101.35	
GAIL	82.55	84.20	82.40	84.15	1.85	
ONGC	66.65	67.55	66.00	67.50	1.45	
POWERGRID	156.10	161.20	155.35	159.00	3.25	
KOTAKBANK	1308.50	1343.30	1308.50	1336.45	26.90	
INFINITY	1113.85	1135.95	1096.90	1129.50	21.25	
AXISBANK	465.15	475.50	463.00	471.15	8.55	
NTPC	79.00	80.50	78.45	80.40	1.40	
COALINDIA	111.30	112.75	109.60	112.50	1.90	
CIPLA	766.95	787.50	758.40	780.60	12.30	
HINDUNIBDK	604.80	613.90	601.40	607.50	9.50	
SBIN	194.00	196.75	191.60	195.70	2.85	
TECHM	813.20	828.30	798.80	829.50	10.10	
HEROMOTOCO	3315.00	3394.90	3301.00	3352.00	37.70	
ICICIBANK	394.00	401.30	390.50	395.35	4.35	
BAJAJFINSV	9937.00	9980.00	9866.00	9959.00	59.95	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2240.00	2285.00	2244.00	2269.00	20.40	
DREDDY	5036.00	5125.00	5020.00	5098.60	42.35	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3030.00	3092.00	3020.00	3051.55	24.15	
TITAN	1216.05	1230.00	1216.00	1223.90	9.50	
BHARTIARTL	404.45	407.30	398.35	402.10	2.90	
TATAMOTORS	129.40	130.05	126.00	127.80	0.85	
TCS	894.00	903.50	889.50	894.55	5.75	
ITC	275.10	277.15	273.10	275.00	16.40	
HDFC	1948.40	1983.70	1939.35	1958.60	11.40	
BRITANNIA	3748.95	3779.00	3721.25	3749.90	18.90	
ITC	165.50	166.80	163.80	165.85	0.80	
BAJFINANCE	3236.35	3269.45	3170.10	3228.00	13.25	
HDFCLIFE	5695.00	5662.25	5590.50	5634.90	14.00	
MARUTI	6895.00	6980.00	6863.00	6905.00	12.40	
HINDUNILVR	2171.90	2171.90	2144.05	2151.00	-1.55	
IOC	74.60	75.20	73.85	74.30	-0.25	
SHRIFF	802.00	811.00	796.65	801.80	-2.95	
WIPRO	342.90	348.10	336.60	339.10	-2.50	
SUNPHARMA	491.00	494.75	485.25	486.50	-3.80	
NESTLEIND	10569.00	10820.40	10575.00	10562.00	-140.75	
ASIANPAINT	2089.95	2090.00	2055.55	2064.00	-26.45	
RELIANCE	2215.00	2232.50	2172.65	2178.00	-28.50	
M&M	617.50	623.95	602.05	607.00	-10.30	
HCLTECH	859.00	877.00	820.60	830.05	-29.95	
UPL	490.00	490.00	458.25	467.75	-38.80	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27007.45	27177.95	26856.15	27155.70	233.65	
DLF	156.00	164.25	153.75	163.15	7.70	
CONCOR	364.00	371.90	360.50	370.90	13.00	
CADILAHC	413.60	432.20	411.30	429.90	14.00	
HINDPETRO	164.45	169.85	163.40	169.55	5.50	
BIOCON	435.00	449.50	434.05	447.85	14.40	
LUPIN	1003.55	1045.90	998.00	1036.80	33.25	
PEL	1260.00	1294.95	1258.00	1290.25	38.80	
MUTHOOTFIN	1144.00	1204.70	1140.85	1186.95	34.85	
BANDHANBANK	304.00	314.00	304.00	312.65	8.90	
NMDC	81.30	83.60	80.90	82.95	2.20	
ACC	1520.00	1560.00	1512.40	1562.50	40.10	
HINDZINC	213.50	216.00	209.45	212.50	5.00	
SIEMENS	1249.00	1268.75	1226.40	1265.80	27.65	
INDIGO	1315.10	1340.00	1319.00	1333.60	28.15	
ONFS	3180.00	3298.00	3163.00	3276.00	68.35	
AUROPHARMA	793.00	815.00	785.50	807.00	15.25	
AMBUJACEM	243.30	249.00	241.50	247.65	4.30	
PETRONET	218.50	223.50	215.00	221.85	3.70	
HAVELLS	689.00	701.00	681.70	695.00	10.85	
COPAL	1428.00	1447.15	1421.10	1442.00	20.50	
BOSCHLTD	11955.00	12075.10	11760.05	11980.00	123.50	
ADANTRANS	289.25	292.70	285.85	291.00	2.90	
UBL	970.00	981.70	956.60	977.00	9.25	
BERGEPAINT	600.00	608.40	595.45	602.90	5.45	
IGL	377.00	385.00	371.65	377.80	3.25	
TATACONSUM	478.75	486.70	475.05	478.00	3.90	
MOTHERSUMI	106.45	107.70	104.90	106.35	0.85	
INFRAEAT	183.60	184.45	178.20	182.35	1.45	
TORNTPHARM	2730.00	2775.00	2682.50	2740.00	18.80	
MCOWELL-N	508.20	512.90	500.80	509.90	3.40	
HDFCAML	2285.00	2299.90	2260.65	2289.00	13.35	
PIDILITIND	1472.50	1493.40	1472.00	1484.85	8.40	
DMART	1980.00	1999.00	1970.00	1988.00	10.30	
PEC	84.35	85.75	84.25	84.40	0.10	
BANKBARODA	40.70	41.10	39.90	40.80	0.05	
ADANGREEN	710.00	718.95	700.00	705.00	0.75	
PGHIL	10069.95	10159.00	10018.45	10080.65	6.55	
ABBOTINDIA	15970.00	16180.80	15902.10	15905.05	7.60	
NAUKRI	3617.00	3659.95	3556.75	3598.45	-9.35	
MARICO	362.20	364.70	358.50	361.90	-0.95	
ALICEM	2682.65	2682.65	2630.00	2651.90	-7.45	
GODREJCP	685.00	688.15	675.00	680.00	-2.15	
GICRE	120.00	121.20	118.50	119.00	-0.60	
ICICIPRULI	418.00	424.00	412.25	415.60	-3.20	
BAJAJHLONG	2376.60	2397.70	2345.00	2370.00	-19.60	
DABUR	520.80	524.35	510.80	513.00	-4.60	
PNB	27.80	27.95	27.35	27.45	-0.25	
ICICI	1240.20	1256.00	1228.05	1236.90	-13.75	
SBICARD	897.90	904.40	876.00	879.90	-20.30	
LTI	3325.00	3364.50	3025.10	3100.00	-196.45	

BSE 500					
Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	
RELIANCE	2214.80	2232.00	2173.05	2175.50	
INFY	1112.00	1135.85	1097.10	1127.60	
MINDTREE	1436.70	1445.85	1264.25	1331.20	
HCLTECH	865.00	877.00	821.00	827.10	
IBULHSGFIN	152.90	153.70	149.25	151.00	
HDFCBANK	1182.00	1203.00	1172.95	1199.00	
TATAMOTORS	129.80	130.00	126.00	127.70	
BAJFINANCE	3299.90	3299.90	3170.80	3230.15	
TATASTEEL	375.60	395.75	375.45	393.85	
INDUSINDBK	604.90	613.60	601.20	608.05	
SBIN	194.80	196.65	191.70	195.80	
HINDUNILVR	2165.00	2171.50	2143.80	2150.75	
DREDDY	5040.00	5123.75	5024.75	5082.35	
JUSTDIAL	466.00	515.00	460.95	486.25	
UPL	492.80	492.80	458.45	467.00	
CIPPLA	768.50	787.15	758.35	782.10	
WIPRO	342.90	348.10	338.85	339.55	
ASIXBANK	463.20	475.40	462.55	472.25	
HAL	749.50	757.50	740.05	744.90	
ICICIBANK	394.20	401.30	390.50	395.95	
BIHARTARTL	403.45	407.05	398.40	401.59	
VOLTAAS	688.10	703.90	683.00	700.65	
MUTHOOTFIN	1150.00	1203.00	1144.00	1184.70	
ITC	165.10	166.75	163.80	165.75	
FEDERALBNK	52.00	53.45	51.45	52.25	
BPEL	328.00	343.25	327.50	339.95	
IDEA	8.01	8.29	7.94	8.03	
JINDALSTEL	185.35	194.70	179.30	193.60	
JSW	2751.00	2771.20	2733.45	2762.50	
ASHOKLEY	73.25	75.65	73.25	75.05	
JSWSTEEL	292.80	312.50	291.00	310.90	
DISALB	3148.00	3230.00	3121.00	3220.30	
TECH	74.30	75.25	73.85	74.20	
LAURUSLABS	814.50	828.15	799.05	822.80	
VEDL	96.50	97.95	94.55	96.15	
GLENNMARK	407.00	500.25	469.25	490.85	
LUPIN	1001.00	1045.65	998.50	1039.95	
ITI	3325.00	3365.00	3026.00	3073.70	
PVR	1205.00	1210.10	1159.05	1183.50	
ESCORTS	1197.00	1226.45	1156.00	1166.35	
BANKBARODA	40.65	41.10	40.00	40.35	
TATAELXSI	1483.95	1519.00	1439.00	1508.85	
RAJAFINSV	5924.10	5979.00	5868.00	5952.75	
ZEE	183.00	183.00	173.50	175.65	
DLF	155.45	164.20	153.20	160.30	
HDFC	194.950	1982.90	1940.00	1960.05	
SUNPHARMA	494.00	494.25	485.40	486.85	
LT	902.25	903.00	889.50	894.20	
M&M	615.10	623.70	602.15	606.45	
RBL	58550.60	58840.25	57887.85	58100.80	
NRIF	167.10	172.50	166.85	172.00	
TATAPOWER	53.30	54.60	52.35	54.10	
MARUTI	6901.00	6975.00	6864.10	6897.05	
HEROMOTOCO	3319.00	3393.85	3315.00	3346.50	
ULTRACEMCO	4381.05	4493.95	4380.50	4479.75	
CYIENT	30.00	391.95	30.70	389.10	
GAIL	82.80	84.20	82.50	84.05	
BANDHANBNK	305.00	314.00	304.45	312.85	
DIXON	8956.25	9296.30	8704.45	9263.25	
ACC	1523.00	1565.00	1513.20	1561.40	
CADILAHC	413.50	432.20	412.00	430.50	
LICHSGFIN	282.00	286.30	279.55	285.25	
ALCOHOSHP	2200.00	2218.05	2195.00	2210.55	
KOTAKBANK	1308.00	1343.50	1307.95	1336.55	
DMART	1978.00	1998.00	1969.80	1983.60	
COALINDIA	111.50	112.65	109.60	111.55	
MGL	818.00	835.00	797.45	821.05	
PEL	1273.00	1294.35	1258.70	1291.10	
ASIANPAINT	2090.50	2090.50	2007.45	2061.75	
BIOCAN	435.00	449.25	435.00	447.80	
SRICARD	899.15	904.30	876.25	879.35	
EDFCLIRSTB	30.20	30.80	29.90	30.65	
SRTRANSFIN	636.10	648.85	626.00	640.70	
AMBER	2300.00	2300.00	2094.05	2180.10	
AUROPHARMA	794.80	815.00	785.50	806.00	
HINDALCO	173.25	180.40	172.75	179.90	
EICHERMOT	2232.00	2285.00	2232.00	2269.00	
SRF	4434.00	4504.00	4389.95	4451.85	
MPHASIS	1434.00	1434.00	1300.00	1342.85	
BRITANNIA	3736.00	3776.40	3730.00	3747.55	
TTIAN	1234.00	1239.50	1216.25	1223.10	
IDBI	35.00	39.65	35.00	38.85	
ADANIGREEN	703.60	717.95	700.00	704.90	
BANKINDIA	40.50	40.50	39.20	39.40	
SIEMENS	1270.00	1270.00	1226.50	1265.30	
IFBIND	666.20	746.00	666.20	703.10	
TATACONSUM	479.70	486.55	475.10	476.90	
NTPC	79.15	80.50	78.45	80.35	
HDFCLIFE	562.80	566.20	559.55	561.45	
MANAPPURAM	158.10	164.30	158.10	162.70	
AMBUJACEM	243.90	248.95	240.20	248.10	
ONGC	66.30	67.50	66.00	67.20	
MOTHERSUMI	106.45	107.65	105.00	106.25	
COFORGE	2555.95	2593.65	2468.40	2576.00	
BALKRISIND	1367.80	1389.00	1345.00	1381.25	
PHILIPCARB	133.00	138.00	130.00	135.65	
INTERTPHARM	2730.00	2755.85	2683.20	2743.60	
INFRATEL	182.15	184.00	178.20	182.53	
DABUR	519.40	523.80	510.90	512.05	
BHEL	27.20	27.45	26.75	27.20	
NESTLEIND	15699.00	15807.50	15389.90	15434.20	
GRANULES	380.05	390.40	362.00	388.80	
ADANIENT	308.00	313.65	305.35	306.95	
BHARATFORG	445.20	458.70	445.20	452.80	
STAR	734.50	749.90	728.30	742.00	
BLISSGVS	175.05	175.05	174.10	174.95	
M&MFIN	125.05	127.15	124.20	125.55	



# Time to get ready for ‘no deal’ Brexit: Boris

**London:** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday issued a stark warning that the UK must now prepare for the prospect of no post-Brexit free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU).

In a statement from Downing Street, Johnson said that he was making a judgment call on the UK-EU trade negotiations as the January 1, 2021, deadline for the end of the ongoing Brexit transition period was now only 10 weeks away and the crucial European Council summit this week failed to come up with promising answers.

“We always knew that there would be change on January 1 whatever type of relationship we had. And so now is the time for our businesses to get ready, and for hauliers to get ready, and for travellers to get ready,” said Johnson.

“So with high hearts and complete confidence we will prepare to embrace the alternative. And we will prosper mightily as an independent free trading nation, controlling our own borders, our fish-



eries, and setting our own laws,” he said.

The UK had voted to leave the 27-member European economic trading bloc in a referendum in June 2016 and formally left in January this year, entering into a transition period with unchanged rules until the end of this year.

Both sides have been holding talks to thrash out an FTA akin to the EU’s trade ties with Canada. However, Johnson’s dramatic announcement on Friday notes that the likely outcome is now a relationship similar to EU-Australia ties, based on global trading norms.

“From the outset we were totally clear that we wanted nothing more complicated than

a Canada-style relationship, based on friendship and free trade. To judge by the latest EU summit in Brussels that won’t work for our EU partners.

“They want the continued ability to control our legislative freedom, our fisheries, in a way that is obviously unacceptable to an independent country,” said the UK PM, referring to one of the key stumbling blocks to a new deal being the division of waters for fishing rights with neighbouring coastal EU countries.

Instead, he indicated the prospect of smaller, sector-specific agreements remains on the table.

“And of course we are willing to discuss the practicalities with our friends where a lot of progress has already been made, by the way, on such issues as social security, and aviation, nuclear cooperation and so on. But for whatever reason it is clear from the summit that after 45 years of membership they are not willing — unless there is some fundamental change of approach — to offer this country the same terms as Canada,” he said. **PTI**

# Philippines says it will defend oil search in South China Seas

**Manila (Philippines):** The Philippines is ready to defend the oil and gas exploration it has decided to resume in its internationally recognised waters in the disputed South China Sea and will not cede that right to any nation, the energy chief said Friday.

The Department of Energy announced Thursday that President Rodrigo Duterte has approved its recommendation to lift a 6-year-old moratorium on energy exploration in three offshore areas west of the Philippines, including in potentially oil- and gas-rich Reed Bank, which China also claims.

Companies with government exploration contracts have been notified to resume their petroleum search, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said.

Cusi told reporters in an online news conference Friday that China was not informed of the Philippine government’s decision to resume oil exploration in its exclusive economic zone, a 200-mile (320-kilometer) stretch of waters where a coastal state can exclusively

exploit maritime resources under the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Reed Bank and two other exploration areas are within the Philippines’ exclusive zone but China is likely assert its claim, Cusi said.

“They will not just take it without raising a word. I’m sure they’re going to write us,” he said.

Asked how the Philippines will respond if China protests or intervenes in the high-seas exploration, Cusi replied, “We have to stand up for our rights, that’s what we are going to do.”

Exploration companies have been assured they will be protected by a 500-meter (1,650-foot) security buffer zone, Cusi said, without elaborating. He said he expected “China will be respecting that.”

In 2011, a Philippine exploration vessel reported it was being harassed by two Chinese patrol boats at Reed Bank, prompting a military commander to deploy two aircraft. **AP**

# Trump, Biden hold separate town halls

**Greenville (US):** US President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden held simultaneous and separate televised town halls in lieu of the second presidential debate, taking questions from pre-selected individuals at sessions moderated by eminent television journalists.

While Trump’s town hall was hosted by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in Miami, Florida, that of Biden was held in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia by the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) News.

The second presidential debate had originally been scheduled for Thursday night. However, it was cancelled after Trump refused to participate in a virtual format of the presidential debate as amended by the independent debate commission following the president’s COVID-19 diagnosis.

A final debate is still scheduled for October 22 in Nashville, Tennessee. The first debate was held on September 29 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Trump, 74, has recovered from a brief spell of COVID-19 after he and First Lady Melania Trump, 50, tested positive for the deadly viral infection on October 1. Trump’s doctors have now cleared him for his election campaigns.

During the town hall, Trump defended his handling of the coronavirus pandemic. He also reiterated his stand on tax returns.

However, Trump refused to denounce the QAnon conspir-

acy theory. According to QAnon, a far-right group that has been labelled a terror threat by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Democrats are running a secret paedophilia ring. **PTI**

# Biden vows to repeal ‘Muslim ban’ imposed by Trump admin if elected

**Greenville (US):** Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has vowed to include Muslim Americans in every social and political aspect in his administration as well as repeal President Donald Trump’s “Muslim ban” if voted to power.

In a video message to Muslim Advocates, a civil rights organisation, on Thursday, Biden also promised to push lawmakers for legislation to fight the growing spike in hate crimes in the US.

“As president, I’ll work with you to rip the poison of hate from our society to honour your contributions and seek your ideas. My administration will look like America, with Muslim Americans serving at every level,” he said. “On day one, I’ll end

Trump’s unconstitutional Muslim ban. I’ll push Congress to pass hate crimes legislation. I’ll implement the national strategy I’ve laid out since March to be COVID. I’ll end the deadly inequities in health care, education, and opportunity that this crisis has amplified. And together, we’ll rebuild the criminal justice system focused on redemption, not retribution,” Biden added.

President Trump has imposed a controversial travel ban, often referred to by critics as a “Muslim ban”, on several Muslim majority countries, including Iran and Syria, through a series of executive orders. In February, the travel ban was expanded to include six additional countries, including Nigeria. **PTI**

# WHO: Study finds 4 drugs have little to no effect on Covid 19

**AP ■ GENEVA**

The UN health agency says the world’s largest randomised trial of COVID-19 treatments found “conclusive evidence” that remdesivir, a drug used to treat US President Donald Trump when he fell ill, has little or no effect on severe cases.

The World Health Organisation announced Friday the long-awaited results of its six-month “Solidarity Therapeutics Trial” that endeavored to see if existing drugs might have an effect on the coronavirus.

The study, which was not peer-reviewed, found that four treatments tested - remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon - had “little or no effect” on whether or not patients died within about a month or whether hospitalised patients recovered.

Most of those had already been ruled out. But remdesivir, a repurposed malaria drug, has been classified as standard-of-care in the United States, and it has been approved for use against COVID-19 in the UK and EU.

# China justifies its envoy’s warning to Canada over asylum to Hong-Kongers

**Beijing:** China on Friday justified a warning by its envoy to the Canadian Government to not to grant asylum to Hong Kong residents fleeing abroad, saying that the ambassador was stating Beijing’s “just position”.

Chinese Ambassador to Canada, Cong Peiwu, in a video press conference from the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa, on Thursday said, “we strongly urge the Canadian side not (to) grant so-called political asylum to those violent criminals in Hong Kong because it is the interference in

China’s domestic affairs. And certainly, it will embolden those violent criminals.”

“So, if the Canadian side really cares about the stability and the prosperity in Hong Kong, and really cares about the good health and safety of those 300,000 Canadian passport-holders in Hong Kong, and the large number of Canadian companies operating in Hong Kong SAR, you should support those efforts to fight violent crimes,” Cong said.

A large number of Hong Kong residents have been leaving the former British colony

resenting China’s move to extend the new security law to the specially administered province. Asked about Cong’s remarks which were interpreted as a warning by Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that, “the Chinese embassy in Canada just made clear our just position on issues relating to Hong Kong. It is beyond reproach.”

“If anyone is misinterpreting this, then you should ask for the reason and find out if there are ulterior motives involved”, he said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on June 30 signed a controversial security law that gave Beijing new powers over Hong Kong that are tailor-made to crackdown against dissent, criminalising secession and effectively curtailing protests, amidst global anger and outrage in the former British colony. The relations between China and Canada were strained by the arrest of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, in Vancouver in 2018 on a bank fraud warrant issued by the US authorities. **PTI**

# China, Russia, India spewing stuff into air, says Trump

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump has blamed countries like China, Russia and India for adding to the global air pollution and asserted that his country has the best environmental numbers. Speaking to his cheering supporters at an elections rally in the key battleground State of North Carolina on Thursday, Trump said the US under his administration has achieved energy independence while protecting its pristine environment.

“We have the best environmental numbers, ozone numbers, and so many other numbers. In the meantime, China, Russia, India all these countries

they’re spewing stuff into the air,” he alleged during the rally. He said the US has achieved energy independence while protecting its pristine environment.

Trump in June, 2017 announced his decision to withdraw from the Paris deal, saying the accord would have cost America trillions of dollars, killed jobs, and hindered the oil, gas, coal and manufacturing industries. He has continuously argued that countries like China and India are benefiting the most from the Paris agreement and the agreement itself was unfair to the US, as it badly hit its businesses and jobs. **PTI**

## FROM PAGE 1

### GOVT TO REVISE GIRLS’ LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE...

The task force’s mandate is to examine the correlation of the age of marriage and motherhood with health, medical well-being and nutritional status of mother and neonate/infant/child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter; key parameters like Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate, Total Fertility Rate, Sex Ratio at Birth, Child Sex Ratio and any other relevant points pertaining to health and nutrition in this context.

In many rural areas of India, girls are routinely married before 18 years with the approval of communities which is illegal. Orthodox sections back child marriages citing religion. The time seemed to have not moved for the child-marriage backers since Raja Ram Mohan Roy first opposed child marriages in the second-half of the 19th century and was actively supported by British Governor-General Lord William Bentinck.

Anemia and malnutrition are known to be the result of underage marriages in India which has one of the largest numbers of child-marriages in the world even though the law has set 18 as the age of marriage for women and 21 for men.

In his Independence Day speech, the PM had announced that the Government was deliberating on what should be the minimum age of marriage for women and has set up a committee to look into the matter.

Modi highlighted the efforts taken by his Government in the last six years to fight against malnutrition.

The Prime Minister said his government has taken an integrated and holistic approach to deal with the challenge of malnutrition.

The Government has adopted a multi-dimensional strategy to work on all those factors responsible for high malnutrition, he said adding the Government has started National Nutrition Mission.

Highlighting other achievements, the Prime Minister said the Government has built 11 crore toilets across the country under the Swachh Bharat Mission and has launched Jal Jeevan Mission to provide piped drinking water.

The Government is also providing sanitary pads at Rs 1 to poor women, he further said. “Because of these efforts, for the first time, the gross enrolment ratio of girls in education is more than that of boys,” Modi said.

### 31,277 ASST TEACHERS GET APPOINTMENT

“A lot has changed in the fundamental structure and quality of education in the last three-and-half years. Because of this, there has been an increase of over 50 lakh students in basic schools and we hope with your diligence, this will continue in future too,” the chief minister said, adding that the government was committed to providing drinking water in all primary schools and a work plan was ready for it.

Elaborating on the government’s commitment towards improving education in the primary section, the chief minister said that the gov-

ernment would appoint teachers as per the guidelines to ensure quality education in the primary schools.

“The government initiated recruitment of 69,000 in 2019. But some people are in the habit of creating hindrances and they went to the court. The appointments are being done as per the court’s directions and the remaining appointments will be done as soon as we get further directions from the court,” the chief minister said.

Congratulating the newly-appointed teachers, Yogi called upon them for their significant participation for a comprehensive improvement in basic education.

“Teachers are expected to utilise full capacity of the students and also help establish a model school. Teachers are also expected to play an important role in society and they are instrumental in the upgradation of primary schools,” he said.

Handing over the appointment letters to five teachers of Lucknow, the chief minister said that the government was determined to ensure employment for the youth and fill up the vacancies in the education and other departments on merit with transparency, using modern technology.

While 5,948 teachers were appointed in the 2017-18 academic session, 46,319 teachers were appointed in the 2018-19 session. With the latest inclusion of 31,277 teachers, a total of 83,544 teachers have been appointed so far by the Yogi Adityanath government.

“The basic infrastructural facilities in basic schools will be disseminated timely under the Operation Kayalap. All efforts are underway for inclusive education of out-of-school and Divyang children. The government is committed to providing education to every child and will ensure that not a single child is left behind,” the chief minister stressed.

### 4 MORE RAFALES IN NOV TO GIVE FILLIP TO OP ...

Given the reach and capabilities of the Dassault manufactured fighter jet, the Rafale will guard the LAC and Line of Control (LOC) in the north and west facing China and Pakistan and China the east.

India and France inked a Government to Government deal for 36 Rafale jets in September 2016 at a price of 7.8 billion Euros. The entire fleet of 36 jets is expected to join the IAF by next year end.

The Rafale jets are the first to be inducted into the IAF after more than 24 years. The SU-30s manufactured by Russia were inducted in 1997.

In his annual Press conference earlier this month, IAF chief RKS Bhadauria had said the integration of Rafale fighter jets brought in a platform armed with advanced weapons, sensors and technologies that gave the IAF an operational and technological edge. “Combined with upgraded operational capabilities of our current fighter fleet, it gives us the ability to shoot first and strike deep and hard, even in contested airspace,” the IAF chief said.

The French built twin-engine jets have at

least 13 India specific enhancements. They include a helmet-mounted sight, radar warning receivers, flight data recorders with storage for 10 hours of data, infrared search and track systems, jammers, cold engine start capability to operate from high-altitude bases and towed decoys to ward off incoming missiles.

The modern jet is capable of carrying out a variety of missions like ground and sea attack, air defence and air superiority, reconnaissance and nuclear strike deterrence. It can carry almost 10 tonnes of weapons.

### SC SEEKS AG HELP TO QUASH MP HC BAIL...

“The trauma of the victim is trivialised by such conditions,” Parikh told the bench, also comprising Justice BR Gavai.

“These kind of conditions are imposed which are against the principle of law. Repeatedly such observations are being made,” he said.

“Are you making the submission only for Madhya Pradesh or for the entire country,” the bench asked. To this, Parikh said he is making submission with regard to entire country and the petitioners have made prayers to restrain courts, including high courts and trial courts, from making such observations.

The bench, which said it is issuing notice to the office of the top law officer of the country, posted the matter for hearing on November 2. In their appeal, the petitioners have sought stay of the bail condition imposed on the accused by the high court.

The plea said that substantial questions of law, including whether in a case seeking bail it is appropriate for a court to impose extraneous conditions which allows contact between the accused and the complainant, is involved in the matter. “Whether the bail condition which is impugned herein stands to further victimize the complainant and trivialize the trauma that she has suffered,” the plea said, adding, “Whether the above mentioned bail condition is in line with the principles that govern trials within the criminal justice system?”

### MODI TO GO FULL THROTTLE IN BIHAR...

Yadav accused Chirag of practising “politics of lies”, saying he had been praising the Bihar Government in February this year. “Chirag should not either live in illusion or nurse any illusion or spread illusion,” Yadav tweeted.

Javadekar said BJP’s alliance in Bihar is with JD(U), Jitan Ram Manjhi’s HAM(S) and Vikassheel Insaan Party, asserting the NDA combine will win three-fourth majority in the State.

The Union Minister’s statement came hours after Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi said Chirag’s party left the NDA as it wanted more seats than what the BJP was willing to give.

“LJP was asking for more seats than what we wanted to give, so the matter broke down. Nowadays, some leaders of LJP are spreading rumours and asking why did the Prime Minister and Amit Shah not stop LJP from leaving NDA?” said Sushil.

# Odisha boy scores 100% in NEET, used lockdown in Kota to prepare well

**Bhubaneswar (PTI):** Soyeb Aftab, who topped the NEET on Friday with a perfect score of 720, credited his parents for the success, saying he never expected to bag the first rank in the medical entrance exam even though he was optimistic.

Aftab, the son of homemaker Sultan Razia and Sheikh Mohammad Abbas who owns a small business, said it was his mother who motivated him to aspire for becoming a doctor.

“I will like to give all the credit to my mother who motivated me to aspire for being a doctor and stood by me all along,” he told PTI.

Aftab, 18, said his father extended all the financial support but it was his mother who spent her maximum time supporting him on his studies.

He said that he moved to the coaching hub of Kota in Rajasthan after the class 12 board exam to prepare for the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET).

“My mother and younger sister accompanied me to Kota and made all the arrangements for the studies there,” he said.

The Rourkela boy said most of his time during the day was spent at the coaching class.

“I studied for only three hours in the night initially, and eventually increased the time as the examina-

tion approached, he said.

Aftab, who scored a perfect 720 out of 720 in the exam, said, “I am absolutely happy. There is no doctor in my family. I would like to study in AIIMS-New Delhi.” “All the credit goes to my mother and father,” he said, reacting to his score.

Aftab said that he was confident of getting a place in the top 50 after verifying the answer key of all the questions but never expected to top the exam.

Aftab and Delhi’s Akansha Singh scored 720 out of 720 marks but the Odisha boy was ranked first and Singh second as per the National Testing Agency’s tie-breaking policy, officials said.

The tie-breaking policy takes into account factors such as age, subject-wise marks and number of incorrect answers, they said.

A total of 7,71,500 candidates have qualified the exam for which over 13.66 lakh candidates had appeared.

The highest number of qualifying candidates are from Tripura (88,889), followed by Maharashtra (79,974).

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) was conducted on September 13 amid strict precautions in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## RESTRAINT ON MEDIA TRIAL

# Bombay HC asks Centre to come out with mechanism to control electronic media

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Lamenting that there was no mechanism to control the electronic media, the Bombay High Court asked the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to look into the matter and come out with a mechanism to control the electronic media. Hearing a bunch of PILs seeking restraint on the television news channels against the backdrop of ‘media-trial’ in the coverage of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s death, HC a division bench comprising wanted to know as to why there was nothing for electronic media, when for print media there is an act since the seventies.

“You do not seem to be in the mood to ruffle feathers with respect to electronic media,” the judges told Additional Solicitor-General (ASG) of India Anil Singh representing the Government.

“For the print, there is the Press Council for the films there is the Censor Board... what about a similar statutory body for the electronic media...” a division bench comprising Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G. S. Kulkarni noted.

“Times have changed... This is the most misused freedom now, as CJI has said.... You should have something for electronic media. We are saying this out of concern. Everyone seems to have an unfettered licence to say whatever they want to. There is such hue and cry, the entire system will break down, if you do not do something,” the judges told the ASG.

At one stage, the judges observed: “Let the investigative journalism continue, it is legitimate, let them do their work, but not to such an extent... All we are saying there is no mechanism to control the electronic media”.

“So much is happening, who is going to look into it. At this point, it is left to the wisdom of the legislature and judiciary. Why is the media exempted from such scrutiny? Why should citizens come to court every time? It is not good for the media as well.... It is an urgent situation, the ministry must look into it urgently,” the judges observed.

The HC bench was responding to the ASG’s contention that “Time and again, courts have held that minimum interference should be

there from the government. there should be self-regulation. The National Broadcasters Association (NBA) has their own code and guidelines....It is not like we are not acting, we take action, we step in and take action”.

The Judges said that the HC bench was acting only in those cases, where the media channel is not a member of NBA. “If he is not a member, then we send it to the channel, if the channel takes no action, then there is an inter-ministerial committee to take action,” the ASG responded..

The HC bench wanted to know if there is a mechanism for surveillance of ministry or prior censorship “Are actions taken by existing mechanisms only after complaint? Is any machinery to check the media channel is following the law, before the ‘so-called damage’ is caused?”, the judges asked.

Senior Council Arvind Datar who represented the National Broadcasters Association (NBA) informed the court that it had imposed fines on several TV channels for objectionable reportage on Sushant’s death case.





#### TIGER SHROFF

Whenever Master *ji* (Ganesh Acharya) thanks me for anything, I feel he is abusing me because the way he has helped me since my first film, I am really grateful to him. He worked with me in my first film *Heropanti* and we did a song called *Whistle bajaa*. I remember I was really scared on the set but he supported me.



#### SHABANA AZMI

*Kaali Khuhi* explores the dark history of a family haunted by its gruesome past and entangled in a web of unnatural occurrences. As 10-year-old Shivangi witnesses her entire family fall deeper into the secrets of the black well, she's put to the ultimate test. The film interweaves elements of drama, suspense and grounded horror.



#### UDAY CHOPRA

*Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* was the first film whose behind the scenes footage was telecast on Doordarshan. The channel made a special show out of the exclusive content that was shared to them. When the making aired, we got tons of wishes and it was a huge validation for trying to do something new for audience.



#### CHRISTOPHER CROSS

It was the worst 10 days of my life. I couldn't walk, could barely move. And so, it was certainly the darkest of times for me. I'm not a big celebrity but it's important for people to know that you can get this disease — Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

#### KANGANA RANAUT

I have started action training for my forthcoming action films — *Tejas* and *Dhakaad*. I play a fauji and a spy respectively in these films. Bollywood's plate may have given me a lot but post *Manikarnika* success I have also given the industry its first ever legitimate action heroine.



## SHORT CIRCUITS

### NEW NORMAL 60 MINUTES

How often do we come across films which have been the creation of a single person's mind? Well, filmmaker, actor and model Rohit Arora, for his first directorial, a neo-noir film, *The Pickup Artist*, donned several hats — of a writer, director, producer, film videographer and editor — to make the project finally come through. The reason behind this also finds similarity with the film's underlying theme — trust. He says, "Going ahead with an absolutely no-compromise approach on my debut film, there was literally nothing I wouldn't have done to make it a masterpiece in cinema. I ended up being a DOP to avoid any nuisance in the tone of the film because I knew it could take a long time to shoot. Since the film has been shot in Delhi, I did not know anyone here whom I could trust enough for being a long-term crew. Hence, I ended up being an editor for this very reason — lack of trusted talent around."

The film revolves around a lecherous, maniac cop, Tiger Tiwari, who has been transferred to New Delhi and appointed for an "unsolvable" and a "curious" case of missing girls. The suspected culprit operates in daylight and does not leave a clue. With each new missing girl, Tiwari comes closer to solving the case. But the questions remain the same — Where are the girls going? What is the culprit's purpose behind this? Will Tiwari be able to solve the case?

As Rohit calls the film "anything but boring, pretty much an edge-of-the-seat thriller," out of an ensemble cast of 20 main characters, one of the lead actors and debutante Sasha Aery agrees and talks about how the narration itself had flattered her.

Well, we know, how on debutantes, 2020 hasn't been very fair. The film, which was initially scheduled to release on April 3, faced the brunt of the pandemic-induced lockdown in the most unexpected ways. However, Rohit and Sasha are grateful that the film was featured at various international film festivals and won accolades at the oldest, 52nd Worldfest Houston — Remi Winner USA 2019. Well, the excitement can be sensed in their voice from the other end of the phone. Excerpts:

# Long walk to light

Good things take time. For filmmaker ROHIT ARORA and actor SASHA AERY, the wait for their debut film, *The Pickup Artist*, was an unending one due to the pandemic-induced lockdown. While for the director, it was difficult to extend the release after investing 10 years into its making, Aery had to hold back her excitement of being on the big screen. By CHAHAK MITTAL

#### How difficult was it to extend the release due to the lockdown? Why didn't you release the film online?

**Rohit:** In March, just 10 days before the lockdown was announced, we had finished all the marketing work as the release date was nearing. It was surely devastating to know that we had to extend the release for that time but now I think, it was for a reason. I made the film for the big screen and it deserved to have been showcased there. Of course, the thought killed me every now and then that when are the theatres going to open but I also knew that cinema is one thing Indian audience has loved and it will certainly be opened again once things settle down.

I held back on OTT. I had some small investors in the film who wanted it to be out during this time in lockdown. Even I thought for once to just go for OTT and get over with it. But it was my first film and it had to be special. The film has played at big festivals and grabbed good audiences. Also, it's a different process through which you make content for the big screen or the small one or OTT. The cost goes high, the post-production and editing work is also done accordingly.

**Sasha:** Lockdown was like an unending wait. Given that it's my first film, I was very excited about it. But it gradually demanded a lot of patience. However, I also think it's kind of revolutionary now that this is one of the first films to be releasing after the reopening of the cinemas. And I am glad for this fact because cinema lovers have obviously waited long for this day to come in 2020.



#### How did you conceptualise the film?

**Rohit:** The idea occurred to me in 2010. However, I cannot tell you how it originated because otherwise I might end up revealing a lot about the script and the film's very secret! (laughs)

I would say it's a compilation of a lot of ideas that I had in my mind. I also referred to books — about mystery, thriller and cops. It was a very long process. I wanted my first film to be super amazing. I didn't want the audience to get bored. I had set the bar very high for myself even in my very first project. I just wanted to

bank on the originality of my thought that revolves around creating more mindful cinema in India. From the concept to the screen, it was a journey of 10 years. At the end of 2015, we started shooting and 2019 was the premiere. And now it's releasing in the cinemas in India.

**The trailer highlights a lot of things like questioning the government, society and old-age beliefs and the exploitation of women, of course. It says very less about what the film is exactly trying to say...**

**Rohit:** Well, it's the reason why I cut the trailer this way. I did not



want to reveal anything. Trailers are usually cut by the producers' marketing team. But here, I worked on it myself and it took my team about six months to cut the trailer. You will realise that at every step in the film.

#### What does the title signify?

**Rohit:** Who is a pickup artist? He is the one who belongs to the seduction or the pickup community and aims at picking up girls to lure them for sex. Our tagline — a curious case of missing girls investigated by a maniac cop — is actually the answer. This is the plot. But there's a lot more to it!

**There was a dialogue in the trailer that caught our attention — "Raavan agar Ramayan jeet jaata toh voh hero ban jaata, par haar gaya isliye villain ban gaya." Where did that idea come from? How do you think modern dialogue-writing has become more thought-provoking?**

**Rohit:** The idea came to me when I was going to shoot a *Ramleela*

scene and I was in a cab. It just struck me out of nowhere. You never know where an idea might emerge from at times and that's exactly what happened at the time. You just know that it's a good idea and you should work upon it. I never sit down to think and write. I let it happen while on the go. I am in a constant conversation with myself. So, I never write my dialogues in a rush, I give them a lot of time. I usually have a structure ready, which I fill up with dialogues and story steadily. Until I am super happy and satisfied with my writing, I don't go ahead with it. Dialogues is my USP as a writer.

**Sasha:** I agree. I think he has that flair of being perfect with the structure. He makes sure his script aligns with his idea. I think it also has a lot to do with the way he structured the idea itself, for which he needs those specific pieces to build it. That's actually the beauty of this film!

#### Being a practising psychologist, how did you land the project?

**Sasha:** It's actually a very funny story and that's the most interesting part about it. One of my very good friends was going for the audition for this film and I just accompanied him. And it's the funny how I landed a role and he did not. I just went casually and gave a try. Before this, I had only given auditions for theatre or stage shows or a street play but never for a feature film. I think it was just meant to happen.

**Rohit:** I'd say, she is very photogenic. She just held the audience. One of my friends complimented her that one can just hold the camera on her for as long as one wants, and the audience won't move!

**Sasha:** (Laughs) It was flattering!

#### How did you get into the skin of your character, Akansha? Was the prep more mental?

**Sasha:** Yes, my target was always to understand the character from a psychological perspective because otherwise it would have got quite difficult for me to resonate with her and be in her skin. And Rohit always gave me that leeway. Even if he had his own process and professional ethics, he still let me get comfortable with the character myself and gave me enough time to settle.

#### How challenging was it?

**Sasha:** I would say it was slightly challenging because Akansha was quite opposite to how I am. She was quite naive. I am not trying to mean that being naive is a bad thing but if we look at Sasha, her senses would have been too alert rather than just going for what was being asked of her. So my most conversations about the character with Rohit were about this — How can she do that? I was constantly trying to understand her motives. But then, it automatically came to me when we started rehearsing and finally shooting. I also found a similarity that Akansha, just like me, also wanted to be somebody successful.

#### What should the audience expect from the film?

**Rohit:** It's a mindful entertainment. The audience will find good music, definitely a story, performances by some amazing actors, humour, drama, suspense and above all, newness. It will certainly be a visual treat. It has not been made as a typical Bollywood film. I have worked very hard to fight the cliches and go beyond them both in my writing and my treatment. We even conducted various workshops to get better at learning the characters. We did not straight away begin with the shoot. Had I done it in a Bollywood system, it would have never worked out this way. A funny fact? A lot of my assistants left in the way (chuckles) because it took so long to complete!

#### What do you think is the relevance of the film?

**Rohit:** There's no message as such. It's just a thriller — a mindful one. The core of the film is "trust." This term has fascinated me since childhood. As I grew-up, my sensitivity towards trust increased to a point where I started seeing my whole life as a binary pattern of presence or absence of trust, just like signals in a computer are represented by presence or absence of current. I am really glad this film turned out to be my debut as a director. The thought still fascinates me how the idea of a pickup artist and trust somehow amalgamated together in my head. (The film released yesterday in theatres.)

### CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES

## Bounce back to normal

Actors RICHA CHADHA and ALI FAZAL head together for an international film festival. The former is set to participate in the women empowerment panel while Fazal joins as jury for short film category

Even as festivals world over are moving virtual, Egypt's El Gouna Film Festival to be held between October 23 and October 30 is all set to be amongst the first sizeable physical film events to be held in COVID-era. Interestingly enough, the festival has an interesting Indian connection too. The Shorts Film Competition of the schedule will be judged by Bollywood actor Ali Fazal.

Fazal, who is currently in the midst of promoting his forthcoming Amazon Prime Show *Mirzapur*, will soon star in the much-awaited Kenneth Branagh film *Death On The Nile*. The actor had previously headlined *Victoria & Abdul* alongside Dame Judi Dench. His co-jury members include Tunisian director Raja Amari, Syrian actor Kinda Alloush and the popular Argentine filmmaker Santiago Amigorena. The jury will choose four best entries from a wide range of submissions to award a prize money of \$31,000n(USD).

Fazal will be accompanied to the festival by fiancée actor Richa Chadha. The actress known for the Emmy nominated series *Inside Edge*, the much-celebrated *Love Sonia* amongst others will be in a panel discussion about women empowerment. She will also discuss her journey in the Hindi film industry, her challenges, choices and the impact it had on the kind of roles that came her way.

In a statement, Richa said,



"I am looking forward to the panel discussion. It's an important dialogue that must be had to help popular culture move in the right direction. With the rising number of powerful female voices across the world, it's important to discuss, debate and relearn norms. The narra-

tive in 2020 must speak about gender equality which will only come from empowering the women who've been given the short end of the stick for far too long."

Ali says, "It has been a fairly grim year for all of us across the world. The fact that I will

be attending an on ground physical event is a reminder that the worst is behind us. It gives me hope that things will get better world over, here on. I am looking forward to watching many short films and interacting with the people at this event."



## FIVE SENSES OF HISTORY

The Garden of Five Senses in South Delhi is not only an archaeologically significant area but is also a hub of cultural and gastronomical delights

The Mehrauli-Badarpur Road is one of those roads, which when you drive through you go through a millennia of Delhi's history — from the ramparts of the spectacular Tughlakabad Fort to the towering Qutub Minar, the oldest free-standing tower in the world. You realise then that Delhi is truly one of the world's oldest living cities, one steeped in history both ancient and modern. And one of those places where Delhi's history meets the modern Delhi is The Garden of Five Senses, located just off this very road, next to Saket Metro Station. This 20-acre space initially conceptualised by Delhi-based architect Pradeep Bhandari is run by Delhi Tourism and, in a normal time



CELEBRATING THE HYUNDAI VENUE

is a hub of cultural and gastronomic activities, particularly in Winters. That is why the name of the place — as it delights all your five senses.

But one must not lose sight of the site's historical significance located just outside the Mehrauli archaeological site. Several historical monuments, including the Qutub Minar, are visible from the site. However, it is also home to some stunning modern art installations as well as a replican of the Mayan-

era Labna Arch, creating a cultural history bridge between India and Mexico. It is unfortunate that due to the current pandemic, there will be fewer events this year, although Delhi Tourism is promising that some events with limited attendance will take place nonetheless. Some of the permanent restaurants located inside the Garden of Five Senses have opened their doors again and the public can easily visit the site and experience a mix of the ancient and modern.

There is ample parking at the Garden and the Hyundai Venue Sport is the ideal urban car to visit the site in its modern looks, accentuated by the greenery and the art installations at the Garden.

Photo: Vikram Sharma



We've been in this situation and before and have come back from this, so we're not panicking about this, we know it can be done and I believe in this team to do it

To me, Chris is the greatest T20 player. When he is batting, you always feel you have a chance of winning the game. Once he is there, it's a different mood in the camp

Things are looking good at this stage of the season, but I am never the one to try and look too far ahead because I know how quickly the IPL can turn around

Chris (Gayle) coming back, gives a lot of energy to the side. We did not lose spirit even when we were losing. We were playing good cricket and it's just about getting over the line

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE

**SMITH REMAINS CAPTAIN AFTER RUMOUR**  
Rajasthan Royals on Friday seem to have inadvertently sparked a rumour of a change in captains before clarifying that Steve Smith remains skipper of the team. RR first posted a meme featuring their star wicket-keeper-batsman Jos Buttler based on the popular television show *The Office*. "Thankful for a boss like Jos," the team said in a tweet. That led to many on social media to speculate on whether Buttler is going to replace Smith as captain. Their tweet came just hours after Buttler's England team mate and captain Eoin Morgan replaced Dinesh Karthik as skipper at KKR. RR, however, later indicated that it was an attempt at humour that ended up sparking the rumour about the captaincy change. "When admin realises he started a false rumour," tweeted the franchise with another meme based on *The Office* before tweeting Smith's picture with the caption "Captain" with a heart emoji.

# Clinical finish by MI



Pat Cummins and Eoin Morgan run between wickets during KKR innings

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma on Friday said his team lived up to the expectations with its clinical showing in both batting and bowling, which culminated in an eight-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL here. After the bowlers restricted KKR to 148 for five, opener Quinton de Kock blazed his way to 78 off 44 balls to complete the task for Mumbai.

"(We were) clinical with the ball, clinical with the bat, overall you know, the performance that we were expecting was there," Rohit said the presentation ceremony.

"It is always a challenge when you have won four out of four, how you turn on that particular day, it is very important and I thought we turned up really well, right from the start we were there on their faces."

According to Rohit, he usually takes a backseat when batting with de Kock, who likes to take on the bowlers from the word go.

"I enjoy batting with him (De Kock), he is very straightforward on what he wants to do and most of the time I have taken a backseat because he likes to take on the bowlers right from the word go.

"I probably assess the situation, I have a role to play in the squad and I try and do that more often.

"But I want Quinny to bat the way he is batting and he shouldn't be taking any sort of pressure about what the team is expecting from him, as long he keeps doing what he loves to do, we are in good position," added Rohit.

Rohit said the victory was special as the team chased successfully, which could be the trend in the second half of the tournament.

"It gives us a lot of confidence,

## DK pass the baton to Morgan

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik on Friday stepped down as captain of the Kolkata Knight Riders team, handing over the reins to his English deputy Eoin Morgan hours before the IPL match against Mumbai Indians

Karthik told the KKR management that he wants to "focus on his batting and contributing more to the team's cause. Appointed skipper in 2018, the 35-year-old led KKR in 37 matches. "We are fortunate to have leaders such as DK, who has always put the team first. It takes a lot of courage for someone like him to take a decision such as this," team CEO Venky Mysore said in a statement.

"While we were surprised by his decision, we are respectful of his wishes."

Midway into the ongoing season, KKR find themselves at fourth place in the points table with four wins and four losses. Morgan was widely tipped to take over at some point from Karthik given the topsy-turvy run. "...DK and Eoin have worked brilliantly together during this tournament and although Eoin takes over as captain, this is effectively a role swap and we expect that this transition will work in a seamless manner," Mysore said.

that has been the trend so far in the first half of the tournament, team batting second have lost many games.

"So I guess it is changing now, the second half of the tournament, teams batting second will win most of the games, that's what I feel," he said.

KKR's new captain Eoin Morgan conceded that losing early wickets did



Even though Mysore termed Karthik's decision surprising, the move was always on the cards with a World Cup-winning captain in the mix. The veteran Indian wicketkeeper-batsman's captaincy had come under intense criticism due to the team's erratic campaign so far.

Karthik's own battig has been pretty scratchy save the half-century against KXIP which also got him the man-of-the match award.

Strategically, he hasn't been at his best like the match against Delhi Capitals at Sharjah where he promoted himself ahead of Morgan, who is a bigger match-winner currently and also nearly got the team home.

not help their cause.

"Being four and five down early really cost us, we managed to get a score on the board, but when Mumbai come out and play like that it is difficult to stop momentum.

"... So full credit to them, they played really well and we have got a lot of lessons to learn, particularly with the bat today," Morgan said.

## RCB look to get tactics right

PTI ■ DUBAI

Royal Challengers Bangalore would aim to get their strategy right after some inexplicable decisions during the loss to Kings XI Punjab when they take on an erratic-but-dauntless Rajasthan Royals on Saturday.

The Virat Kohli-led RCB has won five of its eight games on the back of all-round performances but seemingly blundered in the eight-wicket defeat to lag-gards KXIP on Thursday.

On the other hand, the Royals' campaign this season has been marred by numerous top-order collapses, forcing the lower half to pull them across the finish line and thet lie at the seventh spot in the points table with just three wins from eight outings.

Against KXIP in Sharjah, AB De Villiers, who has been in fine form, was sent in to bat at number six, a baffling decision by the RCB.

Left-hander Washington Sundar (13) and Shivam Dube (23) were promoted up the order to accompany s k i p p e r Kohli in the middle.

The experiment didn't work as all three batsmen struggled with the South African scoring just two off five balls.

To add to RCB's woes,

while defending the total, Kohli decided to save the in-form Sundar for the big-hitting Chris Gayle, who came to bat in the eighth over. That gamble didn't pay off either as the 41-year-old Jamaican smashed the young off-spinner for four sixes.

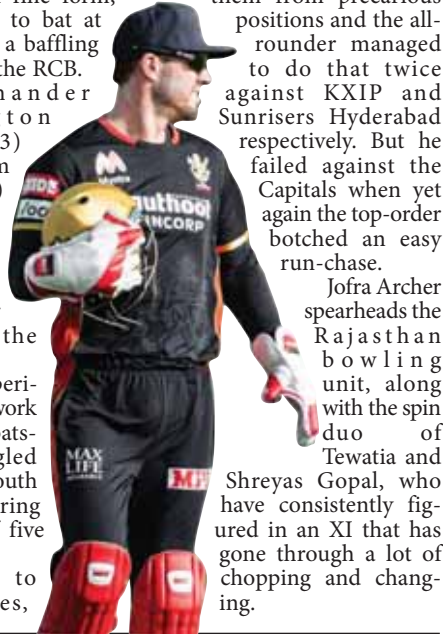
Meanwhile, the Royals boast of a strong batting line-up. But the likes of Steve Smith, and Sanju Samson have failed to score since the two victories in Sharjah at the beginning of the tournament.

Jos Buttler too has been unable to capitalise on his starts, scoring just one half-century in seven innings.

After failing in his first match of the season, Ben Stokes, who has been elevated to the role of an opener, hit 41 before he was run out against the Delhi Capitals.

The inaugural season champions have relied on Rahul Tewatia to rescue them from precarious positions and the all-rounder managed to do that twice against KXIP and Sunrisers Hyderabad respectively. But he failed against the Capitals when yet again the top-order botched an easy run-chase.

Jofra Archer spearheads the Rajasthan bowling unit, along with the spin duo of Tewatia and Shreyas Gopal, who have consistently figured in an XI that has gone through a lot of chopping and changing.



The three-time champions will look to build on the win over SRH as the league phase moves towards the business end.

However, they are up against a team which is high on confidence and well-served by the South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje.

Add the wily R Ashwin and Axar Patel to the mix and DC has a rather impressive bowling unit.

Pacer Tushar Deshpande, who made a memorable debut in the win over the Royals, adds teeth to the attack.

PTI



## Klopp praises Everton's 'perfect' business

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Jürgen Klopp has praised Everton's 'perfect summer' of recruitment ahead of Liverpool's trip to face the league leaders in the Merseyside derby this weekend.

Liverpool travel the short distance across Stanley Park to face their city rivals at Goodison Park on Saturday lunchtime in what shapes as one of the most intriguing derby clashes in recent seasons, Everton heading into the clash in confident mood after winning each of their four fixtures to sit top of the division.

The club have backed manager Carlo Ancelotti in the transfer market with a number of exciting additions and Klopp has praised the Italian and the 'perfect business' conducted by Everton during the summer window, believing the Toffees have signed the ideal players to take them to the next level.

"What I think about Carlo Ancelotti was never a secret. I couldn't respect him more. He's a wonderful human being," Klopp told the BBC.

"When I heard he was going to sign for Everton I thought 'Uhhh, the next proper challenger in line'.

"They did the perfect business in the summer. They found exactly the players that they needed to improve an already pretty good football team.

"Together, getting more used to what Carlo wants them to do makes them a pretty strong team."

Key to Everton's success has also been the improved form of Dominic Calvert-Lewin, the forward currently the joint-leading scorer in the Premier League following a prolific start to the season.

The 23-year-old's improved performances also saw him earn a first call-up to the England squad during the international break — scoring on his senior debut against Wales — and Klopp is well aware of the threat posed by the in-form star and a new-

look forward line containing the likes of Richardson and James Rodriguez.

"Calvert-Lewin, I really expected him to make big steps in the next few years and he did," said Klopp.

"He has everything you need in a top striker: size, mobility, speed, desire, technically really, really good, in the air, finishing with his head, both feet.

"And now it all works together — both wings have top-class players with James and Richardson. Midfield, Allan plus whoever plays there, if it's Sigurdsson or whoever.

"So it's a really, really good team and the last line works better because in a good team it's easier to defend. That's what you see when you watch Everton, so it will be a really interesting game."

**BRUYNE RULED OUT**

**Manchester:** Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has confirmed that Kevin de Bruyne will miss Saturday's Premier League clash against Arsenal.

Guardiola has now confirmed those injury fears, claiming he could miss "maybe a few games" on top of the Arsenal fixture.



## CSK brace up for DC challenge

**SHARJAH:** Their campaign is back on track, courtesy Mahendra Singh Dhoni's smart captaincy but

Howrah Bridge to get Bagan's green-maroon illumination for I-League triumph

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The iconic Howrah Bridge will be illuminated with traditional green and maroon lights on Sunday and Monday evenings to celebrate Mohun Bagan's 2019-20 I-League triumph, the club said on Friday.

"The bridge will be illuminated from 6.30 pm to 10 pm to commemorate the success of I-League champions Mohun Bagan. We sincerely thank the chairman of Syama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust and all who are involved for honoring us," the club stated.

"Further, club president Swapan Sadhan Bose will also unveil a champions plaque during the trophy handing ceremony and the plaque will be installed at the club later," the club stated.

Mohun Bagan had downed former champions Aizawl FC 1-0 to clinch the I-League with four rounds to spare on March 10 but the celebrations had to wait because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AIFF will hand over the I-League trophy to the club members at a five-star hotel which will be followed by a victory procession to the club tent in the Maidan.

The coveted trophy would be placed in a glass cascade in an open van and the procession would traverse through important landmarks of the city. The club will also float four sky balloons with branding of I-League Trophy in Howrah, Dharamatala, Deshapriya Park and Hedua-Vivekananda Road, the club stated.

The club will arrange a video call with their I-League winning coaches and players who will not be able to present physically because of the pandemic. The entire programme will be streamed live on their official Facebook page.

a stiff test awaits Chennai Super Kings when they face a dominant Delhi Capitals here on Saturday.

Every tactic that Dhoni employed against Sunrisers Hyderabad, worked, and they are expected to continue in the same vein as they battle to salvage the season.

Whether it was promoting Sam Curran to the opener's slot or finishing pacer Deepak Chahar's quota upfront while using seven bowlers to dry up runs, every move produced

wickets are now getting slower.

That spinners hold the key in Sharjah was evident in the last two games where RCB and Kings XI Punjab slow bowlers were instrumental in their respective team's wins.

## Mohammedan Sporting return to I-League

PTI ■ KALYANI

Putting their off-the-field controversy behind, Mohammedan Sporting on Friday clinched an I-League berth after seven years with a 2-0 win over city rivals Bhawanipore FC in the qualifiers here.

Vanlalbiaa Chhangte (28th minute) and Gani Ahmmed Nigam (67th) struck on either side of half-time to win the match. With three wins on the trot, the Black Panthers now have an unsailable lead of nine points over their nearest rivals to seal the lone I-League spot with a round to spare.

In an inconsequential final round match on October 19, Mohammedan Sporting will face FC Bengaluru United, followed by the match between ARA FC and Bhawanipore FC.

The 131-year-old club will thus become the lone Kolkata team in the I-League to be played entirely in West Bengal in the absence of Mohun Bagan and East Bengal who have joined the top-tier Indian Super League.

The I-League is likely to start in December.

Mohammedan Sporting

desired result.

Dhoni used leg spinner Piyush Chawla for only one over and that too as late as in the 16th over, leaving it largely on Ravindra Jadeja and Karn Sharma but CSK are likely to continue with three spinners considering that the Sharjah

wickets are now getting slower.

That spinners hold the key in Sharjah was evident in the last two games where RCB and Kings XI Punjab slow bowlers were instrumental in their respective team's wins.

Stadium with honours even.

Mohammedan Sporting had courted controversy with the sacking of head coach Yan Law, who was alleged by the club brass of leaking personal conversation.

The club had also lodged police complaints against Law on charges of disclosing team information to "outsider" Ranjit Bajaj, the former owner of Punjab FC.









Under Law, they had a scrappy 1-0 win over the Delhi-based Garhwal FC, courtesy of an injury-time goal from Mummun Lugun.

In the next match, the team made wholesale changes under an interim coach and secured a thumping 4-1 win over ARA FC.

STATS: FALSIF FEATURES	
MATCHES	22
TELEPHON CAPTAINS	67
WHEATMAN SUPER MINUS	115

Stats: Falsif Features



POINTS TABLE							
		P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1		DC	8	6	2	+0.990	12
2		MI	7	5	2	+1.327	10
3		RCB	8	5	3	-0.139	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	8	3	5	-0.844	6
8		KXIP	8	2	6	-0.295	4

## Eng could tour Pakistan in 2021

PCB invites 50-over World Champions for three-match T20 series in Jan next year

AFP ■ LONDON

England could tour Pakistan for the first time in over a decade after officials confirmed they had received an invitation to visit the Asian giants early in 2021 for a "short white-ball series".

Fifty-over world champions England have not played in Pakistan since 2005/06.

An attack by armed militants on Sri Lanka's team bus in Lahore in 2009 ended major cricket tours for a decade. But Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, West Indies and Bangladesh have all since made the trip.

An England and Wales Cricket Board statement issued on Thursday said: "After discussions with the Pakistan Cricket Board, we can confirm the England and Wales Cricket Board has received an invitation in respect of a short white-ball tour to Pakistan during the early part of 2021.

"We welcome the fact that international cricket is returning to Pakistan and are committed to doing what

we can to help this develop further."

The statement added that "the safety and welfare of our players and staff is paramount", with security issues and the development of Covid-19 secure 'bubbles' of the kind pioneered in England this year among the ECB's key concerns.

"We will be liaising with the PCB, and as well as other partners over the coming weeks to work through these considerations, before a final decision will be taken in due course," the ECB said.

Although the ECB did not specify any dates, Wasim Khan, chief executive of the PCB said: "Yes, we have now sent an official invitation to the ECB inviting them to send their team and have also created a window between 13 and 20 January to play the three T20 series," Khan told a Pakistani channel. "They (the ECB) will consider it (the invitation) and have a security assessment. "It will be a very important tour and help improve our credibility as a host," he added.

## Wimbledon plans return in 2021, with or without fans

AFP ■ LONDON

Wimbledon is set to go ahead next year even if the Grand Slam tournament has to be staged behind closed doors, organisers announced on Friday.

The grasscourt championships were cancelled this year for the first time since World War II because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The organisers said in a statement that they are planning for next year's championships and are considering multiple operational scenarios at this point in time, given that there is still time for the next year's edition.

"Staging the championships in 2021 is our number-one priority and we are actively engaged in scenario-planning in order to deliver on that priority," chief executive Sally Bolton was quoted as saying.

The All England Club is planning for several scenarios for 2021 — a full-capacity event, reduced-capacity tournament or holding it with no fans present. The 134th championships will be staged from June 28 to July 11, 2021.