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OVERS IN A DAY

LUCKNOW, MONDAY OCTOBER 19, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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RAJKUMMAR  
12 VIVACITY

# Community spread in some dists, admits Centre

## Earlier, Mamata, Vijayan had claimed community transmission in their States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time, the Centre on Sunday admitted the prevalence of community transmission of Covid-19 virus in India, but said it is "limited to certain districts in limited States".

The admission, after months of denial, came in the backdrop of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's remarks that the community transmission of Covid-19 has started in the State.

Earlier, Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala, which too is witnessing a major surge, had also talked about community transmission but was denied by the Centre.

While responding to a query in his "Sunday Samvad" programme, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "In different pockets across various States, including West Bengal, community transmission is expected to occur, especially in dense areas. However, this is not happening across the country. It is limited to certain districts occurring in limited States."

The Minister interacts with his social media audience through the Samvad.

The Health Minister's response was to the query,

"Mamata has said there are instances of community transmission in the State. Are there other States with community transmission as well?"

Earlier this week, Mamata had urged the people of West Bengal to maintain caution ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja season.

"I ask everybody to follow the Covid-19 safety protocols during the festive season. There are instances of community transmission of Covid-19 and also the contagion becoming airborne," Mamata said.

Vardhan asserted that so far, no mutation of the coronavirus has been detected in India that is either more transmission-efficient or more pathogenic.

Health Ministry officials have said the World Health Organization (WHO) has not given any standard definition of community transmission.

It permits its member nations to assess the spread of the disease, based on their own analysis of the situation, and do their reporting, which the global body shows on its website. Broadly, if it is not possible to trace the transmission chain, it means there is community transmission, officials said.

The Centre has maintained



People shop at New Market area ahead of Durga Puja festival in Kolkata on Sunday

PTI

that there are clusters of cases and there are pockets of localised transmission.

Earlier, in mid-July, Vijayan had said community transmission of the coronavirus has begun in Kerala and its capital Thiruvananthapuram was facing a "grave" situation, as the virus was spreading in coastal areas. "Community transmission has been confirmed in the Poonthura and Pulluvila areas (of Thiruvananthapuram district)," Vijayan had said.

While the Centre had ruled it out, however, in a guidance document released in the same

month the Health Ministry had inadvertently revealed that community transmission happened in India as early as in April. The document was later withdrawn from the website of the Ministry.

On a query why Kerala was witnessing a spike in coronavirus infections recently, Vardhan said the State was paying the "price for gross negligence" during Onam festivities when unlocking of services along with an increase in travel for trade and tourism led to the spread of Covid-19.

Continued on Page 11

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

#### TOTAL

CASES: 75,46,882

DEATHS: 1,14,621

RECOVERED:

66,57,228

ACTIVE: 7,73,807



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	15,95,381	42,115	13,69,810
Andhra Pradesh	7,82,123	6,425	7,39,307
Karnataka	7,65,586	10,478	6,45,825
Tamil Nadu	6,87,400	10,642	6,37,637
Uttar Pradesh	4,55,146	6,658	4,15,592
Kerala	3,41,860	1,162	2,45,399
Delhi	3,31,017	6,009	3,01,716
West Bengal	3,21,036	6,056	2,81,053
Odisha	2,68,364	1,188	2,46,837
Telangana	2,22,111	1,271	1,98,790
Bihar	2,04,212	996	1,92,594
Assam	2,00,391	865	1,71,081
Rajasthan	1,73,266	1,747	1,50,379
Madhya Pradesh	1,60,188	2,773	1,44,134
Gujarat	1,59,726	3,638	1,41,752
Chhattisgarh	1,58,502	1,439	1,29,883

## Covid past its peak, can be contained by Feb: Panel

### Committee headed by IIT Hyderabad prof says lockdown worked wonders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On a day the Centre's admission about community transmission of coronavirus came, a Government-appointed committee said the Covid-19 pandemic is on decline, after having peaked in mid-September, and can be brought under control by February

2021 if all safety measures like social distancing, masks and handwashing are followed.

Going by the present scenario, by the time the epidemic ends in February next year the total number of infections would be about 105 lakh, the committee said.

The panel said the upcoming festivals and winter season may increase the susceptibility to the virus but all activities can be resumed provided proper safety protocols are followed. It also found that the impact of labour migration on the total number of infections in Bihar and Uttar

Pradesh was minimal. The committee, chaired by IIT Hyderabad professor M Vidyasagar, claimed that in the absence of the lockdown in March, the pandemic would have hit India very hard with a peak load of over 1.40 crore cases arriving in June and death count going up to 25 lakh.

India's total infections have breached the 75-lakh mark and of them, over 66 lakh patients have recovered. As of now, 1.14 lakh people have died because of the disease.

The panel, however, said further lockdowns were "unde-

sirable" except in localised areas with heavy infection load, but not before cautioning that if the safety measures are relaxed the cases could rise significantly to as many as 26 lakh in a month.

Vidyasagar said, as of today, 30 per cent of the country is projected to have developed antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2, which is "good news" and said as per their mathematical projections, the cumulative mortality from the pandemic in India by the end of February next year would be 0.04 per cent of total cases.

Continued on Page 11

## BrahMos test-fired as drill for operational readiness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the two sides prepare for the eighth round of Corps Commander level talks this week to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India is not letting its guard down. On Sunday, India test-fired its Brahmos supersonic missile from a ship as part of the drill to be operational ready. The past few weeks have seen India conducting a series of successful tests of various missiles to shore up its defence.

The latest test comes at a time when India and China are readying for the next round of talks to find ways to end the five-month-old logjam at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. In the last round on October 12, the two commanders in a joint statement said the "two sides had a sincere, in-depth and constructive exchange of views on disengagement along the LAC in the Western Sector of India-China border areas".



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

Both sides agreed to earnestly implement the important understandings reached by the leaders of the

two countries, not to turn differences into disputes, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

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

Continued on Page 11

## CAPSULE

### PAK FAILS TO FULFIL FATF'S KEY MANDATES

**New Delhi:** Pakistan's failure to fulfil six key obligations of the FATF, including action against two of India's most wanted terrorists Masood Azhar and Hafiz Saeed, and the sudden disappearance of more than 4,000 terrorists from its official list will most likely lead to its continuation in the "grey list" of the Global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.

### THAROOR'S REMARKS AT LAHORE SPARK ROW

**New Delhi:** BJP and Congress were engaged in a war of words on Sunday over MP Shashi Tharoor's remarks at a Lahore event, as the ruling party accused him of "demeaning and discrediting" India and wondered if Rahul wanted to contest elections in Pakistan.

### ELDERLY PRIEST IN UP BEATEN TO DEATH

**Azamgarh:** An elderly priest was allegedly beaten to death by a man who was in an inebriated condition after the octogenarian refused to give him money to buy liquor, police said on Sunday.

## Chirag downplays attack, reasons it's BJP's coalition dharma towards Nitish

PTI ■ PATNA

Lok Janshakti Party president L Chirag Paswan on Sunday downplayed the BJP's recent attacks on him, claiming that it was only following the "coalition dharma" as an ally of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

"I do not need to exhibit my relations with the Prime Minister. From the time when my father was in the hospital to his last rites, I can never forget what he (PM) has done for me," Paswan said in a series of tweets in Hindi. With the BJP working overtime to dispel the impression of having any tacit understanding with the LJP, Paswan claimed that Kumar has been trying to create distance between the saffron party and him.

He said the thrust of Kumar's campaign has been on showing a distance between Modi and him. Paswan



said the Chief Minister, also the JD(U) president, should be thankful to his ally for following the coalition dharma by giving him a "certificate" every day that it has no links with the LJP president despite "so much anger" against Kumar.

"I do not want Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be in any dilemma due to me. He should follow his coalition dharma. He can say anything against me without any inhibition to satisfy Chief Minister Nitish Kumar," he said.

Continued on Page 11

## Prime accused, four others held in Ballia murder case

PTI ■ LUCKNOW/BALLIA

The Uttar Pradesh Police has arrested the main accused — a BJP leader — and four others in the Ballia murder case, officials said on Sunday.

The incident had taken place on Thursday during a meeting over the allotment of ration shops at Durjanpur village in Ballia's Reoti area.

A local BJP leader, Dharendra Pratap Singh, allegedly shot dead 46-year-old Jai Prakash Pal Gama.

The Uttar Pradesh government had suspended the SDM, circle officer and other policemen present at the spot.

According to officials, Dharendra Pratap Singh was arrested by the UP Special Task Force from Lucknow while Santosh Yadav, Amarjeet

Yadav, Ajay Singh and Dharmendra Singh were held from Ballia.

So far, police have arrested 10 people in connection with the case, in which an FIR has been lodged against around 30 people, most of which are yet to be identified.

Dhirendra Pratap Singh was held from Lucknow near the Polytechnic area, Special Task Force (STF) IG Amitabh Yash told PTI.

The STF in a statement said the BJP leader carried a cash reward of ₹ 50,000 and was held at 11.40 am while waiting for his friend near the Polytechnic crossing.

An Aadhaar card and ₹ 1,000 in cash were recovered from him, the STF said, adding that he being taken to Ballia.

Meanwhile, Azamgarh

Continued on Page 11

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# UP preparing land banks for industries in 14 district

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In pursuance to the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government has started preparing land banks on a mission mode for creating industrial areas in as many as 14 districts. “The chief minister has always put emphasis on the availability of land as part of Ease of Doing Business, considering it as a single most important component of industrialisation in the state,” a senior official told “The Pioneer” recently. As per the comprehensive plan chalked out by the state government, a target has been set to create a land bank of 4,940 acres during the financial year 2020-21. For this, the work plan has been set for achieving monthly targets by various industrial development authorities during the current financial year. The action plan has set the annual target of 1545.85 acres to UP State Industrial Development

Authority (UPSIDA) to carve out a land bank. Similarly, a target of 400 acres has been fixed for NOIDA, 1752.78 acres for Greater Noida, 1071.77 acres for Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) and 170 acres of land bank for Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) . Apart from this, a committee headed by the chief secretary has been set up by the Industrial Development department comprising members of UPEIDA, UPSIDA and Country and Town Planning departments to identify the new industrial areas on vantage locations along the expressways in the state. The district magistrates of 14 districts have already sent the proposals in this regard. While the developmental works in Gorakhpur will be carried out by the Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority, the development of the industrial areas in Raya (Mathura) and Tappal (Aligarh) will be done by the

YEIDA. A total of 21,301.57 acres of land in 14 districts has been identified for the development of industrial parks/industrial areas. This includes 1768.60 acres in Agra, 7027.85 acres in Firozabad, 490.79 acres in Auraiya, 162.54 acres in Kannauj, 692.64 acres in Mainpuri, 123.55 acres in Etawah, 1937.03 acres in Unnao, 3890.91 acres in Azamgarh, 396.32 acres in Mau, 1086.12 acres in Gorakhpur, 98.42 acres in Chitrakoot, 988.42 acres in Hamirpur, 766.03 acres in Mahoba and 983.15 acres in Jhansi. After either buying or acquiring this land, the UPSIDA would further allot it for establishment of industrial parks and industrial areas, the official said. To find out the potential in Barabanki, Unnao, Agra, Firozabad, Chitrakoot and Mainpuri districts, Invest UP with assistance from UPSIDA has been asked to report the progress of work. The chief minister has directed the officials to ensure early disposal of investors’ problems.

# Govt striving to provide funding to MSMEs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Since the COVID-19 induced Slockdown in March, the Uttar Pradesh government has pumped in as much as Rs 26,000 crore into the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector as a working capital loan. During the post-lockdown period, the loan extended as working capital has benefited 10 lakh micro, small and medium enterprises. The loan was provided through various institutional measures and the Atmanirbhar stimulus package announced by the Union government in May. The beneficiary MSMEs comprised about 4.35 lakh existing and 5.4 lakh new units across different industrial segments, and they were provided bank financing totalling Rs 10,727 crore and Rs 15,246 crore, respectively, under various Central and state government schemes. “To boost the economic activities in the state, we are striving to provide funding to the MSMEs through commercial banks under the Atmanirbhar Bharat economic package of the Centre,” Additional

Chief Secretary (MSME and Export Promotion) Navneet Sehgal said here. He said the infusion of Rs 26,000 crore worth of capital in the state MSME sector had created around 20 lakh fresh employment opportunities for the youth. “The state government is targeting to provide institutional credit to 20 lakh MSMEs in the current financial year 2020-21 and to generate 80 lakh employment opportunities,” he said. At the same time, the Yogi Adityanath government has facilitated loans worth Rs 15,000 crore to the MSME units under its flagship One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme over the past three years,

benefiting more than 3,000 enterprises/self-help groups. The ODOP scheme was launched in 2018 to promote UP’s traditional and indigenous industries under the MSME umbrella by providing them institutional support of funding, training, market- ing support etc. Recently, the World Bank had also evinced interest in providing financial and institutional support to some projects under the ODOP scheme. The World Bank has proposed to collaborate with UP under two different programmes. Besides, there is a proposal to develop the value chain of 14 agricultural and

food processing products related to ODOP scheme with the aim of promoting entrepreneurship through integrated cluster development. The government is targeting to augment the MSME exports in the next three years to touch the ambitious mark of Rs 3 lakh crore. During the previous 2018-19 and the 2019-20 fiscal years, the MSME exports from the state were to the tune of Rs 1.14 lakh crore and Rs 1.20 lakh crore, respectively. The state is planning to conduct a study of leading industrialised states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, to cut the per unit production cost of UP MSMEs for increasing their competitiveness. To give impetus to the MSME exports, UP is already hammering out a new export promotion policy, which is likely to be put before the cabinet soon for approval. Against the backdrop of the global companies looking to shift their production base out of China following the COVID-19 pandemic and the US-China trade war, UP is looking to woo multinational companies to set up plants in the industrial enclaves of the state.

# Yogi: Gorakhpur to be developed as textile sector hub

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Gorakhpur would be developed as a textile sector hub of the country by bringing it under One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme which in turn would generate employment at the local level. “It will give an impetus to the ready-made garment industry in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Besides boosting the textile industry that also falls in the category of One District, One Product (ODOP), it will also generate employment opportunities for the workers who have returned to UP from various locations during the lockdown,” Yogi said in Gorakhpur on Sunday. The chief minister, while speaking to the representatives of the Chamber of Industries (COI) of Gorakhpur, said that in order to encourage self-employment, the government was also planning to establish a big training centre.



‘THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING SERIOUS EFFORTS TO EMPLOY THE MIGRANT WORKERS AT PLACES NEAR THEIR NATIVE PLACES AND MOST OF THEM HAVE ALREADY BEEN EMPLOYED’

According to a survey, about 12,000 migrant workers associated with the textile industries have returned to Gorakhpur and its adjoining districts during the lockdown. “The government is making serious efforts to employ the migrant workers at places near their native places and most of them have already been employed,” the chief minister said. He assured to spare time for the inauguration of Udyog Bhawan next month, construction of which is being undertaken by the Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) in Sector 13. Praising the efforts of the COI in the construction of the Udyog Bhawan building, the chief minister said that an initiative would be taken to set up a flex factory complex as demanded by the COI. “Top industrialists should also be invited to set up units. The GIDA is working for increasing the land bank for industrial units,” he said.



## सूचना

मेरे पुत्र सौम्य रस्तोगी के शैक्षणिक अभिलेखों में वृटिवश माता-पिता का नाम संख्या व आशीष रस्तोगी हो गया है जबकि वास्तविक नाम प्रिया रस्तोगी व आलोक रस्तोगी है। भविष्य में उसे इसी नाम से जाना पहचाना जाये। आलोक रस्तोगी 77ए आशुतोष नगर, देवपुर, लखनऊ।

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# यूपी का हुनर अब आपके घर

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## वर्चुअल फेयर

### 19-23 अक्टूबर, 2020

का शुभारंभ

# योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

**दिनांक: 19 अक्टूबर, 2020 | समय: अपराह्न 4:00 बजे | स्थान: 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ**

भदोही की कारीगरी से बना कालीन हो या मिर्जापुर का कालीन, लखनऊ की चिकनकारी हो या वाराणसी की रेशमी साड़ी, आजमगढ़ की ब्लैक पॉटरी हो या जौनपुर की ऊनी दरी, शाहजहांपुर की जरी हो या पीलीभीत की बांसुरी, मुरादाबाद का ब्रास हो या फिरोजाबाद का ग्लास, सहारनपुर की खूबसूरत वुड कार्विंग हो या बिजनौर की वुड क्रॉफ्ट, बुलंदशहर के चीनी मिट्टी बर्तन हो या गोरखपुर का टेराकोटा, बांदा का शजर पत्थर शिल्प हो या महोबा का गौरा पत्थर शिल्प, श्रावस्ती का ट्राइबल क्रॉफ्ट हो या प्रयागराज के मूंज उत्पाद, एटा की घंटी हो या ललितपुर की जरी सिल्क साड़ी, चित्रकूट के लकड़ी के खिलौने हों या झांसी के सॉफ्ट ट्वाय, आगरा के चमड़े के उत्पाद हों या देवरिया के सजावटी उत्पाद। ओडीओपी के मेगा वर्चुअल फेयर में उत्तर प्रदेश के सभी 75 जनपदों की कारीगरी का कमाल देखने के लिए क्लिक कीजिये और देखिये ओडीओपी के प्रोडक्ट्स का जादू। सोच में पड़ जायेंगे क्या-क्या खरीदें।

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# ‘Downward trend to continue only if people follow guidelines’

## 293 more test +ve for coronavirus

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The government-appointed COVID-19 India National Supermodel expert committee has warned that the number of active cases that peaked to around 10 lakh in September could start rising again if proper practices of masking, disinfecting, tracing and quarantining are not followed.

The experts feel that the downward trend will continue only if the people follow the Covid guidelines.

In addition, based on the temporal profiles of analyses done for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the expert committee has concluded that the impact of labour migration on the total number of infections in these states was minimal. This observation indicates the success of quarantine strategies adopted for the returning migrants.

The committee, which disclosed its finding at a virtual press conference here on Sunday, also simulated what could have happened in hypothetical alternative scenarios with regard to the timing of lockdown regime.

The expert committee was constituted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to collate the collective

expertise of the Indian scientific community and arrive at a COVID-19 India National Supermodel.

The committee included Prof M Vidyasagar (IIT Hyderabad), Prof Manindra Agrawal (IIT Kanpur), Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar (HQ IDS MoD), Prof Biman Bagchi (IISc), Prof Arup Bose (ISI Kolkata), Prof Gagandeep Kang (CMC Vellore) and Prof Sankar K Pal (ISI Kolkata).

The findings of the committee on lockdown, based on the mathematical model developed by the panel, says that if there was no lockdown, the pandemic would have hit India very hard, with a peak load of 140+ lakh cases arriving in only June.

Given our lack of preparedness back then, the healthcare system would have been overwhelmed, leading to many additional deaths.

Secondly, had India waited until May to impose the lockdown, the peak load of active cases would have been around 50 lakh by June.

In actuality, the peak of active cases came in late September at around 10 lakh.

By this time, we were far better equipped to handle the pandemic in terms of diagnostics and vital equipment

inventories. Therefore, the imposition of an early and comprehensive lockdown pushed the peak of cases far into the future and also reduced the peak load on the system. In short, the lockdown “flattened the curve”, the committee stated. An analysis of the actual deaths from the pandemic with various alternative scenarios also says that without a lockdown the number of deaths in India would have overwhelmed the system within a very short time frame and would eventually have crossed 26 lakh fatalities.

“Imposing the lockdown in May would have reduced deaths to around 10 lakh. The prompt imposition of the lockdown on March 24 has resulted in deaths being around one lakh till date,” the expert team said.

The teams, in its recommendations, said the imposition of various safety protocols such as wearing masks, social distancing etc., together with a comprehensive lockdown has allowed India to fare better than many other countries.

India has one-sixth of the world’s population (one-fifth excluding China), and one-sixth of the reported cases. However, India accounts for only 10 percent of the world’s

deaths, and its case fatality rate of less than 2 per cent is among the lowest in the world. India’s fatality rate per million is about a tenth that of the European countries and the USA.

In view of the coming winter and the scenarios analysed, as well as the upcoming festival season, the committee has strongly recommended that the existing personal safety protocols need to continue in full measure. Otherwise, we will see a sharp rise in infections. Avoiding congestion, especially in closed spaces, and special care of those above 65 years and children is even more significant. People with comorbidities need to be extra cautious.

The experts feel that fresh lockdowns should not be imposed on district and state-wide levels, unless there is imminent danger of the healthcare facilities being overwhelmed.

The committee said that it would continue to work on many other issues concerning the current pandemic forecasting, as well as continue to develop robust models for the future pandemics, if any, so that the decision-making processes are fast-tracked when the need arises without a lag time.

## Lucknow far ahead in number of tests done

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amidst the downward trend of coronavirus cases, 293 more tested positive in the city on Sunday while 418 recovered, taking the figure of recoveries to 55,206. The death toll stands at 818. A senior official at CMO office said the new patients included 32 from Indiranagar, 28 from Gomtinagar, 22 from Aliganj, 20 from Rae Bareilly road, 18 from Hazratganj, 16 from Chowk, 14 from Chinhat, 12 from Madaon, 11 from Jankipuram, and 10 each from Ashiyana, Mahanagar & Cantt.

There were 12 deaths in the city and the deceased included eight from Lucknow while four from other districts like Gonda, Ayodhya and Ballia.

There were two deaths at KGMU, including that of an 85-year-old man from Lucknow and a 6-year-old boy from Gonda.



Across the state, 2,503 persons tested positive, including 127 from Prayagraj, 112 from Gorakhpur, 127 from Ghaziabad and 110 from Gautam Buddh Nagar, taking the tally to 4,55,146. There were 29 deaths across the state, including two each from Kanpur, Varanasi, Meerut & Hapur, and one each from Gautam Buddh Nagar, Bareilly, Ayodhya, Barabanki, Lakhimpur Kheri, Etawah,

Pratapgarh, Unnao, Chandauli, Rae Bareilly, Mainpuri, Kannauj, Banda & Bhadohi, taking the toll to 6,658. Besides, 3,981 patients recovered, taking the number of recoveries to 4,15,592 while there are 32,896 active cases in the state.

Meanwhile, the total number of tests conducted in the state capital is 7.4 lakh and Lucknow is far ahead of other districts in the state in this regard. A senior official at CMO office said even though coronavirus cases were on coming down, testing was underway with the same vigour.

The number of RT-PCR tests conducted so far is 3,90,781 while that of antigen tests 3,49,656, TruNat tests 34,617 and CB-Nat tests 3,063.

He said one of the major reasons of concern was that patients under home isolation were directly reaching Level-2 and Level-3 hospitals. “Home isolation is given on mutual consent and at times when the ambulance reaches the houses of patients, they insist that they want to continue with home isolation. However, now most of such patients are being hospitalised in serious condition,” he said. He added that they were coaching their surveillance teams so that no symptomatic patients stays at home because with less number of cases, Level-1 and Level-2 facilities were empty. Asked whether they would be arranging more ambulances since schools were re-opening, he said they would be able to manage with the 56 ambulances that they have.

“Children normally do not get serious when they test positive and remain largely asymptomatic. Therefore, we can manage through the Integrated Control and Command Centre,” he said.

## Schools to re-open amidst concern, excitement today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mixed feelings of concern and excitement prevails as schools are re-opening in the middle of coronavirus pandemic today. Parental consent varies from 10 and 50 per cent, most of the school authorities feel it will pick up in the coming months after parents gain in confidence.

Everyone agrees that schools will be a totally different kind of experience with hand sanitisation, wearing masks, avoiding assemblies and no sharing of lunches. As far as teaching is concerned, all the schools have online arrangements for those choosing to stay indoors.

DIOS Mukesh Singh said preparations were underway to ensure adherence to Covid-19 guidelines. “There is excitement as students will be going back to schools after a long time. However, there is also concern even as all precautions will be ensured. October is the ideal period for studies with exams round the corner,” he said.

There are 51 government schools, 103 aided and 1,076 unaided schools across the city. In government schools, classes IX and X will be held in first shift while classes XI and XII in the second.

“There will be 106 district-level inspectors and 51 departmental officers for inspections to monitor adherence to Covid-19 guidelines,” he said.

About students appearing for board exams next year, he said there was some relief with 30 per cent reduction in the syllabus.

Founder of City Montessori School Jagdish Gandhi said they have received 30-40 per cent parental consent and their campuses would open from Monday. “We are starting with classes X and XII with all precautions for prevention of coronavirus infection.

**There is excitement as students will be going back to schools after a long time. However, there is also concern even as all precautions will be ensured. October is the ideal period for studies with exams round the corner**

— DIOS MUKESH SINGH

President of Unaided Private Schools Association Anil Agarwal said while some schools were opening from Monday, others would open after Dussehra holidays.

He said his own school had received 54 per cent parental consent but officials of most of the schools were also in a dilemma and adopting a wait-and-watch policy,” he said. He added that when everything was open, schools should too.

About his own concern, he said, “We do not want school authorities to be blamed if a child tests positive. Schools can be blamed only if they have not made proper arrangements,” he added.

Principal of CMS, Mahanagar, Kalpana Tripathi said they would be opening from Monday. “We are excited and looking forward for students to come back and since exams are approaching, we want face-to-face teaching to begin. We have received 40 per cent parental consent but it is likely to increase in the next few days,” she said.

Principal of Colvin Taluqdar’s College Anoop Raj said they had made all the preparations. “Parents are concerned about sending their children to schools, but we hope more of the students will come and join us in the coming days,” he said.

He added that Covid-19 guidelines would be followed even as they had ample space. “We have huge open areas where there will be no congestion. Once the students come, there will be no problem. I will personally ensure that students do not congregate. Teachers will be sitting in the corridors to stop students loitering around,” he said.

Principal of Christ Church College RK Chatree said the parental consent was less than 20 per cent. “We have made arrangements for 15-20 students in one class but as the parental consent is low, there will be 6-7 students in one class,” he added.

A senior health official said random inspections would be carried out by the CMO and his teams. “There has to be a separate room where students showing any symptoms will be sent,” he said.

## प्रदेश सरकार का है यह इरादा सशक्त पंचायत व स्वच्छता का वादा

### राष्ट्रीय ग्राम स्वराज अभियान/वित्त आयोग स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (ग्रामीण) व मनरेगा कन्वर्जेंस

#### के अंतर्गत रु. 7,053.45 करोड़ की लागत से

#### 18,847 सामुदायिक शौचालयों व 377 पंचायत भवनों का लोकार्पण

#### राजेन्द्र प्रताप सिंह 'मोती सिंह'

मंत्री, ग्राम्य विकास एवं  
समग्र ग्राम विकास विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

#### 35,058 सामुदायिक शौचालयों व 21,414 पंचायत भवनों का शिलान्यास

#### गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत

मंत्री, जल शक्ति मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार

#### मुख्य अतिथि

#### योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री  
उत्तर प्रदेश

#### नरेन्द्र सिंह तोमर

मंत्री, पंचायती राज, ग्रामीण विकास एवं  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण, भारत सरकार

#### गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत

मंत्री, जल शक्ति मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार

#### द्वारा

#### राजेन्द्र प्रताप सिंह 'मोती सिंह'

मंत्री, ग्राम्य विकास एवं  
समग्र ग्राम विकास विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

#### मूपेन्द्र सिंह चौधरी

मंत्री, पंचायती राज विभाग  
उत्तर प्रदेश

#### उपेन्द्र तिवारी

राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) खेल,  
युवा कल्याण एवं पंचायती राज, उत्तर प्रदेश

#### गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

#### दिनांक: 19 अक्टूबर, 2020 | समय: पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे | स्थान: 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

इस कार्यक्रम का प्रसारण वेबकास्ट के माध्यम से प्रदेश की समस्त ग्राम पंचायतों द्वारा देखा जा सकेगा, जिसका लिंक है  
<http://webcast.gov.in/up/panchayat/>

पंचायती राज विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



# Turmeric farmers cash in on increasing demand

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

During the coronavirus pandemic, most of the farmers could not make good profits from their produce, but CISH director shailendra Rajan says the story of turmeric farmers guided by the institute has been entirely different.

“Due to coronavirus, the demand for raw turmeric is increasing and its price has increased up to Rs 50-60 per kg while last year the farmers had sold the same product at Rs 15-20 per kg. The advisory issued by the Ministry of AYUSH states that to increase immunity against coronavirus, consume turmeric milk (golden milk) at least once or twice a day. To double farmers’ income under the Farmer First Project (FFP), emphasis is being laid on increasing income by taking inter-cropping in the inter-spaces available in mango orchards. Under FFP, organic farming of turmeric and elephant foot yam has been made popular in mango orchards,” Ranjan said.

Three years ago, 20 farmers of Mohammednagar Taluqdari and NabipanaH villages of Malihabad were provided seeds of improved turmeric variety, ‘Narendra Dev Haldi-2’.

“Farmers produced 40-45



quintals of turmeric per acre successfully. The interesting fact is that its leaves are not consumed by animals, thus the crop is safe from cattle, blue bulls, monkeys, etc,” he pointed out.

Principal investigator Manish Mishra said turmeric is rich in nutritional elements and super antioxidant, antibiotic and antiviral properties, and corona pandemic made the raw turmeric more important.

“Narendra Dev Turmeric-2 contains 5 per cent of the amount of curcumin, which prevents many diseases by removing free radicals from the body. Many problems such as cold cough, breathing-related diseases, upper respiratory tract infections or related diseases can be overcome with this wonder spice,” he added.

The CISH director said that under the changing circumstances, farmers would be

made aware to develop seed village of improved variety.

“Today, more than 50 farmers have adopted for this variety in mango orchards as inter-crops and converted the village into a seed village. Demand for turmeric seeds is from Lucknow and other districts. The farmers of Malihabad are helping others increase their income. Last year, the institute trained farmers in a new method of processing turmeric in which turmeric tubers were boiled and grinded into a good quality turmeric powder. The institute is working towards making farmers self-sufficient by organising farmers and self-help groups, the farmers trained by the institute to make good profits by attractively packing turmeric powder as well as adding other farmers in groups to realise the dream of self-reliant India,” he said.

He added that most of the people are habitual of using dry turmeric powder in daily cooking. “Gradually, people have understood the benefit of raw turmeric as it helps in digestion by triggering bile production. Raw turmeric helps in indigestion, heartburn and bowel syndrome. Its anti-inflammatory properties as a pain reliever are well known to Indians,” he pointed out.

## Seminary advises Muslim youth not to marry Hindu

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Close on the heels of the controversy over inter-faith marriage advertisement by ornament manufacturing company Tanishq, Darul Uloom Deoband has advised a Muslim youth against marrying a Hindu girl.

The Muslim youth seeking guidance had written to the Darul Ifta (Shariat court) of Islamic seminary. In his letter to Darul Uloom, the youth had stated the eight conditions set by the Hindu girl for marrying him.

The girl set the conditions that she would not convert to Islam and shall continue as a Hindu throughout her life; she shall be allowed to perform puja as per Hindu rituals in the in-law’s house without any hindrance and no one shall interfere in her faith and belief.

The girl also laid the condition that her name shall not be changed to a Muslim name after the marriage and she would not be asked to wear burqa at any point of time in her life.

She also said her husband would not accept a second wife till she continued as his wife and that triple talaq or divorce shall not be applicable in their case and divorce procedure as applicable to Hindus shall be applicable.

The youth had asked whether marriage with the girl’s conditions would be acceptable to Muslim community and her conditions could be reflected in the nikahnama and whether such marriage would be legal and binding on his family members.

The clerics in their answer declared that such a union was not acceptable. “All these conditions are against Islam,” Darul Uloom Deoband said.

“The nikah will not be valid whether the conditions are written in the nikah letter or not,” it declared. The Muslim youth was advised to forget the girl and not do anything against Islam.



Devotees paying obeisance to the deity at Kail Badi temple in Lalbagh on the second day of Navratri on Sunday

Pioneer

## CPI (ML) flays govt over Ballia killing

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) visited the Durjanpur village in Ballia where one Jai Prakash Pal was shot dead during the allotment of fair price shops, and expressed condolences to the family members of the deceased.

CPI (ML) state secretary Sudhakar Yadav hit out at the UP government, saying the chief minister was saving Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Bairia, Surendra

Singh, who allegedly saved the accused in the case.

He demanded that Surendra Singh’s membership of the UP Assembly be cancelled for his alleged link with the accused in the case.

The CPI (ML) also demanded Rs 50 lakh as compensation and a government job for a member of the deceased’s family. Yadav said the fair price shop was earlier allotted to Ram Kumar Ram of the Scheduled Caste community.

“The prime accused, Dharendra is a retired army man and is a close

aide of BJP MLA Surendra Singh. Dharendra got the fair price shop’s allotment cancelled in favour of his aide Shailendra Dhobi but a contender, Munna Paswan, came into fray and Jai Prakash Pal supported Paswan’s candidacy for the shop. On the day of allotment, Dharendra’s men wanted to vote in the allotment process even though they had no voter ID or Aadhaar card. This led to the dispute in the presence of SDM and later Jai Prakash Pal was killed,” Yadav said while quoting the team’s report.

**चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग**  
**जनपद - गाजीपुर।**

पत्रांक-ई-निविदा/2020-21/3026 दिनांक - 13.10.2020

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, गाजीपुर में विभिन्न कार्य/आपूर्तियों/सेवाओं हेतु ई-टेंडर/आन-लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

- निविदा फॉर्म नियम व शर्त वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 13.10.2020 से 11.11.2020, समय सांय 5.00 बजे तक साइट से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।
- निविदायें दिनांक 11.11.2020 को वेबसाइट प्रातः 10.00 से सांय 5.00 तक अपलोड की जा सकती है।
- निविदायें दिनांक 17.11.2020 को मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी कार्यालय में अपराह्न 2.00 बजे निविदादाता एवं निविदा सामिति के सम्मक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा की शर्त घटाने / बढ़ाने एवं निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को होगा।

**मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी गाजीपुर।**

**दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०**  
CIN:U31200UP2003SGC027460

1473/वि०वि०म०/उरई **अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना** दिनांक 17.10.2020

विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, उरई से सम्बंधित औनलाइन निविदायें दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। विस्तृत विवरण शासन की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। **वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय** दिनांक 02.11.2020 अपराह्न 15:30 बजे तक **निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय** दिनांक 03.11.2020 अपराह्न 13:00 बजे

क्र० सं०	ई-निविदा सं०	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा मूल्य (कर सहित) एवं धरोहर धनराशि
1.	17/ई०डी०सी०(उरई)/पी०/2020-21	विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, उरई के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० उपकेंद्रों एवं फीडर की लाइनों के कई स्थानों पर 11 के०वी० एक्स०एल०पी०ई० छोटी/बीघ में हलियस्त हो जाने के कारण केबिल को सही करने हेतु स्ट्रेट बरू केबिल बॉक्स उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य।	नि०म० 590.00 (500+18%) धरो०राशि 2000.00
2.	18/ई०डी०सी०(उरई)/पी०/2020-21	विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, उरई के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० उपकेंद्रों एवं फीडर की लाइनों के कई स्थानों पर 11 के०वी० एक्स०एल०पी०ई० केबिल बॉक्स (आउटडोर टाइप) हलियस्त है। विद्युत आपूर्ति सुचारु रूप से बनाये रखने के लिए हलियस्त केबिल बॉक्सों की आपूर्ति।	नि०म० 590.00 (500+18%) धरो०राशि 2000.00
3.	19/ई०डी०सी०(उरई)/पी०/2020-21	Supply of Desktop Computer with accessories, Laser Printer/Colour Printer, Scanner & UPS.	नि०म० 590.00 (500+18%) धरो० 3800.00
4.	20/ई०डी०सी०(उरई)/कार्य/2020-21	विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम, उरई के कार्यक्षेत्र में 18 अदद 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्रों पर विभिन्न मेक की स्थापित 11 के०वी० इनकॉमिंग/आउटगोइंग वी०सी०वी०/ओ०सी०वी० के हलियस्त होने की दशा में मरम्मत/कार्य तथा विभिन्न खराब पार्ट्स को बदलने व मरम्मत का कार्य।	नि०म० 590.00 (500+18%) धरो०राशि 3000.00
5.	21/ई०डी०सी०(उरई)/कार्य/2020-21	विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, उरई के कार्यक्षेत्र में 23 अदद 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्रों पर विभिन्न मेक की स्थापित 11 के०वी० इनकॉमिंग/आउटगोइंग वी०सी०वी०/ओ०सी०वी० के हलियस्त होने की दशा में मरम्मत/कार्य तथा विभिन्न खराब पार्ट्स को बदलने व मरम्मत का कार्य।	नि०म० 590.00 (500+18%) धरो०राशि 3000.00

**वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय** दिनांक 03.11.2020 अपराह्न 15:30 बजे तक **निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय** दिनांक 04.11.2020 अपराह्न 13:00 बजे

6.	22/ई०डी०सी०(उरई)/कार्य/2020-21	पूर्ण जमा योजना के अन्तर्गत आसरा आवासीय कॉलोनी जालीन नगर की विद्युत आपूर्ति हेतु 250 के०वी० परितर्क की स्थापना एवं एल०टी० लाइन आदि का निर्माण कार्य।	नि०म० 590.00 (500+18%) धरो० 2000.00
7.	23/ई०डी०सी०(उरई)/कार्य/2020-21	उपखण्ड अधिकारी, विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, कटोरा के विभिन्न कार्य हेतु एक अदद डीजल जीप (ड्राइवर सहित) दिनांक 15.11.2020 से 31.03.2021 तक बाह्य एजेंसी के माध्यम से उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य।	नि०म० 590.00 (500+18%) धरो०राशि 1100.00
8.	24/ई०डी०सी०(उरई)/कार्य/2020-21	उपखण्ड अधिकारी, विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, कुलीन्द के विभिन्न कार्य हेतु एक अदद डीजल जीप (ड्राइवर सहित) दिनांक 15.11.2020 से 31.03.2021 तक बाह्य एजेंसी के माध्यम से उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य।	नि०म० 590.00 (500+18%) धरो०राशि 1100.00
9.	25/ई०डी०सी०(उरई)/कार्य/2020-21	विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, उरई के अन्तर्गत नवसृजित उपखण्ड कार्यालय विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड, कटोरा एवं कुलीन्द के निर्गम/कार्य हेतु 02-02 अदद कम्प्यूटर ऑपरेटर कुल 04 अदद कम्प्यूटर ऑपरेटर दिनांक 15.11.2020 से 31.03.2021 तक बाह्य एजेंसी के माध्यम से उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य।	नि०म० 590.00 (500+18%) धरो०राशि 3000.00

नोट- निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन अथवा निविदा खुलने की तिथि में विस्तार होता है तो इसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर तथा सम्बंधित निगम की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

**अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,वि०वि०म, उरई**

**“राष्ट्र हित में विजली बचाये”**

## Woman deprived of gold chain by two

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bike-borne unidentified miscreants snatched the gold chain of a woman when she and her husband were returning home in Ashiyana on Sunday evening. A case was lodged in this connection and investigation started.

The woman, identified as Rashmi Sharma of Prem Nagar, along with her husband Vinod Sharma, visited Bangla Bazaar for Navratri shopping and was returning home around 4 pm. The miscreants came close to the woman and snatcher her gold chain before speeding off. The couple later informed

police about the incident. The police said they were scanning CCTV footage to find out the chain-snatchers.

Meanwhile, a 60-year-old labourer working at a tube-well died after he fell into the hole in Gosainganj on Sunday. Reports said Mahadeen Gautam of Bhaduwa village was working at the construction site when he lost balance and fell down. He suffered head injuries and succumbed later. His son Vijay lodged a case in this connection and the police started investigation.

Meanwhile, IMFL bottles worth Rs 2 lakh and DVR of a CCTV camera were stolen

from a shop in Madaion on Saturday night. However, police doubted the claims made by the shop-owner, but started a probe into the case.

Ram Pal Singh’s shop is located at Chhatta Meel crossing in the area. “I closed the shop on Saturday but today, I was informed about the theft. I reached the shop and found the cabinet empty. The thieves made off with costly IMFL bottles and CCTV camera’s DVR,” he said.

### BODY RECOVERED

The body of a missing 32-year-old man was recovered from riverfront in

Gomtinagar on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Vijay Kumar Gautam of Sanjay Gandhi Nagar near Balu Adda in Hazratganj.

His body was recovered in around 7:30 am on Sunday. He was reported missing around 3 pm on Saturday. Police suspected that the man committed suicide by jumping into the river, but failed to explain the reason. Locals said Gautam left the house in a huff following a verbal spat with some family members. Gautam got married in 2007 and is survived by two children.

## ‘Guru Dakshta’ begins in online mode

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The UGC HRDC, Lucknow University, under the directorship of Prof Dhruv Sen Singh (Geology), began its first-ever ‘Guru Dakshta, Faculty Induction Programme’ in online mode. Singh invited prominent

alumnus of Geology department Rajesh Kumar Srivastava, who is the director (Exploration) of ONGC, to deliver online

address on ‘Energy scenario: Indian context and role of ONGC as national oil company’.

LU Vice-Chancellor AK Rai said that to augment the learning of participants, they invited one of the most illustrious alumni, Rajesh Kumar Srivastava.

He stressed on the contribution and role of alumni, the laurels and repute which they bring to the institutions.

Rai said LU is celebrating its

centenary this year and year-long celebrations planned initially were curtailed to week-long events due to the pandemic. He revealed the plans of having an alumni meet in November with special focus on Foundation Day on November 25. Rajesh Kumar Srivastava gave insights into the structure, functions and role of ONGC in India’s energy and economic scenario. He stressed on its major

contribution as the largest oil and gas exploration and production company in the country, which produces around 70% of India’s crude oil and around 84% of its natural gas. He explained the role of oil and gas in Indian context, due to the high population propelled demand, the impact of environmental change and post-Covid behaviour on the energy scenario after 2020.

## Breast cancer awareness programme conducted

**Lucknow (PNS):** A breast cancer awareness programme for rural surgeons and MBBS students was conducted by the department of endocrine surgery, SGPGI. A total of 343 participants and 25 faculty members from all over India participated in the programme.

President of Association of Surgeons of Rural India Dr Gopalakrishnan Natarajan inaugurated the conference while Association of Surgeons of Rural India secretary Dr Rajsekhar Mohan introduced the course. Associate professor and vice-president of Association of Surgeons of Rural India and organ-

ising secretary Dr Sabaretnam Mayilvaganan spoke about breast self-examination. He also showed a video developed in SGPGI for women to learn the proper technique of breast self-examination.

CMS (SGPGI) Prof Amit Agarwal delivered a talk on surgery for breast cancer and what new modalities available, and emphasised that all newer surgeries are available in the premier medical institute. Prof Anjali Mishra elaborated the screening for breast cancer and Prof Gaurav Agarwal discussed the breast cancer scenario in India.

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत अनुरक्षण खण्ड-1, लो.नि.वि. लखनऊ**

पत्रांक-1186/नीलामी/2020

**नीलामी सूचना एवं शर्त**

दिनांक-05.10.2020

सर्व साधारण को एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 29.10.2020 को अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक निम्नांकित निम्नोपयोग्य अनुपयोगी सामग्री की सार्वजनिक नीलामी की मोहर बन्द निविदा प्रपूक-पूयक अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत अनुरक्षण खण्ड-1 लोनिविधि, लखनऊ के कार्यालय के निविदा पेट्टी में जमा की जायेगी एवं उसी दिन अपराह्न 03:00 बजे समिति एवं उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत अनुरक्षण खण्ड-1, लोनिविधि लखनऊ के कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी।

क्र. सं.	नीलामी हेतु सामग्री का विवरण	धरोहर धनराशि (रु०)	सामग्री का स्थान	नीलामी स्वीकृति के उपरान्त सामग्री हटाने की अवधि
1	विधायक निवास-6 पाक रोड में विधायकगणों के आवास से निकले पुराने निम्नोपयोग्य सामग्री आदि।	5000.00	विधायक निवास-6 पाक रोड लखनऊ	15 दिन
2	बापू मदन सचिवालय से निकले निम्नोपयोग्य पुराने एवं अनुपयोगी चीन आदि।	9600.00	बापू मदन सचिवालय, लखनऊ	15 दिन

**नीलामी की शर्त निम्नानुसार है-** 1. उक्त सामग्री की नीलामी जहाँ है जैसी है के आधार पर की जायेगी। नीलामी प्रक्रिया में शामिल होने वाले व्यक्तियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि नीलामी में मोहर बन्द निविदा खोलने से पूर्व सामग्री का निरीक्षण कार्य स्थल के प्रभारी अवर अभियन्ता श्री रणजीत मिश्र के साथ कार्यालय अवधि में कर सकते हैं। नीलामी प्रक्रिया हो जाने के उपरान्त बाद में यदि सामग्री में कोई कमी इंगित की जाती है तो मान्य नहीं होगी। 2. उपरोक्त प्रत्येक कालम में दराश्री गयी प्रपूक-पूयक धरोहर धनराशि का बैंक ड्राफ्ट / राष्ट्रीय बचत पत्र / एफडीआर अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत अनुरक्षण खण्ड-1, लोनिविधि लखनऊ के पक्ष में बका होनी। 3. नीलामी प्रक्रिया में उपस्थित सभी निविदादाताओं को निविदा खोलने के समय अपना फोटो पहचान पत्र एवं पता प्रमाण-पत्र की मूल प्रति दिखाना एवं छायाप्रति जमा कराना होगा। 4. उपरोक्त प्रत्येक कालम में नीलामी हेतु दराश्री गयी प्रपूक-पूयक सामग्री की नीलामी प्रक्रिया में उच्चतम निविदादाता की उपरोक्त जमानत / धरोहर धनराशि रोककर रेष निविदादाताओं की जमानत / धरोहर धनराशि वापस कर दी जायेगी। 5. उच्चतम निविदादाता को नीलामी की समिति पर अधिकतम निविदा की 25 प्रतिशत धनराशि जमा करानी होगी। ऐसा न करने पर धरोहर धनराशि के रूप जमा की गयी धनराशि शासन के पक्ष में जब्त कर ली जायेगी। 6. नीलामी की स्वीकृति /अस्वीकृति का अधिकार विभाग के संसम अधिकारी के पास संक्षिप्त रहेगा। 7. स्वीकृत नीलामी की उच्चतम निविदा पर जी०एच०टी० नियमानुसार अतिरिक्त देय होगा। 8. नीलामी स्वीकृत होने पर अवशेष धनराशि एक सप्ताह के अन्दर जमा करना होगा। तथा उसके उपरान्त 15 दिन के अन्दर सामग्री उठाना भी अनिवार्य होगा। निम्नलिखित अवधि में सामग्री न उठाये जाने की स्थिति में जमानत धनराशि जब्त कर ली जायेगी। 9. नीलामी के निस्तारण न होने तक उच्चतम निविदादाता द्वारा जमा की गई 25 प्रतिशत धनराशि पर किसी प्रकार का ब्याज देय नहीं होगा।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता  
खण्ड-1  
विद्युत अनुरक्षण खण्ड-1  
लो० नि० वि०, लखनऊ

खण्ड-1  
155969, दिनांक-17.10.2020  
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

### CITYBRIEFS



### 11 NEW SME BRANCHES OF SBI INAUGURATED

Chairman of State Bank of India Dinesh Kumar Khara has inaugurated 11 new SME branches in different modules of Lucknow circle. These branches are in Bareilly, Sitapur, Akbarpur (Kanpur Dehat), Akbarpur (Ambedkar Nagar), Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Sultanpur, Mahoba, Farrukhabad, Etawah and Gonda. These dedicated SME branches will provide banking services including credit and international banking to SME units. Circle chief general manager Ajay Kumar Khanna said these branches are being opened under the SME REVAMP Model, according to which the SME business of the bank is to be handled mainly by specialised SME branches. Relationship managers (SME) are posted in each of these SME intensive branches in line with the concept of relationship banking, introduced by the bank in past years. These officers will cater to the needs of SME customers and

will also act as a single point of contact for all types of banking requirements of these units. With the opening of these 11 branches, the total number of SME branches has gone up to 38.

### BLOOD DONATION CAMP

Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation (SNCF), Lucknow branch, organised a blood donation camp on Sunday. A team of doctors and paramedics from Balrampur Hospital assisted in the successful culmination of the camp under the guidance of director Dr Rajeev Lochan, who said that during these tough times, this effort was commendable. A total of 64 units of blood were donated. Since 1986, the mission has organised more than 6,362 blood donation camps and donated a total of more than 10 lakh units of blood.

### CELESTA INT’L CONCLUDES

The 4-day international cultural olympiad, ‘Celesta International’,

organised online by City Montessori School, Aliganj Campus I, concluded with the commitment to spread the spirit of unity and peace across the globe. A prize distribution-cum-closing ceremony was held online wherein the prize-winning students of various competitions were announced amidst wonderful presentations of educational-cultural items by school students.

### SEMINAR

A seminar was organised at the auditorium of Dial 112 under Mission Shakti. The seminar was inaugurated by ADG, Recruitment and Promotion Board, Renuka Mishra, who is also the nodal officer of Mission Shakti. The programme was attended by Commissioner of Police Sujet Pandey, JCP (Crime) N Chaudhary and other officials of Lucknow commissionerate. The Lucknow commissionerate will carry out a drive for the next six months to prevent crimes against women and girl children.



# Farmer comes forward to rescue loss making PSU in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Social media offers opportunities to layman to get connected with the rulers and vice versa. A picture of the high-end Low Floor buses owned by the public sector Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) caught the attention of Kuttan Pillai, a farmer who is active in the social media.

The KSRTC is in dire financial situation (it tops the 58 loss making PSUs in Kerala with losses running to ₹508 crore) and owes its employees salaries and other arrears. Despite its monopoly over major routes in the State, KSRTC buses do not get proper maintenance and are dumped in garages.

Recently, the Human Rights Commission had to intervene on behalf of a bed-ridden former worker of the



The picture which made Pillai to approach Vijayan with offer to cultivate vegetables

corporation who was denied his monthly pension and benefits even after seven years after his retirement.

It is in this background that Pillai, sent a message through the social media to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan seek-

ing his permission to allow the former to undertake the cultivation of snake gourd in these parking lots. “Respected Sri

Pinarayi Vijayan, I am a farmer and mainly into cultivation of snake gourds. Since the moment I saw this picture, I feel this is an ideal place to cultivate snake gourds. If you give me permission, I am ready to launch farming operations on a lease basis in the space between the parked buses. The farming operations could be launched in 30 days.” Says Pillai in his message to the chief minister.

Pillai’s message to Vijayan was retweeted hundreds of times by other farmers and environmentalists who expressed their desire to be part of the snake gourd cultivation. Since messages received in the Chief Minister’s Office are closely monitored by a special cyber wing, it is certain that Pillai did it with purpose and he meant business. Over to the Chief Minister.

# 7,631 more test positive in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/CHENNAI

Kerala’s see-saw battle with Covid-19 continued on Sunday as 7,631 new persons were diagnosed with the pandemic while the total number of patients under treatment for the disease touched 95,200. The number of fatalities were 22.

Malappuram with 1,399 patients topped the table and was followed by Kozhikode (976), Thrissur (862), Ernakulam (730) Thiruvananthapuram (685). Out of the 7,631 new patients diagnosed on Sunday, 6,685 contracted the pandemic through contact. 63 health workers too contracted Covid-19 through contact.

Testing remained low in the State despite experts asking the government to ramp it up to one lakh per day. On Sunday, 58,404 samples were tested while neighbouring Tamil Nadu 90, 286 samples.

Union Minister of Health Dr Harsh Vardhan lambasted the Kerala Government for its failure to sustain the preventive measures it had adopted during the initial phase of the pandemic. In his weekly interaction, the minister pointed out that the number of persons getting afflicted with Covid-19 due to local transmission were on the increase in Kerala.

## NCB seizes Marijuana worth ₹55L, two held

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Continuing its crackdown on the drug peddlers, a team of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Mumbai, has intercepted and seized a parcel containing 1.1 kgs of two places, including curated Marijuana at Lonavla, near Pune, and arrested two persons in connection with the seizure.

Acting on a tip-off, the NCB sleuths opened a postal parcel that had arrived from Canada, at the Lonavla and found 1.03 kg curated Marijuana. They later -- during a search carried at a flat (C4/701) Bhimashankar Co-Operative Housing Society at Nerul in Navi Mumbai -- seized another 74 grams of curated Marijuana.

Following the seizure, the NCB officials arrested two persons.

# Bengal Guv alleges human rights violation, CM hits back

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit back in equal measures hours after State Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar shot off yet another letter to her expressing concern over falling law and order situation and violation of human rights.

Stopping short of naming the Governor, Banerjee said there were some people who were engaged in defaming the police administration notwithstanding the service rendered by the men in uniform.

Addressing a small audience at Body Guard Lines the Chief Minister said “our police men are working round the clock for the people, for the society without caring for their own safety and here are some people who are out to defame them ... This is being done only for political reasons ... even if someone dies of tuberculosis they will call it a death because of failing law and order situation.”

Hours before the Governor wrote to Chief Minister drawing her attention to the custodial death of Madan Ghorai a reported BJP worker from Kanakpur village in East Midnapore district.

Alleging gross human rights violation the letter said that “Recent custodial death of Madan Ghorai ... is yet another horrifying instance of dehumanising

torture, assault and death in custody.”

Claiming that there was outrage at such “lawlessness in state and outside,” he also referred to the reported police excesses on a Sikh man Balwinder Singh who was reportedly heckled by the police men catching him by his turban.”

The Governor further said it was “high time you redeem your constitutional oath and enforce rule of law, ensure ‘democratic governance’ in the state, make police and administration ‘politically neutral’ and accountable, sanitise power corridors of non-state actors and ensure that SSA (State Security Advisor) and Principal Advisor Internal Security do not boss over the statutorily structured police apparatus, thereby reducing the DGP and other police officials to abject subordination and to insignificance.”

There has been no love lost between the Governor and the State Government ever since he came to the State last year with the two sides accusing each of interfering in the other’s work.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated development the condition of Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh was stated to be stable though he had some lung conditions. Ghosh was admitted to a private hospital after he was diagnosed with corona infection.

# 3 women among 5 Maoists killed in Gadchiroli district

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a biggest operation undertaken by them during the current year, the Anti-Naxal Squad (ANS) commandos gunned down five Maoists, including 3 women, in the Kosmi-Kisneli forests falling under the jurisdiction of Dhanora region in the naxalite-infested district of Gadchiroli in eastern Maharashtra on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, ANS’ C-60 unit commandos of the Gadchiroli police were conducting a combing operation in the Kosmi-Kisneli forests, when the Naxals opened fire at them.

The ANS commandos opened retaliatory fire at the Maoists, who fled the scene soon afterwards.

“The C-60 commandos of the Gadchiroli police were conducting a combing operation in the Kosmi-Kisneli forests, when the Naxals opened fire at them. The Naxals soon fled from the spot after the police team launched a retaliatory attack,” the police said.

Later in the evening, the ANS

commandos recovered the bodies of 5 Maoists comprising 3 women and two men, from the bushes. “We are yet to identify the Maoists killed and verify if any cases or bounties were declared against them,” a senior ANS officer said.

There were no casualties or injuries on the security personnel side. Incidentally, Sunday’s was the first major operation carried out under Gadchiroli’s new Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal.

He was assisted by Additional Superintendent of Police Maneesh Kalwaniya.

The ANO and Maharashtra police have in recent months intensified anti-Maoist operations in Maharashtra’s Gadchiroli district, which is located on the border of Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

Earlier in the day, in the neighbouring Telangana state, the Security forces gunned down two Maoists in an exchange of fire that took place between them and a group of naxals in Mangapet Mandal of Mulugu district.

## Mar Thoma Metropolitan passes away

KOCHI: Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan, supreme head of the Mar Thoma Church, passed away in the early hours of Sunday. The 90-year-old chief of the Mar Thoma Church was suffering from pancreatic cancer for sometime and breathed his last in a private hospital in Thiruvalla.

Born P T Joseph in 1931, he was ordained in 1957 and elevated as he supreme head of the Church in 2007 following the resignation of Metropolitan Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom due to health reasons.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of the Metropolitan. “His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan was a remarkable personality who served humanity and worked hard to improve the lives the



poor and downtrodden. He was blessed with abundance of empathy and humility. His noble ideals will always be remembered,” said the Prime Minister who also remembered the Metropolitan’s 90th birth day function in which he was the chief guest. The Prime Minister waxed eloquence on the Metropolitan’s two objectives, empowerment of

women and eradication of poverty.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and leaders of all political parties in the Syaye expressed their grief over the demise of the Metropolitan, who always had a strong presence in Kerala’s social and cultural spheres.

The Metropolitan drew national attention when he fought for the rights of the transgenders and built homes for the children of the inmates of red street. The Mar Thoma Church under his leadership initiated a number of social development programmes and he led the fight for the rights of Dalit Christians.

The Metropolitan would be interred with full State honours on Monday at Thiruvalla. *PNS*

## 9,060 new cases, 150 deaths in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The total Covid 19-triggered deaths crossed 42,000-mark and infections inched closer to 16 lakh-mark in Maharashtra on Sunday, as 150 more people succumbed to the pandemic and a relatively low 9,060 people tested positive for Coronavirus in various parts of the state.

A day after it logged 250 deaths and 10,259 infected cases, there was a further drop in the fatalities and infections, as the number of deaths came down by 100 and the infected plummeted by 1,199 cases.

With 150 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths in the state mounted from 41,965 to 42,115.

The number of infections in a single day has gone down below 10000 mark for the first time in three months. With 9,060 fresh infections, the total number of infections inched closer to the 16 lakh mark as the cases increased from 15,86,321 to 5,95,381.

On a day when 11,204 people were discharged from various hospitals in the state, the number of people discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 13,69,810. The recovery rate in the state rose from 85.65 to 85.86 per cent.

Of the 150 deaths reported on Sunday, Mumbai accounted for a maximum of 46 deaths, followed by 14 deaths in Nagpur.

In the lower range, there were nine each

in Thane, Pune and Satara, 6 each in Solapur and Kolhapur, 5 in Sangli, 4 each in Jalgaon, Aurangabad, Latur and Beed, 3 each in Raigad, Ahmednagar, Hingoli, Osmanabad, Nanded and Wardha, 2 each in Nashik and Jalna and one death each in Palghar, Ratnagiri, Parbhani, Akola, Yavatmal, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli. In addition one person from outside the state died in Maharashtra. With 46 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 9,739 to 9,785 while the infected cases increased by 1,600 to trigger a jump in the total number of infected cases from 240,335 to 241,935.

Meanwhile, the mortality rate in the state stood at 2.64 per cent. The number of “active cases” in the state dropped from 1,85,270 to 1,82,973. Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,22,818 to 3,23,642 while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 6493 to 6502.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections from 2,11,606 to 2,12,765, while the pandemic toll rose from 5197 to 5206.

Out of 81,39,466 samples sent to laboratories, 15,95,381 have tested positive (19.6 per cent) for COVID-19 until Sunday.

Currently, 24,12,921 people are in home quarantine while 23,384 people are in institutional quarantine.

22:22	22:27	Jasidih Jn.	19:54	19:58
22:52	22:55	Madhupur Jn.	19:26	19:29
23:33	23:35	Chittaranjan	18:46	18:47
00:11	00:16	Asansol Jn.	18:17	18:22
00:47	00:49	Durgapur	17:41	17:43
01:53	01:55	Bardhaman Jn.	16:48	16:50
02:55	02:57	Bandel Jn.	15:45	15:47
03:20	03:22	Naihati Jn.	15:18	15:20
04:45	--	Kolkata	--	14:30
<b>Composition:</b> SLRD-2, General Second Class-6, Sleeper-10, AC 3rd-2, AC 2nd-2 = Total 22 Coach				
<b>(3) Train No. 05052/05051 Gorakhpur-Kolkata-Gorakhpur</b>				
Train No.-05052 Ex. Gorakhpur on Thu. (From 22-10-2020 to 26-11-2020)				
Train No.-05051 Ex. Kolkata on Every Fri. (From 23-10-2020 to 27-11-2020)				
05052 Gorakhpur-Kolkata		Station	05051 Kolkata-Gorakhpur	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
--	10:10	Gorakhpur Jn.	08:15	--
10:34	10:36	Pipraich	--	--
11:00	11:05	Kaptanganj Jn.	07:00	07:05
11:42	11:44	Siswa Bazar	06:28	06:30
12:46	12:49	Bagha	04:40	04:43
13:25	13:30	Narkatiganj Jn.	04:00	04:05
13:54	13:57	Bettiah	03:16	03:19
14:17	14:19	Sagauli Jn.	03:00	03:02
14:40	14:43	Bapudham Motihari	02:41	02:44
15:23	15:25	Chokia	02:14	02:16
17:25	17:30	Muzaffarpur Jn.	01:25	01:30
18:15	18:20	Samastipur Jn.	00:15	00:20
19:20	19:30	Barauni Jn.	23:15	23:25
21:45	21:50	Jhajha	21:05	21:10
22:22	22:27	Jasidih Jn.	19:54	19:58
22:52	22:55	Madhupur Jn.	19:26	19:29
23:33	23:35	Chittaranjan	18:46	18:47
00:11	00:16	Asansol Jn.	18:17	18:22
00:48	00:50	Durgapur	17:41	17:43
01:53	01:55	Bardhaman Jn.	16:46	16:48
02:51	02:53	Bandel Jn.	15:45	15:47
03:20	03:22	Naihati Jn.	15:18	15:20
04:45	--	Kolkata	--	14:30
<b>Composition:</b> SLRD-2, General Second Class-6, Sleeper-10, AC 3rd-2, AC 2nd-2 = Total 22 Coach				
<b>(4) Train No. 02511/02512 Gorakhpur-Thiruvananthapuram Central-Gorakhpur</b>				
Train No.-02511 Ex. Gorakhpur on Every Fri., Sun. (From 23-10-2020 to 29-11-2020)				
Train No.-02512 Ex. Thiruvananthapuram Central on Every Tue., Wed. (From 27-10-2020 to 02-12-2020)				
02511 Gorakhpur-Thiruvananthapuram		Station	02512 Thiruvananthapuram-Gorakhpur	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
--	06:35	Gorakhpur Jn.	15:20	--
07:13	07:15	Khalilabad	14:09	14:11
07:41	07:44	Basti	13:44	13:47
08:28	08:30	Mankapur Jn.	12:49	12:51
09:00	09:05	Gonda Jn.	12:20	12:25
10:27	10:29	Barabanki Jn.	11:03	11:05
11:01	11:04	Badshahnagar	10:23	10:26
11:35	11:50	Aishbagh	09:48	10:03



# Active Covid cases below 1K-mark in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After a long time, the number of active patients in the district has come down below 1K mark as now there were just 994 active patients. As many as 114 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district here on Sunday, increasing the total number of cases to 15,819. The day also saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 254. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 143 patients and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 11,798 while the number of patients discharged from the hospitals remained at 2,773. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 14,571. The

recovery rate has improved to 92.11 per cent but mortality rate has increased to 1.60 per cent.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 68 positive patients were found out of 3,484 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,79,694 and the results of 1,784 are awaited.

Out of them, 2,63,921 were negative, while 15,773 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,95,883.

Earlier, a female aged 49 from Chowkaghat succumbed to COVID-19 at SSH BHU. With the addition of 13 new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,237 including 264 red zones. There

are 1,973 green zones with 14 new ones.

Under ongoing mass/group antigen tests, one out of 429 tests was detected positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura while two out of 410 at SSH BHU but all the 390 tests at adjacent Government Women's Hospital, 86 at CHC Shivpur, 111 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur and 145 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar were found negative.

Besides, the Health department has distributed 4,392 Ivermectin tablets to 549 persons.

So far, 10.83 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.35 lakh persons and out of them, 8.93 lakh tablets to 1.11 lakh per-

sons were distributed only by the Health department while rest of tablets by other departments including Supply and Education departments and Civil Defence so far.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amit Pathak, the police of various police stations arrested as many as 45 persons under Section 51 of CrPC while challoaned under Section 188 and took action under Section 51 of Disaster Management Act against 40 persons on Saturday. During checking at various points, 1812 vehicles were challoaned and 18 seized. Apart from this, Rs 2,79,300 were realised from 294 vehicles, while Rs 59,600 from 1,574 persons for moving on the roads without wearing masks.

# 98 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In the case of corona infection, there was news of great relief on Saturday night. After July 22, the number of patients has come down to 100 in a day. Within the last 24 hours, 98 new cases of COVID-19 were found, while the number of those who got infection free was 165. CMO Dr. GS Bajpai confirmed this.

The CMO said that 98 new patients have been found on Saturday. Earlier on July 22, 94 new infections were found. The total number of corona patients in the district increased to 22,208 with the findings of 98 new infections. In this, 20,259 people have been infection free so far.

On Saturday, 34 people were discharged from the hospital while home isolation of 131 people was completed.

251 people are admitted to different hospitals. Most patients are admitted to SRN Hospital. 1413 people are currently in home isolation while the total number of active cases is 1664.

The Health department and the district administration have breathed a sigh of relief as the number of newly infected fell below 100 in 24 hours.

In Kalindipuram hospital a total of 19 patients were admitted while eight were discharged, in Railway Hospital 21 admitted and one discharged, in Beli 71 admitted, 10 dis-



Devotees wear mask and sanitise before offering prayer to Alopsankari Devi on the occasion of Navratra at Alopipevi temple in Prayagraj

Pioneer

charged, in private hospital 50 admitted and one discharged, while in SRN Hospital 90 were admitted and six were discharged.

Meanwhile, a continuous survey is being conducted by the Medical Department of the Railway and the district administration to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the railway colony.

The main objective of the survey is to find infected people. So far, 10,288 railway workers and their family members have been surveyed.

During the survey, 249

persons of loco railway colony, 120 of DSA ground railway colony, 179 of GRP railway colony, 191 of Malgodam railway colony, 165 of traffic railway colony, 174 of ashiana railway colony, 50 of RE. Railway Colony, 134 of Nawab Yusuf Road Railway Colony, 216 of Lalitnagar Railway Colony, 95 of Ghanshyam Nagar Railway Colony, 110 of Khushroo Bagh Railway Colony, 494 of Railgaon Railway Colony, 404 of Subedarganj Railway Colony, 133 of Naini Railway Colony.

A total of 2,789 houses

including 50 houses of Rajapur railway colony and 25 houses of Rambagh railway colony were surveyed.

During the testing, only one person was found to have possible symptoms and 46 other people were suffering from some other chronic disease.

The campaign, which was run by the joint efforts of the Chief Medical Superintendent / Prayagraj team and the district administration, was also appreciated by General Manager North Central Railway Rajiv Chaudhry.

# Recovery rate increases over 92 pc in Purvanchal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Since the permission given by the government for home isolation of COVID-19 patients except a few serious patients with chronic disease history or above 60, the recovery rate has improved sharply not only in Varanasi but also in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) comprising 10 districts of three divisions. The recovery rate in Varanasi was 91.86 % on Saturday, while the same in Purvanchal was 92.33 %. The mortality rate in Varanasi was 1.59%, while it is 1.44% in Purvanchal. The division-wise, the recovery rate is best in Varanasi, comprising four districts, as it is 92.72% followed by Azamgarh and Vindhychal divisions with three districts each as the same are 92.42% and 90.80% respectively. However, it was totally reverse as per the mortality rate is concerned as it is best in Vindhychal (1.27%) followed by Azamgarh (1.42%) and

Varanasi (1.47%).

In the region as Varanasi is the biggest city with huge flow of arrival of outsiders, it has seen the detection of maximum number of patients (15,705) followed by Ballia (6,022), Jaunpur (5,544), Azamgarh (5,142), Ghazipur (4,207), Chandauli (3,518), Sonbhadra (3,386), Mirzapur (2,747), Mau (2,624) and Bhadohi (1,851). In Varanasi division, the total number of patients is 28,924, out of which 26,865 were cured while there are 13,789 cases in Azamgarh with 12,747 recovered patients while in Vindhychal 7,250 recovered cases out of 7,984. In Varanasi division the total death toll was 434 followed by 197 in Azamgarh and 102 in Vindhychal. A day ago, as many as 327 cases were detected in the region with maximum of 108 in Varanasi while 58 in Jaunpur, 34 each in Azamgarh and Sonbhadra, 23 in Mirzapur, 22 in Ballia, 13 each in Ghazipur, Chandauli

and Mau and nine in Bhadohi.

**W O R L D HYPERTENSION DAY** observed: World Hypertension Day was observed at Sewapuri Primary Health Centre (PHC) here on Saturday. Blood pressure of 78 patients aged over 30 years was checked and the medicines were also distributed. Nodal Officer of non-communicable diseases and ACOM Dr PP Gupta said that hypertension can happen to people of any age. During this pandemic period, patients should have their blood pressure checked regularly. For hypertension, there can be different reasons such as family history, stress, wrong eating and lifestyle etc but to avoid this, one not only needs to pay attention to balanced diet and lifestyle but also try to reduce stress and keep the body active. Regular yoga and exercise is also very important, he added.

WHO's Cardiovascular Health Officer (CVHO) Dr Lalitha Chauhan said that cases

of high blood pressure had increased during COVID-19. Nowadays people aged 30 to 50 are more prone to hypertension. Men are more at risk of hypertension before the age of 60. They said that to improve the condition of high blood pressure patients, the blood pressure check is necessary for every 30 years or older in the hospitals and in case of blood pressure, they should be treated immediately by giving them the right treatment related advice.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) project technical assistant Ranjit Singh said that hypertension remains a serious disease throughout the world. In this run-of-the-mill era, this disease is being seen in both the elderly and children. Irregular routines and catering are considered to be the reason. Dr Yatish Bhuwan Pathak, Medical Officer Incharge, Dr Deodhar and other staff were present on the occasion.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Taking a serious note of inordinate delay of three months in lodging of FIR of a rape victim and that too after intervention of court, the Allahabad High Court has directed the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Prayagraj and Station House Officer of police station Phoolpur of Prayagraj to appear personally before this court on October 20, 2020.

Hearing a writ petition filed by the rape victim seeking registration of case against culprits, a division bench comprising Justice Shashi Kant Gupta and Justice Pankaj Bhatia observed, ‘

The present petition highlights the laxity shown by the officers in triggering the criminal justice system. The sequence of the evidence, on the basis of instructions, received highlights the sheer callousness of the police authorities in lodging the FIR after about three months of the alleged incident that too only after this court had intervened and had called for instructions. It is well settled that the information disclosing a cognizable offence should be initiated with all expedition, the same is also necessary so as to

bring the prosecution to its logical conclusion fairly’.

Coming down heavily on the police authorities for laxity in such a serious matter, the court further said, ‘In the present case, the laxity, which has been done at the behest of the police authorities, has not been explained at all. There is no explanation as to why three months was taken for lodging the FIR and for proceeding in accordance with the complaint made by the petitioner for such a long time there is nothing on record as to what action was taken by the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) except merely forwarding the application of the petitioner before the Station House Officer.

On a prima facie consideration, this court is of the view that on account of the laxity of the police officials, the prosecution may be seriously affected, the action taken by the SHO the form of lodging of the FIR on October 13, 2020 and the subsequent medico legal examination of the petitioner on October 14, 2020, are prima facie a hogwash. Considering the facts, which prima facie disclose the laxity on the part of the police authorities, this court is of the view that the matter needs to be taken seriously’.

Lamenting overlooking of earlier court directives by the authorities concerned, the court further said, ‘Needless to add that time and again the courts have emphasised about lodging of the FIR and conducting the medico legal examination with all expeditions. The respondent authorities, prima facie, have failed to take action as was expected of them, this court is of the view that the liability for the lapses which are prima facie evident, should be fixed.

The present petitioner, who is a rape victim alleged that on July 11, 2020, she was raped by four persons and she tried to lodge the first information report (FIR) but the FIR was not lodged. Thereafter, on July 22, 2020, the petitioner claims to have submitted an application before the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Prayagraj highlighting that despite her best efforts, the FIR was not being registered. Once again the petitioner claims to have filed an application on July 23, 2020 informing the SSP that despite best efforts, the FIR was not being lodged. Ultimately, the petitioner has approached this court by filing an application on July 30, 2020 stating that FIR is not being lodged.

As per instructions of the

court, the state counsel informed that a complaint dated July 23, 2020 was indeed forwarded by the petitioner before the SSP. The said report was forwarded by the SSP to the police station Phoolpur for further action. In pursuance of the said directions, an FIR claims to have been registered on October 13, 2020 under sections 376-D (gang rape) and other sections of IPC at Phoolpur police station. It was also brought on record that the statement of the petitioner was also recorded on October 14, 2020 and the statement under section 164 CrPC shall be recorded before the magistrate soon. In the instructions the medico legal examination report of sexual violence was furnished, and in the said report, the medical examination of the prosecutrix is said to have been done on October 14, 2020.

The court, while taking a serious note of delay of three months in lodging of FIR of a rape victim, fixed October 20 as the next date of hearing, saying, ‘On which date the court proposes to pass further orders keeping in view the glaring facts, which have come to the knowledge of the court’.

The court passed this order on October 15.

# Prayer offered at Brahmcharini Devi temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Scores of devotees offered Sprayer at Brahmcharini Devi temple at Brahma Ghat on the second day of Shardiya Navratra here on Sunday, maintaining COVID-19 guidelines. Besides, rush was seen as usual at famous Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) where the devotees lined up in queues to offer prayers. Not only this, hundreds of devotees through various vehicles also rushed to Vindhychal in Mirzapur district to offer prayer during the auspicious occasion Navratra at Maa Vindiyasini Devi.

Earlier, in response to the launching of Mission Shakti Abhiyan by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in view to ensure safety and respect to the women and make them self-reliant and self-confident, a programme was also organised here on the first day of Navratra.

The state government has made a comprehensive action plan in this direction. The



Devotees offering prayer at Brahmcharini Devi temple on second day of Navratra in Varanasi on Sunday

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campaign was flagged off by former Vice-Chancellor of KGMU (Lucknow) Padmashree Prof Saroj Chooramani and the function was attended by Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agarwal, IG (Range) Vijay Singh Meena, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, SSP Amit Pathak,

Nodal Officer of Mission Shakti Dr Kajal. District Probation Officer Praveen Kumar Tripathi informed that the Mission which was launched on the first day of Shardiya Navratra will continue till Vasantik Navratra.

Addressing the participants, Additional Director General (Zone) Braj Bhushan

said that though the women are not lagging behind in any field today, they need more good opportunities to become self-reliant.

Prof Chooramani stressed the need for eliminating the frustrated mindset like discrimination against the women prevailing in society and said that the campaign should be started right from the home by giving love rights to both the sons and daughters.

Deepak Agrawal expressed hope that Mission Shakti would help in spreading the sense of respect and safety towards women and children.

In the programme, Dr Saroj Chooramani was named as the brand ambassador of ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ Scheme by the DC. During the campaign, 100 women will also be identified as role models.

A street play was staged by the artistes of Manchdootam while the girls of King Dance Academy presented a programme of dance and drama.

# Weavers take out bike rally

VARANASI (PNS):

Continuing the indefinite strike on the fourth consecutive day, the weavers took out a bike rally on Sunday in favour of their demand regarding the restoration of old flat rate (subsidy) electricity bill on powerloom. It is pointed out that the powerloom weavers had gone on an indefinite strike on October 15 last by suspending all sorts of weaving. We have to come on the road and take out a bike rally to raise their protest against the present per unit electricity bill system on powerloom as there was no option except it after the district administration denied issuing permission for staging demonstration at Shastri Ghat, the agitated weavers said. The Vastara Bunkar Sangh has given a call for the bike rally which began



from Lohita and culminated at Bunkar Colony in Cotton Mill by passing through the areas of Sunderpur, Bajardiha, Madanpura, Nai Sadak, Lallapura, Maldahia, Andrapul, GT Road, Nakkhi Ghat, Sarriya, Kajiakpura, Konia, Adampur, Kachhi Bagh and Badi Bazar. The weavers were carrying the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi during the rally and blamed the state government for disobeying its promise. When the weavers

had gone on strike by suspending all sorts of weaving in the month of August, the state government had assured that the electricity tariff by the month of July, would be charged from them at the old flat rate system and after the assurance given by the government, they said blaming, the weavers had called off the strike but more than two months have passed, the government did not take any initiative to materialise its

promise. Now, the state government is realising the electricity tariff from the powerloom weavers as per electricity meters withdrawing the old flat rate subsidy, the agitated weavers said and blamed the government for betraying them. As per the old flat rate subsidy system, the weavers were to pay ` 145 for each powerloom but under the new arrangement, they will have to pay per unit electricity every month, they said adding, it is not justice to them particularly in such a situation when the weavers are already in acute financial crisis because of COVID-19 pandemic. If the government realises that the ` 145 monthly bill for each powerloom is very little, it could increase it but the subsidised rate should continue, they said

# Building of sharp shooter Tota demolished

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Building worth crores of Rupees, belonging to a close associate of Atique Ahmed and top listed sharp shooter Zulfikar alias Tota in Kasari Masari was demolished by the Prayagraj Development Authority on Sunday.

This property of the hardcore criminal Tota was unauthorised, raised using muscle power and political influence of the mafia turned politician Atique Ahmed. Tota, at present is in jail.

According to the reports Tota had committed several heinous crimes including murder of Atique. He is the main accused in double murder of Beli. He had managed the killing of Ravi Passi of Beniganj from the jail itself, and had threatened the family members of Passi.

Over a dozen cases of serious nature are slapped on him.

This demolition action is a part of the drive against the top criminals in the state, launched by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

**COUNSELLING OF LOCO PILOTS IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE :** For safe train operations in North Central Railway, counselling of Loco Pilots is of

paramount importance especially during winters when due to fog, the visibility drops to near zero.

However, due to COVID-19, counselling of Loco Pilots has become very challenging since social distancing norms have to be necessarily followed.

The challenge this time is formidable, but the morale of the team at North Central Railway is nonetheless high.

Anupam Singhal, Chief Electrical Loco Engineer, North Central Railway took up this challenge resolutely. He conceptualised and designed a unique comprehensive technological solution to tackle this unprecedented problem.

He devised a system wherein two LAN computers are incorporated with Integrated Performance Assessment and Monitoring System (IPAMS) which contains the requisite performance data of all the running staff. This system would be used for one-to-one counselling.

This novel system of Computer Based Counselling (CBS) would also be gainfully utilised for the holistic training of the staff and also for keeping records of the counselling process, and would be of immense use for exhaustive performance assessment and

improvement thereof.

The Counselling System was inaugurated by Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, North Central Railway, Satish Kothari.

**SHUATS BTECH STUDENTS BAG AWARD:** SHUATS B'Tech students received 'Best Research Paper Award' in the International Conference held at NIT Jalandhar Three research papers from B Tech final year students of SHUATS were accepted in the conference on 'Industrial and Manufacturing Systems (CIMS-2020)' during October 9 – 11.

The conference was organised virtually by National Institute of Technology Jalandhar (NITJ), Jalandhar, Punjab, where researchers and scientists from all over India and other countries participated. In view of this, some constructive efforts were made by the B Tech Mechanical Engineering final year students at Vaughan Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Technology (VIAET), SHUATS towards creating a greater awareness of the applications of mechanical engineering in the field of biomedical science. The faculty member Er. Rahul Davis framed the skeleton of the projects while Er. Nikhil

Singh and Dr. Mohd. Tariq supervised the students.

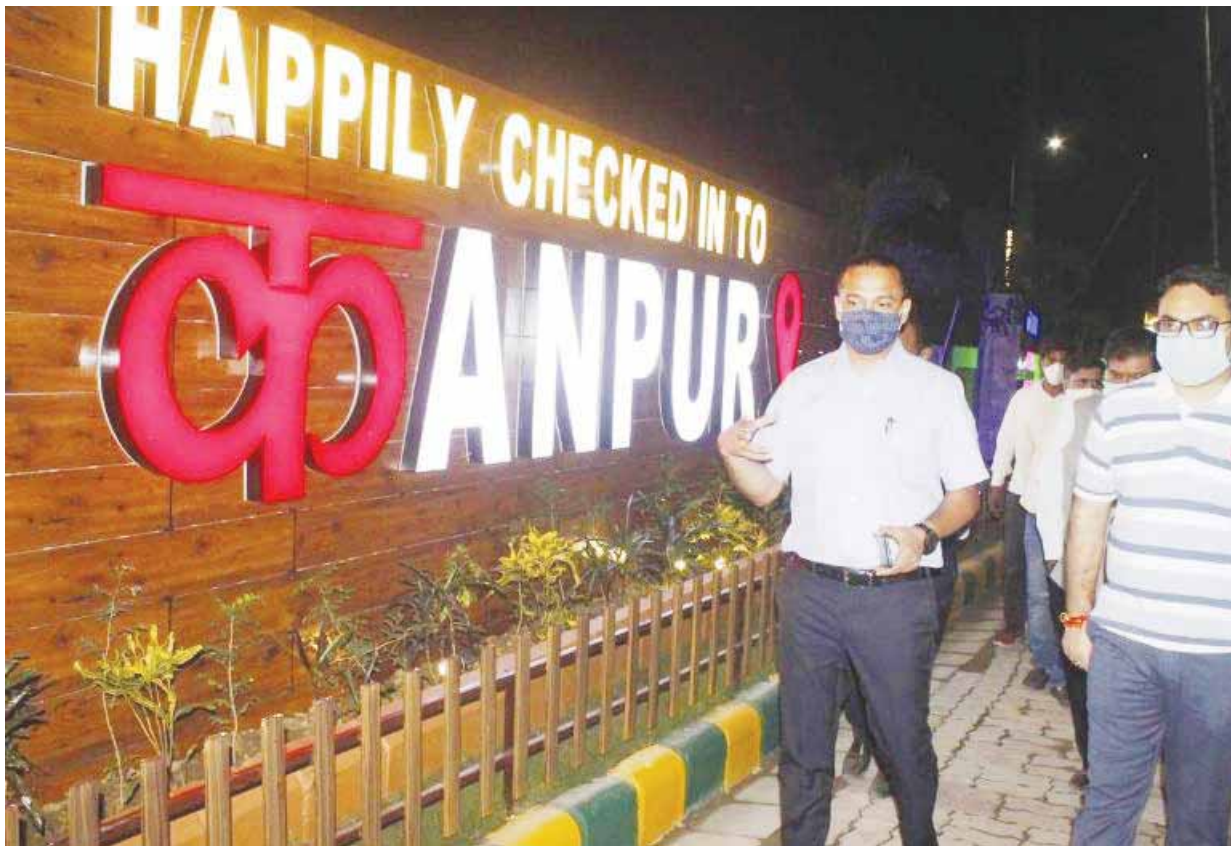
The paper entitled Topological Design Optimisation of Dental Implant, presented by a student named Abner Ankit Lawrence, was awarded with the 'Best Research Paper Award'. Dental implants are surgical components that are placed instead of the natural tooth if encountered by an infection or inflammation.

This paper consisted of the contributions of three more students named Mohd. Sahil Ansari, Yash Vardhan Tewari and Vishal Francis.

Whereas the second paper titled as 'Surface Integrity Enhancement in Cryo-Milling of Magnesium Alloy AZ91D' received highest appreciation in its session. Biomedical implants made up of magnesium alloys are degradable over a period in the presence of human body fluid and thus, avoid the necessity of secondary surgery.

Cryogenic machining is one of the best ways to achieve the required implant surface compatible with human body. Stephen Dilip Mohapatra, Subham Chhetri, Alomi P. Zhimomi, and V Vikali Sumi, were the students who contributed this paper.





Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar inspects the Selfie Points set up in PPP

Pioneer

# Raj Shekhar: All entry points of Kanpur Nagar to be beautified

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar on Sunday said that the beautification of 100-metre stretch of Ganga Barrage entry point had been carried out jointly by Kanpur Nagar Nigam and Kanpur Smart City Project. He said the other four entry points of Kanpur Nagar would also be developed on the same pattern and directives had been issued to the officials concerned in this regard. The divisional commis-

sioner said Ashok Masale had signed an agreement for maintenance and upkeep of the beautified stretch for the next five years under the PPP model and if found satisfactory the agreement would be renewed. It may be mentioned here that a Selfie Point has been developed on this stretch and it is very aesthetic and appealing. Raj Shekhar said this selfie point had been dedicated to the people of Kanpur Nagar and the responsibility to keep this place neat and clean rest-

ed on their shoulders also. He said as per the terms for all the projects under the Smart City Project, they shall have a tag line Vikas aur Virasat ki Nagari Kanpur with the message 'Happily checked into Kanpur' which was a welcome message. The divisional commissioner appealed to industrial houses to come forward for the uplift and beautification of the city on the PPP model. Meanwhile, the divisional commissioner cycled into the city early in the morning to see the working of the Kanpur

Nagar Nigam, especially the safai karmacharis. He expressed concern over the burning of garbage which is banned. He also found garbage dumped at one place with the KNN closing it eyes to this issue. He directed the Kanpur municipal commissioner to get the garbage dumped collected at the road-sides removed at the earliest. He said despite the ban on burning garbage, at a few places garbage was found burning and thus action must be taken against the safai nayaks.

# 9 injured as LPG cylinder explodes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

As many as nine persons of a family sustained serious burns when the cooking gas cylinder of their house suddenly exploded in Sargaon Khurd village under Derapur police station of Kanpur Dehat on Sunday morning. Due to the powerful explosion, the room of the farmer's house also collapsed. The local cops and firemen extinguished the fire and sent the injured to a hospital. According to reports, Suraj Kumari, wife of farmer Jagdeo, was preparing breakfast when the LPG cylinder suddenly caught fire due to leakage of gas. Seeing the fire, she ran out of the kitchen raising an alarm. In the meantime, other household articles in the kitchen also caught fire. When the family members and neighbours were trying to extinguish the fire by pouring water on it, the cooking gas cylinder suddenly exploded and the ceiling of the kitchen collapsed. Jagdeo, Suraj Kumari, Himanshu, Kalloo, Arman, Vivek, Vishram, Ranno and



LPG cylinder exploded in a farmer's house in Derapur police area of Kanpur Dehat on Sunday morning.

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Deepak sustained serious burns. They were rushed to the community health centre (CHC).

Due to the powerful explosion, panic prevailed among the residents of nearby villages. Station House Officer

Samir Kumar Singh said household articles and property worth lakhs of rupees were gutted in the fire.

# Two bodies found on railway track

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Mystery shrouds the death of two persons, including a teenaged youth, whose bodies were recovered 500 metres apart on the railway track near Dabauli West on Sunday morning. While the police believe that the victims were hit by a passing train, the locals say the bodies were dumped on the railway track after both were killed somewhere else. While one of the victims was identified by the family as Vikas Gupta (16), the identity of the second was yet to be ascertained. Vikas, the eldest son of vegetable vendor Ram Kishan Gupta of Barra-7, had left the house at 7 pm on Saturday but did not return home. On hearing about the recovery of two bodies on the railway track near Dabauli West on Sunday morning, Ram Kishan Gupta went there and identified one of the victims as his son Vikas. The second victim, aged around 35 years, was wearing a red T-shirt and



Police carry out investigations after recovery of two bodies on the railway track on Sunday morning.

Pioneer.

blue jeans. The police are waiting for the post-mortem report to start the investigation.

## ROUSING WELCOME TO ABVP LEADER

A rousing welcome was extended to the newly-nomi-

nated convener of Kanpur Vibhag of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Rituraj Mishra on his arrival to the city on Sunday. Prominent ABVP activists present on the occasion included Satya Chaudhary, Rohan Gupta,

Gopal Mishra, Sahil Chaurasia, Srijal Tewari, Harshit Gupta, Dinesh Yadav, Jagriti Tewari, Mukesh Kashyap, Vishal Shukla, Mohd Salman, Ashish Gupta, Pawan Katheria, Wakas Ahmad, Ajay Sonkar and Ankit Sonkar.

## 46 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 46 more coronavirus positive cases on Sunday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 46 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Saturday evening and Sunday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 27,268 cases. He said one COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Sunday evening keeping the death toll to 712. The CMO said with 7 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals the cured figure in the city was 7099 and at present 1784 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 3812 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## UPMRC reaches another milestone

KANPUR (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) reached another milestone when it erected the 100th U-girder on the priority corridor stretch of the Kanpur Metro project on Sunday. Strategic time management led to this achievement in the ongoing civil construction of the Kanpur Metro's 9-km-long priority corridor between IIT and Motijheel. The civil construction of the Kanpur Metro project was inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on November 15 last year and since it has been progressing at a remarkable pace due to the untiring efforts of the UPMRC engineers to provide Kanpur Nagar a world class metro rail service within the stipulated time frame. A total of 638 U-girders are to be placed at the viaduct of the priority corridor and the erection work was started on August 12, 2020. An short time span of just 67 days, the UPMRC touched the mark of 100 U-girders, which was no less than an achievement. Recently, the UPMRC had also completed erection of 100 double T-girders for constructing the base of concourse levels of the platforms and till now, the base of the concourse of both IIT and Kalyanpur metro stations have been prepared. Fifty double T-girders were to be placed at the IIT metro station and 52 at the Kalyanpur metro station and this target has already been achieved. UPMRC Managing Director Kumar Keshav congratulated the Kanpur Metro project engineers and the team of the contractor. He said, "The erection of the 100th U-girder in Kanpur Metro priority corridor on Saturday was done in a record time and the progress of the work is going on at a fast pace." He said it was an excellent work by the UPMRC project team at Kanpur.

## Vinod Dwivedi nominated to CFPGS panel

KANPUR (PNS): Noted classical singer Vinod Kumar Dwivedi of the city has been nominated as member of the Expert Committee of Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme (CFPGS). Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Culture, Praveen Sharma, in his order issued on September 21 said the 24-member expert committee headed by joint secretary (P.Arts) had been reconstituted for recommending the project proposals for sanction of grant under the Cultural Function and Product Grant. Vinod Kumar Dwivedi has carved a fame for himself as one of the leading Dhrupad-dhamar exponents of the country. He established his position as an outstanding singer, guru, composer and writer in the country as well as abroad. He has been honoured with countless prestigious awards for his powerful and excellent vocal recital all over the country and abroad as well. He is a senior artiste at AIR and Doordarshan in Lucknow. He has written and composed around 500 Dhrupad, Dhamar, Khayal, Chaturang, Bhajan and geet based on Indian classical music.

## Boy's body found floating in river

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The body of a 10-year-old boy was found floating in Khaajuri river under Padari police station on Sunday. As per the reports, Shani, son of Balram Yadav, a resident of Dubeypur Mahewa, had left his house to graze the cattle on Saturday. When he did not return home till evening, his parents informed the police about his going missing. On Sunday morning the police was informed about a body floating in the river and reached the spot. SHO Padari Venkatesh Tiwari said that the body was identified as that of the missing boy. After taking the body into custody the police sent it for completing the legal formalities. **FLAGGED OFF:** A nine-day 'Mission Shakti' drive for safety, honour and self-reliance of girls and women was kicked off in the district at Police Lines

on Saturday. The event was graced by Majhawan MLA Shuchismita Maurya who was the chief guest on the occasion and Divisional Commissioner Preeti Shukla as the nodal officer of the drive nominated by the government. ASP (City)



Sanjay Kumar stated that the drive started in the first stage for only nine days on the occasion of Navaratri but it was to be continued till Vasantik Navratri which was to commence in the April 2021. He said that a week-long awareness programme would be conducted every month under the drive to instill the sense of self-confidence among women through differ-

## IIT-BHU students give innovative ideas

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

With the objective of sustainable development of the coal sector, the Ministry of Coal is organising interactive sessions with students and teachers of IITs/NITs and research institutions. In this series Peeyush Kumar of Ministry of Coal interacted with students and teachers of IIT-BHU and told them about the recent initiatives taken by Ministry of Coal to promote Make in India and Start-up India. During the discussion he

told them about the website www.scienceandtech.cmpdi.co.in launched by Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Anil Kumar Jain, for information on research work. He said that in today's era integration of latest technology was necessary for the industry. He said that the Ministry of Coal was going to ask for research proposals related to the coal sector projects online and students should use them properly. According to the changing environment, for students in the coal sector opportunities using technologies such as sensors,

communication and software are available to monitor, increase productivity etc. Use of drone in thermal scanning, 3D modelling, environmental monitoring, rehabilitation etc. were discussed. The need for online training of operators from simulators etc was also discussed. Besides 100 students of IIT-BHU gave their innovative ideas related to various technologies useful for coal sector. HoD Mining IIT-BHU Prof Piyush Rai also addressed the gathering and encouraged students to bring new ideas in this field.

## New Delhi-Kathgodam Shatabdi spl from Oct 20

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration keeping the convenience of passengers in mind will run a daily Shatabdi special train between New Delhi-Kathgodam-New Delhi from October 20 until further notice. All coaches in this train will be reserved category and passengers will have to follow the Covid-19 norms, CPRO PK Singh said.

The 02040 New Delhi-Kathgodam daily Shatabdi special from October 20 until further notice leave New Delhi at 06:20 hrs, Ghaziabad at 07:02 hrs, Moradabad at 08:57 hrs, Rampur at 09:26 hrs, Rudrapur City at 10:05 hrs, Lalkuan Jn at 10:43 hrs, Haldwani at 11:08 hrs and arrive at Kathgodam at 11:40 hrs. During the return journey the 02039 Kathgodam-New Delhi daily Shatabdi spe-

cial from October 20 until further notice leave Kathgodam at 15:35 hrs, Haldwani at 15:52 hrs, Lalkuan Jn at 16:23 hrs, Rudrapur City at 16:46 hrs, Rampur at 17:39 hrs, Moradabad at 18:15 hrs, Ghaziabad at 20:07 hrs and reach New Delhi at 20:50 hrs. A total of 13 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, 10 AC chair car and one coach of AC executive chair car, will be attached in it.

## 3 pairs of puja spl to run between Gkp-Kolkata

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Keeping the convenience of passengers in mind in view of forthcoming festivals the railway administration will run three pairs of puja special trains between Gorakhpur-Kolkata and one pair between Gorakhpur-Thiruvananthapuram between October 20 and November 30. All coaches will be of reserved category and passengers will have to follow the Covid-19 norms, CPRO PK Singh said. **GKP-KOLKATA SPL:** The 05048 Gorakhpur-Kolkata puja special from October 20 to November 30 every Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Sunday leave Gorakhpur at 11.30 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 12.11 hrs, Siwan at 13.15 hrs, Chhapra at 14.50 hrs, Sonpur at 15.45 hrs, Hajipur at 16.00 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 17.00 hrs, Samastipur at 18.00 hrs, Barauni at 19.30 hrs, Jhajha at 21.50 hrs, Jasidih at 22.27 hrs, Madhupur at 22.55 hrs, Chittaranjan at 23.35 hrs, second day Asansol at 00.16 hrs, Durgapur at 00.49 hrs, Bardhaman at 01.55 hrs, Bandel at 02.57 hrs, Naihati at 03.22 hrs and reach Kolkata at 04.45 hrs. During the return journey 05047 Kolkata-Gorakhpur puja special from October 22 to November 30 every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday leave Kolkata at 14.30 hrs, Naihati at 15.20 hrs, Bandel at 15.47 hrs, Bardhaman at 16.50 hrs, Durgapur at 17.43 hrs, Asansol at 18.22 hrs, Chittaranjan at 18.47 hrs, Madhupur at 19.29 hrs, Jasidih at 19.58 hrs, Jhajha at 21.10 hrs, Barauni at 23.25 hrs, second day Samastipur at 00.20 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 01.20 hrs, Hajipur at 02.25 hrs, Sonpur at 02.37 hrs, Chhapra at 04.25 hrs, Siwan at 05.15 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 06.10 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 07.45 hrs. A total of 22 coaches will be attached in it. The 05050 Gorakhpur-Kolkata puja special via Mau, Ballia, Desari from October 21 to November 28 every Wednesday and Saturday leave Gorakhpur at 08.00 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 08.43 hrs, Bhatni at 09.15 hrs, Salempur at 09.30 hrs, Belthara Road at 10.00 hrs, Mau at 11.15 hrs, Indara at 11.30 hrs, Rasra at 11.55 hrs, Ballia at 12.55 hrs, Suraimanpur at 13.48 hrs, Chhapra to 15.10 hrs, Hajipur at 16.35 hrs, Desari at 16.57 hrs, Shahpur Patoree at 17.28 hrs, Mohiuddinagar at 17.49 hrs, Barauni at 19.40 hrs, Jhajha at 21.50 hrs, Jasidih at 22.27 hrs, Madhupur at 22.55 hrs, Chittaranjan at 23.35 hrs, on second day Asansol at 00.16 hrs, Durgapur at 00.49 hrs, Bardhaman at 01.55 hrs, Bandel

at 02.57 hrs, Naihati at 03.22 hrs and reach Kolkata at 04.45 hrs. During the return journey 05049 Kolkata-Gorakhpur puja special via Desari, Ballia, Mau will from October 21 to November 29 every Sunday and Wednesday leave Kolkata at 14.30 hrs and after stopping at Naihati, Bandel, Bardhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Barauni, Mohiuddinagar, Shahpur Patoree, Desari, Hajipur Chhapra, Ballia, Rasra, Indara, Mau, Belthara Road, Salempur, Bhatni, Deoria Sadar and reach Gorakhpur at 09.45 hrs. A total of 22 coaches will be attached in it. Likewise the 05052 Gorakhpur-Kolkata puja special via Narkatiaganj will from October 22 to November 26 every Thursday leave Gorakhpur at 11.10 hrs, Pipraich at 10.36 hrs, Kaptanganj at 11.05 hrs, Siswa Bazar at 11.44 hrs, Bagha at 12.29 hrs, Narkatiaganj at 13.30 hrs, Bettiah at 13.57 hrs Sagauli at 14.19 hrs, Bapudham Motihari at 14.43 hrs, Chakia at 15.25 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 17.30 hrs, Samastipur at 18.20 hrs, Barauni at 19.30 hrs, Jhajha at 21.50 hrs, Jasidih at 22.27 hrs, Madhupur at 22.55 hrs, Chittaranjan at 23.35 hrs, second day Asansol at 00.16 hrs, Durgapur at 00.50 hrs, Bardhaman at 01.55 hrs, Bandel at 02.53 hrs, Naihati at 03.22 hrs and reach Kolkata at 04.45 hrs. During the return journey 05051 Kolkata-Gorakhpur puja special via Narkatiaganj from October 23 to November 27 every Friday leave Kolkata at 14.30 hrs, Naihati at 15:20 hrs, Bandel at 15.47 hrs, from Bardhaman at 16.48 hrs, Durgapur at 17.43 hrs, Asansol at 18:22 hrs, Chittaranjan at 18.47 hrs, Madhupur at 19.29 hrs, Jasidih at 19.58 hrs, Jhajha at 21.10 hrs, Barauni at 23.25 hrs, second day Samastipur at 00.20 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 01.30 hrs, Chakia at 02.16 hrs, Bapudham Motihari at 02.44 hrs, Sagauli at 03.02 hrs, Bettiah at 03:19 hrs, Narkatiaganj at 04.05 hrs, Bagaha at 04.43 hrs, Siswa Bazar at 06.30 hrs, Kaptanganj at 07:05 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 08.15 hrs. A total of 22 coaches will be attached in it. **GKP-THIRUVANANTHAPURAM CENTRAL PUJA SPL:** The 02511 Gorakhpur-Thiruvananthapuram Central puja special will October 23 to November 29 every Friday and Sunday will leave Gorakhpur at 06:35 hrs, Khalilabad at 7.15 hrs, Basti at 07.44 hrs, Mankapur at 08.30 hrs, Gonda at 09.05 hrs, Barabanki at 10.29 hrs, Badshahnagar at 11.04 hrs,

Aishbagh at 11.50 hrs, Unnao at 12:42 hrs, Kanpur Central at 13.22 hrs, Pokhrayan at 14.25 hrs, Orai at 15.10 hrs, Jhansi at 16.55 hrs, Lalitpur at 18.01 hrs, Bhopal at 21.10 hrs, Itarsi at 23.05 hrs, second day Ghoradongri at 00.09 hrs, Betul at 00.55 hrs, Amla at 01.22 hrs, Pandhurna at 02:19 hrs, Nagpur at 04.00 hrs, Sevagram at 05.00 hrs, Hinganghat at 05.40 hrs, Chandrapur at 06.58 hrs, Balharshah at 08.35 hrs, Sirpur Kaghaznagar at 09.25 hrs, Belampalli at 10.03 hrs, Manchiryal at 10.19 hrs, Ramagundam at 10.29 hrs, Warangal at 12.10 hrs, Khammam at 13.37 hrs, Vijayawada at 15.55 hrs, Chirala at 17.19 hrs, Ongole at 18.00 hrs, Nellore at 19.20 hrs, Gudur at 20.45 hrs, Chennai Central at 23.50 hrs, Katpadi at 01.40 pm on third day, Jolarpettai at 03.10 hrs, Salem at 04.50 hrs, Erode at 06.05 hrs, Tiruppur at 06.45 hrs, Coimbatore at 07.45 hrs, Palghat at 09.00 hrs, Ottappalam at 09.25 hrs, Wadakkanchery 10.10 hrs, Thrissur at 10.30 hrs, Irinjalakuda at 10.55 hrs, Chalakudy at 11.03 hrs, Angamali at 11.20 hrs, Aluva at 11:35 hrs, Ernakulam Town at 12.07 hrs, Ernakulam Jn at 12.35 hrs, Cherthala at 13.30 hrs, Alappuzha at 14.00 hrs, Ambalappuzha at 14.10 hrs, Harippad at 14.14 hrs, Kayamkulam 15.05 hrs, leave Kollam at 16.05 hrs and reach Thiruvananthapuram Central at 17.20 hours. During the return journey 02512 Thiruvananthapuram Central-Gorakhpur puja special from October 27 to December 2 every Tuesday and Wednesday will leave Thiruvananthapuram Central at 06:05 hrs and after stopping at Kollam, Kayamkulam, Harippad, Ambalappuzha, Alappuzha, Cherthala, Ernakulam, Alua, Angamali, Chalakkudy, Irinjalakudi, Thrissur, Wadakkanchery, Ottappalam, Palghat, Coimbatore, Tiruppur Erode, Salem, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Chennai Central, second day at Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Vijayawada, Khammam, Warangal, Ramagundam, Manchiryal, Belampalli, Sirpur Kaghaznagar, Balharshah, Chandrapur, Hinganghat, Sewagram, Nagpur, Pandhurna, Amla, Betul, Ghoradongari, Itarsi, Bhopal, Lalitpur, Jhansi, Orai, Pokhrayan, Kanpur Central, Unnao, Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki, Gonda, Mankapur, Basti, Khalilabad and reach Gorakhpur at 15:20 hrs. A total of 21 coaches will be attached.



## Puja politics

Given the spate of funding to *puja* committees and pandal inaugurals, the BJP is challenging the TMC on the Hindutva plank



Bengal's unabated Coronavirus spiral would logically demand that mass-spreading events, especially the community festival of Durga *Puja*, be scaled down with the tightest protocols to limit a super contagious congregation. But it is just as big and spectacular this year and if videos on social media of preparations are any indication, then crowding is a fallout that no vigilance and protocol can prevent given the fact that the *puja* in Bengal is an emotion, not religion. But it is a wave so powerful that politicians cannot ignore it or afford to underplay it as this single event does what no rally can, takes them closest to voters. Besides, an entire sub-sector of the economy lives off the annual jamboree. So it is understandable why on the eve of the Assembly elections, the pandemic has given way to political exigency. Truth be told, the Left rule in the State had never appropriated the Durga *Puja* or the allied cultural space so evidently though it did use the pandal stalls to propagate communist literature. But in the Trinamool Congress (TMC) regime, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has ensured unprecedented Government patronage to *puja* committees, using them to entrench her appeal at the community and block levels of the State. Over the years, she has inaugurated *pujas* herself to appease majoritarian sentiment, considering she is largely defined in the public space by her pro-minority tilt. Except this time, the societal polarities are sharper and she has another opponent challenging her cultural monopoly, the BJP. The Central party made massive inroads in the Lok Sabha elections and is hoping to consolidate itself in the Assembly elections. Besides, it has realised that the Ram temple cannot quite generate the same enthusiasm in Bengal, which swears by Shakti icons, as it did in northern India. Hence it is now using Durga *Puja* to push its Hindutva agenda. In fact, the BJP has put Mamata in quite a spot, forcing upon her a logistical nightmare. Even before she had finalised the scale of festivities, the BJP ran a campaign that she was stalling the *puja* and prayers that would offer succour in COVID-stressed times. She had to publicly commit otherwise. Now if she bungles affairs, goes bankrupt funding the humongous man-management required or worse fails to contain the pandemic surge, it can always blame her for incompetence. That the BJP is dead serious is evident from the fact that none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the *pujas* digitally. It is debatable whether the Prime Minister should endorse any religious event at all given the constitutional mandate his role requires but in a post-Ayodhya India, where he himself reset the propriety of conduct by laying the foundation stone of the Ram temple, such questions won't be asked. In fact, by avowedly professing his faith preference, he has normalised such behaviour. So a bevy of Central BJP leaders and Ministers are expected to whip up popular opinion on their side during the *puja* through a series of virtual inaugurations. There was even talk of Home Minister Amit Shah visiting Bengal after his COVID recovery. The drive had begun last year on *Mahalaya* when BJP leaders performed *tarpan* (offering water to the dead) for 80 party workers who died in what they claim as TMC-fuelled violence. Ever since then, the BJP has followed the TMC's strategy of funding *puja* committees and this year is using Shyama Prasad Mookerjee's legacy to drive home the point that its ideological parent, the Jan Sangh, was formed in Bengal and, therefore, it is not an outsider party. Besides, with its State unit riven by faction fights, the BJP is using Modi's aura.

By no means a pushover, *Didi*, as Mamata is popularly called, is on an inauguration spree herself. In fact, she was one up on the BJP initially when she called out the Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh for permitting *Ramilas* but not Durga *Puja* in public spaces and wondered whether the goddess was not part of Hindutva. The Central BJP forced Adityanath to rescind the partisan order and allow the *puja*. But quite blunderously, she has doubled the financial assistance to 37,000 *puja* committees, from ₹25,000 to 50,000. Besides, power charges and other fees are being discounted or halved. This flies in the face of her claims that Cyclone Amphan had not only flattened the physical infrastructure in the State but bankrupted the coffers. TMC leader Derek O'Brien has already made much noise about how the Centre owes Bengal ₹53,000 crore and even GST dues. The *puja* largesse has, therefore, invited sharp criticism and made her look power-hungry. Mamata has never played the majoritarian game and is a bit out of depth, walking into the BJP's Hindutva trap by reacting to every move her rival is making. By draining her on the religious agenda, the BJP is making sure that she is diverted from her own agenda. But *Didi* can still stir up the popular pulse and resonate with grassroots Bengal though she may encounter some anti-incumbency in the urban pockets and the industrial belt, where the BJP is working hard. And she scores with populism. No doubt, the BJP's vote share has risen dramatically from 17 to 40 per cent, snapping up the Left and Congress pies. But the TMC has also grown from 39 to 43 per cent. And that is a realistic testament to her iron-fisted implementation of welfarism and drive. Yet a tiny swing could cost TMC seats. But Mamata has strategist Prashant Kishor, a popular sentiment of the victim who wins back her rights and matches Modi measure for measure, the tea-seller versus the slum dweller. Will she bounce back thunderously or scrape through is the question.

## Excesses on Uighurs

India should join other nations in taking up the plight of the ethnic minority to counter China on Ladakh



What China is doing to Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang can be compared to what Adolf Hitler did to Jews in Germany at different levels, restricting freedom of religion or belief, wiping out the ethnic community by depriving it of all rights and civil liberties, ostracising the remaining population and confining them to ghettos. Earlier in October, 39 countries, including Canada, Haiti, Honduras, Australia and New Zealand, had condemned China over its policies in Xinjiang, expressing "grave concern" and calling for immediate access to the region. However, despite the global uproar, the clampdown continues disproportionately, with the US now endorsing reports of forced labour and worse, a genocide. In June, the US Customs and Border Protection had detained a suspicious shipment of hair products and accessories suspected of being forced-labour products made with human hair from Xinjiang. In the light of recent events, the US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien said that China was perpetrating "something close to" a genocide. While China blatantly denies human rights abuse, the United Nations estimates that more than a million Muslims have been detained and been at the receiving end of heinous crimes against humanity — from being subjected to birth control measures, mass internment and used as bonded labour.

The crackdown on Uighur Muslims can be traced back to the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the emergence of Central Asian nations but under President Xi Jinping, things have only aggravated. No one can forget Jinping's brazen message in 2014: "Show absolutely no mercy on Uighur people, control their violence, transform them and keep them under surveillance for life." In recent years, China has closed and demolished major shrines and mosques across Xinjiang. It has now been repopulated with Han Chinese. With more than a million Uighur Muslims in re-education and other internment camps, thousands of children are left without parents. If China doesn't abandon its plans to convert Xinjiang into another Tibet, it might find itself alienated as East Asian countries, along with Western powers, are now closing ranks to stand up to its bullying. India should also join multinational campaigns on the Uighurs to poke the dragon. Clearly, our neighbour has bitten off more than it can chew and might just choke on its meal.

# opinion08

## Crumbling Chinese dream

Standing against the combined resources of numerous countries in a militaristic misadventure, statements from Beijing are reflective of pressure, not confidence



BHOPINDER SINGH

Chinese history, taught in its formative schools, is complex, wounded and deliberately provocative as it aims to undo the "century of humiliation" that ostensibly ended with the advent of the Communists in 1949 under Chairman Mao Zedong. Seeds of revenge, insecurities and expansionist tendencies were assiduously sown and harnessed by the focussed efforts of the single-party regime. This transformational narrative of the deprived past to that of the dreams of the hegemonic "Chinese Century" (21st century) has distracted, galvanised and anchored the faith of the citizenry to the illiberal and undemocratic regime. A collateral outcome of this national passion has been the planned outreach beyond its cartographic limits in terms of trade, commerce, military and diplomacy, both welcomingly and unwelcomingly. This demanded a governance tonality of disruption, deceit and re-interpretation of all known laws of sovereignty, morality and all other forms of global operating systems. It has led to a unique situation of China having territorial disputes with at least 18 countries, while having borders with only 14. Ironically, the Chinese greed does not spare its own allies like North Korea, Philippines and most recently, Nepal.

The Chinese approach towards territorial aggrandisement has swerved from creeping, brazen, opportunistic to even innovative — but always, relentless. With such a backdrop, it was hardly surprising that Beijing stated, "China does not recognise the Ladakh Union Territory illegally set up by the Indian side and the Arunachal Pradesh." This was patently duplicitous, obstructionist and retracting Chinese diplomacy at its normal. Constant flare-ups that end up enhancing the Chinese footprint are a critical and reassuring component of its power projection, as President Xi Jinping had famously claimed, "Only if there are battles, there are opportunities."

The ensuing trade wars with the United States, sabre-rattling with Taiwan, prickly relations with Japan, a military stand-off with India and continuing belligerence in the South China Sea are carefully plotted moves in the mould of "shock and awe," to reassert the Dragon's arrival and supremacy on the global centrestage, with or without anyone's



permission. Part of this Chinese tact is to draw the opponent into a "limited" theatre and then out-muscle and out-posture the same into subservience without matters escalating beyond the defined realm. History suggests that the outcome of a long-drawn and expanded conflict has never ended in China's favour — like the China-Vietnam war in 1979. China had underestimated the Vietnamese resolve as the then Chinese Vice Premier, Deng Xiaoping, had mentioned to American President Jimmy Carter before China's ill-fated intrusion into Vietnam, "The little child is getting naughty, it's time he got spanked." By the end of the bloody conflict, most independent historians agree that the ragtag but battle-hardened Vietnamese outfought and outperformed the numerically and materially superior Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). China can suddenly seize unoccupied shoals, reefs and islands beyond its maritime limits like the Johnson Reef, Mischief Reef, Scarborough Shoal, Paracel Islands, Spratly Islands and more, and then start mega reclamation projects to enlarge the landmass into full-fledged, militarised bases. Towards this, it can discount all international treaties and norms to propound its own unique formula like the "nine-dash line" to the consternation of the rightful claimants. China will invariably posit an admixture of disputed history, vague claims and cartographic dashes that were clearly declared to be unlawful under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the

“INDIAN ARMED FORCES ARE HITTING BACK AND HAVE DUG THEIR HEELS, THE QUAD DISCUSSIONS (US, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND INDIA) ARE MOVING FROM PAPER TO SPADEWORK AND THE US NAVAL WARSHIPS ARE PASSING THROUGH THE CHOPPY TAIWAN STRAITS. CHINA IS CLEARLY FEELING THE HEAT”

Seas (UNCLOS). Beijing disregarded the verdict of the International Court of Justice and brazenly added another 10th and 11th line dash to its claims. China's claims on Taiwan are equally disbelieving with the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) never ever ruling the island State since the independence of either of the nations, and only alluding to an expeditionary Chinese force in AD 239 to buttress its claims.

In recent times, devious efforts to soften its expansionist image by propounding creative formula, like "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong, have been completely exposed and unmasked. Even shifty leaders like the Philippines President, Rodrigo Duterte, who had shocked everyone by siding with the Chinese just when Manila was embroiled in a territorial dispute with Beijing or Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli of Nepal, have been forced into serious introspection of their dalliances with China. Duterte not only dialled down his anti-US rhetoric but also hailed its verdict against China as "the triumph of reason over rashness, of law over disorder, of amity over ambition." Somewhere the Dragon's free-run seems to have run into rough weather and the clouds of a push-back are looming on the horizon.

Indian armed forces are staring back, hitting back and have dug their heels, the Quad discussions (US, Japan, Australia and India) are moving from paper to spade-work and the US naval warships are passing through the choppy Taiwan Straits. China is

clearly feeling the heat as Jinping was left goading his military, "Put all (your) minds and energy into preparing for war."

The situation is getting uncomfortably prolonged, inconclusive and simmering to Beijing's discomfiture, and perhaps the sense that it has bitten more than it can chew simultaneously, has dawned on the Chinese. The entire neighbourhood is seemingly on a "high alert" and this works to the detriment of the Chinese, who typically thrive on nibbling and "salami tactics" on unsuspecting, napping or trusting neighbours. Even Russia, which has its own axe to grind with the US, would not mind seeing China in a tight spot and may allow its "neutrality" to worsen the situation for Beijing. In such a situation, Sino-wary nations need to collectively stare back, ignore and blunt the provocative Chinese statements that are intended to dramatise, coerce and win bullet-less wars.

The pandemic has weakened the global economy, but for China to unilaterally stand up against the combined resources in a militaristic misadventure could be regime-threatening given the imploding undercurrents that could get unleashed with the crumbling of the "Chinese Dream." The Dragon has effectively been checkmated in its tracks, even though restoring status quo ante may not be possible. Yet the bombastic statements from Beijing are reflective of pressure and not confidence.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

## SOUNDBITE

It is a very regrettable fact that a former Defence Minister (Salvador Cienfuegos) has been arrested (in the US), accused of links to drug trafficking. Of course, all of this must be proven.



Mexican President —Andrés Manuel López Obrador

In professional boxing, beginners start in bouts that have four rounds of three minutes each and the training is very difficult.



Professional boxer —Faizan Anwar

Be it the Congress party or any regional outfit, people are busy protecting brother-sister, mother-son, or the son. If a party office operates from a politician's residence, then the party belongs to that person.



BJP president —JP Nadda

I don't need to use Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photos for campaigning. He lives in my heart, I am his Hanuman.



LJP chief —Chirag Paswan

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### COVID crisis

Sir — On October 16, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare deputed high-level Central teams to five States — Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal — which have been reporting a surge in the number of new Coronavirus infections in recent days. These teams will interact with the State authorities and get a first-hand understanding of the challenges and issues being faced by them. They will support the efforts made by the States towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures for the positive cases. Additionally, they will guide in effectively managing the challenges related to timely diagnosis and follow-up. India has crossed the seven million mark and accounts for the world's second-highest tally after the US, where the figure is nearing eight million. It has now become imperative that the Centre and State Governments join hands to help prevent the pandemic from causing more loss of lives and employment.

Urvi Jain  
Ujjain

### Political wheels set in motion in Kashmir

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) leaders' meeting and their press briefing on October 14 presented a picture of resumption of political activities after a lull of over 14 months. It is significant that the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and four other parties closed ranks and came together to form the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration and fight for the restoration of J&K's special Constitutional status by peaceful means. These pro-India parties don't see the abrogation of Article 370 as something cast in stone or as the final settlement of the issue. They pin their hopes on the fact that politics is dynamic and not static. Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao once said, "short of *azadi*, sky's the limit."

It is evident that the scrapping of Article 370 was a move more consistent with the notion of a single unitary and monolithic State than the idea of decentralisation of power. The BJP failed in its attempt to prop up alternative leaderships against the Abdullahs and Muftis, in the Valley. The people of J&K have experi-



G David Milton  
Maruthancode

enced far too much pain and suffering. Their situation must make us empathetic to their legitimate political aspirations and we must urge the Centre to meet them half way.

### OTP for LPG delivery

Sir — From next month onwards, home delivery of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders will require a One Time Password (OTP). Oil companies are implementing the system of Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) to help prevent theft of cylinders by identifying the right customer.

However, this is not enough. At present, oil companies and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas make frequent appeals for voluntary surrender of gas subsidy by those whose family income exceeds ₹10 lakh per annum. Instead of expecting voluntary compliance, consumers should be required to file affidavits. This will drastically reduce the LPG subsidy burden

on the exchequer. Also, translucent LPG cylinders made of fibre-glass should replace the old iron ones to ensure tamper-proof full-load supply.

Madhu Agrawal  
Chandni Chowk

### Stop the floods

Sir — At least 50 people have died in Telangana and Andhra

Pradesh due to torrential down-pour, which in turn led to water-logging on roads and inundation of some low-lying areas. Extensive damage to properties have been reported from both the States, with broken roads and disruption in power supply in several places. Earlier, Mumbai experienced flooding due to its poor town planning and absence of culverts to drain out the rainwater. Now, heavy and incessant rains due to depression in the Bay of Bengal have resulted in flooding of many residential areas in Hyderabad. The indiscriminate mushrooming of concrete buildings in all the available spaces in the city and the destruction of lakes and water bodies in the name of urbanisation have led to lopsided development. From now onwards, the Electronic City should be upgraded into a smart city keeping in mind all the rules and regulations in force. The three capitals of Andhra Pradesh also need to be built in a planned manner so as to withstand any natural calamity.

Sravana Ramachandran  
Chennai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

## A nudge in the right direction

Nationalism, sans some of its ill-effects, has constructive potential to emerge as a powerful push for policy actions and reforms



RAM KRISHNA SINHA

The concept of “nudge”, presented by Nobel laureate Richard Thaler, is a relatively subtle policy shift that encourages people to make a decision. It is about making it easier for citizens to make a certain choice in their broad self-interest. It is interesting to see how Thaler’s novel change-management concept is being taken forward at such a mega scale in public life in India. That nationalism could be a tool to nudge people for a targetted behavioural pattern is a fresh and interesting revelation. Leveraging it as an influencing tool in policy-making and wider political action is unique. The idea of nationalism in recent times has received traction with a strong intent for mass persuasion and influence in matters of governance and political action. Demonetisation was defended as “action against the nation’s looters.” The Make in India, Digital India, Start-Up India, Stand-Up India schemes were conceived to unlock India’s entrepreneurial potential. An economic reform like the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was sold as “one nation, one tax, one market.” The power sector reforms typified “one nation, one grid (now, water and gas grid have been added).” The payment system is described as “one nation, one card,” while tracking vehicles through a unified command has been touted as “one nation, one tag.” All of these have been espoused with an overt tinge of nationalism. The fervour was even higher in hailing the abrogation of Article 370 as establishing “one country, one Constitution.” The logic advancing the nationalistic line runs like this: For population control, we need to nudge people to opt for a small family. Those opting for fewer children need to be honoured. Choosing to restrict the size of families is an expression of love for the nation. Family planning is thus clearly linked to nation-building. Then, for achieving a \$5 trillion economy, we need investment, particularly the private kind. Nudging the active participation of the private sector and corporates is seen as a must. If wealth is not created, it will not be distributed and by extension the poor cannot benefit. So corporates are our nation’s wealth creators. They should be given pride of place. For reviving demand, consumption and creating jobs, we need to support local businesses and industry. So urging people to buy and promote local products, to be “vocal for local” is the need of the hour. This is also the time to boycott foreign (read Chinese) goods. Thus, the clarion call is “*Atmanirbhar Bharat* (self-reliant India).”

For advancing the proposal of simultaneous elections, we need to nudge the Election Commission, political parties, agents and voters to appreciate the disadvantages of frequent elections that are draining the scarce resources of the nation. Hence, the need for “one nation, one election.” Nationalistic thoughts, phrases and slogans, advanced in the public domain, generally act as an effective nudge to achieve consensus or influence people to rally around the narrative of the State. Nationalism, with its different reflections in nomenclatures such as India, Bharat, Motherland and New India, gives a meaning and relevance to our identity and roots. With an attendant sense of pride, nationalism is seen playing a major part in determination of behaviour, be it economic, social or political, both at an individual and group level. The traction of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* is the latest example.

There are, of course, some questions in popular debate. Whether nationalism with its big overriding sweep clouds judgment and restricts human choices? Whether it works better for bigger goals only, like national security, sovereignty and so on? Whether nationalism compels people to see everything in terms of competitive prestige? The counter questions posed are many, too. Whether the debate on the negative side of nationalism suffers from prejudices? Whether the dark side is overhyped and exaggerated in India? Whether the debate to undermine, underrate or undervalue the constructive impact of nationalism is driven by political agenda? Surely, we need to guard against the negative effects of hyper-nationalism. Yet, blatantly undervaluing or negating nationalism and its utility seem unfair, too. Between the two extremes, a new approach can be thought through. Given the impact it has in India, nationalism can be pressed as a healthy and powerful tool to enable it to act as a nudge for overall progress.

However, some imaginative tweaks would be needed to be embedded in institutions to mitigate the debated side-effects of nationalism. For a civic nationalism to emerge, without any bias of exclusion and discrimination, our public institutions — social and political — need to introspect and revamp themselves. By nurturing a climate of tolerance, debate and reasoning in all their engagements, they can help foster a healthy nationalistic spirit needed to act as a powerful nudge to achieve national goals. High impact policy actions for economic growth, social progress and 21st Century “aspirational India” require public support, broad consensus and positive energy. Nationalism, with its constructive potential, can surely be pitched to deliver.

(The writer is a former bank executive and writes on education, learning and spirituality)

INDIA HAS SENT A MESSAGE TO PAKISTAN WITH A DESIRE FOR CONVERSATION. THE TWO SIDES MUST SIT DOWN LIKE ADULTS FOR TALKS ON KASHMIR AND TERROR.  
—PAK PM’S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER  
MOEED YUSUF

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



AS REGARDS THE PURPORTED MESSAGE, LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT NO SUCH MESSAGE WAS SENT FROM OUR SIDE.  
—MEA SPOKESPERSON  
ANURAG SRIVASTAVA

# Fury of the foursome

The Quad can play a pivotal role in curbing China’s aggression in the strategic Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region, which is regarded as India’s backyard



PRANAY SHOME

The Coronavirus pandemic has provided a unique opportunity for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD), also known as the Quad, and its participating countries, namely the US, India, Australia and Japan, to contain China in the Indo-Pacific and neutralise the threat emanating from it. But there are several caveats. It still is not as strong-willed as a cohesive force that can change global geopolitics. Yet, now is the time.

History is replete with oppressors, especially in the context of nation states. It was the Roman Empire in the first century, later it was the Umayyad Caliphate in the early 10th century, Germany and the USSR in the modern age and so on. In the 21st century, China is one such oppressor. Even as the world grapples with the Corona outbreak, which has wreaked havoc across the globe, obliterating economies, putting people out of jobs and pushing health systems of countries to the brink, China is continuing its expansionist campaigns unabated. Beijing has not only been responsible for land grabs in Nepal, but has, through its quintessential “debt trap diplomacy”, reduced India’s allies in the South Asian region, be it Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and to some extent Afghanistan, to being its serfs.

Chinese bellicosity is a headache for the world already sickened by the contagion. In recent months, China has picked fights with a large number of nations, be it India in South Asia, Taiwan, the US in the Atlantic or its Southeast and East Asian neighbours. Chinese President Xi Jinping is determined to resurrect the glory of the “Middle Kingdom” of the fifth century. With this aim in mind, China is responsible for altering the very nature of the rules-based Westphalian international order as it existed despite all its shortcomings or fallacies. At a time when the dragon nation should join hands with the rest of the world in combating a pandemic, which it interestingly unleashed, it is instead trying to browbeat nation states into submission.

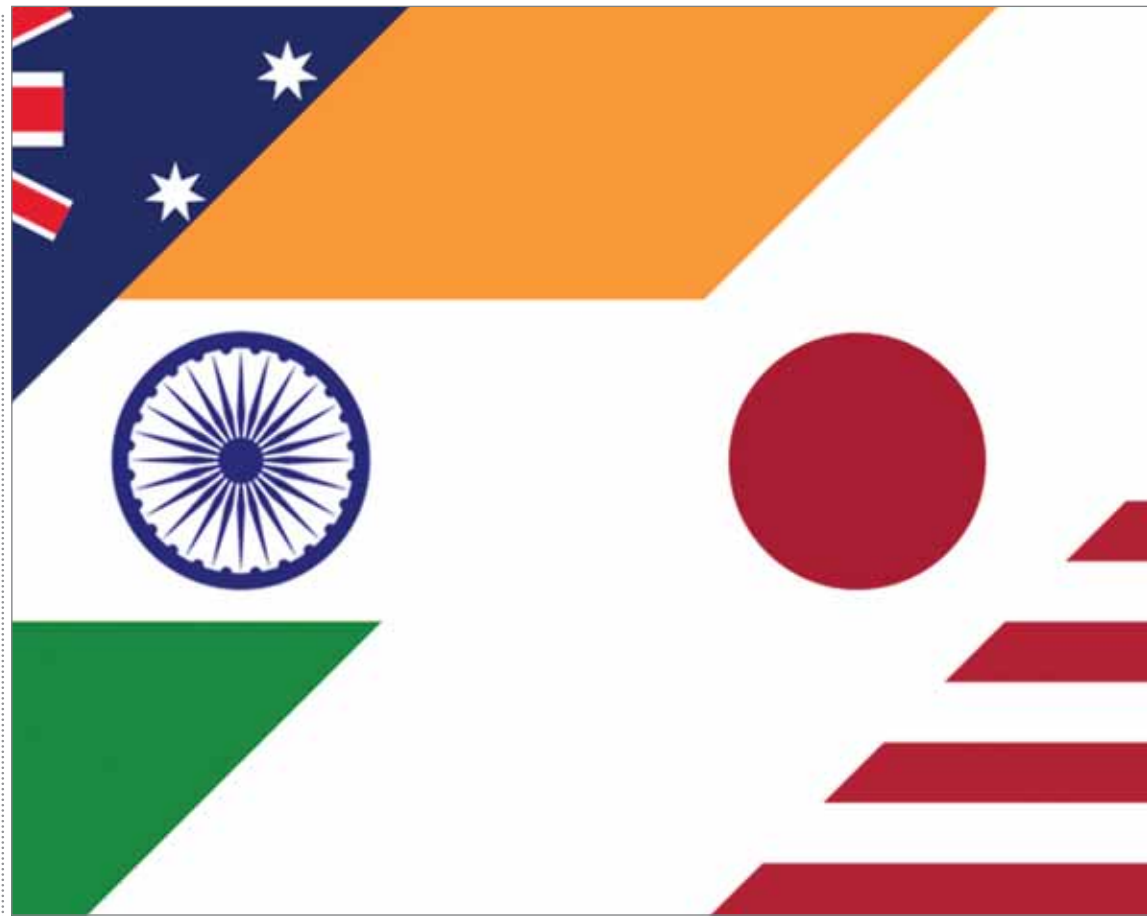
Mohammed Ayoub, distinguished Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University, had noted that it is inherent in the nature of a ruling regime to resort to nationalism and bolster its legitimacy at home. This seems to be China’s case and Xi’s imperialistic designs are emerging as a headache for the world.

**Quad, the solid answer:** Captain Alfred Mahan, one of the world’s foremost naval strategists, said, “Sea power is the key to building an empire.” The Quad is the answer to China’s belligerence. A coalition of democracies, the Quad developed in 2004 as the navies of India, the US, Japan and Australia collaborated. It was revived in 2007 at the insistence of the then Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe but gradually fizzled out only to re-emerge in 2017 under the ambitious Indian vision of SAGAR (Security and Assistance for All in The Region), an idea pioneered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The recent foreign ministers’ meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, is regarded as a landmark moment in the evolution of the Quad grouping, as it paved the way for the signing of a new cyber security agreement between India and Japan. This pact seeks to protect not only each other’s military communication systems but to bolster the cyber warfare capacity of the allies.

It perhaps needs to be followed by the sign-

“MERE LIP SERVICE WILL NOT PAY DIVIDENDS IF THE TRAJECTORY OF THE QUAD GROUPING IS NOTED. ITS MEMBERS HAVE MOSTLY GIVEN LIP SERVICE TO THE FORMALISATION OF THIS NEW ALLIANCE OF MILITARY DEMOCRACIES. DURING THE RECENT FOREIGN MINISTERS’ MEETING OF THE GROUP HELD IN TOKYO, THE FOUR COUNTRIES ISSUED SEPARATE STATEMENTS AND ONLY THE US HAD THE GUMPTION TO CALL OUT CHINA FOR ITS ILLEGAL DESIGNS. SADLY AND DISAPPOINTINGLY, THE REST OF THE MEMBERS SIMPLY BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, TRYING TO AVOID A HEAD-ON CONFLICT WITH THE DRAGON”



ing of such similar agreements between India and other allies in the Quad and Quad+ areas, which will be a good deterrent *vis-à-vis* China’s cyberspace offensive capabilities. The Quad can play a pivotal role in curbing China’s aggression in the strategic Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region (IOR), which is regarded as India’s backyard. It can not only contain the expansionist designs of China but can force it to mend its recalcitrant behaviour.

**Pressing concerns remain:** Before emerging as the answer to China’s irredentist claims, the Quadrilateral grouping must first get its own house in order. There remain several shortcomings and loopholes that need to be dealt with before it can “securitise” the Indian Ocean and broader Indo-Pacific region.

Mere lip service will not pay dividends if the trajectory of the Quad grouping is noted. Its members have mostly given lip service to the formalisation of this new alliance of military democracies. During the recent foreign ministers’ meeting of the group held in Tokyo, the four countries issued separate statements and only the US had the gumption to call out China for its illegal designs. Sadly and disappointingly, the rest of the members simply beat around the bush, trying to avoid a head-on conflict with the dragon.

The first thing that needs to be done is to stop wasting time and publicly name and call out the Chinese regime. Second, India’s extreme reluctance is coming in the way of upgrading the security grouping. New Delhi has refused to upgrade the talks among the Quad nations from the foreign secretaries level to that of the heads of the States. Further, India’s recent decision

that it will never be a part of any military alliance signals that the very idea of the Quad as a grouping of developed democracies with a military dimension is doomed to remain divided for the foreseeable future. Third, the Quad countries must upgrade the grouping to a full-fledged military alliance. Beijing must remain in no doubt that the Quad seeks to curb its growth and seeks to clip its imperialist wings. It must indeed live up to its reputation of being Asia’s NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation).

Fourth, four countries alone cannot contain the ambitions of the dragon. Hence, it is imperative that the Quad is expanded to include new members such as Vietnam, Indonesia, South Korea, Taiwan and so on to force the Chinese regime to recognise the might of democracies and dial down its rhetoric.

Fifth, the Quad and the Quad+ members must jettison their liberal outlook of the current world order and must embrace, according to the Samuel P Huntington concept, a “Clash of Civilisations”-led realist world order.

Although New Delhi has adopted a pragmatic foreign policy outlook, other countries like Australia, South Korea and Indonesia are still carrying the misplaced notion of a Nehruvian-era liberal world order, which has no place in a world dominated by great power competition.

Sixth, economic decoupling is highly important but in a globalised world, it is easier said than done. However, a number of measures can be taken to economically punish China. One such step can be establishing a Quad Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to attract companies to invest in large sums in the

Quad and its allies to bolster not only the efficiency of the grouping but also keep the global supply chain intact so that it is the liberal democracies that can call the shots in trade.

Finally, the newly-propounded vision of “*Atmanirbharta*” or economic autarky envisaged by the Prime Minister must not become a recipient of shunning globalisation and allies alike. It must not follow the painful and thoughtless import substitution principle followed in trade by the Nehru regime. The Government must be mindful of forging economic alliances, while at the same time balance the needs and requirements of “*Atmanirbharta*.”

What is required in this context is that India must become an export-oriented powerhouse. India constitutes just 1.7 per cent of the global export basket. Hence there is a dire need to raise that share, which in the long run will not only increase the country’s per capita income but will help in bridging the mammoth lacuna of inequality of wealth prevalent in Indian society. It will help in making India achieve its cherished idea of “Pax Indica,” which it wished to get for so long. Lastly, as Carl Von Clausewitz, a Prussian General said: “There are cases in which the greatest daring is the greatest wisdom.”

The pandemic provides a unique opportunity to make a new and robust alliance work. The Quad countries should concern themselves not only to military aspects but must also address chronic deficiencies which plague the international system. This alliance can hold the key towards developing a new prosperous and stable Indo-Pacific and world order.

(The writer is a columnist)

# Mix active and passive investment styles for high returns

Since market conditions are volatile, an experienced fund manager should have the expertise to switch between both the strategies to satisfy investors



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The science of stock market investing has long been a mystery for normal retail investors and there are numerous debates about which strategy is better. There are two divergent ideologies: Active and passive investment. The passive strategy, which is mainly followed by the legendary Warren Buffet, is a long-term one that mirrors a particular index where the returns are generated due to the natural upswing of stock markets, ignoring short-term setbacks and even sharp downturns. The simplest way of embarking on a passive approach is to buy an index fund that follows one of the major indices like the S&P 500, Dow Jones and BSE Sensex or Nifty in India. These index funds automatically adjust their portfolios to any new additions or deletions to the original

index in the same proportion. Passive investment is for conservative and risk-averse people who are looking for low-risk investment and are not overly concerned with seeing rapid gains. The idea behind this is the classic value investing style, which looks at long-term benefits of holding on to undervalued stocks with huge future earning power.

Active investing, on the other hand, aims to generate above market returns by an in-depth research and analysis and using the knowledge and expertise to manoeuvre into or out of a particular stock, bond or any asset, taking full advantage of short-term price fluctuations. Since it does not necessarily mimic any index, it provides the flexibility of buying stocks which could be hidden gems. Since active investors are not stuck with index stocks, they are able to exit any sector or stocks when the risk becomes too high and can also hedge their bets using various techniques such as short sales or put options. However, all the research overheads and frequent buying and selling make active investment very expensive. It is also a highly risky affair since higher returns can only be

expected when the going is good but things can go terribly wrong during market downturns and therefore, due to its volatile nature, the active investment strategy is better suited for people who are aggressive and risk-tolerant. In passive management, one rises and sinks with the ship whereas actively managed funds have the ability to provide greater opportunity for profit, albeit, increasing the risk. According to researchers who propagate the efficient market hypothesis (EMH), stock markets are efficient in nature and, therefore, actively managed funds cannot outperform them over a long period of time.

So does active portfolio management create value? The debate about the merit of active vs passive portfolio management is supported by numerous researches worldwide. In the mid-1960s, Eugene Fama adjusted the EMH and suggested three forms of informational efficiencies; the weak form, semi-strong and strong. This hypothesis suggests that investors cannot beat the markets by actively managing portfolios, as stock markets incorporate all the publicly available and privately-held information into

price movements. Therefore, fund managers cannot beat the stock markets and generate higher returns on a long-term basis. This theory is supported by many researches. In 1966, Treynor and Mazuy studied the performance of 57 mutual funds and their sensitivity to market fluctuations and concluded that maybe, no investor, professional or amateur, can outguess the market. A similar study in 1968 by Jensen found that average mutual funds produced low returns. In a study to understand the importance of selecting a good fund manager, Dunn and Theiser in 1983 found that there is only a 50-50 chance that an active fund manager can produce better returns than the bourses. This was reiterated by the Nobel laureate, Sharpe, in 1991 who showed that active fund managers cannot give better returns than passive investment strategies, mainly due to active management being expensive.

That brings us to the question, can anyone predict the stock market movements and earn abnormal returns? Nobel laureate Samuelson quotes Aristotle in explaining this, “The whole is greater than the sum of its

parts.” This means that an investor cannot do better than the bourses. Sharpe explains this on the basis of costs and says since both active and passive management generate equal returns before costs, active management loses as it is costlier, and therefore generates less after-cost returns.

Modern portfolio theory assumes that all market participants are rational in their investment behaviour and invest only in stocks at their fair value. However, in reality, the markets consist of various investors who are driven by different emotions, impulses, experiences, risk tolerance, timelines and legal constraints. Since efficient market hypothesis presumes that all available information is reflected in the stock process accurately and timely, no investor can earn abnormal returns. They can, of course, earn normal returns, which are the market returns. This assumption is used as an excuse by people who have faced losses during any meltdown, as they take a break in using their prudence, creativity and perception to invest. But there is always a gap between theory and practice. The question now arises: Are stock markets efficient? Do they reflect

all available information accurately and timely? There is evidence that market efficiencies may be lower in emerging markets that can give a chance to active fund managers to find arbitrage opportunities. After the 2008 financial crisis, the developed world has focussed on emerging markets, which have risen as engines for global growth, driven by younger populations, higher consumption levels, modernisation of infrastructure and integration with the world economy. According to UNCTAD’s *World Investment Report 2019*, FDI flows to developing economies rose by two per cent to \$706 billion in 2018. Developing Asia, already the largest recipient region of FDI flows, registered an increase of four per cent to \$512 billion, with positive growth occurring in all sub-regions. China attracted \$139 billion, an increase of four per cent. Flows to South-East Asia rose by three per cent to \$149 billion, a record level. This increase is for the third consecutive year. FDI flows to Africa expanded by 11 per cent to \$46 billion. Emerging markets, being informationally inefficient, may provide opportunities for excess returns and portfolio diversifi-

cations through market timing and stock selection.

A study by Kremnitzer shows that actively managed mutual funds outperformed passive ones. The researcher, using data from TD Ameritrade Research and the Standard and Poors NetAdvantage database on all existing US mutual funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs), dedicated to emerging markets, found that the before tax returns of actively-managed mutual funds yielded superior returns of approximately 2.87 per cent over passively managed ETFs. So, which investment style should be chosen? An apt strategy could be to combine both active and passive investment styles, depending on the stock market conditions. Active fund management could be especially beneficial when stock markets are volatile. Passive fund management is a better strategy where the stocks and markets are highly correlated and move together.

Ultimately, it comes down to personal priorities, timelines and goals. An experienced fund manager should have the expertise to switch.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)



# Despite protests, farmers selling produce in mandis

**RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI**

Despite protests over the new farm laws enacted by the Parliament, farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir are going to mandis in large numbers to sell their produce to procurement agencies, Government officials said.

According to the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, about \$4.46 lakh metric tons of kharif paddy worth ₹15,947 crore was purchased at the minimum support price (MSP) from 7.38 lakh farmers so far. Unlike before, the Government is releasing the daily procurement data to send a message to farmers protesting against the new farm laws that it has no intention of scrapping procurement at MSP.

In a related development, the Punjab Assembly session scheduled to begin on October 19 will now last for two days instead of one to bring a legislation to negate the farm laws enacted by the Parliament. Farmers and civil rights organisations have been holding protests since last month. As per the Punjab government data, 47,53,651 metric tonnes of paddy has been procured and payment of ₹5,246.27 crores has been made to 3,56,516 farmers. As per data, 47,34,791 metric tonnes paddy has procured by the Government agencies and 18,860 metric tonnes by the millers.

“So far, 96% of the total rice procurement of 3.72 million tonnes have come from Punjab and Haryana. Farmers are coming to mandis in large number in these two States to sell their produce at MSP,” officials said. The official said that the procurement will fur-



ther step up when purchase starts in major rice producing states like West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, where harvest hits the market later.

On the other hand, Bhartiya Kisan Union has alleged that farmers from UP, Bihar and Rajasthan are selling their crops to Punjab traders as there was a huge gap between the MSP in Punjab and these states. “Farmers in these states are selling their crop to Punjab traders at ₹900-1,000 per quintal. After paying the freight charges (₹200-250/ quintal), it costs the traders ₹1,150 per quintal. This means they make a profit of nearly ₹600-650/quintal,” they alleged.

Paddy procurement commenced in Punjab and Haryana from September 26 due to early arrival of the crop, while in other states it began from October 1. More than 80 per cent of the country’s paddy crop is grown in the kharif season. The Government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies undertakes procurement of paddy at MSP. “Paddy procurement in the 2020-21 kharif marketing season is going on smoothly in the procuring states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Chandigarh

and J&K,” the food ministry said. As per data, FCI has procured 4,82,656 MT in Haryana, 1545 MT in Uttar Pradesh and 1809 MT in Kerala and 25,551 MT in Tamil Nadu till October 7.

The government has set target of procuring 49.7 million tonnes rice in this kharif season - around 18% more than record procurement of 42 million tonnes in kharif 2019-20. For the current year, the Centre has fixed the MSP of paddy (common grade) at ₹1,868 per quintal, while that of A grade variety has been fixed at Rs 1,888 per quintal.

Till October 17, about 723.79 tonne of moong and urad at MSP value of Rs 5.21 crore was procured from 681 farmers in Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Similarly, 5089metric tones of copra (the perennial crop) having MSP value of Rs. 52.40 crore has been procured benefitting 3961 farmers in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In case of Copra and Urad, rates are ruling above MSP in most of the major producing States.

In case of cotton, state-owned Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has procured 165369 bales at MSP value of Rs 46697.86 lakh from 32994 farmers till October 17.

## Int'l Human Trafficking Case

NIA files chargesheet against 12 including nine Bangladeshis

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge-sheet against 12 traffickers, including nine Bangladeshis, in International Human Trafficking Case before a special NIA court in Hyderabad.

The case was registered by the NIA under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code including criminal conspiracy, sexual exploitation, exploitation of t r a f f i c k e d persons, forgery, using forged documents as genuine and relevant Sections of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and the Foreigners Act, 1946.

The nine chargesheeted Bangladeshis are Abdul Barik (absconding), Mohd Yousuf Khan, Bithi Begum, Mohd Rana Hussain, Mohammed Al Mamun, Sojib Shaik, Suresh Kumar Das, Mohd Abdulla Munshi, and Mohd Ayub Shaik.

Other three chargeheeted accused are Ruhul Amin Dhali of West Bengal, Asad Hasan and Shareeful Shaik of Maharashtra.

The case was initially registered as crime no. 477/2019 under various Sections of IPC and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act on September 21, 2019 at P a h a d i s h a r e e f Police Station, Hyderabad, following the arrest of 10 human traffickers by the Police on that day from two brothels at Jalpally village, Balapur, RangaReddy District and Mahimood colony, Balapur, in Hyderabad.

A 4 young Bangladeshi girl had also been rescued from the brothel.

## SC frowns at inordinate delay by Govt authorities in filing appeals

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court has deprecated the “inordinate delays” by government authorities in filing appeals before it, and said they “must pay for wastage of judicial time” and such costs can be recovered from officers responsible.

A bench headed by Justice S K Kaul said the apex court cannot be a place for the governments to walk in when they choose ignoring the period of limitation prescribed in the statute.

“We have raised the issue that if the government machinery is so inefficient and incapable of filing appeals/petitions in time, the solution may lie in requesting the Legislature to expand the time period for filing limitation for government authorities because of their gross incompetence. That is not so,” said the bench, also comprising Justice Dinesh Maheshwari.

“Till the statute subsists, the appeals/petitions have to be filed as per the statutes prescribed,” the bench said in its order while

dealing with an appeal filed by Madhya Pradesh after a

delay of 663 days.

The top court noted the explanation given in the application for condonation of delay which stated that it was due to unavailability of documents and process of arranging them and also that in “bureaucratic process works, it is inadvertent that delay occurs”.

“We are constrained to pen down a detailed order as it appears that all our counselling to government and government authorities have fallen on deaf ears i.E., the Supreme Court of India cannot be a place for the governments to walk in when they choose ignoring the period of limitation prescribed,” it said.

The bench said a “preposterous proposition” is sought to be propounded that if there is some merit in the case, the period of delay is to be given a go-by.

“If a case is good on merits, it will succeed in any case. It is really a bar of limitation which can even shut out good cases. This does not, of course, take away the jurisdiction of the court in an appropriate case to condone the delay,” it said.

The bench noted that such approach is being adopted and the object appears to be to



obtain a certificate of dismissal from the Supreme

Court to put a quietus to the issue and thus, say that nothing could be done because the highest court has dismissed the appeal.

“It is to complete this formality and save the skin of officers who may be at default that such a process is followed. We have on earlier occasions also strongly deprecated such a practice and process. There seems to be no improvement,” it said.

“The purpose of coming to this court is not to obtain such certificates and if the government suffers losses, it is time when the concerned officer responsible for the same bears the consequences,” the bench noted.

The top court said no action

is taken against the officers, who sit on the files and do nothing, and it is presumed that court would condone the delay.

“We are thus, constrained to send a signal and we propose to do in all matters today, where there are such inordinate delays that the government or state authorities coming before us must pay for wastage of judicial time which has its own value. Such costs can be recovered from the officers responsible,” the bench said.

It noted in its order that no doubt, some leeway is given for “government inefficiencies” but the sad part is that authorities keep on relying on judicial pronouncements for a period of time when technology had not advanced and a greater leeway was given to the government.

## Integrated flood warning system to be extended to Kolkata: Vardhan

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Integrated Flood Warning Systems developed for Mumbai and Chennai to cater to the needs of coastal cities will be extended to Kolkata, Earth Sciences Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Sunday.

Vardhan, who is also the Science and Technology Minister, said not only has the percentage of women contributing to science education at the school level increased significantly, but the percentage of women in government

laboratories has also increased.

In order to further improve the situation, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is increasingly boosting its interventions for the participation of women in S&T at multiple levels through various new schemes, Vardhan said.

“The Integrated Flood Warning Systems developed for Mumbai and Chennai are city-specific prediction systems to cater the needs of coastal cities which will be extended to Kolkata.

“For states like Assam and

Bihar that have river-based floods, the Central Water Commission generates flood warning based on the rainfall forecast provided by IMD,” Vardhan said.

He was addressing the sixth episode of the Sunday Samvad.

Sharing an update on the demonstration plant developed by CSIR’s Indian Institute of Petroleum and GAIL in Dehradun that he inaugurated in 2019, the minister said it can produce about 800 litres of BS-VI quality diesel per day from 1,000 kg waste plastics.

## BJP slams Cong for Tharoor’s criticism of Centre’s handling of Covid-19 at Pakistan event

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The BJP on Sunday slammed the Congress for its MP Shashi Tharoor’s criticism of the Modi Government’s handling of the Covid-19 pandemic at a Pakistan event and accused him of “demeaning and discrediting” India. The BJP wondered if Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wanted to contest elections in Pakistan.

Hitting back, the Congress said the BJP has always responded to substance and facts with “jumblebaazi” (rhetoric).

The BJP attacked Tharoor after he posted a link to the comments made online at Lahore Think Fest, which his office said was held last month. In the event, he criticised the Modi Government’s handling of the coronavirus and also spoke of alleged “bigotry and prejudice” against Muslims

during the pandemic.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra told reporters that it was “unbelievable” that a senior Congress leader and an MP like Tharoor can make such comments against India at a Pakistani forum. “He has demeaned India and projected the country in dim light,” Patra said.

In a swipe at Rahul, Patra said he and the BJP will now call him “Rahul Lahori.” He is already a “hero” in China and Pakistan, Patra alleged.

Referring to Tharoor’s remarks that Rahul had warned about the severity of the COVID-19 as early as in February and that he should be getting credit for it, Patra claimed that the Kerala MP was a close friend of the former Congress president and wondered if Rahul wanted to get credit in Pakistan and contest polls there.

## Sonia pans Centre for farm laws, Covid-19 management

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Sunday hit out at the Government over the three farm laws, the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic slowdown and alleged atrocities against Dalits, while claiming that Indian democracy is passing through its “most difficult phase”.

A “conspiracy” has been hatched to defeat the gains of the ‘green revolution’, she alleged, slamming the government over the three ‘anti-agriculture black laws’.

Addressing AICC general secretaries and state-incharges in a meeting which she presided over, Sonia also alleged that the country was being ruled by a Government which was “systematically” handing over the rights of citizens to a handful of crony capitalists.

This was the first meeting of general secretaries and state-incharges after a major organisational reshuffle last month. She said the BJP-led dispensation has attacked the very foundation of India’s resilient agrarian economy by bringing in “three anti-agriculture black laws”.

## Delhi Minister launches campaign against drug abuse

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi Women and Child Development Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Sunday launched a campaign against drug and substance abuse.

The AAP leader underlined the need for regular coordination of all stakeholders for a meaningful con-

tribution to make a difference at ground level.

AIIMS Professor Atul Ambekar introduced the project on enhancing treatment and rehabilitation services for the underprivileged homeless people affected by drug use where the focus will be on developing innovative modules of service delivery.

## Global speakers raise concern over climate crisis, affecting mostly poor

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Global speakers, ranging from Pope Francis to Prince William to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, have stressed on immediate action to curb the menace of climate crisis which, they said, has been hitting hard the poorest and most vulnerable who have done least to cause the problem.

“No country is immune from the climate crisis. But in every country, it is the poorest and most vulnerable who are hardest hit, despite having done least to cause the problem” said Guterres at the virtual event TEDxPratyek COUNTDOWN which witnessed over 5000 participants from schools and organizations across the Indian continent. The event was organized by the child advocates associated with PRATyEk.

The Countdown began with Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, speaking about “human transition and how our speed in innovation has been incredible but how it has also

accelerated our impact on the climate”.

Manisha (17), a child advocate and a panelist, said, “Time is running out. We as young citizens have a crucial role to play in combating climate emergencies or else face its consequences. Hence we have an obligation to act now”.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s message at the Daring Cities Conference held on October 7 was relayed at event. Kejriwal had talked about Delhi being the most polluted city and shared the measures taken to control it like mandating the odd-even scheme and thousands of baby steps leading to the city having a 25 per cent reduction in pollution.

Similarly, Pope Francis insisted to “focus on radical climate change before it’s too late”.

Former US Vice President Al Gore pitched for the notion of using our voice, finding our power, finding our passion to ensure this reminder will mark the beginning of a healthy, just, and sustainable future for all.

## Continuous effort needed to curb pollution: Javadekar

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Enlisting traffic, industries, waste, dust, stubble among a few others as major factors behind air pollution, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Sunday said the pollution problem cannot be resolved in a day and continuous efforts are needed to tackle each of the contributing factors.

Unlike in the past, this time he avoided blaming the Kejriwal Government in Delhi on the State Government and said that tackling pollution in Delhi is not just the responsibility of municipal corporations and the city government, “but the air shed is large and includes parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh.”

He was interacting with people during a Facebook Live event on Sunday. He said dust

is the major factor behind air pollution in north India. “The soil type in north India is alluvial. Therefore, there’s a lot of dust, which is the major reason behind air pollution in the region.

Dust suppressant and water sprinklers are used to tackle it... We have also been asking all agencies, (state) governments and corporations, to close unpaved roads,” said Javadekar who also launched the SAMEER App, developed by the Central Pollution Control Bureau (CPCB).

The app provides information air quality for more than 100 cities across India. Available on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store for both Android and iOS users, the Sameer India’s AQI application can be conveniently downloaded across personal mobile phones.



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The navies of India and Sri Lanka will conduct a three-day military exercise off Trincomalee beginning Monday, in a show of growing congruence in their strategic interests and operational convergence in the region, officials said.

The eighth edition of the annual SLINEX exercise will feature a series of complex drills including surface and anti-air weapon firings and cross deck flying operations with an aim to further fine-tune the “high degree” of interoperability between the two navies, they said.

The Indian Navy will deploy anti-submarine waKamorta and INS Kiltan as well as a sizeable number of advanced light helicopters, Chetak helicopter and Dornier maritime patrol aircraft in the

exercise, the officials said.

The Sri Lanka Navy will be represented by offshore patrol vessel Sayura and training ship Gajabahu.

The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Visakhapatnam in September 2019.

“SLINEX series of exercise exemplifies the deep engagement between India and Sri Lanka which has strengthened mutual cooperation in the maritime domain,” an Indian Navy spokesperson said. “Interaction between the two navies has also grown significantly in recent years, in consonance with India’s policy of ‘Neighbourhood First’ and the prime minister’s vision of Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR),” he said.

The Indian Navy has participated in a number of joint maritime exercises in the last few weeks including a three-

day drill with Japanese navy from September 26-28.

Last month, Indian Navy also carried out a two-day mega exercise in the Indian Ocean Region with the Australian Navy that featured a range of complex naval manoeuvres, anti-aircraft drills and helicopter operations.

In July, the Indian Navy carried out a military exercise with a US Navy carrier strike group led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off the coast of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The USS Nimitz is the world’s largest warship.

India has significantly expanded its deployment in the Indian Ocean Region with a plethora of warships and submarines following its border row with China in eastern Ladakh, ostensibly to send across a message to Beijing.

## Man killed after motorcycle collides head-on with speeding truck in Rajasthan

**PTI ■ KOTA**

A 40-year-old man died after his motorcycle collided head-on with a speeding truck in Rajasthan’s Kota district, police said on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Durga Shakti Singh, a resident of Jhalawar

city. The incident took place at BiriyaKhedi circle under Jhalawar Sadar police station on Saturday night, they said.

Singh died on the spot as he was crushed under the tyres of the truck. The truck driver fled the spot, leaving behind his vehicle, which has been impounded, Station House

Officer Babulal Meena said.

A case has been registered against the truck driver and efforts are being made to nab him, he said.

Singh’s body was handed over to his family members after a post-mortem examination this morning, Meena said.

Asked why he chose the Congress for his poll debut when he could have opted for a party like the RJD which has a wider presence in Bihar, the 37-year-old said, “It is not just me choosing the Congress, it is also the Congress choosing me”.

“The Congress noted the work I had done even when my father was part of BJP. I have worked here with my father since 2009. I am sure the party noticed my work in the previous elections and that is why they considered me for this ticket,” he said.

### In Patna not to avenge father’s LS defeat, but to fight for people: Luv Sinha

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Facing the daunting task of taking on a three-time sitting MLA, Congress candidate from Bihar’s Bankipur Luv Sinha on Sunday said he has decided to fight an “uphill battle” on his political debut by challenging the BJP in its bastion in order to prove his mettle.

The son of Bollywood superstar and former Union minister Shatrughan Sinha, Luv Sinha also said he is not contesting from the Bankipur assembly seat that falls in the Patna Sahib Lok Sabha segment to avenge his father’s defeat from there in the 2019 general elections. He asserted that he was fighting for the welfare of the people of Patna.

An actor-turned-politician like his father, he told PTI in an interview that the BJP was a changed party post-2014 and alleged that there were not many intra-party discussions now but only “orders” were given.

Asked why he chose the Congress for his poll debut when he could have opted for a party like the RJD which has a wider presence in Bihar, the 37-year-old said, “It is not just me choosing the Congress, it is also the Congress choosing me”.



# Trump leans into fear tactics in bid to win Midwest states

**Janesville (Wisconsin):** President Donald Trump leaned into fear tactics Saturday as he accused the Left of trying to “destroy the American way of life” in a late reelection pitch to voters in Michigan and Wisconsin — two Midwestern states that were instrumental to his 2016 victory but may now be slipping from his grasp.

In back-to-back rallies, Trump accused the left of wanting to “erase American history” and “purge American values.” He claimed, with no basis, that Democratic rival Joe Biden would put communities at risk.

Trump offered the dark message as he faces headwinds not only in national polling, which shows Biden leading, but also in key battleground surveys. His comments come after his campaign, with far less cash than Biden’s, largely retreated from TV advertising in the Midwest, shifting much of its money to Sun Belt states such as Florida, North Carolina, Arizona and Georgia, as well as Pennsylvania.

As he tries to energize his base and keep on-the-fence voters from turning against



him, Trump sought to paint Democrats as “anti-American radicals” and said moderates had “a moral duty” to join the Republican Party.

“The Democrat Party you once knew doesn’t exist,” he said. It was the same on issue after issue, as he claimed in

hyperbolic terms that Biden’s election would spur “the single biggest depression in the history of our country” and “turn Michigan into a refugee camp.” Addressing the coronavirus crisis, Trump warned that Biden would “shut down the country, delay the vaccine and prolong the pandemic.”

Public health experts say the nation would be in far better shape had Trump’s administration taken more aggressive action early on.

And while he repeatedly predicted victory, Trump seemed to grapple throughout

the day with the prospect that he could indeed lose in November.

In Michigan, he quipped that, in January, he “better damn well be president. In Wisconsin, he wondered how he would process a loss.

“Can you imagine if I lose? I will have lost to the worst candidate in the history of American politics,” he said. “What do I do?” Trump has continued to hold rallies despite the threat of the coronavirus, which hospitalised him for several days earlier this month. **AP**

## Outrage over mispronunciation of Kamala’s name, supporters launch online campaign

**Washington:** Outraged over the mispronunciation of Democratic vice-presidential nominee Kamala Harris’ name by a Republican Senator from Georgia, her supporters launched an online campaign with the hashtags ‘MyNamels’ and ‘IstandwithKamala’.

During an election rally of US President Donald Trump on Saturday in Macon City in Georgia, a battleground state, Senator David Perdue mispro-

nounced 55-year-old Harris’ name.

“KAH’ -mah-lah? Kah-MAH’-lah? Kamala-mala-mala? I don’t know. Whatever,” he told thousands of his supporters.

The mispronunciation outraged a large number of Harris’ supporters and her spokesperson Sabrina Singh said, “I’ll keep it simple: If you can pronounce ‘former’ Senator David Perdue, you can pronounce ‘future’ Vice

President Kamala Harris.”

Condemning Perdue, Amit Jani — the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAP) Outreach Coordinator of the Biden campaign — launched the ‘My name is’ campaign to “push back against the bigotry”.

BuzzFeed on Saturday reported that Perdue, who is seeking his reelection from Georgia, is facing backlash for mockingly mispronouncing Harris’ name. **PTI**

## Black officers break from unions over Trump reelection

**Philadelphia (US):** Police unions nationwide have largely supported President Donald Trump’s reelection, amid mass demonstrations over police brutality and accusations of systemic racism — but a number of Black law enforcement officers are speaking out against these endorsements, saying their concerns over entering the 2020 political fray were ignored.

Trump has touted his support from the law enforcement community, which includes endorsements from national, city and state officers’ unions — some of which publicly endorsed a political candidate for the first time.

He’s running on what he calls a “law and order” platform and tapping into a strain of anger and frustration felt by law enforcement who believe they are being unfairly accused of racial discrimination. **AP**

## UN arms embargoes on Iran expire despite US objections

**Tehran:** A decade-long U.N. Arms embargo on Iran that barred it from purchasing foreign weapons like tanks and fighter jets expired Sunday as planned under its nuclear deal with world powers, despite objections from the United States.

While insisting it planned no “buying spree,” Iran in theory can purchase weapons to upgrade military armament dating back to before its 1979 Islamic Revolution and sell its own locally produced gear abroad. In practice, however, Iran’s economy remains crippled by broad-reaching U.S. Sanctions, and other nations may avoid arms deals with Tehran for fear of American

financial retaliation.

The Islamic Republic heralded the end of the arms embargo as “a momentous day for the international community.. In defiance of the U.S. Regime’s effort.”

The Trump administration, meanwhile, has insisted it has re-invoked all U.N. Sanctions on Iran via a clause in the nuclear deal it withdrew from in 2018, a claim ignored by the rest of the world.

“Today’s normalisation of Iran’s defense cooperation with the world is a win for the cause of multilateralism and peace and security in our region,” Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter. **AP**

## 16 people killed after landslide hits passenger bus in Gilgit-Baltistan

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**

At least 16 people were killed on Sunday when a bus they were travelling in fell into a deep ditch after being struck by a landslide in Gilgit-Baltistan region, according to a Pakistani media report.

The bus was going from Rawalpindi to Skardu when it was hit by the landslide which was so massive that it pushed the vehicle into a deep ditch, killing at least 16 people in the Roundo area in Gilgit-Baltistan, the Radio Pakistan reported.

Landslides are common in the region which is famous both for its scenic beauty as well as treacherous roads.

# Pak fails to fulfil key mandates of FATF

## No action against Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan’s failure to fulfil six key obligations of the FATF, including action against two of India’s most wanted terrorists Maulana Masood Azhar and Hafiz Saeed, and the sudden disappearance of more than 4,000 terrorists from its official list will most likely lead to its continuation in the ‘grey list’ of the Global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, officials said on Sunday.

The virtual plenary of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), to be held on October 21-23, will take the final call on Pakistan’s continuation on its grey list after a thorough review of Islamabad’s performance in fulfilling the global commitments and standards in the

fight against money laundering and terror financing.

The FATF had given Pakistan a total of 27 action plan obligations for completely checking terror financing of which so far it has cleared 21 but has failed in some of the key tasks, an official privy to the developments said.

The mandates which Pakistan has failed include action against all UN-designated terrorists like Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Azhar, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Seed and the outfit’s operational commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi.

Besides, FATF has strongly noted the fact that there was sudden disappearance of the names of more than 4,000 terrorists from its original list of 7,600 under Schedule IV of its Anti Terrorism Act.

“Under these circumstances, it is almost certain that Pakistan will continue in the

FATF grey list,” the official said. Also, the four nominating countries - the United States, Britain, France and Germany - are also not satisfied with Islamabad’s commitment to taking strong action against the terror groups operating from its soil.

Azhar, Saeed and Lakhvi are most wanted terrorists in India for their involvement in numerous terrorist acts, including the 26/11 Mumbai terror strikes and the bombing of a CRPF bus at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir last year.

With Pakistan’s continuation in the grey list, it is increasingly becoming difficult for Islamabad to get financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the neighbouring country which is in a precarious financial situation. **PTI**

The FATF will also judge if competent authorities in Pakistan were cooperating and taking action to identify and taking enforcement action against illegal money or value transfer services and had proven implementation of cross-border currency and bearer negotiable instruments controls at all ports of entry, including applying effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions.

The country’s outstanding action areas also include effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions (supported by a comprehensive legal obligation) against all 1,267 and 1,373 designated terrorists and those acting for or on their behalf, including preventing the raising and moving of funds, identifying and freezing assets (movable and immovable), and prohibiting access to funds and financial services, another official said. **PTI**

## Car bombing in western Afghanistan kills 13, wounds 120



Afghan security inspects the site of a suicide car bombing in Ghor province western of Kabul, Afghanistan on Sunday

**AP**

**Kabul (Afghanistan):** A suicide car bombing on Sunday killed at least 13 people and wounded around 120 others in Afghanistan’s western Ghor province, officials said.

The head of a hospital in Ghor, Mohammad Omer Lalzad, said emergency staff were treating dozens of people with both serious and light injuries from the bombing. He expected the death toll to rise.

Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Aran said the car bombing struck near the entrance of the provincial police chief’s office and other nearby government buildings in the area.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Ghor, which comes

amid an uptick in attacks by the Taliban as representatives of the group and Afghan government officials hold their first-ever face-to-face talks in Qatar, where the Taliban have had a political office for many years. The negotiations are meant to end the country’s decades-long war.

Arif Aber, spokesman for the provincial governor in Ghor, said the blast was so strong that its sound could heard across Feroz Koh, the capital city of the province.

“It damaged and partially destroyed a few government buildings, including the police chief’s office, the women’s affairs department and the provincial office for refugees,” Aber said. **AP**

## FROM PAGE 1

## COMMUNITY SPREAD IN SOME DISTRICTS...

The Minister said this ought to serve as a good lesson for all the State Governments that were being negligent in planning for the festival season.

“This festive season, charity must take precedence over celebrations. My own celebrations too shall remain subdued due to the heart-rending impact of Covid-19 on lakhs of corona warriors across the world battling for us,” the Minister stated.

He also assured that there is no shortage of medical oxygen in the country and that the Government is ready to scale up the production capacity to meet any further increase in demand arising due to the pandemic.

## COVID PAST ITS PEAK, CAN BE CONTAINED BY FEB: PANEL

The committee, set up by the Department of Science and Technology, based its assertions using computer models to map the trajectory of the epidemic in the country, but the Union Health Ministry has always been sceptical about such findings.

The 10-member panel, which conducted a study on “Progression of the Covid-19 Pandemic in India: Prognosis and Lockdown Impacts”, has developed an evidence based mathematical model for Covid-19 progression. The national-level ‘super model’ is based on various parameters such as timing of the lockdown, alternative lockdown scenarios, impact of migrant workers returning to their homes, and future course of the pandemic including impact of not following safety protocols.

“If all of us follow these protocols, the pandemic can be controlled by early next year with minimal active symptomatic infections by February-end. We do not yet know the weather-specific perturbations of this pandemic (in general, viruses tend to be more active in colder environments) and the effects of possible future mutations in the virus.

“Hence, the existing personal safety protocols need to continue in full measure. Otherwise we will see a sharp rise in infections. Fresh lockdowns should not be imposed on district and State-wide levels, unless there is imminent danger of the healthcare facilities being overwhelmed,” Vidyasagar said.

“India has one-sixth of the world’s population (one-fifth excluding China), and one-sixth of the reported cases. However, India accounts

for only 10 per cent of the world’s deaths, and its case fatality rate of less than 2 per cent is among the lowest in the world,” it said.

“Avoiding congestion especially in closed spaces and special care of those above 65 years and children is even more significant. Personnel with co-morbidities need to be extra cautious,” it said.

The panel is yet to submit its report to the Union Health Ministry, which though have been rejecting such mathematical projections citing “lacunae” in such models as “they just focus on how the virus would behave and not take into account other parameters.”

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan during press briefings on the Covid-19 status had been stating that “instead of spending a lot of time on these models, focussing on containment, surveillance, testing and treatment will give better results”.

## BRAHMOS TEST-FIRED AS DRILL ...

Meanwhile, ramping up its preparedness, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Sunday successfully test fired the naval version of the indigenously designed and manufactured Brahmos supersonic missile. The missile was fired from the indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai in the Arabian Sea.

The missile hit the target with pin-point accuracy after performing “extremely complex” manoeuvres, officials said. “BrahMos as ‘prime strike weapon’ will ensure the warship’s invincibility by engaging naval surface targets at long ranges, thus making the destroyer another lethal platform of Indian Navy,” the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The missile is jointly produced by Russia and India and can be launched from land, sea, underwater and air and has already joined the Army and Navy. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO and the Indian Navy for the “successful” test-firing of the missile.

The chief of DRDO G Satheesh Reddy too congratulated the scientists and all personnel involved in the test-firing of the missile which he said will add to the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces in many ways. Incidentally, a new version of the Brahmos surface-to-surface missile was successfully test fired a few weeks ago. It can hit a target at more than 400 kms.

Since the stand-offs started in early May this year at the LAC and China bolstered its troop strength besides deploying missiles in the Tibet

region, India too has deployed some batteries of the Brahmos, Nirbhay and Akash missiles.

Stepping up the momentum of readiness, the DRDO in the last one month also tested Rudram -1. Also, the laser guided anti-tank guided missile and nuclear capable hypersonic missile ‘Shaurya’, were test fired. The successful test firing of Rudram-1 was seen as a major milestone as it is India’s first indigenously developed anti-radiation weapon.

Among other missiles tested, India joined the elite league of nations including US, Russia and China when it achieved success in indigenously developing hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle (HSTDV), which is essential to power cruise missiles and long-range missile systems. It can travel at more than three times the speed of sound.

Besides testing the new version of nuclear-capable Shaurya missile off Odisha coast, scientists also successfully tested the Nirbhay missile which has a range of 800 km.

## CHIRAG DOWNPLAYS ATTACK...

He added that he is committed to Modi’s mantra of development.

Modi is set to address a number of poll rallies with Kumar and other coalition leaders in the coming days in Bihar.

The BJP’s decision to fight the Bihar polls independently after walking out of the NDA, which includes the BJP and the JD(U), has muddied the waters ahead of the upcoming assembly polls. Paswan has been making determined efforts to target the JD(U) by putting up candidates against it, while his party is not contesting on seats where the BJP is in the fray. The BJP has in the last few days accused Paswan of trying to spread confusion by harping on his claimed proximity to its senior leaders and reiterated that Kumar will become the state’s chief minister again if their alliance gets the mandate.

On the other hand, Paswan has been claiming that an alliance of the BJP and the LJP will come to power after the polls. The Bihar Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in three phases on October 28, November 3 and November 7. The counting of votes will take place on November 10. **PTI**

## PRIME ACCUSED, FOUR OTHERS HELD...

Range DIG Subhash Chandra Dubey

assured that the other accused will be arrested soon.

The main accused will be interrogated to know which weapon he used to commit the crime and efforts will be made to recover it, the DIG said.

He said a year ago, a case was registered against Dharendra Pratap Singh for misbehaving with a supply inspector.

“A charge sheet in this matter was filed in a local court,” he said.

The DIG said SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams from Azamgarh and Mau districts are also engaged in arresting the rest of the accused. Assistance from the Bihar Police is also being taken, he said.

“The properties of the accused will be seized under the Gangsters Act,” Dubey said.

Dubey added that all evidence provided by BJP MLA Surendra Singh will be thoroughly examined.

The BJP MLA has been accused of backing the accused by the Congress. Lashing out at the BJP without naming the MLA, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Sunday asked the BJP to explain to whom it was backing.

“With whom the BJP government is siding in the Ballia incident,” she said in a Hindi tweet, adding that the BJP MLA is openly supporting the accused.

The MLA, who has been called to Lucknow by the party leadership, told PTI on Sunday, “I have been called by the party leadership in Lucknow and not summoned as reported by some news channels.”

“I will hand over all documents pertaining to the case, which are with me, to UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh and brief him about the entire matter,” he said.

Meanwhile, family members of the deceased heaved a sigh of relief following the arrest of Dharendra Pratap Singh.

The brother of the victim, however, said, “But Dharendra is a ‘dabang’ (strongman). We fear untoward incidents in future as well.”

He demanded stringent punishment for the guilty, security for his family, Rs 50 lakh assistance and a government job.

Among the others arrested in the case is Narendra Pratap Singh, the brother of main accused. He was held on Friday, along with one Devendra Pratap Singh.

On Saturday, Munna Yadav, Raj Pratap Yadav and Rajan Tiwari were arrested from Ballia. The Uttar Pradesh Police said on Saturday that it would invoke the stringent National Security Act (NSA) and Gangsters Act against the accused.

# Centre rejects U’khand Govt’s plan for use of Rajaji Park for Kumbh

## Rawat Govt wanted temporary facilities at forest for mega event early next year

**ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Citing forest laws, the Centre has rejected the Trivendra Singh Rawat Government’s plans to temporarily divert a patch of Rajaji National Park forest area in Uttarakhand for the construction of housing, toilets and parking facilities for the Haridwar Maha Kumbh pilgrims. The mega religious congregation is slated for early next year.

Calling it as “an exceptional case” the Uttarakhand Forest Department had sought the Union Environment Ministry’s nod to the transfer of 778 hectares of Rajaji National Park and Narendra Nagar Forest Division to the Kumbh Mela Samiti in order to initiate “temporary” construction for the devotees to the Maha Kumbh Mela.

The Rawat Government had initially estimated the arrival of 10 crore pilgrims to the Kumbh but because of the Covid-19 pandemic, officials now expect around 4 crore pilgrims to the holy town.

The temporary diversion of the Rajaji National Park was meant to ensure that pilgrims do not have any problems during the event. The State Government had sought a proposed area of the national park to remain with the Kumbh Mela Samiti for over nine months, from September 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021.

However, the Ministry rejected the proposal.

It said that the current laws do not permit such diversion of forest areas for non-forest purposes.

Refusing to list it to be taken up for discussion by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) members, it pointed out that Rajaji National Park is a tiger reserve with a significant population of tigers and its use for non-forest purposes is in clear violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

“Not an inch of any National Park can be put to use for non-forest purposes. Section 35 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act clearly forbids any such activity in a protected area,” according to Ritwick Dutta, environment lawyer and founder of Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE). Protected area refers to a National Park, a sanctuary, a conservation reserve or a community reserve notified by the State government.

Wildlife activists were already up in arms against the proposal which they said is in blatant violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 both of which stress on how forest zones are inviolate and that forest land cannot be diverted under any circumstances.

On its part, the State Forest Department has already started radio-collaring the elephants in the region to prevent man-animal conflict and keep them away from the 100-odd ghats in the holy town during the Maha Kumbh.



## TrendSlazer

### ‘People want to see real characters’

Actor **RAJKUMMAR RAO** once again plays a relatable character in his forthcoming film, *Chhalaang*, and says there is a demand for stories with real characters.

In the Hansal Mehta-directed social comedy set in Haryana, he portrays the role of a PT teacher who initially doesn’t take sports too seriously. Says he, “I was into sports. I did my schooling in Haryana, so I could relate to it. The PT teacher’s accent... there is a lot of nostalgia and fun.”

He further adds, “Audience want to see real characters. That’s why new generation writers and filmmakers are making films about real people and cultures.”



**‘I would be lying if I say that I am satisfied with my journey. There’s still a long way to go.**

**I really want to do good roles, especially the roles based in North India. I am from Delhi and I speak fantastic Hindi. It feels disappointing sometimes when makers do not cast me for such roles.’**

—Rahul Dev

Dancer-actress **NORA FATEHI**, in her latest social media post, has shared what she wants to do.

In a new Instagram post, Nora shared a picture. In the image, she looks gorgeous in a latex corset and harem pants. She completed her look with bright red hair, minimal make-up and ankle length peep-toe shoes. “I wanna dance and love and dance again,” Nora wrote alongside the image.

Up next for her is the Ajay Devgn-starrer *Bhuj: The Pride Of India*. The film tells the tale of Indian Air Force pilot Vijay Karnik.



### We are quiet but okay: Chrissy

Model **CHRISSY TEIGEN** has updated fans with information on how her family is coping after she lost her baby last month.

“We are quiet but we are okay. Love you all so much,”

Teigen wrote on Instagram. She also shared a screen-grab of some recent tweets from husband and singer John Legend.

“This is for Chrissy,” the singer had tweeted on Thursday along with a YouTube link of his performance of *Never Break At Wednesday’s Billboard Music Awards*.



# LORD RAM IS ONLINE

With most organisers getting permits late, they have decided to do away with the physical form of Ramlila. Some are recording at venues for a phygital experience. By **TEAM VIVA**

This time, there will be no merry-go-round, no cotton candy or shoot-the-balloon stalls in the expansive grounds as you watched Ravana stomp the stage in the distance. Neither is anyone reciting the *Ramayana* nor is a Bollywood import being brought in to portray Lord Ram. Did you ever imagine your navratras, the time that marks the beginning of festivities in India, to be so dull? Especially, when just a year ago, the vibe in the capital around this time was so different with episodes of the epic being played out in each neighbourhood. The virus has changed all that. The question then arises is why are traditional Ramlila committees not risking it although the Delhi Government has given the nod for setting up low-key celebrations, listing the necessary safety guidelines and protocols. Ashok Aggarwal, President, Luv Kush Ramlila Committee, says there is just too little time to put together everything. Besides, COVID protocols mean more expenses and without sponsorships, the budget has forced many committees to revise their plans.

Aggarwal says that he expected at least two months prior information from the authorities so that things could have been carried out smoothly within time. He adds, “Every year, we apply for our programme during January-February, and this year too, we did the same. I understand that there’s a pandemic at hand but the

government should have told us about the permit well in time. I got my ground booking letter the day before yesterday. How can they expect us to do the arrangements at such a short notice? COVID-appropriate management means a huge preparatory drill. There is no time for that scale.”

Mahadeb Das, founder member of Paschim Vihar Bengali Association, argues that given the pandemic, organisers should have been given permits long before to manage the show in the new normal. “Preparations begin at least two months or one month in advance. The stage, seating area, costumes, make-up, props and a lot of other minute details are taken into account, which demand time. And this year, we needed extra time to act as per the new normal with proper sanitisation and social distancing arrangements. However, that was not the case. And now, we are left with no time and would rather not pose a public health risk,” says he.

Aggarwal shares that the committee’s suggestion of streaming Ramlila live online wasn’t even taken into consideration. “Wrong move!” he laments.

However, with no Ramlilas taking place, there is Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra (SBKK) which doesn’t want to give a break to their year-long tradition. This time, too, it is organising its dance drama on Lord Ram, directed by Padma Shri Shobha

Deepak Singh. “We noted earlier that the government would give the permission to hold Ramlila with necessary precautions and social distancing. So we were ready with our stage, lighting, costume, choreography and every other detail,” says Singh, who was personally sure about the government’s decision as she claims herself as optimistic.

Right from the preparation and seating arrangement to safety and sanitisation, a lot has changed under the shadow of the pandemic. “We ensure that all our members are COVID negative, be it the backstage crew or the actors on stage. The show is directed in such a way that physical contact is minimal. The choreography and seating arrangement is done keeping social distancing in mind. We sanitise the whole set at regular intervals. Welcome to the new normal,” says she.

Just as 2020 is turning out to be the ‘digital year,’ festive events are also taking that route. The Sanskriti Kala Sangam has decided to go digital for the first time and has been shooting scenes for two days on the Yamuna bank. Singh, too, has agreed for the first time to record this year’s Ramlila at SBKK. “It’s important to be in sync with the changing times. We had earlier thought of an alternative in case we didn’t get the permission. It was to record the whole performance and upload the video on YouTube. Even now we’ll go ahead with this plan; the editing work is in process,” says she.

# Life returns to normal

Back in India after *Bellbottom* shoot, actor **LARA DUTTA** recalls how safe and sanitised the experience was

The studio behind films like *Coolie No. 1*, *Hero No. 1*, *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein*, and many more — Pooja Entertainment — became the first production house to start shooting during the COVID-19 pandemic. The film in question is actor Akshay Kumar starrer *Bellbottom*.

Directed by Ranjit M Tewari, the spy thriller is being shot extensively in Scotland. The young producers Jacky Bhagnani and Deepshikha Deshmukh are ensuring that the cast and crew feel totally safe on and off the sets. Shooting in the thick of a global pandemic sounds daunting but Lara Dutta recounts how the challenges during this unusual time were dealt with professionalism and personal attention.

She says, “Initially, it was normal to feel a little anxious considering that the COVID-19 cases are rising rapidly in India. But I felt immediate reassurance and confidence when I saw the many protocols in place and how correctly things were being handled. Ours was the first film to be shot after the lockdown but despite the nervousness, we were all eager to get back to work. We were all taken in a chartered flight to Scotland to contain the safety bubble. On landing, we were tested again and sent into a two-week quarantine. It did not however feel that we were imprisoned as we had the company of each other. Akshay and Deepshikha had brought their kids and so had I. It was like being with an extended family and since all of us had



tested negative, we spent time with each other and kept the circle tight and safe for each other and especially the children. So this gave me a sense of security.”

On about the thrill of returning to work, she says, “When the shooting finally began, I was the first actor on the sets. It was hugely gratifying. I felt grateful to be on a set where every single precaution possible was being taken, sanitisation was meticulous and the cast and crew were checked every day. Everything was secure, right from the food delivery on sets to the drivers who took us to and fro. Yes, we had to remove our masks during scenes but because we felt safe in a strictly regulated environment, we just wanted to do our job to the best of our abilities.”

When asked, what it was like to shoot in this kind of environment, Lara said, “It was a surreal experience and I hope this is not going to be the new normal. I felt immense gratitude towards every member of the crew for taking such good care of us. We have done some good work and am excited to see how the film turns out.”

The film written by Aseem Arora & Parveen Shaikh finds itself in the company of a handful of international, mega-budget films that got back on the floors during the pandemic such as Tom Cruise’s *Mission: Impossible 7* and *Jurassic Park: Dominion*, managing to shoot in an unprecedented environment.

## THE DURGA QUARTET

Artist **DIPTO NARAYAN CHATTOPADHYAY**’s dramatic Durga image captures the decisive moment in the narrative of the deity, who is an eclectic mix of the cosmic and the contemporary. By **UMA NAIR**

Durga, also known as *Devi* or *Shakti*, is more than the symbol you see in pandals. This warrior goddess, atop her *vahana* or a lion, often carrying weapons, is seen as a manifestation of Mahishasuramardini, slayer of the shape-shifting buffalo demon

Mahishasura. But there are many identities and emotions that she embodies, making her a complex and enriching version of femininity. It is her many facets that artist Dipto Narayan Chattopadhyay has captured over the years but he discusses four for Vivacity.



### DURGA 1

Dipto’s first Durga created in 2008 is a hybrid study of Mahishasur Mardini. “I created it in mixed media on board (In my technique layer upon layer colour, wastage paper and waste polythene carry bags),” says the artist. He chose to depart from convention and create a contemporary Durga which he exemplified in his own expressive, evanescent as well as delicately sculptural style. This image reveals the honesty and the elegant essence of his forms. He uses reductive geometry to maintain purity of form.

### DURGA 2

His second Durga is again a mixed media on board created in the year 2005. “This painting is in the collection of H.E.Traian Basescu (the former president of Romania),” says Dipto, who gave us a metallic relief flavour as he particularly balanced and beautifully carved her many arms and torso that convey both strength and suppleness. The metallic tint of an alloy itself has a glow to it even now and the carving is executed with the minute detail and fine modelling that are typical of the period. Everything from her jewellery to her finely chiselled eyes is precisely articulated.



### DURGA 3

Dipto’s third Durga is again a sculptural entity which he calls trash to treasure. “This is an example of art from recycled materials,” he explains. “I use recycled or reused objects to make alluring pieces of contemporary art and design and literally turn everyday trash into creative treasures... during last Navratri and Durga puja one of my demonstrations to my interior designing students was how to turn waste materials into precious art and design. I feel simultaneously they should learn the application of the seven elements of design, which are line, shape, space, value, form, texture and colour.” Durga here is seen standing on the head of the buffalo atop a flower. The figure of the demon is also rather whimsical, with his vivid expression and animated head. It’s rare to come across a sculptural Durga whose image is so lively and in which every element is treated with such skill and attention.



### DURGA 4

The artist’s last Durga is beauty condensed in contemporary choreography. Durga here is such a small, pretty and fragmentary entity. At one level, we may imagine that he is demonstrating this carefully modelled Durga with an embellished body of colours and contours. It is both fragile as well as foundational in energy, tone and spiritual fervour. Her face and her ornate dress perfectly capture her renewing prowess. It’s almost as if Durga is in the essence of things. The subject is the articulation of the spiritual glow, the depth of truth that comes from mythic history.

## WEBBED

### MY NEXT GUEST NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION (SEASON 3)

TV legend David Letterman teams up with fascinating global figures for in-depth interviews and curiosity-fueled excursions in this talk show. Starring Kim Kardashian West, Robert Downey Jr and Dave Chappelle, the series releases on October 21 on Netflix.



Gullestad and Thorbjørn Harr, the film releases on October 22 on Netflix.

### CADAVER

When a peculiar hotel dinner show draws crowds during a postapocalyptic famine, one family discovers they’ll pay much more than the price of admission. Starring Gitte Witt, Thomas



### BARBARIANS (SEASON 1)

Torn between the mighty empire that raised him and his own tribal people, a Roman officer’s conflicted allegiances lead to an epic historical clash. Created by Arne Nolting, Jan Martin Scharf and Andreas Heckmann, the drama releases on October 23 on Netflix.





# A PERMANENT ROUTE

The residents of Poonch in J&K are awaiting the completion of a road that does not get washed away during the winter or monsoon, says SYED BASHARAT UL HASSAN BUKHARI

In August last month, Jammu & Kashmir Chief Secretary, BVR Subrahmanyam shared that with the help of the centre, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh UT administration are planning to connect all picturesque tourist resorts through a new 600 km-long highway circuit. The ₹8,000 crore road project will aim at connecting Gulmarg with Kargil and Drass in Ladakh making it favourable for the tourism industry in the region. The news certainly brings hopes for the residents of the two newly-announced UTs, especially the ones dependent on tourism for their livelihood. He also shared that the Jammu & Kashmir administration has intensified construction of rural roads. This statement, in particular, brought back hopes for thousands of residents of a distant village in J&K's border district Poonch who have been waiting for a road for almost eight years now.

Located 250 km from Jammu, Poonch is known across the country for the cross-border conflict and the cease-

fire violations. Located few kilometers from the main town, Khanetar village was awarded the status of a 'Model Village' in 2012. A village is categorised as a Model Village if it has adequate physical and institutional infrastructure, in which minimum needs of all sections of the society are fully met; they live in harmony with each other, as also with the environment. The village is known to be progressive and dynamic. One of the requirements under physical infrastructure is that the village should be connected to the nearest major road by an all-weather road. Likewise, in case of a multi-hamlet village, all hamlets should be connected with each other by an all-weather road. But in this Model Village of Khanetar, the expectations are way different from the reality in which there are no such model roads.

As per the villagers, in 2008-09, the administration had started the construction of a 12-kilometer-long road from the Tanda Sokha Choha in Khanetar till the Charon Gali in Mendhar block. An



enormous amount of time was spent to cut the road, which was followed by the process of laying the blacktop. After completing mere four km, the construction came to a halt. It's been almost 12 years, and the work on the remaining eight km is yet to be completed. The vehicles continue to run on the unpaved road jeopardizing the life of the locals.

Road travel in hilly region is already considered a risky task. This risk increases several folds during extreme weather conditions like rainfall and snowfall. Undoubtedly, this road has become a threat to the life of travellers. Water flows right through the middle of this road, making it difficult to spot the giant potholes. A few years ago, five lives were lost in an accident on this road. However, no action has been taken by the concerned authorities.

"Work on this road was started under the Public Works Department, Roads and Building Department and the

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) scheme. The four km of blacktop road that was completed in 2016-17 has already worn-out and lies in a dilapidated condition. When we try to share the issue with the concerned departments, they tell us that they cannot do anything due to lack of funds," shared Sarpanch of Dapriyan Khanetar Panchayat, Jan Bahad.

This path affects a population of more than 20,000 people and is considered to be significant in connecting people residing in remote corners of this mountainous region. "This is an important route connecting Mendhar Tehsil to Charon, thereby making it easier for the people to reach Poonch City Headquarters," said Mohammad Arif Kohli, Panch of Dapriyan Panchayat. If the condition of the road is improved, then the lives of people living in distant and difficult areas like Kalaban, Kasbalari, Chhangan, Charon, Barela, Shindra Top and Pathana Teer will become less stressful. They will have access to health, education and other infrastructure available in city.

Nazir Ahmad, a driver by profession, while sharing his experience of driving on this dangerous road said, "Around 10 vehicles run from Tanda to Charon on this route and on an average, each vehicle needs repairment every third day. To repair the road, all the drivers have come together. In August, we had collected ₹35,000 and the basic work was done but soon the torrential rains that ravaged the entire city, mercilessly destroyed our efforts too."

It's not just the road, but in the absence of a bridge at the Tanda bus stand, vehicles have to wade their way through water and have to wait for long time due to high water level. Locals believe a bridge should also be constructed to ensure longevity of the road.

Many believe that roads and other ways of connectivity boost development in any region, particularly the mountainous ones. Here, more than the development, they make lives of the villagers a lot easier. The villagers of Poonch are awaiting completion of this road for the last 12 years. Now, as people welcome construction of highways connecting tourists to the unexplored beauty of this state, they are equally hopeful about the interest of the government in intensifying the construction of pending rural road projects. All they wish for is a road that stays with them for a little longer and doesn't get washed away in the next monsoon or winter season.

—Charkha Features



## Share the word responsibly

In a world where fake news is taking over the real one, it's time nations introduce mandatory spiritual practices for people to not let such content affect their mental peace, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

We all remember the terrorist attack on the office of the French satirical weekly newspaper, *Charlie Hebdo*, in 2015. The worldwide media was shocked and in awe. There was hardly any media organisation that did not express its opinion on the subject. A lot was said, discussed and deliberated on the potential reasons for such an event.

Of course, the views vary widely and due to that, many nations even snapped the diplomatic relationship between each other because of their differences of opinion. However, one thing that the incident surely reflected is that the power of the written or spoken word is tremendous! In today's world, where means of communication are growing faster and are highly developed, opinions easily take rounds over the internet and are capable of grabbing the attention of the masses.

This points towards the increasing need to use one's freedom and power of expression, after applying a sound judgement.



The newspaper's piece of caricature was adjudged as derogatory to a particular religion and its founder. And hence, the followers of that religion, at large raised their voice against the publication. However, there are many other publications or books or magazines, which may not be against any community in particular. This might lessen the chances of large-scale protests against them everywhere. There could be many writings or lessons, which, though not so glaringly and grossly opposed to the teachings of a particular Prophet, could exert a negative influence on the mind of large sections of society. Similarly, there could be a lot of content online which affects the minds of a high percentage of people who might interpret it wrongly. It could also include a lot of violence, sex, anger, etc, in them. The repetition of such material in one film after another sooner or later corrodes the moral fibre of man and corrupts his mind.

As a result, man's thinking processes are polluted and subsequently, the whole society reels under its damaging effects. Since it doesn't seem like mind-poisoning to people, they hardly raise any strong objection. Instead, the makers of such content always believe that the masses like it even though the fact is that it is these makers who have actually vulgarised the taste of the masses by means of their bizarre content. The same can be said about many written works, novels, adult magazines, films and such things that are viewed by a large number of people. For some, it might definitely affect or influence their certain intentions or even morals. Especially, in a world where fake news has become such a prominent player that it is becoming harder to differentiate between the real and fake one now, it's important that such content does not affect our mental peace.

It's only a process like meditation that can provide relaxation to people and have a health-promoting effect on all their physical and mental systems. Something as negative as such violent content is certainly injurious to one's mental health. It also could be dehumanising emotionally for many. And yet, we pay very less attention to how our actions need to function in cooperation with a healthy mind, body and heart. A control over emotions is the only way which can help the world understand humanity better and avoid making impulsive decisions like the terrorist attack at *Hebdo*.

It is high time that countries around the world pay attention to meditation and make it mandatory for everyone to devote complete attention to this problem lest all their efforts to establish values and to give a spiritual touch to people's lifestyle would go in vain. They would just be carried away by the typhonic effect of such a reading or viewing material.

# A reinvented apple

Supply brands are noticing the rise of tomatoes and turnips in vegetable gardening this year

In the year of the new Coronavirus, when new gardeners came out in droves to try growing their own vegetables, tomatoes were still king. But in a twist, the respect-seeking turnip actually turned some heads. Seed companies taking stock of what went well and what came out of the woodwork proclaimed the tomato as their top seller this year.

Specifically, the Bodacious tomato has been the best-selling vegetable seed. The large, disease-resistant but pricey hybrid indeterminate tomato, is good with sandwiches, burgers, salads and more. The Whopper tomato has been an annual centerpiece for many grocer brands.

The Large-fruited red cherry tomato that fills out on tall, indeterminate vines was crowned the No. 1 seller for many too. "It's an easy-to-grow variety that produces prolifically all summer long," the popular opinion.

Obviously, tomatoes aren't the only veggies that gardeners grow from seed. Cucumbers, peppers and beans also are near the top of consumer retail sales. The biggest surprise has been the Silky Sweet Turnip, which has been called "kind of mind-blowing!" Yes, a turnip. That easy to grow but hard-to-figure-out-what-to-do-with root vegetable.

The Silky Sweet Turnip is like a reinvented apple, whose sweetness "makes it seductively snacky." The most supplies of the turnip variety come from a breeder in Japan, who says, "If you think you've ever had a turnip before, this is going to change your mind. It's every-



thing you've had hoped for."

As far as flower seeds go, the eye-catching Zesty Zinnia Mix comes as the next top seller. While the most popular vegetable and flower seeds have remained consistent every year, sales of wildflowers and lettuce increased more quickly than

other seed types, which can be called as a reflection of gardeners trying their hands with easy and fast-growing plants.

Lettuce, she pointed out, can be grown in a windowsill container, so it works well in apartments as well as yards. Given that gardening has surged

in popularity this year, experts say that people have sought out an escape and productive activities during quarantine, and have found both in DIY gardening projects that connect them with nature while providing food and beauty at the same time.



Many brands have also seen an influx of new customers across all age groups. Supplies that get the family involved in gardening, such as seed starting kits, are a hit. "These customers are most excited about heirloom varieties and our salad bowl mix, which includes a blend of

mustard greens, arugulas and lettuces," said a brand. Some gardener's supply companies simply said that in more than 35 years of business, they have never been this "busy!"

Some of the most functional and preferred items are raised beds, tomato cages and water irrigation systems, folding benches, which help save a gardener's knees. Well, they sold surprisingly well. Currently, companies are running out of stock on some of its greenhouses, too. A home goods retailer saw a surge this year in consumers looking to grow their own food, including high demand for seed starting, raised garden beds and tomato cages.

A website called It's My Sustainable Life, about organic gardening and sustainable living, recently ran an article on how to save tomato seeds for future use. It said the founder grows up to 150 tomato plants every year in her garden. "My love of all things tomatoes has no bounds," the founder said and added, "Call me the crazy tomato lady."

And if we go back to looking at the tomatoes and their varieties — many swear by heirloom varieties, whose seeds have not been altered from their parent plants. The Brandywine, which dates back nearly 140 years, are becoming one of the favourites. Pruden's Purple, Black Krim, Cherokee Purple, Blue Beech paste and San Marzano are among the increasingly chosen ones. Others are some hybrid indeterminate varieties such as Sungold Cherry and Black Cherry — as some call them, the flavour superstars! —AP

If you are not willing to risk the usual, you will have to settle for the ordinary.  
—Jim Rohn

### HEART DEFECTS NOT LINKED TO COVID-19

People born with heart defects had a lower-than-expected risk of developing moderate or severe COVID-19 symptoms, as per a study conducted on 7,000 patients.

Congenital heart defects are present at birth and can affect the structure of a baby's heart and the way it works, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Throughout the pandemic, evidence has shown that individuals with heart disease have a higher risk of life-threatening illness and complications from COVID-19. But the impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection on individuals with congenital heart defects, who are generally younger than those with adult-onset heart disease, was unknown.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, many feared that congenital heart disease would be as big a risk factor for severe COVID-19 as adult-onset cardiovascular disease," said co-leader of the study Matthew Lewis, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.



### COVID PATIENTS' ANTIBODIES AFFECT IMMUNITY

Researchers have found that people seriously ill with COVID-19 have antibodies that are blocking so-called interferons, which are an important part of the body's immune mechanism.

While most people dying from COVID-19 are elderly, up to five to 10 per cent of younger adults and children can also be seriously infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the study, published in the journal *Science*, reported.

Researchers from all over the world have tried to determine why some people become very ill and others are barely affected by COVID-19. "Deaths and severe Covid-19 are more frequent among men than women. Our study has shown that men have more of these antibodies," said study author Eystein Husebye from the University of Bergen in Norway.

Husebye was involved in this study because he has had long experience with patients suffering from the immune disease APS1, which is a serious, but rare, immune disease. Patients with APS1 have a high concentration of antibodies against interferons.



### BLOOD TEST PREDICTS COVID'S SEVERITY

In the fight against the novel Coronavirus, scientists have developed a score that can accurately predict which patients will develop a severe form of COVID-19.

The measurement, called the Dublin-Boston score, is designed to enable clinicians to make more informed decisions when identifying patients who may benefit from therapies, such as steroids, and admission to intensive care units.

Until this study, no COVID-19-specific prognostic scores were available to guide clinical decision-making. As per the findings, published in the journal *EBioMedicine*, the Dublin-Boston score can now accurately predict how severe the infection will be on Day Seven after measuring the patient's blood for the first four days.

"The Dublin-Boston score is easily calculated and can be applied to all hospitalised COVID-19 patients," said study author Gerry McElvaney from the RCSI University in Ireland. The blood test works by measuring the levels of two molecules that send messages to the body's immune system and control inflammation.



### EXCESS HAND HYGIENE CAUSES SKIN PROBLEMS

The COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder to the fact that one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of the virus is also one of the simplest: Hand hygiene.

Amid the pandemic, washing hands and maintaining hand hygiene has become all the more important. As per experts, it is the first line of defence against coronavirus till the time a vaccine is developed. However, excess of everything has its repercussions.

Dermatologists have observed an influx of cases coming with adverse effects of following excessive hand hygiene.

Nandini Barua, a senior consultant in the department of dermatology at Paras Hospital, Gurugram, said that people have developed an obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) for rigorous hand hygiene, suffering several skin ailments as a result.



### POOR DIET TOP CONTRIBUTOR TO HEART DEATHS

Poor diet is a top contributor to heart disease deaths around the globe, say researchers, adding that more than two-thirds of the deaths from heart disease worldwide could be prevented with healthier diets.

The findings, published in the *European Heart Journal*, highlights the importance of affordable and sustainable healthy diets for all.

"Our analysis shows that unhealthy diets, high blood pressure, and high serum cholesterol are the top three contributors to deaths from heart attacks and angina — collectively called ischaemic heart disease," said study author Xinyao Liu from the Central South University in China.

"This was consistent in both developed and developing countries," Liu added.

For the results, the research team analysed data provided by the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017, which was conducted in 195 countries between 1990 and 2017.





# SUPERB THRILLER

## Kings XI pip MI in second super over

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kings XI Punjab showed nerves of steel as they defeated defending champions Mumbai Indians in an edge-of-the-seat IPL game that was decided via a second Super Over for the first time in the history of the tournament here on Sunday.

Kieron Pollard helped MI score 11 for one in the second Super Over bowled by Chris Jordan after both the teams ended at the same score in the regulation 20 overs as well as in the first Super Over.

Chris Gayle then hit the first ball bowled by Trent Boult for a six before Mayank Agarwal cracked successive fours as KXIP notched up an incredible win to keep their IPL play-off hopes alive.

This was after Jasprit Bumrah dismissed Nicholas Pooran and KL Rahul in the first Super Over to leave MI with a six-run target.

However, Mohammed

Shami bowled an equally incredible over as KXIP defended the five runs to take the match to a second Super Over.

Earlier, Rahul smashed a scintillating 51-ball 77 to take KXIP on the brink of a successful chase but team-mates Deepak Hooda and Jordan could only level the scores at 176 for six in the stipulated 20 overs.

Bumrah (3/24) snared three crucial wickets during the regulation 20 overs after opener Quinton de Kock (53 off 43) hit his fourth half-century of the season to restrict KXIP.

Opting to bat, MI were reduced to 43 for 3 but opener de Kock scored a 43-ball 53 and shared a 58-run stand with Krunal Pandya (34) to steady the ship.

Pollard (34 not out off 12) and Nathan Coulter-Nile (24 not out off 12) then provided the late flourish, adding 57 off 21 balls in the death overs as MI posted 176 for 6.

Chasing 177, Rahul, who currently holds the orange cap, blasted seven fours and three sixes in his knock to cross 500 runs this season and almost single-handedly take KXIP home. He, alongwith Gayle (24), took KXIP to 75 for one in nine overs after losing Mayank Agarwal (11) early in the innings. However, Gayle was sent packing by Rahul Chahar in the 10th over and then Bumrah returned to dismiss Nicholas Pooran (24 off 11) to leave Punjab at 108 for 3. Rahul then pulled Chahar for a six to bring up yet another fifty but the leg-spinner made a good comeback one ball later, removing Glenn Maxwell at the other end as KXIP slipped to 115 for four in 14th over.

Rahul added another 38 with Deepak Hooda (23 not out) but he was done in by a yorker from Bumrah in the 18th over.

Needing 24 off 15 balls, Hooda and Chris Jordan (13)

tied the match.

Earlier, de Kock hit three fours and as many sixes for his fourth fifty of the tournament to anchor the innings before Pollard and Coulter-Nile lifted MI past the 170-run mark.

The pace duo of Arshdeep Singh (2/35) and Mohammed Shami (2/30) provided the early breakthroughs, dismissing Rohit Sharma (9) and Suryakumar Yadav (0) respectively to reduce MI to 24 for two in 3.3 overs.

Ishan Kishan then became Arshdeep's second victim when he was caught at deep third man as MI ended the power-play at 43 for 3. Promoted up the order, Krunal deposited Chris Jordan's third ball over deep extra cover and then picked up a four off Glenn Maxwell in the next over.

With the spin duo of M Ashwin and Ravi Bishnoi bowling in tandem, MI picked up the odd boundaries but couldn't completely free their arms to play the shots.

# CSK, RR on edge of the cliff

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Sailing in the same boat, Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals lock horns in the Indian Premier League here on Monday with the knowledge that any more slip-up could dash their slim play-off hopes.

Both CSK and RR have failed to live up to the expectations so far and are placed sixth and seventh on the points table in the eight-team competition.

The two struggling teams have six points from nine games, but the defending champions are placed above on the net run rate.

With just five matches each remaining for both the teams, the

road ahead is definitely going to be a tough and tricky one, and they know that they cannot afford any more lapses from hereon. Both teams lost their respective last matches on Saturday. While the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led side lost to table toppers Delhi Capitals by five wickets, Rajasthan Royals were defeated by seven wickets by Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The blow for CSK is bigger as their influential all-rounder, Dwayne Bravo, has been ruled out for at least a few days due to a groin injury.

After bringing life to their campaign with a win over Sunrisers Hyderabad, courtesy

Dhoni's smart captaincy, CSK were done in by sloppy fielding and Shikhar Dhawan's scintillating 101-run knock while chasing a competitive 180-run target.

Dropped a number of times, Dhawan hit his maiden IPL hundred while Axar Patel smashed three sixes in the final over bowled by Ravindra Jadeja, to hand CSK their sixth loss.

It was a nightmarish outing for CSK fielders as they dropped Dhawan on 25 and 79, apart from failing to latch on to a half chance and a run-out opportunity, and Dhoni would certainly seek improvement in that department.

“Shikhar's wicket was impor-

tant but we dropped him quite a number of times. If he keeps batting, he will keep the strike rate high. Also the wicket played better in the second half, but we can't take the credit away from Shikhar,” Dhoni had said after the last game.

RR also find themselves in a very difficult situation and desperately need to explore ways to close down games.

One good thing for RR is the return to form of their skipper Steve Smith, who made 57 on Saturday, but star all-rounder Ben Stokes is yet to fire after having joined the team late. While Jos Buttler has not been consistent enough with the bat.

# SUPER EFFORT: Ferguson's fiery spells earn KKR win



Lockie Ferguson celebrates the wicket of David Warner during IPL match at Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Sunday | IPLT20.com

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Fast and furious Lockie Ferguson produced one of the most incredible bowling performances of this IPL edition to lead Kolkata Knight Riders to a thrilling Super Over win over Sunrisers Hyderabad, here on Sunday.

Ferguson proved to be the “Knight in Shining Armour” with his storehouse of variation as he dismissed David Warner and Abdul Samad in the Super Over, leaving KKR with only a three run-target to chase.

This was after David Warner's unbeaten 47 and 18 runs off the final Andre Russell over saw Sunrisers level the scores at 163 with KKR in the stipulated 20 overs.

Ferguson was magnificent during the regulation 20 overs also as his 3/15 in 4 overs had SRH in all sorts of trouble. He bowled a first spell in which he dismissed Kane Williamson with a short ball, got rid of Priyam Garg with a slower one and saw the back of Manish Pandey with a yorker.

His five wickets in the game got KKR the much-needed two points to take their tally

to 10 while Sunrisers stay put on 6 points and are in serious danger of missing the play-offs.

Earlier, Ex-captain Dinesh Karthik's carefree approach was well complemented by skipper Eoin Morgan's grace as Kolkata Knight Riders managed a par 163 for five after being put into bat. Karthik (29 not out) and Morgan (34 off 23 balls) joined forces at 105 for four and added 58 runs in the last five overs after 150 was looking a tall-order at one stage. Morgan's innings had three fours and a flicked six over mid-wicket off Basil Thampi while Karthik hit a couple of sixes and equal number of boundaries.

T Natarajan (2/40) was the most successful bowler but it was Vijay Shankar (1/20 in 4 overs) who was the most economical. Rahul Tripathi (23 off 15 balls) gave the first charge in the Powerplay as he hit Natarajan for a straight six and a pulled boundary while Shubman Gill (36 off 37 balls) struggled to time the ball, save an over from Thampi when he got three successive fours.

Tripathi couldn't maintain the momentum as an ugly

cross-batted hoick off Natarajan only ended in the balls flying off.

Gill however after those flurry of fours found it difficult to up the ante. Nitish Rana (29 off 19 balls) looked in good nick after a gap of few games.

He straight away took on rival team's best bowler Rashid Khan and deposited him straight for a six and also found a couple of boundaries.

But Gill's inability to rotate strike did put KKR in a spot of bother as he tried an inside out lofted shot off Rashid. Priyam Garg, running towards his left from long-off, took a brilliant diving catch to see the opener's dismissal. Gill's dismissal was followed by Rana's who mistimed a shot off Vijay Shankar and was again caught by Garg, who ran forward to take a well-judged catch.

Andre Russell's (9 off 11 balls) season just got from bad to worse as his shot off Natarajan's slower one landed in the hands of Shankar at deep mid-wicket boundary. From a stable 87 for 1 in the 12th over, KKR had slumped to 105 for 4 at the end of the 15th over.

**मिशन शक्ति**  
गांधी सुरक्षा  
गांधी सम्मान  
गांधी स्वावलम्बन

**शिक्षा व्यवस्था में बढ़ते कदम**  
**वर्चुअल स्कूल**

**'मिशन शक्ति' के अन्तर्गत महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण का प्रसारण**  
एवं कक्षा-10 एवं 12 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए दूरदर्शन, उत्तर प्रदेश (DD UP) चैनल और कक्षा-9 एवं 11 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए चैनल e vidya-9 एवं e vidya-11 पर शैक्षणिक वीडियो के माध्यम से 19.10.2020 से 23.10.2020 तक ई-लर्निंग प्रसारण का नया चरण

दूरदर्शन, उत्तर प्रदेश (DD UP) चैनल पर यू.पी. बोर्ड की कक्षा-10 एवं 12 हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी								
दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-10				कक्षा-12			
	अपराह्न 1:00 से अपराह्न 1:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 3:30 से अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:30 से सायं 5:00 बजे तक	सायं 6:00 से सायं 6:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 1:30 से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 2:30 से अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:00 से अपराह्न 4:30 बजे तक	सायं 5:30 से सायं 6:00 बजे तक
19-10-2020 सोमवार	मिशन शक्ति महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-4 मेधाई मुखुट भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-चतुर्थः पाठः प्रबुद्धो चागीर्ण भाग-1	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 लोकतंत्र के परिणाम भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-9 अवकल समीकरण भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-9 अवकल समीकरण भाग-2	गणित अध्याय-9 अवकल समीकरण भाग-3	गणित अध्याय-9 अवकल समीकरण भाग-4
20-10-2020 मंगलवार	मिशन शक्ति महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-2	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 लोकतंत्र के परिणाम भाग-2	संस्कृत अध्याय-पाठ-वीरसूक्त महात्मनः संस्मरणानि भाग-1	अंग्रेजी (English Grammar) (Helping Verbs or Auxiliary Verbs) Part-1	गणित अध्याय-9 अवकल समीकरण भाग-5	हिन्दी अध्याय-खण्ड-ख भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-खण्ड-ख भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-खण्ड-ख अलंकार भाग-1
21-10-2020 बुधवार	मिशन शक्ति महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-3	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-English Prose Socrates, Part-1	वाणिज्य अध्याय-5 विनिमय-विपत्र भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-13 पृथ्वीय क्षेत्रफल और आयतन, भाग-1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-11 एल्कोहॉल, फीनॉल एवं ईथर, भाग-1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-11 एल्कोहॉल, फीनॉल एवं ईथर, भाग-2	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-11 एल्कोहॉल, फीनॉल एवं ईथर, भाग-3	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-11 एल्कोहॉल, फीनॉल एवं ईथर, भाग-4
22-10-2020 गुरुवार	मिशन शक्ति महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-4	हिन्दी अध्याय-1 निबन्ध रचना भाग-1	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 लोकतंत्र के परिणाम भाग-3	अंग्रेजी (English Grammar) (Direct and Indirect Narration), Part-1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-11 एल्कोहॉल, फीनॉल एवं ईथर, भाग-5	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-11 एल्कोहॉल, फीनॉल एवं ईथर, भाग-6	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-11 एल्कोहॉल, फीनॉल एवं ईथर, भाग-7	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-10 तरंग प्रकाशिकी भाग-1
23-10-2020 शुक्रवार	मिशन शक्ति महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-5	संस्कृत अध्याय-पाठ-वीरसूक्त लख्ख देव परीक्षा भाग-3	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-2 आय व्यव और बचत भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-4-काव्य विहारीताल भक्ति-नीति, भाग-1	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-10 तरंग प्रकाशिकी भाग-2	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-10 तरंग प्रकाशिकी भाग-3	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-10 तरंग प्रकाशिकी भाग-4	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-10 तरंग प्रकाशिकी भाग-5

**नोट :** DD-UP, अब आप इन चैनलों पर भी देख सकते हैं, डी डी फ्री डिश-45, डेन-137, नेटविजन-138, डिश टीवी-229, लखनऊ 9-237, बिग टीवी-250, एयरटेल-400, हायवे-400, सिटी केबल-671, वीडियोकॉन डी 2 एच-889, टाटा स्काई-1195

चैनल e vidya-9 पर कक्षा-9 एवं चैनल e vidya-11 पर कक्षा-11 यू.पी. बोर्ड हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी				
दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-9		कक्षा-11	
	प्रातः 8:30 से प्रातः 9:00 बजे तक	प्रातः 9:00 से प्रातः 9:30 बजे तक	सायं 6:30 से सायं 7:00 बजे तक	सायं 7:00 से सायं 7:30 बजे तक
19-10-2020 सोमवार	विज्ञान, अध्याय-9 बल तथा गति के नियम भाग-1/3	हिन्दी, अध्याय-3 रहीम के दोहे (हिन्दी काव्य) भाग-1/2	हिन्दी, अध्याय-खण्ड-क काव्य साहित्य प्रेमचन्द-बलिदान (गद्य कथा साहित्य, काव्य संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका), भाग-1/1	जीव-विज्ञान, अध्याय-3 इकाई-1 सजीव जगत में विविधता वनस्पति जगत, भाग-1/3
20-10-2020 मंगलवार	हिन्दी अध्याय-3, संस्कृत व्याकरण शब्द-रूप एवं वाचु-रूप (व्याकरण) भाग-1/2	वाणिज्य, अध्याय-6 प्रारम्भिक लेखों की पुस्तकें खतीनी तथा तलपट भाग-1/2	वाणिज्य अध्याय-इकाई-1, व्यवसाय के आधार व्यवसाय की प्रकृति और उद्देश्य भाग-3/3	हिन्दी अध्याय-4 खण्ड-क (गद्य) श्यामसुन्दर दास-भारतीय साहित्य की विशेषताएं संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका, भाग-2/2
21-10-2020 बुधवार	विज्ञान, अध्याय-9 बल तथा गति के नियम भाग-2/3	हिन्दी, अध्याय-3 रहीम के दोहे (हिन्दी काव्य) भाग-2/2	हिन्दी, अध्याय-4 खण्ड-क (गद्य) श्यामसुन्दर दास-भारतीय साहित्य की विशेषताएं संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका, भाग-2/2	जीव-विज्ञान, अध्याय-इकाई-1 सजीव जगत में विविधता वनस्पति जगत, भाग-2/3
22-10-2020 गुरुवार	हिन्दी अध्याय-4 संस्कृत अनुवाद, व्याकरण भाग-1/2	संस्कृत, अध्याय-4, खण्ड-ख व्याकरण-कारक एवं विभक्ति (व्याकरण अनुवाद तथा रचना) भाग-1/1	जीव-विज्ञान अध्याय-इकाई-1, सजीव जगत में विविधता वनस्पति जगत, भाग-3/3	हिन्दी, अध्याय-5 खण्ड-ख (गद्य) सरदार पूर्ण सिंह-आचरण की सम्मता (गद्य कथा साहित्य काव्य) भाग-1/2
23-10-2020 शुक्रवार	विज्ञान, अध्याय-9 बल तथा गति के नियम भाग-3/3	हिन्दी, अध्याय-4 संस्कृत अनुवाद, व्याकरण भाग-2/2	हिन्दी, अध्याय-5 खण्ड-ख (गद्य) सरदार पूर्ण सिंह-आचरण की सम्मता (गद्य कथा साहित्य काव्य), भाग-2/2	जीव-विज्ञान, अध्याय-4 इकाई-1 सजीव जगत में विविधता वनस्पति जगत, भाग-1/3

**नोट:** e vidya-9, जियो टीवी एप, डिश टीवी चैनल-950, वीडियोकॉन चैनल-447, एयरटेल चैनल-440, फ्री डिश-128 तथा टाटा स्काई चैनल-756 पर उपलब्ध है। e vidya-11, जियो टीवी एप, डिश टीवी-952 तथा NCERT OFFICIAL YouTube पर उपलब्ध है।

**माध्यमिक शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश की एक पहल**