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NOBODY'S  
CHILD

WORLD 12

UK'S LABOUR PARTY SUSPENDS JEREMY  
CORBYN IN ANTISEMITISM ROW

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BARCA BEAT JUVE IN  
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

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KHLOE IS  
COVID-19  
POSITIVE  
11 VIVACITY

## CAPSULE

SC STAYS HC CBI PROBE  
AGAINST U'KHAND CM

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Uttarakhand High Court's "drastic order" for a CBI probe into corruption allegations against Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, saying it was passed without hearing him and taking "everybody by surprise". The corruption allegations levelled by two journalists pertained to the money transferred allegedly into the accounts of relatives of Rawat in 2016 when Rawat was the in-charge of Jharkhand BJP unit.

FORMER GUJARAT CM  
KESHUBHAI PATEL DEAD

**Ahmedabad:** Former Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel died here on Thursday after prolonged illness, family sources said. Patel (92) had recovered from Covid-19 recently and was rushed to a hospital in Ahmedabad Thursday morning following health complications, the sources said.

GOVT BANS EXPORT  
OF ONION SEEDS

**New Delhi:** The Government on Thursday banned exports of onion seeds with immediate effect amidst rising prices of the bulb in the domestic markets. Earlier, the export of onion seeds was in the restricted category, which means an exporter was required to obtain a licence or permission from the Government for shipments.

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a sensational admission, a senior Pakistani Minister on Thursday admitted that Pakistan was responsible for the Pulwama terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir in 2019 that killed 40 CRPF personnel and brought the two countries to the brink of a war.

"Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara (We hit India in their home). Our success in Pulwama is a success of this nation under the leadership of Imran Khan. You and we are all part of that success," Science & Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry said in the National Assembly during a debate.

When some of his fellow lawmakers objected to his mention of "success in Pulwama", the Minister said that "after the Pulwama incident, the way Pakistan went inside the Indian territory to target it, the entire media in India was ashamed of it."

However, he didn't retract his statement about "success in Pulwama" under Prime Minister Khan's leadership.

Chaudhry, a close aide of Prime Minister Khan, made the remarks a day after Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ayaz Sadiq said that Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood



Qureshi in an important meeting pleaded to release Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who was captured by the Pakistani Army on February 27, 2019 after his MiG-21 Bison jet was shot down in a dogfight with Pakistani jets.

In the early hours of February 26, 2019, the IAF jets bombed the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror camps in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan and avenged the Pulwama terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel.

The international community led by the US has pressed Pakistan to deny safe haven to terror groups operating from its soil and bring the perpetrators

of the Pulwama attack to justice.

"Legs were shaking and forehead perspiring, and the foreign minister (Qureshi) told us, 'For God's sake, let him

(Varthaman) go back now because India is attacking Pakistan at 9 PM in the night", Sadiq said, recalling the high-level meeting which was also attended by Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, and added that "India was not planning to attack...They just wanted to kneel before India and send back Abhinandan."

Chaudhry, who was the Information & Broadcasting Minister at the time of the Pulwama attack, criticised Sadiq's remarks and termed them as "inappropriate".

He said Sadiq lied with a lot of confidence regarding his statements and asserted that everyone has the right to disagree with the Government but the state should not be subjected to criticism.

Pak leaders shaken with fear as  
its Min pleaded for release of  
Abhinandan lest India attack

**Islamabad:** "Legs were shaking and forehead perspiring" at a meeting of Pakistan's top leaders, including Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, wherein Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi

pleaded to release Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, saying if he was not released, India would attack Pakistan, a top Pakistani opposition leader has said.

3 killed in Islamist terror  
attack in French church

PTI ■ NICE

An attacker armed with a knife killed three people inside a church on Thursday in the southern French city of Nice, prompting the Government to raise its security alert status to the maximum level hours before a nationwide Covid lockdown.

"He cried 'Allah Akbar!' over and over, even after he was injured," said Christian Estrosi, the mayor of the Mediterranean city who confirmed a woman and a man died inside the church, while a second woman fled to a nearby bar but was mortally wounded. "The meaning of his gesture left no doubt."

It was the third attack in two months in France that authorities have attributed to Muslim extremists, including the beheading of a teacher. It comes during a growing furor over caricatures of the Prophet that were republished in recent months by the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, renewing vociferous debate in France and the Muslim world over the depictions that Muslims consider offensive but are protect-



French President Emmanuel Macron meets soldiers after a knife attack at Notre Dame church in Nice, southern France, on Thursday

PTI

ed by French free speech laws.

Other confrontations and attacks were reported on Thursday in the southern French city of Avignon and in the Saudi city of Jeddah, but it was not clear if they were linked to the attack in Nice.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he would immediately increase the number of soldiers

deployed to protect schools and religious sites from around 3,000 currently to 7,000, and France's anti-terrorism prosecutor opened an investigation.

French churches have been ferociously attacked by extremists in recent years, and Thursday's killings come ahead of the Roman Catholic All Saints' holiday.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Hi-tech gadgets to help clean Ganga ghats in UP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh Government has chalked out a ₹10 crore plan to cleanse the Ganga Ghats in the State with the help of CCTVs and state-of-the-art gadgets.

The cleaning and monitoring plan will be executed in phases, with work to be first rolling out from religious hotspot Kashi. Around 200 CCTVs and best of state-of-the-art gadgets will be deployed to cleanse and monitor sanitation work at the ghats which are thronged by thousands of devotees every day.

The officials posted at the Ganga Namami Department of the Yogi Government will monitor the activities sitting in their offices in Lucknow through the computers connected with the 200 CCTVs installed on the Ghats.

"The 200 CCTV cameras to monitor the safety and cleanliness of the Ghats will be directly connected to the computers of officials associated with the Namami Gange project at Lucknow, the capital of the State," said an official from the State Government.

The task is in keeping

with the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and State Chief Minister Yogi who have promised to make Ganga incessant and clean.

Not only the ghats, efforts are already being undertaken to keep cleanse the constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi so as to make it a role model.

For executing this mammoth task, the UP Government has already started the process of selection of an agency.

This time along with cleaning workers, modern machines will also be deployed on the Ghats.

The waste released from the Ganga Ghats will be collected into these machines to be recycled to ensure that the garbage does not again flow into the water and spoil ghats on the bank of the river.

After 79 ghats of Kashi, the Namami Gange department is also working on a plan to rejuvenate the cleaning system of 19 ghats of Prayagraj, 20 in Bithur, 21 of Kanpur Nagar, 27 ghats of Mathura and Vrindavan. "With the completion of the job at Kashi, work will be started at other ghats as well," said the official.

MEA: World aware of  
Pak-sponsored terror

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Brushing aside Pakistan objection on reference to it backing terrorism in the 2+2 India-US dialogue, India on Thursday said the whole world knows about its role in supporting terrorism and no amount of denial can hide this truth.

This terse statement by the Ministry of External Affairs came in response to Islamabad's objection to references to it and cross-border terrorism in the India-US joint statement after their 2+2 dialogue on Tuesday here.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the country that provides shelter to "maximum number of UN-proscribed terrorists" should not even attempt to play the victim card.

"The whole world knows truth about Pakistan's role in supporting terrorism," he said at a media briefing while

answering questions on Islamabad's reaction to the Indo-US joint statement.

"Even their leaders have time and again spoken about their role with regard to terrorism," Srivastava said.

In the joint statement, India and the US on Tuesday strongly condemned cross-border terrorism in all its forms and asked Pakistan to take "immediate, sustained and irreversible" action to ensure that no territory under its control is used for launching terror attacks.

In its reaction, Pakistan on Wednesday called it "unwarranted" the reference made towards it. "We reject the Pakistan-specific reference in the joint statement," issued by India and the US after their '2+2 Ministerial Dialogue,' an unwarranted and misleading,"

The Pakistan Foreign Office also said the world should recognise the sacrifices and successes in fighting terrorism by it. Islamabad also said the country has suffered the most from cross border terrorism.

₹1 cr fine, 5-yr jail for polluters:  
Govt's anti-pollution Ordinance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pollution-related offences will now invite a jail term of up to 5 years and a penalty up to ₹1 crore. The Centre issued an Ordinance — Commission for Air Quality Management — on Wednesday night after the approval of President of India to curb air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

In recent years, the region has been facing huge air pollution issues with respective Governments in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan passing the buck on each other.

The ordinance will also have the power to prohibit activities that are likely to cause or increase air pollution in the NCR and adjoining areas.

"The Ordinance may be called the Commission for Air Quality Management In National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance

2020. It shall apply to NCR and also adjoining areas in so far as it relates to matters concerning air pollution in the NCR. It shall come into force at once," said the notification issued by the Union Law Ministry.

As per the Ordinance, the adjoining areas where it shall be in force include Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, adjoining areas of the NCR and Delhi where any source of pollution is located which is causing an adverse impact on air quality in the NCR.

The commission which will be heavily dominated by bureaucrats will consist of over 20 members, including a chairperson, who is or has been a secretary of the Government of India or chief secretary of a State, a representative of Environment Secretary and five ex-officio members who are either chief secretaries or secretaries in charge of the environment

departments of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, it added.

"There shall be a full-time secretary who shall be the chief coordinating officer of the commission and shall assist in managing the affairs of the commission," it said.

The commission which will have three sub-committees, one each for monitoring and identification, safeguarding and enforcement, and research and development will have power to take mitigation measures, issue directions/orders suo moto and entertain complaints under any other existing laws such as the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The EPCA in the last 22 years when it was set up by the apex court has introduced several important interventions to control pollution.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Covid survivors could carry virus: Research

Findings show  
16.7% recovered  
patients tested  
+ve in follow-up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 survivors should not drop their guard and should avoid close contact with others as they could still be carrying the virulent coronavirus, researchers have said.

According to a study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, close to 17 per cent of patients considered fully recovered, as per the WHO criteria, from Covid-19 tested positive for the virus in follow-up screening.

Patients who continued to have respiratory symptoms, especially sore throat and rhinitis, were more likely to have a new positive test result.

This suggests the persistence of these two symptoms should not be underestimated and should be adequately assessed in all patients considered recovered from Covid-19.

Researchers from Agostino Gemelli University Policlinic

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL
CASES: 80,71,140
DEATHS: 1,20,910
RECOVERED: 73,48,735
ACTIVE: 6,00,095



looked at a group of recovering Covid patients to see how their bodies react after treatment and quarantine. The study included 131 patients who all met the WHO's guidelines for ending quarantine following their infections. Those guidelines require a patient to be fever-free without using medications for three days. They must also have an improvement in

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	16,66,668	43,710	14,94,809
Andhra Pradesh	8,17,679	6,659	7,84,752
Karnataka	8,12,784	11,046	7,34,682
Tamil Nadu	7,14,235	10,983	6,75,518
Uttar Pradesh	4,74,054	6,940	4,40,847
Kerala	4,18,485	1,430	3,25,166
Delhi	3,75,753	6,423	3,38,378
West Bengal	3,65,692	6,725	3,21,873
Odisha	2,87,099	1,350	2,72,038
Telangana	2,32,671	1,315	2,13,466
Bihar	2,13,383	1,065	2,03,244
Assam	2,05,635	923	1,93,571
Rajasthan	1,89,844	1,867	1,72,028
Chhattisgarh	1,79,654	1,881	1,56,080
Gujarat	1,71,040	3,708	1,54,178
Madhya Pradesh	1,68,483	2,898	1,55,232

their symptoms and test negative for Covid twice at least 24 hours apart.

"Researchers have focused on the acute phase of Covid-19, but continued monitoring after discharge for long-lasting effects is needed," said the study lead author Francesco Landi from Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Italy.

A new RT-PCR test was

administered at the time of post-acute care admission.

Demographic, medical, and clinical information was collected, with an emphasis on the persistence of symptoms and signs related to Covid-19 such as cough, fatigue, diarrhea, headache, smelling disorders, loss of appetite, sore throat, and rhinitis.

*Continued on Page 4*Mehbooba, Omar  
slam Centre after  
PDP workers'  
protest stopped

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Two former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti jointly mounted a fierce attack on the Central Government after police in Srinagar stopped the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief from joining protests by her party workers against the new land laws on Thursday.

Several PDP workers were prevented by the police from taking out a protest march and the PDP office was sealed after detaining party workers. Reacting strongly, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah lashed out at the Central Government asking if it wants political parties in the State to leave mainstream politics in Kashmir.

"What do you want from us? Do you want us to leave mainstream politics here?" former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah asked.

*Continued on Page 4*Violence in Munger;  
DM, SP shifted out

Protesters set on fire furniture after clashes with the police over immersion of Goddess Durga idols in Munger on Thursday

PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fresh violence erupted in Munger on Thursday even as the Election Commission (EC) shifted out Bihar's Munger District Magistrate Rajesh Meena and Superintendent of Police Lipi Singh. The protesters set some police stations and outposts on fire and ransacked the SP office.

The EC has also ordered an enquiry into the firing and stone-pelting during the immersion of an idol of Goddess Durga on late on Monday in which one person had died and several others

were injured. The poll body has asked Magadh Divisional Commissioner Asanga Chuba Ao to complete the probe within a week. The EC has also asked the State Government to appoint a new DM and SP in the district soon.

Meanwhile, in a fresh violence, the agitated crowd, comprising mostly youth, set police outposts at Purab Sarai and Basudeopur on fire, and ransacked the SP office and several other police stations and outposts. The office of SDO was also allegedly targeted by the protesters.

*Continued on Page 4*Mayawati vows  
to defeat SP in  
MLC polls by  
siding with BJP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Days ahead of UP Legislative Council polls, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Thursday suspended seven of her MLAs for revolting against the party candidate and said her party would vote for Bharatiya Janata Party or any other party candidate to defeat the Samajwadi Party.

"Candidate of any party, even the BJP, who will be dominant over the SP's second candidate, will get votes of all BSP MLAs for sure," she said. She also regretted her party's alliance with the Samajwadi Party before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The BSP and the SP had joined hands after a gap of over two decades to contest against the BJP in the 2019 Parliamentary elections.

The BSP had won 10 of the 38 Lok Sabha seats it contested while the SP won five out of 37 seats.

*Continued on Page 4*



# Cong lacked will to end social evils: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Coming down heavily on the 'Muslim fundamentalists', Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said that gone were the days when the country used to be run on 'fatwas' as it was now run by the Constitution.

Ripping apart the Congress and its allies, he said such party leaders used to kneel before these 'fundamentalist' and toe their line. "This was the reason, the Congress never showed guts to abolish social evils like triple talaq," he said, while addressing three election meetings in Daruanda (Siwan), Lalganj (Vaishali) and Jhanyharpur (Madhubani) constituencies during three-phase Bihar assembly polls.

The UP CM said that not only the disrespect for women and girls, the Congress had never put welfare of youth and farmers on their agenda. "Now the parties like Congress have been thoroughly exposed and the people have seen and experienced 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' narrative of the Bharatiya Janata Party," he added.

He said that the country faced many terrorist attacks during the UPA regime and despite the fact that Pakistan was involved in all the attacks, the then government at the Centre showed no courage to corner the neighbouring country. "On the contrary, now brave soldiers cross the borders and kill terrorists in their houses", said the UP CM.

Yogi said that the abolition of Article 370 last year was the last nail in the coffin of terrorists and terrorism and the development-oriented government would soon uproot Naxalism and Maoism from the country.

"The UPA also has a soft corner for Naxalism and this is evident from the fact that they have given all the tickets of the constituencies surrounding Patna to its ally Communist Party of India (Lenin)" he said.

Continuing further, the CM said that the policies of Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) were only focused on the development of one family and for them the country was the last priority. "Do you find anyone else's picture on the election posters



of Congress other than the members of the Gandhi family? For RJD also, only the family matters. Even late Raghuvansh Prasad, who was a former Central minister and senior party leader, had written to party president Lalu Prasad Yadav questioning as to why not a fifth person finds a place on the party posters other than family members," he added.

The CM also questioned the purpose of Gandhi family members visiting temples during elections. "When they (Congress) were in power, they made all efforts to prove that Lord Ram and Lord Krishna never existed but during elections they start moving from one temple to another," he said.

Making an obvious reference to the Gandhi family, he

**"THE UPA ALSO HAS A SOFT CORNER FOR NAXALISM AND THIS IS EVIDENT FROM THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN ALL THE TICKETS OF THE CONSTITUENCIES SURROUNDING PATNA TO ITS ALLY COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (LENIN)"**

remarked that when the country faces some calamities like flood, the family rushes to Italy and they are never seen in the affected areas helping the victims.

"For 55 years (when the Congress ruled the country), development was not on its agenda and their focus was only on looting the resources of the country and compounding it in their Swiss Bank accounts," he added.

Making light of the claim of the opposition's promise of providing lakhs of jobs to the youths of Bihar, Yogi said: "They already robbed Bihar of its pristine past and now they want to come back to power by selling these false dreams. Can you trust these people who did

not even spare the fodder meant for cattle?"

Yogi, who was campaigning in favour of the candidates of BJP's ally Janata Dal (United), said that the commendable work of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had given a new identity to Bihar which was tarnished by RJD and Congress over the years.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bihar has been developing at a fast pace. "There is no place for nepotism, caste and religion based politics in the country as well as Bihar while the people of Bihar are smart enough not to fall for false promises," said the CM.

## Anu Tandon, gen secy Ankit quit Congress

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a setback to the Congress just before bypolls to the Bangarmau Assembly seat in Unnao, two of its senior leaders from the district, former MP Anu Tandon and state general secretary Ankit Parihar revolted against the state leadership and resigned from the primary membership of the party on Thursday.

Interestingly, as usual, the central leadership reacted to Tandon's resignation, as she was also an AICC member, with state president Ajay Kumar 'Lallu' issuing an expulsion letter to Tandon, claiming to have removed her for anti-party activities. The expulsion was made just a few hours after Tandon resigned.

In a letter to party president Sonia Gandhi, Tandon said, "I have been associated with the Congress party for almost 15 years, as an elected representative, as a party office-bearer and as an ordinary worker."

"At no time during my association with the Congress did I not have access to the senior leadership. I have received warmth and guidance from both Congress presidents under whom I have served — Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. I owe them gratitude for their support over the years. My ideology and principles have been aligned with the senior leadership of the party and my resignation does not change that."

She said, "Unfortunately, there is a 'misalignment' between the state-level leadership and me and I do not see their support in allowing me to work since the past several months. The loss I faced in the 2019 election was not as painful as seeing the party organisation disintegrate and decimate itself since then. The state leadership of the party has focused only on social media management and self-branding and is oblivious of the deep divisions in the party and the voters it has thus caused."

"Spreading canards about my associates in Unnao and me, by the local irrelevant and chosen few, to get brownie points despite my genuine intent is painful, rather quite disgusting with no attempt or endeavour by the party leadership to stem this," she claimed.

"I had continued to remain in the party for several months

**"SPREADING CANARDS ABOUT MY ASSOCIATES IN UNNAO AND ME, BY THE LOCAL IRRELEVANT AND CHOSEN FEW, TO GET BROWNIE POINTS DESPITE MY GENUINE INTENT IS PAINFUL, RATHER QUITE DISGUSTING WITH NO ATTEMPT OR ENDEAVOUR BY THE PARTY LEADERSHIP TO STEM THIS"**

despite being at odds with those in the state leadership as I hoped that there would be progress towards grooming the correct set of leaders in the State towards a better future. I also had an opportunity to speak with Priyanka Gandhi. She has assured me that the Congress President is fully apprised of the situation too. However, we have been unable to resolve a forward path that is amenable to all parties concerned," she added.

"I have requested the Congress president to accept my resignation immediately. As far as my future path goes, I will be consulting with my workers, who are core to everything I have achieved so far and I am confident that we will continue to be a force for good, a force for change and a means to truly represent the voice of the people," Tandon said.

Meanwhile, reports said that Anu Tandon could be joining the Samajwadi Party.

Ankit Singh Parihar, another youth leader from Unnao, also resigned with Tandon and attacked the top leadership and alleged that the ideological structure of the party changed since Priyanka Gandhi Vadra became the state in-charge. In his resignation letter to Vadra, Parihar took a veiled dig at her and said the ideological structure of the party changed since she became the state in-charge of the party.

## GANGA EXPRESSWAY

### UPEIDA to explore PPP model

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has proposed ₹ 22,145 crore for civil work for the construction of the Ganga Expressway for which the Board has asked UPEIDA to look for financial options.

The decision was taken in the Board meeting which was held under the chairmanship of UPEIDA CEO Awanish Awasthi here on Thursday.

The government spokesman said that the Board had approved a proposal of ₹ 22,145 crore for the civil works for the construction of the Ganga Expressway.

"To generate finances, the Board proposed that avenues of the PPP model should be explored. The investors should be identified as per the records of the NHAI and then Expression of Interest (EOI) should be signed," he

said.

The total cost of the Ganga Expressway is ₹ 36,410 crore of which ₹ 9,255 crore has been earmarked for acquisition of 7,800 hectare of land.

The Ganga Expressway is a six-lane greenfield expressway project. The total length of the project will be 602 km and it will be constructed in two phases.

Earlier, the UPEIDA Board had cleared a proposal for raising loans totalling ₹ 5,900 crore for the Bundelkhand Expressway from a consortium of banks led by public sector bank, Bank of Baroda (BoB), and also comprising Union Bank of India, Indian Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and UCO Bank.

So far, the BoB has offered loans worth ₹ 4,000 crore for different expressway projects in UP, of which ₹ 2,000 crore was meant for 296 km Bundelkhand Expressway.

## Bypolls: BJP fields 'clean' candidates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) created a record of sorts as none of its candidate for the seven assembly seats in the state, where polls are scheduled for November 3, has a criminal record.

After analysing records of 87 out of 88 candidates, it was found that 18 candidates had a criminal background. Surprisingly, 15 of them have serious criminal cases against them.

According to Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report released here on Thursday, among the major parties, 5 out of 7 candidates from BSP, 5 out of 6 candidates analysed from SP, 1 out of 6 candidates from Congress and 3 out of 22 independent candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Among the major parties, 5 out of 7 candidates analysed from the BSP, 5 out of 6 candidates from the SP and 2 out of 22 independent candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

One candidate has declared a case related to rape (IPC section 376) against himself while another had disclosed a case related to murder (IPC Section-302) against himself while 4 candidates have declared cases related of attempt to murder (IPC Section-307) against themselves.

Two out of 7 constituencies going to polls are red alert constituencies. Red alert constituencies are those where 3 or more contesting candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

There are 34 corepatis contesting the by-polls. All 7 of the BSP, 5 of the SP, 4 each of Congress and BJP and 6 independents are in this group. The average assets per candidate contesting the by-elections are ₹ 2.91 crore.

SP's Brahma Shankar Tripathi is the richest candidate in the state contesting from Deoria seat as his assets shown in the nomination paper are ₹ 31 crore. The second and third place is shared by independent candidate Dhananjay Singh contesting from Malhahi and RLD candidate Praveen Kumar Singh contesting from

**Among the major parties, 5 out of 7 candidates analysed from the BSP, 5 out of 6 candidates from the SP and 2 out of 22 independent candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits**

Bulandshahr, as both have assets worth ₹ 23 crore.

Rashtriya Jankranti Party candidate Rahul alias Rahul Bhati, contesting from Bulandshahr seat, has declared that he has zero assets while Independent Ranjan Yadav, contesting from Deoria seat, has just ₹ 10,000 in asset. Parivartan Samaj Party candidate Satish Kumar contesting from Tundla seat has also shown his assets at ₹ 22,000.

## BJP cold to Maya 'support'



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mayawati's claim that she is already to align with Bharatiya Janata Party to defeat Samajwadi Party has failed to enthuse the BJP leadership of Uttar Pradesh as they opined that the BSP chief should first set her house in order rather than start scouting for allies.

"The BSP is shrinking by every passing day. How can she help BJP in defeating the Samajwadi Party. Mayawati has a habit of issuing statements. It is her own view and the BJP has nothing to do with it. Earlier she had aligned with the SP, saying she has joined hands to defeat the BJP and now she is saying she will join hands with BJP to defeat SP. Her statements lack seriousness," said a senior BJP leader.

"The BSP had 19 MLAs

and Mayawati has suspended seven today. How can she help the BJP with its depleting strength," he asked.

**PRIYANKA TAKES A DIG AT MAYAWATI**

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took a dig at Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on her remarks that the BSP will ensure the defeat of the Samajwadi Party at all costs even if that required to "side with the BJP".

Sharing a video of BSP chief Mayawati where she says that to ensure the defeat of Samajwadi Party candidates in future elections, her party will side with BJP or any other party's candidate, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wrote, "Now is there anything more to be said?"

## BJP leader arrested for celebratory firing

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A local BJP leader was arrested in connection with celebratory firing at his residence that had left a Bhojpuri singer and actor injured, police said on Thursday.

Bhanu Dubey, the district vice president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Yuva Morcha, was arrested on Wednesday evening from near his native village of Mahakarpur, police said.

An FIR was filed against Dubey under different sections of the IPC for holding the programme during the pandemic without permission and under the disaster management act, Station House Officer (SHO), Garwar, Anil Chandra Tiwari said.

The incident took place on Monday when Bhojpuri singer and actor Golu Raj was performing at the birthday party of Dubey's son at his home, the SHO said.

Raja was taken to a private hospital in Buxar from where he was referred to Varanasi.

## Boy kills father, takes clues from TV serial to destroy evidence

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre case, to save himself after killing his father, a 17-year-old boy in Vrindavan watched a TV serial over 100 times to learn ways to destroy evidence.

The fact came to light after the accused, a class 12 student, was held by the Mathura police on Wednesday. The cops checked his mobile phone and found that he had watched the 'Crime Patrol' series over a 100 times.

On May 2, 42-year-old Manoj Mishra scolded his son. Upset with his rebukes, the boy hit his father on the head with an iron rod and when he fainted, he strangled him with a piece of cloth.

Later, the same night, the boy, with the help of his mother, carried the body on his scooter to a forest area about five kilometres away and burnt it to destroy the identity.

On May 3, police found a partially burnt body that remained unidentified for almost three weeks as no missing person report was filed in any police station. The family,

finally, lodged a missing person complaint on May 27 under pressure from ISKCON officials since Manoj Mishra worked there as a donation collector. Some of his colleagues identified the body to be that of Manoj, on the basis of the spectacles recovered.

Meanwhile, suspicions arose as Mathura Superintendent of Police Udai Shanker Singh said that whenever they called Manoj's son for questioning, he would evade coming and would instead ask the police under what provisions of the law were they trying to interrogate him. However, when police checked his mobile phone, they found a history of the boy watching Crime Patrol episodes at least 100 times. After several rounds of questioning, the boy finally broke down and admitted to his crime.

The police arrested the boy and his mother Sangeeta Mishra and booked them for murder and destroying evidence. The 11-year-old sister of the accused has been handed over to his grandparents.

## Commercial flights from Bly by Dec

**Lucknow** (PTI): Commercial flights from the Bareilly airport are expected to start by December this year, said the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Thursday.

"Bareilly airport belongs to the Indian Air Force (IAF) and AAI has developed a new civil enclave with interim terminal building of area 525 square metre along with apron for parking of one ATR-72 type of aircraft," said the AAI's press release. The release said the AAI is also building a regular terminal building with an area of 2,520 square metre at the Bareilly airport and more than 80 per cent of its construction work has been completed.

**KHANDELWAL EXTRACTIONS LIMITED**  
CIN: L24241UP1981PLC005382  
Regd. Office: 51/47, Nagaganj, Kanpur-208001  
Email: kelnkp@yahoo.com  
Website: www.khandelwalextractions.com  
Notice available at: www.bseindia.com  
**NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING**  
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 at its registered office inter-alia, to consider and approve the Un-audited financial results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.  
Khandelwal Extractions Limited  
Place: Kanpur  
Date: 29.10.2020  
Surabhi Pasari  
(Company Secretary)

**the pioneer**  
**CLASSIFIEDS**  
**NOTICE**  
I have changed my name from Kailash Devi to Kailash Kumari Yadav. I should be known by this name only. Kailash Kumari Yadav W/o Late Krishna Kant Yadav, R/o 165-E Block, Defence Colony, Jajmau, Kanpur.

**सूचना**  
मेरा नाम अमान खान (AMAAAN KHAN) है, किसी कारणवश पहले नाम अमन खान (AMAN KHAN) प्रिंट हो गया था। अमान खान पुत्र श्री इकबाल अहमद खान निवासी 116 / 938 रोशन नगर रावतपुर गांव कानपुर

**OBITUARY**  
**OBITUARY**  
  
**SEPOY KHARADI EVANKUMAR MAGANBHAI**  
01 JUN 1994 - 13 OCT 2020  
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEP KHARADI EVANKUMAR MAGANBHAI WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 170 MH.  
FROM : LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

**OBITUARY**  
**OBITUARY**  
  
**TSLNK SAMAR SINGH**  
23 DEC 1984 - 07 OCT 2020  
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF TSLNK SAMAR SINGH WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MH JALANDHAR.  
FROM : LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

**OBITUARY**  
**OBITUARY**  
  
**SUBEDAR ANOOP SINGH**  
26 JU 1976-11 OCT 2020  
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SUBEDAR ANOOP SINGH WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MH DANAPUR.  
FROM : LT GEN NAVDEEP SINGH LAMBA AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



# Health dept making preps for Covid-19 vaccination drive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Health department has begun preparations for the Covid-19 vaccination drive which is likely to take place next year. A senior official at the CMO office said a Health department team visited the District Immunization Centre in Aishbagh on Thursday with the team of engineers and district immunisation officer.

He said with these preparations, they have to make sure that before the vaccine arrives, they are prepared to store it in deep freezers and distribute accordingly. He said it was expected in the month of February.

“This is being done under the state government directives and we were making arrangements for proper space, logistics and assessing at the same time as to whatever gaps are there in the present set-up and what is required. The team checked on the issues which were there and we will be asking the government to give us some budget for renovation of the building,” he said. He added that this vaccine has to be kept separately from other vaccines, hence new deep freezers are required.

The official said they have started making a list of all health workers who are working in the Covid area, be it in the government or private sector and even the list of ASHA workers is being made so that the number of vaccines required for the district is ascertained.

“In the first phase, all the health workers will be given the vaccine and then if we receive more vaccines, we will expand our programme,” he said.



## 218 more test positive

**Lucknow (PNS):** In continuation of the downward trend of cases, as many as 218 persons tested positive for coronavirus in the city on Thursday while 236 patients recovered. The death toll stands at 876.

The new patients included 27 from Gomtinagar, 25 from Indiranagar, 17 from Rae Bareilly road, 14 each from Hasanganj & Aliganj, 13 from Madaon, 12 from Vikasnagar and 10 from Chowk.

There were eight deaths in the city and two of the deceased belonged to other districts like Barabanki, Basti, Kannauj, Ghazipur, Jaunpur and Gorakhpur. As many as 6,562 samples were collected in the district under contact tracing.

There were three deaths at

KGMU, including that of a 72-year-old man from Lucknow, a 40-year-old woman from Jaunpur and a 75-year-old man from Barabanki.

Across the state, 1,979 persons tested positive, including 79 in Varanasi, 130 in Gautam Buddhagar and 118 in Meerut, taking the UP tally of cases to 4,77,895.

There were 25 deaths across the state, including five in Varanasi, and one each in Kanpur, Prayagraj, Gautam Buddhagar, Meerut, Agra, Barabanki, Kheri, Bulandshahr, Sitapur, Farrukhabad, Chandauli, Siddharthnagar, Amethi, Jalaun, Mirzapur and Auraiyya, taking the total number of deaths to 6,983. Besides, 2,465 patients recovered, taking the recovery fig-

force and incharge of Infectious Diseases Centre Dr D Himanshu said Lucknow has gone past the first wave, but people have to be careful, follow social distancing, avoid crowds and wear masks.

Referring to herd immunity, he said it is about a certain percentage of population developing antibodies, after which the infection starts coming down.

“It depends on how much the population has been exposed to the virus till now. With almost everything open now, people who were not roaming outside will start venturing out, and many people are expected to be lax in adhering to Covid-19 protocols. In that case, we will have a certain percentage of people contract the infection and it is then that we may get the second wave, which is what happened in the US, Europe and other places. The same thing happened in Delhi and other states of India,” he said, adding that the disease is following its natural course.

Regarding the planning of hospital for the coming days, he said KGMU is slowly opening its OPDs and keeping a watch on the course of the pandemic while stressing on taking precautionary measures.

Being a Level-3 hospital, KGMU’s occupancy is high and patients are coming from other districts as well. “We are getting patients who have some other diseases along with Covid-19,” he said. He added that they are not finding high levels of positivity amongst patients reporting directly. “Those who are in the triage area for treatment, their positivity rate is also coming out to be low,” he pointed out.

## Brother duo beat up neighbour, threaten wife to vacate house

**Lucknow (PNS):** Two brothers thrashed their neighbour in Thakurganj on Wednesday night and threatened his wife to leave the house if she wanted her husband to be alive. Victim’s brother was also accused of being complicit in the attack, which was said to be aimed at terrorising the victim to vacate the house.

As per reports, Ashish Kumar Mishra of Ekta Nagar in the area was in the house when his neighbours Brijendra Mohan Bajpai and his brother Munindra Mohan Bajpai, along with victim’s brother Amit Mishra, reached there around 9:30 pm. They asked Ashish to come out of the house and attacked him when stepped out.

“We have an enmity with the Bajpai brothers and they attacked us. My brother Amit was also with them. They thrashed me and then threatened my wife Kshama to vacate the house or face dire consequences,” Ashish alleged.

Police registered a case against the accused. The victim said the attackers wanted to oust him from the house and his brother was supporting them in their plan.

# DM for work on war footing to improve city’s air quality



DM Abhishek Prakash chairing a meeting at Collectorate on Thursday

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a meeting held on Thursday at Collectorate regarding increasing air pollution conditions prevailing in the city, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash said action should be taken as per the work plan made by Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

He said all the departments working to curb air pollution should work on a war-footing. “All the departments should finish the work of road repair and water be

sprinkled on under-construction buildings. Arrangements should be made for green nets and construction material be covered at the sites, anti-smokes guns be used and vehicles carrying construction material should also be covered,” the DM said.

He also gave directions for all construction agencies to upload their dust audit on government portal. “This should be uploaded by the agencies by Friday and action will be taken against the agencies which do not upload the

details along with photographs,” he said.

The DM also gave directions to all Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board officials to make teams and monitor the industrial units and construction projects causing pollution and take action against them. He said the administrative officers should also carry out surprise inspections. The DM said if the instructions given by the UPPCB were not followed, fines could be imposed on construction agencies.

## VIP road trisection renamed as Guru Nanak Dev crossing

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The VIP road trisection in Alambagh will now be called Guru Nanak Dev crossing. Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia unveiled the new name at a programme organised on Thursday.

“Guru Nanak Dev was not only an inspiration for the Sikh community but for entire humanity. The Sikh community has given several sacrifices in the history of the country and its members



have been known for their valour and bravery. They also serve the communi-

ty because no one goes hungry from their langar or community kitchens,” she said.

The mayor later visited Alambagh Gurdwara and told the Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee that they could submit any project of any museum or monument which could inspire the coming generations then she would take up the project for posterity. The renaming coincided with the 550th Prakash Utsav of Guru Nanak Dev.



Fruits being distributed on the eve of Prophet Mohammed’s birth anniversary, popularly known as Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi, in Lucknow on Thursday

Pioneer

# Toon-in for Covid-19 info in novel manner!

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A science toon book titled ‘Bye Bye Corona’, written by scientist Pradeep Srivastava, who is former senior principal scientist of Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), was released in a function held at Raj Bhawan by Governor Anandiben Patel on Thursday. Srivastava said that this was world’s first science toon book on coronavirus.

“Cartoons are the most effective way of communicating with human beings as they not only tickle us but are also capable of delivering tough messages in a simple, subtle and riveting manner. Human mind is hard wired to take their messages on board ahead of other forms of communication. A science toon is a cartoon communication based on science. Science toons are meant to inform and sensitive people about science and scientific concepts in an intelli-



Governor Anandiben Patel releasing a book titled ‘Bye Bye Corona’

Pioneer

gible and interesting way,” he said.

The book is published by Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous agency under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The 220-

page book contains comprehensive information on the coronavirus pandemic, Covid-19 symptoms and prevention through precautions. It also has a very interesting chapter on the ‘Art of Living with Coronavirus’

highlighting the methods to deal with the virus in day-to-day life if it is here to stay for a longer

time. The book offers a perspective insight into the intricacies of the deadly pandemic without scaring the reader.

“The basic purpose of this book is to make people aware of COVID-19 in an engaging way. I drew a few science toons and posted them on my Facebook page. Director of Vigyan Prasar Nakul Parashar noticed them and tossed the idea of developing a book of science toons on coronavirus. I planned for a 50-page book initially as I was working single-handedly on the project. However, having realised the vastness of the subject, I decided to seek contribution from more people. The final version of the book has 220 pages,” Srivastava said.

# Man found murdered in mango grove

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man aged around 50 years was murdered and the body was dumped in a mango grove alongside Madaon highway on Thursday. Police said the body was in a highly decomposed state and they were making efforts to ascertaining the identity of the victim. As per reports, Amit Kumar Saini of Thakurganj passed by the mango grove owned by Iqbal Baig and felt putrid smell. He called police and a team led by sub-inspector Pradeep Yadav reached the scene. However, the police could not ascertain

the identity of the victim. The body was later sent for autopsy.

Meanwhile, a 65-year-old woman was fatally mowed down by a speeding mini-truck in Kakori on Wednesday afternoon. Reports said Shakuntala Devi Gautam of Begariya village in Dubagga went to Dubagga crossing for some work on Wednesday afternoon and was crossing the road to reach the other side when she was hit by a speeding mini-truck coming from Hardoi side. She was rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where she was declared brought dead. The errant dri-

ver fled the scene abandoning the vehicle at the crime scene.

### MAN, FRIENDS DUPED BY MD OF PVT CO, OTHERS

A man accused the managing director and other officials of a company dealing in sale and purchase of lands of duping him and his friends by luring them into investment for attractive refunds.

The complainant, Sanjay Gautam of Mohanlalganj, said he met the managing director of the company, Ratan Chand Dwivedi of Deoria, and director Zainuddin Ansari through his friend Dharmendra Prajapati who is the marketing

head. He alleged that he invested Rs 84,000 and his friends Rs 1.38 lakh in the company which promised them an double the returns.

“We got money as profit share for three months and later, the company stopped paying us. We contacted the company and were promised payment once the finances of the company soared. Due to the Covid pandemic, we could not contact the company officials. In July, we met Ratan Chand Dwivedi and were denied the payment. He also threatened us,” the complainant alleged. A case was registered in this connection.

# AAP seeks CBI probe into smart meter scam

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief spokesman Vaibhav Maheshwari on Thursday demanded a CBI probe into the smart meter scam and refund of money with interest charged from electricity consumers for these meters.

Maheshwari was speaking to newsmen at the party office in Lucknow on Thursday. He said a large number of electricity consumers were filing complaints in this regard on AAP helpline number and the party

planned to stage a state-wide protest on the issue.

Maheshwari said power tariff was high in UP due to corruption in the Energy department and the people were facing hardship.

“The people in UP are paying a big amount of their earnings on power bills but the state government is least bothered about them,” he said.

Maheshwari said the AAP government in Delhi was providing electricity to the people at the low tariff and was making efforts to lower it further.”

# LU gears up for once-in-a-century celebrations

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The University of Lucknow is celebrating its 100th year this November and preparations for once-in-a-century celebrations are going on in full swing.

Vice-Chancellor AK Rai presided over a meeting on Thursday and it was attended by members of Centennial Celebrations Committee. He shared certain guidelines for successful completion of all the events planned by the university. Rai said seven days of events have been planned, including convocation of students, heritage walks, sports events, science fests, art festivals, cultural programmes, poetry evenings, alumni meets, etc. A

documentary on LU and its 100 years of achievements is also being prepared which will be released during this period.

The vice-chancellor invited everyone to be a part of the celebrations. The meeting was also attended by convenor of the Centennial Celebrations Committee Nishi Pandey.

Meanwhile, principal consultant in a private company Ashish Johri said it is our reaction to the uncertain situation

or crisis that determines whether we will become hopeless or end up developing new potentialities about which we were unaware of.

He was speaking on ‘Dealing with uncertainty - being resilient during crisis’ at a webinar organised by the Counseling and Guidance Cell of LU’s department

of Psychology. Johri asked students to first conceptualise about what they mean by uncertainty. He

encouraged participants to probe deeper in their inner selves and understand the real source of crisis within them.

Johri explained how uncertainty creates a dilemma and incongruence within ourselves and contributes to negative thoughts. He then stressed on the importance of meditation. He also conducted a rejuvenating meditative session focused on lifting away the burden of negative thoughts within mind. All the participants took part in this meditative exercise and were also told about the strategies through which they can respond resiliently whenever they face uncertain situations in life. CGC director Madhurima Pradhan also attended the webinar.

केनरा बैंक

Canara Bank

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E-Auction Sale Notice

Under Singed the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank using his power under Hypothecation Act, invites sealed bids/ tenders for the sale of movable assets on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".

Vehicle Inspection Date & Time: 09.11.2020 to 11.11.2020 at 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

S. N.	Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantors	Description of Property	Total Liabilities	Reserve Price Earnest Money 10%	Type of Possession	Contact Details/ bank details
1.	Dindayal Gupta (borrower) S/o Mr. M.L. Gupta R/o R/S- 91/102-F-Nai Basti Pandeypur Varanasi, Dist-Varanasi-221001, Mr. Saurabh Kumar Pandey (Gurantor) S/o Mr. Maruti Nandan Pandey R/o K-54/45,daranagar, Dist-Varanasi-221001	Model: TATA MOTORS LTD/TATA "INDIGO Ecs Lx" CAR/02/2015 Vehicle No.: UP65DT4174 Engine No: 4751DT14BUY07197 Chasis No: MAT607341FPB08741 Class of Vehicle: MOTOR CAB (TAXI) Body: SALOON	Rs. 2,49,640.88 as on 27.10.2020 + Intt. & Others Charges thereon	Rs. 22,000/- Rs. 2,200/-	Physical	Branch Manager Mob.: 6387926769 A/c No. 87513020000049 IFSC Code SYN0008751 Email: cb18751@canarabank.com

Last Date and Time of Receipt of Bid 11.11.2020 up to 5.00 pm, Date and Time of E-Auction 12.11.2020 at 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

For details terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.indianbankseaction.com) or may contact the respective Branch during office hours on any working day.

Date : 30.10.2020 Place: Varanasi

Authorized Officer



# Farm fires worsen Delhi’s air to ‘severe’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi’s air quality inched closer to the severe category on Thursday morning as pollution levels rose sharply after a marginal reduction, primarily due to calm winds and spike in farm fires.

The Central Government’s Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said a significant increase in the number of “fire points” was observed over Punjab (around 3,000), Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which is likely to impact the air quality of Delhi-NCR and other parts of northwest India.

Delhi recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 397 at 11 am on Thursday.

The 24-hour average AQI was 297 on Wednesday, 312 on Tuesday, 353 on Monday, 349 on Sunday, 345 on Saturday and 366 on Friday.

Sixteen monitoring stations, including at Shadipur (406), Patparganj (411),

Jahangirpuri (429) and Vivek Vihar (432), recorded air quality in the “severe” 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”.

A senior scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the wind speed dipped on Wednesday which allowed accumulation of pollutants. “Following slight relief, the air quality again entered the ‘very poor’ category by the evening,” he said.

PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR stood at 420 microgram per cubic meter (µg/m3) at 10 am — the highest this season so far, according to CPCB data.

PM10 levels below 100 µg/m3 are considered safe in India.

PM10 is particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers and is inhalable into the



lungs. These particles include dust, pollen and mold spores.

The levels of PM2.5 - finer particles which can even enter the bloodstream - were 227µg/m3. The PM2.5 levels up to 60 µg/m3 are considered safe.

NASA’s satellite imagery showed a large, dense cluster of fires that covered most parts of Punjab and some regions of Haryana. According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences’ air quality monitor, SAFAR, the

share of stubble burning in Delhi’s PM2.5 concentration was 18 per cent on Wednesday.

It was 23 per cent on Tuesday, the maximum this season so far, 16 per cent on Monday, 19 per cent on Sunday and 9 per cent on Saturday.

SAFAR said accumulation of locally generated pollutants and increased external intrusion due to north-north westerly boundary level winds from regions where stubble is burnt will be major factors for the increase in PM2.5 levels.

According to IMD, the predominant wind direction was northerly and the maximum wind speed was 8 kilometers per hour. The minimum temperature was recorded at 12.5 degrees Celsius - the lowest in this season so far.

Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favorable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

The city’s ventilation index - a product of mixing depth and average wind speed - is likely to be around 4,000 meter square per second on Thursday - unfavorable for dispersion of pollutants.

Mixing depth is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed.

A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/second, with the average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavorable for dispersal of pollutants.

On Wednesday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said only “green” fire-crackers can be manufactured, sold and used in the national Capital. He also said the Delhi Government will launch an anti-firecracker campaign from November 3 and request people not to burn crackers considering the seriousness of the situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## 3 BJP workers killed in terrorist attack in Kulgam

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Three Bharatiya Janta Party workers including the district youth general secretary were shot dead by ‘unidentified’ terrorists in cold blood late on Thursday evening in YK Pora area of South Kashmir’s Kulgam district.

According to the local police authorities, “The BJP workers were travelling in a private car

when unidentified terrorists opened indiscriminate firing around 8.20 p.m in YK Pora of Kulgam, critically injuring them”. Confirming the firing incident the local police authorities in Kulgam said, “the BJP workers were declared brought dead in the local hospital”.

According to a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police, “Preliminary investigation revealed that terrorists fired

upon three BJP workers identified as Fida Hussain Yattoo son of Ghulam Ahmad Yattoo resident of Y.K.Pora (BJP District Youth General secretary), Umer Rashid Beigh son of Abdul Rasheed Beigh resident of Sophat Devsar (BJP worker) and Umer Ramzan Hajam son of Mohd Ramzan resident of Y.K.Pora (BJP worker) at Eidgah Y.K.Pora due to which they got injured.

## Mehbooba...

From Page 1

He was reacting to the crackdown against the PDP workers in Srinagar. Echoing similar sentiments PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the entire Jammu & Kashmir has been converted into a jail.

“PDP workers were peacefully protesting against land law passed by the BJP Government to loot J&K land. Our workers were arrested and I was not allowed to meet them. Neither civil society nor politicians can talk here, the entire J&K has been converted into a jail,” said Mehbooba.

Taking a dig at the Centre, Mehbooba commented, “We can’t sit silent on everything. If the Government is so powerful, they should take the land back from China, which has been grabbed in Ladakh. They aren’t able to take it back from them but will take our land. It is total lawlessness here”.

Earlier, the PDP chief also tweeted: “A similar protest was allowed in Jammu so why was it thwarted here? Is this your definition of ‘normalcy’ that’s being showcased in the world?”

In another tweet, Mehbooba posted a video and said that the Jammu & Kashmir Police arrested PDP’s Khurshid Alam, Rouf Bhat, Waheed Ur Rehman Mohsin Qayoom and Mohit Bhan for protesting against the “settler colonial land laws

thrusted upon people of J&K. We will continue to raise our voice collectively and won’t tolerate attempts to change demographics”.

Speaking at a party function in Srinagar Omar Abdullah also questioned the move, “the PDP workers were allowed to carry out a peaceful protest in Jammu on Wednesday but when they tried to do the same in Srinagar they were detained and taken to the police station”.

Speaking about the recent changes in the laws governing land ownership in J&K, Omar Abdullah said their fight was now for the identity and land of J&K. “These special laws and status were given to J&K at the time of Maharaja Hari Singh,” Omar Abdullah said, and pointed out that leaders in Nagaland have refused similar laws.

He said now every mainstream party in J&K was on the same page. “We have been forced to get together and fight for our rights. We are not counting seats anymore. This fight is not about power or chief ministership. It would be shameful if we go after power. People will never forgive us if we do something like that. I wish this coming together of parties happened earlier. There are so many States where people from other parts of the country cannot buy land. If we are talking against this law, we are being called ‘anti-national’, Omar said.

## Covid...

From Page 1

The findings showed that 16.7 per cent of the patients tested positive again. There was no significant difference between patients with positive and negative test results in terms of age or sex. None of the patients had a fever and all reported improvement in their overall clinical condition.

The only two symptoms

that were higher and significantly prevalent in patients with a positive test were sore throat (18 per cent vs four per cent) and signs of rhinitis (27 per cent vs two per cent).

Our findings indicate that a noteworthy rate of recovered patients with COVID-19 could still be asymptomatic carriers of

the virus,” Dr Landi observed. “The main question for the containment of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic infection that still needs to be answered is whether the persistent presence of virus fragments means the patient is still contagious. The RT-PCR test looks for small fragments of viral RNA,” he added.

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
**e-TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
**No./DT/MT/GEN-235 (Vol.IV)/**  
**20/2889, dtd.27.10.2020**  
Name of the work : “Allotment of 09 (Nine) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plants at IOHP”,  
License fee : Rs.2,76,08,460/-,  
Wharfage Charge : Rs.15,20,430/-,  
Last Date and time of Bid Submission : 16.11.2020, 1700Hrs., Bid Opening Date and time : 17.11.2020, 1600Hrs. Refer our website for details of Corrigendum-1 published  
<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>  
**TRAFFIC MANAGER**  
**PPT/PIR/277/20-21 Dt.29.10.2020**

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**  
**विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, गोंडा**  
**ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा सूचना**  
अनुमोदी फर्म/उत्प्रेक्षित से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीकर्वन् निविदाये दो मागों में दिनांक 23.11.2020 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। **(1) अवकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या-08/ईटीओसी(गोंडा)/2020-21**  
विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोंडा के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न पारेषण लाइनों के वार्षिक अनुक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु 34000.00 निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 23.11.2020 को 15:00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 4012.00 (चर सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क (नान रिस्कन्डिल) एवं ईएफओडीओ अधिश्रावित अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोंडा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम - पंजाब भिन्नल बैंक, खाता सं - 0181002100120697, आईएफएससी कोड - PUNB0018100) आरओटीओएएस/ एनईएफओटी के माध्यम से निविदा की अंतिम अपलोड तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व तक जमा की जायेगी तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योज्य यूटीओआर सं०, खाते का नाम निर्गतकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिलिपिबद्ध पत्र इन्टरनेट की स्कैन्डवलि ईमेल के लिए बैंक गारंटी की स्कैन्डवलि कापी, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कन्फरमेन्सलन्स की प्रति भी निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी साफ व पठनीय अपलोड की जायेगी, अथवा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के माग-1 में तकनीकी विड (बिना कार्ड, इन्कमटेन्स रिटर्न, जीओएसटीडी पंजीकरण की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायावलि एवं तकनीकी अनुमति इत्यादि) संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर राशि/ निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की गड़बड़ होने पर निविदा का माग-2 जिसमें दर्द दो जानी है, नही खोली जायेगी। माग-2 में दर्द एवं वाणिज्यक निराम व शर्तें होती चाहिये। तथा हाई कापी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। किसी भी स्थिति में निविदा के Retender होने पर निविदा की निविदा शुल्क(नान रिस्कन्डिल) एवं धरोहर धनराशि पुनः जमा की जानी अनिवार्य होगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। निविदा का माग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय-(प्राज्ञविविद दर्द एवं शर्त) दिनांक 23.11.2020 को 14.00 बजे तक [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम माग दिनांक 23.11.2020 को 15.00 बजे एवं माग-2 (प्राज्ञविविद दर्द एवं शर्त) निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा/निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विनाशित करने का अधिकार अधोस्तारकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर / निविदा राशि सहित व सरकारी निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउनलोड, अन्य सहायनी एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) की वेबसाइट पर लॉगिन्स करने। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल 220 कवीओ उपकेंद्र परिसर जेल रोड, गोंडा। संख्या: 2049/विभाग/गोंडा/ई-टेंडरिंग नं० - 56/2020-21, दिनांक 28.10.2020 “राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये”**

**उपरो पावर ट्रान्समिशन कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा संख्या 08/विभाग(गोंडा)/2020-21**  
निविदा संख्या: 08/विभाग(गोंडा)/2020-21 को अन्तर्गत 132 कवीओ उपकेंद्र मोहनलालगंज, लखनऊ पर फायर हट तथा अन्य कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गई है। ई-निविदा दिनांक 12.11.2020 को 12.00 बजे तक ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा माग-1 खुलने की तिथि 12.11.2020 समय 14.00 बजे, माग-2 (प्राइस पार्स) खुलने की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 236/- मात्र (रु 200.00 +जीएसटी 18 प्रतिशत अतिरिक्त)। सन्दर्भित निविदा हेतु धरोहर धनराशि रु 2,000/- मात्र है। कार्य की कुल मात्रा, निविदा विशिष्टीकरण व अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है। अधोस्तारकर्ता को बिना कारण बताये निविदा निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से सम्बन्धित सूचना यदि कोई होगी तो केवल वेबसाइट पर खोली जायेगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखें। **अधीक्षारी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-तृतीय, लखनऊ पंजाब 1047, दिनांक- 29.10.2020 “राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये”**

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**Notice Inviting Quotation**  
**Quotation Notice No.- 02/2020-02555-56-RTVPU**  
Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Lucknow invites Open tender on behalf of President of India from Registered lease holders category 'A' (Each applicant/participant while submitting his tender bid shall be required to produce proof of his registration as a lease holder by attaching a photo copy of his registration certificate. However, in case of tenders floated for leasing Parcel Vans (VPs) on round trip basis, registered leaseholders at the originating/destination stations of the train can participate in the tenders floated with any free registration.) for the contract of leasing of Train No. 02555/02556 (special train) Ex. GKP to Hissar for Round trip VPU for a period of 30 days on quotation basis. **S. No. : 1, Name of Work:** Leasing of Parcel space in (Parcel Van) Train No. 02555/02556 (Special train) Ex. GKP to Hissar originating from Gorakhpur station of Lucknow Division for Round trip VPU Carrying Capacity 24 tonne for a period of 30 days on quotation basis. **Running Days (Frequency):** Daily, No. of Parcel Van: 01(One) VPU 24 Tonne (LHB), **Reserve Price for 01 VPU Round Trip basis/per Day:** Rs. 144,817/- (R) per day/per trip + 2% Dc & other taxes, **Reserve Price for 01 VPU Round Trip basis/per tonne/ per day:** Rs. 6034.05 per day/Per trip/Per tonne + 2% Dc & other taxes, **Scale rate per qtn (in Rs.) :** R-4022.7, **Quotation Bid Submission:** Dated 06.11.2020 from 10:00 to 14:00 hrs. **Opening of Bids :** Date 06.11.2020 up to 15:00 hrs., **Period of contract:** 30 days, **Security Money - For 01 Parcel Van (VP) - per VPU:** Amount equivalent to 10% (Ten) of annual contractual value as per Lump sum leased freight (Accepted rates) of the leased parcel space. Subject to Minimum of Rs. 4,00,000/- (Mode of Security deposit - Bank guarantee or FDR or DD in favour of FA & CAO/NER/L/GKP), **Website address:** <http://www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in, Note:-> The tenderer will be required to submit proof of Registration. The registered leaseholder of category 'a' division/zonal railway of Originating Station or Destination station can participate in the tenders.  
**Divisional Railway Manager/CPRO/C=41 Commercial, Lucknow**  
**About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955**  
**Do Not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train**

## Mayawati vows to defeat SP in MLC polls

From Page 1

“I want to state that when we decided to contest polls with the SP for Lok Sabha elections in UP, we worked very hard for it but from day 1 of our coalition, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav kept telling SC Mishra that since BSP-SP had joined hands, I should take back my June 1995 case.

“When we saw SP’s behaviour towards us after the Lok Sabha election results, we realised that we had committed a big mistake by taking back our June 2, 1995 case against them and we should not have joined hands with them. We should have thought a bit deeply,” she said, while addressing the media here on Thursday.

“The SP always had an anti-Dalit attitude and once again on Wednesday, they tried to show their anti-Dalit face by conspiring to stop the BSP candidate. They could not get success and, hence, started alleging that the BSP was allying with the BJP to win the RS polls,” claimed Mayawati.

Further attacking the SP, the BSP chief said, “I want to reveal to media

today that when the notification for Rajya Sabha election was issued in UP, Ram Gopal Yadav filed his nomination and our national general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra said it looked like SP has fielded just one candidate and hence we should also field our candidate else some big businessmen will indulge in horse trading of our MLAs. SC Mishra had called up Akhilesh before fielding the candidate but the phone was not answered. Then his private secretary was called up and he had said he would help connect with the SP chief but it did not happen.”

“Then SC Mishra called up Ram Gopal Yadav and asked him if they wanted to field another candidate, on which Ram Gopal said the SP would field only one candidate. Then Mishra informed him that in such a case the BSP would field one of its candidates, else the BJP would field their candidate. Then we decided to field Ramji Gautam as our candidate for Rajya Sabha.

“But just like the Congress, the SP also showed their anti-Dalit mentality and deceived us. And even after saying

that they would not field any candidate they made an independent candidate file nomination on the last day.

“On the scrutiny day, they (SP) forced the BSP MLAs to give a false affidavit that they had not signed the nomination papers. Ultimately, their claims were found to be false and the BSP candidate’s nomination was found valid,” she said.

Announcing action against the seven BSP rebel MLAs, Mayawati said, “These seven MLAs who allegedly supported the SP candidate and betrayed the BSP, will be punished for working against the party and they are suspended with immediate effect. Also, the party post holders are directed that these MLAs should not be called to any party programme. And, also as soon as they join another party their membership will be cancelled under anti-defection law.”

Those suspended on Thursday included Aslam Ali, Aslam Ranein, Mujtaba Siddiqui, Hakim Lal Bind, Hargobind Bhargava, Sushma Patel and Vandana Singh.

## 3 killed in Islamist terror attack in French church

From Page 1

The assailant was wounded by police and hospitalised after the killings at the Notre Dame Basilica, less than a kilometer from the site in 2016 where another attacker plowed a truck into a Bastille Day crowd, killing dozens of people.

Thursday’s attacker was believed to be acting alone, and police are not searching for other assailants, said two police officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to be publicly named.

Shots punctuated the air and witnesses screamed as police stationed at the grandiose doors to the church appeared to fire at the attacker inside, according to videos obtained by The Associated Press. For a time after the attack, explosions could be heard as sappers detonated suspicious objects.

It was the third attack since Charlie Hebdo republished the caricatures in September as the trial opened for the 2015 attacks at the paper’s offices and a kosher supermarket. The gunmen in that attack claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group and al-Qaida, which both recently called anew for strikes against France.

A verdict is planned for November 13, the fifth anniversary of another series of deadly Islamic State attacks in Paris.

The series of recent attacks come amid renewed outcry over depictions of Islam’s most revered

prophet — whose birthday was marked in several countries on Thursday — and the French government’s fierce defense of the right to publish and show them.

Muslims have held protests in several countries and called for a boycott of French goods. Dozens of Pakistani students rallied in the capital on Thursday to denounce Macron.

“With the attack against Samuel Paty, it was freedom of speech that was targeted,” Prime Minister Jean Castex told lawmakers on Thursday, referring to the teacher who was beheaded after showing his class caricatures of the prophet during a civics lesson. “With this attack in Nice, it is freedom of religion.”

Earlier, the lower house of parliament suspended a debate on France’s new virus restrictions and held a moment of silence for the victims.

Castex rushed from the hall to a crisis center overseeing the aftermath of the Nice attack and later returned to announce the alert level increase. Macron left for Nice almost immediately.

“Very clearly, it is France which is under attack,” Macron said as he stood before the church. He added that all of France offered its support to Catholics “so that their religion can be exercised freely in our country. So that every religion can be practiced.” In Avignon on Thursday morning, an armed man was shot and killed by police

after he refused to drop his weapon and a flash-ball shot failed to stop him, one police official. And a Saudi state-run news agency said a man stabbed a guard at the French consulate in Jeddah, wounding the guard before he was arrested.

While many groups and nations have been angered or frustrated by France’s position on the cartoons, several issued their condolences Thursday.

The French Council of the Muslim Faith condemned the Nice attack and called on French Muslims to refrain from festivities marking the birth of Prophet Muhammad “as a sign of mourning and in solidarity with the families of victims and the Catholics of France.”

Turkey’s Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the attack. “We stand in solidarity with the people of France against terror and violence,” the statement said.

Relations between Turkey and France hit a new low after Turkey’s president accused Macron of Islamophobia over the caricatures and questioned his mental health, prompting Paris to recall its ambassador to Turkey for consultations. The attack in Nice came less than two weeks after Paty, the teacher, was beheaded. In September, a man who had sought asylum in France attacked bystanders outside Charlie Hebdo’s former offices with a butcher knife. (AP)



**लखनऊ नगर निगम, लखनऊ**  
टी०एन० नगर, लखनऊ, लखनऊ, फोन-फैक्स 0522-2612639  
ई-टेंडर पोर्टल - <http://etender.up.nic.in>

**ई-निविदा सू० सं०: 92/मुअ०/2020-21** दिनांक: 28.10.2020  
**ई-निविदा प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत निविदा सूचना**  
ई-निविदा प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत दिनांक 12/11/2020 को कुल 01 कार्यो हेतु द्विलीकाफा पद्धति पर ई-निविदाये, ई-निविदा पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर निविदा के साथ जमानत धनराशि एवं निविदा प्रपत्र की धनराशि आरओटीओएएस/एनईएफओटी/इण्टरनेट बैंकिंग के माध्यम से पोर्टल <https://induscollect.indusind.com/pay/index.php> पर लागन करके जमा किया जायेगा। ई-निविदा दिनांक 12/11/2020 को अपराह्न 15.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर प्राप्त की जायेगी जिन्हें दिनांक 12/11/2020 को 16.00 बजे निविदा समिति के समक्ष खोला जायेगा। किसी भी ई-निविदा को स्वीकार एवं अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार समक्ष अधिकारी में निहित होगा। अन्य समस्त नियम/शर्तें यथा कार्य का नाम, आगपत धनराशि, निविदा प्रपत्र की धनराशि एवं जमानत धनराशि तथा निविदा प्रपत्र पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। मुख अधिवक्ता लखनऊ नगर निगम

फैक्स नं०: 0522-2204163 दूरभाष (0522)-2207709  
**Cane & Sugar Commissioner, U.P. Lucknow**  
17, NEW BERI ROAD, DALIBAGH, LUCKNOW  
Email ID: [adlcanecomm@gmail.com](mailto:adlcanecomm@gmail.com) Website <http://upcane.gov.in>  
[storeadm2020@gmail.com](mailto:storeadm2020@gmail.com)  
Letter No. 161/vyavastha/2020-21 दिनांक : 27-10-2020

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
**On line E-tenders are invited for Purchase of CCTV Camera & related work in CANE COMMISSIONER OFFICE, LUCKNOW U.P.**

Sl no	Item	Pre Bid Meeting	Technical Bid & Financial bid opening date at	E.M.D.
1	On line E-tenders are invited for Purchase of CCTV Camera in CANE COMMISSIONER OFFICE, LUCKNOW U.P.	04/11/2020 11.30 A.M.	Technical Bid 18/11/2020 03.30 P.M. The bidders who Qualified in technical bids will be notified separately for opening of financial bids.	1-Rs. 50,000.00 (Rs. Fifty thousand)

The details of submission of e bids along with eligibility, date & time, opening of technical/Financial bids, E.M.D, experience and other terms & conditions will be available on e-tender portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> and office website <http://upcane.gov.in> from dated 02/11/2020 upto 16.11.2020 at 6.55 P.M from where tender documents may be downloaded by any bidder upto. The tender fee is Rs. 2500.00 +G.S.T. 18% (non refundable) and required E.M.D which will be deposited in cane commissioner office before opening of Technical bid. E-Tender without earnest money shall be liable to be rejected. The detailed terms and conditions are given in e-tender document. The CANE COMMISSIONER OFFICE reserves the right to cancel any or all bids / annual e-bidding process without assigning any reason to bidders & decision of CANE COMMISSIONER OFFICE will be final & binding.  
UP-156470 Dt. 28.10.20 [Pramod Kumar Upadhyay]  
डिजाइन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है। Addl. Cane Commissioner (administration)



# 71 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 71 new COVID-19 positive patients have been detected in the district on Thursday, increasing the total number of cases to 16,727. The day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 269. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 56 patients. Out of them, 43 have been recovered from home isolation and 13 from the hospitals, increasing the number to 12,947 and 2,821 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 15,768, leaving 690 active cases. The recovery has slightly declined to 94.26 per cent and mortality rate has remained at 1.60 per cent.

Meanwhile, a three-day awareness campaign was launched by the Varanasi unit of Regional Outreach Bureau (ROB), Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, to raise public awareness about



MLC Laxman Acharya flagging off awareness vehicle in Varanasi on Thursday

national unity and measures to prevent coronavirus infection. The campaign was launched by the MLC Laxman Acharya, by flagging off an awareness vehicle from the statue of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri near Ramnagar Fort. Speaking on the occasion, Acharya said that as the challenge of corona is not over yet so all of us should wear masks properly, wash hands thor-

oughly with soaps from time to time, follow a distance of two yards and leave home only when it is very necessary. He also said that everyone should come forward to maintain the unity and integrity of the country by following the ideals of 'Iron Man' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Regional Publicity Officer Dr. Lalji said that through mobile exhibition and posters, the people would be

made aware towards prevention measures of COVID-19 appealing to them 'jab taq dawai nahi, tab taq dilai nahi' (do not relax till medicine is found).

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 45 positive patients were found out of 2,785 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,16,237 and the results of 1,926 are awaited. Out of them, 2,99,536 were negative, while 16,701 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,34,172. A male aged 67 from Sonarpur succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

With the addition of eight new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,306 including 236 red zones. There are 2,070 green zones with 14 new ones.

# 94 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of corona infected in the district continued to provide relief on Wednesday. Samples of 4,786 people were collected for the Covid testing. At the same time 94 new Covid positive patients were detected within the last 24 hours. Corona was defeated by 127 people on the same day. One infected died during treatment.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, the scope of corona testing has been increased, but the number of infected has decreased. On Wednesday, only 94 people were found to be corona infected after being tested. At the same time 127 people were also infection free. Of these, 102 people completed home isolation. The 25 infected were discharged from various Covid hospitals. 131 infected people are being treated at various Covid hospitals. The number of active patients has come down to 1,330 at the lowest level. The death toll from Covid has increased to 313 after the death of an infected on Wednesday. The corona death was zero for three days before that.

On Wednesday, the list of Corona-infected people included



Policeman sanitising Allahabad High Court campus in Prayagraj (File photo)

the most bank officers. On the other hand, the medical officer of Beli Blood Bank, a section officer of the High Court and the Covid report of the PRO of a Justice has come positive. Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai gave this information. He said that PO of Phulpur Gramin Bank, manager of SBI Civil Lines branch, PO of Gramin Bank Handia, manager of SBI Meja branch, recovery officer of BoB are among the infected tested on the same day.

Nodal Officer Dr Sahai said that the infected included a primary school teacher, advocate, a loco pilot of the railway,

deputy manager of IFFCO, an S-I posted at Phulpur police station, engineer of PDA, teacher of GGIC etc.

Nodal Officer Dr Rishi Sahai has appealed to the people to have a Covid check immediately if cough, fever or difficulty in breathing persists. Vigilance is very important right now, so inevitably apply a mask, keep proper distance with repeated hand wash, added Dr Sahai.

**HEALTH REPORT CARD:** Officials of Health department are tracking and maintaining the health report card of cured \ recovered COVID-19 infected patients

# Digital stone laying ceremony for ISKCON Youth Centre held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In the presence of UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism Neelkanth Tiwari and Zonal Incharge of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) Devkinandan Das, digital stone laying programme of Youth Welfare Centre in the ISKCON premises was held here on Wednesday evening. Speaking on the occasion, Tiwari said that incubation and skill development centre is an important venture because today's youth is in great need of it as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also giving special emphasis on youth upliftment. Devkinandan Prabhu emphasised not only on business knowledge but also on spiritual and character development.

Chairman of Advisory Committee of ISKCON (Varanasi) Arvind Kumar Agrawal and Chairman of Executive Committee Kushagra Agrawal were also present. The centre is being built near BHU's Hyderabad Gate under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of ISKCON Varanasi.



UP Minister Neelkanth Tiwari at digital stone laying programme of ISKCON Youth Centre in Varanasi on Wednesday evening

This four-storey centre is being developed with an aim of motivating and training youth for upliftment of intellectual, business and spiritual values and character building. Besides, through the centre, the youth will learn the art of improving their lives by connecting themselves with Vedic knowledge and culture. The centre will have facility for conducting seminars for deaddiction, mega kitchens for distribution of free 'prasad' (offerings), multi-

purpose halls for cultural events, career counselling facility, recording studios for online education, classes and conference rooms for value education and physical. Besides, there will also be a centre for meditation for exercise and meditation for mental balance.

This centre is being built under the Sanskar Project being run by ISKCON for the youth upliftment and empowerment. Every year, through this much awaited centre,

efforts will be made to provide fully sponsored certificate courses to 250 youths, funding and business friendly environment to 10 startups, daily food arrangements for 250, vocational training to 40, educational scholarship to 60, free education to 120 children and run courses related to value education and deaddiction to 1000 students.

Chairman of ISKCON (Varanasi) Achut Mohan Prabhu said 'the youth is the future of society and for this it is very important to give them the right guidance, character values and training at the right stage of life'. The centre is being developed by ISKCON in association with voluntary organisation Ummad Foundation whose Sandeep Kumar is himself a student of IIT-BHU. He said 'we want to contribute to society building by admiring the talents and potential of youth in an atmosphere of love, hope and positivity'.

The function was also attended by Siddhant Agarwal, Raj Kumar Yadav, Anoop Sahni, Chaitanya Chandra Das, Manish, Dhawal Patel and Lakshya Sharma.

# Ex-MLC demands ban on web series 'Mirzapur 2'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former MLC Dr Veena Pandey expressed concern over the presentation of a wrong picture of Mirzapur in the Pankaj Tripathi-starrer Amazon Prime web series 'Mirzapur 2' and demanded a ban on the same. According to her, though Mirzapur is a peaceful area, it has been shown as violence-dominated place in the popular web series which is far from the truth and reality. After receiving a huge success, the second season of the web series premiered on October 23 last with a flavour of guns, murders, drugs and lawlessness.

Mirzapur is the city of spirituality with major shrines like Vindhyachal, Kali Khoh, Ashtabhuja, Ahraura located Bhandari Devi and others.



Ex-BJP MLC Dr Veena Pandey

Besides, there are several attractive tourist destinations such as Vindham and Lakhanua Dari in Ahraura. It was the birth as well as work place of great scholar Chaudhary Badrinarayan Upadhyay 'Premghani' who had inspired several litterateurs including Acharya

Ramchandra Shukla a lot. Its famous folk song 'Mirzapuri Kajri' is considered as a song conveying the message of love, harmony and peace among the people. It is also a leading centre of traditional handicraft industries of brass, carpet and dari. Not only this,

Mirzapur is also a centre of many prominent freedom fighters, she said, adding that but surprisingly and shockingly, the place has been shown in a distorted way of ethnic conflicts and violence.

Expressing her anguish over the manner Mirzapur is shown in the web series, ex-MLC said 'it is condemnable and worrying because this leads to a wrong message in the society due to presentation of distorted history'. Dr Pandey urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to stop telecast of such web series which are devoid of culture by distorting history apart from spreading ethnic disharmony. She also requested the PM and CM to give clear instructions to the district administration and police not to allow shooting of such serial in future.

# 101 saplings planted at DAV PG College

**VARANASI (PNS):** A plantation programme was organised under the joint aegis of 137 Composite Eco-Task Force of 39-GTC and DAV PG College here on Thursday. UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Neelkanth Tiwari, eminent vocalist Padma Bhushan Pt. Sajjan Mishra, Principal Dr Satyadev Singh, 39- GTC Lieutenant Colonel Vineet Seth, Manager of the college Ajit Kumar Singh Yadav and many others were present.

A large number of saplings were planted in the sports ground areas in both DAV Inter College and PG College premises. The participants also took a pledge to protect the environment. Addressing the soldiers, NCC cadets, scout-guides, teachers, staff and others, the Minister said that it is our responsibility to keep the environment clean and beauti-

ful, for this, planting trees is the best solution. He also said that the Prime Minister and Chief Minister always inspire the youth to plant a tree on their birthday. Tiwari further informed that so far, more than 25 crore saplings have been planted in the entire state during the last two years due to the efforts of the state government. Principal Dr Satyadev Singh said that due to being located in the middle of the city, a large number of trees have been planted in our college premises to maintain environmental balance. Our effort is to plant more and more plants on the campus, he added. A total of 101 saplings of Mango, Ashok, Sheesham, Gulmohar, Chikwan etc. were planted in the programme. On the occasion, Dr PK Sen, Haribansh Singh, Dr Vikramaditya Rai, Narendra Kumar Singh and

many other teachers and employees were also present. Earlier, under the joint auspices of 95th Battalion of CRPF and Srijan Samajik Vikas Nyas, a plantation drive was launched at Aghore Peeth Baba Kinaram Sthal, Ravindrapuri. Under the leadership of CRPF Commandant Narendra Pal Singh, the participants planted 151 saplings of Rudraksh, Parijaat, Shesham, Jamun, Tulsi, Panchyana, Sitaphal etc. Speaking on the occasion, CRPF Commandant appealed to all to protect the environment. Srijan chief Anil Singh presided over the function which was also attended by Kinaram Ashram manager Arun Kumar Singh, Prem Narayan Singh, Rana, Kanta, Sanjay Singh, Aparna Bajpai and Hari Shankar Pandey.

**GRANT FOR FISHERIES:** Aiming at promoting

the fisheries, the government has decided to give 40 per cent grant for the same in the pond on the private land under the National Agriculture Development Scheme. The online application can be submitted on the departmental portal of the fisheries development agency by 5 pm on November 21. The interested can apply for the grant on the departmental portal of the agency by 5 pm on November 21, the Chief Executive Officer, Fisheries Development agency Ravindra Prasad informed adding, the candidates are required to construct ponds on their private lands to get grant. The project cost is ₹ 8.50 lakh per hectare and out of which, ₹ 7 lakh on the construction of pond and the rest ₹ 1.5 lakh per hectare for fisheries in the first year, he informed further.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

As a part of ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week, a seminar on the central theme of the year 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India (Satark Bharat, Samridhd Bharat)' was organised on Thursday in North Central Railway HQ office. In this web-based seminar chaired by General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry, retired Justice Arun Tandon of Allahabad High Court participated as chief guest besides all PHODs and other senior officials of North Central Railway while DRMs from the three divisions and divisional officials joined through video conferencing.

At the outset General Manager, chief guest Justice Arun Tandon, SDGM and other PHODs offered flowers on picture of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and lamp lighting was also done. In the opening session of seminar SDGM and CVO NCR Navin Kumar Sinha made a detailed presentation covering evolution of vigilance, need of separate vigilance organisation, vigilance activities in railways, relation in corruption perception index (CPI) and human development index (HDI). Sinha emphasised on role of

each executive as vigilance officer in his own domain and stressed on maximising use of IT tools in railway working.

Addressing participants on this occasion General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry said that North Central Railway has converted current crisis into opportunity through maximum use of IT and other technological tools and this e-working environment will help in better vigilance management. He said that all officers are vigilance officers in their own field and we should have zero tolerance towards corrupt practices. Chaudhry suggested on devising and implementing transparency index over NCR so as unit with better vigilance management can be benchmarked and scope of improvement can be quantified more objectively. General Manager also said that a small module on ethics needs to be incorporated in project Saksham a skill development training being given to all employees every year.

Speaking on this occasion chief guest, Justice Arun Tandon said that illiterate democracy is no democracy and stressed on need of education in vigilance awareness and bringing desired transparency in public dealing. He congratulated team NCR under

the leadership of Chaudhry for improved housekeeping and work culture on North Central Railway. He added that honesty travel from top to bottom and one should learn to say no to unfair and corrupt practices in public as well as personal life. Justice Tandon said that honouring and recognising a honest person is equally important to stringent action against corrupt officials.

During the seminar vigilance bulletin 'Jagriti' was also released electronically by General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry and Justice Arun Tandon. This annual publication contains case studies, checklist of important works being done in railways, suggested system improvements, list of Do's and Don'ts in tender and contract dealing matters, latest guidelines and circulars, and serves as ready reckoner on vigilance sensitive matters on Railways. This e-book shall be sent to all units and officials on NCR through electronic and social media means.

PHODs, DRMs from the divisions and other officials also expressed their views during the seminar and shared ideas to promote integrity, accountability and transparency in public life. Seminar was coordinated by Dy CVO Traffic

who had complained co-morbidity and were above 60 years of age during the diagnosis for the coronavirus infection. A team of RRT (Rapid Response Team) has been assigned to call such patients on every fourth and seventh day and maintain their health card reports.

Nodal Officer and Additional Chief Medical Officer, Dr Rishi Sahai informed the newpersons they have maintained a database of 2600 patients who got cured and recovered from COVID-19 infection. These patients had complained of co-morbidity and were above the age of 60 years when they were diagnosed for the coronavirus infection.

He added despite the fact that Prayagraj district has recorded a decline in the graph of covid patients and also recovered over 92 per cent recovery rate department has plans to turn hyper-local in its public health strategies.

The rapid response teams at ICCC (Integrated Covid Command Centre) metamorphose into health cells with information about local senior citizens and those with chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension or other serious health ailments.

# Teenaged girl killed over love affair

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a shocking incident, a 17 year old girl aged around 17 was killed over an issue of love affair by some unidentified miscreants at Tala village under the Kandhai police station of the district. The family of the deceased and her lover clashed with each other, accusing each other of murder.

The two sides fought fiercely with sticks, injuring the lover and six of his family. The deceased's brother also suffered serious injuries in the assault. Police detained four people, including the head of the village who had reached a settlement in the case.

According to the police, Tala resident Rajkumar alias Raja was in love with Sadhana, who lived next door. The two had run away from home a few days earlier, but returned only two days later. On Tuesday, both of them came out of the house to see the fair of Bharat Milap.

On Wednesday morning, Sadhana did not return to her house and stayed at the house of Rajkumar alias Raja, which sparked a dispute between the two families. Later, both sides reached the house of Pradhan Ayodhya Prasad Gupta, where during the panchayat it was decided that the family of Rajkumar should surrender the case by paying ₹ 30,000 to the family members of the Sadhana.

After the agreement, Sadhana went to her home. Sadhana's body was found in

front of the lover Rajkumar's house at around 7.30 pm, after which both the sides entered into an altercation. They attacked each other with lathis and sticks accusing each other of killing Sadhana.

During this, Sadhana's brother Akhilesh (32) and her lover Rajkumar alias Raja (19), his brother Dharmaraja (18), Pankaj (14) son of Dudhanath, Pappuram (40), Rajendra (45) and Lalti (40) were seriously injured.

The police rushed everyone to the district hospital. Sadhana's brother Akhilesh continued to accuse Rajkumar and his family of hanging her to death. At the same time, Rajkumar alleged that Sadhana was killed by her family members and threw the body in front of his house.

Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said that in view of the tension, a police force has been deployed on the spot. Four people, including Pradhan, are being interrogated. On getting a written complaint, a case will be registered and action will be taken against the accused. The cause of death will be clear after the post-mortem, added SP.

**PETTY ISSUE CLAIMS LIFE:** A petty issue of money transaction dispute claimed the life of one Khursheed Alam of Yaseen Lane Shahganj. He was shot dead from a point blank rage by Nulla, an old friend in Meerapur area under the Attersuiya police station on Wednesday night. Weapon used in this murder is being

searched in a nullah near Kareli barrier.

The Attersuiya police had first registered a case of accident, but on the arrival of the family members FIR under Section 302 of the IPC was registered.

It is learnt that Khursheed Alam, 30, received a phone call from Nulla, an old friend. He left the residence on his scooter and met Nulla. Nulla occupied the pillion seat and asked Khursheed to drive towards Meerapur.

At a lonely place Nulla whipped out his pistol and fired on Khursheed, who injured his neck badly and collapsed. After killing his friend Nulla made a successful escape towards Kareli. The police thought it was an accidental death, but the family members after seeing the injury mark, insisted that it was a murder.

They also revealed the differences between Khursheed and Nulla over some money transaction.

The police nabbed Nulla from Kareli on Thursday. He accepted his involvement in this murder, and informed the police that the country-made pistol used in this incident, was thrown in a nullah in Kareli.

**TWO KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP:** In a tragic incident, two persons of the same family were killed after the mobike on which they were travelling were hit by an ambulance near Rastipur intersection under the Sarayamumrej police station of the district.

The collision was so severe that the youth riding the bike fell away. Police reached the spot on getting information of the accident. The police took the injured to PHC where doctors declared one of them dead while referring another young man to SRN Hospital. Doctors at SRN Hospital also declared another young man dead.

An ambulance coming to the Community Health Centre Pratappur carrying a patient hit the bike on Thursday morning near Janghai Nudula near Rastipur Intersection under the Sarayamumrej police station. An ambulance collision left bike borne Jayaprakash (52) resident of Sindhura, Sarayamumrej and his nephew Ajit Kumar (23) who was also a competitive student severely injured.

After the accident, when the passersby reached the spot they found the mobike borne men lying in a pool of blood. The police took the injured to Pratappur Community Health Centre for treatment where doctors declared Jayaprakash dead. At the same time, his nephew Ajit was referred to SRN Hospital. But before reaching SRN, Ajit too succumbed. Enraged over the accident, the irate mob resorted to chakka jam at Rastipur crossing, SDM and CO Handia also reached the spot along with force on receipt of information and got the jam lifted after giving them an assurance that the ambulance driver would be caught soon and sent behind the bar.

# We should have zero tolerance towards corrupt practices: GM

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Brijesh Mishra and CVO (Engineering) Devendra Singh proposed vote of thanks. Other officials from NCR's vigilance organisation including Dy CVO Store Ankur Chandra, Dy CVO Mechanical Ajay Kumar Sahni, Dy CVO Electrical Dharmendra Kumar participated in this seminar.

Vigilance awareness week is also the week in which the birthday of Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls. His commitment to national integration in the newly independent country was total and uncompromising, earning him the sobriquet 'Iron Man of India' and life of Sardar Patel is a model for honesty, integrity and probity in public life for present as well as for future generations. 145th Birth Anniversary of Saradar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31,2020 is being observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

On Thursday Minister of Railway Piyush Goyal administered National Integrity pledge to CRB, all members of Railway Board, GMs, DRMs and other senior officials of Railways and PSUs etc. at 17:00 hrs. Rashtriya Ekta pledge has been administered all over NCR in similar programmes organized at HQ, Divisions and other units.





Kanpur District Magistrate, Alok Tiwari, taking part in a Chaupal at Bidhnoo, Kanpur on Thursday

Pioneer

## DM asks officials to solve problems of villagers

### Distributes healthy food kits to women

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari, while addressing a chaupal at Bidhnoo block on Thursday, took feedback from the villagers about their existing problems and directed the officials concerned to solve them in the next 10 days.

He said the government was focused on extending help to pregnant mothers and thus it had decided to ensure that they were given nutritious diet during this Nutrition Month.

He also distributed healthy food kits to the women as well.

The district magistrate said anaemia remained a major cause of morbidity and mortality among women and children, especially in the rural areas and it was more prevalent in Uttar Pradesh.

He said deficiencies in essential micronutrients such as iron, folate and vitamin B12 prior to and during the gestation period increased a woman's risk of being anaemic and so adequate dietary intake of such nutrients was vital during this important phase in the life.

Tiwari said information on the dietary micronutrient intakes of pregnant women in rural areas around Kanpur Nagar was scanty.

He said a medical survey had brought to fore that haemoglobin measurement was used to determine prevalence of anaemia and the dietary diversity of the rural women.

He said overall, anaemia was present in 56.5 percent of the study population and in majority of rural women,

intake of iron, zinc, folate, calcium and vitamin A was poor.

Chief Development Officer Dr Dinesh Singh said a large percentage of pregnant women still had insufficient dietary intakes of essential nutrients required to support the nutritional demands during pregnancy.

He said pregnant women residing in rural areas required interventions such as nutrition education on the selection and preparation of diversified meals to mitigate the effects of under-nutrition.

He added that regardless of the many life-threatening challenges a woman experienced, this period of dynamic change required an expectant mother to pay critical attention to her health to ensure desirable birth outcomes.

He said anaemia was a major cause of morbidity and mortality among pregnant women and about 40 per cent plus of all maternal deaths during pregnancy were attributed to low blood haemoglobin concentration.

He said anaemia continued to be a major issue of public health concern not only in India but in many developing countries.

The district magistrate later cut a cake to celebrate the birthdays of two small kids of the village and as part of the annaprasan ceremony offered kheer to them as well.

He directed the authorities to ensure that there was no encroachment in the village. He also directed the officials to ensure that the incomplete work of toilet construction was completed at the earliest.

## DDUGU VC discusses Purvanchal development with Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GORAKHPUR

DDU Gorakhpur University (DDUGU) Vice Chancellor Prof Rajesh Singh on Thursday called on Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the Gorakhnath Temple and discussed a wide range of issues regarding the development of the Purvanchal region.

Economic advisor to the chief minister, Dr KV Raju, was also present in the meeting.

They discussed in detail the preparations for the two-day (November 27-28) webinar on 'Purvanchal Development: Issues, Strategies and Way Forward', being organised by Purvanchal Development Board.

The chief minister emphasised on highlighting local products of the Purvanchal region such as terracotta of Gorakhpur, carpets of Bhadohi, sarees of Varanasi, black pottery of Azamgarh, decorative products of Deoria, wood craft of Basti among others.

Yogi Adityanath also stressed on the need for linking the small industries making local products with banking credit system. He said that bankers and investors should also be invited in the webinar.

After the meeting, Prof Singh said that the office of the Purvanchal Development Board had been established on DDU Gorakhpur University campus with the aim of preparing a holistic road map of future development of developing and resource-starved districts of Purvanchal region.

He said that keeping this in view, the national webinar was being organised jointly by the Planning department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and DDU Gorakhpur University and eminent personalities had been invited to contribute papers and speak on-line or off-line mode to prepare a blue print of the future road map of a 'Developed Purvanchal'.

The webinar has been divided into five sections. It will begin with the inaugural address by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on November 27 as chairman of the Purvanchal Development Board.

In the webinar, to be attended by the chief secretary, additional chief secretaries, the principal secretaries of various departments will speak on and present various schemes and policies of the Uttar Pradesh government regarding development of the Purvanchal region.

## 74 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 74 more coronavirus positive cases on Thursday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 74 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 27,791 cases.

He said four COVID-19 deaths in the city were reported till Thursday evening keeping the death toll to 733.

The CMO said at present 795 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4890 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## Trickster escapes with gold chains

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A trickster escaped with gold chains worth two lakh rupees from the shop of a jeweller, Sanjay Verma, on Satbari Road in Koela Nagar under Chakeri police station late Wednesday evening.

On coming to know about the missing jewellery, the jeweller filed a complaint with the police.

The police scanned the CCTV footages and launched raids to nab the trickster.

## Two held for boy's murder

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Padari police on Wednesday arrested two accused in connection with the murder of a 10-year-old boy. According to a report, Sunny (10), son of Bahram Yadav, a resident of Dubeypur Mahewa village went missing on October 17 and his body was found in the river the next day. The post-mortem examination report revealed that he was strangled and thrown into the river. As a result a case was registered against four residents of the village by the father of the victim and the investigation was on. The police was investigating the motive when they found a clue that the accused were involved in a theft committed in the house of the victim some time earlier and he had identified them. The accused apprehended that the victim could reveal their identity so they murdered him. SHO Venkatesh Tiwari said that after being satisfied with the motive the accused were nabbed and they confessed the crime. He said too that out of four accused, Ramji and Bodhayi, were arrested and Rajmani and his wife were still at large. The SHO claimed that the remaining accused would be arrested soon.

**YOUTH DIES:** A youth died when a heavy stone fell on him during blasting at a stone mining site in Bagahiya village under Ahraura police station on Wednesday. Reports said that Vikas Maurya (18), a resident of Bagahiya village died when a heavy stone fell on him at Bagahiya hillock in Jigna village during blasting at mining site. The labourers became and agitated could be controlled after police force was deployed there. SO Ahraura Rajesh Chaubey said that the leaseholder had licence for blasting but regarding security points responsibility would be fixed after investigation. SDM gave an assurance for compensation in this connection. An earlier report said that Ramji Jaiswal (25), son of late



Suresh Kumar Jaiswal, a resident of Nakahra Road Nayi Basti under Katra Kotwali police station, was found hanging in his house on Wednesday. On getting information police reached the spot and took his body into custody for completing the legal formalities. Meanwhile a student committed suicide in Bajahaan village under Kachhawaan police station. Reports said that Shashwat (17), son of Vijayanand, was found hanging from the roof of his house in the morning. The police reached the spot, recovered the body and completed the legal formalities and said that he took this drastic step after being reprimanded by his guardian for studies.

**TRIKON ROUTE:** CDO Avinash Singh said that the Rural Development department was planning to give the 'Trikon route of Vindhyachal a facelift. Talking to 'The Pioneer' he said that the route was important not only for devotees but tourists too. Though the route comprised the three main temples, including Vindhyachal, they were planning to develop only the rural part, he added. He said that works would be done in phases. He said in the first phase the route would be decorated with coloured cement bricks and in further phases plan was being prepared to install high-mast lights, tapes for potable water, dustbins, community toilets, sheds adjacent to trees etc. Apart from spiritual purposes visitors came to Vindhyachal hillocks for picnic so he was planning to make available facilities for them too. Temporary stay facilities would be made available and to recharge groundwater level construction of checkdams had been included in the plan, he added. In further phases not only the ponds but 'rain baseras' too would be renovated and the place would be made as the prime destination for tourists. About the fund he said that most of the work would be carried out under MNREGA and as per the requirement other agencies would be approached for it.

## NCL to provide healthcare equipment

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), the Singrauli-based Miniratna company will provide healthcare equipment worth about ₹95 lakh to Singrauli district under its CSR initiatives. An MoU in this regard was signed between GM, Jhingurda Area, NCL, SP Singh, and Chief Medical Health Officer, Singrauli, RP Patel, on Tuesday. This initiative will strengthen the fight against Covid-19. GM, CSR NCL, Atmehwar Pathak, and other key officials were present on the occasion. NCL has already given ₹20 crore to MP govt to fight



Covid and ₹5 crore to UP Government to procure 50 ambulances besides other measures taken to curb the infection. Distribution of ration, masks and sanitiser was done on a massive scale in Singrauli and Sonbhadra during the lockdown period. NCL is playing a pivotal role in fighting Covid in collaboration with the district administrations of Singrauli and Sonbhadra. NCL is a flagship subsidiary company of Coal India ensuring energy security of the nation with more than 100 million tonne coal production annually.

## Importance of preventive vigilance underlined

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

On the second day of the Vigilance Awareness Week being observed on the instructions of the Central Vigilance Commission the NER Vigilance Organisation keeping in mind the theme 'Satark Bharat, Samridhi Bharat' (Vigilant India, Prosperous India) on Wednesday organised a webinar with officials of Varanasi division. Inaugurating the webinar, Senior Deputy

GM and Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) Amitabh Ojha underlined the importance of preventive vigilance. Subsequently all deputy CVOs made a presentation on major vigilance cases detected by the Vigilance Organisation during the last year through case study in which while highlighting irregularities found by Stores department in procurement etc importance of implementation of system improvement was emphasised.

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Varanasi, Vijay Kumar Panjari, emphasised the need to suggest system improvement to effectively check shortcomings found as a result of preventive investigations by the Vigilance Organisation. In this webinar Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM)/Operations SPS Yadav, Additional Divisional Railway Manager/Infra Praveen Kumar and branch officer were present, CPRO PK Singh said.

## Stress on transparency in work

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

All areas and units of NCL are observing Vigilance Awareness Week from October 27 to November 2 and have started many activities, including pledge, competitions like essay writing, debate, painting, slogan writing and speech besides webinars and e-training. Earlier the Vigilance Awareness Week-2020 on the theme 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India' was inaugurated at NCL HQ, all its coal areas and units. In the inaugural ceremony, NCL CMD PK Sinha was the chief guest. On the occasion he said vigilance awareness is one of the fundamental requirements of official life. NCL is committed towards transparent work culture supported by an ethical climate and modern technology. NCL is not only ensuring production and productivity as per the expectation of the nation but also adopting best vigilance practices. Director (Technical/ Operations) Dr Anindya Sinha and Director (Finance) RN Dubey were present as special guests on the occasion. The head of departments of HQ and GM of all projects, trade union leaders and other employees were connected through video conferencing.

In the programme Dr Anindya Sinha, Dir (T/O) said with the extensive use of new technologies NCL is ensuring transparency in the functioning of the company. He also said use of many technologies and apps like e-office, OITDS, CCTV is making NCL's image as a technically competent and quality coal producing company at the national level. During the programme NCL Director (Finance) Ram Narayan Dubey said that the purpose of Vigilance Awareness Week is to make more and more people aware about rules and regulations so that they can practice fairness and transparency in their work. Chief Vigilance Officer of NCL Amit Kumar Srivastava also shared his views on preventive vigilance with NCL employees connecting through VC. He appreciated NCL's effort like purchase from GeM portal, e-tendering, e-office, coal net, operator Independent Truck Dispatch System (OITDS), GPS-based vehicle tracking system, CCTV surveillance system, biometric attendance system, land record digitization, fuel management system to establish transparent system and promote preventive vigilance. GM (Vigilance), NCL, SK Ghosh welcomed the dignitaries to the programme and BC Sharma, Chief Manager (Excavation/ Vigilance) proposed the vote of thanks.

## Criminal arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ CHANDAULI

A criminal carrying a reward of ₹50,000 on his head was arrested during an encounter on Thursday morning. The arrested criminal was injured during the encounter while his accomplice managed to escape from the spot taking advantage of the darkness. A motorcycle and a pistol were recovered from the spot. The Balua Police was tipped off by an got informer that a criminal was going on a motorcycle to commit some crime. On being chased the motorcycle-borne miscreants fired at the police team and tried to flee towards Kaili. The Balua police informed other police stations and personnel from Alinagar police station and Mughalsarai Kotwali encircled the criminal from other side. On being surrounded by the personnel of three police stations near Kaili the criminal fired at the team and in retaliatory firing a bullet hit him in his leg and he fell on the ground. He was admitted to the Government Women's Hospital for treatment by the police. ASP Premchand said that a dozen cases, including loot and murder, have been registered against the criminal, Ashutosh Yadav alias Chitku, a resident of Nadi Nidaura village under Balua police station of the district, in Varanasi, Chandauli as well as Bihar. He was also involved in the murder committed in Dhurikot under Sadar Kotwali area of Chandauli recently.

## Chain snatched

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

An elderly woman's gold chain was snatched when she reached in front of her house after a walk in the morning in an area under the Campierganj police station. By the time people from nearby areas could gather there miscreants managed to flee from there. On getting information police reached the spot and started searching for them. Reports said that Maya Samant had gone for a walk on Wednesday morning. On returning home from there when she was opening the door two miscreants arrived on a motorcycle and one of them asked her for a stick for picking the flowers. When he reached near her he snatched the chain from her neck. However, it broke in the process the miscreants escaped with one-third portion of it. After registering a case in this connection the police was investigating it.

## Srijan's 'sankalp' to provide free mobile education to village kids

KANPUR (PNS): With educational institutions across the country closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Srijan Ka Sankalp, a leading NGO based in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh that is working in the areas of education, health and skill development, has come up with an innovative idea to bring education to the doorsteps of village children and students to ensure that their teachings are not affected and they get quality education at par with the students living in towns and big cities. In order to translate its idea into reality, this NGO has recently launched 'Shiksha Ki Gaadi'. This vehicle, equipped with smart television and other educational tools will move from one village to another where the NGO volunteers



with the help of smart TV and other teaching tools will educate village children and students on various subjects and topics.

Talking about the motive behind launching the 'Shiksha Ki Gaadi', Srijan's CEO Prabhat Saxena said this initiative had been taken primarily to educate those village children who do not have access to on-line classes because of non-avail-

ability of smartphones, tablets, laptops and desktops at their homes.

"On account of continued lockdown of educational institutions in the country, the new academic session of students has got completely spoiled. Since many village schools do not have the facility of providing on-line classes to the students because of internet problems, this novel idea of reach-

ing out to such students in villages whose education has got badly hampered, stuck our mind. Subsequently, we decided to make education available to all such students through Shiksha Ki Gaadi," Prabhat said, adding that his organisation intends to start the Shiksha Ki Gaadi campaign in states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra. "The Shiksha Ki Gaadi campaign has already been started in the Bundelkhand region of UP and now we are planning to start it in MP as well," he added.

According to Ravindra Gupta, operation head of Srijan Ka Sankalp, through Shiksha Ki Gaadi, Srijan will provide mobile education to village children free of cost.



TO SECURE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

# Army develops own messaging app SAI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to have secure communication system in the backdrop of Pakistan-based agencies hacking smart phones of the Indian security personnel, the Indian Army has developed its own messaging app. It is named 'SAI' (Secure Application for Internet). It will help the Army officers to talk to each other in a safe system of their own and not be apprehensive of spying by the rival agencies. In fact, the army had to ban more than 90 apps in the last one year to avoid spying. The Navy banned the use of smart phones by its personnel while sailing on warships after some personnel were allegedly trapped by a Pakistani based agency and made to reveal operational information. Seen as big boost to the 'Atmanirbhar' project, the app

is similar to other messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, SAMVAD, GIMS & supports an end to end encryption messaging protocol. The SAI app also supports secure voice, text & video calling service for Android users. The SAI scores over on security features with local in-house servers and coding which can be tweaked as per requirements. "The application has been vetted by a CERT-empennalled auditor and Army Cyber Group. The process for filing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), hosting the infrastructure on NIC and working on iOS platform is currently in progress. SAI will be utilised by the Army to facilitate secure messaging within the service," the Army said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the functionalities of the app and complimented Colonel Sai Shankar

for his skill and ingenuity in developing the application, the statement added. The indigenously designed system comes at a time when there were concerns over the use of commercial mobile applications by the Army officials for communicating with each other thereby compromising security. The Army had ordered its personnel earlier this year to delete popular apps such as Facebook, Truecaller, Instagram and games like PUBG from their mobile phones. The order was intended to plug leakage of sensitive national security information from phones of armed forces personnel. The in-house application has been developed by Colonel Sai Shankar. The army has also developed a software for infrastructure management.

## NIA raids 7 more locations in terror funding case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In continuation of Wednesday's search operations, the NIA on Thursday conducted more searches at seven locations in Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag and Kulgam (Jammu and Kashmir) and two locations in Delhi in connection with the case relating to certain NGOs and Trusts raising funds in the name of charitable activities and then using those funds for carrying out secessionist and separatist activities in the Valley. The NIA had registered the case on October 8, 2020 under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy and seditious activities besides various provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The case was registered on a directive from the Union

Home Ministry following receipt of credible information that certain NGOs and Trusts are collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations and business contributions etc. in the name of various welfare activities such as public health, education and the like. Further, these funds were sent to Jammu and Kashmir through various channels such as hawala and cash couriers and are used to carry out and sustain secessionist and terrorist activities in J&K, the NIA said in a statement. The latest round of searches were conducted at JK Yateem Foundation at Srinagar and Kulgam, The Salvation Movement at Srinagar, run by Zafar Akbar Bhat, Human Welfare Foundation at Delhi and Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir Voice of Victims at Baramulla, run by Abdul Qadeer, Falah-e-Aam Trust at Budgam, run by GM Bhat and Charity Alliance, at Delhi, run by Zafar ul Islam.

## ₹10,211 crore allotted for safety, upkeep of 736 dams across country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday allotted ₹10,211 crore for the safety and maintenance works of 736 dams across the country. The CCEA also approved Ethanol purchasing policy and increased procurement prices of different levels of Ethanol products benefitting sugarcane farmers and extended the mandatory use of jute materials for packaging benefitting the jute industry. "The CCEA chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III with the financial assistance of the World Bank (WB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams across the whole country, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach. "The project cost is ₹

10,211 crore. The Project will be implemented over a period of 10 years duration in two Phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping from April, 2021 to March, 2031. The share of external funding is ₹7,000 crore of the total project cost, and balance ₹3,211 crore is to be borne by the concerned Implementing Agencies (IAs). The contribution of Central Government is ₹1,024 crore as loan liability and ₹285 crore as counter-part funding for Central Component," said Union Minister Prakash Javadekar detailing the Cabinet meeting decisions in media briefing. The CCEA approved fixing higher ethanol price derived from different sugarcane based raw materials under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for the forthcoming sugar season. "The price of ethanol from C heavy molasses route be increased from ₹43.75 per lit to ₹45.69 per litre. The price of ethanol from B heavy molasses route be increased

from ₹54.27 per lit to ₹57.61 per litre. The price of ethanol from sugarcane juice / sugar / sugar syrup route be increased from ₹59.48 per lit to ₹62.65 per litre," said Government in a statement. "Consistent surplus of sugar production is depressing sugar price. Consequently, sugarcane farmer's dues have increased due to lower capability of sugar industry to pay the farmers. Government has taken many decisions for reduction of cane farmer's dues. With a view to limit sugar production in the Country and to increase domestic production of ethanol, Government has taken multiple steps," said Javadekar. The CCEA also approved that 100% of the foodgrains and 20% of the sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags. The decision to pack sugar in diversified jute bags will give an impetus to the diversification of the jute industry.

## Maha to float new tenders for Dharavi Project

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having cancelled the global tendering process set into motion by the previous BJP-led Government two years ago, the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government on Thursday decided to float new tenders for the ambitious Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP), a project that is aimed at transforming Asia's largest slum into an integrated planned township. At a weekly Cabinet meeting presided over by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray decided to revive the Dharavi Redevelopment Project by inviting fresh tenders for the project. The earlier cost of the project was Rs 22,000 crore. Given that there has been a delay in the execution of the project, it remains to be seen as what will be the cost escalation in the project. "At a Cabinet meeting held on October 16, 2018, the secretaries' committee had decided to cancel the then prevailing tendering process. At today's meeting, the State Cabinet approved the new terms and

conditions recommended by the secretaries committee for floating new tenders for the DRP. The State Cabinet also decided to make necessary changes in the implementation of the project at a later stage," an official release issued by the state government said. Spread over 240-hectare area, Dharavi has remained an ugly place and a dark underbelly of Mumbai – a largest slum which has been romanticised in Indian films over the years. It has also been a cottage industry hub for decades on end. The DRP is being seen as the biggest redevelopment effort undertaken for the region since 1972, after which there have been slum improvement project in 1976, Slum Upgradation project in 1985, Slum Rehabilitation Scheme in 1995, and then the Dharavi Redevelopment Project of 2004. In an apparent effort to derive political mileage in the run-up to the May 2019 Lok Sabha and the subsequent October 2019 State Assembly polls, the BJP-led saffron alliance government had

embarked upon the DRP. In advertisements seeking international bids for the DRP put out in major news papers, the Slum Redevelopment Authority (SRA) stated that the last date for submitting the bids for the project is December 28. As per the guidelines notified in the tender, the selected lead partner has to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with 80 per cent equity (Rs 400 crore), while the Maharashtra government will hold 20 per cent equity (Rs 100 crore) in the project. The SPV will construct free houses for the eligible slum dwellers with amenities and infrastructure. The SPV will be entitled to construct houses in the free sale area and sell them in the open market. The state government has fixed 4 as Floor Space Index (FSI) for the project. Located between Western Railway's Bandra-Matunga and Central Railway's Sion-Matunga stations in north-central Mumbai, Dharavi has the highest density of population. The Mithi River slices through a portion of Dharavi

into the Mahim Creek and then onto the Arabian Sea. Currently, it is home to over anywhere from 60,000 to 70,000 families. A mini-India of sorts where people belonging to different faiths live, Dharavi has 28 temples, 11 mosques, six churches, 50 banks, 60 government schools, a mobile design museum, several slum tourism outfits, thriving criminal groups, and a tiny dilapidated fort. Dharavi also has a small fort known as the Riwa Fort. Better known as Kala Qilla or Black Fort, it is currently in a dilapidated condition. It was built by the first Governor of Bombay, Gerald Aungier (1669-1677). It was part of the larger Bombay Castle, and marked the northern portion of British-held Bombay in the 17th century. The castle was also used as a watchtower, guarding the territory against the Portuguese-held (and later Maratha-held) Salsette Island. At that time, the entire area was a large swamp and primarily inhabited by Koli fishermen who made a living from

the waters. As the legend goes, the British built a dam on the Mithi river because of which there was no water to feed the swamp and it dried off. The fishermen near the sea and a community of potters moved in here. In fact they could be called the first settlers of the region. As Mumbai turned into a hub for textiles in the post Independence era, thousands of men from north India moved in as well and the slum as we know it started to take shape. Slowly and slowly since the sixties, migrants – particularly those from south India started moving in – making what Dharavi is today. Dharavi has several business units -- right from textiles to pottery to fabrication to leather industry, Plastic recycling and garbage segregation too is done here. Mainly a hub of cottage industries, it has an estimated 5,000 business entities and 15,000 single-room factories. Goods produced here go to Middle East, South-East Asia, United States and Europe and several other places.

## Vijayan blames Centre, investigative agencies for arrest of Sivsankar

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan blamed the Centre and its investigative agencies for the arrest of his former Principal Secretary M Sivsankar who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate late Wednesday night in connection with gold smuggling and money laundering. Briefing the media about the Covid-19 situation in Kerala on Thursday, Vijayan read out a prepared statement to express his displeasure over the way central agencies are handling the gold smuggling scam though he remained silent about the arrest of Bineesh Kodyiyeri, son of party strongman Kodyiyeri Balakrishnan. "A senior Customs official

(Anish Rajan IRS) had told the media that there were no interference from the Chief Minister's Office to get the baggage addressed to the UAE Consulate released. But he was transferred out of the State overnight and there was no reaction from anybody about this transfer," said Vijayan when asked about the arrest of Sivsankar. He said the whole gold smuggling scam, LIFE Mission corruption charges and other allegations were part of the strategies of the Congress and the BJP to portray the government in poor light. "This will not work. We stand committed to the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden," said the chief minister. Instead of directly attacking the Centre, Vijayan opted

to read from Congress President Sonia Gandhi's article published in a newspaper recently about how the Centre was misusing its probe agencies to target and victimise opposition parties. "Rahul Gandhi too had told recently that he was a victim of the political vendetta," said Vijayan. The Chief Minister claimed he had no acquaintance of any kind with Sivsankar. "He was appointed to my office based on his experience in different departments of the government and that was how I met him," said Vijayan. But a senior IAS officer said that Sivsankar was an officer promoted to the IAS from the State Government cadre and he was a senior leader of the SFI during his student days.

## CPM leader's son held by ED in drug case

KOCHI: The CPI(M) in Kerala suffered two major setbacks on Thursday which has put the party in a dilemma as it gets ready for the elections to the local self Government and the legislative Assembly. M Sivsankar, former Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was sent to the Enforcement Directorate's custody for seven days on Thursday by the District Sessions Judge, Ernakulam in connection with charges of gold smuggling, money laundering and interference in the functioning of other department of the Government. Later in the day, the ED arrested Bineesh Kodyiyeri, the controversial son of CPI(M) strongman Kodyiyeri

Balakrishnan on charges of narcotics smuggling. Sivsankar was arrested by the ED late Wednesday night following the Kerala High Court dismissing the former's anticipatory bail application. The IAS officer, a former leader of the CPI(M)'s student wing SFI, was the most powerful bureaucrat in Kerala who was addressed as "Super CM" by other ministers in the cabinet and other bureaucrats, was considered as Vijayan's eyes, ears and words. The arrest memo served on Sivsankar by the ED officials tells that the IAS official had accepted during the questioning that he had spoken to a senior Customs Official at Thiruvananthapuram airport at

the instance of Swapna Suresh to get the baggage seized by the agency released. "This clearly shows your active involvement in the offences committed by Swapna. This also amounts to misuse of public office and interference in the official working of other Government departments," said the ED memo. It further states that Sivsankar has helped Swapna Suresh in all the gold smugglings and other illegal operations held by her in the past. The CPI(M)'s woes got aggravated by Thursday afternoon when the ED arrested Bineesh Kodyiyeri, second son of Kodyiyeri Balakrishnan, the party's state secretary, in connection with charges of drug

trafficking. The ED officials had summoned Bineesh to Bangalore for questioning on Thursday to elicit more details about his association with Anoo Mohammed, a notorious drug smuggler. Mohammed is in the custody of Narcotics Control Bureau for his role in the infamous drug trafficking gang busted by it recently. It is reported that Mohammed spilled the beans about his links with Bineesh who was a prime financier of the drug trafficking cartel. These information led the probe agencies to Bineesh who has a not so respectable past. Bineesh has been sent to four days' custody of the Enforcement Directorate. PNS

## Minister warns of actions for Covid protocol violations at Srinagar airport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday promised to take immediate action after a passenger posted images on Twitter of people flouting social distancing protocol at the Srinagar airport. Sanjay Raina, who posted three pictures on Twitter on Thursday morning showing passengers standing extremely close to each other during a security check at the airport. Raina tagged Puri in his tweet, saying: "Shocking violation of #COVID19 protocol, sheer incompetence of authorities & security personnel at #SrinagarAirport. Horrible to say the least. Someone needs to take responsibility. Hats off to airline staff still managing." In his response, Puri said that he had discussed the matter with Arvind Singh, Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI). "We will check the facts & take immediate corrective action," the minister added.

## Andhra allows Govt schools, colleges to reopen from Nov 2

IANAS ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh has allowed all Government schools and colleges to reopen from November 2 with all precautionary measures amid the Covid pandemic. Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney confirmed that the state government is going ahead with reopening educa-

tional institutions. The date for reopening schools was already communicated earlier, even as the uncertainty over colleges has also been cleared now. "Schools would be run on alternate days in three phases for which officials are making arrangements. Precautionary measures would be taken to contain the spread of Covid-19," Sawhney said. As part of the

reopening, classes 9, 10 and intermediate first and second year will function on alternate days for only half a day. Likewise, all Higher Secondary colleges will also start functioning from November 2 on rotation basis and from November 23, classes 6, 7, and 8 would start functioning on a half day basis. "Classes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 would start functioning

from December 14 on alternate days and on a half-a-day basis. The same schedule would apply to all government schools and colleges," she added. Though the state government thought of reopening schools almost a month ago, it extended the reopening by a month, to a time when active Covid cases have come down to around 26,000.

## Maharashtra logs 91 deaths, 6,738 cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid the continued flattening of the Covid-19 curve, Maharashtra on Thursday witnessed an upward fluctuation in deaths and a dip in the number of infections in various parts of the State. A day after the state logged 91 deaths and 6,738 infections, the daily death tally went up to 156, while the infected cases dropped to 5,902. With 156 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Maharashtra rose from 43,554 to 43,710. Similarly with 5902 fresh infections, the total infected cases jumped from 16,60,766 to 16,66,668. As 7,883 more 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 14,94,809. The recovery rate in the state rose from 89.53 to 89.69 per cent. Of the 156 deaths reported on Thursday, Mumbai accounted for a maximum of 33 deaths, while there were 27 deaths in Pune, 19 in Thane, 11 in Solapur and 10 in Nagpur. In the lower range, there eight deaths in Nanded, 7 each in Satara and Sangli, 4 each in Ahmednagar, Ratnagiri, Jalna and Chandrapur, 3 each in Nashik and Akola, 2 each in Palghar, Raigad, Aurangabad, Beed, Washim and Bhandara and one each in Parbhani, Latur, Osmanabad, Amravati, Buldhana and Gadchiroli. As many as 11 districts reported zero deaths. With 34 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in

Mumbai toll shot up from 10196 to 10229, while the infected cases rose by 1120 to trigger a jump in the infections from 2,54,240 to 2,55,360. Meanwhile, the mortality rate in the state stood at 2.62 per cent. The number of "active cases" in the state dropped from 1,29,746 to 1,27,603. Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,31,592 to 3,32,354 while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 6636 to 6657. Thane district remained in the third spot -- after Pune and Mumbai -- after the total number of infections rose from 2,21,082 to 2,21,770 while the pandemic toll climbed from 5297 to 5,316.

# Cops, babus acting as political servants of TMC: Guv to Shah

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There is no rule of law in Bengal which has been reduced to a police State, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has told Union Home Minister Amit Shah with whom he met in Delhi on Thursday. Alleging that the Mamata Banerjee Government had reduced Bengal into a "Banana Republic," the Governor said that he was anguished about how the next year's Assembly

elections would be conducted the State. Emerging from a meeting with Shah the Governor said "you don't have any idea of what is happening in West Bengal. The law and order situation has completely crumbled down. Police and bureaucrats are working as political servants of the ruling party. The crime statistics has gone up and Al-Qaeda is spreading its fangs in Murshidabad."

Alleging that, the State had been reduced to a "police state" and a "banana republic" he said that all his requests for information on the state affairs are ignored by the Government. "It is my duty to save the Constitution. ... I believe in reformation and that can happen only through dialogues. But they hardly respond to my letters. Under such circumstances, how can a constitutional head like me have a sound sleep?"

He however remained evasive about whether Bengal had become a fit case for President's Rule though he said that there was a "virtual anarchy" in Bengal and the political violence had become a matter of concern. "Political leaders are getting killed. The power of corridors in the state is infested by non-state actors. This is surely not democracy," he said even as the ruling Trinamool Congress leadership launched a scathing

counterattack on the Governor saying "he is a liability for Bengal." Bengal Minister Partho Chatterjee said "so much has been said by him and so much has been said about him in the past one year that nothing more is left.... And all such discourses have only proved that he is acting as the BJP's spokesperson who has converted the Governor's House into a party office. Less said about him the better."

Another senior leader said that there was nothing new in what the Governor had said on Thursday. Rather what is new is the timing of his visit to Delhi and meeting with the Home Minister which took place hours before his shifting of office to Darjeeling for a month. "Had he gone to meet the Home Minister just before his Darjeeling trip people would have said that he has gone to

take the briefing on his political activities in Darjeeling... Now he can at least say that he had gone to brief the Home Minister about the State of affairs in Bengal and in the disguise he is carrying back instructions on what he has to do in Darjeeling," where he will stay for a month from November 1. Meanwhile all hell broke loose at Bagnan in Howrah where the BJP supporters

clashed with the police during a saffron party sponsored bandh to protest against the inordinate delay by the administration to conduct second post mortem on a slain party worker who was allegedly murdered by the TMC men about a fortnight ago. The police resorted to lathi charge after the angry saffron workers threw burning tyres in front of the local police station. Several persons were arrested, sources said.



## Jyotiraditya's test

The MP bypolls would prove if he can indeed get even with former CM Kamal Nath and earn his stripes in the BJP



The byelection in Madhya Pradesh may have got swamped by the Assembly polls in Bihar and its results may not threaten the ruling BJP Government in the State. But it is significant in deciding the political future of stalwarts both within the BJP and the Congress. The number game is fairly settled. The BJP currently has 107 seats in the 230-member Assembly, with the support of Independents, Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLAs. So, given its ambition to do without props of any kind and consolidate its position as the single largest party, it would just about need to win nine of

the 28 seats going to the polls and cross the half-way mark. The Congress has 88 MLAs after Jyotiraditya Scindia revolted and took 22 loyalists with him to the BJP, toppling the Kamal Nath Government. It would need to win all 28 seats to cross the halfway mark, a tall order, though party hopefuls are arguing that even 20-plus seats could keep it in the running as it could manage the deficit by co-opting smaller parties. This presumptive logic isn't much to bet on. The desperation of the Congress is understandable considering it wants to prove a point to Jyotiraditya that his exit hasn't really affected the party's grassroots matrix. In one word, therefore, the bypolls are his test. He may have defected with his loyalists but can he ensure vote transference with such ease? Particularly when the Congress is relentlessly calling him a traitor, even drawing on his family history to show how the Scindias betrayed Rani Laxmibai. Besides with most of the seats going to the bypolls being located in the Gwalior-Chambal region, which has the highest number of caste atrocities and violence and where the Dalit vote swing matters politically, Jyotiraditya has to have an umbrella appeal to win and not just depend on his legacy. His being in the BJP could actually be a liability as this is a BSP bastion and its people were at the forefront of protests against the dilution of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 2018. Besides, the BSP is contesting all seats here this time and unless, as a kingmaker, its chief Mayawati decides whom to side with in the event of a mixed verdict, the going could be tough for Jyotiraditya. Of course, his staunch follower and Dalit candidate, Imarti Devi, whom Kamal Nath insulted, could mop up some of the sympathy votes from the community at the expense of the Congress. The BJP has obliged Jyotiraditya for catapulting it back to power by giving tickets to the rebel MLAs loyal to him. This has not been to the liking of its Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who wouldn't want Jyotiraditya to challenge his stature. So the latter has to prove his mettle in his adopted party by ensuring the maximum wins. If he does, his stakes will rise but if he fails, then he could be badly marginalised. As it is, the State BJP campaign is still pivoted around Chouhan and has hardly taken note of the new entrant. This is Jyotiraditya's big chance to prove his political currency and if he fails, he will be of no use to any party. Not even Congress. In fact, if Jyotiraditya succeeds, it would be the most effective message of getting even with Kamal Nath and convincing the grand old party of the need for a generational change. If he does really well, he could even get a Central Ministry, something he has been wanting since he crossed over.

Though the BJP needs single digits to coast home, Chouhan wants to win at least half of the seats to show that he is not dependent on Jyotiraditya's clout. Having conceded tickets and ministerial berths to the young leader's group following Central pressure, the Chief Minister wants to show he is in command. But Chouhan is caught between the criticism of his handling of COVID-19 and the challenge from Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who has the blessings of the Central party leadership to undercut him. As far as Kamal Nath is considered, the bypolls are his last chance to take another shot at chief ministership. But with below the belt attacks and scolding a woman legislator, he may have just scripted his own downfall. Kamal Nath has an axe to grind with Imarti Devi, who is a Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalist and defected with him to the BJP. In fact, the sexist remark against her came days after and probably as a hitback to her accusation that Nath bribed MLAs when he was Chief Minister, that he gave cash doles of ₹5 lakh to Congress MLAs who could not be granted ministerial posts. In retrospect, her needless victimisation only drew attention to his greed for power by managing numbers. Of course, the seasoned politician he is, he knows how to work the arithmetic in case of an adverse scenario. But the old-style politics may not work at a time when the BJP won't be sparing any resources either to ensure that one party-rule flows from the Centre to other States.

## DU imbroglio

The power tussle between the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-VC only harms the most prestigious university



Delhi University (DU) is not only India's largest and most prestigious Central university, home to several top colleges of the country, it is also the most politically active. However, what is happening in DU right now is unprecedented in its 98-year history as President Ram Nath Kovind has ordered an enquiry against Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi on the grounds of "misconduct" and "dereliction of duty." Tyagi has been suspended till the probe is completed since he can influence the investigation while in office. Much of this has been precipitated by the health of the Vice-Chancellor, who had to be admitted to AIIMS

on emergency grounds back in July and a Pro-VC, Professor PC Joshi, had to be appointed. However, after Tyagi returned to work, he tried to invalidate several appointments made by the Pro-VC, even those that had been cleared by DU's Executive Council. The row escalated when Tyagi appointed Professor PC Jha as the interim Registrar despite the Union Ministry of Education's claims that the new order was not effective as the VC was still on leave while issuing it. However, the Executive Council resolved that Professor Suman Kundu would continue as Director, South Campus and acting Registrar till a permanent Registrar was appointed. This was followed by Tyagi removing Professor Joshi as Pro-VC and appointing Geeta Bhatt in his place. Meanwhile Joshi had notified the appointment of a new Registrar, Vikas Gupta, whose interview had been completed and appointment cleared by the Executive Council. This is a truly bizarre and ridiculous situation, particularly when the 2020-2021 academic year is about to start. By initiating an enquiry against Tyagi and completely clipping his wings, his term is as good as over. However, the Ministry should take its fair share of the blame here. When the V-C was admitted to hospital in an emergency condition, it should have stepped in to put a system in place. At the same time, it has consistently overlooked past lapses flagged against Tyagi, including not filling vacant positions, delay in redressal of sexual harassment cases and vigilance complaints in university, mishandling of the issue of ad-hoc teachers, which led to a massive agitation, and non-submission of detailed plans for implementation of the Institution of Eminence (IoE). The last straw came in the form of certain appointments he made while being on medical leave.

This mess needs to be immediately rectified by the Ministry and if Tyagi is to be removed, a new V-C must be found post-haste. This is a situation that is unprecedented and if elections and a pandemic were not ongoing, this would be the top headline of the day. This development is not surprising after decades of Ministers and bureaucrats striking at the autonomy of Central universities. Institutions of higher learning thrive when they are allowed to function independent of the Government and where the V-C is prided for his integrity and not seen as a political appointee.



REENA AMOS DYES

In mid-October, a 17-year-old girl, Neema (name changed) was found by the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Police in a dazed state, hungry and delirious. Sold to traffickers by her poverty-stricken parents, on the advice of "well-meaning" neighbours in her village in Madhya Pradesh, the teenager had escaped from her tormentors in Delhi. Neema walked and hitch-hiked for three days to cover a distance of 200 km before she was spotted by concerned passersby and the police in Hathras. Unaware of her whereabouts and determined to reach home, she was still 794 km short of her home in Mandla district when she was rescued. The girl told the police that there were 12 other minors like her, confined to one room in Delhi. Fortunately, they all managed to escape.

Neema is not the only child from her village to have been trafficked. Several others like her have been sold by needy parents. This story is repeated over and over again in India, particularly in rural areas. India is starving and its children are bearing the brunt of this hunger. They are being sacrificed at the altar of the crippling poverty that has worsened because of the sucker punch delivered to the already tottering economy by the Coronavirus. As feared by the experts in the field of rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked children, the number of minors, particularly girls, sold to traffickers for as little as ₹10,000-₹50,000, has grown alongside the number of people rendered jobless by the pandemic. As a result, desperate parents, having to choose between survival of the family for a little while longer and their love, chose the former. So many girls and boys were sold to traffickers across the country.

This is despite the fact that Articles 23, 39, 14 and 21 of the Constitution guarantee every child freedom from exploitation in any form. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 was enacted in pursuance of the International Convention signed at New York on May 9, 1950 and it was amended in 1986 to widen its scope to cover all citizens. However, according to rights advocates, the Act has glaring lacunae as it fails to define the term "traffic" or "trafficking" and aims to penalise those who aid and abet commercial sexual exploitation. Therefore, its focus on the def-

## Nobody's child

Fuelled by a pandemic-hit economy and the lack of personal accountability, India's child trafficking problems have further worsened



inition of the term brothel leads to the inference that commercial sexual exploitation takes place only in a brothel and not in other places, such as in a house. The Act is clearly not victim-centric as women and children, who are forced into prostitution, are also treated as criminals and arrested when raids are conducted.

Similarly there are several other laws to protect the rights of children, such as the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2001. The rights of child labourers can be adequately secured only if the monitoring and controlling provisions contained in the said statutes are fully implemented. However, they are not despite the Supreme Court insisting upon their applicability.

In 2013, the top court lamented that despite its directions, little or no progress was made by the States in protecting the rights of children. Thus, we have horror stories emerging from across the country. Desperate children, sold to traffickers by impoverished parents, making hopeless bids to return home to the same parents who pushed them into the hell in the first place.

Though Neema and several others like her have escaped for now, not everyone is so lucky. Thousands of children are being trafficked globally for initiation into the sex trade, to be recruited as bonded labour, drug runners, child terrorists or human shields. The International Labour Organisation has predicted that with the pandemic ravaging economies globally,

the world may witness an increase in child labour for the first time in 20 years and there is a huge risk of years of progress in this arena being reversed. First, it was hunger induced by the lockdown that fuelled the trafficking. And now that the economy has opened up, it is the demand for cheaper labour and bigger margins by businesses. Closer home, ever since the lockdown was imposed and then eased a few months later in phases, Delhi-NCR has become a hub of trafficking as more and more children are being rescued from factories and brothels.

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights rescued 93 children from gold and jewellery factories in Karol Bagh in May. Of them, 57 were below the age of 14 and some were even 10-year-olds. The rest of the children were between 14 and 18. Then in July, nine child labourers were found working at several scrap shops in North East Delhi's Mustafabad. But these rescues are like a drop in the ocean as the lockdown slowed down such initiatives as well. There was a time when only 27 per cent of the Anti-Human Trafficking Units were functional. Thankfully, in September, 36 children under 14 years were rescued from bangle-making units in West Delhi's Jahangirpuri area where they were made to work for 15 hours a day and sleep in the same dingy room. All lured or sold on the promise of food and a roof over their heads.

Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson of NGO *Bachpan Bachao Andolan*, estimates that in Delhi, "at least five lakh children are in full-time

jobs. That means every sixth child is out of school and working somewhere."

Every time we hear such statistics, we are shocked and angry. Even more disturbing is the fact that these children are there in our midst, suffering abuse, hardship, deprivation and long hours of work in dingy, dark and polluted places where they have no business to be. We are blissfully ignorant of this invisible, silent and hapless workforce. The tiny factory workers, who are well hidden from our sight, toil to pander to our penchant for buying things at discounted prices, the cheaper the better. But we are content sweeping our collective guilt under the carpet, simply because they do not torment us visibly.

We do know that certain industries traditionally employ children. Like *bidi* factories, the carpet industry, the garment sweatshops, incense and firework factories, brick kilns, the farm sector and so on. But when buying these products, do we ever take the pain to ensure that the brand that we are purchasing has nothing to do with child labour? It is our demand for cheaper products that in turn creates the demand for child labour as businesses then can keep the cost of production down and their margins up. We don't bother to boycott goods over unethical trade practices. If we did so, the factory owners would have revised their norms. So, by extension, we are as guilty as the perpetrators of the crime of trafficking and hiring child labour.

And what about child labourers, who are staring us right in our faces? What of the minor

hired to "baby-sit" children? Or the ubiquitous *chotus* (apprentices/assistants) all over India, selling *chai* at the local tea shop and even delivering it to our offices and at the railway station? What of the little boy cleaning the car in the neighbourhood, his little hands and muscles straining to carry a heavy bucket full of water? Or the shoeshine boy, the child manning a roadside *dhaba*, serving food to customers? Have we ever bothered to question the people who hire them or even inform the law enforcement authorities about their presence? Clearly we do not want to get out of our comfort zone and easily attribute it to a societal crime, without realising we form the society that condones it. We could have picked up the phone and called the NGOs and rights activists who can help the child in distress. But we don't do that either.

And what about children caught in the sex trade? If people stop watching child pornography, there will be no market for it. If men stop violating minor girls for a price, there will be no market for it again. So, on all counts, society is as guilty as the criminals who traffic children.

Apart from a mindset change, there has to be community alertness and personal accountability by each citizen. There must be non-Governmental and Government intervention to ensure that hapless parents do not take the extreme step of trading their children for a dole. There is no time to be lost, else a nation will forget the meaning of *bachpan*.

(The writer is Senior Editor, The Pioneer)

## SOUNDBITE

Some experts told us informally that air pollution is not only caused due to stubble burning, but there are many other causes too. You lawyers will also have to get down from your big, beautiful cars and ride cycles.

**Chief Justice of India**  
—SA Bobde



There is total lawlessness. Jammu and Kashmir has been converted into a jail. We are not Twitter politicians, we won't stay inside, we will come out.

**Former Chief Minister**  
—Mehbooba Mufti



We have 2,25,000 deaths, the modeling tells us we're going to get one hundred or more thousand as we get into the winter, that is just something that's unacceptable.

**US disease expert**  
—Anthony Fauci



If we talk about my cricket career, then the only and biggest regret is that we failed to win the semi-final of the 2011 World Cup in Mohali.

**Cricketer**  
—Umar Gul



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Poor football

Sir — As per the Centre's guidelines, many cinema halls are re-opening. However, the football remains in single digits. Currently, the halls are permitted to operate with 50 per cent capacity; one seat between two persons is to be kept empty to ensure social distancing. Other mandatory norms include wearing of masks, applying sanitisers, compulsory thermal scanning, adequate ventilation and freezing temperature settings of all air conditioning at 23 degree Celsius or above. Even with strict guidelines in place, people are extremely hesitant to visit the theatres. Also, no big-time releases are slated for now as it is preposterous to imagine a producer or an actor risking his/her fortune during such crucial times. Over the months since the lockdown, the loyal film audience has adapted to online streaming apps. Adjusting to big screens again might take some time. Also many are cutting on expenditure owing to their financial stress.

The cinema hall owners, too, are in a quandary because of the financial losses they have been bearing due to the complete clo-

### Punjab makes a point for its farmers

The Punjab Assembly has passed three farm Bills as the farmers' protests against the recently passed farm Acts intensify. The Central laws are silent about the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for agricultural produce. Sale of produce to the private traders, companies, corporates and other agencies cannot take place in the Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) *mandis* anymore, and levy of fee for trades has been prohibited. Thus, farmers have no option but to approach the courts for dispute resolution. The thought of a takeover of the agriculture sector by traders using their financial power is haunting the farmers.

According to the State Bills, "no sale or purchase of wheat or paddy shall be valid unless the price paid for such agricultural produce is equal to or greater than the MSP" announced for the two crops. And if an individual or a company or any other agency compels or exerts pressure on a farmer to sell the agro-produce at a price below the MSP, then such person shall be deemed to have committed a punishable offence. The



Bills also have a provision to levy a fee on trade platforms outside the markets established under the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act 1961 to fund welfare activities. These proposed amendment Bills are not just meant to counter the Centre's laws but to save the peasantry of Punjab.

**Haridasan Rajan**  
Kozhikode

### Defence agreement

Sir — On October 27, India and the US signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) to further military ties between the two countries. India will now be able to keep an eye on the movements of Chinese warships in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). BECA will help us get real-time

access to American geospatial intelligence that will enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones. Sharing information on maps and satellite images will help us gain access to topographical and aeronautical data. The signing of the long-negotiated defence pact comes against the backdrop of a tense border standoff with

China in eastern Ladakh. The increasing defence and security partnership between the two nations will help monitor the situation in the Indo-Pacific at a time when China is attempting to expand its economic and military clout in the region. In June, India and Australia had signed a pact allowing their militaries to access each other's bases. A similar agreement with Japan also came to fruition last month after years of negotiations. It is also hoped that the sharing of technology will contribute significantly towards bringing India closer to the lofty goal of *atmanirbharta* in the defence sector.

**Yash Pal Ralhan**  
Jalandhar

### Ban firecrackers

Sir — The air quality has further worsened as hundreds of Ravana effigies and firecrackers were burnt in the Capital on Dussehra. The Government needs to wake up and put a blanket ban on firecrackers this Diwali.

**Yugal Kishore Sharma**  
Faridabad

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)



FIRST COLUMN

## Make the right policy choices

A continued prosperity for nations will only be achieved by allowing and championing a global open market for trade, goods and digital services



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

It is festival time globally, and not just the religious and fun variety but also the vital festival of democracy or elections. It is for the first time in our lifetimes that festivities, mostly associated with huge crowds jostling to reach the ballot box or *bedi* (the pedestal on which the idols of deities are kept), are taking place in the shadow of a raging global pandemic. Forced departures from well-known rituals associated with festivals make these times a case study for future generations. Many would have seen a video on social media of an idol being immersed using mechanised trolleys, with least human intervention, in the recently-concluded Durga puja festivities. Now switch to the theatre of democracy in Bihar, where Assembly elections are being held. The common thread between the two festivals is, technology. Bihar, would perhaps be the first State in the country where technological interventions played a key role in the elections.

First, the Election Commission (EC) allowed online filing of nominations for candidates and many political parties chose to reach out to their constituents through virtual rallies and put up huge LED walls for public viewing. Given the absence of many veterans active in Bihar elections for at least three decades, most of the young scions of the colourful, vociferous and politically-influential families were suddenly catapulted to the centrestage of a new narrative. This young brigade of Biharis, technologically more versatile than their parents, sought votes on issues. Something hitherto unheard of in a State, known for its divisive caste and religious biases. It was surprising to see rival candidates promise lakhs of jobs to young voters in a State grappling with the problem of the jobless migrant labourers.

The most welcome aspect of this election has been the reliance on technology in a State which could well be a case study on the digital divide between India and Bharat. Many statisticians will point to a survey which revealed that more than half of Bihar's women and around 40 per cent men have no access to mass media. This, when extrapolated over digital media, means a significant part of the population can either be completely insulated from the impact of technology or could be the next addressable unconnected millions, who need to be put on the information technology expressway of prosperity.

Now let's jump across the Pacific to the US, which, too, is about to witness one of the fiercest and cacophonous elections on November 3 amid the COVID threat, deaths and economic destruction. The common binary binding Bihar elections, Durga Puja festivities and US elections is again, technology. After all, the new dominance game and the race to be a global superpower is now increasingly getting defined by your first tap on a smartphone, first digital payment/electronic transaction, first contact-free shopping for world-class brands from the comfort of your home and perhaps the first digital date after months of trying to understand each other's typos and abbreviated texts.

Therefore, restrictions on digital applications, depending on the country of origin, to applying the same principles to hardware solutions in technical infrastructure, to forming an alliance of like-minded technology fraternity of nations were some of the key highlights in the election campaign of the two presidential candidates of the world's richest democracy. What it also highlighted was the fact that increasingly, the physical restrictions (read policies) of trade and commerce dominating economic relations between a bunch of nations will now be enthusiastically copy-pasted in the digital arena to prevent loss of sovereign powers and dominance at the global high tables.

COVID has put the spotlight on public policy issues, which, till February, were still in advanced stages of intellectual discourses. It has challenged our ability to adapt and eventually recover from the disease. And the only sector which has truly helped this advancement is technology. It reacted quickly and ensured teachers, parents and children were handed online course materials for seamless academic learning and doctors were given online tools for initial digital health interventions for patients. It gave the Government effective platforms for interaction and empowered it to push critical policy goals. Technology enabled digital live *darshans* of beautiful but deserted *pandals* and online delivery of *prasad* for the religious, too. If the human race has been pushed ahead by three decades in one stroke by the lockdown and technology has taken centrestage, it is also time to think and refresh many global policy challenges and perhaps release an update. Policymakers have to realise that imposing strict restrictions, based purely on case-by-case models, and having a physical worldview of digital policy issues can be self-defeating in the long run. A continued prosperity for nations will only be achieved by allowing and championing a global open market for trade, goods and digital services. It must be kept in mind that the new normal for policy-making at sovereign-level negotiations must be dictated by a set of principles. This must be compulsory in all digital agreements between consumers and technology providers, governments and their counterparts across borders. A multi-lateral approach must be championed. It is time to click on the right button.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

THIS DUSSEHRA THE EFFIGIES OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND INDUSTRIALISTS WERE BURNT. IT IS SAD, BUT IT IS HAPPENING AS FARMERS ARE UPSET.  
—CONGRESS LEADER  
RAHUL GANDHI

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THIS SHOWS HOW DESPERATE THE CONGRESS IS. SHOULD THE FORMER CONGRESS CHIEF TALK LIKE THIS? HE HAS NO POLITICAL STANDING LEFT.  
—UNION MINISTER  
RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

# Graft-free governance

A metrics-based system for oversight over governmental processes will bring transparency and spur digital innovation to make any administration robust without inhibiting public interest



RAJESH RANJAN

Among the issues in public discourse that have caught the attention of the country is the problem of corruption, which elicits strident criticism. The issue has triggered a slew of reforms aimed at strengthening the fabric of integrity, like the enactment of the Public Procurement Bill, the Lokpal Act incorporating, *inter alia*, the public disclosure of assets by public servants, reforms in higher judicial appointments and so on. While anti-graft activists differ in terms of strategies and focus areas, there is a unanimous acceptance of the fact that technology and e-governance promote greater transparency. The rationale is very simple. Deny the opportunity for manual manipulation and replace it with technology, crafted around well-defined protocols and legal safeguards with minimal human intervention.

It has been five years since India adopted the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Corruption in general and venality in public life in particular adversely affect the fulfilment of these SDGs. Therefore, a proactive and preventive vigilance regime forms the backbone of good governance and is critical to their realisation. How then do we make governance more effective without inhibiting its objectives? Today, administrative affairs grapple with leakages in public delivery of welfare and development goals on account of manual processes that can be manipulated. But by leveraging technology, these leakages can be plugged. Incremental improvements to technology should continue to be the mainstay of advancements in administration.

In the recent discourse on procurement methods, transparency of policy, procedure and practices is increasingly being seen as an imperative of using public monies to remove any allegations of opacity and inconsistencies in decision-making. Achieving transparency ensures that procurement is open to public scrutiny, which results in best value for public monies. For example, the transparency of procedure as achieved in online applications is one of the simpler yet effective features of digitisation, as it shifts the onus of submitting correct information and data to the applicant. This, once verified by the public servant, retains the maker-checker wedge in a direct way.

In an effort to plug leakages in procurement systems, the Government launched the Government E-Marketplace (GeM) in 2016 as an end-to-end marketplace for goods and services required by Central and State Governments as well as Public Sector Undertakings. As per an assessment by the Centre for Public Impact, the savings impact of GeM has been substantial, wherein a maximum price reduction of approximately 56 per cent of goods and services, coupled with demand aggregation, has already led to savings to the tune of ₹40,000 crore annually. Given the fact that the public procurement economy constitutes about 20 per cent of India's GDP, it is imperative to build on this initiative through amplified efforts and bring as many goods and services on board as possible. And in order to make the platform more robust, addressing the issue of quality control should be the next level of sophistication that GeM should aspire for.

In the next 10 years, the business of Government will experience massive disruption. This comes on the back of technological enhancements that reduce the need for intermediaries and ensure that the sanctity of process remains unimpeachable. One such technology which has been discussed widely in recent times is blockchain. A NITI Aayog discussion paper has identified use-cases where the technology can potentially improve governance, ranging from tracing of drugs in the pharmaceutical supply chain to verification of education certificates. The three key principles of the blockchain technology are: Transparency, decentralisation and accountability.

“HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN BLOCKCHAIN'S SUCCESS WILL BE A COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO DEVELOP/REFORM LAWS AND BUILD ROBUST DATA PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE REGIMES. TILL SUCH TIME WE ADDRESS THESE ISSUES, BLOCKCHAIN IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE A MONUMENTAL IMPACT IN CREATING AN INTEGRITY-FIRST GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM”



One of the most interesting areas of intervention for this technology would be in the space of land records. Ever since the Permanent Settlement of Bengal in 1793, the issue of land records has occupied the administration and citizenry with its complexities, misgivings and fraud. The system is riddled with inefficiencies that reduce trust in the Government. Currently the UNDP is involved in certain Proof of Concept (POC) pilots across India. The underlying theory intends to create an immutable history of transactional records that helps in checking authenticity; a tamper-proof system to avoid forgery; a distributed ledger so that all stakeholders see the same information; and a secure encrypted environment, where updates are available in near real time. The NITI Aayog paper also identifies this value proposition. For example, the paper notes that, in order to ensure that transactions are not fraudulent, the physical presence of witnesses is mandated at the time of sales deed registry. Deployment of blockchain would potentially eliminate the need of these processes while maintaining the sanctity of the transaction.

This helps create a tamper-proof audit trail that allows for tracking decision-making and ensures that they are in accordance with anti-corruption principles. It addresses concerns around cyber security. Currently there are interesting pilots being conducted across the world, where deployment of blockchain is being tested for public procurement, wherein systems are being built in to identify graft with a view to disincentivise corrupt actors from accessing the system at the outset.

From the perspective of Internal Controls and Governance (Vigilance), it is strongly recommended to employ a five-part test while assessing such deviations from process: Whether the issue being pursued has corrupt connotations; the general reputation of the employee involved; whether better options were available and ignored without valid reasoning; whether the situation inhibited the selection of any

other option but the one finally chosen and finally, whether the larger interest of the organisation was safeguarded or not.

Deployment of technological solutions like blockchain can potentially remove the need or significantly reduce the time taken for making such assessments. In a recent paper released by Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, titled *Code to Integrity*, the authors have highlighted how blockchain can be a powerful tool in the fight against Government corruption. The report cites case studies of countries like Kenya, Rwanda and Ghana where Government records pertaining to court systems, education and land rights are migrating to distributed ledgers.

However, a significant factor in blockchain's success will be a country's ability to develop/reform laws and build robust data protection and maintenance regimes. Till such time we address these issues, blockchain is not likely to have a monumental impact in creating an integrity-first governance ecosystem.

The general environment now is in favour of a regime which ensures that companies not only do profitable business but do so in a manner which is ethical. The United Nations Convention against Corruption, ratified by India in 2011, as well as the anti-corruption principles expounded by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) cover a wide gamut of vulnerable areas and aspects of business operations, including anti-bribery, public procurement and conflict of interest. More and more countries in the coming years will be obliged to establish laws and mechanisms in place to ensure clean business operations as well as seize and confiscate assets derived from corrupt practices.

India, too, needs to review its existing legal framework to address issues around data security, corrupt practices and corporate governance with a view to address our anti-corruption objectives and provide the necessary guidance to well-intentioned officials in the Government.

The Centre made a significant change to the Prevention of Corruption Act in 2018. The element of intention has been added under definition of criminal misconduct. Similarly, broadening the definition of "unfair advantage" and introduction of corporate criminal liability will go a long way in apprehending or deterring bad actors on both sides from indulging in bribery. The amendments also have ensured that our obligations under the UN Convention against Corruption are adequately addressed and bring us closer to leading anti-bribery legislations in the world such as the UK Bribery Act.

While these amendments will go a long way in guiding the work of internal control agencies, it would be important to institutionalise a system, wherein compliance against said legislation and established processes can be checked and quantified. A metrics-based system for oversight over governmental processes will bring transparency, build trust and spur further digital innovation to make any administration more robust without inhibiting public interest-oriented decision-making.

It would be incorrect to end this discussion without addressing the well-intentioned public servant who finds the processes leading to greater transparency and ensuring value for taxpayers' money cumbersome and time-consuming and who is, therefore, tempted to short-circuit it. Well-intentioned though it may be, but any attempt to overwrite the processes, despite even demonstrable honesty of purpose, carries the major risk of opening up the system to misuse by corrupt players and would lead to eventual loss of public trust and decimation of the structure of public procurement. Thus, the intent of processes involved is to keep the proverbial Caesar's wife above suspicion. Through robust yet streamlined procedures, a bureaucrat can achieve the intended outcome and avoid unintended consequences.

(The writer is an IPS officer. The views expressed are personal)

# Nurture e-retail in a post-pandemic world

This approach would be in keeping with the Centre's focus on a Digital India where citizens are able to leverage their connectivity into better opportunities



MOHIT CHAUDHRY

Most nations imposed some form of shutdown to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. India's lockdown, which involved a near cessation of all movement and economic activity, has been rated as one of the most stringent across the world. Not surprisingly, it had a severe impact on our economy.

A sector that was hit particularly hard is retail. This is due to several reasons. First, shops and warehouses were closed during the initial phases of the lockdown. This brought the

operation of both physical and digital retailers to a standstill. Second, restrictions on inter-State movement of goods and the opening of only specific industries disrupted supply chains. For instance, the Centre recognised both medicines and processed foods as essential goods and allowed their sale. However, similar status was not granted to units which manufacture the packaging for medicines and processed foods. Hence, sellers of these goods found it difficult to operate. Third, the system of issuing passes and permits to personnel working for physical and digital retail was not well-implemented. It was unclear which authority would issue the passes and for how long they would remain valid. Further, personnel having to travel across districts were required to obtain separate passes from the authorities for each district. Fourth, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order directing all employers to ensure full payment of wages to all employees even if they were unable to work.

As a result of the order, several migrant labourers returned to their towns and villages once restrictions on movement of persons were lifted. A survey of retailers selling their products online, conducted as part of the Esya Centre's report on e-commerce, shows that nearly 60 per cent of such entities will be unable to recover losses suffered because of the lockdown. Given that people are likely to be wary of entering shops and stores even after lockdowns are eased, it is important to explore different avenues through which retail outlets can avoid further losses.

One such avenue is e-retail. A report by Global Trade and Regional Integration Unit of the World Bank highlights the utility of e-commerce in the post COVID normal. Not only can e-commerce help reduce the risk of new infections and preserve jobs, it can also increase the acceptance of prolonged social distancing measures among the population. Further, previous research has shown that there are

numerous benefits for MSMEs that adopt e-commerce, in the form of better price discovery, access to new consumers, support with logistics and inventory management. It is in recognition of the above that several nations, such as the United Kingdom and New Zealand, have given preference to digital forms of retail both during and after the lockdown. However, India is one of the few countries that has not leveraged the numerous benefits that e-commerce brings, particularly during a lockdown.

Policy-making towards e-commerce, both before and during the lockdown, may have hindered the operation of e-commerce entities. Prior to the lockdown, legacy government rule-making on e-commerce presented several barriers to the growth of the sector. These included ever-changing FDI rules, unresolved issues of data localisation and source code disclosure as well as the over-regulation of platforms. During the lockdown, the Government failed to adopt

a clear and consistent approach to policy formulation *vis-a-vis* retail. As an example, both physical and digital retailers were only allowed to sell essential goods in the initial phase of the lockdown. This continued till about mid-April, when the Government issued a notification which allowed e-retailers to deliver non-essential items from April 20. In conformity with this order, e-commerce firms began to make predations to resume their full scale of operations. However, on April 19, the Government withdrew its notification, seemingly under pressure from industry organisations that represented small and medium traders. Subsequently, relaxations regarding delivery of non-essential items were first given to physical outlets while e-retail continued to be limited to essential items for 8-10 days thereafter. The zonation framework introduced by the Government additionally preferred physical outlets in Red zones, as they could sell a wide range of merchandise while e-retail tasks were limited to

essential goods.

As pointed out, e-commerce enjoys numerous advantages over physical retail, particularly in a situation where social distancing continues to be important. Hence, there is a need to provide a policy environment that fosters the uptake and adoption of e-commerce by both consumers and sellers. To achieve this, we recommend a five-step recovery process. The first steps are geared towards fostering an atmosphere of trust and credibility between the Government and market entities.

This can be achieved by holding regular consultations, opening avenues for feedback and providing sufficient notice before major changes. Further, policy actions should not skew competition between physical and digital business models. Instead, both models should be allowed to leverage their respective strengths. Finally, the Government must reassess what it seeks to achieve through its proposed e-commerce policy. In the current scenario, a policy framework governing e-retail or e-commerce in general, should look to assist small enterprises in capacity-building for a digitally enabled future through the provision of finance, skill development and underlying infrastructure. There is, therefore, a need to move away from legacy regulatory institutions, based on licensing and control, to an entity that actively participates in capacity-building and development of small and medium retailers in India. In this context, it is worthwhile to explore the role being played by digital economy development authorities in countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam, which actively promote the adoption of digital solutions and e-commerce for SMEs as well as consumers. This approach would be in keeping with the Government's focus on a Digital India where citizens are able to leverage their connectivity into better opportunities and prospects.

(The writer is a research assistant at the Esya Centre)



# RAINBOW IN MY PLATE

Chef DAVID EDWARD RAJ suggests including fruits, vegetables and other key components of different colours to the platter so that they form the required nutrition base needed for a healthy body and mind

The lockdown phase has got many food enthusiasts to don the chef's hat and innovate with various dishes and cuisines. More focus has been given to healthy eating during the peak of the pandemic as staying immune to the virus was considered as important as breathing. However, there is a myth attached to healthy eating that it does not tastes upto the mark and its presentation is not so attractive. To change this mindset, chefs across the world have been innovating with food to introduce meals that are not just tasty and healthy, but also visually appealing.

Though there are ample nutritious food items available in the restaurants as well as on the shelves of supermarket, one of the fanciest yet basic idea is 'eating the rainbow'. Yes, that's right. The term 'eating the rainbow' means including foods of different colours to the platter. This comprises fruits, vegetables and other key components that together form the required nutrition base that is needed for a healthy body and mind.

It is a commonly known and acknowledged fact that more the inclusion of vegetables and fruits in our diet, the better it is for the body. However, there is a lack of motivation which entails most people not following this eating habit.

The concept of this food being used for medicinal purpose has been around for more than a millennium and is still actively followed across various schools of medicine like Ayurveda and Unani. Such special foods were known and treasured due to their use in treating or



preventing diseases. Hence, it is important for us to include more fruits and vegetables in our diet because they possess vitamins and minerals that not only help prevent but also delay the onset of various diseases.

## ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS AND THEIR BENEFITS

Vitamins like vitamin C, vitamin K, riboflavin, folic acid and compounds called carotenoids (some of which can be converted to vitamin A in the body) are found in many vegetables and fruits. Guava and gooseberry are some of the easily available sources of vitamin C. Vegetables like capsicum are rich in thiamine, a member of the B complex family of vitamins.

Some vegetables like potato, sweet potato, tapioca, yam and fruits like mango, banana and sapota make a fair contribution towards energy intake. Most vegetables and fruits are high in water and fibre contents and low in calorific value.

Many of the greens are packed with iron. Drumstick called as *Moringa* is loaded with essential nutrients. The leaves are the most nutrient dense part of the plant and one of the finest sources of calcium, iron, zinc, selenium and magnesium. Fresh pods and seeds are the



best for oleic acid — a healthy fatty acid that keeps the heart health in check. *Moringa* leaves are loaded with great amount of protein and are one of the best sources.

Flavonoids, a diverse group of phytonutrients (plant chemicals)

found in probably all fruits and vegetables also play an important role. Along with carotenoids, they are responsible for the vivid colours in fruits and vegetables. Flavonoids are the largest group of phytonutrients. They are found in lemons, oranges,

plums, peaches, apricots, apples, green leafy vegetables, yellow capsicum, onions and broccoli.

Grape fruit is known to reduce blood cholesterol and glucose concentrations. Yellow fruits like mangoes and green leafy vegetables and carrots are rich in beta carotene which is converted to vitamin A in the body and also helps to fight cancer.

Red fruits like tomatoes and watermelon contain lycopene, which is important for fighting prostate cancer and heart diseases.

Strawberries, blueberries, apples, grapes and onions are being studied for their anti-ageing effects.

The most natural way to overcome constipation is to increase intake of green leafy vegetables and other high fibre vegetables and fruits. Their high water and fibre content and low energy values promote satiety, decrease energy intake and could be important in weight management. Nutritionists recommend regular moderate exercise and many servings of soups and salads for those who need to shed a few pounds. Substituting fruits and vegetables for a calorie dense evening snack helps in weight loss.

(The chef is Director — Culinary development & Innovation, Elixir India.)



## The diet connection

Here's a list of superfoods that can lower the risk of breast cancer

A healthy lifestyle which includes exercise and a nutrient-dense diet may help reduce the risk of cancer. Foods which are rich in antioxidants and fiber have been found to regulate oestrogen and inhibit cancer cell formation. Small changes to a routine can help reduce the risk of breast cancer. Rohit Shelatkar, VP at Vitabiotics, Fitness and Nutrition Expert lists down some superfoods to add in ones diet to reduce the risk of breast cancer.

**Walnuts:** Walnuts are packed with Omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants and phyosterols which helps regulate oestrogen levels and slow the growth of breast cancer cells. They have been known to help fight inflammation which in itself is beneficial in avoiding heart disease and a host of other chronic conditions, but it is also linked to cancer.

**Blueberries:** Research suggests that blueberries can reduce the growth of breast cancer tumours by causing cancerous cells to self-destruct, a process called apoptosis. Frozen wild blueberries are just as antioxidant and nutrient-packed as fresh. One can consume blueberries with smoothies, oatmeal or yogurt.

**Sweet Potatoes:** The sweet potato can inhibit proliferation and can regulate cell growth, defend and repair them. Studies have shown that women who eat sweet potatoes on

a regular basis are at a 17 per cent lower risk of developing breast cancer.

**Flaxseeds:** Flaxseed has all kinds of amazing health benefits, including lowering blood pressure and cholesterol. It is the richest source of lignans — a type of antioxidant. Dietary flaxseed has the potential to reduce tumour growth in patients with breast cancer. One can add flaxseeds to smoothies, yogurt par-faits or mix in the morning oatmeal.

**Garlic:** Garlic gets its cancer-busting properties from allicin, a component of garlic that's been shown to inhibit the division of cancer cells. Other cancer risks also found to lower lung, stomach, and prostate, possibly due to the flavonols present in the garlic. Eating garlic raw can maximise the anti-cancer effects.

**Green Tea:** It is packed antioxidants with immense health benefits. One of those benefits includes having anti-breast cancer properties.

Decreasing the number of fatty foods in the diet and replacing them with whole foods will reduce the risk and have been shown to improve the survival rate of breast cancer patients. While no single food is guaranteed to keep oneself cancer-free, changing the diet to include more of these superfoods that can help fight breast cancer would prove beneficial. —IANS

## R E C I P E S



### PANEER MAKHANA IN MAKHANI GRAVY

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Paneer: 200 gm
- *Makhane* (Popped lotus seeds): 50 gm
- Whole spices (green cardamom, cinnamon, clove and bay leaf): 15 gm
- *Ghee*: 30 gm
- Milk: 100 ml
- Cashew, white poppy seeds and melon seeds paste: 60 gm
- Cashew nut: 20 gm
- Raisins: 20 gm
- Cardomom powder: 5 gm
- Salt to taste
- White pepper powder: 2 gm
- Sugar: 15 gm
- Tomato purees: 100 gm
- *Kastoori methi*: 15 gm
- Saffron: 1 gm
- Fresh coriander leaves (to garnish)
- Pomegranate seeds (to garnish)

#### METHOD

- Dry roast *makhana* and leave it aside.
- Heat *ghee* in a pan and add whole spices.
- Once they start to crackle, add cashew, poppy and melon seeds paste and start stirring.
- Now add milk little by little and cook the gravy. Then add tomato puree and cook till the *ghee* separates.
- Add salt, sugar and white pepper powder. Make paneer *kofta* by grating the paneer. Stuff with nuts and flavour with cardomom powder.
- Cook another minute or so. If gravy gets thicker, add more milk and cook again.
- Turn off the heat, add fried *koftas*, roasted *makhane* and mix well. Add saffron and mix once again.
- Sprinkle coriander and pomegranate seeds. Serve immediately.

Courtesy: Chef Vaibhav Bhargava, Band Baja Barat Restaurant.



### ALL TRICK, NO TREAT

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Jameson: 50 ml
- Lemon juice: 25 ml
- Toffee syrup: 20 ml
- Chocolate bitters
- Egg whites: 25 ml

#### METHOD

- Take one cup sugar and butter (half stick).
- Continuously stir over medium heat for five minutes until it turns into rich brown colour.
- Add water if too thick and allow toffee syrup to cool.
- Place all ingredients into a cocktail shaker, add ice and shake well.
- Double strain into a chilled glass of your choice. Garnish with sprinkling of nutmeg and chocolate.

Courtesy: Pernod Ricard India.

### RAW BANANA, COCONUT AND SAGO KABAB

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Raw banana: 600 gm
- Fresh coconut: 250 gm
- Soaked sago pearls: 300 gm
- Almond: 40 gm
- Peppercorn: 1 tbsp
- Salt to taste
- Green chilli: 5
- *Ghee*: 20 gm

#### METHOD

- Wash, boil and cool banana. Then grate banana and fresh coconut.
- Further, soak sago for two hours and drain water.
- Heat *ghee* in a pan, add grated coconut and cook till it turns golden brown.
- In a mixture grinder grind half of the roasted coconut



and keep the rest half aside.

- Fine chop green chillies. Mash half of sago and keep half sago for coating kababs from both sides.
- Then assemble all the above ingredients in a bowl and mix well.
- Divide above mixture in small balls and make round and flatten kababs.
- Then spread soaked sago

pearls on a plate, place flatten kababs on sago and firmly press so that sago can coat the kabab. Do this for both sides.

- Heat *ghee* in a non-stick pan. When hot place kababs and cook them from both sides till it turns golden brown.
- Serve hot.

Courtesy: Michelin Plate Winner, Chef Dayashankar Sharma.

### APPLE GALETTE WITH GINGER AND HONEY

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Plain flour: 225 gm
- Salt to taste
- Butter (chilled and cut into small cubes): 125 gm
- Castor sugar: 2 tbsp
- Cold water: 2½ tbsp
- Crisp dessert apples: 4
- Ground almonds: 140 gm
- Demerara sugar: 55 gm (1 tbsp extra for dusting)
- Stem ginger (drained of syrup and finely diced): 100 gm
- Runny honey: 2 tbsp
- Lemon juice: 3 tbsp
- Melted butter: 2½ tbsp
- Stem ginger syrup (for glazing): 2-3 tbsp

#### METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 190 degree celsius.
- **For the dough:** Sift the flour and



salt into a bowl, add the chilled diced butter and rub together until

the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, add

the water and bring the dough together into a ball using a spatula, wrap in cling film and rest in a cool place for an hour.

- Peel the apples, cut into quarters and remove the cores.
- Cut each quarter into three or four slices and reserve.
- Sprinkle the apples with two to three teaspoons of the lemon juice to prevent from browning.
- Roll out the dough very thinly on a flour dusted worktop to a circle 38 cm (15 inches) in diameter.
- Brush the base of the casserole with a little melted butter and line the base and sides with the rolled out pastry, allowing the excess to stand proud of the rim.
- Combine the ground almonds, demerara sugar and chopped stem ginger together and spoon into the pastry lined pan.
- Arrange the sliced fruit on top in a neat circle pattern starting from the centre and working outwards.

- Mix the honey with the lemon juice and brush over the top of the fruit.

● Wet the inside exposed edges of the pastry with a little water and fold it into the pan, gently pressing together where the pastry overlaps. This can be in six or seven places and should look quite rustic.

● Brush the top of the turned over pastry with the melted butter and sprinkle with the extra demerara sugar.

● Bake the galette in the centre of the preheated oven for 50 to 55 minutes until golden brown and crisp, covering it with a sheet of loose foil, once it is nicely browned.

● Remove the galette from the oven and brush the apples with the stem ginger syrup.

● Serve warm or at ambient temperature with vanilla custard, whipped cream, honey yogurt or ice cream.

Courtesy: Le Creuset.



## Trend Slazer

### Kemmu's tattoo took four years

Actor **KUNAL KEMMU** is a tattoo lover and he recently visited a tattoo studio to complete a four-year-old tattoo.

On Wednesday, Kunal took to Instagram and posted a few pictures and a video to flaunt the tattoo, which has the face of a tiger with hyper-realistic details on his calf muscles.

"It's finally completed. I never posted this tattoo since it wasn't complete even though I've had it since 2016. But finally after almost about 30 hours split over an average of six hours per session it's done and I love it," he captioned the post.

A day ago, Kunal's wife and actress Soha Ali Khan posted a video that shows Kunal patiently lying in the studio while his tattoo was being done.



**'With every new release, the count of butterflies in my stomach increases, and right now I**

**feel tensed, eager to know what the audience feels. There is a sense of double pressure because we are releasing *Taish* in two formats, as a full-length feature film and as a web series. Both formats have their target audience.'**

**—Bejoy Nambiar**

**BOBBY DEOL, SANYA MALHOTRA and VIKRANT MASSEY** will co-star in the forthcoming crime thriller *Love Hostel*, a film set against the pulsating backdrop of rustic North India.



The film will be written and directed by **Shanker Raman**, a National Award-winning cinematographer who previously directed the acclaimed film *Gurgaon*.

"I am happy to have found the perfect partners in Vikrant, Sanya and the formidable Bobby Deol. *Love Hostel* as a film not only questions what our society has become but also the paths we take to solve our problems," Raman said.

### Khloe is COVID-19 positive

Reality TV personality **KHLOE KARDASHIAN** has come out and spoken about testing positive for COVID-19. She confirmed being infected by the Coronavirus in a recorded clip from isolation.

"Just found out that I do have Corona. I have been in my room.

It's gonna be fine, but it was really bad for a couple days," she said in the video.

The news of Khloe testing positive is confirmed on an forthcoming episode of the reality show *Keeping Up With The Kardashians*.

Khloe was vomiting, shaking and having hot and cold flashes. She also shared that she had a burning cough and was having difficulty in speaking.



# GIVING LIFE TO THE WORN AND TORN

A team of students develops Artificial Intelligence algorithms to digitally reconstruct the damaged murals from Ajanta Caves. CHAHAK MITTAL talks to them about how AI can help historians solve ancient puzzles

Imagine walking inside the oldest fort or monument in your city. You find out that the building is in a tattered condition. All that remain are blackened corners, broken window panes, crooked steps, faded marble floors, stones chiselled out of the walls, and tarnished inscriptions. Now imagine viewing everything in the condition it would have ideally been when the rulers living in that palace actually existed. Well, this is no mere thought or a wishful imagination, if we think digitally!

Reconstructing places of historical significance physically might include a lot of archaeological investigations, primary and secondary sources of research, guesswork, labour, funds and time. However, ever imagined if we were to revamp and reconstruct them digitally?

Well, Ancient AI, a team of IIT Roorkee students, has developed deep-learning Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) algorithms to digitally provide aid to the restoration process of murals recovered from the Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra. The restored digital murals have now been deposited at the Arctic Digital Archive (AWA) located close to the North Pole. This will ensure its protection from natural disasters and secure accessibility for future generations for over 1,000 years.

So how does the algorithm work? Parth Chhabra, second year student of Mechanical Engineering and leader of the team, says, "The algorithm that we have created helps fill the spots and spaces present in an image based on their surroundings and previously-learned features from various other paintings. Also, we can use it to colour the image to give it a more realistic look."

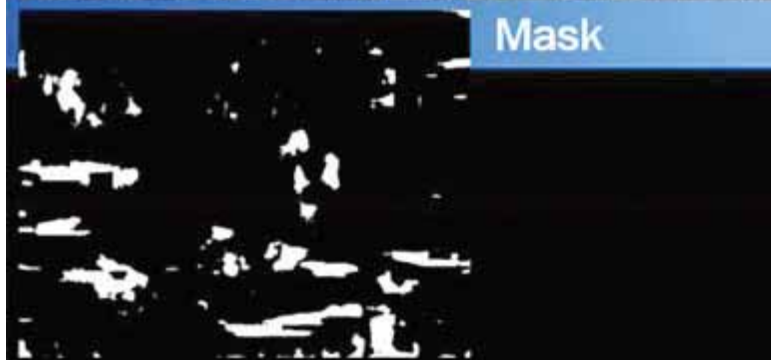
The algorithm was worked upon as a part of the *Tech4Heritage Hackathon*, which aimed at finding AI & ML-based solutions to help in the restoration process of murals recovered from the Ajanta Caves. It was spearheaded by the Rishihood University, Internity Foundation and Sapio Analytics, supported by the Ministry of Culture and LTI (Larsen & Toubro Infotech). Ancient AI, the winner team, now has the opportunity to work closely with the Sapio Analytics Heritage Restoration Team.

Another student from the team, Kushagra Babbar highlights that they utilised a dataset of more than a 1,000 reference paintings to develop AI models built on General Adversarial Networks (GANs). So what were the challenges in curating the data? He adds,



Damaged

Restored



Mask



Parth Chhabra



Kushagra Babbar

"The biggest challenge that we faced was creating a data set of damaged paintings and their corresponding restored images, which are not readily available. Hence, we thought of a completely opposite approach, that of damaging some clean images to an extent, which matches real-life damaged images. With image-processing, we took spots from the damaged ones and overlaid them on the clean ones. Post that, through Neural Style Transfer, a fascinating AI achievement, we styled our images similar to the damaged ones. With this and some randomisation, we created a dataset of approximately 850 damaged images from the 36 clean ones, of the paintings. It took around 40 to 50 hours generating this much big dataset. Completing this step was very crucial

since our result for the next step depended a lot on this. It was a very challenging process and this could not have been done without team work. We divided the images equally among us and generated 210 images each."

Several museums and exhibitions are now evidence of how art is being displayed through AI and VR technologies, making experts believe that AI is the future face of preserving history. Sahil Agarwal, co-founder and CEO, Rishihood University, explains how, "Technology certainly has a massive role in the future of art and history. There are several benefits to this. Today, when I enter the fossils section of a museum, I can not only see the part of an animal's skeleton, I can visualise the real animal movement and other char-

acteristics such as how it grew older and so on, through the AI. When I look at a painting, I can feel as if the painting is a visual reality around me. People are developing games and videos on history using AR and VR. Similarly, AI can be used to curate, store and recreate art. I believe the day is not far where the machine can learn from an artists' style and recreate an art."

So, what would an art on climate change look like if Van Gogh were to depict it in his style? he questions and says, "I think AI will reach that sophistication!"

Finding out evidence for historical theories and tracking records of past events have only been hindered by the labour-intensive process of identifying data from artefacts and handwritten inscriptions. Talking about how AI can help historians solve ancient puzzles, Kushagra says, "AI is the most efficacious way to build any automated solution. With the help of different algorithms in computer vision and natural language-processing, we can extract and even predict the ignored and missing information about ancient civilisations. Even if it is an old painting or an ancient literature in an unknown language, through AI, we can restore and know our past much better. I think the hackathon was a great opportunity to channelise our skills and have a head start in restoring our own culture, identity and heritage."

Even though the technique might be of major help to the historians, experts argue that looking at the current pandemic and frequently-occurring health hazards, archaeological puzzles do not seem to be as urgent as computer science projects in healthcare, finance and other industries. Talking about whether AI's usage has more of an urgency towards healthcare infrastructure rather than historical research at present, Sahil says, "Algorithm-based decision-making is quite useful, definitely in the areas such as healthcare, where we are short

of skilled professionals. However, I will not say that there is an urgency because the robustness and efficiency of such technologies develop over time. They need constant human supervision to maintain and improve their decision-making. The implication of incorrect results from technology in healthcare is much more severe than in an area like archaeology. Therefore, we should not prioritise among the two. Rather, we should judge whether the technology has sufficiently matured so that it can be applied for mass usage in a particular area."

Parth agrees that applying algorithmic techniques to historical research can improve AI's capabilities "more than directly applying them to a sensitive area like healthcare right now."

Well, why just healthcare and finance, Sahil believes that "education" is an area where AI has immense potential. He adds, "It can become a 24x7 companion for a student. Using AI, a person can realise her/his current levels and ways of learning, how efficiently one reads and what time of the day is best suited for one to read, what skills one needs to pick up if s/he wants a particular job, etc. Similarly, employers can use AI to track the levels and speed of learning much before the recruitment and for on-the-job training. Some companies are developing AI-based recruitment models, too."

For Parth, "AI can excel in Agriculture and Farming, Security and Surveillance, Sports Analytics and Activities, Manufacturing and Production, Live Stock and Inventory Management, Autonomous Vehicles, Logistic Supply Chain, creating Virtual Assistant or Chatbots, Retail and Fashion."

He adds that while this was about recreating the images of the damaged structures, the team aims to work on a project that could involve "interpreting the ancient texts through AI!"

## Exquisitely expensive

The Lexus LS 500h is a brilliantly crafted car. But even in its segment, it is far too pricey



think of the design as the perfect slashing of a katana by a samurai master.

Now to the driving, I have never really enjoyed driving cars in this category because honestly, nobody who acquires such a vehicle would ever drive it themselves. This is a car that one is driven around in, just like its competition the Mercedes-Benz S-Class, BMW 7-series, Audi A8 and Jaguar XJ. Getting into the 'luxury seat', diagonally behind the driver, you get

to push back the front passenger seat and use an ottoman as well as get all the other nice features such as a massager, screen et al. From a driving point of view, the 354 horsepower engine can drive the car very fast but when you are sitting in the driver's seat, you wish you do feel like a chauffeur. The hybrid system ensures that you get amazing fuel economy as well, despite having a big, fat V6 motor under the hood.



If you have to arrive in style, this is a great car. The problem is that it is twenty lakh more expensive than its sole competitor in the market, the BMW 745Le, BMW's hybrid 7-series. Yes, the Teutonic sense of luxury and aesthetics are very different, weirdly enough in terms of modern technology the BMW is slightly better off, the LS500h feels slightly dated. Even a chauffeur would like Apple CarPlay I guess. The combined power output of the BMW is superior and unlike the LS500h, it is a plug-in hybrid.

This is a car you buy because you admire the Japanese aesthetic, because you have walked the streets of Akihabara, because you have experienced both — the practicality and the sensibility of a bento box. There may not be a practical reason to buy this car over the competition, but at ₹1.82 crore anybody considering this car does not necessarily have practicality on their mind and the aesthetic sense and practical sense are independent of each other. This is a vehicle you buy if you love anything and everything Japanese.

## Nushratt was a revelation: Hansal

Actor Nushratt Bharuccha, who recently teamed up with the award-winning director, Hansal Mehta, for Amazon Prime Video's forthcoming film, *Chhalaang*, has been praised by the director.

Hansal said, "Nushratt was a revelation! With so many wonderful actors in the film, she held her own and how. She was hard working but always chilled out. Her performance was comfortable and she worked really hard on her accent to make it a part of her characterisation. She has a lot of potential. And she is a very chilled out person to be working with."

He added that Nushratt worked "remarkably hard" to get her Haryanvi diction for the film right. The actor who gained fame after the *Pyaar ka PUNCHNA* series will now be seen opposite Rajkumar Rao in the film.

The film is set to release on the Diwali weekend, on November 13. Other than this, Nushratt will also be seen in *Hurdang* opposite Sunny Kaushal and Vijay Varma.





# Pak leaders trembled lest India attack it

Foreign Minister pleaded to release Abhinandan

**Islamabad:** Legs were shaking and forehead perspiring at a meeting of Pakistan's top leaders, including Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, wherein Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi pleaded to release Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, saying if he was not released, India would attack Pakistan, a top Pakistani opposition leader has said.

Recalling the tension in Islamabad after India bombed a terror training camp in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26, 2019, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq criticised the Imran Khan government over its response, saying the Opposition has supported the government on every issue, including Kashmir and Varthaman, but it will no longer be appropriate to provide any further support, Dunya News reported on Wednesday.

Sadiq, who was the Speaker of the National Assembly during the PML-N government, made a similar statement earlier on Wednesday in Parliament here that Foreign Minister Qureshi in an important meeting pleaded that let Varthaman go back because India is attacking Pakistan.

The 37-year-old IAF pilot was captured by the Pakistani Army on February 27 after his MiG-21 Bison jet was shot down in a dogfight with Pakistani jets during aerial combat.

In the early hours of February 26, 2019, the IAF jets bombed the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror

camp in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan and avenged the Pulwama terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel.

Before his jet was hit, Varthaman downed an F-16 fighter of Pakistan. He was released on the night of March

1 by Pakistan.

In a speech in the National Assembly, Sadiq said that Prime Minister Imran Khan skipped the high-level meeting, which was attended by top leadership, including Army chief Gen Bajwa and Foreign Minister Qureshi.

## No constitutional, Sharia constraints on construction of temple: Pak religious body

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's supreme religious body has said that there are no constitutional or Sharia restrictions on the construction of a Hindu temple in Islamabad or any other part of the country.

The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) made its decision in a meeting on Wednesday on the basis of the Constitution and the Liaquat-Nehru Agreement of 1950, which led to the establishment of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) in Pakistan, the Dawn News reported.

The CII also allowed the government to hand over an ancient Hindu temple and adjoining Dharamshala (community centre) in Saidpur village to Islamabad's Hindu community.

"In view of the current population in Islamabad the ancient temple and the adjoining Dharamshala at Saidpur village be opened to the Hindus and they should be facilitated to

reach there to perform religious services as per their beliefs," the CII said.

The decision, signed by 14 CII members, added that Hindus, like all other religious groups in the country, have the constitutional right to a place for last rites according to their faith.

"Under this Right the Hindu community in Islamabad can have a suitable place for cremation of their dead and perform last rites of the deceased according to religious instructions," the council said.

An application was referred to the CII by the Ministry of Religious Affairs on July 6, seeking its opinion on the allotment of a land to the Hindu community for a crematorium, community centre and temple. The ministry had also sought the CII's advice on the allocation of Rs 100 million by the prime minister for the construction of the crematorium and temple. **PTI**

## Pak anti-terrorism court acquits PM Imran Khan in 2014 Parl attack case

**Islamabad:** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was acquitted by an anti-terrorism court on Thursday in the 2014 Parliament attack case but other senior ministers, including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, were summoned on November 12 for the indictment.

Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan, however, halted proceedings against President Arif Alvi due to the presidential immunity granted to him, The Express Tribune reported.

On August 31, 2014, workers of the now ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) tried to enter Parliament and go towards the Prime Minister's House and clashed with police.

Police had invoked sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act against Khan and other PTI leaders, according to a report in the Dawn newspaper.

The incident had happened during the sit-ins by PTI and PAT workers in front of the Parliament. **PTI**

# China gravest threat to future of religious freedom: Pompeo

**Jakarta:** China is the "gravest threat" to the future of religious freedom, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday, in his latest verbal assault on Beijing during a whirlwind Asian tour.

Pompeo has made attacks against China the focus of his trip this week which kicked off in India and included visits to Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Indonesia and, later Friday, Vietnam.

In Indonesia -- which has the world's biggest Muslim population -- Pompeo took aim at China's treatment of its Uighur Muslim minority.

"The gravest threat to the future of religious freedom is the Chinese Communist Party's war against people of all faiths: Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, and Falun Gong practitioners alike," Pompeo said in a speech Thursday to

major Muslim organisation the Nahdlatul Ulama. "The atheist Chinese communist party has tried to convince the world that its brutalisation of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang is necessary as counter-terrorism or poverty alleviation," he added.

Rights groups say that more than one million Uighurs languish in camps in the north-west Xinjiang region as Beijing attempts to forcibly integrate the community and root out its Islamic heritage.

China has denied the numbers and describes the camps as vocational centres that teach skills to prevent the allure of Islamic radicalism following a series of attacks.

"But we know that there is no counter-terrorism justification in forcing Uighur Muslims to eat pork during Ramadan, or destroying a Muslim cemetery," Pompeo said. **AFP**

## Saudi citizen wounds French consulate guard in Jeddah

**Jeddah:** A Saudi citizen wounded a guard in a knife attack at the French consulate in Jeddah Thursday, officials said, as France faces growing anger over satirical cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

The assault follows another knife attack at a church in the French city of Nice that left three people dead and several others wounded, in what authorities are treating as the latest jihadist attack to rock the country. "The assailant was apprehended by Saudi security forces immediately after the

attack. The guard was taken to hospital and his life is not in danger," the French embassy said in a statement.

Police in Mecca province, where Jeddah is situated, said the attacker was a Saudi, but it did not give the nationality of the guard, who they said had sustained minor injuries.

The French embassy in Riyadh strongly condemned the attack and urged its nationals in Saudi Arabia to exercise "extreme vigilance".

Neither the Saudi authorities nor the French embassy

gave any indication of the motivation for the attack.

But it comes after French President Emmanuel Macron vigorously defended the publication of satirical cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo on free speech grounds.

Regional heavyweight Saudi Arabia — home to Islam's holiest sites — has criticised the cartoons, saying it rejected "any attempt to link Islam and terrorism" but it stopped short of condemning the French leadership. **AFP**

## UK's Labour Party suspends Corbyn in antisemitism row

**London:** The UK's Opposition Labour Party on Thursday suspended former leader Jeremy Corbyn from its ranks after a report by the country's human rights watchdog held the party "responsible for unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination" during his time in charge.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), which had launched an investigation into antisemitism within the party following a string of complaints, found that Labour had broken the law in its failure to handle antisemitism, or anti-Jewish, complaints and there were "serious failings" by its leadership at the time.

However, in his reaction to the report, Corbyn said that the number of complaints made during his tenure were "dramatically overstated".

"One antisemite is one too many, but the scale of the problem was also dramatically overstated for political reasons by our opponents inside and outside the party, as well as by much of the media. That combination hurt Jewish people and must never be repeated," said Corbyn, in reference to the report.

A Labour Party spokesperson issued a statement soon after to announce that Corbyn had been suspended from the party. **PTI**

## Meghan wins delay to UK High Court privacy battle

**London (PTI):** Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, on Thursday won her plea for a delay in her ongoing High Court legal action in London over breach of privacy against *The Mail on Sunday* newspaper owners Associated Newspapers Limited (ANL). Justice Mark Warby said the trial, due to be held in January 2021, would be adjourned for a confidential reason until later next year.

"The right decision in all the circumstances is to grant the application to adjourn," the judge said.

"That means that the trial date of January 11, 2021, will be vacated and the trial will be re-fixed for a new date in the autumn," he said.

Under the confidential reasons, Markle has reportedly asked for the trial not to be

held before October 15 next year.

Meanwhile, a hearing early next year will consider a related summary judgment application by Markle's lawyers for the whole case to be dismissed on the basis that the evidence in her favour is "overwhelming".

Thursday's hearing was conducted in private via videolink to protect "the confidentiality of the information relied on" by Markle in her application to postpone the trial.

The 39-year-old, who is now based in the US after she and husband Prince Harry stepped back as frontline royals, is suing ANL over the publication of parts of a handwritten letter to her 76-year-old father, Thomas Markle, in the *Mail on Sunday* and *MailOnline* in August 2018.

## Polish President backtracks on abortion view amid protests

**Warsaw (Poland):** Poland's President Andrzej Duda said Thursday that women themselves should have the right to abortion in case of congenitally damaged fetuses, apparently breaking ranks with a conservative leadership that pushed a ban that has led to mass street protests.

"It cannot be that the law requires this kind of heroism from a woman," Duda said in an interview with radio RMF FM.

He spoke after seven straight days of huge protests across Poland following a con-

stitutional court ruling declaring it unconstitutional to terminate a pregnancy due to fetal congenital defects. The ruling effectively bans almost all abortions in a country that already had one of Europe's most restrictive abortion laws.

That ruling has triggered huge nationwide protests, with young people heeding a call by women's rights activists to come to the streets to defend their freedoms. Deep divisions that had been brewing for a long time in Poland are now erupting on the streets.

On Thursday night, men

with a far-right group, All-Polish Youth, attacked women taking part in protests overnight in some cities, including Wroclaw, Poznan and Bialystok.

Their actions came after Poland's most powerful politician, ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski, called for his supporters to turn out on the streets to defend churches after women disrupted Masses last Sunday and spray-painted churches.

Many interpreted Kaczynski's call as permission for violence against the protesters. **AP**

# Economic recovery faster than expected: PM

## Confident of meeting \$5-trn target by 2024

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian economy is getting back on track faster than expected as a timely lockdown and various relief measures announced by the Government helped address issues faced by all sections of society and all economic sectors due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.

He also expressed confidence that the target of making India a USD 5-trillion econo-

my will be achieved by 2024, saying that the crisis gave the Government an opportunity to carry out reforms that were waiting to happen for decades but no one earlier took the initiative.

"Reforms across sectors such as coal, agriculture, labour, defence, civil aviation and so on have been undertaken which will help us get back on the high growth path that we were on before the crisis," Modi said in an interview published in the Economic Times newspaper on Thursday.

On COVID-19 vaccine, he said every Indian will be vaccinated as and when a vaccine becomes available, though the focus initially would be on protecting the most vulnerable and the frontline workers.

Modi reiterated that there should be no room for complacency in fighting this virus and the only way forward is to take precautions such as wearing masks, hand washing and social distancing.

He said the government in the very beginning decided to be proactive and introduced a timely nationwide lockdown.

"We not only got the broad timing of various phases of lockdown right, we also got the unlock process right and much of our economy is also coming back on track. The data for August and September indicates that," he said.

He said this is a new virus and countries which had initially controlled the outbreak are now reporting a resurgence.

"The geographical spread of India, population density, the regular social gatherings must be kept in mind when we look at these numbers and seek to compare with others. Many of our states are larger than countries," he added. Modi said India's response in tackling the crisis has been focused on increasing capabilities to handle the situation, making people more aware, creating more facilities etc in keeping with the dictum 'Hope for the best but prepare for the worst'. Asked about plans for further stimulus for the economy, he said, "We will take all measures needed to constantly stimulate the economy in a timely manner while ensuring overall macro-economic stability."

"Remember, we are still

not over with the pandemic. Yet, our economy has shown a remarkable capability to bounce back, largely because of the resilience of our people."

"This is something that is not captured in these numbers but is the reason behind those numbers. The shop-owner, the trader, the person running an MSME, the person working on the factory floor, the entrepreneur, all these are the heroes responsible for the strong market sentiment and revival of the economy," he said.

Modi further said India has not started speaking about manufacturing only after the pandemic and the work has been continuing on increasing manufacturing for some time now. "India is, after all, a young country with a skilled work-

force. But India doesn't believe in gaining from the loss of others. India will become a global manufacturing hub on its own strengths. "Our effort is not to become some country's alternative, but to become a country which offers unique opportunities. We want to see the progress of all. If India progresses, one-sixth of humanity will progress," he said.

Referring to a new world order that was formed after World War II, the prime minister said something similar will happen post-COVID-19.

"This time, India will ride the bus of manufacturing and integrating in global supply chains. We have specific advantages in the form of democracy, demography and demand," he said.

## Govt likely to extend Air India bid deadline to Dec 14

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is likely to extend the deadline to bid for Air India till December 14 and also give flexibility to a potential investor to decide on the humongous debt with the national carrier, a source said. The deadline to bid for buying out Air India ends on October 30.

The flexibility to potential investors on the quantum of the ₹ 60,074 crore debt that they want to absorb will replace the current condition of the buyer taking over more than a third of the debt and transferring the rest to a special purpose vehi-

cle. The source said the Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) has cleared the extension of deadline to December 14 to give time to potential investors to raise queries on the changes being made in the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM).

As per the Air India EoI floated by DIPAM in January, of the airline's total debt of Rs 60,074 crore as of March 31, 2019, the buyer would be required to absorb ₹23,286.5 crore, while the rest would be transferred to Air India Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL), a special purpose vehicle.

## Bidding to be done on enterprise value: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has revised the bidding parameters for Air India's divestment and has decided to ask for bids at enterprise value instead of equity value. The deadline for inviting bids has also been till December 14. The Ministry has also extended the cap on airfares till February 24, 2021. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the aviation ministry implemented a cap on domestic airfare in

May. The Ministry has also announced the direct flights between Amritsar and Nanded will restart from November 10.

"The bids will now be invited on the enterprise value where bids will be invited on both equity and debt, Union civil aviation Minister Hardeep Puri announced on Thursday while addressing a press conference. The decision was taken by the Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism on Wed following a meeting with the home ministry, Puri added.

## 2020 US election to be most expensive in history, expected to cost \$14 bn

**New York:** The 2020 Presidential election is turning out to be the most expensive election in history and twice as expensive as the previous presidential election cycle, with the total cost of the election expected to reach an unprecedented \$14 billion, a research group said.

The Center for Responsive Politics said that an "extraordinary influx" of political donations in the final months — driven by a Supreme Court battle and closely watched races for the White House and Senate — pushed total spending in the election past the previously estimated 11 billion dollars figure.

The Center said that the 2020 election will cost \$14 billion, shattering spending records.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden will be the first candidate in history to raise \$1 billion from donors. His campaign brought in a



record-breaking \$938 million through October 14, riding Democrats' enthusiasm to defeat Trump.

President Donald Trump raised \$596 million, which would be a strong fundraising effort if not for Biden's immense haul.

"Even amid a pandemic, everyone is giving more in 2020, from ordinary individuals making small donations to billionaires cutting eight-figure checks to super PACs.

Women are smashing donation records, and Americans are increasingly donating to candidates who aren't running for office in their state," it said in a statement. **PTI**

## Hong Kong charges teen activist with secession under security law

AFP ■ HONG KONG

A teenage Hong Kong democracy activist was charged on Thursday with secession, the first public political figure to be prosecuted under a sweeping new national security law Beijing imposed on the city.

Tony Chung, 19, appeared in court two days after he was arrested by plainclothes police in a Hong Kong coffee shop

opposite the US consulate, also charged with money laundering and conspiring to publish seditious content.

He was remanded into custody until his next court hearing on January 7 and faces a possible life prison sentence if convicted under the new law.

Chung is a former member of Student Localism, a small group that advocates Hong Kong's independence from China.



The team management and Rohit told me before the start of the tournament that you have played enough to take the game deep. I am glad I have been able to do it

It is (opening innings) something that I have sort of always wanted to slowly and gradually get into. So yeah, really enjoying the opportunity and responsibility I've been given here at the Royals

We always spoke about one of the top three batters, or top four batters, bat all the way through if you are chasing and win the game for us. He (Surya) has done that more often than not

He (Suryakumar) has had a good tournament and today he was the difference, getting that score and scoring as quickly as he did. (He) put Chahal under pressure, with some good boundaries and sixes

## Backing experience over youth backfired for Chennai: Lara

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings’ unflinching reliance on experience over youth has been their undoing this IPL season, said West Indies batting icon Brian Lara, urging the franchise to give its younger lot a chance in the remaining games. One of the most successful sides in the history of the tournament, CSK are languishing at the bottom of the points table. While most sides nurture youngsters, that has not been the case with the Mahendra Singh Dhoni led side, often referred to as *Dada’s Army*.

“I think they (CSK) have got a lot of older players. There are not any young players coming through the line-up. You look at it. Even their overseas players, they have been around for a long time,” Lara said on *Star Sports’ Select Dugout*.

“So, they have backed experience over youth, and this has really turned upside down for them,” he added.

It is the first time Dhoni and his men have failed to clear the league stage, having managed only eight points so far after four wins.

The three-time champions’ poor run this season has put a question-mark on their approach, leading to heavy criticism of Dhoni, who has been accused of not showing enough faith in the youngsters.

“It’s just an unbelievable season so far. You know, every time they turn up, we’re very hopeful that CSK is going to turn it around,” Lara said.

“We all came here thinking this was going to be the time when Dhoni turns things around with his team. And game after game, it just went, and they just kept hoping.”

“But it’s a situation where they can just try to build from next year. In the few coming games that they have, see what they can do with the younger players they’ve got,” Lara said.

# KXIP meet Royals in must-win game

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Rampaging Kings XI Punjab would look to extend their exceptional run and inch closer to a Play-offs berth while Rajasthan Royals would be desperate to stay alive in the tournament when the two sides clash, here on Friday.

It has been a dramatic turn-around for the KL Rahul-led side after a string of losses earlier in the tournament.

They have managed to weave together five consecutive wins against the top four sides in the tournament, infusing life into their campaign. They are in fourth position with 12 points from as many games, while the Royals have slumped to the penultimate spot with 10 points having suffered seven defeats from 12 outings.

It’s a mad scramble for the play-offs. With Mumbai Indians

all but through, six teams are in the hunt for the remaining three spots.

The Royals can’t afford to slip up, if they lose on Friday they will be out of the reckoning while a defeat for Punjab will dent their chances for a top-four finish.

They would expect their skipper Rahul, the leading run-scorer of the tournament, to fire in the crucial game after three underwhelming performances with the bat.

The addition of Chris Gayle has done wonders for the team’s confidence.

It is to be seen if

Mayank Agarwal, who missed two games with a bruised knee, returns to the side. In his absence, Mandeep Singh revelled in the role of an opener with a match-winning unbeaten 66 in the win against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Punjab’s bowling, which has been their weakest link throughout the tournament, has been exceptional in their recent wins, choking the opposition for runs.

The Royals will also be high on confidence after their morale boosting win over table toppers Mumbai and would be desperate to keep the winning momentum going.

The biggest positive for the Royals is Ben Stokes roaring back to form after rusty displays in previous five outings. The English all-rounder, who has been elevated to the role of opener, smashed an unbeaten 107 to help seal a seven-wicket win

over Mumbai. Sanju Samson is also back among runs, while Jos Buttler has looked erratic. That skipper Steve Smith is in the middle of a lean patch will augur well for KXIP.

The Jofra Archer-led bowling attack has looked ordinary. The Barbados-born English pacer, who is having a stellar individual season with 17 wickets from 12 matches with an economy of 6.71, has done most of the heavy lifting with the ball without adequate support from the rest of the bowlers.

MATCHES	20
KINGS XI PUNJAB	08
RAJASTHAN ROYALS	11



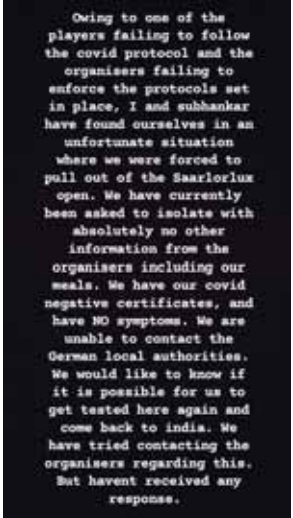
## Jayaram, Subhankar seek to return after withdrawal over Covid-19 contact

**SAARBRUCKEN:** Indian shuttlers Ajay Jayaram and Shubhankar Dey were on Thursday forced out of the SaarLorLux Open after being put in isolation owing to contact with Covid-19 positive father-cum-coach of defending champion Lakshya Sen, who has already withdrawn.

The 19-year-old Lakshya withdrew on Wednesday after his father D K Sen returned a positive test for the virus.

“BWF can confirm three players have been withdrawn from the SaarLorLux Open 2020 as a precautionary measure for all participants after they were in contact with a member of their team entourage who tested positive for COVID-19,” the BWF said in a statement. “The three players: Lakshya Sen, Ajay Jayaram and Subhankar Dey will not compete further in the tournament, which began on Tuesday,” it added.

Later, Jayaram, in a Twitter post tagging sports minister Kiren Rijiju, the national badminton federation and BWF, said that he and Dey would like to return to India as the organisers have not given them any information or assistance apart



from asking them to isolate. The Sports Authority of India assured that it will pay for the expenses to be incurred by the two players “for the length of their quarantine in Germany from October 30 to November 10, on humanitarian grounds.” “SAI will be paying a total of ₹1.46 lakh for their hotel stay and food expenses and will release 90 percent of the amount immediately,” SAI said in a statement.

## Pakistan leave out Haider Ali for 1st ODI

**Rawalpindi:** The Pakistan team management has left out the promising duo of batsman Haider Ali and uncapped Abdullah Shafique in its 15-member squad for Friday’s first ODI against Zimbabwe in Rawalpindi.

Vice-captain Shadab Khan was not considered after being ruled out of the first match due to stiffness in his left upper-leg.

Senior batsman Mohammad Hafeez and young fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain were also not picked even though they were named in a preliminary squad, like Haider and Shafique, last week for the white-ball series against the visitors.

Pakistan’s top batsman, Babar Azam, will be leading the team for the first time in an ODI series and said he wanted to start his tenure on a winning note.

“I’m keen on winning the ODIs as this is my first series as captain,” said Azam.

“No team is easy in international cricket so we won’t take Zimbabwe lightly,” PTI

## Oz include Green for India series

**MELBOURNE:** Australia on Thursday included young all-rounder Cameron Green in their T20 and ODI squad for the limited-overs series against India while Moises Henriques returned to national fold after three years following his exploits in the Big Bash League.

India will play three ODIs (November 27, 29, December 2) and as many T20s (December 4, 6, 8) against Australia.

Cameron’s domestic form has been outstanding and he has carried it through for Western Australia this summer. As a potential player of the future this is an opportunity for him to be part of the squad and build on his experience,” national selector Trevor Hohns was quoted as saying by Cricket Australia.

Australia have focussed on batting all-rounders while picking their limited overs squad.

Henriques had led Sydney Sixers to KFC Big Bash title last summer with a strike rate close to 150.

“Moises is a tremendous cricketer with loads of experience and is a great person to have around the group. His form was extremely impressive in leading the Sixers to the BBL title last summer and he has played well at the start of this season,” Hohns said.

Mitchell Marsh, who injured his ankle during the ongoing IPL, was not considered but he may make a comeback to the side for the A side before the Test series.

**ODI & T20 squad:** Aaron Finch (C), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins (vc), Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Moises Henriques, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Daniel Sams, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner and Adam Zampa. **PTI**



# Hat-trick hero Rashford

Substitute Marcus nets thrice in Utd’s 5-0 win; Barca beat Cristiano-less Juve

Meanwhile PSG got their campaign up and running by beating Istanbul Basaksehir 2-0 in Turkey, although they lost Neymar to an adductor injury in the first half.

Both PSG’s goals were scored in the second half by Moise Kean, the on-loan Everton striker heading in Kylian Mbappe’s corner in the 64th minute and then turning to fire in the second late on.

### BARCA BOUNCE BACK

In Turin, Barcelona bounced back from their week-end defeat in the Clásico against Real Madrid and shut out the boardroom crisis which led to president Josep Maria Bartomeu resigning on Tuesday.

Ronald Koeman’s side had luck on their side as they took the lead through a deflected Ousmane



Lionel Messi hugs Leonardo Bonucci after Barca beat Juventus in Turin on Wednesday **AP**

Dembele strike and then saw Alvaro Morata have three goals disallowed for offside for the hosts.

The absence of Ronaldo because of a positive coronavirus test meant no chance to see him renew his on-field rivalry with Lionel Messi, but the Argentine got his name on the scoresheet late on, netting a stoppage-time penalty to seal Barca’s second victory in as many Group G outings.

“This was our best game all season,” said Koeman.

Juve had Turkish defender Merih Demirel sent off late on as their underwhelming start to the season under novice coach Andrea Pirlo continued.

Their next game is away at Ferencváros, who came from behind to draw 2-2 with 10-man Dynamo Kiev in Budapest.

### ZIYECH IMPRESSES

In Group E Chelsea were comprehensive 4-0 winners away to Krasnodar in Russia, with Jorginho missing a penalty before Callum Hudson-Odoi opened the scoring.

Timo Werner smashed in a spot-kick on 76 minutes to double Chelsea’s lead, with Hakim Ziyech and Christian Pulisic adding late goals.

Sevilla beat Rennes 1-0 in the same section with Luuk de Jong scoring the only goal.

Borussia Dortmund claimed their first points in Group F with Jadon Sancho’s 78th-minute penalty and Erling Braut Haaland’s stoppage-time strike securing a 2-0 win over Zenit Saint-Petersburg.

The Germans are a point behind Lazio and Club Brugge, who drew 1-1 in Belgium with a Hans Vanaken penalty securing a draw for the hosts.

## DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Old tweets of Suryakumar Yadav praising RCB skipper Virat Kohli have resurfaced after Surya’s match-winning knock for Mumbai



Rohit Sharma knew it way before that Suryakumar has the potential to be a big player. In his tweet that he posted way back in 2011, Rohit Sharma had stated that his IPL and state teammate Suryakumar would be a player to watch out for in future.



Former cricketer Manoj Tiwary praised Team India head coach Ravi Shastri’s tweet on Suryakumar Yadav after his match-winning knock against Royal Challengers Bangalore

### MORRIS, HARDIK REPRIMANDED

RCB all-rounder Chris Morris and his Mumbai Indians’ counterpart Hardik Pandya have been reprimanded for a verbal altercation during their teams’ IPL clash. The incident took place in the 19th over of MI’s chase when Pandya struck Morris for a massive six and gestured towards the South African. Morris got his revenge when he dismissed Pandya in the fifth ball of the over and gave him a send off. A press release from the IPL said that both of them admitted to breaching the Code of Conduct.

### FEELING VERY GOOD, SAYS KAPIL DEV

A week after undergoing angioplasty, the legendary Kapil Dev on Thursday greeted his former India teammates from the 1983 World Cup, saying he is “feeling very good” and eager to meet everyone soon. The 61-year-old underwent the procedure after suffering a heart attack. “My family 83. The weather is very pleasant and I am very eager to meet you all. I am feeling very good. Thanks to all for your wishes and concern,” an enthusiastic Kapil, dressed in a purple T-shirt, said in a video which he shared with his 1983 teammates. “I am hoping that we all will meet pretty soon. I will try to meet you all as early as possible. We have approached the end of the year and I am confident that we will have a great start to next year. Love you all,” he added.

## POINTS TABLE

		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	MI	12	8	4	+1.186	16
2	RCB	12	7	5	+0.048	14
3	DC	12	7	5	+0.030	14
4	KXIP	12	6	6	-0.049	12
5	KKR	12	6	6	-0.479	12
6	SRH	12	5	7	+0.396	10
7	RR	12	5	7	-0.505	10
8	CSK	12	4	8	-0.602	8



FOCUS

## New pattern key direction of blueprint

### Dual-circulation development seen as vital part of coming 14th Five-Year Plan

China's new "dual-circulation" development pattern marks a major move for development for the coming years and is expected to be enshrined into the framework of the upcoming 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), said economists and experts.

Zhang Yansheng, chief researcher at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said the idea of dual-circulation development will become a pivot of the 14th Five-Year Plan, highlighting China's new solution to coordinating domestic development and further opening-up in the new era.

The new development pattern, which looks at the domestic market as the country's economic mainstay with domestic and foreign markets complementing each other, reflects a major change in China's economic policymaking, Zhang said.

Zhang said the next period marks the first five years on the country's journey toward building a modern socialist country by 2049, and the development pattern

will help China build a complete domestic supply and demand system and meet people's growing need for a better life.

"Domestically, China will focus on meeting people's needs as well as boosting technological innovation to create new engines of growth," Zhang said. "On the external side, China will continue to expand opening-up and build an open economic system at higher levels. Under the new development pattern, China will open its doors wider to the outside world instead of simply seeking self-sufficient domestic development."

More effort will be made to boost domestic demand, spur consumer buying, open more industries — including finance — to foreign investors and gain a key edge in global competition.

Wang Changlin, president of the Academy of Macroeconomic Research of the National Development and Reform Commission, said China's new economic initiative is not intended



In north China's Hebei Province, a worker is busy making pet-product packing boxes in a factory.

to seek seclusion under the domestic circulation model, as it emphasizes the opening of the economy.

After years of development, China is moving forward from the phase of relying more on international economic networks to a new stage of domestic and international economic networks complementing each other,

Wang said.

Also, China has the conditions to build the new development modes with the support of its extra-large domestic market, strong innovative capability, adequate funding, complete industrial support system and sufficient human resources, Wang added.

"The Chinese economy

has posted a stronger-than-expected rebound despite facing a grim and complicated situation both at home and abroad amid the COVID-19 pandemic, showing its great resilience, strong vitality and large amount of room for maneuver."

China's GDP expanded 0.7 percent year-on-year in the first three quarters,

turning positive after the negative 1.6 percent in the first half, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

"The Chinese economy is playing a key role in supporting global economic stability," Wang added. "China will continue to build an open economy and share its development opportunities with the world."

Clarke Murphy, CEO of global executive search and assessment firm Russell Reynolds Associates, said the company sees enormous potential for the Chinese market given the considerable progress the country has made in preventing and controlling the coronavirus pandemic.

"The speed and scale with which China can try new technologies and new processes and learn from that scale to adapt how its companies run is rather incredible," he added. "We will continue to develop our teams of people focused on domestic Chinese companies."

(China Daily)

VOICE

## China's efforts to make sure all countries get access to vaccines

China has signed an agreement with Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, officially joining COVAX, an international initiative for equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, and thus injected positive energy into global governance and strengthened multilateralism.

The novel coronavirus pandemic is still raging in many parts of the world. Worse, the pandemic has had spillover effects, leading to social unrest and governance crisis in some countries, and global recession, creating new challenges for the international community.

International cooperation is the only way to deal with the global health crisis. Yet global coordination has been impeded by the tide of anti-globalization, and the emergence of unilateralism and protectionism in some countries.

Brexit and the United States' withdrawal from

international organizations and global and regional agreements have had a huge impact on multilateralism. While border control measures and protectionism have made global trade and investment difficult, and disrupted industrial and supply chains, some countries have resorted to unilateralism and protectionism, and thus fanning anti-globalization sentiments.

All this has created obstacles for global cooperation in the fight against the pandemic. If developed countries become self-centered and selfish, the pandemic will extract a high cost on less-and-least-developed countries, not least because they have comparatively weak medical care systems. Without global coordination and cooperation in the fight against the pandemic, a vicious circle would be created leading to a deeper humanitarian crisis.

China has been

committed to building a global community of health for all since the pandemic broke out and has actively supported international organizations including the WHO and GAVI. It is also contributing to four of the 9 candidate vaccines that have entered phase-III clinical trials across the world. China was also the first country to say that its vaccines will be made global public goods, as President Xi Jinping declared while addressing the 73rd World Health Assembly on May 18. It is driving international cooperation and multilateralism at a time when the world needs more joint actions, not divisive talks and belligerent rhetoric, to contain the pandemic and boost post-pandemic global recovery.

(By Lan Shunzheng; The author is a research fellow at the Churhar Institute and a member of the Chinese Institute of Command and Control.)

OPENING-UP

## CIIE to bring hope, confidence to global economy, says scholar

The upcoming China International Import Expo (CIIE) will bring hope and confidence to the global economy, an associate professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore has told Xinhua.

As projected by the International Monetary Fund earlier this month, the global economy is expected to contract by 4.4 percent in 2020.

"The grim situation is largely attributable to the inefficient demand worldwide," Gu said.

The helplessness and hopelessness in achieving economic recovery prevail in many parts of the world, as business owners are unsure of when the

pandemic will be over, and are also trying hard to maintain the operation of their enterprises and keep employees' jobs.

Against such a background, Gu said, the hosting of the third CIIE in Shanghai early next month is of special importance, as it will shed a ray of hope over a gloomy sky, particularly since China is believed to be the only major economy to register positive growth this year.

The CIIE will also help stimulate China's domestic demand, which will result in more business opportunities both for domestic and international enterprises. In other words, the CIIE will be beneficial not only to Chinese enterprises but also to

those overseas, serving as a shot in the arm for the latter during hard times, Gu said.

Moreover, he believes that the CIIE will help promote two-way investment, as it further explores the information and market channels through which goods and capital can transfer.

Ever since 2006, China has been the top driving force behind the growth of the global economy. Thanks to China's success in containing the spread of COVID-19, and its relatively strong momentum in economic recovery, the nation will make a greater contribution to the global economy this year, Gu said.

(Xinhua)

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

## Rural tourism helps Yunnan combat poverty

To turn lucid waters and lush mountains into invaluable assets in poverty-stricken areas, an important way is to develop tourism. In Yunnan, many villages have relied on their beautiful ecosystems, ethnic cultures and characteristic industries to develop rural tourism and increase income for poor households.

Laodabao is a small village tucked away in Lancang county, Pu'er city of southwest China's Yunnan province. The villagers, mainly of the Lahu ethnic group, often jokingly tell the visitors, "We can sing as soon as we can speak and dance as soon as we can walk."

In 2013, the village established Lancang Laodabao Happy Lahu Performing Arts Co Ltd, the first farmers' performing arts company in Pu'er. Ever since then, the villagers have shaken off poverty through folk singing and dancing.

To date, the company has entertained over 100,000 tourists. "The admission to the show is 50 yuan per person, and the proceeds are distributed to the performers on a quarterly basis. We encourage the villagers to participate in the performances. They get more pay for more work," said Peng Na'er, Party branch secretary of the village.

Xianrendong, a village inhabited by the Sani branch of the Yi ethnic group, is immediately next to the core zone of the Puzhehe scenic area in Qibei county, Wenshan prefecture. In the height of summer every year, the lotus flowers ubiquitous in the village will be in full bloom under the blue sky and white clouds, attracting a large number of tourists from inside and outside Yunnan province. In the past years, the village has developed rural tourism to achieve a per-capita annual income of

over 50,000 yuan.

"My family had a per-capita income of just above 30,000 yuan in 2015. It rose to nearly 50,000 yuan within two years," a villager named Peng Guimei said with a smile.

And in Guangming Village of west Yunnan's Dali, some 6,000 walnut trees are more than 200 years old, and those over 100 years old are common sights. Given its unique resources, Guangming has developed the walnut industry. On the one hand, the village has introduced a specialized beverage, which produces beverages and creative cultural products with walnuts purchased from the villagers. One the other hand, the village has held several walnut cultural festivals to help boost homestay hotels, farmhouse restaurants, passenger transport and other tourism-related industries. Through these efforts, the once poor and primitive village has taken on a new look.

In the province as a whole, in 2019, more than 1,000 poor villages developed cultural tourism on a certain scale. Rural tourism attracted 360 million visitors to these villages, bringing in 230 billion yuan and lifting 110,000 people out of poverty.

(Duan Jianxin)



Villagers of Laodabao receive tourists.

GO YUNNAN SEE XIAOKANG



In the Hutian community located in central Yunnan's Yuxi city, the elderly are enjoying a better-off retired life. In order to facilitate old people's life and cope with the aging problem in general, a number of services, such as health exams, haircutting and housecleaning, have been provided here without charging them any money.

There is also a buffet restaurant not far from the community which prepares three meals a day for people living nearby, particularly old residents.

(Li Wenjun)

## China's health literacy rate doubled during 13th FYP period

China's health literacy rate increased from 10.25 percent in 2015 to 19.17 percent in 2019, almost getting doubled by the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan (FYP) period (2016-2020), China's National Health Commission (NHC) told a press briefing on October 18.

Health literacy refers to a person's ability to gain and comprehend health information and acquire relevant services to make appropriate decisions. Speaking at a press briefing on China's health development

during the 13th FYP period, Yu Xuejun, deputy head of the commission, said China's health indicators are generally better than the average levels in medium- and high-income nations. The average life expectancy of Chinese citizens rose from 76.3 years at the end of 2015 to 77.3 years at the end of 2019. The maternal mortality rate dropped from 20.1 per 100,000 to 17.8 per 100,000 over the same period, Yu added.

(CGTN)

CULTURE

## Women of Zhuang ethnic group 'embroiders' new life



Zhuang women are learning how to make Zhuang brocade.

In Wulong, a water town in Shizong, Qujing of southeast Yunnan province, the local women work as embroiderers at Yu Jingfeng's Zhuang Ethnic Brocade Studio. For these women, the brocades not only depict the fine local scenery but also embody their best wishes for a better life.

Wulong, mainly inhabited by people of the Zhuang ethnic minority, was once a poverty-stricken township. It is embroidery that has changed the life of local women. For those women working as at Yu Jingfeng's Zhuang Ethnic Brocade Studio, the brocades

not only depict the fine local scenery but also embody their best wishes for a better life.

"Our clothes are water-themed. Not just the Zhuang people, the tourists also love our products," said Yu, the studio owner. She went on to explain that the most striking embroidered pieces on the clothes in green and blue represent the local natural landscapes. The studio achieves an annual sale of over 10,000 brocades and clothes and brings in more than 20,000 yuan for each embroiderer.

(By Wang Huan)

ECOLOGY

## Yu Xiaode and his monkey friends

Yu whistled as he walked into the forest, holding a bag in one hand and some usnea in the other. In no time, the monkeys jumped off the branches and surrounded him in the middle. When Yu cast the usnea, they jumped up in the air to catch it. In the viewing area a dozen meters away, the tourists raised their mobile phones and cameras to capture these moments of harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

Yu, a farmer of the Lisu ethnic group, lives in Xiangguqing village of Tacheng town, Weixi county, Diqing prefecture. He works as a ranger, and protecting the monkeys is part of his job. Today Yu is so familiar to the monkeys that they can understand his whistles and directions, and they are totally free of worries when playing and feeding in his presence.

For the tourists to the national park of Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys in Shangri-La of Diqing prefecture, every moment of Yu Xiaode and his fellow-rangers feeding the lovely animals are not to be missed.

On the one hand, Yu knows their temperaments and families so well that he can state clearly the character and personality of each of

them. On the other hand, the monkeys can understand his whistles and words, and they are free of worries when playing and feeding in the presence of him.

"Our work as rangers have made the mountains lush and the number of monkeys bigger. They know we love them and are not afraid of us," said Yu. He is proud that he can protect these spirits of the forests.

The Yunnan snub-nosed monkeys, mainly found in the Baima Snow Mountains, share the same fame with pandas as China's national first-class protected animals. "They have human-like faces. Their big, red lips are very special," Yu said in a manner that would make you feel as if he were talking about his families.

Now the tourists were amazed at how close Yu could be to the monkeys. They were especially impressed by his ability to state clearly the character and personality of each monkey. "We protect nature and treat monkeys like friends, if there is a secret," Yu smiled. "If we carry on hunting and damaging the environment, we and our future generations will ultimately suffer."

(By Zhou Lei)