

OPINION 8

LESSONS FROM
SHAHEEN BAGH

WORLD 11

THAI AUTHORITIES SEEK TO
CENSOR PROTEST COVERAGE

SPORT 14

VAN DIJK NEEDS
RIGHT KNEE SURGERY

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

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DDLJ IS
TIMELESS:
KAJOL
13 VIVACITY

CAPSULE

2 DIE DURING CLEANING
SEPTIC TANK IN CITY

New Delhi: Two persons died during cleaning of a septic tank at a factory in Delhi's Azad Pur area on Sunday. Factory owner Rajender Soni (63) and contractor Pramod Dangi (35), both from Delhi, have been arrested.

DELHI RIOTS: MAN DENIED
BAIL FOR COP'S MURDER

New Delhi: A Delhi court Monday dismissed a bail application of an accused in the murder case of of Head Constable Ratan Lal during the communal violence in north east Delhi in February, saying he was a "flight risk".

2,500 MARSHALS FOR
ANTI-POLLUTION DRIVE

New Delhi: The Delhi Government will deploy 2,500 environment marshals across the city to generate awareness about its recently launched anti-pollution campaign, "Red Light On, Gaadi Off". Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Monday. These marshals will be deployed at 100 traffic signals across Delhi's 11 districts, he said.

Eye on China! Oz too part of Malabar drill

It is a sign of closer ties among Quad nations against China's expansionist design

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sending a strong message to China by brushing aside its objection, the Malabar series of naval exercises this year will see the participation of Australia too, a clear signal about the forging of closer cooperation among the Quad nations against the backdrop of Beijing's expansionist designs.

So far, only India, the US and Japan used to take part in the annual exercise. Australia had participated in the exercise in 2007 as a non-permanent member. But, subsequently, China claimed that with Australia joining the exercise, the Quad is getting militarised and may pose a threat to Chinese interests especially in the Pacific region.

Given Beijing's reservations, India had been withholding Australia's participation since then despite the latter's keenness. Not anymore. The Defence Ministry on Monday made it clear: India seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia, "Exercise Malabar 2020" will see the participation of the Australian Navy.

It also said that the mem-



bers collectively support a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules-based international order. The "non-contact — at sea" format-based exercise is expected to be held in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. Sources said it was likely to be held in two phases in the first week of November and then after a fortnight.

The proposal for Australian participation was mooted three years back and since then talks were on at various levels of the Government. The exercise will strengthen the

coordination between the Navies of the participating countries, officials said.

The exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral Indian Navy-US Navy exercise. Japan joined the exercise in 2015.

The move to include Australia comes at a time when India and China are engaged in a military stand-off for the past more than five months at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. The two sides have held several rounds of talks to break the stalemate but no success so far.

Moreover, the announce-

ment comes days after Foreign Ministers of Quadrilateral Strategic Dialogue or Quad met in Tokyo.

The issue of Australia's inclusion in the Malabar exercise had come up for discussion there between S Jaishankar, Mike Pompeo (US), Marise Payne (Australia) and Toshimitsu Motegi (Japan). Japan and the US had been pressing for Australia's inclusion for the past few years.

Also, the nod for Australian participation by India comes days before the annual 2+2 talks between the

Foreign and Defence Ministers of India and US are likely to take place in New Delhi on October 26-27.

In his opening remarks at the Quad meeting on October 6, Jaishankar had said New Delhi is committed to peaceful resolution of disputes, rules based world order and respect for territorial integrity.

He also said the four democratic countries favour a free and open India-Pacific region. Jaishankar, however, refrained from naming China.

This was the second Minister level meeting of the

Quad countries in the last two years. Moreover, the two-day conclave was the first against the backdrop of ongoing tension between India and China at the LAC in Ladakh and coronavirus pandemic.

Jaishankar had held a two-hour long bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on September 10 in Moscow to end the logjam at the border.

Spelling out India's stand, he said it was for advancing the security and economic interests of all countries having legitimate and vital interests in the

region. "It is a matter of satisfaction that the Indo-Pacific concept has gained increasingly wider acceptance," he said.

Highlighting the growing importance of the Quad, he also said the fact that the four Foreign Ministers were meeting in person, despite the global pandemic, is "testimony to the importance that these consultations have gained, particularly in recent times". He added, "Our world is significantly different today than what it was when we last met in New York in September 2019."

Army captures PLA soldier, to hand over to China soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remains tense, the Indian Army on Monday apprehended a Chinese soldier in the Chumar-Demchok area of Eastern Ladakh and took him in custody. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldier will be returned to the Chinese Army "as per established pro-

cedure", the Army said here.

It also said in a statement that the soldier identified as Corporal Wang Ya was provided medical assistance including oxygen, food and warm clothes "to protect him from the vagaries of extreme altitude and harsh climatic conditions". Sources said the soldier inadvertently strayed into India, he was questioned

thoroughly as to how he crossed over.

The Army said it also received a request from the PLA about the whereabouts of the missing soldier. As per established protocols, he will be returned back to Chinese officials at the Chushul - Moldo meeting point after completion of formalities, the Army said.

Continued on Page 11

Nath's refusal to apologise for sexist remark sparks row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The row over veteran Congress leader Kamal Nath referring to Imarti Devi, his former party colleague and now a Minister in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP Government, as an "item" escalated on Monday with his refusal to tender an apology for his statement, claiming he did not insult anyone.

The National Women's Commission "strongly condemned the irresponsible and disparaging statement made by Nath, Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly". It sought an explanation from the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and forwarded the matter to the Election Commission for further action.

Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani slammed Nath for trying to justify his utterance and the Gandhi family for remaining silent while Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Jyotiraditya Scindia sat on a "silent dharna" in Bhopal. Chouhan appealed to Congress president Sonia Gandhi to immediately remove Nath from all party posts.

Devi is the State's Women and Child Development Minister and was one of the 22 MLAs loyal to Scindia and who resigned in March, bringing down the Nath-led Government in Madhya Pradesh. She subsequently joined the BJP and is now a party candidate for the bypoll in Dabra, a seat reserved for Scheduled Caste candidate.

"I said something... it was



Madhya Pradesh BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia protests against Congress State president Kamal Nath over his derogatory remarks on State Minister Imarti Devi in Indore on Monday

n't to insult anyone... I just didn't remember the (person's) name...this list (in his hand) says item no.1, item no.2, is this an insult? Shivraj is looking for excuses, Nath doesn't insult anyone, he'll only expose you with truth", Nath brazened it out on Monday.

Addressing a rally in Dabra on Sunday, the Congress leader had allegedly called Devi an "item" leading to a massive backlash ahead of the keenly-contested bypolls to be held on November 3.

"Suresh Raje is our candidate and is not like her... What's her name? You know her better and should have warned me earlier... What an item!", Nath had said in Hindi.

While Devi said she was targeted for being a Dalit, Union Minister Irani said, "I can't find any justification that Nath (former MP CM) can give for using such derogatory word against a woman political leader. I don't think Gandhi family will take action against

him. Be it Nath or Digvijaya Singh, these are the people who keep fire burning in Gandhi family's kitchen."

For their part, while Chouhan held a two-hour protest in Bhopal, Scindia and other party members protested in Indore. The BJP has also complained about Nath to the Election Commission.

"With your cheap statement, Congress' crooked and despicable mentality has come to the fore again. You have not just disrespected Devi, but each and every girl and sister of Gwalior-Chambal region," Chouhan tweeted.

He also slammed Nath for his "feudal" mindset. "Devi is the daughter of a farmer who began doing labour in her village and has since emerged as a public representative in building the nation. First, Congress called me 'hungry and ill-clad' and now she has been called an 'item'. This shows the feudal mindset of Nath," the Chief Minister said.

Bank fraud: CBI books BSP MLA, his wife

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

The CBI has booked BSP MLA Vinay Shankar Tiwari and his wife Reeta Tiwari besides two private firms in connection with an alleged bank fraud to the tune of Rs 754.24 crore and conducted searches at their premises on Monday.

Besides the MLA and his wife, a private individual Ajeet Pandey as also two private entities arraigned as accused are Gangotri Enterprises Ltd and Royal Empire Marketing Pvt Ltd.

The agency conducted searches at the residence of Chillupar (Gorakhpur) MLA Tiwari, who is son of former minister and a strongman from Gorakhpur, Hari Shankar Tiwari, and the office of the Lucknow-based company, Gangotri Enterprises Ltd.

Officials said the searches were also spread out in Noida at the premises of another accused firm, Royal Empire Marketing Pvt. Ltd, and another accused director in Gangotri Enterprises, Ajeet Pandey.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a

case on a complaint from Bank of India against two private companies based at Lucknow/Noida (Uttar Pradesh), its Directors and unknown others on the allegations of committing misappropriation, cheating and causing loss of Rs 754.24 crore (approximately) to the consortium of banks," the CBI said in a statement.

"It was alleged that the private company having its corporate office at Mahanagar, Lucknow (Gangotri Enterprises Ltd) was engaged in the construction of roads, bridges and flyovers etc. It was further alleged that the company availed credit facilities from a consortium of banks led by Bank of India from time to time," the agency said.

It was also alleged that the company was supposed to route all its transactions through the Trust & Retention Account and the company was not doing the same. It was further alleged that there were irregularities in the financial statements of the company, it said.

Searches were conducted on Monday at the premises of the accused/company at Noida

and Lucknow which led to recovery of several incriminating documents. Investigation is continuing, it added.

After scrutiny of the seized documents, the agency will soon summon the accused persons for questioning in connection with the probe.

Based on the recovery of the property documents of the accused and tallying them with their Income Tax returns, the agency may register a separate case for possession of disproportionate assets against them, officials added.

The CBI had also booked unnamed bank officials in the FIR.

"The bank officials who cleared the loan and allowed the fraud to take place will be called for questioning," said a CBI official.

In July 2019, the Debt Recovery Tribunal had summoned Tiwari and 33 others after a consortium of banks complained that loans provided to Gangotri Enterprises had turned into Non-Performing Assets. The Reserve Bank of India was also informed about the loan turning into an NPA.

Kerala HC junks petition against leasing out airport to Adani

PTI ■ KOCHI

In a setback to the LDF Government in the State, the Kerala High Court here on Monday dismissed pleas challenging the Centre's decision to lease out the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport to Adani Enterprises, holding that there was no valid ground to interfere with the policy decision.

A division bench comprising Justices K Vinod Chandran and CS Dias rejected arguments by the State Government and other petitioners against the Centre's move to lease out the airport to Adani Enterprises through public private partnership (PPP) for a period of 50 years.

Continued on Page 11

Calcutta HC bans entry of public into puja pandals

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Delivering an unprecedented judgment for "unprecedented times" the Calcutta High Court on Monday banned the entry of general public inside Durga Puja pandals throughout Bengal and directed the State administration to convert all the Puja pandals into "no entry zones."

The decision came against a Public Interest Litigation filed by Advocate Sabyasachi Chatterjee and will be applicable to about 37,000 Durga puja pandals, big and small all across the State. Out of these there are about 3,500 puja pandals in Kolkata alone.

Delivering the order, Bench of Justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee said the puja pandals should be treated as

containment zones and directed the State administration to mark 5 metre area around small pandals and the 10 metre area around bigger pandals as the limit till which the general public can reach.

Even the entry of the club members has been restricted. The court directed the administration to collect the names of 25 persons each from puja committees beyond which no one would be allowed to enter the puja premises.

These names and numbers of such persons have to be fixed and cannot change every day, the court said. The State DGP and Commissioner of Kolkata Police have to submit a report to the court within four days of Laxmi Puja which is on October 30. The order comes on the Tritiya or the third day

of the Pujas and is likely to go a distance in controlling the pandal hoppers who descend in lakhs on the city streets 24x7 every year during the pujas converting the City of Joy arguably into the biggest carnival on earth.

The Monday's decision comes two days after the same court delivered another judgment asking the State Government whether the grants of Rs 50,000 each to the puja committees was given for religious or secular purposes before directing the clubs to spend the amount only for secular purposes like distributing sanitisers, masks etc and file a detailed account report on such expenditures. Delivering the order, the Court asked if the students could be stopped from

Continued on Page 11

Ultras shoot cop returning home after namaz in Anantnag

PNS ■ JAMMU

A police inspector, returning home after offering prayers at a mosque, was gunned down in cold blood by terrorists in Kanelwan of Anantnag late on Monday evening.

The officer was rushed to the district hospital where he was declared brought dead.

The deceased was identified as Inspector Mohd Ashraf Bhat. He was currently on leave and was posted in the Police training school, Lethpora in Pulwama.

Meanwhile, in another operation the joint team of security forces neutralised one terrorist in Melhora of Shopian district on Monday. Till the time of filing the report the operation was still going on, official sources said.

Covid-19
IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 75,93,886

DEATHS: 1,15,232

RECOVERED:

67,29,808

ACTIVE: 7,47,617



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	16,01,365	42,240	13,84,879
Andhra Pradesh	7,86,050	6,453	7,44,532
Karnataka	7,70,604	10,542	6,53,829
Tamil Nadu	6,90,936	10,694	6,42,152
Uttar Pradesh	4,56,865	6,685	4,18,685
Kerala	3,46,882	1,183	2,52,868
Delhi	3,33,171	6,040	3,04,561
West Bengal	3,25,028	6,119	2,84,325
Odisha	2,70,346	1,205	2,49,575
Telangana	2,23,059	1,275	2,00,686
Bihar	2,05,124	1,003	1,93,789
Assam	2,01,407	875	1,73,210
Rajasthan	1,75,226	1,760	1,52,573
Chhattisgarh	1,62,772	1,534	1,35,259
Madhya Pradesh	1,61,203	2,786	1,45,421
Gujarat	1,60,722	3,646	1,42,899

Special Trains for Dussehra & Diwali Festivals for the convenience of passengers				
Special Trains originating from other Zonal Railways with stoppages at stations of North Central Railway				
Special Train No.	Station From	Station To	Days of Run from Originating Station	Stoppage Stations at NCR
09271	Bandra Terminus	Patna Junction	Monday	Prayagraj Chheoki
09272	Patna Junction	Bandra Terminus	Wednesday	Prayagraj Chheoki
02913	Bandra Terminus	Saharsa Junction	Sunday	Prayagraj Chheoki
02914	Saharsa Junction	Bandra Terminal	Tuesday	Prayagraj Chheoki
11037	Pune Jn.	Gorakhpur Jn.	Thursday	Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Jn.
11038	Gorakhpur Jn.	Pune Jn.	Saturday	Prayagraj Jn., Manikpur Jn.
12167	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Manduadih	Mon, Fri	Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki
12168	Manduadih	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Tue, Sat	Prayagraj Chheoki, Manikpur Jn.
22131	Pune Jn.	Manduadih	Monday	Prayagraj Jn.
22132	Manduadih	Pune Jn.	Wednesday	Prayagraj Jn.
11033	Pune Jn.	Darbhanga Jn.	Wednesday	Prayagraj Jn.
11034	Darbhanga Jn.	Pune Jn.	Friday	Prayagraj Jn.
84405	Bhagalpur	Anand Vihar T.	Sat, Tue	Prayagraj Jn., Kanpur Central
84406	Anand Vihar T.	Bhagalpur	Fri, Mon	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn.
84413	Patna Jn.	New Delhi	Sat, Mon, Wed	Prayagraj Jn., Kanpur Central
84414	New Delhi	Patna Jn.	Fri, Sun, Tue	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn.
02549	Kamakhya Jn.	Anand Vihar T.	Daily	Prayagraj Jn., Fatehpur, Kanpur Central, Etawah, Tundla Jn., Aligarh
02550	Anand Vihar T.	Kamakhya Jn.	Daily	Aligarh, Tundla Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Cental, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn.
02595	Gorakhpur Jn.	Anand Vihar T.	Mon, Tue, Thu	Kanpur Central
02596	Anand Vihar T.	Gorakhpur Jn.	Tue, Wed, Fri	Kanpur Central
01407	Pune	Lucknow Jn.	Tuesday	Kanpur Central
01408	Lucknow Jn.	Pune	Thursday	Kanpur Central
09019	Udhna Jn.	Chhapra	Sunday	Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki
09020	Chhapra	Udhna Jn.	Tuesday	Prayagraj Chheoki, Manikpur Jn.
09057	Udhna Jn.	Manduadih	Friday	Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki
09058	Manduadih	Udhna Jn.	Sunday	Prayagraj Chheoki, Manikpur Jn.
02819	Bhubaneswar	Anand Vihar T.	Wed, Sun	Kanpur Central
02820	Anand Vihar T.	Bhubaneswar	Fri, Tue	Kanpur Central
03293	Rajendra Nagar T.	New Delhi	Daily	Kanpur Central
03294	New Delhi	Rajendra Nagar T.	Daily	Kanpur Central
05017	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus	Gorakhpur Junction	Daily	Jaitwar, Manikpur Jn., Shankargarh, Naini Jn., Prayagraj Jn.
05018	Gorakhpur Junction	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus	Daily	Prayagraj Jn., Naini Jn., Shankargarh, Manikpur Jn., Jaitwar
02191	Jabalpur	Haridwar	Wednesday	Chitrakut, Banda, Bharwa Sumerpur, Kanpur Central
02192	Haridwar	Jabalpur	Thursday	Kanpur Central, Bharwa Sumerpur, Banda, Chitrakut
02597	Gorakhpur Junction	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus	Tuesday	Kanpur Central, Orai, Jhansi
02598	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus	Gorakhpur Junction	Wednesday	Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central
02495	Bikaner	Kolkata	Thursday	Achhnera Jn., Agra Fort, Tundla Jn., Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn.
02496	Kolkata	Bikaner	Friday	Prayagraj Jn., Kanpur Cental, Tundla Jn., Agra Fort, Achhnera Jn.
02987	Sealdah Junction	Ajmer Junction	Daily	Prayagraj Jn., Kanpur Central, Tundla Jn., Agra Fort, Achhnera Jn.
02988	Ajmer Junction	Sealdah Junction	Daily	Achhnera Jn., Agra Fort, Tundla Jn., Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn.
09021	Bandra Terminus	Lucknow Junction	Saturday	Achhnera Jn., Mathura Jn., Hathras City, Kasganj, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Kanpur Anwarganj, Kanpur Central
09022	Lucknow Junction	Bandra Terminus	Sunday	Kanpur Central, Kanpur Anwarganj, Kannauj, Farrukhabad, Kasganj, Hathras City, Mathura Jn., Achhnera Jn.
04853	Varanasi Junction	Jodhpur Junction	Mon, Wed, Sat	Kanpur Central, Etawah, Shikohabad Jn., Tundla Jn., Agra Fort, Idgah, Achhnera Jn.
04854	Jodhpur Junction	Varanasi Junction	Mon, Thu Sat	Achhnera Jn, Idgah, Agra Fort, Tundla Jn., Shikohabad Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central
04863	Varanasi Junction	Jodhpur Junction	Tue, Fri, Sun.	Kanpur Central, Etawah, Shikohabad Jn., Tundla Jn., Agra Fort, Idgah, Achhnera Jn.
04864	Jodhpur Junction	Varanasi Junction	Tue, Fri, Sun.	Achhnera Jn., Idgah, Agra Fort, Tundla Jn., Shikohabad Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central
04865	Varanasi Junction	Jodhpur Junction	Thursday	Kanpur Central, Etawah, Shikohabad Jn., Tundla Jn., Agra Fort, Idgah, Achhnera Jn.
04866	Jodhpur Junction	Varanasi Junction	Wednesday	Achhnera Jn., Idgah, Agra Fort, Tundla Jn., Shikohabad Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central
09017	Bandra T.	Haridwar Jn	Wednesday	Mathura Jn.
09018	Haridwar Jn.	Bandra T.	Thursday	Mathura Jn.
09451	Gandhidham	Bhagalpur	Friday	Achnera Jn., Mathura Jn., Kasganj, Farrukhabad, Kanpur Central
09452	Bhagalpur	Gandhidham	Monday	Kanpur Central, Farrukhabad, Kasganj, Mathura Jn., Achnera Jn.
02851	Visakhapatnam	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Mon, Fri	Jhansi , Gwalior Jn., Agra Cantt., Mathrua Jn.
02852	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Visakhapatnam	Wed, Sun	Mathrua Jn., Agra Cantt., Gwalior Jn., Jhansi
08237	Korba	Amritsar Junction	Tue, Wed, Fri	Jhansi , Datia, Dabra, Gwalior Jn., Morena, Dhaulpur, Agra Cantt., Raja Ki Mandi, Mathura Jn.
08238	Amritsar Junction	Korba	Thu, Fri, Sun	Mathura Jn., Raja Ki Mandi, Agra Cantt., Dhaulpur, Morena, Gwalior Jn., Dabra, Datia, Jhansi
09321	Indore Jn.	Rajendra Nagar T.	Saturday	Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central
09322	Rajindra Nagar T.	Indore Jn.	Mon	Kanpur Central, Orai, Jhansi
02269	Chennai Central	H. Nizamuddin	Mon, Fri	Jhansi, Gwalior Jn.
02270	H. Nizamuddin	Chennai Central	Tue, Sat	Gwalior Jn., Jhansi
08215	Durg Jn.	Jammu Tawi	Wednesday	Jhansi, Gwalior Jn., Agra Cantt.
08216	Jammu Tawi	Durg Jn.	Friday	Agra Cantt., Gwalior Jn., Jhansi
09313	Indore Jn.	Rajendra Nagar (T)	Mon, Wed	Lalitpur, Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central
09314	Rajendra Nagar (T)	Indore Jn.	Wed, Fri	Kanpur Central, Orai, Jhansi, Lalitpur

The COVID-19 related safety norms & guidelines must be followed in above trains during Journey.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY 1099/20(SP)
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CM clears way for more than two lakh jobs for rural youth

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath cleared the way for more than two lakh jobs for rural youth of the state after dedicating more than 18,000 panchayat bhawans and public toilets in rural areas with the click of the mouse.

While 18,847 public toilets and 377 panchayat bhawans were dedicated for public use, Yogi Adityanath also directed officials to complete another 35,058 public toilets and 21,414 panchayat bhawans in the next six months. The chief minister also directed officials to start the process for appointment of caretakers and sanitation workers for panchayat bhawans and public toilets. “The appointment will be on contractual basis and local youth will be given priority, thus creating jobs for them in a large-scale,” the chief minister said. Besides, as many as 59,000 rural women would also be appointed as bank correspondent Sakhi at gram panchayats and they



would operate from panchayat bhawans, facilitating bank services to people.

More job opportunities are expected to be created for tech-savvy rural youth as panchayat bhawans were being connected through optical fibre.

The chief minister has been proactive towards providing employment to migrant workers who returned during the lockdown. He has also been taking personal interest in campaigns carried out in rural areas in this regard. As many as 11 lakh migrant workers have been accommodated in MGN-REGA scheme works across the state and a record of 26.14 crore man days have been created in six months since April.

CM orders dismissal of HG district commandant

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pursuing his zero tolerance policy towards corruption, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered the dismissal of a district commandant of Home Guard (HG) department of Bulandshahr on Monday.

A Uttar Pradesh government statement issued in Lucknow said, “Home Guard District Commandant Mukesh Kumar committed financial irregularities in muster roll during his posting at Bulandshahr. He was suspended and a probe was ordered which indicted him in its findings. Hence the chief minister ordered the officer's dismissal after the tabling of the probe report.”

A government spokesperson said that three videos had gone viral on the social media in November, 2019, in which Kumar was seen carrying a wad of currency notes in his pocket for deputing numerous Home Guard volunteers. He said that the conversation in the video made it amply evident that the district commandant charged money to allot duties.

“Assessing the gravity of the matter, the state government immediately got it probed. On the basis of preliminary investigations by deputy commandant general, Home Guard, Agra, Kumar was suspended and legal action was initiated,” he said.

The spokesperson further said that Deputy Commandant General, Central Training Institute (Lucknow) Vivek Kumar Singh was made the inquiry officer for a thorough probe and he too found the charges against Kumar to be true.

On his part, Kumar had termed the video as fake and claimed to be innocent.

The spokesperson clarified that the said video was tested at Forensic Science Laboratory, Lucknow and no tampering was found in the video clips.



NOTICE

I have change my name Rajjan to Rajjan Kanaujia S/o Kali Charan for future purpose. 880 Indra Nagar Unnao

NOTICE

Be it known to all that I have changed my name from Ashish Gupta (S/o Santosh Kumar Gupta R/o Flat No. 1903 Tower Almond A, Omaxe Residency-II, Sarsawan, Arjunanj, Lucknow) to Aashish Gupta in future I should be known as Aashish Gupta.

SARFAESI CANCELLATION NOTICE

Borrower:- M/s Bharat Rice Mill
Through its Proprietor Abdul Qayum S/o Late Mohamad Yaqub
Address: Sigha Paraasi, Salaarpur Kalpipaara, Thana Dargaah Sharif, Dist. Bahraich
Guarantor:- (1) Mohd. Koya S/o Mohd. Yakooab **Address:** 1174, Salaarganj, Thana Dargaah Sharif, Dist. Bahraich (2) Reshma Begum W/o Abdul Qayum **Address:** Mohalla, Salaarganj, Near Hasi Yakooab Masjid, Dist. Bahraich

To Cancel Notice dated 09.04.2013 and 24.06.2013 issued under section 13(2) & 13(4) respectively under SARFAESI Act, 2002 in NPA loan account of M/s Bharat Rice Mill

It is to inform that the aforesaid notices are hereby cancelled because due to inadvertent typographical error some discrepancy in details of secured asset was crept in the aforesaid notice. However, the Authorised officer reserves the right to issue fress notice under the provisions of SARFAESI Act, 2002. Please note that withdrawal notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Date: 20.10.2020 Place: Bahraich Authorized Officer Bank of Baroda

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank POSSESSION NOTICE

Regional Office - HIG 18, Chandra Vihar Lakhnpur, Kanpur - 208002, Ph.: 0512-2583225
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the CANARA BANK under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with the Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on the dates mentioned against each account (details of which have been mentioned hereunder) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the authorised officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rules 8 of the said rule. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Outstanding Amount	Date of Demand Notice Date of Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Branch : SN SEN College (E Syndicate)			
1.	Mr. Radheshyam Mishra Outstanding Amount : Rs. 12,92,953.18 + interest	29.06.2020 17.10.2020	Property consisting of land e 134 block ews ashrya scheme panki gangaganj panki Kanpur. Having area of land 25.20 sq.mtr. in the name of Mr. Radheshyam Mishra S/o Sheetal Mishra. Boundaries: East: House E 145, West: 6 Mtr. Wide Road, North : House E 135, South : House E 133
2.	Mr. Amit Kumar Outstanding Amount : Rs. 7,99,088.37 + interest	29.06.2020 17.10.2020	Property consisting of plot no. 10 arazi no. 677 admeasuring area 85 sqr. meter Jarauli Kanpur in the name of Amit Kumar S/o Shiv Shankar Boundaries: East: 25 Ft Road, West: Other Property, North : House on Plot No. 11, South : House on Plot No. 09
3.	Mr. Jitendra Singh Outstanding Amount : Rs. 11,88,972.11 + interest	29.06.2020 17.10.2020	Property Consisting of Plot No. 46 Block H having area of 31.92 sqr.meter in Scheme Vyapar Ispat Nagar, Kanpur in the name of Jitendra Singh S/o Ramchandra Singh. Boundaries: East: Plot No. 39, West: 6 Meter Road, North : Plot No. 47, South : Plot No. 45
4.	Renu Dixit Outstanding Amount : Rs. 18,55,998.68 + interest	29.06.2020 17.10.2020	All that part and parcel of the property in the name of Renu Dixit W/o Laxmi Shankar Dixit property consisting of plots no 7 f colony no.2 part of arazi no. 41 having area of 53.09 sqr.metr. pwd cooperative housing society Rawatpur Kanpur. Boundaries: East: Part of Plot No. 7 f owned by Pankaj Agarwal, West: 6.09 Meter road garden villa, North : 9.14 meter road Sunshine public school, South : Part of plot no. 7F durga lawn
Branch : Vikas Nagar, Kanpur			
5.	Shri Atul Kumar Prop. (M/s Maruti Enterprises) Outstanding Amount : Rs. 26,05,370.00 + interest	01.12.2019 17.10.2020	All that part and parcel of the property in the name of Mr. Shri Dhar Tripathi House, Plot/Premises No. 776, Block-I, Gajaini Kanpur Admeasuring area 36.75 sq.meter. Boundaries: East: H.No. 775 (Ram Chandra Gaur), West: H.No. 777 (Ram Khilawan), North : H.No. 763 (R.P. Singh), South : 7.65 Mtr. Wide Road
Date : 20.10.2020 Place : Kanpur Authorised Officer, Canara Bank			

मिल्कमोर पशु आहार

कंज्यूमर दिवाली दमाका

शिय चाहन हम आपके अधिक लाभ के लिये कंज्यूमर दिवाली दमाका लवकी डु रस्कीम लेकर आए है. जिसके अलावा आप मिल्कमोर पशु आहार की बॉरी के अंदर प्राप्त होने वाले क्यू आर टैग (QR TAG) को स्कैन कर अनिश लिमिटेड, प्लाइट्स (इन्फो ऑफ) के माध्यम से हजारों रुपया जीत सकते हैं। एकबारा क्यू आहारको 10 प्लाइट्स के बरबरे 1 क्यूमा प्राप्त होगा, इस तरह आप 100 प्लाइट्स के बरबरे 10 क्यूमे PayTm कैश बैक प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। का न्यूमर 50 प्लाइट्स इकट्ठा करने आपके कानूनपर शीमाही दमाका लवकी डु रस्कीम से सकते हैं। प्लाइट्स के आधार पर आप एक से अधिक बार जी हितवा से सकते हैं।

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Government to now focus on post-Covid complications

3039 test +ve in state, 279 in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Apprehending a second wave of COVID-19 infection due to relaxations across the state, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to focus on recovered patients in their post-treatment complications. In an order issued on Monday, the government has directed all government and private hospitals to set up post-Covid help desks for patients who have recovered from the infection but face other complications.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said in Lucknow on Monday that the Health department officials would telephonically contact about 80,000 patients who recovered between September 1 and 15 to get feedback on any possible complications. Prasad said that the government had inputs that several recovered patients were facing health complications.

"We have decided to address these issues and

experts have been engaged to check them to learn why such things were happening," he said. Speaking on the drop in COVID-19 positivity rate in UP, the additional chief secretary said that between March and May 31, the positivity rate was 3.3 percent which spiked to 4 percent in June, 4.2 percent in July and 4.6 percent in August. "But in September, it came down to 4 percent after peaking on September 17. And till date in October, the positivity rate is pegged at just 2.1 percent," he said.

Prasad, however, apprehended that there could be a second wave due to the festive season, opening of schools and colleges and other activities and cautioned people to be take precautions and follow Covid guidelines like wearing face masks, social distancing and frequent handwash.

On Monday, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Uttar Pradesh touched 4.56 lakh-mark, out of which 4.18 lakh have recovered and 31,495 are admitted in hospitals or are in home isolation and undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, 1,719 fresh cases of COVID-19 were

reported during the past 24 hours while 3,093 patients recovered. The recovery percentage in the state has peaked to 91.62, higher than the national average. Prasad said that the number of active patients were coming down by each passing day and there had been a drop of 54 per cent or 36,740 patients since September 17, when the peak was witnessed.

Meanwhile, 247 more persons tested positive for coronavirus in the city on Monday while 364 patients recovered, taking the number of recoveries to 55,570. The death toll in Lucknow is 824.

The new patients included 24 from Gomtinagar, 23 from Indiranagar, 20 from Rae Bareilly road, 13 each from Hazratganj & Cantt, 12 each from Jankipuram & Madaon, 11 each from Talkatora & Aliganj, and 10 each from Ashiyana & Vikasnagar. There were 10 deaths in the district and five of the deceased belonged to Lucknow while five from other districts. There were two deaths at KGMU, including an 89-year-old man from Aliganj and a 24-year-old girl from Sultanpur.

Ignoring precautions may lead to re-infection

Lucknow (PNS): Health officials and medical experts have a word of caution for Covid-19 patients who have recovered that ignoring guidelines may well lead to reinfection. In view of complacency which has set in amongst people owing to start of the festive season, they said antibodies developed in Covid-19 patients disappear in three months, leaving them vulnerable to infection yet again.

"With the wedding season also approaching, people must get it into their heads that it is not a simple virus as it has already infected over 60,000 in the district and millions across the globe. It is still killing people and at least six months of discipline by people will determine the course of disease in the district," an official said.

A senior official at the CMO office said they have been emphasising on social distancing and need to wear masks from the very beginning. "Patients run the risk of infection within 4-6 months as their immunity levels drop. Few cases of reinfection have already been reported," he said.

People gearing up for the wedding season should volunteer for the screening of guests through thermometers

and pulse oximeters besides ensuring that people mask up, the official said. He added that inspections would be carried out at weddings and other gatherings. "We will be needing the support of police and district administration," he said. Spokesperson of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences Dr Shrikesh Singh said people who have become complacent should know that the ICU is still full with patients while 70 per cent other beds are also occupied.

"There are chances of patients getting infected after recovery. There may be persons who were mildly infected and did not develop antibodies when they caught the infection first. They have a chance of reinfection. This is an RNA virus and how it reacts is still a matter of much more investigation. It's not clear as to what the future holds and therefore, following Covid guidelines is a must," Dr Singh said. He said he always tells patients to not be complacent about immunity as reinfection would definitely be more serious. He said less than 300 cases per day in the district does not mean that precautions are not needed.

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Students get a taste of new normal as schools reopen



A student at Cathedral Senior Secondary School being welcomed with sanitiser on Monday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Returning to schools in a totally changed scenario after a six-month gap was an interesting for students on Monday. With the coronavirus threat still looming large, the schools have made all the arrangements for adherence to government guidelines for prevention from infection.

Abhay Kumar Yadav, a class XII student of St Joseph School, said he was very happy to come back. "This is my last year in school and every student cherishes these memories. I convinced my parents to send me to school in view of the safety arrangements and preventive measures ensured by school authorities. We were attending online classes till now, but coming to school is no match," he added.

Abhay said masks and sanitisers were available at school but he was reminiscent of times when students used to hang around and share their lunches. "This is a new normal and we have to bear with it till the situation improves," he said.

Apoorvi Singh of class XII said her father was a doctor and he was convinced about sending her to school as he was confident that she would be taken care of. "There was some fear in the beginning but after entering the school premises, I am feeling pretty safe," she said.

Akshat Pal of class XII said he was a bit nervous but coming back to school was nice as he was getting bored at home," he said.

Director of Secondary Education Vinay Kumar Pandey, who carried out inspection at various schools, said the day passed off without any hassles. "In the schools which I inspected, I also interacted with the students to gauge their mood. They were happy that now there can be a direct dialogue with teachers which has its own importance because in online system, students face problems. However, the online system has also emerged as a good option," he said. He added that the students who attended schools were so happy that they could motivate those choosing to stay home to follow suit.

DIOS Mukesh Singh said inspection was carried out in over 700 schools by officials of Education department and district administration. The Secondary Education director inspected five schools in the first shift while the Additional Chief Secretary inspected five schools in the second. There was approximately 40 percent attendance in government schools as they opened on Monday but it varied in terms of private schools.

297 patients turn up at KGMU OPD

Lucknow (PNS): As many as 297 patients turned up at the OPD of KGMU on the first day of its resumption on Monday. Spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said that 389 patients had registered for the OPD but 92 did not attend it. Maximum number of patients turned up at the gynaecology department (79), followed by cardiology (36), clinical haematology (31), thoracic and cardiovascular surgery (28), gastroenterology (26) and medicine (25). Dr Singh said all the OPDs are on different floors and there are waiting halls in front of each for patients who can wait there while ensuring social distancing. He said the public address systems were running and security guards and OPD staff were present for ensuring social distancing.

लखनऊ में आधुनिक जनसुविधाओं का विकास

सुपर स्पेशियलिटी कैंसर इंस्टीट्यूट एण्ड हॉस्पिटल सी.जी. सिटी, लखनऊ में

सर्जिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी रेडिएशन ऑन्कोलॉजी एवं अन्तःरोगी सेवाओं का शुभारंभ व ओ.पी.डी. ब्लॉक का लोकार्पण / आवासीय परिसर का शिलान्यास

रु. 133 करोड़ की लागत से 1528 मी. लम्बे हुसैनगंज चौराहा बांसमण्डी चौराहा-नाका हिन्दोला चौराहा डी.ए.वी. कॉलेज के मध्य 3 लेन फ्लाईओवर

रु. 64.47 करोड़ की लागत से 908 मी. लम्बे हैदरगंज तिराहा से मीना बेकरी से पूर्व तक 2 लेन फ्लाईओवर

लोकार्पण

मुख्य अतिथि राजनाथ सिंह
रक्षा मंत्री, भारत सरकार

मुख्य अतिथि योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

गारिमामयी उपस्थिति

केशव प्रसाद मौर्य
उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

चन्द्रिका प्रसाद उपाध्याय
राज्य मंत्री, लोक निर्माण विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

सुरेश कुमार खन्ना
मंत्री, चिकित्सा शिक्षा, वित्त एवं संसदीय कार्य, उत्तर प्रदेश

कौशल किशोर
सांसद, मोहनलालगंज

दिनांक : 20 अक्टूबर, 2020 | समय : सायं 5:30 बजे | स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Two self-immolation bids leave police red-faced

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two separate incidents of self-immolation bids outside Vidhan Bhawan in Hazratganj six hours apart on Monday, blowing to smithereens the tall claims of police having taken preventive measures. The incidents took place close on the heels of the one on which a woman, Anjali Tiwari, had suffered over 90 per cent burns on October 13, and succumbed later. A resident of Hussainganj and a family of Barabanki attempted self-immolation due to being bullied by local influential persons after sneaking through police bandobast.

As per reports, a 50-year-old man, identified as Surendra Chakraborty of Diamond Dairy Apartment in Udaiganj, attempted to immolate himself at gate number 3 of Vidhan Bhawan around 4:15 pm, catching the cops unawares.

He suffered over 60 per cent burns and was admitted to Civil hospital. The cops also suffered burns during rescue efforts. In his statement given to the police, Surendra said his landlord had been forcing him to vacate the house for the last few months and as he had

moved court, the issue was sub judice. “Despite this, the landlord was bullying me with the help of local policemen who used to call me off and on,” he stated. Commissioner of Police Sujeet Pandey reached the hospital after the news went viral and senior government officials started asking questions of him. In an e-byte, Pandey said four teams had been formed to arrest the accused named by the victim. He said the victim suffered over 60 per cent burns.

Earlier, Mohammed Naseer of Lakhpedabagh locality in a Barabanki, along with his wife Razia and their children Salim and Azim, reached gate number 3-4 of Vidhan Bhawan where the couple poured some inflammable substance on them around 10:30 am on Monday. However, before they could set themselves afire, their children cried and the cops on duty rushed to their rescue.

They were later taken to Civil hospital and later to Hazratganj Kotwali where they explained their ordeal. They said they were at the receiving end of rowdism by local influential persons, including a corporator. Naseer alleged that Pradeep Maurya, who is the brother of

corporator Shalu Maurya, wanted to dislodge him from his furniture workshop. “It is the only source of income, but the local police were looking the other way, leaving us with no other option but to end our lives,” he said.

The two incidents exposed the Lucknow police’s preparedness in preventing self-immolation bids near Vidhan Bhawan and Lok Bhawan. Recently, police presence was increased on the road stretch between Capital trisection and Babu Bhawan crossing, following an incident in which a woman from Rae Bareilly and her daughter had attempted self-immolation. The woman had later succumbed to burns while her daughter recuperated after several days. The police had booked several persons, including a Congress leader, for allegedly inciting the women to take the extreme step to seek justice in a case. The mother-daughter duo were being harassed by some influential people of their village and the local police were of little help. The government had taken a serious note of the incident and asked the police to prevent a repeat of such incidents.

Woman, grandson killed in mishap; others injured

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An elderly woman and her grandson were killed in a road mishap in Kakori on Monday while three others of the family sustained injuries were battling for their lives in a hospital. Amit Srivastava of New Colony in Para, along with his mother Kanchan Srivastava (62), wife Laxmi and children Prakhhar and Niharika, was going to his native house in Bangarmau (Unnao) by a car. When they reached Shivri village on Mohan road, Amit stepped on the gas to overtake a loader and in the process, the car had a head-on collision with a truck. The driver fled the scene, abandoning the truck which overturned. Occupants in the car suffered grievous injuries and were rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where Kanchan and Prakhhar died during treatment.

In another incident, a 35-year-old man, identified as Deepak of Jaiti Kheda village, was killed in a road mishap while his friend Roshan suffered injuries on Sunday evening. Both Deepak and Roshan were

returning home on a bike when a speeding truck knocked it bike from an opposite direction. Deepak died on the spot while Roshan was referred to KGMU Trauma Centre.

Meanwhile, a 36-year-old man was found hanging at his house in Thakurganj on Monday. Reports said Sameer Khan of Rajjaganj was found hanging from the ceiling with a rope tied around his neck. A native of Gonda, Sameer worked as a painter. His wife Saira Khatoun informed police about the incident.

In another incident, a 42-year-old man was found dead inside a garage in Thakurganj under mysterious circumstances on Monday. Police said there were no injury marks on the body. The deceased was identified as Siddique of Ghasmandi and he was a rickshaw-puller. Reports said that around 8 pm on Sunday, he was seen sitting on a bed inside the garage where he was living for a long time. The deceased was identified as Mubarak Ali and his family was informed about the incident while the body was sent for autopsy.

3 CMS students make it to NDA

Lucknow (PNS): Three students of City Montessori School have made it to the National Defence Academy (NDA), earning kudos for the institution. Of them, two students — Anshuman Singh and Parth Singh — belong to the Gomti Nagar Campus II — while another,





Swastish Pandey, is of Kanpur Road Campus. These students dream of serving the country by getting into Indian Army. The NDA aspirants have to go through medical and physical tests and an extensive interview that includes general qualification, psychological test, team skills and physical & social competence.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF RAILWAY
RESEARCH DESIGNS & STANDARDS ORGANISATION
MANAK NAGAR, LUCKNOW-11.
Notice for inviting E-Tender
For and on behalf of president of Union of India, The Town Engineer RDSO, Lucknow invites open E-tender (online) for the following work:-

S. No.	Open tender No.& Name of work	Approx. cost (Rs.)	Cost of tender document (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion Period	Date of closing/opening
	Tender Notice No. WKS-1120D-TEN-19.10.2020	1183467.64	0.00	23700.00	36 (Thirty-Six) months	10.11.2020
1	Maintenance of lawn & Hedge including other horticulture works in Sector A of RDSO colony.					

Details of above e-tender are available on web site. (www.ireps.gov.in). Tenderers can submit their bids on **10.11.2020** upto 15.00 hrs. The above E-tender will be open on same day at 15.00 hrs. in the office of the Town Engineer, RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow.

Town Engineer, RDSO, Lucknow.
For and on behalf of the President of union of India



शाखा : अकबरपुर, जिला-कानपुर देहात
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय : 117/H-1/240, पाण्डुराम, कानपुर
प्रधान कार्यालय : 239, विधान भवन मार्ग, नारीमन प्वाइंट, मुंबई

कच्चा सूचना (अचल सम्पत्ति हेतु)
(Rule-B(1))

जैसा कि अयोधस्ताबरी वित्तीय आर्तिव्यों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के तहत यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया का प्राधिकृत अधिकारी होते हुये और उक्त अधिनियम की धारा-13 (12) संपटित प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) नियम 2002 का नियम-3 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए मांग सूचना अन्तर्गत धारा 13 (2) निम्न खाता धारकों आदि को जारी किया गया था, जिसमें नॉटिस प्राप्त के 60 दिवस के भीतर देय राशि के अदायगी की अपेक्षा की गयी थी।

ऋणी उपरोक्तानुसार अदायगी में विफल रहे हैं फलस्वरूप ऋणी एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अयोधस्ताबरी ने उक्त अधिनियम की उपधारा (4) धारा 13 संपटित नियम -8 के तहत प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) अधिनियम 2002, में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए निम्नलिखित बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों पर निम्नलिखित दिनांक को कब्जा ले लिया गया है। ऋणी एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सावधान किया जाता है कि, बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों से किसी प्रकार का सम्यवहार न करें। कोई भी सम्यवहार यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया, के ऋण रुपये एवं उस पर अनुबन्धित दर पर बाग़ खात आदि के भार के अधीन होगा।

ऋणी का ध्यान बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों को मुक्त कराने हेतु उपलब्ध निम्नांकित के संदर्भ में अधिनियम की उपधारा (8) धारा-13 की ओर भी आकर्षित किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	बकायेश्वर/जमानतदार का नाम/पता व बंधक सम्पत्ति/सम्पत्ति मालिक एवं मांग सूचना तिथि/प्रलक्षित कच्चा तिथि/बकाया धनराशि
1.	बकायेश्वर : श्री अरविन्द कुमार पुत्र श्री श्याम बाबू, निवासी : ग्राम-कृपालपुर, पोस्ट-अकबरपुर, तहसील-अकबरपुर, जिला-कानपुर देहात। जमानतदार : श्री अजय कुमार पुत्र श्री भगवती प्रसाद, निवासी : ग्राम-पालनगर, पोस्ट-बेवन, जिला-कानपुर देहात। मांग सूचना तिथि : 11.06.2019, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 15.10.2020 बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : आवासीय प्लाट स्थित खाता सं. 00123, भूमि संख्या 266/1, मिन/हिस्सा, कृपालपुर, तहसील-अकबरपुर, जिला-कानपुर देहात। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्री अरविन्द कुमार पुत्र श्री श्याम बाबू। क्षेत्रफल : 105 वर्गमीटर, चौहद्दी: उत्तर : कच्चा रास्ता (रोड), दक्षिण : विक्रेता का बचा हिस्सा, पूर्व : विक्रेता का बचा हिस्सा, पश्चिम : आलम। मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 2,49,328.50 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्चे
2.	बकायेश्वर : मेसर निर्मला इण्टरप्राइजेन्स, घोषराष्ट्र : श्रीमती माला देवी पत्नी श्री अजय कुमार, पता : ग्राम करछल, पोस्ट-परसीली, जिला-कानपुर देहात। जमानतदार : श्री अजय कुमार एवं श्री अतुल कुमार, दोनों पुत्र श्री हरनाम सिंह, दोनों निवासी : ग्राम करछल, पोस्ट-परसीली, जिला-कानपुर देहात। मांग सूचना तिथि : 15.07.2020, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 15.10.2020 बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : आवासीय गाटा सं. 1004, मि. खाता सं. 0489 स्थित रनियाँ पर, तहसील-अकबरपुर, जिला-कानपुर देहात। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्री अजय कुमार पुत्र श्री हरनाम सिंह। क्षेत्रफल : 210 वर्गमीटर, चौहद्दी: उत्तर : मुनिया का प्लाट एवं विक्रेता का प्लाट, दक्षिण : विक्रेता का प्लाट इसके बाद सन्त पाण्डेय का प्लाट, पूर्व : रोड 15 फीट चौड़ी, पश्चिम : रामऔतार एवं हरीश चन्द्र का मकान। मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 11,46,771.88 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्चे

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

CM inaugurates ODOP Virtual Exhibition 2020

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday inaugurated the ODOP Virtual Exhibition 2020 organised by the FICCI jointly with the UP government and the EPCH.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the chief minister said the One District One Product (ODOP) programme would not only give the state a new dimension in India and

abroad but also help in creating more jobs.

“Uttar Pradesh is a land with a lot of potential. With the help of FICCI and all stakeholders, we will be able to take the traditional products of UP to the international market. We will focus to ensure that through the Virtual Exhibition, not only the products get an easy market globally but the producer also gets the right

price for it,” he said.

“The virtual ODOP exhibition has been launched in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and we seek support from various embassies in India and Indian embassies in other countries to promote this programme,” Yogi said, adding that the Government of India had also launched the ODOP programme in many other states

to promote their unique products. Over 600 ODOP sellers are showcasing their products in the virtual exhibition along with the participation of buyers from 35 countries and over 1,000 buyers. The initiatives launched with the support of FICCI and other stakeholders in 2018 like Investors Summit, Groundbreaking Ceremony, etc. are all progressing in the state.

Minor judoka raped in car bearing BJP flag

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A minor female judoka was Araped by a 20-year-old judo player in his car bearing the flag of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and a sticker of ‘BJP Goraksha Samiti’ in Transport Nagar area of Meerut on Friday.

After the victim’s kin complained to the police, the accused, identified as Pulkit Saini, was arrested and a case of rape was registered against him in TP Nagar police station. As per reports, the 15-year-old victim was heading to her college on a scooter for a judo practice session on Friday evening. On the way, a senior judoka, Pulkit, stopped her near a shopping complex and asked the girl to park her scooter there, offering to give her a lift till the practice ground. After the girl got into the car, Pulkit drove to a secluded place and raped her inside his car. He let her off after handing out life threats, warning against telling anyone about the incident. However, on reaching home that night, the victim narrated her ordeal to her parents.

On Saturday night, the girl’s condition deteriorated and she had to be hospitalised. The parents then lodged a complaint against Pulkit, leading to his arrest.

The police said that the accused’s car had a BJP flag and a sticker of BJP Goraksha Samiti. Pulkit is said to be actively involved in activities related to goraksha (cow protection). However, Meerut BJP chief Mukesh Singhal disowned the accused and said that he had nothing to do with

the BJP.

He also said that the accused was using the BJP flag and a sticker of its Goraksha Samiti ‘fraudulently’.

Meanwhile in Kanpur Dehat, a Dalit woman was raped at gunpoint by a former gram pradhan and his aide a week ago. The victim, however, complained to the police on Sunday.

Superintendent of Police of Kanpur Dehat, Keshav Kumar Chaudhary, said, “As per the complaint, the accused barged into the 22-year-old victim’s house when she was alone. The miscreant took her at gunpoint and raped her. Before leaving the place, he also threatened her with dire consequences if she dared to complain about the incident.”

A case was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 at Derapur police station. Three police teams and a SWAT team have been formed to arrest the absconding accused.


Meanwhile in Bijnor, a 32-year-old man was murdered by his friend for black-mailing the former’s beau. The victim’s body was found at a cane field near Tarkarli village of Nehtaur police station limits two days ago. As per reports, Abhishek Kumar of Sheikhpura village was reported missing by his father Ratan Singh. Enquiries revealed that Abhishek was intoxicated and strangled to death by his friends Deepak Saini and Ankit Kumar of Mahandabad village. Both were arrested on Sunday.

UP tops in domestic tourist footfalls

Lucknow (PNS): Adding another feather to its cap, Uttar Pradesh earned the top position in attracting the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019. The previous year, the state came second in the domestic tourist inflow.

As per Indian Tourism Statistics for 2020, as many as 53.58 crore domestic tourists visited UP in 2019. The state also ranked third in attracting foreign tourists to UP with 47.45 lakh visitors coming to the state.

“Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s focus on tourism has borne fruits as the latest statistics suggest. UP offers immense opportunity for tourism as there are many places of religious, cultural, historical and wildlife interests,” a senior official said. A number of circuits have been identified in the state, including the Ramayan circuit, the Brij circuit, the Mahabharat circuit, the Shaktipeeth circuit, the Adhyatmik circuit, the Jain circuit and the Buddhist circuit.

**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE**

Tender is invited in two parts for the following electrical work / supply from experienced working organizations/firms which are registered with GST and possess Income Tax-payable certificate. Detailed information of tender is available on the website www.etenderup.nic.in and for any other amendment / extension of the tender, please logon www.etenderup.nic.in upto date of opening of tender. The authority to reject the tender without assigning any reason will be reserved with the Executive Engineer, Electy, 400KV Sub-Station Division, Sultanpur E-tender No. 07/ESDS/2020-21 To be opened on dt. 19.11.2020. Tender cost Rs. 236.00. Earnest Money Rs. 2000.00. Tightening of jumpers, clamps, routine maintenance of pantograph, isolator etc. attending of hot-spot & minor breakdown at 400/220KV S/S Sultanpur under Electy. 400KV S/S Division Sultanpur. Executive Engineer Electy, 400KV Substation Division Sultanpur No. 1081 Date 19.10.2020 "Save energy in national interest."

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना**

निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा जिनका संक्षिप्त विवरण नीचे दिया गया है, ई-निविदा की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड कर दी गई है : अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या : T-79/ETC-11/2020&21, 132 के0वी0 मरथरा-औरैया लाइन डाइवर्जन हेतु गैन्ट्री फाउण्डेशन एंकर बोल्ट आपूर्ति का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क (जीएसटी0 सहित) रु0 236/- (रु0 दो सौ छत्तीस मात्र), धरोहर राशि रु0 2400/- (रु0 दो हजार चार सौ मात्र)। उपरोक्त विषय में विस्तृत विवरण साईट पर उपलब्ध हैं, सभी सक्षम आपूर्ति / कार्यदायी संस्थाएं तदनुसार निविदा में भाग ले सकती हैं। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल – द्वितीय, पनकी, कानपुर। पत्रांक – 3181, दिनांक – 19.10.2020, “राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें”

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत 400 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र खण्ड उधमपावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, सरौजनी नगर, लखनऊ ई-निविदा सूचना**

अनुप्राणी फर्मों/उकेदारों से निम्न-लिखित कार्य हेतु निम्नलिखित निविदायें दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में मूल्य / दर वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग के खुलने की तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व 17.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जानी है। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त जानकारी नियम व अहंकारी शर्तों, निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित है, जो वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in से डाउन-लोड कर अपलोडित / अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम व द्वितीय भाग वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर ही अपलोड किया जा सकेगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित कोई भी प्रपत्र, मौखिक रूप से कार्यवाही में स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा। आयोगस्तम्भकारों को बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी अथवा सभी निविदाओं को अस्वीकार / विनाशित / निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। विस्तृत जानकारी, अन्य किसी प्रकार के संशोधन एवं तिथि विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में निविदा अपलोड करने के दिनांक / समय तक कृपया वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग ऑन करें। **निविदा सं0 08 के खुलने की तिथि 19.11.2020 निर्धारित की जाती है** – (1) ई-निविदा संख्या – 08 / 2020-21 विद्युत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र सरौजनीनगर 33 के0वी0 स्विचगार्ड में विभिन्न प्रकार के अपरेटेशन / अनुसूखण सम्बन्धी कार्य एवं 132 के0वी0 स्विचगार्ड में अनुसूखण सम्बन्धी कार्य निविदा प्रपत्र अनुसार। **अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत 400 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, उधम पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि0, सरौजनी नगर लखनऊ।** पत्रांक-1093, दिनांक-19.10.2020, **राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें**

**CANTONMENT BOARD, LUCKNOW**
31, Nehru Road Lucknow Cantt.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Phone No.- 0522-2480037
Email ID- cblucknow@dgst.org
1.COMPREHENSIVE HORTICULTURE MAINTENANCE OF CANTONMENT BOARD ASSETS IN CANTT AREA LUCKNOW. 2. COMPREHENSIVE SANITATION MAINTENANCE WORK OF SADAR BAZAR, RBI BAZAR, HATA RAM DAS, BADI LAL KURTI, MALL AVANUE, 21 PGLS IN CIVIL/BUNGALOW AREA & 02 WASH ROOMS AT KASTURBA ROAD WALKING PLAZA 3. COMPREHENSIVE SANITATION MAINTENANCE WORK OF A BAZAR/LINE
Online Tenders are invited from the reputed firms/agencies/contractors having work experience in the relevant field in MES/ Cantonment Board / Central or State Govt. Departments, through the Government e-procurement portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/> by Cantonment Board, Lucknow for the work of “Comprehensive Horticulture Maintenance of Cantonment Board Assets in Cantt. area Lucknow” The bid document can be downloaded from the/ <http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/> CPPP portal.
The other terms and conditions can be seen from the Office of the Cantonment Board Lucknow 31 Nehru Road, Lucknow Cantt-226002 during working hours on before 11.11.2020.

LCB/06/Sanitation Works/2020-21
Cantonment Board, Lucknow
Dated 19th Oct, 2020

(Amit Kumar Mishra)
Chief Executive Officer
Cantonment Board Lucknow

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता. गोण्डा वृत्त. लो0नि0वि0, गोण्डा

पत्रांक-3208 / 98काम(पी0डी0 गोण्डा)-गो0वृ0 / 20 दिनांक-09.10.2020

ई-निविदा सूचना (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)
महामहिम राज्यपाल महोदय उ0प्र0 की ओर से लोक निर्माण विभाग उ0प्र0 में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से नीचे दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	जनपद / खण्ड का नाम	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य समस्त कर सहित (रु0 में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)	ठेकेदार की पंजीयन की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	गोण्डा / प्रांतीय खण्ड	मनोहरपुर से मुसापुर समकर्म मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य।	106.76	7.40	2600	6 माह	ए. बी

विड कांस्ट्रक्शन् वेबसाईट – <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 20.10.2020 से 27.10.2020 को सांय 5.00 बजे तक उपलब्ध है जो कि दिनांक 27.10.2020 को दोपहर 5.00 बजे तक डाउनलोड / अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। निविदाओं की तकनीकी विड दिनांक 28.10.2020 को दोपहर 12.30 बजे खोली जायेगी।

निविदा से संबंधित नियम / शर्तें तथा विवरण वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। पंजीकृत निविदादाता द्वारा जो विवरण ई-टेंडरिंग, एन0आइ0सी की साइट पर अपलोड किया जाना है, को साथ ही साथ लोक निर्माण विभाग की वेबसाईट www.uppwd.gov.in साथ के पोर्टल चाणक्य एवं प्रहरी सॉफ्टवेयर में उपलब्ध सॉफ्टवेयर पर भी अपलोड करना होगा।

(देवेन्द्र मणि)
अधिशासी अभियन्ता
प्रांतीय खण्ड, लो.नि.वि., गोण्डा

उ0प्र0-156006, दिनांक-18.10.2020
विज्ञापन वेबसाईट www.up.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(एस0के0सिन्हा)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
गोण्डा वृत्त, लो.नि.वि., गोण्डा

68 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 68 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district here on Monday, increasing the total number of cases to 15,887. There was great relief as after a long gap, no death of a corona patient was reported during the day and the toll remained at 254. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 108 patients. Out of them, 100 have been recovered from home isolation, while eight patients discharged from the hospitals, increasing the number to 11,898 and 2,781 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 14,679. The recovery rate has improved to 92.39 per cent and mortality rate to 1.59 per cent.

Meanwhile, in order to provide better health facilities to the general public and patients, another important



ICU facility at Emergency Ward of SSH BHU in Varanasi

Pioneer

initiative has been taken at the Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH) at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), under which an ICU room has been set up in the emergency ward of the hospital. The facility of six beds is available in this room. Dr Bikram Gupta, who is incharge of emergency services, said that this would benefit patients

who come to the emergency ward and need a ventilator immediately.

This intensive medical room is being investigated 24 hours, as well as portable x-ray machines and ABG machines are available here.

Dr Gupta said that since the inception of this facility many patients were brought

here and after treatment they were admitted to the main ICU or discharged.

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 37 positive patients were found out of 3,306 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,83,254 and the results of 2,039 are awaited.

Out of them, 2,67,398 were negative, while 15,856 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,99,698. Earlier, a male aged 98 from Lahartara (Manduadih) succumbed to COVID-19 at SSH BHU, while another male aged 70 from Sheel Nagar (Mahmoorganj) died at Apex Hospital.

With the addition of four new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,241 including 265 red zones. Five green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,976 green zones with eight new ones.

Varanasi ranked first in Swanidhi Yojana

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

While reviewing the progress of Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana at a meeting here on Monday, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal has informed that Varanasi has ranked first in the country in the applications received, acceptance and loan dispersal under the scheme, instructing the officers to ensure maximum approval

and disbursement of applications and to complete the target of loan disbursement to at least 25,000 vendors in the district before October 27.

The DC was informed that so far as many as 2,901 vendors in Adampur area have filed their applications while 6,089 in Bhelupur, 6,469 in Dashashwamedh, 3,055 in Kotwali region, 12,187 in trans-Varuna, 2,568 in Kashi Vidyapeeth block, 1,835 in

Harahuwa, 2,588 in Chiragaon, 1,625 in Ramnagar and 184 in Gangapur. So far, loans for the application of 24,115 vendors have been approved. There are a total of 45,228 registered vendors and out of them, the applications of 44,897 vendors have been filled.

DC said that to get the remaining vendors' applications filled, the bankers should contact the vendors as this scheme is a very ambitious one

to give assistance to street vendors under the Central Government's financial package. In this, there is a provision of loan availability of ₹ 10,000 to the vendor without any guarantee. The meeting was also attended by District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma, Municipal Commissioner Gaurang Rathi, Chief Development Officer Mahsudhan Hulgi and senior officials of different banks.

Schools reopen following COVID-19 guidelines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After almost seven months along suspension of academic activities in the secondary school due to worldwide coronavirus pandemic, the activities were seen on Monday when as per the permission of the district administration, several schools have started classes between IX and XII with several restrictions, following the COVID-19 guidelines. To see the condition of schools and their arrangements to fight against COVID-19, the officers of district administration and DIOS department inspected some schools.

At most of the schools, the students were allowed only after their thermal scanning and hand sanitising and for



this, the students were lined up maintaining social distancing to get entry into the school premises. Even in the classrooms, instead of sitting 3-4 students on a desk, only one student was seen sitting there in view to maintain dis-

tance and due to this, the attendance in most of the schools was thin than their normal capacity.

Long lines of students were seen at Arya Mahila Inter College at Chetganj, Queen's Government Inter

College at Jagatganj, Gopi Radha Balika Inter College at Ravindrappuri, Udai Pratap Public School and dozens of others. Only those students were allowed to enter the school premises at some institutions who had already sought permissions for the same. The students were allowed only as per the guidelines of the state government.

The activities were not only seen in government schools/ colleges but also in secondary schools of private groups as at Sunbeam School, Lahartara, proper distance was maintained at the classrooms as well as even in laboratories. The same was the scene of many other schools of leading educational groups.

Devotees throng Chandraghanta Devi temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Scores of devotees offered Sprayer at Chandraghanta Devi temple near Chowk on the third day of Shardiya Navratri here on Monday, 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 Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district to offer prayer during the auspicious occasion of Navratri at Maa Vindhyavasini Devi.

Meanwhile, preparations are going on for Durga Puja at some places though at a few it was already started as they observe nine-day long puja. The Vice-chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar has constituted a Durga Puja Committee under the leadership of Prof NC Karmakar. In



Devotees offering prayer at Chandraghanta Devi temple on third day of Navratri in Varanasi on Monday

Pioneer

a notification, V-C said that the BHU will organise only Kalash puja in view of COVID-19 precautionary measures as directed by the district administration. The puja will be held from October 22 to 26 in Madhuban premises on the campus. It is also clarified that

the committee has been constituted only for the BHU Durga Puja-2020 and subsequently it would be dissolved. Besides, Vidyarthi Sharadotsav Samiti will celebrate its 82nd festival at Nana Fadnavis Bada (Durga Ghat) from October 21 to 27. On the first day, Kalash would

be installed and then in the evening drawing contests will be organised in junior and senior categories which would be followed by the Ved Ghosh programme at 8 pm. Next day at 4 pm Rangoli contest will be held followed by Mahila Bhajan programme and at 8 pm.

Prashanmanch programme will be held through a projector. On the third day, Mahalaxmi programme will be held as per tradition and women will perform Gagarai dance.

On October 24, Bank of Maharashtra will organise a medical camp, while at 8 pm Veer Ras Geet contest will be organised. On October 25 at 4 pm general knowledge contest will be organised for junior and senior categories and later on, the children will present a music programme. Next day, magician Jitendra will present his show and the festival will conclude on October 27 at 8 am.

SP demands high-level probe into Ballia killing

VARANASI (PNS): Demanding the high-level inquiry to probe the sensational killing in full public view in Ballia, the Samajwadi Party (SP) on Monday staged a protest against the poor law and order situation in the state. The SP also extended its support to the weavers who are on an indefinite strike demanding the restoration of old flat rate electricity bill on powerloom.

The criminal incidents and violence against girls have risen and the law and order situation in fact has virtually collapsed in the state. The killing of one at Durjanpur village under the Rewati police station of Ballia is glaring example of worst law and

order situation in the state, the agitated workers of the SP said while staging a protest at Shastri Ghat in protest against the worst law and order situation in the state and demanded a high-level inquiry to probe the Ballia sensational murder incident. The murderer has support of the ruling party as its MLA openly came in his favour, they blamed.

The parliamentary constituency of the Prime Minister has also been witnessing an increase in criminal incidents such as murder and loot, they said and blamed, the district administration and police made an excess on the workers of political parties and social organ-

isations who raised voices against their atrocity. The administration and police should stop exploitation immediately, they demanded.

Extending their support to indefinite strike of the weavers, the SP workers demanded the government to restore the old flat rate electricity bill on powerloom what the weavers are demanding. The SP workers also handed over a memorandum to the district administration to forward it to the Governor.

Meanwhile, the weavers continued their indefinite strike and staged a protest against the government in Adampur area for introducing a new arrangement of electric-

ity bill as per unit on powerloom.

BOMB HOAX AT SSH BHU: The police along with the security personnel of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on Monday conducted an intense search at Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH) after the police control room received information about bombs planted in the hospital. But it proved just a hoax and the district police and varsity administration heaved a sigh of relief as no such explosive object was found in the hospital premises. The hospital management claimed that the medical services in the hospital are being run properly as usual.

151 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

After a long time, within the 24 hours after the number of corona infected came down, the figure again crossed 150. On Sunday night, the Covid report of 151 people, including an income tax officer, came positive. At the same time, the number of those who beat the corona more than the infected has increased. 194 people became infection free in 24 hours. Two corona infected persons died during treatment.

According to CMO Dr. GS Bajpai, 3,602 samples were collected in the district on Sunday for corona testing. Covid infection was confirmed in 151 people. On the other hand, out of 194 people who got infection-free, 50 people were discharged from various Covid hospitals, Covid care centres after getting infection-free. At the same time, 144 people completed home isolation.

The number of active patients in the district on Sunday was 1,619. The figure was on the decline. So far 22,359 people have been



infected in the district. Of these, 5,152 people were discharged from various hospitals and sent home. 15,254 people completed home isolation. As of 9 pm on Sunday, 238 corona-infected patients were admitted to various hospitals. Maximum 90 patients are

admitted to L3 SRN Hospital.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, among those who got infected on Sunday included an Income Tax Officer, two SRN doctors, CDA pension workers. One of the doctors is from the Department of

Surgery and the other of Medicine. Account officer of AG office, ARO of PHC, manager of SBI Life Insurance Civil Lines branch, a primary school teacher, assistant auditor of AG office, a cashier of Indian Bank has been infected.

Schools, colleges reopen from IX to XII

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Schools and colleges for the students from IXth to XIIth standard were reopened on Monday as per the guidelines issued by the Government after about seven months closure. All the educational institutions had been closed on March 20, 2020 owing to corona lockdown.

The District Inspector of Schools took rounds to inspect arrangements at the institutions in rural as well as urban areas of the district, and instructed to stick to the guidelines.

On the very first day the attendance of students was quite thin, and some had arrived without the written permission of the guardian. All such students were sent back as the guideline underlines the provision of written consent of the guardian to attend the school and college.

The institutions had arranged for thermal scanning of every student and staff



besides hand sanitisation. Those who had arrived without mask, were provided with the same by the school management.

As per the guidelines the

IXth and Xth standard students were called in the morning session, while XIth and XII standard boys and girls had to attend the college in day hours.

To maintain physical dis-

tancing, special seating arrangements had been made.

The managers and principals of the colleges were seen quite active to welcome the students under guidelines.

Man, his son killed in clash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A man and his son were killed and five others were injured when a clash broke out between two rival groups during a panchayat meeting to resolve a decades-old property dispute in Sheikhpur village, under the Raniganj police station in Pratapgarh district on Monday morning.

The deceased Dayashankar Mishra (60) and his son Anand Mishra (24) were attending a panchayat in Sheikhpur village to resolve the property dispute on being attacked as a clash erupted between the two groups. SP Pratapgarh Abhishek Singh suspended three policemen — sub-inspector Rajesh Rai, head constable Buddhan Prasad and constable Rama Yadav — on charges of dereliction of duty. The SP said that the two rival

gangs led by Dayashankar Mishra and Chandramani Mishra had been at loggerheads since three decades over a land dispute.

On Monday, the two were attending a panchayat to resolve the dispute. Things turned ugly when the supporters of both the camps clashed and attacked each other with sticks and rods.

Local villagers alerted the police after seven men were injured in the violent clash and were rushed to the district hospital. Dayashankar Mishra and his son Anand succumbed to injuries during treatment, said Pratapgarh police. The condition of the five injured persons is stable, the SP added. "We constituted four police teams to arrest the accused. Police have arrested two persons, including one Rajesh Mishra, for their involvement in the attack," said Singh.

NARROW ESCAPE: A group of unidentified miscreants allegedly opened fire on the joint secretary (administration) of Allahabad High Court Bar Association near Jagrati crossing under the Dhoomanganj police station late on Sunday night.

Though both the joint secretary and his friend narrowly escaped, the incident created panic in the area for hours. Following the incident, scores of lawyers also assembled demanding action against the culprits.

Secretary (Allahabad High Court Bar Association) Prabha Shankar Mishra said that a group of miscreants had allegedly opened fire on joint secretary (administration) of Allahabad High Court Bar Association, Abhishek Shukla and his friend, but they both narrowly escaped. He, however, said that an FIR under

Section 307 and 392 of IPC has been lodged with Dhoomanganj police station against one Babu and others regarding the incident.

Meanwhile, report said that Neemsarai resident Abhishek Shukla along with Sanjeev Singh had gone to meet some persons near Jagrati crossing by their bike. While returning, their bike collided with another bike and a group of unidentified miscreants standing around the bike came at loggerheads with them and one of them allegedly opened fire on them. However, they narrowly escaped.

Dhoomanganj police, meanwhile, said that cops have been probing the incident and efforts are under to establish the identities of the miscreants. Police also said that teams have been formed to catch Babu and his accomplices.

NCR efforts against COVID-19 intensified

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

With increase in the number of special trains, efforts against COVID-19 have been intensified by the North Central Railway.

In view of ensuing festive season operation of special trains are being increased in a phased and gradual manner. With announcement of 196 additional special trains by Railways on last week total 288 special trains and 130 festival specials including 20 pairs of originating specials shall be catering to different stations on North Central Railway.

While providing increased convenience to passengers, special care is being taken to protect them from COVID-19 for which existing efforts in stations and trains are being intensified. Jan Aandolan a low cost and high intensity campaign on Covid appropriate behaviour is already launched all over North Central Railway. Under this

campaign being observed in stations, trains, offices and colonies; thrust is on use of mask, maintaining minimum two yard physical distance and regular hand washing. So far 106 stations and 12 pairs of originating special trains of NCR have been provided with more than 660 poster and banners on Covid appropriate behaviour, auto announcement on COVID-19 awareness is being made at 80 stations, digital displays of awareness clips at 9 stations and more than 40000 passengers, Railway employees and other persons have taken pledge for following Covid appropriate behaviour. Approximately 50 lakh SMS have been sent to passengers and railway employees related to Covid related precaution to be observed in trains and stations. In view of expected increase in footfall at stations during festivals a special awareness drive has also been launched by RPF in stations and trains wherein besides

awareness campaign RPF is also taking action for violation of COVID-19 related guidelines under section 145, 153 and 154 of Railway Act 1989. Under this intensive awareness campaign all major stations including Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Kanpur Central, Tundla, Aligarh, Jhansi, Gwalior, Urai, Lalitpur, Banda, Agra Cant, Agra Fort, Mathura Jn, and originating special trains and other important trains over NCR are being regularly checked by RPF personnel for compliance of COVID-19 related guidelines.

COVID-19 related infrastructure has also been augmented to handle increased passengers. Besides arrangement for 100% screening of passengers at all stations 12 automatic thermal scanners have been provide at 10 major stations of NCR which include Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Kanpur Central, Etawah, Tundla, Aligarh, Jhansi, Gwalior, Agra Cantt and Mathura .

ADMISSION PROCESS: The process of admission to constituent colleges will be online this time on the lines of the Allahabad University. That is, the candidate will deposit the fees online from home and take admission. However, later they will have to go to the college and verify their original academic records, only then their admission will be considered complete. If their marksheets or any other certificate is found to be fake during record verification, the entry will be canceled.

Thousands of students through the entrance hall of the university every year for admission. The constituent colleges issue syllabus-wise cut-offs for college admission four-five days after admission in the university and then there is a crowd of thousands of candidates for admission to colleges. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the AU administration has decided to take admission through online instead of offline this time.

Mission Shakti to remove fear from minds of girls: Dy CM

Sharma favours martial arts training to them

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, addressing a webinar on Mission Shakti, a project launched in Uttar Pradesh for the safety and respect of girls and women at Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur on Monday said this project focused on spreading awareness towards ensuring the safety and dignity of women and girl-child.

He said girls were worshipped in India but certain elements victimised them, causing fear in them and thus the UP government decided to launch the Mission Shakti.

Dr Sharma said it was high time every girl student was imparted training in martial arts and above all the first and foremost thing was to remove fear from their minds.

He said Mission Shakti had been started with the hope

of guaranteeing respect and safety to every woman of UP.

The deputy chief minister said it was certainly a cause of concern that a girl child always felt frightened and intimidated when walking alone. He and for this unless the girls were mentally and physically prepared it would remain a far cry.

Addressing the gathering, key person of the session, Dr Charu Khan, said the sad reality was that women lived in an increasingly violent society in which the fear of crime was ever-present.

She said personal safety had become an issue of importance for everyone, but especially for women who were concerned about this state of affairs. She suggested awareness among women, adding that this was the first line of defence.

She said true self-defence began long before any actual physical contact. She said the

first, and probably most important, component in self-defence was awareness especially of self and ones surrounding and those who could be attackers.

She said research had shown that criminals were adept at choosing targets who appeared to be unaware of what was going on around them. She said by being aware of surroundings and by projecting a 'force presence', many altercations which were commonplace on the street could be avoided.

She advised women to focus on gut instinct which meant ones intuition was a powerful subconscious insight into situations, adding that people and especially women, had this gift, but very few paid attention to it. She advised girls and women to learn to trust this power and use it to full advantage.

Dr Khan further stated

that it was important to evaluate the goals and practical usefulness of a women's self-defence and said avoid martial arts centres unless one specifically wished to train in the traditional martial arts techniques and were prepared for a long-term commitment.

She said many women's self-defence programmes taught watered-down martial arts techniques that were complex and unrealistic under the stress of an actual attack. She said however escape was the best option — always run and yell for help and throw a rock through a store or car window to attract attention and if the criminals are after the purse or other material items, throw them one way while running the other.

She said women had the right to fight also but no matter how diligently women practised awareness and avoidance

techniques, they may find themselves in a physical confrontation. She said whether or not one had self-defence training, and no matter what age or physical condition, it was important to understand that one certainly could and must defend oneself physically.

She said one had both the moral and legal right to do so, even if the attacker was only threatening and had not struck first.

She advised girls not to open doors unless certain if they knew who was on the other side of the door.

Dr Khan said last but not the least, although the internet was educational and entertaining, it could also be full of danger if one was not careful.

Others present on the occasion were Dr Rashmi Gore, Dr Sunita Arya and several others.

40-year-old man murdered

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A 40-year-old man was murdered in Dhaurahra village under Chilh police station on Sunday night. On getting information on Monday morning police reached the temple where his body was recovered. Prima facie investigation revealed that



Munna, son of Tirri, was residing in the temple and his throat was found slit under unknown circumstances. Police suspect that a dispute with friends led to his murder. No arrest had been made yet, last reports received here said. Senior police officials, including the IG, visited the spot. Police took the body into custody for completing the legal formalities.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION: Former principal of Adarsh Inter College, Visundarpur, Brajdeo Pandey said that the youth should emulate former PM Rajiv Gandhi and fulfill his dream of making the nation most powerful. During the

prize distribution ceremony organised under the aegis of district unit of Congress at Laldiggi on Sunday, Brajdeo Pandey, who was the chief guest, praised the initiative of the state unit of Congress which organised Rajiv Gandhi GK competition online throughout the state to inculcate the spirit of healthy competition among the students. Extending his best wishes for their bright future, the chief guest advised the Congress workers to organise more programmes to make the youth aware about great personalities like Rajiv Gandhi. As per the result announced by judges Parul stood at the top position and was awarded a laptop, Shanu Tiwari came second and was given a tablet, while Himanshi Singh who came third given a mobile phone as prize. Consolation prizes were given to 30 participants and remaining were honoured with certificates. Proposing the vote of thanks district Congress president Shivkumar Patel said that GK competition was a way to spread nationalism among the youth. The programme was conducted by Congress district secretary Manish Dubey. Among those present were former MLAs, Bhagawati Prasad Chaudhary and Laliteshpati Tripathi, Nazam Ali, Lavkush Bharti, Kedar Nath Dubey, Rajdhar Dubey and Bhartendu Yadav.

New Delhi-Darbhangha Suvidha puja spl from Oct 22

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of passengers during the forthcoming festivals will ensure the movement of 84408/84407 New Delhi-Barauni-New Delhi biweekly Suvidha superfast puja special and 88410/84409 New Delhi-Darbhangha-New Delhi bi-weekly Suvidha superfast puja special. All coaches in them will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 norms, CPRO PK Singh said.

NEW DELHI-BARAUNI PUJA SPL: The 84408 New Delhi-Barauni biweekly Suvidha SF puja special will from October 20 to November 27 every Tuesday and Friday leave New Delhi at 19:25 hrs, Moradabad at 22:38 hrs, the second day Bareilly at 00:03 hrs, Lucknow at 04:15 hrs, Gorakhpur at 09:10 hrs, Siwan at 10:47 hrs, Chhapra at 12:05 hrs, Hajipur at 13:12 hrs and reach Barauni at 15:00 hrs. During the return journey, the 84407 Barauni-New Delhi bi-weekly Suvidha superfast puja

special from October 21 to November 28 every Wednesday and Saturday will leave Barauni at 19:30 hrs, Hajipur at 21:17 hrs, Chhapra at 22:35 hrs, Siwan at 23:42 hrs, the second day Gorakhpur at 01:30 hrs, Lucknow at 06:40 hrs, Bareilly at 10:12 hrs, Moradabad at 11:50 hrs and reach New Delhi at 14:50 hrs. A total of 20 coaches, including two coaches of generator-luggage van, six of general second class, seven of sleeper class, four of AC third and one of AC second will be attached.

NEW DELHI-DARBHANGA PUJA SPL: The 84410 New Delhi-Darbhangha biweekly Suvidha superfast puja special from October 22 to November 26 every Monday and Thursday will leave New Delhi at 19:25 hrs, Moradabad at 22:38 hrs, the second day Bareilly at 00:03 hrs, Lucknow at 04:15 hrs, Gorakhpur at 09:10 hrs, Siwan at 10:47 hrs, Darbhanga at 16:00 hrs, Chhapra at 12:00 hrs, Hajipur at 13:02 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 13:57 hrs and Samastipur at 15:10 hrs and reach Darbhanga at 16:00 hrs.

During the return journey the 84409 Darbhanga-New Delhi biweekly Suvidha superfast puja special from October 23 to November 27 every Tuesday and Friday will leave Darbhanga at 20:55 hrs, Samastipur at 22:10 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 23:02 hrs, Hajipur at 23:57 hrs, the second day Chhapra at 01:10 hrs, Siwan at 02:15 hrs, Gorakhpur at 04:00 hrs, Lucknow at 09:00 hrs, Bareilly at 12:50 hrs, Moradabad at 14:20 hrs and reach New Delhi at 17:30 hrs. A total of 20 coaches will be attached in it.

STOPPAGE NOT GIVEN: The railway administration due to unavoidable reasons has not provided stoppage to 05018/05017 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur puja special train at Devlali, Igatpuri, Kasara, Nandgaon, Nepanagar, Jasra Dabhaura, Jaitwar, Barud and Surgaon Banjari stations. Similarly the 05045/05046 Gorakhpur-Okha puja special train will not stop at Shajapur, Maninagar, Wankaner, Hapa and Khambhaliya stations, CPRO PK Singh said.

Pune-Lko Jn puja special from today

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Keeping the convenience of passengers in mind in view of the forthcoming festivals the following Puja special trains will be run the railway administration. All coaches in them will be reserved category and passengers will have to follow the Covid-19 norms, CPRO PK Singh said.

PUNE-LUCKNOW JN. PUJA SPL: The 01407 Pune-Lucknow Jn weekly puja special will from October 20 to November 24 every Tuesday leave from Pune at 22:00 hrs and reach Lucknow Jn the third day at 02:40 hrs. While 01408 Lucknow Jn- Pune weekly puja special from October 22 to November 26 every Thursday leave Lucknow Jn at 06:30 hrs and reach Pune at 11:05 hrs the next day. This train will be run on the timing and stoppage of the regular train no 11407/11408 Pune-Lucknow Jn -Pune Express. A total of 22 coaches will be attached in it.

LKO JN- PATLIPUTRA SF SPECIAL. The 02530 Lucknow Jn- Patliputra superfast puja special from October 20 to November 30 every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday will leave Badshahnagar at 05:30 hrs, Gonda at 07:25 hrs, Basti at 08:39 hrs, Gorakhpur at 10:10 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 10:56 hrs, Siwan at 11:55 hrs, Ekma at 12:20 hrs, Chhapra at 13:15 hrs and Dighwara at 13:50 hrs and reach Patliputra at 14:50 hrs. During the return journey the 02529 Patliputra- Lucknow Jn superfast puja special will from October 20 to November 30 every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday leave Patliputra at 15:50 hrs, Dighwara at 16:27 hrs, Chhapra at 17:30 hrs, Ekma 17:51 hrs, Deoria Sadar 19:20 hrs, Gorakhpur at 20:55 hrs, Basti at 22:03 hrs, Gonda at 23:35 hrs, on the second day Badshahnagar at 02:00 hrs, and reach Lucknow Jn arrive at 02:35 hrs. A total of 21 coaches will be attached in it.

MANDUADIH-NEW DELHI PUJA SPL: The 02581 Manduadih-New Delhi superfast puja special from October 20 to November 30 will daily leave Manduadih at 22:30 hrs and after stopping at Gyanpur Road, the second day Prayagraj Jn, Kanpur Central at 04:15 hrs Ghaziabad at 11:32 hrs, and reach New Delhi at 12:15 hrs. During the return journey the 02582 New Delhi-Manduadih SF puja special will from October 20 to December 1 leave New Delhi at 22:35 hrs daily and after stopping at Ghaziabad, on second day from Kanpur Central,

Prayagraj Jn and Gyanpur Road reach Manduadih at 11:10 hrs. A total of 22 coaches will be attached in this train.

PLATFORMS FIXED: In view of upcoming festivals, platforms for puja special trains and other special trains have been fixed at Gorakhpur Junction station, CPRO PK Singh said. Platform No. 01- The 02521 Barauni-Ernakulam puja special train, 05003 Kanpur Anwarganj-Gorakhpur special, 09038 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus special, 09040 Muzaffarpur-Bandra Terminus special, 02569 Darbhanga-New Delhi clone special, 05273 Raxaul-Delhi special, 02553 Saharsa-New Delhi special train, 02557 Muzaffarpur-Delhi special train, 04653 New Jalpaiguri-Amritsar clone special and 05007 Varanasi City-Lucknow Jn special. Platform No. 02- The 02566 New Delhi-Darbhangha special train, 04654 Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri clone special train, 05008 Lucknow Jn-Varanasi City special, 05050 Gorakhpur-Kolkata special, 05052 Gorakhpur-Kolkata special, 05048 Gorakhpur-Kolkata special, 04010 Delhi-Bapudham Motihari special, 02522 Ernakulam-Gorakhpur puja special, 05017 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur puja special and 05004 Gorakhpur-Kanpur Anwarganj special. Platform No 03- The 05101 Chhapra-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (Mumbai) puja special, 02574 Anand Vihar Terminus-Muzaffarpur clone special, 04009 Bapudham Motihari-Delhi special, 02408 Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri special, 02554 New Delhi-Saharsa special, 02530 Lucknow Jn-Pataliputra puja special, 03020 Kathgodam-Howrah puja special, 05097 Bhagalpur-Jammu Tawi puja special, 02563 Saharsa-New Delhi clone special, 02565 Darbhanga-New Delhi special, 01016 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus special, 05098 Jammu-Bhagalpur puja special and 05910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh special. Platform No. 04- The 05102 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (Mumbai) - Chhapra puja special, 09601 Udaipur-New Jalpaiguri puja special, 01015 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur special, 04674 Amritsar-Jaynagar special, 09037 Banda Terminus-Gorakhpur special, 09039 Banda Terminus-Muzaffarpur special, 05029 Gorakhpur-Pune puja special, 03019 Howrah-Kathgodam puja special, 02529 Pataliputra-Lucknow Jn puja special, 02407 New Jalpaiguri Amritsar special and 09602 New Jalpaiguri-Udaipur puja special. Platform

No 05- The 01056 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus special, 09452 Bhagalpur-Gandhidham puja special, 09089 Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur special, 09090 Gorakhpur-Ahmedabad special, 05022 Gorakhpur-Shalimar puja special, 01116 Gorakhpur-Pune special, 02573 Muzaffarpur-Anand Vihar Terminus clone special, 09051 Gandhidham-Bhagalpur puja special, 04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar special and 01055 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur special. Platform No 06- The 02570 New Delhi-Darbhangha clone special, 02558 Delhi-Muzaffarpur special, 05066 Panvel-Gorakhpur special, 05064 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur special, 02564 New Delhi-Saharsa clone special, 05274 Delhi-Raxaul special, 02598 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus-Gorakhpur puja special, 04924 Chandigarh-Gorakhpur special, 04923 Gorakhpur-Chandigarh special and 05909 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh special. Platform No. 07- The 05063 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur special, 05065 Gorakhpur-Panvel special, 05067 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus special, 02572 Anand Vihar Terminus-Gorakhpur Humsafar special, 02596 Anand Vihar Terminus-Gorakhpur Humsafar special, 02571 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminus Humsafar special, 02595 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminus Humsafar special and 02588 Jammu Tawi-Gorakhpur puja special. Platform No. 08- The 01115 Pune-Gorakhpur puja special, 05018 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur Puja special train, 05047 Kolkata-Gorakhpur puja special, 05051 Kolkata-Gorakhpur puja special, 05049 Kolkata-Gorakhpur puja special, 02587 Gorakhpur-Jammu Tawi puja special, 02592 Yesvantpur-Gorakhpur special, 02590 Secunderabad-Gkp special, 02512 Thiruvananthapuram Central-Gkp puja special, 02542 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gkp special and 05030 Pune-Gorakhpur puja special. Platform No 09- The 05045 Gkp-Okha special, 02591 Gkp-Yesvantpur special, 02511 Gkp-Thiruvananthapuram Central-Gkp puja special, 02589 Gkp-Secunderabad special, 02597 Gkp-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (Mumbai) special, 05068 Banda-Gorakhpur special, 02556 Hisar-Gkp special, 02555 Gorakhpur-Hisar special, 02521 Shalimar-Gkp puja special, 05046 Okha-Ahmedabad puja special & 02541 Gkp-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus special.

Huge cache of firecrackers seized

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Three truck-loads of firecrackers and explosive material worth over Rs.60 lakh were recovered from a three-storeyed house near Gulab Ghosi Masjid on Nala Road under Bajarja police station on Sunday night.

Police arrested three brothers from the spot. They were identified as Rizwan Habib, Hafiz Ahmad and Mohd Javed, sons of Hazi Habib.

On a tip off, Circle Officer of Sisamau, Tripurari Pandey, along with a force raided the house and recovered huge cache of firecrackers stored in the basement and four rooms on the first floor.

The entire goods were seized and sent to Bajarja police station on five loaders.

Pandey said the recovered goods were worth over Rs.60 lakh.

The arrested brothers told the police that till a few years ago, they used to look after the firecrackers trade of two famous licence holders of Meston Road and later they had started their own business.

On failing to get licence from the district administration, they had started to ille-



CO Sisamau Tripurari Pandey raided a house and recovered huge cache of firecrackers.

Pioneer.

gally store and sell the firecrackers. For the past five years, they had been selling crackers on Diwali, Dussehra and other festivals.

They said the goods were purchased from a firecrackers trader, Javed, of Saharanpur and with the help of 3-4 transporters of Babupurwa, the goods were delivered at Kanpur without any transport

receipt and licence.

Police will now initiate action against the alleged transporters, CO Pandey said.

CRIMINAL NABBED : The Maharajpur police on Monday arrested a wanted criminal involved in over two dozen cases of loot and theft. He was identified as Sonu Rajput of Barra World Bank Colony.

On a tip-off, the police raided a place near Deodhi Ghat turn and arrested him.

Police recovered Rs 8,000 in cash, golden earrings, ring and several pairs of anklet apart from a country-made pistol from him.

Sonu is member of a gang of notorious criminals. The kingpin of the gang is presently lodged in jail.

71 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 71 more coronavirus positive cases on Monday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 71 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Sunday evening and Monday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 27,339 cases. He said one COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Monday evening keeping the death toll to 715. The CMO said with 25 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals the cured figure in the city was 7124 and at present 1734 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4492 samples were sent for testing in the city.

‘Present day consumer aware of food quality and safety’

KANPUR (PNS): The present day consumer is highly aware of food quality and safety and conventionally grown foods have immense adverse health effects due to the presence of higher pesticide residue, more nitrate, heavy metals, hormones, antibiotic residue, and also genetically modified organisms. The conventionally grown foods are less nutritious and contain lesser amounts of protective antioxidants.

The increasing demand for safer food has led to increase in the demand for organically grown foods mainly due to their probable health benefits and food safety concerns.

This was stated by key speaker Dr Sombir Sharma, while addressing a session on organic farming, organised by Pallilwal Naturals India Pvt Ltd (Habitat Genome) at Bithoor.

Dr Sharma said the popularity of the organically grown foods was increasing every day due to their nutritional and health benefits. He said organic farming also protected environment and had a greater socio-economic impact on a nation. He said organically grown foods had become one of the best choices for both consumers and farmers and organically grown foods were part of good life style.

Dr Sharma said conventional farming was the cultivation process where synthetic pesticides and chemical fertilisers were applied to gain higher crop yield and profit. He said organic farming and food processing practices were wide-ranging and necessitated the development of socially, ecologically and economically sustainable food production system. Discussing the schemes which were being promoted in a big way by the government, Dr Sharma said the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) promoted cluster based organic farming with PGS (participatory guarantee system) certification.

Grooming oneself to overcome challenges helps one stay focused, calm: Khaitan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Senior member of the advisory committee of Jaipuria Public School, Archana Khaitan, while addressing the closing function of ComFest on Monday said the performance of the students in various events not only proved their mettle but also reflected how challenging the present day youth was.

She said life was full of ups and downs and everyone had to face their own set of challenges and for this grooming oneself to overcome challenges helped one stay focused and calm when under pressure.

She advised the students to always take up challenges in life as the simple mantra was 'No risk no gain'. She advised the students to see ones life and evaluate challenges one had faced in the past and assess the optimal outcomes and make a plan for achieving them.

She said not only academics but even time management for students was a big challenge. She advised students to reach out to community and network.

She added that seeking help was nothing wrong as people looked at their loved ones, mentors and friends who they felt could help them at the difficult times.

Khaitan said seeking help was one side of the coin while the other was ones willingness to accept support. She said the old adage stated what one gave was what one got.

She said if one had been through a situation or had

ComFest CONCLUDES

advice for someone one knew who was going through a tough time, be sure to help out as helping others not only benefited them, but it also helped one feel happier.

She said it could be easy to let oneself think small because of the fear of failure or even the fear of making a decision.

She said but to accomplish great things in life, one had to be open to taking risks and said whatever challenges may arise, always think and dream big.

Principal of the school, Shikha Bannerjee, said students need to have a positive mindset as what one thought became reality.

She said one should train the mind to think positively as it took both time and practice and it began with mental awareness. She added that when challenges arose, be it a big test in school or an upcoming race, do not give up as persistence was a huge key to overcome challenges. She said giving up meant that one would neither overcome the challenge nor learn from it.

She suggested a mantra to students that there were umpteen ways to get something done but there was always one optimal way, or the best way, of doing that thing.

She said one needed to work smarter rather than harder. She said first accept where one were and what one wanted to achieve and when faced with a particular challenge take a step away from ones feel-

ings to make a plan and always be objective as much as possible. She said taking action was one of the biggest steps in overcoming challenges. She said when something new occurred, one may feel like it was hard to deal with but by practising gratitude, one could reframe ones definition of a challenge. She said that learning to deal with challenges took time, persistence and a positive attitude. She said no matter what be ones life situation, the hard times would happen but with the right mindset and practise, one would be able to overcome them every time and grow in the process.

The winners of the event were 1st-Navrachna School, Vadodra, 2nd-La Martinière Girls' College, Lucknow and 3rd-Sheiling House, Kanpur.

TWO DIFFERENTLY ABLED CITY CHILDREN WIN PRIZE

Two differently abled children of the city won medals in the Special Olympic Bharat Virtual Dance Sports Competition 2020 organised online recently.

They are students of Perna Special School of the Cantonment Board.

Priti Kashyap bagged the second prize in Speciality 12 to 15 years age-group while Shrishti won the third prize.

Out of four differently abled children who emerged winners from the state, two

Use knowledge obtained in real life: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urged students to use their knowledge obtained through education at various stages of their real life. Modi termed real life as a great university which teaches various ways for applicability of knowledge. He also said his Government is concentrating on the infrastructure creation and structural reforms in the education sector reforms and the National Education Policy would give new direction and new strength to the reforms in the education sector.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the centenary convocation ceremony of Mysore University through video conference from New Delhi.

The PM said the University of Mysore is the centre of the great education system of ancient India, the aspirations and capabilities of future India and has realised the vision of “Rajarshi” Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and M Visvesvaraya ji. He referred to stalwarts like Bharat Ratna Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who taught at the University. “Education



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses centenary convocation of University of Mysore, via video conferencing, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

throws light at difficult times in life,” Modi said quoting the great Kannada writer and thinker Gurusu Ramaswamy Iyengar.

He said continuous efforts are being made so that India’s Education system caters to the needs of the 21st century wherein infrastructure creation and structural reforms were given special focus. He said to make India a Global Hub for Higher Education and to make our youth competitive, efforts were made qualitatively as well as quantitatively.

He said even after so many years of independence, in 2014, there were only 16 IITs in the

country. In the last 6 years, on an average, a new IIT has been opened every year. One of them is also at Dharwad, Karnataka. He also said as of 2014 there were only 9 IIITs, 13 IIMs and 7 AIIMs in the country whereas in the subsequent 5 years, 16 IIITs, 7 IIMs and 8 AIIMs were either established or in the process of being created.

Modi said efforts in higher education over the last five to six years are not limited to only opening new institutions but work has also been done on governance reforms in these institutions to ensure gender equality and social inclusive-

ness.

He said the first IIM Act gave more rights to IIMs across the country. The National Medical Commission has been created to bring more transparency in medical education. Two new laws are also being enacted for bringing in reforms in Homeopathy and other Indian medical practices. PM expressed happiness that at all levels of education in the country, the Gross Enrolment ratio of girls is more than boys.

Modi said the focus of the National Education Policy is multidimensional to make our youth competitive through a flexible and adaptable educa-

tion system. He said Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling are the greatest need of the hour. Being one of the best education institutes in the country, the Prime Minister urged the University of Mysore to innovate according to the new emerging situation. He urged the institute to focus on Incubation Centres, Technology Development Centres, “Industry-academia linkage” and “Inter-disciplinary research”. He requested the University to promote research on Local Culture, Local Art and other social issues along with related global and contemporary issues.

CAA will be implemented soon: Nadda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The Centre is determined to implement Citizenship Amendment Act and it will take place at any cost, BJP national president JP Nadda said on Monday.

Nadda who promised a whole lot of things in a meeting of party workers in Siliguri said that “our Government is different from the one led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee whose Trinamool Congress oppresses the people for four years and offers doles in the last one year before the elections... we perform that we promise. So CAA is sure to happen and the process is on,” complaining how the “Hindus were discriminated against by the Chief Minister earlier on and now realising that it had backfired she is trying to befool them with small concessions.”

Speaking about the delay of its implementation he said “due to corona situation the process got delayed but it is very much in the Government’s agenda

and will be implemented... for which rules are being framed and soon the process will start.”

Saying that the Narendra Modi Government had performed on most promises he said how 8 crore people had been benefited from the Prime Minister Kisan Sanman Nidhi which was “unfortunately stopped from being implemented in Bengal by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee,” adding, “now it is your responsibility to throw the TMC Government and bring in the BJP so that all the schemes can be implemented.”

Attacking the Trinamool Government, Nadda said how the Chief Minister had not only blocked one central scheme “but all the central projects like the Ayushman Bharat that has benefited 55 crore people have been stopped from coming to Bengal... It is for the people to take a vow that after the next April the BJP Government will be in place in Bengal so as to implement all such people’s schemes.”

The Modi Government had

brought a whole lot of reforms so as to improve the quality of lives of the people of India he said adding how 2.2 crore people got electricity in their houses. “In your state about 1000 villages have no power and the BJP is determined to reach power to their houses,” he said recounting how a large number of reforms had been carried out by the Modi Government.

“In the case of labour laws we have done away with many of them like the Plantation Labour Act. We have now added it with the Minimum Wages Act so that even the plantation workers will get the wages like their other counterparts,” he said promising projects for the Gorkhas, Rajbanshis and other groups residing in North Bengal.

Saying that various aspirations of the people of North Bengal related to Railway connectivity will be addressed soon he said that Railway Minister Piyush Goyal will soon sit with the MPs of North Bengal and address their issues.

Haj will depend on protocol guidelines due to Covid-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Without giving a firm date-wise time-table for Haj 2021, Union Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday said the holy pilgrimage will depend on national-international Protocol Guidelines due to Covid-19 pandemic conditions. The Union Minister said a whole set of procedures for the Haj would change on account of

the pandemic.

While chairing Haj 2021 review meeting here, Naqvi said Haj is scheduled for June-July 2021, but the final decision regarding Haj 2021 will be taken in due course keeping in view necessary guidelines to be issued by the Saudi Arabia Government and the Government of India in view of corona pandemic to ensure health and well-being of the people.

Naqvi added Haj Committee of India and other Indian agencies will formally announce Haj 2021 application process and other related preparations after a decision is taken by the Saudi Arabia Government on Haj 2021.

The Minister said the entire Haj process might witness a significant change in view of necessary guidelines.

“These include accommodation, transport, health and

other facilities both in India and Saudi Arabia,” he said.

Naqvi said health and well-being of the pilgrims is of the utmost priority for the Government due to corona pandemic.

The Indian agencies will ensure necessary arrangements in this regard. The Indian Government and Haj Committee have started necessary preparations to ensure health and well-being of the pil-

grims. The Minister said due to 100 per cent digital Haj process of India, Rs 2,100 crore have been returned through DBT mode, without any deduction, to 1,23,000 people after cancellation of Haj 2020 due to coronavirus.

The Saudi Arabia Government has also returned about Rs 100 crore regarding transportation.

Secretary, Minority Affairs Ministry PK Das and other

senior officials of the Ministry; Joint Secretary, External Affairs Vipul; Joint Secretary Civil Aviation Ministry SK Mishra attended the review meeting. Besides, Dr Ausaf Sayeed, Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; Y Sabir, Acting Consul General in Jeddah; MA Khan, CEO Haj Committee of India and other officials from Health Department, Air India etc attended the meeting through video conferencing.

WHO cautions against let-up in Covid fight after slight decline in cases in SE Asia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of festivals and the winter season, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday cautioned against any relaxation of response actions following the recent slight decline in Covid-19 cases in the South-East Asia Region. It said the pandemic continues unabated and our response only needs to be strengthened further to curtail virus transmission.

The co-circulation of seasonal influenza and Covid-19 in the winters may present challenges for health systems and health facilities, since both diseases present many similar symptoms, according to the health experts. “There should be no complacency in view of the declining numbers in recent weeks. The Region still reports large numbers of Covid-19 cases. We need to continue to do our very best to curtail the pandemic,” said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region in a statement here.

The upcoming festival season and the approaching winter/cold season threatens to aggravate the situation if we let our guards down, she said. Member countries have been making concerted efforts scaling up capacities for timely detection, testing, tracing contacts, isolating the affected and providing hospital care to those who need it. “Our relentless efforts need to continue with more vigor,” the Regional Director said.

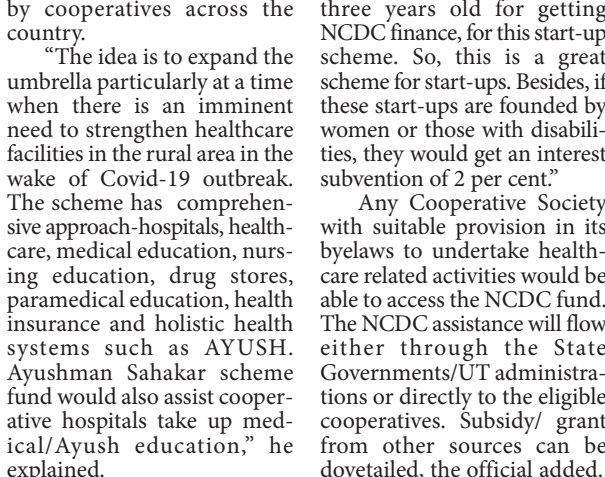
This festive season we must continue to take responsibility as individuals of the need to maintain physical distance, hand hygiene, cough etiquette and wear a mask when and where needed. People must remember the three Cs — avoid crowded places, avoid closed settings and avoid confined and enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

Many of the same measures that are effective in preventing Covid-19 are also effective for preventing influenza, including physical distancing, hand hygiene, covering coughs, ventilation and masks. For the third week in a row, the WHO South-East Asia Region has registered 6 - 8 per cent decline in the number of Covid-19 cases, mainly due to a decrease in reported cases from India and Bangladesh.

Home to one-fourth of the world’s population, the Region has reported over 8 million of the nearly 40 million cases globally, mostly from the most populous countries which also face unique demographic and geographic challenges.

In India, the number of new coronavirus infections reported daily dropped below 60,000 for the second time this month, while the number of fresh fatalities registered across the country dipped below 600 almost after three months, the Union Health Ministry data said.

The total cases mounted to 75,50,273 with 55,722 infections being reported in a day while death toll climbed to 1,14,610 with 579 fatalities being registered in a span of 24 hours.



Homebuyers in SC to frame model pacts to protect realty customers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking direction to the Centre to frame model pacts for builder and agent buyers to protect customers and bring in transparency in the realty sector in tune with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Act 2016.

The plea filed by 62 home buyers has also sought a direction to all the states to enforce ‘Model Builder Buyer Agreement’ and ‘Model Agent Buyer Agreement’ and to take steps to avoid ‘mental, physical and financial injury’ to customers.

The plea has made Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, DLF Southern Homes

Pvt. Ltd.(Begur Omr Home Pvt Ltd) and Annabel Builders & Developers Pvt. Ltd as parties in the case.

“Promoters, Builders and Agents use manifestly arbitrary one-sided agreements that do not place customers at an equal platform with them, which offends Articles 14, 15, 21 of Constitution. There have been many cases of deliberate inordinate delays in handing over possession and customers lodge complaints but police don’t register FIRs, citing arbitrary clauses of the agreement.

“Builders issue revised delivery schedule again and again and adopt arbitrary unfair restrictive trade practices. All this amounts to criminal conspiracy, fraud, cheating, criminal breach of trust, dishonestly inducing delivery of the property, dishonest misappropriation of property and violation of corporate laws,” said the plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

Due to deliberate excessive delays in possession, real estate customers are not only suffering from mental and financial injury but also from brazen violation of their right to life and livelihood, the plea said.

The PIL contended that many developers across the country still follow a common practice of pre-launching a project without securing requisite approvals for the project from the authorities, and term it as ‘soft launch’ or ‘pre-launch’ etc. thus, openly violating the law but no

honestly inducing delivery of the property, dishonest misappropriation of property and violation of corporate laws,” said the plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

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action has been taken against any builder till date.

“It is necessary to state that registration of the project with the regulatory authority has been mandatory before it is launched for sale, and for registration, the basic pre-requisite is that the developer must have all the requisite approvals.

“Thus the buyer is protected as the project is ring-fenced from the vagaries of non-approvals or delays in approvals which are one of the major causes of delay for the project,” the plea said.

The plea has also sought directions to compensate the buyers for losses incurred due to inordinate delays on the part of Promoters-Builders and to recover their money.

SC asks Maharashtra SDMA to take decision on Nanded gurdwara Dusshera procession

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Maharashtra State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) to decide on the representation by Nanded gurdwara management board seeking to hold Dusshera procession amid Covid-19 pandemic.

A bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao, which assembled during the Dusshera vacation of the apex court to hear the matter, said the decision will have to be taken on the basis of ground situation.

The bench, also comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi, asked the gurdwara management to file its representation with the SDMA by Tuesday.

The gurdwara management board can move the Bombay High Court if it is not satisfied with the decision of the SDMA, it said.

The top court was hearing a plea by ‘Nanded Sikh Gurudwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Board’ seeking permission to carry out the customary procession on account of the 300-year old event — ‘Dusshera, Takht Isnan, Deepmala and Gurta Gaddi’ — with certain conditions. The plea has said that ‘Gurdwara Takhat Shri Hazur Abchalnagar is a pious place of world fame for being the last place of tenth Sikh Guru Shri Guru Gobind Singh ji Maharaj, where he granted holy seat of Guru to the Gurugranth Sahib ji before going to Sachkhand’.

The Maharashtra Government has told the apex

court that allowing Nanded gurdwara to hold Dusshera procession will not be a “practically feasible option” amid COVID-19 and the state has taken a conscious decision of not allowing religious functions to check the spread of virus.

During the hearing on Monday, the advocate appearing for the petitioner said that the Centre has issued guidelines on the issue and the state too has not raised objection to limited gatherings. Referring to the guidelines, he said for marriage 50 people are allowed and the gurdwara management board is not asking for ‘public participation’ and there will be only as many people and on a limited route.

“Your contention that the state government is not opposing the procession is wrong,” the bench said, adding that 40-50 people in the procession is okay but who will control the crowds if the gathering becomes bigger on the road.

The petitioner’s counsel said the management has reduced the procession route to 1.5 km and its timing can be fixed in the evening to ensure a small congregation; moreover, the proceedings would be telecast. “State is saying there is a health risk,” the bench said.

Senior advocate Devdutt Kamat, who appeared for Maharashtra along with state’s standing counsel Sachin Patil, referred to the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the state as well as in Nanded area and said that authorities have not allowed any kind of religious gatherings amid the pandemic.

Around 1.5 cr farmers benefitted under Kisan Credit Cards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package to revive the rural and agriculture economy, as many as 1.5 crore farmers, including fishermen and dairy farmers, have been benefited with sanctioned credit limit of Rs 1.35 lakh crore under the Kisan Credit Cards (KCC).

In May this year, the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a concessional credit boost worth Rs 2 lakh crore to 2.5 crore farmers through KCC issued by the government.

It is expected that the same will help in reviving the rural economy and accelerating agricultural growth. The scheme provides an additional liquidity of Rs 5 lakh crore in the hands of farmers, who are suffering from the recent downturn of economy.

The KCC scheme was launched to prevent farmers from getting loans on high interest rates charged via money lenders in the unorganised sector.

Under the scheme, farmers can avail a loan as and when they require. The scheme was launched in August 1998 and was prepared by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Ayushman Sahakar scheme launched to fund co-op healthcare facilities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Covid-19 pandemic bringing into focus the urgent need to boost healthcare facilities in rural areas, a unique scheme, “Ayushman Sahakar”, was unveiled on Monday. It offers easily-accessible low-interest loans to cooperatives and startups keen to venture into an array of health related facilities that would ensure last-mile delivery of healthcare services across the country.

The apex autonomous development finance institution, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), under the Union Agriculture Ministry, has already created a loan kitty of Rs 10,000 crore for the purpose aiming to boost the provision of healthcare services by cooperatives which largely comprise farmers in the country.

Launching the scheme online, Union Agriculture

Minister of State Parashottam Rupala said that Ayushman Sahakar would revolutionise the way healthcare delivery takes place in rural areas. He also gave a call to the existing cooperatives to take up healthcare services as an activity for farmers.

Talking to media, Sundeep Nayak, Managing Director of NCDC, said, “This scheme aligns itself with the focus of the National Health Policy, 2017, covering the health systems in all their dimensions-investments in health, organization of healthcare services, access to technologies, development of human resources, encouragement of medical pluralism, affordable health care to farmers etc.”

In fact, co-operatives are already playing an increasingly important role in various sectors such as fisheries, sugar, dairy, textile and agri-processing among a few others. In the health sector, the NCDC has so far financed a few hospitals run

by cooperatives across the country.

“The idea is to expand the umbrella particularly at a time when there is an imminent need to strengthen healthcare facilities in the rural area in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak. The scheme has comprehensive approach-hospitals, healthcare, medical education, nursing education, drug stores, paramedical education, health insurance and holistic health systems such as AYUSH. Ayushman Sahakar scheme fund would also assist cooperative hospitals take up medical/Ayush education,” he explained.

“Even if doctors come together to form a cooperative and start a hospital or a centre with physiotherapy services, we would be able to support them,” he said.

Talking about the eligibility for availing the loan, Nayak said, “As our original guidelines go, a cooperative has to be

three years old for getting NCDC finance, for this start-up scheme. So, this is a great scheme for start-ups. Besides, if these start-ups are founded by women or those with disabilities, they would get an interest subvention of 2 per cent.”

Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund. The NCDC assistance will flow either through the State Governments/UT administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives. Subsidy/ grant from other sources can be dovetailed, the official added.

Nayak pointed out that the co-operative is a complete business model that competes in the market like any other and existing cooperatives hospitals have shown that they have been earning good profits while reinvesting in improving service quality, so ensuring its sustainability.

Wrong at many levels

By calling a Dalit woman candidate an ‘item’, Kamal Nath may have cost the Congress its chances in the MP bypolls



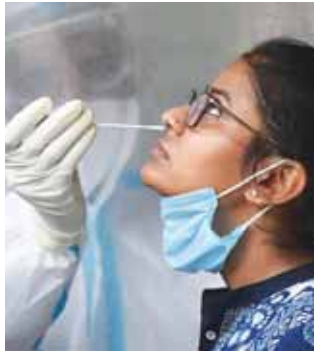
It has been less than a month that the Hathras gang-rape and murder of a Dalit woman got the nation’s sympathy. But in the absence of any action, the atrocities against her kind continue across the country, the latest incident reported from Kanpur Dehat in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. A Dalit woman was allegedly raped at gunpoint by two men, including a former village head. On the same day, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Kamal Nath belittled the BJP’s Dalit woman candidate, Imarti Devi, as an “item” at a rally ahead of the byelections in the State. Courtesy Bollywood, the word has a pejorative intent when used

with respect to women. And when a leading politician, no less somebody of Nath’s standing, chooses to be politically incorrect and brash at a mass rally, it undoubtedly legitimises the exploitative mindset of the village headman or upper caste men in the hinterland. Nath may claim the morning after that he didn’t name anybody but considering that he was addressing voters in Devi’s constituency, is there any doubt about whom the barb was intended against? Public statements such as these endorse the feudal male’s predatory behaviour and expose the already disempowered Dalit women to further tyranny. Which is why beyond sympathy, there is no redress or a felt anger that translates into political will, agenda or action to stop their abuse once and for all. Nath may not be the only politician to have made misogynistic statements against women but that doesn’t excuse his latest gaffe, no matter how bitter his animosity with Devi may be politically. If he gets away without repercussions, then there’s a lot that’s wrong with not just the system but collective conscience. He was expected to be particularly attentive, considering he was addressing a rally just a fortnight ahead of the State’s bypolls, crucial to his and the Congress’ recovery in the State post the revolt of Jyotiraditya Scindia and the 22 MLAs that he took away with him to the BJP. Clearly, all he has done is score a self-goal by gifting the BJP an issue on a platter, which has lodged a complaint with the Election Commission for “making derogatory remarks against a Scheduled Caste candidate.” He is now being called out as being anti-Dalit and anti-woman, both constituencies his party depends upon. Besides, he should have been careful, considering that the Gandhi scions, Rahul and Priyanka, made Hathras central to their bounce-back into political relevance. They braved police barricades and an oppressive UP administration to meet the girl’s family and commiserate with them. The seasoned and mature politician that he is, surely Nath doesn’t need any coaching in handling political sensitivities at this time. One certainly didn’t expect him to be either intemperate or indiscreet in a manner that would cost him politically. It has clearly put the Congress on the backfoot, both at the State level and nationally.

Nath has an axe to grind with Devi, who is a Jyotiraditya loyalist and defected with him to the BJP. In fact, the sexist remark comes days after and probably as a hitback to Devi’s accusation that Nath bribed MLAs when he was Chief Minister, that he gave cash doles of ₹5 lakh to Congress MLAs who could not be granted ministerial posts. About 28 Assembly seats are at stake in the bypolls, a sizeable number for Nath to bet his chances on. That seems to be a tall order now. Devi is now playing up the wrongs done against her, asking if she should be denied a political role simply because she is poor, a Scheduled Caste and a woman? She even maintained that Nath had a consistent bias against her, ignoring her at party meetings, slighting her, refusing to give her a decent hearing. And then she fired the most potent salvo, asking if he would behave like this with Priyanka Gandhi. Clearly, Nath has slid on his own sludge. His nemesis Jyotiraditya, too, has joined issue, fasting with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for two hours, demanding that Nath be stopped from campaigning. This distasteful remark has robbed Nath of the moral pitch that he had woven his campaign on, as a vote against “Congress rebels”, who he said had disrespected the people’s mandate and crossed over to the BJP, selling out the party. Instead, he is now at the receiving end for betraying the Dalit cause. The BJP currently has 107 MLAs and the Congress 88. There are four Independents, two Samajwadi Party (SP) and one Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA. The Central party effectively has to win single digit seats to retain power. But Chouhan, who is battling challengers from within his own party and the discomfort of having to create space for a demanding Jyotiraditya, would ideally like to get at least two digits on the tally to retain his chair. The Congress would need to win all 28 seats to make it to 116, the half-way mark, a near-impossible task. It needs 20 plus seats to stitch up a coalition but with BJP waiting in the wings with resources to lure away the smaller parties in a prestige fight, that plan, too, is not quite within the realm of possibility now. Besides with most of the seats going to the bypolls being located in the Gwalior-Chambal region, which has the highest numbers of caste atrocities and violence and where the Dalit vote swing matters politically, Devi’s victimhood could prove to be crucial. Dalit supremo Mayawati has fielded her candidates in all seats. As far as Nath is considered, the bypolls are his last chance to take another shot at chief minister-ship. But by scorning a woman legislator, he may have just scripted his own downfall.

Chase the virus

India may be just about flattening its pandemic curve but all depends on how we handle the festival gush



There is some good news for India at last where the pandemic is concerned. The number of new Coronavirus infections and casualties has declined in the last three weeks and the spread curve of the pandemic has flattened in most States, except for Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. The Government may have finally admitted to community transmission but we had quite internalised the possibility way back given the stiff peaks and high infectivity. Yet we cannot afford to be complacent about the disease right now as in Europe, too, the cases spiked exponentially after the spread slowed down for a bit, giving

people a false sense of security, and the dry winter weather aggravated susceptibility to the virus. The UK is in a serious lockdown mode again. Besides, with economic activity opening up as part of the country’s unlocking efforts and cinema halls, multiplexes, entertainment parks, swimming pools for sportspersons functioning, the festive bonhomie this weekend could just about trigger a viral storm that could reverse the situation in no time. One has to look at Kerala, which was seen as a model of virus containment at one time, sliding disastrously post-Onam. In a State, where 90 per cent of the reported cases were from outside, the trend reversed to 90 per cent of the infections being locally transmitted July onwards.

We may slow down, tire out and chase the virus but have a long way to go because 70 per cent of the people are still susceptible to infection. So in short, there is no room for complacency or laxity. In this respect, the Calcutta High Court ruling that *puja* pandals in the city, which have been mounted on the usual lavish scale, cannot allow any visitors inside except the organisers, is much needed to avoid a mass contagion. Only then can we flatten out by February. Because, the socio-economic impact of the second wave of the virus on an already overwhelmed, weakened and tottering healthcare infrastructure and economy will be too great. We have to stop pointing fingers at the Government and everyone else on the planet for our plight. We need to grow up as a nation and take responsibility for our own actions. True, the Government and other stakeholders in it are responsible to a very large extent for management, but it is time we hold ourselves accountable, too. If this means becoming online celebrants for one season, so be it.

Lessons from Shaheen Bagh

The Supreme Court judgment on the petitions pertaining to the three-month anti-CAA protests will restore some order in the way we express dissent



A SURYA PRAKASH

The recent judgement of the Supreme Court on the petitions pertaining to the three-month protests, held in Shaheen Bagh in South Delhi earlier this year, should clear the air in respect of the prevailing debate on how far one can go while exercising the right to dissent. The key point is that the occupation of public thoroughfares while registering a protest is not acceptable indefinitely.

This judgement will have long-term implications on how political battles will henceforth be fought when they spill out onto the streets, because if the right to protest is an untrammelled right, the constitutional scheme could get disturbed.

The judgement of the three-judge Bench, comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari, said that Article 19 was one of the cornerstones of the Constitution which conferred two treasured rights on citizens — the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) and the right to assemble peacefully without arms under Article 19(1)(b). “These rights, in cohesion, enable every citizen to assemble peacefully and protest against the actions or inactions of the State. The same must be respected and encouraged by the State, for the strength of a democracy such as ours lies in the same.” However, it noted that these rights were subject to reasonable restrictions. Referring to an earlier judgement of the court, it said, “each fundamental right, be it of an individual or of a class, does not exist in isolation and has to be balanced with every other contrasting right. It was in this respect, that in this case, an attempt was made by us to reach a solution where the rights of protesters were to be balanced with that of commuters.”

The court declared that democracy and dissent go hand in hand, but then the demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in designated places alone. “The present case was not even one of protests taking place in an undesignated area, but was a blockade of a public way which caused grave inconvenience to commuters. We cannot accept the plea of the applicants that an indeterminate number of people can assemble whenever they choose to protest.” The blockade had resulted in the closure of the Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh stretch, including the Okhla underpass, from December



15, 2019, onwards.

The central argument of those who objected to the Shaheen Bagh protest, including Dr Nand Kishore Garg, who petitioned the court, was that the protesters had blocked an important thoroughfare and caused enormous inconvenience to commuters. The right to protest should not result in the infringement of the right to free movement of other citizens. Dwelling on this issue, the court said: “We have, thus, no hesitation in concluding that such kind of occupation of public ways, whether at the site in question or anywhere else for protests, is not acceptable and the administration ought to take action to keep the areas clear of encroachments or obstructions.”

The court recalled the history of protest during the freedom movement. It said: “What must be kept in mind, however, is that the erstwhile mode and manner of dissent against colonial rule cannot be equated with dissent in a self-ruled democracy. Our constitutional scheme comes with the right to protest and express dissent but with an obligation towards certain duties.” This is a significant observation by the apex court. In fact, Dr BR Ambedkar, who headed the Constitution Drafting Committee, dwelt on this very issue in his concluding remarks in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, before the Assembly put its final stamp of approval on the Constitution.

In that speech, Dr Ambedkar made two observations, which are very relevant to the present debate on democracy and dissent in the country. He said: “The con-

“**INSTEAD OF PROMOTING SUCH CHAOS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THE PROTESTERS TO MOVE THE SUPREME COURT AGAINST THE LAW MADE BY THE PARLIAMENT. THAT WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE THAT WOULD HAVE PASSED MUSTER WITH DR AMBEDKAR**”

demnation of the Constitution largely comes from two quarters, the Communist Party and the Socialist Party.” The communists do not like it because they want a Constitution based on the principle of dictatorship of the proletariat. “They (the communists) condemn the Constitution because it is based on parliamentary democracy.” The Socialists want to nationalise all private property without payment of compensation. Second, they want fundamental rights in the Constitution to be absolute and without any limitations, “so that if their party fails to come into power, they would have the unfettered freedom not merely to criticise, but also to overthrow the State”.

Just substitute the Congress party for the Socialist Party and it will appear as if Dr Ambedkar is talking about what is happening in India in the year 2020 where political parties, which have been rejected by the electorate, want to foment trouble on the streets to disturb the democratic process. Let us not forget that the Congress party’s vote share has crashed to less than 20 per cent and the vote share of the two communist parties has hit rock bottom and touched a low of 2.50 per cent.

The second aspect Dr Ambedkar highlighted relates to the modes of protest. He told the citizens what they must do if they wish to maintain democracy not merely in form but also in fact. The first thing we must do is to hold fast to the constitutional methods to achieve our social and economic objectives. “It means we must abandon bloody

methods of revolution. It means that we must abandon the method of civil disobedience, non-cooperation and *satyagraha*.” These methods were okay when there were no constitutional methods of protest. “But where constitutional methods are open, there can be no justification for these unconstitutional methods. These methods are nothing but the grammar of anarchy and the sooner they are abandoned, the better for us.”

The Shaheen Bagh mode of protest falls into the category mentioned by Dr Ambedkar — organising a blockade to prevent people from using an important public thoroughfare and disrupting normal life. And let there be no confusion about the primary intent of those who promoted this “grammar of anarchy” — their dissatisfaction with the peoples’ verdict of 2014 and 2019 — more than anything else, and their desire to unsettle a duly elected Government. The objections to the Citizenship Amendment Act were just a façade.

Instead of promoting such chaos for several months, it would have been better for the protesters to move the Supreme Court against the law made by the Parliament. That would be the appropriate constitutional response that would have passed muster with Dr Ambedkar.

Hopefully, the apex court’s judgement should put an end to the Shaheen Bagh mode of protests and restore some order in the way we express dissent.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

SOUND BITE

We just approved new measures that should allow us to face this new wave of infections, which is severely affecting not only Italy but the whole of Europe.



Italian Prime Minister
—Giuseppe Conte

The National Education Policy will bring about fundamental changes in the education set-up, from pre-nursery to PhD (research).



Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi

The odd-even scheme would be our last resort. If the rest of the methods to curb air pollution fails, we will think about its implementation this year.



Delhi Environment Minister
—Gopal Rai

We should all be ready to adjust ourselves according to the problems that life throws at us. Take everything into your stride and be the best that you can.



Footballer
—Bala Devi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democracy in danger

Sir — Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari’s letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on re-opening temples in the State was meant to serve two purposes — to draw the Hindutva concept of religious identity back to the discussion, and the other, to bolster the core pitch of the BJP. In truth, his words give credence to the suspicion that the values enshrined in the Constitution of India are under siege indeed. The French adage, “the legislator becomes the transgressor”, aptly describes the Governor’s epistle, as he had come close to denouncing the Constitution.

Koshyari’s letter unsettles even the ardent believers of Hinduism. He declares one is not a Hindu until and unless he or she embraces the Hindutva doctrine. Koshyari told Thackeray that the latter had become a “secular” Hindu, and thus, forsaken his claim to be in the Hindutva stable. The country is now in dire need of a collective Opposition forum and a stable, cogent leader to save the very fabric of democracy.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

India in the ‘severe’ hunger category

According to the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020, India ranks 94th among 107 countries in terms of hunger and continues to be in the “severe” hunger category. This serves as an indicator of the country’s poor Human Development Index (HDI). Last year, India’s GHI rank was 102 out of 117 countries. India ranks lower than most of its South Asian neighbours and only Afghanistan fares worse. According to the report, 14 per cent of the country’s population is undernourished. It is ironic that despite our scientific and technical advancements, we are unable to alleviate the hunger of all the citizens. Our policymakers need to wake up to the reality of the situation and adopt a convergent approach to tackle this issue.

The problem of hunger in urban and rural areas must be approached separately as numerous factors contribute to India’s “severe” hunger status. There is a lack of stable employment and due to frequent migration, many are not registered with the system and hence do not receive the necessary benefits. Not to forget the



poor Public Distribution System (PDS). There should be an autonomous PDS based on community-led procurement and storage. Also, *Anganwadi* centres can play a vital role in providing early childhood care. There also needs to be negotiations between the Centre and the States on food and nutrition security measures.

Venu GS
Kollam

Landslide victory

Sir — New Zealand’s Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern delivered the biggest election victory for her Labour party in half a century. With all votes tallied, Ardern’s party won 49 per cent, bringing 64 seats and an outright parliamentary majority. This is the highest result that any party has achieved since the current

political system was introduced in 1996. On the other hand, the opposition National Party was able to secure only 26.8 per cent and just 35 seats in the 120-seat Assembly. The resounding victory is due to Ardern’s progressive, democratic governance, her leadership in successfully curbing the spread of COVID-19 in the country, as well as her handling of the massacre of 51 worship-

pers at two Christchurch mosques and a fatal volcano eruption. Having a solid international following with her promotion of issues, including women’s rights, social justice and multilateralism, Ardern has become a role model to many. However, there has been some criticism of her economic policies. Also, a summer season with no international tourists will be a major test

for her. For now, she is ready to form a Government within three weeks but has declined to comment on whether she would rule alone or form a coalition.

Khushboo Ved
Ujjain

Delhi’s toxic air

Sir — With the onset of winter begins the yearly theatrics of who is responsible for the rising pollution in Delhi. While the BJP claims that there is more pollution due to local factors, the State Government blames the ruling party at the Centre and Congress of forming an alliance to allow stubble burning. Amid all this political gamble, the rising air pollution continues to affect the quality of life and subsistence of the city’s inhabitants. The Centre should initiate a joint plan with the support of the State Governments of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to make Delhi pollution-free. They should also have a permanent ban on firecrackers and not just for the festive season.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Satna

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Innovate for better results

The Govt must take proactive steps to reform Indian agriculture to help production cross 500 million MT in the next two to three years



VK **BAHUGUNA**

These days farmers across the country are agitating against the three farm Acts passed by the Government recently. If we analyse the status of agriculture today, we find that the sector is in dire need of innovation, both at the policy and ground level. Unless the Government deals with the real issues facing the farming community, nothing substantial will be achieved by simply reforming the existing structure that governs the sale and marketing of farm produce. Government officials and many in the public space think that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is doing a great job in declaring the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for a range of items like millet, pulses, oilseeds and so on, other than wheat and rice. However, the fact is that only six per cent of the farmers and only ₹2.5 lakh crore out of the ₹40 lakh crore total output from agriculture are covered by the MSP. From the point of view of food security, the MSP is an important intervention as it provides some financial security to the farmers and price stability to the consumers.

The main cause for concern is how to make farming profitable for the small and marginal growers who constitute 86 per cent of the farming community. They are neither able to invest in technology, better seeds and other inputs, nor in infrastructure. Most of them are at the mercy of the rain god who is now playing truant with them due to climate change, coupled with price instability and indebtedness. The rich farmers are able to manage somehow, but the poor get further indebted and trapped in bad loans.

Yet another problem is the reluctance of the younger generation to carry on subsistence farming. The Government must launch a climate adaptation site-specific programme for tackling the hydrology of the area to retain soil moisture. Increasing productivity is the only way we can double the farmers' income. Take for example China. In 2010, it produced 500 million metric tonnes (MT) of grain from 143 million ha of net sown area. In India that year, this was only 240 million MT with the same sown area. Now with 140 million ha in 2020, we have inched closer to 300 million MT. Though the contribution of the farm sector in the GDP is around 17 per cent, it supports the livelihood of 58 per cent of the workforce of India. The Gross Value Added (GVA) by agriculture, forestry and fishing was estimated at ₹19.48 lakh crore in the current financial year (FY). The growth in GVA in agriculture and allied sectors stood at four per cent in the FY 2020-21. If the country wants to become a \$5 trillion economy, we must lift the annual growth rate of agriculture by at least eight to 10 per cent in the next few years and then aim for more. This will require a concrete action plan.

As a first step, there should be planned networking to integrate land use with the adjoining forests through the creation of water bodies and implementation of watershed management schemes. This will help tackle climatic vagaries. The next approach is to opt for high value crop diversity for better production so that the return per unit of land used is enhanced. The farmers would require value addition and friendly market support. Though the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) can no longer control the farmers, they can still be used for better procurement through the MSP and can become competitive with reforms in their functioning, specially by creating more facilities for the farmers in the context of the changed circumstances.

The Government should promote consortiums of investors and farmers while the small and marginal farmers should form cooperatives for negotiating with the sponsors for undertaking contract farming. In this venture, the APMC's *Mandi Samitis* could also chip in to provide infrastructure and help. These cooperatives can create infrastructure and inputs for increasing productivity and help small farmers improve soil conditions and mitigate water scarcity through water harvesting. This will sort out the two major constraints in increasing production. Yet another help farmers need is to mitigate weather-related risks and for this, crop insurance policies must be made farmer-friendly. What do we do about the deteriorating soil health due to the overuse of pesticides and fertilisers? We must push for sustainable farming and the Centre and States must provide assistance to organic farming and conservation agriculture. As per the Compound Annual Growth Rate, the organic food segment is likely to grow from ₹2,700 crore in 2015 to ₹75,000 crore in 2025.

The Government must take proactive steps to reform Indian agriculture to help production cross 500 million MT in the next two to three years. Only then can the farmers' income be doubled. The first thing to do is to open the door to agitating farmers. After all, it is they who have been feeding the nation.

(The writer is a former civil servant)

IF I LISTENED COMPLETELY TO THE SCIENTISTS, WE'D NOW HAVE A RUSTIC THAT MAY BE IN A LARGE MELANCHOLY. THE US HAS TURNED A NOOK.

—US PRESIDENT
DONALD TRUMP



ISSUES ARE GETTING WORSE, AND HE (TRUMP) CONTINUES TO MISLEAD US ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES (REGARDING THE PANDEMIC).

—FORMER US VICE-PRESIDENT
JOE BIDEN

Stay within limits

If the FD range gets embedded in the FRBM Act, it will give sanction to slippages. It will defeat the purpose of fixing a target, which is to obligate the Govt to keep expenses in check



UTTAM **GUPTA**

The Finance Ministry is building pressure on the 15th Finance Commission (15th FC) to allow greater flexibility while fixing the fiscal deficit (FD). It wants to adopt a flexible, range-bound FD target instead of a fixed number. With this aim in mind, the Modi Government is reviewing the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. The issue was discussed at the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) of the 15th FC, wherein the chairman, NK Singh, cited a similar practice followed by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) with +/- two per cent inflation target while deciding its monetary policy. The immediate prompt for this is the sharp contraction in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by about 24 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year (FY) and a corresponding steep reduction in tax collections even as the expenditure commitments are on the upswing (courtesy the two stimuli already given). As a result, on May 8, the Government raised its gross market borrowing target for the FY 2020-21 to ₹12,00,000 crore, up from the ₹7,80,000 crore provided for in the Budget on February 1.

Of this, the Government had already borrowed ₹7,66,000 crore during the first half of the current FY and plans to borrow the remaining ₹4,34,000 crore by January 2021. At ₹12,00,000 crore, the borrowing limit is already set at about 5.8 per cent of the GDP — 2.3 per cent higher than the budgeted FD target of 3.5 per cent. With this demand for yet another Stimulus III gaining ground, it is not surprising that the Finance Ministry is building pressure on the 15th FC. During the current year, we have an extraordinary situation, so one can understand the desperation. But it is important to recall here that in his budget speech for 2016-17, the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced the Government's intent to review the FRBM Act (2003) with a view to make the target flexible (that the announcement was made following the year 2015-16, when it had achieved the FD target of 3.9 per cent, sounds a bit anomalous). He had set up a committee under NK Singh (it included among others, the then Chief Economic Adviser, Arvind Subramanian, and the then Deputy Governor, RBI, Urjit Patel) to examine the issue.

The committee recommended a "glide path" for the next six years, beginning 2017-18. It recommended a FD target of 2.5 per cent, revenue deficit 0.8 per cent, combined Centre-State debt ceiling of 60 per cent and a Central debt ceiling of 40 per cent for 2022-23. Further, it fixed three per cent FD to be achieved during 2018-19. It also allowed the Government to breach the target — by up to 0.5 per cent — in case of "far-reaching structural reforms with unanticipated fiscal implications".

In the amendment to the FRBM Act vide Finance Bill 2018-19, even while retaining the "escape clause" to cover unanticipated events, the Government adopted the glide path of achieving three per cent FD by 2020-21 instead of 2018-19 mooted by the committee. Further, it set the debt limit of 40 per cent for the Centre to be reached by 2024-25 instead of the committee's mandate of 2022-23.

This cherry-picking may be seen in the backdrop of the Government missing the FD target for 2017-18 by 0.3 per cent and seeing no hope of achieving three per cent during 2018-19 as recommended by the committee. While presenting Budget 2020-21, Sitharaman has already invoked the escape clause of the FRBM Act to relax the FD targets for FY 2019-

“THE INCORPORATION OF THE FD RANGE DOES NOT OFFER ANYTHING BETTER THAN WHAT IS ALREADY THERE IN THE FRBM LAW — FIXED NUMBER FD TARGET PLUS ESCAPE CLAUSE — UNLESS IT IS THE INTENT OF MANDARINS IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY TO HAVE BOTH, NAMELY RANGE AS WELL AS THE ESCAPE CLAUSE. THAT WOULD BE DISINGENUOUS. THE 15TH FC SHOULD REFRAIN FROM GOING FOR A RANGE-BOUND FD. THE EXTANT ARRANGEMENT SHOULD CONTINUE WITH SUITABLE INCREASE IN THE PERMISSIBLE BREACH UNDER THE ESCAPE CLAUSE. ALL HIDDEN SLIPPAGES SUCH AS DSPs AND EBRs SHOULD BE PROHIBITED”



20 from 3.3 per cent Budget Estimate (BE) to 3.8 per cent in the Revised Estimate (RE) and for FY 2020-21, from three per cent as per the glide path required under the Act to 3.5 per cent. The one big thing that she did last year was reducing the Corporate Tax rate, which meant a revenue loss of close to ₹1,50,000 crore annually. The reform was far-reaching and structural but one wonders whether this was an event not anticipated by the Government.

Ironically, the above numbers do not give the true picture of the FD as a lot of expenses, despite being a liability of the sovereign Government, are kept off its balance sheet. These are deferred subsidy payments (DSPs) and extra-budgetary resources (EBRs), a nickname for borrowings by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other agencies of the Government on its behalf. Including these off-balance sheet items, the FD for 2017-18 and 2018-19 would be about 5.9 per cent and 5.7 per cent respectively. For 2019-20, including DSPs alone, FD would be 5.1 per cent. Add EBRs and the deficit will gallop. For 2020-21, the likely deficit of 5.8 per cent is exclusive of DSPs and EBRs.

There is a short provision in the Budget: Food subsidy about ₹1,03,000 crore and fertiliser subsidy around ₹80,000 crore. Plus, there will be a huge shortfall in proceeds from disinvestment by at least ₹1,50,000 crore as big ticket sales such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) are unlikely to go through during the current year. This adds up to two per cent, taking the total to 7.8 per cent. Including EBRs, the FD could touch 10 per cent. Already, under the existing dispensation of FD being a fixed number, the

Government has a lot of leeway — explicit as well as not so explicit. On the explicit side, we have seen the fiscal consolidation glide path made fairly liberal to suit the budget math as also the revised FD being significantly higher than the target — yet going unpunished (for instance, during 2008-09, the actual FD was six per cent against the target of three per cent as per the FRBM Act, 2003). On the not so explicit side, DSPs and EBRs have been used to camouflage the true deficit.

If the FD range gets embedded in the FRBM Act, this will amount to giving legal sanction to slippages. It will defeat the very purpose of fixing a target which is to obligate the Government to keep the excess of its expenses over revenue within a specified limit. The moment the law itself prescribes a range, say of three per cent-3.5 per cent, even the most discerning Government will take the higher end of the range as the benchmark as from a legal standpoint, violation will happen only when the actual exceeds 3.5 per cent.

To put it differently, providing for a range is a more subtle and sophisticated way of embedding in the legislation a more relaxed target without catching the attention of the not so discerning eye.

The comparison with inflation targeting under the monetary policy to justify FDI range is not all fours. While, the FD target has a direct bearing on budgeting by the Centre (a swing of 0.1 per cent either way makes a difference of ₹20,000 crore in its borrowing limit), inflation targeting by the RBI does not impact the finances of banks. For a proper comparison, we need to look at the RBI mandated "provisioning" for a loan that becomes an NPA. That is a fixed number, say 25 per cent (for an account remaining unpaid for

up to one year), not a range.

It is argued that a range brings an element of predictability in knowing how far the Government can go in expanding its borrowing programme and the resultant impact on crucial parameters like bond yields, interest rate; hence helpful in boosting investor confidence. This is a frivolous argument. Whether it is one fixed number or a range, there is predictability in both the scenarios. The difference is notional as in a range, one looks at the upper end. Unpredictability arises when things such as DSPs/EBRs are done outside the FRBM framework; sadly, those are swept under the carpet.

Another argument in support of range is what some experts describe as reinforcing "counter-cyclical" objectives. Put simply, when the economy is on a downswing, then the Government needs to undertake major investment to rein in the slide and put the economy back on the growth trajectory. It is primarily to tackle extraordinary situations such as during the current year that a 0.5 per cent cushion is permitted as per the 2018-19 amendment to the FRBM Act.

The incorporation of FD range does not offer anything better than what is already there in the FRBM law—fixed number FD target plus escape clause—unless it is the intent of mandarins in the Finance Ministry to have both, namely range as well as the escape clause. That would be disingenuous. The 15th FC should refrain from going for a range-bound FD. The extant arrangement should continue with suitable increase in the permissible breach under the escape clause. All hidden slippages such as DSPs and EBRs should be prohibited.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

Powering towards global energy goals

India has made major progress in delivering energy efficiency. It has done better than China, the US, Russia and many European nations



RACHEL **GAIKWAD**

NAND LAL **MISHRA**

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7.1 aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030. India's journey so far has been remarkable in achieving near-universal access to electricity in the last one decade. As per the "Saubhagya" dashboard, 99.9 per cent of rural households in the country have been electrified and less than 20,000 homes lacked electricity access as of March 2019, but as per NSS-76, more than six per cent households in rural areas and one per cent in urban areas had no access to electricity till December 2018.

A majority of the States have above 97 per cent access, but larger

States such as Uttar Pradesh (UP), Jharkhand and Odisha still lag behind the national average. Rural areas of UP and Jharkhand are most deprived with 80 and 85 per cent access to electricity respectively.

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4, in 2015-16, Bihar ranked at the bottom of all States with just 60 per cent of its households having access to power. Since then, it has made significant progress in expanding its electricity access to near-universal coverage in the last three years. But despite attaining near-universal electrification for the majority of States, securing continuous and quality supply of power to remote villages and poorest households still remains a big concern.

Compared to electricity access, larger variations can be observed in the access to clean fuel among the States. Meghalaya, West Bengal, and Empowered Action Group (EAG) States, excluding Uttarakhand, still lag in providing universal access to clean cooking fuels, and every second household has no access to it. This significantly low national average poses a core developmental and health chal-

lenge. Even Kerala, despite its high living standards, has witnessed glaringly low progress in this aspect. Also, as per NSS-76, there exists a blatant, countrywide rural-urban divide in the access to clean fuel.

On average, the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) go for only 3.1 LPG cylinder refills in a year. For the year 2019-2020, around 4.14 crore families never opted for a refill of more than three cylinders. Madhya Pradesh, UP and Rajasthan fared the worst in this regard. According to the information given in the Rajya Sabha recently, since the beginning of the new financial year in April till August, around 1.84 crore families refilled their LPG cylinders only once. This information came in even as the Government claimed of providing free cylinders to the poor during the lockdown. Hence, the challenge further remains to not only increase the access to cleaner fuels for households, but to increase the overall consumption per family.

Energy production of all types contributes to about 70 per cent of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the globe. Energy-related CO₂ emis-

sions grew 1.7 per cent in 2018 to reach a historic high of 33.1 gigatons of CO₂ globally. It was the highest rate of growth since 2013, and 70 per cent higher than the average increase since 2010. However, the global energy demand in the first quarter of this year declined by 3.8 per cent relative to the first quarter of 2019, resulting in five per cent lower CO₂ emissions as well. But this seemingly desirable change, that was mainly caused by the national lockdowns, may not continue for more than a few months.

To sustainably move towards a better future, it is now essential that we cope with our energy needs, giving due consideration to the environment that has been long neglected and continues to be so. The energy transition from conventional to renewable sources is the biggest need of the hour. Owing to this, SDG target 7.2 aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030.

Among the BRICS nations, Brazil has been leading the way in the share of renewable power in its total energy mix, drawing advantage from its high potential of electricity production from wind and solar energy sources.

India's share of renewable energy in its final energy consumption stands at 32.2 per cent as of 2017 and has been suffering a decline for the last many years. Even though India's share of renewable energy is higher than countries like Russia, the US, China, Japan and Europe, the decline in this share must be controlled. Whereas for countries mentioned above, in order to be able to sustain the share of renewables in their total energy mix, intense efforts for increasing that share must be realised too.

The *Energy Statistics 2020* has reported a substantial growth in the renewable energy share in the total installed electricity generation from 13.4 per cent (2015-2016) to 17.7 per cent (2017-2018), owing to significant investments and expansions made in wind and solar power generation. A recent International Energy Agency analysis shows that in 2018, India's investment in solar energy was greater than in all fossil fuel sources of electricity generation put together. SDG-7.3 aims to double the global rate of energy efficiency by 2030. Energy intensity indicates the amount of energy needed to produce one unit of

the GDP, where a smaller value is always desirable, as it points towards greater energy efficiency.

India has made significant progress in delivering energy efficiency. It has done better than major economies, namely China, the US, Russia and several European countries. It has showcased exemplary performance on this front and achieved an energy intensity level of 4.1 to 5.1 megajoules per US dollar (MJ/\$) that is even lower than the global average of 5.4 MJ/\$. Energy efficiency and increasing share of renewables are fundamental in achieving several other sustainable development goals. Without accelerated clean energy innovation and transition towards renewables, the 2030 agenda seems far-fetched.

As the nation faces the grim economic impact of the pandemic, energy efficiency offers several opportunities to provide the much-needed boost to the economy in the form of employment generation and so on, although a great deal of uncertainty exists with regard to SDG-7.

(The writers are researchers, International Institute for Population)



FOREIGN EYE



BRING AMAZON TO HEEL

It is an intolerable situation that a company that depends on the public services run by the State does not pay appropriate taxes. To add insult to injury, this week it was reported that Amazon will also not be paying Britain's new digital services tax because the US won't do a trade deal if the UK were to impose this. But small traders and advertisers using the site will be taxed. The issue is one of fairness and needs urgent Government attention. *(The Guardian editorial)*

5G ROLLOUT Investment for all-India seen at ₹1.3-2.3 lakh cr: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investments in key components of 5G network on mid or low-band spectrum with pan-India coverage is estimated to be about ₹1.3-2.3 lakh crore, according to a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The total capital expenditure or capex requirement when it comes to 5G rollout for Mumbai alone is seen at ₹10,000 crore, and ₹8,700 crore for Delhi, it said.

According to the telecom report from Motilal Oswal Financial Services, for mid band or low band spectrum, overall capex requirement for pan-India coverage would hover at ₹1.3-2.3 lakh crore.

Based on the TRA's latest reserve price, capex requirement for obtaining 100 MHz mid band spectrum in Mumbai would be about ₹8,400 crore, which could go

up further if the bidding price is higher than the base price.

Assuming about 9,000 sites would be required for coverage, the total capex requirement for the sites would be ₹1,800 crore - taking the total capex to ₹10,000 crore, it said.

Similarly, capex estimate for 5G rollout in Delhi would be ₹8,700 crore – assuming 100MHz mid band spectrum at base price.

The Indian telecom industry is seeing capex peak out - particularly for Bharti and Reliance Jio - and increased free cash flows (FCF), the report said but added that risks have, however, started emerging due to the increased costs toward 5G upgrade and the upcoming spectrum renewal.

Investments in three key large components for a 5G network – spectrum, sites and fiber on mid/low band spectrum with pan-India coverage – would stand at ₹1.3-2.3 lakh

crore which should reduce to ₹78,800 crore and 1.3 lakh crore, for coverage of only metros and category 'A' circles, it said.

Even assuming rollout starting from FY23, a staggered deployment over the next 4-5 years - in line with 4G investment trend - may insulate the impact to a large extent.

The expiry of spectrum for Jio's 115MHz quantity in the 800MHz band acquired/shared from RCOM in 19 circles, Bharti's 57 MHz quantity in the 1,800 MHz band and Vodafone Idea's 37.8MHz/6.2Mhz quantity in the 1,800MHz/900MHz band are "attractive good quality spectrum" and would be up for renewal over the next 6-12 months, Motilal Oswal report noted.

This would cost Jio/Bharti/Vodafone Idea Rs 28,000 crore/Rs 12,900 crore/Rs 8,300 crore at reserve price, it said.

Sensex rallies 449 pts as banking, finance stocks sprint

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks made a winning start to the week on Monday as banking and financial counters saw robust buying amid largely positive cues from global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 448.62 points or 1.12 per cent higher at 40,431.60. The broader NSE Nifty surged 110.60 points or 0.94 per cent to finish at 11,873.05.

ICICI Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 5.33 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Nestle India, SBI, HDFC, IndusInd Bank, ONGC and Kotak Bank.

On the other hand, Bajaj Auto, TCS, M&M, Bharti Airtel and Maruti were among the laggards, shedding up to 2.12 per cent. In the Sensex pack, 23 constituents logged gains while seven closed in the red.

The domestic market opened on a positive note tracking largely positive cues from global markets, traders said. During the afternoon session markets held on to open-

ing gains with sustained interest seen in banking, financial, oil and gas, metals and realty stocks. Bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a positive note, while Shanghai closed lower after the release of China's GDP numbers.

China's economic growth accelerated to 4.9 per cent over a year earlier in the latest quarter as a shaky recovery from the coronavirus pandemic gathered strength. The economy "continued the steady recovery", China's National Bureau of Statistics said in a report. However, it warned that "the international environment is still complicated and severe". It also said China still faces "great pressure" to prevent a resurgence of the virus. Meanwhile, stock exchanges in Europe opened on a positive note. "Domestic markets witnessed sharp recovery in the backdrop of strong rebound in heavyweight financials space, which was in focus today led by strong numbers reported by HDFC Bank and positive commentary by the management.

Rupee closes almost flat at 73.37 in lacklustre trade

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee slipped by 2 paise to close at 73.37 against the US currency on Monday due to some dollar demand and uncertainty related to the US fiscal stimulus and presidential elections.

The local unit opened at 73.38 against the US dollar at the interbank forex market and moved in a narrow range of 73.35 to 73.42 in the day trade.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.17 per cent lower at 93.52.

Europe's central banker: Recovery 'risks losing momentum'

AP ■ FRANKFURT

The head of the European Central Bank says that the economic recovery "risks losing momentum" due to the second wave of coronavirus infections and that the chief monetary authority for the euro countries could add more stimulus if that becomes necessary.

Christine Lagarde was quoted as saying in an interview with the French newspaper Le Monde that "the second wave of the pandemic in

Europe, notably in France, and the resulting new restrictions are adding to the uncertainty and weighing on the recovery. "

Since the rebound we saw over the summer, the recovery has been uneven, uncertain and incomplete and now risks losing momentum," she said in the interview published Monday in English on the ECB's website.

Lagarde said that "the options in our toolbox have not been exhausted. If more has to

Analysts think the bank may eventually add more stimulus due to weak inflation and slowing growth from the upsurge in infections

be done, we will do more." The ECB is already supporting the economy with a pandemic emergency program of bond purchases that are pumping 1.35 trillion euros (USD 1.58 trillion) in newly created money into the economy.

Analysts think the bank may eventually add more stimulus due to weak inflation and slowing growth from the upsurge in infections, along with any new restrictions on travel and activity that may be imposed by governments to slow the spread.

Turbulence Ahead

Just because a bid has been accepted for Jet Airways does not mean that the airline will magically be restored. Far from it.

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

While the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is yet to give their assent to the bid submitted by Kalrock Capital and Murari Jalan for Jet Airways, the fact that the lenders voted for the deal means that approvals from NCLT and other government authorities might come soon. Sanjay Mandavia, a former Jet Airways pilot who had the losing bid has congratulated the winners although media reports have emerged where he claims that his plan was better. However, submitting a winning bid for whatever assets remain of the once storied airline, there is no guarantee that the airline will fly again. The winning bidders have promised lenders not just some money, although the banks will take a

massive haircut on their advances to Jet Airways but also some equity.

How the winning bidders will get Jet Airways flying again is however a mystery and while they will come up with more concrete plans in the coming weeks, there has been one massive change in the eighteen months since Jet Airways' collapse, the Coronavirus and the subsequent collapse in air travel. At the same time, assuming that 'brand loyalty' remains towards Jet Airways and old flyers will come streaming back to the airline should not be made. Jet's most loyalty high-tier passengers on major metropolitan routes have all switched their loyalties over to Vistara, if they still care about service, but increasingly IndiGo, because the behemoth of Indian skies has built a rep-

utation for reliability.

Jet Airways did not even control their frequent flyer program, which has now been rebranded 'InterMiles', the high-end passenger data possibly does not even reside with the airline. Even more importantly, Jet's demise in 2019 was preceded by the airline losing hundreds of large corporate deals, these massive deals for thousands of seats annually injected a lot of money into the operations. Corporates will wait for Jet Airways 2.0 to establish themselves before even considering coming back. With most of India's top 500 companies having huge contracts with IndiGo whose network and frequency means that it will be increasingly unlikely for them to be weaned off.

No large airline in the

world, and Jet was a large airline with almost 140 aircraft in its fleet at the peak, has recovered from bankruptcy after closing operations. And not just in aviation, where the revival of iconic brands like Pan Am have failed, resurrecting brands, particularly service brands is not easy. It might have worked in a situation where air travel was still growing, but air travel has taken a massive tumble during the past few months and even as things slowly start getting back to normal, passenger numbers are down massively. In September 2020, the number of daily departures stood at 1,311 daily, less than half the 2,874 departures in September 2019 and load factors, while rising over the past few months, was still below two-thirds. After the collapse of Jet Airways last year, the

remaining airlines had made hay as planes ran full and fares skyrocketed. Now, it appears that the financial situation at most Indian airlines with the exception of IndiGo is dire, and there is a good chance that one, maybe even two airlines might not survive the pandemic.

That said, there are some positives for the new owners of Jet Airways. The collapse in passenger demand is not localised to India and is a worldwide issue, as a result there are hundreds of relatively young aircraft parked on the ground, not even including the 500 or so Boeing 737 MAX planes that were grounded before the pandemic. It is unlikely that air travel will recover for another 18-24 months even if a vaccine is approved tomorrow. So the new owners of the airline will

be able to find some good lease deals on aircraft. At the same time, Jet Airways, if it indeed restarts, will also be able to find slots at crowded airports like Delhi and Mumbai because demand is heavily down. Of course, this depends on the ability of the new management to convince airports and the Ministry that they mean business. Landing and take-off slots belong to the public just like telecom airwaves and by buying Jet Airways' assets it does not mean that old slots can be magically restored. But if Jet Airways gets off the ground soon, they might be able to pick up some prime slots, like the airline once had in Mumbai.

It may not be a bad idea for Jet Airways 2.0 to begin as a more regional-focussed carrier as the airlines collapse

removed service to several small cities, particularly from Mumbai and rivals have not really plugged those gaps, for example, Jet Airways had a strong network of flights between Mumbai and several medium-sized towns in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Alternatively, Jet owns a few long-haul planes, in fact they sold their building in Bandra-Kurla Complex to buy out six Boeing 777's and possibly the rise of non-stop travel post-pandemic could see them transform into a boutique international airline. Going up against IndiGo's reach on most sectors as well as Vistara's service standards will not be easy and as sentimental as some passengers might be about the brand, that will not be enough to fill the planes or make a profit. But one hopes for the best.

Air India bid deadline may be extended till Dec 15

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To attract potential suitors, the Government will ease asset valuation norms for Air India by allowing bidders to put in offers on an enterprise value basis, a source said on Monday.

To begin with, the government is likely to further extend the deadline for putting in a preliminary expression of interest for the loss-making national carrier to December 15. The source said bids will be sought on an enterprise value basis - a popular valuation methodology for takeover deals. Enterprise value (EV) is a measure of a company's total value, often used as a more comprehensive alternative to equity market capitalization.

State Govts' FY21 deficit seen higher at 5% of GSDP

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

State Governments' deficit is seen higher at 5 per cent, up from earlier estimate of 4.5 per cent of gross state domestic product (GSDP) as Covid-19 continues to suppress economic activities resulting in lower resource mobilisation and higher state expenditure, Kotak Institutional Equities said on Monday.

In a research report on public finance, the brokerage said that finances of state governments remain weak with a sample of 16 states suggesting that revenue receipts fell 11.4 per cent during 4MFY21, with

bulk of the decline coming from tax revenue (23 per cent).

During the April-July period, tax collection on 16 identified states stood at Rs 2,90,900 crore as against Rs 3,79,300 crore in the same period of previous year, a drop of over 23 per cent. The biggest fall has been in GST collection that fell from Rs 1,14,600 crore in April -July of FY20 to Rs 84,200 crore in

the four month period of FY21, a drop of 26 per cent. The states have also witnessed a sharp decrease in sales tax revenue during the period during to slowing down of economic activities across sectors. The lower revenue has come at a time when Covid-19 had increased the need to spend to keep the wheel of the economy moving amidst the pandemic.

Eco-friendly cement launched

New Delhi: Keeping in mind global environmental issues, particularly climate change, Mangalam Cement Limited, one of leading cement manufactures, has launched environment friendly premium quality cement Mangalam PromaxX.

Sitharaman tells Central PSUs to scale up capex in FY21, FY22

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Stressing the need for capital expenditure (capex) by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that they need to scale up their capex both in the current and the next financial year.

The Minister also said that better performance of CPSEs can help the Indian economy in a big way to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

During a videoconference meeting with Secretaries of the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Coal, along

Better performance of CPSEs can help the Indian economy in a big way to recover from the impact of Covid-19

with the CMDs of 14 CPSEs belonging to these ministries, to review the capex in this financial year, Sitharaman told the Secretaries concerned to closely monitor the performance of CPSEs in order to ensure the capital expenditure to the tune of 75 per cent of the capital outlay by the end of Q3 of FY 2020-21 and make appropriate plan for it. She noted that that more coordinated efforts are required

at the Secretary-level in the ministries and CMDs in CPSEs to achieve capex targets.

In FY 2019-20, against the capex target of Rs 1,11,672 crore for these 14 CPSEs, the achievement was Rs 1,16,323 crore -- 104 per cent.

The capital expenditure target for 2020-21 is Rs 1,15,934 crore. Mentioning the significant role of CPSEs in giving a push to the growth of the Indian economy, the Finance Minister encouraged the CPSEs to perform better to achieve their targets and to ensure that the capital outlay for FY 2020-21 is spent properly and within time, said an official statement.

Navratra Festival inaugurated by Dr Jitendra Singh in Jammu

Katra: Dr Jitendra Singh Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions today inaugurated 09 days "Navratra Festival" at Katra.

The inaugural function was attended by Sh. K.K.Sharma, Hon'ble Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Sanjeev Verma, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Sh. Ramesh Kumar, CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Smt. Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi and Sh. R.K.Katoch, Director



Tourism, Jammu.

While speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister appealed the stakeholders of Tourism Sector to come forward and work in synergy for the revival of the Tourism Industry.

This will help to boost the economy of the Union Territory of J&K which is stagnated due to COVID -19 pandemic.

'Gold smuggling scam likely to fizzle out'

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The gold smuggling scam and the unauthorised Quran and date import cases are destined to fizzle out in the coming months, a senior member of the probe agency told The Pioneer on condition of anonymity.

"The investigation process is slow because of the non-cooperation by some of the suspects and those who have been arrested. Though it is known that the top political leadership in the State is involved in these scams, documentary evidence is slow to come as this involves

many agencies. As on date, we are not in a position to interrogate the Consulate General office staff because of their diplomatic immunity," said the official.

He said though Fasal Fareed and two more members were questioned by the NIA team in UAE, it will take a long time for the extradition of these people. "Though they are in the custody of the UAE Police, we are in the dark why these persons are not being dispatched to India. The UAE authorities have their own interests," said the official.

Meanwhile Kerala High

Court on Monday asked the Customs and Enforcement Directorate not to arrest M Sivsankar, the former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, till Friday.

While hearing a plea moved by Sivsankar who sought anticipatory bail from the arrest by Customs , the judge asked the Customs Department whether it had any documentary evidence linking the petitioner with smuggling and terrorist related activities. Sivsankar is alleged to have links with gold smuggling scam, money laundering charges and Quran import

cases.

Senior lawyer K Ramkumar representing the Customs Department told the court that the Customs needed some more time to explain and furnish its stance in this case to which the judge asked them to come with the same on Friday when he would hear the case.

Sivsankar who had been admitted to the Medical College Hospital because of "severe backpain" was discharged from the hospital and left for Thiruvananthapuram when he was told about the court directive.

hospitals," he said.

Neighbouring Tamil Nadu sustained its Covid-19 control measures for the third week in succession. The bulletin released by the directorate of public health and preventive medicine stated that 3,536 new persons were diagnosed across Tamil Nadu on Monday while 49 persons succumbed to the pandemic. **PNS**

Kerala: Wild plant growth near buses cleared overnight

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A cocktail of Press and social media made an impact in Kerala at an unbelievable speed. The Pioneer in its Monday edition had carried a report with photograph of how high-end low floor buses of Kerala State Road Transport Corporation were dumped in the garage uncared and unattended for months. The entire fleet of buses were covered with shrubs and wild growth of bushes grown around the parking space. Kuttan Pillai, a farmer in the State drew the attention of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday through a tweet about the condition of these public sector vehicles. He had offered to launch cultivation of snake gourds in the space between the buses on a lease basis and this found many takers.

It is not known whether the message received the chief minister. But the management of KSRTC took instant action and removed the entire bushes, shrubs and wild growth around the buses. By noon, the



KSRTC garage spotting a new look on Monday

garage at Ernakulam Central Bus Station were a new look devoid of even a grass.

The management felt that growing snake gourds in the garage may bring in some money to the farmer and the government. But they do not want the hundreds of employees attached to the garage being thrown out of their livelihood. The staff of the loss making corporation thought that they

should not allow the "fence itself to eat the crop".

"We got an order from the headquarters at Thiruvananthapuram this morning to get rid of the entire wild growth and clean the garage whatever the cost may be. Till yesterday, nobody had uttered anything about this garage but the entire situation changed overnight. The company management rang up

many times to find out what was happening," a staff member told this newspaper.

Kuttan Pillai was all praise for the report. "I never knew the KSRTC runs this fast. We are indebted to The Pioneer," he said in a tweet on Monday.

Thanks to Pillai's unconditional offer catalyzed by the report, the powers that be saw the writing on the wall of the garage.

Thai authorities seek to censor protest coverage

Bangkok: Thai authorities worked Monday to stem a growing tide of protests calling for the Prime Minister to resign by threatening to censor news coverage, raiding a publishing house and attempting to block the Telegram messaging app used by demonstrators.

The efforts by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government to drain the student-led protests of support and the ability to organise comes as they have grown in the capital and spread around the country, despite an emergency decree, which bans public gatherings of more than four people in Bangkok, out-laws news said to affect national security and gives authorities broad power to detain people.

The mostly young protesters have gathered en masse across Bangkok the past six days to push their demands, which also include a controversial call for reform of the monarchy.

The protesters charge that



Pro-democracy activists flash three-fingered salutes during a demonstration at Kaset intersection, suburbs of Bangkok, Thailand on Monday

AP

Prayuth, an army commander who led a 2014 coup, was returned to power unfairly in last year's general election because laws had been changed

to favour a pro-military party. The protesters say a constitution written and passed under military rule is undemocratic. But their more recent

demand for checks and balances on the monarchy has deeply angered conservative Thais — and broken a taboo since the monarchy is consid-

ered sacrosanct and tough laws protect it from insult.

It has also raised the risk of confrontation in a country where calls for political change have a history of being met with military intervention or even violence.

Authorities are now increasingly turning to censorship to try to clamp down on the demonstrations after protesters heckled a royal motorcade last week in a once unthinkable scene.

With protesters starting to gather for three new rallies in Bangkok on Monday evening, a top official with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission confirmed reports that the agency had been ordered to block access to the messaging app Telegram.

Suthisak Tantayothin said it was in the process of talking with internet service providers to discuss doing so, but so far the encrypted messaging app favored by demonstrators the world over was still available in

the country.

Police also searched the office of a publishing house that handles books by Thai and foreign scholars with sometimes controversial perspectives.

Same Sky publishing house said police took away copies of three titles that had been sold at a recent book fair in a bundle it called Monarchy Studies, and asked their publisher to come for questioning at their station.

Deputy police spokesman Kissana Phatarachoen also confirmed an order signed by the chief of police that could allow officials to block access to news sites that give what he called "distorted information."

Under existing laws, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society are empowered to ban broadcasts and block internet content. Police themselves can also do so under the emergency decree, which went into effect October 15.

AP

Biden could be soft on China, not good for India: Donald Trump Jr

New York: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is not good for India as he could be soft on China, US President Donald Trump's son said at an event to celebrate the "success" of his book that talks about graft allegations against the Bidens.

Trump Jr is leading the re-election campaign of his 74-year-old father. The presidential elections in the US are slated to be held on November 3.

"We have to understand the threat of China and no one knows that probably better than Indian-Americans," Trump Jr, told a select group of supporters from the community at the event in Long Island, New York.

In his book "Liberal Privilege", he has documented allegations of corruption against Biden's family, particularly against his son Hunter Biden.

"When you look at our

opponents in this race... you think the Chinese gave Hunter Biden \$1.5 billion ... because he was a great businessman, or because they knew the Bidens could be bought, and therefore soft on China," he said.

Trump Jr was referring to the latest allegations of corruption against the Biden family as revealed by The New York Post.

"Therefore, (Joe Biden is) bad for India," he said in his address at the meet and greet event along with Kimberly Guilfoyle, who is leading the fund-raising efforts of Trump's re-election campaign.

The book, signed copies of which were handed out to participants of the event, reflects, according to Trump Jr, on the "corrupt practices" of the Biden family.

PTI

World struggles as confirmed Covid 19 cases pass 40 million

London: The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the planet has surpassed 40 million, but experts say that is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the true impact of the pandemic that has upended life and work around the world.

The milestone was hit Monday morning, according to Johns Hopkins University, which collates reports from around the world.

The actual worldwide tally of COVID-19 cases is likely to be far higher, as testing has been variable, many people have had no symptoms and some governments have concealed the true number of cases. To date, more than 1.1 million confirmed virus deaths have been reported, although experts also believe that number is an undercount.

The U.S., India and Brazil are reporting by far the highest numbers of cases — 8.1 million, 7.5 million and 5.2 million respectively — although the global increase in recent weeks has been driven by a surge in

Europe, which has seen over 240,000 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic so far.

Last week, the World Health Organization said Europe had a reported a record weekly high of nearly 700,000 cases and said the region was responsible for about a third of cases globally. Britain, France, Russia and Spain account for about half of all new cases in the region, and countries like Belgium and the Czech Republic are facing more intense outbreaks now than they did in the spring.

WHO said the new measures being taken across Europe are "absolutely essential" in stopping virus from overwhelming its hospitals. Those include new requirements on mask-wearing in Italy and Switzerland, closing schools in Northern Ireland and the Czech Republic, closing restaurants and bars in Belgium, implementing a 9 pm curfew in France and having targeted limited lockdowns in parts of the U.K.

AP

China accuses Canada of condoning alleged anti-China remarks

Beijing: China said Monday that it has complained to Canada for allegedly condoning anti-China comments that appeared in Canadian media following controversial remarks made by the Chinese ambassador.

Ties between the countries are at their lowest point in years amid China's outrage over Canada's detention of a top executive of Chinese telecoms giant Huawei. Last week, China's ambassador to Canada,

Cong Peiwu, branded pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong as violent criminals and said if Canada grants them asylum it would amount to interference in China's internal affairs.

"If the Canadian side really cares about the stability and the prosperity in Hong Kong, and really cares about the good health and safety of those 300,000 Canadian passport-holders in Hong Kong, and the large number of Canadian

companies operating in Hong Kong SAR, you should support those efforts to fight violent crimes," Cong said last week in a video news conference from the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa.

Cong was asked whether his remarks amounted to a threat, to which he replied, "That is your interpretation." On Saturday, the Toronto Sun published an editorial calling on Cong to either apologize or leave Canada.

AP

Prosecutor recommends suspended sentences for Golden Dawn

Athens: A prosecutor on Monday recommended that all former lawmakers of Greece's extreme right Golden Dawn party who have been convicted and sentenced to prison for leading or participating in a criminal organisation should be allowed to remain free until their appeal has been heard.

Prosecutor Adamantia Economou argued that none

of the former lawmakers was a flight risk or at risk of re-offending while they remain out of jail, and said most had a clean criminal record prior to this.

A final decision on whether the sentences will be suspended pending appeal is to be made by the panel of judges trying the case following summations by defense lawyers, and is expected either

Monday night or Tuesday morning.

The lengthy sentencing procedure caps a marathon, politically charged five-year trial that involved 68 defendants, dozens of lawyers and encompassed four cases, including the fatal stabbing of a left-wing Greek rap singer, and physical attacks on Egyptian fishermen and left-wing activists.

AP

Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law briefly arrested in Pak

Karachi: Pakistan's deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law Capt (ret'd) Muhammad Safdar was on Monday briefly arrested from his hotel room in Karachi, a day after he staged a protest at the tomb of the country's founder and attended a joint opposition rally.

"Police broke my room door at the hotel I was staying at in Karachi and arrested Capt Safdar," said Safdar's wife Maryam, who addressed the large anti-government rally in the port city on Sunday.

She said she was asleep when the police "barged in" her hotel room where he was staying with her husband.

Safdar was arrested a day after he raised slogans at Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah's (Quaid) mausoleum just before the second rally of the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) — an alliance of 11 opposition parties.

After much hue and cry on the political scenario with the

Pakistan People's Party-ruled Sindh government distancing itself from the arrest, Safdar was released by a judicial magistrate against surety bonds of Rs 100,000.

Maryam told reporters that she would leave Karachi with her husband as he had been released on bail.

"Aboard the flight to Lahore. Thank you Karachi! You won me over," she tweeted.

Maryam said the Opposition parties will continue their protests until Prime Minister Imran Khan is removed from power.

Safdar was arrested after a first information report (FIR) was registered against him, Maryam and 200 others for violating the sanctity of the Quaid's mausoleum.

Complainant Waqas Ahmed alleged that the PML-N leaders, along with 200 of their followers, reached the Quaid's grave where Safdar jumped over the grill surrounding it.

PTI

Indian-American supporters say for good relationship with India, vote for Trump

New York: Describing President Donald Trump as India's "good friend", a group of Indian-Americans have urged the community members across the country to support and vote for the Republican leader in the November 3 elections.

Al Mason, co-chair of the Trump Victory Indian American Finance Committee, on Sunday said the Indian-American community has emerged as a force to reckon with for the first time in the history of the US presidential election.

"Your support will contribute to President Trump's win," he said.

"This is a historical election where we all have to make a simple choice. Do we want better economy, less taxes and smaller government, then let's re-elect President Trump? You want to have a good friend for India, first time ever, let's elect President Trump," said eminent Indian businessman Chintu Patel.

PTI

If pollution rises, shut thermal plants : EPCA to UP, Haryana

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Expecting further deterioration in air quality in the coming days, the Environment Pollution Control Authority on Monday asked the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Governments to be ready to close thermal power plants that do not meet the standards laid down in 2015.

In two separate letters, EPCA chief Bhure Lal asked the two State Governments to review the preparedness for closing thermal power plants and to inform EPCA of this review as well as the steps that will be taken to ensure compliance with the necessary shut-down during the peak winter period.

"I had in this letter explained that we may have

to direct the closure of thermal power plants, which do not meet the 2015 standards as air quality deteriorates in the coming days," he said.

"I am now writing to ask you to review the preparedness of this measure and to inform EPCA of this review and the steps that will be taken to ensure compliance with the necessary shut-down

during the peak winter period," he said.

In the letter to the Chief Secretaries of the two States, Lal listed five power plants in Haryana and three in UP and their status of compliance with the 2015 standards.

Lal said additional measures will be required as the condition is expected to exacerbate.

"Please treat this as

urgent as we are expecting a further deterioration in air quality in the coming days. IMD has predicted that the ventilation index fund winds will see reduction and temperatures will also fall. These conditions will exacerbate the impact of local pollution and stubble burning and therefore, additional measures will be required," Lal said in the letter.

FROM PAGE 1

ARMY CAPTURES PLA SOLDIER...

Incidentally, the Corps Commanders have held seven rounds of talks this meeting point so far to end the five month old stand-off.

Since the face-offs began in early May, both the sides have bolstered their troops strength besides deploying heavy weapons close to the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

At present, more than one lakh soldiers of the two countries are deployed in the LAC sector of Ladakh.

ED QUIZZES FAROOQ FOR 7 HOURS...

As Opposition leader PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti too had played a key role while seeking CBI probe in the matter. She led the protest demonstrations inside the State Assembly and outside the house to put pressure on the Union Government to order CBI probe.

Peoples' Conference leader Sajjad Lone also said the move reeked of vendetta. "What a sorry state of affairs. Farooq summoned by ED. Reeks of vendetta. Contrary to what they want to coercively achieve this will certainly have the opposite impact," he tweeted.

Speaking to the media persons outside the office of the ED, Farooq said, "They (officials of the Enforcement Directorate) were nice, they were kind and they were very very good. I am glad they did their job here rather than pulling me to other places."

When asked about today's questioning session, Farooq told reporters, "this questioning has been going on for many years, it is nothing new. It was done in Chandigarh also. They have their job to do and I have my job to do. There is nothing else to say".

When asked why his son Omar is terming it a case of political vendetta, Farooq said, "I am not going to say anything. It is not for me to decide. The Court will decide what is to be done when they will put the case before the court. Why are you people getting worried" ?

In response to another question related to his

grilling, Farooq said, "I will always face any questions they have. I am quite clear about it."

Farooq said, "We have to move ahead. We have a long way to go, we have a long political battle and that battle will continue whether Farooq is alive or dead."

He said, "Our fight is for the restoration of Article 370 and that battle will continue whether Farooq is on the stage or not on the stage. Our resolve has never changed. Our resolve will never change even if I have to be hanged. It is the problem of Jammu & Kashmir people. It is not Farooq's struggle alone, it is the struggle of people of Jammu & Kashmir".

According to the official sources, the ED is tracking the details of misappropriation of funds that JKCA received from BCCI in three different bank accounts during financial years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012 (up to December 2011).

The ED alleged that several other bank accounts were opened in the name of the JKCA into which the funds were transferred. The bank accounts along with the existing bank accounts were later used for laundering JKCA funds.

KERALA HC JUNKS PETITION AGAINST ...

Referring to the unsuccessful bid by the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC), the nominee of the state, under the Request For Proposal (RFP) (tender document) for the airport project, it said the petitions challenging the lease decision was a classic example of sour grapes.

"We conclude that there is absolutely no valid ground to cause interference to the proceedings challenged in the batch of writ petitions. As is discernible from the averments in the writ petitions, the challenge is against privatisation which is the declared policy of the Union Government," it said.

With respect to airports, it was Public-Private participation which has been statutorily declared by incorporation of Section 12A to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) Act, it noted.

"There is no challenge to the statutory provision. Interference to a policy framed by the elected government is trite, is difficult, and the feeble challenge raised herein against the policy is devoid of merit", the court said.

"The bid failed and both (the state and KSIDC) have now turned against the very RFP under which they participated, with an edge over others... The case set up by them, according to us, is a classic example of the proverbial sour grapes," the bench said in its order.

It dismissed the batch of petitions filed by the state government, the KSIDC and a host of others challenging the Centre's decision.

The Adani Enterprises had won the rights to run six airports — Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati — through the PPP model after a competitive bidding process in February, 2019.

The Union Cabinet had on August 19 this year gave its approval to lease out the Thiruvananthapuram airport, triggering opposition from the LDF government and political parties in the state barring the BJP.

CALCUTTA HC BANS ENTRY OF PUBLIC ...

going to schools and colleges why then the State Government could not stop the mass pujas from taking place. Though most Trinamool Congress leaders many of who patronise their own pujas would not react some like Minister Subroto Mukherjee and Sujit Basu said "the order will cause some problem," adding however that they would abide by the order and take appropriate measures.

The top doctors including heart specialist Kunal Sarkar who had earlier jointly requested the people and the Government to stay off the pujas to avoid mass proliferation of corona pandemic, said, "Already Bengal is reporting high number of cases and after the pujas the figure may leap in geometrical proportion ... hence I request all the citizens with folded hands to abide by the High Court order."

New Delhi: A Delhi court Monday dismissed a bail application of an accused in the murder case of Head Constable Ratan Lal during the communal violence in north east Delhi in February, saying he was a "floating risk".

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav said the call detail record of accused Shadab Ahmad showed that he was in constant touch with proclaimed offenders and co-accused in the case. Suleman Siddiqui and Ravish.

The charges against the applicant are serious in nature. The applicant (Ahmad) is not the resident of Delhi and as such, he would be a flight-risk, the court said.

The court said that a strange thing has been noticed from Ahmad's call detail records (CDR) that around the time of the murder of the head constable, his location was around the spot of the incident and he had received three calls from his counsel who was representing him in the matter.

It could be a coincidence, but not without significance. I will refrain from commenting as to whether it was morally or ethically appropriate for the learned counsel to have represented the applicant (Ahmad) in the matter, it said in its order.

It further said a perusal of his CDRs from January 31, 2020, to February 24, 2020, revealed that he was in touch with some of the co-accused persons in the murder case as well in the matter related to the larger "606pe-meditated" conspiracy in the riots, which was being investigated by the Special Cell of the Delhi police.

Ahmad has also been arrested in the conspiracy case. The court noted that though Ahmad has not been seen in any of the CCTV

footage collected by the police, he has been categorically identified by independent public witnesses and police officials in their statements recorded under section 161 (examination by police) Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc).

The court observed that it was clearly evident from CCTV footage and statements of witnesses, that the protestors and organizers had motivated the persons in the mob and certain unscrupulous elements had surrounded the scene of crime and they appeared to be fully equipped with rioting material like stones, sticks, sharp-edged weapons and other sort of raw weapons.

Even burqa-clad women are clearly seen attacking the police party with sticks and other material in their hands and they clearly appeared to be charged up. It has also come on record that some of the persons of the mob had taken possession of the rooftops of high-rise buildings at or around 25 feet road, having firearms and other rioting material with them.

All this prima facie indicates that everything was being done under a well-hatched conspiracy, the common object whereof was to cause blockade of the main Wazirabad Road and if resisted by the police, then to go to any extent to liquidate them by use of force, it said.

During the hearing, advocate Seema Misra, appearing for Ahmad, argued that he has been wrongly and maliciously implicated in the matter by the investigating agency just because he belongs to a particular community.

The lawyer claimed the chargesheet was based on conjectures, pre-conceived and pre-decided conclusions as the true facts leading to the death of Lal have not been investi-

gated properly and instead a deliberate attempt has been made by the investigating agency to conceal it.

There was no electronic evidence available against Shadab either in the form of any CCTV footage or his CDR location, which could prima facie show his presence at the scene of crime on the date of the incident, his counsel further said. Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad, appearing for the police, opposed the bail plea saying Ahmad used to share stage with other protestors and instigate the gathering against the Government of India which ultimately led to violence on February 24, thereby resulting in death of more than 50 people in north-east Delhi, including Lal.

The public prosecutor further argued that Ahmad may be residing at Jagatpuri, but he used to take part in the protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register for Citizens and used to come to Chand Bagh which is about 10 kilometers from his residence.

Prasad said that Ahmad was in constant touch with other accused persons and on the day of incident, he had reached at the scene of crime just before the eruption of the communal riots in the area.

He further argued that the case was peculiar, wherein the protectors of the life and liberty of the general public were beaten black and blue by the so called protestors under a large-scale conspiracy and the accused was a part of it.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control, leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

PTI

DOCYARD
DR LOVKESH ANAND

Consultant,
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MANIPAL HOSPITAL, DWARKA,
NEW DELHI



Moderation is key

The year 2020 has brought in its wake a new and widespread problem of infection with deadly Coronavirus. Even though the disease is continuing to take millions of lives worldwide, unfortunately, there is no cure on the horizon and vaccines are still in pipeline. As is said, every problem teaches us something new. This global pandemic has taught us to take greater care of our health. Thanks to the technology and a widespread media coverage, every person was aware of the important role of strong immunity in mitigating the effects of the virus.

There are many myths regarding ways to boost up our immune response, particularly in our country. Medically, on the contrary, this has been still a matter of curiosity among scientists all over the world. People not only took vitamins and probiotics, but also started using supplements, herbs and many indigenous *nuskhas* in the hope to improve their immunity. The rationale for the rampant use of these products is based on the common belief that these products are natural and hence safe. Even many members of the medical community are advocating regular use of vitamins and supplements as preventive tool.

There is an increase in Gastrointestinal (GI) complaints seen in recent times. Though, there is now data showing COVID-19 presenting with GI symptoms like diarrhoea, loss of appetite, nausea/vomiting and abdominal pain as the major complaints. But, many of these symptoms were seen even in those not infected with the virus. Restricted movement, lack of exercise and increased stress because of lockdown are few of the most important factors seen in these patients. Many patients shared a renewed interest in cooking during the lockdown period which led to not only increase intake of starchy foods, but also binge eating at times. These alterations in lifestyle led to increase in dyspeptic symptoms and poor digestion in many patients. It also led to increase in fatty liver in many patients.

Regular physical activity, balanced diet, avoidance of starch and carbs, relaxation therapies and the use of immune boosters only in moderation may not only help improve your immune system but also keep your digestive system healthy

complaints of bloating, non-specific pain abdomen, nausea and belching. There was also history of disturbed bowel symptoms. He was physically fit and was doing regular yoga throughout this lockdown period. His investigations were also grossly normal. Subsequently, we came across many similar patients. Few of these patients even had mild liver injury. On retrospective analysis, we found one similar history in all these patients. There was increase intake of so called immune boosters, including *kadas*, green tea, turmeric and other indigenous products. Though, there is dearth of data regarding the true prevalence of drug injury in India; but there are reports of liver injury from the use of Ayurvedic herbal medicines procured from local stores or on the internet that have been published or presented. Thus, a strong suspicion came to mind, that the use of these seemingly harmless products, in excess, may cause damage. There was similar experience among many other medical providers, who attested to its occurrence. The exact pathophysiological mechanism behind these symptoms in COVID times is however uncertain.

There is a real need to educate the Indian population that these indigenous products are not without side effects, and thus should be taken (if needed) in a controlled manner. A regular physical activity, balanced diet, avoidance of starch and carbs, relaxation therapies and the use of immune boosters only in moderation may not help improve your immune system but also keeps your digestive system healthy.

SUMMERCoolERS

GRAPEFRUIT: The grapefruit is a citrus fruit with a flavour that can range from bittersweet to sour. It is low in calories, yet high in nutrients. It is known for its high content of Vitamin C, which has antioxidant properties known to protect your cells from harmful bacteria and viruses. Thus, it can also help to boost your immune system.

It also help in aiding weight loss. It contains fiber,

which



Although the acid secreted in the stomach is necessary for digestion, if its amount rises, one suffers from acidity. AAYUSHI LAKHAPATI tells you that antacids do help relieve the discomfort but prolonged use can result in many side effects

IT'S A BURNING ISSUE

Heartburn, indigestion, and acidity are one of the most uncomfortable situations that result from many causes. Doctors usually recommend using antacids for a short period of time to overcome this. But are these antacids harmless? Yes, they are harmless if the consumption is limited to the extent that it does not trigger their side effects in the body. What are the side effects of frequent and long-term use of antacids? Read on to get an answer to this.

■ What is acidity?

The stomach is responsible for digesting the food that you eat. In order to digest all the components present in food, the stomach secretes gastric juice. One of the components of this juice is Hydrochloric acid. Although the acid is necessary for digestion, if its amounts raise in the stomach, you suffer from acidity. When this acid enters different organs of the body (other than the stomach), it can lead to conditions like heartburn and GERD.

■ The role of antacids and acid reducers in curing acidity

Antacids are over-the-counter medications that neutralise the acid produced in the stomach. Antacids are generally composed of salts

of minerals like sodium, calcium, magnesium, and aluminium. These salts have the potential to neutralise the acid. Similar to antacids are the acid-reducers that reduce acid production by inhibiting acid production.

■ Side effects of long-term use of antacids

When antacids were discovered, several researches conducted on the effects of their long-term use stated that they could only be used for a short time to subside the acidity. Thus, the use of antacids must be restricted to a limited time period (according to your doctor's prescription). Here are the seven side effects that arise due to prolonged use of antacids:

■ Impaired bowel movements

Overuse of antacid can cause constipation as well as diarrhoea according to the type of antacid you consume. Calcium and aluminium-containing antacids have been known to cause diarrhoea if consumed for the long-term. Magnesium containing antacids can also lead to recurrent diarrhoea as a result of their prolonged consumption.

■ Muscle and nerve function impairments

Antacids are packed with minerals like calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus. These minerals are



Over-use of antacids can cause constipation as well as diarrhoea according to the type of antacid you consume. Calcium and aluminium-containing antacids have been known to cause upset stomach if consumed for a long-term

released in the bloodstream through antacids. When there is an imbalance of these electrolytes in the blood, it directly affects the nerve and muscle functions. This can result in muscle weakness, tenderness, and

pain. The symptoms can get severe with long-term use of antacids.

■ Elevated blood pH

Antacids containing bicarbonate salts of calcium and sodium can make the blood alkaline by elevating its pH when absorbed in the bloodstream. In order to compensate this alkalinity body slows down respiration that leads to severe fatigue and tiredness due to raised levels of carbon dioxide in the blood.

■ Increased risk of GI tract infection

As antacids reduce the stomach's acid, its prolonged use can affect one of the important host defense mechanisms of the body. They can also change the pH of the stomach and affect the gut microbiota. This can lead to frequent GI tract infections like gastroenteritis and diarrhea as a result of the infection caused by a wide range of pathogenic bacteria.

■ Impaired digestion and mineral absorption

Prolonged use of antacids can lead to a decreased amount of acid in the stomach. Hence, the food you eat does not get digested properly, and it can enter the esophagus resulting in nausea and vomiting. Apart from this, overconsumption of acid blockers can impair the absorption of

minerals like zinc, iron, and magnesium.

■ Kidney stones

The hard, crystalline mineral depositions in the kidneys are termed as kidney stones. The higher the consumption of antacids, the higher is the amount of circulating minerals in the blood that further deposit in the kidneys. These stones can lead to severe back pain and bleeding during urination.

■ Vitamin B12 deficiency

Long-term consumption of acid blockers can reduce the absorption of vitamin B12 in the body. Moreover, it also affects the gut microbiota that is responsible for the production and absorption of vitamin B12 in the body. Nerve function can get affected due to Vitamin B12 deficiency, which may lead to conditions like dementia.

Although antacids are now available over-the-counter, it is not advisable to consume them for a longer period of time. Prolonged use of them can lead to unimaginable damage to the human body if the amounts and frequency are not regulated. Do not consider a one-time prescription as a lifelong prescription for antacids.

The writer is Co-Founder, Nutritionist and the Chief Health Officer at 23BMI

FOR THAT PERFECT SLEEP



Quality sleep is a must. It not only helps you to focus more but also help keep many diseases at bay.

TARUN CHUGH shares tips that can help you get a good night's sleep

It has been more than half a year since the world stopped due to the lockdown. The intensity of the pandemic is so drastic that the whole globe is facing the repercussions. Not only personal lives, even the professions of all sorts are affected. From big companies and conglomerates to medium and small enterprises including the disorganised sector.

All the workload has shifted on the digital space with a new term quite in trend is work from home. In this phase, a lot has changed. And it is axiomatic that lifestyle habits will be affected too.

Everything from eating to waking up has changed dramatically. People have been more careless than ever. And it has started to affect their performance of work too. It is already very difficult to thrive in such situations and work normally when sitting in a closed space. And the unpleasant change in the lifestyle just makes it more difficult.

One thing that has been affected in the lifestyle on a much greater level is the sleep schedule and timing. A good quality sleep is the need of the hour

Studies have shown that good sleep enables decision-making and complex thinking. You function better and you are able to give a hundred percent when it comes to your work.

Also, lack of sleep can make some vaccines less effective. With the vaccines launching anytime now, we don't need anything going against us now.

Here are some tips for a better and fulfilling sleep:

A sleep schedule is must: Create a routine and follow it. It gives a sense of normalcy and calms the overall self. A consistent sleep schedule cannot be ignored. Follow the same wake-up and lie-down time. Once your body gets into the habit of a sleep schedule, you will have a fulfilling sleeping experience.

Sleep hygiene: Check your sleeping environment and get rid of things that can disturb your sleep. A good sleeping environment includes:

- Cool temperature
- Minimal light
- A comfortable mattress and pillow
- No digital devices around
- Using the bed for the sole purpose of sleeping

Relax yourself physically and mentally: Thousands of thoughts are one of the main causes of sleep delay at night. In such a scenario, the relaxation of the overall body is a must. Try deep breathing, yoga, guided meditation, reading, or calming music to relax yourself. Also stay away from the news. It creates negativity. Restrict yourself to a few trusted resources, so that you don't completely cut off from the outside world.

People have been taking sleep for granted by abusing the sleeping pattern and it has begun to influence their work. Also, bad quality sleep affects the overall functioning of the body and degrades mental & physical wellness. So keeping in mind the consequences, everyone should focus on good quality sleep for their wellbeing.

The writer is Founder of ShinySleep

DadiKaKehna

Headaches are a common occurrence, especially if one is stressed. Given the present pandemic, popping pills may not be the right thing to do. ROSHANI DEVI shares tips that can help ease the pain



All of us have had a headache sometime or the other. The throbbing and the pain that comes with it is unbearable. Some of it can be stress and tension related and here is what one can do.

Drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a common cause of tension headaches and migraines. Drinking water has been shown to relieve headache symptoms within 30 minutes to three hours.

If you wear your hair in a tight ponytail, try loosening the hair. Believe it or not, it does work.

Have some tea or coffee. If you catch the headache early, it could ease your

headache pain. A few minutes of massaging neck and temples can help ease a tension headache, which may result from stress.

Eat ginger or better have tea and put ginger in it to ease the pain.

Sometimes, people get headaches due to sleep deprivation. Get proper sleep.

If you are prone to headaches try and avoid eating processed foods, eating cold food like ice cream and dairy products like butter-milk, sour cream, and yogurt.

Apply or inhale lavender essential oil. This can ease migraine pain.

TIPTOP

In line with its motto of 'Educating and Advocating for Well Being of Common Man' the AHPI has recently established the 'AHPI Patient's Grievance Redressal Forum', with a view to educate as well as listen to the grievances of patient as consumers, while availing services from private healthcare providers. Along with patients' rights as consumers, medical, negligence is some of the issues that need to be resolved with some mediation, as legal complexities of such grievances are generally out of the basic understanding of the patients and their families.

The AGRF will provide them guidance and help; it will work as a mediator between concerned hospitals and patients and keep them well informed which will help to make the process smooth without unwanted delays and save precious time of both parties. Dr Devi Shetty, Patron, AHPI inaugurated the forum in the presence of

SLIMLINE

In a wide-ranging interview with CNN's Becky Anderson, Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization, spoke on how to mitigate the continuing spread of Covid-19 and whether you can catch the virus twice.

Swaminathan reaffirmed that a vaccine for COVID-19 is still not a certainty and stressed it will still take several months to understand its efficiency.

As Europe continues to experience a second wave of the virus, Swaminathan also told Anderson that lockdowns should only be

Dr Alexander Thomas, President, AHPI, Cdr Navneet Bali, National Convener, AHPI, RP Singh, Secretary General of Quality Council of India (QCI), Dr Venkat Rao, Chairman, AHPI Patients Grievance Redressal Forum and Dr Girdhar Gyani, Member Secretary, AHPI. All AHPI state chapter representatives also participated in the programme.

Dr Devi Shetty said that: "The nation building exercise basically depends upon multiple institutions like Court of law, Government, Educational institutions. Today we may take such institution for granted but back in time some people had started some of the institutions with view of making our lives comfortable, and over the years such institutions became essential. Initially every great institution starts with a crazy idea. Some people believe in it and some may not, but it makes history if it honestly adds to the value of mankind."

considered a temporary measure.

Swaminathan on when we can expect a safe and effective Covid-19 vaccine said: "We can be optimistic, but there's still an if there. We have a large number of vaccines in development, so we are already hopeful that a couple of them, or several of them, will actually turn out to be safe and effective. We still haven't seen the results of any phase three clinical trials. These are the trials that tell us about both safety and about efficacy, or the protective efficacy, of a vaccine. Early 2021 is much more likely."

INBRIEF

Keeping in mind the importance of high immunity today, Plix has come up with handpicked products will boost your immunity, nourish your body and fuel it with wholefood multivitamins. Boost your Vitamin C naturally, get the goodness of greens from 21 superfoods, manage your weight with apple cider vinegar and strengthen your body with Plant protein.

The box consists of Plix Apple Cider Vinegar — it's the world's first effervescent one, Plix Green Elixir — the effervescent tablets and one stop solution for getting all your proteins, antioxidants and multivitamins all in a delicious drink, Plix Vitamin C — which consists of 1000mg of *amla* Vitamin C and 10 mg zinc and it has no added sugars or preservatives and Plix Strength Plant protein which is a great way to recover after your workout is by refueling yourself with a post workout protein shake and what better then drinking the natural goodness. It contains digestive enzymes Bromelain (pineapple) and papain (papaya) that results in fast protein breakdown, better digestion, and good gut.

Overall Benefits of the immunity box:

- Detoxifies body
- Stress Relief
- Weight loss
- Alkalizes and balances pH
- Makes your skin glow
- Better gut health
- Helps balance sugar levels
- Decreases inflammation
- Increased energy levels
- Nourishes body.

Trend Slazer

Varun completes 8 years in B'wood

Actor **VARUN DHAWAN** has written a note to thank fans for their support after completing eight years in Bollywood.

"It's been eight years since this journey began between me and you. Thank you for believing in me when no one did. I remember every city I toured. The signs, letters, gifts, tattoos and most importantly the love," Varun tweeted along with several moments with fans, press tours and promotions.

"When I cried, you cried when I laughed, you laughed but most importantly I know you cared for everything I did and that's the most important thing. Be safe," he added.



'Starting from Shreya (my character in Student Of The Year 2) to Pooja (her role in Khaali

Peeli), who as a character is completely out of my comfort zone, all the characters that I have had the chance to play have been extremely different from each other. Even then each one of them has acted as a catalyst in my journey.'

—Ananya Panday

Actor **YAMI GAUTAM**

has started preparing for her forthcoming spooky adventure comedy, *Bhoot Police*, which also stars Saif Ali Khan and Arjun Kapoor.



The actor took to Twitter to share an update about the film. "Let the prep begin #BhootPolice," she wrote along with a selfie, in which she poses in front of a mirror with lots of make-up products lying in front of her.

The horror comedy will be directed by Pawan Kripalani, who has helmed thrillers like *Phobia* and *Ragini MMS* in the past.

I've always been non-binary: Sam

Singer **SAM SMITH**, who has in the past come out as non-binary, has now opened up about how having body dysmorphia helped them understand their own body.

"I have always been non-binary. Just hearing other non-binary stories made me suddenly feel seen. I started to address my gender and realised that I was holding myself to these ideals of how a man should look," Smith said.

The singer urged everyone to refer to him as 'they' and 'them' instead of 'he' and 'him'. "I've decided I am changing my pronouns to 'they/them' after a lifetime of being at war with my gender I've decided to embrace myself for who I am, inside and out," Smith had tweeted.



THE GODDESS BEAMS INTO YOUR HOME

AYUSHI SHARMA speaks to Durga Puja organisers around the city to record the changes in festivities, which have taken a downturn due to the pandemic

If you are missing pandal-hopping, just go online where Kolkata's extravagant showcases of artistry and imagination are being live-streamed daily. If you are missing *pushpanjali*, then sign up with committees online which will guarantee that the priest offers it on your behalf while you chant mantras in your room. If you miss the cuisine, look around your neighbourhood. Community women are turning home chefs to deliver Bengali delicacies. As for dressing up and flashing a million watt smile, there's Zoom, where you can change the backdrop to that of a puja of your choice. As for the cultural programmes, those too have been recorded for you to tune into. This is the puja in the new normal but if we really want to imbibe the essence of the goddess, then we must realise that she is dynamic herself.

During this time, Durga Puja organisers around the city, every year, are seen working round the clock on the decor, and setting up idols and pandals, making the Navratris a cause-oriented festival through distinctive and relevant themes. One could easily spot people playing the *dhumuchi naach*, doing pandal-hopping till late nights, playing *dhaakis*, *sindoor khela* and taking part in many other cultural activities, revelling in the festivities. This time there is more heart and devotion minus the frills.

Robin Bose, General Secretary of the Delhi Durga Puja Samiti (the oldest in town), also known as the Kashmere Gate Durga Puja, shares that this year, pandals are being set up within the prescribed size. "We are only doing the *kalash* puja and not the *murti* puja this time so that there is a lesser crowd. We are doing only 10 per cent of what is done every year. You can very well imagine the difference now. I really haven't seen any such thing happen in our lifetime. This is the very first time we are witnessing festive celebrations to be so low-key given that we wait for this season all

year," he says, pointing towards the pandemic as the major reason. "Another issue was that of sponsors. We didn't have any. Even the active members were not willing to participate this time. You can blame it all on the economic slowdown. While some are facing pay cuts, some don't have jobs," adds he.

Although the Central government gave a green signal for conducting scaled down celebrations a few days back, there was little or no time left to put everything together. "Planning and organising Durga Puja is a huge responsibility, which takes at least a months time. Even the oldest Ramlila committees have backed out because they didn't have enough time. Time constraints are big," Bose says.

Celebrations in the famed Chittaranjan Park are being confined to the Kali Mandir only. "We don't have a pandal. We will worship the goddess inside the temple with an earthen pot and coconut and camphor on its top. The celebration will be on a small scale and with the priests only. They will carry all the procedures of the puja systematically," confirms an organiser.

As COVID-19 has changed our very way of living, festivities are also going digital. "Everything is majorly going to be online this time. We are live streaming the puja proceedings. People can register themselves beforehand so that they can simultaneously carry out their rituals at home, following the priest who will perform the rituals at the temple. We will do Facebook live, Instagram live and Zoom for our committee members and the public at large," says Durga Puja organiser and founder member of Paschim Vihar Bengali Association, Mahadeb Das, who feels that digital is the only way out this year as its difficult to ensure people follow the necessary precautions and social distancing norms in a festive mood.

Even at the Antaranga Durga Puja at Mayur Vihar, in order to avoid large social



gatherings, there won't be any typical pandal set-up with big idols. Suvankar Mitra, general secretary of the committee, shares that the organisers are just going to do the *kalash* puja in a very limited area. It's all going to be live, he says. "We'll post everything live on our social media pages. We have also planned a cultural programme but that too online. We have requested for a subscription of ₹500 from our members," adds he.

"I'm honestly very scared about whatever is happening in Kolkata. The celebration seems to be on a very grand scale there. It's very dangerous. Remember the COVID-19 situation in Kerala after Onam? The state was doing just fine but then the festival came and the numbers just doubled up. Hence, we discussed this with our management committee, where some suggested completely stopping the puja. However, we decided to do it remotely and online,

which could turn out to be helpful in following all the precautionary measures and government guidelines. We are trying to deliver the personal touch virtually," Mitra tells us.

Colonel Basu, Dwarka Puja head, Dwarka, feels that it would have been really difficult to mount the traditional set-up. For him, the major challenge would have been to train the volunteers to guide people, who tend to be indisciplined, without being rude. He tells us that he was ready with three plans before the government's decision and guidelines came out. However, post the order issued on Sunday, Basu finally decided to go with his first plan. Says he, "This plan includes a small pandal of three feet. There is seating arrangement too, which keeps the social distancing norms in check. We will live-stream the puja proceedings on giant screens. There

will be *e-pushpanjali*, pre-packed *bhog* and only the residents of the society will be allowed to take part in the celebrations."

Das shares about the arrangements made at the temple in case people try to forcibly come inside. "There are two different lanes for entry and exit, where only one person can be present at any given time. There are barricades beyond which people can't go. No entry is allowed without face masks. Social distancing must be maintained at all times. Thermal screening, sanitisation and other such safety measures — everything has been kept ready," adds he.

Since this year there is no extravagant affair, which in turn means fewer funds used, while many have not taken any donations at all, Das is utilising his puja funds to help the COVID-affected. Now that offering would redeem us indeed.

Meanwhile in Kolkata...

While pandals try to recreate the ideal experience through giant artsy showcases, with pandemic bans in place, we have to rely on social media



Women taking selfies wearing masks in a pandal



Migrant worker Durga idol in Behala's Barisha Club



A COVID warrior sanitising the pandal



Coronavirus as a theme



Idol of durga wearing masks and gloves



DDLJ is timeless: Kajol

Actors Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol starrer *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (DDLJ), directed by Aditya Chopra, completes 25 years today and the film's leading lady opens up about why the film is hailed as a loved romantic film.

Kajol says, "I think the film is timeless because everybody identifies somewhere down the line with Simran (played by Kajol) and Raj (played by Shah Rukh). People like these characters."

The character Simran made an attempt to redefine the portrayal of women on screen. She was traditional yet modern in her outlook and people could relate to her hugely. Says Kajol, "Honestly, I thought Simran was a little boring but I realised that there's a glimpse of that character in almost everybody we know. You want people to instill confidence in you that you are doing something right. So, yes Simran was like that. She was a little old-fashioned but cool."

The actor adds, "While we were shooting for this film, we never thought that we were making something that will be recalled even after 25 years. We just thought we are going to make a cool film together and hopefully, it will be a hit film. I don't think anyone of us ever realised the kind of impact the film would have on people when they see it."

A rivetting tale

Shahzada Ali, a film by QUADRI BROTHERS, depicts the hardships of a child along with his parents, who struggle to make ends meet, yet remain hopeful about life

Written, directed and produced by Akbar and Azam Quadri, the film *Shahzada Ali* is being released for the first time to the public. The film has had premiers at various film festivals.

In the film, Ali is played by Ishaar Khan, *Gangs of Wasseypur*

fame. Nidhi Bisht of *The Viral Fever* plays the role of a parent.

The film is a moving tale of an innocent boy who wants to enjoy and explore life but is curbed to play outdoor with other kids because of his physical ailment. Ali loves cricket and insists his father

to buy him a bat. But any form of physical activity is detrimental to his health. So his mother makes up a story and tells him that the kids who play outside their home and don't obey their parents are attacked by the devil. She tells him that the evil soul resides in their heart and makes them suffer throughout their life. On the contrary, children who listen to their parents are blessed by god.

Speaking on the story of the film, Akbar and Azam said, "The film was shot in Chhatrapur, Delhi, and is based majorly on the viewpoint of a child and the world he sees around him. There was a time when there used to be films made from the viewpoint of chil-

dren but that's not the case anymore. It is an attempt to give voice to that viewpoint that even though you watch the film from the viewpoint of a children, there's so much more to it."

Speaking about the main plot the brothers said that children live in the world of stories which they are told. The story of the film is about a child who believes and lives in the stories told to him."

The process of filmmaking was a tedious one for them as it was their first film. They shared about the burden of managing everything right from production to the creative part to working with a child actor. (*The film is streaming live on MXPlayer.*)



You can never prepare for Super Overs. No team does. So you have to trust your bowler's gut. You trust your bowler, and let them believe their instinct and gut

In T20 cricket, 1 run and 2 runs are very very crucial. I am sure it was great for viewership. KXIP got the better of us and deserved the two points

I think from the last two games, specially the kind of team spirit and camaraderie we have shown as an entire team and entire franchise has been second to none

I had in my mind that I have to watch the ball and hit it. I didn't think about taking ones and twos. I was determined to hit a boundary and luckily it did happen

Disciplined Royals down CSK



Kartik Tyagi celebrates after taking wicket of Shane Watson

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Rajasthan Royals beat Chennai Super Kings by seven wickets in an IPL game in Abu Dhabi on Monday. Rajasthan Royals produced a fine bowling effort to restrict three-time champions Chennai Super Kings to a modest 125 for five in an Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

Opting to bat, CSK never got going and lacked the fire power to put up a decent score after being reduced to 56 for four in 10 overs. Ravindra Jadeja top-scored for CSK with a 30-ball unbeaten 35 and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, playing in his 200th IPL game, made a run-a-ball 28 while adding 51 runs for the fifth wicket.

Jofra Archer (1/20) was terrific with the new ball but he would be disappointed with his outing on the field.

Besides Archer, the spin duo of Shreyas Gopal (1/14) and Rahul

Tewatia (1/18) were economical in the middle overs, while young Kartik Tyagi (1/35) too was impres-

It's just a number: Dhoni on playing 200th IPL game

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Chennai Super Kings' match against Rajasthan Royals on Monday marked the 200th appearance of Mahendra Singh Dhoni in IPL but, as is his wont, the skipper played down the milestone and said he was oblivious to it.

"You spoke about it and that's how I got to know,"



Sanju Samson run-outs MS Dhoni during CSK innings

sive. Dhoni's decision to bat first backfired as RR picked up wickets at regular intervals to make life difficult for CSK. CSK lost the in-form Faf du Plessis (10) in the third over, caught by Jos Buttler off Archer and then an over later, Shane Watson was sent back by Kartik.

Opening the batting again, Sam Curran made 22 off 25 balls before being dismissed by Gopal. After that, a lot depended on Ambati Rayudu but he too disap-

pointed, perishing in the next over off Tewatia's bowling as CSK slumped to 56 for four.

Dhoni and Jadeja tried their best to resurrect the innings and then up the ante, but it proved to be too little too late.

Dhoni was run out in search of a double in the 18th over.

Kedar Jadhav continued to struggle with the bat as RR bowlers didn't give the CSK batsmen any leeway.

Rising Pune Supergiant.

Earlier this month, he overtook Suresh Raina (194 games) to become the player with most appearances.

In 199 games, the former India captain amassed 4,596 runs, which includes 23 fifties, with a highest score of 84 not out. His strike-rate reads 137.67.

With 215 maximums, Dhoni also ranks third in the list of big-hitters in the tournament after Chris Gayle (333 sixes) and AB de Villiers (231 sixes).

DC look to secure playoff berth

PTI ■ DUBAI

The nail-biting win over defending champions Mumbai Indians was certainly a morale-lifter but the inconsistent Kings XI Punjab have another tough battle at hand when they take on table leaders Delhi Capitals here on Tuesday.

Having lost two tight games they should have won at the start of the season, KXIP managed to get on the right side of the results in the last couple of games, although it was too close for comfort by their own admission.

Needing seven off the last two overs with nine wickets in hand, they should have wrapped the game against RCB much before the last ball and even in the IPL's first double Super Over against Mumbai Indians on Sunday night, the K.L. Rahul-led side could have closed it out in regulation time.

Death bowling and the form of star player Glenn Maxwell in a shaky middle-order remain a concern for a team that needs to win its remaining five games to make the play-offs.

The fact that KXIP have struggled this season despite having tournament's top two run-getters in openers Rahul (525) and Mayank Agarwal (393) best sums up their erratic run.

On a positive note, the successful

return of Chris Gayle has reduced the burden on the shoulders of the star openers, especially allowing Rahul to play more

freely. Nicholas Pooran has shown his lethality time and again but is yet to play a match-winning knock and the pressure is increasing on Maxwell the batsman, who is proving to be more useful as a spinner operating in the power-play.

However, the team is likely to stick to him in the game against Delhi Capitals.

Delhi are clearly the team to beat in the tournament and have gained in confidence with a close win against Chennai Super Kings on Saturday.

While Prithvi Shaw needs to be back among the runs after a couple of ducks, his opening partner Shikhar Dhawan elevating his game bodes well for the team that has won seven out of the nine matches it has played.

Axar Patel has shown his utility not just with the ball but also with the bat. His three sixes off Ravindra Jadeja helped Delhi get over the line in the final over finish against CSK.

With an envious bowling line-up, Delhi have shown they can defend even below-par totals. Playing in the absence of an injured Rishabh Pant, time is running out for Ajinkya Rahane to make an impact.

The match went into a Super Over last time the two teams met and more than Delhi, KXIP will be hoping that it doesn't come to that again.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Mumbai Indians' all-rounder Kieron Pollard and Kings XI Punjab's batsman Chris Gayle exchange jerseys at the end of IPL game between MI and KXIP on Sunday











After former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh predicted that KXIP will play the IPL 2020 final against DC or MI, RCB leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal asked Yuvraj, "Bhaiya Hum India aa jaye wapis?" Responding to Chahal, Yuvraj said he should get hit for sixes and take some wickets before coming back and should watch the final



A fan took to Twitter to share a picture of KL Rahul from the KXIP-MI match that ended after two Super Overs and wrote, "My thala." Responding to the fan, the KXIP captain tweeted, "There is only one Thala Gajal and everyone knows who he is"

PRAVIN DUBEY JOINS DELHI CAPITALS
Delhi Capitals on Monday named Karnataka leggie Pravin Dubeey as a replacement for veteran spinner Amit Mishra, who was ruled out due to a fractured finger. The 27-year-old leg-spinner has played 14 domestic T20 matches, and has 16 wickets to his name with an economy of 6.87. "Delhi Capitals today announced the signing of 27-year-old leg spinner Pravin Dubeey as replacement for Amit Mishra, for the rest of the Dream11 Indian Premier League," media release stated.

POINTS TABLE							
		P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1		DC	9	7	2	+0.921	14
2		MI	9	6	3	+1.201	12
3		RCB	9	6	3	-0.096	12
4		KKR	9	5	4	-0.607	10
5		SRH	9	3	6	+0.008	6
6		KXIP	9	3	6	-0.262	6
7		CSK	9	3	6	-0.386	6
8		RR	9	3	6	-0.778	6



Mayank Agarwal and Chris Gayle celebrate after win

Gayle was 'angry & upset' before Super Over

PTI ■ DUBAI

The big-hitting Chris Gayle revealed that he felt "angry and upset" going in to the Super Over after Kings XI Punjab were in a comfortable position to win the IPL match against Mumbai Indians in regulation period.

Chasing 11 runs in the second Super Over, the *Universe Boss* cracked a six off the first ball before opener Mayank Agarwal smashed successive fours to give KXIP their second consecutive win. "No, I wasn't nervous. I was a bit more angry and upset that we got ourselves in this position. But it's a game of cricket and these things do happen," Gayle told Agarwal and Mohammad Shami during a post-match show for IPLT20.Com.

"Even when we were going out to bat (in the second Super Over) you asked me 'who is going to face the first ball. I was like 'Mayank you really asked that question? It has to be the boss who faces the first ball,'" Gayle added.

For Punjab, Shami bowled a brilliant first Super Over, defending five runs which was followed by Chris Jordan conceding 11 runs in the second.

"Shami is the man of the match for me. To defend six runs against Rohit (Sharma) and (Quinton) de Kock, that's fantastic. That's a great job."

"I have faced you in the nets and I know that you can nail those yorkers, and nail them well. Today he came and delivered and brought it home for us," Gayle added.

Shami, who nailed his yorkers in the Super Over to allow MI to only equal KXIP's score, said with the margin of error being so less he just focussed on what he knew he could do best.

"It was very difficult. When you get 15-17 runs to defend in the Super Over, it's a different matter altogether. You believe at the back of your mind that you can do it.

Shami was very clear on bowling six yorkers: KL

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul lauded his pace spearhead Mohammed Shami for his ability and clarity of thought to bowl six yorkers in the Super Over while defending just five runs in their dramatic IPL match against Mumbai Indians.

"He (Shami) was very clear he wanted to go with six yorkers. He has been phenomenal, and keeps getting better every game. It is important that senior players win the games for the team," Rahul said at the post-match presentation.

Rahul, who was named man of the match for his 77, expressed happiness at the victory but said his side would not want to make a habit of winning like this. Even in the last game against

RCB, KXIP could have finished the job earlier than they eventually did.

"It is not the first time. But we don't want to make a habit out of it. We will take the two points in the end. It doesn't always happen the way you plan so you don't really know how to stay balanced."

"I was just hoping we get over the line because the boys have been working really really hard. In the games that we have lost, even then we have played well and just not been able to get over the line."

On his side winning two back-to-back close matches, he said, "We

'Bumrah has taken over the mantle from Malinga'

PTI ■ DUBAI

Mumbai Indians all-rounder Kieron Pollard feels that pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has taken over the mantle from Sri Lankan Lasith Malinga to become the lynchpin of the four-time IPL champions' bowling attack.

After picking up the crucial wickets of KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal and Nicholas Pooran in the stipulated 20 overs, Bumrah (3/24) bowled an excellent Super Over against Kings XI Punjab, conceding just five runs.

However, it was not



enough as Mohammad Shami bowled an equally impressive over to lead the match to a second Super Over in which

process.

"We know we need to win everything from here, but we can't forget the processes that lead to a win."

KXIP snatched a win.

"He's a world-class cricketer. He has been number one in a couple of formats for a long period of time. He has learned and has grown leaps and bounds for us at Mumbai Indians...We have comfort in him," Pollard said at the post-match press conference.

"A couple of years ago, we had a fit and fair Lasith Malinga and he (Bumrah) has taken over that mantle now," he added.

Malinga, the highest wicket-taker in the IPL, opted out this year citing personal reasons.

Mumbai Indians batsman Kieron Pollard said despite loss his side played good cricket.

Van Dijk needs right knee surgery

AFF ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool's Premier League title defence was rocked on Sunday when the club confirmed key defender Virgil van Dijk has suffered knee ligament damage amid reports the Dutchman could miss the rest of the season.

Van Dijk, who will require surgery, hobbled off after a shocking challenge from Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford in a 2-2 draw in the Merseyside derby on Saturday.

"The centre-back damaged knee ligaments following an incident involving Blues goalkeeper Jordan Pickford after six minutes at Goodison Park," Liverpool said in a statement. "Van Dijk was required to be substituted and further assessment on the injury has revealed an operation will be needed. "No specific timescale is being placed upon his return to action at this stage."

It will at the very least be months before Liverpool's talismanic presence at the back returns, leaving Jurgen Klopp



with a major problem to solve to keep the Reds' season on track.

Van Dijk struck an upbeat note in a statement released on social media, saying: "I'm now fully focused on my recovery and will do everything I can to be back as quickly as possible.

"Despite the obvious disappointment, I'm a firm believer that within difficulty lies opportunity," he continued, adding: "I'm going to make sure I return better, fitter and stronger than ever before."

Van Dijk has been pivotal to Liverpool's resurgence since making a then world record £75 million move for a defender from Southampton in January 2018.

The 29-year-old has started the last 94 league games to bring a defensive solidity that was lacking during Klopp's first two years at Anfield.

Since then Liverpool won the Champions League in 2019 and ended a 30-year wait to win the Premier League earlier this year.

With the summer transfer window only just closed, Klopp will have to wait until January to bolster his now threadbare options at centre-back.

Joel Matip and Joe Gomez have consistently struggled with injuries themselves. Midfielder Fabinho could be drafted into defence.

Barkley's winner sinks Leicester

AP ■ LEICESTER

Aston Villa claimed a fourth straight win to open the Premier League season as Ross Barkley scored in stoppage time to secure a 1-0 victory over Leicester.

Having scored seven goals against Liverpool before the international break, Villa just needed one to maintain its 100% start and move a point behind first-place Everton with a game in hand.

Barkley collected a pass from John McGinn, drove forward and sent in a shot from 25 yards that found the bottom corner in the first minute of added-on time at the King Power Stadium.

The England midfielder has scored in both of his games since joining on loan from Chelsea.

"It was tough and go whether he started today," Villa manager Dean Smith said.

"He had a knock to the knee but (it was) a great goal and a real battling performance by the whole team."

Villa last won its first four games of a top-flight campaign 90 years ago.

It was a game of few clear-cut chances, with fourth-place Leicester lacking a cutting edge without injured striker Jamie Vardy.

Malik left out for Zim series

IAN ■ LAHORE

Uncapped batsman Abdullah Shafiq earned a maiden call-up on Monday but senior players Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Amir were left out from Pakistan's 22-man probables list for the ODI and T20 series against Zimbabwe next month.

Shafiq, 20, was rewarded for his strong showing for Central Punjab in the recently-concluded National T20 Cup.

The top order batsman from Sialkot finished as the seventh most successful batsman in the National T20 Cup with 358 runs with a strike-rate of over 133.

He scored a century on his T20 debut, becoming only the second player in history to make a century on both first-class and T20 debuts.

Shafiq was included in place of Malik, while Rohail Nazir was named as Mohammad Rizwan's back-up wicketkeeper.

Sarfaraz, who was overlooked for almost entire England tour despite being part of the squad, has been encouraged to feature in the first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy,

starting October 25, to rediscover better form ahead of the New Zealand tour.

Pace duo of Hasan Ali and Naseem Shah were not considered for selection as they are recovering from injuries.

"A few leading performers may feel disappointed that they have been unable to break into the squad. But, I want to reassure them that they will remain in consideration for the New Zealand tour and early next year's home series," Misbah said.

"Seniors like Shoaib Malik and Sarfaraz Ahmed had not been picked for this series, but I want to categorically state that their careers are not over by any means as performance remains the only criterion for selection."

"We have followed the same philosophy while leaving out Mohammad Amir and Usman Shinwari so that bowlers like Mohammad Haseeb, Musa Khan and Harris Rauf can get an extended run." The 50-over matches will be played at the Pindi cricket stadium on October 30, November 1 and 3, followed by three T20Is at the Gaddafi stadium on November 7, 8 and 10.