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BJP's free Covid vaccine pledge in Bihar sparks row

Opp questions whether other Indians won't get free vaccine; BJP's Bihar polls manifesto also promises 19L jobs in 5 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's poll promise of free coronavirus vaccination to everyone in Bihar triggered a major row on Thursday. The Opposition came down heavily on the ruling party for making the life-saving drug a tool for political gains and charged it with linking the vaccine's access with elections. The BJP countered the charges saying it has taken up a public health issue and the Opposition should not be upset over it. The BJP also promised 19 lakh jobs in the next five years.

"As soon as a Covid-19 vaccine is available for production at a mass scale, every person in Bihar will get free vaccination. This is the first promise mentioned in our poll manifesto," Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, announcing the BJP's 11-point "sankalp patra" (draft of commitments) for the Bihar polls.

Soon after, AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to question: "What about non-BJP ruled States? Indians who didn't vote BJP will not get free Covid vaccine?"

The Congress as well as the RJD besides former Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Akhilesh Yadav hit out at the BJP.

"GOI just announced India's Covid access strategy. Kindly refer to the State-wise election schedule to know when will you get it, along with a hoard of false promises," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with BJP general secretary Bhupendra Yadav and Bihar BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal, releases the party manifesto ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, in Patna on Thursday PTI

Omar termed it blatant populism and asked: "Will BJP be paying for these vaccines from the party treasury? If it's coming from the Government treasury then how can Bihar get free vaccines while the rest of the country has to pay? There is so much wrong with this blatant populism that shamefully exploits Covid fears."

Akhilesh Yadav asked why such a declaration was not made for Uttar Pradesh and other States? "The people of UP and the country will respond to such opportunistic narrow politics to the BJP in the upcoming elections," he asserted.

Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Chaubey said, "Every State will be given free coronavirus vaccine." And the BJP came out strongly defending its announcement. Bihar incharge Bhupender Yadav said, "Every political party goes into the election with a manifesto. Someone talks about employment, someone talks about farm loan waiver, someone talks about pucca houses. Why is the Opposition upset if we are going with a public health issue?"

BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya said like all programmes, the Centre will provide vaccines to States at a nominal rate and since health is State subject, it is for the State Governments to decide if they want to give it free or otherwise. "Bihar BJP has decided to give it free," he stressed.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor reacted on the issue and wondered if the Election Commission "will rap her (Sitharaman) and her shameless Government on the knuckles" while party spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill said the BJP would be the only political party in the world which thinks Covid vaccine is an election lollipop instead of life saving measure to be administered as matter of right and not matter of conditional political privilege.

"BJP's vicious mentality needs cure along with Covid," he added.

₹500 bn set aside for vaccination for all

New Delhi: The Narendra Modi Government has set aside about ₹500 billion ($7 billion) to vaccinate people. The Government estimates an all-in cost of about $6-$7 per person, sources said.

TN CM assures free vaccine for people

Pudukottai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Thursday assured free immunisation against coronavirus for all sections of people in the state as soon as a vaccine is made available.

BJP netas test +ve, Bihar campaign hit hard

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Dy CM Sushil Modi, ex-Union Minister Shahnawaz Hussain Corona positive

BJP's election campaign in Bihar was hit hard on Thursday with Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and former Union Minister and star campaigner Shahnawaz Hussain announcing on their own about having tested positive.

The status of State's Health Minister Mangal Pandey and former Union Ministers Rajiv Pratap Rudy has not been confirmed but reports said the two have gone in isolation.

The instances of the BJP leaders testing positive coincidentally came on a day when their party in its poll manifesto promised to provide free vaccination to the State's residents.

"Tested positive for corona. All parameters perfectly normal. Started with mild temp. No temp for last 2 days. Admitted to AIIMS Patna for better monitoring. CT scan of lungs normal. Will be back soon for campaigning," Sushil Modi tweeted.

Shahnawaz, who had addressed rallies a couple of days ago, also took to Twitter to announce: "I had come in contact with a few people who tested positive for Covid 19. I got myself tested today & my report has come positive. Request all who came in contact with me in last few days, kindly get yourself tested according to Govt guidelines. I have admitted myself into AIIMS trauma centre. I am feeling fine, nothing to worry about."

The number of Covid cases in Bihar stands at 2.08 lakh, of which a little over 11,000 are active cases. The State has so far carried out over 95 lakh tests and there have been 1019 deaths due to the infection.

Modi invokes Nari Shakti, opens Durga Puja virtually in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday blew the poll bugle rolling out a list of his Government's women-centric achievements as he virtually inaugurated a number of BJP-backed Durga Pujas in Bengal.

Modi who made part of his persuasive speech in Bengali bringing to mind the contribution of Bengal in freedom struggle and its cultural reawakening said that it was his honour to inaugurate Durga Puja which is essentially a worship of "Nari Shakti" or women empowerment for which his Government too had taken a whole range of steps.

"Bengal and Durga Puja have always enmoured me. This festival is a festival of unity and strength of all of India … inspired by the ideal of Nari Shakti our Government has taken a number of steps from opening Jan Dhan accounts for 22 crore women, giving soft loans to them under the Mudra Yojana, Ujjwala Yojna, launching Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao initiative, granting permanent commission to women in the armed forces, to extending maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks, we have taken a number of steps for their empowerment," he said, adding his Government has brough in laws against rape making them more stringent "by including death penalty to the culprits."

Reminding "Atmanirvar Bharat" is not far away the PM said Bengal too would play an important role in making India self-reliant as it had done in the past by taking the lead role in Independence movement and cultural reawaking of the country.

Continued on Page 11

IT raid at Cong office in Patna

Patna: Just a few days ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, an Income Tax raid was conducted at the Bihar Congress office in Patna on Thursday.

Congress Bihar in-charge Shaktisinh Gohil told reporters that an I-T team had come at the office and informed that few lakhs in cash had been recovered from a vehicle.

Reports say that around ₹8 lakh cash was recovered from a vehicle inside the campus of the Congress office.

"We told the team how we could know whose vehicle had come at the state party office and what was inside it. Somebody can put anything inside a vehicle and come to our party office. We are nowhere responsible for it," the Congress Bihar incharge told mediapersons.

Govt eases travel curbs for all, except tourists

Persons on tourist visas barred; those allowed must follow Covid guidelines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday further eased visa and travel restrictions imposed amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card holders and all other foreign nationals intending to visit India for any purpose, except on a tourist visa, have been permitted to enter by air or water routes through authorised airports and seaport immigration check posts.

This includes flights operated under Vande Bharat Mission, Air Transport Bubble arrangements or by any non scheduled commercial flights as allowed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

All such travelers will, however, have to strictly adhere to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding quarantine and other health/Covid-19 matters, the Home Ministry said in a statement.

"Under this graded relaxation, the Government of India has also decided to restore with immediate effect all existing visas (except electronic visa, tourist visa). If the validity of such visas has expired, fresh visas of appropriate categories can be obtained from Indian Mission/Posts concerned. Foreign nationals intending to visit India for medical treatment can apply for a medical visa, including for their medical attendants.

"Therefore, this decision will enable foreign nationals to come to India for various purposes such as business, conferences, employment, studies, research, medical purposes, etc," said the statement.

Continued on Page 11

Oxford vaccine trial continues amid death

Independent study claims Covid-19 vaccine trial doing everything fine

AP ■ LONDON

The University of Oxford says the late-stage trial of its Covid-19 vaccine in Brazil will continue following reports of a participant's death.

The university said it can't comment on specific incidents but an independent review found no reason to be concerned about the safety of the Brazilian trial.

It says an "independent review, in addition to the Brazilian regulator, have recommended that the trial should continue."

The Oxford vaccine is being developed in conjunction with the international pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. Trials are underway in the United States and the UK, as well as Brazil, to determine whether the potential vaccine is safe and effective in humans.

Meanwhile, independent study claimed that Oxford Covid-19 vaccine is doing "everything expected", which means good news in the fight against the deadly virus.

A team at Bristol University used recently developed techniques to validate that the vaccine accurately follows the genetic instructions programmed into it by the Oxford University team. The experts say that the novel analysis provides even greater clarity and detail about how the vaccine successfully provokes a strong immune response.

"This is an important study as we are able to confirm that the genetic instructions underpinning this vaccine, which is being developed as fast as safely possible, are correctly followed when they get into a human cell," said Dr David Matthews, Reader in Virology from Bristol's School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, who led the research.

Govt warns Twitter CEO over misrepresentation of India map

IT Secy's letter says disrespect to India's sovereignty, integrity totally unacceptable

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi Government has written a strongly-worded letter to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey conveying its strong disapproval over the misrepresentation of map of India by his micro-blogging platform and making it clear that disrespecting the country's sovereignty and integrity is totally unacceptable.

In his stern letter, IT Secretary Ajay Sawhney pointed out that such attempts not only bring disrepute to Twitter, but also raises questions about its neutrality and fairness as an intermediary.

Twitter had shown the geo-location of Leh in Jammu & Kashmir as People's Republic of China. The warning to Twitter comes days after the social media platform landed itself in controversy after users shared screenshots of its blunder.

Twitter's blunder triggered a wave of angry outbursts on social media, with most requesting the Government to take strict action against the social media platform and some seeking total ban on it in India.

The IT Secretary, in his letter, reminded Twitter that Leh is the headquarters of Union Territory of Ladakh and both Ladakh as well as Jammu & Kashmir are integral and inalienable parts of India, Governed by the Constitution of India.

The Government asked Twitter to respect the sensitivities of Indian citizens, and also made it clear that any attempt by Twitter to disrespect sovereignty and integrity of India, which is also reflected by the maps, is totally unacceptable and unlawful.

The Government's warning to Twitter comes amid the tense standoff with China along the LAC. Indian and Chinese soldiers have been locked in a standoff at the LAC, or the defacto border between the countries, in Ladakh since May. Tension peaked in June when 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the line of duty in a clash with the Chinese at Galwan Valley.

This is not the first time that the Government has expressed displeasure and warned the micro blogging sites in the country. During the riots in Delhi, the Ministry of Home Affairs warned the representatives of social media platforms for not blocking objectionable content, hate messages and videos flagged by the police during the communal riots in North-East Delhi.

Pak House panel OK's Bill to seek review of Jadhav's conviction

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani parliamentary panel has approved a Government Bill that seeks a review of the conviction of death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav, complying with the directives of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), according to a media report on Thursday.

The draft Bill titled "the International Court of Justice (Review and Reconsideration) Ordinance" was discussed and approved by the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Law and Justice on Wednesday despite stiff resistance from the Opposition.

Taking part in the debate, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Farogh Naseem said the Bill has been introduced in compliance with directives of the ICJ.

He warned that in case the Bill was not adopted by Parliament, Pakistan could face sanctions for not complying with the ICJ's verdict.

Fifty-year-old retired Indian Navy officer Jadhav was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. In 2017, India approached the ICJ against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav.

Continued on Page 11

Delhi's air deteriorates to 'very 'poor'

SAFAR advises people to stop outdoor activity in morning, evening

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pollution levels in the national Capital dropped to 'very poor' category on Thursday evening and is likely to worsen in the coming two days, Government agencies said.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) have been recorded at 302, which is in the "very poor" category. An AQI between 0 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".

Though the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and other agencies had predicted an improvement in air quality for Thursday, the AQI turned out to be worse than Wednesday. Delhi's AQI was in "poor" category on Thursday morning at 254 and it deteriorated to "very poor" at 302 by evening.

The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), advised people to stop outdoor activity early morning and after sunset and avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.

According to SAFAR, Delhi's air quality will remain very poor till October 24. The pollution monitoring agency recommended for short walk instead of a jog and suggested to take more breaks during walk. It also exhorted people to use masks N-95 or P-100.

SAFAR said, "A significant increase in stubble fire count observed around Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring regions. Stubble fire counts stood at 1,428 on Wednesday the highest of this season."

Additional Director General of IMD Anand Sharma said, "Air quality will deteriorate in the coming two days till October 24. There are factors other than farm fires which are worsening the air quality, such as vehicular pollution and waste burning. PM 2.5 will increase and PM 10, which is now in 'poor' category, will be 'very poor' by October 24."

Values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) on Index for PM2.5 and PM 10 were 265 and 125 which may shoot up to 306 and 147 for Friday, as per SAFAR forecast.

After three days, Delhi may get slight relief from noxious air quality as marginal dip noted in pollutants values.

CAPSULE

SEAT AVAILABILITY FEATURE IN DTC SOON

New Delhi: With an aim to let the passengers know about availability and non-availability of seats, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has decided to display info in its buses.

IB OFFICIAL'S MURDER CASE: MAN DENIED BAIL

New Delhi: A Delhi court Thursday dismissed the bail plea of a man arrested in connection with the murder of Intelligence Bureau (IB) official Ankit Sharma during the roits in North-East Delhi in February.

BALLIA FIRING: COPS TAKE BJP LEADER IN CUSTODY

Ballia: The police on Thursday took in custody BJP leader Dhirendra Pratap Singh, who was arrested for allegedly shooting dead a man in Ballia's Durjanpur village during the allotment of a ration shop.

Yogi: Western UP freed from clutches of mafia, goons

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said that due to the sweeping law and order measures and steely resolve of his government, the Mafioso and hooliganism had become a thing of past.

"These are the same mafia who were being harboured by the opposition parties and now they are on the run, begging for their lives," Yogi Adityanath said while addressing public meetings in the bypolls-bound UP Assembly constituencies of Bulandshahr, Amroha and Tundla on Thursday.

He said that the western part of the state had been freed from the clutches of mafia elements and goons. "Their properties are being razed and they have no place left to hide themselves," he added..

The chief minister said that the state government was continuously working towards transforming Uttar Pradesh into 'Uttam Pradesh' for the past three years.

"Not only the dues of sugarcane farmers are being cleared, the sugar mills that were shut down during previous regimes are operating with full capacity and productivity," the chief minister said.

In a direct assault on former Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi, the chief minister said that opposition leaders were sympathetic to anti-national elements.

"He (Rahul Gandhi) openly meets the members of the Popular Front of India (PFI). This clearly reflects his mentality towards anti-national elements," he said and added, "This is the same PFI which has plans to instigate a series of riots in the country and those doing politics in the name of religion are trying to disturb the communal harmony of the country,"

In a reference to former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, the chief minister said that he was a true crusader of farmers' rights and well-being. "Now, the leaders are only doing lip-service in the name of farmers, in order to garner their votes," he said.

Yogi Adityanath called upon the people to give a befitting reply to those who based their politics on caste and religion. Castigating the opposition, he said it was their narrative which resulted in the Muzaffarnagar riots, the exodus of businessmen and traders from Kandhla and Kairana and the killing of innocent youth like Sachin and Gaurav.

Charging the opposition with playing communal politics, the chief minister said they were against the kanwar yatra by raising the bogey of communal disharmony. "Now, in the Bharatiya Janata Party rule, the kanwar yatra is taken out and flowers are showered on kanwarias," he pointed out.

Regretting that the person who donated all his property for Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) had been totally neglected, Yogi said the BJP government was going to set up a university in Aligarh in the name of Maharaja Mahendra Singh.

Govt working on action plan for permanent solution to floods

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government is working on an action plan for a permanent solution to the problem of floods faced by the people of Uttar Pradesh, especially the eastern part of the state.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said until a permanent solution to the problem was found, the standard flood control procedures would be in place at flood-sensitive points in the state.

"It is because of the proactive approach of the government towards the problem that no serious flood-related issues came up despite the rainfall being two to three times more than the average this year in the Terai regions," Yogi said while distributing compensation to the tune of Rs 113.21 crore to 3,48,511 farmers in 19 flood-affected districts. He made on-line payments to the farmers to compensate them for their crops destroyed in rain, an official release of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said on Thursday.

In the virtual address from his residence here on Thursday, the chief minister said, "Though the compensatory amount is modest as compared to the hard work and the losses suffered by the farmers, it is just a soothing gesture and a testimony to the commitment of the government towards the interests of the farmers."

"Due to sheer hard work and labour of farmers, we could mitigate the adverse impact on the economy during the extraordinary coronavirus crisis," he added.

The government, Yogi said, was duty-bound to ensure a fair price to the farmers for their produce and to ensure that they were not exploited at any level.

"Clear instructions have been issued to the district magistrates in this regard and anyone found exploiting farmers will be dealt with strictly," he warned.

The Central and the state governments are also running several schemes like PM Irrigation, PM Crop Insurance, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, to double the income of farmers, the chief minister added.

Yogi Adityanath also spoke to farmers of five districts and learnt about their problems and possible solutions. He assured them that the government has already taken some proactive measures to minimise their losses.

Dial 112 cops to use regional dialects also

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a novel initiative of the Uttar Pradesh government, probably the first of its kind in the country, the police personnel will also converse in regional dilects on the 112 Police Help Line for the convenience of the rural population of the state.

As part of this scheme, it has been decided to include Bhojpuri, Awadhi, Braj, Bundeli and other local dialects in the Dial 112 service system.

This decision has been taken on the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Giving details about the initiative, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said that the officers receiving the calls will also be communicating in the local dialect and to ensure this, the officers fluent in these dialects had been selected.

"The initiative has been taken to further improve the response time in taking action after receiving a complaint. This will also make a complainant using a local dialect comfortable and confident while communicating with the cops of the Dial 112 Helpline service," he said.

The communication officers serving at the emergency services have been specially trained for this and the initiative will be of great help, especially for those people who call from the rural parts of the state, said ADG (112-Helpine) Asim Arun. "People of the rural belt, especially women, are comfortable communicating in their local dialect and the initiative will not only make them comfortable, it will also help them to share their problems with clarity," he said.

Huge demonstration after MP's personal staff slaps constable

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Slapping of a police constable by a personal guard of a ruling party parliamentarian led to a huge demonstration in Jaunpur on Thursday. Sensing trouble, the MP, who was in another vehicle, left the spot, leaving his security staff behind to face the situation.

Interestingly, the entire incident took place just opposite the Kotwali Madiyahon.

As per a video that went viral, a ruling party MP was passing through a busy intersection when his and another vehicle of his cavalcade occupied by his personal security staff got stuck in the traffic jam.

A police constable manning the crowd stopped the MP's SUV but as it went ahead he questioned the driver and again went back to control the traffic.

The video showed that a personal guard (shadow) of the MP stepped out of the SUV and went to the constable and hurling abuses on him he slapped the policeman and went back to the SUV.

The constable was shocked and went back to his post to control the traffic but the local public stopped the MP's driver and later created a ruckus. The public also joined some constables who too protested over slapping of their colleague.

As the incident took place right in front of Madiyahon Kotwali, some more cops reached there and somehow paved the way for the SUV to enter the police station premises before the mob turned violent.

In the meantime, the MP, who was in another SUV, slipped from the spot, leaving his personal security behind.

The video showed that a personal guard (shadow) of the MP stepped out of the SUV and went to the constable and hurling abuses on him he slapped the policeman and went back to the SUV

Meanwhile, despite the notice served on him by the BJP bosses over his recent remarks, party MLA Surendra Singh on Thursday again defended a murder accused, saying "a criminal got killed at the hands of a soldier in the firing". He was defending the Ballia case main accused who is the district unit president of the BJP Ex-Servicemen Cell.

Local BJP leader Dhirendra Pratap Singh had shot dead a 46-year-old man following a quarrel over the allotment of ration shops in Ballia district's Durjanpur village on October 15.

Surendra Singh, the MLA from Bairia, had come out in his support, saying Dhirendra Pratap Singh had "opened fire in self-defence" as "it was a do-or-die situation for him".

"Jai Prakash Pal Gama, who was killed in the firing incident, was a criminal. He had four cases of train dacoity against him," Surendra Singh told reporters in Ballia.

Regional food controller in Bareilly suspended

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Regional Food Controller in Bareilly, Pramod Kumar Srivastava, a senior PCS officer, has been suspended by the state government for irregularities in paddy procurement in the districts falling under the Bareilly division.

The Bareilly divisional commissioner has been appointed inquiry officer and he will probe into the charges against the regional food controller.

Srivastava has been attached to the office of the Chairman, Board of Revenue in Lucknow.

Serious complaints of irregularities in paddy procurement in Bareilly, Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur districts were received by the government. At most of the procurement centres and in the mandi yards of the UP Mandi Parishad, the farmers were facing problems in on-line registration for selling their produce at the procurement centres.

The Yogi Adityanath government, to eliminate corruption and middlemen, has made on-line registration of the farmers mandatory.

The payment is credited in the bank accounts of the farmers on-line through RTGS.

In Pilibhit, District Magistrate Pulkit Khare had recently raided the mandi yard and had detected several irregularities.

The employees of the mandi and other procurement centres were extorting money from the farmers for the on-line registration.

Against the minimum support price (MSP) of over Rs 1,800 per quintal, the farmers were forced to make distress sale at Rs 1,100-1,200 per quintal to middlemen.

A video of the Pilibhit district magistrate's raid had gone viral on social media and it was also widely covered by the electronic media. The district magistrate had threatened tough action against the officials of the Mandi Parishad and Food department. He had also sent a detailed report to the government about the irregularities in paddy procurement in his district. Though the official agencies of the Central and state governments have set up procurement centres for the purchase of wheat and paddy during the Rabi and Kharif season, the regional food controller of the division is the overall incharge for supervising the smooth implementation of procurement of food grains from the farmers.

Sr Home Guards official dismissed for corruption

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday ordered the dismissal of a senior Home Guards official who was posted as district commandant, Lucknow in 2019, on charges of corruption. Kripa Shankar Pandey has been dismissed on charges of irregularities in allotment of duties to home guards. The action was part of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's zero tolerance policy towards corruption.

According to a government spokesman, a reply was sought from the official concerned six times during the inquiry but no satisfactory reply was received from him. "Chief Minister @myogiadityanath has ordered dismissal of the then district commandant Home Guards , Lucknow for financial irregularities in duty deployment of home guard volunteers and fraud," the chief minister's office said in a tweet. On Monday, Yogi Adityanath had ordered the dismissal of district commandant of Home Guards at Bulandshahr, Mukesh Kumar, on charges of corruption.

Last year, three videos had surfaced on social media purportedly showing Kumar accepting money from home guard jawans. A detailed inquiry was conducted which found all charges against Kumar to be true although he had pleaded that the videos were forged.

Forensic examination of the videos had also found that there was no tampering, the spokesperson added.

SP slams NDA govt for free Covid vaccine for Bihar

Lucknow (PNS): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav targeted the National Democratic Alliance government for announcing free distribution of Covid vaccine for the poll-bound state of Bihar.

Questioning the announcement of the Union government of providing free Covid vaccines to Bihar, Akhilesh Yadav asked why no such announcement had been made for Uttar Pradesh and other states that were reeling under the severe impact of the pandemic.

"The electorate of Uttar Pradesh will give a befitting reply to the narrow and opportunistic policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2022 UP Assembly elections," he said.

SI suspended for keeping beard sans permission

LUCKNOW (PNS): A police sub-inspector posted in Baghpat, Intesar Ali, has been suspended and attached to the Reserve Police Lines for growing a beard without taking prior permission.

This was confirmed by officials on Thursday.

Ali had been warned thrice to shave off or seek requisite permission to keep a beard. However, he did not seek permission and continued to keep the beard.

Baghpat's Superintendent of Police Abhishek Singh said that as per the police manual, only Sikhs were allowed to keep a beard while all other policemen had to remain clean-shaven. "If any police personnel wants to keep a beard, he has to seek permission for it. Intesar Ali was repeatedly asked to seek permission but he did not comply with the order and kept the beard without permission," the SP said.

Ali joined the police force as a sub-inspector and has been posted at Baghpat for the past three years.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I, Avinash Kumar Saini S/o Nageshwer Prasad 551KA/Cha-349, Madhuban Nagar Alambagh. I change name of my son Chitransh Arghya to new name Arghya Chitransh now my son known & identified by this name.

NOTICE

I Vinay Kumar Yadav S/o Ramnakhatra Yadav Sarvice no. 22000983F Rank Sep (GD) posted with 21 R&O Flight R/o Vill Dharmpur Hata Teh Madhuban, Distt Mau UP, Declare that in my Service Record name of my brother SAMPOORA NAND YADAV by mistake her actual name is SAMPOORNA NAND YADAV Now I want to Correct it.

NOTICE

I, MUNHESH DEVI spouse of No. JC-303763A Rank Sub (DMT) Rakesh Kumar Prajapati, Unit-325 LT AD Regt (Comp) residing at Vill-Dhaneta, PO - Porsa, Teh - Porsa, Distt - Morena, State - MP & PIN - 476115 have changed my Name from MUNHESH DEVI to Maneesha Devi vide affidavit dated 14.09.2020 before Notry Advocate in the Court Compound Faizabad (Ayodhya) (U.P.).

NOTICE

I, KUMARI MEENA spouse of No. JC-303750H Rank Sub (GNR) Dagde Sanju Laxman Unit-325 LT AD Regt (Comp) residing at Vill - Dhonori Vishrantwadi, Near Santoshi Mata Mandir, Bharav Nagar, Sr. No. 67. Rod No. 12, Teh - Haveli, Distt. Pune, PIN - 411015 have changed my Name from KUMARI MEENA to MEENA SANJU DAGDE vide affidavit dated 16.09.2020 before Notry Advocate in the Court Compound Faizabad (Ayodhya) (U.P.).

Distilleries to utilise more cane for ethanol production

UPSMA seeks assurance from UP govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a major relief for farmers and sugar industry facing glut, more cane will be utilised by the distilleries from the next season commencing from November.

The sugar industry is facing excess production of sugar due to bumper sugarcane crop in the last season and also this year. The excess sugar production has created inventory problems for the industry, leading to delay in payment to the cane farmers.

The Union government in its Atmanirbhar Package announced in May had announced special incentives for setting up ethanol distilleries. Taking advantage of the incentive, existing sugar mills have decided to increase the production capacity of the existing distilleries.

Encouraged by the Centre's stance of persuading more and more sugar mills to divert sugarcane for producing ethanol in order to reduce the sugar glut in the domestic market, several sugar companies in Uttar Pradesh are keen to set up exclusive plants for the production of ethanol from cane juice and are looking ahead for some positive policy initiatives from the state government that would be beneficial for all the stakeholders. On the one hand, this will increase supply of ethanol from the state and, on the other, it will attract new investment.

According to officials of the Cane and Excise department, an exclusive policy for the production of ethanol from cane juice is in the pipeline and is expected to be finalised within a month.

The UP Sugar Mills Association representing the private sugar mills has communicated to the UP government that the industry, backed by the Centre's incentives, is keen to make fresh investments in the ethanol sector and has sought certain assurances that would further encourage the industry to invest.

Among the assurances that the industry is seeking are that the cane juice produced by the unit would not be subject to any reservation, preferential allotment or pricing control.

The government has also been asked to give assurance that if a multi-unit sugar company opts for setting up a unit to manufacture ethanol directly from cane juice, the reservation of this particular unit would not be considered in the computation of total available molasses.

This assumes importance as UP follows a policy for reserving molasses for production of country liquor, which is currently at 17 percent of the total available molasses.

Furthermore, since that plant would not be a regular sugar mill going by the conventional definition, the millers have also urged that the traditional regulatory framework be suitably amended.

The optimism among the sugar industry towards ethanol stems from the fact that the Union Petroleum Ministry has recommended an increase in the procurement price of ethanol for the current 2020-21 fiscal. While the price of ethanol for the 2019-20 seasons had been fixed at Rs 59.48 per litre, up from Rs 59.19 per litre in 2018-19, it is now expected to be increased by another Rs 3 per litre for the coming season.

A positive policy encouragement would go a long way in reducing excessive sugar production and its resultant difficulties. A sugar glut usually leads to negative market sentiment, thereby hampering the mills' ability to clear the cane arrears of the farmers.

The sugar industry in UP, having produced over 1.26 crore MT sugar in 2019-20, is facing a piquant situation, where its outstanding cane dues are above Rs 8,000 crore.

Taking advantage of the Central government's assistance for setting up ethanol distilleries, some more captive distilleries are in various stages of commissioning, and they would further increase the ethanol supply from the state.

The ethanol production not only caters to the demands of UP, it also meets the requirements of neighbouring states.

Currently, UP has 54 distilleries, of which 44 are captive distilleries of sugar mills. The state had offered 105 crore litres of ethanol to OMCs (oil marketing companies) for the 2019-20 season, of which 63.73 crore litres has already been supplied.

JK Cement LTD.
CIN:L17229UP1994PLC017199
Regd. & Corporate Office: Kamla Tower, Kanpur-208 001 (U.P.)
NOTICE
It is hereby notified that Share Certificate No.82806 for 20 Equity Shares bearing Distinctive Nos.44521030 to 44521049 standing in the sole name(s) of Shailesh Babulal Shah of Ahmedabad issued by the Company is reported lost. Any objection for issuance of duplicate share certificate must be filed with the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which duplicate share certificate will be issued without incurring any liability for the said issue.
For J.K.Cement Ltd.
(Shambhu Singh)
Asst.Vice-President (legal)
& Co. Secretary
M.No:FCS 5836
Place : Kanpur
Date : 22.10.2020

CITYBRIEFS

CJS' CONFERENCE FROM NOV 6 TO 9

City Montessori School is organising its 21st International Conference of Chief Justices of the World online from November 6 to 9. The conference will be inaugurated on November 6 and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be the chief guest on the occasion. Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia will preside over the function. This CMS conference is based on Article 51 of the Indian Constitution and dedicated to world unity, world peace and to establish a safe and secure future for two-and-a-half billion children of the world.

DIGITAL ADOPTION DAY

To adopt its innovative and successful digital campaign, Punjab National Bank celebrated Digital Adoption Day in all the 10,931 branches. Digital Adoption Day was also observed in all the branches of the divisions under Lucknow zone. Chief general manager of Lucknow zone Swaroop Saha said PNB has been striving to realise the 'Digital India' dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. General manager Sanjay Gupta directed all staff members to take a pledge to spread banking through digital medium even in remote rural areas.

WEBCAST TRIAL.

A two-day webcast trial was conducted by UP Housing Development Board, aimed at bringing transparency in auction or allotment of their properties. The auction procedure of 74 residential plots in the sector 12 of Vrindavan housing scheme was webcast live for three days beginning October 20.

INAUGURATION

KGMU spokesperson Dr Sandeep Tewari said Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna would inaugurate a 100-bedded wing, the foot overbridge connecting KGMU to Queen Mary's Hospital, faculty, employees residence building, medical gas pipeline in 13 departments and fire hydrant system on the campus on Friday.

AAP protest against Hathras incident

Lucknow (PNS): Aam Aadmi Party plans to hold a state-wide meet of Dalits and Backward Classes soon. It said the Bharatiya Janata Party government was ignoring the interests of Dalits because of its casteist mindset.

Speaking during a demonstration at Parivartan Chowk here on Wednesday against the Hathras incident, the AAP leaders said the UP government was silent on atrocities committed against the Dalits.

The police used force to dispel the mob and later arrested the workers.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
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Regional Office, 2nd Floor, Dist.-Ayodhya- 224123
Mob.-9517599985, Email: sarfai@bankofbaroda.co.in
Public Notice
Re: Advance account M/s Saurabh Industries (Account Number 00690500001040 and 00690600000711) with our ROSARB Branch - Publication of Photographs of wilful Defaulters.
Notice is hereby given to the public at large that **BANK OF BARODA** has declared the following persons as wilful defaulters, in terms of Bank's/RBI's extant guidelines complying with the due process prescribed.
(1) M/s Saurabh Industries (Borrower)
(2) Mr. Surendra Kumar Singh S/o Surya Pratap Singh (Proprietor)
Bank had sent suitable communication to the Borrower/Guarantor informing the decision of the Bank to declare them/him/her as a wilful defaulter.
As permitted by the Reserve Bank of India Bank, publishes the photographs of the wilful defaulters. for the information of public at large.

M/s Saurabh Industries (Borrower)
Mr. Surendra Kumar Singh
S/o Surya Pratap Singh (Proprietor)
Date: 23.10.2020 Place: Faizabad Branch Head, Bank of Baroda

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Covid recovery rate in dist improves to 93.8 per cent

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow's Covid recovery rate has increased to 93.8 per cent, but the death rate is between 1.3 and 1.4 per cent, which is still less than the state average of 1.5 per cent. According to a senior official at the CMO office, serious patients are still on ventilator support and those above 60 years of age with co-morbidities have been the worst-hit.

"We have things pretty much in control and the death rate is less than that of the state and country. Deaths taking place on a daily basis are 2-3 and most of the deceased have been from other districts," he said.

He added that the Health department officials had carried out inspections of Level-3 hospitals to take stock of the treatment meted out to patients.

"We found that the best care is being extended and all the medicines are available and senior doctors are constantly monitoring the situation. We have tried to ensure that treatment was in no way the reason for deaths. However, sometimes patients suffer from multi-organ failure and it becomes very difficult for them to recover. Complications that set in lead to health issues within 5-10 days of coronavirus infection," he pointed out.

The official said they were planning to have more Level-2 & Level-3 beds in hospitals. "Level-1 beds are now of lesser usage because most of the patients are under home isolation and they will remain there in case of no complications," he said.

Meanwhile, the sero-survey which was carried out by Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) on its own staff and students have shown that antibodies were present only in 5 per cent of the 150 who had volunteered for the test. CDRI spokesperson Sanjeev Yadav said it was a part of the study which was carried out by IGIB, New Delhi. He said final results were still awaited and it was just preliminary finding.

The serological testing was conducted from at CDRI from September 9 to 11. Yadav said it was not a good percentage as far as immunity levels in the community were concerned, and it should be at least 10-15 per cent.

2402 test +ve in state, 281 in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The COVID-19 death toll in Uttar Pradesh rose to 6,790 on Thursday with 35 more fatalities, while 2,402 fresh cases pushed the infection tally to 4,63,858.

At present, there are 29,131 active cases in the state while 4,27,937 COVID-19 patients have recovered in hospitals of in home isolation, according to a health bulletin issued here on Thursday.

Meanwhile, 281 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow on Thursday while 312 patients recovered. The new patients included 27 from Gomtinagar, 25 from Indiranagar, 20 from Rae Bareli road, 18 from Chinhat, 17 from Chowk, 16 each from Aliganj & Jankipuram, 14 from Alambagh, 12 from Talkatora, 11 from Madiaon, and 10 each from Hazratganj and Vikasnagar. There were eight deaths in Lucknow and four of the deceased belonged to Lucknow.

During the past 24 hours, 35 more people died of COVID-19, taking the death toll in the state to 6,790 while the total number of confirmed cases rose to 4,63,858, it said.

At present, the recovery rate is 92.25 percent, Additional Chief Secretary (Medical and Health) Amit Mohan Prasad told reporters.

On Wednesday, 1,57,696 samples were tested for COVID-19, taking the total number of tests to 1,36,03,679 in the state.

Woman attempts suicide over police 'high-handedness'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman attempted to end her life by popping sleeping pills outside Vidhan Bhawan, allegedly due to the high-handedness of Naka police and their bullying tactics. She alleged that the police were trying to frame her brothers in a fake case. She further alleged that she was denied an audience by officials at the office of the Commissioner of Police.

However, a police spokesman said the woman was trying to save her brothers who had a criminal history and said were the relatives of notorious brother trio Salim, Rustam and Sohrab.

As per reports, Shamim Baby Khan of Thakurganj reached Vidhan Sabha road around 12:45 pm on Thursday breaching the security cordon. She then popped up sleeping pills and started crying. Police personnel on duty developed cold feet and they immediately rushed her to a hospital.

The woman told mediapersons that the Naka police had made life difficult for her and entire family. She said the policemen would take money from her brothers, threatening to frame them in a fake case. The woman claimed that her brothers were innocent and they work hard to earn their living. She said she tried to petition her case to the CP, but to no avail.

Contrary to her claims, police said several cases had been lodged against her brothers, identified as Bhaiyyu and Chhotu. The police said one of them had been arrested. "The woman staged a drama by popping sleeping pills to exert pressure on the police to not arrest her brother, the search for whom is on," the police said. The police denied charges of high-handedness and said they were complying with the orders of senior officials.

"A drive is being carried out in the city against wanted criminals and their families are crying foul every now and then," a police spokesman said.

The incident has come close on the heels of three self-immolation attempts outside Vidhan Bhawan.

Earlier, a woman, identified as Anjali Tiwari of Maharajganj, had attempted self-immolation and suffered over 90 per cent burns on October 13.

Thieves strike at 5 houses in 24 hrs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Thieves struck at five houses in a village in Madiaon during the last 24 hours and decamped with cash and ornaments. Thieves struck at the house of Neeraj Yadav of Jawar village on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday and decamped with Rs 30,000 in cash and ornaments worth lakhs of rupees. Neeraj said the thieves also feasted on juice, milk and fruits kept in the fridge.

Thieves also sneaked into the house of Shanker Rawat and decamped with Rs 5,500 and ornaments worth several lakh. Houses of Rajaram and Chunmun Yadav were also struck and the thieves made off with Rs 14,000 and Rs 5,000 respectively, apart from costly ornaments. The thieves then tried to burgle the house of Vinay Singh, but his wife woke up and they had to flee the scene. Earlier, the thieves had struck four houses in Umarbhari village which is close to Jawar village and had decamped with cash and ornaments.

ATTACKED

A group, including two women, allegedly stormed the house of a Chinhat resident, Nancy Maurya, around 11:30 pm on Tuesday and thrashed her, ransacked her house and damaged her mobile phone. According to the complainant, Akash Yadav, Amit Yadav, their mother Kaushalya Devi, her daughter-in-law Jyoti Yadav and several other unidentified persons barged her house on Wednesday night. "They ransacked my house, broke my mobile phone and left while issuing threats," she alleged. Police said the complainant did not explain the reason for the attack, but a case was registered nonetheless. The police said both the parties had a long-standing enmity.

Meanwhile, residents of Thakurganj flew in rage after police let off a man, popularly known as a *tantrik*, who was accused of indulging in indecent practices. However, he was arrested later. Reports said a video showing the accused indulging in an indecent act went viral on Wednesday after which a police team reached the place. However, the police did not find anything objectionable and let him off. Enraged over this, locals alleged that the accused indulging in indecent practices but the police were saving him.

Varsity classes to begin next week

Lucknow (PNS): Classes for first semester UG and PG programmes will begin next week on flip classroom model, which is a combination of online and offline modes, as per the discretion of heads of departments. Time-tables will be uploaded on SLATE by the beginning of next week.

The decision was taken at a meeting of all HoDs and deans of Lucknow University at the department of Economics under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor AK Rai. Dean (Academics) Arvind Mohan and examination controller AM Saxena were also present in the meeting.

The meeting took up discussions on holding mid-semester & end-semester examinations and UG & PG classes. It was decided that internal exams in PG programmes would be of 30 marks — 15 marks would be allotted to test and 15 marks to students' academic participation. Respective HoDs were given the liberty to decide the pattern of internal exams, conduct the same and submit the marks by November 30. The marks for academic participation will have to be submitted by December 31.

It was also decided that the internal exams of UG programmes would be of 20 marks — 10 marks for presentation and 10 marks for academic participation.

SGPGI researchers discover novel way to lower cholesterol

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Researchers at Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences have discovered a novel way to lower cholesterol. In a major discovery led by Dr Rohit A Sinha and his team at the department of endocrinology in collaboration with researchers from Italy and Singapore, a gene known as ULK1 was shown to regulate liver cholesterol production.

Dr Sinha and his student Sangam Rajak showed that drug-based inhibition of ULK1 significantly reduces the biosynthesis of cholesterol-producing enzymes, leading to the lowering of hepatic cholesterol levels in human hepatic cells and mouse models. The identification of ULK1 gene as regulators of human cholesterol synthesis was made possible by an unbiased next-generation sequencing methodology which discovered that liver cells lacking ULK1 protein has deficient cholesterol synthesis.

Additionally, Dr Sinha's lab used molecular and cellular biology techniques to uncover the mechanism by which ULK1 regulates cholesterol synthesis.

In line with this remarkable discovery, further pre-clinical and human trials using ULK1 inhibitors may provide a treatment regimen for diseases related to deregulated cholesterol levels. This work was supported by Wellcome Trust-DBT, SERB and ICMR grants to Dr Sinha, the spokesperson said.

Humans obtain cholesterol from food but liver also produces cholesterol. Interestingly, it is the liver synthesis of cholesterol in human body that has been more closely linked to the development of cardiovascular complications. Cholesterol is well known to play a major role in human health.

"Hypercholesterolemia or increase in blood cholesterol is a major risk factor for development of several diseases such as atherosclerosis, hypertension, stroke and even more recent Covid-19 pathogenesis. Cardiovascular diseases are major killers in the most developed countries, including India, where they result in around 30% of all adult deaths," a senior doctor said.

74 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 74 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Thursday, increasing the total number of cases to 16,124. There was great relief as no casualty of corona patient has been reported during the day and the toll remained at 258. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 110 patients and out of them, 108 have been recovered from home isolation and two discharged from the hospitals, increasing the number to 12,253 and 2,792 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 15,045, leaving 821 active cases. The recovery rate has improved to 93.30 per cent but the mortality rate remained at 1.60 per cent.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 50 positive patients were found out of 3,250 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 2,94,650 and the results of 2,415 are awaited. Out of them, 2,78,550 were negative, while 16,100 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,11,470. Earlier, three males aged 72, 52 and 70 from Pandey Haveli, Rajghat and Kamini Colony (Pichachmochan) respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sunderlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of five new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,259 including 245 red zones. Four green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,014 green zones with 16 new ones.

Meanwhile, two plasma donors saved the lives of serious patients and emerged as corona warriors. Shree Agrawal, 35, from Rathyatra area who was treated for COVID-19 at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Government Hospital, Pandeypur in June donated his plasma to save the life of a serious patient of blood group B+ who was admitted to Apex Hospital in August. Similarly, 42 years old Amit Pathak from Lahartara who was treated for corona at ESIC Hospital in June saved the life of a serious COVID-19 patient of blood group A+ at SSH BHU last month by donating his plasma.

Praising their donation to save lives of serious patients, ACMO Dr AK Maurya said that plasma is the fluid of blood which remains after extracting red blood cells (RBCs) and white blood cells (WBCs) and plasma consists mainly of antibodies that have the ability to fight diseases and it is donated to those patients found positive in real time polymer chain reaction (RTPCR) investigation and after complete recovery, a person can donate plasma after 28 days since the same his/ her test is found negative.

Artistes performing Ramlila at Katra in Prayagraj — Pioneer

Durga Puja fervour gearing up

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Though most of the Durga puja samitis will install their idols and kalash on the auspicious occasion of Saptami, at several places the idols were installed on Shasthi here on Thursday. Most of the idols of Bangiya Samaj, as per their tradition, were brought on Panchmi and they were installed on Shasthi. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines of the district administration, the grandeur of Bodhan puja was not seen, though the committee members performed their puja to maintain tradition.

The history of Durga Puja in this holy city is nearly two centuries old when the puja was started by some Bengali families at Chaukhamba and Janghambadi areas. Due to the grandeur of the puja, the city is known as 'Mini Kolkata'. Many families from different places including West Bengal come here during the puja and the hotels are booked months ago but in this coronavirus pandemic period this was missing this year.

Though the puja was started by the Bengalis, later on, almost all the people including Gujaratis, Punjabis, Sindhis, Khatris, Marwaris, Biharis and other Banarasis joined the same giving puja a different colours but till date, while most of the Bengalis give their major focus on giving grandeur to the idols of Maa Durga, the others on their pandals. Though during the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also a local parliamentarian, addressed the people of West Bengal, his live telecast was watched at several places by localresidents here including the Bengalis.

The idols were installed at many places including Bhelupur, Machaudhari Park, Godowlia, Janghambadi, Sonarpura and others on Shasthi while at most of the places, the members of puja samitis were seen carrying their idols which would be installed on Friday. Some of the idols and kalash were already installed on the first day of the Navratra by those samitis which celebrate nine-day long festivals. In the district, as many as 307 pandals are being set up apart from installation of Kalash Puja at 116 places.

Idol of Maa Durga being installed at Jim Sporting (Bhelupur) in Varanasi on Thursday — Pioneer

145 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Nearly three per cent of the total Covid testing in the district were found to be corona infected. A sample of 4,980 people was taken in 24 hours, of which 145 reported positive ,while the infection was defeated by 148 people. An infected has also died during treatment. According to health officials, the scope of testing has increased and the proportion of patients has reduced in proportion.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, the scope of Covid testing is being extended. About 5,000 people are being tested daily for Covid. On Wednesday night, Corona infection was confirmed in 145 people. At the same time, out of 148 people who beat Corona, 20 were discharged from various Covid hospitals. Also, home isolation of 128 people was completed.

According to the nodal officer, the new infected include an ECC teacher, bank officer, health worker. He said the list included one JE of RES, three advocates, manager of ITI Naini, data entry operator of Beli Hospital. On the other hand, the clerk of SBI Civil Lines branch, an S-I posted in the Police Lines, an assistant teacher of primary school, senior officer in SBI, an ASHA worker, a health officer, cashier of Bank of Baroda and recovery agent of Indian Bank also reported positive for Covid.

According to CMO Dr. GS Bajpai, so far 22,773 people have been infected with corona in the district. A total of 298 people died, including the death of an infected on Wednesday. At the same time 20,932 people have become healthy after defeating infection. Out of these, 5,267 people were discharged from various Covid hospitals, Covid Care Centres after treatment. Home isolation of 15,665 people completed. At the same time, two days ago, there was a report of the railway CPRO being infected. Although, it was later revealed that an employee of the PR department of railways was found Covid positive, not CPRO.

SK Singh of RPF bags Rly Minister's medal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Shiv Kumar Singh IPF of Naini Railway Protection Force posted in North Central Railway is conferred with prestigious Railway Minister's Medal for Best Investigation. Every year RPF personnel with outstanding performance in specific fields are awarded with Bravery medal, Best Investigation Medal, Jeevan Rakshak Padak and Mahila and Bal Suraksha Padak at the level of Minister of Railways.

Railway Board through its letter has communicated the name of Shiv Kumar Singh IPF of Naini RPF post under Prayagraj division for coveted Railway Minister's Medal for Best Investigation category for his exemplary devotion, dedication and sincerity to the duty. Shiv Kumar with the help of mobile surveillance technology, call detail records, focused investigation played the pivotal role in busting a gang of 10 thieves involved in theft and other illegal activities in moving train and culprits were arrested and prosecuted under Railway Act.

Besides prestigious Railway Minister's medal, Singh shall also be given a cash award of ₹ 50,000. General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry, PCSC NCR Ravindra Verma and other officials of North Central Railway congratulated Shiv Kumar Singh for achieving this rare feat.

RPF on North Central Railway has been a leading contributor in fight against COVID-19. From guarding of station and rakes in lockdown to serving meals to needy and efficient handling of Shramik specials, Railway Protection Force of North Central Railway has performed par excellence on all fronts during ongoing financial year. So far, RPF has rescued 265 boys and 101 girls and united them with their families or handed over to ChildLine and local authorities as per requirement in specific case.

Till September 2020, 921 distress calls received on security helpline 182 were promptly responded and security issues of passengers were addressed on real time basis and 125 persons involved in crime against passenger were arrested. 122 passengers' belongings and approximately ₹ 1.88 lakh money left by passengers in trains were safely returned to them by RPF personnel.

Taking stringent action against carrier of intoxicating and prohibited material, RPF on NCR arrested 39 persons involved in smuggling with illegal material worth ₹ 27.24 lakh. During ongoing financial year 178 illegal ticket vendors have been arrested and 136 persons involved in theft of railway material have also been arrested with railway property worth ₹ 7.41 lakh in their possession. About 1630 illegal vendors have been booked by RPF under Railway Act and fine of more than ₹ 1.29 crore realised. Similarly, 1,339 persons involved in littering in station and trains, 1778 persons involved in unauthorised alarm chain pulling, 1,749 persons travelling unauthorisedly in compartment reserved for female or differently abled persons and 11,275 persons for miscellaneous offences were booked under different section of Railway Act and total fine of more than ₹4.55 crore was imposed.

CMO for reducing mortality rate further

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. VB Singh stressed the need for providing proper treatment to COVID-19 patients after studying their case history so that the mortality rate can be reduced further. He also emphasised on formation of teams of specialist doctors for critical care patients to monitor their condition round-the-clock. He was holding a meeting with the Medical Superintendent of Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Dr SK Mathur and incharge of the Medicine department Prof Kailash Kumar here on Wednesday. They also discussed providing proper treatment to patients in Covid hospitals and giving benefits of Ayushman Bharat Yojana in non-Covid hospitals.

The CMO requested the BHU administration to make arrangements of intercoms so that the patients can talk to their families and ensuring proper availability of food, water, medicines and other essential materials timely to the patients. They also discussed about liking the treatment of Covid patients under Ayushman Bharat Scheme and payment of the amount spent on medicines during treatment at SSH BHU.

Meanwhile, 'Healthy Baby Show' was organised at Amini Anganwadi Centre in Sewapuri, an ideal block adopted by NITI Aayog in the presence of Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Sushma Singh and Regional Supervisor Renu Pandey. Out of the eight children aged between six months to one year, three children who were given government prescribed nutrition standards and immunisation at the right time apart from breastfeeding only for six months, timely starting of upper diet, amount of diet according to age and normalisation of weight and height were selected. First place was given to Siva (10 months) while Kamya (10 months) and Mary (one year) were placed second and third respectively. Their mothers were awarded for the correct care of the children. Sunita Devi (24), mother of Siva, said that such a programme increases the morale of all of us and also provides important information related to health and nutrition.

CDPO said that during pregnancy, women should eat iron tablets along with a healthy and balanced diet and advised the women to breastfeed their babies only for six months as after that, the babies should be fed foods rich in nutrients such as protein, vitamins, calcium etc. along with breastfeeding. Anganwadi and Asha workers and ANMs of the area were present.

Bike mechanic killed by miscreants

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a sensational incident, a 27-year-old youth was killed with his throat slit by some unidentified goons at Khawas Ka Tara under the Manda police station late on Wednesday night. Other people including the family, who were hurt by the incident, resorted to road blockade. On the receipt of information, the Manda police along with police force attempted to take the body but due to the family members' protest, the police failed to do so.

As soon as the police got information about the incident, a large number of police officers including ADG Prem Prakash, SSP Sarvashresth Tripathi, CO Meja reached the spot. The jam ended after the authorities assured and the police took possession of the body and sent it for postmortem. The cause of the murder could not be ascertained. Police has registered a case and started investigating the case.

The bike mechanic Vijay Raj Bind (27) son of Ramdev Bind, who was sleeping in the garage midnight in Manda area of Yamunapar in the district, was slashed to death by some unidentified miscreant with a sharp weapon. On Thursday morning, the news of the killing of a bike mechanic caused panic in the village.

Manda police along with force reached the spot on getting information. When the police tried to seize the body, the villagers became angry. The villagers put the body at the crossroads and the police officers made their best to convince the villagers. But the villagers were adamant on the demand for arrest of the murderers.

ADG Zone Prem Prakash and SSP Sarvashresth Tripathi reached the spot. On their assurance, the villagers lifted the jam. After this, the police took the body and sent it for postmortem. Vijay Raj Vind, a resident of Tara village in Katka Khawas in Manda area, was a motorcycle mechanic. On Wednesday night he was sleeping in his garage in Khawasa Tara. In the meantime, some unidentified miscreants killed him with his throat slashed with a sharp weapon. Police reached the spot after receiving information and tried to take the body into its custody but the villagers kept the body at the Khawab Tara intersection.

On the spot, Bhim Kumar Gautam, Inspector-incharge Manda tried to persuade the people, but the people remained adamant about the revelation of the murder. The deceased was the second of three brothers. He was going to get married on December 6.

Devotees offer prayer at Katyayani Devi temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Good number of devotees offered prayer at Katyayani Devi temple located in Atmavisheshwar Temple near Sangtha Mandir (Manikarnika Ghat) on the occasion of the sixth day of Shardiya Navratra here on Thursday. As most of the temples of nine incarnations of Goddess Durga are located in old city areas near the banks of river Ganga, they often see a good rush of local residents. Right from the morning hours, the devotees started reaching there to offer prayer at Katyayani Devi temple, maintaining COVID-19 guidelines. Besides, though the normal rush was checked to a great extend due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was seen as usual at famous Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) where the devotees lined up in queues to offer prayers. Besides, a good number of families also visited the famous Sheetla Mata Mandir located near Varanasi-Mirzapur border at Adalpura and old Durga Mandr at Ramnagar. Hundreds of devotees through various vehicles also rushed to Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district to offer prayer during the auspicious occasion Navratri at Maa Vindyavasini Devi.

Weavers continue indefinite strike

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Reiterating the demand to restore the old flat (subsidy) rate electricity bill on powerloom, the weavers continued their indefinite strike on the seventh consecutive day on Thursday by forming a human chain. The agitation of weavers got a boost with the Congress Party and Lok Samiti extended their support to the demand. It is pointed out that the powerloom weavers had gone on an indefinite strike on October 15 last by suspending all sorts of weaving.

The weavers in scores including women gathered at JP Mehta Inter College here and formed a human chain under the joint banner of Varanasi Vastra Bunkar Sangh and Bunkar Biradarana Tanjim. But they have to leave the place after the police did not allow them to remain there further.

Thereafter, they reached the Shastri Ghat and staged a demonstration.

They blamed the state government for not sticking to its assurance of paying serious consideration to meet the demand for what it had committed after they had launched an indefinite agitation in August.

When the weavers had gone on strike by suspending all sorts of weaving in the month of August, the state government had assured that the electricity bill by the month of July, would be charged from them at the old flat rate system and after the assurance given by the government, they had called off the strike. But till now, the government did not take any initiative to materialise its promise, the weavers blamed.

Now, the government has introduced a new arrangement of electricity bill per unit on each powerloom by withdrawing the old flat rate subsidy, the weavers said blaming, the government betrayed them.

As per the old flat rate subsidy system, the weavers were to pay ₹ 145 for each powerloom but under the new arrangement, they will have to pay per unit electricity every month, they adding, it is not justice to them particularly in such a situation when the weavers are already in acute financial crisis because of COVID-19 pandemic. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Rakeshkant Rai, Shailesh Singh, Akram Ansari, Jwala Singh and Jeeshan Alam.

Meanwhile, the district president of Congress Party Rajeshwar Patel, city president Raghvendra Chaubey, Manish Chaubey, Shailendra Singh, Pramod Srivastava and others extended their support to the demand of weavers while staging a demonstration in favour of their three-point charter of demands at Shastri Ghat. They said that the state government is making excess to the weavers who are already in financial crisis because of the corona pandemic. The NGO Lok Samiti staged a demonstration at Rajatalab Tehsil extending its support to the weavers' demand and handed over a memorandum regarding this. Nand Lal Patel led the demonstration.

Fake tea leaf, hair oil seized

ALLAHABAD (PNS): The local police on Wednesday night recovered a large quantity of fake tea leaf, fake hair oil and other items including rose water from a house in the Katka village ,under the Jhunsi police station. Police have also arrested a businessman selling branded company labels, wrappers and monograms in Jhunsi area of the trans-Yamuna and many parts of the city. His partner managed to escape. On Tuesday Wednesday, Jhunsi police recovered fake goods from a house in Katka village. A large quantity of branded company's tea leaf, hair oil and other items were recovered from the house. Inspector Jhunsi Narendra Prasad and outpost incharge Manoj Yadav received information from informers on Wednesday night that fake goods were being supplied to the market from a house in Katka village. Following which, S-Is Mohammed Ali, Jitendra Pratap Singh, Arivand Kumar and constables Manjit Kumar, along with Pradeep Kumar and Sarvesh Kumar raided the house. On seeing the police team, a businessman escaped from the spot. Police arrested Ashok Kumar son of Saudagar Ram resident of Budhwa Baba Katka. When the police team went inside the house and searched, they were shocked. There were huge quantities of fake tea leaf, hair oil and rose water being packed in the branded company's vials and packets. Inspector Narendra Prasad said that 3,216 filled vial of parachute Jasmine oil of 90 ml and 62,19 empty vial, sticker 38,219, 200 ml vial of 200 ml Bajaj Almond oil, 1,942 vial of Dabur rose water 60 ml, 32,602 of Tata tea leaf 50 gram packet. Besides, the packet of 80 kg of unopened tea leaf was recovered. The businessman was sent to jail.

STUDENTS TAKE OATH : Under the Nari Shakti Mission, the National Service Scheme (NSS) of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), an website was opened to administer oath to the students not to support crime against women. NSS Coordinator Dr Rohit Lal said NSS continuously playing an active role in social contribution. Dr Rohit Lal added that in reference to the letter of Additional Chief Secretary of Higher Education Monika S. Garg, SHUATS NSS opened an online website in which about 400 students took oath that they would not engage in any activity outraging the modesty of woman, they shall not take / give dowry and will contribute to abolish this evil practice in society.

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar chairing the Udyog Bandhu meeting Pioneer

Leather industries may be run on roster basis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar, while chairing an Udyog Bandhu meeting at his camp office here on Thursday, said every fortnight a meeting would be held with the representatives of Leather Industries Welfare Association in which joint commissioner, Industries and regional manger of UPSIDA would also participate.

He said the meeting would be chaired by District Magistrate Alok Tiwari and whatever decision was taken in the meeting would be applicable on both the parties .

The divisional commissioner said active consideration was also being taken to run the leather industries, including the mega leather clusters, on a roster basis.

Shekhar said it was a matter of concern that despite the meeting, the development work was progressing at a slow pace. He directed the officials concerned to ensure that all the works were accomplished within the stipulated time frame. He said once the works were completed a report be submitted to the joint commissioner of industries so that the decision in principle could be accommodated in the agenda.

The divisional commissioner questioned the delay in the construction of the boundary walls of the parks and directed officials concerned to complete the wall construction work in the next 10 days. He warned the officials that if the work was not finished as per the time given, stern action would be taken.

He said the road in the Panki Industrial Area was in a bad shape and big potholes and craters were a major hurdle in movement of the traffic. He said all the roads in the area need to be repaired latest by November 15.

He said the drainage interlocking work should be given further momentum so that it could be completed on time. He said the CETP in Jainpur should be completed by UPSIDA before December 2020.

The divisional commissioner said the Bhaunti-Bhimsen road whose tender had already been given had yet not started and said it should be completed on time.

He said there were reports of tripping and said a proper case study be carried out and the joint commissioner of industries be given the full details.

He said the drains in the industrial areas were choked with silt and their desilting and cleaning should be carried out on a war footing.

He warned the officials that the silt lying on the roadsides should be removed and the area cleaned on top priority. He said desilting work need to be completed before December so that during January, at the time of survey, there remained no pending work.

Over two dozen officials of various departments attended the meeting.

Sharp rise in dengue cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

There has been a sharp rise in dengue cases in and around Kanpur Nagar and over one dozen deaths have already taken place, but the district administration feigns ignorance about the deaths.

The reason for the spread of dengue is the delay in appointing domestic breeding checkers (DBCs) due to COVID-19 pandemic as done in September every year .

It is true that the district administration has been focusing on controlling COVID-19 and the sudden spread of dengue forced it to pull up its socks.

However, every effort is being made to ensure that the spread of dengue is controlled at the earliest.

Nodal officer for vector-borne diseases programme, Dr AP Mishra, on Thursday said the NS-One Antigen test was allowed for dengue but unless it was approved it could not be used.

He said the chief medical officer had been apprised of the fact and unless the approval came from him, the test could not be started.

He admitted that dengue cases were being reported in the city, especially from the suburban areas.

The nodal officer said every year a drive was launched in May to control he spread of dengue but this year it took off in September. He said even if NS-One Antigen test was conducted to identify dengue, it had to be re-confirmed by Elisa test.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said the district administration was making every effort to contain the spread of dengue but it was also the duty of the people to ensure they do not allow the spread of the disease as well.

He said dengue symptoms usually manifested about four to seven days after the initial infection and initially they were mild and could be mistaken for flu or other infection. He said in dengue, the fever shoots up to 106 degree F with headache, swollen lymph glands, severe joint and muscle pains, skin rash, nausea and severe vomiting and bleeding from the nose or gums.

He said the fact was that there was no medication or treatment specifically for dengue infection. He added that a small segment which had dengue fever could develop a more serious form of disease known as dengue haemorrhagic fever.

LIC launches a new deferred annuity plan

Life Insurance Corporation of India launched New Jeevan Shanti Plan on Thursday. Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched the 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 life time of annuitants.

This plan can be purchased off-line as well as on-line.

As per the LIC official release, two annuity options are available under the plan. The first is deferred annuity for single life under which after deferment period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the annuitant is alive. In the case of unfortunate death of the annuitant, during or after deferment period, death benefit will be payable to the nominee.

The second option is deferred annuity for joint life. Under this, after deferment period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the primary annuitant or secondary annuitant is alive. On the 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 or ascendant of a family like 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 purchase price of ₹ 5,00,000 and above is available by way of increase in the annuity rate .

The plan is available for ages from 30 years to 79 years and the minimum deferment period is one year and maximum deferment period is 12 years, subject to maximum vesting age (80 years). The plan can also be purchased for the benefit of handicapped dependant with minimum purchase price of ₹ 50,000.

Loan facility is also available under this plan. There is also a provision for immediate liquidity in case of dire need as the policy can be surrendered at any time during the policy term. LIC also has LIC's Jeevan Akshay VII Plan which provides immediate annuity.

In the Ulip Business also, the LIC is surging ahead through its three Ulip plans — SIIP, Nivesh Plus and New Endowment Plus — which offer dual advantage of insurance and investment.

LIC's earlier Jeevan Shanti plans had been flagship products of the insurance corporation wherein 6,11,695 policies had been sold with a premium collection of ₹38,940.97 crore.

43 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 43 more coronavirus positive cases on Thursday evening.

According to report 43 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 27,433 cases. He said one COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Thursday evening keeping the death toll to 721. 33 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospital and at present 1109 active cases were undergoing treatment. In the last 24 hours, 145 patients have recovered. With this 25,603 people have recovered in hospitals and home isolation.

Girl hangs self to death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A teenage girl, student of high school, committed suicide by hanging herself in a locked room in Makrand Nivada village under Bilhaur Kotwali police station late on Wednesday night.

Police had to broke open the door to enter the room for investigation.

Ram Kumar Verma of Makrand Nivada village is engaged in agriculture work.

According to Verma, his wife Sunita had gone to her parent's house two days ago to attend the mundan ceremony of her nephew. After dinner on Wednesday, he slept outside the house to keep a watch on the cattle while his daughters Shraddha and Riya and son Anshu slept in the room.

Around 12 O'clock, when he went into their room, he found a neighbouring youth, Akhilesh, son of Om Prakash, talking with Shraddha. On seeing him, Akhilesh escaped and Verma again slept outside the house.

On Thursday morning, he found the room locked from inside. On peeing through the window, he found Shraddha hanging from the ceiling fan.

The police sent the body for autopsy.

Inspector Prayag Narain Bajpai said Verma alleged the involvement of the neighbouring youth in the killing of Shraddha. He said on the basis of complaint, further investigation would be made.

Cattle slaughtered in Ghatampur police area

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Unidentified persons stole a cattle of a farmer and slaughtered it in Gharuwakheda village under Sadh police station of Ghatampur Kotwali area late Wednesday night.

On hearing noise, when the farmer Phool Singh Yadav's son, Lavkush, woke up, he found a cattle missing from the cattle shed and went out to trace it.

About 200 metres from his house, Lavkush found some butchers slaughtering the cattle in a millet field.

When he raised an alarm, Phool Singh Yadav and other farmers rushed to the spot with sticks in their hands.

On seeing them, the butchers escaped, leaving the slaughtered cattle, sharp-edged weapon and their motorcycle behind.

On getting information, a police force from Sadh, Vidhnu and Narval police stations reached the spot and after pacifying the villagers, got the slaughtered cattle buried.

WOMAN ACCUSES COP OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

A woman of Shivrajpur has alleged that a cop sexually exploited her for over two years and refused to marry her when she conceived. She told the senior superintendent of police about her trauma on Thursday.

The Bithoor police registered an FIR against the cop, who is now posted in Lalitpur, and carried out raids to nab him.

Police Smriti Diwas observed

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

On the occasion of Police Smriti Diwas (Police Commemoration Day) a progamme was held at Police Lines on Wednesday. Paying tribute to martyrs IG, Vindhachayal Range, Piyush Srivastava, said that we salute those who sacrificed their lives while performing their duty. He said that it was due to the police that the entire society was safe. He appreciated the spirit of the cops who placed society on priority and they hardly celebrated the festivals with their family and did their duty so that others could do so properly. The programme concluded with a salute to the martyrs by the IG and the SP. The programme was attended by SP Ajay Singh, Commandant 39th Battalion PAC, Subhash Shakya, ASPs, COs and reserve inspector apart from cops who performed the parade.

MEETING: At a meeting held at Jila Panchayat on Wednesday the Muslim clerics informed the administration that in view of Covid-19 they had decided that would not take out a procession on Barawafat. DM Sushil Kumar Patel and SP Ajay Singh jointly appealed to the community to suggest that what was to be done by the administration during the festival. The officials concerned, including the EO Nagar Nalika, were directed by the DM to ensure proper sanitation in the localities inhabited by Muslims not only on the day of festival but after it too.The administration praised the clerics for the decision in the larger interest of the society. In the meeting Congress veteran leader Sonavar Khan said that as Corona virus was invisible so the decision was taken.

STRESS ON FARMERS' WELFARE: Chairman of UP Sahkari Gram Vikas Bank Ltd Santraj Yadav said that the bank was committed to improving the status of farmers by providing loan at low interest rate. Interacting with media on Wednesday, he said that the bank was serving the farmers through 323 branches across the state. The bank was going to carry out the activities up to the ground level through the kisan clubs as well as kisan chaupals, he added. He said fund was available for providing loan to the OBC and SC persons and students at six per cent interest rate. The CM had assured him to make available fund for the bank for carrying out more activities, he added. He was accompanied by Lal Bahadur Singh Nirmala Rai, Santosh Goel, Gyan Prakash Dubey, Jagdeesh Singh, Sanjay Yadav, Kaju Yadav and Hari Shankar Patel.

REVIEWED: To promote the agriculture sector Cooperative Bank, Mirzapur, had disbursed ₹7765.59 lakh as loan for kharif crop. After the meeting of the managing committee Chairman Rajendra Singh, said that in it the bank reviewed progress regarding recovery, different types of loans along with the plan to make the bank more attractive for farmers. He said that the bank had decided to install ATMs in branches of Shahganj and Vaini. He said new new schemes would be introduced to benefit the needy. Vice-chairman Amit Singh, Pramod Singh, Ramakant Singh, Paras Nath amd Dolly Gupta were present.

ADG Zone Dawa Sherpa addressing police personnel at Police Parade ground on Police Smriti Diwas in Gorakhpur Pioneer

Boy meets tragic end

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

A 16-year-old boy was hit by a trailer near ward number 11 under the Peppeganj police station on Wednesday. As a result he died on the spot. Reports said that Nauminath, son of Raju Nishad, a resident of Peppeganj town, was going to Bhagwanpur Sabzi Mandi on foot. While crossing it he was hit by the trailer coming from the opposite direction as a result of which he died on the spot. The people there chased the driver and informed the police. The Peppeganj police reached the spot, took the driver into custody, impounded the trailer and sent the body of the deceased for an autopsy. Meanwhile the Gagaha police arrested five members of a gang of vehicle lifters recently and recovered two stolen motorcycles, seven mobile phones and two pistols of 315 bore and three cartridges from their possession. The police produced all the accused, Ashwani, Kuldeep, Rajan and others, in the court from where they were sent to jail.

Tribute paid to martyrs

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

On the occasion of Police Smriti Diwas at Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF), Rajhi camp, Gorakhpur, Commanding Officer, Second Battalion, RPSF, Anirudh Chaudhary, on Wednesday paid floral tribute to the martyred personnel of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the RPSF at the Shaheed Smarak situated on the battalion campus. On the occasion floral tributes were paid to the martyrs. In honour of the brave personnel, the members of the force observed a two minute silence. Among them are ASI of Second Battalion Hari Chandra Giri, who along with five other jawans was deployed on election duty in Jharkhand. At 4.00 am on December 7, 2019, he was found unconscious at the polling station from there he was taken by ambulance to Bahragoda CHC where he was declared dead by the doctor. On the occasion force members and senior officers of Second Battalion, RPSF , Rajahi Camp, Gorakhpur, and RPSF training centre were present.

'Meri Saheli' campaign launched

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the guidance of Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PCSC), RPF, Gorakhpur, Atul Kumar Srivastava, keeping the safety of women in the jurisdiction of the NER in mind the 'Meri Saheli' campaign was launched on October 20 to provide security to women passengers, especially those travelling alone. Under the 'Mere Saheli' campaign at Kathgodam station in the 02039 Kathgodam- New Delhi Shatabdi special, at Chhapra Jn in 02553 Saharsa-New Delhi special, at Mau Junction in the 04005 Sitamarhi-Anand Vihar Terminal special besides in 02555 Gorakhpur-Hisar Special, 09038 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus and 01016 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus starting from Gorakhpur and the trains passing through Gonda Junction and Gorakphur information was given about Security Helpline No. 182 in case of any kind of problems related to the security of women passengers during the journey. Besides the 'Meri Saheli' cards and pamphlets were distributed among the women passengers. Moreover, women were made aware about their safety.

Udaipur-New Jalpaiguri puja spl to facilitate passengers

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration has decided to run 09601/09602 Udaipur-New Jalpaiguri-Udaipur weekly puja special train for the convenience of passengers in view of the forthcoming festivals. The train will be run from Udaipur on October 24, 31 and November 7, 14, 21 and 28 and from New Jalpaiguri on October 26 and November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. All coaches of this train will be of reserved category and passengers will have to follow the Covid-19 norms, CPRO PK Singh said .

UDAIPUR-NEW JALPAIGURI PUJA SPL: 09601 Udaipur-New Jalpaiguri Weekly Puja special will on October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21 and 28 will leave Udaipur at 00.20 hrs, Ranapratapnagar Jn at 00.28 hrs, Mavli at 01.01 hrs, Kapasan at 01.28 hrs, Chanderiya at 02.50 hrs, Bhilwara at 03.39 hrs, Bijainagar at 04.36 hrs, Nasirabad at 05.11 hrs, Ajmer at 06.35 hrs, Jaipur at 09.10 hrs, Alwar Jn at 11.42 hrs, Rewari at 12.53 hrs, Gurgaon at 13.33 hrs, Delhi Cantt at 13.59 hrs, Delhi at 15.05 hrs, Moradabad at 18.15 hrs, Bareilly at 19.59 hrs, Lucknow at 23.45 hrs, on second day Barabanki at 00.36 hrs, Gorakhpur at 04.55 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 05.37 hrs, Siwan at 06.45 hrs, Chhapra at 08.00 hrs, Hajipur at 09.42 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 10.10 hrs, Samastipur at 11.25 hrs, Khagadia at 13.05 hrs, Katihar at 15.25 hrs, Kishanganj at 17.07 hrs and reach New Jalpaiguri at 18.35 hrs. Meanwhile the 09602 New Jalpaiguri-Udaipur weekly puja special will on October 26 and November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 leave New Jalpaiguri at 08.15 hrs, from Kishanganj at 09.22 hrs, Katihar at 11.55 hrs, Khagaria at 13.50 hrs, Samastipur at 15.25 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 16.15 hrs, Hajipur at 17.15 hrs, Chhapra at 18.50 hrs, Siwan at 19.40 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 20.35 hrs, Gorakhpur at 22.10 hrs, second day at Barabanki at 02.28 hrs, Lucknow at 03.20 hrs, Bareilly at 07.02 hrs, Moradabad at 08.48 hrs, Delhi at 12.30 hrs, Delhi Cantt at 13.00 hrs, Gurgaon at 13.18 hrs, Rewari at 15.22 hrs, Alwar Jn at 16.21 hrs, Jaipur at 19.20 hrs, Ajmer at 21.50 hrs, Nasirabad at 22.23 hrs., Bijainagar to 22.58 hrs, Bhilwara at 23.55 hrs, the third Chanderiya at 01.15 hrs, Kapasan at 02.23 hrs, Mavli at 03.00 hrs, Ranapratapnagar at 03.37 and reach Udaipur at 03.55 hrs. A total of 20 coaches, including two coaches of SLR, two AC second, five AC third, seven sleeper and four general second class will be attached in this special train.

UDHNA-MANDUADIH PUJA SPL: The 09057 Udhna-Manduadih puja special on October 23 and November 6, 13, 20 and 27 will leave Udhna at 22:50 hrs, second day Nandurbar at 01.05 hrs, Amalner at 01.05 hrs, Jalgaon at 03.40 hrs, Bhusaval at 04.20 hrs, Khandwa at 06.30 hrs, Itarsi at 09.20 hrs, Jabalpur at 14.05 hrs, Katni at 15.30 hrs, Satna at 17.55 hrs, Manikpur at 19.37 hrs, Prayagraj Chheoki at 21.22 hrs, the third day Varanasi at 01.25 hrs and reach Manduadih at 01.40 hrs. During the return journey the 09058 Manduadih-Udhna puja special on October 25 and November 1, 8, 15, 22 and leave Manduadih at 04.50 hrs, Varanasi at 05.15 hrs, Prayagraj Chheoki at 09.05 hrs, Manikpur at 11.00 hrs, Satna at 12.30 hrs, Katni at 13.55 hrs, Jabalpur at 16.20 hrs, Itarsi at 22.00 hrs, on second day Khandwa at 01.30 hrs, Bhusaval at 03.20 hrs, Jalgaon at 03.55 hrs, Amalner at 04.58 hrs, Nandurbar at 06.30 hrs and reach Udhna at 09.00 hrs. A total of 23 coaches will be attached.

NEW DELHI-DARBHANGA PUJA SPL: The 04408/04407 New Delhi-Darbhanga-New Delhi biweekly SF and 04412/04411 Delhi-Saharsa-Delhi biweekly SF puja special will run from October 22 to November 30. The 04408 New Delhi-Darbhanga biweekly SF puja special will from October 22 to November 26 every Monday and Thursday leave New Delhi at 19.25 hrs and after stopping at from Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur reach Darbhanga at 17.00 hrs. During the return journey 04407 Darbhanga-New Delhi biweekly SF puja special from October 23 to November 27 every Tuesday and Friday leave from Darbhanga at 20.45 hrs and after stopping at Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, Chhapra, Siwan, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad and reach New Delhi at 17.30 hrs. A total of 20 coaches will be attached. Besides the 04412 Delhi-Saharsa biweekly SF puja special from October 25 to November 29 every Wednesday and Sunday leave Delhi at 23.00 hrs and after stopping at Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni (via Shahpur Patori), Khagaria and reach Saharsa at 20.00 hrs. In the return journey 04411 Saharsa-Delhi biweekly SF puja special from October 22 to November 30 every Thursday and Monday leave Saharsa at 22.05 hrs and reach Delhi at 19.20 hrs. A total of 20 coaches will be attached.

BALLIA FIRING

UP Police takes BJP leader into custody

PTI ■ BALLIA (UP)

A Ballia court had on Wednesday remanded the BJP leader in police custody for two days

The police on Thursday took custody of BJP leader Dhirendra Pratap Singh who was arrested for allegedly shooting dead a man in Durjanpur village of the district during the allotment of a ration shop.

A Ballia court had on Wednesday remanded the BJP leader in police custody for two days.

Reoti SHO Praveen Singh took Dhirendra Singh's custody from the district jail, officials said without elaborating further.

He was later taken to his house in Durjanpur village, sources said.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Ramesh Kushwaha had remanded the BJP leader in police custody to enable the police to recover the murder weapon, a country-made pistol, from the accused and for his custodial interrogation as part of the ongoing probe into the case.

The court had remanded Dhirendra Singh in police custody for only two days, rejecting the prosecution demand for seven-day custody. The BJP leader was arrested from Lucknow on Sunday.

Chennithala asks Rahul to stay away from local issues

KOCHI: Ramesh Chennithala, Leader of Opposition in Kerala Assembly who is also a chief ministerial aspirant, lambasted former Congress president Rahul Gandhi whose comments about the Covid-19 situation in the State is being seen as an approval of the works done by the Pinarayi Vijayan Government.

Rahul Gandhi, who was on a three-day visit to Wayanad from where he was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2019, described the comments made by union health minister Harsh Vardhan was unfortunate. He also alleged that the BJP Government as the Centre was using the investigating agencies like the NIA and ED for political vendetta. "I was also a victim of this," he had told journalists at Kalpetta.

Chennithala, who has been leading a series of demonstrations against the CPI(M) government demanding the resignation of the ministers involved in the gold smuggling scam, was taken aback when the former Congress President chose to be cautious and stayed away from criticising the State government. Rahul Gandhi used the meeting with the media to criticise the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre which the former said "goofed up" in tackling the Covid-19 issue and the burning problems faced by the country.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Chennithala said it was not proper on the part of Rahul Gandhi to comment about the situation in Kerala as the latter visits the State rarely. "There are competent people here in the State to comment about the issues faced by Kerala," he said.

M M Mani, Kerala's minister for power, said the words of Chennithala matched that of the Sangh Parivar. "His comments about Rahul Gandhi reflect the views of Sangh Parivar as he cannot cover it up," said Mani. *PNS*

At 95.1%, Andhra Pradesh tops all-India Covid recovery rate

IANS ■ AMARAVATI

A total of 95.1 per cent of Covid patients in Andhra Pradesh have recovered from the virus, making it a state with the highest recovery rate in India.

Out of 7.93 lakh people detected to be infected with the virus until Wednesday, 7.54 lakh have recovered and been discharged from hospitals.

Currently, active cases in the southern state stand at 33,396.

Andhra Pradesh's mortality rate is at 0.82 per cent, which is lower than the national average of 1.51 per cent.

Right from the beginning of the pandemic, Andhra has emerged as one of the states which has vigorously tested samples for the virus.

By Wednesday, it had tested 72.7 lakh samples, translating to 1.36 lakh tests per million people.

Katamaneni Bhaskar, health commissioner, said, "We are testing the most in the country, therefore detecting more cases. Detecting cases early gives the doctors the chance to treat the patients and reduce mortality."

He said the state's health department is testing more in vulnerable zones and stated that more Coronavirus testing will continue on a war footing.

Country recording 55-56K cases daily down from 80-85K in last two weeks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of active cases of coronavirus infection in the country has been recording an average of more than 55,000-56000 cases daily for the past 10 days so far, down from the 80,000-85,000 daily cases in the last two weeks of September.

The third-most-affected country by active cases and fatality, and second by total cases, India has added 4,68,412 cases between October 13 and 21. Daily deaths too have been declining in most states.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the last 10 lakh cases have come in 15 days. The data showed that 54,404 cases were reported on October 20; 45506 on Oct 19; 56519 on Oct 18; 61893 on Oct 17; 62304 on Oct 16; 63441 on Oct 15; 67811 on Oct 14 and 63717 on Oct 13. The count of active cases across India has seen a net reduction of over 24000 since September 23.

There were 68669 cases reported on September 23. Similarly, there is a drop in the daily fatality rate. There were 701 deaths on October 21; 714 on Oct 20; 589 on Oct 19; 582 on Oct 18; 1032 on Oct 17; 840 on Oct 16 and 882 on Oct 15. The five most affected states by total cases are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. There is also a drop in daily fatality rate from 1085 on September 22 to 701 on October 21.

Maharashtra has reported 7,539 new cases, 198 deaths and 16,177 discharges in the last 24 hours. The total cases in the state is now to 16,25,197, including 42,831 deaths and 14,31,856 recovered patients. The active cases are now at 1,50,011. The COVID-19 tally in Thane has reached 2,03,727 after detection of 1,101 new cases.

With 7,482 new cases and 23 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the total tally to 93,291 in Kerala. As compared to the Wednesday tally of 8369, Kerala has reported a decline of 887 on Thursday. Andhra Pradesh recorded 3,620 new infections and 16 deaths. There is a decline of 126 cases from Wednesday.

The number of cases increased to 7,96,919 in the state, out of which 32,257 are active patients. A total of 95.1 per cent of Covid patients in Andhra Pradesh have recovered from the virus, making it a state with the highest recovery rate in India. It's mortality rate is at 0.82 per cent, which is lower than the national average of 1.51 percent.

Tamil Nadu reported 3,077 new infections and 45 deaths in the last 24 hours and its total cases stand at 7,00,193 out of which 34,198 are active cases. Of them, 6,55,170 patients have recovered while the death toll stands at 10,825.

The ministry said that active cases have been sustained below 10 percent of the total cases for the last three days suggesting only 1 in 10 cases are active COVID19 patients across the country. Presently, active cases comprise merely 9.29% of total positive cases of the country.

Withdrew consent to CBI to avoid misuse by Centre: MVA Govt

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day after the Maharashtra Government withdrew its "general consent" to the CBI to investigate cases in the State, the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents — NCP and Shiv Sena — on Thursday justified the consent withdrawal move by charging that the Narendra Modi Government was "misusing" the Central investigating agency in non-BJP-ruled State for political reasons.

Talking to media persons here, State Home Minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh attributed his government's decision to withdraw its "general consent" to the CBI to investigate cases in the state to the ruling BJP-led Union government's frequent "misuse" of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act to investigate cases as it happened in the Sushant Singh Rajput death case.

"There is a debate among the people that the BJP-led government at the Centre misuses the CBI for political reasons. At the same time we are seeing that at a time when the Mumbai police are investigating the TRP rating fraud case, a case gets registered in Uttar Pradesh and the same case gets transferred to the Centre. Hence, in order to ensure that the CBI is not misused for political reasons, we have decided to withdraw consent to investigate cases in Maharashtra," Deshmukh said.

Deshmukh, who had in the past made no bones about his displeasure over the CBI taking over the investigations Sushant Singh Raput death from the Mumbai police, said that the central agency would now have to approach the state government and take prior permission from it to investigate cases in the state.

"The Mumbai police were investigating the Sushant Singh Rajput death case. But, the SSR case came to be handed over to the CBI. The same thing would have happened in the case of the TRP ratings fraud case. And the same vested interests would have defamed the Mumbai and Maharashtra police in a similar manner they did in the case of Sushant Singh Rajput case, " Deshmukh said.

In a related development, Shiv Sena spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut charged that the Narendra Modi government "misused" its investigation machinery in states where the BJP is not in power. "Hence, we have decided to withdraw general consent to the CBI to investigate cases in Maharashtra. The CBI will now have to take prior permission from the Maharashtra government before it investigates cases in our State".

"We are Maharashtra.... Be it CBI or ED, the investigation agencies will have some power to investigate cases in our state.... what we are witnessing is misuse by central investigation agencies in the Opposition parties-led states. If someone tries to misuse its power in Opposition-ruled states to harass and defame people there, we have no alternative but we have had to take a decision to protect the powers of the state," Raut said.

"This kind of withdrawal of general consent accorded to the CBI to investigate cases has been done in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and a few other states. Maharashtra has joined such Opposition-ruled states.. We have done it after losing our patience," Raut said.

Palghar case: 32 more sent to judicial custody

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Dahanu court on Thursday remanded 32 out of the newly arrested accused in the Palghar lynching case in judicial custody for 15 days, while it would hear the bail pleas of the remaining 18 accused on Friday.

A day after the the Maharashtra Crime Investigation Department (CID) named 208 more as accused and arrested 50 of them in connection with the April 16 2020 Palghar lynching case, Dahanu's Judicial Magistrate M. V. Jawale sent 32 to judicial custody for 15 days, while he said that he would hear the bail pleas of the remaining 18 arrested accused on Friday.

In a simultaneous development, Thane's Court Special Sessions Judge P. P. Jadhav deferred the hearing of the bail pleas of 62 other accused till November 3.

Appearing for the state, Special Public Prosecutor Satish Maneshinde sought the presence of the three Investigating Officers in the three cases and the production of first information reports before the court. After hearing SSP's submission, Judge Jadhav scheduled the next hearing for November 3.

With the naming of 208 new accused in the case on Wednesday, 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 Gadhchinchale 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. The villagers allegedly suspected the three deceased to be child-lifters.

The accused arrested in connection with the incident have been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for murder, armed rioting and using criminal force to prevent a public servant from doing is duty and relevant provisions of the Disaster Management Act, the Epidemic Diseases Act (since lockdown was in force during the incident), the Maharashtra Police Act and the Maharashtra Damage to Public Property (Prevention) Act.

Oct 22 observed as Black Day to condemn Pak's invasion in Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Residents of Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday Observed 'Black day' to mark the 73rd anniversary of Pakistan's invasion of Kashmir in 1947. The streets of Srinagar were seen dotted with king size hoardings exhibiting images of atrocities committed by the Pakistani invaders.

In Srinagar, small groups of residents also took out protest rallies shouting slogans against Pakistan. A separate Symposium & Exhibition to commemorate the memories of October 22, 1947 was inaugurated by Lt-Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha in the virtual presence of MoS (IC) Culture & Tourism Pralahad Patel at SKICC, Srinagar.

Large number of events including webinars, seminars and discussions were also organised by different institutions and study groups in Jammu. The main event was organised by the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology at SKICC, Srinagar. The Exhibition on the 'Memories of 22 Oct 1947' was also inaugurated, comprising graphic panels and videos showcasing a chronology of events as well as prominent narratives of the invasion on 22 Oct 1947 and the subsequent unfolding of actions.

The organisers of the event in their concept note informed the audience, "The consequences of this water-shed event are still affecting the country. It is necessary to portray such a historic narrative in order to create a dialogue among the people. The aim of such an initiative would be to bring about awareness among the people about this phase of our history. It will help in remembering how the country fought in the very first conflict faced by (independent) India".

Meanwhile, addressing the audience after inaugurating the symposium the Lt Governor observed that the two-day Symposium and Exhibition is a medium to expose the atrocities inflicted by the Pakistani government and its army upon innocent women, children, and men of Jammu & Kashmir on October 22, 1947.

"The day reminds us of all the atrocities meted out by Pakistan and its army on innocent civilians including young kids and women. Even after 73 years, the pain and terrors of Operation Gulmarg of Pakistan are fresh in our memories", he added.

The Lt Governor thanked the Union MoS for Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel, and Raghvendra Singh of the National Museum for placing the truth of the black day of October 22, not just before the people of J&K, but the entire country and the whole world.

"We have decided to educate our new generations how this land, that preaches universal brotherhood, was trampled by Pakistan, its army, and its government on October 22, 1947.

It was their mission to plant the seeds of communal hatred among the peace-loving people. Pakistan has been blatantly claiming that the raids were made by tribal Pashtuns, while the truth is that it was the Pakistan Army dressed as tribals.

Al Badr ultras surrender in Sopore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Two youngsters, who had recently joined the ranks of Al-Badr terror outfit less than a month ago, surrendered before the security forces after their parents made passionate appeals to them to lay down their arms and join the mainstream. However, no arms and ammunition were recovered from their custody at the time of the surrender.

In the video released by the Indian army, two terrorists were seen stepping out of their hideout in Shalpura Tujar area of Sopore.

Last week an over ground worker (OGW) was also captured live by the security forces after a brief exchange of fire and later he too had surrendered before the security forces in Chadoora area of Budgam. So far, 29 terrorists have returned to the mainstream after laying down their arms since January 1, 2020.

The surrendered terrorists have been identified as Abid Mushtar War and Mehraj-ud-Din by the Jammu and Kashmir police. They were both residents of Wadoora Payen Bomai, Sopore.

Briefing media persons about the incident, GOC Kilo Force, Maj Gen H S Sahi said, "On 22 October 2020, based on intelligence inputs, an operation was launched by the Indian Army and JKP in village Tujar of Sopore".

He said as the cordon was laid, we received inputs about the presence of two local terrorists inside the target house. "After verifying the identity of the hiding terrorists, their parents were summoned to the spot and appeals were made to them to surrender before the security forces. He said, the security personnel present at the location also appealed to them to surrender and they responded to the calls".

Sharing further details, Maj Gen HS Sahi said these two youngsters had gone missing from their native village Wadoora Payen in Sopore on September 23, 2020.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the work: **"Creation of Additional Storage area for Reservoir-I alongside the road from Terminal square to approach of Raw Water to Balijhara Water Works".** EMD cost: Rs. 5,22,258/-. Last Date & time of submission of Bid: **05.11.2020** upto 17:00 Hrs. For details please refer our Website : **eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**
Executive Engineer, Public Health Division(M)
PPT/PR/260/20-21 Dated:22.10.2020

उ0प्र0 पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

(1) अल्पकालिक ई–निविदा संख्या – 65–वि.पा.म.(प्र.)ल./2020–21, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड – प्रथम लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत निर्माणाधीन 220 के0वी0 द्विपथ हरदोई रोड–हरदोई रोड (400 के0वी0 चेहटा) इन्टर–कनेक्टर लाइन को वर्तमान 220 के0वी0 एकल पथ हरदोई रोड–कुर्सी रोड (हरदोई रोड से टावर संख्या–66) के लोकेशन संख्या 01 से 11 तक नैरोवेस मल्टी सर्किट पर निर्माण कराने सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु ई–निविदा आमन्त्रित की गयी है जिसे www.etender.up.nic.in पर दिनॉक 22.10.2020 को प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु0 546.45 लाख का कार्य की अवधि 03 माह धरोहर धनराशि रु0 5,50000.00, ऑन लाइन ई–निविदा भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनॉक 06.11.2020 को 16.00 बजे तक है।

(2) ई–निविदा संख्या 66–वि.पा.मं.(प्र.)ल./2020–21, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड–प्रथम, लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. हरदोई रोड–मेहताब बाग–हनुमान सेतू अण्डरग्राउण्ड केबिल लाइन की डेली पेट्रोलिंग का कार्य हेतु ई–निविदा आमन्त्रित की गयी है जिसे www.etender.up.nic.in पर दिनॉक 22.10.2020 को प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु0 1.92 लाख का कार्य की अवधि 01 वर्ष धरोहर धनराशि रु0 2,000.00, ऑन लाइन ई–निविदा भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनॉक 23.11.2020 को 16.00 बजे तक है।

(3) अल्पकालिक ई–निविदा संख्या 67 – वि.पा.मं.(प्र.)ल./2020–21, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड–प्रथम, लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत परिचालित 132 के वी. द्विपथ सरोजनी नगर–टीआर.टी. लाइन के क्षतिग्रस्त कण्डक्टर एवं डिस्क इंसुलेटर के मरम्मत / रिप्लेशमेन्ट सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु ई–निविदा आमन्त्रित की गयी है जिसे www.etender.up.nic.in पर दिनॉक 22.10.2020 को प्रकाशित किया गया है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु0 1.99 लाख का कार्य की अवधि 01 माह धरोहर धनराशि रु0 2,000.00, ऑन लाइन ई–निविदा भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनॉक 06.11.2020 को 16.00 बजे तक है। अतः उपरोक्त वर्णित ई–निविदाओं के कार्य की कुल मात्रा, ई–निविदा विशिष्टीकरण व अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता को बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी भी ई–निविदा अथवा सभी ई–निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से सम्बन्धित सूचना यदि कोई होगी केवल वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर डाली जाएगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखते रहना चाहिए। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता** विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल – प्रथम, उ0प्र0 पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि0, कक्ष सं0 – 111 से 114, भू–तल, पारेषण भवन, विभूति खण्ड – II, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक – 1822 दिनांक–22.10.2020, **"राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें"**

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION JAIPUR
E-BID NOTICE
निगम की 109 नकारा वाहनों का ई–ऑक्शन वेब–साईट Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc एवं rsrtc.proure247.com के माध्यम से जहां है, जैसी है की स्थिति में किया जाना है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:–

s. no.	Events Name	EMD Deposit Start Date	EMD Deposit End Date	BID Start Date	BID End Date
1	TATA ORD 02 BUSES	05.10.20	15.10.20	15.10.20	16.10.20
	TATA ORD 01 TRUCK	05.10.20	15.10.20	15.10.20	16.10.20
2	TATA STAR LINE 12 BUSES	05.10.20	20.10.20	20.10.20	21.10.20
	LEYLAND ORD 01 BUS	05.10.20	20.10.20	20.10.20	20.10.20
3	LEYLAND ORD 02 BUSES	05.10.20	19.10.20	19.10.20	20.10.20
	TATA S.C 01 BUS	05.10.20	19.10.20	19.10.20	20.10.20
4	TATA ORD 01 BUS	07.10.20	21.10.20	22.10.20	23.10.20
	LEYLAND ORD 04 BUSES	07.10.20	21.10.20	22.10.20	23.10.20
	TATA STAR LINE 02 BUSES	07.10.20	21.10.20	22.10.20	23.10.20
	TATA ORD 15 BUSES	07.10.20	21.10.20	22.10.20	23.10.20
5	TATA ORD 12 BUSES	07.10.20	19.10.20	20.10.20	21.10.20
6	TATA ORD 56 BUSES	07.10.20	27.10.20	27.10.20	28.10.20

नोटः– 1. ई–ऑक्शन में शामिल होने से पूर्व बोलीदाता द्वारा EMD राशि जमा कराना अनिवार्य है।
2. ई–ऑक्शन का सम्पूर्ण विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें वेब–साईट पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.संवाद/सी/5856/2020–2021 **Financial advisor**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, LUCKNOW CIRCLE, PWD, LUCKNOW
Letter No. 6094/C-L.Cir/2020-21 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Date : 15.10.2020
The **S.E. Lucknow Circle, U.P.P.W.D.** on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved **Contractors registered with UP PWD, for Road work class "A, B & C"** Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lakhs)	Tender+ Stationary Charges + G.S.T.	Time of completion	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	LUCKNOW	Construction of Mall Bharawan (ODR) Km. 4 to Janki Nagar road to Atari Farm Link Road	73.00	5.65	Rs. 300.00+ 2000.00+54.00 (Tender Cost+Stationery Charges) +GST@18%	6 Months	Construction Division No. 1, P.W.D. Lucknow	Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow

➢ **The Rate adopted in the BOQ are excluding GST.**
Bids can be downloaded online from date **26.10.2020 at 9:00 AM to 02.11.2020 at 12:00 Noon** and bid can be submitted online on or before **02.11.2020 at 12:00 Noon**. The technical bids will be opened online on date **03.11.2020 at 12:30 PM.** According to the provisions of Government Order **no. 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018** after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in department / office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O.
Technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by **Prahari Software,** the details of which are available in NIT enclosed with Bid Document.
All terms & conditions can be seen on website **http:/etender.up.nic.co.in**
(A.K.Singh) Executive Engineer Construction Division No. 1, PWD. Lucknow
U.P.: 156083, Date : 19.10.2020 विज्ञापन वेबसाईट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।
(Jitendra Kumar Banga) Superintending Engineer Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow For on behalf of Governor of UP

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय अर्मापुर 1, कानपुर नगर
KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA ARMAPUR 1
ARMAPUR ESTATE, KALPI ROAD, KANPUR NAGAR-208009
फर्मो के ई पंजीकरण हेतु विज्ञापन
वित्तीय वर्ष 2020–21 में वांछित सामग्री आपूर्ति। कार्य निष्पादन हेतु अधिकृत आपूर्तिकर्ता / सेवा प्रदाता के रूप में पंजीकरण हेतु ख्याति प्राप्त पंजीकृत फर्मो (सिर्फ वही फर्म, जो सरकारी संस्थानों में कार्य करने हेतु सभी मानक पूरे करते हों) के आवेदन दिनांक 05 नवम्बर 2020 तक सिर्फ ऑनलाइन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन हेतु विद्यालय की वेबसाइट https://nolarmapur.kvs.ac.in/ (ANNOUNCEMENT / FIRM REGISTRATION) पर जाकर देखा जा सकता है तथा दिए गए लिंक पर क्लिक कर के उसे पूरी तरह भरकर सबमिट किया जा सकता है। इसके अतिरिक्त सभी आवश्यक एवं सम्बंधित प्रपत्र की स्वयं सत्यापित छाया प्रति "त्वरित अथवा पंजीकृत डाक" से इस विद्यालय को निर्धारित तिथि 05 नवम्बर 2020 तक विद्यालय को भेज दें। निर्धारित तिथि के बाद प्राप्त किसी प्रपत्र को इस प्रक्रिया में शामिल नहीं किया जायेगा।
वांछित सामग्री : फर्नीचर, कम्प्यूटर एवं कम्प्यूटर वाह्य उपकरण, स्टेशनरी, कार्यालय सामग्री, शिक्षण सामग्री, दृश्य श्रव्य सामग्री, समाचार पत्र एवं पुस्तकें, खेलकूद सामग्री, परीक्षा सामग्री, पुरस्कार, अल्पाहार / कैंटीन–संचालन, बिजली उपकरण, संगीत उपकरण, विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला सामग्री / उपकरण, सफाई सामग्री, बागवानी सामग्री आदि।
वांछित कार्य : फोटोकापी एवं प्रिटिंग, प्लंबरिंग, इलेक्ट्रिक वैल्डिंग, बढ़ई , माली, सफाई कर्मी, सुरक्षा कर्मी, दैनिक मजदूर, भवन पुताई / पेंटिंग, वार्षिक मरम्मत एवं रख–रखाव (AMC) (कम्प्युटर, फोटोकपिएर, यू.पी.एस., प्रिंटर, वॉटर कूलर, एसी आदि), परिवहन सुविधा, भवन निर्माण एवं मरम्मत आदि।
असरार हुसैन अंसारी
प्राचार्य

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BANDA CIRCLE, PWD, BANDA
Letter No. 4449/35जी/2020-21 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Date : 09.10.2020
The **S.E. Banda Circle, U.P.P.W.D.** on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved **Contractors registered with UP PWD for Road work in class as mentioned in col. 11.** Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lakhs)	Tender cost+ Stationary Charges + G.S.T.	Time of completion	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Class of Eligible Contractor/firms
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Banda	Widening and Strengthening Work at Banda-Bisanda Road in Km 1 to 27 (700 m.) in District Banda	4050.00	60.75	5000.00+ 300.00+GST =6260.00	11 Month	CD-1, PWD Banda	Banda Circle P.W.D. Banda	C.E.Chitrakoot Dham Banda Zone P.W.D.Banda	A
2	Banda	Widening and Strengthening Work at Bisanda-Oran-Prahari Road in Km 1 to 24 (700 m.) in District Banda	3183.00	47.745	5000.00+ 300.00+GST =6260.00	11 Month	CD-1, PWD Banda	Banda Circle P.W.D. Banda	C.E.Chitrakoot Dham Banda Zone P.W.D.Banda	A
3	Banda	Widening and Strengthening Work at B.N.K. Road to Syodha Ghat (M.P. Border) via Girwan-Gohadiya Puliya in Km 1 to 7 (900 m.) in District Banda	1310.00	26.20	5000.00+ 300.00+GST =6260.00	11 Month	CD-1, PWD Banda	Banda Circle P.W.D. Banda	C.E. Chitrakoot Dham Banda Zone P.W.D. Banda	A

➢ The Rate adopted in the BOQ are excluding GST.
Bids can be downloaded online from date **05.11.2020 at 9:00 AM to 12.11.2020 at 12:00 Noon** and bid can be submitted online on or before **12.11.2020 at 12:00 Noon**. The technical bids will be opened online on date **12.11.2020 at 12:30 PM.**
Technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by **Prahari Software,** the details of which are available in NIT enclosed with Bid Document.
All terms & conditions can be seen on website **http:/etender.up.nic.co.in**
Executive Engineer C.D.1, P.W.D.Banda
Superintending Engineer Banda Circle, PWD, Banda
U.P.: 156147, Date : 20.10.2020 विज्ञापन वेबसाईट **www.up.gov.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है।

Bihar BJP manifesto offers 19L jobs in 5 yrs

Earlier, RJD chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav had promised 10L Govt jobs

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman releases manifesto for Bihar poll in the presence of senior leaders Bhupender Yadav, Nityanand Rai, Ashwini Choubey and Pramod Kumar in Patna Agency

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

Besides free Covid-19 vaccination, the BJP on Thursday released its manifesto for the Bihar Assembly polls, promising 19 lakh jobs in the next five years, almost double the numbers that RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's promised. Interestingly, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had wondered about how Tejaswi could possibly raise the money to pay for "10 lakh Government jobs".

The manifesto, titled 'Paanch sutra, ek lakshya, 11 sankalp', was released by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the presence of senior leaders Bhupender Yadav, Nityanand Rai, Ashwini Choubey, and Pramod Kumar in Patna.

The manifesto envisions a self-reliant Bihar and lists out the roadmap for the next five years. The manifesto States: "Atmanirbhar Bihar Ka Roadmap 2020-25. Lakshya (objective) — Atmanirbhar Bihar. 5 Sutra — development of villages, cities, industries, education and agriculture."

Sitharaman stressed that ally Nitish Kumar will be Chief Minister for the next five years and appealed the people to vote for NDA and make it win.

Interestingly, job has become a major poll issue in the state after opposition leader Tejashwi promised 10 lakh government jobs to lure the unemployed youth voters. BJP's Bihar chief Sanjay Jaiswal said of the 19 lakh jobs listed in the manifesto, only four lakh - three lakh teachers and one lakh in health sector - are in the government sector. The rest are linked to promises to make Bihar an "IT hub" and to create an agriculture hub in the state.

Among others, the BJP promised to introduce Hindi as a medium of instruction for medical, engineering and other technical courses.

The BJP also promised the appointment of three lakh new teachers in one year in all types of schools, universities and institutes of higher education, 30 lakh pucca houses for poor by 2022 and one lakh jobs in the health sector.

The party proposed to develop the state, which has so far remained largely untouched by the boom in information technology, into an IT hub holding out the promise of five lakh jobs in the sector. The manifesto further said a large number of people will be provided employment in the health sector which is in for a major facelift through projects like the AIIMS at Darbhanga.

The manifesto promised to develop supply chain of special crop products like maize, fruits, vegetable, chuda, makhana, paan, masala, honey, mentha, medicinal plants across the state. It will add 1000 new farm producer organization in Bihar. It also promised a fresh impetus to the dairy sector with setting up of 15 milk processing units. The manifesto said that this will create 10 lakh employment opportunities in the state.

"Bihar is a politically sensitive state. Here people cannot be fobbed off with empty promises. Claims made by parties are likely to be weighed against their past track record. This is where the BJP scores," Sitharaman said.

"GDP in Bihar has seen a sharp rise under NDA rule, it has grown from 3 to 11.3 per cent in the State in the last 15 years of NDA Government and not during the 15 years of jungle raj. It was made possible because our Government gave priority to good governance for people," Sitharaman added.

Soon after Sitharaman released the party's manifesto, Tejashwi took a jibe at the BJP, saying it doesn't have a face in Bihar and the Finance Minister had to come to release the vision document. "Since she's here, Sitharaman Ji should first tell why she never gave a special package and special state status to Bihar," Tejashwi added.

Chirag uses Shah's b'day to show his loyalty to BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As good wishes poured in from across the political leaders for Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who turned 56 on Thursday, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) president Chirag Paswan described him as an "inspiring" figure and his "guardian", in what is perceived as another indirect attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar against whom he has opened a front.

Even though he has walked out of the NDA refusing to accept Nitish as the NDA's chief ministerial candidate in Bihar, Chirag has, interestingly, continued to show his allegiance to the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, he said, resided in his heart.

This has been Chirag's strategy in Bihar poll as BJP has cautioned him against using the PM's name for his own ends saying JDU is the party with which it would form the Government. BJP has been trying to allay JD(U)'s apprehensions that LJP is its 'B-team' in Bihar polls.

But Chirag again used Shah's birthday to demonstrate his loyalty to the BJP. "Best wishes to the country's Home Minister, guardian Amit Shah on his birthday. Sir you inspire lakhs of youth like me to do something for the country. May god always keep you healthy," Chirag tweeted.

The 37-year-old LJP MP also spoke to Shah on the phone.

Shortly before the birthday greetings, Chirag had, in three tweets, targeted Nitish Kumar over what he alleged were "five years of scams". He asserted that if he came to power, he would have all those responsible jailed.

Chirag's Paswan's strategy to underscore his continued ties with the BJP while fighting the JDU in the Bihar election has become a huge challenge for Nitish. The BJP's multiple pronouncements that Nitish Kumar leads the NDA in Bihar have not convinced his supporters that the ruling party is not secretly backing Chirag in his mission to oust the five-time Chief Minister.

As Chirag rained accusations on Nitish, Shah had to step in to mollify the upset Chief Minister and reassure him that he remained the face of the NDA.

The LJP leader, however, has played on Nitish's insecurities by stressing that he remains devoted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and hopes to form a government in Bihar with the BJP.

The Prime Minister and several other political leaders wished Home Minister on his birthday.

The Prime Minister took to Twitter and lauded Shah for his contribution in nation development. "Birthday wishes to Shri @AmitShah Ji. Our nation is witnessing the dedication and excellence with which he is contributing towards India's progress. His efforts to make BJP stronger are also noteworthy. May God bless him with a long and healthy life in service of India", Modi tweeted.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said. "Happy Birthday to the Home Minister Amit Shah. You have played an important role in making the country strong and secure. May God grant you a healthy life and long life."

BJP leader Varun Gandhi took to Twitter and wished the Home Minister on his birthday: "Shri @AmitShah Jis life has been one of great tyaag and tapasya towards making India prouder, stronger & more self-reliant. He is a perfect mix of tradition & modernity. May all divine blessings protect him & fill his path with happiness & peace. Happy birthday, Sir."

India test-fires anti-tank missile 'Nag', to be deployed at LAC soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the ongoing drive to hone operational readiness, India on Thursday successfully test fired the Nag anti-tank guided missile(ATGM). It was the final user trial of the indigenously designed lethal weapon system and will shortly be deployed at the Line of Actual Control(LAC)facing China.

The missile system will act as a major force multiplier and help the infantry to take out enemy tanks at range of five to seven kms. At present, China has amassed its tanks in the plains of Depsang valley and some other places in Eastern Ladakh since the stand-offs began in early May.

Moreover, the latest test by the Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO)comes at a time when it has ramped up its efforts by conducting nearly back to back tests of various missiles in the last one month. These validations on the one hand exemplified rapid self-reliance and on the other the capabilities to meet any challenge in the backdrop of ongoing tension at the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

Giving details of the Nag test, officials said here the final user trial of third generation Nag was carried out at 0645 hrs from Pokhran range. The missile was integrated with the actual warhead and a tank target was kept at designated range. This was launched from Nag Missile Carrier NAMICA. The missile hit the target accurately defeating the armour. The missile underwent more than ten trials before the final clearance on Thursday.

The missile was developed by the DRDO to engage highly fortified enemy tanks in day and night conditions. The missile has "Fire & Forget" "Top Attack" capabilities with passive homing guidance to defeat all Main Battle Tanks(MBT) equipped with composite and reactive armour.

The NAG missile carrier NAMICA is a BMP II based system or armoured personnel carrier with amphibious capability. With this final user trial, the Nag will enter into production phase. The missile will be produced by the public sector Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), whereas Ordnance Factory, Medak will produce the NAMICA.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO and Indian Army for the successful trial of NAG Missile. The DRDO chief G Satheesh Reddy appreciated the efforts of the DRDO, Indian Army and industry in bringing the missile up to the production phase.

The sophisticated missile will be soon be inducted into the Army and deployed at the LAC in the first phase, sources said adding the missile is fitted with an advanced seeker to home on to its target.

At present, the army is equipped with the second-generation Milan 2T and Konkur ATGMs and has been looking for about third-generation missiles, which are important for stopping advancing enemy tanks. The government in 2018 had given the nod for procurement of 300 Nag missiles and 25 NAMICAs for the Indian Army.

When the face-offs began five months back, the Indian army got the go-ahead to procure more than 300 Spike ATGMS from Israel to bolster the firepower of the infantry. The imported missile like the Nag can be fired from shoulder and has a range of more than five kms.

Meanwhile, the series of successful tests in the last few weeks include Brahmos supersonic missile fired from a warship, Nirbhay subsonic missile and Akash air defence missile. Incidentally, all these missiles are deployed at the LAC. The missiles were stationed at critical locations to counter the threat posed by the Chinese long range missiles deployed in the Tibet region.

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

Plea seeks transfer of PILs on uniform marriage age from Delhi, Raj HCs to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking transfer of two pleas from the high courts of Delhi and Rajasthan to it on the issue of 'Uniform Minimum Age of Marriage for Men and Women' to "avoid multiplicity of litigations and conflicting views".

The Delhi High Court had in August last year issued notice to the Centre and the Law Commission of India on BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay's plea seeking uniform marriage age for men and women.

On February 5 this year the Rajasthan High Court sought response from the Centre and others on a similar PIL filed by one Abdul Mannan.

Seeking an authoritative pronouncement and to avoid multiplicity of litigation, a fresh plea seeking transfer of these cases to the top court has been filed by Updhayay through his lawyer Ashwani Kumar Dubey .

The transfer plea has been filed in order to "secure gender justice, gender equality and dignity of women", the lawyer said.

Currently various laws state that minimum age for getting married should be 18 in case of women and 21 for men.

"Petitioner is compelled to approach this Court as more PILs may be filed in other High Courts seeking 'Uniform Minimum Age of Marriage for Men and Women'. Therefore, in order to avoid multiplicity of the litigations and conflicting views on interpretation of Articles 14, 15, 21 and judgments on gender justice and gender equality, the Court may be pleased to transfer these PILs and decide them collectively," said the transfer plea filed under Article 139A of the Constitution.

Alternatively, the plea has sought a direction to the Centre to take appropriate steps to remove the anomalies in the minimum age of marriage and make it 'gender neutral, religion neutral and uniform for all citizens' in spirit of the fundamental rights of equality and right to life and International conventions.

"Alternatively, being custodian of the Constitution and protector of the fundamental rights, declare that the discriminatory minimum age of marriage offends Articles 14, 15, 21 and international conventions. Hence, minimum age of marriage shall be 21 years for all citizens," it said.

While men are permitted to get married at the age of 21, women are married when they are just 18, it said.

"The distinction is based on patriarchal stereotypes, has no scientific backing, perpetrates de jure and de facto inequality against women, and goes completely against the global trends," it said.

The differential bar discriminates against women thus contravenes the fundamental principles of gender equality, gender justice and dignity of women and offend Articles 14, 15, 21 of the Constitution and international conventions, it said.

The petitioner said more than 125 countries in the world have a uniform age of marriage for men and women and the National Human Rights Commission, pursuant to the National Conference on Child Marriage held in New Delhi in August 2018, had also recommended that India follow suit.

It also referred to relevant provisions of the Indian Christian

Marriage Act, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, the Special Marriage Act, the Hindu Marriage Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and said that they are "responsible for this discriminatory bar".

Under section 60 of the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the age of the man intending to be a married shall not be under 21 years, and the age of the woman intending to be married shall not be under 18 years, it said.

As per the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act of 1936, the age of male has to be 21 years and a female has must completed 18 years of age, it said.

Admiral Karambir Singh (2nd L), the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), while reviewing the operational preparedness and combat-readiness of the Indian Navy's principal combatants on Thursday PTI

SC notice to Centre on plea for SOP mandating pre-litigation mediation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought response from the Centre on a plea seeking formulation of standard operating procedure (SOP) for mandating pre-litigation mediation across the country to reduce pendency of cases.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde, A S Bopanna, and V Ramasubramanian issued notices to the Ministry of Law and Justice and various high courts on the plea.

"Issue notice returnable in four weeks," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by Youth Bar Association of India and advocate Sanpreet Singh Ajmani which suggested that alternate and pre-litigation processes be made mandatory to reduce pendency of cases in various courts.

According to the petition, use of alternate dispute resolution mechanisms will help to control frivolous matters coming up for hearing by giving an opportunity to parties to settle their disputes amicably before any litigation can start.

The plea contended that pre-litigation mediation is an attempt to resolve the dispute among the parties amicably with the help of neutral third party called Mediator before going to the court or even before filing litigation or sending a notice.

"It gives a chance to both the parties to end the dispute in a win-win position. In it issues can be sorted out sooner and this process is inexpensive compared to the expenditure incurred at every stage of the case/issues in litigation.

"To reduce the number of pending cases, the Government should work on a mechanism to introduce a pre-litigation mediation process, so that avoidable cases can be prevented from reaching the courts and settle the issue effectively," the plea said.

Middlemen, not farmers, behind agitation against farm laws in Punjab: Nadda

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president J P Nadda said on Thursday that middlemen, not farmers, are behind the agitation against farm laws in Punjab while asserting that the Narendra Modi government has freed peasants from the "slavery" of selling their produce to predesignated markets and traders.

Addressing a group of farmers from Delhi and nearby villages at the BJP headquarters here, Nadda also took a swipe at West Bengal

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for not implementing in her state the Center's scheme to deposit ₹6,000 into every farmer's account under the 'Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana'.

She has been creating hurdles in farmers' development, but this will not go on for long, he said and stressed that the BJP will come to power in the state next year and implement the scheme.

The Assembly polls in West Bengal are due in the first half of the next year.

INS Kavaratti to ensure maritime security of country: Gen Naravane

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stressing the growing need for self-reliance in defence industry, Army Chief General M M Naravane on Thursday said the commissioning of anti-submarine warfare vessel INS Kavaratti is a major step in ensuring security of maritime domain of the country.

This message came in the backdrop of China's growing maritime prowess and muscle flexing in the Indian Ocean besides the South China Sea. The increased Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean has strategic implications for India.

Commissioning the indigenously designed and built INS Kavaratti in Visakhapatnam, the Army Chief said the "commissioning of INS Kavaratti marks yet another significant step in securing our country's maritime goals. I congratulate and extend my best wishes to Team Kavaratti," said Naravane.

"The ship derives the name from the beautiful capital of the Lakshadweep island, Kavaratti. This indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) vessel is equipped with advanced weapons, composite superstructure and stealth features is a beauty by itself. It has been constructed with numerous novel design features and indigenous equipment fit is demonstrative of collective abilities in realising the aim of making India Atmanirbhar Bharat," he added.

Jaishankar hosts farewell for departing envoys of Tunisia, Ghana, Spain and Nigeria

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday hosted a farewell for departing High Commissioners and Ambassadors of Tunisia, Ghana, Spain and Nigeria and thanked them for their services and support to the relationship.

He also welcomed the recently arrived High Commissioners and Ambassadors of Australia, Uzbekistan, New Zealand,

He also welcomed the recently arrived High Commissioners and Ambassadors of Australia, Uzbekistan, New Zealand, Singapore, Rwanda, Switzerland, Malta and Botswana.

"Pleased to host a farewell lunch for departing High Commissioners/Ambassadors of Tunisia, Ghana, Spain and Nigeria. Thank them for their services and support to the relationship," Jaishankar tweeted.

"Welcomed the recently arrived High Commissioners/Ambassadors of Australia, Uzbekistan, New Zealand, Singapore, Rwanda, Switzerland, Malta and Botswana," he said in another tweet.

Bilateral, regional and global issues to figure in Indo-US 2+2 dialogue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The third edition of the two-plus-two dialogue between India and the US on October 27 will entail a comprehensive discussion on cross-cutting bilateral issues as well as deliberations on regional and global developments, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper will visit India on October 26 and 27 for the high-level dialogue aimed at further boosting defence, security and global strategic ties between the two countries.

The Indian side at the talks will be represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The third ministerial dialogue will entail a comprehensive cross-cutting bilateral issues of mutual interests.

Facebook and Twitter summoned by Parl panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliamentary panel examining the Personal Data Protection Bill on Thursday summoned social media giants Facebook and Twitter. Google and Amazon are also expected to be summoned by the panel. Representatives of Facebook India have been asked to appear on Friday before the Joint Committee on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, chaired by BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi, while Twitter officials are required to appear before the panel on October 28, as per the notice issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

When contacted Lekhi said, "Whosoever is required, whether an individual or an entity, will be asked to depose before the panel on the issue of protection of data and its privacy and their respective social media platforms will be thoroughly examined by the panel.

"It would be inappropriate and unfair to look at the calling of social media platform from the political prism. The committee has representatives from across the political spectrum and the deliberations on the bill are being held from the national interest perspective," she said.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

The federal might

Punjab and Maharashtra have taken the Centre head on by contesting farm Acts and CBI's rights. Will this be the new trend?

Two States are taking up the fight for federal rights against the unilateralism of the Centre — Punjab and Maharashtra — showing an emerging trend of a new Opposition strategy, that of politically counter-acting the ruling BJP in States controlled by it and compelling a discussion on consensus politics. So Punjab has challenged the three farm Acts and brought its own amendment Bills while Maharashtra has withdrawn its consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct probes in the State. Constitutionally speaking, the Punjab Government would have to wait for the Bills to be sent to the Governor and then to the President, who, acting as he does on the advice of the Union Government, is unlikely to give his assent. Then the State Government could take legal recourse in the Supreme Court. Similarly, while a State's consent is needed in pursuing CBI investigations, it cannot deter those that are ordered by the Supreme Court. So other than political point-scoring, in real terms, the sore point would remain. But it would be worth a fight. The Punjab Government is basing its legal argument on the fact that agriculture is part of the State List and the Centre has no authority over it. The latter contends that since the three Acts deal with the trade and commerce of farmers' produce, its jurisdiction is valid under the Concurrent List. The Punjab Government's amended Bills seek to address the fears of State farmers about being forced to sell their produce at less than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in an open market. They seek to ensure that growers are not browbeaten by the heft of food corporations and that the older system continues without being weakened by a parallel market. The first amendment says that the sale of wheat and paddy (which are the State's cash crops) will be valid only if the seller pays a price equal to or greater than the MSP announced by the Central Government and that any violation would be punishable. The second Bill reintroduces the market fees or licences for private players outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis,* which the Central law has abolished. This, it says, will be used to create a distress fund for small and marginal farmers. The third Bill attacks the central Act that gives unlimited power of stocking essential commodities to traders and reassigns that right back to Punjab, arguing that production, supply, and distribution of goods is a State subject. The State Government is also planning to use the amorphous definition of a "trade area", where farmers, traders and e-transaction platforms are given the freedom to deal in farmers' produce without any restrictions, to cover the whole State. It is a given that the Centre rushed through the farm Acts, packaging them with good intentions but skimming over the devil in the detail and glossing over the practicalities of implementation. And the farmers, who have so far operated in some sort of regulatory mechanism and built trust within it, would indeed be vulnerable in the absence of guaranteed protections or an elaborate explainer, a fact that would but naturally be used by food majors to their advantage. The Agriculture Minister's refusal to meet stakeholders or even assure them in person, considering that the BJP's own farmers' organisations have raised objections, has only made the Government look more brazen than concerned. Why, instead of being vague about the continuity of MSP, could it not say that "notwithstanding the provisions, no trade transactions should take place below the notified MSP?" That would have allayed the anxieties of farmers. Now, the patchy resistance across States would mean that there would not be a holistic understanding of reforms or their implementation. Had the Government followed the consultative and inclusive model that it used to get the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rolling and referred the Bills to parliamentary committees, things would not have come to such a pass. Many would argue that agriculture merely makes up for 16 per cent of the GDP but farmers make up a majority of every party's voter base and should deserve a listen. They are having it rough anyway, battling high input costs, low productivity and falling pick-up prices. A policy pushed without taking them into confidence will always run the risk of being hijacked by populism and politics.

With the Centre's persistent needling, the Maharashtra Government is following other Opposition States in refusing permission for CBI probes. Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan had withdrawn general consent earlier, calling such inquiry interventionist and politically motivated. The Modi regime did follow some form of cooperative federalism, GST being a prime example, in its first run post-2014. But after the mammoth victory of 2019, it has begun appropriating federal space, be it under the guise of monitoring Centrally-sponsored schemes, using the ruse of national security and interest and manufacturing consensus by co-opting self-serving regional players, like the Biju Janata Dal, to push through major policies despite the lack of numbers in the Rajya Sabha. Post-COVID, the coercive federalism gave way to consultative federalism again as health is a State subject. And now that most States have evolved after managing a public health crisis, they are becoming more confident about asserting themselves and carving out their own policy positions vis-à-vis the Centre. The spate of resolutions in Assemblies against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was just the beginning. And if more States are to override Central laws with their own legislative framework, then the Opposition is hell-bent on proving why India is a Union of States.

Legalise marijuana

India can accelerate technology and innovate around a plant that is part of its botanical heritage

There are several logical arguments to be made about why marijuana and products derived from the plant, colloquially known as *ganja,* should be legalised in India. For one, the draconian Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was only brought in 1985 by the Rajiv Gandhi administration as the then First Lady of the United States, Nancy Reagan, was leading a "war on drugs" and India was trying to sidle up to the US. The inclusion of marijuana products was a surprise, given the plant's long history of usage in India from ancient times but the NDPS was rarely enforced against small, private users and it is a common joke how easily *ganja* and resin-based products are available across the country. That all changed with the Sushant Singh Rajput case where the Narcotics Control Board went after his girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty with what would be considered a comical use of the NDPS Act. However, as all this was going on, there appeared to be a growing clamour to change the NDPS by a whole host of organisations and think-tanks in India. Some, like the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, issued a white paper on the subject. The points being raised usually come under law enforcement, arguing that police resources, already strained in India, would be better utilised in tackling high-end drug crimes rather than going after small-time peddlers and private marijuana smokers. However, it might be more radical to consider legalisation of marijuana for another reason, that of riding the major agricultural technology and product development wave. As more and more countries in the Western world legalise marijuana, including many large US States, there is not only demand for the active ingredients of the plant but also major opportunities in the product sphere. In the US, a few companies have become billion-dollar entities selling marijuana products. Cultivation of the plant has led to major innovations in "Ag-Tech" that are now being used for other commercial crops. The rapid development of hydroponics was mainly thanks to marijuana.

There are many reasons why India should legalise marijuana, not just because it will prevent the incarceration of innocent people but because we can accelerate technology and innovate around a plant that is part of our botanical heritage. Why should foreign companies be allowed to create "Big Weed" when India should have the first rights?

Politics of prohibition

In its enthusiasm to ban liquor, Nitish Kumar's Government may have actually driven a fair few towards alcoholism. There are better ways to tackle addiction

AJOY **KUMAR**

In the US, the Volstead Act was passed in 1920 to ban alcohol. This prohibition stretched for nearly 14 years and established a parallel illegal economy, which led to the emergence of the mafia and promulgated a State-sponsored structure that protected the rich and powerful but came down heavily on the poor. Media reports of the time in the US noted that in a particularly amusing incident, when the police raided a bar in Denver, they found the local Congressman, the mayor and the sheriff sharing a drink. Who would have thought that Denver of the 1920s and the Bihar of today would have so much in common?

The interesting point is that even if you had not read the end of the first paragraph of this piece, you would have known that we are talking about Nitish Kumar's Bihar and more specifically his prohibition. I use the two terms interchangeably because prohibition and the reckless and arrogant manner in which it has been introduced and implemented in Bihar is also a summary of the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) rule in the State. Prohibition, just like the NDA's rule in Bihar, has been chequered with problems of administration and governance, and has led to a diversion of resources that could have been used elsewhere.

Let us start with the arrogance of the move. Nitish, almost whimsically, decided one fine day that Bihar would be a prohibition State. Any rational Government would have done some research on the effectiveness of the ban prior to taking such a huge decision or would have at least examined the abject failure of the policy on the ground and admitted that it had made a mistake. However, the current NDA Government lacks the foresight to make deliberated decisions and the humility to acknowledge its mistakes.

Why do we say that Nitish's prohibition is a barometer of his governance in Bihar? Let us start with the suddenness of the move. Reminiscent of the catastrophic decision of demonetisation taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the ban was absolute. One would have hoped that the Government had already checked whether prohibition had popular support on the ground or not. No such deliberation was, however, done. As a result, what this policy has led to, is a rise in what Gary Becker, a Nobel prize-winning economist, calls "rational crimes." That is, crimes committed by rational people since they weigh the possible penalty for being caught against the chance of actually being caught. In Bihar, while the penalty is severe, the chances of being caught are actually minimal. Let me rephrase. In Bihar, your chances of being caught are minimal if you can oil the palms of the police and the relevant authorities or if you are a VIP. But if you are a common citizen, your fortune rests with the Almighty.

In reality, there is no real prohibition in Bihar. Yes, liquor is banned as a concept but in practice, it is available when one wants to get it. As a travel agent told a reporter of a large national daily — "What prohibition? *Daru* (liquor) is available everywhere…even at local police stations." What Nitish's prohibition has introduced is mob violence between competitors who supply liquor to their customers. Since you cannot take another distributor to court for supplying liquor, the only option is to establish a local monopoly through violence. In the US, this violence was largely perpetrated by mobsters, who profited heavily due to the ban. In Bihar, it is often the police and Government officials who help establish monopolies and tend to profit heavily from them. The ones who suffer are not the suppliers of liquor but the consumers. According to the latest records of the police headquarters in Patna, a total of 2,12,323 arrests were made with respect to possession of illegal liquor, between April 2016 and January this year. Out of these arrests, only 19,500 were suppliers. Most of those arrested were poor, who could not afford to pay bribes, while the officials who made money off them suffered few ill consequences. The widespread proliferation of this corrupt system of bribing for liquor is well-known and many have complained about it and even more, have suffered due to it.

> ACCORDING TO THE LATEST RECORDS OF THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN PATNA, A TOTAL OF 2,12,323 ARRESTS WERE MADE WITH RESPECT TO POSSESSION OF LIQUOR BETWEEN APRIL 2016 AND JANUARY THIS YEAR. OUT OF THESE ARRESTS, ONLY 19,500 WERE SUPPLIERS. THE REST WERE POOR ALCOHOLICS

Another issue with prohibition is that it leads to dangerous forms of spurious liquor being widely available. This is because since possessing liquor carries a certain amount of risk, bootleggers tend to make the spurious drink more potent so that it has the desired effect in a small amount. Therefore, it is no surprise that reports of deaths due to consumption of hooch have been on the rise, especially in the rural areas, where many cannot afford the fancy liquor that the rich and powerful consume.

Going back to the example of the US, if Bihar is to be compared with Denver during the prohibition era, in a raid, you will probably find police officials and senior politicians drinking in bars but will also stumble upon the poor dying outside that very same public house.

The resources and attention allocated to this flawed scheme have come at the cost of other initiatives. If liquor was regulated and taxed, it would have raised the revenues of the State Government and would have allowed it to use these funds towards education and employment. Instead, what we have today is a disproportionate portion of the State's resources, both monetarily and in terms of manpower, being diverted towards the Chief Minister's flagship cause. The absence of police power has led to more crimes being committed since police officers would rather have the chance to earn easy money from alcohol consumers than face the prospect of checking crimes like rape and murder.

You may be of the view that the BJP would try to check this behaviour of Nitish and course correct but the party is supporting him. And going by the example of Gujarat, a State that also follows strict prohibition, it is obvious that the ban in Bihar comes with the blessings of the Centre.

This heady cocktail (excuse the pun) of ill-planning and arrogance displayed by the NDA is ultimately only at the cost of the common man of Bihar. The situation in the State is so appalling that one can say that the Nitish Government in its enthusiasm to ban liquor may have actually driven a fair few towards alcoholism.

(The writer is a former IPS officer and a member of the Congress Party)

SOUNDBITE

I reiterate my hope for the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct. I call for peaceful dispute resolution, in conformity with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

UN Secretary-General
—Antonio Guterres

When it comes to cricket and IPL, I am a really big Virat Kohli fan. He never gives up and always gives his 100 per cent, I find that very inspiring.

Wrestler
—Ritu Phogat

Unless the Government puts money in the hands of the bottom half of the families and puts food on the plates of the poor, the economy will not revive smartly.

Former Finance Minister
—P Chidambaram

Due to sheer hard work and labour of farmers, we could mitigate the adverse impact on the economy during the extraordinary Corona crisis.

UP Chief Minister
—Yogi Adityanath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Action against hunger

Sir — India now ranks 94th among 107 countries in terms of hunger and continues to be in the "severe" category, according to the Global Hunger Index 2020. Additionally, 14 per cent of the country's population is undernourished. On the other hand, the collective net worth of half the nation's 100 richest people, on the 2020 *Forbes India Rich List,* saw a rise of 14 per cent. The Sensex, an index of 30 companies actively trading on the Bombay Stock Exchange, which is used to observe "the overall growth, development of particular industries, ups and downs of the Indian economy," closed at 38,673 points on March 31, 2019, witnessing an increase of 17.3 per cent from its closing value of 32,969 as on March 31, 2018. One needs to consider all these and more, along with the data released by the National Statistical Office, which shows that the economic growth slumped to an 11-year low of 4.2 per cent in 2019-20. One school of thought holds that the rise in wealth — despite the sharp Corona-inflicted downturn in economic and business activities — was partly due to the cut in the corporate tax rate last year from 35 per cent to 25 per cent. The trickle-down theory has turned out to be a mirage, as the growth generated by "those with the resources and skills to increase productive output" has never risen to the level which could help eradicate poverty and fuel the economic development of the poor. India needs to re-evaluate its economic reform strategy and consider course correction to feed the hungry and create opportunities for gainful employment.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Centre might drop plasma therapy

The Indian Council for Medical Research's (ICMR) trial findings indicate that convalescent plasma therapy does not in any way benefit Corona patients. A randomised controlled trial was conducted on 464 patients in 39 hospitals of 25 districts across 14 States and Union Territories from April 22 to July 14. The off-label plasma therapy has been tried in the "hypothetical" hope that the antibodies derived from plasma, filtered from the blood of those who recovered from the virus, would neutralise replicating viruses and check the growth of infection. But it was not to be. The clinical evidence was contrary to this and it showed that plasma therapy neither reduces mortality nor prevents the progression of the disease. What was thought to be a silver bullet for Coronavirus treatment and a life-saver has turned out to be clinically unviable.

It is clear from ICMR chief Dr Balram Bhargava's statement that the removal of plasma therapy from the National Clinical Management Protocol is in the offing. The rush to declare a line of treatment, even in the absence of evidence, while a runaway pandemic is on the rampage is understandable. However, the trial findings do not diminish the value of altruism shown by donors to do everything they could to aid the recovery of other Corona patients.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

The right call

Sir — India has invited Australia to the annual Malabar naval exercises, which include the US and Japan as the other two members, scheduled to be held next month. This strategic decision comes against the backdrop of the India-China standoff in east Ladakh. However, there is another dimension to this development and one can possibly infer that New Delhi seeks to take its bilateral relations with Canberra forward. The Central Government had selected many cities for its Smart City Mission, launched in June 2015, but to take it further, it needs Australia for new and innovative technology. The latter, on the other hand, seeks qualified engineers and doctors from India to augment its technological needs and nourish its healthcare system. Hence, India's decision to include Australia in the naval exercises marks an important inflexion point in the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Hope and caution

Sir — The Calcutta High Court (HC) had earlier declared Durga puja pandals as no-entry zones. However, easing its previous order, the HC has now said that entry of up to 45 people will be allowed. Now the question that arises is who will regulate the number of people entering the pandals? It is imperative that people realise that we are still living in a pandemic-hit world and health needs to come first.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

An ancient, crumbling city

No matter how glitzy or well-ranked a metro is, without an efficient network of drains, it can be brought to its knees within days

KOTA **SRIRAJ**

Hyderabad usually evokes images of nawabs, Nizams and royalty on one hand and information technology prowess on the other. But for the last few days, the city, famous for its flawless pearls, has made it to national news for all the wrong reasons. Heavy flooding in the wake of incessant rains has led to the loss of 50 lives besides causing enormous damage to property. Hyderabad has always been a dynamic destination for multinational corporations and Indian businesses alike to set up shop. This is due to the pleasant weather and enabling systems set up by the Government that fast-track foreign investments. Plus, being the de-facto information technology hub of the country, it has an abundant supply of talent, manpower and money. These factors are helping the city score over traditional choices like Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

Not only corporations, families and individuals, too, are increasingly choosing to make the city their home. According to the Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking 2019 survey, Hyderabad has been adjudged as the best Indian city to live in for the fifth year in a row. With a global ranking of 143, it left Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi behind to capture the tag. Mercer's findings were echoed by the survey of 34 cities done by holidify.com which placed it as the best city to live in with four out of five points. The survey highlighted the dual charm of a city steeped in history combined with all the attractions and facilities of world-class new development like the Financial District and HITEC City.

However, it is the old part of the city which is now turning out to be the root of all problems in this otherwise splendid metro. The new residential and commercial areas of Hyderabad have always had a relatively better-designed civic infrastructure, drainage and sewage system. They have a comparatively improved layout that consciously steered clear of low-lying lake beds, dried river beds and other areas, where flooding was normal in the event of heavy rains, and opened upstream reservoir gates. But the same cannot be said of the old city area, which still survives on sewage and drainage infrastructure built in the early 19th century. As these relics of a bygone era crumble, the citizens are paying the price for it.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has largely done a good job of handling the civic infrastructure of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, including the old city areas. But the unplanned development and construction that happened in the early 1980s and 1990s has come to haunt it today.

There was unfettered development on canals, lake beds and other water bodies that should have otherwise been left untouched. The water bodies of a city are its margin spaces that not only play a critical role in absorbing unexpected flood waters but also protect its ecosystem and biodiversity by providing habitat for a variety of flora and fauna. The moment these bodies are encroached upon, urban flooding becomes an obvious outcome. Over the last few years, many of our metros, such as Mumbai and Chennai, have experienced the painful reality of urban flooding. This year it was Hyderabad's turn. The fact that the city witnessed such huge strides of development has not eased its experience with the recent floods.

Another aspect that is making things difficult is the natural undulations that abound. These varied levels in the city's topography result in the water gravitating towards low-lying areas with exceptional force, sweeping away whatever lies in its path. The twin cities need to quickly hammer out a long-term strategy to handle weather extremities in the future, since these floods may not be the last that Hyderabad will see.

The GHMC needs to resuscitate the water bodies so that it can fall back upon them in case of heavy rains and floods. Additionally, the water drainage system must be interlinked with the rainwater harvesting network so that excess water is seamlessly channelised into large capacity underground storage facilities. This can later be utilised to irrigate public parks, roadside trees and so on. The municipal corporation will do well to take cues from other metros in the world that are handling similar problems. Many cities in Europe for instance have adopted channel and pipeline systems that carry excess water to the nearby rivers. They have also strengthened embankments so that the increased water load is handled without any undue concerns.

No matter how glitzy or well-ranked a city is, without an efficient network of drains, a proper sewage disposal system and rain water harvesting, it can be brought to its knees within days. That is what has happened in Hyderabad.

(*The writer is an environmental journalist*)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

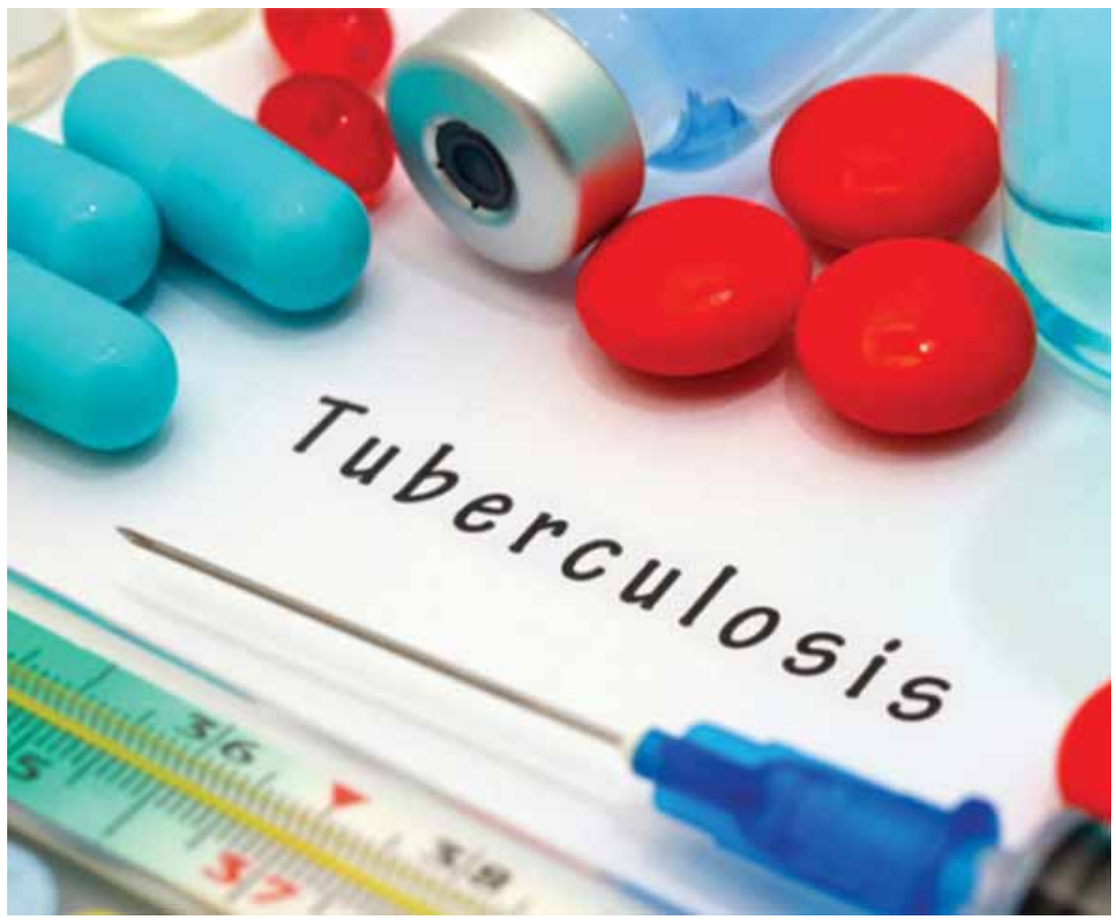
FIRST, CONGRESS CALLED ME 'HUNGRY AND ILL-CLAD' AND NOW SHE (IMARTI) HAS BEEN CALLED AN 'ITEM'. THIS SHOWS THE FEUDAL MINDSET OF KAMAL NATH.
—MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

IF I SAID SOMETHING, IT WASN'T TO INSULT ANYONE. I JUST DIDN'T REMEMBER THE (PERSON'S) NAME…THIS LIST SAYS ITEM NO.1, ITEM NO.2. IS THIS AN INSULT?
—FORMER MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER
KAMAL NATH

A timely innovation

If Universal Health Coverage has to be achieved, there needs to be less dependence on DOT and greater acceptance of VOT and other patient-centric treatment modes for TB

SWAPNA **MAJUMDAR**



After being diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB), Niyam Mohammed was asked to follow the standard Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS). In the beginning, he abided by the procedure, which meant taking the TB medication in front of a DOTS provider (usually a healthcare worker or volunteer). This was done to ensure compliance and completion of the treatment and also to prevent the development of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DRTB). But for him, visiting the healthcare centre for medicines and registration of compliance daily meant missing many hours of work. As a construction worker, Mohammed's survival depended on his daily earnings and unable to afford this loss of income, he slowly became irregular, not just in his visits to the healthcare centre but also in treatment adherence. So, it wasn't surprising when he was detected as having DRTB during a door-to-door TB screening programme in March. Realising that counselling and behaviour change was needed to get him back on track, ZMQ Global, a social enterprise using technology for development, which conducted the screening drive, took him under its wing.

Once the team understood that Mohammed was more likely to adhere to the regime if he didn't have to miss work, he was given an innovative Patient's Active Compliance and Treatment (PACT) tool kit, a patient-centric mobile solution designed especially for people with DRTB. By using PACT, the construction worker didn't have to miss work to access treatment because he no longer had to present himself in front of a healthcare worker daily. Instead, he could show that he was following the regime by clicking a video while having his medicines and use the app to send the video to the TB unit located in his primary healthcare centre.

Just as Mohammed began his treatment using Video Observed Therapy (VOT), a countrywide lockdown due to the COVID pandemic was announced. But the worker knew that he didn't have to worry about access to treatment and care because he had been given medication to last for two months. More importantly, the patient knew that he could use the app to consult the doctor via tele-conferencing if he had any problems.

At a time when 51 per cent TB patients in India, who were surveyed by the Global Coalition of TB Activists, said that they were less likely to seek care during the outbreak because they feared contracting the Coronavirus, ensuring continued access to DRTB care and management is critical. By leveraging tele-medicine and patient-centric mobile tools to put treatment and care directly into the hands of patients, PACT has been able to enhance adherence support.

It was after extensive research and trials that ZMQ Global hit upon a three-pronged strategy to address the issue. Using its expertise in developing technology solutions, it first created a patient tool kit. This comprises a component which reminds DRTB patients of the need for taking their medication daily and adherence reporting through the VOT technology. It has customised data of the patient with personalised details like the history of previous illnesses, the treatment regimen, test reports and so on.

This ensures that all information is accessed seamlessly by the healthcare providers and the patients, too, have access to their treatment history and follow-up schedules. Second, the app allows patients to remotely connect with the TB Unit (TBU) or Senior Treatment Supervisor (STS) for consultation or emergency care using the video connect tool. This means that visits to the TBU can be substantially reduced and with the pandemic showing no signs of slowing down in India, this can be a life-saving feature for immunity-deficient TB patients.

> "AT A TIME WHEN 51 PER CENT TB PATIENTS IN INDIA, WHO WERE SURVEYED BY THE GLOBAL COALITION OF TB ACTIVISTS, SAID THAT THEY WERE LESS LIKELY TO SEEK CARE DURING THE OUTBREAK BECAUSE THEY FEARED CONTRACTING THE CORONAVIRUS, ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO DRTB CARE AND MANAGEMENT IS CRITICAL. BY LEVERAGING TELEMEDICINE AND PATIENT-CENTRIC MOBILE TOOLS TO PUT TREATMENT AND CARE DIRECTLY INTO THE HANDS OF PATIENTS, PACT HAS BEEN ABLE TO ENHANCE ADHERENCE SUPPORT"

The third strategy to boost treatment compliance was to incorporate digital behaviour change communication and motivational content for DRTB patients. Interesting digital stories, learning tools and messages have been developed in the local language and attractively packaged in the form of audio-visuals to connect, engage, inspire and motivate patients. In this way, even those with low literacy levels can use the app with ease.

At present, PACT is being rolled out in Nuh (Mewat), Haryana, which is just 100 kilometres from the national capital Delhi and considered the most backward district in India. In 2018, it was included in the Niti Aayog's list of "aspirational districts" or backward districts demanding special attention for its poor healthcare and development indicators. This happened after a study by Sehgal Foundation, a not-for-profit, found that the district lagged behind other areas in Haryana.

Nuh has a TB load of over 2,800 patients every year. With the treatment initiation of DRTB patients being 24 per cent and the success rate of treatment being only 35 per cent, it was decided to implement PACT in Nuh first. Planners believe that anything which works in this district has the potential to be scaled up to 114 other aspirational districts of India.

It has just been seven months since the initiative was launched but there are already signs that the PACT is boosting adherence and compliance. Mohammed, one of the 120 DRTB patients in Nuh, has recorded 85 per cent treatment adherence using the VOT technology. He returned to work after the lockdown was eased and hasn't let that come in the way of completing his treatment. He sends videos to his designated healthcare centre to show his intake of medicine from the construction site even now.

Although Mohammed is considered a successful case because he changed his behaviour and adhered to his treatment, the team continues to monitor him. Since he has DRTB, he will have to undergo a longer and more arduous period of treatment. The team wants to ensure that the worker remains vigilant till the end, so it will continue to monitor him over the next six months as all patients under PACT are monitored for at least a year.

PACT, in fact, was specially designed to ensure continuum of care for those diagnosed and undergoing treatment for DRTB in the wake of the contagion. It recently won the Drug Resistant-TB Lifeline QuickFire Challenge instituted by pharmaceutical major Johnson & Johnson's Global Public Health and Johnson & Johnson Innovation. According to Hilmi Qurashi, co-founder of the not-for-profit, they focussed on making the solution patient-centric. Since they have been engaged in providing mobile technology solutions for TB and other health issues in other parts of India and Africa, they adapted from their existing bottom-up technology-linked model to provide appropriate tools in the hands of the patients.

This could not have come at a better time as recently the World Health Organisation in its global report sounded a warning that the pandemic would cause an excess of 1.8 million TB deaths in 2020. India is among the countries expected to bear the maximum burden of these casualties.

The need for innovation has also been flagged by the ongoing 51st Union World Conference on Lung Health convened virtually by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), the world's first global health NGO. Failure to invest in the health of citizens and defeat preventable, treatable and curable diseases such as TB would enhance exposure to the Novel Coronavirus and future pandemics, said José Luis Castro, Executive Director, The Union.

With 75 per cent of TB researchers saying that they do not have the necessary resources, the need to protect existing ones becomes vital. The concern that TB medicine, tests, vaccines, even sputum cups may not be available has been expressed by Dr Madhukar Pai, director, McGill University TB Centre. This makes the new tools for TB prevention and care, like PACT, even more necessary. Never has this innovative tool kit been needed more, considering the necessity to reduce visits to healthcare centres and contact with healthcare workers in the Corona era.

If Universal Health Coverage has to be achieved, there needs to be a reduced dependence on DOT and greater acceptance of VOT and other forms of innovative patient-centric treatment modes for TB.

(*The writer is a senior journalist*)

The pandemic of violence against women rages on

In today's modern, digital India, the caste factor and group identity further accentuate a dominant-submissive gender role culture, especially in the northern States

ARCHANA **DATTA**

The Hathras incident forced us all to relive the horrific Nirbhaya gang rape. What stands out in public memory is the burning of the Dalit girl's mortal remains like "trash" in the dead of the night, with policemen standing guard. Official figures confirm that on an average 87 rape cases (ten among them are of Dalit girls/women) are reported daily in India. There has also been a 7.3 per cent rise in all crimes against women, with Uttar Pradesh (UP) registering the highest number of cases, accounting for 14 per cent of the total incidents in the country, says a National Crime Records Bureau, 2019, report.

In 2018, a Thomson Reuters Foundation Survey labelled India "as the most dangerous country for women…where rape, marital rape, sexual assault, harassment, female infanticide go on unabated." Many dismissed the report as being "perceptual rather than based on actual experiences", while the Government declined to comment on the findings.

Sadly, violence against women is globally pervasive, and one in three women (35.6 per cent) has been a victim of physical and/or sexual violence either by intimate partners or non-partners in their lifetime. The prevalence of intimate partner violence was found to be the highest (37.7 per cent) in the South-East Asian region, says a 2017 World Health Organisation study.

Many researchers ascribe "toxic masculinity", which breeds sexual aggression, as the outcome of an unequal power relationship, more common in cultures that foster the notion of male superiority *vis a vis* the socio-cultural inferiority of women. Kamala Bhasin, a social activist, says that "in deep-rooted patriarchy, a boy inherits a sense of entitlement from his upbringing, whereas a girl becomes a victim of stereotyping as the weaker sex. The existing imbalance in gender relations has much to do with violence against women." Shockingly, in today's modern, tech-savvy digital India, the caste factor and group identity further accentuate a dominant-submissive gender role culture, especially in the northern States.

Ravi Verma, Director, International Center for Research on Women, Asia, says, "A strong sense of impunity among higher caste men, who consider dehumanising women's bodies as an ultimate expression of control and power, is the reason behind continued violence against women from marginalised and poor communities, including Dalits." In 2019, among the 3,500 Dalit women raped in India, one third of them were from Rajasthan and UP.

But, beyond the socio-cultural structures, studies have also indicated a negative correlation between the sex ratio and the hike in sexual violence cases. Now, India, is a land of "missing women", contributing one in three to the world's missing girls due to sex selection, both pre and post-natal, says a United Nations Population Fund, 2020 report. Rape cases in India rose to 32,033 in 2019 from 2,487 in 1971, an astronomical jump of 1,188 per cent, while the sex ratio registered a negative growth of 0.65 per cent, plummeting from 930 girls in 1971 to 924 girls per 1,000 boys this year.

Moreover, the rising rate of sexual violence is likely to create a further dip in the sex ratio, especially in the Hindi belt. A recent field report of the Indian Council of Social Science Research in UP and Haryana corroborated that "there is an increasing trend for son preference in the face of growing crimes against women, as a male child is culturally viewed as a protector of the family honour, thus safeguarding the chastity of daughters from the unsafe public spaces."

Now, if public places are "unsafe", then how safe is the home for Indian women? Certainly, it is not. The majority of the violence-related cases under the Indian Penal Code have been registered under cruelty by husband or his relatives (30.9 per cent), followed by assault on a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty (21.8 per cent) and abduction of a woman (17.9 per cent). India's criminal law doesn't proscribe sexual violence by a husband unless the wife is under 18 years of age, and there is no culpability for marital rape. Another unique dimension of crimes against women in India is that 85 per cent of sexual assaults go unreported as there is a high share of known offenders, even if one excludes marital rape. An analysis of demographic and health surveys from 43 developing countries from 2010 onwards revealed that women's reporting of sexual violence is very low in India.

Nonetheless, the Nirbhaya case was a watershed moment in our criminal justice system. Asha Devi, Nirbhaya's mother, while recalling her seven-year-long struggle in nailing the perpetrators, said, "The road to justice is very difficult, arduous and also hopeless. If you don't have police support, even if the death penalty is handed out, it has to move through a tortuous process and is hardly implemented."

Unfortunately, the post-Nirbhaya changes in criminal law failed to make much of a dent in the justice dispensation system. The conviction rate of offenders remains as low as 27.2 per cent and is only five per cent in case of the death penalty, though rape constitutes 11.5 per cent of the total crime statistics. Many activists lament that the cases get weakened by easy grant of bail to the rape accused. "Even though it is a non-bailable offence, evidence gets tampered and extraneous influences dilute the process of investigation, while the police remain hand in glove … as happened in the Hathras case, when it more or less acted like an accomplice and not as the upholder of rule of law," they point out.

Meanwhile, the much-awaited police reforms get frozen in political cold storage. Even the Supreme Court's directives in 2006, which included separation of investigation and law order functions to make the police more "people-centric rather than ruler-centric" are yet to hit the ground. A committee to review the existing criminal justice system also ran into rough weather when a group of women lawyers protested over the non-representation of women on it "when its remit is largely to reform sexual offences."

So, how does one fight it out? Mohini Giri, former Chairperson, National Women Commission, opines that the issue has no tailor-made solutions. "The law cannot be the only instrument. What is needed is a strong and supportive family, an awakened civil society and coordinated action among the various service providers in society to nurture a girl child. We also need a complete overhauling of our educational inputs to detoxify the overdose of stereotyping for bringing in attitudinal changes, both in the oppressed and the oppressors," she says. While Bhasin emphasises that "it is high time that we focus on men and talk in the active voice, like why a man commits a rape, rather than pushing the victimisation theory of why and how a woman has been raped."

Well, women across the world raised their voices against sexual violence under several banners like #MeToo, #TimesUp, #NotOneMore *et al*. In today's pandemic-ravaged world, the alarming spike in gender violence has generated a global movement #orangetheworld and #generationequality to wage an all-out war against rape. Like before, India cannot remain untouched by it.

(*The writer is a retired Indian Information Service Officer and a media educator*)

No business visa for H-1B speciality occupations

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The State Department has proposed not to issue temporary business visas for H-1B speciality occupations which allowed several companies to send their technology professionals for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US, a move which could affect hundreds of Indians.

The proposal, if finalised, will eliminate any misconception that the "B-1 in lieu of H policy" provides an alternative avenue for foreign professionals to enter the US to perform skilled labour that allows, and potentially even encourages them and their employers to circumvent the restrictions and requirements relating to the H non-immigrant classification established by Congress to protect the US workers, the State Department said.

The move, made public on Wednesday, less than two weeks ahead of the November 3 presidential election, is likely to impact several Indian companies which send their technology professionals on B-1 visas for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US.

On December 17, 2019, the Attorney General of California announced a USD 800,000 settlement against Infosys Limited to resolve allegations that approximately 500 Infosys employees worked in the state on Infosys-sponsored B-1 visas rather than H-1B visas, the State Department said.

"The proposed changes and the resulting transparency would reduce the impact of foreign labour on the US workforce of aliens performing activities in a specialty occupation without the procedural protections attendant to the H-1B classification," it said.

In its federal notification issued on Wednesday, the State Department said the US architecture firm seeking protection from rising labour costs in the country might believe it could lay off its US architects and contract for the same professional architectural services to be provided by a foreign architecture firm.

If the foreign firm sought H-1B visas for its architects, it would be required to pay the prevailing wage for architects in the area of intended employment in the United States, presumably the same wage the US architects had been paid, and meet the other requirements enacted by the Congress to protect US workers.

But under the B-1 in lieu of H policy, the foreign architects could ostensibly seek B-1 visas and travel to the US to fill a temporary need for architecture services, as long as they retained a residence in the foreign country and continued to receive a salary, perhaps significantly lower than what is customary for US architects, dispersed abroad by the foreign firm (or under the auspices of a foreign parent or subsidiary), the State Department said.

Under the Department's guidance, visas could be issued for multiple architects planning temporary work in the US in certain situations. However, a foreign employer may succeed in undermining the US immigration law and policy by rotating architects between the US and the foreign country to effectively fill the position of one US architect at a significantly lower cost, the notification said.

"If the architects who intended to perform skilled labour were "of distinguished merit and ability... seeking to perform (temporary architectural services) of an exceptional nature requiring such merit and ability, one might argue the current regulatory language suggests this type of labour is a permissible basis for B-1 non-immigrant visa issuance," the State Department said.

This potential outcome is harmful to the US workers and contrary to the policies of the Trump administration, it said.

The State Department said the application process for a B-1 visa does not include similar procedural requirements to protect the US workers like that of H-1B visas.

Also, the fees for the B-1 visas are far less than that of H-1B visas.

Measures to deal with market volatility to be in place till Nov 26: Sebi

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Thursday said the measures to deal with market volatility will remain in place till November 26.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the watchdog, in March, came out with various measures, including revision of market wide position limit, to ensure orderly trading and settlement to contain high market volatility.

Besides ensuring orderly trading and settlement, the steps were aimed at effective risk management, price discovery and maintenance of market integrity.

"On review of the Covid-19 pandemic related situation, it has been decided that the regulatory measures introduced vide Sebi press release dated March 20, 2020, shall continue to be in force till November 26, 2020," the regulator said in a release on Thursday.

The stock exchanges and clearing corporations will be issuing necessary instructions to market participants in this regard, it added. ***PTI***

Markets snap four-day rising streak

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic equity indices snapped four sessions of gains on Thursday as investors trimmed their exposure to IT, banking and energy stocks amid a negative trend at global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 148.82 points or 0.37 per cent to finish at 40,558.49.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 41.20 points or 0.35 per cent to close at 11,896.45.

IndusInd Bank was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, declining 3.10 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Infosys, Titan, HDFC Bank, Nestle India, Maruti and Tech Mahindra.

On the other hand, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank and Tata Steel were among the major gainers, jumping up to 3.10 per cent.

Global equities stayed on the backfoot as the rising COVID-19 cases and protracted US stimulus negotiations hit investor sentiment.

"Domestic equities finished lower after four consecutive days of gains amid mixed global cues. Barring metals, FMCG and realty, most of sectoral indices ended in red. Among stocks, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel and NTPC were among top gainers, while Hero MotoCorp, IndusInd Bank and Infosys were top losers.

"Market is expected to consolidate for sometime at these levels. While 2Q earnings have so far been decent enough, investors might be keenly watching heavyweights results in coming days and management commentaries. Additionally, progress on ongoing talks for fiscal stimulus in the US will be crucial a factor for global markets, including India," said Arjun Yash Mahajan, Head — Institutional Business at Reliance Securities.

Gold declines by ₹95 on weak global trend

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell ₹95 to ₹51,405 per 10 gram in the national capital on Thursday amid a weak global trend and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹51,500 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

Silver prices also declined ₹504 to ₹63,425 per kilogram from ₹63,929 per kilogram in the previous trade.

Report: Festive season to give temporary boost to economy

New Delhi: Festival season is expected to give a temporary boost to India's economic prospect, brokerage major Motilal Oswal Financial Services said.

Accordingly, the brokerage firm's EcoScope report said favourable base effect, pent-up demand and strong inventory re-building in the hope of a grand festive season have led to the better-than-expected economic growth in Aug-Sep'20. "It is likely that these factors will push the growth even higher in Oct'20, which is also expected to mark the peak," the report said.

However, the report makes a revelation that recent improvements are more likely to be fleeting than sustainable in nature.

"Higher growth can be sustained only if households' income grows faster, government receipts or payments for households are exceptionally high or low to offset low income, and credit growth is much higher-than-usual." "On close inspection, none of the above seem to be formulating in the Indian economy," the report added.

FIIs hike stake in Reliance Industries to 25.2 per cent

New Delhi: Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have raised stake in billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries to a record 25.2 per cent in the quarter ended September 30, according to the company's regulatory filing.

Reliance Industries (RIL) on Thursday filed a statement showing the shareholding pattern for the quarter ended September 30.

The statement showed FII holding 165.8 crore shares or 25.2 per cent of the total shareholding.

In the previous quarter ended June 30, foreign investors held 163.07 crore shares of 24.72 per cent.

In an investor note, JP Morgan said FII holding in RIL has hit a new high.

"As has been the case now for two years, FII's stake in RIL hit new highs. Surprisingly, mutual funds' (MF) stake declined by 25 basis points quarter-on-quarter and was the second straight quarter of stake decline," it said. ***PTI***

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11,890.00	11,939.55	11,823.45	11,896.45	-41.2
NTPC	82.3	85.9	81.4	85.7	3.4
TATAMOTORS	129.7	134.6	128.45	134.25	4
BHARTIARTL	419	432.35	418	431	12
IOC	75.85	78.25	75.5	78.05	2.05
BAJFINANCE	3,160.00	3,345.00	3,150.00	3,307.00	74.15
BRITANNIA	3,410.00	3,493.35	3,410.00	3,465.20	67.95
TATASTEEL	401.9	413.55	400.1	411.7	7.65
AXISBANK	496	513	495.65	510.05	8.6
ONGC	67.4	69.1	67.3	68.9	1.1
COALINDIA	115	116.7	114.1	116.35	1.25
LT	922	939	920.15	934.5	10.05
GAIL	86.15	89.1	86.15	88.55	0.9
ADANIPORTS	350.55	364.05	350.15	357.9	2.55
HINDUNILVR	2,160.00	2,187.25	2,153.20	2,178.00	14.85
ITC	167.55	169.1	167	168.8	1.15
M&M	599.8	606.95	594.1	605	4.15
JSWSTEEL	322	327.05	319.5	324.95	2
DIVISLAB	3,078.95	3,106.05	3,031.00	3,097.00	18.05
POWERGRID	162.15	165.9	161.2	164.4	0.65
WIPRO	341	348.2	340.85	344	0.55
UPL	452.8	458.2	450.2	454.75	0.55
BPCL	348.7	350.8	344	349.75	0.2
SBIN	201.9	204.6	201.1	203.6	-0.15
TCS	2,661.00	2,686.65	2,638.10	2,672.90	-2.5
GRASIM	791.75	794.45	781	791	-0.75
HCLTECH	858.9	878	851.55	866	-1.05
KOTAKBANK	1,388.00	1,405.00	1,377.55	1,391.50	-1.8
HDFC	2,038.30	2,063.00	2,023.15	2,046.00	-2.75
ULTRACEMCO	4,675.00	4,735.55	4,528.60	4,616.00	-13.1
SBILIFE	788.3	788.3	771.3	783	-2.35
DRREDDY	5,036.70	5,044.70	4,831.00	5,029.15	-17.6
HDFCLIFE	563	566.8	558.15	560	-2.7
RELIANCE	2,127.40	2,132.50	2,091.00	2,111.90	-12.7
BAJAJFINSV	5,848.00	6,080.00	5,845.95	5,865.00	-39.15
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,009.80	3,039.45	2,977.00	2,996.55	-21.45
SHREECEM	21,200.00	21,290.00	20,901.70	20,988.95	-158.55
MARUTI	6,828.00	6,860.00	6,775.20	6,809.00	-52.85
TECHM	844.85	853.9	828.8	839.1	-6.8
ASIANPAINT	2,114.20	2,116.85	2,076.80	2,095.75	-18.55
EICHERMOT	2,178.90	2,178.90	2,140.00	2,159.00	-22.35
CIPLA	765	769.85	744	758.95	-8.15
SUNPHARMA	491.2	491.4	481.7	485	-5.2
INFY	1,142.00	1,158.00	1,123.80	1,135.35	-13
NESTLEIND	15,990.05	16,081.10	15,768.05	15,850.00	-180.85
HDFCBANK	1,239.95	1,250.00	1,223.00	1,232.00	-14.7
HINDALCO	184.9	187.7	182.1	183.7	-2.25
TITAN	1,240.15	1,253.00	1,220.00	1,226.85	-17.85
ICICIBANK	416.4	419.65	407.65	413.5	-6.8
INDUSINDBK	621	630.85	605.65	609.3	-18.8
HEROMOTOCO	3,176.90	3,176.90	3,062.40	3,082.00	-96.35

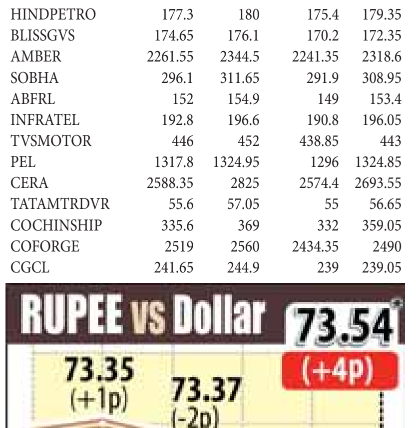
NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27,345.45	27,413.80	27,130.35	27,351.30	-19.4
PETRONET	224	237.4	223.1	236	11.3
ADANIGREEN	685.5	726.95	685	726.95	34.6
OFSS	3,227.00	3,395.00	3,165.85	3,375.00	142.1
IGL	376.95	392.5	376.95	390.05	9.35
HINDZINC	236.35	240	234	238.7	5.6
ICICIGI	1,235.00	1,273.85	1,217.00	1,267.00	26.3
PFC	88.4	90.2	87.95	90.05	1.65
INFRATEL	192.75	196.9	190.75	196.2	3.45
DMART	2,081.00	2,129.90	2,062.90	2,117.00	35.65
NMDC	84.7	87	83.65	86.65	1.4
HAVELLS	709.9	727.8	706.05	722.35	10.75
HINDPETRO	176.45	179.95	175.3	179.5	1.85
HDFCAMC	2,342.00	2,362.70	2,312.45	2,361.00	24.2
CONCOR	392	397.3	385.3	395.8	4.05
BOSCHLTD	11,792.70	11,866.55	11,710.25	11,848.00	99.4
ICICIPRULI	410	416.05	408.9	414.75	3.15
PGHH	10,144.40	10,325.00	10,041.15	10,223.05	70.15
ACC	1,618.00	1,636.20	1,604.05	1,631.00	10.85
COLPAL	1,435.00	1,443.90	1,413.80	1,436.00	9.2
TORNTPHARM	2,690.90	2,730.35	2,650.00	2,719.90	17
BERGEPAINT	606.2	612.5	602.4	609	3.1
BANKBARODA	42.4	43.2	41.85	42.75	0.2
AMBUJACEM	253	255.6	249.5	254.5	1.15
PEL	1,313.95	1,325.00	1,295.50	1,322.00	5.25
TATACONSUM	465.65	470.5	460.45	466.95	1.65
PNB	27.2	27.4	27.15	27.2	0
ADANITRANS	292.5	294.4	289.5	293.7	-0.35
DLF	173.75	175.1	170.8	171.85	-0.25
UBL	964.95	966.2	952.25	960	-1.45
CADILAHC	425	427.15	415.6	425.45	-0.9
MOTHERSUMI	106.75	106.8	104	106.55	-0.5
ABBOTINDIA	15,990.00	15,990.00	15,750.00	15,782.00	-103.15
GICRE	121.9	122.35	119.8	121.25	-0.8
LUPIN	1,007.60	1,007.60	977.6	994.5	-8.05
INDIGO	1,365.40	1,376.35	1,346.55	1,353.90	-11.5
MCDOWELL-N	520	521.8	512.5	516.3	-4.4
ALKEM	2,650.75	2,658.50	2,615.00	2,623.30	-27.5
MARICO	362	363	355.85	356.5	-3.85
PIDILITIND	1,498.00	1,508.85	1,470.85	1,477.85	-18.95
SIEMENS	1,280.00	1,299.50	1,266.60	1,273.95	-16.75
LTI	3,111.50	3,133.90	3,031.15	3,055.10	-44.75
BANDHANBNK	312.25	315.7	307.3	310.9	-5.15
DABUR	515.85	516	505.1	506.95	-8.9
GODREJCP	683.85	685	667.15	672.7	-13.8
MUTHOOTFIN	1,210.10	1,215.60	1,187.55	1,188.00	-25.2
BAJAJHLDNG	2,348.00	2,350.00	2,290.00	2,300.00	-48.95
BIOCON	441.25	441.8	427.35	429.5	-10.1
NAUKRI	3,494.00	3,514.25	3,362.65	3,406.00	-86.75
AUROPHARMA	807	807	749.2	779	-27.2
SBICARD	899	902	828	829	-66.3

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
BAJFINANCE	3161	3344	3155	3313.15
BHARTIARTL	418.85	432	417.95	430.65
VEDL	105.5	107.75	103.3	104.5
DRREDDY	5046.9	5046.9	4832.4	5023.6
RELIANCE	2123	2133.05	2091.5	2107.1
TATAMOTORS	129.05	134.5	128.45	133.45
INFY	1146	1158	1123.75	1130.15
INDUSINDBK	622.4	630.85	605.9	608.8
SBIN	201.8	204.55	201.05	203.3
HEROMOTOCO	3180.65	3180.65	3062.55	3081.25
TCS	2666.8	2687.25	2638.55	2670.8
AXISBANK	493.5	512.95	493.5	510.55
IDEA	8.42	8.98	8.42	8.88
PHOENIXLTD	571	576	554.95	558.45
ICICIBANK	416.9	419.45	407.7	412.95
LT	923	938.95	921.05	936.25
HDFCBANK	1242	1250	1223	1232.95
AUROPHARMA	809.8	809.8	749.55	782.45
MINDTREE	1364	1419	1359.15	1384.75
BAJAJFINSV	5830	6079.25	5830	5872.3
HDFC	2033.25	2062.4	2023	2045
TATASTEEL	402.8	413.35	400.1	409.95
HINDUNILVR	2150	2186.35	2150	2179.35
ULTRACEMCO	4654.15	4731.8	4533.2	4610
FEDERALBNK	56.5	56.85	55.8	56.55
M&M	600.4	606.5	594.4	603.3
COLPAL	1430.1	1443.05	1415	1432.15
JUSTDIAL	564.8	572	531.5	559.65
CIPLA	767	767	744.15	757.35
ZEEL	180.9	185.55	180.9	183.55
BRITANNIA	3410	3494.7	3410	3458.65
KOTAKBANK	1385.1	1404.2	1377.7	1391.25
HCLTECH	864.7	878.05	852.2	867.1
DLF	174	175.1	170.9	172.45
BAJAJ-AUTO	3037.95	3037.95	2977	2997.2
ITC	167.65	169	166.9	168.55
VOLTAS	701	718.55	699.75	709.05
ASIANPAINT	2106	2114.95	2078	2100.25
MARUTI	6845	6859.6	6778	6806.25
ASHOKLEY	75.25	79.5	75	79.25
IBULHSGFIN	152.45	154.2	147.8	149.5
SRTRANSFIN	645.5	703.65	645.5	700.15
RBLBANK	179	182	178.05	181.15
LICHSGFIN	300	309.85	299.8	308.7
GAIL	86	89.1	86	88.75
CHENNPETRO	71.9	81.35	71.1	81.35
STARCEMENT	83.8	89.4	82	84.2
WIPRO	340.5	348.3	340.5	344.55
TITAN	1236.2	1253	1220.25	1229.6
GODREJPROP	1008	1063.45	1008	1051.75
SBICARD	890	900	827.65	853.35
NTPC	82.4	85.7	81.45	84.85
EXIDEIND	157.15	161.25	157.15	160.45
BPCL	350	350.6	344.05	349.6
ONGC	67.65	69.05	67.25	68.85
ACC	1615	1636.85	1604.8	1628.6
PVR	1180	1202.55	1171.75	1177.45
PETRONET	224.5	237.35	223.25	235.7
JKTYRE	63.5	67.1	63.5	66.3
SANOFI	8350	8517	8350	8480.05
APOLLOHOSP	2156	2170	2091.8	2098
LUPIN	1010	1010	978	992.75
TATAELXSI	1545	1635	1543.95	1608.3
IOC	76	78.05	75.6	77.95
JINDALSTEL	208.95	211	205.1	208.3
APOLLOTYRE	141.3	143.5	138.35	141.15
BIRLACORPN	628.2	652	628.2	638.15
TECHM	842.2	853.9	828.8	838.1
HINDALCO	185.8	187.7	182	184.4
MOTHERSUMI	106.5	106.85	104	106.15
SYNGENE	551.65	553	514.1	536.55
POWERGRID	163	165.85	161.3	164.85
NESTLEIND	16000	16074.1	15773.15	15850
GMM	3655	3767.9	3615.45	3767.9
BANDHANBNK	313.2	315.75	307.35	310.25
CADILAHC	425	426.95	415.6	426.15
SBILIFE	789.9	789.9	771.15	780.6
SAIL	35.9	36.5	35.15	36.05
ADANIGREEN	686	726.85	686	726.85
AMBUJACEM	253.2	255.45	249.7	253.85
JSWSTEEL	322.8	326.95	319.4	325.75
HDFCLIFE	563	566.9	558.5	561
TATAPOWER	53.1	55.5	53.1	55.05
BIOCON	438	441.6	427.6	429.5
BANKBARODA	42.3	43.2	41.85	42.8
DIVISLAB	3088.9	3106.1	3033	3096
IDBI	37.15	39.6	37.15	39.2
DMART	2090	2128	2063.05	2121.25
UPL	451.45	458.1	450.45	454.35
IDFCFIRSTB	31	31.95	30.8	31.75
M&MFIN	129.8	133.4	129.8	132.75
DABUR	515.8	516.5	505.35	507.3
ESCORTS	1208.6	1213.25	1179.05	1181.1
COALINDIA	115.25	116.75	114.15	115.9
SUNPHARMA	485.7	490.1	481.95	485.65
L&TFH	63	64.6	62.65	64.35
GLENMARK	481	493.45	478.05	486.85
CONCOR	392	399.5	385.3	396.6
BHARATFORG	456	467	452.8	464.5
LAURUSLABS	334	338.9	325.45	336.45
ADANIPORTS	353	363.9	350.15	358
GARFIBRES	1990	2037.35	1981	2001.9
HDFCAMC	2344	2363	2314	2358.35
NOCIL	141	146.7	140.2	142.3
RECLTD	97.5	101.9	97.5	101.3
MRF	61349	62385	60697	62070
ALOKTEXT	21.7	22.3	21.4	22.1
OBEROIRLTY	469.5	495.3	456.1	483.1

STRTECH	151.05	159.75	151.05	158.55
HINDPETRO	177.3	180	175.4	179.35
BLISSGVS	174.65	176.1	170.2	172.35
AMBER	2261.55	2344.5	2241.35	2318.6
SOBHA	296.1	311.65	291.9	308.95
ABFRL	152	154.9	149	153.4
INFRATEL	192.8	196.6	190.8	196.05
TVSMOTOR	446	452	438.85	443
PEL	1317.8	1324.95	1296	1324.85
CERA	2588.35	2825	2574.4	2693.55
TATAMTRDVR	55.6	57.05	55	56.65
COCHINSHIP	335.6	369	332	359.05
COFORGE	2519	2560	2434.35	2490
CGCL	241.65	244.9	239	239.05

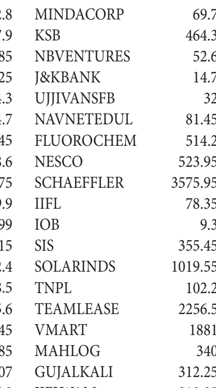


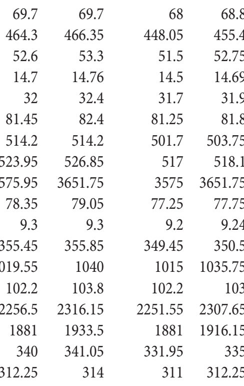
HINDZINC	236.4	240	234.15	238.7
LTI	3115	3134	3032.1	3055
APLLTD	980	1015	980	1011.6
EICHERMOT	2181	2181.05	2140	2157
IGL	376.05	392.5	376.05	391.6
MPHASIS	1302.95	1365.9	1302.8	1351.55
PNB	27.1	27.45	27.1	27.25
TATACONSUM	466.4	470.2	460.5	466.15
JUBILANT	706.35	742.45	699.45	736.1
PIDILITIND	1503.8	1507.9	1471.25	1475.7
BHEL	28.1	29	27.95	28.8
PCJEWELLER	14.2	16.89	14.2	16.89
HAVELLS	710	727	706.5	724.1
JUBLFOOD	2255.95	2257	2174.4	2186.65
PIIND	2190	2223.95	2145	2149.65
FSL	74	75	72.5	74.45
PFC	88.2	90.2	88	89.95
OFSS	3225	3402.05	3168.65	3372.55
PHILIPCARB	145	151.1	142.8	150.1
JKLAKSHMI	284	296.55	278.5	290.9
ADANIENT	311	314.6	309.45	311
HIMATSEIDE	124.8	134.1	122.05	134.1
NAUKRI	3491.85	3510.05	3362.05	3405.5
INDIGO	1356.25	1375.45	1347.85	1356.25
NMDC	84.95	86.95	83.6	86.45
CYIENT	406.15	431.8	402.6	425.4
MUTHOOTFIN	1210	1213.65	1188	1192.25
HAL	700	732.6	699.95	725.05
RADICO	435.7	455.6	431.3	448.15
CHOLAFIN	243.5	245.55	241.3	242.2
ENGINERSIN	65.1	69	65	68.45
BEL	92.9	95.15	91.6	93.3
FCONSUMER	6.9	7.56	6.9	7.56
SONATSOFTW	338.5	365	334	361.6
LALPATHLAB	2175	2249.15	2170	2229.8
GRASIM	792	793.75	781.25	791.3
KPITTECH	110	110.1	104.15	105.9
GRANULES	384.95	390.95	381.4	389.1
IDFC	29.7	30.9	29.7	30.55
MCX	1764	1823.4	1730	1808.05
UBL	962	966	952.1	962.1
APLAPOLLO	2948	2986.2	2861.15	2960
ICICIPRULI	411.95	415.7	409.5	414.8
TORNTPHARM	2672.1	2730	2650.5	2714
AJANTPHARM	1603	1645	1593.55	1639.3
STAR	727	739.6	706.85	729.8
LTTS	1692.1	1764.8	1692.1	1744
WELSPUNIND	72	75.45	71.85	75.2
TV18BRDCST	27.95	29.65	27.7	29.2
PRESTIGE	252.55	262.4	250.15	254
INDIACEM	121.5	123.1	119.85	121.95
DEEPAKNI	720.5	741.5	712.55	741.5
HEIDELBERG	189.5	199.9	178.5	198.6
RAMCOCEM	805	805	783	788.55
BATAINDIA	1360	1371.5	1353.85	1361.3
SUDARSCHEM	471.85	492	470.75	486.05
ASTRAZEN	4212	4250	4123.4	4205
POLYCAB	826.6	845.9	824.6	831.9
MANAPPURAM	169	169.7	165.25	165.7
PFIZER	4955	5074	4955	5060
TATACOFFEE	102.1	106.75	101.45	105.6
TRIDENT	7.99	8.12	7.83	7.88
AARTIIND	985	1003	975.1	995.5
AUBANK	772	792	772	778.95
CANBK	88.5	88.8	88.1	88.25
MGL	821.7	836.85	811.8	834.7
MFSL	570	583.5	566.6	573.15
TATACHEM	323.5	326.3	317.5	323.35
MRPL	27.7	31.15	27.35	30
GODREJCP	684.75	685.3	668	671.75

KEC	319.4	338	315	336.1
AMARAJABAT	732.95	752	732.95	749
BERGEPAINT	595.55	612.6	595.55	607.55
ISEC	425	450	418.85	446.7
ATUL	5916.65	6199	5913.25	6120.95
CHAMBLFERT	166.35	174.4	166.1	172.9
BALKRISIND	1396.05	1400	1351.25	1354
ADANIGAS	194	195.4	191.9	194.8
BOSCHLTD	11756	11881.7	11720	11881.7
INDIAMART	4968.65	4972	4804	4852.5
INDHOTEL	100.5	100.75	98.7	100.35
UCOBANK	12.62	13.4	12.31	12.41
TORNTPOWER	309.4	325.95	306.75	324.95
IPCALAB	2056.3	2171.8	2033	2153.7
THYROCARE	1066.05	1109.1	1034.1	1044.05
NATIONALUM	30.6	30.6	29.95	30.25
COROMANDEL	720	728.95	707	723
ABCAPITAL	67	67.75	65.4	66.5
SHREECEM	21261.55	21301.7	20919.8	20961
SUNTECK	286	292.5	279.6	282.05
NETWORK18	33.25	36.45	32.65	34.1
RAIN	98	102.6	98	101.2
NCC	33.6	34.2	32.8	33.15
IBREALEST	50.5	51.95	49.7	51.3
MARICO	360.5	362.4	356	356.5
FRETAIL	74.65	76	74.2	75.25
TATACOMM	932	947.4	914.35	924
PERSISTENT	1224	1230.25	1170	1179.95
GNFC	196.75	207.2	196.7	205.45
BSOFT	195.95	200.25	188	192.35
SRF	4431.2	4449.1	4337.2	4375.5
ORIENTCEM	59.25	64.9	58.65	64.25
TRENT	641.15	661.05	627	641.3
EQUITAS	48.9	49.5	48.4	49.25
ICICIGI	1240	1273.55	1218	1266.2
INOXLEISUR	267	267	261	262.3
IRCTC	1338	1338	1326.15	1327
GRAPHITE	188.1	189	177.5	179.85
SIEMENS	1284	1298.4	1267	1275.45
SUNTV	430	436.7	425.5	427.95
JKPAPER*	88.2	93.35	88.2	92.7
SWANENERGY	138.4	138.4	132.6	134.1
EPL	264.9	272.7	250.5	272
SCI	55.15	55.15	52.5	53
METROPOLIS	1885	1946.85	1870	1945
IRB	111.1	118.4	110.8	116.75
CEATLTD	1070	1099	1055	1072.75
SUZLON	2.97	3.23	2.97	3.23
DIXON	9271	9535.5	9266.5	9496
CANFINHOME	468	472.2	449.9	452.15
NAVINFLUOR	2079	2142	2053	2141.9
TVSSRICHAK	1510	1540	1481	1492
BLUESTARCO	610	654.4	610	650.8
CENTURYPLY	178.9	185.75	178.9	181.95
BAYERCROP	5401.05	5448.95	5210	5249.85
PAGEIND	20385	20609.7	20267.25	20525.4
ECLERX	705.05	725	705.05	715.75
ALKEM	2646	2656.25	2614.4	2622
CENTURYTEX	319.75	327.5	316.95	318.45
BOMDYEING	63.3	65.3	62.55	64.1
PTC	46.3	46.7	44.8	45.2
HEG	720	720.1	685	692.35
PNBHOUSING	364	369.8	355	356.2
SUPREMEIND	1425	1483.6	1424.85	1465
NBCC	23	23.2	22.8	23
CASTROLIND	112.75	113.55	110.7	111.8
INDIANB	60.6	63.3	60.55	61.95
CENTRALBK	10.74	10.85	10.66	10.71
CARERATING	310	320	300.25	305.35
DELTACORP	110.25	111.55	108.05	108.95
JYOTHYLAB	143	147.4	139.9	145.6
KAJARIACER	570.8	587.65	564.6	583.05
CUMMINSIND	463.65	464.6	458	460.45
RAJESHEXPO	452.5	472	451	459.8
SHK	86.65	91.3	86.45	90.9
SUVENPHAR	339.45	345	337.4	343.4
REPCOHOME	193.4	200.75	190.55	198.35
GSFC	63.65	67.95	63.65	67.35
CAPPL	520	528.95	520	525.05
HFCL	16.85	17.1	16.55	16.8
ADANITRANS	292.35	294.4	289.8	293.5
KANSAINER	508	510.9	500.75	503
SPICEJET	48.8	48.8	47.65	47.85
FINEORG	2690.5	2714.4	2671.5	2693.45
ABBOTINDIA	15891.3	15977.95	15741	15834.55
GODFRYPHLP	863.8	909.35	862.85	900.6
RAYMOND	279.95	286	278.5	282.35
KPRMILL	670	699.45	650.9	674
SUNDRMFAST	408.4	429.3	408.1	421.4
HSCL	50.6	50.6	49.3	49.7
OIL	88.1	92.7	87.9	91.85
NHPC	20.05	20.35	19.8	20.2
JSWENERGY	64.5	66.5	63	66.35
NAM-INDIA	273.5	274.9	269	273.45
PRSMJOHNSN	71.6	75.1	71.6	74.1
CESC	566	585	566	581.95
KALPATPOWR*	236.7	249.5	236.65	248.4
BAJAJCON	187.05	189.6	181.2	182.9
EDELWEISS	58.2	58.2	55	55.4
GSPL	187.55	200.7	187.5	199.05
JSLHISAR	98.1	99	95.85	97.35
SHILPAMED	468.85	474.8	462.8	474.3
WELCORP	109.95	117.6	109.95	116.5
KRBL	265.1	268.65	251	253.1
MEGH	71.05	73.85	71.05	72.6
JAMNAAUTO	41.8	42.5	39.75	40.55
JBCHEPHARM	1026.9	1044	1011.5	1040
DEEPAKFERT	140.5	144.5	140.5	143.4
DISHTV	12.4	12.61	12.23	12.27

POWERINDIA	930.25	973.7	929.7	970.15
LINDEINDIA	832.75	838	820.45	835.6
WHIRLPOOL	2041.9	2075	2038.1	2055
IRCON	78.1	82.5	78.1	81.4
ASTRAL	1155	1159.75	1114.15	1158
SJVN	21.25	22.8	21.25	22.65
BANKINDIA	40.4	40.4	39.65	40
SUMICHEM	276.7	277.8	274.95	276.15
VINATIORGA	1250	1266.95	1201	1227.5
TATAMETALI	575	581.8	559.5	568.7
SHOPERSTOP	178	184	175.85	182.1
RVNL	18.8	18.9	18.55	18.7
INFIBEAM	84.45	84.45	81	81.2
INDOCO	251	262.65	249.55	259.8
DALBHARAT	818.3	842.95	810.3	836
VAKRANGEE	30.3	30.3	29.1	29.25
ABB	907.3	922.2	898.7	915
CARBORUNIV	239.5	245	232.1	233.95
IEX	195.15	197.45	193.2	196.4
ENDURANCE	1044.9	1058.85	1000.9	1017.65
BALMLAWRIE	103.25	108.85	103.25	107.95
LAXMIMACH	3905.6	4040.4	3880.55	4005.65
ADANIPOWER	35.3	35.4	34.5	35
CRISIL	1869.45	1945	1866	1920.65
GUJGAS	287.2	291.35	286.7	288.2
SUPRAJIT	187.1	191	177.2	181.05
TIINDIA	586.5	604	573.7	601.55
SOUTHBANK	6.73	6.78	6.67	6.73
KTKBANK	43.95	44.55	43.5	44.3
ERIS	492.45	510	488	510
EIDPARRY	284	288.9	282.55	285.35
HINDCOPPER	35.85	35.95	33.7	34
CROMPTON	284.25	288.35	281.3	287
BAJAJELEC	524	524	493	500.65
HAWKINCOOK	5019	5080	5000.6	5080
WOCKPHARMA	295	296.7	291.15	294.4
GODREJAGRO	531	531.35	506.5	511.95
HUDCO	31.95	33.8	31.85	33.5
BAJAJHLDNG	2347.55	2350	2291.3	2303.95
BBTC	1193.4	1208.95	1190	1190
GMRINFRA	23.9	23.9	23.6	23.85
BDL	292.35	299.95	291	298
GESHIP	220.6	230.75	220.6	230.05
JAICORPLTD	86	86.9	84.7	85.05
DCBBANK	82	82	80	80.4
ADVENZYMES	332.9	333	324	325.4
VARROC	307.8	308	294.8	296.85
UJJIVAN	208.15	211.1	207.9	209.95
BEML	616	624.8	608.05	619.85
JSL	60	60	58.4	58.65
IFBIND	728.4	732.65	715.8	720
HATHWAY	29.85	31.2	29.1	31.2
THERMAX	741	774	740	772.15
BRIGADE	178.05	180.9	175.35	177
PGHH	10102.45	10300	10058	10246.75
JKCEMENT	1967.95	1967.95	1893.3	1910.95
SYMPHONY	854.25	867.2	841.8	860.35
MOIL	131.2	140.75	131.2	139.9
UFLEX	318	334	318	331.6
VENKYS	1484.1	1504.55	1470.55	1480.7
FINOLEXIND	502.05	528	499	524.65
NATCOPHARM	930.55	930.55	908	914.7
RITES	238	241	238	240
REDINGTON	124	133.9	123.45	131.75
RCF	44.65	44.65	43.2	43.45
ZYDUSWELL	1802	1809.5	1778	1796
ZENSARTECH	189.2	191	185.2	188.9
VIPIND	278.7	285	278.7	282.1
SWSOLAR	213	226.1	212	223.7
ALKYLAMINE	3050.1	3075.05	3020	3020
RALLIS	267	267	261	262.8
WABAG	187.5	191.3	186.4	187.9
AEGISLOG	206.4	207.8	200.3	203.85
GALAXYSURF	1679	1679.05	1609.4	1641.25
AAVAS	1476.75	1501.55	1459.8	1484.3
GODREJIND	388.05	392.1	381.8	384.7
GPPL	91	93.15	87.1	87.45
SPARC	167.05	169.25	167.05	168.6
VSTIND	3382.5	3388.1	3285.95	3373.75
PGHL	5124.25	5125	5073.25	5119.9
AVANTI	492.8	501.15	492.8	499
UNIONBANK	24.45	24.45	24	24.15
JINDALSAW	64	64	61.5	62.4
CHALET	137.1	141.65	136.6	138.5
QUESS	419.75	421.6	412.95	415.6
AFFLE	2730.75	2765	2696.05	2726.45
HONAUT	29919	30053.35	29666	29693.85
IFCI	5.85	6.21	5.8	6.07
BALRAMCHIN	159.1	159.45	156	156.8
ARVINDFASN	127	131.85	125.6	127
SOMANYCERA	230	230	220	223.35
BASF	1400	1438.45	1400	1413.45
DHANUKA	712	728.9	712	719.4
FORTIS	126.9	128.6	126.6	128.2
FORCEMOT	1032.9	1049.8	1032.9	1046.05
CCL	244.7	256.1	244.65	254.1
GLAXO	1544	1544	1505.05	1515
ORIENTELEC	191.3	191.95	188.4	190.35
ITI	122.5	124	121.3	121.5
DCMSHRIRAM	337.9	353	334.55	349.65
MIDHANI	178.5	180.65	177.5	179.9
ASHOKA	62.55	63.85	62.2	63.4
HERITGFOOD	298.3	303.35	297	299.15
CUB	144.35	149.4	144.35	149
DCAL	154	158.6	154	156.1
CSBBANK	228	232.45	225	229.05
FDC	348	352.25	346.9	350.8
TIMKEN	1069.05	1113.45	1060.75	1111.75
MINDAIND	324	325.9	321.05	324.95

RELAXO	669.55	669.55	656.3	658.5
MAHSCOOTER	2837	2890	2758	2853
NLCINDIA	49.3	49.95	49.3	49.6
CREDITACC	649.5	649.5	624.3	629.3
MOTILALOFS	568.35	568.35	538.5	558.15
PARAGMILK	108.05	110	107.75	109
MAHABANK	11.8	11.8	11.45	11.6
SCHNEIDER	72.55	73.05	70.8	71.1
3MINDIA	18875	19125	18800.05	18856.8
RATNAMANI	1292	1310.1	1291.05	1293.9
GEPIL	391.5	402.05	377.35	393.35
EIHOTEL	77	77.9	75.9	77.3
AIAENG	1690.6	1811	1688	1782
SFL	1278.95	1331.45	1225	1319.5
KNRCON	255.8	256.15	249.2	249.5
GRSE	193.15	196	192.05	193.5
FINCABLES	273.25	288.1	273.25	287
GICRE	121.7	122.1	120.2	121.45
ASTERDM	137.85	138.2	132	136.1
SKFINDIA	1487.75	1492.15	1478.8	1491
MAHLIFE	254	261	248	254.7
TCIEXP	781.95	814.75	774.95	794.55
KEI	320.8	327.75	320.55	324.05
EMAMILTD	363.5	363.5	357.1	362.35
GREAVESCOT	73	73.8	72.25	72.85
ORIENTREF	189.1	190	181	183.35
GMDCLTD	43.55	44.55	43.4	43.95
JAGRAN	35.3	37.1	35.3	36.9
DBCORP	77.8	77.8	74.9	75
DBL	340.85	342.9	336.85	337
BLUEDART	3020	3139	3020	3108.75
ALLCARGO	117.95	118.8	116.9	117
TATAINVEST	849.55	859	849.3	849.45
JCHAC	2281	2293.2	2234.05	2293.2
TIMETECHNO	37.8	38.9	37.8	38.9
PNCINFRA	169.9	172.5	169	170.3
VBL	666.65	674.4	666.65	670.95
VTL	754.7	772.05	753	762
CHOLAHLDNG	369.9	375.3	363.25	369
WESTLIFE	373.9	375.7	368.75	371.3
LUXIND	1387.35	1387.35	1365	1365
VRLLOG	154.5	155.4	153.2	154.8
GHCL	149.6	149.75	145.25	146.95
VAIBHAVGBL	1926.65	1958	1900	1900
VGUARD	166.5	166.5	163.65	163.7
GILLETTE	5313.95	5341.95	5286.15	5307.55
ITDC	226.45	227.95	221.25	225.45
NIACL	101.7	104.05	101.7	102.9
TTKPRESTIG	5491.85	5594.4	5435	5591.1
SHRIRAMCIT	800.95	809.4	791.5	798.5





WABCOINDIA	4998.05	5047.6	4976.7	4996.7
AKZOINDIA	2035.85	2085	1995	2085
MINDACORP	69.7	69.7	68	68.8
KSB	464.3	466.35	448.05	455.4
NBVENTURES	52.6	53.3	51.5	52.75
J&KBANK	14.7	14.76	14.5	14.69
UJJIVANSFB	32	32.4	31.7	31.9
NAVNETEDUL	81.45	82.4	81.25	81.8
FLUOROCHEM	514.2	514.2	501.7	503.75
NESCO	523.95	526.85	517	518.1
SCHAEFFLER	3575.95	3651.75	3575	3651.75
IIFL	78.35	79.05	77.25	77.75
IOB	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.24
SIS	355.45	355.85	349.45	350.5
SOLARINDS	1019.55	1040	1015	1035.75
TNPL	102.2	103.8	102.2	103
TEAMLEASE	2256.5	2316.15	2251.55	2307.65
VMART	1881	1933.5	1881	1916.15
MAHLOG	340	341.05	331.95	335
GUJALKALI	312.25	314	311	312.25
IIFLWAM	910.05	912	897.2	899.8
NH	340	340	331	333.05
MHRIL	167.7	169	163.85	169
GDL	92.35	95.8	92.35	93.5
MASFIN	830.5	850	818.75	829.65
GULFOILLUB	632.95	637	629.75	630.6
TVTODAY	201.05	201.45	198.95	200
NILKAMAL	1311.75	1316.2	1308	1315
MMTC	16.35	16.5	16.2	16.2
MAHSEAMLES	220.9	223.4	220.9	222.55
JMFINANCIL	78	78.65	77.6	77.7
LEMONTREE	28	28	27.05	27.45
GRINDWELL	539	547.3	532.35	546.4
LAOPALA	210	210.3	208	209.65
TASTYBIT	10301	10393.65	10229.65	10229.65
INDOSTAR	287.75	294.15	286.3	287.15
TCNSBRANDS	373.8	375.9	373.3	375.65
OMAXE	67.55	67.6	66.7	67.45
ESABINDIA	1325.6	1336.75	1303.65	1306.95
SPANDANA	560.6	560.6	550.95	552.95
JTEKTINDIA	75.95	75.95	75.35	75.35

5 questions as Trump-Biden prepare for final debate

Nashville: President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, meet on the debate stage for the second and final time Thursday night in Tennessee. The 90-minute prime-time meeting comes just 12 days before Election Day.

Some key questions heading into the debate:

CAN TRUMP CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY OF THE RACE?

Trump cannot afford a status quo debate. National polls show him losing to Biden, and while some battleground state polls are tighter, even some of Trump's own allies are worrying aloud about the prospect of a serious defeat. This debate represents his best, and perhaps last, opportunity to change the contours of the race while tens of millions of Americans are watching.

The president fumbled his chance in the opening debate last month, when his attack-all-the-time approach backfired. Trump missed another opportunity when he refused to participate in the second debate after organizers decided the candidates would face each other virtually because of concerns about the president's coronavirus infection.

Trump needs to find a way to focus the debate — and the election more broadly — on Biden and his liabilities. But to do that, he needs to avoid making himself the center of attention, something that doesn't come naturally to the president.

WILL THE MUTE BUTTON KEEP THINGS CIVIL?

The mute button has gotten a lot of attention leading up to the debate, but its impact may be overstated.

Given Trump's unrelenting interruptions in the first debate, the Commission on Presidential Debates added a new rule for Thursday's affair that will keep each candidate muted while the other delivers his two-minute remarks at the outset of each of the six debate topics. The remainder of each 15-minute block will be open discussion, without any muting, the commission says.

The change will ensure the candidates have at least some time to answer questions without interference. Ultimately, however, the mute button can only be used for a combined total of 24 minutes of the 90-minute debate. That's plenty of time for the candidates to mix it up.

DOES TRUMP HAVE A BETTER ANSWER FOR THE PANDEMIC?

Whether he wants to or not, the president will have to talk about the coronavirus at length. And he has to come up with a better answer than he did during the first debate to convince persuadable voters that he has the situation under control. It won't be easy.

Coronavirus infections are surging to their highest levels in months. More than 220,000 Americans are dead. And rather than working on a comprehensive plan to stop the spread based on science, Trump has spent recent days attacking the nation's most respected infectious-disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, while undermining his own administration's recommendation to wear masks.

HOW WILL BIDEN HANDLE ATTACKS AGAINST HIS SON?

Trump and his allies in the conservative media have ramped up their focus on alleged maleficence by Biden's son Hunter in recent days. Biden's team expects Trump to make those allegations a centerpiece of his debate strategy.

The president tried to make an issue in the first debate of Hunter

Biden and his drug use, which the younger Biden has publicly acknowledged.

But Trump's attack may have backfired when Biden declared that he was proud of his son, who, like many Americans, had fought to overcome an addiction.

Trump believes he has more ammunition this time around, however, following the publication of a tabloid report offering a bizarre twist to familiar concerns about Hunter Biden's work overseas. The report centers on data allegedly recovered from Hunter Biden's laptop, though the data has not been verified and, if it is legitimate, does not tie candidate Biden to any corruption.

Biden's team considers the issue a distraction from much more pressing concerns — namely, the pandemic — but Biden will certainly have to defend himself and his family again on Thursday night.

CAN BIDEN AVOID PLAYING INTO GOP NARRATIVE?

Biden's greatest foe Thursday night may be himself.

Trump has struggled to find an effective line of attack against the 77-year-old Democrat, but the lifetime politician has a well-established history of gaffes that has made him the butt of Republican jokes for years.

To that end, the 74-year-old Trump and his allies spent much of the year questioning Biden's mental and physical health. While Biden quieted those questions with a solid performance in the first debate, they have not gone away. He needs to avoid any embarrassing missteps on stage that would play into the broader Republican narrative that he's ill-equipped to lead the free world.

Biden will certainly be prepared. He spent four of the last five days with no public events so he could focus almost exclusively on debate prep.

Still, Biden's history of self-imposed stumbles raises the distinct possibility that he could hurt his campaign, with or without Trump's help. It doesn't help Biden that expectations will be higher after Trump's weak performance in the first debate. ***AP***

Trump: US has had enough of 19 yrs in Afghanistan

Washington: The US has had enough of 19 years in Afghanistan, President Donald Trump has said, reiterating that American troops, who are the greatest soldiers in the world but acting as a "police force" in the strife-torn country, are returning.

Trump has repeatedly said that he would bring home all the US troops from "endless wars". It was also one of the promises he made during his 2016 Presidential campaign.

Last month, he said that the United States will reduce the number of its troops in Afghanistan to 4,000 in a very short period of time.

"We never had anything like it — and sacrificing American blood and treasure in endless foreign wars in countries that you've never even heard of. And they're all coming back. You know that, right? I hope nobody objects," Trump told his supporters on Wednesday at an election rally in Gastonia, in the battleground state of North Carolina.

"I think 19 years in Afghanistan is enough, wouldn't you say? We're like a police force over there. We have the greatest soldiers in the world, but over there we're like a police force. 19 years is enough," he said.

"You think it's easy getting out with all the military-industrial complex, right? The military — beware the military-industrial complex.

They are right but we are all coming home, they are all coming home," Trump said.

Early this month, Trump announced that he will bring all troops back from Afghanistan by year end. The Pentagon had expressed surprise over it, while the Taliban had welcomed the move.

The US and the Taliban signed a landmark deal in Doha on February 29 to bring lasting peace in war-torn Afghanistan and allow US troops to return home from America's longest war. ***PTI***

For 4th time, Hariri is back as PM in crisis-hit Lebanon

Beirut: Lebanon's president tasked former Prime Minister Saad Hariri with forming a new government Thursday, bringing back the veteran politician a year after he was toppled amid nationwide protests against widespread corruption and a flunking economy.

President Michel Aoun designated Hariri to form the next government after a slight majority of votes from lawmakers, securing the return of an old name to lead the country desperate for change. Hariri now faces a more impoverished Lebanon, devastated by a massive August explosion that defaced Beirut, but also a more determined opposition.

The 50-year-old politician takes the helm with a sense of urgency and more involvement by international leaders who have warned Lebanon is on the verge of collapse. Hariri pledged to quickly form a new government — his fourth in the last decade — to halt the economic collapse, calling it the "last and only" opportunity. The task is enormous, amid an unprecedented economic crisis and stiff opposition, including from former political allies and protesters who had been demanding change. ***AP***

Sri Lanka lodges appeal against move to de-list LTTE as terrorist group in UK

Colombo: Sri Lanka has appealed against a judgement from Britain's Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission, which has delisted the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as a proscribed terrorist organisation.

A foreign ministry statement issued here said that Sri Lanka has been made aware of the Open Judgement by the Commission on Wednesday.

It said the decision of the Commission arises from an appeal filed in May 2019 by an LTTE front organisation challenging the decision of British Secretary of State for Home Affairs dated March 8, 2019, which refused the application by the group to de-proscribe the LTTE from the list of Proscribed Organizations under the UK Terrorism Act of 2000.

While Sri Lanka was not a party to these proceedings at the Commission and could not make direct representations, the Lankan Government assisted the British government by providing relevant information with regard to continued terrorist activities.

"The Open Judgement of the POAC while allowing the Appeal, provides for further hearings, and the Government of Sri Lanka will continue to closely monitor the progress of the case in the UK," the statement said.

Sri Lanka maintains that it has sufficient evidence to prove that the remnants of the LTTE and groups aligned with its terrorist ideology are active in foreign countries, working to incite violence and destabilize the country. ***PTI***

Deport Sharif from London: Pak requests UK for 3rd time

Islamabad: Pakistan has requested the UK for a third time to deport former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from London to serve his prison term in the country after being sentenced in corruption cases, according to a media report on Thursday.

Sharif, the 70-year-old supremo of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) who was ousted from power in 2017 by the Supreme Court on corruption charges, is in London for medical treatment.

A letter for the deportation of the three-time prime minister was handed over personally to the British High Commissioner here some three weeks ago, Dawn newspaper reported. Through the letter, the Pakistani government asked the British authorities to consider cancelling Sharif's visit visa, which has allowed him to live in London on medical grounds since November.

The letter has cited Britain's own immigration laws of 1974 under which any person sentenced to imprisonment of more than four years had to be deported to the country of his/her origin. When contacted, Shahzad Akbar, Adviser to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Accountability and Interior confirmed that the government has made three requests to the UK authorities to deport Sharif, with the last being on October 5. ***PTI***

Biomedical waste management urgent to halt virus: UNIDO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The United Nations has on Tuesday said that there is an urgent need to adopt proven biomedical waste management practices to halt the spread of Covid 19. Dr René Van Berkel, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation Representative, UNIDO Regional Office in India on Tuesday said that we need to halt the spread of Covid 19 through all possible infection channels, including from contact with or mismanagement of infectious waste.

Around the Globe

Brussels: The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long, hard-line reign."It is an honour to announce that the women and men of the democratic opposition in Belarus are the 2020 Sakharov Prize laureates," European Parliament president David Sassoli said.

United Nations: The United States is urging countries that have ratified a UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons to withdraw their support as the pact nears the 50 ratifications needed to trigger its entry into force, which supporters say could happen this week.

Beijing: China on Thursday defended its vaccine research and development capabilities, a day after Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro cancelled plans to buy a potential COVID-19 vaccine from it with a jibe that the Brazilian people will not be "anyone's guinea pig".

Kabul: At least four civilians were killed in their homes by militant rocket fire in northern Afghanistan on Thursday, the country's Ministry of Defense said. The statement blamed the Taliban for the firing, which it said wounded another 14 civilians and destroyed several houses in the Sharin Tagab district of Faryab province.

'Ensure vigil so that people wear masks'

Allahabad (PTI): The Allahabad High Court has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to ensure constant police surveillance in every road of the state so that all people wear face mask to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) on Wednesday on the spread of COVID-19 in the state, the bench comprising Justice Siddhartha Varma and Justice Ajit Kumar said a task force must be formed for surveillance of roads from 7am to 10pm and a plan can be implemented in Prayagraj, Kanpur, Varanasi, Agra and Lucknow initially.

It may be followed in other districts of the state thereafter, the bench said.

The additional advocate general, representing the state government, informed the court that a health officer has been appointed in each municipality for proper fogging and santisation of the area.

The bench, while hearing in another PIL related to issue of parking and encroachment over public land, directed authorities to remove any re-encroachment.

The additional advocate general informed the court that the authorities were working to identify new vending zones in state for hawkers who have been removed from the earlier spots.

"For this, there is need to identify 9,39,759 places where they would be given places to run their businesses. Prayagraj alone has to have 57,136 sites/places for various vendors who have been ousted from the places where they had earlier illegally occupied," the additional advocate general added.

POST DEMONETISATION PERIOD

ED files prosecution plaint against 4

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet in police parlance) before a special court in Patna in a money laundering case relating to misuse of banking channels for suspicious huge amount of illegal cash transaction post-demonetization.

Those named in the prosecution complaint are Raj Kumar Goenka, Ashok Kumar Goenka, Ratan Kumar Goenka of Muzaffarpur and Pankaj Agrawal of Kolkata.

The agency has urged the court for awarding punishment to the accused for the offence of money laundering and confiscation of the attached assets worth Rs 4.61 crore in the form of movable and immovable properties in the name of Raj Kumar Goenka and in the name of his family members.

The Enforcement Directorate initiated investigation against Raj Kumar Goenka and others under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of FIR registered with Mithanpura police station in Muzaffarpur, Bihar for IPC Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery among others.

"Investigation under PMLA has revealed that Raj Kumar Goenka along with his brothers fraudulently and dishonestly opened several bank accounts by misusing photographs and other documents of their employees and huge cash transactions were affected from these bank accounts without the knowledge of the actual account holders," the ED said in a statement. Subsequently, by way of RTGS/NIFT, the said deposited cash was transferred to the bank accounts of Goenka's counterparts in various cities like Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai.

Goenka's associates in other cities used to receive cash against cheque from various entities and the cash so received were given to the person/entity, on behalf of whom, cash was received by Goenka Brothers in Muzaffarpur, the agency said.

Proceeds of crime amounting to Rs. 25.80 crores were deposited in these bank accounts and the same were dishonestly transferred and layered through various bank accounts with an intention to launder the tainted money to project the same as untainted.Earlier, Proceeds of Crime (POC) worth Rs 4.61 crore was provisionally attached.

Investigation also revealed that Pankaj Agarwal was facilitating the money laundering at Kolkata in collusion with Goenka brothers at Muzaffarpur. The accused Pankaj Agrawal and Raj Kumar Goenka were arrested by ED on September 22 this year and they are undergoing judicial custody at Adarsh Kendriya Kara Beur, Patna, it added.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MODI INVOKES NARI SHAKTI, OPENS DURGA PUJA VIRTUALLY IN BENGAL

Reminding how Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee inspired nationalism through their works, Modi said, "if I continue to take names of such Bengalis, the day will end but the list will not."

Reminding that Durga Pujas gives the country a feeling of unity, strength and oneness he said, "In Bengal Maa Durga is worshipped like a daughter which in itself is a symbol of Bengal's awakened consciousness, spirituality and heritage.

Modi's speech comes barely seven months ahead of the State Assembly elections in which his party BJP has emerged as the main challenger to the Trinamool Congress displacing the Left Front.

Taking a dig at the Prime Minister's "urgency to inaugurate Durga Puja" senior TMC leader and Bengal Minister Firhad Hakim said, "Where the Prime Minister was in the past years… why is he here to inaugurate Durga Puja when the elections are coming near … everyone understands the political intention behind this initiative. The people of Bengal are too conscious to understand these things."

GOVT EASES TRAVEL CURBS FOR ALL, EXCEPT TOURISTS

The Government had suspended all visas on March 11. However, in June, it allowed the entry of foreign minor children with at least one parent who is an Indian citizen or an OCI card holder, foreigners married to Indian citizens and single foreign parents whose children hold an Indian passport or an OCI card.

Incoming and outgoing air travel was restricted since February this year due to the pandemic. While scheduled international passenger flights have been suspended in India since March 23, the Government resumed scheduled domestic passenger flights on May 25.It had then allowed the airlines to operate a maximum of only 33 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic flights. But from June 26 onwards, the Civil Aviation Ministry increased the limits to 45 per cent.

PAK HOUSE PANEL OK'S BILL TO SEEK REVIEW OF JADHAV'S CONVICTION

The Indian Government also challenged the death sentence handed to him by a military court.

The Hague-based ICJ ruled in July 2019 that Pakistan must undertake an "effective review and reconsideration" of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav and also to grant consular access to India without further delay.

However, the committee's members from the Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) requested its chairman Riaz Fatyana to reject the bill, the Dawn reported.

However, Fatyana, who belongs to the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), decided to settle the matter through voting. He also tried to stop two PTI members from leaving the hall before voting.

Eight members voted in favour of the bill, while five opposed it, the report said.

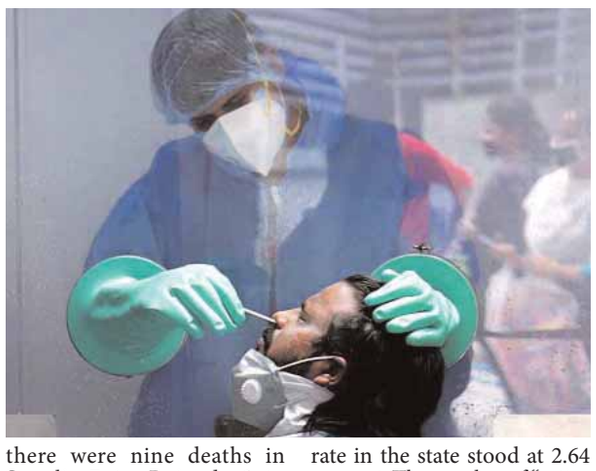
The Opposition members termed the bill as NRO for Jadhav. The NRO is the National Reconciliation Ordinance which former president and military dictator Gen (retd) Pervez Musharraf offered to the-then exiled political leadership and under which several corruption cases against different politicians were dropped.

Aliya Kamran of the JUI-F accused the government of misleading the country's establishment, saying that they were not here to legislate for Jadhav and the bill should be presented before the public and bar associations for a public debate.

"The legislation is unnecessary since the judgement of former chief justice of Pakistan Nasirul Mulk has already said the constitutional courts can review the judgements of the military courts," Kamran said.

Covid curve flattening in Maha as daily cases down to 7,539

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



In an indication of near-flattening of Covid-19 curve in Maharashtra, a relatively low 7539 new infections were recorded, while 198 people succumbed to the pandemic in various parts of the state on Thursday. A day after 190 people died of coronavirus and 8142 others tested positive for the pandemic in the state, the number of infections dropped to 7539, while the deaths rose by 18 to touch a daily fatality figure of 198.

With 198 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll rose from 42,633 to 42,831. Similarly with 7539 new infections, the total infected cases jumped from 16,17,658 to 16,25,197.

On a day when 16,177 people were discharged from various hospitals in the state, the number of people discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 14,31,856. The recovery rate in the state rose from 87.51 per cent to 88.10 per cent.

Of the 198 deaths, Mumbai topped the list with 49 deaths, followed by 20 deaths in Nagpur, 16 in Thane, 14 each in Ahmednagar and Pune, 11 in Solapur and 10 in deaths in Satara. In the lower range, there were nine deaths in Sangli, 7 in Raigad, 6 in Kolhapur, 5 each in Palghar and Nashik, 4 each in Ratnagiri, Osmanabad and Bhandara, 3 each in Washim and Gadchiroli, 2 each in Latur, Beed, Yavatmal, Wardha and Chandrapur and one death each in Nandurbar, Aur/angabad and Gondia. In addition one person from outside the state died in Maharashtra. With 49 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 9,912 to 9,961 while the infected cases mounted by 1,463 to trigger a jump in the infections from 2,45,869 to 247,332 now. The case doubling rate in Mumbai has gone up to 108 days.

Meanwhile, the mortality rate in the state stood at 2.64 per cent. The number of "active cases" in the state dropped from 1,58,852 to 1,50,011.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,26,785 to 3,27,670, while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 6581 to 6595.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai – after the total number of infections from 2,15,679 to 2,16,596 while the pandemic toll rose from 5238 to 5254. Out of 84,02,559 samples sent to laboratories, 16,25,197 have tested positive (19.34 per cent) for COVID-19 until Thursday.

65.07 pc polling in LAHDC polls

Leh (PTI): Leh recorded a 65.07 per cent voter turnout in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections, which concluded peacefully here on Thursday, an official said.

The voting for the sixth LAHDC Leh election was held across the district. As reported a total of 65.07 percentage of voters exercised their franchise to decide the fate of 94 candidates who are in the fray, the official said.

According to reports, this is the tentative polling percentage and the counting of votes is scheduled for October 26, the official said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and 23 Independent candidates are vying for the 26 councilor seats of the 6th hill council of Leh district.

The polling began at 8 am and strong voter turnout was recorded at all the polling stations. Women and youngsters came out in droves to cast their vote, the official said.

Owing to the rising COVID-19 cases, all safety measures like wearing of masks, using sanitisers and following social distancing norms were followed at every polling booth, he said.

For the first time, the administration extended the postal ballot voting services for senior citizens, people with disabilities, individual who are under home or institutional quarantine, and doctors and paramedical staff deployed at COVID-19 hospitals, he said.

An electorate of 89,776, including 45,025 women, were entitled to exercise their franchise in 294 polling stations spread over 26 constituencies across Leh to seal the fate of 94 candidates including 26 each of BJP and Congress.

The AAP is also trying its luck for the first time by fielding 19 candidates.

The regional parties including National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have chosen to stay away from the election.

The poll process is expected to be completed by October 30.

LAHDC-Leh has a total of 30 seats and four councilors are nominated by the government.

Since the formation of the hill council in 1995, Congress had swept the polls thrice, while the Ladakh Union Territorial Front had won the elections in 2005.

The BJP wrested control of the council from the Congress for the first time in the last elections by winning 18 out of 26 seats.

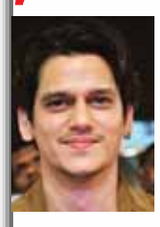
Trend Blazer

Ajay's favourite childhood memory

Actor **AJAY DEVGN** shared a special memory from his childhood during the launch of **Rajkummar Rao**-starrer *Chhalaang*.

"When we used to go to school, we didn't have all these gadgets, for us, our entertainment was physical. Which is what I miss with today's kids but I'm constantly behind them to go outdoors and stay outside instead of playing on their PSs and all those gadgets because I feel that it is very important."

He further adds, "Physical activities were the only recreation we had so we enjoyed it a lot."



'I got a role in *Mirzapur 2* soon after *Gully Boy*. They told me about the part and I was already a fan of the show. I was offered an interesting part so it was an easy decision for me. That's how I got locked in. My character is from a new family that is getting introduced in the series. It is a very flamboyant, bold and humane character.'
—Vijay Varma

Actor **RITWIK BHOWMIK** will be seen in the music video of a new song by Papon, after garnering pan-India recognition for his starring role in the web series *Bandish Bandits*.

Titled *Khidki,* the song aims to bring back old school romance with a new-age twist and also stars **Ashnoor Kaur.** The song is written and composed by Amarabha Banerjee.

He said, "Growing up in a family of art enthusiasts, music has been a constant in my life. I'm blessed to get the opportunity. *Khidki* is a song that brings back the simplicity of old school romance with an interesting twist of storytelling."

Matthew sexually abused as teen

Actor **MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY** has revealed that he was a victim of sexual abuse several times during his teenage years.

In his new memoir, *Greenlights,* McConaughey opened up about being sexually abused.

In the beginning of the book, McConaughey shares several facts about himself, which include his personal experience with sexual abuse. He revealed that his first time having sex was not consensual, and that he was "blackmailed" into it.

"I was blackmailed for the first time when I was 15. I was certain I was going to hell for the premarital sex. Today, I am merely certain that I hope that's not the case," he writes.

FIGHT EVIL AT HOME

Since the current situation demands we stay indoors, your ambience and décor can cheer you up. Here are a few ideas to light up Dussehra. By Team Viva

Time and again, traditional décor themes have carved an evergreen niche for themselves. And when it comes to festivities, which mark the beginning of prosperity, good health and celebrations, what could be better than going traditional? If we are to encapsulate the essence of festivities, all we can think of is delicious food, rituals, get-togethers and house makeovers. However, in the times of Coronavirus, when the vibrance of the festive season might have dulled a tad bit, why not create it at home through a little tweaking and mix 'n' match of modern trends? Certainly, since the current situation demands for us to stay at home, your ambience and décor holds utmost importance.

Here are a few ways as to how you can add vibrancy and enthusiasm to your home in no time this Dussehra!

Illuminate your moments

After the tedious job of cleaning the house comes the most happening part — uplifting the face of your interiors. This Dussehra, give a royal touch to your festivities by opting for dark tones and shimmery elements.

For instance, you can could choose to revamp your otherwise-plain walls with a glamorous grained pattern of Vavona Burl. To provide an edge to the brown-red shade of your veneer, go for golden metallic antiques that makes up for a vintage-perfect look. We also suggest to pair beige or cream net curtains that will allow the fairy lights and candles to illuminate your precious moments.

Farmhouse style

When you blend a warm colour like brown with a décor theme that is full of charm and simplicity, the outcome is a look beyond beautiful. Very simple to replicate, one can start with having a colour palette of various hues of brown with a pop of classic white. Go for Buen Walnut, Arizona Oak and Oak Fissure as these rich brown shades and elegant textures will give a visual treat to your walls.

As the current times call for a fusion of safety and style, it is more important to opt for laminates that can keep your surfaces hygienic and germ-free. These laminates also provide health and hygiene features — antivirus, antibacterial, antifungal and bacteria, which come in contact with the surface.

Further, embrace the natural look of your space by opting for engineered wooden floors like a Noce Imperial to add a pinch

of drama in the festive mood while they are easy to maintain as well. Take out your fruit baskets and storage boxes made with jute to enliven the comfort and coziness. Lastly, a woven chair and stool in white colour will provide more definition to the entire look.

Create a timeless panache

A calm and refreshing ambience is every season's favourite. How about we bring in some excitement to a neutral colour palette that enlightens up your spirit of festivals? Start with pairing your classic white furniture with natural-looking engineered wooden floors like the Oak Stockholm. The light brown shade of your floors will seamlessly accentuate your little pops of colour in your accents.

Alternatively, you can reuse your old lanterns to bring in a timeless panache. Since, these are composed of three stability providing layers — real hard wood, a stabilising core and a balancing layer — you don't have to worry about the climate change. Lastly, for your in-house parties, go for the very trending wooden crockery to serve your guests which will also complement your décor theme.

Perfect refuge of 'Classic Blue'

You can drive away all your 'not going out this festive season' blues by incorporating the shade smartly in your bedroom. The best part about the pantone colour of the year is that it is easily accessible and looking at the wide usage of it, you don't have to worry about extra purchasing. To design a subtle look, layer your bedding with blue sheets, topped with velvet pillows. One can also add some pop of colour to the blanket but remember to go for a neutral or pastel shade of pink or yellow. The combination will keep the elegance intact.

To experiment with the look, marry the charismatic charm of wood with blue shades. Amplify your interiors with a metallic-rimmed bedside table and place glassware to complete it.

The exciting little corners

All the little things and special corners hold equal importance while giving a festive makeover to your home. Start with placing a glass bowl with floating candles and flowers in the corner of your room. It will stand out yet blend with your exquisite woodgrain texture of a Chiaro Laminate by Greenlam Industries Ltd, which also offers a safeguard plus technology with health & hygiene features.

Notch-up the entire look with two mini-planters in rose-gold matte finish and your breathtaking corner is simply festive-ready.

The black beauty

The dramatic and timeless essence of the black colour is everyone's favourite. It effortlessly adds depth and panache to an otherwise plain room. Without going overboard with this intense shade, balance out your palette with other contrasting hues. For your furniture and walls, opt for a grain-textured HDBX Smoked Knotty Pine that will balance well with your living room's black sofa and grey stools.

Since, veneers have a natural wooden look, go for Jaipur rugs or handcrafted stools to create a fusion of modern and traditional décor. With matte finish topping the preference chart, go for black and silver metal when it comes to ceiling lamps. The sparkle of metal and the glamour of matte will stand out against your white ceiling and blend with the wooden veneers and add to the festive Dussehra vibe. We suggest keeping the space uncluttered and go less on accents as it will surely leave everyone talking about the graceful aesthetics of your room.

Well, these traditional themes will also get your imagination running and help you unfold your creative side!

KUSHAN MITRA

DELHI DRIVER

Big, loaded and Chinese

How can one bring geopolitics into a car review? Well, one can

Let me be very honest at the outset, the MG Gloster for what it offers with regards to technology features, comfort, space and size is tremendously good value. Everything may not gel together all that well at times but the car is a beast that gets the job of transporting its passengers in luxury done very comfortably. It is easily larger than the competition, the Toyota Fortuner and Ford Endeavour. And while I did have some issues with the body roll and the lethargic get up and go, these are not uncommon traits in vehicles of this size unless you fit them with expensive suspension get-ups and big engines.

Sure, there were some technology issues after I had enabled most of the Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), those acronyms you hear of in the MG advertising. I have driven cars with many of those features in the past but it is noteworthy that MG has brought many of them to a price-point that was unheard of. Stuff like Lane-Keeping Assist (LKA) is useful, particularly on highways but of course, as I've noticed on other cars, these features tend to be let down by poor road markings. If you have been on the entry to the Barapullah Elevated Road from the Kidwai Nagar end in Delhi, you will know what I mean. The other thing is features like Collision Warnings and Automatic Braking; I have had some interesting experiences with the latter in particular in India on a Mercedes-Benz S-Class and a Volvo XC60.

Your brakes might be excellent but many drivers in India follow the car ahead, without leaving, forget adequate, any space whatsoever. Emergency braking is intense and it cannot account for the idiot behind you. So with traffic weaving in and out in front of you, pedestrians dashing across roads, and while I'm aware that several of the MG Gloster's features will not work above certain speeds, automatic emergency braking could lead to some rear-end accidents. Don't get me wrong, I am not advocating for the features to be removed but possibly in Indian urban conditions outside central Delhi, it makes sense to run such features at lower sensitivity. I would love other manufacturers in India to take this lead from MG and bring more such safety features in India.

MG GLOSTER SAVVY 4WD
2.0 litre twin-turbocharged Diesel
215hp power
Four-wheel drive
Six seats
7/10
"Great car but the Shanghai Surprise is a problem."

For the geopolitical side, if you are not aware by now because of the intense "Brit-washing" by MG India, the inescapable fact is that MG is a Chinese-owned brand. The cars you see on Indian roads might have British actors endorsing them but are designed, tested and manufactured in China. MG is a brand owned by Shanghai Automotive Industrial Corporation (SAIC), which is China's largest carmaker and is owned by the Chinese-state through the Shanghai Administration. It means that it is run by the Chinese Communist Party which means it is an organ of Chinese foreign influence. MG has immense scale in China and is the country's largest automotive manufacturer thanks to its joint-ventures with General Motors and Volkswagen. They bought the rights to the MG and Rover brands from Nanjing Automotive in 2009, which itself had bought out the British brands in 2005. While there is an MG assembly plant at the old Longbridge site in the UK, it is not a manufacturing unit. I have actually visited the SAIC R&D and Design centre outside Shanghai as well as their test facilities four to five hours outside the city.

Yes, I believe that MG Gloster is a good vehicle to buy but, and this is serious, I do not presently believe that MG India's business will not suffer major material changes thanks to the current standoff in Ladakh. It is apparent to every Indian, no matter what their position on cars is, that China views India as a rival and would go as far as a military conflict to resolve any issues. If you have been following the news, this has led to several things such as the ban on Chinese applications and stricter controls on how money from China is routed into India. And it is the latter that creates problems for MG. It is known that further investments from SAIC into India are being delayed by the Indian Government, stalling any plans that MG had to invest in their plant in Halol. Unconfirmed reports of the government delaying imports of crucial parts using the Customs Department. News items have emerged where MG India is apparently in talks with Volkswagen to use the German company's group manufacturing facilities in Chakan outside Pune but there is little guarantee that permissions will be given.

Basically, I have severe doubts at the present moment whether MG India will survive in its present shape or form. These are matters far beyond the control of the company's management. If things hot up on the Eastern Ladakh border, buying any MG product would be stupid, not just for patriotic reasons but for reasons of maintenance. A car is, unfortunately, not a smartphone. It is not something you can easily write-off. Yes, it is a good product and the top-spec car at ₹35.38 lakh is very good value, let alone the entry-level specifications. But can I in good faith recommend this car knowing what the current situation at the border is? Sadly, I cannot.

Wait, what?

The lack of a single feature can irritate a car buyer

For those of you who might not know, I have a little human who has just entered my life and as a responsible, sort of, car reviewer, I bought a child seat to ferry around. For those of you who care about such things, I actually have two child seats but the seat in question right now is the Britax B-35. Britax is one of the top-rated child seat manufacturers and I was fortunate enough to have found a slightly used seat even in the midst of the lockdown. One reason I bought this particular seat is because it has ISOFIX connectors. Again, for those of you who don't know and have wondered what those ISOFIX signs on your rear seats are, well, those are metal loops that connect into the seat (sometimes even the body) structure of the car. In case of the unlikely chance of an accident, prevent the seat from moving around too much and keeping it secure.

Today, even in a country like India where child seats are not mandatory, ISOFIX loops are standard fitment in most 10-lakh rupee plus cars, even many cheap and cheerful hatchbacks have ISOFIX loops. So when I got the Ford Endeavour Sport for a test drive I took little human's seat to the car to fit it as the family had planned an outing to Sundar Nursery. You will get my sense of surprise when after searching high and low on the rear seat where I could not find the loops, usually ISOFIX harness points are clearly marked with an 'ISOFIX' logo or just an image (as in the Gloster) but it was not there. That should not have really surprised me given that my wife's 2018 Ford EcoSport Trend+ Automatic didn't have ISOFIX, but that was a mid-spec car from a couple of years ago. A ₹35 lakh car not having these harnesses today is a horrible negative.

Thankfully for little human, most car seats also have a secondary seat-belt attachment mechanism and that was used to attach his seat. But that is built so that you can use the seat in older-generation cars, not on a brand-new special edition. While truth be told, I would not have cared about the lack of ISOFIX harnesses six months ago, today I do. Here is the thing, it is neither an expensive or a major fix and one would have assumed Ford, a global car company would do a bit better. I was really, really disappointed.

FORD ENDEAVOUR SPORT 2.0 4x4
2.0 litre EcoBlue diesel
168hp power
Four-wheel drive with low-range gearbox
Seven seats
6/10
"Capable vehicle, but behind the ball in the segment. And lack of features is an issue."

As for the car? Well, it is blacked out everywhere. I'm not a huge fan of blacked-out vehicles, since we do live in North India which tends to be very hot. If you remember your middle-school physics black paint absorbs heat more effectively than any other colour, which is why most aircraft are white since they get a lot of solar radiation. But then blacked-out cars portray a self-important image very effectively. So yeah, if you don't have child seats and are extremely image conscious, you could consider this, because it is just a special edition and similar to the 2020 Ford Endeavour.

On another note, this was the first time I drove Ford's ten-speed gearbox on the Endeavour. While I cribbed and cried about the four-speed automatic on the 2020 Maruti-Suzuki S-Cross, this felt like overkill since in city traffic, I never got past fifth, well there was this small stretch on the Delhi-Noida Flyway where I hit seventh. I like the Endeavour. I like the fact that it has a proper low-range gearbox and can do proper off-roading. But this gearbox, while it claims to make the car more efficient just didn't do it for me. Then again, it did get my mind off the other major thing I've been rattling on about on top.

LET FESTIVALS ADD SPICE TO YOUR LIFE

Nutrition expert KAVITA DEVGAN shares some easy tips and tricks which will help you avoid weight gain while you enjoy those calorie-rich feasts

Food has always been an integral part of each and every celebration in India. And as the festive season kicks off, one problem that concerns people is the added pounds or unwanted weight gain during this time. The festive delicacies, especially sweets, are so tempting that resisting these 'once-a-year desserts' seem being unfaithful with our traditions. And that might be the mere reason why most of us tend to put on extra a few kilos between Dusshera and New Year every year. However, don't let this guilt spoil the festival for you. Instead, strive to find the right balance, where you manage to enjoy while keeping the guilt minimal. Here are some basic tips and tricks for taming the festive food devils.

EAT SMART

Sweets are the most difficult to resist. After all, it's easy to pop a few in the mouth every time you see the *mithai ka dabba*. The idea should be to eat the *meetha*, not gorge. Eat mindfully, not mindlessly. Portion control is the only key as saying no doesn't work. It's a good idea to make your own *mithai* at home such as *besan ladoos*. This age old sweet holds multiple health benefits as it is high in folic acid, which is essential for iron production and rapid growth of red and white blood cells in our body. It is a good-old *desi* sweet that one can keep handy to satiate the cravings in a healthy way. Just source good quality packaged *besan* made from 100 per cent pure *chana dal* and you are good to go. Another smart idea is to make jaggery-*haldi*-ghee-flaxseeds balls and pop one whenever you are craving for something sweet.

EXPERIMENT A LITTLE

Festive season is a great time to explore a bit by trying some interesting delicacies from regions other than those in which we live or are native. Indian local ingredients best suit and nourish our bodies. This somehow goes with the spirit and it also brings variety to the regular fare that you get sick of consuming. Instead of eating the regular food why not try Pongal from Tamil Nadu. This rice and moong dal delivers a balanced mix of carbohydrates and proteins and the good fat in cashews, adds satiety and crunch. Try it, it's easy to make: Dry roast 50 gm of rice and 30 gm of moong dal (green gram). Add 400 ml of water, cover and cook until done. In the meantime, make a *tadka* (tempering) of cumin seeds, black peppercorns, curry leaves, ginger and garlic, with a few cashew nuts in a teaspoon of ghee. Pour over the rice and dal. Season to taste and stir in fresh curry leaves. Enjoy this quintessential Indian dish that is *sampann* in all (health, taste, convenience) ways.

Also, if you have a heavy dinner planned, then try eating something that is light on the stomach for lunch (or vice versa), like red rice poha. While people often reach out to white poha, many don't know that there is red poha too that exists. This is widely consumed in South India. This is an acquired taste but once you get used to it, you will appreciate its goodness and gain from it. Make sure to opt for packaged poha over loose from a trusted source as it assures 100 per cent quality. It has no residual powder at the bottom of the pack. It is also high on dietary fibre. Experiment your red rice poha in pilaf-style with raisins, nuts, black pepper, salt, green chillies and sugar to taste. Or, give it a continental twist by making red rice poha with peppers, mushrooms and cheese. Soak your poha in water, sieve it, add curd and a pinch of table salt in it. Then relish it with mango or lime pickle. This is a perfect way of experimenting with Indian way of nutrition!

AVOID GORGING FOOD

Somehow, the craving for food has increased considerably during this season. One, because there's just so much around, and the other, because the changing season whets the appetite a little. One big mistake we make is to think that we can leave the balancing out until later-after the festivities are over. So learn how to eat smart. If heavy dinner is planned then through the day eat healthier options like *besan cheela*. You can make it healthy with 50:50 ratio of veggies and *besan* or ready to cook *cheela* mix. Add lots of spinach, garlic and mint. Pair it with a glass of buttermilk. And if the lunch was festive and way too indulgent, then opt for a balanced, easy-to-digest food like multi-grain *khichdi* from a trusted brand. *Khichdi*, the best comfort food for all time is also rich in dietary fibre and is convenient to cook. You can maintain a conscious equilibrium on a daily basis and keep your splurges down to a minimal.

Also, if you're going to a big party in the evening, it's a bad idea to deprive yourself all day in. Instead, eat a low-fat, nutritious snack before you head out, say a bowl of yoghurt with some nuts or even better — a sprout chart made with unpolished dals. This will prevent you from attacking food and eating too much at the party.

End the day with drinking *haldi* milk with a pinch of pepper every night. The curcumin in *haldi* will hold your immunity up and help to soothe your body's inflammation after all who wants to fall sick during the festive season. Just make sure you source turmeric that has 3 per cent curcumin guaranteed and has its natural oils intact to score *sampann sehat* all through the festive season.

(The author is the nutrition expert at Tata Sampann.)

RECIPES

NAVRATRA SPECIAL ALOO TIKKI

WHAT YOU NEED

For tikki:

- Boiled mashed potato: 200 gm
- Chopped green chilli: 1/2 tsp
- Chopped ginger: ½ tsp
- *Kuttu ka atta* (for binding): 3 tbsp
- Chopped coriander: ½ tsp
- *Senda namak* to taste
- Oil

For saunth:

- *Amchoor* powder: 50 gm
- jaggery: 80 gm
- Fennel: ½ tsp
- Roasted cumin: 200 gm
- Black peppercorn crushed: ½ tsp
- A pinch of *senda namak*

For mint chutney:

- Mint: 50 gm
- Coriander: 20 gm
- Green chilli: 1-2
- Lemon juice: ½ tsp
- *Senda namak* to taste

For garnishing and plating:

- Beetroot julienne : 10 gm
- Pomegranate seeds: 20 gm
- Beaten yogurt: 100 ml
- Chopped coriander: ½ tsp

METHOD

- In a bowl, take mashed potatoes. Add chopped ginger, chillies, seasoning, *kuttu ka atta* and mix them well to make a mixture.
- Divide the mixture into equal proportion roundles.
- Made the medallion shape (*tikki* shape) out of the roundles.
- Deep fry them in *kadhai* till they turn golden brown.
- Spread some beaten yogurt on the plate and place the *tikkis* over it.
- Top with *saunth*, mint chutney and beaten yogurt.
- Garnish with chop coriander, beetroot julienne and pomegranate.

Courtesy: Jr sous chef Rubal Pupneja at Samrat Hotel.

PANEER MAKHANI

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paneer: 250 gm
- Tomatoes: 4-5
- Cashews: 3-4 tbsp
- Fresh cream: 4 tbsp
- Unsalted white butter: 2 tbsp
- Oil: 2 tsp
- Cumin seeds: 1 tsp
- Cinnamon: 1 stick
- Cloves: 4
- Green cardamom: 2
- Black peppercorns: 5-6
- Turmeric powder: ½ tsp
- Kashmiri red chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Chopped green coriander and ginger: 2 tbsp
- Sugar: 2 tsp
- *Sendha namak* to taste

METHOD

- Boil water in a saucepan. Add cut tomatoes, ginger and cashew nuts for 10 minutes.

- Make paste of tomatoes using a blender.
- Heat oil, add the cumin seeds, cinnamon, cloves, green cardamom and black peppercorns.
- Make paste of the above spices. Add turmeric powder, kashmiri red chilli powder, sugar, salt and cook the sauce on medium-high flame for 10 to 12 minutes.
- Cut the paneer into cubes and add into it.
- Garnish with fresh cream and chopped coriander leaves.

Courtesy: Executive chef Arvind Rai at The Ashok Hotel.

PLUM AND CINNAMON TART

WHAT YOU NEED

For pastry:

- Plain flour: 225 gm
- Butter: 125 gm
- Icing sugar: 2 tbsp
- Semi skimmed: 8 tsp

For pastry filling:

- Purple skinned, dessert plums: 450 gm
- Butter: 75 gm
- Caster sugar: 75 gm
- Semolina: 50 gm
- Plain flour: 125 gm
- Ground cinnamon: 1½ tsp
- Eggs: 2
- Soured cream: 2 tbsp
- Plum or damson conserve or jam: 5 tbsp

METHOD

For pastry:

- Pre-heat the oven to 190°c/ 375°f. Put the flour and diced butter into a mixing bowl. Rub the butter lightly into the flour until the consistency resembles fine breadcrumbs.
- Stir in the icing sugar and mix to a firm dough with the milk. Knead on a floured surface for a few seconds until the texture is smooth. Cover in cling wrap and let it rest for 15 minutes.
- On a floured surface, roll the pastry into a circle large enough to line the base and the sides of the dish. Using the rolling pin as a support, lower the pastry into the dish, pressing it gently over the base and into the flutes. Trim away excess pastry from the top edge and prick all over the base with a fork.
- Transfer to the refrigerator for 30 minutes or one hour. This helps prevent shrinkage of the pastry when it goes into a hot oven.
- Line the pastry with a piece of aluminum foil or greaseproof paper and fill with baking beans or dried beans.
- Bake for 12 minutes at the higher temperature. Remove the foil or paper and beans and bake for two minutes more. Cool the pastry case for 15 minutes.

For pastry filling:

- Prepare the plums. Cut into halves and remove the stones. Cut each half in half again. Drain, skin side up, on kitchen paper whilst making the filling.
- Put all the ingredients for the filling, except the conserve, into a bowl. Beat until smooth (or use a food processor and process for 30 seconds).
- Spread the conserve evenly over the base of the pastry case. Top with the filling, spreading it right to the edges so that the conserve is sealed beneath it.
- Press the plum quarters, skin side up, gently into the filling, making a close circular pattern.
- Bake for 15 minutes at the higher oven temperature, then reduce to the lower setting and continue baking for 15 minutes more.
- The filling should be just firm at the centre and the plums tender. The top can be dusted with a little caster or icing sugar before serving warm with vanilla ice cream or whipped double cream.

Courtesy: Le Creuset.

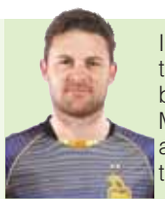
TODAY
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS VS MUMBAI INDIANS
Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1

IPL 2020

KL Rahul | 540 runs
Kagiso Rabada | 21 wickets

Shreyas has been unbelievable as captain. To lead international players on such a big stage, he has done well so far. He is also leading from the front

We hadn't planned that I would open but when we went out, Virat bhai said *Miyan, ready ho jao* (Sir, get ready!), you will have to bowl. It boosted my confidence



I didn't think there was a lot in the wicket. Siraj obviously bowled well and (Chris) Morris at times also. But if anything, we were just a little timid in our approach

Initially I was bowling safe balls, I wasn't attacking, but Zaheer kept on telling me that you are an attacking bowler and can take wickets, go attack, don't worry if you are hit for a six

Sunrisers outplay RR

Jason Holder celebrates with his Sunrisers Hyderabad teammates after taking wicket of Rajasthan Royals batsman during IPL clash on Thursday IPLT20.com

PTI ■ DUBAI

Manish Pandey smashed eight sixes in a blistering 83 after Jason Holder made an instant impact with the ball as Sunrisers Hyderbad kept themselves in the race for IPL play-offs with an eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals here on Thursday. Pandey and Vijay Shankar (52) stitched an unbroken 140-run partnership after Holder led a disciplined bowling display to restrict Rajasthan Royals to 154 for six.

Playing his first match of the tournament, Holder (3/33) came up with an impressive bowling effort while also affecting a run out to destabilise the RR innings. Rashid Khan (1/20) and Vijay Shankar (1/15) picked a wicket each.

During his unbeaten 47-ball knock, Pandey hit four balls to the fence and eight over it, while Shankar struck six boundaries. The duo played intelligently in a must-win game for the Sunrisers.

With the win, Sunrisers moved up to the fifth spot, while the Royals were pushed down to seventh.

The Sunrisers' chase was off to the worst possible start with skipper David Warner (4) giving away his wicket to Jofra Archer once again in the very first over. The Barbadian-born English pacer then got rid of Jonny Bairstow (10) in his second over.

With the dangerous openers back in the dugout, Pandey made full use of the field restrictions in the first six overs. He targeted young Kartik Tyagi, smashing the right-arm medium pacer for three boundaries and two sixes.

Pandey survived an lbw scare in the ninth over. He continued to pick the Rajasthan bowlers with Shankar holding fort at the other end.

Eventually the all-rounder, too, found his mojo, hitting back-to-back fours off leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal in the 11 over. He also hit Archer for three successive boundaries.

Earlier, Sunrisers, who were struggling at the penultimate spot in the points table with only three wins from nine outings, opted to bowl after winning the toss at the Dubai International Stadium. For RR, Sanju Samson (36 off 26 balls) was the top scorer.

Put in to bat, Robin Uthappa looked in rampaging form, hitting the first four and six of the innings. He quickly raced to 19 off 13 balls.

However, his time in the middle was short lived. After Ben Stokes (30) hit Holder for back-to-back boundaries in the fourth over, the West Indies skipper effected Uthappa's run out as the Indian was late to turn back at the non-striker's end.

The powerplay overs yielded 47 runs, including six fours and a maximum, for the loss of one wicket.

The big-hitting Stokes was dropped on 17 in the eighth over by Shankar off a Rashid delivery. Alongside Samson, he kept the scoreboard ticking.

A 56-run stand between the two was broken in the 12th over by Holder. Samson, who had reached his highest score since the 85 against Kings XI Punjab in RR's second match of the tournament, was bowled by a slow off-cutter, after pulling the previous delivery over mid-wicket for a huge six.

Stokes' stay came to an end when the World Cup winning all-rounder was bowled by Rashid in the beginning of the 13th over, with the Sunrisers bowlers making a strong comeback in the middle overs. RR then lost wickets at regular intervals.

Jos Buttler, too, fell quickly as he was sent back by Shankar in the 16th over with skipper Steve Smith (19) also failing to make an impact.

Wanted to deliver magical performance for RCB: Siraj

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Royal Challengers Bangalore pacer Mohammed Siraj, who ripped through Kolkata Knight Riders' top-order with a "magical performance", said skipper Virat Kohli's surprise decision to hand him the new ball lifted his confidence in the IPL match.

Siraj's first three wickets came without conceding a run as he became the first bowler in IPL history to bowl two maidens in a single game.

Once Chris Morris generated swing early on, Siraj was asked to bowl the second over following a discussion with wicketkeeper AB de Villiers.

"We hadn't planned that I would open but when we went out, Virat bhai said '*Miyan, ready ho jao* (Sir, get ready!), you will have to bowl...' It boosted my confidence," the Hyderabadi pacer, who returned with figures of 4-2-8-3, said after the eight-wicket win on Wednesday.

"Morris beat the batsmen (in the first over) and then Virat *bhai* spoke to AB de Villiers (behind the stumps) and gave me the bowl," he added.

"Initially, I didn't think it would swing so much after seeing the wicket. I just backed my strength and really enjoyed a lot."

Brought in the second over, Siraj struck in his third ball with a good length ball that went away of Rahul Tripathi.

In his next delivery, he cleaned up Nitish Rana, with a ball that sharply cut back in and breached the left-hander's defence. In the next over, he accounted for Tom Banton with another outswing delivery.

His bowling figures became the most economical this season.

A natural in-swing bowler, Siraj has been practising with the new ball and generating outswing in the practice sessions.

"I've been a natural inswing bowler but while practising I have started bowling outswing a lot better.

"In our practise sessions, we have Devdutt Padikkal and Parthiv Patel. I bowl the same length to them which I bowled to Nitish Rana. I did the same thing in the game and was able to execute it well," he said.

Having endured a tough outing against the same side in 2019, it's now a story of going from being zero to hero for Siraj.

Siraj was hammered for 36 runs in 2.2 overs before being removed from the attack for bowling two beamers as KKR chased down 206 with five balls to spare in their IPL 2019 match.

In the same game, Siraj had also dropped a sitter from Chris Lynn and faced a lot a criticism.

Often sidelined in presence of Chris Morris, Navdeep Saini and the spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal and Washington Sundar, Siraj got his fourth match on Wednesday when he was included in place of Shahbaz Ahmed.

"I've always had a lot of support from the RCB setup. All I wanted to do this year was give a magical performance. I wanted to do something different this year," Siraj, who played his fourth match of the season, said.

"Whenever I used to think about my performance in the IPL, I had made up my mind that I would deliver a performance to remember. It's about doing something different, something magical," he concluded.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE

Indian women cricketers pose for photo after boarding flight to UAE for Women's T20 Challenge IPL/Facebook

INDIA EVES CONTINGENT REACHES UAE

The top 30 women cricketers from India arrived in Dubai on Thursday to take part in the Women's T20 Challenge, which is also popularly known as 'mini WIPL' and scheduled to be held in Sharjah from November 4-9. Seasoned Indian players such as T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, batswomen Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues had a nine-day quarantine in Mumbai where they had undergone multiple RT-PCR tests. Just like their male counterparts, the women will also now undergo a six-day isolation before entering the 'bio-bubble'. They will be tested on the first, third and fifth day before being allowed in the bio-secure environment created for them. The tournament will mark the beginning of the Indian women's cricket season.

DESTINY STILL IN OUR HANDS: BAZZ

Disappointed with his team's "timid approach" with the bat , KKR head coach Brendon McCullum has admitted that the crushing defeat against RCB would definitely affect the morale of the side, but their destiny is still in their hands. He believes KKR can go all the way to the final, despite just hanging on to the fourth spot with 10 points from as many games. "This (loss) is going to affect a little bit in terms of our confidence. We need to work hard on ensuring our morale doesn't drop at the same time having those honest conversations around how we improve," McCullum said after the eight-wicket loss. "But I still firmly believe that we have a side which can be there later on in the tournament, come finals. We just need to improve slightly. "We're still fourth in the tournament, which is very fortunate for us. Destiny is still very much in our hands. We have just got to tighten up some of those areas where we're deficient and make sure we improve on our performance," he said.

SLOW WICKET ALLOW TO ATTACK MORE

Mumbai Indians leg-spinner Rahul Chahar on Thursday said the pitches getting gradually slower in the UAE and bigger grounds than India has allowed him to attack the batsmen consistently in the IPL. Chahar has taken 11 wickets in nine games with a decent economy rate of 7.40. Asked to compare between the pitches here and the Wankhede in Mumbai, Chahar said, "In the starting matches, we felt that the wickets (here) were similar to the Wankhede stadium…easy for batsmen." "Now gradually the wickets are getting slower, and hence I have to make adjustments in lengths. "Like at Wankhede a spinner had to bowl on a shorter side, like five meter length, but here we are bowling fuller, because the grounds are big and pitches are slightly slow, we can bowl fuller, and can attack batsmen," said Chahar.

UAE PITCHES SLOW BUT HELPING SEAMERS

In a tournament where playing surfaces have been getting slower and drier with every passing day, it remains a surprise that the most successful bowlers in the IPL so far have been the pacemen. According to Kagiso Rabada, the surfaces in the UAE have aided swing, helping pace bowlers get something out of the wickets. "The conditions here have been tricky. It is a little bit different. There is seam movement sometimes. In Abu Dhabi, the ball has been seaming around. All wickets have been slow like India but they have been different kind of slow. I feel there is some seam movement sometimes," said Rabada.

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

NSW Govt allows Team India to train in quarantine

SYDNEY: Sydney and Canberra are set to host the white-ball leg of India's tour of Australia after the New South Wales Government allowed the visiting team to train during its mandatory quarantine upon arrival.

ESPNcricinfo on Thursday reported that New South Wales Government and Cricket Australia have struck a deal to allow Indian and Australian players returning from IPL to train in Sydney while quarantining.

The Indian team was initially supposed to land in Brisbane but the Queensland state health authorities did not relax their 14-day quarantine rule to allow Virat Kohli and Co to train during that period.

India are scheduled to play three T20s, three ODIs and four Tests in Australia.

The first two ODIs are set to be held on November 27 and 29 at the Sydney Cricket Ground before final game of the series in Canberra's Manuka Oval.

The first T20 will also be played in Canberra before the action returns to Sydney for the final two games. **PTI**

It's Now or never for CSK

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Their campaign turning from bad to worse, Chennai Super Kings are expected to try out a few of their younger players when they take on defending champions Mumbai Indians here on Friday.

Though skipper M S Dhoni conceded after the loss against Rajasthan Royals that the season might be already over them, CSK can still get to 14 points if they win their remaining four games, giving them an outside chance of making the play-offs.

As head coach Stephen Fleming pointed out, the ageing squad may have finally "run out of juice" after doing well over the past two seasons when they won in 2018 and reached the final the following year.

Things have gone pear-shaped for CSK since their win over MI in the tournament opener on November 19.

The team received a hammering at the hands of Rajasthan Royals and would be without the services of the injured Dwayne Bravo, who is out of the tournament.

The Super Kings batsmen struggled against Rajasthan Royals and it remains to be seen if the untested players in the side get their chance as indicated by Dhoni after the drubbing on Monday.

Dhoni himself has not been at his best along with the others barring Faf du Plessis. The team's persistence with a struggling Kedar Jadhav has come in for a lot of flak and it needs to be seen if he makes way for either N Jagadeesan or Ruturaj Gaikwad.

However, they would be up against a formidable MI side which won five games in a row before Kings XI Punjab halted the juggernaut, turning the tables in a double Super Over on Sunday.

The four-time IPL champions have been in ominous form and the varied bowling attack could prove a challenge for the CSK batters, who are low on confidence.

At Sharjah, which was a tough venue for bowlers to start with, things seem to have changed with the wicket slowing down and sort of evened out things.

Also, the MI batting line-up has been in good nick with Quinton de Kock in splendid form while Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan have had their moments.

That's not all, the power-hitting abilities of Kieron Pollard and Hardik Pandya have rescued MI when the big guns have not fired.

Krunal Pandya has underlined his utility with some crucial cameos and tight spells in tandem with leggie Rahul Chahar.

The Mumbai bowling unit has been doing well but the think-tank may consider bringing in James Pattinson for Nathan Coulter-Nile, who has proved expensive.

A well-rounded and consistent Mumbai Indians unit could provide a huge challenge for an under-fire CSK battling to salvage some pride.

Two points on Friday match would take Rohit Sharma's men closer to sealing a play-offs berth while the Super Kings, who are theoretically still in with a chance, would aim to finish strongly in what has been a nightmare of a season so far.

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Stats: Faisel Features

Shakhtar shock Los Blancos at home; Bayern humiliate Atletico 4-0

Bonkers night for Madrid clubs

Liverpool's make-shift centre back Fabinho makes stunning goal line clearance to stop Ajax from equaliser goal during Champions League clash at Johan Cruyff Arena on Wednesday AP

AFP ■ MADRID

Bayern Munich began their defence of the Champions League title in ominous fashion by crushing Atletico Madrid 4-0 on Wednesday, while Liverpool and Manchester City also won but Real Madrid suffered a shock defeat.

Madrid, the record 13-time European champions, went down to a 3-2 home loss against Shakhtar Donetsk, showing how far Zinedine Zidane's side are just now from the standards being set by Bayern.

Two months after scoring the winner in the final against Paris Saint-Germain in Lisbon, Kingsley Coman put Bayern ahead against Atletico in Group A and later scored a stunning individual effort to wrap up the victory at an empty Allianz Arena.

In between Leon Goretzka and Corentin Tolisso were also on target for the German champions, with the latter's strike a stunner from long-range.

"The winning goal in last season's final is a good motivator, but it's in the past now and we have fresh goals this season," Coman told *Sky Sports*.

It was Bayern's 12th consecutive Champions League win while the result for Atletico equalled their worst defeat under Diego Simeone.

Bayern next go to Russia to play Lokomotiv Moscow, who battled back to draw 2-2 at Red Bull Salzburg on Wednesday.

DISASTROUS NIGHT FOR REAL

Real were 3-0 down at half-time against Shakhtar at the Alfredo di Stefano stadium and fell short with a second-half fightback to get their European campaign off to a disastrous start.

A depleted Shakhtar were without 10 first-team players and nine members of staff due to coronavirus infections and had seven starters aged 21 or under.

Strikes from Tete and Manor Solomon, either side of a Raphael Varane own-goal, gave the Ukrainian champions a three-goal half-time lead.

Luka Modric and Vinicius Junior pulled goals back and Fede Valverde thought he had grabbed an injury-time equaliser but his deflected shot was ruled out for an offside.

Missing the injured Sergio Ramos, Real have now won just one of their last seven Champions League home games. This was also a second defeat in five days as they prepare to go to Barcelona for the Clasico on Saturday.

LUKAKU DOUBLE

Real are already up against it in Group B, even if rivals Inter Milan and Borussia Moenchengladbach cancelled each other out in a 2-2 draw at San Siro.

Romelu Lukaku scored twice for Inter, opening the scoring early in the second half and then turning in a late equaliser.

In between Ramy Bensebaini netted a penalty for Gladbach and Jonas Hofmann scored what he thought was a late winner.

LIVERPOOL WIN WITHOUT VVD

Liverpool shook off the absence of Virgil van Dijk to edge Ajax 1-0 behind closed doors in Amsterdam in Group D.

Van Dijk is set to miss the rest of the season with a knee injury but Jurgen Klopp's side kept a clean sheet and took all three points after Nicolas Tagliafico turned a wayward Sadio Mane shot into his own net on 35 minutes.

"It was not sunshine football but we wanted three points and we got it," said Klopp.

The 2019 European champions will hope to build on this result when they host Midtjylland next week.

The Danes were outclassed at home by Atalanta on Wednesday, losing 4-0 with Duvan Zapata, Alejandro 'Papu' Gomez and Luis Muriel scoring in the first half and debutant Aleksei Miranchuk adding a late fourth.

Pep Guardiola's City made it three wins for English clubs this midweek as they came from behind at home to beat Porto 3-1.

Also in Group C, Egyptian substitute Ahmed Hassan headed in a stoppage-time winner as Olympiakos downed Marseille 1-0.

England to travel SA next month for 3 ODIS, 3 T20s

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

England will travel to South Africa next month to play six limited-overs games against the Proteas after the South African Government agreed to exempt the touring team from its coronavirus travel restrictions.

South Africa currently doesn't allow anyone to travel in from what it terms "high-risk" countries, with Britain on the list of 22 nations.

But South Africa eased the rules for the England squad, which will be based in Cape Town throughout the three-week tour. The teams will play three T20 games and three One-Day Internationals.

Four games will be at Newlands in Cape Town with the other two in the nearby city of Paarl, meaning England can stay in a bio-bubble at the same hotel for the entire tour. South Africa has more than 700,000 confirmed cases of the virus.

England will travel on a chartered flight and depart for South Africa on November 16. The T20s are on November 27, 29 and December 1. The ODIs will be played December 4, 6 and 9. No fans will attend the games.

The England players and staff are expected to be in quarantine for at least a week after arriving but will be allowed to attend training during that time.