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AMERICAN HINDUS DEEPLY  
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LUCKNOW, THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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## Govt delivers on PRLs in J&K

Cabinet OK's J&amp;K Panchayati Raj Act for 3-tier grassroots democracy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAMMU

Paving the way for the "establishment of all the three tiers of grassroots-level democracy in Jammu & Kashmir like in other parts of the country for the first time since Independence", the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the adoption of the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.

"The three-tier system was not there in Kashmir before. They did not have the opportunity to elect their local representatives. This step redeems the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kashmir, and the Home Minister in Parliament. This will help the people of J&K to elect their representatives at the village, block and district levels," Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

"Now, there will be early elections, and the power to manage local bodies will go to the people," he said, adding that the J&K administration is working on the adaptation of other laws following the abrogation of Article 370 and division of the State into two Union Territories by giving Ladakh a separate UT status.

There is a lot of homework to be done, but the principle has been established, Javadekar asserted even as several Union Ministers took to Twitter to hail the Cabinet decision.



Terming the Union Cabinet's approval a watershed moment in the history of J&K, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the Government of India has fully applied the 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 to the UT of J&K which was pending for the last 28 years. With this, all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions shall be formed for the first time in the history of Jammu & Kashmir, he said.

The Jammu & Kashmir administration had on Saturday amended the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act to provide for setting up District Development Councils (DDCs). Under the new arrangement, the DDCs are set to become a new unit of governance in the UT, thereby completing the implementation of the three tier system.

The landmark decision is expected to ensure liberal fund-

ing of Central Government schemes aimed at improving the living conditions of the

masses and also strengthen the rural infrastructure in the remote and hilly areas.

Ahead of the abrogation of Article 370, the existing District Development Boards were abolished to pave way for the establishment of two tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The decision was necessitated because the existing guidelines of the DDBs had no provision for any transfer of funds or responsibility to Block Development Councils (BDC) or to the Halqa Panchayats as these tiers of local Government had not been in existence in the State earlier.

Continued on Page 11

## Govt extends MIS for J&K apples

**New Delhi:** Furthering its commitment to help and empower the people of J&K, PM Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet has approved the extension of Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of 12 lakh metric tonnes apples.

"This will enhance the income of apples growers by providing an effective marketing platform," tweeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

## ₹3,737 cr bonus for 30.7 L non-gazetted Govt staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With a view to encourage spending, generate demand in the economy and bring cheer to more than 30 lakh non-gazetted employees during the festival season, the Centre on Wednesday decided to give them ₹3,737 crore as bonus for 2020-21.

Following the Union Cabinet's nod to the proposal, Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said the bonus will be given in a single installment, through

Direct Benefit Transfer.

The bonus ahead of Vijayadashami and Diwali will encourage the middle-class to go out and spend and thus add to the demand in the economy, he said.

"Payment of bonus to non-gazetted employees for their performance in the preceding year is usually made before Durga Puja/Dussehra season. The Government is announcing the Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) and ad hoc bonus for its non-gazetted employees to be disbursed immediately," a

press release said.

The PLB for the year 2019-2020, having financial implications of ₹2,791 crore, will benefit 16.97 lakh non-gazetted employees of commercial establishments like Railways, Posts, Defence, EPFO, ESIC, among others.

Non-PLB or ad hoc bonus, which is given to non-gazetted Central Government employees, will benefit 13.70 lakh staff. It will cost the exchequer ₹946 crore. A total of 30.67 lakh employees would be benefited from the bonus.

## Rajnath to meet soldiers along LAC in Sikkim

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the situation remains tense at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to visit Sikkim on the occasion of Dussehra to show solidarity with the troops deployed on the border facing China there. He may also inaugurate a number of road projects and strategic bridges to add muscle to the logistical back-up to the frontline deployments throughout the year.

The proposed visit on October 23-24 comes days after Rajnath dedicated 44 permanent bridges, mostly in border areas, to improve supply lines to the forward deployments besides local population. Four of the strategically bridges are in Sikkim.

The Defence Minister is also likely to do 'shastra puja' at one of the units in Sikkim. The puja is a part of a ritual marking Dussehra celebrations. Rajnath had performed a similar ritual in France last year while receiving the first Rafale fighter aircraft, sources said here on Wednesday.

He may also review the current security situation in the eastern sector of the LAC following the ongoing five month long stand-off with China. Both the sides have ramped up their troop strength besides deploying heavy weapons all along the 4,000-km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the



west to Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in the east.

Inaugurating the strategically important bridges in seven States, including eight permanent bridges in Ladakh,

to the nation, Rajnath had, on October 12, said after Pakistan, China is also creating a dispute at the border with India as if it was part of a "mission".

India is not only facing the situations along the frontiers resolutely, but it is also bringing in major development, including in border areas. "You are well aware of the conditions created along our northern and eastern borders. First it was Pakistan, and now also by China, as if a border dispute is being created under a mission. We have a border of about 7,000 km with these countries where the tension continues," the Minister said.

Continued on Page 11

## PLA soldier released as goodwill before parleys

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Chinese soldier apprehended by the Indian Army in Eastern Ladakh was handed over to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) late on Tuesday. Identified as Corporal Wang Ya, the soldier was released following proper protocol after his thorough interrogation by the Indian agencies. The goodwill gesture comes ahead of the proposed eighth round of Corps Commander-level talks later this week.

The Chinese soldier, an armourer in the PLA, was caught by the Army in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh on Monday after he "strayed" across the LAC, where both the Armies are locked in a stand-off for the last five months.

Giving details of the Chinese soldier's release, sources said, Wang Ya was handed over to the Chinese military on Tuesday night at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point in eastern Ladakh.

Continued on Page 11

## Promises galore in Bihar manifestos



RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav during an election campaign rally ahead of Bihar Assembly polls at Masaurhi in Patna district on Wednesday

PTI

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

From a decision on enabling 10 lakh jobs in their first Cabinet meeting if elected to power to building a grand "Sita Maiya" (Goddess Sita) temple in Sitamarhi like Ayodhya's Ram Mandir, from promoting dairy on the pattern of Denmark to ₹1,500 monthly to unemployed youth, there are promises galore by the political parties in their manifestos or vision documents to lure the voters as the campaigning for the Bihar polls gain full momentum.

Bihar Assembly elections

will be held in three phases — on October 28, November 3 and November 7 — and counting of votes will be held on November 10.

Despite being a part of the grand alliance, led by the RJD, the Congress on Wednesday came out with its own manifesto and referred it as "badlav patr" (letter of change). And, having decided to go it alone, Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan unveiled the vision document of his party seeking to invoke the Bihar pride through his slogan, "Bihar first, Bihar first".

Continued on Page 11

## Yogi reiterates zero tolerance towards crime, criminals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reiterating his government's policy of zero tolerance towards crime, criminals and corruption, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said that 125 criminals had been killed and 2,607 injured in encounters from March 20, 2017 to October 5, 2020.

Addressing the Police Commemoration Day Parade at the Police Lines here on Wednesday, the chief minister said, "Our government has a policy of zero tolerance towards crime, criminals and also corruption. As a result, 125 criminals were killed and 2,607 injured in encounters from March 20, 2017 to October 5, 2020 in various districts."

He also paid tributes to the nine police personnel of UP Police, including the eight killed in Bikru village of Kanpur.

"I pay my homage to those nine police personnel of UP Police who lost their lives in the line of duty during 2019-20. Their sacrifice inspires every-

one," Yogi Adityanath said, adding that his government was always behind the families of the martyrs and had tried to help them to come out of the trauma.

The chief minister said that his government gave Rs 26 crore to the families of 122 martyrs this year. In this regard, he said that instead of Rs 50 lakh given to the families of martyred police personnel, his government gave Rs 1 crore to the families of those martyred in Kanpur.

Yogi Adityanath said that various medals had been released on January 26 and August 15 to boost the morale of the policemen.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath praised the work done by the police force, saying it played an important role in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

He said that besides 21 police stations and nine police outposts, his government had created 3,687 posts for Mahila Battalion.

Continued on Page 11

## CAPSULE

### MAHA GOVT WITHDRAWS CONSENT ON CBI PROBES

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra Government has decided to withdraw the general consent clause for Central Bureau of Investigation to probe any case in the State. Henceforth, the CBI has to take permission from State Government if they want to probe any case in the State.

### BJP'S KHADSE TO JOIN NCP: MAHA MINISTER

**Mumbai:** Disgruntled Maharashtra BJP leader Eknath Khadse will join the NCP on Friday, State Minister Jayant Patil said on Wednesday.

### PAK POLICE PROTEST ABDUCTION OF CHIEF

**Karachi:** A serious controversy has broken out in Pakistan after an IGP was allegedly forced into ordering the arrest of Captain (retd) Safdar Awan, the husband of Maryam Nawaz.

## Stop vermin listing, rope in local bodies for help, States told

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked State Governments to avoid declaring any wild animal as "vermin" (harmful to crops/farm animals), which leads to their subsequent culling. Instead, the Union Environment Ministry's wildlife panel National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) recently said that the States/UTs should involve Panchayati Raj Institutions and locals more actively in dealing with situations arising out of human-wildlife conflict.

Incidentally, NBWL's advisory comes after a petition filed in the Supreme Court by actor and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Lok Sabha MP Anubhav Mohanty in July this year, seeking its intervention against the

brutal killing of wild animals, declared as "vermin", in different States.

Some States were even using "bomb baits" and "poison baits" that invariably lead to indiscriminate hunting of non-target animals such as elephants, leopards, tigers and jackals, Mohanty alleged in his petition. In fact, in June itself, the Ministry had approved the Himachal Pradesh Government's proposal, fourth in a row since 2016, to declare rhesus macaque monkeys as "vermin", allowing them to be killed for preventing crop depredation, conflict with humans, and loss of property.

Rhesus macaques, classified as being of "least concern" in the IUCN Red List, were declared "vermin". Authorities are allowed to cull animals if

they are declared vermin.

In the past also, the Centre has been giving nod to such proposals moved by various State Governments which have been deploying inhuman methods like snares, wire traps, explosives, bomb baits and poison baits to kill the animals in conflict or destroying crops. Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala had even financially incentivised killing of Neelgai, Rhesus Macaque and Wild Boar, respectively, when they were declared "vermin".

However, to ensure that it is not caught on the wrong foot in the Supreme Court, the Chairman, Standing Committee of the NBWL, in a recent meeting stated that the States/UTs should avoid forwarding proposals for

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NOTICE

I, Soumya Nojo wife of Army No. 15421549-F, Rank-NK, Nojo C Chacko, Unit 1 TT, Wing AMC, Center & College, Lucknow have changed my name from Soumya Nojo to Soumya Sunny In my husband service record my name should be corrected.

NOTICE

My academic certificate name is Gujar Deepesh Kariya, where as my name in Adhar Card is Deepesh Gujar S/o Kariya. So you people identify me as Deepesh Gujar S/o Kariya. My original name is Deepesh Gujar S/o Kariya. Deepesh Gujar S/o Kariya, Vill. - Sohila, PO - Sohila, (Maskanwa), Gonda (U.P.), PIN-271305.

NOTICE

This is to inform that I have lost the allotment letter of Rajeev Srivastava, LDA Flat A-9/32, Sulabh Awas, Sector-1, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow which was purchased and registered by me on my name. Mutation, possession and use of this document by anyone would be illegal by law. Atfab Alam Warsi, Mob.: 9452474786.

NOTICE

I JUVERIA SIDDIQUI W/o of AZIMUDDIN.SALAHUDDIN SIDDIQUI resident of 485/ Jailors Compound Laker Mandi Daliganj, Nirala Nagar Lucknow UP was previously known as JUVERIA IZHAR is one and same person.

NOTICE

In my service records my daughter name is wrongly recorded as Arpana Yadav. Her correct name is Aparna Yadav. In future she would be known as Aparna Yadav Service No. 15138474M Rank BHM (RST) ANIL KUMAR 637 SATA BTY C/O 56 APO PIN CODE - 926637.

NOTICE

I Shama Shakeel W/O Zameer Ahmed, R/o. 631/015 Gayatri Nagar, Ismileganj, Lucknow. That my above noted House chain deed document has been lost somewhere which was registered in the Sub-registrar office 3rd, Lucknow in Bahi No.-1, Jiled 10071, pages 223-236 in Serial No. 6811 Dated 06/09/2013. If anyone find the same pls inform to you.

NOTICE

I Devendra Kumar Agarwal S/O Late Triloki Nath Agarwal, R/O 26 Cattle Colony, Takrohi, Indira Nagar, Lucknow. That my purchased Plot No. 19 situated at Cattle Colony, Takrohi, Indira Nagar, Lucknow Which Original Possession Letter date 22/05/2000 and Allotment Letter No. 5802 has been lost somewhere while going from home to Takrohi Market on Dated 13/08/2020. If anyone find out pls inform to me.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my High School Mark Sheet and Certificate, Index Number (Unique ID No.) 5683110, passing year-2014 of ICSE Board and Intermediate Mark Sheet and Certificate, Index No. (Unique ID No.) 5683110 passing year-2016 of ISC Board, Migration Certificate and Transfer Certificate have actually been lost. Anupriya Singh Adaval, St. Mary's Convent Inter College, D/o Shri Rajesh Abay Singh, R/o 40-E, Motilal Nehru Road Prayagraj.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the sale deed dated 26-05-1992 executed by Ravi Shankar Yadav s/o Late Ramdhari Yadav R/o Madhya-meshwar, Varanasi in favour of Smt. Bhana Devi alias Rajkumari w/o Mewa Lal Vishwakarma R/o H.No. SA 20/16A, Ruppampur alias Paiganjpur, Ward-Sarnath, Tehsil & Distt.-Varanasi regarding the sale of S.M. Plot No. 379/3 area 3 ¼ dismil i.e. 1 biswa situated at Mauza-Ashapur, Pargana-Shivpur, Teh.-Sadar, Distt.-Varanasi duly registered with Sub Registrar Office, Varanasi in book No. 1, Vol. No. 352 on pages 219/230 as D. No. 8943 dated 26-05-1992 has been lost away. If any person/institution have any objection or information regarding this sale deed please inform within 15 days on 9451525826, Harishchandra Rai, Advocate, Chamber No. 110, Banaras Bar, New Building, 11nd Floor, Civil Court, Varanasi.

New assistant teachers to get posting by October-end

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The newly-appointed 31,277 assistant teachers of government primary schools will be given their first postings by October-end to maintain the prescribed teacher-student ratio.

This will be in conformity with the provisions of the Free and Compulsory Child Education Rights Rules, 2011.

A circular to this effect was issued to all the district magistrates and director of basic education by the additional chief secretary (basic education) on Wednesday, asking them to maintain transparency and adhere to the rules.

The new assistant teachers will not be posted in schools where the teacher-student ratio is saturated. Counselling of these teachers at district level will be conducted from October 26 to 28, allotment of schools will be done on October 29 and 30 while the teachers will have to join at their allotted schools from October 31 to November 3.

It may be mentioned here that against the total vacancies of 69,000 teachers, the state government recently appointed 31,277 teachers while appointments for the remaining posts are in the process.

BJP, VHP workers gherao police stn in Bareilly over inaction in love jihad case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hundreds of Bharatiya Janata Party and Vishwa Hindu Parishad workers created a ruckus at a police station in Bareilly on Tuesday over alleged police inaction in solving a love jihad case.

The protesters charged that a Hindu girl was forced to marry a non-Hindu boy.

As per reports, a belligerent mob of BJP and VHP workers on Tuesday collected outside the Kila police station of Bareilly and ransacked its office and damaged furniture, demanding immediate action against the kidnappers of the girl.

Hours later, a video surfaced on social media in which the abducted girl could be heard saying that she was an adult and had left home with her boyfriend Bilal on her own.

To counter the content of the video clip, the protesters claimed that the girl gave the statement under pressure and demanded the arrest of Bilal and recovery of the girl.

The protesters laid siege to the police station for over an hour before the police resorted to cane-charge to disperse them.

Local BJP MLA Arun Kumar and Bitrhi MLA Pappu Bhartaul too reached

the police station. Senior Superintendent of Police of Bareilly, Rohit Singh Sajwan, later said that the inspector of Kila police station was sent to the lines and in-charge of Maulipur police outpost and two constables were suspended.

Sajwan said that an FIR was registered against five persons for ransacking the police station and damaging its property.

The district police chief added that an FIR was also registered in connection with the abduction of the girl and a search was underway to recover her.

Meanwhile in Shamli, a 16-year-old girl was abducted and raped by her neighbour in a village in Kairana police station area on Tuesday.

The girl was alone at her house on Tuesday when the neighbour took her to an isolated place and raped her. She narrated her ordeal to her family.

Later a case was registered against the neighbour under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at Kairana police station.

While the victim was sent for medical examination, the police are searching for the absconding accused.

Low revenue recovery hits power discoms

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the electricity consumption has reached the pre-Covid level, the power distribution companies (discoms) continue to be battered by low revenue recovery, leading to mounting dues of the power generation companies.

The fall in revenue realisation is posing a renewed threat to the financial stability of the discoms. The UP Power Corporation Limited, along with its five wholly owned subsidiaries, have piled up an additional Rs 14,000 crore as overdue to generation companies during the first half of the current fiscal 2020-21.

As a result, their overdue to genscos rose from Rs 34,000 crore at end of 2019-20 to over Rs 37,000 crore by September end, despite these entities having paid Rs 10,500 crore received as soft loan from PFC-REC under a special liquidity facility under Atmanirbhar package announced by the Centre in May this year.

The Union Power Ministry has recently increased the size of the liquidity package to Rs 1.2 lakh crore from Rs 90,000 crore planned initially. The government and PFC-REC have also been rather quick in sanctioning funds under the scheme (Rs 1.1 lakh crore so far). Also, in order to help the cash-strapped discoms, the Power Ministry has reduced late payment surcharges, a move that could potentially provide a relief of about Rs 6,000 crore annually to them. However, even these steps appear to be inadequate in reducing the mounting dues of discoms to power producers.

A letter of credit (LC) mechanism has been in force since August 2019 to compel discoms to become more disciplined in meeting their payment obligations. The overdue — payment default of 45-60 days or more — of all state-run discoms in the country to power plants increased to 52 percent annually to Rs 1.2 lakh crore at August end.



**As a result, their overdue to genscos rose from Rs 34,000 crore at end of 2019-20 to over Rs 37,000 crore by September end, despite these entities having paid Rs 10,500 crore received as soft loan from PFC-REC under a special liquidity facility under Atmanirbhar package announced by the Centre in May this year**

According to UPPCL sources, the total dues to genscos of central sector power producers are Rs 21,000 crore and the rest Rs 13,000 crore are of the private sector. Against a loan of Rs 21,000 crore sought from PFC-REC under the Atmanirbhar scheme to clear the dues to these two categories of suppliers, half the amount (Rs

10,500 crore) has been received and paid to these entities.

In addition to the pending legacy dues of Rs 13,000 crore to state government-run power PSUs, UPPCL has piled up another Rs 15,000 crore of power purchase liabilities in the first half of this year.

The UP discoms' overdue to genscos have been rising steadily, chiefly because of operational inefficiencies, including the discoms' inability to reduce AT&C losses and the gap between the average cost of supply (ACS) and the average revenue realisation (ARR).

While the AT&C losses stood at a whopping 30.30 percent in 2019-20 against the UDAY target of 14.86 percent, the ACS-ARR gap stood at 70 paise per unit sold by the UPPCL.

Another major reason for the high losses is the fact that while the state government has increased the supply hours, it has been unable to collect the revenues efficiently. In 2019-20, only 38.5 percent of 2.09 crore rural consumers paid their electricity bills, and since April this year, only 17.73 percent of such consumers have paid at least once. In urban areas, only 72.5 percent of the 72 lakh consumers have paid electricity bills at least once since April.

Moreover, the UPPCL also faces the problem of having a large number of unmetered connections. Of the total consumer base of 2.81 crore, about 26 lakh connections are unmetered. And out of these unmetered connections, private tube wells consumers account for 46 percent (11.95 lakh).

"Increase in supply hours for agricultural consumers clubbed with low tariffs and poor collection efficiency have resulted in further widening of the cash gap," an official said, adding that increasing revenue collection from rural consumers was a monumental challenge and that all efforts at disconnection drives had been rendered ineffective due to the illegal restoration by many consumers.

CITYBRIEFS

MOU SIGNED

Smart City Limited and National Payment Corporation of India signed an MoU for 'One City One Card' on Wednesday. Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar said Lucknow Smart City would launch a unified card through which all payment systems can be used. He said this card can be used not only in Lucknow but in the entire country in the form of 'One Nation One Card'. This card can be used through mobiles and e-wallet and for various public services such as parking, electricity bill, house tax, water tax, retail, metro, city bus, e-challan etc.

SELECTED FOR ADMISSION

Sameer Rehman, a student of City Montessori School, Mahanagar Campus, has been selected for admission by the University



of Melbourne, Australia, for pursuing higher studies there. Sameer has got this opportunity for higher education due to academic excellence and diligence.

10 MBBS examinees caught copying a la Munna Bhai

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Obviously taking a cue from Munna Bhai, 10 MBBS students used micro-sized Bluetooth earphones for cheating but ran out luck during their final year examination in Agra and were caught on Tuesday.

A total of 90 students were writing the paper of ophthalmology in the 8-11 am shift at Khandari Campus of Dr BR Ambedkar University, Agra on Tuesday and during a sudden inspection by a flying squad, 10 students of FH Medical College were caught using Bluetooth communicators around necks as 'tabeez' (talisman) and cheating. These devices

had a SIM card installed in them and were working as two-way communication devices.

The examinees were being provided answers by their friends from outside the hall.

One of the flying squad members became suspicious upon noticing one of the examinees mumbling softly. He later carried out a body search and found the device on the student. Similar devices were found on nine others.

Later, the examination centre chief filed a complaint against these students in New Agra police station.

The MBBS examinees caught cheating were identified as Rahul Yadav,

Nadeem Ali, Mohit Saini, Naved Hasan, Deepak Singh, Kunal Sharma, Rahul Babu, Amit Yadav, Mohit Yadav, and Honey Jaswani.

Chief proctor of the university, Dr Manoj Srivastava, said that an FIR was filed against the erring students and Senior Superintendent of Police Babloo Kumar was requested to not only take action but also bust the racket.

He said that the university would be taking action against the students.

Condemning the act of cheating by would-be doctors, social activist Deep Sharma said that if they had not been caught, they would have passed even though they did not deserve it.

Ram Gopal files papers for RS biennial poll

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav filed his nomination papers for Rajya Sabha poll accompanied by party chief and nephew Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday.

UP SP chief Naresh Uttam Patel, leader of opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary and other party legislators were also present during the process at Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon Hall of UP Legislative Assembly. The SP candidate filed two sets of nominations before the returning officer.

Notification for the biennial polls was issued on Tuesday and October 27 is the last date for filing nominations.

Scrutiny of papers will be done on October 28 while November 2 is the last date of withdrawal of nomination. If required, polling will be held on November 9 and the results will be declared the same day.

After filing papers, Yadav said, "The people of the country and state are unhappy. I do not want to say anything that rattles the ruling party. I thank the party brass for choosing me as the candidate for Rajya Sabha for a fifth consecutive time."



With 310 seats in the 403-member Assembly, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is likely to win eight of the 10 seats comfortably, while the SP with 46 MLAs can win one and the opposition parties can win another seat if they field a joint candidate. The BJP can win the 9th seat if it poaches on the 19 votes of the Bahujan Samaj Party and seven of the Congress and the surplus votes of Samajwadi Party.

There are eight vacancies in the Assembly and hence its actual strength is 395.

The winning candidates will need 34 first preference votes.

Except for the SP, no other party, including the BJP, has announced its candidates so

far.

According to the affidavit on assets filed by Ram Gopal Yadav along with the nomination paper, the gross total values of his assets are over Rs 2.09 crore which includes Rs 66 lakh in several accounts in various banks. He has invested Rs 35 lakh in mutual funds and has given a loan of over Rs 12 lakh to a rice mill and of Rs 26.50 lakh to his son Akshay Yadav, the former MP from Firozabad. He has two vehicles registered in his name and their worth is over Rs 17 lakh.

Ram Gopal Yadav has 610 gram gold and jewellery worth Rs 30.70 lakh. He also owns agricultural land and commercial and residential buildings. The present market value

of his immovable assets is over Rs 12.10 crore.

Yadav also owns weapons worth Rs 1.30 lakh that include an American carbine, a Czechoslovakian-made rifle and a German revolver.

The Rajya Sabha members from UP whose terms end on November 25, are Union minister and BJP member Hardeep Singh Puri, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh and Neeraj Shekhar. The SP retiring members include Ram Gopal Yadav, Ravi Prakash Verma, Dr Chandrapal Singh Yadav and Javed Ali Khan. The BSP's members to retire on November 25 are Veer Singh and Rajaram while the term of Congress member PL Punia also ends on the same date.

Priyanka hits out at farm laws, Centre

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In her latest swipe at the Union government over the recently-enacted Farm laws, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that farmers across UP were forced to sell paddy crops at prices less than the minimum support price (MSP).

Earlier, the UP Congress announced to stage demonstrations at district headquarters on Thursday to protest the Yogi Adityanath government's "apathy" towards buying paddy through purchase centres.

On Wednesday, Priyanka took to Twitter and accused the Bharatiya Janata

Party government at the Centre of not listening to the farmers and posted a video of a farmer alleging corruption in crop procurement at Mohammadi mandi of Lakhimpur Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh.

"The BJP government is holding a 'Khat Sammelan' to garner farmers' support on the Farm Bills, but is not interested in listening to their woes. In almost all places in UP, farmers are forced to sell paddy at Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,100 per quintal, Rs 800 less than the MSP of Rs 1,868 per quintal," she tweeted in Hindi.

In another tweet, the Congress leader posted, "This is when MSP is guaranteed. Imagine what will happen when MSP

guarantee is done away with."

Priyanka's reaction comes amid recent nation-wide protests by opposition parties and farmers' outfits in protest against the recently enacted farm laws. The contention of the opposition is that the new farm laws do not guarantee MSP for farmers.

On its part, the BJP said that it was committed to continuing with the MSP. Last week, even Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the recent farm laws "a very important step in improving the agriculture sector of the country and increasing farmers' income" and assured that MSP and government procurement would continue.

Chased by simians, girl falls from roof, dies

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chased by simians, a 13-year-old girl fatally fell from the roof of her house in Muzaffarnagar on Tuesday.

As per reports, the class VIII student had gone to her roof to get dried clothes when she was chased by a group of monkeys at Nolly village in Bhopa police station area on Tuesday.

The shocked girl ran to save herself from the simians and ended up going over the roof. She was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was pronounced dead.

This is not a one off incident in which monkeys have posed threat to the locals in Muzaffarnagar.

In November last year, a four-month-old baby was killed after a monkey dropped a stone from a building and it hit the head of the child sitting on the ground floor in Muzaffarnagar.

Not only Muzaffarnagar,

due to loss of natural habitat, monkey menace has become routine in cities like Agra where casualties have been reported every year.

In November 2018, a 12-day-old boy in Agra was killed after being snatched from his mother by a monkey and bitten. The simian later dropped the baby on the roof of a nearby house after the locals chased it.

Recently two persons were buried alive in Agra after a monkey fight led to the collapse of an old wall.

Dated : 19.10.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be inform that my client Bandhan Bank intends to provide finance to one of its client Sri Chandra Sheikhar Mishra S/o Shivshankar Mishra against his property being Shop No. U.G. 36, area 106.25 sq.ft. & U.G.-37, area 106.25 sq.ft. situated at Sheikhpur Kasalia, Ward-Gomti Nagar, Lucknow. The co-owner of Shop no. U.G.-36, Sri Nand Kumar Tiwari expired intestate and his said property is inherited by Smt. Kalpana Tiwari (wife), Rahul Tiwari (Son) & Km. Sonal Tiwari (daughter) as his legal heirs. If any person has any right, title or interest over the said property, he may approach to the undersigned within Seven days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest and if no such objection will be received within the said period it will be presumed that the property in question is free from all encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against purchaser shall be void and ineffective.

(Tarun Prakash Srivastava) Advocate Mob. 9335914262, Office : Room no. 111, CITI Hotel, 24, B.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow

**Mohan Meakin Limited**  
Regd. Office : SOLAN BREWERY (H.P.)

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that all private Roads and Paths passing through the under-noted properties belonging to Mohan Meakin Limited will be closed to the public from 30th October, 2020 to 31st October, 2020 (both days inclusive).

Application for passes be made to the Manager of the Company at Lucknow Distillery.

**Mohan Meakin Limited**  
Daliganj, Lucknow (U.P.) - 226001  
SOLAN BREWERY (H.P.)  
Dated : 19.10.2020

Sd/-  
(H.N. Handa)  
SECRETARY

# NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

**Tender Notice No: 3620202021**

**E-Tender Notice**

**Dated: 16.10.2020**

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) / North Central Railway / Prayagraj Division, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work up to 13:30 hrs. on 11.11.2020. The details of the tender are as under:

Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of Work (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion Period	Date of Opening of tender	Similar work for Eligibility Criteria
115	Complete Track Renewal (Primary) in GOY-BZM Section under ADEN / Line / CNB.	Rs. 1,13,89,702.37	2,07,000	04 Months	11.11.2020	Pway work

Note: - 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 11.11.2020. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightforwardly ignored and shall not be considered. 4. The tenderer shall submit a copy of certificate as given in tender document in standard format for Tender No. 115 having advertised value more than 50 Lakh, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 5. The supplier / contractor of goods and / or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. 6. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. This tender notice has also been uploaded on [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) 8. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 9. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 10. Tender on line can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs. on 11.11.2020. 11. Along with other instructions given to Tenderers, Tenderers are required to pay special attention on Para 10.0 of Tender document for document submission alongwith tender. Para 12.1 (a) Note - (i) (iii) & (iv) of Tender Document for EM Deposit and Para 13.0 (h) of Tender Document for Rate quoting and Performance Guarantee submission.

**North central railways**

[www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**@ CPNORCL**

**110520 (AN)**

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# Covid recovery rate improving

369 more test +ve in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A total of 2,464 fresh coronavirus positive cases were reported across Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday while 3,332 COVID-19 patients recovered. With this, the recovery rate in UP also peaked to 92.17 per cent. With the fresh cases, the confirmed positive cases in UP touched the 4.61 lakh mark. However, 4.25 lakh of these COVID-19 patients have recovered and at present 29,364 are undergoing treatment in hospitals or in home isolation.

A total of 6,755 people have died in the state due to the coronavirus with 41 fresh deaths in the last 24 hours.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said on Wednesday that the number of active patients was coming down and a slump of 57 per cent was witnessed since active cases peaked on September 17.

Prasad said that age-wise, the positivity rate was 13.78 per

## Surveillance data on digital platform for better monitoring

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Surveillance teams involved in the containment activities in Lucknow will be putting the data on digital platform for effective monitoring, as directed by senior administration officials.

An online meeting was held with all the block incharges in this regard on October 20. The data will be generated on Google Sheets by the surveillance teams that are checking on patients having ILI, SARI and comorbidities, apart from senior citizens and pregnant women for COVID-19 symptoms.

A senior official at the

CMO office said it was a good data generating process and all the ANMs had tablets and internet at their disposal. "They can easily upload the data which we can see at the headquarters and even at state level what activities are being done at ground level," he said.

Meantime, in the non-Covid hospitals where the OPDs have started, Covid help desks have been set up so that patients can be screened for fever and coronavirus infection. All government institutions and offices have Covid help desks for the last two months.

Coronavirus cases from

areas like Gomtinagar, Indiranagar and Alambagh are declining on Wednesday, there was a slight increase in the number of cases, but it was bound to happen, the senior official said. However, the containment activities are on and the results are showing," he said.

A doctor from SGPGI said although the number of coronavirus cases in the district had decreased, the number of serious patients had increased. "The death rate in the ICUs has increased due to the same reason. Most of the serious patients are those referred from other hospitals," he pointed out.

1.47 lakh samples were tested taking the tally of Covid tests in the state to a record 1.34 crore. Prasad said that there were 13,499 asymptomatic COVID-19 patients in home isolation while 2,514 patients

were admitted in private hospitals and the rest of the patients were recovering in government-run Covid hospitals.

Till date, 2.58 lakh COVID-19 patients have preferred treatment in home isolation and 2.44 lakh have recovered. Over 4.28 lakh surveillance teams have covered 1.44 lakh areas of the state and visited 2.75 crore houses to check the health of over 13.55 crore residents.

Meanwhile, 369 persons tested positive in the city while 281 patients recovered, taking the recovery figures to 56,313. The death toll in the city has reached 833. The new patients included 29 from Gomtinagar, 28 from Rae Bareilly road, 25 from Aliganj, 20 from Indiranagar, 19 each from Talkatora & Alambagh, 18 each from Ashiyana & Chinhat, 17 from Madaion, 14 each from Hazratganj & Chowk, 13 from Vikasnagar, 12 each from Jankipuram & Sarojininaragar, and 10 from Gudamba. There were 10 deaths in the city and the deceased included two from Lucknow while remaining from other districts.

# Durga Puja begins today with 'Pran Pratishthan'



Finishing touches being given to a Goddess Durga idol

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Durga Puja celebrations will begin on Thursday with 'Pran Pratishthan' without *prasad*, *dhaki* players, ostentatious pandals and late night melas, much in contrast to the previous years when the city thrived with festivity.

While some Durga Puja committees will be setting up pandals and allowing general public *darshan*, others have decided to hold it in halls.

According to Bengali Club Durga Puja secretary Arun Banerjee, they will be holding celebrations within their premises, which is entirely covered. "We will be following government's guidelines and there will be no *bhog*. All restrictions will be followed, including sanitisation and distribution of masks while not more than five persons will be allowed in the *mandap* area. Ironically, *pushpanjali* will be without flowers and the puja will be telecast online," he said.

He said they were not expecting people to come for *darshan* and if the numbers increased, they would manage accordingly. "We will close the

main gate on the road if required, but I think people won't throng the venue. We have put up posters of Covid-19 guidelines. Only members of our committee, mainly women, will come for *puja* and no senior citizens will be allowed," he added. The Durga idol is six-feet tall and a pond has been made within the premises for *visarjan*.

Saurav Bandopadhyay, who always sets up grand pandals at Sahara State, said he was organising Durga Puja in his own house. "I am not putting up a pandal this time because it will be very difficult to manage the crowd. Also, even if one person tests positive, the entire pandal will be shut down and puja will be disrupted. At my house, only a limited number of people will be allowed," he said.

Gautam Mitra from Gomtinagar Durga Puja Samiti said they were holding the celebrations in the park and put up a pandal for the purpose. "Barricades have been put up for restricted entry. There are no *mela* arrangements and there are no seating arrangements except for the members

who will be performing puja," he said, adding that there would be no *bhog* or *prasad* distribution. Nihar De from Cantonment Puja Samiti said they were setting up a pink pandal, symbolic of women empowerment, in a temple premises.

"People coming for *darshan* will be allowed to enter with a token for darshan and leave dropping it back. We have also placed cut-outs of the goddess killing the coronavirus," he added.

Besides, Durga Puja will also be celebrated by Ramakrishna Math with social distancing and other protocols. Swami Mukhtinathananda said all the programmes would be live-streamed on their YouTube channel.

"Elaborate arrangements have been made in accordance with the holy traditions of Ramakrishna order, as per the scriptures. In order to avoid crowding, arrangements have been made to broadcast all the programmes, including *pushpanjali*," he said.

Prasad will also be distributed in a restricted manner on October 23, 24 and 25.



Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari presiding over a Covid-19 review meeting in Lucknow on Wednesday

Pioneer

## Routine surgeries increase at Balrampur hospital

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Director of Balrampur Hospital Dr Rajeev Lochan said routine surgeries have increased at the hospital with almost 25-30 total operations being performed every day. "The number of patients coming to the hospital has increased and routine surgeries have also increased. The patients are no longer afraid of coming to the hospital. Four-five orthopaedic surgeries and 40 dialyses are being done everyday. We have opened the dermatology and psychiatry OPDs for a limited number of patients," he said.

The number of patients testing positive before being admitted to the hospital has

**'The number of patients coming to the hospital has increased and routine surgeries have also increased. The patients are no longer afraid of coming to the hospital'**

also decreased. "Earlier, we used to have 3-4 patients testing positive in a day, but now one patient is detected in 2-3 days," the director said.

All the staff members are being tested every two weeks and every staffer has to mandatorily wear masks. "We tested

all the nurses on one day and then other staffers, followed by security guards. We have no health worker infected at the moment. A junior resident who had some problem in chest but he tested negative. We kept him at the hospital and gave him anti-viral treatment. Now he is perfectly fine," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, spokesperson of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences Dr Shrikesh Singh said they have started the services for online registration of patients. "They can visit the hospital website to register for the consultation. It will not only help them in avoiding queues but also in redressal of complaints," he said.

## Woman alleges daughter sold in name of job

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman accused her relative of selling her daughter to someone in the name of facilitating her a job in Maal on Wednesday. In her complaint, the woman said a relative from Unnao had promised her a job for her daughter in Chandigarh some time back. She said she sent her daughter to the house of her relative four months back.

"We were promised that the salary of my daughter will be credited in my bank's account every month, but we did not get even a single penny. I have been unable to talk to my daughter for quite some time," she alleged. She said she inquired the same from her relative but the latter did not give any satisfactory reply. "On October 7, I got a call from my daughter who was nervous and frightened and the call was disconnected in a few seconds," she claimed.

Meanwhile, a former employee of the accounts sec-

tion of Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation, Gurmit Singh accused a BSP leader of duping him of Rs 5 lakh in the name of facilitating his son a job. He lodged a case at Chinhat police station. In his complaint, Singh said he was presently working with Uttarakhand Bahuuddeshiya Vitta Evam Vikas Nigam in Dehradun. He said he was acquainted with Chandradev Gautam who had contested from Ramkola constituency in Kushinagar on a BSP ticket. Singh said during his service period in UP, Gautam was the general manager of Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation and thus knew Gautam.

"Gautam told me that the former CM Mayawati was to directly appoint some job-seekers in BHEL in Jagdishpur and took the money from him for the facilitating the job. Later, Gautam reneged from his promise," he alleged.

## 'New normal in global sugar scenario'

**Lucknow (PNS):** In the fast-changing global sugar scenario amidst Covid-19 pandemic, a new normal has emerged now. This requires immediate attention of research and development agencies. The whole gamut of practicing cane farming and processing requires to be revisited and reoriented to make the entire cycle of value chain environment-friendly and safe for humans.

These issues were deliberated in detail in the recently-concluded 2-day 33rd biennial virtual workshop of All-India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research. Secretary, DARE, Trilochan Mohapatra, who is also director-general of ICAR, appealed to the sugarcane scientists for revamping research plan to address the emergent issues like use of heavy dose of chemical fertilisers, high water requirement of cane crop, decline of popular cane variety due to outbreak of pests and diseases, increasing cost of cane cultivation etc.

## NBRI scientist selected for INSA Fellowship

**Lucknow (PNS):** PK Singh, who is senior principal scientist at National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) has been selected for the prestigious Indian National Science Academy Fellowship.

Born in Jaunpur, Singh did MSc from Guru Nanak Dev University (Amritsar) and PhD from NBRI. He joined the institute as a faculty member in 2006. He has made outstanding contributions towards identification of novel molecules and approaches to control insect pests in field crops. His work provides a complete model, from discovering new proteins to genes, making synthetic genes to develop transgenic crop lines and their performance evaluation. Transgenic cotton lines expressing three different novel genes developed by his group provide next-gen insecticidal approaches for control of insect pests. He has given Tma12 GM cotton to Punjab Agricultural University (Ludhiana) for the development of whitefly-tolerant cotton varieties.

## 'Global warming not the only reason for retreat of glaciers'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has started a lecture series in Hindi for awareness in the society and development of science and society. The first lecture in the series was delivered by Dhruv Sen Singh of Lucknow University. He said there are other reasons than global warming for the retreat of glaciers.

Singh said environmental analysis in terms of climate change is important and prerequisite for sustainable development of the society.

"Climate change and global warming is one of the great-

est environmental, social, and economical threats to the planet, which is evident from widespread melting of glaciers and rising sea level. The extreme events of climate change due to global warming have created a panic within the society. Therefore, it is important to evaluate the anthropogenic, natural impact as a causative factor of climate change," he said. Singh said the pattern of retreat of the Gangotri Glacier since 1935 indicates that it may be decreasing, but the rate of retreat is continuously decreasing. "While working on the Gangotri Glacier for the last two decades, we have

recorded and published that the rate of retreat is decreasing. But, the decreasing rate of retreat is contrary to the panic created by many organisations. Further, if global warming is the only reason for the rapid rate of retreat, all the glaciers should retreat at the same rate. However, all the glaciers of the Himalaya are retreating at different rates and some are advancing too. It means there are other reasons than global warming for the rapid rate of the retreat. Even if the present rate of retreat continues, it will take 2500 years for the Gangotri glacier to disappear," he said.

## CPI(ML) flays govt, calls it revengeful

**Lucknow (PNS):** The state unit of Communist Party of India (ML) on Wednesday termed the termination of two doctors of Jawahar Lal Nehru Hospital at Aligarh Muslim University a revengeful act of the Yogi Adityanath government. He demanded that the

order be revoked. State secretary Sudhakar Yadav said the BJP government wanted to hide the truth of Hathras incident and influence the probe. He was reacting to the media queries while leaving for Bihar for the election campaign. Yadav said the government

was punishing those who were not supporting its ideas and views. He said Dr Malik and Dr Obaid had confirmed rape in their medico-legal opinion initially and later contested the UP government officials' claim in view of FSL report that the girl was not raped.

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
Regional Business Office- Raebareilly FIMM, Sultanpur Road, Raebareilly- 229010,  
Phone- 0535- 2702503-04, Fax- 0535- 2702502

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Properties)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the **State Bank of India, Regional Business Office, FIMM Raebareilly** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002, issued Demand Notice calling upon the following borrowers/Guarantors(s) to repay the amount as mentioned in the notices, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property, described here in below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under **section 13(4)** of the said Act. read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower/Guarantors(s) in particulars and public in general hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **State Bank of India, Regional Business Office, FIMM Raebareilly** for an amount and Interest & other charges thereon mentioned against each Account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

S. N.	Name of Borrowers/ Guarantors	Details	Description of the Immovable property
1.	<b>Borrower(s):- Mr. Dilip Kumar Agrahari S/o Shri Meva Lal, R/o Vill- Poorabgaon, Post- Jagatpur, Distt- Raebareilly (UP) Pin- 229401.</b>	<b>Branch:</b> Jagatpur, Raebareilly <b>Notice 13(2) Date:-</b> 14.08.2020 <b>Notice 13(4) Date:-</b> 19.10.2020 <b>A/c No-</b> 34321269320 <b>Dues Rs.4,17,396/- (+ Interest &amp; Others) and Interest Thereon.</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of situated at part of Plot No- 223, of Vill- Poorabgaon, Post- Jagatpur, Pargana- Dalmau, Tehsil- Unchahar, Distt- Raebareilly (U.P.) in favour of Shri Mevalal S/o Gayadeen, R/o- Vill- Poorabgaon, Post-jagatpur, Pargana-Dalmau, Distt- Raebareilly- (U.P.), Land & Building Thereupon Measuring Area- 0.040 Hectare. Registered Sale Deed No- 1749, Dated- 23.10.1989, Zild No- 01, Volume No- 752, on Page no- 66, To 67. <b>Butted and bounded as follows- East- Road to Nahar, West- Land of Badri, North- Land of Mevalal, South- Land of Mevalal Used as Approach Road.</b>
2.	<b>Borrower(s):- M/s Ashish Electronics Word, Prop- Shri Ashish Kumar Pandey, S/o Ganga Prasad, R/o- Near Kotwali Katra Lalganj, Gauriganj, Distt- Amethi (U.P.).</b>	<b>Branch:</b> Gandhi Nagar, Amethi <b>Notice 13(2) Date:-</b> 04.07.2019 <b>Notice 13(4) Date:-</b> 19.10.2020 <b>A/c No-</b> 35289144035 <b>Dues Rs.6,42,352/- (+ Interest &amp; Others) and Interest Thereon.</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of situated at Plot No- 1280, of Vill- Tulsipur, Pargana- Amethi, Tehsil- Gauriganj, Distt- Amethi (U.P.) in the name of Mr. Ganga Prasad S/o Shri Gomti Prasad Pandey Land & Building thereupon Measuring Area- 461 Sqmt. Registered Sale Deed No- 555, Dated- 11.02.2014, Zild No- 1363, Volume No- 1, On Page No- 81 to 104. <b>Butted and Bounded as Follows- East- Land of Mr. Suresh Narayan, West- Land of Mr. Madan Gopal, North- Road, South- Land of Mr. Suresh Narayan Pandey.</b>

**Place :** Raebareilly **Date :** 22.10.2020 **Authorized Officer**  
**State Bank of India, Regional Business Office, FIMM Raebareilly**



# 92 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has crossed the 16K-mark as 92 new COVID-19 patients have been detected on Wednesday, increasing the total number of cases to 16,050. The day also saw three more deaths, increasing the toll to 258. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 116 patients and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 12,145 as none of the patients discharged from the hospitals and the number remained at 2,790. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 14,935, leaving 857 active cases. The recovery rate has improved to 93.05 per cent but the mortality rate has increased to 1.60 per cent.

Meanwhile, World Iodine

Deficiency Day was observed during the day to create awareness among the people towards iodine deficiency disorder (IDD) which is considered as one of the major nutritional disorders worldwide. India is the first country in the world to launch a public health programme 'National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme' to prevent iodine deficiency disorders. District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma directed that through the ASHA workers and ANMs, IDD related publicity should be done at PHCs and CHCs and asked them to check the amount of iodine in salt through salt testing kits apart from mobilising the people to use iodised salt.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. VB Singh said that during the day, people

were made aware by ASHA, Anganwadi workers and ANMs. They also checked salt used in various houses through testing kits and mobilised the people to use only iodised salt in view to avoid IDD. He has also informed that in the first report of the day, 54 positive patients were found out of 2,941 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,91,156 and the results of 2,269 are awaited. Out of them, 2,75,144 were negative while 16,012 were positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,07,826. Earlier, a male aged 71 from Chittipur (Lanka) succumbed to COVID-19 at Apex Hospital. With the addition of eight new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,254 includ-

ing 252 red zones. One green zone has been converted into red zone again. There are 2,002 green zones with 16 new ones. Besides, under the 'Mission Shakti' campaign, the oath-taking programme was organised on Tuesday at all primary and community health centres (PHCs/CHCs) in rural areas of the district. All the health workers pledged for safeguarding women and children, respecting their dignity, better health and nutrition, secrecy of identity and providing an equal environment to them irrespective of genders, castes or religions. The objective of this campaign is to make women self-reliant and allow a safe environment to them by creating public awareness and giving training to the women and children in self-defence.



An artisan giving final touches to idol of Maa Durga at a workshop in Prayagraj

Pioneer

# Police Smriti Diwas observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To commemorate the Police Smriti Diwas, the district police on Wednesday organised a programme at the Police Lines here. The police officers paid their tributes to the cops who died while discharging their duties. The day is observed each year on October 21 in the memory of those police personnel who died on duty.

The Additional Director General (ADG) of Police Braj Bhushan and other senior police officers remembered the cops who died on duty and paid their floral tributes to them. To lay down the life



ADG (Zone) Brij Bhushan paying tributes to martyrs on Police Smriti Diwas in Varanasi on Wednesday

while discharging the duty is the great example of patriotism, the ADG said adding, the police personnel sacrifice their lives while discharging their duties to protect the nation and society.

The day is observed to pay respect to such police personnel; he said and also honoured the family members of those cops who died on duty. He also read out the memorial booklet and remembered the police personnel that had laid down their lives when the criminals had opened fire targeting the police team that had gone to arrest history-sheeter Vikash Dubey at Bikru village.

The SSP Amit Pathak and other police officers also paid their tributes.

# Devotees offer prayer at Skanda Mata temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

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

Meanwhile, preparations are going on in full swing to set up Durga Puja pandals as per the guidelines and permissions of the district administration. In the district, as many as 307 pandals are being set up apart from installation of Kalash Puja at 116 places. Some of the



Devotees offering prayer at Skanda Mata temple on fifth day of Navratra in Varanasi on Wednesday

Pioneer

idols and kalash were already installed on the first day of the Navratra while some of them, especially of Bangiya Samaj were installed on the occasion Panchmi while the people of Bengali community will start

offering prayer there from Shasthi.

However, majority of idols and kalash would be installed on the auspicious occasion of Saptmi where three days puja is celebrated.

In view of instructions of the district administration that no pandals would be set up on the road sides, many puja samitis have shifted their sites this year.

In urban areas, maximum number of 21 idols are being installed in Bhelupur police station apart from kalash at 10 places and it is being followed by Sagra (19 idols, three Kalash), Lanka (18, 5) Adampur (13, 6) Kotwali (12, 6), Cantt. (8, 10), Chowk (8, 6), Luxa (7, 2), Chetganj (6, 14), Manduadih (6, 8), Sarnath (6, 8), Dashaswamedh (6, 6), Jaipura (6, 5) Shivpur (5, 1), Pandeypur (1, 5) and Ramnagar 0, 14). In the rural areas maximum 31 pandals are being installed in Rohania area which is also a part of the expansion of the city apart from kalash at two places and it is being followed by Choubeypur (25, 0), Cholaapur (22, 9), Phoolpur (17, 3), Jansa (9, 1) and Lohta (7, 0).

# Two students bring laurels for AITM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Two students Purnima Tripathi and Archana Maurya of Ashoka Institute of Technology & Management (AITM) brought a laurel for the institute by securing places at state level in the top-5 of annual examination (Year-2020) of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (APIAKTU).

Purnima Tripathi, a third year student of bio-technology group and Archana Maurya, final year student of civil-engineering group of the institute secured the second and fifth place respectively at state level in the annual examination of the university. Besides the sincerity and dedication during



Ashoka Institute chairman Ankit Maurya felicitating a ranker in Varanasi

Pioneer

studying, the blessing of parents and teachers are also necessary to achieve success like this, both girl students

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expressed and gave all credits of their success to the teachers and high quality teaching system of the institute.

Chairman of AITM, situated in Pahadia, here Ankit Maurya and Vice-Chairman Amit Maurya extended their congratulations to both students for their achievement and wished for their prosperous future.

They also extended their gratitude to the teachers of the institute for this achievement and also motivated the students for the same. The Director of institute Dr Sarika Srivastava, Director-pharmacy Dr Brijesh Singh and others also congratulated both students for this success.

# BFA candidates stage protest in BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A section of candidates seeking admissions in Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) course in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) staged a protest at the Central Office for the second consecutive day here on Wednesday. They also staged a similar protest there a day ago. Carrying their paintings, the candidates, along with their guardians, while protesting alleged that irregularities were done in the admission and demanded that the ongoing counselling should be stopped till the matter is not probed.

According to them, many students who got 120-130 marks out of 150 in their written entrance test were given just around 100 marks out of 720 in the practical examination in view to give admissions to some others. On Tuesday evening, Chief Proctor Prof OP Rai reached there to pacify the agitating candidates and assured the latter that the counselling will not be started till the matter is not resolved. The candidates were demanding re-evaluation of their practical exam answer sheets.

Meanwhile, academic activities have increased on

the university campus as the counselling in various undergraduate courses has also started during the day though the same of some post-graduate (PG) courses have already started for the last couple of days. The counselling for some categories was held in some courses while in all categories in others. The same for admission for BA (Hons) Arts regular seats on the Main Campus began at Arts Faculty apart from BSc Ag/ BSc Ag at Rajiv Gandhi South Campus at Institute of Agricultural Sciences, LLB (Hons) at Faculty of Law, BSc (Hons) Maths

Group at Institute of Science.

The counselling for some PG courses including MBA-Risk & Insurance; MBA-Financial Management; MBA-Foreign Trade was held at Faculty of Commerce; MA (Hindi), MA (Telugu) at Arts Faculty; Master of Personnel Management and Industrial Relations at Faculty of Social Sciences; MA/ M.Sc-Geography at Institute of Science; BED -Languages (Hindi/ English/Sanskrit) at Faculty of Education and MSc (Ag) / M. Tech in Dairy Technology at Faculty of Agriculture.

# 121 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Prayagraj detected a total of 121 new cases of coronavirus within the last 24 hours on Tuesday. On the other hand, as many as 138 patients were discharged from the hospital after they beat the deadly virus. Similarly, 116 patients also completed their home isolation in a single day on Tuesday increasing the number of total patients completing 15,537 till date. One patient died due to coronavirus.

Corona infection is not decreasing in the district while people are becoming careless. That is why the corona infection regained momentum on Tuesday. The number of patients doubled after about a week.

District coordinator MNREGA Ajay Pandey has also come under corona's grip. On discovering this on Tuesday, his doctors isolated him at home and said to take necessary medicines and follow guidelines. Along with this, a patient is from Ramganj. An infected is a young man from Udaipur region. Four people

are in the grip of infection in the city area. On Tuesday, the number of patients suddenly increased to 121..

It is clear that people are becoming careless, so corona infection is increasing. So far, 51 people have lost their lives from corona in the Pratapgarh district. It is pleasant that more than three and a half thousand infected people are living a normal life after beating corona.

There has been some change in the duty of personnel at the Covid help desk built in Vikas Bhawan. The CDO reported that from October 20 to November 16, some changes have been made at the Covid help desk. Under this, Kamal Narayan, Senior Assistant of the District Development Officer and junior assistant Prem Kumar will be there till November 2 till eight in the morning. After this, senior assistant Rajendra Prasad Singh and junior assistant Awadhesh Srivastava have been deputed till 8 pm.

This disease can be fought, its outbreak can be avoided and the war against it can also be won if infected. Just following

the guidelines of COVID-19, there is a need for strong will. Yes, an old woman of Prayagraj has almost shocked everyone by presenting this example. The 65-year-old woman, whose 80 per cent of lung was inactive. She became infected by the corona pandemic. It was her strong will and positive thinking that she won the battle against corona and came out of the disease.

While the whole world is fighting a battle against COVID-19 disease because of this, due to increasing fear and anxiety among people, mental health is also being affected very badly. According to the doctors, the biggest risk is to people suffering from old age and other diseases. Despite this, many people are also recovering from corona. Their positive thinking and strong will is considered to be very effective in fighting the corona. Prabhat Kusum Gupta aged 65 years is a living example. He defeated corona with his positive thinking and strong will even after suffering from an incurable disease.

Prabhat Kusum Gupta, 65,

hailing from Allapur area of the city, has been suffering from lung disease Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) for the last 14 years. About 80 per cent of his lungs are inactive. She also went to AIIMS in Delhi for treatment in 2006. After some time, interstitial lung disease (ILD) was confirmed, she was discharged due to lack of treatment. Since then she is undergoing treatment at home. Now she is healthy

Kusum's elder son Nitin suffered high fever on the night of August 27. He was immediately quarantined at home. He conducted his corona test at the KP Ground testing Centre. Even after the report came negative, he remained quarantined. On September 1, he again underwent a corona test at Narayan Swaroop Hospital. On September 2, Nitin's report was again negative. The same night Kusum had a high fever and she immediately quarantined. Nitin and Kusum went to Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital and got the corona examined. On September 4, both Nitin and Kusum's report came back positive.

# New MEMU shed at Kanpur to be commissioned by January 2021

ALLAHABAD (PNS): New MEMU shed at Kanpur is targeted for commissioning by January 2021. Main line electrical multiple units (MEMU) provide faster acceleration, shorter braking distance and higher passenger carrying capacity as compared to normal passenger trains.

Advanced three phase AC technology based MEMUs are energy efficient, environment friendly making it better choice for short and medium distance travel with multiple stoppages. Equipped with distributed powering and electropneumatic braking systems, these trains take lesser time in attaining certain speed and braking distance is also shorter as compared to conventional locomotive hauled passenger trains thus making them suitable for journeys requiring multiple stoppages. Further, MEMUs equipped with both side driving units can commence return journey much

faster as compared to conventional passenger trains which requires reversal of locomotive for return journey. All new MEMU rakes are equipped with environment friendly bio-toilets, washbasins, comfortable seats, stainless steel fittings, LED lighting, high capacity fans, mobile charging points inside passenger area for improved journey experience. With combination of one driving motor car and three trailer coaches these unit of four coaches can be coupled up to 16 coach length formation to meet varied traffic requirement. MEMU rakes are already introduced on North Central Railway and approximately 74 services were operating prior to lockdown. NCR having no maintenance facility for MEMUs, all these rakes had to be based in Ghaziabad MEMU shed under Northern Railway for routine and safety related maintenance activities. Due to this limitation most of the ser-

vices were restricted to nearby location from New Delhi and difficulty was being faced to extend MEMU services in all parts of NCR. Keeping this in view a full-fledged MEMU maintenance facility at Kanpur was sanctioned by Railway Board in the budget year 2016-17. Kanpur being centrally located was most preferred choice as it would facilitate MEMU services in all parts of North Central Railway as well as services from NCR to adjoining railways like NR, NER, ECR, and WCR. This important work for construction of MEMU shed and creation of all maintenance facility was entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited for turnkey execution. This work under execution by RVNL valuing ₹92.71 crore is nearing completion as shed structure, associated service buildings etc. are already constructed; required machineries for maintenance have arrived at site and com-

missioning is under process; electronic interlocking work of Kanpur loco cabin providing connectivity to new MEMU shed is commissioned on 19.10.2020 and full-fledged MEMU maintenance facility at Kanpur is expected to be commissioned by January 2021.

Constructed MEMU shed with two maintenance lines has pre-engineered building (Steel Structures) with Galvalume sheet and 20 per cent of total roof area by Polycarbonate sheet of clear profile which allow natural lights in shed. Turbo-vent are provided over roof sheets for proper ventilation. This shed will also have solar energy generation capability with 75 KWp solar plant installed on roofs and 75 KL water recycling plant is also provided making it environment friendly MEMU shed is equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and plants, latest firefighting arrangements and other user facilities.

# Allahabad HC quashes rape case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court has quashed a rape case after taking on record the 'settlement' reached between the rape accused and the survivor saying, 'they have married and are living happily. Therefore, no useful purpose will be served in prolonging the proceeding'.

Allowing an application filed by Khujan Singh and another of Hathras district, Justice Manju Rani Chauhan observed, 'Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and also the submissions made by the counsel for the parties, the court is of the considered opinion that no useful purpose shall be served by prolonging the proceedings of

this criminal case, as the parties have already settled their dispute'. During the court proceedings, the couple was present in the court and submitted that they were married and had been living happily as husband and wife. It was further submitted by them that the first information report (FIR) was lodged by the father of the girl with false and frivolous allegations.

Earlier, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Hathras had on February 14, 2019, rejected their plea to close the case on the ground that he does not have jurisdiction to pass orders in such compromise in non-compoundable offences. Hence, they approached the High Court, challenging the order of CJM dated February

14, 2019.

While allowing their application filed under section 482 (inherent powers of high court) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the court relied on a judgment given by the Supreme Court in Gian Singh vs state of Punjab (2012) in which it was held that compromise can be made between the parties even in respect of certain cognizable and non-compoundable offences. The order was passed on October 8.

**WOMAN HELD FOR DAUGHTER'S MURDER:** A woman was arrested on Tuesday night for allegedly killing her six-year-old daughter in Bheski village, under the Handia police station in trans-Ganga area. The accused, identified as Usha Devi, is a resident

of Bheski. As per details given by the police, the family was reeling under extreme economic crisis, and fearing the bleak future of her six-year-old daughter and the struggles ahead in grooming her and getting her married, the woman decided to end her daughter's life. SP (trans-Ganga) Dhawal Jaiswal said that the Usha's husband Ratnesh Tiwari had been working as a labourer until two years ago when he became critically injured in an accident. Since then, he wasn't able to work as much as he did before, and Usha started contributing to the family's earnings by working as a house help. The couple had two sons and a daughter. The family's income wasn't enough to even manage two square meals a day.



# Level-3 Covid hospitals not to be dismantled

## ACS directive to increase ICU beds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Rajneesh Dube on Wednesday directed the medical authorities not to disturb or dismantle the Covid hospitals and instead focus on what improvements could be made in these Level-3 health care facilities.

Addressing the district and medical officials of GSVM Medical College through video-conferencing, Dr Dube said medical experts had expressed apprehension that after Diwali there could be a second wave of COVID-19 infection and thus laxity could not be tolerated at any cost.

He said if there was a second peak of the novel coronavirus infection in the city, the

district administration should be prepared for it in advance. He asked the officials to increase the ICU beds to 5,000 on top priority.

The additional chief secretary said the coronavirus had weakened but it had not retreated completely and thus there should be no move to revert back to normal hospital catering to the non-Covid OPD patients.

He said non-Covid facilities needed to be further strengthened but it did not mean that the Covid hospital should be converted to non-Covid hospitals.

Dr Dube asked the authorities to set up OPD Help Desks for the poor people coming to the city hospitals from surrounding districts.

He said in case there was a need for a non-Covid hospital, it should be set up in a different building.

He said all the Covid hospitals and isolation centres should be under strict surveillance as seen at the Sanjay Gandhi Post-graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil Mishra said a special awareness campaign would be carried out till mid November in the entire city.

He said in schools, colleges, hospitals, markets, malls, offices and other public places, people would be made aware of the fact that though the coronavirus had weakened, but it was still stalking the corridors and unless one remained very

careful and alter, it could strike back with same, or even more, intensity.

Dr Mishra said social distancing had to be maintained very strictly. He said washing hands with soap frequently and wearing face mask was very essential at this critical juncture.

The CMO said each person must spread awareness among the masses, especially the lower strata, that social distancing was the best way to fight the novel coronavirus and it had emerged as the most potent vaccine against the deadly virus in the current times.

He said the drive was mandatory in every government department, especially medical and educational institutions.

## 40 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 40 more coronavirus positive cases on Wednesday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 40 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 27,390 cases. He said two COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Wednesday evening keeping the death toll to 720. The CMO said with one COVID-19 patients was discharged from hospital and at present 1212 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4152 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## Man kills elderly mother for property

KANPUR (PNS): An elderly woman was axed to death by her son in greed of property in Ramganj locality under Akbarpur police station of Kanpur Dehat on Wednesday morning. As per reports, Nasiran (80) lived with his son Masoom, his wife Sanno and their two children. On Wednesday morning, the profusely-bleeding body of Nasiran was found lying on a cot in the house. She was repeatedly hit by a sharp-edged weapon. During interrogation, Masoom initially feigned ignorance about the incident, saying he was sleeping with family members inside the house. On being grilled, he confessed his crime and disclosed that his brother, Mushaqa, was living in Bara (Akbarpur) and had asked his mother to transfer the house in his name several times. Thinking that the elimination of his mother would get him the ownership of the house, he killed her. Superintendent of Police Keshav Chaudhary said Masoom was a liquor addict and was being interrogated

### ROAD MISHAP

Two youths were killed when a truck hit their motorcycle and crushed them as they fell on the ground in front of a school near Raha village turn on Moosanagar road under Ghatampur police station at around 11 am on Wednesday. The deceased were identified as Anil Verma (28) and his nephew Gaurav alias Paras (25) of Etawah. The critically injures youths were rushed to the community health centre by the police but the doctors pronounced them dead. The truck driver escaped with the vehicle after the accident. Anil was employed in a Cooperative Bank in Etawah and was going to Fatehpur along with his nephew.

### TRAFFIC DISRUPTED AS TRUCK OVERTURNS

Traffic movement on Kanpur-Sagar highway remained disrupted for over two hours when a truck laden with wooden planks going towards Hamirpur suddenly overturned near the sugar mill turn under Ghatampur police station on Wednesday morning. Three persons, including the truck driver, were seriously injured in the mishap. As the wooden planks lay scattered on the street, traffic movement remained disrupted for over two hours. It could be restored only after the wooden planks were removed from the road. Truck driver Mohd Naem (32) of Sitapur along with cleaners Meraz (28) of Pakaria in Lucknow and Hasan of Rampur going towards Hamirpur. Around 7:30 am, Naem suddenly lost control over the wheel and the truck overturned on the highway in Patara under Ghatampur police station. The truck driver and the two cleaners sustained injuries. They were rescued and sent to Patara community health centre. Naem and Meraz were referred for LLR Hospital in Kanpur Nagar in view of their serious condition.

### GANG SELLING FAKE CEMENT BUSTED

The Barra police busted a gang selling fake cement of famous brands and arrested three persons on Wednesday. On a tip-off, the police raided the godowns in Barra-7 and World Bank Colony and recovered huge quantity of fake cement, empty bags of famous cement brands, strainer and weighing machine.

# 4 accused held in murder case

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Four accused were arrested by Crime Branch and Chauri Chaura police on Tuesday morning in connection with the murder of a property dealer whose body was recovered from a paddy field on Monday. He was killed as a tiles trader did not want to not repay ₹15 lakh. Giving details in this connection SP (North) Arvind Kumar Pandey said that the body of



the property dealer, Indrasan, a resident of Sanjhai village under the Chiluatal police station, was found lying in the paddy field near Belwa Babu village on the Gorakhpur-Kushinagar fourlane on

Monday. When the police started investigating the matter they with the help of surveillance arrested Ramesh alias Roshan, a resident of Velva Raipur village under Gulriha police station, Sankesh Kumar and Rafiq, residents of Mahmudabad village under the Pipraich police station, and Praveen Kumar, a resident of Nawapar village under the Piparich police station. They were produced in the court from where they were sent to jail.

# DM's appeal to farmers

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel has appealed to farmers to sell their paddy only at procurement centres set up by the government instead of traders to get a reasonable price for their produce. Such an appeal was made by the officer during the inspection of the government-run paddy purchase centres on Tuesday. The DM directed the officials concerned to ensure availability of sanitiser, potable water, sufficient bags, weighing machine, moisture measuring machine, proper place for farmers to sit and cash at the purchase centres. He was apprised by the officials that Tuesday and Friday were reserved for small farmers at which he directed them to publicise it in the larger interest of the farmers. During the inspection of procurement centre set up at Mandi Samiti by UP Agro and Food department the DM made it clear that the purchase was to be done only from the

registered farmers and registration process was still on. He appealed to farmers to feel free to call at the phone numbers 05442- 256357 and 05442- 253201 for any problem without any meditation and avail the facility provided by the government to them. The staff



deployed at the centre were directed to open the centres positively at 9.00 am and if any one was found truant during the duty hours will face the music without fail. The DM appealed to farmers to avail the facility available at 62 centres in the district. The DM inspected the centres set up at FCI campus at Patharahiya, Mandi Samiti, Gaipura and Chilh.

**NABBED:** Under the drive to control the crime Jamalpur police arrested one kidnapper and recovered the kidnapped girl on Tuesday. According to the police, a man had on October 14 lodged an FIR that his daughter had been kidnapped by someone. The police nabbed the accused Akhilesh, son of Atma Giri, a resident of Kakarahi village under Jamalpur police station along with the kidnapped girl from Dhebra Chauraha. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail. Meanwhile a case of fraud was registered against five persons at City Kotwali. As per the reports, Sri Prakash, a resident of Tarkapur locality under City Kotwali police station, had lodged a complaint with the IG police that in place of his mother another woman did an agreement for sale of his property in the connivance with some persons. On the direction of the IG the police registered an FIR and the investigation in the matter was on.

# Delhi-Katihar puja spl from tomorrow

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration keeping the convenience of passengers in mind in view of the festivals will run 04084/04083 Delhi-Katihar-Delhi weekly puja special from October 23 to November 28. All coaches in this train will be of reserved category and passengers will have to follow the Covid-19 norms, CPRO PK Singh said.

**DELHI-KATIHAR PUJA SPL:** The 04084 Delhi-Katihar weekly puja special from October 23 to November 27 every Friday leave Delhi at 23.00 hrs, Ghaziabad at 23:07 hrs, the second day Moradabad at 02.03 hrs, Bareilly at 03.23 hrs, Sitapur at 06.35 hrs, Gorakhpur at 11.35 hrs from It will leave Chhapra at 14.35 hrs, Hajipur at 15.45 hrs, Barauni at 17.45 hrs, Begusarai at 18.05 hrs, Khagadia at 19.12 hrs, Naugachia at 20.22 hrs and reach Katihar at 22.00 hrs. During the return journey the 04083 Katihar-Delhi weekly puja special from October 24 to November 28 every Saturday will leave Katihar at 23:50 hrs, Naugachia at 00.42 hrs,

Khagadia at 01.52 hrs, Begusarai at 02.27 hrs, Barauni at 02.55 hrs, Hajipur at 05.15 hrs, Chhapra at 06.50 hrs, Gorakhpur at 09.45 hrs, Sitapur at 14.55 hrs, Bareilly at 17.57 hrs, Moradabad at 19.43 hrs and Ghaziabad at 22.02 hrs and reach Delhi at 22:50 hrs. A total of 20 coaches, including two coaches 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.

**GKP-LOKMANYA TILAK TERMINUS PUJA SPL:** The 02165/02166 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur superfast biweekly puja special will be run from October 22 to December 1. The 02165 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur biweekly superfast puja special from October 22 to November 30 every Thursday and Monday will leave Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 05.23 hours, Thane at 05.40 hours, Kalyan at 06.08 hours, Igatpuri at 08.05 hrs, Nashik Road at 08.45 hrs, Manmad at 09.40 hrs, Jalgaon at 11.20 hrs, Bhusaval at 11.50 hrs, Itarsi at 17.10 hrs,

Jabalpur at 20.50 hrs, Katni at 22.10 hrs, on the second day Satna at 00.10 am, Prayagraj Jn at 04.15 hrs, Janghai at 05.19 hrs, Bhadohi at 05.48 hrs, Varanasi at 07.05 hrs, Mau at 08.32 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 10.17 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 11.25 hrs. During the return journey the 02166 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus biweekly superfast puja special will from October 23 to December 1 every Friday and Tuesday leave Gorakhpur at 15.45 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 16.32 hrs, Mau at 18.00 hrs, Varanasi at 20.20 hrs, Bhadohi at 21.00 hrs, Janghai at 21.28 hrs, Prayagraj Junction at 23.30 hrs, the second day Satna at 02.10 hrs, Katni at 03.30 hrs, Jabalpur at 05.10 hrs, Itarsi at 09.10 hrs, Bhusaval at 13.45 hours, Jalgaon at 14.15 hours, Manmad at 16.00 hours, Nasik Road at 17.00 hours, Igatpuri at 18.30 hours, Kalyan at 20.30 hrs, Thane at 20:54 hrs and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus at 21:30 hrs. A total of 22 coaches, including two coaches of SLRD, four of general second class, 11 of sleeper class, four of AC third and one of AC second will be attached in this special train.

# Sanitisers, masks distributed

PNS ■ VARANASI

In response to PM Narendra Modi's Jan Andolan Abhiyan for Covid-19 appropriate behaviour the campaign was also launched in DLW. Its aim was to motivate the DLW officials and personnel for taking proper care for preventing Covid-19 such as wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and ensuring hand hygiene. The slogan of this campaign is 'Jab tak dawai nahi tab tak dhilahi nahi' (No callousness till medicine is found). In this sequence the Department of Safety department, DLW, Varanasi, on

Wednesday under the Jan Andolan against the Covid-19 made the people aware by dis-



tributing sanitisers, masks and pamphlets at Poorvi Bazar, DLW, other shops besides people on the road. On the occasion the Department of Safety under the leadership of the deputy chief safety officer

encouraged them to wear masks regularly. Pamphlets too were distributed on the occasion to be pasted in front of the shops. Meanwhile the Department of Safety, DLW, Varanasi, on Tuesday launched an awareness programme for the prevention of Covid-19 in Block Division. Under it the officers concerned with the Block Division in the area under their purview while ensuring the compliance of proper behaviour for prevention of Covid-19 and maintaining social distancing made the supervisors and employees aware. A large number of officers and employees joined it.

# Hindi essay competition for rly personnel on Nov 5

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

For the promotion of Hindi the North Eastern Railway (NER) Rajbhasha department will organise the Regional Rail Hindi Essay, Debate and Hindi Noting and Drafting Competition Year-2020 for the railway personnel of the entire NER at Rajbhasha department headquarters, Gorakhpur, while following the Covid-19 norms and maintaining physical distancing. The essay competition will be held on November 5 and Hindi noting and drafting competition on November 10. In these competitions the contestants who will secure the first three places in the order of merit will be given ₹2,000, ₹1,600 and ₹1,200 cash prize respectively, CPRO PK Singh said. Besides the next three contestants in order of merit will be given an incentive prize of ₹800 each.

**BOY FOUND :** The Railway Protection Force

(RPF), NER, makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. In the same sequence the RPF post, Mau, found a 11-year-old boy in an unclaimed condition during patrolling at Mau railway station and was handed over to the Child Welfare Committee, Mau, CPRO PK Singh said. Besides one person was caught with three e-tickets by RPF outpost, Rudrapur City, staff from a shop in Kichha. After taking action under the Railway Act a case was registered in this connection. Besides two persons were caught with seven e-tickets by RPF Lalkuan from Kichha. After taking action against them under the Railway Act a case was registered against them. Meanwhile an earlier report said that the RPF post, Gorakhpur, found a 15-year-old boy in unclaimed condition during patrolling at Gorakhpur railway station.

He was handed over to the Child Line, Gorakhpur. The RPF post, Gonda, found three boys, aged 14, 13 and 12 years respectively, in an unclaimed condition during patrolling at Gonda railway station. They were handed over to the Child Line, Gonda. The RPF post, Gonda found two boys, aged nine and 13 years respectively, in unclaimed condition at Gonda railway station on October 17. They were handed over to the Child Line, Gonda. Besides one person was caught with two e-tickets from a shop jointly by RPF post, Gorakhpur Cantonment and Crime Intelligence Branch (CIB), Gorakhpur region. After taking action under the Railway Act a case was registered in this regard. Moreover two persons were caught with 58 e-tickets from a shop by RPF post, Ghazipur City. After taking action against them under the Railway Act, a case was registered in this regard.

# Corona warriors of ASHA, Anganwadi felicitated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar on Wednesday felicitated the Anganwadi, ASHA and other health workers for their contribution in containing the spread of novel coronavirus in the city.

He said due to the combined efforts of these corona warriors and doctors and health staff, there was a marked decline in the spread of the coronavirus and also COVID-19 deaths.

The divisional commissioner said there was no doubt that women not only cared for ones health but also came forward in the times of crisis to fight the COVID-19 disease.

He said though there was a decline in the number of coronavirus positive cases, it was not the end yet and to stress this point, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had given the slogan 'Do gj doori, mask zaroori' and if this was followed in the right earnest, we could emerge winners in the fight against the dreaded COVID-19 disease.



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar, felicitating Anganwadi workers

Pioneer

Shekhar said in pandemics and epidemics, there were always a large number of deaths but all that the government could do was to keep the loss of lives as low as possible.

He said on account of social distancing and constantly wearing mask, the people and the corona warriors had successfully been able to lower the COVID-19 death

rate in Kanpur Nagar and contain the spread of the virus.

He said the 'Do gj doori, mask zaroori' slogan should be followed in letter and spirit by the people to keep themselves and their near ones safe. He advised people to refrain from going to crowded places.

Shekhar praised the women for their effort in this campaign and said it was an example of women empower-

ment as they were doing an important role in standing with the government to fight this disease.

He later distributed gifts to the women who had reached to participate in the felicitation function.

Prominent among those present included DIG Parminder Singh, SPs, ADMs and officials of the Kanpur Development Authority.

# Indian Bank's festival bonanza

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Indian Bank zonal head KL Menon, while inaugurating the festival bonanza offer on the occasion of Navratri at the Bara Chauraha zonal office here on Wednesday, said the bank had decided to extend the best festival offer during this festival period.

He said festival bonanza was in fact an effort of the bank to ensure that people were able to purchase house, cars, during festival and fulfil their dreams and also take MSME loans not only to improve their financial position but also contribute towards the growth of the nation's economy.

He said the bank had always been the forerunner in extending best schemes to its customers and this offer was one in the same direction.

He said the bank felt that festival was a time for women to do purchasing for the house and the family and thus it had extended retail loan to women on card rate of 0-15 per cent and for house 0-10 per cent.

He said apart from this, the bank had also decided to provide a special rebate for its customers on the processing fee of the loans between 50-75 per cent.

He later distributed House loans amounting to ₹ 5.6 crore,

vehicle loans amounting to ₹ 2 crore and MSME loans to the tune of ₹7.80 crore. He handed the loans to the beneficiaries.

The bank also received fresh proposals for house loans to the tune of ₹7.9 crore,

vehicle loans amounting to ₹ 1.63 crore and MSME loans to the tune of ₹3.5 crore.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were BBK Vinay, RMPC Head, Saurabh Jain and several others.

# PMEGP initiatives for women entrepreneurs

KANPUR (PNS) : 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 percent 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.



# Calcutta HC gives some relief to puja pandals

**Kolkata:** The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday made a slight adjustment in its earlier order banning visitors' entry in Bengal's Durga Puja pandals.

Hearing a review petition the Division Bench of Justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee increased the number of club members who would be allowed inside the pandals from 25 to 60 in case of bigger Pujas and 10 to 15 in smaller Pujas. Besides, the Dhakis or the drum players would be allowed to enter the pandals.

Apart from this the Court preferred to retain the older order banning popular entry inside the Puja pandals.

Delivering an order on Monday the Court said that

the Puja pandals should be treated as containment zones and directed the State administration to mark 5 metre area around small pandals and the 10 metre area around bigger pandals as the limit till which the general people would be allowed to go.

Even the entry of the club members was restricted inside the pandals even as the Court said that not more than 25 members would be allowed inside. The Court directed the administration to collect the names of 25 persons each from the respective Durga Puja committees beyond who no one would be allowed to enter the Puja premises. These names and numbers of such persons have to be fixed and cannot change every day, the

court said.

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

Subsequently review petitions were filed by big clubs like Chetla Agrani, Suruchi Sangha, Naktala Udayan Sangha, Hindusthan Club -- patronized by State Ministers and senior Trinamool Congress leaders like Firhad Hakim, Arup Biswas, Partho Chatterjee and Chandrima Bhattacharya.

Apart from them Forum For Durgotsav Committee an umbrella body of about 400 Puja organizers too filed a reviewed petition. **PNS**

# Senior leader Eknath Khadse quits BJP, to join NCP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After months of intense speculation about his impending exit from a party where he had virtually been consigned to dog house for the past four years, its former Minister and senior leader Eknath Khadse resigned from primary membership of the BJP on Wednesday, two days ahead of his joining the Sharad Pawar-led ruling NCP.

Announcing his resignation, Khadse -- who played a key role along with late Gopinath Munde in building the Maharashtra party unit after the formation of BJP in 1980 -- said: "I have nothing against the BJP or its central leadership. If I am quitting the BJP, it is because of (former chief minister and senior party leader) Devendra Fadnavis. He indulged in low-level politics against me for the past four years. He defamed me by making all kinds of allegations,

including charge of molestation, against him".

Welcoming Khadse's resignation from the BJP's primary membership, senior minister and State NCP president Jayant Patil said: "Today, Khadse called me and told me that he had quit the BJP. Hence, we welcome him to the NCP. He will join our party at 2 pm on Friday".

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who heads the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance's Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state, welcomed Khadse's impending entry to the MVA fold. "Khadse does not mince words. He is a fighter. I welcome him into the MVA".

Reacting to Khadse's resignation, Fadnavis said: "It is unfortunate that Nathabahu (as Khadse is known in the state political circles) has chosen to resign from the BJP. While leaving the BJP, he has made me a villain. At this

stage, I do not want to talk about his comments. I will talk about it at a proper time. I did not foist any false cases against him, which you will realise when you go into the details of the cases against him".

Earlier, addressing a news conference in his home town of Muktainagar in Jalgaon district after resigning from the BJP, Khadse said: "I have no grouse against the BJP. It was Fadnavis who harassed me a lot when I was in the BJP. To that extent, at the behest of Fadnavis, a molestation charge came to be foisted against me during our government. I am quitting the BJP because of the mental harassment I faced at the hands of Fadnavis for four years".

"I worked with senior leaders like late Pramod Mahajan, late Gopinath Munde and Pandurang Fundkar. I do not deny that the BJP gave several party posts and ministerial positions. I

have not criticised any national BJP leader. There is not an MLA or MP with me now. Even my daughter-in-law and MP Rakshna Khadse will not quit the BJP. Hence, I am capable of taking my decision," Khadse said.

Expressing the manner in which he was forced to resign as a senior minister in the then Devendra Fadnavis government in 2016, Khadse said: "At a time when the other parties like the NCP, Congress and even Shiv Sena, which was ruling the state with the BJP, did not demand my resignation, my party sought and obtained my resignation".

Khadse -- who was denied a BJP ticket to contest the 2019 State Assembly polls from his home constituency of Muktainagar in Jalgaon district of north Maharashtra and whose daughter Rohini was defeated in the Assembly polls --- had for the past four years made no secret of his frustrations within the BJP.

In May this year, Khadse and another unhappy party leader and late Gopinath Munde's daughter Pankaja Munde were denied party tickets to contest the Maharashtra Legislative Council polls.

Khadse has been in the isolation within the BJP ever since June 4, 2016, when he resigned from his post as the State Revenue Minister over irregularities in the purchase of a plot of land at Bhosari in Pune district. Later in May 2018, Maharashtra's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had reportedly given a clean chit to Khadse in the alleged Pune land scam case.

In the run-up to the Assembly polls, there was considerable speculation that he might take a stand against the BJP. There was a likelihood of his phone having been tapped during this period. However, Khadse did not work against the BJP during the State Assembly elections.

# Advanced research in astrology demanded for accuracy of predictability

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/CHENNAI

For the first time in modern times, an internationally respected cardiologist who is also a leading medical researcher has demanded that astrology, the age-old Indian system of knowledge, be accorded the status of modern science and initiate further research into it to refine the 'accuracy of the predictability'.

Writing the editorial of the October 2020 issue of the Journal of the Science of Healing Outcomes, a modern scientific journal that publishes only peer-reviewed scientific papers, Dr B M Hegde, former vice-chancellor of Manipal University, who was honoured with Padma Bhushan by the Manmohan Singh-led UPA Government in 2010, has put forward studies of more than five decades.

"The idea that stars, or a constellation of them, have some influence on human birth and life can never be scientifically refuted. There are areas where astrology needs further research to unravel some of the mysteries that plague the uncertainties of astrological predictions," Prof Hegde, who has fellowships from four Royal Colleges of Physicians, writes.

Dr Hegde says astrology is being criticised by outsiders because we have to assume many things in astrology. "Even in Mathematics, the

king of sciences, the numbers are only assumptions. Rahu and Ketu might not be seen through the Hubble's telescope but they are assumptions for calculations like North and South Poles which are not marked on the ground," he said.

The editorial says that predicting the future in any system is impossible as of now with the limited knowledge of this universe which follows non-linear laws.

"Weather forecast goes wrong on a daily basis in its short-term predictions. Therefore, future predictions in astrology also could go wrong. However, there are areas for further research to refine its accuracy of predictability. We have to have a scientific approach to see how we could fill the loopholes, if any, in that science.

That is scientific progress. In addition to sell any idea to the world, we must use a language that is universally understood. For the time being, that language is the language of hard western sciences. Let us try to sell astrology to the world using the language of science," Prof Hegde opined. It may be remembered that eminent Ayurvedic physician Dr P R Krishnakumar who succumbed to Covid-19 recently, was a proponent of holistic treatment and undertook diagnosis based on the birth stars of the patients.

## PALGHAR LYNCHING CASE

# Police name 208 more accused, arrest 50 of them

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant development in the much-discussed Palghar lynching case, the Maharashtra Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Wednesday named 208 more as accused and arrested 50 of them in connection with the killing of two Sadhus and their driver by an irate mob near Kasa town in Maharashtra's Palghar district.

With Wednesday's development, the number of persons named in the Palghar lynching case has gone up to 366, including 11 juveniles. Of the 208 freshly named accused, the State CID arrested 50 persons on Wednesday.

In all, the bail pleas of 62 accused, including 50 of those arrested on Wednesday, will be produced before Special Sessions Judge P. P. Jadhav at Thane Sessions Court.

Of the 366 accused in the case, 28 adults and 9 juveniles were released on a default bail as the CID charge sheet did not specify their exact involvement in the crime owing to lack of evidence.

On July 16, this year, the state CID filed a comprehensive charge-sheets against the accused before a Dahanu court in connection with the April 16, 2020 Palghar lynching incident.

In its charge sheet -- running into 4955 pages -- filed before the court of Judicial

Magistrate First Class (JMFC) at Dahanu in Palghar district, the CID sleuths named 126 accused in connection with the incident that took place on the night of April 16.

The investigation team, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (CID) Vijay Pawar, filed the two charge-sheets after examining 808 suspects and 118 witnesses to collect strong evidence against the accused.

It may be recalled that on the night of April 16, three persons were lynched by a 200-strong mob of villagers near Kasa town in Maharashtra's Palghar district on suspicion that they were thieves.

The villagers first hurled stones at the van, prompting the driver to stop the vehicle. Later, they pulled three persons out of the vehicle and beat them to death in Gadchinchale village on Dabhadi-Khanwel road, with sticks and rods.

The deceased ---identified as Chikne Maharaj Kalpavrukshagiri (70), Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) and driver Nilesh Telgade (30) were travelling to Surat. Of them one was the diver, while two are residents of Kandivli in north Mumbai. The place where the incident took place is approximately 120 km from Mumbai.

In their charge-sheet, the investigators have said that the incident had taken place amid rumours that child-lifters were roaming in the area during the lockdown.

# Maha blocks CBI from probing cases in Maha, withdraws consent

## SEEN AS A MOVE TO PREVENT CBI FROM TAKING OVER THE TRP RATINGS CASE FROM MUMBAI COPS

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Once bitten twice shy, the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government -- invoking the powers vested under section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act -- on Wednesday evening withdrew general "consent" granted to the CBI to investigate the cases relating to Maharashtra, in an apparent to effort to prevent the central investigating agency from taking TRP ratings fraud case.

In an order issued late on Wednesday evening, the Maharashtra Home department said that "in exercise of the powers conferred under section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, the Government of Maharashtra hereby withdraws the consent accorded to the members of the Delhi Special Police Establishment vide government order, Home department dated 22nd February 1989, as also by another instruments issued by the Government of Maharashtra, from time to time to exercise the powers and jurisdiction under the said Act in the state of Maharashtra".

Following the withdrawal of "consent", the CBI will now approach the Maha govt for permission for investigation on a case by case basis. However, the order issued by the state government will have no bearing on the cases already being investigated by the CBI.

Sources said that the Maharashtra government, which had earlier expressed serious reservations about the central agencies taking over the cases like the Bhim-Koregaon case and the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, did not want to the CBI to take over the TRP ratings case following the precedent of the Sushant Singh Rajput case.

In the SSR case, an FIR was first registered with the Patna police. Following the recommendation of the Bihar government, the CBI registered a case. Later on the Supreme Court transferred the investigations in the SSR case from the Mumbai police to the CBI.

Even in the TRP rating case, Lucknow's Hazratganj police registered an FIR based on a complaint from one Kamal Sharma, who claims to run a media and advertising business called Golden Rabbit Communications. On Tuesday, the Centre transferred the UP case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which promptly registered an FIR.

Even in the Palghar lynching case, the Opposition BJP leaders have been demanding that the case be transferred to the CBI. However, as it happened in the SSR case, the Maharashtra government does not want the Palghar lynching case to be transferred to the CBI.

Maharashtra is not the first state to have invoked section 6(Consent of State Government to exercise powers and jurisdiction) of the Delhi Special Police Establishment act to withdraw "general consent" to the CBI.

Earlier, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh and West Bengal had invoked this section which reads: "Nothing contained in section 5 shall be deemed to enable any member of the Delhi Special Police Establishment to exercise powers and jurisdiction in any area in [a State, not being a Union territory or railway area], without the consent of the Government of that State."

## 8,369 more test +ve in Kerala

**Thiruvananthapuram:** In yet another day of high numbers of daily coronavirus cases, Kerala on Wednesday reported 8,369 more infections as its test positivity rate continued to hover above 13 per cent. "The day saw 6,839 recoveries while active cases climbed up to 93,425. As many as 2,67,082 patients have been cured so far. With 26 more Covid fatalities, the state's death toll now is 1,232," Health Minister KK Shailaja said in a statement here.



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY**  
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India  
NIFT Campus, Karwar, Jodhpur - 342037, Rajasthan, India Ph. 0291-2659520

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NIFT, Jodhpur invites E-tenders for under mentioned supply and installation of Lab Equipments and various services at campus at Karwar, Jodhpur:-  
**1. Supply & Installation of Mechatronics & IoT Lab Machinery & Equipment**  
**2. Manpower Services**  
**3. EOI for Empanelment of Outbound/Educational Tour**  
**4. EOI for Empanelment of Event Management Agency for Fashion Show**  
Detailed information such as E-Tender forms, pre-bid meeting, submission of tender, opening of Technical Bids and Financial Bids etc will be available in NIFT Jodhpur website [www.nift.ac.in/jodhpur](http://www.nift.ac.in/jodhpur) & <https://niftenders.eproc.in> The date of issue /receipt of E-tenders etc. will be valid as per the tender uploaded on website. In future any information regarding corrigendum/addendum, extension of time etc. of above tenders would be uploaded in above mentioned website only.

**राजस्थान परिवहन निगम मुख्यालय जयपुर**  
क्रमांक:- एफ / मुख्या. / जनसमर्क / 2020 / 723 दिनांक:- 16.10.2020  
**ई-बोली सूचना**  
निगम द्वारा निम्न कार्यो हेतु ई-बोली के माध्यम से निष्पत्ति प्रपत्र में ऑनलाईन बोलीयां आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट [www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in) व <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> एवं स्टेट पोर्टल (SPPP) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
1 02 / 2020-21 निगम की लगभग 3000 बस लाइन संचालन एवं दूरगामी यात्राओं के बेक पैकल (जिनमें निगम द्वारा अनुबंध पर जी मई बसें भी शामिल है) पर विज्ञापन हेतु ई-बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
यू.बी.एन. नं. **RTC2021SL0B00255**  
राज. संवाद / सी / 5811 / 2020-21 कार्यकारी निदेशक (प्रशासन)



**OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER**  
**CONSTRUCTION UNIT UTTARAKHAND PEY JAL NIGAM**  
COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT- UDHAM SINGH NAGAR

**E-Tender Notice**  
No 1546/ Tender/265 Dated 17.10.2020  
1. Name of the work:- **CONSTRUCTION OF REMAINING WORK AT RAJKIYA BAL SAMPREKSHAN GRIH, RUDRAPUR (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR).**  
2. Estimated Cost:- **Rs. 99.88 Lakh**  
3. Period of Completion:- **06 Month**  
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- **21.10.2020 (17.00 hrs)**  
5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal:- **11.11.2020 (17.00 hrs)**  
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening:- **18.11.2020 (12.00 hrs)**  
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- **Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhamsingh Nagar).**  
8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- **27.10.2020 (13.00 hrs)**  
9. Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Rudrapur (U. S. Nagar).  
For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) **PROJECT MANAGER**



**राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम**  
मुख्यालय जयपुर

**ई-बोली सूचना**  
निगम द्वारा निम्न कार्यो हेतु ई-बोली के माध्यम से निष्पत्ति प्रपत्र में ऑन लाइन बोलीयां आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट [www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in) व <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> एवं स्टेट पोर्टल (SPPP) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
क्रम संख्या सूचना संख्या कार्य का विवरण यू.बी.एन. नं.  
1 01/2020-21 निगम की बसों के माध्यम से लघु पारस सेवा संचालन हेतु सोल लाइसेंस निष्पत्ति होने का सुनहरा अवसर प्रदान करते हुये लघु पारस एवं सामान्य बसुओं के परिवहन हेतु निष्पत्ति प्रपत्र में ई-बोली प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑन लाइन बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
यू.बी.एन. नं. **RTC2021SL0B00256**  
राज.संवाद/सी/5810/2020-2021 कार्यकारी निदेशक (प्रशासन)




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

**Tender Details**  
**CORRIGENDUM-6** Publish Date:20.10.2020,18.01  
**Tender No.ELCORE-OHE-EPC-15A** Closing 20.11.2020  
(Open Tender) Date/Time 15.00  
**Name of Work:** EPC TENDER: Request for Proposal for "Electrification of the Railway Lines in various sections of Northeast Frontier Railway (the "Project") through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (the "EPC") Contract". [Bid/Package no. EPC-15A].  
**Items Modified**  
**NIT Header**

Field Name	Existing Value	Modified Value
Tender Closing Date	05.11.2020	20.11.2020
Bidding Start Date	15.00	15.00
Bidding Start Date	22.10.2020	06.11.2020

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Bidding Start Date	22.10.2020	06.11.2020

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क्रमांक/2752/कार्य/निविदा/2020-21 रीवा, दिनांक 15.10.2020  
निविदा क्र. D-37/2020-21 रीवा, दिनांक 15.10.2020

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क्र.	टेण्डर आई.डी. क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	आमंत्रण क्र.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की समयवधि	टेकेदार की श्रेणी	कार्य की अनुमानित राशि	अमानती राशि	भौतिक रूप से दस्तावेज जमा करने का कार्यालय
1	2020-PWDRB-111486-1	रेलवे तिराहा से होटल आदित्य समान तिराहा मार्ग (पताई ओवर को छोड़कर) के उन्नयन हेतु 33 के.व्ही/11 के.व्ही./एल.टी. लाईन /डी.टी.आर. के शिफ्टिंग एवं स्ट्रीट लाईट अरेजमेंट का कार्य	प्रथम आमंत्रण	छ: माह 'अ' श्रेणी सुपरवीयर आर्डर उपरांत	या उच्च विद्युत टेकेदार	30745863.00	307460.00	कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता लो. नि. वि. रीवा परिक्षेत्र रीवा दिनांक 03.11.2020 तक समय शाम 5.30 बजे तक

निविदा फार्म online भुगतान कर 02.11.2020 को शाम 5.30 तक क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। भौतिक दस्तावेज जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 03.11.2020 को शाम 5.30 तक होगी। विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना व अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है। जिसे अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में कार्यालयीन समय पर देखी जा सकती है। किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जायेगा केवल वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किया जायेगा।

**नोट:-** प्रत्येक टेण्डर अलग-अलग लिफाफे में अलग-अलग स्पीड पोस्ट से प्रेषित करें अन्यथा मान्य नहीं होगा।

**कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक निर्माण विभाग ( वि./यां.) संभाग रीवा ( मध्य )**  
**G-14980/20**

## Bimal Gurung quits NDA, rejoins Didi Govt

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Three years after parting ways with Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, "fugitive" Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leader Bimal Gurung on Wednesday suddenly resurfaced in Kolkata to announce his break-up with the NDA and remarryage with the Trinamool Congress.

Gurung's move comes as a major blow to the BJP's aspirations in North Bengal region on which it was counting heavily for the next year's Assembly elections.

Gurung who had emerged as a strong critic of the Chief Minister post September 2017 when he led his party into a bloody clash with the State administration leading to weeks-long bandh in the Hills came down heavily on the BJP leadership including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their alleged "failure to keep their commitments".

Gurung said "in the past so many years we have experienced that be it the Prime Minister or the Home Minister, no one honours his commitments ... on the contrary Mamata Banerjee has always kept her promise and never gone backed

on her words.

"This is the reason why we have decided to quit the NDA from today and join hands with the TMC ... We will want to see Mamata Banerjee the Chief Minister for the third time... We will work with all our energy and meant to ensure that TMC does well from all the seats in North Bengal." The founder of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha Gurung chose a militant path post 2017 challenging the Chief Minister for not giving a separate Gorkhaland state. He was engaged in a violent clash --- leading to a few deaths in the region.

Subsequently booked under several charges including sedition he was declared an absconder with the State police hot in his pursuit.

Gurung remained underground for three years during which he joined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance after breaking ties with TMC in September 2017.

In the meantime a second GJM leader Benoy Tamang parted ways with Gurung to form his own GJM(Tamang) and joined hands with the Chief Minister. He was subsequently appointed the Administrator of Gorkhaland Territorial Authority.

**Government of India (Min. Of Railways)**  
**Research Designs and Standards Organisation**  
Manak Nagar, Lucknow - 226 011

**Open E-Tender Notice No. RDSOED10510202003**  
E-Tender No.: RDSOED10510202003 is invited by Director, Engine Development Directorate, RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow for and on behalf of President of India for following Works:

Description of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	EMD Money (Rs.)
"Annual Maintenance Contract of 300 kVA Diesel Generating Set [Make: MWM] installed at Engine Development Directorate."	Rs.2,09,143/- (for a period of 02 Years)	Rs. 4200/-
Tender Document Cost: Rs.1,000/-		

- Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.
- The tenderer must have Class-III Digital Signature certificate & must have registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer can participate in e-tendering.
- Last Date and Time of submission: 25.11.2020 up to 14:30 Hrs.
- The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
- Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> only.

Director/Engine Development  
RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow



**SHAURYA CHAKRA AWARDEE BALWINDER'S MURDER**

# Punjab Cong divided, party MP seeks probe



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Divisions within the Punjab Congress came to the fore yet again on Wednesday with party MP Pratap Singh Bajwa writing to President Ramnath Kovind requesting him to order a high-level probe into the circumstances that led to the removal of security cover of Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh and his subsequent killing by terrorists on October 16.

“I wish to bring your kind attention to the heinous assassination of comrade Balwinder Singh Bhikhiwind on October 16, 2020. Being national hero and awarded medals of valour by the President of India, the safety and security of the family of

Comrade Balwinder Singh Bhikhiwind should have been a priority of the Government of India,” he stated in his letter.

“It is imperative that responsible including policemen who prepared inputs that led to his security cover being withdrawn should be investigated through a high-level probe,” Bajwa in his letter, dated October 20, 2020, said.

Bajwa pointed out there were 16 attempts to kill Singh's family in 1990-91 and their family was the only one in India with four Shaurya Chakra awardees.

Party's Punjab incharge Harish Rawat said Bajwa has every right to write to the President but he should've written first to the Punjab Chief Minister as law and order is a state subject.

But Bajwa and Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh have been at loggerheads for quite some time now. Bajwa along with another Rajya Sabha MP SS Dhullo had even skipped

Rahul Gandhi's tractor rally in protest against the farm bills.

Bajwa has been constantly expressing his resentment against the CM blaming him for his autocratic style of functioning. He even alleged that the CM is shielding smugglers and drug trafficker after 121 people died after consuming spurious liquor in August this year.

Balwinder Singh Sandhu, who fought against terrorism in Punjab, was shot dead by two unknown assailants in Tarn Taran district. His wife said there are 42 registered FIRs of attacks on their family and countless other attacks have taken place which is not on record.

“Withdrawal of security was wrong. Government, administration and intelligence agencies are responsible for this. We sought security again, but to no avail. Those who treat security cover as a status symbol have been provided with it. We actually needed it but weren't provided,” she rued.

# Follow norms on Covid-19: EC to parties

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Taking a serious view of laxity by parties and candidates in observing crowd discipline, the Election Commission on Wednesday issued advisory to political parties, asking them to follow its instructions related to COVID-19 during polls. Huge crowds at rallies without adhering to the norms of social distancing and wearing of masks are being seen in the ongoing campaigning for the Bihar Assembly elections.

The poll body reiterated its October 9 instructions asking political parties and candidates to maintain crowd discipline and advised them to demonstrate utmost vigil and care during electioneering. The advisory has been issued two days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first rally in Bihar on Friday, which will attract crowds in huge numbers.

The EC also said it expected the chief electoral officers and district machinery concerned to invoke appropriate penal provisions against the candidates as well as organisers for violating Covid safety protocols. The advisory stated: “The commission has taken a serious view of laxity on part of



the parties and candidates, on the ground, in terms of maintaining crowd discipline and hereby reiterates and further advises them to demonstrate utmost vigil and care during electioneering.”

“Chief Electoral Officers and the District Machinery would be expected by the Commission to invoke appropriate and relevant penal provisions against the candidates concerned as well as the organizers responsible for such violations. Separate instructions for strict compliance of guidelines are being issued to Chief Electoral Officers and State Governments of poll going states,” the advisory read.

**The EC also said it expected the chief electoral officers and district machinery concerned to invoke appropriate penal provisions against the candidates as well as organisers for violating Covid safety protocols**

advisory read.

The poll panel recalled its earlier advisory issued on October 9 in which it had stated: “As representatives of public, this onerous responsibility rests with the political parties to ensure that they not only cooperate with the district machineries in following the due norms of public health safety as prescribed, but also instill a sense of discipline for civic behaviour in their cadre while doing ground management during campaign times. It is requested that you may like to issue advisory to all your field representatives to demonstrate utmost vigil and care to abide by all the extant instructions in large interest of public health and avoid any penal action for breaching the provisions.”

# Army Chief calls for modernisation of armed forces



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

In the backdrop of the Indian and Chinese armies locked in a stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Army Chief General M M Naravane on Wednesday reviewed the current security scenario and stressed the need for faster integration and modernisation of the armed forces.

Interacting with the officers at the prestigious College of Defence Management (CDM) and Bison Division at Secunderabad, he also focused on the geo-strategic implications on capability development and force utilisation of the Indian Army in pursuit of national interests.

During his address to the student officers and faculty of the CDM, Naravane spoke on a number of issues concerning integration, theatreisation and modernisation of the armed forces in general and the Indian Army in particular, the Army said here.

On the government's decision to appoint the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and create the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), the Army chief said it was “a momentous one” and that the services needed to “demonstrate great wisdom and statesmanship in enabling the CDS, a long standing demand of the Armed Forces.”

He added that the next logical step in the process of defence reforms was the “formation of Integrated Theatre Commands to synergise the capabilities and combat potential of the three services during war and peace.” However, he advised that this process will be “deliberate, thoughtful and well considered” and its fruition will take a “number of years.”

Naravane explained to the officers that there was a need for everyone to work in a spirit of togetherness and trust with the national security interests being paramount. He added a note of caution and said that there might be a requirement for “mid course corrections.”

He was optimistic about the future of integration of the armed forces, which Naravane said was “an inevitability” as it would lead to “tri-services synergy” and optimisation of resources.

He commended the CDM for the excellent work related to grooming of tech-adept, management savvy and strategically nimble higher leadership. At the Bison Division, the Army chief was briefed by Major General Alok Joshi, General Officer Commanding, Bison Division on security and operational preparedness of the formation.

Later, the Army chief visited the Simulator Development Division (SDD), Secunderabad and the TATA Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL) at Hyderabad, a joint venture facility of Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems established for co-production of Apache Helicopters-64. The COAS appreciated the “Make in India” initiatives and reinvigorated efforts towards indigenisation and being “Atmanirbhar” on niche technologies.

# Modi holds talks with S Korean Prez

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday spoke to South Korean president Moon Jae-in, as the two leaders reviewed important global developments, including the progress in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two leaders also reviewed the ongoing diversification of international value chains, the need to preserve a transparent, development-oriented and rules-based global trading order, and the important role of the World Trade Organisation, a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) statement said.

# Shah lauds role of police during pandemic

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Government is undertaking a comprehensive modernisation programme to prepare the police and paramilitary forces of the country to tackle newer challenges of terrorism, cyber crime and border security, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said while hailing the services of police personnel during the pandemic.

Shah said a joint column of police and Central Armed Police Forces jawans and officers at the National Police Memorial in Chanakyapuri on Wednesday on the occasion of the police commemoration day.

The day is observed to pay homage to 10 policemen (of the CRPF) killed in an ambush by Chinese troops in 1959 in Ladakh's Hot Spring area.

“The work of police is witnessing new challenges and new dimensions in the areas of terrorism, fake currency, narcotics control, cyber crime, arms smuggling, human trafficking. It is a challenge to prepare the police forces for the new dimensions that have emerged in the last 2-3 decades.”

“We have prepared a comprehensive modernisation programme for the police and I am hopeful that in the coming days the Modi government will prepare them to meet these challenges,” Shah said.

He said the Government is bringing in technology to make the country's borders “impregnable” and preparations in this regard are being done in detail. The technology and promptness of our troops will go hand-in-hand and we will be able to better secure our borders, he said.

Shah also said that the government was “going to do many things” so that the deficiency in availability of police

# ADG rank official to head newly-created Guwahati-based ITBP eastern command

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), tasked to secure the frontier with China, has appointed a high-level officer to head the newly-created Guwahati-based eastern command that oversees deployment of border battalions in that region. This marks the operationalisation of the eastern command.

The paramilitary has posted Additional Director General Amrit Mohan Prasad. Prasad will now be based in Guwahati to head the Command which oversees the battalions deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in States like Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam with frontiers at Itanagar (Northeast) and Lucknow (east) and sector offices at Likabali, Tezpur, Dibrugarh and Gangtok among others.

The Command also supervises the Force's battalions deployed for anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh.

Some officers, sub-officers and administrative staff were earlier posted by the force to operationalise the command. However, the posting of the top officer was delayed due to administrative reasons.

The Force specialised in mountain-warfare had earlier posted an officer (in the Inspector General-rank) in

personnel per one lakh population is addressed.

He said a total of 35,398 police and CAPF personnel have laid down their lives in the line of duty till now with 264 making the supreme sacrifice over the last year.

# Top Indian officials in Kathmandu to discuss border, map issues

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

A high level team of officials that includes Research and Analysis Wing Chief Samant Kumar Goel and a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs among others visited Kathmandu on Wednesday. The team which also comprises officials of the defence forces met top leaders of Nepal including Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal who is commonly known as Prachanda among others. The team travelled on a special IAF flight No IFC 4620 and is

June to head its western command located in Chandigarh that has control over battalions deployed along the LAC in Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

The two ADG-rank headed commands were sanctioned by the Union Government in October last year for better operational functioning of the about 35-38 battalions of the

expected to return by Thursday morning. The moves comes ahead of the planned visit of Army Chief MM Naravane early next month to Kathmandu. The deliberations by the Indian team in Nepal are being directly supervised by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

The visit assumes significance as it marks a thaw in the strained relation between the two countries after Nepal included Indian territories under Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in its map earlier this year.

force deployed at the LAC, starting from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh along the eastern front.

The new commands are expected to streamline operations, intelligence, deployment and administrative movements of the personnel to the border regions and also boost synergy with the Army that secures the LAC.

was presented during the event that was attended by Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy, Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of the Intelligence Bureau Arvind Kumar and chiefs of various CAPFs.

# Air pollution killed 1.16L infants in their very first month of life in India in ‘19: Study

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Air pollution is fast killing infants, with a global study finding that last year in India, outdoor and household particulate matter pollution claimed more than 1,16,000 toddlers in their very first month of life.

Touted as the first-ever comprehensive analysis of air pollution's global impact on newborns, the annual State of Global Air 2020 report published by the Health Effects Institute (HEI), however found progress in reducing household air pollution exposures but levels stagnant for outdoor PM2.5.

The report, State of Global Air 2020, said more than half of these deaths were associated with outdoor PM2.5 and others were linked to use of solid fuels such as charcoal, wood, and animal dung for cooking.

Overall long-term exposure to outdoor and household air pollution contributed to



over 1.67 million annual deaths from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases, and neonatal diseases in India in 2019.

For the youngest infants, most deaths were related to complications from low birth weight and preterm birth.

Overall, air pollution is now the largest risk factor for death among all health risks, according to the report. The HEI is an independent, research institute funded jointly by the US Environmental Protection Agency, industry, foundations, and development

banks.

The report highlights the ongoing challenge of high outdoor air pollution in South Asian countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal which feature among the top 10 countries with the highest PM2.5 exposures in 2019; all of these countries experienced increases in outdoor PM2.5 levels between 2010 and 2019.

Use of solid fuels for cooking, however, presents a pattern of moderate success. Since 2010, more than 50 million fewer people have been exposed to household air pollution. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Household LPG program and other schemes have helped to dramatically expand access to clean energy, especially for rural households.

# Govt eases import norms to tide over ‘onion crisis’

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Wednesday relaxed import norms till December 15 to facilitate the early shipment of onion to boost the domestic supply and check the retail prices of the key kitchen staple, sold in cities like Chennai at ₹73 per kg.

Indian High Commissions have been instructed in the relevant countries to contact the traders to push for greater onion imports to the country. The ministry has also decided to offload more onion from its buffer stock in the open market to contain price rise.

An estimated Kharif crop of 37 lakh tonne is likely to start arriving in the Mandis that will give reprieve to the rising prices, it said. According to the ministry, a sharp spike in onion prices in the past 10 days by Rs 11.56/kg has taken the all-India retail price of the commodity to Rs 51.95/kg, which was 12.13 per cent higher than the last year's price of Rs



46.33/kg.

The retail price of onion has shown a marked increase from August-end 2020, though the price level was below that of last year till October 18, it said.

To facilitate import of onion, the ministry said, “The government has on October 21 relaxed the conditions for fumigation and additional declara-

tion on Phytosanitary Certificate (PSC) under the Plant Quarantine Order (PQ), 2003 for import up to December 15, 2020”.

Consignments of imported onions, which arrive at Indian ports without fumigation and endorsement to that effect on the PSC, would be fumigated in India by the importer through an accredited treatment

provider.

In order to moderate prices, the ministry said that onion from the buffer stock is being released in a calibrated manner from the second half of September 2020 to major mandis, retail suppliers such as Safal, Kendriya Bhandar, and NCCF as well as state governments. “More will be done in the coming days,” it added.



## Crowdpuller Tejashwi

RJD leader Lalu Prasad's son has committed himself to the race rather late in the day. He may dent but can't demolish Nitish



One would have expected the pandemic to dull the campaign for the Bihar elections but Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav is certainly stealing the thunder in optics. The surging crowds at his rallies, in total violation of social distancing norms, the high decibel cheers and his promise of providing 10 lakh jobs show the despondency of the State's migrant workers, who are looking for a sliver of hope, if not the promised land. They say visuals shape perception, and though Bihar's wisened voter has seldom been swayed by spectacles and transferred votes, Tejashwi's appeal is certainly giving some anxious

moments to the Janata Dal (United) supremo and incumbent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. But with popular sentiment favouring the BJP with which JD(U) is in a combine, can Tejashwi churn the political waters if not turn the tide? Perhaps, he has immersed himself rather late in the day but will this legitimise his claim to being the torchbearer of his father, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and his social justice movement? For now, Tejashwi, who has often been criticised for running away to Delhi at the slightest challenge and being arrogant, is seriously investing himself as a chief ministerial aspirant. And over the last six months, he has been grounded in his State, worked the grassroots and built a people connect. Most importantly, he has decided to step out of Lalu's shadow and recast the political dialogue to his specifications. He knows full well that he cannot fill his father's big shoes just yet and that RJD would still get the traditional caste-based loyalty and minority votes based on Lalu's goodwill. After all, the Yadav-Muslim combined votebase still makes for 30 per cent of the State population. So he wants to carve out a broader constituency for himself that is more contextual than historic and is keen to make the most of a time when the political stock of Bihar's one-time deliverer Nitish is at an all-time low. So instead of harping on the RJD's core plank of caste, he has made unemployment of the State's youth the pivot of his campaign, as economics is the only issue that matters in pandemic-hit times. This helps him on two counts. First, it helps him reel in the youth, who form about 24 per cent of the electorate and who, like the migrant workers, are thoroughly disenchanted with the way Nitish handled their return during the lockdown. They even idolised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for rehabilitating them in transit, a fact that the BJP is likely to encash for itself. Second, though the RJD is seen as a scam-tainted party, a new generation hardly remembers the details and Tejashwi is hoping to contemporise the party's appeal among the young. In fact, his catchy slogans, like "*Nayi Soch Naya Bihar*" or "*Abki Bar Yuva Sarkar*," are in tune with his effort to recast himself as a development-oriented leader who can fill in where Nitish failed. Besides, he has also given tickets to some upper caste leaders but has been astute enough to not upset the backward castes and Dalits, considering that Nitish has systematically chipped away at the RJD's base over the years by creating sub-categories like the Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs) and Mahadalits. Tejashwi, is, therefore, trying to broaden the party's base to make up for this slide and wants to personify the Bihar that doesn't want Nitish. It is this that makes him engaging in what was thought to be a colourless election.

The question is if the reliability and people connect can work on the ground mathematically. Of course, this time both Lalu and Tejashwi have been careful about seat allocation to allies, preferring to keep the lion's share for the party. They have learnt the hard way, drawing a blank in the Lok Sabha elections last year after contesting only 19 seats on their own and apportioning the rest among allies, who couldn't ensure vote transfers to either the RJD or the Congress. So the party is contesting 144 Assembly seats, leaving 70 for the Congress and 29 for the three Left parties. On its own, its vote-catching potential goes up but right now with Nitish splitting its pie, what with Dalit leader Jitan Ram Manjhi and other splinters migrating to the JD(U), floating outfits or becoming Independents, the RJD still needs its old allies lest they, too, desert and split the anti-vote. Besides, RJD won 80 seats in the 2015 Assembly election together with Nitish and the JD(U) votebase. That's gone now. So RJD cannot risk disavantaging itself further. Besides, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) now has a broad caste arc with the support of dominant groups like the Kurmis, Koeris/Kushwahs and Mahadalits, who account for 60 per cent of Bihar's population. Tejashwi is banking on the Left parties for transplanting "caste" with "class" and hoping to make a breakthrough among the poor and underprivileged. By and large, the Left parties have limited but committed voters and can matter in the RJD-led alliance. Besides, Tejashwi visited flood-hit refugees at their homes and toured the really backward pockets of the State. And though politically and ideologically divergent, he backed rival claimant and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan for pointing out Nitish's flaws, cleverly not antagonising himself among the Paswans, a dominant section of Dalits. Nitish needed a credible challenger much earlier for people to reconsider, a space quietly picked up by the BJP with its post-Ayodhya swell and the Modi aura. A fortnight of roaring success doesn't translate to votes. Will Tejashwi remain a talking point or indeed become a turning point?

## Keep Durga in our hearts

The PM is right, if India is to avoid a devastating second wave, our behaviour during the festive season will matter



In Kolkata and the rest of West Bengal, as well as in Bengali communities across the length and breadth of India, the coming of the festive season meant going to a *Puja* pandal, paying obeisance to the Mother and her children on their annual visit before indulging in food and mingling with friends and family. And not just in Bengal, where the arrival of *Ma Durga* meant a time of feasting and spending on new clothes and household goods, but across the country, across communities, these months meant exchanging gifts, sweets and what not. It was a time for togetherness, where children travelled back to be with their families and the

usual news stories of these times over the past few years were the exorbitant airfares across the country. However, in these Coronavirus-infected months, whether in Kolkata or in Delhi's Chittaranjan Park area, the limited and scaled down pandals have become no-go areas. But while the pandemic has dampened enthusiasm in many sensible people, who are relying on digital feeds to address their spiritual quest, others are incorrigible. Festival romantics, for whom the joys of pandal-hopping cannot be denied, have compelled the Calcutta High Court to modify its ban on entering pandals, now allowing small groups inside. How on earth will this be monitored? While this can possibly be managed in cities like Kolkata, Howrah, Asansol and Siliguri, how will the rush be controlled in the hundreds of small towns that dot the South Bengal countryside, all of which have their own *Puja* pandals and where people invariably use India's densest suburban rail system to work in the city of Kolkata? The potential for a regional healthcare disaster is tremendous and one presumes that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech was to ensure that things do not get out of hand. In Delhi, *puja* organisers have been careful and no large pandals have been set up. The few *pujas* that are happening are taking place purely for religious purposes in temples.

One hopes that the citizens of India pay heed to the PM's request and understand that God will not be angry if we do not go and pay obeisance in person. This is a horrible aspect of today's reality and there will be an economic price as well, but if we are to stay safe and healthy during the winter, we do not have a choice.



BINDU DALMIA

The Indian economy has been stress-tested many times before but never been dented as savagely as this time around. But 2020 will be remembered as the year that eroded a decade's worth of progress, the *annus horribilis* that bought humanity to its knees. Governments and businesses across the world are undergoing rapid recalibrations in order to adjust to the world of extreme volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA). So, when the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) states that "the world economy is not coming back to 2019 levels until 2022", it is a comforting statement of fact that economic contraction is a universal phenomenon and not a stand-alone, India-centric affliction.

So, how is the Government catalysing towards a sustainable growth momentum? The task has not been easy for a country with limited financial resources to secure lives and livelihoods of 130 crore people, who account for 18 per cent of the world's population. Given the constraints, the Narendra Modi-led Government has pursued a path of re-booting and rebuilding the economy by wrestling four pillars parallelly. First, by addressing interim and short-term solutions for sustaining livelihoods. Second, by identifying and spending on post-COVID sectors of growth that will lead to sustainable and a long-term recovery. Third, by using its mandate to push ahead with powerful reform agenda, passing in quick succession long-pending reforms in labour, agriculture and education. India is poised for a stronger and more robust comeback as compared to partial or cyclical rebounds. Fourth, in order to maintain a steady growth momentum, the Government has pursued balancing social sector spending with infrastructure spending. The Centre recognises the importance of infrastructure as the foremost engine of growth and the need to scale up outlays to at least eight per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on "next-generation infrastructure," for which an allocation of ₹111 trillion investment has been set aside from 2020 to 25.

Can the Government do more by way of welfare measures, given the anticipated shortfalls in revenue? The World Bank, usually the paragon of caution, has this time

around advised emerging nations like India to set aside fiscal prudence and take on further debt, as "you first worry about fighting the war, then you figure out how to pay for it."

Interim solutions lie in first addressing livelihood issues by further extending the timelines of direct income support for the rural poor, as also offering urban migrants a similar package. The Centre has spent around two per cent of GDP on welfare schemes like direct cash transfers for income support, free grains for the rural poor, increased spendings on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and so on. As the crisis is far from over and the duration of the pandemic is uncertain, it is doubtful the Government will prematurely withdraw welfare spending.

By lowering interest rates, providing credit guarantees for MSMEs, allowing for loan moratoriums and one-time restructuring of loans, the Government has deployed a sizeable fiscal package of around seven per cent of GDP towards increasing liquidity. This is much required to address the supply side needs of the industry, though funding has not adequately percolated down to SMEs, who are most severely impacted by the downturn.

While globally, Central Banks have continued with massive doses of Quantitative Easing (QE), there is room for more in

emerging markets like India as the effect of rate cuts and liquidity keeps waning due to the weak transmission. However, the policy of easing credit flows is not insulated from the downside risks of defaults that could impact the health of the already fragile banking sector. Because it is a given that the impact on the financial sector isn't usually immediately visible, so the true impact of defaults on loans will reflect only in the following quarters.

The phenomenon of "revenge" or "rebound" spending during the festival months is at best a temporary surge. As we enter the festive season, there is already an average uptick by 34 per cent to 40 per cent in sector-specific surges in the major propellers of growth like retail, consumer durables, automobiles and residential housing. However, socio-economic variables have contributed to worsening VUCA levels in the services sector, which contributes 54 per cent to the GDP but has seen irrecoverable demand-destruction.

Travel, tourism, shopping, hospitality, aviation, entertainment, leisure and fashion come under the discretionary-spend service sector, which is expected to see an improvement during the festive months. Viewed through the lens of behavioural science, the phenomenon of "revenge buying, or spending on indulgences" happens after a prolonged period of suppression

on lifestyle pleasures that creates the much needed "feel-good factor." Levels of discretionary spending are a vital marker of economic health, as people only spend on lifestyle expenses once they have disposable funds left after paying for taxes, housing, savings and other essential needs.

To gauge the downward or upward trends in these sectors, predictive insights can be gained from the data of the Google Community Mobility Report that uses anonymised data provided by Google Maps. The global Google Mobility Index trends show that travel and mobility levels had fallen to 44.7 per cent in April and risen to 82 per cent by mid-September. Here again, mobility and commuting will vary with the spread or decrease in regional COVID-load.

The aviation and hospitality industries have been among the 26 most stressed sectors and recovery is not expected before 18 to 24 months. The tourism industry contributes nine per cent to the GDP, generates substantial revenues and accounted for 87 million jobs in 2019.

The festival season is expected to give a big boost to these closely aligned sectors and will hopefully fuel the wheels of the economy till the end of 2020. Optimism thereafter rests on the advent of the vaccine by early 2021. However, with the onset of winter and the negligence of maintaining distancing proto-

cols at festive gatherings, there is a risk of further waves of viral outbreaks. This in turn will deepen the negative impact on future earnings and impact consumer spending in the following quarter of 2020 to 21.

Ultimately, the volume of consumer spending is not being dictated by need-based buying, but by what I term as the "Index of Fear-Intensity." The quantum of "Fear-Intensity" in consumers wanes and rises in response to the local COVID-load, intermittent lockdowns and the visibility of each individual's anticipated earnings over the next six months, which are now dictating behavioural patterns of consumers.

Which sectors can ride the economy towards sustainable recovery? There is empirical evidence that increased spending in infrastructure during downturns has never failed to have trickle-down effects in rebooting the economy and creating millions of jobs. As most emerging nations are constrained for resources, the Indian Government would be looking to tap into concessionary finance facilities being extended by international development finance institutions. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and IMF are fast-tracking generous assistance to member countries facing a COVID-crunch, with global interest rates being at historic lows.

Assessing sectoral bounce backs in recovery for the July to September quarter, it has been largely driven by agriculture, while IT, healthcare, fintech, educational technology, telecom and e-commerce sectors will remain the prime engines of post-COVID growth, as they come under the category of the new "Touchless and Homebody Economy."

Stock markets, long seen as a proxy for the real economy, are now being driven by ultra-lax monetary policies in the developed world. But stock market buoyancy in no way mirrors the actual economic pain at ground levels, even as the Sensex consolidates around the 40,000 mark.

However, unlike measuring the stock market performance on a quarterly basis, corporates and the Government will have to get past the obsessive compulsion to look at monthly outcomes, and instead adopt a medium-to-long-term approach for a sustainable recovery, while remaining resilient enough to calibrate policies to the VUCA factors.

(The writer is author, columnist and Chairperson of the National Committee for Financial Inclusion at the Niti Aayog)

## SOUND BITE

Is the mic ready? I wonder who did that to our mic? I don't believe it was Joe (Biden). You know who it was? Crooked Hillary (Clinton). It must've been.



**US President**  
—Donald Trump

I have come back with great memories, a fabulous racing experience and valuable exposure to the sport.



**Go Karting racer**  
—Aashi Hanspal

Your generation can be the one that creates a new normal in America. One that's fairer, where the system treats everybody equally and gives everybody opportunity.



**Former US President**  
—Barack Obama

Social media content must be regularly monitored to prevent its misuse by the enemies. Militancy sponsored by the neighbour is being effectively dealt with by our police.



**J&K Lt Governor**  
—Manoj Sinha

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Malabar naval exercise

Sir — As a big strategic move, India has invited Australia to the annual Malabar naval exercises after a gap of 13 years. This proves the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) — which includes the US and Japan as the other two members — as being something more than a mere talking shop. This will be the Quad's first full military-level engagement and a step closer for the eventual formalisation of the grouping. New Delhi, overcoming its previous hesitation to invite Canberra, changed tack after China's growing belligerence and the ongoing border standoff in eastern Ladakh. With China flexing its muscle across the region, the need for a counterbalancing strategic-security platform was sorely felt. Beijing, that had compared the grouping to sea foam in 2018, now sees this move as a quiet, serious concern.

The Quad, through regular naval coordination, can now actualise the idea of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. An effective navy with advanced operational logistics gives India the ability to exploit China's Malacca dilemma and disrupt energy supplies to the latter,

### Lack of adherence to Corona guidelines

On October 20, during his seventh address to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an earnest appeal to the citizens to not be careless during the pandemic, especially as the festival season is approaching. As we continue to live with the virus, "even a small negligence" on our behalf can dampen the festive spirit. He even announced that the Government is making all possible efforts to ensure that a vaccine, whenever it is launched, reaches every Indian. However, on the other hand, COVID protocols are being brazenly violated by political parties in Bihar and other State election rallies. One such incident was when Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister, Sushil Kumar Modi, addressed an election rally at Ramgarh in Kaimur district with an estimated 20,000 people gathered to listen to him. Throwing caution to the wind, the participants clustered together, ignoring social distancing, and most did not even wear a mask.

The Election Commission's guidelines for holding a physical rally mandate social distancing of at least



two metres and all attendees wearing masks. However, in the race to woo the electorate, the political leaders have forgotten that the pandemic is not over yet. So while the PM's address was informative, the Centre needs to practise what it preaches or else Bihar elections could turn into a mass virus-spreading event.

**Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee**  
Faridabad

### Hollow promises?

Sir — Campaigning for the Assembly elections in 243 constituencies of Bihar is heating up. And at one such rally, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav promised 10 lakh Government jobs if he comes to power. In response, the Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar asked Yadav

from where does he plan to get the money for the salaries? This isn't the first time. Rather the campaigning period is usually full of such tall promises that are forgotten once the polling is over. However, it is an absolute fact that the State needs comprehensive changes in numerous sectors: Employment, economy, education, healthcare, stringent measures to save flood-affected

areas and so on. The present CM, in spite of being in alliance with the BJP, which is in power at the Centre, has failed to deal with these issues and things have only changed for the worse. There needs to be a complete overhaul of the Government and people are aware of it. However, with so many players in the ring, only time will tell who comes out on the top.

**N Kalam**  
Maharashtra

### China over Taiwan

Sir — Beijing is enraged as India considers formal trade negotiations with Taiwan. China's territorial and economic imperialism has forced its neighbours to look for alternatives and a way to counter the dragon.

So, even though New Delhi has been reluctant to seek trade talks with Taiwan earlier, such a step would reduce our dependence on China for supplies and further the goal of seeking greater investments in technology.

**KV Seetharamaiah**  
Hassan

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

## A sad epoch in human history

Having planned Operation Gulmarg, Pakistan unleashed its tribal militia on Jammu and Kashmir on October 22, 1947



RAGHVENDRA SINGH

Today is a black day in history and India is observing it as such, to protest against Pakistan's role in instigating violence and terror in the Valley. Having planned Operation Gulmarg, Pakistan unleashed its tribal militia on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on October 22, 1947. Overrunning Muzaffarabad, Domel and Uri, the tribal *lashkars*, led by Pakistan Army personnel, reached Baramulla on October 26 and wreaked havoc. A November 10 despatch by Robert Trumbull of *The New York Times* relates vividly the death and destruction that was unleashed upon the town by the marauders. It had been stripped of its wealth and dignity before the tribesmen fled in the face of advancing Indian troops, who had rushed to the rescue of the hapless residents. Survivors of those events estimated that 3,000 of their fellow townsmen, including four Europeans and a retired British Army officer, Colonel Dykes, and his pregnant wife, were slain. When the raiders rushed into town on October 26, one party of Mahsud tribesmen scaled the walls of the Saint Joseph's Franciscan Convent compound and stormed the convent hospital and the church. Twenty-four hours later, when the Indian Army entered Baramulla, only 1,000 were left of the population of about 14,000.

Max Despott, an *Associated Press* photographer, described on November 2 that he saw more than 20 villages in flames while flying over a section of Kashmir Valley, extending within 20 miles of Srinagar. The villages had been set on fire by the invaders, who were scouring the Valley and moving in the direction of Srinagar.

Sydney Smith of *Daily Express* of London was in the Baramulla Hospital during those ten days and filed a first hand report of the attack on the convent. "The tribal *lashkars* had come shooting their way down from the hills on both sides of the town. They climbed over the hospital walls from all sides. The first group burst into a ward firing at the patients. A 20-year-old Indian nurse, Philomena, tried to protect a Muslim patient whose baby had just been born. She was shot dead first and the new mother was next. Mother Superior Aldetrude rushed into the ward, and as she knelt over Philomena, she was attacked and robbed. When the Assistant Mother, Teresalina, saw a tribesman point a rifle at Mother Aldetrude, she jumped in front of her and a bullet went through Teresalina's heart. At that moment, Colonel Dykes raced from his room to get the Mother Superior out of danger, shouting at the tribesman as he ran. But the Mother Superior was shot and Colonel Dykes collapsed beside her, with a bullet in his stomach. His wife ran from her husband's room to help the Colonel, but she too, was shot. While this went on, Gee Boretto, an Anglo-Indian, was killed in the garden in front of nine nuns. Then the nuns themselves were lined up before a firing squad. We did not find Mrs Dykes until the following day. She had been thrown down a well. Reports had come that the chief of another Evangelical Mission, Major Ronald Davis, a Welshman, and one of his two English women assistants, had been shot dead. The other assistant was said to have been taken to the hills," says Smith in his report.

Abdul Rahman of Baramulla, too, recorded his observations and said that the raiders looted the Hindus to begin with, burnt the houses of the Sikhs and killed them. "As a result of this arson and loot, the Sikhs and the Hindus fled Baramulla, leaving their houses burning, and most of their women were raped and kidnapped. The raiders did not touch the Muslims to begin with — perhaps they wanted to win their sympathy. After a few days when they found that they were about to be forced out of the Valley, they turned on everybody. They started wholesale loot, arson and rape. They killed whoever came in their way. The raiders also took all the valuable ornaments of silver and gold, shawls and so on when they left," he recalled.

According to the Wazir-i-Wazarat of Baramulla, Chaudury Faizullah, the tribal *lashkars* entered in groups of 30-40 men. Over 5,000 of them were concentrated in Baramulla at one time. They were mostly tribesmen with a few Punjabi Muslims, all well-armed and led by Pirs, Pakistan Army and Frontier Constabulary officers. The local Muslim Conference men joined the raiders and acted as guides. From the day the raiders entered the town, they started killing non-Muslims and looting and burning houses, irrespective of religion and raping women. They broke into houses in groups of 10-12, robbed them and carried away valuables, clothes and food. About 280 lorries were used to ferry this loot. The Pakistani raiders left on the night of November 7 when the Indian Army re-captured it. The *Times of London* reported on November 11 that residents seemed delighted to welcome the Indian troops. The Press despatch also bore testimony to the fact that the convent and hospital were not destroyed by the Indian aerial attacks as alleged by Pakistan wireless statements.

(The writer is Secretary, Ministry of Culture)

THIS (KAPIL'S) SHOW IS FULL OF DOUBLE MEANING WORDS, IN WHICH THE MEN WEAR WOMEN'S CLOTHES, DO CHEAP THINGS AND PEOPLE LAUGH.

—ACTOR  
MUKESH KHANNA



IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE PEOPLE SMILE. I HAVE CHOSEN HAPPINESS AND PREFER TO FOCUS ON MY WORK AND CONTINUE TO KEEP DOING THAT IN FUTURE.

—ACTOR AND COMEDIAN  
KAPIL SHARMA

# The lines are blurred

The judgment in the Rhea Chakraborty case has virtually laid down a new norm with regard to police jurisdictions, one which may be misused by complainants



AMIT JAISWAL

One issue which has captured the imagination of India and occupied most of the space in the country's electronic and print news media in recent times, especially some television channels, is the untimely death by suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR). The young man, who was originally from Bihar, was found dead in his home in Bandra, Mumbai on June 14, where he had hung himself.

Going by the set procedures in such cases and given that this was a high-profile one involving a celebrity's death, the Mumbai Police went about its work diligently. It recorded the statements of 56 people, including the immediate family members, relatives, live-in partner, friends and staff of the deceased actor. At that point of the investigation, none of them alleged any foul play. Their statements, too, did not suggest a cognisable offence. Consequently, the Mumbai Police registered the matter as an accidental death and proceeded in terms of Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). However, after about 40 days, on July 25, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered at the Rajiv Nagar police station in Patna, Bihar, at the instance of the actor's father, KK Singh, levelling allegations of breach of trust, misappropriation of property of his deceased son and abetment to suicide against his live-in partner Rhea Chakraborty and her family members.

A police team from Patna went to Mumbai to carry out the investigation. However, the Mumbai Police raised the issue of jurisdiction and there was a lot of acrimony over the issue. Finally, on the recommendation of the Bihar Government, the Central Government directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to carry out the probe in the matter. Meanwhile Rhea Chakraborty approached the Supreme Court under Section 406 of the CrPC for the transfer of the FIR from the jurisdiction of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate III, Patna Sadar, to the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bandra, Mumbai.

Now, the settled legal position is that the FIR has to be registered at the police station, which has jurisdiction over the area where the offence or any part of it is alleged to have been committed. *Prima facie* the Patna Police had no jurisdiction to register an FIR in the matter. Even if the complaint filed with the Bihar Police disclosed commission of some cognisable offence, the established procedure would be to register a "zero FIR" and transfer it to the police station empowered to do so. The Section which becomes relevant in this matter is Section 181(4) of the CrPC. It reads, "Any offence of criminal misappropriation or of criminal breach of trust may be inquired into or tried by a court within whose local jurisdiction the offence was committed. Or any part of the property, which is the subject of the offence, was received or retained, or was required to be returned or accounted for, by the accused person."

The Supreme Court, in its judgment, upheld the validity of registering the FIR in Patna, mainly on the ground that the allegations also related to criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of money, which were to be eventually accounted for in Patna (where the complainant resides), and that could *prima facie* indicate the

“THE APEX COURT HEAVILY RELIED UPON THE WORDS 'ACCOUNTED FOR' IN THE SECTION TO UPHOLD THE VALIDITY OF THE FIR. IT DID CITE A FEW JUDGMENTS TO SUBSTANTIATE ITS REASONING. IT CAN SAFELY BE SAID THAT IN NONE OF THE CITED JUDGMENTS, THE WORDS 'ACCOUNTED FOR' HAVE BEEN USED OR APPLIED BY THE COURTS. THEY DID NOT IMPLY THAT ONLY BECAUSE THE ACCUSED WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ACCOUNTABLE TO LEGAL HEIRS OF THE DECEASED, THE FIR COULD BE LODGED WHEREVER THE LEGAL HEIRS OF THE DECEASED RESIDE



lawful jurisdiction of the Patna Police.

The apex court heavily relied upon the words "accounted for" in the Section to uphold the validity of the FIR. It did cite a few judgments to substantiate its reasoning. Though it is not possible to discuss every single judgment here, it can safely be said that in none of the cited judgments, the words "accounted for" have been used or applied by the courts. They did not imply that only because the accused would eventually be accountable to legal heirs of the deceased, the FIR could be lodged wherever the legal heirs of the deceased reside, even though no part of the offence has ever taken place within the jurisdiction of that police station.

For argument's sake, let us take a hypothetical case of a businessman, who commits suicide in Mumbai due to alleged financial wrongdoing on the part of his business associate or agent or even a creditor. Now, let us say that one son of the deceased businessman resides in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and another in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. By virtue of this judgment, the police forces of these two places would have the jurisdiction to register an FIR and investigate the matter only because the money was eventually to be accounted for to the satisfaction of the legal heirs in these two cities. Thus, they would have the option to choose the place/State which best suited their interests. An FIR sets criminal law into motion and, therefore, a probe by the police will follow. A police team from Lucknow or Ahmedabad, as the case may be, will have to travel all the way to Mumbai for

the investigation, collecting evidence and recording the statements of witnesses. Will any meaningful probe be possible in this manner? Will it not create a situation of political slugfests and inter-State wrangling with regard to investigations by the police force of one State into a crime committed within the territorial jurisdiction of another State? Will every such case then be assigned to the CBI or some other Central agency?

Another aspect which needs to be noticed is that as per Supreme Court Rules notified on May 11, a single judge is competent to hear certain bail matters and transfer applications. The relevant apex court rule reads, "Provided that the following categories of matters may be heard and disposed of finally by a judge sitting singly nominated by the Chief Justice: Special leave petitions arising out of grant, dismissal or rejection of Bail Application or Anticipatory Bail Application in the matters filed against the order passed under Section 437, Section 438 or Section 439 of the CrPC 1973 (two of 1974) involving the offences punishable with sentence up to seven years imprisonment; applications for transfer of cases under Section 406 of the CrPC 1973 (two of 1974); application of an urgent nature for transfer of cases under Section 25 of the CrPC 1908 (five of 1908)."

Now Rhea Chakraborty filed a petition under Section 406 of the CrPC for transfer of investigation in the FIR registered at Patna, Bihar to Mumbai, which was dismissed by the single judge on the ground that Section 406 of the

CrPC does not grant the apex court any such power. Once the petition for transfer itself had been declined, there was no occasion to further decide the jurisdiction of the Patna Police to register an FIR, as it was neither a consequential matter, nor was the decision of transfer petition dependent on the adjudication of validity of the FIR. On the perusal of the Rules reproduced above, there was no occasion for the single judge to adjudicate upon these issues. In effect, the judgment says that in cases where a person commits suicide or is murdered and there are allegations of breach of trust or misappropriation of property, then the FIR can be registered by the legal heirs of the deceased at any police station in India, wherever they reside. The investigation then will have to be carried out by the officer in-charge of that police station, though no part of the offence has ever taken place within its jurisdiction.

The judgment in the Rhea Chakraborty case has virtually laid down a new jurisprudence with regard to police jurisdictions. It has blurred lines and has serious implications on the criminal justice system so far as the initiation of criminal proceedings is concerned. This will only result in confusion and is susceptible to misuse by complainants. The court has given an open-ended and wide interpretation to the words "accounted for" in Section 181(4) of the CrPC. This is bound to give birth to myriad and complicated issues in the near future.

(The writer is an advocate in the Punjab and Haryana High Court)

## New strategies for the new normal

This outbreak serves as a reminder for retailers to be more proactive in planning and resilient in their response to future disruptions



SWAPNIL SONI

KISHA JOSHI

The Indian retail industry is a highly competitive, \$800 billion market with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12 per cent. Out of that, the share of online retail is \$32.7 billion with a CAGR of 31 per cent. Smartphone penetration, brand consciousness, demographics and policy support are the factors transforming and pushing this industry towards omnichannel retailing.

Omnichannel retailing is a fully-integrated approach to commerce, providing shoppers a unified experience across all channels or touchpoints, including online and offline. It offers consistent merchandise and seamless interaction between online and offline channels, thus combining the benefits

of both. However, the pandemic and subsequent national and local lockdowns have greatly impacted both supply and demand. The supply side was hit by administrative restrictions and limited resources while demand, too, remained subdued due to job-losses, salary cuts and restrictive spending. In such a situation, an agile response is needed for swift operations, customer satisfaction and surviving in the post-Corona era.

**Evolving consumer behaviour:** Though retail has undergone many significant disruptions in the past, perhaps none has shifted consumer behaviour as rapidly as this contagion has. The changes are happening due to factors like challenges in personal situations, preferences towards local products, precautionary measures against the virus and rising digital awareness — a by-product of promotion of contactless transaction.

Even in the unlock stage, consumers are hesitating to visit stores and while exercising social distancing measures, many uninitiated customers are moving towards online retailing. For example, many senior citizens are opting for online grocery shopping as a

precautionary measure. Use of services like contactless digital payments, social commerce and virtual consultation are also seeing a rise.

Many of these behavioural changes will continue even after the pandemic is over. McKinsey and Company cited this as "consumer behaviour shift." For example, people will get used to the comfort of home delivery, ease of digital payments, varieties offered by online markets and so on. Retailers need to draw insights from these changes and rebuild the consumer confidence as the new normal continues.

**Financial skills:** Revenue is sharply dropping for many categories. Even though store profit has gone down, retailers need to pay rents, salaries and so on. Hence, at this point it is necessary for them to optimise cost and curtail the offerings to profitable items. In the long-term, as demand picks up, it would be prudent to invest in omnichannel fulfillment as means to financial resilience.

**Accept the new normal:** Social distancing, safety and hygiene procedures will be here for a while. The best way to go forward is to accept the new normal and the complexity it will

bring to decision-making.

**Consumer connect:** Now more than ever, it is must for retailers to connect and communicate. Consumers will definitely like to know what a business is doing to ensure their safety, for delivery as well as in stores. Despite the pandemic, customers will need timely deliveries of their order. So, in case of item shortages or delayed fulfillment, it is necessary to explain the cause and convey the commitment.

**Extra activity:** First and foremost, retailers need to adapt to safety regulations, sanitisation procedures and regulatory directives at the country, State and municipal level in various phases of the unlocking. They need more dynamic inventory and logistics planning to meet the fluctuations both in demand and supply, plus a connect with employees regarding their health and financial well-being. This will prevent attrition and business continuity.

**Infrastructure:** The Indian online retail infrastructure is in an intermediate stage. The pandemic just exposed the flaws and inefficiency which were already there. Retailers should review the location of warehouses, delivery centres and their distributors to com-

pute the risk of supply chain disruptions. The partnership with local grocery stores will help retailers to ensure timely contactless last mile delivery even during a crisis. Retailers also need to re-imagine in-store experience, considering customers' safety and efficient operation with reduced staff while complying with social distancing norms.

**Technology skills:** Technology allows retailers to have relevant information and visibility throughout the supply chains, resulting in timely communication with all the stakeholders. Businesses will need secured, informative and intuitive shopping apps, which can balance for the lack of store visits. Also, Artificial Intelligence will continue to make a big impact in this sector to predict real-time consumer demand, optimise inventory and manage backorders, thus ensuring operational agility.

Also, Smart Mirrors and Augmented Reality can help build a store-like environment in the virtual world, ensuring safety. This way, retailers and associated stakeholders need to ramp up technological skills and infrastructure as they enter a post-pandemic

era. As of today, India is among the top countries with the highest number of COVID cases and there is no end to the contagion in sight. Even the countries, where the outbreak seemed to be in control initially, are experiencing a second wave. This has caused supply and demand disruption and jolted the market ecosystem.

Hence, it is certain that retailers, that are an integral part of the demand-driven economy, need to be financially prudent, fast in their response to the new dynamics and ready to collaborate through the value chain to thrive during this crisis and subsequent periods. As with many sectors, it is likely that retail will see a regime shift and consolidation. Smaller and financially-struggling businesses might face difficulty in surviving this crisis. At the same time, retailers with a unique value proposition will come out stronger. This outbreak serves as a reminder for retailers to be more proactive in planning and resilient in their response to unprecedented disruptions in future.

(The writers are Senior Research Scholars at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.)



FOREIGN EYE



### WORK, EDUCATION REVOLUTION AHEAD

Because the pace of technological change, digitisation and globalisation just keeps accelerating, the world is being knit together more tightly than ever — sure, the globalisation of goods and people has been slowed by the pandemic and politics, but the globalisation of services has soared — and the half-life of skills is steadily shrinking, meaning that whatever skill you possess today is being made obsolete faster and faster. (The NVT editorial)



# Govt may sweeten deal further for AI sale bid

■ NEW DELHI

The Government may further extend the date for submission of bids for Air India sale date beyond October 30 to give investors more time to make an offer while sweetening the deal terms further, finance minister officials privy to the development said.

The submission of initial bid or expression of interest (EoI) may be extended by 45 days to two months to December. Also, officials said that bidders would be given the option to decide on the quantum of debt in Air India books that they will like to absorb rather than freezing the debt amount and seeking investors bids.

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.

With the proposed changes, buyers will decide on the level of debt that they will take and the one taking the largest debt may be considered favourable to be declared winner.

Disinvestment secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey has also hinted at changes in the current structure of Air India transaction process in an interaction with journalists last week.

For the government, Air India has now become a test case on how to get investor interest in adversarial market conditions. While the airlines financials are already under severe pressure, the Covid-19 pandemic had further dented the prospects of the aviation industry putting the sale process under further problems. The bidding process for the debt-ridden airline has been postponed four times earlier and of October 30 deadline is changed now, it would be

fifth such extension.

Sources said that changes in the structure of the sale process to facilitate investors would go by the principle of letting buyers decide the enterprise value of Air India rather than its market cap or using other valuation methodology. The enterprise valuation determines the value of an entity based on its market capitalisation and also debt in books and cash balances.

Sources said that changes in the valuation method has been approved by a CGD (Core Group on Disinvestment) headed by the cabinet secretary at its meeting last week and now it would be has placed before AISAM (Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism). For Air India, the Govt is finding it tough to get investors on board.

A Tata Group led consortium was considered favourite to take over the airline earlier but its interest in the airline lately has been subdued.

# Festive season, positive farm bill to fuel tractor sales growth, says M&M

■ NEW DELHI

The world's largest tractor manufacturer by volumes foresees a sustained growth in tractor off-take on the back of festive season along with recently introduced farm bill.

Accordingly, auto major M&M's Farm Equipment Sector President Hemant Sikka predicts the farm bill to usher in higher income for farmers, thereby, allowing greater farm mechanisation levels.

"These reforms are positive, and we await on-ground execution of various elements of this bill to better realise its effectiveness," he told IANS.

"Higher productivity and better farm incomes being a paramount objective of this bill will improve the farmers ability to purchase a better class of equipment, ensuring optimal utilisation of resources, along with better management of crop lands," said Sikka.

According to Sikka, farm mechanisation has seen a secular growth this year. "In certain states, where there was a huge dependence on migrant

labourers, the Covid-related exodus resulted in acute spike in mechanisation," he said.

"In other states, where the dependence on migrant labourers were not as much, the demand for farm machinery was still there but not as acute."

For instance, some state governments are incentivising farmers to go in for greater farm mechanisation, so as to maintain the agriculture sector's growth rate during the Covid era.

Besides, Sikka noted that demand for higher HP tractors continues to grow.

"The overall industry has grown by around 12 per cent in H1 FY21, whereas the over 40HP segment industry has witnessed much higher growth at 27.4 per cent," explained Sikka.

"The contribution of over 40 HP segment in the industry has increased from 54.2 per cent to 61.7 per cent." Furthermore, he expects rural sentiments to remain positive and translate into robust demand for tractors as "we move into the festive period".

# 2 wheeler volumes to contract 16-18 % this fiscal due to Covid-19 : ICRA

■ NEW DELHI

Rating agency ICRA on Wednesday said it expects 16-18 per cent contraction in two wheeler volumes in the current fiscal.

"ICRA continues to maintain its expectation of 16-18 per cent year on year contraction in two-wheeler volumes in FY2021, amid an evolving COVID-19 situation and economic uncertainties," the rating agency said in a statement.

While the overall consumption and investment demand is expected to remain subdued for an extended period, some growth off-shoots are visible in rural markets, the rating agency added.

# INBRIEF

<p><b>RBI ANNOUNCES ₹1 LAKH CRORE 'ON TAP' TLTRO</b>  <b>Mumbai:</b> The Reserve Bank on Wednesday announced an "on tap" Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) scheme of up to Rs 1 lakh crore to enable banks to provide liquidity support to a host of sectors, including agriculture, retail, drugs and pharmaceuticals and MSMEs.</p>	<p><b>SBI OFFERS ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS ON HOME LOANS</b>  <b>New Delhi:</b>Lending major State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday announced concession in home loan rates by as much as 25 basis points. Accordingly, an interest concession of 25 bps will be provided for buying homes of above Rs 75 lakh, based on 'CiBIL score and through YONO' (app).</p>
<p><b>YES BANK OFFERS DISCOUNTS ON CREDIT CARD PURCHASES</b>  <b>New Delhi:</b> Yes Bank on Wednesday introduced festival season offers with discounts on processing fee on loans, low-cost EMI's, gift vouchers, cashbacks as well as various consumer loans at competitive interest rates. Unveiling the 'Khusiyo Ki Karein Zimmedari Se Tayyari' campaign, Yes Bank said customers can avail hassle-free loans – personal and business loans, two-wheeler and auto loans up to 100 % of on-road prices – at competitive interest rates, topped up with tailored options and flexible payment plans.</p>	<p><b>SMARTWORKS PARTNERS WITH ROUTEMATIC TO ASSIST ITS ENTERPRISE CLIENTS</b>  To assist its member organisations in returning to the workplace, Smartworks, a market leader in shared office space, has partnered with Routematic, an award-winning urban mobility startup, to facilitate daily commute to and from Smartworks shared offices.</p>
<p><b>UK GOVT BORROWING RISES TO RECORD DUE TO PANDEMIC</b>  <b>London:</b>The UK Government's borrowing rose to the highest level on record in the first half of the financial year as tax revenue fell and authorities spent billions of pounds to prop up an economy ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic. Tax revenue dropped 11.6 per cent from a year earlier in the six months through September.</p>	

# Consumers may get relief on petrol, diesel prices this festive season

■ NEW DELHI

Consumers can cheer as oil marketing companies (OMC) may actually bring

down the retail prices of petrol and diesel this festive season.

Oil sector experts said that with global oil prices under pressure from slowing demand

in the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic sweeping several western countries, crude price could fall in coming days. If this holds on for a week or so, there

could be positive gains for auto fuel consumers in India by way of a fall in retail price of petrol and diesel.

Global crude prices are

holding close to \$ 42 a barrel now. It has been hovering between \$ 40-42 a barrel for over a month now. But with lower oil demand and rising

inventory, there is fear a song oil producing companies that crude prices may start falling again. OMCs in India have been holding on to the retail

price of petrol and diesel for close to a month now. Even on Wednesday, the price of two petrol products remained unchanged. With this, petrol

prices have now been unchanged for 29 days at a stretch while diesel prices were the same for the 19 consecutive days.

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
<b>NIFTY 50</b>	11,958.55	12,018.65	11,775.75	11,937.65	40.85
POWERGRID	157.6	166.15	157.25	164.3	7.1
BHARTIARTL	405.7	420.2	403.55	419.5	14.5
TATASEEL	396.3	408	394.35	401.7	11.3
HINDALCO	181.1	187.5	181	185.75	4.95
GAIL	85.8	88.25	85.75	87.85	2.15
NTPC	81.45	83.8	80.65	82.65	2
BPLCL	360.5	363.05	345.1	350.5	7.15
GRASIM	780	794.45	771.55	793	15.8
ULTRACEMCO	4,545.35	4,638.00	4,440.00	4,631.95	87.6
AXISBANK	496.9	507.5	486.6	503.15	9.2
HDFCBANK	1,230.60	1,251.00	1,221.70	1,245.25	21.3
KOTAKBANK	1,375.00	1,400.00	1,358.65	1,392.25	23.45
COALINDIA	113.65	116.9	113.55	115.4	1.75
HDFC	2,030.00	2,067.45	2,005.35	2,045.80	30.5
IOC	75.75	76.75	75.4	76.15	1.1
ICICIBANK	416	428.5	410.3	420.45	5.85
ADANIEXPORTS	350.25	360.15	349.55	353.6	4.65
JSWSTEEL	320.75	324.3	314.75	322	3.3
IT	924.95	931	908.65	926.5	9.2
SUNPHARMA	489	492.2	481.5	491.2	4.85
ONGC	68	68.6	67	68.05	0.65
INFY	1,141.15	1,154.35	1,135.00	1,146.75	9.25
TATAMOTORS	131.05	133.1	128.3	130.6	0.95
TITAN	721.00	726.55	722.00	724.30	6.8
CIPLA	77.18	77.18	75.65	76.845	1.55
BAIJAJ-AUTO	3,030.00	3,039.15	2,992.05	3,020.15	15.95
SBN	407	207.3	388.5	204	0.95
INDUSINDBK	631	647.8	599.55	627.3	2.05
MARUTI	6,904.00	6,947.60	6,764.65	6,860.00	15.4
ITC	168.15	168.9	166.6	167.8	0.35
M&M	606.9	610.8	592.2	601.5	-0.75
BAJFINANCE	3,270.00	3,295.00	3,101.35	3,252.00	-10.15
SHREECEM	21,250.00	21,426.95	20,680.15	21,111.05	-73.75
DIVISLAB	3,098.00	3,125.00	3,015.00	3,073.90	-11.85
HINDUNILVR	2,190.00	2,196.75	2,136.00	2,163.05	-10.05
ASIANPAINT	2,130.00	2,143.85	2,081.25	2,107.00	-11.5
UPL	459.9	463.5	446.75	453.05	-2.9
EICHERMOT	2,212.30	2,222.50	2,143.10	2,178.90	-15.55
BAJAJFINSV	5,965.50	6,010.00	5,735.10	5,909.05	-42.8
TECHM	851.1	857.2	833.95	843.55	-6.3
DREDDY	5,096.55	5,096.55	4,906.55	5,030.30	-40.85
WIPRO	349.6	350.1	339.1	343.3	-3.45
RELANCE	2,168.00	2,192.00	2,097.75	2,122.65	-33.25
HCLTECH	881	891.65	860	866	-13.65
HDFCLIFE	57.45	57.45	55.6	56.15	-9.5
NESTLEIND	16,240.00	16,314.45	15,942.05	15,976.10	-276.45
HEROMOTOCO	3,250.00	3,280.00	3,132.15	3,180.60	-57
SBIILE	801	804	780.8	785.05	-15.7
TCS	2,739.00	2,749.00	2,663.05	2,678.00	-61
BRITANNIA	3,580.00	3,580.00	3,382.00	3,401.85	-151.3

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
<b>NIFTY NEXT 50</b>	27,537.95	27,632.00	27,100.20	27,370.70	-64.3
ITI	2,989.00	3,139.00	2,989.00	3,105.00	140.2
HINDZINC	231.75	235.7	227.15	232.8	9.95
HINDPETRO	174.05	179.8	174.05	177.65	5.3
DLF	168.2	174.2	165.05	172.25	4.8
ACC	1,585.35	1,625.60	1,581.05	1,618.20	38.65
CONCOR	385.3	393.4	383.05	391.9	8.45
PETRONET	222.65	226.75	222.65	225.95	4.4
NMDC	83.65	85.65	83.5	85.2	1.55
BANKBARODA	42.2	43.3	41.65	42.55	0.7
INFRATEL	190	193.7	188.4	192.75	2.7
IGL	378	383.35	377	380.6	4.1
MCDOWELL-N	516	525.9	514	519.2	5.1
PEC	87.6	89.1	86.85	88.4	0.85
ABBOTINDIA	15,843.50	16,020.10	15,715.75	15,940.00	143.95
ADANIGREEN	690	713.9	678	694.85	6.15
PGH	10,042.30	10,180.00	10,042.30	10,170.05	86.15
AMBUJACEM	251.9	254.3	245.95	253.5	2.05
AUROPHARMA	803	808.95	792	806	5.7
ADANTIRAS	291.45	298.4	288	291.6	1.95
HAVELLS	710.35	722.95	700.3	711.85	2.7
NAUKRI	3,497.00	3,534.00	3,440.00	3,480.00	5.55
BIOCON	439.05	443.5	432.5	440	0.2
BAJAJHLDNG	2,361.65	2,379.90	2,331.65	2,350.00	0
HDFCAMC	1,320.00	1,344.65	1,298.30	1,314.25	-3.75
PUNB	2,352.80	2,355.00	2,319.20	2,340.25	-7.3
UPL	965.1	986.6	955.5	962	-3.1
SBCARD	901	908.75	878	895	-3.3
TORNTPHARM	2,719.25	2,731.95	2,681.50	2,700.00	-11.65
SIEMENS	1,294.15	1,304.90	1,281.35	1,282.00	-5.75
INDIGO	1,375.00	1,391.00	1,349.00	1,366.95	-6.4
AIKEM	2,670.00	2,678.90	2,637.00	2,652.95	-12.75
ICICIIG	1,250.00	1,260.00	1,237.20	1,239.35	-6.65
GODREJCP	693.9	701.6	680.1	688.4	-4.1
LUPIN	1,012.00	1,014.90	988	1,001.30	-7.4
CADILAH	428.2	432.45	418.1	425	-3.2
PEL	3,281.00	3,308.00	3,212.20	3,227.00	-30.35
BANDHANBNK	321.8	326.95	311.5	315.75	-3.4
GICRE	124.4	124.4	121.15	122	-1.4
BOSCHLTD	11,955.00	12,069.50	11,654.40	11,749.00	-146.5
BERGEPAINT	619.05	623	600.4	604.9	-10.3
MUTHOOTFIN	1,224.70	1,237.75	1,186.85	1,207.00	-22.35
MOTHERSUMI	110.7	111.95	105.9	107.1	-2.05
MARICO	369	369.25	359.05	359.8	-7.55
PIDILITIND	1,530.10	1,540.90	1,484.10	1,489.95	-34.9
DMART	2,143.05	2,170.00	2,061.05	2,092.85	-50.2
COFLAL	1,464.00	1,479.90	1,405.60	1,426.00	-35.05
ICICIPRULI	423	424.55	405	414	-10.15
TATACONSUM	479.7	482.3	458.95	464.5	-13.4
DABUR	530.4	533	508.1	513.2	-14.85

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	UBL	969.85	986	957	961.7	DHANUKA	704.3	729.6	700.55	721.5	REDINGTON	126.05	129.25	123.8	126.25
RELIANCE	2171.1	2191	2098.75	2123.25	INFRADEL	190.35	193.5	188.4	192.5	TV18BRDST	27.85	28.55	27.5	27.95	INDIAMART	4900	4979.95	4890	4946.65
HDFCBANK	1231	1250.5	1222.2	1247.05	BERGEPAINT	625	625	600.55	605.4	DCBANK	80.75	82.5	79.6	80.65	TORNTPHARM	2721.25	2729	2683.5	2703.4
BAJFINANCE	3279	3295	3101.6	3233.25	TVSMOTOR	447	457.5	442.7	446	KAJARIACER	580.15	584.25	566.55	570.8	OIL	89.05	89.3	87.55	87.8
INFY	1142	1153.9	1135	1148.3	GRANULES	397	403.4	381.85	385.5	CHENNPETRO	64.25	70.3	64.25	67.8	KNRCON	247	260.95	245	257.8
SBN	204.95	207.35	198.95	203.85	HDFCLIFE	577	577.4	556.35	563	TATAMETALI	578	591	565	578.5	LINDEINDIA	807.85	828.9	800	821
INDUSINDBK	632	647.8	600	628.3	PNB	27.35	27.8	27	27.2	PERSISTENT	1235.8	1244.65	1177.5	1205.9	JSWENERGY	62.65	65	62.45	63.6
VEDL	101.35	104.35	99.8	101.25	ADANIEXPORTS	353.35	360.05	349.7	355.35	UNIONBANK	23.65	24.6	23.65	24.35	CRISIL	1874.8	1874.8	1821.3	1834.05
TATAMOTORS	131.25	133	128.25	130.25	PIIND	215.6	219.995	2141	2184.8	NMDC	83.95	85.6	83.6	85.25	HINDCOPPER	36.35	37.15	34.6	35.2
ICICIBANK	41.6	428.25	410.4	420.35	BHEL	28.6	29	28.05	28.5	INOXLEISUR	27.17	27.17	26.28	26.55	KEI	324.9	324.9	320.25	321.1
IDEA	8.73	8.9	8.48	8.63	BIOCON	41	445.35	432.45	439.8	TATACHEM	321.91	321	319.7	321.25	GSFC	65.45	65.85	63	63.9
FEDERALBNK	56.85	58.75	55.75	56.95	BRIGADE	173	188.1	168.45	181.9	MATHESHI	1328.93	1324	1290.7	1302.5	CASTROLIND	112.35	112.8	111.6	112.05
HCLTECH	883.4	891.95	859.5	870.7	SAIL	34.5	35.9	34.5	35.4	BOMDYEING	62.3	63.75	62	63.3	ATUL	5961	5990	5833	5915.85
TATASTEEL	395.5	407.8	394.6	403.9	BLISSGVS	175.25	175.25	173.2	174.55	MIDHANI	181.9	182.7	173.65	178.75	ASHOKA	61.4	61.35	61.3	62.3
TCS	2739	2749.6	2663.1	2675.45	SUNTV	427.15	434.85	418.95	426.5	JAICORPLTD	85.35	88.9	85.1	86.95	GODREJIND	371.3	393	371.3	387.1
MINDTREE	1430	1467	1337.45	1356	L&TfH	63.7	64.5	61.85	63.1	BLUEDART	3098.95	3136.35	3001	3101.55	WOCKPHARMA	298.25	299.55	290.6	295.55
BRITANNIA	3565.15	3582.4	3374.8	3393.05	VOLITAS	699	711	695.7	706.35	VIPIND	290	291	271	275.2	JBCHPHARM	1030	1070	1003.1	1022.1
AXISBANK	497	507	486.75	501.5	TATAMTRDVR	56	56.6	54.65	55.6	TATACOFFEE	105.9	107.25	101.5	102.1	RADICO	437.5	442	421.25	436.5
HDFC	2035	2066.6	2005.2	2048.1	IGL	375	383	375	380.55	NBCC	23.45	23.5	22.8	23.05	IPCALAB	2075	2081	2056	2075.4
LT	925.9	931	909	924.65	GMM	3620.1	3645	3550	3588.5	RECLTD	97.3	99.8	97.25	99.35	KALPATPOWR*	233.5	239.9	233.5	239.05
GODREJPROP	938	1058	934.5	1041.05	GLENMARK	480	493.6	479.35	489.7	IRCTC	1339	1343.75	1328.35	1331.2	LEMONTREE	27.6	27.85	27	27.35
JUSTIDIAL	620	632.5	592.15	564.85	IBULHSGFIN	153	154.05	149.6	151.6	SYNGENE	558.9	566.6	550	552.25	CSBBANK	235	235	225.8	229.25
BPL	358.1	362.25	345	349.55	INDIGO	1374.1	1391.2	1348.5	1365.8	VINATIORGA	1281.95	1302.5	1231.5	1246.55	BAJAJELEC	51.4	524.2	510.8	513.15
NTPC	82	83.8	80.7	82.3	CHOLAFIN	240	248	238	242.55	SWANENERGY	140.55	141.15	137.05	138.65	PTC	46.6	46.9	46.2	46.4
BEML	619.95	629	606.35	615.45	BALKRISIND	1399.35	1437	1368.6	1388.25	JUBILANT	707.5	719.55	695	706.2	CERA	2579.45	2730	2507	2640.5
ULTRACEMCO	4545	4656.9	4439.5	4629.6	PILITIND	1535.35	1540	1484.2	1491	BANKINDIA	40.25	41	39.8	40	GSPL	185.8	191.65	185.6	189.5
ZEE	185.9	189.05	176.1	180.55						ILJSHIRAS	98.4	101.9	96.7	98.55	ITI	122.9	124.3	121.15	121.5
SKTRANSFIN	665	682.9	647.6	665.8						PFC	87.5	89.05	87	88.4	TINDIA	565	584.5	576.35	579.5
HINDUNIVLR	2180.3	2195.95	2136	2163.4						JKLAKSHMI	286.4	286.4	266.25	278.2	FORTIS	125.85	127.8	125.7	126.75
KOTAKBANK	1370.3	1399.6	1358.75	1393.85						EXIDEIND	159.9	160	156.1	157.4	SWSOLAR	211.25	218.95	208.55	212.75
BHARTIARTL	405.9	420.5	404	419.05						CUMMINSIND	467.95	475.65	462.65	464.6	EIHOTEL	76.5	77	75.55	76.3
MARUTI	6910	6945	6763.75	6864.9						JSL	58.55	60	56.8	59.3	COCHINSHIP	320	329.7	318.3	326.85
DRREDDY	5088	5097.2	4910.35	5046.9						KEC	330	332.35	311.25	314.3	MAHINDICE	139.65	140.15	133.5	137.3
BANKBARODA	42.3	43.3	41.7	42.6						BBTC	1210	1218.75	1162.25	1187.65	CHOLAHLDNG	383	383	371	377.05
IOC	75.15	76.7	75.15	76.05						ALKYLAMINE	3107	3110	3050	3084.25	DALBHARTI	825.2	825.6	801	814.2
ESCORTS	1204.55	1246.5	1171	1198.4						HEG	715	731	708.5	715.3	HEIDELBERG	187	190.2	187	189.5
ASIANPAINT	2137	2142.65	2081.1	2114.35						CENTURYTEX	322	322.52	315.2	319.4	FIRC	352	354	344	346.6
DMAT	2140.55	2167.4	2064.05	2078.55						BAYERCORP	5490.05	5506	5330	5394.5	INTELLECT	241.55	247.9	233.25	237.4
BANDHANBNK	131.55	326.9	311.3	321.15						SPIECITE	48.1	49.05	49.5	48.55	GODREJAGRO	531.1	536.5	525.95	530.65
DLF	168	174.1	165.05	176.15						INDHOTEL	99	100.9	97.25	100.45	CENTURYPLY	175	182.7	175	180.35
GAIL	168.3	168.8	166.6	167.65						QUESS	413.65	421	413.25	414.3	NH	338	338	328	334.3
ITC	86.5	88.25	85.75	87.65						SHREECEM	21395.95	21395.95	20701.25	21124.1	DBL	332.85	337.5	328.35	334.6
WIPRO	349.6	350.15	339.1	343.5						BSOFT	198	198	185.1	194.85	AFFLE	2724.9	2748	2682.9	2721.15
RLBANK	180.9	186	175.8	180.45						MEGH	74.1	74.5	70.7	PGHL	5125.35	5154.85	506	5088.05	
JSWSTEEL	319.3	324.3	314.8	322.85						EIDIPARRY	270	284.25	270	283	EMAMILTD	363.5	364.4	358.25	361.75
CIPLA	782.8	782.8	756.7	767.55						HFCL	16.7	17.15	16.55	16.65	IRCON	78.7	80	77.55	78
PVR	1213	1230.95	1184.7	1208						EDELWEISS	57.9	59.7	56.2	57.55	ASTRAL	1159.75	1159.75	1145.1	1151.2
SANOHI	8596.2	8596.2	8300	8355.15						SONATOSFTW	353	353	336.1	344.4	INFIBEAM	87.45	87.5	83.6	84.5
LAURUSLABS	339.2	341.5	326.15	333.7						SOUTHFNABK	6.77	6.85	6.67	6.73	BSIF	1412.25	1421.3	1390.5	1408.3
TECHM	850.5	857.4	834.5	845.3						GMRINFRA	6.34	6.39	6.24	6.34	KFINDIA	1477.8	1495	1469	1493.1
JINDALSTEL	202.1	209.9	201.55	208.8						KPITTECH	115.9	115.9	110.2	111.65	PCINFERA	169	173.35	165.9	169.45
DIVISLAB	3090.2	3123	3015	3067.85						ICITICHI	1245	1256	1237.3	1240.1	VARCOR	308	312.5	305	307.5
ITI	3010	3139	2984.35	3094.7						BIRLACORP	641.85	643.5	620.55	635.65	MAHABANK	116.85	11.7	11.42	11.63
HEROMOTOCO	3247.65	3277.7	3132	3180.65						SUZLON	2.93	2.96	2.9	2.94	AEGISUL	209.85	213.55	201.3	204.95
SUNPHARMA	488	491.9	481.5	489.7						ECLERX	717.1	728.35	711.15	715.85	SDUDARSCHHEM	472	477.15	470	470.8
AMBER	2482	2539.85	2200.9	2244.65						SUNTECK	279.4	288.4	270.15	283.7	ALKEM	2679.4	2679.4	2637.05	2651.75
ACC	1591.95	1624.95	1582	1620.85						BAIJAHLONG	2400	2400	2310.65	2347.55	MAHLOG	334.9	353.8	330.1	337.75
NHPC	20.35	20.5	19.95	20.2						CROMPTON	294.7	294.95	282.15	284.35	ERIS	491.05	497.95	487.5	491.75
APOLLOTYRE	132.25	143.15	132.25	141						IKTVE	58.55	61	58.55	60.6	EPL	264	264	258.5	259.05
HINDZINC	231.25	235.8	226.55	233.05						HSCL	50.3	50.5	49.15	49.8	VGUARD	165.8	165.8	163.65	164.6
HINDPETRO	173.95	179.7	173.95	177.65						TORNTPOWER	303.35	308.45	301.7	306	ABBOTTINDIA	1550	1600	15729.35	15887.6
ONGC	67.95	68.55	67	67.85						SUMICHEM	282.75	282.75	275	276.3	MPL	27.2	27.5	26.5	27
COLPAL	1473.7	1479.3	1407	1425.35						TRENT	615.5	654.85	632.4	635.35	VAIHABVGBL	1950	1952.2	1900	1900.4
IDBI	38.1	38.8	36.8	37.6						INDIACEM	122.9	122.9	118.45	120.9	JKPAPER	89	90.3	88.5	88.7
MCX	1790	1874	1750	1764.6						PFIZER	496	504.05	496	501.05	SUPREMEIND	1416.45	1437	1407.5	1424.9
POWERGRID	157.85	166	157.4	163.7						ABB	899	903.45	883.25	901.5	AKZOINDIA	2069	2140.2	2014	2032.25
TATACONSUM	478.2	482.5	459	465.2						RAIN	98.9	99.6	96.05	97.55	WHIRLPOOL	2061.85	2061.85	2030	2042.8
M&M	608	611.05	592.2	600.4						CUB	149.8	151.65	146.35	147.6	GARIBEM	1940	2000	1940	1991.2
LUNIPAL	1019.95	1019.95	988	1001.85						CENTRALBK	10.95	11.1	10.75	10.73	LAXMIMACH	3931.3	3972.25	3862.2	3904.65
HINDALCO	181.3	187.5	181.2	186						FINEORG	2780.4	2780.4	2679.3	2699.25	SHIRAMCIT				



# Trump says he could be ‘king’ of all fundraisers

## Slams Biden for being ‘servant’ of lobbyists

**Erie (US):** Joe Biden is a “servant” of lobbyists and “Washington vultures” who got rich by bleeding America dry, US President Donald Trump has claimed while responding to his Democratic rival’s unprecedented fundraising in September, asserting that he could be the “king” of all fundraisers, but does not want to do it.

Biden raised a whopping \$383 million for his election effort in September, a record-breaking sum that eclipses the unprecedented fundraising from the previous month.

“He (Biden) is a servant of the globalist, lobbyist, wealthy donors and Washington vultures who got rich bleeding America dry. You know I said the other day... I never thought of it because they’re raising a lot of money, (USD) 300 million. I could be the king of all fundraisers.

I would be the greatest that ever lived the president of the

United States,” Trump alleged at an election rally here on Tuesday.

Biden holds a massive cash advantage over Trump in the last leg of the campaign, The Hill newspaper reported, citing latest figures from the Federal Election Commission.

Biden has over \$177 million in the bank, compared with \$63.1 million for the president.

In September, Biden raised \$383 million, while Trump raised \$247.8 million. The month before, Biden raised a then-record of \$364.5 million, compared with \$210 million for the president, the report said.

“All I have to do - give me a list of the top 100 companies. I’ll call the president of everyone. They will pay me whatever I want. I would set every record. The problem is I owe them. Because when they call and have a problem for a lot more money than we’re talking about you know, it’s like hard

to say no. Hey, they were nice. They treated you good,” he said.

“I don’t want to do that. I don’t want to do that. We don’t need the money. I don’t want to do that. I don’t want to do it. But when you see them raise \$300, 350 million in a month and a half you know deals are being made- just so you understand. Deals are being made. Big deals. Look at the deals that he is making for himself. Deals are being made,” Trump said.

In 2016, Pennsylvania voted to fire this depraved political establishment and elect an outsider as president who is finally putting America first, he said.

“The fact is whether you like it or not, whether you want to hear it or not, Joe Biden is a corrupt politician. He is a corrupt politician. And smoking gun emails show that the Biden family sold the Vice Presidency for a very, very substantial amount of money. More money than anybody would believe. He let China plunder our jobs while his family raked in millions of dollars from China and foreign nations,” he said. **PTI**

## Barack Obama to hold first in-person event for Biden

**Washington:** Former President Barack Obama is returning to Philadelphia on Wednesday for his first in-person 2020 campaign event for Joe Biden.

In 2016, the man known as one of the Democratic Party’s strongest orators delivered Hillary Clinton’s closing argument in the same place — at a rally for thousands the night before Election Day on Independence Mall.

Now, with the coronavirus pandemic upending campaigning, Obama will be speaking to a much smaller crowd at a drive-in rally, where supporters will listen to him over the radio inside their cars.

The format reflects the challenge Democrats face in winning enthusiasm and getting out the vote in a year when they’ve eschewed big rallies in favour of small, socially distanced events, drawing a contrast with Trump and Republicans on the coronavirus. **AP**

# Uproar in Sindh province as police protest alleged abduction of its chief

**Karachi:** A serious controversy has broken out in Pakistan after an Inspector General of Police (IGP) was allegedly forced into ordering the arrest of Captain (retd) Safdar Awan, the husband of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, for chanting slogans at the tomb of the country’s founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi.

Rumours are spreading like wildfire in the country that IGP Mushtaq Mahar was allegedly abducted from his home by intelligence agency officials and was forced into ordering the arrest of Safdar Awan.

The incident has sparked anger among the police ranks as Sindh Police have announced protests while about a dozen officers, including the IGP, have rendered their leave requests for a month.

After the sudden leave requests from senior police officers from across the Sindh province, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah reassured the government’s support to the Sindh Police at every stage.

Shah assured the provincial police’s top brass that the government would not let the force be demoralised under any condition.

“Sindh Police should continue their work in an independent and impartial manner. The government is taking steps to further strengthen the professionalism of the police,” the Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Chairman of Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), has slammed the military establishment and the intelligence agencies for humiliating the police by forcing them to order the arrest of Safdar Awan, the son-in-law of exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Bilawal Bhutto had earlier demanded to have the identities of the people who surrounded Sindh IGP Mahar’s house at 4 a.m., shortly before the arrest of Safdar Awan.

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa also took notice of the incident and ordered an immediate inquiry into the matter. **IANS**



Pro-democracy activists march to the Government House, Prime Minister’s office during a protest march in Bangkok, Thailand, on Wednesday **PTI**

# Thai PM urges protesters to give up confrontation

**Bangkok:** Thailand’s Prime Minister on Wednesday pleaded with his countrymen to resolve their political differences through Parliament, as student-led protests seeking to bring his government down continued for an eighth straight day.

“The only way to a lasting

solution for all sides that is fair for those on the streets as well as for the many millions who choose not to go on the streets is to discuss and resolve these differences through the parliamentary process,” Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said, according to an English-language text released of a

taped speech broadcast Wednesday night. Demonstrations have continued daily in a movement that calls for Prayuth to step down, for a more democratic constitution and for reforms to the monarchy — a revered institution traditionally treated as sacrosanct in Thailand. **AP**

# American Hindus deeply divided over Trump, Biden

**Houston:** The political divide between the Hindu supporters of US President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden is getting deeper with the presidential election less than two weeks away.



In a sign of the growing political prominence of Hindus in America, the Trump and Biden campaigns are wooing this religious minority community like never before. Hinduism is the fourth largest faith in the US, representing approximately one per cent of the US population in 2016.

The Biden campaign in September launched the ‘Hindu Americans for Biden’, while the Trump campaign in August announced the formation of the ‘Hindu Voices for Trump’ as part of their efforts to attract the over two million members of the reli-

gious community in the US.

A virtual debate held on Sunday between the American Hindu supporters of Trump and Biden brought the message home that there is a clear political divide among the community members in the US.

While one group alleged that Biden “panders to Muslims”, the other accused Trump of being a “racist”.

The webinar titled ‘2020 Presidential Election: A debate on the American Hindu issues’ was co-sponsored by the Hindu American Foundation, the Hindu American PAC, the HinduPACT and the HinduVote. **PTI**

# Stampede kills 11 Afghans seeking visas to leave country



**Kabul:** At least 11 women were trampled to death when a stampede broke out Wednesday among thousands of Afghans waiting in a soccer stadium to Thailand’s leader urges protesters to give up confrontationget visas to leave the country, officials said.

Gov. Attaullah Khogyani said another 13 people, mostly women, were injured at the stadium in the eastern Nangarhar

province, where they were trying to get visas to enter neighbouring Pakistan.

He said most of those who died were elderly people from across Afghanistan.

In a separate incident, at least 34 Afghan police were killed in an ambush by Taliban militants in northern Afghanistan, according to a local hospital official.

Rahim Bakhish Danish, the

director of the main hospital in the Takhar province, confirmed receiving 34 bodies and said another eight security forces were wounded. An Afghan security official said the forces were in a convoy that was ambushed.

The official, who was not authorised to brief media on the event and so spoke on condition of anonymity, said several police Humvees were set ablaze. **AP**

# Germany grants Hong Kong pro-democracy protester asylum

**Berlin:** A 22-year-old university student from Hong Kong says she has been given refugee status by Germany after demonstrating against the city’s extradition law.

Germany’s Federal Office for Migration and Refugees would neither confirm nor deny granting the protester asylum, citing the country’s strict privacy laws.

However the woman, who identified herself only as Elaine

and declined to give other personal details to protect her family in Hong Kong, showed The Associated Press paperwork confirming her refugee status was granted Oct. 14.

She told the AP in a telephone interview late Tuesday that she fled Hong Kong in November while free on bail after being arrested on allegations of rioting and violating the semi-autonomous Chinese territory’s law banning masks,

introduced last year as anti-government protests became increasingly violent.

After arriving in Germany, it took more than nine months for her asylum application to be processed, the former Chinese University of Hong Kong student said. “I’m very grateful to the government for covering my basic needs, including healthcare when I had to be treated for mental health issues,” she said. **AP**

## GOVT DELIVERS ON PRIS IN J&K

The concept of single line administration was introduced in Jammu & Kashmir in 1976 with a view to push development projects and decentralising planning and involving the people with the same.

In the coming days, the Jammu & Kashmir Government is expected to announce the poll schedule to elect members of the DDCs. As per the amendment, the DDCs of each district shall have 14 constituencies after their delimitation by the respective deputy commissioners.

Political parties like the Congress have termed it to be “another attempt to further delay the Assembly elections and also deprive the existing BDCs from the rights already vested in them because a majority of them have non-BJP affiliations”.

Another challenge that remains for the Centre is that of holding the bypolls to over 13,000 vacant panch and sarpanch seats in Jammu & Kashmir. The Administrative Council, headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has already approved the proposal to conduct the by-elections and the notification is likely to be out soon.

In 2018, elections to 39,521 sarpanch/panch constituencies in 4,483 Halqa Panchayats were conducted. Of these, 13,257 positions are currently vacant due to resignations, removals, election of sarpanchs as Block Development Council chairpersons, deaths as well as non-availability of candidates at the time of election. Among them, 1,089 vacancies pertain to the office of sarpanch, whereas 12,168 are panch vacancies.

Elections to the vacancies notified previously were postponed due to “security concerns” and the onset of Covid-19.

## RAJNATH TO MEET SOLDIERS ALONG LAC

As regards the bridges, a majority of them are expected to significantly improve movement of troops

in areas along the border with China in Ladakh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh sectors.

The Defence Minister had also laid the foundation stone for Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh. This 450 metre-long tunnel would ensure all-weather connectivity across Nechiphu pass.

The bridges inaugurated by him included 10 in Jammu & Kashmir, eight in Ladakh, two in Himachal Pradesh, four each in Punjab and Sikkim and eight each in Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh.

Underlining the significance of these projects, Rajnath said construction of the bridges will benefit both the civilian population as well as the military in the areas.

“Our Armed forces personnel are deployed in large numbers in areas where transport is not available throughout the year,” he said, noting improvement in border infrastructure will significantly help armed forces.

A day after, China had objected and said, “It does not recognise the Ladakh Union Territory illegally set up by India” and opposes infrastructure building in the region. It also claimed infrastructure development is the “root cause for tension” between the two countries.

## PLA SOLDIER RELEASED

Incidentally, the Corps Commanders of both the Armies have held seven rounds of talks at this meeting point in the past few months to find ways to disengage and bring down the temperature at the border. The eighth round is likely to be held later this week after the seventh round was held on October 12. Both the commanders had agreed to maintain peace and continue the process of dialogue to defuse the situation. However, there was no breakthrough so far.

The Indian Army had said the Chinese soldier had “strayed” across the LAC. It also said the soldier was provided medical assistance includ-

ing oxygen, food and warm clothes to protect him from the vagaries of extreme altitude and climate.

In Beijing, a statement by the Chinese Ministry of Defence said, “According to the relevant agreement between China and India, the Chinese PLA soldier, who went missing while helping local herdsmen find the lost yak near the China-India border on Sunday, has been returned to the Chinese border troops by the Indian Army early on the morning of October 21, 2020.

On Monday night, spokesperson for the Western Theatre Command of the PLA, senior colonel Zhang Shuili, had said, “China hopes that India will hand over soon the Chinese soldier who got lost in the China-India border areas on the evening of October 18 when helping local herdsmen retrieve a yak at their request.”

Both Indian and Chinese Armies have deployed a total of more than one lakh troops besides heavy weapons 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.

India has all along been maintaining that the onus is on China to carry forward the process of disengagement and de-escalation at the friction points in the mountainous region.

Following the sixth round of military level talks, the two sides in a joint statement had announced a series of decisions, including not to send more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

This round was held with a specific agenda of exploring ways to implement a five-point agreement reached between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conclave.

The pact included measures like

quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC.

## PROMISES GALORE IN BIHAR MANIFESTOS

For their part, NDA partners, Janata Dal (U) and the BJP, have released a report card containing the details of the work done by the Nitish Kumar Government in the State in the last 15 years and the work done by the Centre under PM Modi.

The NDA report card mentioned abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu & Kashmir, construction of Ram Mandir, and abolition of triple talaq as the major achievements. The alliance claims to have constructed roads connecting every village in Bihar at a cost of Rs 78,000 crore; providing every household with an uninterrupted power supply at a cost of Rs 55,600 crore and providing clean drinking water and sanitation for everyone incurring Rs 47,700 crore. The BJP and the JD(U) are yet to come out with their manifesto.

The Congress manifesto said, apart from promising Rs 1500 to unemployed youth every month, it will, like Punjab, pass a separate farm law in Bihar Assembly if voted to power. Carrying forward the idea of Rajiv Gandhi Krishi Nyaya Yojna - a direct cash transfer scheme envisaged during the Lok Sabha polls 2019 for farmers - the party said it will provide Rs 800 as honorary pension for the elderly and women in the State and Rs 1,000 for those above 80 years of age.

The Congress’ manifesto promises waiver of electricity bills up to 100 units, the restoration of 2.42 lakh teacher posts in 18 months and an increase in irrigation facilities also.

Earlier, Mahagathbandhan alliance in Bihar -- the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the Congress and the Left parties -- released its poll manifesto for the Assembly election

and promised 10 lakh jobs in the first Cabinet meeting if elected to power.

In the 20-point manifesto, the Congress has promised free education for girls up to masters degree, scooty for girl students scoring 90 per cent marks in Class 12th. The party has also tried to play a regional card by promising Maithili language to be included in the compulsory subject school syllabus. Importantly Mazdoor Information Center in the State capital has also been promised to allure migrant labourers, who had been a major sufferer during the lockdown. It has also promised to set up a clinic with a doctor and nurse in every panchayat under ‘Smart Gram Yojana’.

The LJP’s vision document titled, ‘Bihar first Bihari first’, seeks building of a grand ‘Sita Maiya’ temple in Sitamarhi to promote spiritual tourism on the lines of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh. Building a web portal where employers and job-seekers can connect, constituting Yuva Commission, separate toilets for women in all the block headquarters, gram panchayat headquarters and markets are also among the main poll promises made in the manifesto -- named as Vision Document 2020. The vision document also promises promoting dairy in Bihar on the pattern of Denmark, focusing on ‘equal pay for equal work’ for teachers, initiating a probe into irregularities committed in the ‘Seven Resolves’ initiative of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Developing state-of-the-art medical and engineering institutions to prevent the youth from leaving the State also finds mention. The vision document talked about linking rivers to end the problem of flood and drought in the State. The document promised to set up a coaching city like that in Rajasthan’s Kota, if voted to power, so that students from Bihar do not have to migrate to cities in other States. The party promises free rides for women in Government buses.

## STOP VERMIN LISTING

declaration of any wild animal as

vermin. “The States/UTs must utilize the provisions contained in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for dealing with the problematic wild animals. The States/UTs should involve Panchayati Raj Institutions more actively in dealing with situations arising out of human wildlife conflict.”

Mohanty was of the view that such killings encourage poachers and the public to hunt animals.

Various experts have also opposed such mass-culling calling it ineffective and saying it does not resolve the human-animal conflicts.

According to animal rights activist from the People for Animals (PFA), Gauri Maulekhi, “India had banned hunting of wild animals in 1972. Allowing backdoor methods of wildlife slaughter through ‘vermin’ declaration is against the objectives of the Act and the Article 48A of the Constitution.”

## YOGI REITERATES

He also highlighted the Mission Shakti campaign launched by the government during Navratri and said that those who tried to tease or stalk women and girls would be dealt with an iron hand.

Earlier, welcoming the chief minister at the parade, Director General of Police HC Awasthi remembered the bravery of those policemen who attained martyrdom during the last one year.

Later, the chief minister honoured the widows of all the police martyrs, including the eight police personnel killed in Kanpur.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 264 police personnel have attained martyrdom while displaying exemplary courage from September 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020. This includes nine policemen from Uttar Pradesh, including eight police personnel who were ambushed in Bikru village in Chaubeypur area of Kanpur when they were going to arrest gangster Vikas Dubey and fell to bullets fired from rooftops shortly after midnight on July 3.

# Capital's air worsens, to remain poor till Oct 23

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The air quality index of Delhi worsened on Wednesday with the air quality recorded at 268, according to the Central Pollution Control



Board. The Ministry of Earth Sciences’ air quality monitor, SAFAR, stated stubble burning’s share in Delhi’s PM2.5 pollution stood at 15 per cent on Wednesday.

It is forecast that the air quality will remain in marginally very poor category on Thursday and in marginally very poor to higher end of poor on October 23, it said.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered “good”, 51 and 100 “satisfactory”, 101 and 200 “moderate”, 201 and 300 “poor”, 301 and 400 “very poor”, and 401 and 500 “severe”.

“The SAFAR synergised stubble burning fire counts around Haryana, Punjab and neighbouring regions stood at 849 for Tuesday,” it said.

The city recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 223 on Tuesday. It was 244 on Monday and 254 on Sunday. The farm fire count around Haryana, Punjab and nearby regions across the International Border was 1017 on Monday, it said.



## Trend Slazer

### Madhuri recalls working with Saroj

Actor **MADHURI DIXIT NENE** walked down memory lane and recalled working with the late co-actor **RISHI KAPOOR** and late choreographer **SAROJ KHAN** in the 1995 release, *Yaarana*.

The David Dhawan directorial was inspired by the Julia Roberts-starrer *Sleeping With The Enemy* and is still remembered for Madhuri's hit dance number, *Mera piya ghar aaya*. The number was choreographed by Saroj Khan.

"Working alongside Rishi ji and learning the steps from Saroj ji are some of my fondest memories... Today as we mark #25YearsOfYaarana, remembering both of them. This is dedicated to them and the whole team," she wrote.



### 'Comparisons to Ayushmann (Khurrana) are quite flattering. We live in an era when competition is healthy and our peers only inspire us to be better. Ayushmann has made this entire generation of actors proud with his ability to do films that most other actors wouldn't touch before. I am glad people are appreciating the work I have done so far.'

—Shweta Tripathi

The much-hyped **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA-VAANI KAPOOR** starrer has a name. On Wednesday, it was confirmed that the film directed by Abhishek Kapoor is titled *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*.

Taking to Instagram, Ayushmann expressed joy at starting shooting for the film in his hometown, Chandigarh. "Next stop: My hometown Chandigarh for the first time. Excited to be a part of Abhishek Kapoor's delightful progressive love story *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*," he wrote.



### Robert, Mark defend Chris Pratt

Avengers stars **MARK RUFFALO** and **ROBERT DOWNEY JR** have defended co-star **CHRIS PRATT**, who was criticised by netizens for his alleged political beliefs.

Over the weekend Pratt was questioned over why he has not been more politically engaged about current events.

His critics called him "Hollywood's Worst Chris", with many commenting on his involvement in a conservative church and others assuming that he is a fan of US President Donald Trump. Netizens also attacked Pratt over an Instagram post where he urged fans to vote for his film *Onward* to win a People's Choice Award.



Surface transmission is known to be one of the biggest reasons for the increase in Coronavirus cases around the world. A start-up introduces a first-of-its-kind technology to contain the spread through touch. By **AYUSHI SHARMA**

It would not be wrong to say that technology has proved to be a game-changer, especially in the time of a pandemic. While COVID-19 vaccine continues to remain under development and containing the spread of the Coronavirus has become the most critical aspect in today's world, a start-up has announced the launch of 'Keep-U-Safe', a first-of-its-kind technology, which will aid in achieving significant reduction of viruses on surfaces of their products.

Surface transmission is known to be one of the biggest reasons for Coronavirus spread around the world. The organisation, SeguraMAX, aims to fight the very contagion. It believes that this could become a potential game-changer for India and the world, where the Coronavirus cases are rising at an alarming rate. The green plant-based technology has been tested by various international and accredited NABL labs with proven results to reduce more than 99 per cent viruses from various surfaces of fabrics, garments and plastics in less than one minute. It has also proven to remain effective after multiple washes.

The technology can become the first shield of hybrid protective wear to fight infectious diseases and prevent surface transmission of viruses from the infected to the uninfected, even while pharma companies continue their effort to develop and suitably deploy a vaccine in the coming months. The company has developed a diverse range of products treated with bio-organic additives that reduces the presence of viruses.

Now the question is — how is this technology better than UV tech? Gaurav Khullar, Director, Product Development, explains that first and foremost, the human body cannot be exposed to UV tech and it takes longer for UV lights to disinfect a surface. For instance, a wall or a wall-coating cannot be disinfected and takes longer time. However, this technology is perhaps the first in the world to use plant-based, natural and non-toxic technology, which doesn't have any adverse effects on the human body or the surfaces it has been applied to. "Our technology is manufactured as coatings, plastic master-batches, plastic films, fabrics and apparel. After several rigorous testing, exposing our products to several bacteria and viruses, we have been able to successfully introduce a technology, which is instant and has the same efficacy on fabrics after 60 washes. The virus reduction rate remains 99 per cent within the very first minute and interpreting this to the number of days, we estimate it could last for as long as up to two years in room con-



ditions as the tests are undergoing," shares he.

During the winter season, when people might face a challenge as far as sanitisation is concerned, how will this technology and product help? Khullar tells us that a lot of the viruses are cross transmitted. This technology helps in reducing the cross-virus transmission within one minute of exposure, making it an instant smart solution. "If the surfaces are self-sanitised with the use of this tech then the cross-transmission would be reduced by 99 per cent. For example, we are doing trials with an electrical switch manufacturer. These electrical switches are turned on and off very regularly. Since sanitiser has alcohol content in it, it cannot be sprayed on electrical switches. With this tech, the switches will keep on sanitising themselves. People might face a challenge as far as sanitisation during winter season is concerned, so we have also introduced virus reduction jackets which can act as a shield even if you're exposed to an environment with viruses," says he.

The products can be used by corporates, government employees, public dealing personnel like airport staff, policemen and most importantly health workers, who frequently come in direct contact with infected individuals and surfaces. The product range includes cling wraps for suitcases and food and other purposes, breathable 3pc PPE suit, breathable coats



for doctors, N-95 masks, bed linen, doctor seat covers, travel jackets, all-weather jackets, airline seat covers, face shields, table covers, gloves, uniforms, grocery shopping bags, wrapping papers and much more.

"The problem of anti-microbials has already been there for a very long time. So, our plant-based technology will not only limit the bacteria and viruses that are existing today but will also prohibit any other possible viral transmission or bacterial growth for which further studies are undergoing. This may very well become a way of life and our technology will be a product feature for every product to have an anti-microbial coating. With the plant-based additive, it becomes non-toxic and safe. Therefore, it can become a game changer by utilising natural plant-based resources to make the technology work in the sphere of life. The products are protective wear only and not medical devices,



they do not provide any guarantee against infections and are certainly not a cure," shares Khullar.

The company is presently in talks with Material Engineers and Product Managers of various organisations globally, who have shown keen interest entering into licens-

ing arrangements to deploy this revolutionary technology. The introduction of Keep-U-Safe products will help in allaying a lot of fear among frequent travellers and more so the public at large, who are potentially exposed to a lot of public spaces and high-risk touchpoints.

## FOOD FOR THE SOUL

The Durga Puja has always been the greatest crowd-puller, be it in the capital or in West Bengal. However, with a pandemic at hand, the physical distancing norms have taken over, dulling the extravagant pandal-hopping affairs. Since the hot *khichari* paired with the tangy chutney, and many other delicacies on the *bhog* platter will be missed this year, here are a few recipes with a twist you can try out while doing a virtual *darshan* of Maa Durga at home

### LAUKI AND KELE KI MALAIDAR KHEER

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Full fat milk: 800 gm
- Bottle gourd (grated): 400 gm
- Banana (grated): 2
- Khoya: 30 gm
- Almonds (sliced): 20 gm
- Chironji: 10 gm
- Cashew (crushed): 10 gm
- Brown sugar: 90 gm
- Cardamom powder: 1 tsp
- Ghee: 25 gm
- Saffron: 8/10 strands

#### METHOD

- Heat ghee in a pan. Fry cashews and almonds. Also, keep some aside for garnishing.
- When they turn slightly brown, add grated *lauki* and cook it for eight to 10 minutes on slow flame.
- Add milk when it starts boiling. Simmer the heat



and let it cook on slow heat for 25 minutes more.

- Keep stirring in between.
- Now add sugar, *khoya* and cook it for another two to three minutes.
- Put cardamom powder and saffron for enhancing the taste.
- Let the *kheer* cool at room temperature. Then add grated bananas and mix really well.
- Garnish with leftover almonds and cashews. Serve cold.

Courtesy: Michelin Plate Winner, chef Dayashankar Sharma.

### APPLE JALEBI

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Apple: 1
- Sugar: 300 gm
- Saffron: 0.5 gm
- Singhara flour: 50 gm
- Pista slice for garnishing
- Mint leaf for garnishing
- Milk ice cream
- Milk: 1 ltr
- Elaichi powder: 5 gm

#### METHOD

- Peel the green apple and cut in roundel.
- Now remove the core part of apple. Dust some sugar and leave it for five minutes.
- Meanwhile, make a little thick syrup of sugar-saffron and cardamom.
- After five minutes, coat the apple slice with singhara flour.
- Now fry the apple slice in ghee. Once it's golden in colour, take out and dip in saffron syrup for 10 seconds only.
- Repeat the process with all apple slices.
- Once done, plate it well with milk ice cream, pista crumb and pista flakes. Ready to serve.

Courtesy: Executive Pastry Chef Anand Panwar at Roseate Hotels & Resorts.



## A 'Cursed Capital'

Delhi has been a capital for five millennia but a few of them have a story as fascinating as Tughlaqabad

Only Athens, Cairo and Rome can claim to have been capitals for as long as Delhi, from the time of *Mahabharata* when the city was known as Indraprastha to today's New Delhi. It is for good reason that Delhi is known as the city with 'seven capitals and it is the story of the most fascinating one — Tughlaqabad — the massive citadel and fort built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, the founder of the Tughlaq dynasty during the Delhi Sultanate period.

The Fort which was to serve as capital for Tughlaq but according to legend, it was cursed by Sufi Mystic Nizamuddin Auliya who said 'Dilli Dur Ast' (Delhi is still far) because Tughlaq had requisitioned every able-bodied man in the capital to work on his masterpiece. He never enjoyed his capital as he was killed on behalf of his son Mohammed bin-Tughlaq while returning from a campaign in Bengal. However, Mohammed did ensure that his father was at least buried in a mausoleum overlooking the fort. The son, worried about the saint's curse, was to attempt to move the capital from Delhi to Devagiri over 600 kilometers away and in the process of moving many thousands of people ended up dying. The antics of father and son are now part of political discourse in India where being 'Tughlaqian' means being a stubborn or obstinate ruler with no consideration for his/her citizens.

This massive fort which exists on Delhi's southern bor-



ders is clearly visible on the landing path when you approach the airport from the east. But the Fort is also easily accessible by road, and the ramparts of the Fort lie beside Mehrauli-Badarpur Road where the limestone and granite work can clearly be seen. The Fort is managed by the Archeological Survey of India and entry is open to all for a token sum of just ₹20 for Indian citizens. Inside, one of the few remaining large Forts from the pre-Mughal Islamic era in India one can witness everything from the royal quarters to even the catacombs where prisoners were housed and even tortured. However, one has to be careful of the bats and the several hundred monkeys that now call the Fort home, again one of the Sufi

Saint's various curses. At night, if you drive down the Mehrauli-Badarpur road, which is a pleasure to do on the 2020 Hyundai Venue Sport, particularly with the U2 CRDi engine that our car is equipped with. With a 100PS of power, this car has a punchy engine with a load of power but one that couples the power with phenomenal mileage, in our regular city driving in start-stop conditions we got an impressive 16 kilometers per litre. It might be fashionable to look down on diesel engines these days but the Venue reminds one of the phenomenal power and economy of modern diesel engines and this one is coupled perfectly with a lovely six-speed manual gearbox that seems to never run out of power.



# LIVE HEALTHY

## SRM Institute, Kattankulathur, celebrates International Chefs Day with focus on rural development

The International Chefs Day 2020 was organised and celebrated by the SRM Institute of Hotel Management (SRM IHM), Kattankulathur. The theme for this year's event is 'Healthy food for the future' with a special focus on rural women's empowerment.

"Food is the essence of healthy living," said Chief Guest and Chef Dr Damodharan, President of SICA, a Guinness World Record holder.

The event was held at the State Institute of Rural Development, Tamil Nadu, Maraimalai Nagar. Dr T Anuradha MBBS, District Designated Officer Food Safety Department, Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu districts, and Chef Bala, consultant chef and food historian, Tamil Nadu & Kerala, Brand Ambassador of EatwithIndia were the guests of honour.

The event was held with all safety protocols and social distancing measures in place. Director of SRM IHM, Dr Antony Ashok Kumar welcomed the gathering. Apart from International Chefs Day, the institute also celebrated World Food Day 2020 and World Tourism Day 2020.

The event was held as a training, demonstration and a speech on heritage and food adulteration for the empowerment of self-help group and Rotary Inner Wheel ladies.

Chef Damodharan stressed on the importance of chefs being healthy themselves in the first place. "There is nothing like eating food cooked by a mother because it is a tradition and also a medicine for health. There are several ingredients that we use in our kitchen that help us improve our health and well-being," he said. He also demonstrated how to cook a healthy meal in the



comfort of our homes. "Eat well, exercise properly and enjoy life," he added.

Dr Anuradha said that even if there are a variety of options in the market because there we get all sorts of products, "we should be able to differentiate between pure and adulterated food. But people are increasingly moving towards unhealthy food habits which lead to an unhealthy lifestyle. Eating proper food in the right quantity is essential for a good and healthy life. Our health is in our hands." She also demonstrated on how to find adulteration in the product/groceries that we buy.

Bala further stressed on the importance of using food as medicine. She said that she has been firm believer of this and been following it herself. She explained how parents can provide tasty food for children

at home without adding artificial colour or flavouring agent.

"Change has to begin at home and we can provide a balanced, tasty and healthy diet without using any artificial colouring or flavouring agents," said Bala, who also demonstrated making a nutritious and balanced meal using our own pulses.

SRM Institute of Science and Technology Vice Chancellor Dr Sandeep Sancheti in his address, focussed on the importance of eating healthy food and how it has come into practice in the last six months. "The COVID-19 pandemic has given us an opportunity to go back to our traditional food, which is known for its several health factors. Hence, food and hotel management can never be done online. Our aim must be to remove malnutrition through sustainable food," he said.

# Empowering locals

Lieutenant Governor MANOJ SINHA has expressed gratitude to the Union Government for approving full application of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 to the UT of J&K

Terming the Union Cabinet's approval of adaptation of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 as a watershed moment in the history of Jammu & Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has expressed his gratitude to PM Narendra Modi for paving a way for the establishment of all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions and strengthening the grassroots democracy. It thereby gives further fillip to the developmental agenda centered around people's welfare.

The Government of India has fully applied the 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 to the UT of J&K, which was pending for the last 28 years. With this, all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions shall be formed for the first time in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sinha has observed that a major and final legal requirement towards strengthening the grassroots democracy and the bottom-up approach towards planning and execution has been fulfilled and the historic step shall result in direct representation of people in the district level body through direct elections to 14 seats in the District Development Council. "A proper system of checks and balances through membership of directly-elected members, Block Development Council chairpersons and MLAs in the District Development Council ensure that the most genuine demands and needs of people are met," he added.

After the adaptation of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act 1989, every district will have a District Development Council practising jurisdiction over the entire district, excluding municipal areas. Every council will have 14 directly-elected members, that is 280 BDC members in the whole UT. The councils shall also comprise the chair-

persons of all BDCs and members of the Legislative Assembly from the district.

Any person whose name is included in the electoral of any Halqa Panchayat of the district can nominate himself as a candidate for election to District Development Council. After this development, every council will have a chairperson and a vice-chairperson who shall be elected by the directly-elected members of BDC. Further, there shall be reservations for SC/ST amongst the directly-elected members on the basis of the proportion of the population. One-third of seats under direct election will be reserved for women.

Further, five standing committees — Finance, Development, Public Works, Health and Education, and Welfare — will now be constituted in every District Development Council. The ADDC will be the Chief Executive Officer of the District Development Council, which will be responsible for the formulation of development programmes and speedy development and economic upliftment of the area of the district under its authority. The DDC will review the progress and achievements of development plans and schemes in the district. Ensuring adequate legal backing to devolution of functions to the DDC, specific functions will be assigned to the council in schedule-III of the Act. It will also supervise the functioning of Panchayat Halqas and BDC and will receive and consolidate their plans at the district level.

Pertinently, the Government of J&K has also notified the rules for the constitution of the DDC and the process of delimitation of its constituencies has already been set in motion in all the 20 districts.

## IN SHORT



National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), state owned fertilizer company distributed 95 cotton plucking machines free of cost to the farmers under its Corporate Social Responsibility in programmes held in Haryana on October 15. The machines were distributed to farmers in two separate programmes organised at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sadalpur, Hissar and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhiwani in Haryana. Virendra Nath Dutt, Chairman and Managing Director of the company was the chief guest in these programmes. In his address, Dutt explained the CSR projects being undertaken by the company. He also demonstrated the use of the machine for easy understanding of the farmers. The programme was attended by Anil Motsara, Chief General Manager (Marketing) and Dilbag Singh, Zonal Manager of Chandigarh Office of the company. More than 500 such cotton plucking machines have been distributed by NFL to farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana etc.



The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken the construction work for a New Integrated Terminal Building at Pune Airport. With massive built-up area of more than 5,00,000 sq ft, the new terminal will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹475 crore. This is to cater to the continuous surge in passenger traffic and to ease congestion at the airport. To provide a delightful experience to the passengers, 32,000 sq ft space for the provision of for F&B and retail outlets has also been provisioned inside the airport. Construction of a huge canopy on the city side of the existing and the new building is part of the project, which will add a magnificent look to the airport.

# NTPC Dadri strives to be cleanest coal-fired plant

NTPC Dadri is striving to become the cleanest coal fired plant in the country and is complying with all the CPCB guidelines on emissions.

All the emission parameters are being monitored online and transmitted to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on real time basis. Flue gas emissions and particulate matter are well within the CPCB norms with high efficiency ESP in service in all the four numbers 210 MW & 2 nos. 490 MW units.

For SOx reduction, Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) system has been installed in 210 MW units with technology from UCC, USA and now all the four units are meeting emission norms. FGD system is in advanced stage of implementation in 490 MW units by BHEL with technology from Mitsubishi Power Works, Japan.



All the 210 MW units were already compliant to NOx emission norms. In 490 MW units, SOFA (Separated Overfire Air) system has been installed and all the units now comply with the norms for NOx.

The branch has also pioneered co-firing of biomass pellets along with coal in the boilers. The pellets are made of husk or agro-residue which would have been burnt other-

wise in the fields increasing the pollution in NCR region. More than 8000 tons of pellets have been fired in the boilers of the company, which is equivalent to almost 4000 acres of farm fire avoided.

It has also set new benchmarks in water consumption, going beyond compliances, by implementing zero liquid discharge system and rain water harvesting system.

# BIS celebrates World Standards Day

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the national standards body, celebrated the World Standards Day on October 14.

The day is celebrated to pay tributes to the collaborative efforts of thousands of experts worldwide for developing national and international standards. Themes for celebrations for each year are decided by the international standardisation bodies namely the ISO, IEC and the ITU. This year's theme was, 'Protecting the planet with standards, for which BIS organised a number of programmes throughout India.

The main programme was held at the headquarters, inaugurated by Leena Nandan, Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs. In her inaugural address, Nandan appreciated the efforts of BIS in formulation of standards relevant to the businesses. Nandan presented the Solid Waste



Management Quality awards to the representatives of Resident Welfare Associations of Noida. While presenting the awards, she complimented BIS for engaging with the community and taking the benefits of its various activities to the masses. She also felicitated the two Indian experts who were awarded the IEC 1906 awards for their technical contribution for furthering standardisation in the

field of electrotechnology.

Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary presented the keynote address and emphasised the need for adopting a sustainable living instead of exploiting the limited resources which could be detrimental to the planet. She stressed on making such standards which promote environmental friendliness.

In his welcome address, Pramod Kumar Tiwari,

Director General, BIS highlighted the recent initiatives taken by the body for strengthening the standardisation process and the importance of standards in national economy. He informed that government departments and industry associations have created standardisation cells which would greatly enhance their effective participation in making the standards relevant to the present day and futuristic needs. He also presented the online portal developed by BIS for the Standards Developing Organisations (SDOs) which would serve as a collaborating platform for SDOs to formulate standards and achieve the vision of "One Nation, One Standard".

During his vote of thanks, NK Kansara, Dy Director General (Policy, Research & Training) informed about the programmes being held on the occasion. They included workshops with consumer

groups, state government departments and manufacturers, competitions at schools and colleges and seminars on the topics relevant to the theme.

The inaugural session was followed by two technical sessions wherein presentation were made by experts and eminent personalities namely, Dr SSV Ramakumar, Director R&D, IOCL, Vimal Mahendru, Chairman, IEC Systems Committee & IEC Ambassador, J Roy Chaudhary, Dy Director General, BIS and Dr Debajit Palit, TERI.

Second technical session, held in collaboration with IEEE was conducted in hybrid i.e., physical & VC mode during which presentations were made by experts drawn from the fields of greenhouse gases, IT & electronics. During the session, the two Indian awardees of ISO poster competition were also felicitated.



Loading activity at Rajkot station

# Western Railway runs 616 parcel trains

Western Railway's parcel special trains are traversing across the country to keep the supply of essential commodities moving, even during the difficult time of the COVID pandemic. In spite of various hurdles and labour constraints during the time of lockdown, Western Railway has crossed the figure of 600 parcel special trains by running total 616 such trains during the lockdown.

The revenue generated is ₹51.51 crore. In continuation to this, on Tuesday, three parcel special trains, including a milk rake left from various stations of WR. These included two parcel specials viz Bandra terminus to Jammu Tawi and Porbandar to Shalimar. A milk special rake also left from Palanpur to Hind Terminal.

From March 23 to Oct 19, 2020, commodities weighing above 1.53 lakh tonnes have been transported by WR through its parcel special trains,

which mainly included agricultural produce, medicines, fish, milk etc. During this period, 106 milk special trains were run, with a load of more than 80,700 tonnes and 100 per cent utilisation of the wagons. Similarly, 458 COVID special parcel trains with a load of almost 49,000 tonnes were also run to transport various essential commodities. In addition to this, 52 indented rakes carrying more than 23,000 tonnes were also run.

## Loss of passenger revenue due to lockdown

The loss of revenue on account of Coronavirus has been approx ₹3000 crore. In spite of this, resulting to cancellation of tickets since March 1 October 19, 2020 WR has ensured to return refund amount of about ₹454 crore. Till now, 70.61 lakh passengers have cancelled their tickets and have received their refund amount accordingly.

# LIGHT UP THE ROADS

The *Roshan Ghaziabad* campaign aims to brighten the city. By ASHOK NIRWAN

All roads in the metropolis will be free from the pit by October 31. The construction department of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has been mobilised in this regard. This information was given by Municipal City Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tanwar.

He said that the government has directed us to free all roads by Diwali but the Municipal Corporation will complete this target before Diwali. He told that the tenders have also been issued by the corporation to free the land. Apart from this, Roshan Ghaziabad campaign has also been started under Mission *Nari Shakti*



Mahendra Singh Tanwar, City Commissioner

to fix all the lights of the metropolis.

Under this campaign, lights will be fixed immediately and new lights will be installed in areas where there are no lights. The city commissioner informed that the responsibility of the lighting department of the corporation has been fixed to speed up the campaign.

Apart from this, the help of RWA working in various colonies is also being sought. He told that most of the RWAs have their own electricians and the corporation will take help from them to fix the lights. The corporation will also pay the RWA electrician in return.

# BRICS Forum to focus on global stability & security

The Sixth BRICS Parliamentary Forum will be held under the Russian Chairmanship on October 27 via video conferencing. This year's theme is based on 'Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth: Parliamentary Dimension.'

Chairman of the State Duma (Lower House) of the Russian Federation,

Viacheslav Volodin, who will chair the forum, said, "Russia will propose to discuss with the colleagues, members of the parliaments of the BRICS countries, issues of strengthening of the key international institutions such as the UN and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Issues of building a system of international relations on the principles of

mutual respect and respect for sovereignty will be also discussed at the meeting."

The forum participants also plan to discuss issues of improving the standards and quality of life of citizens of the BRICS countries, preparing legislative initiatives to improve the health care systems, issues of social protection and economic recovery during

the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as further development of parliamentary cooperation within the BRICS. The heads of the BRICS parliamentary delegations (Russia, Brazil, India, China, South Africa) will address the forum participants.

The outcome statement is also planned to be adopted at the end of the meeting.



# LIC launches new Deferred Annuity Plan

The Life Insurance Corporation of India has introduced LIC's New Jeevan Shanti plan which is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, single premium, deferred annuity plan.

The annuity rates are guaranteed at the inception of the policy and annuities are payable post deferment period throughout the lifetime of the Annuitant(s). This plan can be purchased offline as well as online now. The following two annuity options are available under the plan:

## Option 1: Deferred annuity for Single life

After the Deferment Period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the Annuitant is alive. In case of an unfortunate/untimely death, during or after Deferment period, death benefit will be payable to nominee of the annuitant.

## Option 2: Deferred annuity for Joint life

After the Deferment Period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the Primary Annuitant and/or Secondary Annuitant is alive. On death of the last survivor, during or after deferment period, the death benefit will be payable to the nominee.

The joint life annuity can be taken between any two lineal

descendant/ascendant of a family (Grandparent, Parent, Children, Grandchildren) or spouse or siblings.

The Minimum Purchase Price is ₹1,50,000 (subject to minimum annuity criterion). The modes of annuity available are yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, and monthly. The minimum annuity is ₹12,000 per annum. There is no ceiling on Maximum Purchase Price. An incentive for the purchase price of ₹5 lakh and above is available by way of increase in the annuity rate.

The plan is available for those between 30 to 79 years of age. The Minimum Deferment Period is one year and Maximum Deferment Period 12 years subject to Maximum Vesting Age (80 years).

The plan can also be purchased for the benefit of *Divyangjan* (Handicapped Dependent) with a minimum purchase price of ₹50,000.

Loan facility is also available under this plan. There is a provision for immediate liquidity in case of dire need as the policy can be surrendered at any time during the policy term. For further details to purchase the plan online, one can log on to the website [www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in).

LIC's earlier Jeevan Shanti plans have been Flagship products of LIC wherein 6,11,695 policies have been sold with a premium collection of ₹38,940.97 crore.



I keep my mindset quite positive. Just look to score runs, and not think pitch is doing this or that. I play with courage. I am not afraid to get out

Deshpande is a confident lad and does his homework pretty well. He has been hit by Chris Gayle, who is a world-class batsman and it's a great learning experience for him

To have Maxi in form is a great thing and it has eased his nerves as well. He has played a lot of cricket for a long time and he knew what he needed to do

This wasn't a season we expected or our fans wanted, but we gave it our best. Sometimes, despite giving our best, the results don't show

# RR, SRH lock horns in must-win game

## Siraj leads RCB's rout of KKR

PTI ■ DUBAI

**MATCHES** 12  
**RAJASTHAN ROYALS** 06  
**SUNRISERS HYDERABAD** 06

**Stats: Faisel Features**

The inexperienced young guns of both Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad would like to put their hands up in testing times when both teams square off in a must-win game on Thursday.

Whether it is Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad of Sunrisers or Kartik Tyagi, Riyan Parag of the Royals, the youngsters from both sides will be feeling the pressure of doing something out of the box in case their illustrious seniors fail in that pursuit.

The Sunrisers are currently tottering at the second last place in the eight-team table with just six points from nine game while Royals are a notch ahead with eight points after their comprehensive win over CSK in the previous game.

SRH can't afford to slip up even one bit since another loss would rule them out of the Play-offs race. The Royals would hope to continue with the winning momentum and hope that their foreign recruits continue to perform like they did against CSK.

They got their campaign back on track after two heavy defeats and would also have the edge over SRH, which lost to KKR in the Super Over in their previous game.

Losing Super Over contests often push teams back as KXIP found out after their opening loss to Delhi Capitals. One more loss would make it extremely difficult for the Royals to stay alive.

While Jofra Archer continues to be the backbone of Royals' bowling attack, the wrist-spinning duo of Shreyas Gopal and Rahul Tewatia were terrific in the middle overs against CSK and skipper Smith would be hoping for an encore from his bowlers on Thursday.

## 'This season Shami has lot more clarity about his role'

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ever-reliable Mohammed Shami has bowled with a lot more "clarity of mind" in the ongoing IPL, which has helped him deliver near-perfect performances this season, feels Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul.

Shami, a world-class Test bowler, has been in his elements, taking 16 wickets for KXIP in 10 matches so far and played a big role in the last three games that the team has won.

"Look we all know that what Shami can do on a given day. He has been doing that for many years now. I think this year, there is a lot more clarity and he has put his hand up as a senior bowler," Rahul said on Tuesday after KXIP beat Delhi Capitals by five wickets to keep their campaign for Play-offs on track.

The KXIP skipper believes

Mohammad Shami & Mayank Agarwal

IPL20

## India could quarantine & train in Sydney to start Oz tour

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Sydney and Canberra are emerging as potential venues to host India's limited-over series against Australia during the upcoming tour starting next month.

The Indian team was initially supposed to land in Brisbane but apparently Queensland state health authorities won't allow the visitors to train during the mandatory 14-day quarantine period.

According to a report in *ESPNcricinfo*, Sydney could emerge as Indian contingent's port of entry and the city may allow them to train during their quarantine.

It is learnt that the SCG could be hosting four of the six white ball games (three T20s and three ODIs) while

Canberra's Manuka Oval hosting two games.

New South Wales state's sports minister Stuart Ayres confirmed that they have received a request from Cricket Australia to allow the Indian as well as the Australian team to undergo its mandatory quarantine as well as training.

"Cricket Australia has approached the New South Wales Government about quarantining the Indian cricket team and returning Australian cricketers in Sydney," Ayres was quoted as saying by the cricket website.

"That proposal is currently being assessed by NSW authorities including health and police. Fixtures for the Indian tour will be determined by Cricket Australia and won't impact our assessment of the quarantine proposal."

If CA and the NSW state Government are able to reach an agreement, a revised plan would then be submitted by Cricket Australia to the BCCI for approval.

AFF ■ PARIS

Marcus Rashford once again sank Paris Saint-Germain after netting the decisive goal in a 2-1 Champions League win in the French capital on Tuesday, while Barcelona sent a message with a thumping 5-1 victory over Ferencvaros.

Rashford, who scored the winning spot-kick when United knocked PSG out in 2019, drilled home a low shot three minutes from the end which won a thrilling Group H contest at a near-empty Parc des Princes.

United had taken the lead in the 23rd minute when Bruno Fernandes slotted home from the spot at the second attempt, but Anthony Martial inexplicably headed Neymar's corner into his own net 10 minutes after the break.

The rest of the match was an end-to-end affair with both sides opting to go for the win rather than hold on for the draw, and Rashford took the points after twice being denied by Keylor Navas earlier in the match.

The win sets United up nicely for next week's home clash with RB Leipzig, who are

top of the group after beating Istanbul Basaksehir 2-0 in Germany.

**KOEMAN'S WINNING START**

Ronald Koeman got his first Champions League campaign as Barcelona coach off to a winning start with a confident win over Ferencvaros that gives them control of Group G, top but level on three points with Juventus.

Ferencvaros, the first Hungarian team to make the group stage in 11 years, started brightly and even had the ball in the net via Tokmac Nguen only for the powerful 12th-minute strike to be ruled out for offside.

Messi won and converted the penalty to give the Catalans a 27th-minute lead and the match was as good as done when Ansu Fati clipped home Frenkie de Jong's sumptuous pass just before the break.

Philippe Coutinho lashed

## Defeat wake up call for us: Iyer

PTI ■ DUBAI

It's a wake up call, said Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer as he urged his team's batsmen, with the exception of an in-form Shikhar Dhawan, to take "more responsibility" following a surprise IPL loss to Kings XI Punjab.

"This is like a wake-up call for us. Going forward we are going to face tough situations and tougher teams. We have played amazing cricket in the past but we have to leave that in the past," Iyer said at the post-match conference.

"We have to come out all guns blazing, play with freedom and take more responsibility. We need one match to qualify and keeping that in mind, we will take one match at a time," he added.

Against KXIP, Dhawan alone scored 106 while the quintet comprising Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Marcus Stoinis, Rishabh Pant and Shimron Hetmyer contributed 54 runs collectively.

"I am really happy for Shikhar Dhawan for the way he is going. He is creating an amazing platform for us as batsmen. We should be knowing our roles pretty well," the DC skipper said.

However, he feels that his batsmen are in a good frame of mind and the defeat was a one off setback.

"Other than that, I feel all the batsmen are in really good frame of mind and few matches can go wrong here and there as fatigue creeps in. Keeping that aside we need to focus on our strengths," he said.

## DUGOUT

### MOTION PICTURE

Kings XI Punjab co-owner Preity Zinta poses for photo with Arshdeep Singh, Glenn Maxwell and Ravi Bishnoi after win against Delhi Capitals on Tuesday

@realpreityzinta

Aakash Chopra @cricketaakash

Pant is in Solapur. Who's keeping for #DelhiCapitals in Dubai then? 😊

Cricketer-turned-commentator Aakash Chopra took to Twitter to share a picture of the IPL virtual fan-wall wherein a person from Solapur watching the match between DC-KXIP looked like Rishabh Pant








@cricketaakash

**BRAVO OUT OF IPL WITH GROIN INJURY**

CSK all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has been ruled out of the ongoing IPL with a groin injury, dealing a massive blow to the already struggling side which has very slim chances of advancing to the play-offs. "Dwayne Bravo is ruled out of the IPL due to a groin injury," CSK CEO Kashi Viswanathan told *PTI*. The 37-year-old Bravo played six games and scored only seven runs in two innings. However, he got six wickets in as many games with an economy of 8.57. "It's sad news, it's sad to be leaving my team CSK. To all our CSK fans, I want you all to keep encouraging the team, keep supporting, all the true die-hard CSK fans," Bravo said in a video message.

**HOLDER SAD THAT BLM NOT PART OF IPL**

West Indies captain Jason Holder has expressed his disappointment over none of the IPL teams taking a knee in solidarity with the *Black Lives Matter* movement, which, he feels, has gone unnoticed in the world's most glamorous cricket league. Holder, who is member of SRH, made the statement while receiving the prestigious Peter Smith Award on behalf of the West Indies cricket team in a virtual ceremony. "To be honest, I haven't had one conversation up here around it (BLM). Sometimes it seems it has gone unnoticed, which is a sad thing," Holder said in his address posted on Cricket West Indies website.

POINTS TABLE							
			P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1		DC	10	7	3	+0.774	14
2		RCB	10	7	3	+0.182	14
3		MI	9	6	3	+1.201	12
4		KKR	10	5	5	-0.828	10
5		KXIP	10	4	6	-0.177	8
6		RR	10	4	6	-0.591	8
7		SRH	9	3	6	+0.008	6
8		CSK	10	3	7	-0.463	6