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LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

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Jab tak dawai nahi, tab tak dhilayi nahi: PM

Ahead of festival season, Modi cautions citizens to not drop their guard in fight against Covid-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that the "lock-down is gone but not the virus", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday cautioned citizens ahead of the festival season to not let their guard down in the fight against Covid-19 and allow things to deteriorate. "Jab tak dawai nahi, tab tak dhilayi nahi (no laxity until there is a vaccine for cure)," he reiterated and cited how after witnessing a decline there was a spurt in the caseload in many countries.

In his special address to the nation, his seventh since the Covid-19 outbreak, the Prime Minister said though the hustle-bustle is back in the market, the economy is picking up and people have put their lives back on track, the virus has not gone and the battle against it would continue unless it is finished to the last.

He said many countries, including India, are working on credible vaccine and the Government is readying itself to ensure its speedy delivery to every one in the country.

Modi's address this time round came in view of the festival season which could disrupt the coronavirus code of conduct, particularly that of social distancing and wearing of masks, thus potentially spiking up the cases manifold. The ongoing campaign for Bihar elections and bypolls to the 28-odd Assembly seats across the



MODISPEAK

Those who have become negligent and are moving around without masks are putting themselves and their families, including children and elderly, at risk

India is in a stable situation today due to efforts of every Indian in the last seven-eight months, and we have to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation on Tuesday PTI

virus till the vaccine comes. As against 25,000 persons in a population of 10 lakh getting infected in the US and Brazil, only 5,500 persons in a similar size here were infected in India. As against over 600 deaths per 10 lakh population in countries like the US, Spain, Britain and Brazil, India registered 83 deaths for a similar size group," he outlined.

He also cited the expansion of the large network and activities in the last few months to combat coronavirus. He said 90 lakh beds have been put in place for coronavirus patients, 12,000 quarantine centres have been installed, 2,000 testing labs established and "soon our testing will be crossing the 10 crore mark".

But at the same time, he pointed out, pictures and videos have, of late, emerged showing that many people have

either stopped following precautions like wearing masks or have become negligent. "This is absolutely not right. Those who have become negligent and are moving around without masks are putting themselves and their families, including children and elderly, at risk. *Ye bilkul theek nahin hai* (This attitude is absolutely wrong)," he said, adding in the last eight-month selfless health workers and many others have stabilised the situation in the country which should not be allowed to deteriorate.

Citing couplets of saint Kabir and from "Ramcharitmanas", Modi said one should not rest or feel too happy unless the last mile of success is reached as he requested people to "wear mask, keep distance and wash hands with soap".

He asked all sections of the society and sectors, particularly media, to create awareness about the need to fight the coronavirus pandemic till the last.

Modi signed off his address by wishing all good health and extending greetings for 'navratri', 'Id', 'Chhath puja', 'Gururanak Parv' and other festivals in the coming months.

According to the Government, in the last 30 days since Covid-19 cases peaked in India, the growth rate of infections has more than halved from 92 per cent in the month prior to September 18 to 42 per cent since then.

Record lowest daily count of Covid cases

India witnesses less than 50,000 new cases on Tue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In one of the lowest spikes in the last three months, India on Tuesday recorded less than 50,000 new cases. The decline is significant considering the number of total tests on the day was in excess of 10 lakh, which has been the daily average for some time now, except on Sunday when it was below nine lakh.

46,790 new coronavirus cases are less than what were registered on July 28 when for two consecutive days the tally of fresh cases was 47,703 and 48,513, before it shot up to an alarming high of 97,894 on September 17.

While the number of tests stood at 10.32 lakh, up from Monday's 8.60 lakh, the recovery rate stands at 88.26 per cent and the fatality rate at 1.52 per cent, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a press briefing here.

The total case load is expected to breach the 76-lakh mark shortly even as the death toll stands at 1.15 lakh.

The number of active cases in the country has dipped below 7.5 lakh as recoveries continued to outpace the rise in daily new cases. In past 24 hours, 69,720 patients were declared cured of Covid, taking the total recoveries to 67.33 lakh, said the official. During

the same period, 587 Covid-related deaths were reported.

Around 78 per cent of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 States/UTs and 75 per cent of the new confirmed cases are from 10 States and UTs. Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala each are contributing more than 5,000 new confirmed cases.

With health experts fearing a rise in Covid-19 cases during the upcoming festivals and the winter season, Bhushan asserted that the Government is in a "comfortable position" as far as availability of oxygen is considered to meet any medical emergency for serious patients.

"There has been no scarcity in oxygen supply in the last 10 months with the daily production capacity enhanced to



Relatives, along with graveyard workers, offer funeral prayers for a Covid-19 victim before his burial at a graveyard in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

6,862 metric tonnes by September and projected to further increase to 7,191 metric tonnes by the end of October," he said.

Giving the details of the

preparations, he said, the Centre has initiated the process of installing 246 oxygen generation plants in 18 States and UTs in the first phase.

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Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 76,48,250

DEATHS: 1,15,938

RECOVERED: 67,91,102

ACTIVE: 7,39,949



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	16,09,516	42,453	13,92,308
Andhra Pradesh	7,89,553	6,481	7,49,676
Karnataka	7,76,901	10,608	6,62,329
Tamil Nadu	6,94,030	10,741	6,46,555
Uttar Pradesh	4,59,154	6,714	4,22,024
Kerala	3,53,473	1,207	2,60,243
Delhi	3,36,750	6,081	3,06,747
West Bengal	3,29,057	6,180	2,87,707
Odisha	2,72,250	1,221	2,52,197
Telangana	2,24,545	1,282	2,02,577
Bihar	2,06,961	1,011	1,94,889
Assam	2,02,073	884	1,74,411
Rajasthan	1,77,123	1,774	1,55,095
Chhattisgarh	1,62,772	1,534	1,35,259
Madhya Pradesh	1,62,178	2,811	1,46,860
Gujarat	1,61,848	3,654	1,44,027

Rahul deplores 'item' barb, Nath brushes 'opinion' off

MP ex-CM asserts what Rahul said is his opinion, nothing to be apologise for

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Putting the party in a fix at a time when it is under severe attack from all quarters on the issue, veteran Congress leader Kamal Nath on Tuesday refused to apologise for terming Madhya Pradesh Minister Imarti Devi an "item" even though former Congress president Rahul Gandhi disapproved of his language and termed the incident as "unfortunate".

In fact, Nath brazened it out saying what Rahul said was his own opinion, but as for him, he has already clarified the context and had nothing to apologise for when he didn't intend to insult anyone.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said it showed Kamal Nath's arrogance and by trying hard to justify and defend his remarks he is "committing another crime".

National Commission for Women chief Rekha Sharma came down hard on Nath saying he is giving "useless explanation" instead of saying sorry and it only showed his character.

On Nath's remarks, Rahul told reporters, "I think one cannot treat women with disrespect. Kamal Nath ji is from my party but personally, I don't like the type of language that he used...I don't appreciate it, regardless of who he is. It is unfortunate."

His remark came a day after Union Minister Smriti Irani questioned the Gandhi family's "silence" on the matter and alleged that they will not take action against Nath for his derogatory comment, since people like Nath and Digvijay Singh "keep the fire burning in the Congress family's kitchen".

However, reacting to Rahul's comments, Nath retorted: "It is Rahul Gandhi's opinion. I have already clarified the context in which I made that statement... Why should I apologise when I did not intend to insult anyone? If anyone felt insulted, I have already expressed regret."

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India-Taiwan likely trade talks a relook at One China policy

IANS ■ NEW DELHI/TAIPEI

After approving incentives for Taiwanese firms, the Government is now likely to have formal talks on a trade deal with the Tsai Ing-wen administration.

The move will be significant since India, like most countries, does not formally recognise Taiwan because of Beijing's "One China" principle under which the democratic island is its "integral" part.

However, in the last six months, China's aggression against India along the LAC in Ladakh has pushed New Delhi to review its foreign policy in the region and its approach towards the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) regime.

The CCP has been threatening to invade Taiwan but President Tsai Ing-wen recent-

ly warned it against any such move. Incidentally, on Taiwan's National Day celebrations early this month, Tsai had announced that Taipei will play an active role in establishing a new regional and international order in the face of the Chinese aggression against democracies.

Tsai's statement had come days after the foreign ministry level meeting of the Quad — Japan, Australia, US and India — in Tokyo where US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lashed out at China's military moves against India, Taiwan and in South China Sea. The Quad has also been discussing global over dependence on China's supply chains for manufactured products.

India and Taiwan signed a bilateral investment agreement in 2018.

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China appeals for early release of captured soldier

He is likely to be handed over to China in a few days after thorough questioning

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after its soldier was apprehended by the Indian Army in eastern Ladakh, China on Tuesday appealed for his early release. The two sides are engaged in a face-off for the past five months in Ladakh. The Indian agencies interrogated the Chinese corporal and have not found anything suspicious so far. He is likely to be handed over to the Chinese in a few days after thorough questioning.

Giving this information here on Tuesday, sources said Corporal Wang Ya was looked after well by the Indian Army after he was caught on Monday morning in Demchok area. He was provided medical aid



and warm clothes to protect him from extreme altitude and harsh climatic conditions. The Corporal is an armourer in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and hails from Shangxiuzhen town of central Zhejiang province, China. He was carrying his identity card at the time of his capture, they added.

Taking up his case, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in Beijing on Tuesday, "We hope Indian side will keep its promise and return

the missing soldier as soon as possible, and work with China to promote the consensus reached at 7th round of India-China commander-level talks."

Similar appeal was made by the Chinese Army on Monday evening. It said the Chinese military hopes India will make good on its pledge to swiftly return a Chinese soldier found lost along their mountainous border where the sides have been locked in a tense standoff.

The Chinese Defense Ministry said the soldier had been helping herders round up yaks when he lost his way on Sunday evening. The Chinese side informed the Indian counterparts about the missing individual and was informed shortly afterward that he had been found and would be returned after undergoing a medical checkup, a spokesperson for the Western Theater Command, Zhang Shuili, was quoted as saying.

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Rajnath, Yogi dedicate cancer hospital to Lko

Two new flyovers also opened to ease traffic in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow got the gift of a super speciality cancer institute and two flyovers as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually dedicated these projects, saying the Bharatiya Janata Party governments at the Centre and in UP were committed towards the welfare of the people.

The cancer institute established in Lucknow is built on the lines of the famous Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai in collaboration with the Tata Trusts. It aims at providing treatment to the patients with all the modern facilities in Lucknow.

On Tuesday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath launched the surgical oncology, radiation oncology and indoor patient wards of this new cancer institute which has come up at CG City on Sultanpur Road.

Apart from this, the foundation stone of the institute's residential complex was also laid and the OPD services were dedicated to the public.

The chief minister, while inaugurating the medical facility, said the biggest lesson learnt in the COVID-19 era was the need for better medical facilities.

"This cancer institute established in Lucknow with the cooperation of Tata Trusts will be a big facility for the whole of Uttar Pradesh.

The capacity of the cancer hospital is 54 beds at the beginning, and it will soon be

upgraded to a capacity of 750 beds," he said, adding that the target was to take up the capacity to 1,250 beds in the next phase.

Before this, a cancer hospital was started in Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Reiterating the resolve to provide better medical facilities to the people, the chief minister said that initiatives like Ayushman Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana had proved the government's steadfastness to provide high quality medical facilities in the country and this sequence would continue.

The defence minister and the chief minister also gave gifts of two flyovers to the citizens of Lucknow to ease the flow of road traffic.

The three-lane flyover between Hussainganj Crossing and DAV College and a 908-metre-long flyover from Haiderganj Tiraha to Meena Bakery, constructed at a cost of ₹ 64.47 crore, will be a major solution to the traffic jams witnessed in these areas of the state capital Lucknow.

The 1528-metre-long Hussainganj Crossing-Bansmandi crossing-Naka Hindola crossing-DAV College has been constructed at a cost of ₹ 133 crore.

"The flyovers will prove to be great facilitators for the nearly 20 lakh population of Lucknow," Yogi said.

The chief minister also thanked Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for his dedication and necessary guidance for the development of Lucknow as an MP.

Punjab first State to pass Act against Centre's farm laws

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab on Tuesday became the first State to formally "reject" and "counter" the BJP-led Central Government's three controversial farm laws with the Vidhan Sabha "unanimously" passing three Bills in a matter of minutes.

Apart from this, "The Code of Civil Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020", to provide relief to the farmers against attachment of land up to 2.5 acres, was also passed by the House.

With the BJP deciding to stay away from the "special" session, all the political parties — the ruling Congress, the AAP, the SAD, and the Lok Insaaf Party (LIP) — come

together to ensure the passage of the four Bills.

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52% farmers against farm laws, but 1/3rd don't know details

New Delhi: Amid a political furore over the three new farm laws, a Gaon Connection survey has found that about 52 per cent of the country's peasantry oppose these, but one-third of them did not know details of the legislations. Of the 35 per cent supporting the agri laws, almost 18 per cent were not informed about them. PTI

4 ultras shot in 2 J&K encounters

PNS ■ JAMMU

Four terrorists were gunned down by the joint team of security forces in two separate encounters in Pulwama and Shopian on Tuesday, taking the total tally of terrorists killed this year so far to 187.

According to the ground reports, "Three LeT terrorists were eliminated in a joint operation in Hakripora area of Pulwama while one terrorist was neutralised by the security forces after the gunfight resumed at the encounter site in Melhoora area of Shopian in the wee hours of Tuesday."

"Both terrorists killed were cadre of Hizbul Mujahideen and have been identified as Towseef Ahmad Khanday of Kulgam and Umar Thoker resident of Shanganpora, Kulgam," a police spokesman said adding they were involved in the recent terror attacks in Kulgam-Shopian areas.

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CAPSULE

PCI: DON'T PUBLISH POLL RESULTS' PREDICTION

New Delhi: The Press Council of India on Tuesday asked the print media to refrain from publishing any article that in any manner predicts the results of the upcoming elections between October 28-November 7.

PUJA ORGANISERS SEEK CHANGES IN HC ORDER

Kolkata: An association of Durga Puja Organisers in the metropolis on Tuesday filed a petition before the Calcutta High Court seeking "minor modifications" to its order that marquees be made 'no-entry zones' to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The court said the petition will come up for hearing on Wednesday.

BJP MAN SUCCUMBS TO TMC WORKERS' ATTACK

Basirhat/Kolkata: A BJP worker in North 24 Parganas district succumbed to injuries inflicted by Trinamool Congress activists, leaders of the saffron party said.

Yogi directs DMs to ensure hassle-free paddy purchase

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that his government was committed to procuring all paddy produce from the farmers on minimum support price (MSP).

He directed all the district magistrates to carry out the process smoothly and ensure that the farmers did not face problems at the purchase centres.

“The district magistrates will be held responsible if any laxity is found in the procurement process,” the chief minister said in a statement issued in Lucknow on Tuesday.

So far, the state government has procured more than one lakh tons of paddy in 2020 as compared to 10,000 metric tons of paddy purchased in the corresponding period last year.

To ensure that the purchase process is carried out smoothly, the government has increased the number of purchase centres to 4,000 from the earlier 3,000.

The chief minister also asked the officials to ensure that payment for paddy was transferred in the accounts of the farmers within 72 hours.

Paddy purchase in the state started from October 1 and the support price for common (variety) of paddy was fixed at Rs 1,868 per quintal and Rs 1,888 per quintal for Grade-A paddy.

Meanwhile, to help the farmers sell paddy at the minimum support price, the government has approved a proposal to provide advance loans to purchasing agencies.

Uttar Pradesh State Food and Essential Commodities Corporation will avail loans up to Rs 3,000 crore from the nationalised banks for purchase of paddy.



सूचना
सयबद नियाज अहमद और नियाज हुसैन दोनों ही नाम मे है। मरिय मे नुझे नियाज हुसैन पुत्र सयब सयबद अलताह हुसैन, 561, मोती नगर, कानपुर के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये।

NOTICE
Notified that Laxmi Kant Tewari & Laxmi Kant are the names of one person. Hereinafter, I shall be known & identified with both these names. Laxmi Kant Tewari, 128/66, K-Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur.

NOTICE
To inform that I have lost my original allotment / possession latter of house No. E-1/790 Vinay Khand Khand Gomti Nagar Yojna, Lucknow. Its used will be illegal. Durgesh Kumar Mishra S/o Late Surendar Mishra, R/o H.N. E-1/790, Vinay Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow.

NOTICE
Be it known to all that original FD no. LK/5000852 amount 5lac. issued by HDFC Limited in favour of my mother Late Shanti Kumar is lost somewhere in Bhooth Nath Market, Indira Nagar Lucknow, If someone finds it, please contact Ankur Kumar Rana, A - 144, A-Block, Indira Nagar, Lucknow.

आवश्यकता

आवश्यकता है मदरसा सादिकुल उलूम मेहदीरी-प्रयागराज में
एक स.उ. तहतानियी व दो आधुनिकीकरण अद्यापक का पद रिक्त है। स०३३० तहतानियी हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता आलिम अथवा इम्दद उर्दू से अथवा हाफिज बेनमान 35400 - 112400 लेवल-6 एवं अन्य भले न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष। तथा आधुनिकीकरण अद्यापक हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता परस्नानक या प्रशिक्षित स्नातक या स्नातक बेनमान भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित मानदय न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष। इच्छुक अम्याई विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र समस्त शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रत्येक के आवेदन में मदरसा उम्मेदवार के पते पर भेजे।

मुम्ताज फाउन्डेशन - प्रबन्धक
मदरसा सादिकुल उलूम, मेहदीरी, प्रयागराज

Govt mulling asset-based lending for MSME

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to provide cheap finance to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, the state government is mulling to set up asset-based lending to mitigate the financial crunch faced by them due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new financial arm will be a joint venture (JV) between UP Industrial Consultants Limited (UPICO) and UP Laghu Udyog Nigam Limited. The new entity, to be supported by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), will offer loans at attractive rates to small and medium enterprises.

The ABL or asset-based financing, is the business of offering credit, secured by collateral by way of inventory, receivables, equipment or other property owned by the borrower.

“We are working with the NSIC for a proposed asset-based lending entity. A concept paper is being prepared in this regard. The Board of UP Laghu Udyog Nigam Limited has also cleared the proposal for setting up the ABL for the benefit of the MSME sector,” Additional Chief Secretary (MSME and Export Promotion) Navneet Sehgal said in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Further, the government has decided to push for developing industrial enclaves spanning 5-50 acres under public private partnership (PPP) model to boost local economy

2 crore more families to benefit from health assurance scheme

Lucknow(PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has resolved to link all the families living below poverty line (BPL) with the Ayushman Bharat/ Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya scheme to provide them free medical facilities.

Ayushman Bharat is one of its kind welfare schemes of the Government of India while the UP government has launched a similar scheme, the Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, for the benefit of the poor. As many as 1.18 crore families of UP are getting benefits of Ayushman Bharat while eight lakh families are being benefited from the Jan Arogya Scheme.

An official spokesman said here on Tuesday that about two crore families were still not covered by Ayushman Bharat Scheme. “A proposal in this regard is under active consideration to enable these two crore families to get the benefits of this novel scheme,” he added.

in UP.

Following the lockdown, the state’s MSME sector came to a virtual standstill, barring those engaged in producing and supplying essential commodities viz. food, medicines etc.

The government has been taking measures to facilitate speedy revival of economic activities.

During lockdown, the state government, through various measures, arranged working capital credit of more than Rs 26,000 crore to about 10 lakh MSME units.

The beneficiaries comprised nearly 4.35 lakh existing and 5.4 lakh new units across different segments.

Meanwhile, UP Laghu Udyog Nigam’s Board also approved the proposal for setting up of flatted or vertical factory complexes in four districts at an investment of Rs 345 crore.

The flatted factory concept is about an industrial building of more than one storey. The complex is subdivided into separately occupied units used for manufacturing, assembly and associated storage functions.

Flatted factory complexes will be set up in Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad, Agra and Lucknow for non-polluting industrial units. It is expected to overcome the scarcity of space for new industries and to promote start-ups.

The blueprint for Agra flatted factory complex has already been drawn and it will entail investment of Rs 185 crore and accommodate 245 units.

PM Modi to interact with street vendors on Oct 27

Lucknow (PNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with street vendors of the state regarding Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor’s Atmanirbhar Nidhi programme on October 27.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also be present during the virtual programme.

As per a government official, loans will also be disbursed among three lakh street vendors and three lakh small shopkeepers of 651 municipal corporations under the Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana, a component of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The PM SVANidhi was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020 for providing affordable working capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihood that was adversely affected due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

The duration of the scheme is until March 2022.

As per the scheme guidelines, a vendor is a person engaged in selling articles, goods, wares, food items or merchandise of daily use or offering services to the public in a street, footpath, pavement etc. from a temporary structure or by moving from place to place.

The goods supplied by them include vegetables, fruits, ready-to-eat street food, tea, pakodas, breads, eggs, textile, apparel, artisan products, books/stationery etc. and the services include barber shops, cobblers, pan shops, laundry services etc.

Irani targets Cong, lauds dev works in Amethi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Union Textiles Minister and Member of Parliament from Amethi, P Smriti Irani, hit out at the Congress, saying that a family head did politics there but it was the Bharatiya Janata Party which took up development work in the area.

“I am happy that the BJP is fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Amethi and adjoining areas,” she said during her day-long visit to Amethi parliamentary constituency on Tuesday.

Without taking names, Irani said that it was satisfying for her that the BJP was living up to the expectations of the people by ensuring development works.

The Union minister, who visited Salon town of adjoining Rae Bareilly falling in the Amethi constituency, also inaugurated 12 Anganwadi centres and said that such developments were required at this juncture. Irani also met with officials at Salon tehsil office and prayed at Hanuman temple in the tehsil premises.

During her visit, Irani also accepted letters from her voters demanding welfare works in their areas while some lawyers complained about the functioning of lekhpals.

Prosecution dept efforts for speedy justice to sex crime victims hailed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government claimed the success of the recently-launched Mission Shakti with 23 offenders of crime against women and girls getting life term in the last 24 hours, bails being cancelled in 49 cases and 28 perpetrators being exterminated out of their districts.

On Tuesday, the state government also launched a website of the Prosecution department and also posted videos of the Prosecution department on YouTube.

ADG (Prosecution) Ashutosh Pandey said in Lucknow on Tuesday that between October 19 and 20, 23 accused involved in crime against fairer sex got life terms and 31 were punished with cash fine for the crime.

Earlier on Monday, the ADG had said that the government’s efforts in this direction ensured death penalty for 14 accused in 11 cases of crime against women in the last one year.

“Death penalty is a rarity. However, prompt prosecution result-

ed in a large number of convictions along with death sentences. Efforts of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have led us to improve and strengthen our system, ensuring speedy justice to female victims,” he said.

Pandey further said that due to government efforts, 14 sexual offenders were served death sentences, 11 got life imprisonment and eight were served with imprisonment and fines. “Similarly, in 88 cases, bails of 117 accused were cancelled due to effective perusal by the Prosecution department and 41 offenders were exterminated from their home districts for six months,” he said.

Pandey clarified that the trial of cases in which death penalty was served was completed along with other cases. He said the state topped in uploading details of prosecution on e-prosecution portal of the Government of India.

“We have been able to perform well because of real-time monitoring work of all 2,000 prosecutors through e-prosecution sites in the state and continuous video-conferencing,” the ADG (Prosecution) said.

Kidnapped boy found murdered in Banda

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A seven-year-old boy, who went missing since Monday morning, was kidnapped and murdered in Banda. His body was recovered on Tuesday afternoon. As per reports, Prince (7) of Chaisand hamlet of Bisanda (Banda) was playing outside his house on Monday morning when he disappeared. His father Rajesh Kushwaha and other kin searched for him but failed to get any clue. His uncle Rakesh Kushwaha later sealed all roads exiting the village and the locals also searched in the fields but to no avail. Later they informed the local police station about the boy’s disappearance.

Surprisingly, the cops came to make enquiries seven hours after the incident was reported. They also returned without making any in-depth inquiry though the family members expressed their apprehension that someone kidnapped the boy. On Tuesday afternoon, a local woman spotted the slippers of a boy lying on the fringes of the village and informed

the family about it. The family members rushed to the scene and were shocked to find the boy’s body lying under a heap of straw. He had been put there to conceal the crime. Upon learning about the recovery of the body, senior district and police officials reached the spot and supervised investigation. The body was sent for autopsy and a case was registered in this connection.

Meanwhile, in Shahganj area of Jaunpur, a couple torched themselves over a dispute leading to the death of the woman and serious burn injuries to the husband on Tuesday. As per reports, Ashok Kumar (50) and his wife Suman (48) of Bharauli village in Shahganj Kotwali area, had an altercation on Monday night. Things got out of hands and the couple doused themselves with kerosene and set themselves afire, suffering serious burns. Hearing their screams, their neighbours rushed in and took them to a hospital where Suman succumbed to her injuries while a critical Ashok was undergoing treatment.

CBI takes over probe into TRP manipulation

Lucknow (PNS): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the controversial case related to TRP manipulation. The CBI has taken over the case on an FIR registered in Lucknow, sources here said on Tuesday. The Uttar Pradesh government had recommended a CBI probe into the case as the issue was linked with several states, sources claimed. The FIR was registered at the Hazratganj police station, reportedly on the complaint of an advertising company promoter. Later, the UP government recommended the transfer of the case to the CBI. As per the sources, the complainant has alleged that TRPs are manipulated in lieu of payment. The FIR was registered at the Hazratganj police station by one Kamal Sharma of Indira Nagar three days back under sections 468, 465, 463, 420, 409, 406 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code.



Special Trains originating from other Zonal Railways with stoppages at stations of North Central Railway

Special Trains No.	Station From	Station To	Day of Run from Originating Station	Running Period	Stoppages Station at NCR
02397	Gaya	New Delhi	Daily	20.10.2020 To 30.11.2020	Vindhyachal, Prayagraj Jn., Bharwari, Kanpur C, Aligarh
02398	New Delhi	Gaya	Daily	21.10.2020 To 01.12.2020	Aligarh, Kanpur C, Bharwari, Prayagraj Jn., Vindhyachal,
03259	Patna Jn.	C.Shivaji Maharaj T.	Bi-Weekly (Wed., Sun)	21.10.2020 To 29.11.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki
03260	C.Shivaji Maharaj T.	Patna Jn.	Bi-Weekly (Thu., Fri.)	23.10.2020 To 01.12.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki
02395	Rajendra Nagar	Ajmer	Weekly (Wed.)	21.10.2020 To 25.11.2020	Prayagraj Jn., Kanpur, Firozabad, Tundla, Agra Fort
02396	Ajmer	Rajendra Nagar	Weekly (Thu.)	22.10.2020 To 26.11.2020	Agra Fort, Tundla, Firozabad Kanpur, Prayagraj Jn.
02577	Darbhanga	Mysuru	Weekly (Tue.)	20.10.2020 To 24.11.2020	Mirzapur, Prayagraj Chheoki
02578	Mysuru	Darbhanga	Weekly (Sat.)	24.10.2020 To 28.11.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki, Mirzapur
03251	Patliputra	Yashvantpur	Weekly (Fri.)	23.10.2020 To 27.11.2020	Mirzapur, Prayagraj Chheoki
03252	Yashvantpur	Patliputra	Weekly (Mon.)	26.10.2020 To 30.11.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki, Mirzapur
02389	Gaya	Chennai	Weekly (Sun.)	25.10.2020 To 29.11.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki, Manikpur
02390	Chennai	Gaya	Weekly (Tue.)	27.10.2020 To 01.12.2020	Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki
03253	Patna Jn.	Bansawadi	Weekly (Thu.)	22.10.2020 To 26.11.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki
03254	Bansawadi	Patna Jn.	Weekly (Sun.)	25.10.2020 To 29.11.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki
02545	Raxaul Jn.	Lalitpur	Weekly (Thu.)	22.10.2020 To 26.11.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki
02546	Lalitpur	Raxaul Jn.	Weekly (Mon.)	26.10.2020 To 30.11.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki
02581	Manduadih	New Delhi	Daily	20.10.2020 To 30.11.2020	Prayagraj Jn., Kanpur
02582	New Delhi	Manduadih	Daily	21.10.2020 To 01.12.2020	Kanpur, Prayagraj Jn.
05119	Ramesh-waram	Manduadih	Weekly (Sun.)	25.10.2020 To 29.10.2020	Prayagraj Jn.
05120	Manduadih	Ramesh-waram	Weekly (Wed.)	28.10.2020 To 02.12.2020	Prayagraj Jn.
02145	Habibganj	Patna Jn.	-----	11,13,15,17,19, 21 & 23.11.2020	Prayagraj Chheoki, Mirzapur
02146	Patna Jn.	Habibganj	-----	12,14,16,18,20, 22 & 24.11.2020	Mirzapur, Prayagraj Chheoki
01665	Habibganj	Agartala	Wednesday	28.10.2020 To 25.11.2020	Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Mirzapur
01666	Agartala	Habibganj	Saturday	31.10.2020 To 28.12.2020	Mirzapur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Manikpur
02539	Yashvantpur	Lucknow Jn.	Wednesday	21.10.2020 To 25.11.2020	Manikpur, Prayagraj Jn.
02540	Lucknow Jn.	Yashvantpur	Friday	23.10.2020 To 27.11.2020	Prayagraj Jn., Manikpur
02165	Lokmanya Tilak T.	Gorakhpur	Bi-Weekly (Thu., Mon)	22.10.2020 To 30.11.2020	Prayagraj Jn.
02166	Gorakhpur	Lokmanya Tilak T.	Bi-Weekly (Fri., Tue)	23.10.2020 To 01.12.2020	Prayagraj Jn.

It is mandatory to follow the guidelines issued for Covid-19 for travel in above trains

North Central Railway, Prayagraj 1108/20 (D)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.com @CPRONCR

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

E-Auction Notice

Sale Notice For Immovable Properties “APPENDIX-IV-A [see Proviso Rule 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor (s)and Guarantor (s)that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on “As is where is”, “As is what is”, and “Whatever there is” basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s.The details of Borrower(s) /Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s) /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-
Date & Time of Auction: 11.11.2020 , 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM Status of Possession- Constructive

Sr/ No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt	Description of the Property	Reserve Price (RP)/ Earnest Money (EM)(Rs.) Bid Increase Amount.	Date & Time of Property Inspection & Deposit of EMD
1.	Borrower: M/s Vindra Prasad Nirmal Kumar Through its Proprietor Nirmal Kumar S/o Vindra Prasad. Address: Vill Kanchhar, PO Vishesharganj Payagpur, Behraich-271821 Guarantors: (1) Om Prakash S/o Bhavani Prasad Address: Vill Kanchhar, Vishesharganj, Bahraich 271821 (2) Abdul Bareeq S/o Hasmat Ali Address: H.No. 315, Chandamau, Bahraich Demand Date : 16.01.2018 Possession Date : 17.11.2018 Outstanding Amount : Rs. 3092949.28/- + interest thereon & other charges w.e.f. 14.10.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	Equitable mortgage of Plot No. 458 min situated at Village Kanchhar, Pargana Ikauna & District Bahraich measuring 404.27 sq. mtr. In the name of Nirmal Kumar S/o Vindra Prasad. Bounded as under (as per sale deed): East: Plot of Hasmat Ali West: Rasta 10 ft wide North: Plot of Seller South: Plot of Seller	Reserve Price Rs. 23,02,000.00 (EM) Rs. 2,30,200.00 Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-	21.10.2020 to 10.11.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 21.10.2020 to 10.11.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm & https://ibapi.in. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 9517599985.
Date: 21.10.2020 : Place: Bahraich Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

PNS ■ **LUCKNOW**

Cancer hospital will provide customised treatment to cancer patients: Director

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Thieves make off with cash, valuables

DUPED

Man bludgeoned to death over property dispute

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Campaigning picks up for UP bypolls

PNS **LUCKNOW**

Cong to protest irregularities in paddy purchase

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Accused of loan fraud by CBI, BSP MLA plays Brahmin card

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime accused in Bike Bot scam held

Eight-year-old boy booked for rape

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

पुलिस स्मृति दिवस

21 अक्टूबर, 2020

कर्तव्य पथ पर प्राणोत्सर्ग करने वाले बहादुर पुलिस कर्मियों को श्रद्धांजलि

संदेश

'पुलिस स्मृति दिवस' 21 अक्टूबर, 2020 के गौरवमयी अवसर पर मैं प्रदेश के उन सभी वीर पुलिसजनों को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करती हूँ, जिन्होंने अपने कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन करते हुए समाज, देश एवं प्रदेश की सुरक्षा में अपने प्राणों का बलिदान किया है। ऐसे वीर जवानों को शत-शत नमन।

उत्तर प्रदेश, देश का सबसे बड़ी जनसंख्या वाला राज्य होने के साथ-साथ भौगोलिक व आर्थिक कारणों से भी कानून-व्यवस्था बनाये रखने के लिये एक चुनौतीपूर्ण प्रदेश है। यहां पुलिस की चुनौतियाँ बहुआयामी हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस ने निरन्तर सजगता व सतर्कता बरतते हुए विगत वर्ष में इन चुनौतियों का मुकाबला किया है। विगत दिनों वैश्विक महामारी कोविड-19 की विभीषिका के दौरान पुलिसकर्मियों के सामान्य पुलिस कार्य से हटकर आम जनमानस की निःस्वार्थ सेवा से पुलिस का एक सकारात्मक पक्ष सामने आया है।

विगत 01 वर्ष में आयी चुनौतियों का डटकर मुकाबला करते हुए जिन पुलिस कर्मियों ने कर्तव्य की वेदी पर अपने प्राणों की आहुति दी है, मैं उन सभी वीर पुलिसजनों को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करती हूँ।

आनंदी बेगम

(आनंदी बेगम पटेल)

राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

संदेश

'पुलिस स्मृति दिवस' के पुनीत अवसर पर मैं समाज व राष्ट्र की रक्षा करते हुए अपना जीवन बलिदान करने वाले सभी शहीद पुलिसजनों के प्रति श्रद्धासुमन अर्पित करता हूँ। इन वीरों की यशोगाथा युगों-युगों तक स्मरणीय रहेगी। समाज की सुरक्षा का दायित्व पुलिस पर होता है, जिसका निर्वहन पुलिसजनों विषम एवं कठिन परिस्थितियों में अपनी व अपने परिवार की सुख-सुविधा को विस्मृत कर करते हैं।

महिलाओं एवं कमजोर वर्ग की सुरक्षा, सामाजिक सौहार्द स्थापित करने, अपराधों की रोकथाम एवं कानून-व्यवस्था को और सुदृढ़ करते हुए माफियाओं पर कड़ी कार्यवाही करने में उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस तत्पर एवं अग्रसर है।

वैश्विक महामारी कोविड-19 के दौरान अपराध नियंत्रण तथा कानून-व्यवस्था बनाये रखने के साथ-साथ प्रदेश में आने वाले लोगों की सहायता तथा लॉकडाउन का पालन कराने में उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस ने पूर्ण निष्ठा के साथ कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन किया है।

विगत वर्ष कर्तव्यपालन में प्रदेश पुलिस के 09 पुलिसकर्मियों ने अपने प्राणों की आहुति दी है। इन वीर शहीदों के सर्वोच्च बलिदान से प्रदेश पुलिस का मान बढ़ा है। समस्त वीर शहीदों के परिजनों को मैं आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश शासन सदैव उनके साथ है।

कर्तव्यपरायण वीर शहीद पुलिसजनों को मैं कोटिशः पुनः नमन करते हुए अपनी एवं प्रदेश की जनता की ओर से भावभीनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ।

योगी

(योगी आदित्यनाथ)

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

श्रद्धांजलि

भारत की उत्तरी सीमा लद्दाख के हिमाच्छादित क्षेत्र में 21 अक्टूबर, 1959 को केन्द्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल के दस जवान नियमित गश्त के लिये निकले थे। उसी समय घात लगाकर स्वचालित रायफलों व मोर्टारों से लैस चीनी सैनिकों ने अचानक उन पर छलपूर्वक हमला कर दिया। केन्द्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस के बहादुर जवानों ने अप्रतिम शौर्य एवं कुशलता का प्रदर्शन करते हुये शत्रुओं का मुकाबला कर अपने प्राणों की आहुति दी। इन वीर शहीद पुलिसजनों की याद में प्रतिवर्ष 'पुलिस स्मृति दिवस' मनाया जाता है।

इस अवसर पर सम्पूर्ण भारतवर्ष में विगत एक वर्ष में कर्तव्यपथ पर अपने प्राणों का बलिदान करने वाले वीर पुलिसजनों को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की जाती है। 01 सितम्बर, 2019 से 31 अगस्त, 2020 तक की अवधि में सम्पूर्ण भारतवर्ष में कर्तव्य की वेदी पर 264 पुलिसजनों ने अपने प्राणों को बलिदान किया। इनमें उत्तर प्रदेश के 09 पुलिसजनों क्रमशः पुलिस उपाधीक्षक श्री देवेन्द्र मिश्र,

उमिनी श्री अनूप कुमार सिंह, उमिनी श्री महेश कुमार यादव, उमिनी श्री नेवू लाल, मु०आ० श्री जितेन्द्र कुमार मौर्य, आरक्षी श्री जितेन्द्र पाल, आरक्षी श्री सुलतान सिंह, आरक्षी श्री राहुल कुमार एवं आरक्षी श्री बबलू कुमार सम्मिलित हैं। कर्तव्यपालन के दौरान सर्वोच्च बलिदान करने वाले इन वीरों के पराक्रम से सम्पूर्ण उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस बल गौरवान्वित है एवं इनके इस त्याग के लिये सदैव इनका आग्रणी रहेगा।

देश के इन 264 शहीद पुलिसजनों का बलिदान राष्ट्र के प्रति सच्ची भक्ति के साथ-साथ अपने कर्तव्य के प्रति पूर्ण समर्पण का अनुपम उदाहरण है, जो प्रत्येक दश में अपने कर्तव्य पथ पर निरन्तर आगे बढ़ने के लिये प्रेरणा देता है।

मैं इस पुनीत अवसर पर अपने तथा प्रदेश पुलिस बल की ओर से इन सभी वीर पुलिसजनों को श्रद्धा-सुमन अर्पित करता हूँ। साथ ही उनके परिवार को विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि सम्पूर्ण उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस सदैव उनके साथ है।

एच.सी. अवस्थी

पुलिस महानिदेशक, उत्तर प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Covid: Varanasi close to 16K-mark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has inched close to the 16K-mark as 71 new COVID-19 patients have been detected here on Tuesday, increasing the total number of cases to 15,958. The day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 255. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 140 patients. Out of them, 131 have been recovered from home isolation, while nine patients discharged from the hospitals, increasing the number to 12,029 and 2,790 respectively. The total number of patients who have been

recovered so far is 14,819, leaving 884 active cases. The recovery rate has improved slightly to 92.86 per cent but the mortality rate remained at 1.59 per cent.

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 42 positive patients were found out of 3,912 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,87,526 and the results of 2,035 are awaited. Out of them, 2,71,597 were negative, while 15,929 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,03,966. With the

addition of five new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,246 including 259 red zones. As many as 12 green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,987 green zones with 23 new ones.

Under ongoing mass/group antigen tests, two persons out of 515 tests was detected positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, while all the 343 tests at adjacent Government Women's Hospital, 190 at Shivpur CHC and 537 at SSH BHU were found negative. However, one out of 118 tests

at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, and six out of 224 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar were detected positive.

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

So far, 10.91 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.36 lakh persons and out of them, 9.01 lakh tablets to 1.12 lakh persons were distributed only by the Health department, while rest of tablets by other departments including Supply and Education departments and Civil Defence so far.

Thousands throng Kushmanda Devi temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Thousands of devotees thronged famous Durga Mandir at Durga Kund to offer prayer at Maa Kushmanda Devi temple on the fourth day of Shardiya Navratra here on Tuesday, maintaining COVID-19 guidelines. It is a famous temple which sees rush of devotees throughout the year and the same increases during both Shardiya and Vasantik Navaras. As the idol is dedicated to Kushmanda Devi incarnation of Goddess Durga, it saw heavy rush during the day. Right from the morning hours, the devotees started reaching there and long queues of devotees were seen. Rush was also seen at the nearby dozens of shops selling chunar, coconut and other puja articles. Elaborate security arrangements were made there.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh



Devotees line up to offer prayer at Kushmanda Devi (Durga Kund) temple on fourth day of Navratra in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

has appealed to the people to maintain full caution while celebrating festivals and not ignore the continuous threats of coronavirus. 'Ever since this coronavirus has come, it is the effort of the Health department to mobilise the people to save themselves from coronavirus

by wearing masks, maintaining two yards distance and washing hands,' he said, appealing to the people to remain more cautious while purchasing articles and offering prayers during festivals of Durga Puja, Dussehra and Deepawali. Earlier, as a part of the

Mission Shakti Abhiyan, a short play was presented on Monday by the Kishori Poshan workers in the market places in which one worker Ambika took the form of Maa Durga to save a child from cruelty of evils while it was also participated by Pragma, Damini, Neha, Manisha, Mantasha, Riya and Khushi, along with Anganwadi worker Seema Vishwakarma and supervisor (Sewapuri) Lalima Pandey.

Besides, Mangaldeep Agarbatti will perform the 'Mrityunjaya Homam' in the city under its pan India initiative 'Loka Kshema Puja' to pray for the prosperity and wellbeing of the nation. 'Mrityunjaya Homam' will be performed by 25 priests here on Wednesday.

Priests will perform the puja rituals spread over four hours while following all the social distancing norms relevant for a religious occasion.

BHU researcher among Green Talents winners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Nidhi Singh, a research scholar of Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development (IESD), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), is among the 25 winners of this year's Green Talents Competition and she has been selected to attend the premiere of a Virtual Science Forum for talented junior researchers in the field of sustainability science. The winners are engaged in topics ranging from climate change to energy systems. For the first time ever, the winners include researchers from India, Benin, Japan and Malawi.

PhD student Nidhi's research focus areas are climate variability, human health, extreme temperature and air pollution. The jury was convinced by Nidhi's empirical



Nidhi Singh

approach that links the aspects of air pollution and health, which, taken together in this way, have not been adequately researched yet. She is among the two winners from India and the other one is Parmita Ghosh, Remote Sensing Data Scientist, Corteva Agriscience and her focus areas are satellite remote sensing and data science, agri-

culture, and environmental and soil science. The jury was impressed by her passion in working interdisciplinary connecting her knowledge in remote sensing and agricultural engineering to help the world fight food scarcity.

The winners are set on a virtual tour in Germany and these outstanding green visionaries from all over the world will meet Germany's sustainability research elite during the first virtual science tour. At the end of the Virtual Science Forum, the 25 Green Talents will be honoured by Dr Michael Meister, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Education and Research, during a virtual award ceremony on October 26.

The Green Talents programme is conducted under

the patronage of the Federal Minister of Education and Research, Anja Karliczek. The award has been honouring talented researchers since 2009 and provides young scientists with a platform for sharing their views on green concepts to make our world a better place. This year, a high-ranking jury of German experts selected 25 up-and-coming researchers among 589 applicants from 87 countries as the winners.

Each award comprises one of the coveted tickets to the 'Green Talents International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development'. Due to the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Green Talents Science Forum will for the first time take place in a fully online format.

Major research on JEV by BHU team

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) team led by the Head of Molecular Biology Unit (MBU), Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Prof Sunit Kumar Singh has reported that Japanese Encephalitis (JE) Virus suppresses the host immune response and replicates inside the microglial cells. The study has been published in an International Scientific Journal 'BBA - Gene Regulatory Mechanisms' in its recent edition. JE is one of the leading causes of viral encephalitis i.e. it causes severe inflammation in the brain by killing the neurons and activating the microglial cells.

The Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) is spread by the Culex mosquitoes. Symptoms of JEV infection range from



Prof. Sunit K Singh

mild-to severe like fever, headache, nausea. In severe conditions, it may lead to encephalitis, coma, tremors or convulsions and often lead to death. Children and old age people are more prone to JEV infection. In India, Assam, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand are the

endemic regions.

The pro-inflammatory responses help in clearing the infection from the body, alerting the other immune-related cells to protect and warn from the invading pathogens. Prof Singh reported that a small molecule, microRNA-155 suppress the pellino 1 (PELL1) protein and inhibits the pro-inflammatory responses which helps in JEV immune evasion and viral replication. They have also demonstrated that by using the inhibitors against microRNA-155, the host immune response can be restored to normal and JEV replication is suppressed. Therefore, this mechanism can be exploited for the development of microRNA-based drugs against JEV infection.

Earlier, Prof Singh has been elected as Fellow of the Indian

Academy of Neurosciences (IAN). This prestigious fellowship has been awarded to him for his research contribution in understanding the molecular pathogenesis of viruses infecting the brain. Prof Singh's findings have helped immensely in understanding the molecular mechanism of many neuroviral infection caused by Zika Virus, Japanese Encephalitis Virus, Chandipura Virus and Chikungunya Virus. This prestigious fellowship will be awarded to him next year in a formal function of the annual conference of IAN, scheduled to be held at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata. Vice-Chancellor of BHU Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar, Rector Prof VK Shukla and others congratulated Prof Singh for this prestigious fellowship.

Rly employees demand bonus

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Unhappy with the government for not making announcement of 'Diwali bonus' yet, the railway employees on Tuesday staged a protest at Varanasi Cantonment railway station and DRM office in Lahartara, here.

The railway employees gathered at the director's office of Varanasi Cantonment railway station and staged a demonstration blaming the government for not making an

announcement of Diwali bonus till now. They work hard for the entire year to celebrate the festival of lights with the bonus what they get before this auspicious occasion, but the government has hurt them by not announcing the bonus yet, the agitated employees said.

Declaring Tuesday as Bonus Day, the railway employees remained absent from the offices and staged a protest at the office of Divisional Rail Manager, Varanasi Division, NER in Lahartara under the banner of NE Railway

Mazdoor Union (NERMU). They get Diwali bonus each year before the beginning of auspicious occasion of Shardiya Navratra but the government has not announced the same even till now, the employees said. They demanded the government to make an announcement of Diwali bonus giving much relief to the employees and threatened to launch an agitation if the government failed in meeting the demand at the earliest.

The employees also raised their voice against the govern-

ment initiative to hand over the railway into private hands. In the name of making improvement in the railway, the government is making its privatisation to benefit the capitalists, they said and demanded, the government should roll back its privatisation policy in the larger interest of employees.

The annoyed employees also submitted a memorandum of their demand to the concerned authority. The officers assured the employees to apprise the senior officers of their demands.

148 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The rate of infected persons has reduced considerably as against the screening of Covid infection in the district. On Monday, a total of 4,915 samples were collected for the Covid test and of them, 148 infected persons were detected.

200 people beat corona in the last 24 hours. Two corona infected also died during treatment. According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, 200 people got rid of Covid infection in 24 hours. Out of these, 33 patients were discharged from various Covid hospitals. Home isolation of 167 infected was completed. The number of active patients in the district was 1,565.

On Monday, 218 patients were admitted to Covid hospitals and Covid care centres. Maximum 85 of them are undergoing treatment at the Corona-infected SRN Hospital. 24 patients are being treated at Railway Hospital, 58 patients at Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital, 27 at United Medicity, 24 infected at Sainath AMA Hospital.

At the same time, the sequence of health workers turning into Covid positives from corona warriors has been accelerated. Lab technician, pharmacist, SRN staff nurse, railway hospital nursing superintendent, IFFCO chief manager and two bank officers among others have been corona posi-



A student's hands being sanitised before entering the school in Prayagraj

Pioneer

tive on Monday. The report of CPRO of Railways has also come positive.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, manager of SBI Nari Bari branch, manager of SBI Triveni branch, teacher of convent school near Rasulabad, a lawyer, senior pharmacy officer of CGS and senior branch manager of Union Bank Civil Lines were infected.

A corona positive resident of Shankargarh Nagar Panchayat died in Noida.

Resident of Shankargarh Gudray Talab, the infected had trouble in breathing. He was admitted to a private hospital. His Covid report came on the third day. Earlier, the patient's condition became critical, then family members took him from here to Noida and admitted him to a private hospital.

He died there during treatment. CMO Noida has informed this to the Health department. Local CMO has also been apprised. The locals are in awe due to the increas-

ing number and death of Covid infected in Shankargarh area.

SDM Koraoon Sandeep Kumar Verma was found corona positive again on Monday evening. He was admitted to the district hospital late on Monday night due to sudden decrease in oxygen level. SDM was previously found to be corona positive on September 4. Tehsildar Anita Shekhar said that the entire tehsil premises has been sealed and sanitised. Work will be completely closed in the tehsil for two days.

Drive against eve-teasers launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In Prayagraj district, the eve-teasers will not be spared at any cost if they are caught teasing with girls especially during the pious festival Shardiya Navratra. If someone will be caught while molesting or his name has come up in the case of indecent act, then the picture will be posted in his police station concerned.

Not only this, the police

will also take action and paste his picture in the locality. This is so that the girls living in the locality or village can know about the activities of that young man. For this, the police are going to run a 'wicked marking campaign' across the district. Villagers and local people will also be helped in this campaign.

At the same time, the police of the district are running a nine-day separate campaign in Navaratra for the

safety, honour and independence of women. The cases against women will be settled within a month. This campaign is named 'Power Vivechan'. E-Jagran Abhiyan will be run to make women aware of cyber bullying crimes. Under this, a pamphlet of guidelines regarding what to do and what not to do will be distributed. Youths who are molested will be instructed through Chetna Jagran who will also advise the

police to be sensitive towards women.

SSP Sarvashresth Tripathi said that under Mission Shakti, Navratra has a campaign under a different schedule according to the nine days. The Shakti Vahini service has already started. Counselling will be conducted with the help of Family Counselling Centre by setting up a women's help desk and running a women's honour campaign.

Man kills teenaged beloved

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a shocking incident a man who took his teenaged beloved living in trans-Yamuna of Meja area to Gujarat on some pretext killed her there and then after dumping the body in the bushes there escaped here in Prayagraj city.

On receiving the information from the Gujarat police about the murder, the Meja police interrogated the accused who confessed to the crime. After which he was arrested and sent to jail.

Mausam (17), daughter of Ramdas, a resident of Khurma

village in Manda, came to her maternal grandmother in Neveria village of Meja. On the evening of September 27, she went missing in the mysterious circumstances. The family lodged a report against Vijayshankar from the village, accusing him of taking the teenager to somewhere after alluring her. It was alleged that the accused working in a private company in Gujarat used to have a bad intention on his daughter. According to officials, the police, who were in search, received information about the body of the missing teenager on October 15 in

Vapi in Valsad, Gujarat.

When the team reached there along with the family, it was found that the body was thrown into the bushes after strangling her to death. On the other hand, the investigation revealed that the accused has been missing from the Gujarat-based company for a long time. Police said that on the basis of information received from the informer on Tuesday, accused Vijayshankar was arrested from Meja area only when he was trying to escape somewhere. During interrogation, he confessed that he killed the teenager and then ran away by throw-

ing the body into the bushes.

According to police officials, during interrogation, the accused has stated that he went to Gujarat with the teenager but could not find a place to stay due to lack of ID. During this, he was shocked at the information about the FIR lodged against him. He asked the teenager to return home to escape but she was not ready to leave him. At this point, a scuffle ensued between the man taking advantage of the opportunity and smothered her to death. SP trans Yamauna Chakresh Mishra said that the accused has been sent to jail.

Directive to install high security plates on vehicles

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Owners of about 13 lakh vehicles running on the roads of the district will now have to install high security plates on their vehicles. These number plates will be levied on agencies of vehicle companies. People will also have to pay a fee for the number plate.

Divisional Transport Officer RK Singh said that there are about 13 lakh vehicles in the district, in which high

security number plates are to be installed. These number plates will be levied on agencies of vehicle companies. For this, agencies along with vehicle companies have also been directed by the government.

He said that when the vehicle owner goes to the agency to install a high security plate, the details of the same will be made available to the online Transport department. It is necessary to provide complete details online to the agency

operator. With this, the department will continue to know the daily details of how many people finally got number plates.

The Transport department has also fixed the fee and time for installation of high security number plates. Only after the number plate is installed will all the work be done in the RTO office. For installing a high security number plate, a fee of ₹ 500 to Rs 1000 has been fixed for a four-wheeler and ₹ 200 to ₹ 500 for a two-wheeler.

Vehicles that preceded April 1, 2005 will have to replace the number plate in four months. For vehicles which are between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2010, a period of six months has been prescribed.

Similarly, vehicles that are from the period of April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2015, will have to install a high security number plate in eight months and those from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2019 have been given the prescribed time in 10 months.

NCR set to load 25 pc more freight

ALLAHABAD (PNS): North Central Railway is all set to load 25 per cent more freight in October 2020. General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry reviewed position of safety, 160 Kmph speed raising, freight loading and other important works over North Central Railway through video conferencing with PHODs of North Central Railway and Divisional Railway Managers Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra. First of all, safety in train operation was reviewed. GM laid stress on alertness at all levels in safety related matters. He said that frontline staff like trackman, station staff, running staff and other officials going on line must keep a close vigil on trespassing locations and such cases be reported promptly for immediate measures to stop unauthorised crossing of railway tracks. Reviewing 160 kmph

speed raising works in New Delhi-Howrah including Kanpur-Lucknow section and New Delhi-Mumbai section; Chaudhry instructed that adequate availability of material required for upgradation works shall be critical for timely completion of this important work and advised PHODs of concerned branches to monitor availability of high value and critical items at their level. To enhance safety and speed of trains over point and crossing zone at higher speed, existing track fitting in point and crossing zone is being replaced with thick web switches. Expediting this important track related work for speed raising, NCR has started provision of thick web switches at 04-05 locations simultaneously as compared to existing average of three per month. Later in the video conference freight loading perfor-

mance of North Central Railway was reviewed. With continuous efforts of business development units, efficient train operations and customer centric marketing approach; freight loading on NCR is on upswing for the last four months. As on October 19, 2020, North Central Railway has loaded 8.9 lakh tonnes freight in this month registering record improvement of 27 per cent over loading of seven lakh tonnes freight in the same period of October last year. With rigorous marketing efforts, North Central Railway has already finalised nine Station to Station (STS) concessional rate proposals for new and incremental traffic and with three under process STS proposals NCR is leading railway among all zones in finalising STS proposals. North Central Railway is also work-

ing for STS proposal for loading of ballast from Kabrai to Prayagraj which will improve loading substantially by transportation of ballast for dedicated freight corridor work. As on October 19, 2020, average speed of goods train on NCR was 45.02 kmph registering growth of 82.5 per cent over last year average speed of 24.69 Kmph for the period of April to October. In an important step towards ease of doing business a Freight Business Development (FBD) portal is also operationalised by railway since September 30, 2020. Freight customers can access this portal through link <http://fois.indianrail.gov.in/FOISWebPortal/index.jsp> and get all information related to different freight policy matters, incentives and concessions given by railways in freight transportation.



The District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari, and DIG Parminder Singh taking part in the Sampurna Samadhan Diwas at Bal Bhawan, Phool Bagh on Tuesday.

Pioneer

Covid recovery rate crosses 91 per cent-mark in Kanpur

Utmost care needed at this juncture: CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil Mishra said it was very encouraging that the COVID-19 recovery rate in Kanpur Nagar had crossed the 91 per cent-mark.

He said it appeared that the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) was weakening gradually as was evident from the fast rising recovery rate. He said home isolation had also proved highly successful.

The CMO, however, added that this was not the time to

lower ones guard as utmost care was needed at this juncture to avert a second wave of novel coronavirus infection in the city that would be more harsh.

He said the district administration had been apprised of the depletion of medicine stock in LLR Hospital due to the rush in the non-Covid OPD.

Dr Mishra said that earlier non-Covid patients were avoiding to visit the LLR Hospital OPD for treatment in view of the COVID-19 patients admitted there but with the improvement in the situation,

the OPDs were once again witnessing a huge rush, leading to shortage of medicines.

He said with the district administration aware of the medicine stock, very soon some alternative arrangements would be made.

The CMO said a special campaign was being launched to prevent the spread of dengue and curb the death rate.

He said the district administration, with the support of Kanpur Nagar Nigam, had launched a drive to spray anti-larva chemicals all over the city. He said several fogging vehicles

had been deployed by the KNN and they would continue constant spraying of anti-larval chemicals all over the city.

Dr Mishra appealed to the people to remain aware and ensure there was no stagnant water around them. He said dengue mosquitoes bred in clean water and thus every household should ensure that there was no stagnant clean water in the surrounding.

He said people need to wear full sleeved clothes, use mosquito repellent or mosquito nets.

86 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

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

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 86 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 27,385 cases. He said three COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Tuesday evening keeping the death toll to 716. The CMO said with 104 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals the cured figure in the city was 24972 and at present 1697 active cases were undergoing treatment.

Three held in Kanpur for loot in Mathura

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A Mathura Crime Branch team on Tuesday arrested three criminals involved in loot of jewellery worth ₹ 4.50 lakh from a jeweller there from the CTS Colony under Kalyanpur police station of Kanpur Nagar and recovered the looted ornaments.

All the accused were taken to Mathura.

It may be recalled that in a broad daylight incident, motor-cycle-borne unidentified miscreants had looted a bag containing jewellery worth ₹.4.50 lakh from a jeweller in Mathura on October 3.

While scanning the CCTV footages, the Mathura Crime Branch team had spotted three youths escaping with the looted bag. One of them was identified by the police as Mohna. On being grilled, he informed the police about the involvement of his three aides — Amit Kumar, Surjit alias Patia and Vicky alias Chhotu of CTS Colony, Kalyanpur, Kanpur.

Thereafter, with the help of electronic surveillance, the team arrived at the CTS Colony and came to know that one of the accused, Surjit, was at his maternal place in Prayagraj. The team immediately proceeded for Prayagraj and arrested Surjit from there. The team then returned to Kanpur Nagar with Surjit and arrested Amit and Vicky from CTS Colony.

On the information given by them, the police recovered 22 gold chains from a dilapidated house and returned to Mathura with all the three accused.

SUICIDE BID

After a row with her husband, a woman attempted to commit suicide by jumping into the Ganga river from the Jajmau flyover on Tuesday afternoon. Seeing her jumping into the river, some passers-by raised and alarm and the boatmen immediately rescued the woman.

Kanpur to witness sound & light shows again

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar, while reviewing the Smart City work in Kanpur Nagar on Tuesday directed the municipal commissioner to prepare a feasibility plan for starting a heritage son et lumiere within the next 15 days at The Memorial Well, currently more popular as Nana Rao Park.

He said the conservation and protection work had to be carried out at the earliest, especially for The Memorial Well which had witnessed sacrifices during the freedom struggle.

Shekhar directed the Kanpur municipal commissioner to get the place exam-

ined by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), INTAC and son et lumiere organising companies for putting up the finest proposal.

The divisional commissioner said during his visit he observed that the Smart City Authority was carrying out five projects in this park that included laying of a cycle track, synthetic walking track, parking area, landscape works and beautification of the heritage monuments in the park.

He said the project was delayed by six months because of the COVID-19 induced lockdown and some other technical issues.

Divisional commissioner Raj Shekhar directed the municipal commissioner to ensure completion of all pend-

ing works of cycle track (500 metre), synthetic walking track and landscape work in the next two months.

The municipal commissioner assured the divisional commissioner that all these works would be completed before December 31, 2020.

Divisional commissioner Shekhar also directed the municipal commissioner to repair and restore the small court room with the help of ASI/INTAC as it was also a part of the freedom struggle events. He then visited the swimming pool site and directed major repairs and renovation.

Divisional commissioner said the Taran Tal had a great potential to become a state

level swimming pool.

He directed the proper renovation be carried out in the next six months so that a modern swimming pool could be made available for the people of Kanpur Nagar.

The divisional commissioner interacted with the visitors and morning walkers. They pointed out that it being the largest and most important park of Kanpur Nagar where over 5,000 people visited daily the park needed additional quality public toilets, good parking area for morning visitors and also repair of the damaged roads and high mast lights.

Shekhar said the whole park needed proper maintenance as well.

PMEGP initiatives for women entrepreneurs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Director, MSME Development Institute, Kanpur, LBS Yadav, while addressing a webinar held in association with Mahila Manch, said in the times of COVID-19 when lakhs of people were affected economically, a platform was needed to provide emancipation to the women who were the worst hit.

He said women had immense talent but in the adverse situation it was difficult for them to hunt for a platform so that they could eke out their livelihood. He said the MSME Ministry had many initiatives meant exclusively for talented women.

He said gender equality becoming more and more vital, the MSME Ministry had decided to empower women and more than 1.38 lakh projects had been set up by the women entrepreneurs under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) since its inception.

He said in the present times there was need to give further momentum to this

scheme for the uplift of the women.

He said it was true that only 13.76 per cent of the total entrepreneurs in India were women which was close to merely eight million as opposed to male entrepreneurs who just crossed a whopping 60 million mark, these financial schemes launched at the state and Central level could do a great deal in boosting women entrepreneurship.

Yadav said it was quite unfortunate that most of the talented women entrepreneurs had little idea about the schemes and there were a few women who stepped out of their homes and chose to make the most out of these schemes and become economically independent. He said there was one Mudra Rozgar Yojana and a few more.

He said to run any business successfully, one needed certain amount of expertise which would further help in building the enterprise in a better way to compete in the market.

He said for this the PMEGP initiated a scheme

called TREAD, which aimed at empowering women by providing credit to projects, conducting specific training and counselling, and disseminate knowledge for their business.

He said the scheme provided for a government grant of up to 30 percent of the total project cost as appraised by lending institutions.

Discussing the Mahila Udyam Nidhi Scheme, he said it was initiated primarily to offer financial assistance up to ₹ 10 lakh, to small-scale business models and this scheme aimed to help women set up new projects and promoted upgrading and modernisation of existing projects.

He said the other were Annapurna scheme, Stree Shakti Package for Women Entrepreneurs, Bharatiya Mahila Business Bank Loan, Dena Shakti Scheme, Cent Kalyani Scheme, Udyog Scheme and many more and advised them to avail themselves of the facilities provided by the government.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mahila Manch secretary Neelam Chaturvedi.

Gang operating fake telephone exchange busted, two held



Accused of fake telephone exchange arrested by city police on Tuesday.

Pioneer.

KANPUR (PNS): The Kanpur Nagar police busted a gang operating a fake telephone exchange to facilitate talks with people in the Gulf countries following arrest of two persons from Sujat Ganj (Chakeri) on Tuesday. Addressing media persons, Senior Superintendent of Police Pritinder Singh identified the accused as Mohd Shah Nawaz and Mohd Javed.

Police recovered five call terminator machines and 151 SIM cards activated on fake IDs. They were involved in collecting the calls from Gulf countries and diverting them to local calls here, causing huge revenue loss to the Indian government. The calls made through voice over internet protocol (VOIP) were re-routed through the parallel tele-

phone exchange operating here. The SSP said efforts were on to collect other important information from the accused.

MURDER ACCUSED SURRENDER IN COURT

The wanted brothers Mehfooz and Saud Akhtar, accused in the Bahujan Samaj Party leader Pintu Senger murder case, gave the slip to cops and surrendered themselves before the chief judicial magistrate (CJM) on Tuesday.

It may be recalled that Pintu Senger was gunned down on June 20 when he was going to settle a dispute with his business partner Manoj Gupta at the house of former city president of Samajwadi Party, Chandresh Singh, in Chakeri police station area.

Mahila help desks set up

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Under the Mission Shakti drive launched by the state government for safety, honour and self-reliance of women, Mirzapur police set up a Mahila help desk at each police station of the district on Monday. The desks were inaugurated by officers above the rank of SHOs by organising brief functions and for each desk a woman constable was deployed.

Women who came for the redressal of their grievances at the police stations were offered refreshments too and complaints were disposed of with sincerity.

Addressing a gathering at Madihan police station CO (Operation) Subhash Rai said that being the as the area was a Naxal-infested one the role of women was very important and their cooperation might help in eradicating the menace. He directed the

cops to create an atmosphere through their working that women could help them which might pave the way for effective policing.

INSPECTION: NPP Chairman Manoj Jaiswal directed the palika staff that no laxity would be tolerated on the issue of sanitation and lighting in Vindhyachal Temple area. During his inspection on Monday, he visited Ganga ghats, streets, temple premises along with camps of different departments apart from palika and directed the officials concerned to ensure lighting as well as sanitation in the area.

Interacting with people he told them to feel free to inform him about any lapse on the part of Nagar Palika. He appealed to workers deployed in the area to work with a spirit of service to give a positive message to the devotees. After the inspecting the amenities he held a meeting with the staff to get a feedback.

Five involved in betting held

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUIN

On the directive of SP Yashveer Singh and ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh police apprehended five accused involved in betting. They were identified as Krishna Kumar Rajput alias Kiran Kumar, Mahendra Pratap Singh alias Seepu, Chandra Pratap Singh alias Chhotu, Sandeep Singh alias Golu and Karan Singh Chauhan from Ramnagar. Police confiscated ₹1,30,000, one LED TV (80 cm), seven mobile phones, one set-top box with a remote and one dairy carrying betting details. ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh said that on being tipped off by an informer the team comprising of SOG and

Kotwali Orai police under the guidance of CO Santosh Kumar immediately reached the spot and arrested the accused. He appreciated SOG incharge S-I Praveen Yadav and inspector Sudhakar Mishra, Kotwali Orai

incharge for their efforts. The team which made the arrest comprised S-I Asay Kumar, Chandan Pandey and Ramveer Singh besides Ashutosh Kumar, Ashutosh Gautam, Archana, Rohit Rawat, Shailendra Chauhan, Karamveer, Gaurav Bajpai, Jagdish Chandra, Bhupendra Singh, Ashwini Pratap, Vinay Pratap Singh, Neetu Kumar, Shri Ram Prajapati, Puneet Kumar, Surjeet Kumar and Mukesh Purohit.

Minister thanks doctors

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUIN

UP Minister of State for Science and Technology and Higher Education Neelima Katiyar said doctors are the real heroes. While attending a seminar on Rani Lakshmbai in Government Medical College, Jalaun, she thanked the doctors for their efforts during the Covid-19 crisis and also appreciated GMC principal Dr Dwijendra Nath for his management skills and for taking care of corona patients. The event started with the candle lighting ceremony and wel-

come speech by Dr Dwijendra Nath. He said that total 60 deliveries of Covid-19 positive patients were done. In 40 cases both baby and the mother had recovered from Covid-19. In remaining 20 cases the babies were found negative and their mothers positive. However, due to efforts of the medical team staff the mothers recovered from Covid, he said. More than 2,300 patients had recovered from Covid-19, he added. Dr Dwijendra Nath handed over a memento to minister Neelima Katiyar, MLA Gauri Shankar Verma, Kalpi MLA Narendra Jadaun and BJP district president Ramendra Singh. Among those present were state secretary BJP Yuva Morcha, Prashant Dwivedi, regional general secretary, BJP, Anil Yadav, Dr Manoj Verma and Dr Jitendra Mishra.

Two arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The Ramgarh Tal police arrested two accused in connection with a loot case and recovered a pistol, a cartridge, a knife, a pass-book and ₹800 from them. The police on being tipped off by an informer arrested the duo from Rampur Tiraha, Hanuman temple, late on Sunday night. They were later identified as Vishal Nishad, a resident of Mohaddipur under the Cantt police station and Krishna Mohan, a resident of an area under the Pipraich police station. According to a report received here, that the two accused had looted one person at Alinagar Chauraha under the Kotwali police station. Seven cases were registered against Vishal at separate police stations and five against Krishna Mohan, of SHO Ramgarh Tal said. Police produced both the accused in the court from they were sent to jail.

Pledge administered to DLW personnel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Jan Andolan Abhiyan for Covid-19 appropriate behaviour the campaign was also launched in Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW). The aim of the campaign was to motivate its officers and personnel to wear masks for prevention of Covid, maintain social distancing and

take care of hand hygiene. The slogan of this campaign is 'Jab tak dawai nahi tab tak dhilai nahi'. (No carelessness till a medicine is found). In the same sequence in the Block

Division of the DLW the Safety Department, DLW, Varanasi, under the Jan Andolan Abhiyan for prevention of Covid a pledge was administered to a large number officers and employees.

New Delhi-Jaynagar puja spl from today

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration keeping the convenience of passengers in mind in view of the forthcoming festivals will in addition to 04092/04091 New Delhi-Jaynagar-New Delhi (biweekly), 04030/04029 Delhi-Muzaffarpur-Delhi (biweekly), 04624/04623 Amritsar-Saharsa-Amritsar (biweekly) puja special trains run 84412/84411 Delhi-Saharsa-Delhi biweekly Suvidha Superfast between October 20 and December 2. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 norms, CPRO PK Singh said.

NEW DELHI-JAYNAGAR PUJA SPL: The 04092 New Delhi-Jaynagar biweekly puja special from October 21 to November 28 every Wednesday and Saturday will leave New Delhi at 09:20 hrs, Moradabad at 12:33 hrs, Bareilly at 14:12 hrs, Lucknow at 18:30 hrs, Gonda at 20:45 hrs, Basti at 22:04 hrs, Gorakhpur at 23:30 hrs, Narkatiaganj at 03:22 hrs, Raxaul at 04:47 hrs, Sitamarhi at 06:25 hrs, Darbhanga at 08:25 hrs, Madhubani at 09:37 hrs and reach Jaynagar at 11:15 hrs. During the return journey the 04091 Jaynagar-New Delhi biweekly puja special will from October 22 to November 29 every Thursday and Sunday leave Jaynagar at 15:30 hrs, Madhubani at 16:07 hrs, Darbhanga at 17:25 hrs, Sitamarhi at 19:00 hrs, Raxaul at 21:00, Narkatiaganj at 22:40 hrs, the second day Gorakhpur at 04:15 hrs, Basti at 05:20 hrs, Gonda at 06:45 hrs, Lucknow at 09:00 hrs, Bareilly at 13:42 hrs, Moradabad at 15:40 hrs and reach New Delhi at 19:30 hrs. A total of 20 coaches, including two of generator-

cum-luggage van, five of general second class, seven of sleeper class, four of AC third and two of AC second class will be attached in the special train. **DELHI-MUZAFFARPUR PUJA SPL:** The 04030 Delhi-Muzaffarpur biweekly superfast puja special from October 21 to November 28 every Wednesday and Saturday leave Delhi at 13:45 hrs, Ghaziabad at 14:27 hrs, Moradabad at 16:25 hrs, Bareilly at 17:55 hrs, Lucknow (NR) at 21:45 hrs, the second day Gorakhpur at 02:50 hrs, Siwan at 04:27 hrs, Chhapra at 05:45 hrs, Hajipur at 06:52 hrs and reach Muzaffarpur at 08:00 hrs. During the return journey the 04029 Muzaffarpur-Delhi biweekly superfast puja special will from October 22 to November 29 every Thursday and Sunday leave Muzaffarpur at 16:15 hrs, Hajipur at 17:15 hrs, Chhapra at 18:25 hrs, Siwan at 19:15 hrs, Gorakhpur at 21:00 hrs, on the second day, Lucknow (NR) at 01:55 hrs, Bareilly at 05:45 hrs, Moradabad at 07:10 hrs, Ghaziabad at 09:32 hrs and reach Delhi at 10:30 hrs. A total of 20 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, five of general second class, seven of sleeper class, four of AC third and two of AC second will be attached in this special train. **AMRITSAR-SAHARSA PUJA SPL:** The 04624 Amritsar-Saharsa biweekly superfast puja special from October 21 to November 28 every Wednesday and Saturday will leave Amritsar at 05:45 hrs, Jalandhar City at 07:00 hrs, Ludhiana City at 08:05 hrs, Ambala Cantt at 09:35 hrs, Saharanpur at 10:50 hrs, Moradabad at 13:55 hrs, Bareilly at 15:20 hrs, Lucknow at 18:52 hrs, on the second day Gorakhpur at 00:15 hrs, Chhapra at 03:27 hrs, Hajipur at 04:30 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 05:35 hrs, Samastipur at 06:30 hrs, Barauni at 07:40 hrs and reach Saharsa at 10:30 hrs. During the return journey 04623 Saharsa-Amritsar biweekly superfast puja special will from October 22 to November 29 every Thursday and Sunday leave Saharsa at 14:30 hrs, Barauni at 17:00 hrs, Samastipur at 18:05 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 19:00 hrs, Hajipur at 19:55 hrs, Chhapra at 21:20 hrs, on second day Gorakhpur at 00:40 hrs, Lucknow at 06:10 hrs, Bareilly at 09:35 hrs, Moradabad at 11:10 hrs, Saharanpur at 14:15 hrs, Ambala Cantt at 15:45 hrs, Ludhiana at 17:40 hrs, Jalandhar City at 18:32 hrs and reach Amritsar at 19:45 hrs. A total of 22 coaches will be attached in the train.

DELHI-SAHARSA SUVIDHA SPL: The 84412 Delhi-Saharsa Suvidha SF puja special will from October 21 to November 29 every Wednesday and Sunday leave at Delhi at 23:00 hrs, Ghaziabad at 23:47 hrs, on the second day Moradabad at 02:03 hrs, Bareilly at 03:23 hrs, Sitapur at 06:35 hrs, Gorakhpur at 11:35 hrs, Chhapra at 14:35 hrs, Hajipur at 15:42 hrs, Barauni at 17:30 hrs, Khagaria at 18:32 hrs and reach Saharsa at 19:45 hrs. During the return journey, the 84411 Saharsa-Delhi biweekly Suvidha SF puja special from October 22 to November 29 every Thursday and Monday leave Saharsa at 22:15 hrs, and after stopping at Khagaria, Barauni, from Hajipur, Chhapra, Gorakhpur, Sitapur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Ghaziabad and reach Delhi at 19:20 hrs. A total of 20 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, five of general second class and seven of sleeper class will be attached.

Centre mulls to delist plasma therapy for Covid treatment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In what could come as a setback to the States which have invested in setting up infrastructure for conducting plasma therapy and launched plasma donation drives to treat coronavirus infected patients, the Centre is mulling to delete convalescent plasma as an investigational therapy from its treatment protocol guidelines.

Giving a hint in this regard, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Professor Balram Bhargava on Tuesday said “discussions are on in the national task force on Covid-

19 for deletion on plasma therapy from the national treatment guidelines”.

Governments in various States like Delhi, Karnataka and Maharashtra had touted this as an effective strategy against Covid-19.

The Centre’s consideration to ban the therapy comes after multiple international trials and the ICMR, which conducted the largest trial in the world, concluded that infusing blood plasma from a recovered patient showed no significant benefits on the eventual outcome of a Covid patient.

In April itself, the Centre had opined that convalescent plasma therapy can cre-

ate life-threatening complications in a Covid-19 patient and is still experimental. Joint Secretary in Health Ministry, Lav Agarwal, had pointed out that the use of this therapy is “illegal” unless the medical facility administering it is part of a study being conducted by the ICMR.

Dr Bhargava said that we have “done the largest trial on plasma therapy in the world with 464 patients across 39 hospitals and with more than 350 authors. It has now been accepted in BMJ (the British Medical Journal) and we have received proof, it will appear very soon ... more than 10 pages of hardcore science talking about the role of plas-

ma in Covid.”

Bhargava, further said, “We have discussed this in the national task force and are discussing further now with the joint monitoring group that this (plasma therapy) may be deleted from the national guidelines. That is the discussions ongoing and more or less we are reaching towards that.”

At a press briefing earlier also, Professor Bhargava had said that the study demonstrated no benefit in mortality in moderate to severe cases of Covid-19. “It also did not arrest the progression of Covid-19 from moderate to severe,” he had said.

Covid reinfection likely if antibodies reduce in convalescents within 5 months: ICMR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of cases of a few Coronavirus re-infection cases being reported in the country, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Tuesday said that if antibodies reduce in any person in five months post recovering from the virus, then there is a possibility of Covid-19 reinfection.

It also did not rule out reinfection of the Covid-19 recovered patients by the virus once the antibodies of the viral disease starts depleting. “According to the Centre for

Disease Control (USA), you call it a reinfection (of Covid-19) if the person is reinfected after 90 days from turning negative to the Sars-CoV-2 after testing positive to it.

“However, there are multiple studies which suggest that the antibodies that develop after Covid-19 sustain for up to five months,” said Balram Bhargava, Director-General of ICMR, while answering a query in the weekly press briefing of the Union Health Ministry.

“Since the disease is new, we do not have any further information about it. However, people can recontract the infec-

tion if antibodies start depleting from the body,” he added.

Bhargava also stressed that one should not become complacent, and follow all precautionary measures such as wearing mask, staying cautious and not relying on antibodies to astray the re-contraction.

“Even after contracting the virus, one must not avoid using a mask,” he cautioned.

Bhargava also informed that the ICMR is conducting an assessment on the subject of reinfection as commissioned by the Union Health Ministry, and its result will be out shortly.

As per the ICMR, so far, three cases of reinfection have been reported in the country -- two from Mumbai and one from Ahmedabad. The apex body of medical research had also stated that the cut-off date for depletion of antibodies set by it for the assessment is 100 days from the infection.

“There are various cut-off days that are being referred to for reinfection. Though the public is going by up to 110 days, we are taking 100 days as the cut-off period because the antibodies last until then,” Bhargava had said.

Bihar polls: 35% candidates have assets worth crores, five zero

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Of the 1,064 candidates contesting in the phase I of the Bihar Assembly elections, 375 or 35 per cent have given their financial assets worth crores of rupees while five candidates have declared zero assets. The average of assets per candidate contesting in the phase I Bihar polls is ₹1.99 crore. Besides, 328 candidates have criminal cases registered against them while 23 percent or 244 candidates have declared serious criminal cases non-bailable offences with over five years of imprisonment (against themselves).

The Association for Democratic

Reforms (ADR) which has analysed self-sworn affidavits of 1064 out of 1066 candidates in the fray, revealed that 375 (35 per cent) are crorepatis. While 93 (9 per cent) candidates have declared assets worth ₹5 crore and above, 123 (12 per cent) candidates have declared assets worth ₹2 crore to ₹5 crore. According to the ADR, the average assets per candidate for 35 JD(U) candidates is ₹8.12 crore while the average ₹ 6.98 crore. The average assets for 21 Congress candidates is ₹ 6.03 crore. For LJP candidates, the average assets of 41 candidates is estimated ₹4.62 crore while the 29 BJP candidates have average assets of ₹3.10 crore and 26 BSP candidates

have average assets worth Rs. 1.36 crore.

The ADR said that 31 (89 per cent) out of 35 candidates from JD(U), 24 (83 per cent) out of 29 candidates from BJP, 30 (73 per cent) out of 41 candidates from LJP, 14 (67 per cent) out of 21 candidates from Congress and 12 (46 per cent) out of 26 candidates from BSP have declared assets worth more than Rs one crore.

According to the report, 30 (73 per cent) out of 41 candidates from the RJD have declared criminal cases against themselves and 22 (54 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. About 21 (72 per cent) out of

29 candidates from the BJP have declared criminal cases and 13 (45 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

The poll body report said that about 24 (59 per cent) out of 41 candidates analysed from the LJP have declared criminal cases against themselves and 20 (49 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

About 12 (57 per cent) out of 21 candidates from the Congress, 15 (43 per cent) out of 35 candidates of the JD(U) and eight (31 per cent) out of 26 candidates of the BSP have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Digital health ID won't be mandatory for getting vaccine: Health Secy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said digital health IDs will be used to systematically carry out the vaccination process, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Tuesday made it clear that the health ID will not be mandatory for a person to receive a Covid vaccine.

“The health IDs, being set up under the National Digital Health Mission, is still in nascent stages. Pilots were rolled out in some Union Territories on August 15,” he said at a press conference here.

“National Digital Health Mission, as it exists today, does not make digital health ID mandatory to receive service under the digital ecosystem. To say it would become mandatory for vaccination is not the right interpretation. (But) health ID would be utilised,” Bhushan said.

“In cases where the beneficiary does not have one, there are multiple IDs which can be utilised, almost like a electoral scenario where multiple IDs are prescribed beforehand so that nobody is deprived of their voting right on the day of elections or on the day of vaccinations,” he added.

Onion price soars to ₹73 per kg in Chennai

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Retail onion prices on Tuesday surged to ₹73 per kg in Chennai —the highest among the metro cities — as supply disruption due to rains in producing areas have flared up bulb rates across the country. Onion prices ruled at Rs 51 per kg in Delhi, at ₹65 per kg in Kolkata and at ₹67 per kg in Mumbai on Tuesday, a data of Ministry of Consumer Affairs showed. The prices remained to be high in the coming days due to short supply from southern and western states. Currently, stored onion of rabi crop is being sold in the market. Normally, prices come under pressure during this time

in consuming areas but rains have created havoc in key producing areas, adding to supply woes.

Experts and traders are of the view that heavy rainfall in south and western regions has led to supply disruption and impacted the arrival of the kharif crop which will begin in full swing in the coming weeks. Farmers, though worried about the low production, are happy about the high price they fetch for what they are bring to the market.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No.: 102/2020					
Important Notice for the Rail Passengers					
It is notified for information of the general public that train No. 02165/02166 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Puja Special train will run as per details given under-					
02165/02166 LOKMANYA TILAK (T)-GORAKHPUR-LOKMANYA TILAK (T) BI- WEEKLY SUPER FAST PUJA SPECIAL TRAIN					
Train No. 02165 Ex. Lokmanya Tilak (T) from 22.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 on every THURSDAY and MONDAY= 12 Trip					
Train No. 02166 Ex. Gorakhpur From 23.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every FRIDAY and TUESDAY= 12 Trip					
02165		STATION	02166		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
-	05:23	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	21:30	-	
05:38	05:40	Thane	20:51	20:54	
06:05	06:08	Kalyan	20:27	20:30	
08:00	08:05	Igatpuri	18:25	18:30	
08:42	08:45	Nasik Road	16:57	17:00	
09:37	09:40	Manmad	15:57	16:00	
11:18	11:20	Jalgaon	14:13	14:15	
11:45	11:50	Bhusawal	13:40	13:45	
17:00	17:10	Itarsi	08:55	09:05	
20:40	20:50	Jabalpur	05:00	05:10	
22:05	22:10	Katni	03:28	03:30	
00:05	00:10	Satna	02:08	02:10	
03:50	04:15	Prayagraj Jn.	23:00	23:30	
05:17	05:19	Jangahi	21:26	21:28	
05:46	05:48	Bhadohi	20:58	21:00	
06:55	07:05	Varanasi	20:10	20:20	
08:30	08:32	Mau	17:58	18:00	
10:15	10:17	Deoria Sadar	16:30	16:32	
11:25	-	Gorakhpur	-	15:45	
Composition:- SLRD- 2, Sleeper Class-11, AC 3rd- 4, AC 2nd- 1, General Second Class-4 =22 Coches					
Please Note:- (1) These trains will run with full reserved accommodation. (2) It is mandatory for the passengers to follow the guidelines issued for prevention and safety from Covid-19.					
CPRO/T-34 Chief Pass Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur					
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955					
Never travel on roof and foot boards.					

NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM TRUST (NPS TRUST)

No. 1/6/2014/NPST/ Vol-XIII

Ombudsman under National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has appointed Shri Arnab Roy as Stipendiary Ombudsman in terms of PFRDA (Redressal of Subscriber Grievance) Regulations, 2015 for resolving NPS / APY subscriber grievances. PFRDA has also prepared FAQs on Ombudsman. These FAQs can be accessed at: npstrust.org.in/faq

Contact details of Ombudsman:
The Ombudsman
o/o Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
B-14/A, Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhawan
Qutab Institutional Area
New Delhi - 110 016
e: ombudsman@pfrda.org.in
W: 011 2651 7507 x. 188
This notice is also available at our website npstrust.org.in

sd/
(Daulath Ali Khan)
Deputy General Manager
t: 011 2654 3100 x. 134
e: dgm1@npstrust.org.in

davn 15112/11/0003/2021

New DRDO procurement manual OK'd

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to encourage greater participation of the Indian start-ups and small and medium scale industries in research and development, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday approved the new Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) Procurement Manual (PM) 2020.

Announcing this here, the DRDO also said this step will ensure self-reliance in the defence industry. “The new DRDO PM-2020 will facilitate the indigenous

defence Industry by simplifying the processes and ensure their participation in design and development activities,” Rajnath said after the release. It will help towards realising the objective of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’, he said. The DRDO PM was last modified in 2016.

Bid security declaration option for earnest money deposit, increase of threshold limit for advance payment, placement of order on lowest bidder 2 (L2) in case L1 (lowest bidder) backs out are some of the salient features of the new manual, which will assist the indus-

try for the speedy execution of projects, the DRDO said.

The PM-2020 also exempts bid security and performance security up to Rs 10 lakh and no negotiations required for commercial off-the-shelf items or services wherever price discovery is happening through market forces.

In addition, performance security for service contracts is linked to the payment cycle instead of total contract value. Many of the internal procedures have been further simplified for faster engagement with industry, the DRDO added.



Researchers find 3 new species of damselfly

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

A team of researchers from National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, and Zoological Survey of India, Chennai, have stumbled upon three new species of colorful damselfly --blue-legged reedtail, Myristica reedtail and Shola reedtail from Western Ghats in South India.

Smaller and more slender than dragonflies, damselflies are weak fliers and usually spotted near water, found typically resting with the wings folded back along the body. They are touted as one of the most beautiful insects and

are completely harmless to humans, do not sting or bite. The discovery of these three new species has pushed the number of species of damselflies in the region to 12.

Shantanu Joshi, researcher from the NCBS said that he spotted the damselfly at a Myristica swamp, a unique habitat endemic to the Western Ghats. “It was very small in size, flying among the roots of trees,” he said according to Research Matters, a science news portal. On comparing them with the available descriptions of other damselflies, the researchers later realized that they had found a new species of dam-

selfly belonging to the genus Protosticta. The study is published in the journal Zootaxa.

In India, species of damselfly from the genus Protosticta have only been found in the Western Ghats and the Eastern Himalaya. “In recent decades, scientists worldwide have discovered certain hotspots or centres of endemism such as the Western Ghats, which offer an excellent opportunity for evolution of new species,” said Shantanu, as per the portal. The other team members were K A Subramanian, R Babu, Krishnamegh Kunte and Duttaprasad Sawant.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda

E-Auction Notice

Sale Notice For Immovable Properties “APPENDIX-IV-A [see Proviso Rule 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor (s)and Guarantor (s)that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on “As is where is”, “As is what is”, and “Whatever there is” basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s.The details of Borrower(s) /Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s) /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price-e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Date & Time of Auction: 11.11.2020 , 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM		Status of Possession- Constructive	
Sr/ No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt	Description of the Property	Reserve Price (RP)/ Earned Money (EM)(Rs.) Bid Increase Amount.
1-	Borrowers: M/s Farhan Iron & Welding Works Through its proprietor Sabina Khatoon W/o Gufran Ahmad Address:- Mohalla Pushkerpuram (Jasmah), Station Road, PO Rudauli, District Faizabad Guarantors:- Gufran Ahmad S/o Anwar Hussain Address:- Mohalla Pushkarpuram, Station Road Rudauli, District Faizabad Date of Demand Notice: 19.01.2016 Date of Possession Notice: 02.02.2018 Outstanding Amount: Rs.953747.68 +Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f.14.10.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	All part and parcel of the property consisting of equitable mortgage of residential plot situated at Village Mangal Bazar, Ward No. 9, Pure Husain Khan, PO Rudauli, District Faizabad in the name of Sabina Khatoon W/o Gufran Ahmad. Total Area 1600 sq.ft. Bounded as under: East: Agricultural Land Parasnath West: Kachcha Raasta 12 feet North: Naala South: Plot Mukeer	Reserve Price Rs. 4,28,400/- (EM) Rs. 42,840/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-
2-	Borrowers: M/s Modern Building Material through its proprietor Lalji Yadav S/o Ram Baran Yadav Address:- Vill & PO Jalalpur Bhaggu, Faizabad Guarantors:- (1.)Isra Devi W/o Late Ram Baran Yadav As legal heir of deceased guarantor Ram baran Yadav S/o Brij Lal (2.)Shitla Prasad S/o Late Ram Baran Yadav As legal heir of deceased guarantor Ram baran Yadav S/o Brij Lal (3.) Maniram Yadav S/o Late Ram Baran Yadav As legal heir of deceased guarantor Ram baran Yadav S/o Brij Lal (4.) Lalji Yadav S/o Late Ram Baran Yadav As legal heir of deceased guarantor Ram baran Yadav S/o Brij Lal (5.) Ramji Yadav S/o Late Ram Baran Yadav As legal heir of deceased guarantor Ram baran Yadav S/o Brij Lal Address of 1,2,3,4 and 5 : Vill Sonbarsa, Musalmee, PO Jalalpur Bhaggu Faizabad. (6.) Kali Prasad S/o Ram Lochan Address: Village Kodra, Musalmee, Post. Jalalpur Baggu, Faizabad. Date of Demand Notice: 11.01.2017 Date of Possession Notice: 05.05.2017 Outstanding Amount: Rs.1074029.25 +Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f.14.10.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable mortgage of Gata no. 791 min, 792 min, 793 min, 795 min, 796/1 min, 797 min, 798 min, situated at Village Jalalpur, Bhaggu, Pargana Paschimrath & Tehsil Bikapur & Distt. Faizabad in the name of late Ram Baran Yadav S/o Brij Lal total area 0.312 hectare. Bounded by: East: Agri land Laddan, West: Agri land Jaggi Paasi, North: Agri land Cheddi Yadav, South: Bhittha	Reserve Price Rs. 2,65,200/- (EM) Rs. 26,520/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm & <https://ibapi.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 9517599985.

Date: 21.10.2020 :	Place: Faizabad	Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda
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Australia aboard

India has invited Australia to the Malabar naval exercises with the US and Japan. A reinforced Quad is ready to take Beijing head on



For long, India had not been too keen on firming up the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with Australia militarily. While it had committed to the security alliance in principle to rein in China in the Indo-Pacific region and been comfortable with the US and Japan, it had been wary of Australia's role — considering the latter's deep dependence on Chinese markets — and its ability to override economic imperatives. After all, China continues to be Australia's largest trading partner and accounts for 32.6 per cent of its exports. Besides, China sources iron ore, coal and gas from Australia because of its geographical proximity and mined quality, preferring the latter over

Brazil. India was sceptical about Australia doing anything to jeopardise this mutually beneficial relationship. Besides, both India and Australia, being in the neighbourhood, didn't exactly want to rile up China or risk a hit-back by overtly upping the dragon's anxieties. Therefore, India had never included Australia in the Malabar naval exercises, a series of simulated war games and combat manoeuvres it has been conducting with the US and Japan since 2017. Last year, the exercises were upgraded to complex maritime operations focussing on anti-submarine warfare, anti-air and anti-surface attacks, maritime interception and other tactical manoeuvres. But in a post-pandemic scenario, which has been entirely the fallout of China's negligence and its neo-imperialism in a world flattened by the virus in more ways than one, new allies are realising that without standing together as a bulwark, there's no chance of standing up to China's might, the only nation to notch up positive growth in distressed times and in a position to dictate its terms again. Now both want competitive advantages at China's expense. So India has finally announced Australia's participation in the Malabar exercise along with the US and Japan, the Quad's first full military-level engagement. This is significant geo-politically because four of the biggest democracies with stakes in the region are collectively committed to preserving open waters and hold off China's misadventures to monopolise them ruthlessly. The initiative allows interoperability between the four partners, which means accessing and using each other's strengths and bases to pursue their common mission of maritime democracy. This makes Quad formidable. For far too long, the group has been under criticism for being amorphous, united by posturing than real intent and being half-hearted about taking on China in a real theatre of geo-strategic capabilities. The full-fledged military alliance gives a robustness of entity, one which can now embolden Quad plus nations to coalesce together against Chinese assertiveness and debt-trap diplomacy. Except the US, nobody in the group had directly dared to call out China. With a military-level agreement, there should not be trust issues anymore. And if mutual interests and concerns find congruence, then over time it could become what the US calls a NATO-like presence in Asia that could contain China's expansionist designs and one-sided behaviour. Most significantly, the military alliance could also be strengthened to forging an economic coalition of sorts, for example setting up a Quad Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to attract investment and set up an alternative supply chain network that would reduce the dependence on China. Australia has been keen to be part of the Malabar exercises for quite some time to acquire strategic depth with India and further sharpen its maritime capabilities. Virus-hit badly, it had, with US encouragement, spearheaded a petition for a neutral, global investigation into COVID-19's origins and China's role in it. China, which now sees both India and Australia as US stooges in the region, immediately hit back, imposing an 80 per cent tariff on Australian barley and banning beef imports. Ever since, Australia has been looking to find allies where it can diversify markets and find support. One of the results was the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, agreed upon by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 4, 2020. The military exercises seem to be a corollary of this understanding.

With this consolidation, Beijing could have a tough time monitoring the entire South China Sea, which it claims as its own. Its intention is to encircle the region, particularly India, with a "string of pearls" or islands friendly to it and keep a hawkish overlordship of the littoral States. India, which has realised that China won't budge on Ladakh, is now seriously considering getting down to "a poke for a poke" strategy. It is now firming up more military pacts, like the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA) with the US during the 2+2 dialogue between the Defence and Foreign Ministers of the two countries later this month. This will amplify India's maritime vigilance capabilities significantly. The US can share advanced satellite and topographical data for long-range navigation and missile-targeting with India. We can now use US unmanned aerial vehicles for reconnaissance. Besides, after years, India is also keen on formal trade negotiations with Taiwan. This is tricky territory as India would have to sidestep issues that China might raise regarding bilateral trade agreements and pledges made under fair practices. India doesn't formally recognise Taiwan, with the two Governments maintaining unofficial diplomatic missions. But a trade pact, if it does materialise bypassing Chinese resistance, would help us reduce our supply chain dependency and attract massive investments. Galwan may have been the trigger that China has wrongly pressed. For it has forced India to develop its own protective "ring of fire" in the region.

Restarting Jet

With only a few details public and no dates set for resuming flights, there is no guarantee that this will succeed



The bid to take over the remaining assets and brand of Jet Airways by Dubai-based real estate entrepreneur Murari Jalan and American private equity firm Kalrock Capital has been accepted by the lenders. Even though they will have to accept a massive 90 per cent haircut on their outstandings from the airline, the fact that they will get something is a lot better than what they faced with Kingfisher. Former employees of the now grounded airline as well as other unsecured creditors, everyone from those who provided taxi and catering services to passengers with tickets for flights that never took off, are hoping that the new management will clear their

dues as well. Unfortunately, while the new management might absorb some old employees and even executives, it does not hold any obligation to clear these unsecured dues. The new owners could clear some dues in order to build goodwill but of the estimated ₹40,000 crore owed by Jet Airways to various creditors and employees at the time it suspended operations in April 2019, much of it will never be seen again.

This deal is being spoken about as a success of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) that was introduced by the Government in 2016. Some even suspect that the Government pushed this deal through to highlight that the IBC can be a success as several other high-profile cases are stuck. That said, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and the proof of an airline is in the flying. With few details public, there are no firm dates on when this 'new' Jet Airways can fly again. As the aviation market globally is in the doldrums, one also questions whether this is a smart time to launch an airline when customer demand is less than half of what it was this time last year. Yes, it will be easier than it would have been in February to get slots and even lease new planes but the new management should not have misplaced optimism about "customer loyalty." Restarting a brand, any brand, and particularly a service brand after a period of not operating is not easy and customers are extremely fickle. And with the likelihood of one, maybe even two airlines in India potentially falling victim to the pandemic, thanks to stretched balance sheets, things might actually get very difficult for the new ownership. That said, we wish them all the best and hope that they can succeed, and hope is a very powerful thing these days.



ASHOK KUMAR MEHTA

In the absence of a face-to-face meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, likely due to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS summits at Moscow going virtual, it is External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is talking to China through interactions with think tanks and media over his book, *The India Way*, completed before the current standoff in east Ladakh.

The last and only high-level face-to-face meeting was at Moscow on September 10 between Jaishankar and his counterpart, Wang Yi, which sealed the stalemate along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on troop withdrawals with a standstill agreement following India's pre-emptive occupation of seven Chushul heights on the Kailash range that rattled the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The eighth round of Military Commander's talks, which have become military-diplomatic with the inclusion of Foreign Ministry mandarins from both sides, expected next week, is unlikely to revive the comatose Disengagement and De-escalation Process (DDP) that has created buffer zones and prevented Indian forces from patrolling up to their claimed LAC. The PLA has unilaterally promulgated its 1959 claim line, annexing 1,000 sq km through multiple intrusions in April and May which India, in denial, has not acknowledged. The Chinese negotiators have creatively avoided the use of acronyms like LAC (instead use "border areas") and the Restoration of Status Quo Ante (RSQA) (instead use "permanent disengagement"). Six months on, both sides are hunkering down for a harsh winter with China smiling.

So what precisely is Jaishankar telling China? First, that the peace and tranquillity in border areas have been deeply disturbed by the deployment of 50,000 Chinese troops on the LAC, which is a critical security challenge. Second, the strategic framework and security protocols crafted for peace and tranquillity since the 1980s are no longer working. Third, the tragic Galwan clash and firing shots in the air occurred for the first time in 45 years. Fourth, India is not asking for resolution of the complex boundary question but only a peaceful border, which is a pre-requisite for

normal bilateral relations. Fifth, India doesn't have a reasonable explanation for the change in Chinese behaviour even after two informal summits. These are extremely reasonable urgings, even conceding concessions to China, as expediting the boundary question was always upfront. Collectively, this message reflects India's faith in dialogue and diplomacy despite Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat's threat — accompanied with a fusillade of missile tests — of military option if diplomacy failed.

Let's be clear, war was never on the table. Neither side wants conflict, especially China, which has got what it had sought by cheating, through unarmed combat and firing shots in the air. The Chinese statement on complete disengagement at friction points (PLA intrusions) and need for early de-escalation (Moscow declaration) are mere words unlikely to be translated into deeds so that as both sides acknowledge, "differences do not become disputes." But the LAC and border areas are already disputed. Beijing has said that the root cause of tension is India building infrastructure in disputed areas and making Ladakh a Union Territory, when another reason is the loss of face at Doklam, where Indian soldiers prevented PLA from constructing a road through a disputed area. New Delhi has rejected Chinese statements on non-recognition of Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh with asser-

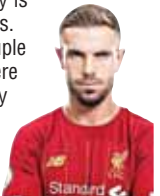
The CBI and ED are being used to pressurise and such acts will only help to destroy these agencies. These agencies are not personal institutions of the Prime Minister.

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi



Virgil van Dijk's injury is a massive blow for us. It's been a tough couple of days but I'll be there as much as I possibly can for him.

Liverpool captain
—Jordan Henderson



Sudan has agreed to pay \$335 million to the terror victims and their families. Once deposited, I will lift Sudan from the State sponsors of terrorism list.

US President
—Donald Trump



The health situation in Wallonia and in Brussels is the worst in the whole of Europe. It's no one's fault, but improving the situation is everyone's duty.

Belgian Health Minister
—Frank Vandenbroucke



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Police reforms

Sir — Weeks after the nationwide uproar against the Hathras rape-murder case of a 19-year-old Dalit woman, the Capital city saw another hurried cremation of a 17-year-old Dalit, who was found dead in north Delhi's Model Town. While the police insist it was a suicide and refused to register a First Information Report (FIR), the family allege that she was raped and murdered.

With every case, the police is losing its credibility. Commoners, who no longer trust the police either implicitly or explicitly, still look at it for some succour in the hour of crisis. Only when the police is able to balance the public, and the upholders of law and order, can it effectively discharge its duties towards society. The biggest danger that the Indian police poses to society is when personnel refuse to let go of their prejudices. The pre-conceived notions on poverty, caste and religion have proved to be most inimical to the interests of society. Long working hours and inhuman working conditions are precursors to police resorting to swift justice. Better funding, continuous and augmented training, implementing efficacious mon-

PIL to increase pension for senior citizens

The pandemic has been challenging for all but certain sections have had it worse. And the senior citizens are among them. Recently, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed in Karnataka High Court to protect the life and dignity of senior citizens, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. The petitioners have sought a direction to increase their monthly pension as directed by the Supreme Court and a release of their pension amount, which is due from January 2020.

The Government had set the pension amount for the *Sandhya Suraksha Yojana* and the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme for people above 65 years at ₹1,000 and for those between 60 and 64 years, at ₹600. The State and district treasuries are assigned with the responsibility of implementing the increased pension. However, senior citizens do not receive their pension within the second week of every month. Despite the orders that the disbursement of social security pensions to senior citizens was to remain functional, pensions have not been received since January 2020.

itoring system and separating the police from the political grip may go some way in stemming the rot. If we don't start reforming the system soon, the very fabric of democracy will be in danger. Also, the number of cases of caste and gender atrocities registered might gradually fall as people lose faith in the system.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola



A division Bench has issued a notice to the Union and State Government, and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in response to the PIL. The Centre needs to formulate a process that will ensure the timely release of pension. Also, it is time to revise the pension amount under the above schemes.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Upgraded BrahMos

Sir — On October 18, India test-fired its BrahMos supersonic missile from a ship as part of the drill to be operationally ready. The past few weeks have seen India conducting a series of successful tests of various missiles to shore up its defence. In order to secure the de-facto border with China in Ladakh and Arunachal

Pradesh, India has already deployed a sizeable number of the original BrahMos missiles. The highly versatile missile, being a "prime strike weapon", will ensure a warship's invincibility by engaging naval surface targets. It will definitely prove to be a resurgence for the country's military capability and combat preparedness to deal with any sort of conflict at the Indo-

tion campaign.

The American onslaught against China, led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, is gaining momentum in sync with Donald Trump's election campaign. Pompeo and his team have called China all sorts of names and accused it of bad behaviour. The US National Security Advisor, Robert O'Brien, has said talks and agreements will not work to change Chinese behaviour.

Meanwhile, China is on a high alert on multiple fronts with all its five theatre commands in a state of war readiness, jinxing visited the Marine Corps that he set up on taking over as the Commander-in-Chief. The second face-to-face ministerial meeting of Quad was held in Tokyo this month and while Pompeo called China aggressor, Jaishankar steered clear of taking any position of alignment. The US-India 2+2, the third ministerial dialogue, will start next week in New Delhi, when India will sign the fourth and final foundational agreement — Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) — which is about geospatial information on employing armed drones (to be procured from the US) and Cruise and Ballistic missiles. BECA will deepen interoperability and facilitate access to US defence technology. India's decisions on BECA and finally including Australia, after 13 years, in the Malabar naval drill, which includes the US and Japan, indicate that strategic choices are being made and risks being taken in ensuring strategic autonomy does not turn into strategic ambiguity — a Jaishankar prescription. On the other hand, Wang has already reacted to Quad and its likely militarisation. Initially, he called it "bubble and foam and nothing more" and is now calling it "Indo-Pacific NATO" from Asian NATO earlier. For China, the expanded Malabar exercise is a critical step India has taken in confirming Chinese suspicion that India has become a US ally.

That the occupation of Chushul heights and expansion of Malabar let India negotiate from a position of strength is wishful thinking. On the LAC, India is alone. Any Chinese proposal on de-escalation without disengagement amounting to RSQA will be unacceptable. With only virtual summits on the calendar, no grand bargain can be expected even as soldiers battle for survival in snow deserts.

The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff)

The health situation in Wallonia and in Brussels is the worst in the whole of Europe. It's no one's fault, but improving the situation is everyone's duty.

Belgian Health Minister
—Frank Vandenbroucke

Yugal Kishore Sharma
Faridabad

China border. In a fast-paced, highly intense military conflict situation, BrahMos will be in a position of encompassing "across the spectrum" warfare capability in all-weather, both day and night conditions.

Hunger in India

Sir — As in the past, India's abysmal rank in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 is unlikely to be taken as a reality check either by the Government or the wider society. Similar reports in the past have not galvanised the Government into taking tangible action to the needed level to mitigate starvation. Hunger persists not because of lack of resources or food production but because of the lack of political will to raise the nutritional levels of people universally. The eradication of starvation is certainly not an unachievable goal. It will require the reversal of policies heavily skewed towards the affluent classes.

Urvi Jain
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Win the trust of Kashmiris back

Some experts say that unless we go back to the 1996 model, the problem in J&K will continue



KALYANI SHANKAR

It was unusual for the arch-rivals and former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah of the National Conference (NC) and Mehbooba Mufti of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to pose together for a photo last week in Srinagar. It was Mehbooba's father and former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who had said that it was the coming together of the North Pole and the South Pole when his party had an alliance with the BJP to form the Government in 2017. Now the Abdullahs and the Muftis, the two influential families of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), have come together on account of their political compulsions.

Signifying the beginning of the political process, the six non-BJP parties have come together to demand the "return to the people of J&K the rights they held before August 5, 2019." Farooq Abdullah claimed that "our battle is a constitutional battle." He also clarified that "at the same time, we feel the political issue of the State has to be resolved as quickly as possible" and "that can be resolved only through dialogue with all the stakeholders who are involved in the problem of J&K."

Analysts say that this new alliance could be a formidable political combination if it works. However, it is a very big "if" as Kashmiris have never stuck together. On August 4, 2019, the new alliance, named Gupkar, vowed to protect Kashmir's special status. One year later, on August 22 this year, they met again to renew the pledge. The formal alliance was announced after Mehbooba was released after 14 months of detention last week. Besides the two NC leaders and the PDP chief, Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference supremo Sajjad Ghani Lone as well as leaders of the Awami National Conference and People's Movement were present. The only national party to join the alliance so far is the Communist Party of India (Marxist). The Congress, which had signed the declaration this August, stayed away even though it had received an invitation.

The new alliance is still evolving. The parties have come together for a broader cause as it gives them a platform. They are not like-minded politically but they have no option but to unite. The organisational structure of the alliance will be discussed in the next meeting. The first major step is unity and the rest will be decided as it evolves, say insiders who hope that this combination would win in the next elections if they put up joint candidates.

There were no political activities in J&K after August 5, 2019, once the Parliament enacted a law revoking the special status for it and bifurcated the State. The Government also replaced Article 35A to define "permanent residents" of J&K. New Delhi had claimed that these measures would help bring peace and development to J&K after three decades of conflict. Post abrogation of Article 370, J&K has been in a state of siege and lockdown. The political leaders of the main parties were detained and the lockdown, too, has directly impacted all facets of life. Schools and colleges are closed. The tourism industry is dead. The health sector has taken a massive hit and has been overburdened with COVID cases. It was indeed a double whammy for them.

But now, when all the leaders of J&K have been freed by the Centre and they have formed an alliance, the big question is, will the coalition find acceptance among the people of J&K? They have lost faith in the Central Government, the political parties and the State Governments that had ruled them till they were bifurcated and turned into a Union Territory. Many are convinced that the demand for restoration of special status would only become an electoral plank for the People's Alliance. Hence, the test before the Abdullahs and Mehbooba will be to gain back the trust of the people and also strengthen their political parties. The next Assembly polls and delimitation are linked and no one knows when the elections will be held.

Meanwhile, the Centre's initiative to create and hold direct elections to the district councils is a new experiment. The plan is to divide each district into 14 territorial constituencies and hold direct polls for the councils, which will replace the District Development Boards. The MLAs will be members of this council but their powers will be diluted. If this works, it will be grass root-level governance.

No doubt there is an urgent need to address the Kashmir problem at the domestic and international level. It is a good move to start the political process and probably both these initiatives could help achieve that. However, the political parties and the Centre need to bridge the trust deficit. Holding Assembly elections and processes for the restoration of statehood might also help heal the wounds. New Delhi has to think if it wants to revive the democratic process. Some experts say that unless we go back to the 1996 model, the problem in Kashmir will continue. Above all, the Government should resume the dialogue process with Pakistan as it is linked with bringing back normalcy in J&K.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

AT THE TIME WHEN THIS (PORN) VIDEO MESSAGE WAS SENT, I WAS NOWHERE NEAR MY PHONE AND I WAS FAST ASLEEP. MY PHONE WAS HACKED.
—GOA DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
CHANDRAKANT KAVLEKAR



GOA'S DEPUTY CM IS FORWARDING PORN VIDEOS. YOU'D BE DELUDED IF YOU THINK THEY WILL WORK TOWARDS CREATING A SAFE WORLD FOR WOMEN.
—CONGRESS NATIONAL COORDINATOR, DIGITAL COMM
GAURAV PANDHI

Time for Military 4.5

Military technology takes time to pass reliability tests but this gestation period can be shortened by thinking ahead. Chief among these innovations are the IoMT and IoBT



PJS PANNU

From a technological standpoint, we are living in a glorious age, the time of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, one marked by the transformative power of data and machine learning (ML). But the military has always been just a beat behind industry historically. Compounding this is the fact that military war fighting machines — particularly command and control systems — are complex and driven by reliability, speed and security. Today it is critical that the armed forces pull a half-level ahead to set the technological tone for the industry and create Military 4.5. It is a roadmap that will guide the innovation we need to keep the nation and its allies ready and compatible to keep themselves safe and free.

Military technology takes time to pass reliability tests but this gestation period can be shortened by thinking ahead. Chief among these innovations is the creation of the Internet of Military Things (IoMT) and the Internet of Battle Things (IoBT). Most of us are familiar with the IoMT's civilian counterpart, the Internet of Things. Loosely described, it is the notion that machines can be made smarter and do much more for their human users, all through the application of sensors for the transmission and analysis of data. But the military version will be quite different from its consumer counterpart with thermostats that adjust a home's energy levels or refrigerators that note when food will expire. The IoMT and the IoBT will be extended, hardened and more quickly advanced to help the armed forces make better decisions in a literal fraction of a second, win the missions necessary to defend the borders, promote force safety, warn and fix equipment well before it fails. The IoMT would enable hooking on to the larger network of organs engaged in related missions, working on national security by selecting secure domains by just the flick of a button and disconnect with the same ease. If IoMT is the mother that moves all things military in the war zone, ubiquitously, beginning at the apex/strategic level, the IoBT would be its subordinate that moves the "fighting things" (e.g., man and machine). The IoBT would work the fighting component on the battlefield in a physical manifestation of fighting battles of contact and proximity, typically in the tactical battle area.

We are well on our way to bringing the IoMT further along — but we need more from the industry. It should challenge itself to bring military hardware to comply with the digital needs of the systems to work as part of a defined combat domain. Combat systems have to work on data compatibility within the domain to infuse Artificial Intelligence (AI). Equipment manufacturers must know how much flexibility the user must be given to exploit the machine. Certain machines would have better programmability and others would require less, dependent on how much customisation is needed by its user. In a nutshell, not all equipment would be "plug and play" ready when received from the industry. The second industrial process, mostly in-house, would be needed to enable the equipment to become "plug and play" ready.

Find ways to better connect military machines: In the field, all the military's machines — tanks, logistics, convoys, helicopters, fighter jets, command and control, medevac and so on — must work together as a harmonious, synchronous whole. This is the networked military, formally known as C5I2-STAR2 (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence and Information — Surveillance,

TODAY, OUR COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES OVER LONG DISTANCES STILL PRODUCE SOME LATENCY. MORE SO, WHEN LARGE VOLUMES OF DATA START TO FLOW. AS ONE CAN IMAGINE, IN THE FIELD A DELAY OF EVEN A SECOND OR TWO CAN PRODUCE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES. WE NEED TECHNOLOGY THAT DRIVES TOTAL SPECTRAL EFFICIENCY SO WE CAN SYNCHRONISE MACHINES — AND INTEGRATE ALLIED WEAPONS, TROOPS AND FORCES — ON A VERY FINE TIME SEQUENCE. THERE CANNOT BE EVEN A MOMENT OF LATENCY — AND THAT IS THE CHALLENGE WE LAY BEFORE THE INDUSTRY



Target Acquisition, Reconnaissance and Robotics). To understand the IoMT and IoBT, let us look at C5I2 and STAR2 as separate segments. To network war-fighting machines to the next level, we require the sensors and underlying infrastructure that make it possible for these disaggregated parts to work together in a seamless, automatic, even robotic way.

The first segment, C5I2, is to get the necessary inputs for decision-making; programme the higher to middle echelons; activate the battle fighting elements through the Command and Control mechanism based on the secure digital networks.

The second segment, STAR2, lies in moving battle platforms and machines. Surveillance and Target Acquisition requires sensors to be integrated for the operator. Reconnaissance and robotics supplement this process through automating the process with AI engines that would decide the effects to deliver to the acquired target within the pre-planned parameters. This would be the frontline cutting edge, powering the soldiers and machines to win battle engagements. Such technology would have to touch every part of the machine and operation (e.g., communications, security, weapons systems, flight controls, targeting systems). Inter-operability is critical and all systems must be totally interfaced. This does not exist today to the extent required. Sensors for military applications will not only be a multi-trillion dollar business but shall also bring more value in enriching the IoT concept.

Invest in and invent new materials: Companies and entrepreneurs adept at material and computer science will have an incredible competitive advantage if they turn their sights to military technology. Every part of the IoMT must be digitally controlled, down to the smallest sensors. If tanks are shot at, for example, they must be able to deflect projectiles, harden targeted surfaces or even be self-repaired.

That means the need for light, self-healing, tough, amphibious materials that are eminently smart and survivable. They must work in all domains and also operate with impunity through contaminated zones such as Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) environment. This would prepare the military to fight hybrid wars under the CBRN overhang. The industry must help the armed forces to be faster in all respects, whether it is making an urgent repair in the field, gaining instantaneous situational awareness, or outmaneuvering an aggressive adversary. Non-traditional industry partners should feel encouraged to explore the possibilities of working with the military. The armed forces' leadership sees the creativity, energy and speed of the commercial sector and is increasingly interested in the potential of partnering to leap ahead.

Give us predictive capability: Sensors open the door to knowing much more about the machines we rely on. If the industry can help us take a fresh look at the way our machines work, we can do more with them and save budget in the process. Any military machine, such as a fighting tank or an attack helicopter should possess a nervous system, a sensory system. Sensors would be part built-in surveillance, acting as eyes and ears, part a decision-aiding system, part engagement of the target system and part evasive capability, protecting from an attack, and so on.

Sensors could also tell us if and when a critical part will fail so we can pull it from the field and repair it. They could give us data on fuel usage and other factors, allowing us to predict the costs of field operations. They could predict what would happen in various engagement scenarios, empowering us with data that let us prioritise innovations that increase survivability, range, flight time, communications power, and so on.

Create reliable electromagnetic field communications: We must have greater

spectrum efficiency, created through connectivity that relies not on fibre optics but through the undetectable electromagnetic field and space. Today, our communication capabilities over long distances still produce some latency, more so, when large volumes of data start to flow. As one can imagine, in the field, a delay of even a second or two can produce disastrous consequences. We need technology that drives total spectral efficiency so we can synchronise machines — and integrate allied weapons, troops and forces — on a very fine time sequence. There cannot be even a moment of latency — and that is the challenge we lay before the industry. There are heavy electronic emissions and signatures in the battlefield. Electronic Warfare (EW) sensors would need to deal with an overload of EW inputs. The targets which generate heavy signatures would be engaged by automated target acquisition programmes.

The defender must invest heavily in signature shields, deflection and deception. Imagine terabytes worth of data flowing into a few square kilometres of tactical battle area. With billions of IP addresses present in the same area, IP concealment or group addresses may have to be encrypted. Quantum technology would be at play to break and protect codes. Such operations can simply become too complicated for human control. This would necessitate getting the IoMT operating C5I2 segment to perform more efficiently to get hold of the complex STAR2 segment that runs the IoBT. MIL 4.5 is the future of military technological advantage. But it won't be possible without the IoMT, which will underpin every aspect of operations.

With the military leadership's guidance and the industry's ability to deliver advances in sensors, telemetry, network centricity and more, we will achieve new heights of security.

(The writer is former Deputy Chief of Indian Integrated Defence Staff)

What is our happiness quotient?

The Govt must now consider indicators that are laggards, especially those that can help contribute to greater levels of well-being



SHARANG SHAH

Organisations and individuals are inherently goal-driven and are consciously or unconsciously optimising towards these targets. At an institutional level, companies work towards particular targets such as revenue, customer acquisition or other metrics that they may deem fit, based on each firm's need at the time. To come to these conclusions, the decision-makers within the organisation generally rely on data, such as the stage of institutional growth, market factors such as size, competition, available financing options and an array of other considerations.

At an individual level, people tend to focus on enhancing productivity, contentment, or professional success based on the stage of life, state of mind

and personal proclivities and preferences *inter alia*.

The idea of pushing for specific outcomes is one that permeates every aspect of our lives, whether we realise it or not. As students, we focus on grades (often at the expense of knowledge); as investors, we push for wealth maximisation; as employees we optimise based on the expectations of our reporting managers; and in our personal lives, we make strides to satisfy the needs of those who depend on us, while aligning our happiness with the same.

Though the concept of optimising oneself towards realising a goal has been around for a while, social media has broadened the discourse and ideas around it manifold. One would not have to look beyond Twitter and LinkedIn, where high performing business leaders, investors, life coaches, spiritual gurus, constantly add to the discourse of optimising for success.

While founders and venture capitalists focus on advancement at an organisational level, life coaches and self-help gurus fill the Twitter-verse and LinkedIn space with tips and

tricks to be adopted at the individual level.

As we progress in our personal lives and at an organisational level, the question is, what should we be optimising for at a societal level? The answer lies within the Preamble to the Constitution of India — justice, liberty, equality and promotion of fraternity. All are essential components of maintaining the social fabric of the nation. But just as institutions and individuals understand the need to progress for different outcomes based on their stage of growth, Governments too, need to be mindful of the realities and prevailing narratives surrounding them, and advance accordingly.

From an economic perspective, one would not be remiss to say that the last three decades have seen governments in India pushing for development and the average growth rate since liberalisation has been about 6.5 per cent. And while the economic success of India in the past few decades must be celebrated, indicators of well-being in the country show that making strides for macroeconomic success is not synonymous with per-

sonal well-being. The National Mental Health Survey 2015-16 revealed that nearly 15 per cent Indian adults need active intervention for one or more mental health issue and one in 20 of our citizens suffer from depression. It is estimated that in 2012, India had over 2,58,000 suicides, with the age group of 15-49 years being the worst affected.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), India is the most depressed country in the world with approximately 6.5 per cent of the population suffering from some form of a serious mental disorder, with no discernible rural-urban differences. Though figures may vary, based on the surveying method, one thing is clear: Indians are clearly unhappy. As such, it should be clear that while the economic growth machine is running, it is now necessary for the Government to start considering indicators that are laggards, especially those that can help contribute to greater levels of well-being.

In the past, learnings from religions such as Buddhism on well-being may have been shunned because of their sectarian nature, but thankful-

ly, modern psychology, atheistic mindfulness and the field of humanistic positive psychology are now validating what was previously considered merely religious dogma through empirical research. This, and other developments in the field of emotional intelligence, can be leveraged to create a scientific pathway for the Government to re-prioritise and optimise for happiness and the well-being of its constituents.

The introduction of positive psychology practices, such as savouring, gratitude and so on, and socio-emotional learning into educational curricula are seeds that are likely to give exponential returns over a generation. By focussing on and prioritising emotional understanding and regulation early on, schools can equip children with the tools needed to create a comfort zone with thoughts and emotions, rather than view them antagonistically.

In the short to medium-run, linking administrative outcomes to improvements in India's ranking in the World Happiness Report, which currently stands at 144 out of 156, can yield fast results. Such expedited suc-

cesses are not unheard of. Soon after coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made improving India's ranking on the Ease of Doing Business Index a priority, and this led to administrative optimisation to this end. The result, India's ranking on the index jumped from 139 in 2010 to 63 in 2019.

Happiness has likely never been a priority because along with being low on the voting agenda, there has been no defined method to optimise for it. While the first may not change, the route to enhancement is now clearer and backed by science. For the ruling dispensation, the shift to this would not be seismic, but a logical expansion of our own philosophy, which too, is uniquely indigenous.

While Buddhism spoke of enlightenment in the abstract, psychology has been able to track and break down the causes of success of these methods. By pushing for the science based on an Indian philosophy, the Government can show its commitment to empirical methods while boasting of its cultural past.

(The writer is a public policy consultant with Chase India)



FOREIGN EYE



MORE PANDEMICS ARE A SURE THING

Governments' failure to recognise the land rights of indigenous communities and their role in protecting biodiversity could lead to more Corona-like pandemics. About 60 per cent of known infectious diseases in humans and 75 per cent of all emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, largely due to the increased interaction between humans, animals and the environment. Most efforts to control zoonotic diseases have been reactive rather than proactive. (Ceylon Today editorial)

India’s economic recovery ‘broadened’ in Sept: ICRA

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic recovery has "broadened and strengthened" in September from the pandemic-induced lows seen in April 2020, ratings agency ICRA said on Tuesday.

ICRA said that as many as nine of the tracked 15 non-financial high frequency indicators recorded growth in September 2020, while five posted a narrower year-on-year (YoY) contraction in that month.

However, the agency cautioned that the sustainability of the upturn is unlikely to be universal, and that while fatigue may drive festive season sales, the momentum may subsequently subside.

Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA, said: "The recovery in GST e-way bills, electricity, petrol and diesel in September 2020 provides a meaningful signal of a broader economic revival. The improvement in some of the



other indicators, such as auto output, reflects a combination of pent-up demand, healthy rural sentiment, and inventory build-up, ahead of the upcoming festive season."

"This trend may persist in the coming one-to-two months, before settling at more sedate levels after the festive season is over. Sharp favourable base effects have contributed to the high performance of some outliers, such as the output of Coal India Ltd (CIL), which are likely to be unsustainable."

Moreover, she cautioned about the sustainability of the

trend especially regarding the improvement in non-oil merchandise exports, in the light of a fresh wave of Covid-19 infections in many trading partners.

"Overall, we await signals of the durability of the nascent upturn that emerged in September 2020," Nayar said.

"The healthy 9.6 per cent increase in the generation of GST e-way bills on a YoY basis in September 2020, in contrast to the contraction of 3.5 per cent in August 2020, signals a wider revival in economic activity."

Govt working on giving flexibility to Air India bidders to decide on debt: DIPAM Secretary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to resurrect Air India privatisation, the government is planning to give flexibility to potential investors to decide on the humongous debt with the national carrier, a top official has said.

The flexibility to potential investors on the quantum of the Rs 60,074 crore debt that they want to absorb will replace the current condition of the buyer taking over more than a third of the debt and transferring the rest to a special purpose vehicle, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

The potential investors in Air India have given feedback that due to the uncertainty created by COVID-19 in the aviation sector the debt should not be fixed at the Expression of Interest (Eoi) stage, he added.

As per the Air India Eoi floated by DIPAM in January, of the airline's total debt of Rs 60,074 crore as of March 31, 2019, the buyer would be required to absorb Rs 23,286.5



crore, while the rest would be transferred to Air India Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL), a special purpose vehicle.

The government is seeking to sell 100 per cent of its stake in the state-owned national airline, including Air India's 100 per cent shareholding in AI Express Ltd and 50 per cent in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Ltd.

"On Air India, we would try and sort out the investor issues with respect to debt... We will see whether we can give flexibility at least at the Eoi stage and let the debt be determined through the market rather than freezing it upfront. This is what we are examining," Pandey told PTI in an

interview.

He said a decision on this would be soon taken by Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) and if there is a change in the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM), the potential investors would be given time to raise queries.

"There is a lot of uncertainty in the aviation sector due to COVID and accordingly we should structure the transaction. We should not fix everything at the Eoi stage. That's the feedback we are getting. The point is what debt is sustainable. There is a point of view that it can be decided by the market rather than we upfront deciding," he noted.

Retail inflation eases marginally for farm, rural workers in Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers eased only marginally to 6.25 per cent and 6.1 per cent, respectively in September as food prices remained high.

The retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers is measured in terms of Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Consumer Price Index-Rural Labourers (CPI-RL).

Point-to-point rate of inflation based on CPI-AL and CPI-RL decreased to 6.25 per cent and 6.10 per cent in September from 6.32 per cent and 6.28 per cent, respectively in August, a labour ministry statement said.

The rise in index varied from state to state. In case of agricultural labourers, it recorded an increase of 1-23 points in 20 states, while in case of rural workers, it recorded an increase of 1-23 points in 20 states, it said.

Tamil Nadu with 1,234

points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 816 points stood at the bottom.

In case of rural workers, it recorded an increase of 2-20 points in 20 states. Tamil Nadu with 1,218 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 863 points was at the bottom.

The maximum increase in CPI numbers for agricultural labourers was experienced by Himachal Pradesh (+23 points) and in case of rural labourers, it was Jammu & Kashmir (+20 points) mainly due to rise in prices of wheat-atta, pulses, mustard-oil, milk, onion, chillies-dry, garlic, ginger, barber charges, bus fare, vegetables and fruits etc. The All-India CPI Numbers for Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers for September 2020 increased by 11 points and 10 points to stand at 1,037 and 1,043 point, respectively, the statement added.

Markets tick higher for 3rd day; IT stocks sparkle

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty notched up gains for the third straight session on

Tuesday, led by IT stocks and HDFC Bank amid a rebound in the global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex settled 112.77 points or 0.28 per

cent higher at 40,544.37. The broader NSE Nifty rose 23.75 points or 0.20 per cent to 11,896.80.

HCL Tech was the top

gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 4.19 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, L&T, Infosys, TCS, M&M and

Nestle India.

On the other hand, ONGC, PowerGrid, NTPC, Reliance Industries, HDFC, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank and

Kotak Bank were among the major laggards, tumbling up to 2.67 per cent.

HUL ended 0.31 per cent lower after the FMCG major

reported an 8.58 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,974 crore for the September quarter.

Global markets staged a

modest recovery after overnight fall on Wall Street, even as sentiment remained risk-averse ahead of the US elections.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY50	11861.00	11949.25	11837.25	11896.80	23.75	
HCTECH	846.95	886.00	843.60	881.00	36.25	
TECHM	820.60	852.90	819.60	850.30	26.15	
ASIANPAINT	2077.90	2131.80	2067.35	2131.00	60.90	
BHARTIARTL	397.70	413.20	396.95	405.65	7.95	
HDFCBANK	1207.50	1227.40	1205.90	1224.60	21.05	
JSWSTEEL	310.00	319.80	308.60	317.80	5.20	
IT	919.00	935.50	913.00	917.90	15.00	
WIPRO	344.75	349.50	341.85	347.00	3.80	
TCS	2725.00	2739.90	2717.95	2739.00	27.45	
NSTEIND	15900.00	16410.00	15830.00	16236.00	142.85	
INFY	1118.90	1144.70	1110.00	1135.00	10.00	
ULTRACEMCO	444.50	454.50	448.50	454.95	40.35	
M&M	597.40	609.00	590.30	602.70	5.25	
TATAMOTORS	128.10	130.35	126.35	129.35	1.10	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2980.00	3018.55	2957.00	3004.05	24.05	
SUNPHARMA	484.95	488.55	480.40	486.65	3.00	
GRASIM	775.00	779.90	764.50	777.00	3.85	
TITAN	1230.00	1245.55	1217.10	1233.90	5.10	
ADANIPORTS	346.70	352.30	345.65	349.00	1.45	
DREDDY	5056.95	5110.00	5030.95	5071.75	13.60	
SHREEFL	809.25	809.25	790.00	800.00	1.75	
SHRECEM	21197.00	21550.00	21100.10	21310.00	22.70	
HEROMOTOCO	329.90	329.50	323.45	325.25	3.85	
HDFCLIFE	574.60	581.00	567.50	571.00	0.50	
EICHERMOT	2210.00	2235.00	2190.00	2220.00	1.85	
AXISBANK	485.85	488.65	485.10	492.95	0.00	
INDUSINDBK	622.00	628.90	616.60	626.65	-0.45	
CIPLA	765.00	774.70	756.30	763.25	-0.75	
MARUTI	6817.00	6949.00	6810.00	6845.00	-6.95	
DIVISLAB	3102.00	3128.75	3071.00	3090.00	-3.40	
HINDUNILVR	2128.10	2208.50	2132.55	2174.20	-3.60	
ITC	168.00	168.30	166.70	167.00	-0.55	
BAFINANCE	3255.00	3289.50	3236.80	3252.00	-15.20	
SBIN	200.10	204.35	200.70	202.95	-1.05	
KOTAKBANK	1371.70	1386.00	1355.50	1369.10	-7.60	
BAJAJFINSV	5972.00	6025.00	5911.25	5946.00	-35.10	
HDFC	2025.00	2041.70	2004.05	2017.10	-14.40	
ICICIBANK	413.50	416.90	411.00	414.00	-3.10	
BPCL	345.95	349.75	341.65	343.70	-2.95	
TATASTEEL	392.70	397.35	389.60	391.90	-3.60	
COALINDIA	115.10	116.15	113.10	113.65	-1.05	
RELIANCE	2179.00	2193.00	2152.25	2155.85	-20.35	
NTPC	81.65	81.95	80.30	80.70	-0.95	
HINDALCO	181.80	183.15	179.30	180.30	-2.40	
POWERGRID	160.00	164.00	156.00	157.20	-2.45	
UPL	464.00	467.70	453.95	454.90	-8.55	
IOC	76.60	76.70	74.90	75.15	-1.65	
GAIL	85.80	87.40	85.00	85.45	-2.00	
ONGC	69.50	69.75	67.25	67.50	-1.80	
BRITANNIA	3681.00	3694.00	3543.10	3552.90	-219.55	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27366.65	27480.90	27294.50	27435.00	55.25	
INFRATEL	181.50	191.00	181.30	189.80	8.70	
DMAT	2099.00	2170.00	2056.00	2137.00	42.70	
MOTHERSUMI	107.75	110.00	106.15	109.70	2.15	
DABUR	521.20	529.95	518.75	529.00	9.70	
HINDZINC	221.50	224.80	217.40	224.80	3.90	
AMBUJACEM	249.90	254.90	247.05	251.75	4.15	
WBCGIR	883.95	901.80	873.00	897.55	14.35	
CDL	164.10	169.20	163.25	167.00	2.30	
DAPHALHC	420.00	430.95	417.35	428.50	5.30	
TORNTPHARM	2673.10	2728.50	2649.00	2704.05	30.95	
BERGEPAINT	610.90	619.00	606.95	617.65	6.95	
ACC	1582.10	1622.10	1562.00	1577.50	14.85	
HDFCAMC	2329.90	2354.00	2309.00	2349.00	20.05	
MARICO	365.90	368.65	363.10	367.65	3.15	
SIEMENS	1275.15	1297.70	1270.35	1287.50	10.75	
INDIGO	1350.00	1379.95	1345.55	1375.00	8.70	
GODFREYJC	688.50	692.50	676.25	691.25	4.15	
BIOCON	438.90	444.15	437.10	439.65	1.75	
HAVELLS	705.55	712.55	699.35	708.10	2.10	
ADANTHTRANS	286.30	292.00	286.00	289.95	0.85	
MUTHOOTFIN	1206.65	1233.85	1205.15	1224.70	2.85	
PEC	87.30	88.20	86.60	87.45	0.20	
TATACONSUM	476.00	484.00	475.15	476.30	0.45	
ALKEM	2651.40	2704.95	2630.00	2652.55	1.15	
CONCOR	382.05	387.25	378.15	383.00	0.05	
BOSCHLTD	11903.75	11998.00	11755.00	11960.05	-3.60	
IGL	376.00	380.35	373.70	379.70	-0.10	
UBL	956.10	970.55	951.65	965.40	-0.30	
ABBOTINDIA	15890.00	15890.10	15731.00	15800.00	-8.35	
MCOWELL-N	514.00	518.25	511.55	513.40	-0.85	
AUROPHARMA	799.50	812.60	795.50	799.00	-1.60	
NAUKRI	3477.00	3515.00	3442.35	3466.00	-10.20	
ICICIGI	1254.10	1276.50	1234.00	1252.90	-4.10	
PILITIND	1542.00	1551.35	1519.55	1529.90	-6.10	
LUPIN	1015.00	1029.75	1003.20	1009.00	-5.20	
BAJAJHLNG	2364.00	2376.40	2341.00	2350.00	-13.65	
ICICIPRULI	423.00	426.10	418.55	420.50	-2.75	
PEL	1319.10	1353.80	1310.35	1315.50	-8.60	
PGHH	10096.05	10168.70	10000.00	10080.00	-69.55	
PETRONET	224.00	224.95	217.50	221.35	-1.55	
NMDC	84.45	85.00	83.75	83.60	-0.95	
COLPAL	1480.90	1488.95	1454.65	1459.00	-17.70	
OFSS	3306.10	3315.40	3225.00	3257.00	-45.75	
BANDHANBNK	320.00	321.45	312.70	319.00	-4.70	
ADANIGREEN	694.95	707.60	685.00	689.90	-12.90	
LTI	3025.00	3092.00	2951.00	2959.00	-56.25	
GICRE	126.30	127.90	125.30	123.30	-2.45	
HINDPETRO	174.75	176.65	171.60	172.00	-3.85	
PNB	27.90	27.90	27.25	27.30	-0.65	
BANKBARODA	43.05	43.25	41.45	42.05	-1.55	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
INDUSINDBK	622.20	628.35	616.85	627.00
IDEA	7.88	8.87	7.74	8.73
RELIANCE	2183.70	2193.70	2152.20	2155.50
HCLTECH	845.05	885.75	845.00	880.05
INFY	915.15	935.60	912.75	917.30
HINDUNILVR	2185.00	2207.00	2133.00	2172.10
HDFCBANK	1212.00	1227.00	1205.35	1224.15
SBIN	200.00	204.00	200.00	203.00
BRITANNIA	3689.00	3689.00	3535.00	3551.50
LTI	3016.00	3090.00	2881.20	2964.65
AXISBANK	486.00	498.45	485.50	493.70
BAFINANCE	3262.00	3288.00	3229.00	3262.10
ACC	1579.95	1622.00	1561.75	1578.85
IOC	76.85	76.85	75.00	75.05
ZEEL	173.05	183.85	172.70	183.05
DMAT	2093.00	2170.00	2054.05	2142.20
VEDL	96.60	99.95	95.70	99.20
JUSTDIAL	497.00	606.05	490.00	597.95
HDFCLIFE	573.95	586.65	567.05	570.85
DREDDY	5100.00	5113.35	5036.10	5069.35
TATAMOTORS	128.00	130.25	126.40	129.55
ICICIBANK	413.95	416.80	410.80	414.65
INFY	1119.85	1144.70	1115.00	1137.05
BHARTIARTL	397.30	413.20	397.00	404.85
FEDERALBNK	55.60	57.20	55.00	56.85
BAJAJ-AUTO	2951.00	3020.55	2951.00	3002.65
WIPRO	344.50	349.50	342.25	346.75
COALINDIA	115.00	116.00	113.05	113.05
HDFC	76.835	77.14	75.645	76.455
ULTRACEMCO	2023.50	2040.50	2005.00	2016.25
TCS	4550.00	4588.80	4484.00	4547.40
LAURUSLABS	2722.00	2760.00	2720.00	2738.40
LAURUSLABS	330.20	341.25	330.20	336.85

China protests US’ Spl Coordinator for Tibet

Beijing: China said on Tuesday that it had lodged a diplomatic protest with the US over the appointment of Robert Destro as a Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues and his meeting with Lobsang Sangay, the head of the Tibetan Government in exile.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on October 15 named senior diplomat Destro as Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues, who, among other matters, would focus on advancing dialogue between the Communist government in China and the Dalai Lama.

Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy and Human Rights and Labour Robert Destro will also serve as the US Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues, Pompeo told reporters in Washington.

Destro will focus on advancing dialogue between the Communist-run government in Beijing and the Dalai Lama, protecting the distinct religious cultural and linguistic identity of Tibetans, improving respect for their human rights and much, much more, Pompeo said.

China has already criticised Destro's appointment, saying it amounted to political manipulation aimed at destabilising Tibet.

After Destro's appointment, Sangay met him and discussed the situation in Tibet.

Asked about the Destro-Sangay meeting, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here: "Xizang's (Tibet's) affairs (are) purely China's internal affairs. No external forces shall interfere in them".

Unlike in the past, the Chinese officials in recent times have been referring to Tibet only as Xizang.

"Appointing the so-called special coordinator for Tibetan issues is a political move to interfere in China's internal affairs and sabotage Xizang's stability. It is China's consistent position we firmly oppose that and we will not acknowledge that. We have lodged stern representation to the US side," he said.

On Destro-Sangay meeting, Zhao said, "the so-called Tibetan government in exile is a separatist political organisation chasing a wild dream of Tibetan independence. It violates China's constitution and law and it is not recognised by any nation worldwide".

"Lobsang Sangay as its head is out and out anti-China separatist. China firmly opposes him engaging in anti-China separatist activities in whatever status and whatever pretext in any country. We firmly oppose officials of other countries having any kind of contact with him," he said.

"Destro, by meeting with this person, violated the commitment and policies' stance of US side of not supporting Xizang's independence and not acknowledging this government in exile", he said.

He said this will send very wrong signal to Tibet's independence forces. "We urge the US side to stop interfering in China's internal affairs and sabotaging Xizang's development and stability and refrain from offering any support to the separatist forces. China will take all measures to safeguard its own interests", Zhao said. **PTI**

Trump to debate with Biden despite ‘unfair’ rule changes

Washington: US President Donald Trump has confirmed his participation in the presidential debate with his Democratic challenger Joe Biden later this week, even as he raised objections about "unfair" changes in the format.

Trump, 74, and Biden, 77, are slated to face their final presidential debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee on October 22.

The non-partisan Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) on Monday announced new rules under which it will mute microphones for two minutes of the rival speakers so as to give them uninterrupted opening remarks.

"I'll participate, I just think it is very unfair," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on Monday.

"I will participate, but it's very unfair that they changed the topics and it is very unfair that again we have an anchor who is totally biased," the president said, responding to a



question on changes in the debate rules by CPD.

In a letter to CPD on Monday, Trump 2020 campaign manager Bill Stepien expressed concern over the announced topics for what was always billed as the 'Foreign Policy Debate' in the series of events agreed to by both the Trump and the Biden campaigns many months ago.

"The topics announced by moderator Kristen Welker (fighting COVID-19, American families, race in America, climate change, national security, and leadership) are serious and worthy of discussion, but only a few of them even touch on foreign policy," he said, asserting that almost all of the topics were discussed at length during the first debate "won" by Trump. **PTI**

Pak fails to protect religious minorities from forced conversions: Parliamentary committee

Islamabad: A parliamentary committee in Pakistan has said that the country has not fulfilled its responsibility to protect religious minorities from forced conversions, according to a media report on Tuesday.

The parliamentary committee on forced religious conversions headed by Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar recently visited parts of Sindh where forced conversions of young Hindu girls have been reported.

During a media interaction

on Monday, Kakar said that "the state has not fulfilled its responsibility to protect religious minorities from forced conversions", The Dawn News reported.

He, however, noted that most of the cases of conversions "have some degree of willingness".

Replying to a question, Kakar said there are several definitions of forced conversion, and the subject was debated by the committee on length.

"Although conversion to seek a better lifestyle is also considered forced conversion, economic reasons can be considered exploitation and not force, as eventually it is after consent," he said, adding that there is a thin line between consent and exploitation.

Kakar said people who "encourage girls from the Hindu community to move out and marry according to their own wishes are not as liberal about their own daughters". **PTI**

China takes note of Australia joining Malabar naval drills

Beijing: China on Tuesday said it has "taken note" of India's announcement that Australia will join the annual Malabar naval exercises along with the US and Japan, underlining that military cooperation should be "conductive" to regional peace and stability.

India on Monday announced that Australia will join the upcoming Malabar exercise which effectively means that all the four-member countries of the 'Quad' or Quadrilateral coalition will be participating in the mega drill.

The US and Japan are the other countries that participate in the annual exercise, which is

likely to take place next month in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

Commenting on the announcement, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that China has "taken note of this development".

"We always believe that military cooperation between countries should be conducive to regional peace and stability," he said in a brief reaction.

India's decision to heed to Australia's request to be part of the mega naval drill comes in the midst of growing strain in ties with China over the border row in eastern Ladakh. **PTI**

Pak’s Maryam Nawaz booked for holding anti-govt rally

PTI ■ LAHORE

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter and Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's vice-president Maryam Nawaz was on Tuesday booked along with over 2,000 party members for holding an anti-government rally in Lahore where she called Prime Minister Imran Khan a "coward, selected and puppet" who hides behind the Army.

The rally by the 11-member opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was held here on October 16 before the Gujranwala public meeting.

Thai Cabinet approves Parliament session to debate protests

Bangkok: Thailand's Cabinet on Tuesday approved a request to recall Parliament for a special session to deal with the political pressures from ongoing anti-government protests.

The Cabinet at its weekly meeting approved the request, which calls for a non-voting session on October 26-27.

The request for the session came from House speaker Chuan Leekpai, who said Monday that both government and opposition parties supported it.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha had already said earlier that he supports the move.

There is a deadlock between the government and the student-led protesters, who want Prayuth to step down, the con-

stitution to be amended to make it more democratic, and reforms to the monarchy to have it conform to democratic norms.

The protesters charge that 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 favor 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 considered sacrosanct and tough laws protecting it from insult mean its role is not usually discussed openly. **AP**

Indonesians take to the streets to protest new labour law

AP ■ JAKARTA

Protests against Indonesia's new jobs law were held in cities across the country on Tuesday, with demonstrators calling on the president to revoke the legislation they say will erode labor rights and weaken environmental protections.

More than 1,000 students and workers gathered near the Presidential Palace in Jakarta to express their anger at the legislation, which was passed on Oct. 5.

Protests were also held elsewhere in the country, including in Bandung, Surabaya and Makassar.

There were no immediate reports of the violence that marred earlier protests against

the jobs law.

The new legislation, which amends 79 existing laws and regulations, is expected to bring radical changes to Indonesia's labor system and natural resources management. President Joko Widodo's administration says it is needed to ease bureaucracy, attract more investment and create jobs at a time when Southeast Asia's largest economy is reeling from the coronavirus pandemic.

While the legislation was greeted by the business community, critics allege it will do more harm than good.

Those gathered Tuesday, the first anniversary of Widodo's second term, voiced their frustration at the president's overall performance.

"Instead of making

Indonesia more advanced, the fact is that the people are screaming because of the policies that do not take side of the majority of the Indonesian people," Remy Hastian, the coordinator of the National Association of University Student Executive Bodies, said in a statement.

The president should revoke the jobs law and replace it with less sweeping regulations, said Nining Elitos, chairwoman Congress Alliance of Indonesian Labor Unions.

Elitos said that beyond the jobs law, she has been disappointed with the president's performance.

"Over the past year we saw those in power getting more opposite to the people," Elitos said.

Washington: Several individuals and organisations, including the US Chambers of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, have filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration's recent rules related to the H-1B visa, terming them "arbitrary" and "haphazard" regulations that will undermine high skilled immigration into America.

Early this month, the

FROM PAGE 1

RECORD LOWEST DAILY COUNT OF COVID CASES

Out of this, 67 are at various stages of completion. "In the second phase, 150 more such plants in 30 States and UTs would be installed, he said, adding India was in a "comfortable position" in terms of oxygen availability.

"There has been no shortage of oxygen in the last 10 months. There is no paucity at present also. We are in an extremely comfortable position," Bhushan added.

The number of patients on oxygen support, which includes those in ICU, ventilator and oxygen supported beds, increased from 43,022 on September 1 to 75,000 in the third week of that month. The number then started declining and as of Tuesday it was over 57,000, he said.

"Though there has been a dip, it is still higher as compared to September 1. However, it should not be a reason to worry as our capacity is much higher," the Health Secretary said adding that 775 Cryogenic Oxygen Tanks (total 7438 MT) have been installed in hospitals.

"We are also creating control room in different places to monitor efficient and adequate availability of medical oxygen in States/UTs," he added.

Elucidating further, Bhushan said on an average, 2,397 metric tonnes of medical oxygen was consumed daily from September 2 to 8, and even then 15,282 metric tonnes of oxygen was in stock at the end of the week.

"Oxygen production capacity has been enhanced from 5,913 metric tonnes in April to 6,862 metric tonnes in September. It will be further increased to 7,191 metric tonnes by October-end," the Health Secretary said.

Bhushan further said that India's Covid-19 cases per million population reported in the last seven days stood at 310, while the global average was 315.

INDIA-TAIWAN LIKELY TRADE TALKS A RELOOK AT ONE CHINA POLICY

Earlier this month, the Modi Government approved \$6.65 billion incentives for 16 firms, including Taiwan's three major partners of Apple — Foxconn Technology Group, Wistron Corp and Pegatron Corp — to boost domestic smartphone production over the next five years. Incidentally, Apple launched its online store in India last month.

Though in the last three years, Wistron and Foxconn began assembling a few iPhone models in India, but sources said the incentives to them will now change the whole dynamic. Overall, the 16 firms will create more than 200,000 direct employment opportunities for Indians. Around 60 per cent of the products manufactured in India will be exported.

Sources said that incentives to the three Taiwanese firms have led the government to con-

sider holding formal talks about a trade deal with the Taiwanese government. India and Taiwan, sources said are keen on strengthening their trade in technology and electronics.

India and Taiwan have already signed a bilateral investment agreement in 2018. But a formal trade deal amidst tensions with China can lead to further breakdown of the New Delhi-Beijing relationship and may also result in complications at the World Trade Organization. However, sources said, a lot will depend on the US backing to Taiwan.

PUNJAB FIRST STATE TO PASS ACT AGAINST CENTRE'S FARM LAWS

The House cleared the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment Bill, 2020; The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020; and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill 2020 "to protect the State's farmers and agriculture by restoring various safeguards aimed at preventing damage apprehended by the farming community as a result of the central legislations".

One of the three "counter-Bill", The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020, has the provision on punishment for sale or purchase below MSP. It provides that no sale or purchase is done below MSP and violation of the same shall invite imprisonment and fine.

"The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020" seeks to amend sections 1(2), 14 and 15 the Centre's Act to ensure that sale or purchase of wheat or paddy in the State is not allowed below the MSP. The amendment Bill also seeks to provide for punishment for harassment of farmers or payment of less price to the farmers by inserting new sections.

Both these Bills are aimed at preventing the "damage" apprehended by the State farmers with the enactment of the Central Act by restoring various safeguards, including MSP mechanism through the regulatory framework of the APMC laws, in order to secure and protect the interests and livelihood of farmers and farm labourers as also all others engaged in agriculture and related activities.

Meanwhile, to protect the consumers from hoarding and black-marketing of agricultural produce to secure, and protect the interests and livelihood of farmers and farm labourers as also all others engaged in agriculture and related activities, the State Government has brought in The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Punjab

Amendment) Bill, 2020.

The Bill seeks to amend the Centre's Act by amending some sections of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. It seeks to ensure status quo ante as on June 4, 2020, with regard to implementation of the Central Act namely, 'The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020'.

The fourth Bill introduced by the Chief Minister provides relief to the farmers from attachment of their land not exceeding 2.5 acres. 'The Code of Civil Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020' seeks to insert a provision for exemption of agriculture land not exceeding 2.5 acres from Section 60 of The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, which provides for attachment or decree of various properties - moveable and immovable.

Given the farmers' apprehension about attachment or decree of their land as a consequence of enforcement of farming contracts or otherwise, the State Government is seeking, through this Bill, to give full exemption to small farmers and others from attachment or decree of land up to 2.5 acres.

Tabling the "counter-Bills", the Chief Minister declared that he was "not afraid of resigning" and would not let "farmers suffer or be ruined", while appealing to all the Opposition parties to unanimously pass the Bills. Even after the unanimous passage of the counter-Bills, these now require the Governor VP Singh Badnore's assent before they become a law.

The Chief Minister, who along with the representatives of all Opposition parties - AAP, SAD, LIP - has handed over the copies of the counter-Bills to the Governor later in the evening, said all the legislators would be meeting the President between November 2 and 5 to seek his intervention.

4 ULTRAS SHOT IN TWO J&K ENCOUNTERS

Meanwhile, three LeT terrorists were neutralised by the security forces in Hakripora area of Pulwama during the day-long operation. Local reports suggested a handful of local residents in the area tried to disrupt the operations but were prevented by the paramilitary forces to come closer to the encounter site.

Earlier, Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh along with several other senior police officers visited the residence of martyred Inspector Mohd Ashraf Bhat in Bijbehara area of Anantnag and conveyed heartfelt condolences and assured all help to the martyr's family.

RAHUL DEPLORES ‘ITEM’ BARB, NATH BRUSHES ‘OPINION’ OFF

He also wrote to Chouhan after the latter shot off a letter to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi asking her to take action against Nath.

"It would have been better if you would have written to your party president over derogatory remarks made by Ministers of your party," Nath wrote to Chouhan.

Following this, Chouhan replied: "I believe you should tender an honest apology... Learn to love people of the State. Despite you not belonging to MP, its people are trying to accept you."

Earlier, Chouhan told mediapersons that Nath was defending himself instead of apologising. "He is trying hard to justify his remarks saying 'this is item no.1, this is item no.2'. Can he call a senior party leader item? He still has not remembered the name of Imarti Devi. She was a Minister in his Cabinet. Why is he feeling ashamed to call out her name? What is this arrogance," said Chouhan.

"What happened to you former CM Kamal Nath? You are 74-yr-old and I can't repeat what you said about BJP's Imarti Devi...When we objected, he shamelessly called everyone an item including himself...If anyone calls their mother and sister 'item', will you tolerate it?" Chouhan asked.

For her part, commenting on the entire episode, the NCW chief said, "It's (item remark) very demeaning and later, he (Nath) said that he was reading from a list, I want to ask him, in the same list where was he standing? Which item he was?"

"This is disgraceful for him. It shows the character of the person saying it. Instead of saying sorry, he is giving a useless explanation. His party should take strict action against him," Sharma added.

On Sunday, while campaigning in Dabra, Nath had targeted Imarti Devi, saying the Congress candidate Suresh Raje was a "simple person" unlike his opponent who is an "item".

Nath has not apologised for the comment so far. Instead, he tried to explain it away as an ordinary term, which he used as he could not remember her name.

CHINA APPEALS FOR EARLY RELEASE OF SOLDIER

The Indian Army in a statement on Monday said the Corporal was apprehended after he had strayed across the LAC. The statement also said a request was received from the PLA about the whereabouts of the missing soldier.

"As per established protocols, he will be returned to Chinese officials at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point after completion of formalities," the Army said. Sources said the PLA soldier was interrogated on how he crossed over to the Indian side.

Both Indian and Chinese Armies have deployed over 50,000 troops each along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, including in the Demchok sector following escalation of the five-month-long military standoff that began in early May. Situation remains tense at the LAC.

Delhi suffers as farm fire rages in neighbourhood

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

As Delhi's air pollution has arisen to an alarming level, the infamous "paddy straw" burning by the farmers of Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and Punjab has aggravated the ever-deteriorating pollution level in the national Capital and its peripheral areas.

In Haryana paddy straw were being burnt at Karnal, Kurukshetra, Panipat and Yamunanagar areas, whereas Sirsa, Fatehabad, Jind and Kaithal are yet to start weeding out stubble. Farmers prefer burning stubble at night in the false hope that satellite won't catch images at night.

Due to Covid-19 this year, there is a shortage of labourers mainly supplied from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in Haryana and Punjab and farmers alleged that opting stubble burning is cheaper for them as they can't afford subsidised machines used for weeding out straw.

The Pioneer carried out a fact check in the fields of Haryana to know the reasons behind paddy straw burning by the farmers year after year. The Pioneer team visited Haryana and met farmers in Karnal, Kaithal, Kurukshetra and Ambala districts who told the daily that stubble burning was largely because the subsidy for machines wasn't covering the costs of the equipment and the labour involved.

Farmers said burning paddy straw was still much cheaper and easier to burn the residue.

According to Arvind Kumar, a farmer at Pundri village near Kurukshetra, farmers know about the repercussions of burning crop stubble and that's why you won't come across a single farmer who really wants to continue with the practice.

"But the cost of disposing of crop residue is so prohibitive that

most farmers are forced to set the stubble on fire. The fact that Government officials want us to use expensive machines clearly shows that they are far removed from reality and in Haryana 70 per cent owns land less than 10 acres," he said.

Shobit, a farmer in Indri near Karnal, said sharp fall in the prices of their produce and the rising cost of diesel, widely used in tractors and farm equipment has halted their work and forced them to get indulged in this decades old practice.

Meanwhile, the department of agriculture authorities in Haryana claimed that there is a steep fall in paddy burning this year.

According to data from September 25 till October 15, 274 fire locations were traced in Ambala, 168 in Fatehabad, 73 in Hisar, 148 in Jind, 335 in Kaithal, 468 in Karnal, 441 in Kurukshetra, 134 in Yamunanagar, 24 in Panipat, 15 in Panchkula, 29 in Palwal, 39 in Sirsa and 36 in Sonapat.

"Last year there were 1,123 cases of stubble burning till November in Karnal and this year till October 14 there were 370 cases whereas 70 per cent of paddy has been harvested while the remaining 30 per cent which is basmati rice will be harvest in coming days," said Aditya Dabas, Deputy Director, Agriculture department in Karnal.

Dabas also claimed that farmers this year are also stocking their crop residue (paddy straw) in their villages collectively to sell it to fodder companies which are available on the Haryana Government website.

Meanwhile another farmer from Yamunanagar, who doesn't wish to be named said farmers prefer to burn stubble and pay penalty rather than weed out the stubbles and the reason for this is that the cost of stubble burning is cheaper as penalty works out to be around Rs 2,500 per acre.

For a safe and secure future

There is a dire need for skilled cyber security professionals as with every passing day, new online attacks are being coined that are more harmful than the previous ones.

TRIPTI MISHRA tells you how one can make it a lucrative option

Cybersecurity is a domain that is maturing and expanding in leaps and bounds. Cyber security has gained a lot of attention, from portrayals in series and movies to job opportunities, crash courses and academic courses everywhere. One might wonder why this happened but the answer is not all that difficult. As we all know, the technological industry has taken huge strides in the 21st century with inventions that brought the whole world to our fingertips. But while it has made our life undeniably easier, it also opened up a world of possibilities for criminals who could make use of the information the world put up online for the wrong reasons. And that is where cyber security comes in.

Cyber security can be loosely defined as the protection of data that exists online and that is a very vague definition of a huge term that encompasses techniques and tools that are very hard to master. The enticing part is that if a person is able to master the techniques and tools or even have a moderate understanding of how to make use of it, the cyber industry will welcome you with open arms. With the pandemic, there is an increased risk of data breaches, leaks, and cybercrime, which can prove detrimental to organisations, across sectors. The need for skilled cyber security professionals is dire as with every passing day, new attacks are being coined that are more harmful than the previous. These rising threats require skilled cybersecurity professionals to help ensure safety for individuals as well as organisations.

There are numerous prospects to begin and progress as a career in cybersecurity. After all, cyber security is no longer a matter of 'if', but a matter of 'when'. Let us now take a look at some of the career options available for someone who is really passionate and interested in cyber security:

IT Security Consultant

This is a position that can be referred to as a stepping stone within the industry, security consultants are usually hired by small businesses that cannot yet afford to handle their security issues or even by large MNCs to act as an unbiased perspective for their security issues. They meet up with clients and on being provided a layout of their security structure, advises them on how to protect their assets in the most cost-efficient way.



To be hired as a security consultant, the applicant requires a Bachelor's degree in CS, cyber security or related fields and few professional certifications may be a plus point.

Security Systems Administrator

A security systems administrator usually takes care of the security infrastructure in companies; installation, maintenance, troubleshooting different security systems including data and network. They are also usually involved in drawing up organisational security procedures. To work as a security systems administrator, the applicant needs to hold an Associate degree in a CS field at the minimum.

IT Security Engineer

Security engineering gives a particular way of designing to deal with network protection, explicitly in regards to the plan of security frameworks to counter possibly cataclysmic issues. They are usually associated with maintaining the systems, performing security checks to distinguish possible weaknesses along with creating logs to keep track of any mishaps. Employers usually require a Bachelor's degree in engineering or CS while they are looking to hire a security engineer.

A few years of experience is preferred.

Ethical Hacker/Penetration Tester

Ethical Hacker/Penetration Tester looks out for loopholes and weaknesses in IT systems. Penetration testing is a method deployed by security professionals on systems to proactively find any vulnerabilities. The testers hack (with authorisation) into the system's infrastructure to weed out any system vulnerabilities, issues with any of the application software's, configuration issues, zero-day vulnerabilities and more. The aim behind penetration testing is to look at a system from an intruder's perspective and discover all the issues before the attacker can cause any real damage. A bachelor's degree in cyber security or closely related subjects along with other professional certifications are usually possessed by an aspiring penetration tester.

Compliance and Auditing

To step into this domain of cyber security, zero programming skills are required. Learn about underlying technology and business models. One must understand how businesses

operate so they can protect them and ensure new regulations don't hinder company innovation. Gain some real time exposure by working with company officials and managers by grabbing some internships. Study industry best practices, like those from the NIST, SANS or Center for Internet Security, as well as regulated standards like HIPAA, PCI-DSS, ISO 27001, SOX, etc. to understand how to make your organisation compliant without negatively impacting productivity.

Forensics Analyst/Investigator

Forensics analysts focus on cybercrime, an ever-growing phenomenon. They work with law enforcement personnel and agencies in both public and private sector organisations. Computer forensic analysts must keep a well detailed records of their investigations, and often provide evidence in court. This role needs you to be meticulous with how you handle evidence and even requires training the first responders on how to deal with electronic evidences such as computers, hard drives or portable drives.

Incident Analyst/Responder

Incident analysts/responders are an asset to an organisation and are

mostly professionals who have undergone Cyber Security incident response training. Their responsibility entails quickly resolving threat issues and taking necessary steps to prevent any further such attacks.

Chief Information Security Officer

One of the higher positions that is up for grabs within the cyber field, a CISO typically supervises an organisation's IT security division. They are directly accountable for organising and directing all the security related issues and needs of the company. They interact with upper management to come up with detailed plans to ensure the cyber security of the company. CISOs typically hold a bachelor's in cyber security along with a few years of experience and large companies prefer that they hold a master's degree in cyber security.

These are just a few titles among hundreds that are available within the InfoSec industry. If you have the passion, with the accurate training and practice, even you can become a skilled cyber security professional.

The writer is Assistant Professor (Senior Scale), Cybersecurity & Forensics, UPES

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Training is everything. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education."

— Mark Twain

'NEP's focus is on research'

The NEP is complete, comprehensive, visionary and plays a vital role in shaping the future of India, says PROF D NARAYANA RAO

After extensive discussions with a large number of people from different sectors, teachers, educationists, policy makers, institutions and voluntary organisations, the Government of India approved the National Education Policy 2020, drafted by a committee headed by Dr Kasturirangan. The NEP-2020 is a significant milestone in the history of Indian Education. The NEP is complete, comprehensive, far-sighted, visionary and plays a vital role in shaping the future of India.



Prof D Narayana Rao
Pro Vice Chancellor,
SRM University, AP

The National Education Policy (NEP) laid the foundation for a 'New India' of the 21st century, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi said during his inaugural speech of a conclave on "Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under the NEP".

The New Education policy places a welcome emphasis on a holistic, student-centric, flexible system that aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge and Science & Technology - based society. The NEP is an appropriate balance of Indian ethos, Indian culture, pride and acceptance of the best ideas and learning practices from across the globe. The vision of NEP-2020 is truly global and at the same time Indian.

The policy gives a fillip to holistic education by envisioning the much needed and long awaited convergence of science and arts streams. NEP's sharp focus is on research, multi-disciplinary approaches and use of technology, and professional upgradation of teachers' competence to transform the landscape of Indian education. Undoubtedly, the NEP is poised to yield outstanding results in the fields of higher education, research and innovations, Science & Technology development in the country.

Many of you are aware that there had been no changes in the education system for many years, resulting in the promotion of a 'herd mentality' in the Indian society instead of the values of the curiosity and the imagination.

Higher Education is a critical contributor to sustainable livelihood and economic development of the nation. Higher education also plays a large and equally important role in developing India. Higher education aims to serve as a hub for developing ideas and innovations that enlighten individuals and help propel the country forward socially, scientifically, technologically and economically.

It is a fact that science and technology is the established currency in the geo-political world. Any country that has made advances in prosperity has invariably depended on Science and Technology. England became a world power; it was because of the industrial revolution. US became a superpower, it was primarily because of its technology, whether it is in transportation, agriculture, high-tech industry, medicine etc. I am very optimistic and confident that implementation of the NEP-2020 definitely contributes to technology development and quality education and will lay the foundation for New India of the 21st century.

Build a sustainable career

The road to sustainable careers has to be traversed by Governments, employers and employees together, says ABHISHEK AGARWAL

A new concept, sustainable careers has been a part of various discussions since 2015. With so much upheaval recently, everyone is concerned about the employee-employer relationship and the role of Government to ensure the safety of employment. If we talk about the 2000s, then these years have witnessed the dotcom bubble burst, 2008 global recession, coronavirus, etc. Ups and downs are inevitable, but these developments affected millions and left the world to devise ways to minimise the emotional and financial loss to people.

If we look at the current scenario, around 41 lakh people lost jobs in India according to a report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). However, there were not many job losses from the IT sector, which in a way has taken up the role of providing a sustainable career to the employees. With work from home option extended to the employees, the sector fared well by capturing the increased demand for digital.

First, look at the way the employment practices and the way people work has changed over the years. Many people complain about



the intensification of work and employment becoming precarious; this leads to a vicious cycle where uncertainty in jobs can lead to destabilisation of the economy as people uncertain of future hold back from taking financial decisions and it also affects their productivity. The technological changes taking place require workforce to keep themselves updated, which means continuous learning like never before. It does require commitment from the workforce but it is not completely possible unless

employers assure security in return.

A recent The7thFold's Employee Wellbeing Survey 2020 says 50 per cent employees in India are worried about an uncertain future due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and 36 per cent employees are suffering from mental health issues. The survey further said that 40 per cent are stressed by personal finances and 40 per cent by career growth. In the light of these facts, the idea of sustainable careers gains urgency. So, how do you provide sustainable careers?

The road to sustainable careers

has to be traversed by Governments, employers, and employees together. Employees have to work on the employability through constant learning and showing flexibility, improve job performance through up-to-date skills and psychological resources, and be able to maintain work-life balance by being able to accommodate personal needs effectively. The Government, along with the employers, has to invest in upskilling and development opportunities; come up with legislation and support systems that provide a sense of security for employees. Employers also have to pitch in with development opportunities, security in employment, and support system for non-work issues of the employees. Individuals also have to be responsible and understand that, apart from the employer and the government, it is their responsibility to invest in employability.

All stakeholders have to work together to ensure that careers are sustainable. In the current scenario, it is crucial to work towards it to keep companies and the economy competitive and build a healthy society.

The writer is Senior Vice President, Judge India

Technology holds key

Going for full-fledged automation in education has been criticised by many, but automation brings a lot of flexibility, efficiency and also helps in understanding the student's requirement better, says DR RAMAKRISHNAN RAMAN

The B-Schools have been using

technology to impart education and the covid pandemic has made them use it in an extensive manner. Right from teaching, learning to feedback and assessment, many B-Schools now use the tools information technology to automate processes. Going for full-fledged automation in education has been criticised by many, but automation brings a lot of flexibility, efficiency and also helps in understanding the student's requirement better. Many Indian B-Schools have almost accepted that blended (a mix of online and off-line) is going to be the future. Some important influences of technology in B-School's processes are noteworthy.

Use of Big data to gain insights:

Some B-Schools are using big data analytics to draw insights on patterns of students who are highly successful in creating start-ups or even getting great offers from corporate. Some B-Schools are using the past data to create predictive models which are helping them to select the right candidates for the management program offered by the B-School. There are others who are using the insights to understand the area of academic strength and weakness of students, so that it can be addressed

effectively.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

in assessment: As assessments have gone fully online, some B-Schools are using tools of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to understand the behavioural aspects of students which is helping in making assessment intelligent and also personalised. Thanks to AI — aspects related to which student spent how much time on a question and its relation to the difficulty level gives immense insights to make assessment intelligent and also helps in fine tuning the question paper to become better. These tools also give options to make the questions and the question paper customised to the individual based on his/her ability to answer a question.

Gamification of education:

Gamification of education is a developing approach for increasing learners' motivation and engagement by incorporating game design elements in educational environments. With the growing popularity of gamification some Indian B-Schools have started using gamification in teaching learning and also in assessing the students. B-Schools have started using gamification for learning as this educational approach to motivate students to

learn by using video game design and game elements in learning environments. The objective is to maximise enjoyment and engagement through capturing the interest of students and inspiring them to learn with zeal.

Learning Management

Systems: While there are some B-schools which are using the video conferring tools like zoom, webex etc., many Indian B-Schools have adopted Learning Management Systems (LMS) and have automated their academic processes. Presently many B-School are using LMSs to focus on online learning delivery, the fact is that LMS supports a range of uses like - acting as a platform for online content sharing (both asynchronous based and synchronous), helping in classroom management for instructor-led training or a flipped classroom, helps in administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and in a plethora of academic processes. In short B-Schools are using technology to identify the needs of individuals, track student development. Technology is helping B-Schools to simplify access to educational resources and improving the learning experience.

The writer is Director — Symbiosis Institute of Business Management

MBA programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IIM Udaipur Invites Applications for one-year MBA in Global Supply Chain Management for experienced professionals only. The CAT Scores of 2018 onward are being additionally considered for this year admissions.

The online application cycle will end on October 31, 2020.

The announcement of results will be on November 18, 2020.

The registration at

IIMU will be on May 5, 2021.

The eligibility is a minimum of Class XII of school education and three years of university education with a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in any discipline; Valid GMAT/GRE score; and three years of full-time work experience as of March 31, 2021.

For more information and updates, visit, <https://www.iimu.ac.in/one-year-mba-gscm/>.

Pratham launches ELC-20

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In order to hear out the expert opinions and discuss regarding the various issues and opportunities available in the education sector in India, Pratham Test prep, has organised Education Leaders Confluence-2020 (ELC-20).

ELC-20 being a platform to bring thought leadership to the fore for the future of Indian education systems. Among the three major events scheduled, the inaugural session of the event 'The Principal Round Table' was successfully commenced on October 19.

The discussion was graced by a set of eminent panelists — principals from various schools, who with their immense knowledge

and knowhow made this session a fruitful and enriching event.

The live session was conducted swiftly by Saurabh Nanda, an international educator, who carries a vast experience in student counselling and mentoring. The session majorly focused on discussions on the topic "Future of Blended Learning in Indian Schools".

"While India is the third largest education system in the world and on the verge of becoming the second largest, yet it suffers from a void in thought leadership especially in school level education. Pertaining to the gaps between the policy making, customisation and implementation, it is our endeavour to provide a platform to highlight the real

issues and perspectives of the Indian Education," Ankit Kapoor, Managing Director, Pratham Test Prep, says.

The learning process in India is changing. It is making headway in digitising the learning process, and it is not only in India but also the world over where we can see such changes being incorporated.

"The blend of the traditional and the modern will equip our students to take on new challenges and conquer the world!" Therefore, it is of utmost importance we should understand and strike out a balance between the two which safeguards the interest of the children and allows being future-ready," said Vanita Sehgal, Executive Director, The Delhi Public School Society, HRDC.

Admissions open for BBA programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The JK Business School (JKBS) is inviting applications for its BBA programme for the batch of 2020. JKBS is affiliated to Gurugram University, a State University of Haryana; the course completion will provide a degree of Bachelor in Business Administration.

The interested candidates are requested to fill the application form in online format latest by October 31, 2020.

The three-year degree program with contemporary and

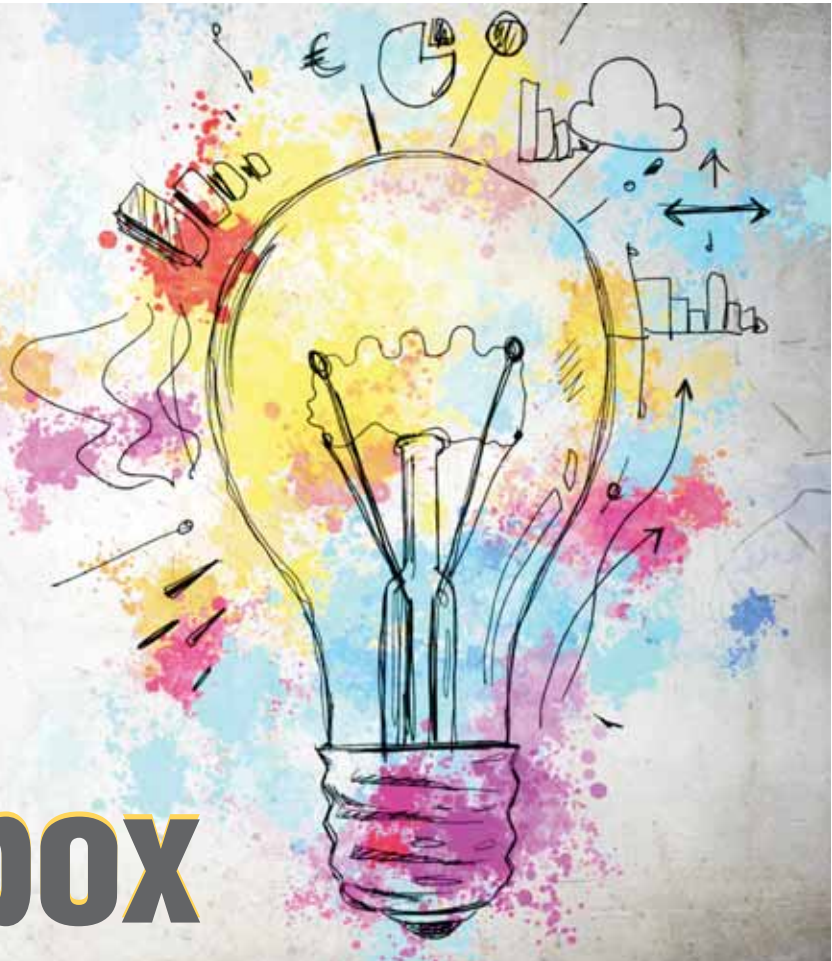
exhaustive course curriculum imparts requisite knowledge, skills, and expertise along with the ability to lead and manage multiple business functions. The programme focuses on industry specialisations like Marketing, Finance, Human Resources, International Business and others.

Eligibility: Admissions are given on the basis of merit at Class XII level (with minimum 50% in any stream).

How to apply: Log on to <https://admission.nopaperforms.com/jk-business-school/ug>.

Liberal Arts is trending but there are a variety of subject combinations and specialisations creating confusion in the minds of the students. DR AMRITA DASS lists a few newage options that will offer lucrative options in the coming days

Think out-of-the-box



In our new normal, volatile and unpredictable world, Liberal Arts is trending; there is an exponential digitisation of jobs post-COVID-19; and industries are increasingly relying on human empathy-driven AI interventions and creativity.

Today, there's such a wide variety of subject combinations, specialisations and careers on offer that it is confusing not just for students but sometimes also for educators.

To add to this, the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which encourages holistic multi-disciplinary education, is set for implementation.

This is great news for students because to acquire the in-demand knowledge and skills for a successful career, interdisciplinary studies are highly recommended. With the implementation of NEP 2020, students will not only get to study the subjects of their choice and excel in them but also pursue their dream careers thereafter.

Let's take a look at some of the newage specialisations.

Cognitive Science: Love to study both biology and psychology? This combination could yield many specialisations like

Cognitive Science. A scientific study of the human mind, this trending field combines the knowledge of psychology, computer science, linguistics, philosophy and neuroscience. There's immense scope in AI systems that aim to mimic human thought processes. Such an expert can find job opportunities in the fields of education, psychology, artificial intelligence, data analysis, product design, marketing, research and consulting. The average salary in India ranges from ₹4.5 lakh-₹9 lakh per annum and abroad it's \$72,000 per annum.

Behavioural Finance or Behavioural Economics: The impact of the complexities of human behaviour on both global and local market trends and the stock exchanges has led to the emergence of these fascinating fields. By studying psychology along with economics, finance, accountancy or maths, one can take informed decisions to maximise profits. Banking, finance, investment, planning, consulting, teaching and research are some major areas of employment. In India, ₹9.6 lakh to ₹15 lakh per annum is the expected salary (One-three years experience). The

The New Education Policy is set for implementation. This is great news for students because to acquire in-demand knowledge and skills for a successful career, interdisciplinary studies are recommended

average salary abroad is approximately \$82,000 per annum.

Molecular Gastronomy: Are you a gourmet who aspires to become a chef and has a deep interest in understanding the science behind flavours? Then Molecular Gastronomy could very well be your calling. A sub-discipline of food science, this specialisation is about the art and the science of flavours. Its focus is on gourmet cuisine and on providing a sublime gastronomic experience.

A basic understanding of the sciences along with undergrad studies in home science, food sciences or culinary arts is highly recommended. Job opportunities abound in the hotel, restaurant, catering and food industry, which is taking pride in alluring customers with new molecular gastronomy-oriented menus. The average salary would be the same as that of an Executive Chef of a leading hotel chain, — ₹9 lakh per annum. The average salary abroad is around \$55,000 per annum.

Genetics Law: Today, you don't need to choose between a career as a legal expert and a bio-scientist. A degree in Genetics Law can take you beyond the lab to the

courtroom.

An LLB qualification with a specialisation in Genetics Law will enable you to handle complex cases concerning disputes related to gene manipulation, intellectual property, environmental law and more. Employment opportunities are on the rise in law firms, research labs, government departments, hospitals, etc. The average salary, in India, ranges from Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 12 lakh p.a. Average salary abroad is approx. US \$100,000 p.a.

Clidynamics: This is a futuristic trans-disciplinary specialisation, which combines history and other social sciences with mathematics and statistics for a more accurate prediction of future trends. The demand for Clidynamicists is slated to boom in our increasingly volatile and unpredictable world.

Research, teaching and consulting in private and government organisations as well as NGOs will be some of the major arenas of employment. Salaries will be in the top 10% bracket of various prestigious organisations.

The writer is founder-director, Institute for Career Studies

‘Rejig colleges before reopening’

After academic institutes open, quality education will not be the only mandate. Creating a COVID-safe environment for students, faculty, and staff will be a priority, says SHAHEEM RAHIMAN

In a post lockdown era, the preparedness for reopening of academic institutes will call for a substantial rejig on multiple levels. And, quality education will no longer be the only mandate. Creating a COVID-safe environment for students, faculty, and staff will be one of the many priorities across academic establishments.

In India, overflowing classrooms is a common sight. With the pandemic showing no sign of slowing down, creating a safe educational experience will first require efficient strategizing and planning.

Staggered occupancy with spaced out seating needs to be accounted for. Although, scheduling parallel batches and mapping them to the availability of faculty members will be a formidable task. In addition to social distancing norms, universities will also have to implement regular sanitation, on-campus testing, and decontamination procedures on priority.

Moreover, outstation students, staff, faculty, and visitors traveling to and from COVID-19 affected areas present a major area of concern. The potential for rapid transmission in a congregate setting within campus environments is extremely high. While current predictions maintain that it's unlikely that all students, faculty members, and staff will return to campus simultaneously, quarantine protocols and safe commute options will have to be established for all. The scale of planning, managing, and implementing this in itself will be a mammoth undertaking.

Travel restrictions and staggered semesters present a plethora of questions for university administrators. How will international students bypass travel restrictions? And, should students prefer to continue with remote learning, how are universities expected to optimize the overhead costs of a semi-functional campus?

Seemingly viable alternatives are swiftly catapulting into challenging situations for senior leadership. However, switching to virtual, off-campus modes of teaching has created a multitude of speculations regarding the necessity of charging full fees for services students



Shaheem Rahiman
CEO, Atria University

cannot use on campus. Demands around refunds for residential fees are also on the rise. Forcing many universities to deliberate on revised fee structures that are more aligned to the new education model.

The sudden onset of a worldwide lockdown has left students, particularly those aspiring to begin higher education, in an unapprehend situation. Most companies have canceled their internship-programmes. Universities will need to come up with viable, online, or offline alternatives to reduce the risk of students losing out on real-world learning, hands-on training, and field projects.

With recruiters rescinding offers and deferring joining dates owing to the crisis, universities will struggle with final-year student placements. Due to the rapid decline in the global economy, organisations will be functioning at a cost-saving mode for the next couple of years, which means fewer jobs. Therefore, most academic institutes will have to level up to remain agile and flexible in the face of unforeseen hurdles. Universities, faculty, and students will have to work in tandem to successfully ride over this crisis.

The ongoing pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns have widened the demand and supply gap in the world. And, the gap can be filled only with technical expertise and soft skills. This demand has been making engineering institutions a hot bed for developing and nurturing entrepreneurship among their students, who want to build a self-dependent sustainable life style for the new normal world.

Incubators play a key role in managing and providing a safe space for students to test their ideas and fail safely to try again. The iteration rate may be around 60-70% as of now, where these many students are not pursuing the startups post graduation. However this exposes them to the

possibilities and also gives them the taste of amount of possibility they can have, if this is done right. However, there are still 30% students, who stick to entrepreneurship and 1% of them lead a successful startup in coming times.

Engineering institutions provide various resources through incubators to their students to build a success startups which are not limited to access to labs, research set-ups, servers for IT based solutions, also a huge audience as students and staff to test and pilot any product or service you build. These institutions provide highly educated and trained faculty as mentors to these startups, working space, and sometime incalculable resources to them to build what

MIND IT

may change their lives. Due to the supply gap in job opportunities, entrepreneurship has now become need of hour. The knowledge of entrepreneurship has opened many new avenues for the graduate students, who probably have spent their family's fortune in earning this degree.

Engineering institutions are changing their rules to assist students in this effort. Colleges provide attendance relaxation if registered with incubator, deferred placement opportunity if you fail in start-up in one-two after graduation, access to

resources at free of cost which will cost huge outside institution. These resources are like mentors, labs, workspace and much more. A start-up in operation has to invest at least ₹30,000-₹40,000 per month in various costs, which as part of institutional incubator is taken care of. This revenue saving also motivate students to try their hands on entrepreneurship as early as possible.

Many of the successful startups from engineering institution also become a longterm recruiter for the institutions if they extend the best support and keep founder

motivated and engaged from institutions side.

This servers institution also many benefits, not just a new recruiter for years to come but also other benefits like IP benefits, royalty through incubator, benefit in institution ranking, attraction for new admission, and also more funds from Govt Bodies for promoting entrepreneurship further. Engineering institutions across the country doesn't have a choice any more but it is the necessity to promote entrepreneurship and startups to give students choice to decide what kind of life they want to lead. More successful startup from colleges will also mean students becoming employment generator at a very

young age, which is a benefit for economy of our country.

Currently we measure success of a startup based on the amount of investment they raise which is not the case in all the startups. Many startups don't raise huge amounts but can create huge impact in small time. These startups are majorly in the areas which are a challenge for larger population such as water, energy, access to education. As a next step many engineering institutions have to look beyond apps and tech based startups to invest more in real issues of society to create more impact than just looking for more investment.

The writer is Arianth Jain, CEO, AIC-JK Lakshmiptat University



Applications are invited for **MMMF grants for women to pursue their degree in the US and Canada.** The mission is to assist women from developing countries to improve the lives of women and children in their countries. Indians can apply.

Eligibility: Be at least 25 years old; Be a national of a country listed on the MMEG Country Eligibility List; Be enrolled (not just accepted) at an accredited academic institution when submitting the application; Not be related to a World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund or Inter-American Development Bank staff member or spouse.

Supporting documents: Brief paragraphs of your personal story, and a description of how your studies, experiences and future plans are linked to your commitment to women and children in developing countries.

An estimate of your financial situation for the coming academic year, and planned strategies to cover funding needs.

A summary of your thesis (if applicable), including its objective, methodology and findings, and relationship to career goals.

Two reference letters are required. Referee 1 must be a professor from your current university. Referee 2 may be from a person (non-family member) who can vouch for your character. At least one of the individuals must have known you for the equivalent of at least two semesters.

English language requirements: Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the university.

How to apply: The mode of applying is online. Please scan the following documents in digital form (pdf preferred, jpeg or png): Identification (ID) card with photo; National passport page with photo and date of birth, if studying outside your home country, or Government/university-issued identity card with photo and birth date; Most recent proof of official registration from university (not their acceptance letter).

Most recent official university transcripts and/or reports.

Visa page or study permit page within the current passport (if studying outside home country).

Second passport page with a clear photo (in case of dual citizenship). Application deadline: It is January 15, 2021.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AT ATHENASOWL TECHNOLOGIES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5641885
Deadline: October 28, 2020

ONLINE TEACHING (ART & CRAFT) AT TRANSCAMP
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5641888
Deadline: October 28, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT MEDMONX ENTERPRISES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5641889
Deadline: October 28, 2020

AI SOFTWARE TESTING ENGINEERING AT CELEB-AI TECHNOLOGIES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5641890
Deadline: October 28, 2020

ANIMATION AT VIKALP INDIA
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5641893
Application deadline: October 27, 2020

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR) AT STRUGGLING STUIDS
Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5641894
Application deadline: October 27, 2020

FULL STACK DEVELOPMENT AT ORETES CONSULTING
Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5641897
Application deadline: October 26, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

Virtual educational tourism for school goes

A learning tool developed at Peru helps school students gain a better understanding of different people and cultures

School students will get the chance to visit Peru and learn about its people and culture thanks to an experiential learning tool developed at Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington.

The tool was built using virtual reality gaming software but a new web-based version means schools can access it without specialised equipment.

Students will be able to take a virtual visit to Machu Picchu Pueblo in Peru where they will find out about the country and explore the costs and benefits of tourism from a sustainability point of view, says Dr Christian Schott of the University's School of Management.

He developed the tool with a multi-disciplinary team, including staff from the University's Faculty of Education who provided guidance for schools on using it for teaching and learning.

The purpose of the tool is to enable students to gain a better understanding and build connections with different people

and cultures, without the environmental cost.

"It allows students to experience many aspects of a distant place and world, without having to travel there and have the greenhouse gas impacts that go with that," says Dr Schott, adding that it is particularly relevant at a time when students cannot leave the country or in some cases attend school because of COVID-19 restrictions.

An earlier version of the tool developed by Dr Schott and members of his team focused on an island in the Yasawa group in Fiji and has been successfully used in his teaching for a number of years.

"We took the research findings from that to guide our development of the Machu Picchu Pueblo learning tool. Equipment constraints and other challenges for secondary schools have led us to develop a version of this virtual reality tool that is usable on computers without the need for virtual reality headsets. We want to enable all students to access this learning, not just those in high decile schools."



IN BRIEF

ACADEMIC FLEXIBILITY TO STUDENTS AT IIT MADRAS

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has one of the best academic curriculum in the world and offers an academic flexibility that is unrivalled, even among the IITs. IIT Madras has the extraordinary distinction of being the only Indian Institute to have been ranked as No1 Engineering Institution for five consecutive years in National Institutional Ranking Framework.

The students have the freedom to choose nearly 50 per cent of the courses that they will be studying, with only some restrictions. Out of the electives, students are free to choose about eight courses

(Free Electives) from any of the 16 departments. The students can get 72 credits from pursuing courses.'

If a student chooses four such courses in one contiguous area, they will be conferred a minor in that field. For example, if a student chooses four courses in Economics, IIT Madras will confer a Minor in Economics to that student. There are large number of minor courses being offered by IIT Madras.

The detailed curriculum and syllabi for each program can be found here: <https://www.iitm.ac.in/academics/academic-curricula>.

ISA MODEL FOR MAKER PROGRAMME

The BridgeLabz Solutions LLP, has come up with a unique and game-changing concept. The company has introduced an Income Sharing Agreement (ISA) model which provides an opportunity for the students to pursue training under the BridgeLabz CodinClub and

pay when they score a job. The revolutionary model prevents financial constraints from hampering the skill development of learners, structuring the fee payment after gaining employment.

The 30-day boot camp helps bring the learners to a basic coding proficiency level, of which

the initial five days are focused on what and how the students will learn. Depending on their consent, the students can pay for the boot camp and continue the remaining journey.

Best coding talent will be identified and mentoring will be offered to undergo further training under the ISA model.

SOF OLYMPIAD TO BE CONDUCTED ONLINE THIS YEAR

The Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) that organises of Olympiad exams for school students in the world, have announced that the exams will be conducted online during the current academic year.

Considering the safety and health concern of students as paramount, all students will be able to appear in exams from their homes. Every year around a million students appear in the SOF Olympiad exam.

Mahabir Singh, the founder director

of SOF said: " Extensive use of Artificial Intelligence, remote proctoring, video recording of exam and various other tools will be used to ensure integrity of exams. He also informed that during 2019-20, over 56000 schools from 32 countries registered for the 6 Olympiad exams and millions of students appeared in them. Awards, gifts, prizes and scholarships were awarded to the winning schools and students from each class, state and also at the International level.

