

**OPINION 8**  
CRUSADE FOR  
AFGHAN WOMEN**WORLD 11**  
CHARLIE HEBDO: PROUD TO PROVOKE  
ISLAMISTS, DESPITE VIOLENCE**SPORT 14**  
DELHI FACE MUMBAI  
IN IPL CLASH

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY OCTOBER 31, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

PROUD OF MY  
DAUGHTER:  
GOVINDA  
12 VIVACITY

# World's 2nd Covid wave kicks in

## Even as India witnesses flattening of pandemic curve, coronavirus is back with vengeance across globe with 5.45L positive cases on Thurs

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

India may be witnessing a flattening of Covid-19 curve, but the virus is back with a vengeance across the globe. The world recorded 5.45 lakh cases on Thursday, the biggest single-day spike during the last 10 months when the pandemic first struck the globe.

The powerful "second wave" has shaken the world after the virus took a breather for a few weeks across Europe, the USA, and Latin America and people were beginning to think that the worst maybe behind.

The global trend reversal has a clear message for India, where the number of new cases has come down drastically over the last few weeks. Any complacency could see the onset of a similar dangerous "second wave" that could impact the nascent economic recovery and pose a serious challenge to health infrastructure and medical fraternity.

The addition of nearly five and a half a million cases in a day carried an ominous portent that situation could get out of control with the onset of winter. The dangerous dimension of the "second wave" could be gauged from the fact that the world took five months to add 5.45 lakh cases between January 22 and May 24, whereas it needed just 24 hours to make the matching gain on October 29.

Europe has seen a massive

rebound in coronavirus cases after countries such as France, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Italy celebrated nearly three months of respite from the virus and number of new cases came down to between 30,000 and 40,000 a day in the region.

Just two months ago on August 29, Europe recorded just 42,000 new cases in a day. On October 29, this figure went up to 2.39 lakh, underlining the enormity of the crisis starting Europe.

Three months ago it seemed that Italy was all but free of coronavirus. The country added just 289 new cases on July 29, but on October 29, the figure of new cases touches 26,000.

On July 29, France added just 1,392 new cases, but three months down the line on October 29, it added more than 47,000 new cases. The same has been the story of the UK and Germany.

The Latin American nations such as Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru have also seen a sharp rise in the number of new cases.

With the world better prepared to deal with Covid-19, the second wave is turning out to be far less fatal than the first one. The Thursday death toll stood at around 7,000, which denotes a casualty rate of around 12 per cent on the total count of 5.45 new cases on that day.

Continued on Page 11



A health worker collects a swab sample for a Covid-19 test in New Delhi on Friday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

#### TOTAL

CASES: 81,12,263

DEATHS: 1,21,344

RECOVERED:

73,97,307

ACTIVE: 5,92,212



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	4,25,123	1,458	3,32,994
Delhi	3,81,644	6,470	3,42,811
West Bengal	3,69,671	6,784	3,25,888
Odisha	2,88,466	1,361	2,73,838
Telangana	2,32,671	1,315	2,13,466
Bihar	2,13,383	1,065	2,03,244
Assam	2,06,015	926	1,94,665
Rajasthan	1,89,444	1,867	1,72,028
Chhattisgarh	1,79,654	1,881	1,56,080
Gujarat	1,72,009	3,714	1,55,205
Madhya Pradesh	1,70,690	2,941	1,58,455

## LeT killed 3 BJP leaders in J&K; cry of patriotism during funeral

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The police have claimed Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) was behind the killing of three BJP leaders in Kulgam district on Thursday.

On a day his son completed his first year, BJP leader Fida Hussain Yatoo was laid to rest in his native village on Friday. He, along with two other BJP officer bearers, was gunned down by terrorists in YK Pora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district late on Thursday night.

The entire neighbourhood in his village witnessed a surcharged atmosphere. Chanting patriotic slogans, local villagers and party workers attended the funeral prayers. Senior BJP leaders, including J&K Chief Ravinder Raina, too attended the last rites and visited the family of Yatoo to offer condolences on behalf of the top brass of the party.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar Friday claimed that LeT had executed the killing of three BJP leaders.



"The names of LeT militants — a local militant from Dooru, Nisar Khanday; and Abbas from Khudwani who was previously associated with Hizbul Mujahideen and is now with LeT and also claims to be from TRF — are cropping up. The involvement of these two is there, but there may be a foreign terrorist involved as well in the attack," he said.

IGP Kumar also appealed to the protected persons in the valley not to move around without their security.

He said, "We have provided 350s and security to 157 BJP workers, and nearly 30 have been provided with guards and we will provide more security to those who have severe threat perception."

Continued on Page 11

## 'Item' strips Nath of star campaigner tag

### EC notice to BJP leader Vijayvargiya for chunnu-munnu, gaddar jibes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday revoked the star campaigner status of senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for repeated violations of model code. In another decision regarding senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya remarks "chunnu-munnu" and "gaddar" against Congress' Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath, the EC advised him not to use "any such word" in his public utterances during the model code period.

In its order against former MP CM, the EC has slammed Nath for using the word "item" for a woman candidate and said that the usage of the word for



a woman constitutes a violation of the advisory issued by the commission. The Commission has further expressed its displeasure and said despite being a leader of a political party, Nath is repeatedly violating the provisions of Model Code of Conduct and breaching ethical and dignified behaviour.

The commission said, "...for repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct and for completely disregarding the advisory issued to him, the Commission hereby revokes the status of leader of a political party (Star Campaigner) of

Kamal Nath, Ex-Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, with immediate effect for the current by-elections of Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh." It said no permission will be granted by authorities to Kamal Nath as a star campaigner.

"However, if any campaign is done by Kamal Nath from now onwards, the entire expenditure related to travel, stay and visit will be completely borne by the candidate in whose constituency he carries out campaigning," it said. The EC pulled up Nath for using words such as "item" to address a woman during campaigning for the bye-elections while the Model Code of Conduct is in effect. Taking another complaint in consideration, where the Congress leader has spoken against current State Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and referred to him as "mafia" and milawatkor", the Commission has said that its report confirms violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

Continued on Page 11

## Sena nominates Urmila as MLC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena-led MVA Government has made a recommendation to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari to nominate Bollywood actress Urmila Matondekar as one of the 12 members in the State Legislative Council that are due to be filled from the fields of literature, science, arts, cooperative sector and social service.

Confirming that Matondkar's name had been recommended by the State Government for nomination as one of the 12 members of the State Legislative Council, Shiv Sena spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut said: "Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has spoken to Matondkar. She has given her consent for being



nominated as an MLC by the Governor."

Informed official sources said that the 12 nominated members were finalised at the weekly State Cabinet meeting held on Thursday. Subsequently, the 12 recommended names were sent in a sealed cover to the Governor for formal approval and declaration of the nominated members.

Continued on Page 11

## UP to develop Vindhyavasini temple corridor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Vindhyachal, one of the most sacred places of Hindus, will be a part of the comprehensive Vindhyavasini Temple Corridor project to be developed to promote religious tourism in the state.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Friday.

One of the priority areas of the chief minister, this project will boost religious tourism and generate new jobs in the process in the state besides facilitating devotees coming to the Vindhyavasini Dham. Water and adventure sports activities will also be part of the project, according to a government spokesman.

The Vindhyachal Dham Corridor will be developed in an area of 2,542.78 square

metres and it will be shaped on the lines of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor. It will be constructed in a phased manner.

In the first phase, a total of 92 properties will be acquired within the 'parikrama' area of Vindhyavasini Dham. At present, the 'parikrama' route in the main temple complex is very narrow and prone to accidents.

During the development of the corridor around the temple premises, the roads will be widened to facilitate smooth movement of devotees.

The state government will bear all the expenses of the project, which will create numerous direct and indirect employment opportunities at the local level.

Jal Jeevan Mission: In its endeavour to make pure drinking water available to everyone, the cabinet has

approved three new multi-crore rupees projects for Jalaun and Sonbhadra districts under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

In another decision, the cabinet has agreed to increase the land bank to further accelerate industrialisation in the state. The government has decided to reduce the conversion fee from agriculture to industrial land use from 35 percent to 20 percent.

Buddha Circuit: For the development of the Buddha Circuit, the cabinet has approved 186 tourism development projects for Sarnath and eight for Kushinagar. While the Varanasi Development Authority will be carrying out the works of Sarnath, the Gorakhpur Development Authority will be handling the works of Kushinagar.

## State gives ethanol production a fillip

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To ensure uninterrupted availability of molasses to distilleries producing ethanol, molasses-based units and to the potable distilleries making country liquor, the molasses policy 2020-21 has been approved by the Cabinet which met here on Friday.

"The proceeds from the sale of ethanol and molasses have been tagged for payment to sugarcane farmers," the spokesman said.

He said that ethanol production from B-heavy molasses is being encouraged in the state. Only two sugar mills in the state were producing ethanol from B-heavy molasses in the year 2018-19. At present 26 sugar mills are producing ethanol from B-

heavy molasses and the production of B-heavy molasses in the state has increased almost 10 times. Ethanol production from cane juice is also being promoted by the state government.

The spokesman said that the government has suggested improvement in the quality of country liquor as it is consumed by low income group of the society. "It is necessary to make quality country liquor available at affordable prices to this section of population, in the absence of which, there is a possibility of loss of human life due to consumption of illicit liquor. Besides, the revenue from country liquor being significant, it is necessary to ensure availability of molasses to all the country liquor making

distilleries," he said.

During the molasses year 2020-21, the estimated production of molasses is 533.50 lakh quintals. The estimated requirement of molasses for country liquor is 96.77 lakh quintals. To ensure availability of adequate molasses for Country liquor, 18 percent of molasses being produced will be reserved for country liquor during the molasses year 2020-21.

The cabinet has allowed the authority for allocation of molasses upto one lakh quintals of molasses to cattle feed and other molasses based units in the state has been delegated to Excise Commissioner. Earlier, the allocation was done with approval of the Excise Minister.



# UP emerges as economic powerhouse post-Covid

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government said that post-COVID-19, the state had emerged as the economic powerhouse of India.

UP has simplified 52 compliances to reduce regulatory burden on investors and the state has launched several attractive policies to attract investments in the post-pandemic scenario.

An official spokesman said a series of policy reforms initiated by the UP government were showing results and major land allotment reforms in UP were paving the way for big ticket investments.

The industrial development authorities in UP have allotted 326 plots, attracting Rs 6,700 crore investment in the last six months and several industrial parks are being planned along the expressways to catalyse Make in UP.

With another Rs 14,900 crore investment conversion post-COVID-19, the state government has facilitated implementation of 43 percent of the memorandums of understanding (MoU s) and has also implemented a series of institutional reforms for ease of doing business (EODB) in the state. The reforms have resulted in several domestic and foreign MNCs lining up investments worth Rs 45,000 crore in UP.

On the EODB front, the government said UP made a quantum jump in the state's ranking in the recently announced Business Reform Action Plan ranking of states by DPIIT, Government of India. Uttar Pradesh bagged the second position — a jump of 12 positions in the last three years. UP implemented a record 186 reforms spread over multiple areas such as labour regulation, inspection regulations, land

allotment, property registration, environment clearances, paying taxes and many others.

In the last six months, the industrial development authorities have allotted nearly 426 acres of land (326 plots) for projects with investment size of around Rs 6,700 crore and employment generation potential of nearly 1,35,362. This includes allotment to major investors such as Hiranandani Group, Surya Global, Hindustan Unilever, MG Capsules, Kesho Packaging, Mountain View Technologies, etc.

The policy-oriented governance mechanism already adopted by the UP government with the launch of Industrial Investment & Employment Promotion Policy in 2017, complemented by 20 sectoral policies, have played a pivotal role in promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and Make in UP.

Listing the post-COVID-

19 policy reforms, the government said that the eligibility limits of private industrial and logistics park had been reduced from 100 acres to 20 acres in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal, 150 acres to 30 acres in Paschimanchal and Madhyanchal for private industrial parks; and from 50 acres to 25 acres for logistics parks.

Land allotment reforms have also been implemented with online allotment of land at all major industrial development authorities (IDAs) through the single window portal Nivesh Mitra and integration of the geographic information system (GIS) portal of the IDAs with Industrial Information System (IIS) portal of the Government of India with real-time updation.

The government has given focused attention on new sector post-COVID-19 to promote new industries such as bulk drug and medical device man-

ufacturing for which the state government is pursuing with the Government of India for development of dedicated industrial parks. Sectors like logistics, defence, and data centre etc. are also gaining momentum. The state government is quickly adapting to new market trends and focusing to tap new opportunities.

The upcoming Jewar International Airport in Greater Noida spread over 5,000 hectares of land will be one of the largest airports in northern India. With the airport, projects like MRO/cargo complex and aerotropolis are likely to come up. Besides, MSME park, electronics park, apparel park, handicraft park and toy park are also proposed in the region. The state government has recently announced a film city on over 1,000-acre plot located just about 6 km from the proposed Jewar International Airport.

## Yogi coins ‘SMS’ for prevention

**Lucknow (PNS):** Giving the slogan of ‘SMS’ (soap/sanitiser, mask and social distancing), Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that these steps were extremely helpful in preventing the spread of novel coronavirus.

Chairing an Unlock meeting at his official residence here on Friday, Yogi also said that it was very important to remain aware and cautious till an effective medicine or vaccine for COVID-19 was found. Directing officials to expedite group testing, the chief minister said that 1.50 lakh Covid tests should be conducted daily.

“In view of the coming festivals, group testing of vendors and trading class members, who are likely to come in contact with people and risk

contract the infection, should be carried out,” he said.

Keeping the threat of dengue in mind, Yogi said that effective measures for controlling communicable diseases should be taken. “Fogging and sanitisation should be carried out and public address systems should be used to spread awareness about effective precautionary measures to save people from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases,” he said.

The chief minister also directed officials to improve the Covid recovery rate in Kanpur Nagar, Meerut, Basti and Varanasi and strengthen the health care facilities.

To ensure social and financial security and all-round development of workers and labourers, the state govern-

ment has set up the UP Labour (Employment Exchange and Job) Commission

and district level committees led by district magistrates have been formed for effective execution and monitoring.

“The district magistrates should hold meetings of the committee at their respective districts and the reports of these committees are to be reviewed at the state level,” he said.

The chief minister said that various awareness programmes being held under Mission Shakti were yielding good results.

He directed the Revenue department to ensure procurement of blankets so that they could be distributed on time to the destitute and the needy people.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paying tributes to Maharishi Valmiki on his visit to Chitrakoot on Friday

## Farmers’ welfare top priority: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the top priority of his government was to extend all help to farmers so that they could sell their produce at remunerative prices.

Chairing a high level meeting at his official residence in Lucknow on Friday, the chief minister said, “The present government is committed to providing competitive prices for farm produce and it will ensure that people get essential commodities at reasonable prices.”

Yogi said that the government had set up purchase centres for paddy and corn and had directed officials to ensure that no farmer sold his produce at less than the minimum support price (MSP). “The middlemen should not exploit farmers and in case of any complaint, the official concerned should be taken to task,” he said. The chief minister directed the agriculture production commissioner (APC) to take action against hoarders so that people could get pulses, food grains and other commodities at cheap rates.

## Deoband urges Centre to condemn France

**Lucknow (PNS):** After Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the recent terrorist attack at a church in Nice (France), Islamic seminary Darul Uloom Deoband appealed to the government to condemn France and press for international law against blasphemy.

VC of Darul Uloom Deoband, Abul Qasim Nomani said all heads of OIC (Organisation of Islamic Nations) and other Islamic countries need to come together and formulate a strategy against French government, which was criticised by Pakistan and Turkey but got support from India. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs condemned the personal attacks on French President Emanuel saying, “We strongly deplore the personal attacks in unacceptable language on President Macron in violation of most basic standards of international discourse.”



### NOTICE

I, Sunil Katyal S/o Late Har Bhagwan Katyal R/o 38, IT Colony, Aishbagh, Lucknow have changed my Son's Name from Kislay Katyal to Krislay Katyal for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

This is inform you that, I have changed my name from Ramesh Prasad to Aeesakshi Ramesh Agyat. In future I am known as Aeesakshi Ramesh Agyat S/o Late Punavasi Prasad, R/o Vill - Siristi, Post-Shivadasha, P.S.- Chaubeypur, Dist. - Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India - 221104.

### NOTICE

Let it be known to all that in some documents my name is recorded as Sanjay Verma though in my educational testimonials and Aadhar, my name is correctly recorded as Sanjay Kumar Verma. Let it also be known to all that in all future transactions and records, I will be known as Sanjay Kumar Verma. Sanjay Kumar Verma s/o Late Satallu Prasad, Vill. & Post - Rudrapur Kalan (Lakhimpur Kheri)

## Clay fair to end Chinese monopoly

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to promote the local traditional crafts and also challenge the Chinese monopoly in pottery and statue making ahead of Diwali, clay artists of 15 districts will converge on Lucknow to showcase their products at a unique fair being organised by the Mati Kala Board from November 4 to 13. Besides exhibiting a wide array of products, the fair would also show how these products were made. The main attraction would be the idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha and designer diyas made from ‘mati’ (soil) of Uttar Pradesh.

The Mati Kala Board will be bearing the expenses of the artists’ stay in the state capital for 10 days and they would also not be charged for putting up their stalls at the fair.

Additional Chief Secretary (Khadi and Village Industries) Navneet Sehgal said that the Mati Kala Board was trying to increase and improve production capacity of the local artists and make them competitive in the market.

“To ensure better quality, the artists have also been connected with professionals and the National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFD) for training to hone their skills,” he said.

## Micro, small and medium enterprises! Partner with Indian Railways

### A great opportunity for MSMEs to contribute towards self-reliant India

Inviting MSMEs to become suppliers for manufacturing of coaches & locomotives and operations & maintenance of assets of Indian Railways.

Procurement of Goods worth more than ₹ 70,000 Cr by Indian Railways annually.

#### Promoting a fair, transparent, equitable Ecosystem for encouraging domestic manufacturers

##### Make in India Policy

- Only suppliers with more than 50% local content eligible to bid for most wagon, track and LHB coach items
- Electrics in “Vande Bharat” train to have 75% Make in India content

##### Promoting MSMEs

- If the lowest bidder is a non-MSME, Purchase Preference to those MSMEs whose bids are upto 15% higher than the lowest bid

##### Promoting Ease of Doing Business

- Earnest Money Deposit and Security Deposit conditions relaxed
- No separate approvals needed – Vendor approved for an item by any Vendor Approving Agency of Indian Railways is now considered approved across Railways

For complete list of annual requirements and to register as vendor, please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and [www.gem.gov.in](http://www.gem.gov.in)



### Contact the following Nodal Officers

#### Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai

Chief Materials Manager/G – Sh. K. Venugopal Rao  
Contact: 044-26207125 • M- 9003141799  
Email: venu.kovuru@gov.in

#### Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), Chittaranjan

Chief Electrical Engineer/D&D – Sh. Avijit Chakraborty  
Contact: 0341-2525578 • M-9163340304  
Email: ceednd@clw.railnet.gov.in

#### Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), Prayagraj

Chief Electrical Engineer/MP – Sh. D K Srivastava  
Contact: 0532-2407372 • M-979485319  
Email: ceehq.core@gmail.com

#### Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Raebareli

Chief Design Engineer – Sh. Mahesh Kumar  
Contact: 0535-2704281 • M-7318060406  
Email: cdemcfrbl@gmail.com

#### Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi

Dy Chief Design Engineer/Electrical – Sh. Vijay  
Contact: 0542-2270432 • M- 9794861316  
Email: dycdetc@gmail.com

#### Rail Wheel Factory (RWF), Bengaluru

Dy Chief Materials Manager/II – Ms. Febin Thaha  
Contact: 080-28072706 • M-9108501703  
Email: dycmm-ii@rwf.railnet.gov.in

#### Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala

Chief Design Engineer – Sh. Akhilesh Misra  
Contact: 01822-227410 • M-9779241406  
Email: cdcercf@gmail.com

#### Diesel-Loco Modernisation Works (DMW), Patiala

DyCME/Planning – Sh. Parinay Gupta  
Contact: 0175-2396670 • M-9779242425  
Email: parinay.gupta@gov.in

#### Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow

EDQA/Mech. – Sh. Shivendra Singh  
Contact: 0522-2451930 • M-9794863111  
Email: edqam@rdso.railnet.gov.in



In service of the nation  
**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
[www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in)



Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and Published by Vijay Prakash Singh for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 and Printed at Tin Tin Printech Pvt Ltd., C-33 Amausi Industrial Area, Nadarganj, Lucknow. Editor: Chandan Mitra. Resident Editor: Vijay Prakash Singh. RNI No. 2016/57. Lucknow Telephones: EPABX: 4036600 Fax: 2345582. Allahabad Office: (0532) 2420818, 2421018, 3290460. Kanpur Office: (0512) 2304006, 2304416. Varanasi Office: (0542) 2414294, 2414295. Delhi Office: No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455. Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900



## Positivity rate at 4.7%

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The positivity rate of Lucknow district has come down to 4.7 per cent this month, following the peak in September when it was 6 per cent, while the recovery rate has gone up to 94.2 per cent.

A senior official at the CMO office said that their focus was currently on targeted surveillance to prevent the spread of virus transmission in the festive period. The total number of persons who tested positive in September was 25,318 while that this month so far has been 9,622.

"Now, we have 2,850 active cases and by the end of September, there were around 8,000 cases. Recovery rate is 94.2 per cent and if the patients are less than those who have recovered, the recovery rate gets better. Besides, since there were more persons testing positive in September, more are recovering this month," he pointed out. On Friday, targeted sampling was carried out in saloons across the district. "With the festive period underway, people are likely to visit saloons and thus there is a chance of infection," he said.

The official said that the testing of autorickshaw drivers on Thursday showed no positive results. "In the coming days, we will be conducting tests at sweet shops, restaurants, places of worship, malls, electronic shops, vehicle showrooms etc," he said.

Apart from people getting careless in the festive period, the youth are no longer afraid. "Since the youth remain asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, they are not afraid and thus not following precautions, which increases the risk of infection spread," the official pointed out. In addition, a refresher training will be given to the members of surveillance teams in a bid to refine the work which they are doing.

Meanwhile, director of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences Dr AK



## 266 more test positive

Lucknow (PNS): As many as 266 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow on Friday while 310 patients recovered. Lucknow has witnessed a total of 877 deaths so far. The new patients included 23 each from Indiranagar & Gomtinagar, 15 from Hazratganj, 14 each from Rae Bareilly road & Chowk, 12 each from Madiaon & Vrindavan Yojana, and 10 each from Talkatora and Cantt. There were seven deaths in the city but only two of the deceased belonged to Lucknow while the rest to Ayodhya, Balrampur, Sitapur, Jhansi and Sultanpur.

Singh will take charge on November 2. About his priorities, he said he would ensure preparedness regarding Covid-19. "The number of cases may have declined but they may increase in the coming days, so preparedness is the key," he said. He added that looking into the admissions of freshers would also be in focus. "Coordination with other medical institutes like SGPGI and KGMU regarding standard protocol and Covid-19 treatment has to be ensured for better results," he said.

Meanwhile, nodal officer of KGMU's Covid task force and incharge of Infectious Diseases Centre Dr D Himanshu said they were looking at all the data related to Covid-19 treatment.

Across the state, 2,237 persons tested positive, including 104 in Prayagraj, 181 in Ghaziabad and 211 in Gautam Buddha Nagar, taking the UP tally to 4,80,082. There were 24 deaths in the state, including four each in Kanpur & Meerut, three each in Bulandshahr & Basti, two in Varanasi, and one each in Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Shahjahanpur, Ghazipur, Bahraich, Kannauj, Jalaun, Mau, Auraiya & Ambedkarnagar, taking the toll to 7,007. Besides, 2,590 patients recovered, taking the recovery figures to 4,48,644.

"Sometimes, you do not take the studies only at script level, as one has to study them at the institutional level too. These studies also have their limitations, so we have to see whether the trials need to be carried out or changed. In all the studies, steroids and oxygen therapy remain the back bone of Covid-19 treatment," he said.

He said these studies had to be looked into because Covid was a new disease and it would take some time for the world to understand it. "Any drug and vaccine comes in 3-5 years of data and one needs to fast-forward many things. There will be some changes and this is the case with most of the diseases, so one needs to keep working and evaluating," he added.

## FIR registered against Afzal Ansari's wife

Lucknow (PNS): An FIR was registered against Afzal Ansari's wife Farhat Ansari at Hazratganj police station for using fraudulent means to grab enemy property. The complaint was lodged by a lekhpal recently. Afzal Ansari is the brother of mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari.

Meanwhile, an FIR was registered against DIG Anil Kumar, his wife Pushpa and two shadows, Chandra Pal and Brijesh Kumar. The FIR was registered at Mahanagar police station on the directive of high court. The DIG is presently posted at the Wireless establishment of UP Police. The DIG and his wife were the joint owners of a flat in Indra Darshan Residency. It was sold to one RK Gupta for Rs 60 lakh. Gupta had given the couple Rs 5 lakh in advance, as per the agreement, while rest of amount was to be paid in installments. It was alleged that the DIG denied having been paid the advance amount later.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of BHARATWASI PARTY. The office of the party is located at House No : E 3/806, Sector: H, Jankipuram Batha, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the representation of People Act 1951 - Name and address of the office bearers of the party are as follows:

**President :** Dharm Prakash Sharma. R/o : Ambedkar Nagar East, Ramkola Road, Post-Padmauna, Distt.-Kushinagar-274304, U.P.

**General Secretary :** Janardan Prajapati. R/o : 15, Adrauna, Post-Padmauna, Distt. Kushinagar-274304, U.P.

**Treasurer :-** Dasrath Sharma, R/o H. N.-8, Ward No. -4, Budh Nagrai, Post & Distt. Kushinagar-274403, U.P.

If any one has any objection to the registration of BHARATWASI PARTY. They may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this Notice.



विश्व प्रसिद्ध कालजयी  
महाकाव्य रामायण के रचयिता



आदि कवि  
महर्षि  
वाल्मीकि जी  
की  
जयंती  
31 अक्टूबर, 2020

के अवसर पर

# शत-शत नमन

- योगी आदित्यनाथ  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

### कार्यक्रम

प्रदेश के समस्त जनपदों के प्रमुख देव मंदिरों/श्री राम मंदिरों/हनुमान मंदिरों  
में अखण्ड रामायण पाठ/भजन गायन एवं दीप प्रज्ज्वलन

संस्कृति विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



### अन्य कार्यक्रम

राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार, नई दिल्ली के सहयोग से सरदार पटेल पर चित्र प्रदर्शनी

‘सरदार पटेल व्यक्तित्व, विचार एवं राष्ट्र निर्माण’ एवं चित्र प्रदर्शनी पर आधारित पुस्तिका ‘लौहपुरुष: राष्ट्रीय एकता के महानायक’ का विमोचन

देश की एकता, अखंडता और सुरक्षा के लिए  
नागरिकों में आंतरिक एकीकरण का  
भाव जागृत होना आवश्यक है।  
-सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल

# लौहपुरुष

## सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल

(31 अक्टूबर 1875—15 दिसम्बर 1950)

की जयंती पर

# शत-शत नमन

## राष्ट्रीय एकता दिवस

के अवसर पर राजभवन परिसर, लखनऊ में  
लौहपुरुष सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल की  
प्रतिमा का अनावरण

आनंदीबेन पटेल

राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

द्वारा

दिनांक: 31 अक्टूबर, 2020 | समय: पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे

स्थान: राजभवन, लखनऊ

संस्कृति विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



# Man arrested for defrauding, sexually assaulting woman

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Police claimed to have arrested a fraudster, who was identified as Dinesh Kumar Srivastava, a resident of Shaktipeeth Patelpuram in Indiranagar under Ghazipur police station. He was accused of having duped a woman of Rs 6.75 lakh on the pretext of facilitating a job in Trade Tax department in 2018. He was also accused of sexually assaulting her.

In the complaint lodged at Gomtinagar Extension police station on October 2, she alleged that Dinesh sexually

assaulted her after promising her a job. She said she reported the matter to police when she unable bear the torture any longer. She said she was asking the accused to return her money but he gave back not a single penny. The woman was sent for medical examination while police started further probe. The complainant also produced receipts of the money transaction.

Investigating officer Dharendra Kumar Kushwaha said it surfaced that the accused had taken money from the woman to get her a job and he had been arrested.

Meanwhile, a 40-year-old man, identified as Manoj Gupta, was arrested on the charges of drug peddling near Awadh-TP Nagar crossing in Ashiyana on Friday. Gupta, who is a Chinese food vendor, was caught with 2 kg ganja.

The Ashiyana police had launched an intense drive to crack the whip on drug peddlers on the directives of Commissioner of Police SK Pandey due to several complaints. The police were keeping a vigil on Gupta's activities as informers had told the cops that ganja was sold near a temple.

## SOTTO to start full-fledged functioning

**Lucknow (PNS):** State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) which was established at SGPGI in October last year will start full-fledged functioning now onwards. SGPGI director Dr RK Dhiman said SOTTO would start a slew of activities which were held up because of Covid-19.

In order to take forward the mandate of National Organ Transplant Programme and to sensitise all the stakeholders involved in the process of organ transplant, retrieval and banking within UP, an online meeting will be held on Saturday on the role of SOTTO with respect to its statutory obligations.

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) has been set up under the Directorate General of Health Services, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Subsequently, a 3-tier national networking system — NOTTO, SOTTO and Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (ROTO) are being established, as mandated as per the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2011. National Network division of NOTTO functions as apex centre for all-India activities of coordination and networking for procurement and distribution of organs and tissues and registry of organs and tissues donation and transplantation in the country.

Dr Dhiman said SOTTO would be ensuring coordination between organ donation and transplantation and promote organ donation.

## Rape cases continue to rock state

**Lucknow (PNS):** Even as a campaign is underway to curb crime against the fairer sex, fresh cases of rape were reported from Shahjahanpur, Banda and Barabanki. Elsewhere in Gorakhpur, a minor was killed in the name of saving 'family honour'. In Shahjahanpur, a seven-year-old girl was raped by a 15-year-old boy at a village on Thursday evening after which the perpetrator was apprehended. While the victim was admitted to a hospital, the juvenile offender will be produced before a court.

In Banda, a five-year-old girl was raped by a teenaged neighbour at a village in Baberu area

on Wednesday afternoon. The girl was playing outside her house when the 15-year-old predator took her to a secluded place and raped her. Later, the girl narrated her ordeal to her mother after which a case was registered. The offender was detained and the girl was sent for medical examination.

Elsewhere in Barabanki, a 15-year-old girl was raped by a man in a village when she went out for some work on Tuesday. Upon hearing the victim's screams, locals rushed to the spot and caught the accused, identified as Punna alias Rakesh (38) and handed him over to the police. A case was registered and

the accused was sent to jail.

Meanwhile in Gorakhpur, a minor girl was killed by her father in the name of saving family honour.

Ramgovind of Parmeshwarpur hamlet in Chiluwatal area hacked his 16-year-old minor sister Anjali with a spade on Thursday late night. He later called the police and confessed to the killing. About his murderous motive, he told the cops that she was in love with a neighbor and eloped with him a few days back bringing disrepute to the family. Local police registered a case and the accused was sent to jail on Friday.

## Sky-gazers wait for blue moon

**Lucknow (PNS):** Sky-gazers are waiting for 'blue moon', a celestial phenomenon, on Saturday. Scientific officer, Indira Gandhi Planetarium, Sumit Srivastava said the term blue moon is used when there are two full moons in one month. "Every month has a full moon, but since the lunar cycle and calendar year do not match perfectly, there are two full moons in the same calendar month every three years because the revolution period of moon around earth is nearly 29.5 days. There was a full moon on October 1-2 last.

## Labourer dies as tractor-trolley overturns

**Lucknow (PNS):** A 35-year-old labourer, identified as Saleem of Beripulia village, died after a tractor-trolley overturned on Friday morning. The trolley loaded with bamboos was on way to Mohanlalganj for delivery to a timber merchant.

The tractor-trolley overturned after the driver lost control of the vehicle. Saleem came under a wheel and died on the spot. Three others travelling by vehicle escaped unhurt. Police pulled out the body of Saleem and sent it for autopsy. The victim lived in Beripulia village with his wife and three children. His father-in-law Sabir lodged a complaint in this connection.

Besides, two youths were killed in separate road mishaps while two injured in the last 24 hours. Harendra Kumar (25), who was a resident of Alambagh, was fatally mowed down by an unidentified vehi-

cle near 1090 crossing under Gomtinagar police station.

His brother Ravi said Harendra told him that around 9 pm, he was going out with his friends Shubham and Bittu. His motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle near 1090 crossing even as the errant driver sped off. The trio suffered injuries and were rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where Harendra succumbed on Friday morning.

In another incident, farmer Kaushal Kishore (30), who was a resident of Banthra, was fatally knocked down by a speeding truck near Lalif Nagar crossing on Friday morning. Kaushal was going to buy eatables around 7 am. He was rushed to the community health centre from where he was referred to KGMU Trauma Centre. However, he died during treatment.

Meanwhile, a 30-year-old

man, identified as Pravesh Maurya of Vrindavan Colony (Sector-12-B) under PGI police station area, hanged himself from the ceiling of his room. However, No suicide note was recovered from the spot.

His cousin Satyendra Kumar Maurya said that Pravesh might have hanged himself on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday and that he dropped him at his house at 10 pm. There was no one in the house when he ended his life. Pravesh was living with his wife and two daughters and they were not in the city. Police said it was not clear why Pravesh ended his life. Satyendra Kumar Maurya lodged complaint in this connection. He said he was the first to spot Pravesh hanging when he went to pick him for office. He was working with UPPCL on contract basis.

### Office, Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department, Circle, Gorakhpur.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)  
Letter No.-1419 /R.E./Tender/PMGSY/Bond Clerk/2020-21/ Date:-26.10.2020

#### e-Procurement Notice 2<sup>nd</sup> Call

1. The Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle, Gorakhpur on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the **Percentage rate** bids in electronic tendering system for Renewal of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of Deoria-Groups No.-:UP-2003R, for including theirafter maintenance for five years. The eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD/UP RED, in appropriate class (A, B, C, or D as per limit) or equivalent category in CPWD/MCS/ P&T/ Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments.
2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement 03/11/2020
4. **Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:**
  - a. The bid document shall be available online from 03/11/2020 to 18/12/2020 and should be submitted online in <http://pmgsytendersup.gov.in>
  - b. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.
  - c. The bidders are required to submit
    - (1) Original demand draft towards the cost of bid document,
    - (2) Original bid security in approved form and
    - (3) Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department, Circle Gorakhpur, on a date not later than a **working day after the last date and time for receipt of bids through a procurement** of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. Bidder shall write only the bid-id-number (generated through e-tendering web site on Submission of bid on-line) on the envelop containing the documents mentioned above in para 4-c and the package number for which they have bid. Bidder **SHALL NOT WRITE** their own names or name of their firm on this envelop in order to ensure confidentiality of the bid.
  - d. **Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 18/12/2020 upto 12:00 Noon and the technical qualification part of the bid shall be opened the same day from 12:30 PM** in the Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle Gorakhpur. The Employer has right to issue addendum/Corrigendum as per ITB clause-10 on line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit [www.pmgstendersup.gov.in](http://www.pmgstendersup.gov.in) portal regularly. For further details please log on to <http://pmgsytendersup.gov.in>

(M.K.Garg)

Superintending Engineer,  
Rural Engineering Department Circle,  
Gorakhpur. Circle, Gorakhpur

UP- 156433 Date 28.10.2020 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

## LU prof developing affordable bone implant material

**Lucknow (PNS):** A professor at Lucknow University's Physics department, as a part of a global research group, is working on making affordable bone implant material. Prof Chandkiram Gautam, who is also the principal investigator of the research group, said they have developed several novel ceramic materials for bone implant applications by combining bone implant material (hydroxyapatite) with nano-materials such as oxides of metals and nitrides

He said metallic implants face several restrictions, including toxicity in long term use, and are not an everlasting solution. "Because of the reactions with body fluids, these get corroded, release wear-and-tear debris, resulting in toxins and inflammation significantly. Besides these limitations, metallic implants have high thermal expansion coefficient and large density that starts initiating pain and inflammation to the patient after a certain time," he said.

In contrast, bio-ceramics are safe enough with improved mechanical properties and do not possess such types of limitations. "The bone implant material is biocompatible ceramic material, containing a bone-like porous structure which offers the essential scaffold for tissue regeneration and

cell adhesion applications. Conversely, it is very brittle and has poor mechanical strength in comparison to metals. To overcome this problem, it is combined with nanoparticles of materials such as zirconia, magnesium oxide," he said.

Gautam said that in the new research, scientists have combined the material with hexagonal boron nitride to retain adequate mechanical properties and biocompatibility. "We have found that combining it with these nanomaterial improves mechanical strength, providing better in-vivo cell imaging and cell viability without changing its bone-like properties," he added. "If we are able to synthesise such material in our country, we can fabricate it indigenously and get it at an affordable rate," he pointed out.

Gautam also examined cell viability of these composite by observing metabolic activities in natural cells by a procedure. "We used gut tissues of drosophila larvae and primary osteoblast cells of rat. The cell viability studies confirmed that there is no cytotoxic effects," he explained. The research team also included Amarendra Gautam, Sarvesh Kumar Avinashi, Manisha Gupta, Ajaz Hussain, PM Ajayan, Robert Vajtai, Vijay Kumar Mishra and Monalisa Mishra.

## Pradhan's husband assaulted, set on afire over poll rivalry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In yet another horrific incident in Uttar Pradesh, a Dalit gang pradhan's husband was severely assaulted and later set on fire by a group of miscreants in Amethi on Thursday night.

As per reports, Bandoiya village pradhan Chhotka's husband Arjun Kori (45) went to buy vegetables from a market place near Munshiganj on Thursday evening. There he was accosted by six political rivals and brutally thrashed. Not satisfied with the punishment, the assailants later set him afire causing serious burn injuries.

When he did not return home, his son Surendra Kumar headed to the market and found his injured father lying by the roadside. After treatment at a

local hospital, the family was rushing the victim to KGMU Trauma Centre in Lucknow, where he succumbed on Friday morning.

Surendra said that before dying his father had revealed the names of four assailants, who beat him up, gagged him before torching him. On the possible motive for the murderous assault, he said that Arjun Kori had developed a strong support base in the area which perturbed his opponents and he was attacked over electoral rivalry.

Later, based on the a complaint lodged by the victim's family, the police registered a case of murder against Krishna Kumar and five others and three suspects were detained by the police for interrogation.

Elsewhere in Moradabad, a 45-year-old murder accused, who jumped bail and went missing for 23 years was finally arrested from a hotel on Thursday.

A case of murder was lodged against Keshav in 1996 after which he was arrested and sent to jail. A year later, he procured bail and was released from jail. Keshav soon jumped bail and did the vanishing act. He started working at a hotel with a fake identity. Numerous warrants were issued for him to be present in the court which were not complied with. The police started looking for him and learnt that he was working at a hotel with a fake identity. Subsequently, a police team raided the place and arrested him.

## Lookout notice issued for Bhadohi MLA's son

**Bhadohi:** Police here on Friday issued a lookout notice for Nishad Party MLA Vijay Mishra's son Vishnu Mishra suspecting that he may flee the country to evade arrest in connection with rape and other criminal cases, an official said. "Vishnu Mishra is wanted in connection with a gang rape and other criminal case. A

lookout circular has been issued against Vishnu on an information that he might leave the country to evade arrest," Superintendent of Police Ram Badan Singh said. A letter has been sent to the Bureau of Immigration in this regard, he added.

The Bhadohi MLA, his MLC wife Ram Lali and their

son were booked in a land grabbing case lodged on August 4. Vijay Mishra was arrested by police from Madhya Pradesh and is presently lodged in an Agra jail.

MLA Mishra, his son and a nephew were booked by police on October 18 for allegedly raping a 25-year-old singer.

## CS reviews Magh Mela preparations

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Uttar Pradesh government has started preparations for the annual Magh Mela in Prayagraj and has directed all the heads of departments to complete their works before the deadline.

Reviewing the Magh Mela preparations in Prayagraj through video-conferencing, Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari on Friday issued directions to various government agencies to complete the works for the Magh Mela within the scheduled time frame.

The virtual meeting was attended by senior officials of Public Works, Energy, Irrigation, Environment, Medical and Health, Home and Tourism departments in the UP Power Corporation.

Tiwari said that the departments should be ready with proposals for necessary approvals and asked them to make biannual action plans. The principal secretary (housing) was asked to send a circular in this regard to all departments. The top official said that the district administration should talk to the office-bearers of religious institutions to make them aware of social distancing, mask, sanitisation etc. and request them to cooperate in creating awareness among Kalpavasis.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

Tender Notice No. : ELC-PRYJ-180-20-21

E-Tender Notice

Dated: 28.10.2020

Dr. Chief Electrical Engineer / Const. / N. C. Rly. / Prayagraj, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:00 hrs. on 01.12.2020. The details of the tender are as under:-

S. N.	Tender No.	Name of work	Advertised value of work (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)
1.	ELC-PRYJ-180-20-21	Electrical work in connection with "Allahabad Division - Development of Subdarganj Station as satellite station".	₹ 1,87,04,978.00	₹ 2,43,500.00

**Period of completion: 12 Months; Tender Opening Date : 01.12.2020. Note:-** 1. The complete information alongwith tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 4. The Contractors should submit valid Class "A" Electrical license issued by State Government otherwise tender shall not be considered.

1157/2020 V

 North Central Railways

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

 @CPRONCR

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

E Tender Notice

E-Tender No. -PRYJ-Sig-013-2020-21

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Coordination / North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12:00 hrs. on the opening date of E-tender mentioned therein. The details of the Tender are as under:

Tender No	Name of work	Approx Cost of work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender form
013	S&T Outdoor work for cable shifting and installation of thick web point machine in connection with "Raising of speed to 160 kmph on existing New Delhi - Howrah route" in Sr.DSTE/PRYJ section.	₹ 32742177/-	₹313700/-	₹ 0.00

**Completion Period : 18 Months, Date of Opening of tender : 20.11.2020, Note: 2.Availability of tender form :** Tender forms are available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). 3. **Earnest Money to be deposited:** The prescribed amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above must be deposited along with the tender form Online through Internet Banking or Online Payment gateway only. The tenderer(s) should note that, in any case, the Earnest Money in any other form than that specified above shall not be acceptable. Tenders without earnest money shall be summarily rejected. 4. **Time & place of opening of tender:** Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj at or after 12.30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day. 5. **Validity of offer:** 45 days from the date of opening. 6. **Right of Railway to deal with tender:** Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons.

1153/20(AN)

 North central railways

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

 @CPRONCR

## Jimikand giving additional income to mango growers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Around Diwali, a lot of jimikand (elephant foot yam) is seen in the market and growers get attractive profits from this crop during this period. According to CISH director Shailendra Rajan, it gives a good opportunity to mango farmers as it can be easily grown in between trees and an excellent crop is produced without using many inputs, even in partial shade.

He said CISH is encouraging farmers to grow the crop and in also removing the throat-itching properties in this vegetable. Although nutritious and suitable for making several preparations, jimikand could not become popular because of its throat-itching characteristic.

"CISH has procured the seed of 'Gajendra' variety from Rajendra Agricultural University (Pusa, Bihar) and distributed it among the farmers. The production technology for the crops was also made available to them. It is a high-yielding and is also low in throat-itching properties. There are a variety of dishes and pickles which can be made

from jimikand," he said. The farmers of Malihabad do not have many options for growing diverse crops because of land paucity, as most of the area has been occupied by mango orchards.

"Removal of mango trees is also not possible because the area comes under mango belt and orchards can't be removed. Most of the farmers are getting orchard income once a year. CISH is making efforts to increase the farmers' income from mango orchards by growing additional crops. After the harvest of mango crop, there is no income from the orchard and these initiatives are aimed at utilising the interspace between trees for growing various crops for additional income. Shade-loving crops like turmeric, jimikand, ginger and many others are being grown and farmers are motivated for attempting their cultivation in young and old both types of orchards," he said. Jimikand preparations are one of the ritual dishes on Diwali and it has a lot of nutritional benefits. It is rich in protein, carbohydrates and reduces bad cholesterol, and also lowers blood sugar.

### CITYBRIEFS



#### WALKATHON

Punjab National Bank's zonal office organised a walkathon under Vigilance Awareness Week on Friday. Chief general manager Swaroop Saha and general manager Sanjay Gupta were led by staff members of the bank. Addressing the staff members present in the zonal office complex, Saha said corruption is a major obstacle in the economic, political and social progress of the country and everyone needs to work together to eradicate it. "For this, every citizen should be vigilant and always be committed to the highest standards of honesty

and integrity," he said. Gupta also appealed to all staff members to work with honesty, transparency and high conduct in every sphere of life.

#### VIGILANCE AWARENESS

An online elocution competition on 'Satark Bharat, Samraddh Bharat' (Vigilant India, Prosperous India) was organised under Vigilance Awareness Week at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University on Friday. Students enthusiastically participated in the contest. BBAU's chief vigilance officer Preeti Mishra encouraged the students and said vigilance awareness should not be

limited to this week but also beyond.

#### ADMISSION OFFER

Rukhsar, a student of City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus I, has been selected for admission by four noted universities of England due to her academic excellence. Rukhsar has been offered admission by King's College, Royal Holloway, University of London; Queen Mary University of London, and University of Glasgow.





# 91 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 91 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Friday, increasing the total number of cases to 16,818. The day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 270. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 85 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 13,032. The number of cured patients from the hospitals remained at 2,821. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 15,853, leaving 695 active cases. The recovery has slightly declined to 94.26 per cent but the mortality rate has remained at 1.60 per cent.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amit Pathak visited various areas to see the security arrangements on the occasion of Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi, popularly known as Barawafat. On the occasion of the festival, several Muslim-dominated areas were decorated with attractive lighting arrange-



SSP Amit Pathak inspecting in Godowlia area in Varanasi on Friday

Pioneer

ments. Earlier, for safety, respect and self-confidence of women under the 'Mission Shakti' campaign being run in the district on the direction of SSP, the girls/ women of various schools / colleges and public places in different police station areas were made aware by giving information about the helpline numbers (112, 1098, 1090, 181, 1076, 108, 102) issued by the government through posters / banners / pamphlets / audios / video clips. A total of 8,016 women / girls were mobilised

at 204 places and 1,890 leaflets were distributed. A total of 665 women / girls were sensitised by the Anti-Romeo Squad while checking at a total of 129 places.

Action was taken against five persons under Sections 107/116 of CrPC, 11 under MB Act and six under 34 Police Act apart from issuing warnings to 111 eve teasers and others. Besides, the police arrested 41 persons under Section 151 of CrPC while challaned under Section 188 and took action under Section

51 of Disaster Management Act against 16 persons. During checking at various points, 1,383 vehicles were challaned and eight seized. Apart from this, ₹1,20,200 were realised from 149 vehicles while ₹ 41,600 from 1,097 persons for moving on the roads without wearing masks.

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 50 positive patients were found out of 3,400 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,19,885 and the results of 2,122 are awaited. Out of them, 3,03,108 were negative while 16,777 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,38,016. Earlier, a male aged 75 from Lohta succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

With the addition of six new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,312 including 224 red zones. There are 2,088 green zones with 18 new ones.

## Asthma patients throng Garhwaghat Ashram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Rush of people was seen at Garhwaghat Ashram here on the auspicious occasion of Sharad Purnima on Friday when they thronged there to get herbal medicines for treatment of Asthma which was distributed by the Mahant Sadguru Sarnanand Ji Maharaj. Every year, a good number of people gather there on this occasion and after getting the medicine, they stayed there and during the evening hours, they cooked Kheer (a dish of milk and rice) and keep the same in open sky during the night hours. Later, they would consume the dew-absorbed kheer with medicines on Saturday. In view of worldwide coronavirus pandemic, the people maintained COVID-19 restrictions and there was no festival organised in such grand manner as it was generally



Asthma patients receiving herbal medicines on the occasion of Sharad Purnima at Garhwaghat Ashram in Varanasi on Friday

Pioneer

seen on this auspicious occasion.

Earlier, hundreds of people took holy dip in the river Ganga at various ghats on this auspicious occasion. The main rush of devotees was

seen at Dashaswamedh and adjoining ghats. At Garhwaghat, it is said that the kheer after getting dew during the night work very effective along with the herbal medicines for the patients suffering

from Asthma and some chronic diseases. As per the tradition, on the occasion, the people after cooking Kheer offered the same to Lord Chandra Dev and Goddess Laxmi than then consume the same and they believe that this prasad is very effective for the health.

To keep watch while keeping the Kheer in open sky, the people observe Jagran and throughout the night at various places, the programmes of bhajan are organised. Besides, Akashdeep is also lighted at various places including Dashaswamedh and other ghats to pay tributes to forefathers and martyrs and the same would remain lighted throughout the month of Karthik till Karthik Purnima (Dev Deepawali). At Dashasamedhi, Akashdeep would be lighted on November 1.

# Effigy of Pakistan PM torched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Annoyed with the confession made by Pakistan of its hand behind Pulwama terrorist attack on the convoy of CRPF personnel, the students of Uday Pratap PG College on Friday torchted the effigy of the Prime Minister of a neighboring country.

It is pointed out that the Science & Technology Minister of Pakistan Fawad Chaudhary while participating in a debate in country's national assembly

admitted the hand of his country behind the terrorist attack at Pulwama in Jammu & Kahsmir that claimed 40 CRPF personnel, by saying, 'We hit Indian in their home and our success in Pulwama is a success of this nation under the leadership of Imran Khan'.

The agitated students gathered at Bhojubar crossing, here and set the effigy of Pakistani Prime Minister afire. The entire world is worried with the admission by Pakistan of its hand behind the Pulwama ter-

ror attack, the students said adding, the confession shows the thinking and power of understanding of the PM of neighbouring country.

The terrorist attack in Pulwama was made under a well-planned manner and Pakistan ultimately admitted this, the students said adding, but the leaders of Pakistan had forgotten the power of India and thus it had to face serious consequences in the manner of air strike on its soil. The Indian army had taught a tough lesson

to neighbouring country by conducting surgical and air strike and also shown its strength, they said further.

Indian soldiers always remain ready to lay down their lives for the sake of their nation and no enemy country could do any harm of India unless they are at border to protect their motherland, the students said. Vivekanand, Shivam Singh Babu, Sachin Singh, Aman Singh and Digvijay Singh were mainly present on the occasion.

# CM to review development work today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Preparations are going on in full swing in view of the proposed two days visit of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the city here on Saturday. During his staying here, he will review the progress made in various development projects in this parliamentary constituency of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. According to information, after the review meeting, Yogi may also check

the ground realities visiting the sites of some projects. Actually, the CM was scheduled to come here on Friday but due to his schedule for Chitrakoot, his visit here has been pushed forward by a day. Yogi will stay here during the night and leave the city next day.

In view of the proposed visit, pursue the festival of Sharad Purnima, the officers of various departments were seen busy in updating their

reports and completing home-work.

The employees of Public Works Department (PWD) were seen busy repairing road pits while Nagar Nigam staff in making roads clean.

The Health department has also launched a cleanliness drive at some hospitals where the CM may visit.

The cops were also seen active at different crossings and senior district and police officers inspected various

areas to see the condition in view of CM's visit. According to information, like most of the previous visits

Yogi may also visit Kashi Vishwanath temple and see the progress made in development work of its corridor apart from offering prayer there.

He may also discuss the local officers about the nature of the forthcoming festival of Dev Deepawali in wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

the bank has proved that it certainly cares for these entrepreneurs. This is a proud moment for the whole country, he said.

While launching the IND Spring Board, K Ananth Krishnan said that start-ups have the advantage of credit facilities like this now. At present, we are in 4th industrial revolution with various technologies emerging some of the most valued companies in the world are from the start-up category TCS also works through Co-Innovation (COIN) with start-ups across the globe.

The e-launch was attended by the board of directors of the bank and customers of the bank as well.



Devotees take holy dip in the Sangam on the occasion of Sharad Purnima in Prayagraj on Friday

Pioneer

# 78 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The corona infection graph remained at a declining level for the second consecutive day. Within the last 24 on Thursday, 5201 samples were collected for a Covid test. Of them, 78 new positive cases were identified in 24 hours. At the same time 106 people defeated the infection. One infected died during treatment. With this, the number of people who lost their lives in the district from corona has increased to 314.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, so far 23,759 people have been infected with corona in the district. Home isolation of 16,546 people has been

completed. At the same time, after treatment of 5,594 infected patients, various Covid patients have been discharged from hospitals.

According to the CMO, 147 patients are admitted in various Covid hospitals. Covid Hospitals in the district have a total of 1,710 beds, of which 1,562 are vacant. This condition indicates relief from infection even after expanding the scope of testing. The maximum of 75 infected patients are admitted to L3 SRN Hospital and are being treated. At the same time, 52 patients are being treated at Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital and 18 at United Medicity and three at Sainath Hospital.

The Covid report of four

ACGM officers of the District Court and four officers of private company L&T has come positive. According to the Nodal Officer for Corona Dr. Rishi Sahai, four people, including senior L&T officer, assistant manager, senior engineering manager, have been infected. At the same time, the head of the Forestry department in SHUATS, a clerk of the Municipal Corporation and a constable posted at the airport have tested positive. A High Court RO has also been infected.

Drivers of the tempo-taxi, three-wheelers and their passengers were tested on the first day of the Covid Testing of the 15-day Target Group on Thursday on the instructions of

the government. Swab samples of 1,090 people were taken as part of the campaign that was conducted in about 50 places in urban areas along the blocks.

Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai and ACGM Dr AK Tiwari said that it was a matter of relief that only 15 people got infected in the sudden testing. Arrangements were made for the treatment of all. There were many of them who had no symptoms. Those with minor colds and fever were involved in the testing. According to Dr. Tiwari, on Friday, beauty parlors' staff and those who apply the mehndi on others were screened. 25 mobile teams have been deployed in the district to test the target group.

# Singh holds online interaction with NRIs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

New policies have been formulated for business in the state. All barriers to investment have been overcome. In just 72 hours, the investors are getting NOC. This information was given by the Cabinet Minister, Siddharth Nath Singh, during an online interaction with NRIs living in 35 countries.

The Cabinet Minister informed that important steps are being taken in the state to develop infrastructure, educational development as well as health. One District One Product (ODOP) scheme has been implemented here. Its positive effects are being seen. Efforts are also on to promote tourism. For this, the international airport at Kushinagar is also being developed. It will start after Deepawali.

In an online dialogue, Cabinet Minister Siddharth Nath Singh said that many desks have also been made for NRIs so that their problems

can be resolved at different levels. Now the proposal of Film City in Uttar Pradesh has also been passed. Ayodhya is being made a unique tourist destination of the world. So far, 5.5 lakh people / companies have been given loans under the 'Atma Nirbhar Package'. A package of 1000 crores is set to promote the startup.

NRIs living in many countries joined online dialogues. These included Rakesh Mehta from Abu Dhabi, Prashant Shankar Pathak from Canada, Sumit Chakraborty from Europe, Devesh Mishra from Nigeria, Ravindra Kulkarni from Germany etc. Additional Chief Secretaries Alok Kumar and Navneet Sehgal were also present on the occasion.

A VGM app dedicated to Women and Child Safety developed by the IIT BHU-promoted startup company was launched during the programme. During this, its founder Mrityunjay spoke about the app. More than

150 people attended the webinar.

**PROMOTION LIST RELEASED:** The High Court administration has released a promotion list of 255 review officers. Apart from this, 23 computer assistants have been promoted and made Assistant Review Officers.

According to the notification issued by the Protocol Ajay Kumar Srivastava I, 23 computer assistants have been promoted to the post of Assistant Review Officers. At the same time, 255 Assistant Review Officers have been promoted to the post of Review Officers. According to another notification, 132 review officers have been selected by direct recruitment. They will also soon be appointed here.

Brijesh Kumar Shukla, general secretary of the High Court Staff Officers Association, has congratulated all the officers who got promotion and selected review

officers from direct recruitment. He expressed his gratitude towards the Chief Justice Govind Mathur, Chairman of Selection Committee Justice SP Kesarwani, Justice MC Tripathi, Union President Justice Sunit Kumar, Justice Ajit Kumar, Justice Ajay Bhanot, Justice Virendra Kumar Srivastava and the Protocol Ajay Kumar Srivastava-I for issuing the list of promotions.

Among those who congratulated were senior vice-presidents of the association Kamlesh Kumar Singh, Nikhil Kumar Singh, Vijayanand Dwivedi, Abhishek Kumar Srivastava, Anupam Shukla, Executive members Bhupesh Kumar Gautam, Alok Kumar Rai, Raj Kumar Mishra, Jitendra Gupta, Ashok Kumar Bhaskar, Amit Kumar Shukla, Mo. Azam, Vivek Srivastava, Mithai Lal Sonkar, Shiv Shankar Lal, Ashish Pratap Singh, Prakarsh Malaviya and other prominent members.

# Farewell function held at NCR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A farewell function was organised though video conferencing at North Central Railway for settlement payment and other dues which were paid to 130 employees superannuating in October-2020 through electronic means.

Across all Railway units on the last working day of every month a retirement function is organised to acknowledge contribution of Railway man and woman over his or her service life. Such functions are organised at Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Divisional level, Production units, Workshops and other Railway units, however, off late due to spread of COVID-19; these functions could not be held with physical gathering. Keeping in view importance of superannuation day for employee as well as for the organisation; Railway Board has started holding farewell function through video conferencing since July-2020. This virtual farewell function was attended by superannuating employees of North Central Railway HQ office through video conferencing at video conferencing venue of HQ office as well as on employee's personal device using specific invitation link of video confer-

encing given to all superannuating employees. For employees attending farewell function in HQ office video conferencing venue; all precautionary arrangements related to COVID-19 were made. For superannuating employees at Divisions, Production units, Workshop, Training institutes and other Railway units; a YouTube link was made available to join the virtual farewell function. This live streaming link on YouTube was also used for watching the function by other officials and family members and friends of superannuating employees. Details of all superannuating employees including achievement, important contribution by him or her are also collected centrally so as commendable work done by Railway men and women over their service life can be recognised during such function. This initiative of Railway towards organising farewell function through virtual means during current COVID-19 crisis is aimed towards boosting morale of retiring as well as serving employees and will bring more cohesion and sense of belongingness among Railway men and women.

As many as 130 Railway employees of North Central

Railway superannuating in October 2020 include 19 from Agra, 40 from Jhansi and 46 from Prayagraj division and 8 employees of Jhansi workshop while 17 employees belong to other units of North Central Railway including Headquarters. Amid COVID-19, Pension Payment Orders have been made available to retiring employee as well as to drawee banks either electronically or by sending special messenger to ensure timely payment of pension and other retirement dues. To obviate requirement of being physically present to receive settlement dues during current COVID-19 crisis electronic settlement facility has been rendered to superannuating employees from Railway service over North Central Railway.

**KIDNAPPERS REACH POLICE STATION WITH CHILD:** In a bizarre incident, a child was kidnapped under the Jhansi police station in the district. The kidnappers abducted the child from near his house and then the car borne youths took the child in the car. On being informed about the kidnapping of the child, the family members were taken aback.. In a hurry, the police were informed about it.

While the cops were tracing the whereabouts of the abductors in the meantime, the kidnappers reached Jhansi police station with the child and informed the police that the child had hatched a plan for his kidnapping. However, the police is smelling something fishy in this connection and are questioning the youths. Santosh Yadav lives in Jhansi's Nyaya Nagar. It is said that at around 10.30 on Friday morning, three people riding in a car reached Nyaya Nagar. They found Santosh's 12-year-old son Prince outside his home there. People living nearby told the police that the car-borne youths took Prince in a car. When this information came to Santosh, he became upset and launched a hectic search for the child with the family. The information of the kidnapping was immediately reported to the police. Jhansi police reached the spot and, after investigation and inquiry with the people around with Prince's family, began searching for the car-borne youths on the basis of identity told to the police by the people. During this, two motorcycle borne young men reached Jhansi police station with Prince. Police are questioning the kidnappers who are giving lame excuses in this regard.





District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari, holding a meeting on Pollution Control and Prevention at Collectorate.

Pioneer

# Dedicated efforts needed to check pollution: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari, while addressing a meeting at his camp office, said dedicated efforts need to be made to check pollution in the city limits.

He said stubble burning was banned and awareness about it should be created among the farmers.

He said two special committees comprising senior officials of the district admin-

istration and police had been set up at the district and tehsil levels to enforce the ban on stubble burning.

He said people could inform the authorities about stubble burning on the number 18001805159.

The district magistrate said all organisations involved in spreading awareness need to register themselves.

He said it was essential to apprise the farmers about the harmful effects of stubble burning and how it reduced fertility of the soil and caused

immense pollution.

He said in the urban areas, it was mandatory to keep all the construction materials fully covered.

Besides, he said, it was also mandatory to cover the construction area with green mat and those violating the rule would face legal action and fines as well.

He said wherever a construction was being carried out, regular sprinkling of water was essential and it had to be strictly monitored.

The district magistrate

said 10 prominent crossings of the city had been identified where at the red light crossing all the vehicles need to be switched off.

He said volunteers would be deployed at these crossings to ensure that the moment two-wheelers, three-wheelers or four-wheelers reached a red traffic signal, the engine was switched off.

He said special vigilance had to be maintained on the diesel vehicles coming from rural areas.

## 50 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 50 more coronavirus positive cases on Friday evening.

According to a report 50 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Thursday evening and Friday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 27,841 cases.

He said no COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Friday evening keeping the death toll to 733.

The CMO said at present 777 active cases were undergoing treatment. The report added that 28 were discharged from hospital taking the total to 7474 discharged from hospital and 40 were cured from home isolation taking the total to 18857. The total cured stood at 26331.

## Green Park to be accorded priority in organising int'l matches

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association's honorary secretary Yudhvir Singh said that the Green Park Stadium would always be accorded priority for organising international matches.

After months of sporting inactivity due to the coronavirus pandemic, cricket is to start at the Green Park Stadium with Ranji Trophy matches. Singh visited the Green Park Stadium on Friday to take stock of its condition.

During inspection, he gave a pat on the back of pitch curator Shiv Kumar for the beautiful ground. He inspected the drainage system of the ground and collected information about the newly-built players' pavilion from the UPCA nodal officer and the officers of the Sports department.

Nodal officer Ashu Malhotra put up proposals for the betterment of the ground, including repairing of its three sets.

UPCA secretary Satbir Singh said during allotment of matches by the BCCI, UPCA would present the Green Park Stadium as a priority venue. He said for domestic cricket, Kamla Club ground would also be accorded priority. He said during the allotment of World Cup matches, the name of Green Park Stadium would be highlighted.

He also collected information from the pitch curator about the method of spreading light of the high mast lights installed atop the new players' pavilion up to ground's boundary. During the inspection, they were accompanied by chief executive officer Deepak Sharma, media manager Dharmendra Tripathi and Sports Director Mudrika Pathak.

### SOF OLYMPIAD EXAMS TO BE ONLINE

Science Olympiad Foundation founder-director Mahabir Singh said the SOF would hold Olympiad examinations online this year.

He said considering the safety and health concern of the students, they would be able to appear in SOF Olympiad examination from their respective homes. He said the SOF was partnering a leading international organisation to conduct online examination and with the extensive use of artificial intelligence, remote proctoring, video recording of exam and other various tools would be used to ensure the integrity of the examination.

## Minister administers pledge to rly personnel

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Union Minister of Railways, Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal under Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on Thursday from New Delhi via video link administered pledge to Railway officials and employees. The officers and employees of all Indian Railways took a pledge that they would with utmost sincerity dedicate themselves to uphold the unity, integrity and security of the nation and also make every effort to spread this message among countrymen and solemnly pledged to contribute to ensure internal security of the country. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board, New Delhi, Vinod Kumar Yadav, senior Railway officers and senior officials of various ministries were present at the function. In his address Minister Piyush Goyal said that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel contributed significantly to the unity of the

country. Taking inspiration from him all of us will have to contribute to maintain the unity and integrity of the country and strengthen it. All people strengthen the unity of the country with their actions. Being in government service, we should keep making every effort to maintain the integrity and unity of the country by providing better service to the people of the country, he added.

**VIRTUAL FAREWELL:** Union Minister of Railways, Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal, while bidding farewell to total 2,375 railway personnel retiring from Indian Railways on October 31 at a ceremony organised through video link from New Delhi on Thursday wished for their happy future, CPRO Pankaj Kumar Singh said. In his address on the occasion, Piyush Goyal said Indian Railways is truly a unique family. Goodwill, sympathy and mutual interaction

are a characteristic of the railway family. Goyal suggested to the retiring railway personnel to remain active in future life and wished them a happy and long life.

Earlier Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board, New Delhi, Vinod Kumar Yadav, in his welcome address appreciated the tradition of Minister of Minister of Railways, Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution giving farewell to employees retiring from the Indian Railways. He said that through such events railway personnel from all over the country come in contact with each other. Indian Railways is a public utility organisation and we serve the entire country through passenger and freight transport. While highlighting the remarkable performance of the Indian Railways during the Covid-19 pandemic he praised the hard work of the railway personnel and their spirit of dedication.

## Rihand sends ash for NH project

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The Rihand unit of NTPC for participation in nation building and proper utilisation of ash from the plant has signed a contract with NG Gadhia. Under this contract from NTPC Rihand project 2.75 lakh CuM ash will be sent for construction of four-lane road connecting NH-56 and NH-2 under NHA's Varanasi Ring Road Project under phase-2 package-1. Through this contract NTPC Rihand's ash utilisation levels will increase significantly. Under the above contract, the first consignment



of ash was flagged off by Chief General Manager (CGM), NTPC Rihand, Anant Charan Sahu on Thursday. On the occasion KN Reddy, General Manager (ADM), KC Tripathi, General Manager (MTP), Amit Dhiman, senior manager (EMG), Raghavendra Narayan, senior manager (EMG) and representatives of NG Gadhia, Lokesh Kumar, Lalit Kumar etc. were present. In projects under NTPC's VSR region NTPC Rihand has always been making unique efforts and it is always working to ensure that it continues in future too.

## Gangster Act invoked against six

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Halia police invoked Gangster Act against six criminals on Thursday. Police said Gangster Act had been invoked against Jitendra Kol, a resident of Subal Bisari village under Koraon police station in Prayagraj, Dinesh, a resident of Lonmati village under Koraon police station in Prayagraj, Om Pandey, a resident of Sohagi Kalyanpur village Khiri police station in Prayagraj, Anuj, a resident of Siraval village under Koraon police station in Prayagraj, Satish Shukla, a resident of Sonhauri village Sohagi police station in Rewa, MP, and Ashish Bind, a resident of Bairahva village under Manda police station According to

Station Officer Halia Amit Kumar Singh the accused committed heinous crimes, including theft of motorcycles, by forming a gang so it had become necessary to book them under Gangster Act.

**DIRECTIVE:** District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel and Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Singh jointly visited Chappahna village under Padari police station to know the ground reality about the disposal of cases under IGRS. During their visit the officers met the applicants, Sushma Tiwari, wife of Sunil Tiwari, Mohan Prajapati, son of late Intaraj, Horilal, son of Sumar, Shivanth Gond, son of Radheshyam, Arati Gond, wife of Chhedhi Gond, all residents of

Chappahna village, and asked them whether they were satisfied with the disposal of their applications or not. They



directed the officials concerned to take action on the merit of the application. During the visit along with SHO Padari revenue officials were also present.

## Seed kits distributed among farmers

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

MLA City Ratnakar Mishra said that distribution of mustard seed of advanced quality was another step to reduce production cost and double the income of farmers. While speaking as the chief guest at a function organised by Agriculture department at Gorsar Sarpati village to distribute seeds among farmers under the women empowerment scheme, he praised the officials of Irrigation department who succeeded in covering more area which led to an increase in yield. He said that farmers were



on top priority of the government. He appealed to farmers to avail the benefits of subsidy provided by government on things related to farming and feel free to call him if they had any problem pertaining to agriculture. The programme concluded with the distribution of the seed kits among 20 women and 80 men farmers. Prominent among those who graced the programme were Dinesh Singh, an official of the Agriculture department besides Ashok Shukla, Mangaladatta Mishra and progressive farmers of the area.

### Webinar organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

On the third day of the Vigilance Awareness Week being observed on the instructions of the Central Vigilance Commission the North Eastern Railway Vigilance Organisation on Thursday keeping in mind the theme 'Satark Bharat-Samridhh Bharat' (Vigilant India-Prosperous India) organised a webinar with the officers of Izzatnagar and Lucknow divisions, CPRO PK Singh said. Inaugurating it Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer Amitabh Ojha highlighted the importance of preventive vigilance. He emphasised on the inclusion of women representation in various committees to be formed at the officer and employee level in the divisions. Senior DyGM and CVO Ojha said that in order to increase transparency in work information shared on the website should be updated from time to time and technical flaws in the system too should be checked and corrected. He said that special monitoring of appointments made on compassionate grounds should be should be done. All the deputy chief vigilance officers made presentations through case study on the major vigilance cases detected by the Vigilance Organisation during the last year citing fraud, irregularities in the allocation of tenders and those found in procurement by the Stores department etc and emphasised on the implementation of system improvement. DRM Izzatnagar Ashutosh Pant stressed the need for system improvement to effectively curb the shortcomings found in preventive investigations. In the webinar Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM)/ Operations, Lucknow, Shishir Somvanshi, ADRM/Infra, Sanjay Yadav, ADRM/ Administration, Lucknow, Raghvendra Kumar, ADRM/Infra, Izzatnagar, Ashish Agarwal, ADRM/Operations, Izzatnagar, Ajay Vashney and branch officers of both the divisions participated.

**CANCELLED:** The movement of 04652 Amritsar-Jaynagar special departing from Amritsar on October 30 will remain cancelled due to unavailability of rakes in view of farmers' agitation. Consequently, the movement of 04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar special train departing from Jaynagar on November 1 will remain cancelled due to non-availability of rakes, CPRO PK Singh said.

### Liquor seized

CORRESPONDENT ■ CHANDAULI

The Syedraja police, SWAT and surveillance teams during checking on Naubatpur border on Thursday recovered liquor worth about ₹12 lakh being which was being transported to Bihar from Haryana in a milk container. SP Hemant Kutiyal said at Police Lines that a checking campaign was being conducted in view of the Bihar elections. The police team, under the direction of ASP Premchand and CO Kunwar Prabhat Singh, was continuously carrying out checking on the Naubatpur border by launching a campaign The SWAT and



surveillance teams along with Syedraja police were checking vehicles on the national highway near Naubatpur border on Thursday. The team recovered 2,384 bottles of liquor from the milk container. Besides the two accused in the container three others were arrested from a car. From the accused Amit Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Pradeep Kumar and Kuldeep, residents of Rohna village under Khorgoda police station in Sonapat, Haryana, Sujit Kumar, a resident of Laskar village under Udakishunganj police station in Katiyar, Bihar, ₹3,500 cash and five mobile phones were also recovered. The team which made the arrest comprised inspector incharge Laxman Parvat, SWAT team inspector Atul Narayan Singh, Abhay Singh, Satyendra Yadav, S-I Amit Kumar besides police personnel, Umakant Yadav, Anand Singh, Amit Rai, Amit Yadav, Umashankar Tiwari, Neeraj Mishra, Devendra and others.

# KDA seals seven premises

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) on Thursday sealed seven premises under construction.

The construction work in these premises was being carried out in violation of the approved layout.

At the same time, the owners of many other under-construction premises were served notices.

It may be recalled that with several cases of unauthorised construction coming to light, KDA Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh had directed the enforcement squad to contain the practice forthwith.

He had issued directive that if the builders continued to carry out illegal construction even after being served notice, the premises concerned be sealed and FIR be lodged against the owner.

This had alerted the offi-



KDA sealed the illegal construction.

Pioneer

cials of the enforcement squad and they immediately launched a drive on Thursday and sealed seven premises in Bansmandi, Ratanlal Nagar, Juh, Sujatganj, Krishna Nagar, Chandari, Vinayakpur and Netaji Nagar, where the illegal construction was being carried out.

At the same time, notices for the illegal construction being carried out at several places in the city, including P Road, Jawahar Nagar, Swarup Nagar, Nawabganj, Shyam Nagar, Jajmau, Panki, Kakadeo and Govind Nagar, were also being served.

# Indian Bank GM launches festival bonanza offer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Bank General Manager Ravindra Singh, while inaugurating the festival bonanza offer at the bank's Rambagh branch on Friday, said in view of the approaching festival period, the bank was extending attractive interest rates and retail loan offer.

He said the Indian Bank had always focused on the economic uplift of its clientele and thus from time to time it comes up with schemes for the clientele.

He said under the FBO (festival bonanza offer), the bank had made arrangements for the distribution of Rs 15.41 crore retail loans, including



General Manager, Indian Bank, Ravindra Singh holding a Festival Bonanza Offer loan mela.

Pioneer

housing and vehicle loans, besides MSME loans worth Rs 24.79 crore and cold storage loans amounting to Rs 9.20 crore that worked out to a total of Rs 49.40 crore.

He said on Friday, the bank

distributed Rs 2.29 crore housing loans, Rs 1.61 crore vehicle loans and Rs 16.25 crore as loans to MSMEs.

He said the bank was giving special discount for women in the FBO and for them the

# Meghwal launches ICAI initiative for elderly CAs

**KANPUR (PNS):** Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises, Arjun Ram Meghwal, virtually launched 'We Care', a unique social security scheme and benevolence programme for senior chartered accountants (CAs) above the age of 75 on Friday.

He said the initiative would provide support to this valuable segment of the ICAI fraternity. He said all attempts had been made to provide respect,

continuous engagement, care and support to the profession by creating a sense of belongingness.

He said the initiative undertaken by the ICAI was laudable and would set an example for many other organisations to emulate.

He added that it would also instil Indian traditional values in the younger generation and inculcate the sentiments of appreciating, respecting and caring elders.

Meghwal said the Institute

of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) since its inception had always provided thoughtful leadership to the generations in a proactive and progressive manner.

He said the ICAI had been playing a key role nationally, regionally and globally, not only towards the growth of the profession but also was contributing to the business, industry and commerce across all sectors.

He said the reason for the milestones achieved by the

ICAI was its hard work, dedication and commitment of the CA fraternity and senior visionaries who had been guiding the accountancy profession with their selfless dedication, relentless commitment and rich values.

ICAI president and noted CA Atul Kumar Gupta said the institute assiduously aspired to attain the absolute best for all its members and was diligently dedicated to its constant improvement and growth.

He said the ICAI stood tall

as a facilitator and crusader of affirmative action, thereby letting consequent growth and development flow.

He said in the current unprecedented times of COVID-19 pandemic, the ICAI had initiated a number of steps to ensure that the accountancy profession in India was not only having inclusive growth but also to ensure that its members and students were kept updated on various professional matters of contemporary relevance.



# Navy test-fires anti-ship missile for op readiness



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sustaining the momentum to be operationally ready to meet any challenge in the backdrop of the ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian Navy on Friday successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from its

guided missile corvette INS Kora in the Bay of Bengal. Stating that the missile hit the target at maximum range with precise accuracy, officials said here the drill reflected the navy's combat readiness in the strategic sea lanes around India, officials said. "Anti-ship missile fired by Indian Navy's Guided

Missile Corvete INS Kora hits the target at max range with precise accuracy in Bay of Bengal. Target ship severely damaged and in flames," the Navy tweeted. Last week, the Navy released a video of an anti-ship missile destroying a sinking ship with "deadly accuracy"

## India releases schedule of annual Malabar naval drill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after announcing the participation of Australia for the first time in the Malabar series of naval exercises despite China's strong objection, India on Friday released the schedule of the annual exercise. It will take part in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in two phases. In all four countries including India, Japan, US and Australia will exercise together in the first phase for four days from November 3 to 6 in Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal. The next session will commence in mid-November.

The 2+2 ministerial level dialogue between India and the US here earlier this week had expressed satisfaction over the forthcoming Malabar exercise. It will see all the four Quadrilateral countries exercising together for the first time. China had all along objected to the inclusion of Australia claiming it will militarise the Quad and increase tension in the Indo-Pacific region. India announced the decision about Australia's participation on October 19. The Malabar exercises started in 1992 when India and US exercised together. Japan joined in 2015. An

invitation to Australia in 2007 saw China expressing its displeasure to all the four countries. However, the US and Japan were in favour of Australia joining this prestigious exercise and the process was on for the last two years. Giving details of the upcoming exercise, officials said here the 24th edition is scheduled in two phases in November 2020. Phase-1 will see participation of Indian Navy units with USN Ship USS John S McCain (Guided-missile destroyer), Ballarat (long range frigate) with integral MH-60 helicopter of Australia and Onami (Destroyer) with integral SH-

60 helicopter of Japan. The Indian Navy participation in Phase 1 will be led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. Indian Navy units participating in the exercise include destroyer Ranvijay, frigate Shivalik, Off Shore Patrol Vessel Sukanya, Fleet Support Ship Shakti and submarine Sindhuraj. In addition, Advanced Jet Trainer Hawk, long-range maritime patrol aircraft P-8I, Dornier maritime patrol aircraft, and helicopters will also be participating in the exercise. The exercise, being conducted as a 'non-contact, at

sea only' exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic, will showcase the high-levels of synergy and coordination between the friendly navies, which is based on their shared values and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order. The first phase will witness complex and advanced naval exercises including surface, anti-submarine and anti-air warfare operations, cross deck flying, seamanship evolutions and weapon firing exercises. The second phase is scheduled to be conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November 2020.

somewhere in the Arabian Sea. The missile was fired by frontline corvette INS Prabal as part of a mega drill involving aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and a number of warships, attack helicopters, and other assets of the Navy.

The Indian Navy has significantly increased its deployment in the Indian Ocean Region in an attempt to send across a message to China in the wake of escalation in tension between the two countries over the border standoff in

eastern Ladakh. The Indian Navy has participated in a number of joint maritime exercises in the last few weeks, including a three-day drill with Japanese navy from September 26-28. Last month, Indian Navy

also carried out a two-day mega exercise in the Indian Ocean Region with the Australian Navy that featured a range of complex naval manoeuvres, anti-aircraft drills and helicopter operations. In July, the Indian Navy

carried out a military exercise with a US Navy carrier strike group led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off the coast of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The USS Nimitz is the world's largest warship.

## Money laundering case: Kerala CPM leader's son in ED net

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of Kerala CPI (M) leader Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, for money laundering. The agency on Friday claimed that Kodiyeri allegedly credited "huge amounts of unaccounted funds" into the bank accounts of the drug peddler Mohammed Anoop. The ED has initiated investigation against Mohammed Anoop and others based on the FIR registered by Narcotics Control Bureau, Bengaluru on August 22 this year. Earlier, Mohammed Anoop, a drug peddler, was arrested by ED on October 17, 2020 and, during his custodial interrogation, he inter-alia admitted that he was indulging in sale and purchase of narcotics drugs and closely associated with Bineesh Kodiyeri, the ED said in a statement. "It is also revealed that he held various bank accounts and indulged in transferring/layering of huge proceeds of crime into various accounts. Fund trail investigation also established that huge amount



of unaccounted funds were being regularly credited in his accounts by Bineesh Kodiyeri. These were preceded by large cash deposits in Kerala into the accounts of Bineesh Kodiyeri," it said. During the course of investigation, it was revealed that Mohammed Anoop is a Benamidar of Bineesh Kodiyeri and all his financial dealings were done on the instructions of Bineesh Kodiyeri who had paid huge amounts of money to Mohammed Anoop. He could not explain these cash and fund transactions and was completely evasive in his replies, the agency said. Bineesh Kodiyeri was produced before the ED PMLA Court on Thursday and the designated court

granted ED custody till 5 PM of November 2. Further custodial interrogation and investigation is under progress, it added. Benamidar is a person in whose name the benami property is held or transferred, and a beneficial owner of the person for whose benefit the property is being held by the benamidar. The NCB had claimed in the past that "prominent musicians and actors" in Karnataka are under its scanner after the operation involving Anoop and Kodiyeri. Kodiyeri has maintained that he knew Anoop and his family and the latter had borrowed money from him and some others for setting up the restaurant business in Bengaluru a few years ago.

## Gujrat Assembly bypoll: 18 per cent candidates have criminal background

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Out of the 80 candidates in the fray for the November 3 Gujarat Assembly by-election, 18 per cent have declared criminal cases against themselves. According to a report by poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), which also gives details of the financial background of candidates, said a total of 20 or 25 per cent of them have declared financial assets worth crores of rupees. While a total of 81 candidates are contesting the elections, the report is based on an analysis of affidavits furnished by 80 of them. Bypolls in Abdasa, Limbdi, Morbi, Dhari, Gadhadra, Karjan, Dang and Kapradia assembly seats in Gujarat were necessitated after the sitting Congress MLAs resigned. The report said that seven or 9 per cent of the candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves, while 14 or 18 per cent have declared criminal cases against themselves. Serious criminal cases are non-bailable offences with over five years of imprisonment. According to the report,

one (50 per cent) out of two candidates analysed from Bhartiya Tribal Party, three (38 per cent) out of eight candidates analysed from BJP, two (25 per cent) out of eight candidates analysed from Congress and eight (15 per cent) out of 53 Independent candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves, it said. "Out of the 80 candidates, 20 (25 per cent) out of 8 candidates analysed from BJP, 6 (75 per cent) out of 8 candidates analysed from Congress and 6 (11 per cent) out of 53 Independent candidates have declared assets worth more than ₹1 crore," the report stated. The average assets per candidate is ₹1.16 crore, it said. "Among major parties, the average assets per candidate for eight Congress candidates analysed is ₹4.38 crore, eight BJP candidates analysed is Rs 2.52 crores, two Bhartiya Tribal Party candidates have average assets of ₹17.85 lakhs and 53 Independent candidates have average assets of ₹70.52 lakhs," it added.

testing in Gujarat bye-elections have given tickets to 25 per cent to 38 per cent candidates who have declared criminal cases against themselves," it said. "Out of the 80 candidates, 20 (25 per cent) out of 8 candidates analysed from BJP, 6 (75 per cent) out of 8 candidates analysed from Congress and 6 (11 per cent) out of 53 Independent candidates have declared assets worth more than ₹1 crore," the report stated. The average assets per candidate is ₹1.16 crore, it said. "Among major parties, the average assets per candidate for eight Congress candidates analysed is ₹4.38 crore, eight BJP candidates analysed is Rs 2.52 crores, two Bhartiya Tribal Party candidates have average assets of ₹17.85 lakhs and 53 Independent candidates have average assets of ₹70.52 lakhs," it added.

## Munger police firing: Cong seeks dismissal of Nitish, Sushil Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Friday demanded immediate suspension of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi over the Munger police firing incident. A delegation of party from national Capital met Bihar Governor. The congress delegation was also likely to meet President of India during the next couple of days in this regard. The Congress delegation led by General Secretary Randeep Surjewala submitted a memorandum to Bihar Governor Fagu Chauhan demanding immediate dismissal of Nitish Kumar government, alleging its failure in handling the situation in Munger where one youth was killed in police firing and sev-

eral others were injured in lathi-charge on those participating in immersion of idol of Goddess Durga on October 26. AICC sources said that party is also seeking an appointment from President Ram Nath Kovind to apprise him of the breaking law and order situation in Bihar when elections are being conducted on the ground. The grand alliance consisting of Congress, RJD, and left parties has also demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi dismiss the NDA Government of Bihar over the incident. Two incidents of violence occurred in Munger within 72 hours that had erupted following excess committed against devotees during immersion of idol of Goddess Durga near Azad Chowk in Munger district on October 26.

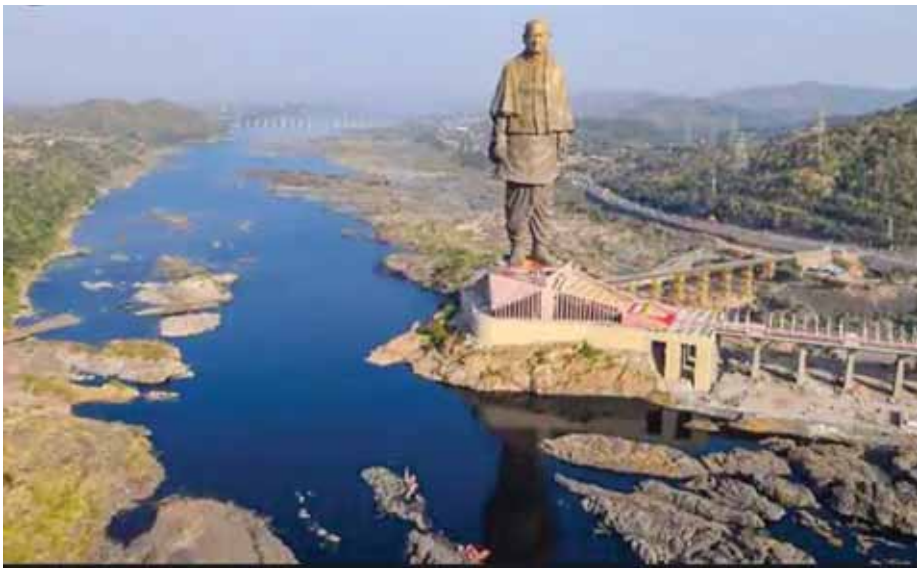
## Javadekar seeks Cong's apology for its conspiracy theories on Pulwama attack



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after a Pakistani politician in Assembly confessed that the country was behind the Pulwama terror attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel in J & K, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Friday sought an apology from the Congress for its conspiracy theories around the incident. What was described as a terror attack inspired by Pakistani terror outfits had prompted Indian punitive air strikes at Balakot across the borders, last year. Taking to Twitter, Javadekar said, "Pakistan has admitted its hand behind Pulwama terror attack. Now, Congress and others who talked of conspiracy theories must apologise to the country," he said. The alleged terror attack took place on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on February 14, 2019, when a convoy of vehicles carrying security personnel was struck by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Lethpora near Avantipura in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir. Lok Sabha polls were held in 2019 and on the first anniversary of Pulwama attack, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi had held the BJP responsible for security lapses asking who benefited the most from the attack.

## PM inaugurates 4 tourism attractions at Statue of Unity



PTI ■ KEVADIYA (GUJARAT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat, inaugurated four new tourist attractions near the Statue of Unity at Kevadiya in Narmada district on Friday. The Prime Minister inaugurated Arogya Van, Ekta Mall, Children's Nutrition Park and Sardar Patel Zoological Park/Jungle Safari. He was scheduled to launch 17 new projects, including a seaplane service, on Friday and Saturday. Modi first inaugurated Arogya Van ('health forest'), spread over 17 acres with a wide range of medicinal plants. The sprawling garden, which boasts of five lakh plants of 380 species, also highlights the importance of Yoga,

Ayurveda and meditation, an official release said. It also has a 'yoga and meditation' garden, souvenir shop and a cafeteria serving "Ayurveda foods". Modi also visited a digital information centre and an indoor plants garden inside Arogya Van. The prime minister then inaugurated Ekta Mall, a unique store near the Statue of Unity where tourists can buy handloom and handicraft products from various states. The two-storey air-conditioned complex is spread over 35,000 square feet and houses 20 emporia, said the government release. Modi, accompanied by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, visited several emporia. The prime minister spent significant time at stalls sell-

ing traditional items from Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East. He showed keen interest in the processes involved in making them, an official said. The PM next inaugurated a Children's Nutrition Park, dubbed as the world's first such technology-driven theme park developed over 35,000 square meters. Its primary objective is to make children understand the importance of nutritious food, officials said. The park has 47 attractions providing "infotainment" to children with the underlying theme of "Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan". Modi then inaugurated Jungle Safari, a state-of-the-art Zoological Park spread across 375 acres and seven levels.

## Centre asks States to form committees for smooth Covid-19 vaccination

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked States to constitute committees for coordination and overseeing COVID-19 vaccination drive while ensuring minimal disruptions in other routine healthcare services, and stressed early tracking of social media to dispel rumours which could impact the community acceptance of coronavirus inoculation. Stating that COVID-19 vaccine introduction will span over a year with multiple groups being included "sequentially starting from health care workers", the Health Ministry has sought constitution of committees at state and district levels which will review preparatory activities in terms of cold chain preparedness, operational planning, strategies for state-specific challenges in terms of geographical terrain and hard-to-reach areas, etc. In a letter to states and union territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has suggested setting up of a state steering committee (SSC) chaired by the chief secretary, a state task force (STF) led by additional Chief Secretary or principal secretary (health), and a district task force (DTF) to be headed by the district magistrate.

DHFL DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED:		
National Office: HDIL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051. Branch Office: Dhiraaj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) 400602.		
DEMAND NOTICE		
Under Section 13(2) of the securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) UNDER Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) the "said Borrower(s)", to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.		
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Loan Code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	PROPERTY ADDRESS
(LC No. 00000449 of Kanpur Branch) Vijay Verma (Borrower) Romi Singh (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 356668/- (₹ Three lakh Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Eight) NPA (01-06-2020)	Part Of Araj No. 157, House No 1, Ward No 18, Kalyanpur Kalan, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh - 208017
(LC No. 00003016 of Lucknow Branch) Subhashish Acharya (Borrower) Anita Acharya (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 555716/- (₹ Five lakh Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixteen) NPA (01-06-2020)	Plot No 60, Part Of Khasra No 992 Sa, Mohalla-Rahimabad, Ward- Raja Bijli Pasi, Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00000738 of Kanpur Branch) Sanad Kumar Tripathi (Borrower) Durgesh Tripathi (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 544184/- (₹ Five lakh Forty Four Thousand One Hundred Eighty Four) NPA (01-06-2020)	Flat No B - 9 / 6, First Floor, Shatabdi Nagar, Sulabh Awas, Type - 3, Aravali, Sector B, Kanpur, Kanpur Rural, Uttar Pradesh - 208020
(LC No. 00003121 of Lucknow Branch) Arun Kumar Tiwari (Borrower) Kalpana Tiwari (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 878040/- (₹ Eight lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Forty) NPA (01-06-2020)	Plot No 27 Khasra No 1313, Vill Aurangabad Jagir, Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00001637 of Varanasi Branch) Suresh Kumar (Borrower) Geeta Devi (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 1621332/- (₹ Sixteen lakh Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Two) NPA (01-06-2020)	Part Of Arazi No. 227/9 Mi, Muaza Naika Pargana Jhuni, Allahabad, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh - 211019
(LC No. 00041909 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Irfan Ali (Borrower) Aqila Bano (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 1449847/- (₹ Fourteen lakh Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Seven) NPA (01-06-2020)	Plot No C-20 & Plot No C-21 Part Of, Khasra No 705, 706, 708, 711, Vill Alunagar Diguriga Pargan, Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00002604 of Varanasi Branch) Shyam Narayan Shukla (Borrower) Mani Shukla (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 1313451/- (₹ Thirteen lakh Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty One) NPA (01-06-2020)	Arazi No. 201 Mauza Ramdattpur, Pargana Shivpur, Varanasi, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh - 221007
(LC No. 00000903 of Gorakhpur Branch) Sudhir Kumar Yadav (Borrower) Bhanu Modi Devi (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 518505/- (₹ Five lakh Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Five) NPA (01-06-2020)	Plot Situated At Arazi No. 748/1/1 (min., Ward No.8, mauza-mahadev Jharkhand Tuda, No.1, Tappa & Pargana-haveli, sada, Gorakhpur, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh - 227003
(LC No. 00005168 of Lucknow Branch) Asim Jamal (Borrower) Masihun Jamal (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 2710639/- (₹ Twenty Seven lakh Ten Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Nine) NPA (01-06-2020)	House On Plot No 147/a Khasra No 55a, 55-sa Adil Nagar Ward Shankar, Purwa, Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00001803 of Kanpur Branch) Amit Kumar Bajpai (Borrower) Sumit Kumar Bajpai (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 1100687/- (₹ Eleven lakh Six Hundred Eighty Seven) NPA (01-06-2020)	Pvt Plot No. 96 F, Arazi No. 124 Min, Village Nagwan, Kanpur, Kanpur Rural, Uttar Pradesh - 208021
(LC No. 00042335 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Triloki Yadav (Borrower) Swastika Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 1302713/- (₹ Thirteen lakh Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen) NPA (01-06-2020)	Plot On Part of Khasra No 2549, Munnu Khara (para), Ward Alam Nagar, Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00042419 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Rajni Srivastava (Borrower) Ritesh Srivastava (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 1374079/- (₹ Thirteen lakh Seventy Four Thousand Seventy Nine) NPA (01-06-2020)	Plot No 564 Part of Khasra No 68 Sa, Madhav Green Village Lalaul, Tehsil Lucknow, Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00042716 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Shiv Kumar Saxena (Borrower) Preeti Saxena (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 953312/- (₹ Nine lakh Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred Twelve) NPA (01-02-2020)	Plot No K 33 Part Of Khasra No. 706, Village Natkur Aura Velly, Teh & Dist Lucknow, Lucknow, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh - 226001
(LC No. 00000120 of Allahabad Branch) Anil Kumar Singh (Borrower) Indrawati Singh (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 879230/- (₹ Eight lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred Thirty) NPA (01-06-2020)	Arazi No. 2338, mauza Sherdeeh, Pargana Jhuni, Tehsil Phoolpur, Allahabad, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh - 211013
(LC No. 00006505 of Lucknow Branch) Shashank Singh Chauhan (Borrower) Urmila Singh Chauhan (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 645501/- (₹ Six lakh Forty Five Thousand Five Hundred One) NPA (01-06-2020)	Plot No 14, Kh No 1451 Min, Gram- Banthara, Sikandarpur, Pargana, Bijnour, Sarojini Nagar, Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00006746 of Lucknow Branch) Khalid Kamal (Borrower) Mohd Tarik Jamal (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 356237/- (₹ Three lakh Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Seven) NPA (01-06-2020)	Plot No. 288, Over Khasra No. 132 Min, At Gram- Lakhpeda, Pargana & Tehsil, Mohanlalagar, Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00042857 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Mohd Sameer (Borrower) Seema Zaher (Co Borrower 1)	09-09-2020 / ₹ 1826367/- (₹ Eighteen lakh Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Seven) NPA (01-06-2020)	Part Of Plot No142, part Of Khas No 1, 2, 4, Limra Gold Yojna, Village - Narthapur, Teh-bakshi Ka Talab, Parg& Dis, 226020, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00002120 of Lucknow Branch) Ravi Shankar (Borrower) Sita Devi (Co Borrower 1)	26-09-2020 / ₹ 799181/- (₹ Seven lakh Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen) NPA (01-06-2020)	Plot No 518, Vill Kherauna Parg & Teh. Amethi, Amethi, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh - 227405
(LC No. 00003261 of Lucknow Branch) Ramesh Chand Chauhan (Borrower) Sarita Chauhan (Co Borrower 1)	26-09-2020 / ₹ 698911/- (₹ Six lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eleven) NPA (01-07-2020)	H No. 613/ P-015 (Kh-505), On Plot No. 15 & Part Of Plot No 16, Khasra No 505, Gaurbheeth, Faizilalagar, Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226001
If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or fine as provided under the Act.		
Date : 31.10.2020 Place : Uttar Pradesh		Sd/- (Authorised officer) DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED



## Every child’s right

The ASER survey maps the extent of the digital divide in rural India and makes a case for strengthening infrastructure to democratise education



We all knew about the digital divide in the education sector, about how children in rural India, already cut off from last mile connectivity and lacking internet and technology resources, would suffer badly in a post-pandemic scenario. But it looks far worse than initially estimated. The Annual State of Education Report (ASER) survey, which mapped the extent of learning loss among students in September, has found that with the closure of schools, about 20 per cent of rural children had no textbooks at home. About three per cent of them, aged between six and 10 years, had not yet enrolled in school this year compared to just

1.8 per cent in 2018. And in the week of the survey, about one in three rural children had not participated in any learning activity at all while about two in three had no learning material or school-oriented activity. Enrolment patterns, too, show a slight shift toward Government schools, with private schools seeing a drop across age groups. Though, encouragingly, about one in every 10 rural households across the country bought a new phone to support their child’s digital education, it also brings out the harsh reality that only a minuscule percentage of village children had access to live online classes. This adversely impacted the education of the rest, who could not afford either a smartphone or a computer, and were, therefore, left with the option of not studying at all or sharing the scarce resources in groups. To make matters worse, only one-third of all enrolled children received textbooks, worksheets, online/recorded classes, video or some other form of virtual lessons from their teachers, increasing the learning gap even more. Here, too, the divide between the haves and the have-nots was accentuated because 28.7 per cent of children studying in private schools had watched videos or other pre-recorded content online, as compared to 18.3 per cent of Government school students. But even 28.7 per cent is a dismal figure by all standards and all efforts to ensure seamless education by adopting technology solutions have clearly come to a naught. So if we want to mainstream hybrid education, the ASER report is a reality check. Urban models cannot be imposed on rural India, where technology has to be hardwired in a community format and distance learning via satellite TV networks or intranet encouraged.

India may be among one of the largest consumers of smartphones worldwide and may have the second largest internet penetration but we still don’t have a reliable and strong broadband connection throughout the country. Till we can ensure this, patchy links will remain one of the major reasons for the lack of access to online learning. Even in cities, where we have a comprehensive 4G network, there are major disruption issues being faced by parents, students and teachers alike. So how can we expect things to be better in rural India? While urban homes may have the privilege of owning power back-ups, what about rural areas where power supply is a luxury and where outages are mostly diurnal to supply electricity to the industrial and farm sector, basically the time when the classes are supposed to be held? Besides, how many of the teachers are comfortable taking online classes in rural India? Given the fact that data is expensive, even if parents are able to get the child an exclusive phone for studies, they are forced to keep the video option off to save data. Which in turn makes the lessons uninteresting for the students and difficult for the teacher to monitor them. The language barrier is a serious challenge as most of the content is either in English or Hindi, making it tough for regional language speakers. It is at times like this one wishes that India had taken full advantage of its Educational Satellite (EduSat). But we can still widen the bouquet of direct to home (DTH) educational channels, all of which cover content from pre-school to doctoral studies, and beam them over local cable networks. A knowledge society must be democratic, not exclusionary. And since enrolment at Government schools is up, it is time to prioritise upskilling teachers and standardise modules there. We cannot leave rural India behind.

## Conflict of ideas

After yet another beheading in France, there is a hardening of positions between religion and secularism



The depiction of Prophet Mohammad has been a controversial issue in France for long as any kind of visual portrayal related to him is forbidden in Islam. It is what prompted a terror attack in 2015 on the offices of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, which printed his cartoons in the name of free speech. But given the 36 attacks carried out by a fringe minority of Muslims on French soil since 2012, the latest beheading of a Parisian teacher, who had used cartoons again in a civics class about freedom of expression, and the killing of a woman at Notre-Dame church in Nice, there is a raging debate now over the extent to which secularism can

be stretched and not conflict with religiosity. Particularly in times when the clash of civilisations has never seemed sharper. Some liberals, who have been arguing that while the cartoon may have been in poor taste but was not illicit, are now wondering whether freedom of speech and values had been stretched too far. And whether the French should be careful about comments and expressions, which can be deemed as racist, anti-Semitic or homophobic, particularly when applied to a minority. However, the majority detest this pandering as compromising the nation’s foundational principles. Besides, France has had an uneasy relationship with settlers and migrants, one that has led to what it is now labelling as “Islamofascism.” In fact, in deeply divided times across the world, the freedom of speech and liberty of ideas are being increasingly challenged by what the fringe sees as offensive to its sensibilities. But the French continue to defend the art of satire over the art of accommodating the religious beliefs of others. In fact, just after *Charlie Hebdo* magazine published its cartoons of the Prophet, the then President, Jacques Chirac, had sounded a note of caution, saying, “Anything that can hurt the convictions of someone else, in particular religious convictions, should be avoided.” But no French politician since then has sounded a voice of reason with current President Emmanuel Macron going to the extent of saying that Catholics are “under threat.” That’s because post the scale of violence, the right to satire is being seen as emblematic of France’s status and ethos as a secular Republic that counters religious bias. And the fatwas are being seen as an attack on the French way of life, more hurtful than the pain of a religious sect or group.

In 1905, France adopted the *laïcité* or secularism. This means the State can neither support nor stigmatise any religion. However, things changed after its traumatic defeat in Algeria with the State targetting the visibility of Islam on its turf. France became the first and only European country to ban the hijab in public schools in 2004. Few years down the line, it banned the wearing of niqab or face covering. Things have taken such a turn now that even human rights and civil society groups are collecting data on the rise of Islamophobia, something that a 1978 French law forbids. Macron’s infamous statement, “Fear will change sides”, and his claim that Islam as a religion is in crisis have not gone down well with several Middle Eastern countries that are boycotting French products. His idea of reforming Islam has been interpreted as provocative rather than well-meaning. Several activists argue the Government should instead invest more effort in addressing the marginalisation of French Muslims, often with ancestry in Africa and the Middle East, in the suburban ghettos of the country. They feel alienated and they suffer from high levels of unemployment and poor social housing. Rather than working on the root cause of the problem, the hardening of positions can only widen the existing faultlines and social rift. It might then just become impossible to defend who is tolerant or not.



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

As the world is pre-occupied with dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and individual countries solve their respective specific problems, such as India with its confrontation with China, the fate of Afghan women has received little attention. No Government seems to be bothered by the fact that a political order in Afghanistan, shaped according to the Taliban’s dictates, may once again relegate them to virtual house arrest and deprive them of almost all freedoms, including the economic activity of their choice, and independent access to healthcare — as they were during the Taliban rule from 1994 to 2001.

In a report titled *The Taliban’s War on Women: A Health and Human Rights Crisis in Afghanistan*, Physicians for Human Rights, a respected human rights organisation based in the United States, presented a nightmarish picture of the condition of Afghan women under Taliban rule. It wrote: “The Taliban was the first faction laying claim to power in Afghanistan, which had targeted women for extreme repression and punished them brutally for infractions. To our knowledge, no other regime in the world had methodically and violently forced half of its population into virtual house arrest, prohibiting them on the pain of physical punishment, from showing their faces, seeking medical care without a male escort or attending school.

“It is difficult to find another Government or would-be Government that has created such poverty by arbitrarily depriving half the population under its control of jobs, schooling, mobility and healthcare. Such restrictions are literally life-threatening to the women and their children.”

Lt-Gen Kamal Matinuddin (Retd) of the Pakistan Army wrote in *Taliban Phenomenon: Afghanistan 1994-97*, “Girls are being denied education, women have been prevented from working. If they leave their house, they have to be covered from head to foot with a veil (*burqa*); besides being veiled, women have to be accompanied by a male relative when they venture out on the streets. Shopkeepers have been directed not to sell goods to unveiled women. Rickshaw drivers are not to pick up women passengers unless they are fully covered. Women caught violating these rules

are imprisoned, as are the shopkeepers and rickshaw-drivers.”

Things began to change after the Taliban were booted out of power in 2001 by US-led coalition forces. As George R Allen and Wanda Felbab-Brown state in their paper, *Fate of Women’s Rights in Afghanistan*, which is a part of Brookings Institution’s *19A: Gender Equality Series*, “The post-Taliban constitution in 2004 gave Afghan women all kinds of rights, and the post-Taliban political dispensation brought social and economic growth that significantly improved their socio-economic condition.” They further state that against fewer than 10 in 2003, the percentage of girls enrolled in primary schools rose to 33 in 2017. Registered female enrolment in secondary schools rose from six to 39 per cent in the same period. Three-and-a-half million Afghan girls were in school with 1,00,00 studying in universities. They further say, “By 2020, 21 per cent of Afghan civil servants were women (compared with almost none during the Taliban years), 16 per cent in senior management levels; and 27 per cent of Afghan members of Parliament were women.”

These gains are no doubt unevenly distributed. The beneficiaries have mainly been urban women. According to Allen and Felbab-Brown, in rural Afghanistan, where 76 per cent of Afghanistan’s women live, life has not changed much from the Taliban era, their formal legal empowerment notwithstanding. This goes particularly for Pashtun areas

besides others where rural minority ethnic groups live. They have to get permission from men in their families to access health care, attend school and work. Many Afghan men are deeply conservative. Typically, families allow their girls to have a primary or secondary education — usually up to puberty — and then arrange their marriage. Even if the male guardian of a young woman permits her to attend a university, she may not be allowed to work after graduation. Also, rural women have to bear much of the brunt of the devastating conflict between the Taliban and Government forces and local militia. Loss of husbands, brothers and fathers to the fighting causes severe psychological trauma and economically jeopardises their economic survival and ability to go about everyday life.

As a result, attitudes differ. While women in rural areas want peace — many of them even on the Taliban’s terms — urban women generally want the Government not to give in and accept a political order in which the Taliban can implement their retrograde gender and social agenda. Hence, the question: Are the Taliban prepared to moderate their stance and, if so, to what extent?

Borhan Osman and Anand Gopal write in *Afghan Views on a Future State*; (With an introduction by Barnett Rubin: NYU/Centre on International Cooperation), “a number of interviewees emphasised that Taliban redlines lie not with female education as such, but rather with co-ed or wholly sec-

ular education, which accords with views voiced even by Mullah Omar.” They said they did not object to women working or to the education of women in their country. However, what they objected to and prevented by force was if this work or education breached Islamic Shari’a. Nowadays, there were scores of schools, especially for girls in the area under the Islamic Emirate, and women performed jobs such as “teaching of girls and medicine for women.” They further said, “We encourage this and we call for it on condition that hospitals for females are segregated from hospitals for males, and on condition that the work conditions are in harmony with Islamic Shari’a, not to satisfy instincts, whims and lust. We do not care if the West or the world complain about us in this respect. All we want is to establish Islamic Shari’a in Afghanistan; we do not care who is satisfied and who is not satisfied.

“Similarly, several interviewees presently active in the movement said that an Islamic State should not only allow women to go to school, but it must encourage them; indeed, the State should use its resources toward this end. The condition for such education is that girls should observe the proper hijab and that there should be full segregation. There appears to be little change on the view of women’s right to work, however. Most interviewees accepted the need of women in the sectors of health and education, and in any Government department dealing with women and children. Beyond that, there appears to be

little enthusiasm for the idea of women holding public office or working in businesses not dealing with females or children.”

What all this adds up to is a far cry from what Afghan women — at least those in urban areas — enjoy in terms of opportunities, rights and freedoms. Women in rural areas doubtless lag behind. They, however, legally have the right to the opportunities available in the cities and, a great deal of their distress will disappear when peace returns — a goal that seems distant but should not be abandoned. Besides, the most important question is whether what the Taliban means what they say or are peddling falsehoods aimed at persuading the Americans to take a less stringent line with them.

In an article titled *The false inclusivity of the Taliban’s emirate* ([www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)), Mehdi J Hakimi writes, “Notwithstanding repeated claims that they support women’s rights, for instance, the Taliban has continued to attack girls’ schools. Also, women and young people, while comprising most of the country’s population, are conspicuously missing from the Taliban’s negotiating team. Moreover, despite Afghanistan’s rich pluralism and cultural mosaic, there is extremely little ethnic, religious, linguistic, cultural and professional diversity within their ranks. This absence...tells us, through calibrated action rather than hollow rhetoric, who is actually welcome in the Taliban’s emirate.”

Referring to the “blatant inconsistency between the Taliban’s mantra of inclusion and praxis of exclusion, this early in the intra-Afghan talks,” and their reneging on their “counter-terrorism pledges to the United States by continuing to operate closely with al-Qaeda,” Hakimi concludes by writing that the Islamic emirate’s recurring duplicity “must serve as a reminder of the perils of hastily taking a leap of faith towards the Taliban. A lasting peace, after all, is possible only through a genuinely inclusive process — not through one masquerading as such.”

Clearly, there is no guarantee that the Taliban will implement even their currently professed stand on the opportunities and freedoms they would grant women — which themselves fall far short of what Afghan women enjoy now — when they are in power. Afghan women are in peril. Civil societies in all democracies must press on their Governments not to abandon them.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, *The Pioneer*, and an author)

## SOUNDBITE

As President, I’ll stand with South Korea, strengthening our alliance to safeguard peace in East Asia and beyond, rather than extorting Seoul with reckless threats to remove our troops.



Democratic presidential nominee —Joe Biden

The security of Tejaswini Yadav is completely compromised at rally venues. It is a threat to his life apart from creating hurdles in the helicopter operation.



RJD Rajya Sabha MP —Manoj Jha

The changes we’ve made in the last four years helped us protect the integrity of more than 200 different elections around the world, including in the EU, India and Indonesia.



Facebook CEO —Mark Zuckerberg

The core group is strong with some very good players and I will have to bring out my best performance to earn a spot again in the Indian team and I am working towards it.



Hockey player —Dipsan Tirkey

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Curb air pollution

Sir — In a first, the Centre has come up with a law, through an Ordinance, to set up a commission to tackle the problem of air pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). It will coordinate with the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh to plan, execute and monitor programmes. The commission will have the authority to shut down or regulate water and electricity supply to industries or sites which cause air pollution. The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority also had almost similar powers but failed in cleaning the air even after being in force for more than 20 years. The question of whether it’s a positive move or just a distraction and wasteful exercise will be decided on the fact whether the Ordinance changes the status quo when it comes to ground implementation and guarantees action on polluters or not.

Apart from seven Central ministries, the commission will also have representation from the above mentioned five States, the Central Pollution Control Board, the Indian Space

### Protect the innocent lives

A 15-year-old girl was raped at her residence in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, by a person she had befriended on social media. The incident, which took place on July 21, came to light only on October 24, when the teenage survivor, a resident of Shahjahanabad, lodged a police complaint against the accused. In yet another case of sexual assault against a minor, a 10-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her cousin brother in Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. The incident took place in a village under Badalpur police station late on Monday, October 26. Another case was reported in Gujarat on October 17, when a 12-year-old differently-abled girl was allegedly raped and killed by her cousin in Deesa town of Banaskantha district.

It is extremely shocking that incidents of sexual violence are taking place every single day in different parts of the country. According to the National Crime Record Bureau’s data, as many as 109 children were sexually abused every day in India in 2018, which showed a



22 per cent jump in such cases from the previous year. The highest number of child rapes was recorded in Maharashtra at 2,832, followed by Uttar Pradesh at 2,023. Strengthening the community-level child protection system and changing society’s mindset are the key to protecting our children.

B Ahsanullah  
Delhi

Research Organisation, Niti Aayog and pollution experts. The participation of these States is extremely important as it sets up a collective decision-making and implementation among different political bodies. Mutually inconsistent action among the States (for example, the gradual response action plan for NCR and paddy stubble burning in upwind States) impedes short

term improvements in the air quality and long term solutions. With curbs on road transport, rail services and air travel still to resume fully, the situation will offer a test case for the commission to study the factors that contribute to air pollution in Delhi-NCR and take steps to improve the situation.

Yash Pal Ralhan  
Jalandhar

### Brazen Pakistan

Sir — The Pakistan Government’s claim that it succeeded in the Pulwama terror attack, which took the lives of 40 CRPF personnel in 2019, has unmasked its true face before the world. While addressing the Pakistan National Assembly, Prime Minister Imran Khan’s close aide and Science and

Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry showered praises on the former and hailed the attack as a great achievement of the Government. This is the first time a Pakistani Minister has admitted what India has long maintained — that Pakistan directly or indirectly supports terror groups that target India. But it is neither shocking nor befuddling to hear it from the horse’s mouth as the Pakistan Government has a rich track record of indulging in such barbaric acts. With a differential power equation and bereft of moral strength that hinders it from waging a direct war against India, the rogue nation is resorting to proxy war. It’s appalling that a so-called civilian Government is bragging and unabashedly taking credit for the dreadful terror strike. It is definitely hard for India to deal with such a notorious neighbour. And while Islamabad, along with Beijing, continue to challenge our borders, India needs to widen its military reach through diplomatic strategies.

Avani Jain  
Ujjain

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



FIRST COLUMN

## Interesting times ahead in Pak

The hostility between the US and China is steadily increasing and this is bound to have an effect on the ruling Pakistani establishment



MARKANDEY KATJU

Pakistan is in the throes of turmoil right now. However, despite all the rallies and hue and cry created by the People's Democratic Movement (PDM), it is unlikely to be of much consequence. For the uninitiated, the PDM was formed in September by the leader of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Fazal-ur-Rehman, but constitutes 11 parties, representing nearly the entire political spectrum of Pakistan. Significantly, the PDM has brought together the two mainstream but rival parties, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by Bilawal Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) led by the exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, but currently headed by his daughter Maryam.

No doubt Pakistan is facing a severe economic crisis because of which people are suffering. Prices of essential commodities like food and medicines have gone through the roof and there is mounting unemployment. However, despite these, the people of Pakistan are unlikely to give much support to the PDM as it is an unholy alliance of corrupt leaders. While Nawaz Sharif was mentioned in the Panama Papers, his daughter Maryam has been accused of having four huge flats in England by Prime Minister Imran Khan. Then there is Bilawal whose mother Benazir allegedly took huge amounts of money abroad and *Maulana* Fazal-ur-Rehman, the Rasputin of Pakistan and a rank opportunist, to name a few. These politicians have no real love for the people of Pakistan but are a disgruntled, motley lot having nothing in common. In fact earlier, for years they had been at each other's throats but now they have united because they are out of power and not enjoying the loaves of office.

As anticipated, Nawaz Sharif's attack from London in his online speech in the PDM rally in Gujranwala against General Bajwa and some other top military brass — probably thinking that this would divide the Pakistani Generals and provoke some to stage a coup against the Army chief — did not have any effect. An army, by its very nature, is different from a mob. It is a highly-disciplined organisation, with a hierarchy and chain of command. Each person on a lower rank unquestioningly carries out the orders of his superior. The army chief is at the top of this hierarchy and the corps commanders, even if they sometimes disagree with him, will ultimately carry out his orders. They know that breach of this discipline destroys an army, and therefore themselves. So there will be no coup in the Pakistan Army, whatever Nawaz Sharif may think. The Pakistan Army officers are fiercely protective of their Generals, both serving and retired, and will not tolerate their humiliation, because they know if this happens one day they, too, may meet a similar fate. In fact, it is probably because Nawaz Sharif started hounding General Musharraf that the Pakistan Army turned on him.

The essence of a State is its military and bureaucratic establishment. In Pakistan, the army is the real power, though it prefers to shield and screen itself behind the veneer of a civil Government, as that gives it power without responsibility. Imran Khan is clever enough to realise this, and as long as he keeps the army happy (which he is doing with great alacrity) he is safe. To think that a mob can fight and disperse an army, even if a hundred times smaller in number, is unrealistic and silly. It reminds one of Vendemiaire in Paris in October 1795, when 4,000 troops under Brigadier General Napoleon Bonaparte dispersed a mob numerically 10 times larger by "a whiff of grapeshot." So all the PDM's horses and all the PDM's men cannot have any effect on the Pakistan ruling establishment, however many rallies they may hold. However, there is one factor which can have an effect, and it is this which needs to be considered.

Earlier, Pakistan was pro-US and was closely tied to it, economically and militarily. But now it has also become close to China, which has emerged as the second superpower in the world. China has closer proximity to Pakistan and has hugely invested in it. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has forged a strong link between the two countries. The Chinese are taking away huge amounts of raw materials from Balochistan. Gwadar Port has been given on a 40-year lease to China and Pakistani markets are full of cheap Chinese goods. So Pakistan, which earlier had only one master, now has two. It is well-known that the hostility between these two, the US and China, is steadily increasing, and this is bound to have an effect on the ruling Pakistani establishment, which may well be torn apart, one part siding with the US and the other with China.

Mere discontent among the Pakistani people, over rising prices, unemployment and so on, by itself is unlikely to cause an overthrow of the rulers. But if coupled with, and supported by one of the two masters mentioned above (which may feel threatened by the other's ascendancy), this may well happen in the long run, caused by a fissure in Pakistan's ruling establishment. Interesting times are ahead in our neighbouring nation.

(The writer is former Judge of the Supreme Court of India)

VERY LUCKY TO GET A RECALL BASED ON IPL AND WHITE BALL PERFORMANCE. BUT NOW LET'S JUST HOPE RAHUL MAKES THE MOST OF THIS CHANCE.

—FORMER CRICKETER  
SANJAY MANJREKAR

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



QUESTIONING KL RAHUL'S SELECTION IN TESTS? HE HAS PLAYED WELL IN TESTS. I WON'T AGREE AT ALL. MANJREKAR DOESN'T HAVE ANY OTHER JOB.

—FORMER CRICKETER  
KRIS SRIKKANTH

# Fill the care gap

Though healthcare infrastructure has considerably improved over the last two decades, rural areas are still grappling with the lack of necessary facilities for diseases such as cancer



SACHIN CHOPDA

When 53-year-old Preeti (name changed), based in a small village on the outskirts of Pune, felt a lump in her breast, little did she know about the symptoms associated with breast cancer and the treatment for it. Like Preeti, most women in rural India are not aware of the symptoms of cancer, the importance of screening and the treatment options available to them.

This is despite the fact that non-communicable diseases account for 63 per cent of all deaths in India, and at nine per cent, cancer is one of the leading causes of mortality. Out of this, breast cancer forms a major part of the disease burden in the country, having overtaken cervical cancer. While in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Kolkata, Chennai and Ahmedabad, breast cancer accounts for 25-32 per cent of the disease burden in women, in rural areas the incidence of breast cancer is one in every 60 women.

A 2018 study by a doctoral student on 1,000 women in rural Maharashtra indicated that 90 per cent of them are unaware about breast self-examination and almost 50 per cent of women delay seeking treatment by three months as access and awareness about cancer care is very minimal. In India, it's also more common in the younger age group as almost 50 per cent of all cases are in the age group of 25-50. Sadly, more than 70 per cent of the cases present in the advanced stage had a high mortality rate. The numbers are staggering and constantly rising. As per the National Cancer Registry Programme Report, released by the Indian Council of Medical Research recently, the country will have 13.9 lakh cases of cancer this year and this number is likely to increase to 15.7 lakh by 2025.

Sadly, India is lacking in overall healthcare facilities, including cancer care, even after years of efforts and push by philanthropists, healthcare professionals and the Government. Though cancer facilities have greatly improved in urban areas, the same is not the case with rural India. Our villages are perpetually short of basic healthcare facilities. Hence, advanced treatment procedures for diseases like cancer are still a distant dream for the rural population.

There are a number of issues that rural areas face when it comes to cancer care. Right from lack of adequate screening to minimal awareness and stigma about the disease, there are a few fundamental issues that need attention.

**Stigma and lack of awareness:** Late detection of cancer is one of the key reasons behind the high fatality rate in the segment. Early detection of the disease is highly correlated with the level of awareness in the locality. Earlier detection results in effective treatment. The word "cancer" has negative connotations in society. This is true not just in rural areas but even in cities. It's important that we change the way we talk about cancer and opt for a constructive approach towards its treatment and care.

What can be done to bring more awareness and change the conversation? Creating awareness about the disease and its implications is no easy feat. It requires grassroots level planning and execution at a mass level. A number of start-ups and NGOs are working towards building more awareness by holding screenings and through reg-

“ THERE IS A GROWING NEED FOR BETTER MEDICAL FACILITIES IN VILLAGES AND SMALLER TOWNS. IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THIS HUMONGOUS PROBLEM, A NUMBER OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PLAYERS HAVE TO COME TOGETHER TO CREATE SOLUTIONS THAT ARE IN LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF RURAL PATIENTS. THE FOCUS HAS TO BE ON EXPANDING THE COVERED GEOGRAPHIES UNDER RURAL CANCER HEALTHCARE FACILITIES IN ORDER TO MAKE TREATMENTS AFFORDABLE ”



ular interactions with people. Hosting awareness workshops on a regular basis can help educate people about the importance of early detection and its implication on the outcomes.

**Lack of access to doctors, medicines and other required facilities:** Official data indicate that in India the ratio of oncologists to patients is 1:2,000. Hence, there is an acute shortage of oncologists to treat current and future cases as the numbers are expected to rise each year. Geographically concentrated centres compel patients from small towns to travel long distances for diagnosis, treatment and follow-ups. Only top hospitals are equipped with expensive equipment like Pet-scan, radiotherapy machine and histopathology laboratories which are critical for diagnosis and post-treatment care. Heavy dependence on these centres increases their load and reduces the quality of treatment.

On the other hand, there are many not-so-famous hospitals with good doctors and equipment that are operating below capacity. Inadequate Government-run healthcare infrastructure for cancer treatment compels patients to depend on private hospitals where the overall treatment cost burden is very high, resulting in extra hardship to patients and their family members. Rural and urban tie-ups can ensure better availability of doctors and create the required infrastructure such as doorstep medicine delivery and post-treatment services to patients. In addition to this, setting up teleconsultation facilities in smaller private clinics in association with hospitals in urban areas can provide on-time sec-

ond opinions and consultation for patients. A new-age, tech-enabled hub and spoke expansion across geographies, equipped with live video-conferencing facility for online consultation with oncologists, diagnosis, treatment guidance and pharma delivery support to patients, is needed. Oncology experts from the hub can serve a large number of cases with live monitoring and reporting of instances to the Government authority for better regulation.

**Financial burden:** Financing is another problem in the treatment of cancer patients from lower and mid-income groups. Due to lack of health insurance coverage, treatment becomes a financial burden for the patients and their families. In a number of cases, when the patient has to undergo chemotherapy, man-days are lost which results in loss of income. The feeling of having financial support can ease the burden of the patients to a great extent and it can go a long way in quicker and better treatment in the lower and mid-income patient segment. Though the Government has included cancer in the Ayushman Bharat healthcare scheme, there is not enough awareness of the same.

**Emotional and physical drain:** Currently, due to the lack of available facilities, rural patients end up travelling to cities to access treatment. In cases that require intensive chemotherapy sessions, most rural patients end up spending considerable money on finding a place to stay and on transportation within the city. In some cases, when there's a gap between treatment schedules, they have to travel back and forth

a number of times. This not only causes a financial burden but also results in emotional drain for the patients as well as their families. Factors such as staying away from their hometown and loved ones, unfamiliar surroundings, rigorosity of the treatment can cause emotional and physical upheaval for the patient and their families.

By establishing cancer care centres in rural areas, patients can focus entirely on the treatment without having to worry about transportation or accommodation during treatment. A number of start-ups are also working towards providing mental health counselling to patients and are offering an integrated approach towards healing the disease. Though healthcare infrastructure has considerably improved over the last two decades, rural areas are still grappling with the lack of necessary facilities for diseases such as cancer.

There is a growing need for better medical facilities in villages and smaller towns. In order to address this humongous problem, a number of public and private players have to come together to create solutions that are in line with the requirements of rural patients. The focus has to be on expanding the covered geographies under affordable rural cancer healthcare facilities in order to make treatments available at an affordable price. The real challenge, however, lies in creating a hassle-free network to support this kind of lower fixed investment model for cancer care and creating mass awareness about the disease so as to avoid delay in detection and healing.

(The writer is Director, Universal Cancer Conquest)

# Online astroturfing sways public opinion

False and misleading claims in blogs, websites and portals are detrimental to consumers and their right to information



HIMA BINDU KOTA

In December 2008, the release of the Quarter Pounder burger by McDonald's was quite sensational. There was a crowd of about 1,000 people queued outside the US fast food major's outlet in Kansai area of Japan from midnight onwards, hours before the opening of the branch that morning. In another part of the world, in the US, a blog by the name of Working Families for Walmart, praised the efforts made by the retail corporation for the welfare of its employees. On the face of it, both these examples show the popularity of these companies, but the truth is that McDonald's paid 1,000 part-time employees \$11 an hour each to queue up in front of the store and even reimbursed their burger pur-

chase. On the other hand, Walmart owned the blog in question and was praising itself for all the good work. In both cases, it was not the employees or the customers but the organisations themselves patting themselves on the back for positive publicity. This misleading attempt of displaying pre-planned, stage-managed publicity in the disguise of spontaneous comments from society is known as astroturfing, a term first used in the US by former Senator Lloyd Bentsen.

Astroturf groups are prevalent in all walks of life where an opinion has to be created — be it the sports arena, public health or politics — who have used this perception management techniques for years. This practice of creating an illusion of extensive support of the masses is not new in the non-digital world but it gained renewed strength with the advent of the internet and technology.

Several virtual identities and phony pressure groups are created to sway public opinion in favour of the astroturfer as the internet, that has changed the rules of social communication worldwide, offers appropriate occasions for users to publicise their opinions without being identi-

fied. The net provides a sense of security, by pretending to be someone else, thereby making it a perfect platform for astroturfing. Since it is challenging to check the authenticity of a person online, it is easy to develop false identities and impersonate as spontaneous individuals and promote a belief or opinion. Additionally, internet, digital technology and social networks allow an individual to create several identities to give a notion to the general public, that there are many people sharing the same opinion.

The blend of obscurity and communication supported by digital technology has provided a perfect technical platform and opportunity for astroturfing. There are several ways in which preferred outcomes can be achieved: A solo professional blogger can work on several blogs simultaneously; an individual can form varied profiles on social networks; hired people can evaluate and post reviews and comments on many websites. That is why the extent and severity of unreliable actions on the internet is making online astroturfing more popular than traditional astroturfing.

Most of the consumers are going

online either for buying or to do research on the products available, which makes it easier for astroturfers to spread information throughout the digital world via online forums, comments, blogs, and social networks. It can also be corroborated that some large organisations have used public relation firms as astroturfers to create posts and shame their critics, while other institutions have utilised paid individuals to propagate favourable images online. Many businesses are continuing to use this method for creating public opinion.

The problem here is that astroturfing creates false impressions and passes them on as the opinion of the general public, through various communication channels, which influence the decision-making ability of consumers. In fact, these lobbyists or hired people convey these insincere beliefs. However, the extent and impact of astroturfing is restrained by the funding behind this process, as engaging a public relations firm or lobbyists to create and spread incorrect and untrue information can be very costly.

There are several examples of online astroturfing by large firms worldwide. For instance, IBM open-

ly encourages its employees to blog in its favour and criticise the company's competitors.

In 2010, evidence of online astroturfing emerged during the Massachusetts Senate war between Martha Coakley and Scott Brown, in the forms of several hundreds of tweets generated by several fake Twitter accounts. This had a wide reach and may have had an influence on the final outcome. Fake positive reviews have also been identified on Amazon and Barnes & Nobles, aimed at influencing the buying behaviour of consumers, benefitting multiple stakeholders like vendors, publishers, and authors.

There are two ways to initiate an online astroturfing activity: Automated systems and human operators, although automation can be more effective and reach a larger scale. Once word from an online astroturfer is spread, it becomes more organic as many genuine people believe in the propaganda and start sharing the misleading information, in turn magnifying the online astroturfing mission. Even though human astroturfers may not be as capable as automated systems, they are more effective,

quickly adapt to changing conditions as they carefully mould their messages to suit the environment. The ability of human astroturfers to communicate with actual people on the internet makes them more believable.

However, astroturfing poses a considerable threat wherever it is used, be it in the business world, public health or politics. There can be horrible consequences when a fake support to a controversial product, service or a system, finds its way into people's conscience and is a major disservice to a genuine product, service or political candidate.

These false and misleading claims in different online locations like blogs, portals and websites are detrimental to consumers and their right to information. Proper checks and mechanisms have to be developed using different techniques like content and language analysis; and Artificial Intelligence to detect astroturfing and protect consumers from false and misleading opinions. Till then, consumers have to use their wisdom to not get swayed by blindly accepting the views and reviews on the internet.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)



FOREIGN EYE



## BORIS GETTING IT ALL WRONG

A Prime Minister who idolises Winston Churchill, one might have imagined, would seize the opportunity to imitate him. Yet the irony now facing the UK is that its Prime Minister seems less suited to steer his country through a crisis than almost anyone else. Strong action and clear communication are needed. But instead we seem at growing risk of being shipwrecked on the rocks of Boris Johnson's libertarian instincts. (The Guardian editorial)



# 7,000 tonnes of onion imported: Govt

ANOTHER 25,000 TONNES ARRIVING BEFORE DIWALI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As retail onion prices skyrocket to over ₹80 a kg in some parts of the country, Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said private import of 7,000 tonnes and another 25,000 tonnes shipment before Diwali are expected to improve the domestic supply situation and check price rise of the commodity.

Enough supply will be there in the market as cooperative Nafed will also commence imports, he said. Not only onion, about 10 lakh tonnes of potato is also being imported for which customs duty has been reduced to 10 per cent till January 2021, the minister said.

About 30,000 tonnes of

potato will arrive from Bhutan in the next few days, he added. In a virtual press conference, Goyal said the retail prices of onion, potato and some of the pulses had increased. But for the last few days, the prices have been stable after the government took proactive measures, including ban on export of onion, to increase local supplies.

As a result, all India average retail price of onion has been ruling stable at around ₹65 per kg, while that of potato at ₹43 per kg, for the last three days, he added. However to ensure consumers get these commodities at reasonable rates during the festival period, Goyal said the government has taken steps to import onion and relaxed fumigation norms till December. "So far, 7,000 tonnes of onion has been imported by private traders. Another 25,000 tonnes of onion is expected to arrive before Diwali," he said.

Onions are imported from countries like Egypt,



Afghanistan and Turkey by private traders. Even Nafed will import on its own capacity, he added.

Further, the minister said along with imports, the arrival of new kharif onion crops in mandis from next month will improve the supply situation and ease pressure on prices.

Kharif onion is expected to hit mandis from next month. The government has pegged kharif and later kharif onion output lower by 6 lakh tonnes to 37 lakh tonnes in the current year.

Among

other measures, Goyal said the government has banned export of onion seeds and imposed stock limits on traders to curb hoarding.

That apart, Nafed, which is holding about 1 lakh tonnes of buffer stock onion on behalf of the government, is offloading it in the open market to check prices. So far, Nafed has offloaded 36,488 tonnes.

To improve the supply of potato, the minister said, "We are going to import about 10 lakh tonnes of potato and bring prices under control and ensure

the commodity is available to consumers during the festival period."

About 30,000 tonnes of potato is arriving from Bhutan in the next couple of days, he said.

In case of pulses, the minister said prices of most pulses are stable now and in fact much lower than what they prevailed four years back.

However, to ensure smooth domestic supply, the government has extended the time-limit for import of 4 lakh tonnes of tur dal till December, Goyal said.

Licences have been issued for import of 1.5 lakh tonnes of urad, and import duty of 10 per cent on masoor will continue till December-end, he said.

The government has also decided to extend memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mozambique for import of 2 lakh tonnes of tur for another five years and also to enter into a five-year MoU with Myanmar for import of 2.5 lakh tonnes of urad, he added.

# Combined fiscal deficit to cross 13 per cent: Report

Govt debt to jump over 80% this yr

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The pandemic-induced growth contraction and additional spending to support the needy amounting to a little over 2 per cent of the economy are likely to push the combined fiscal deficit to 13 per cent of GDP this fiscal - nearly double of the past year, according to a report.

Similarly, these numbers will see the government debt, which has been under 70 per cent of GDP for long, shooting past the 80 per cent mark this year to Rs 75.6 lakh crore or USD 1.01 trillion, making the country the second most indebted in Asia after China.

The cumulative fiscal deficit of the Centre and states stood at over 7 per cent of GDP in FY20 as against an average 6.6 per cent in the previous five years, as the Centre maintained the deficit below 4 per cent for four years from FY16 to FY19, before a cocktail of bad data -- revenue and higher spending -- pushed it to 4.6 per cent in FY20.

"The pandemic related pressures might see the combined fiscal deficit jump to 13 per cent of GDP this year," house economists at Singaporean lender DBS led by Radhika Rao said in a note on Friday.

It can be noted that general government debt levels have come down from the highs, averaging around 70 per cent of GDP for the past three years.

"But due to the pandemic-led impact on growth shock and the resultant lift in borrowings, debt levels are expected

to climb past 80 per cent this year," the report said.

As of July-end 2020, the total quantum of outstanding central government securities (bonds and T-bills) stands at Rs 75.6 lakh crore or USD 1.01 trillion, while that of the states called state development loans stood at Rs 34 lakh crore or USD 459 billion, nearly half of the G-Secs. Among the states, the top five issuers in FY19 were Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, accounted for more than half the total issuances, and top 10 states made up almost 75 per cent of the total. According to finance ministry data on the ownership pattern of G-Secs, as of June 2020, commercial banks own 40 per cent of the outstanding G-Secs issuances, followed by insurance companies (25 per cent), the Reserve Bank (15 per cent) and foreign investors (2.4 per cent).

# Markets skid for 3rd day as global factors weigh

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty retreated for the third session on the trot on Friday amid continued weakness in global markets due to rising Covid-19

cases in Europe and uncertainty ahead of US elections.

After gyrating 746 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 135.78 points or 0.34 per cent lower at 39,614.07.

Similarly, the broader NSE

Nifty slipped 28.40 points or 0.24 per cent to 11,642.40.

Bharti Airtel was the top loser among the Sensex constituents, shedding 3.82 per cent, followed by Maruti, HUL, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank and Bajaj Auto.

On the other hand, Tata Steel, NTPC, Sun Pharma, Nestle India, TCS, Tech Mahindra and ONGC were among the main gainers, climbing up to 2.27 per cent.

Market heavyweight Reliance Industries rose 1.37

per cent ahead of its results.

During the week, Sensex tumbled 1,071.43 points or 2.63 per cent, while Nifty sank 287.95 points or 2.41 per cent.

"Concerns over prospects of global economic recovery

due to resurgence of Covid-19 in various nations continued to weigh on investors' sentiments as domestic equities declined for third consecutive day. Financials and Auto were the major drags today, while other key sectoral indices staged a

recovery towards the end of the session.

"Volatility in markets is expected to persist in coming week as well by uncertainty over global economy and US presidential election.

However, better corporate

earnings so far and improvements in high frequency key economic indicators are expected to offer support to domestic equities," said Arjun Yash Mahajan Head Institutional Business at Reliance Securities.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11,678.45	11,748.95	11,535.45	11,642.40	-28.4	
ADANI PORTS	345.2	362.7	343.2	358	15.3	
BPC	344.85	359.45	343.5	353.8	12	
COALINDIA	111.6	115.2	111.05	114.65	3.8	
NTPC	86.9	88.75	86.3	88.35	1.85	
SUNPHARMA	458.65	469	455.85	461	9.75	
HINDALCO	168.2	171.95	166.9	171.1	3.2	
RELIANCE	2,033.50	2,065.10	2,021.80	2,064.35	37.45	
TATASTEEL	402.7	412.9	395.2	408.7	7.3	
GAIL	84	85.1	82.7	84.85	1.4	
NESTLEIND	16,891.00	17,360.00	16,890.00	17,150.00	279.4	
SBILIFE	761.5	775.7	757.3	771	9.5	
GRASIM	770	793.75	765.25	779.6	9.4	
TCS	2,636.10	2,674.35	2,621.60	2,663.55	30.9	
DIVISLAB	3,111.00	3,160.00	3,053.70	3,144.00	36.4	
IOC	80	81.9	79	79.25	0.85	
WIPRO	339.25	345	338.45	341	3.55	
TATAMOTORS	133.2	134.5	130.3	133.2	1.3	
ITC	164	166.8	163.35	165.4	1.55	
TECHM	806.7	818.65	802.7	811.2	6.95	
HDFCLIFE	590	598.2	584	590.8	4.7	
SBIN	189.35	192	186.15	189.9	1.2	
ONGC	65	65.9	64.2	64.8	0.4	
UPL	451.9	457.5	446.45	453	2.75	
HCLTECH	842.8	859.7	833	844.75	4.7	
M&M	592.55	601.75	586.8	594.75	2.8	
JSWSTEEL	306.5	312.9	304	308.2	1.4	
POWERGRID	170.5	172	169.3	171.95	0.35	
SHRECEM	21,738.00	22,050.00	21,519.95	21,604.55	-72.45	
IT	941	946.8	924.2	930.8	-3.7	
HDFCBANK	1,182.55	1,199.30	1,176.35	1,182.40	-4.8	
ULTRACEMCO	4,550.00	4,671.00	4,540.05	4,551.15	-25.65	
AXISBANK	495	501.55	481.6	491	-2.85	
INDUSINDBK	592	602	576.5	585.2	-3.5	
ASIANPAINT	2,210.10	2,242.85	2,195.50	2,210.00	-15.45	
HDFC	1,930.00	1,947.00	1,906.85	1,921.00	-13.3	
CIPLA	765.7	767.5	746	756	-6.3	
TITAN	1,176.40	1,187.80	1,159.10	1,167.55	-10.65	
DRREDDY	4,974.00	4,978.05	4,870.15	4,886.00	-55.95	
BAJAJFINSV	5,650.00	5,680.00	5,511.05	5,550.00	-73.95	
INFY	1,072.00	1,083.60	1,052.35	1,060.40	-14.45	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,940.00	2,963.20	2,880.10	2,882.30	-43.05	
BRITANNIA	3,540.00	3,549.85	3,460.65	3,478.30	-54.35	
ICICIBANK	399.4	402.7	388.05	393.5	-6.4	
KOTAKBANK	1,574.00	1,574.65	1,518.60	1,545.00	-25.9	
HINDUNILVR	2,118.20	2,120.00	2,068.00	2,075.00	-47.1	
BAJFINANCE	3,364.95	3,391.00	3,252.85	3,300.00	-80.05	
EICHERMOT	2,123.20	2,147.40	2,070.55	2,085.00	-51.85	
MARUTI	7,079.05	7,110.00	6,881.00	6,938.00	-179.7	
HEROMOTOCO	2,913.90	2,928.50	2,787.00	2,804.90	-89.1	
BHARTIARTL	454.9	454.9	430.5	432.75	-18.05	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11,678.45	11,748.95	11,535.45	11,642.40	-28.4	
ADANI PORTS	345.2	362.7	343.2	358	15.3	
BPC	344.85	359.45	343.5	353.8	12	
COALINDIA	111.6	115.2	111.05	114.65	3.8	
NTPC	86.9	88.75	86.3	88.35	1.85	
SUNPHARMA	458.65	469	455.85	461	9.75	
HINDALCO	168.2	171.95	166.9	171.1	3.2	
RELIANCE	2,033.50	2,065.10	2,021.80	2,064.35	37.45	
TATASTEEL	402.7	412.9	395.2	408.7	7.3	
GAIL	84	85.1	82.7	84.85	1.4	
NESTLEIND	16,891.00	17,360.00	16,890.00	17,150.00	279.4	
SBILIFE	761.5	775.7	757.3	771	9.5	
GRASIM	770	793.75	765.25	779.6	9.4	
TCS	2,636.10	2,674.35	2,621.60	2,663.55	30.9	
DIVISLAB	3,111.00	3,160.00	3,053.70	3,144.00	36.4	
IOC	80	81.9	79	79.25	0.85	
WIPRO	339.25	345	338.45	341	3.55	
TATAMOTORS	133.2	134.5	130.3	133.2	1.3	
ITC	164	166.8	163.35	165.4	1.55	
TECHM	806.7	818.65	802.7	811.2	6.95	
HDFCLIFE	590	598.2	584	590.8	4.7	
SBIN	189.35	192	186.15	189.9	1.2	
ONGC	65	65.9	64.2	64.8	0.4	
UPL	451.9	457.5	446.45	453	2.75	
HCLTECH	842.8	859.7	833	844.75	4.7	
M&M	592.55	601.75	586.8	594.75	2.8	
JSWSTEEL	306.5	312.9	304	308.2	1.4	
POWERGRID	170.5	172	169.3	171.95	0.35	
SHRECEM	21,738.00	22,050.00	21,519.95	21,604.55	-72.45	
IT	941	946.8	924.2	930.8	-3.7	
HDFCBANK	1,182.55	1,199.30	1,176.35	1,182.40	-4.8	
ULTRACEMCO	4,550.00	4,671.00	4,540.05	4,551.15	-25.65	
AXISBANK	495	501.55	481.6	491	-2.85	
INDUSINDBK	592	602	576.5	585.2	-3.5	
ASIANPAINT	2,210.10	2,242.85	2,195.50	2,210.00	-15.45	
HDFC	1,930.00	1,947.00	1,906.85	1,921.00	-13.3	
CIPLA	765.7	767.5	746	756	-6.3	
TITAN	1,176.40	1,187.80	1,159.10	1,167.55	-10.65	
DRREDDY	4,974.00	4,978.05	4,870.15	4,886.00	-55.95	
BAJAJFINSV	5,650.00	5,680.00	5,511.05	5,550.00	-73.95	
INFY	1,072.00	1,083.60	1,052.35	1,060.40	-14.45	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,940.00	2,963.20	2,880.10	2,882.30	-43.05	
BRITANNIA	3,540.00	3,549.85	3,460.65	3,478.30	-54.35	
ICICIBANK	399.4	402.7	388.05	393.5	-6.4	
KOTAKBANK	1,574.00	1,574.65	1,518.60	1,545.00	-25.9	
HINDUNILVR	2,118.20	2,120.00	2,068.00	2,075.00	-47.1	
BAJFINANCE	3,364.95	3,391.00	3,252.85	3,300.00	-80.05	
EICHERMOT	2,123.20	2,147.40	2,070.55	2,085.00	-51.85	
MARUTI	7,079.05	7,110.00	6,881.00	6,938.00	-179.7	
HEROMOTOCO	2,913.90	2,928.50	2,787.00	2,804.90	-89.1	
BHARTIARTL	454.9	454.9	430.5	432.75	-18.05	

BSE 500									
Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	PIDILITIND	1590.85	1591	1558.2	1570.45
IDEA <td>8</td> <td>8.92</td> <td>8</td> <td>8.75</td> <td>DELTAACORP<td>118</td><td>119.5</td><td>114.1</td><td>117.85</td></td>	8	8.92	8	8.75	DELTAACORP <td>118</td> <td>119.5</td> <td>114.1</td> <td>117.85</td>	118	119.5	114.1	117.85
RELIANCE <td>2035</td> <td>2064.65</td> <td>2022</td> <td>2054.35</td> <td>PVR<td>1055</td><td>1086.85</td><td>1045.1</td><td>1070.25</td></td>	2035	2064.65	2022	2054.35	PVR <td>1055</td> <td>1086.85</td> <td>1045.1</td> <td>1070.25</td>	1055	1086.85	1045.1	1070.25
BHARTIARTL <td>453.3</td> <td>453.3</td> <td>430.7</td> <td>433.6</td> <td>MUTHOOTFIN<td>1236.1</td><td>1249.2</td><td>1207</td><td>1229.45</td></td>	453.3	453.3	430.7	433.6	MUTHOOTFIN <td>1236.1</td> <td>1249.2</td> <td>1207</td> <td>1229.45</td>	1236.1	1249.2	1207	1229.45
SBIN <td>189.5</td> <td>191.9</td> <td>186.25</td> <td>189.25</td> <td>MGL<td>814</td><td>828.4</td><td>808</td><td>815.05</td></td>	189.5	191.9	186.25	189.25	MGL <td>814</td> <td>828.4</td> <td>808</td> <td>815.05</td>	814	828.4	808	815.05
TATAMOTORS <td>132.9</td> <td>134.5</td> <td>130.3</td> <td>132.7</td> <td>CANBK<td>87.45</td><td>87.9</td><td>84.9</td><td>86.25</td></td>	132.9	134.5	130.3	132.7	CANBK <td>87.45</td> <td>87.9</td> <td>84.9</td> <td>86.25</td>	87.45	87.9	84.9	86.25
INDUSINDBK <td>592</td> <td>601.95</td> <td>576.55</td> <td>585.6</td> <td>CADILAHC<td>416.6</td><td>419</td><td>408.8</td><td>417.75</td></td>	592	601.95	576.55	585.6	CADILAHC <td>416.6</td> <td>419</td> <td>408.8</td> <td>417.75</td>	416.6	419	408.8	417.75
ICICIBANK <td>400.7</td> <td>402.85</td> <td>388.1</td> <td>392.55</td> <td>TATAPOWER<td>52.55</td><td>52.9</td><td>51.65</td><td>52.15</td></td>	400.7	402.85	388.1	392.55	TATAPOWER <td>52.55</td> <td>52.9</td> <td>51.65</td> <td>52.15</td>	52.55	52.9	51.65	52.15
BAJFINANCE <td>3378</td> <td>3392.4</td> <td>3255</td> <td>3307.65</td> <td>BATAINDIA<td>1300</td><td>1321.3</td><td>1288.7</td><td>1312.25</td></td>	3378	3392.4	3255	3307.65	BATAINDIA <td>1300</td> <td>1321.3</td> <td>1288.7</td> <td>1312.25</td>	1300	1321.3	1288.7	1312.25
LAURUSLABS <td>337</td> <td>345</td> <td>316.25</td> <td>319.2</td> <td>LICHSGFIN<td>287.95</td><td>288.3</td><td>280.95</td><td>282.95</td></td>	337	345	316.25	319.2	LICHSGFIN <td>287.95</td> <td>288.3</td> <td>280.95</td> <td>282.95</td>	287.95	288.3	280.95	282.95
CHOLAFIN <td>250.5</td> <td>280.3</td> <td>248.6</td> <td>273.1</td> <td>TATACONSUM<td>495</td><td>500.1</td><td>489.05</td><td>493.9</td></td>	250.5	280.3	248.6	273.1	TATACONSUM <td>495</td> <td>500.1</td> <td>489.05</td> <td>493.9</td>	495	500.1	489.05	493.9
INFY <td>1070</td> <td>1083.5</td> <td>1052.5</td> <td>1060.6</td> <td>SHREEEM<td>21650</td><td>22047.25</td><td>21536.7</td><td>21649.4</td></td>	1070	1083.5	1052.5	1060.6	SHREEEM <td>21650</td> <td>22047.25</td> <td>21536.7</td> <td>21649.4</td>	21650	22047.25	21536.7	21649.4
MARUTI <td>7057</td> <td>7106.5</td> <td>6882.9</td> <td>6956.2</td> <td>DEEPAKNI<td>746.9</td><td>760.1</td><td>737.9</td><td>741.55</td></td>	7057	7106.5	6882.9	6956.2	DEEPAKNI <td>746.9</td> <td>760.1</td> <td>737.9</td> <td>741.55</td>	746.9	760.1	737.9	741.55
HDFCBANK <td>1184</td> <td>1199.25</td> <td>1176.55</td> <td>1183.45</td> <td>PAGEIND<td>20855.55</td><td>20268</td><td>19750</td><td>20064.1</td></td>	1184	1199.25	1176.55	1183.45	PAGEIND <td>20855.55</td> <td>20268</td> <td>19750</td> <td>20064.1</td>	20855.55	20268	19750	20064.1
AXISBANK <td>495.8</td> <td>501.3</td> <td>481.8</td> <td>492.4</td> <td>APOLLOTREY<td>142.85</td><td>144.25</td><td>137.7</td><td>139.95</td></td>	495.8	501.3	481.8	492.4	APOLLOTREY <td>142.85</td> <td>144.25</td> <td>137.7</td> <td>139.95</td>	142.85	144.25	137.7	139.95
KOTAKBANK <td>1572.2</td> <td>1574.4</td> <td>1519.05</td> <td>1547.6</td> <td>GRANULES<td>384.8</td><td>386</td><td>379.05</td><td>383.95</td></td>	1572.2	1574.4	1519.05	1547.6	GRANULES <td>384.8</td> <td>386</td> <td>379.05</td> <td>383.95</td>	384.8	386	379.05	383.95
HEROMOTOCO <td>2923</td> <td>2927.35</td> <td>2786.55</td> <td>2799.8</td> <td>GODFRYPHLP<td>889</td><td>916</td><td>888.3</td><td>895.55</td></td>	2923	2927.35	2786.55	2799.8	GODFRYPHLP <td>889</td> <td>916</td> <td>888.3</td> <td>895.55</td>	889	916	888.3	895.55
IT <td>941.15</td> <td>947.15</td> <td>924.15</td> <td>929.6</td> <td>PNB<td>26.7</td><td>27.2</td><td>26.5</td><td>26.75</td></td>	941.15	947.15	924.15	929.6	PNB <td>26.7</td> <td>27.2</td> <td>26.5</td> <td>26.75</td>	26.7	27.2	26.5	26.75
HINDPETRO <td>184.5</td> <td>189.5</td> <td>182.6</td> <td>187.7</td> <td>GRASIM<td>768.35</td><td>793.5</td><td>766</td><td>778.75</td></td>	184.5	189.5	182.6	187.7	GRASIM <td>768.35</td> <td>793.5</td> <td>766</td> <td>778.75</td>	768.35	793.5	766	778.75
IOC <td>79.6</td> <td>81.9</td> <td>78.95</td> <td>79.55</td> <td>IPCALAB<td>2360</td><td>2376.9</td><td>2252.5</td><td>2311.3</td></td>	79.6	81.9	78.95	79.55	IPCALAB <td>2360</td> <td>2376.9</td> <td>2252.5</td> <td>2311.3</td>	2360	2376.9	2252.5	2311.3
ADANI <td>3308</td> <td>347.45</td> <td>329.75</td> <td>339.1</td> <td>WOCKPHARMA<td>2915</td><td>293.8</td><td>285.15</td><td>293.45</td></td>	3308	347.45	329.75	339.1	WOCKPHARMA <td>2915</td> <td>293.8</td> <td>285.15</td> <td>293.45</td>	2915	293.8	285.15	293.45
DRREDDY <td>4964</td> <td>4975</td> <td>4871.8</td> <td>4887.95</td> <td>NATIONALUM<td>30.4</td><td>31.15</td><td>29.85</td><td>30.45</td></td>	4964	4975	4871.8	4887.95	NATIONALUM <td>30.4</td> <td>31.15</td> <td>29.85</td> <td>30.45</td>	30.4	31.15	29.85	30.45
TCS <td>2639</td> <td>2673.95</td> <td>2621.65</td> <td>2664.85</td> <td>PRETAIL<td>73.4</td><td>74</td><td>70.75</td><td>71.15</td></td>	2639	2673.95	2621.65	2664.85	PRETAIL <td>73.4</td> <td>74</td> <td>70.75</td> <td>71.15</td>	73.4	74	70.75	71.15
TATASTEEL <td>403.1</td> <td>413</td> <td>395.25</td> <td>410.35</td> <td>BHARATFORG<td>455.5</td><td>459.45</td><td>448.45</td><td>451.35</td></td>	403.1	413	395.25	410.35	BHARATFORG <td>455.5</td> <td>459.45</td> <td>448.45</td> <td>451.35</td>	455.5	459.45	448.45	451.35
TVSMOTOR <td>425</td> <td>464.4</td> <td>425</td> <td>455.25</td> <td>MCX<td>1680</td><td>1717.6</td><td>1680</td><td>1701.15</td></td>	425	464.4	425	455.25	MCX <td>1680</td> <td>1717.6</td> <td>1680</td> <td>1701.15</td>	1680	1717.6	1680	1701.15
ITC <td>164.3</td> <td>166.75</td> <td>163.45</td> <td>165.25</td> <td>THYROCARE<td>1153.15</td><td>1185.05</td><td>1139.85</td><td>1148.15</td></td>	164.3	166.75	163.45	165.25	THYROCARE <td>1153.15</td> <td>1185.05</td> <td>1139.85</td> <td>1148.15</td>	1153.15	1185.05	1139.85	1148.15
SRTRANSFIN <td>707</td> <td>730</td> <td>669.85</td> <td>692.7</td> <td>NETI<td>2932.4</td><td>2985</td><td>2902</td><td>2917.4</td></td>	707	730	669.85	692.7	NETI <td>2932.4</td> <td>2985</td> <td>2902</td> <td>2917.4</td>	2932.4	2985	2902	2917.4
HINDSHANG <td>140.3</td> <td>144.3</td> <td>137</td> <td>140.1</td> <td>POWERGRID<td>169.1</td><td>171.95</td><td>169.1</td><td>171.75</td></td>	140.3	144.3	137	140.1	POWERGRID <td>169.1</td> <td>171.95</td> <td>169.1</td> <td>171.75</td>	169.1	171.95	169.1	171.75
JINDALSTEEL <td>191.9</td> <td>195.3</td> <td>184.5</td> <td>191.4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	191.9	195.3	184.5	191.4					
ASHOKLEY <td>80.2</td> <td>81.75</td> <td>78.3</td> <td>78.95</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	80.2	81.75	78.3	78.95					
ZEEL <td>182</td> <td>189.6</td> <td>180.55</td> <td>187.85</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	182	189.6	180.55	187.85					
INDIGO <td>1322.8</td> <td>1346</td> <td>1296.75</td> <td>1308.65</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	1322.8	1346	1296.75	1308.65					
JUSTDIAL <td>681.9</td> <td>700.8</td> <td>633.55</td> <td>652.45</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	681.9	700.8	633.55	652.45					
DIVISLAB <td>3108.15</td> <td>3158.8</td> <td>3054.9</td> <td>3140.35</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	3108.15	3158.8	3054.9	3140.35					
ADANIGREEN <td>346.1</td> <td>359.45</td> <td>343.9</td> <td>354.3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	346.1	359.45	343.9	354.3					
FEDERALBNK <td>51.35</td> <td>51.35</td> <td>49.8</td> <td>50.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	51.35	51.35	49.8	50.5					
VEDL <td>96</td> <td>96.4</td> <td>93.35</td> <td>95.85</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	96	96.4	93.35	95.85					
HCLTECH <td>841</td> <td>859.75</td> <td>833.15</td> <td>843.2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	841	859.75	833.15	843.2					
ULTRACEMCO <td>4569.95</td> <td>4670</td> <td>4544.1</td> <td>4573.85</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	4569.95	4670	4544.1	4573.85					
BANKBARODA <td>43.3</td> <td>43.4</td> <td>41.4</td> <td>41.65</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	43.3	43.4	41.4	41.65					
ADANIAPORTS <td>343.55</td> <td>362.6</td> <td>343.2</td> <td>359.7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	343.55	362.6	343.2	359.7					
SUNPHARMA <td>459.5</td> <td>468.85</td> <td>455.9</td> <td>465.75</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	459.5	468.85	455.9	465.75					
COALINDIA <td>111.35</td> <td>115.11</td> <td>111.1</td> <td>114.2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	111.35	115.11	111.1	114.2					
WIPRO <td>340</td> <td>345</td> <td>338.6</td> <td>340.05</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	340	345	338.6	340.05					
ASIANPAINT <td>2214</td> <td>2242.3</td> <td>2196.15</td> <td>2213.05</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	2214	2242.3	2196.15	2213.05					
HDFCLIFE <td>588.6</td> <td>598</td> <td>584</td> <td>589.9</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	588.6	598	584	589.9					
DLF <td>153</td> <td>159.25</td> <td>152.5</td> <td>158.3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	153	159.25	152.5	158.3					
BIOCON <td>439.9</td> <td>408.35</td> <td>398.2</td> <td>403.6</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	439.9	408.35	398.2	403.6					
MRF <td>67400</td> <td>68374.95</td> <td>64673.5</td> <td>65256.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	67400	68374.95	64673.5	65256.5					
AMBUJACEM <td>254.8</td> <td>265.75</td> <td>252.9</td> <td>259.55</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	254.8	265.75	252.9	259.55					
EICHERMOT <td>2136</td> <td>2140</td> <td>2054.7</td> <td>2083.9</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	2136	2140	2054.7	2083.9					
ADANIGAS <td>206.8</td> <td>224</td> <td>202.05</td> <td>220.45</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	206.8	224	202.05	220.45					
M&MFIN <td>120.65</td> <td>123.45</td> <td>118.25</td> <td>121.35</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	120.65	123.45	118.25	121.35					
HDFC <td>1934</td> <td>1947</td> <td>1907.7</td> <td>1922.75</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	1934	1947	1907.7	1922.75					
HINDUNILVR <td>2122.7</td> <td>2122.7</td> <td>2068.25</td> <td>2072.3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	2122.7	2122.7	2068.25	2072.3					
DMART <td>2267</td> <td>2276</td> <td>2195.5</td> <td>2241.3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	2267	2276	2195.5	2241.3					
BLUEDART <td>3356</td> <td>3784</td> <td>3356</td> <td>3700.55</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	3356	3784	3356	3700.55					
UPL <td>453.95</td> <td>457.3</td> <td>446.6</td> <td>453.15</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	453.95	457.3	446.6	453.15					
LUPIN <td>991</td> <td>991</td> <td>906.05</td> <td>908.4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	991	991	906.05	908.4					
APOLLOPHOSP <td>2065.1</td> <td>2143.7</td> <td>2065.1</td> <td>2119.25</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	2065.1	2143.7	2065.1	2119.25					
NAUKRI <td>3637</td> <td>3737.6</td> <td>3502.05</td> <td>3548.2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	3637	3737.6	3502.05	3548.2					
NESTLEIND <td>16925</td> <td>17350</td> <td>16920</td> <td>17162.8</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	16925	17350	16920	17162.8					
ONGC <td>65.05</td> <td>65.95</td> <td>64.2</td> <td>64.95</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	65.05	65.95	64.2	64.95					
HINDALCO <td>168</td> <td>171.9</td> <td>167</td> <td>170.7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	168	171.9	167	170.7					
TATAELXSI <td>1510.8</td> <td>1570.4</td> <td>1510.8</td> <td>1532.7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	1510.8	1570.4	1510.8	1532.7					
TECHM <td>806</td> <td>818.7</td> <td>803.25</td> <td>813.7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	806	818.7	803.25	813.7					
AUROPHARMA <td>769.5</td> <td>788.05</td> <td>761.25</td> <td>772.75</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	769.5	788.05	761.25	772.75					
GODFREYPROP <td>997</td> <td>1040</td> <td>990</td> <td>1034.55</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	997	1040	990	1034.55					
BAJAJFINSV <td>5672</td> <td>5672</td> <td>5514.85</td> <td>5573.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	5672	5672	5514.85	5573.5					
HAVELLS <td>732.7</td> <td>740.65</td> <td>712</td> <td>728.55</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	732.7	740.65	712	728.55					
PIIND <td>2165</td> <td>2237.75</td> <td>2142</td> <td>2196.55</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	2165	2237.75	2142	2196.55					
ESCORTS <td>1196</td> <td>1211.75</td> <td>1171.15</td> <td>1201.3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	1196	1211.75	1171.15	1201.3					
AMARAJIABAT <td>738</td> <td>771.55</td> <td>738</td> <td>766.25</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	738	771.55	738	766.25					
TITAN <td>1178</td> <td>1178.8</td> <td>1159.5</td> <td>1164.9</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	1178	1178.8	1159.5	1164.9					
JSWSTEEL <td>306</td> <td>312.8</td> <td>304</td> <td>308.9</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	306	312.8	304	308.9					
NTPC <td>86.95</td> <td>88.8</td> <td>86.3</td> <td>87.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	86.95	88.8	86.3	87.5					
IRLBBANK <td>174.25</td> <td>178.85</td> <td>172.6</td> <td>174.25</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	174.25	178.85	172.6	174.25					
ICICIPRULI <td>409.25</td> <td>409.4</td> <td>398.75</td> <td>403.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	409.25	409.4	398.75	403.5					
BANDHANBNK <td>295</td> <td>295</td> <td>287.05</td> <td>289.25</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	295	295	287.05	289.25					
COFORGE <td>214</td> <td>2278</td> <td>2167.6</td> <td>2205.15</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	214	2278	2167.6	2205.15					
MOTHERSUMI <td>107.35</td> <td>108.05</td> <td>103.85</td> <td>105.65</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	107.35	108.05	103.85	105.65					
STAR <td>690</td> <td>702.8</td> <td>658.25</td> <td>689.6</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	690	702.8	658.25	689.6					
PEL <td>1228.55</td> <td>1271.2</td> <td>1223.5</td> <td>1261.55</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	1228.55	1271.2	1223.5	1261.55					
GODREJCP <td>685.1</td> <td>686</td> <td>661.4</td> <td>664.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	685.1	686	661.4	664.5					
CIPLA <td>762.1</td> <td>767.4</td> <td>746.4</td> <td>754.1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	762.1	767.4	746.4	754.1					
BRITANNIA <td>3545</td> <td>3548.1</td> <td>3460.7</td> <td>3494.85</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	3545	3548.1	3460.7	3494.85					
SAIL <td>593</td> <td>604.1</td> <td>587.3</td> <td>597.65</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	593	604.1	587.3	597.65					
BERGEPAINT <td>63.45</td> <td>63.95</td> <td>61.45</td> <td>62.65</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	63.45	63.95	61.45	62.65					
BLISSGVS <td>171.55</td> <td>171.55</td> <td>160</td> <td>170.2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	171.55	171.55	160	170.2					
L&TFFH <td>64</td> <td>65.6</td> <td>63.35</td> <td>64.4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	64	65.6	63.35	64.4					
BAJAJ-AUTO <td>2950</td> <td>2963.8</td> <td>2880</td> <td>2886.45</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	2950	2963.8	2880	2886.45					
MINDTREE <td>1310.05</td> <td>1351.95</td> <td>1310.05</td> <td>1326.9</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	1310.05	1351.95	1310.05	1326.9					
UBI <td>915</td> <td>931.05</td> <td>906.35</td> <td>925.5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	915	931.05	906.35	925.5					
RECLTD <td>100.1</td> <td>105.45</td> <td>100.1</td> <td>102.85</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	100.1	105.45	100.1	102.85					
SIEMENS <td>1292.9</td> <td>1312.4</td> <td>1256.85</td> <td>1267.8</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	1292.9	1312.4	1256.85	1267.8					
TATACHEM <td>318</td> <td>325.55</td> <td>312.35</td> <td>322.25</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	318	325.55	312.35	322.25					
COLPAL <td>1520.95</td> <td>1542.3</td> <td>1505.35</td> <td>1517.35</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	1520.95	1542.3	1505.35	1517.35					
GAIL <td>84.5</td> <td>85.05</td> <td>82.75</td> <td>84.75</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	84.5	85.05	82.75	84.75					
BHEL <td>28</td> <td>28.4</td> <td>27.35</td> <td>28</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	28	28.4	27.35	28					
NAVINFLOOR <td>2287.9</td> <td>2339</td> <td>2227.35</td> <td>2241.35</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	2287.9	2339	2227.35	2241.35					
TORNTPHARM <td>2527.05</td> <td>2581</td> <td>2524.25</td> <td>2564.7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	2527.05	2581	2524.25	2564.7					
IDFCFIRSTB <td>30.6</td> <td>31.3</td> <td>30.25</td> <td>30.65</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	30.6	31.3	30.25	30.65					
SER <td>86.9</td> <td>89.8</td> <td>86.45</td> <td>87.05</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	86.9	89.8	86.45	87.05					
BL <td>4450.2</td> <td>4555.25</td> <td>4351.15</td> <td>4416.65</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	4450.2	4555.25	4351.15	4416.65					
SBICARD <td>810</td> <td>817</td> <td>796.55</td> <td>799.4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	810	817	796.55	799.4					
DABUR <td>518</td> <td>524.05</td> <td>508.5</td> <td>511.55</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	518	524.05	508.5	511.55					
								</	



# Virus resurge fails to dampen Trump rallies

**Washington:** There are no crowds at Disneyland, still shut down by the coronavirus. Fewer fans attended the World Series this year than at any time in the past century. Big concerts are cancelled.

But it's a different story in Trumpland. Thousands of President Donald Trump's supporters regularly cram together at campaign rallies around the country — masks optional and social distancing frowned upon.

Trump rallies are among the nation's biggest events being held in defiance of crowd restrictions designed to stop the virus from spreading. This at a time when public health experts are advising people to think twice even about inviting many guests for Thanksgiving dinner.

"It doesn't matter who you are or where you are, when you have congregate settings where people are crowded together and virtually no one is wearing a mask, that's a perfect setup to have an outbreak of acquisition and transmissibility," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, recently told Yahoo News. "It's a public health and scientific fact."

The Trump campaign, which distributes masks and hand sanitizer at its rallies, says those who attend are peaceful protesters who, just like Black Lives Matter demonstrators, have a right to assemble. The president says he wants to get the country back to normal.

Some states have fined venues that host Trump rallies for violating caps on crowd

size. But the rallies continue — even as the U.S. Sees cases spike, especially in the Midwest and the Plains. The nation posted a record high number of new infections last week — nearly 500,000.

And the crowds keep turning out for Trump.

Ysabel Benejam, 69, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, drove about 90 minutes to Lansing and waited more than four hours in rainy, near-freezing temperatures to see Trump on Tuesday.

"I'm not afraid at all," said Benejam, wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat and a mask emblazoned with "Trump 2020." "We need to step back into normality."

Democrat Joe Biden, in contrast, has shunned rallies and instead holds online and drive-in events where people honk their horns to show support. He calls the Trump rallies "super-spreader events" and says he's listening to the warnings of public health experts.

Since Feb. 7, when Trump told author Bob Woodward that he knew the coronavirus was airborne and deadlier than the flu, the president has hosted more than 50 rallies in more than two dozen states. They were halted during most of March, April and May because of the pandemic. After they resumed in late June, they were held primarily outdoors at airports. **AP**

## Biden: Trump rallies are 'super-spreader' events

**Washington:** The election rallies of Donald Trump are "super-spreader events," Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has alleged and questioned the US president's efforts in addressing the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

The raging coronavirus outbreak has become a key issue in the November 3 presidential election between 74-year-old Trump, a Republican, and 77-year-old Biden, a former US vice president. The US has so far recorded 8,945,891 COVID-19 cases and 228,668 deaths —

both the numbers highest in the world.

"Donald Trump just had a super-spreader event here again. They are spending more than just coronavirus; he is spreading division and discord," Biden, 77, said at a drive-in election rally in Tampa, hours after the president and First Lady Melania Trump addressed a huge crowd in the city in Florida, a battleground state.

Thousands of people, many of them without masks, crowded together at an outdoor event in Tampa on Thursday to hear Trump at the rally. **PTI**

# Quake kills 6 in western Turkey

**Istanbul:** A strong earthquake struck on Friday in the Aegean Sea between the Turkish coast and the Greek island of Samos, collapsing buildings in the city of Izmir in western Turkey, and officials said at least six people were killed and scores were injured.

A small tsunami struck the Seferisar district of Izmir, said Haluk Ozenar, director of the Istanbul-based Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute. At least four people were slightly injured on Samos, where a

tsunami warning was issued.

Six people were killed in Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city, including one who drowned, and 202 were injured, according to Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, or AFAD.

Izmir Gov. Yavuz Selim Kosger said at least 70 people had been rescued from the wreckage. He said four buildings were destroyed and more than 10 collapsed, while others also were damaged. Search and rescue efforts were continuing in at least 12 buildings,

AFAD said. Turkish media showed wreckage of a multi-story building, with people climbing it to start rescue efforts. Smoke rose from several spots. Videos on Twitter showed flooding in the Seferhisar district, and Turkish officials and broadcasters called on people to stay off the streets after reports of traffic congestion.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted that 38 ambulances, two ambulance helicopters and 35 medical rescue teams were working in the city of Izmir. **AP**

# Thousands of Muslims protest French cartoons



Protesters throw stones towards riot police during a protest against French President Macron's comments over Prophet Muhammad caricatures, near the Pine Palace, which is the residence of the French ambassador, in Beirut on Friday **AP**

**Dubai:** Thousands of Muslims, from Pakistan to Lebanon to the Palestinian territories, poured out for prayer services to join anti-France protests on Friday, as the French president's vow to protect the right to caricature the Prophet continues to roil the Muslim world.

Demonstrations in Pakistan's capital Islamabad turned violent as some 2,000 people who tried to march toward the French Embassy were pushed back by police firing tear gas and beating protesters with batons.

Crowds of Islamist activists hanged an effigy of French

President Emmanuel Macron from a highway overpass after pounding it furiously with their shoes. Several demonstrators were wounded in clashes with police and authorities deployed more security forces to protect the embassy.

In Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, thousands of worshippers celebrating the Mawlid, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, took to the streets, chanting anti-France slogans, raising banners and clogging major roads en route to a Sufi shrine.

In Multan, a city in Pakistan's eastern Punjab

province, thousands more burned an effigy of Macron and demanded that Pakistan sever ties with France and boycott French goods.

In Jerusalem, hundreds of Palestinians protested against Macron outside the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, chanting, "With our souls and with our blood we sacrifice for our prophet, Muhammad."

Some youths scuffled with Israeli police as they exited the esplanade into the Old City. Israeli police said they successfully dispersed the gathering and detained three people. **AP**

## Charlie Hebdo: Proud to provoke Islamists, despite violence

**Paris:** It's been targeted again and again, threatened and fire-bombed and struck in an attack that killed a dozen staff members, but satirical French newspaper Charlie Hebdo won't stop poking fun at Islamic extremism.

The newspaper's many critics worldwide say its editorial staff is attacking Islam itself; the people who work for Charlie Hebdo says they are calling out intolerance, oppression and a political form of Islam that threatens democracy.

But with freedom of expression as its credo, the publication routinely pushes the limits of French hate speech laws with often sexually explicit caricatures that take on or offend nearly everyone.

Its decision to publish new cartoons this week ridiculing its opponents in the Islamic world formed the backdrop for yet another attack Thursday in France, where three people were fatally attacked in a church.

Charlie Hebdo has lam-pooned dead child migrants,

virus victims, dying drug addicts, world leaders, neo-Nazis, popes, bishops, Jewish leaders, and other religious, political and entertainment figures.

This week's issue features a cartoon of the funeral of a beheaded teacher, showing officers carrying two coffins, one for the body, one for the head.

Since a trial opened last month over the 2015 attack that killed 12 of its cartoonists, the newspaper has chronicled the proceedings daily and devoted nearly half of its weekly covers to mocking Islamic extremism, "We need strong actions to stop Islamism but also to condemn the slightest gesture, the slightest intolerant or hateful word toward French people of immigrant backgrounds. Because France isn't divided between Muslims and non-Muslims, between believers and non-believers, between people with French roots and French people of immigrant backgrounds," read this week's editorial from Charlie Hebdo's editor, who goes by the name Riss. **AP**

## Poland seizes communist-era security files headed for US

**Warsaw (Poland):** Customs officials at Warsaw airport have discovered and seized valuable historical documents and recordings from 1967-68, of Poland's communist-era security, in two packages destined for the U.S., authorities said Friday.

The files describe the situation and views inside the communist Polish United Workers' Party, or PZPR, in power at the time, as well as the social mood among students, artists, intellectuals and workers in the time leading to and during the 1968 students' revolt and anti-Semitic purges, Deputy Prosecutor General Andrzej Pozorski said.

These events eventually led to a change of party and government leadership in Poland in 1970.

Pozorski said that some 11 sets of written files and over 100 recordings made by the then-dreaded Interior Ministry and regional militia authorities have been seized and passed to a state historical institute, IPN, that analyzes old documents, especially from World War II and the communist era. Pozorski is the chief investigator at IPN.

The institute confirmed the discovery, first reported earlier this week, to the AP Friday. The sender and the intended recipient in the U.S have not been named. **AP**

## Remarks on French attacks taken out of context: Mahathir

**AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR**

Former Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad said Friday he is disgusted because his comments on attacks by Muslim extremists in France had been taken out of context.

Mahathir, 95, sparked widespread outrage when he wrote on his blog Thursday that "Muslims have a right to be angry and kill millions of French people for the massacres of the past." Twitter removed a tweet from Mahathir containing the remark, which it said glorified violence, and France's digital minister demanded the company also ban Mahathir from its platform.

"I am indeed disgusted with attempts to misrepresent

and take out of context what I wrote on my blog," Mahathir said in a statement.

He said critics failed to read his posting in full, especially the next sentence which read: "But by and large Muslims have not applied the 'eye for an eye' law. Muslims don't. The French shouldn't. Instead the French should teach their people to respect other people's feelings," He said Twitter and Facebook removed the posting despite his explanation, and slammed the move as hypocritical.

"On the one hand, they defended those who chose to display offending caricatures of Prophet Muhammad ... And expect all Muslims to swallow it in the name of freedom of speech and expression," he said.

## New arrest after France church attack, security tightened

**AP ■ NICE (FRANCE)**

A new suspect is in custody Friday in the investigation into a gruesome attack by a Tunisian man who killed three people in a French church, as France heightened its security alert amid religious and geopolitical tensions around cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

The suspect is a 47-year-old man believed to have been in contact with the attacker the night before the attack on the Notre Dame Basilica in the Riviera city of Nice, according to a judicial official. The official was not authorized to be publicly named.

## FROM PAGE 1

### WORLD'S 2ND COVID WAVE KICKS IN

When the coronavirus first struck Europe and the USA, the fatality rate went up as high as 8 per cent.

The USA has also seen the arrival of a powerful second wave as the poll-bound country has completely disregarded the protocol required to contain the menace.

After recording sub 50,000 new cases daily for weeks, the USA suddenly saw a massive rise in the number of new cases. On Thursday, the new cases stood at 91,000. But Americans continued to throng at the rally of US President Donald Trump in big numbers.

The resurgence of the coronavirus cases could derail the nascent global economic recovery. A Reuters poll of around 500 economists revealed that a majority of economists expect the rebound next year to be weaker than previously thought.

The Oct 6-Oct 27 Reuters polls of economists across Asia, Europe, and the Americas, covering 46 economies, showed scant sign of activity recovering to pre-Covid-19 levels anytime soon.

Nearly three-quarters of 150 analysts who responded to an additional question said the resurgence in virus cases posed a high risk of halting the current global economic recovery as early as this year.

### 7.5% QUOTA FOR TN GOVT SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MBBS COURSES

Chief Minister K Palaniswami said efforts were afoot to implement the reservation from the current year. DMK president MK Stalin claimed Purohit gave his assent to the quota bill as he was left with no other choice and thanked him for giving his nod.

His party's protest and the hope expressed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court were behind Purohit's "change of heart." In a twitter post, Stalin said the approval came after 45 days and when the time for medical counselling was nearing and the Governor had to approve in view of such factors.

Hearing a batch of public interest litigation petitions, a division bench had on Thursday hoped that the Governor would take a decision at the earliest. BJP's Khushbu Sundar said, "We deliver when we promise."

PMK chief S Ramadoss said Purohit's consent was the victory of the people. The Raj Bhavan said Purohit sought to know if the proposed quota was in accordance with the Constitution and compatible with Articles 14 (Equality) and 15 (prohibition of discrimination).

The SGI, Tushar Mehta, in his opinion said "intelligible differentiation" would enable reservation for socially and educationally backward class, an affirmative action. The bill is in "consonance with the Constitution of India," Mehta noted adding it is however subject to judicial review and also to other constitutional principles like those related to the upper limit to reserved seats.

### 'ITEM' STRIPS NATH OF STAR CAMPAIGNER TAG

In the order against BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya, the EC said the Commission has carefully considered the matter "and is of the considered view that Kailash Vijayvargiya has violated Para (2) of Part I of the General Conduct Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates".

The commission had issued a notice to the BJP leader on October 26 seeking his reply. The poll body advised Vijayvargiya that "while making public utterances he should not use any such word or statement during the period of Model Code of Conduct."

According to the notice, the statement made in Sanwer, Indore, during an election rally on October 14 against the two was found to be in violation of the provisions of the model code. The BJP leader had also dubbed them as "gaddar" or traitors. In his response, Vijayvargiya said the remarks quoted in the notice are in a complete misunderstanding of its context. The complaint is in an election driven narrative of the Congress party to change the course of the election, he said.

The BJP leader also said that "abiding by the directions of the Election Commission and the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct is paramount for him as well as every party worker of the BJP, and he has the highest regard of the same." Bypolls to 28 Madhya Pradesh Assembly seats will be held on November 3 for which campaigning is on.

### LET KILLED 3 BJP LEADERS IN J&K; CRY OF PATRIOTISM DURING FUNERAL

Sharing preliminary details of the investigations IGP said, an Alto car used by the LeT terrorists has been seized by the police. "Three terrorists came in a car belonging to a local terrorist identified as Altaf. Fida Hussain was with his two colleagues in a car when these terrorists fired indiscriminately on them from close range. They received grave injuries and succumbed on the way to the hospital". Kumar said after the attack, the terrorists fled in the same car towards Achbal area, from where the car was seized this morning.

Asked whether the attack was pre-planned, the IGP said it was possible. "It seems so to us as well because what were they doing away from home, waiting for someone or not, then terrorists came, attacked them and then ran away to Achbal. There is a chance that it was a pre-planned attack and we are investigating it and will soon solve it," he said.

On a question as to whether the attacks on BJP activists -- instances of which have increased over the last few months -- were carried out at the local level by the terrorists or did the ultras get orders from Pakistan, the IGP said this was part of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

"You know it all. Recently, media persons also received threats through 'Kashmir Fight,' an online medium which is run in Pakistan, or the TRF website. They claimed the attack yesterday on 'Kashmir Fight' as well. This is Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and this proves that these killings take place on the orders from Pakistan," he said.

As a countermeasure to such attacks, Kumar appealed to the protected persons to follow the standard operating procedures (SOP) laid down by the security agencies for their movement and not to move around in vulnerable areas especially without their security.

### SENA NOMINATES URMILA AS MLC

Given that the nominations are required from the fields of literature, science, arts, cooperative sector and social service, the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners — Shiv Sena, NCP

and Congress — are understood to have taken care that the names recommended were the specified fields of activities. The three parties have reportedly four names each.

The reported recommendation of Matondkar's names on the heel of "Rangeela" actress crossed swords with controversial actress Kangana Ranaut. Matondkar had slammed Kangana for her comment likening Mumbai to PoK and said she would "never tolerate any defamatory remark" about the city.

On Kangana's comment about rampant drug use by Bollywood personalities, Urmila had said that if Kangana had information about illegal drugs in Bollywood she should look to her state Himachal Pradesh and would be better served by going to the authorities rather than tweeting about it.

"Which girl from a civilised cultured house would use this kind of language? Like 'kya ukhaad loge', 'kiska baap ka kya hai', speaking about Jaya ji the way she did," Urmila said in a television interview. On her part, Kangana hit back at Urmila by calling her "a soft porn star". "She isn't known for acting for sure and is known for doing soft porn. If she can get a ticket, why won't I get a ticket?", Kangana had asked.

Matondkar, it may be recalled, had joined the Congress and contested the Lok Sabha elections from Mumbai unsuccessfully against BJP's Raju Shetty in the 2019 polls. She quit the Congress after the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The Governor's nomination of 12 members to the Upper House of the State Assembly has been delayed considerably, given the terms of the earlier nominated members ended on June 15. So much so that the Shiv Sena had joined issue with the Opposition in July this year over the delay in the nomination of 12 members by the Governor to the State Legislative Council.

In his Sunday column 'Rokhtok' in the Sena mouthpiece Saamna, Shiv Sena's MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut had ticked off the Opposing BJP by accusing it of playing politics every during the Covid-19 and trying to influence the "Union Home Ministry-nominated" Governor to delay the process of nominating 12 new members to the Upper House of State Legislature in place of equal number of outgoing legislators whose terms ended on June 15.

Indirectly suggesting that the current Governor was not in a mood to nominate the 12 persons recommended by the Maharashtra Cabinet headed by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, Raut had written in his column: "Normally the Governor appoints experts from various fields as members of the Council based on the recommendation of the State Cabinet. If the nomination does not happen on time, such a thing would tantamount to trampling upon the Constitution and gagging of the State Council. This thing had happened during the Emergency".

"Even today the BJP targets the Congress repeatedly by saying that by imposing Emergency in the country in the seventies, late Mrs Indira Gandhi took away the freedom of people and trampled upon the human rights of the citizens. "Even now the BJP observes June 25, 1975 (the day Mrs Gandhi imposed Emergency) as a black day.

Raut had said that Governor Koshiyari had given clear indications that because of the Coronavirus crisis, he was not in favour of completing the nomination process immediately. "In effect, the nomination of 12 legislations will have to wait till October. The Opposition BJP does not want the Governor to nominate the 12 persons recommended by the Uddhav Thackeray Cabinet to the Council as members. That's why the Opposition is trying to stretch the nomination process till October using the Governor's office," Raut had said.

# Delhi's air improves to 'very poor'

## Favourable wind to clean air further, Stubble fire contribution rises to 36%

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi's air quality was recorded in the "very poor" category on Friday morning after a slight improvement from the severe level. However, more improvement in air quality is likely due to favourable wind speed on Saturday.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitoring agency, SAFAR, the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM 2.5 pollution was 36 per cent on Thursday — the maximum so far this season.

Delhi recorded an AQI of 380 at 9:30 am. The 24-hour average AQI was 395 on Thursday. It was 297 on Wednesday, 312 on Tuesday, 353 on Monday.

On Thursday, PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR peaked to 424 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. NASA's satellite imagery showed a large, dense cluster of fires that covered most parts of Punjab and some regions of Haryana.

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 were the major factors for the increase in PM2.5 levels.

Extremely calm surface and boundary layer winds along with the low night time boundary layer height resulted in low ventilation practically stagnant, no dispersion condition has resulted in the current



situation, it said.

An increase in surface wind speed and better ventilation conditions are likely to "significantly" improve the situation by Saturday, SAFAR said. According to the India Meteorological Department, the predominant wind direction was northerly and the maximum wind speed was 10 kilometers per hour. The minimum temperature was recorded at 13.1 degrees Celsius. It was 12.5 degrees Celsius on Thursday - the lowest in October in 26 years.

The city's ventilation index - a product of mixing depth and average wind speed - is likely to be around 7,000 meter square per second on Friday - favourable for dispersion of pollutants. On Thursday, the Centre introduced a new law through an ordinance that put in place a powerful oversight body to curb air pollution.

Under the ordinance released by the Union Ministry of law and justice on Thursday, the 22-year-old Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) has been dissolved and replaced by a powerful commission comprising 18 members. The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas will specifically look at Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas only and it will be binding on the states to follow its directions.





#### SHILPA SHETTY

"Mom, can I have the yummy Banana Bread today?" Requests like these are hard to refuse, especially when your kids love and relish the healthier options. Viaan's favourite Banana Bread with walnuts is an amazingly healthy cake, which is free from any kind of refined sugar or flour.



#### GOVINDA

I saw the film *Driving Me Crazy* and it made me proud. The entire cast and crew have worked very hard towards the project. I am receiving calls and messages from all my friends, complimenting Tina (Ahuja, his daughter). It's a moment of pride for me. I am very happy that people love and support Tina.



#### RASIKA DUGAL

I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to be part of two shows releasing on the same day, of different genres and as an actor, two completely different characters. I loved re-visiting Beena Tripathi in *Mirzapur* season two and loved discovering Savita Mehra in *A Suitable Boy*.



#### AMAAL MALLIK

I always intended to create non-film music for myself and I'm thrilled that *Tu Mera Nahi* is finally happening. This is the first time I am singing, composing and featuring in the music video. I really hope that I do justice to my fans and manage to give them something they love and goes beyond their expectations.

#### PATRICK WILSON

I'm honoured to be at the helm of the next *Insidious* installment, which will provide an amazing chance to unpack everything the Lamberts went through a decade ago. Directing the film is both professionally and personally a full circle moment for me. I am extremely grateful.



## SHORT CIRCUITS

### JUKEBOX 45 MINUTES

# UNEXPLORED MELODY

Music composer and singer ANKUR TEWARI embarks on a journey across India to explore raw and unique sounds in the new season of *MTV Sound Trippin'*. By TEAM VIVA

Beyond the rumbling walls of a recording studio or the soulful excellence of a symphony, there lies music replete with imperfections that's strung out of edgy sounds and untrained voices. This music of serendipity connects people and places in ways no one knows about. Celebrating such rustic and authentic music, MTV brings back *Sound Trippin'*. Adhering to its core belief that each sound has a story, each instrument tells a tale and all these tales contribute to a song, the show will primarily focus on stories told through sounds. This season, music composer and singer Ankur Tewari embarks on a journey across India to explore raw and unique sounds. Excerpts:

❖Tell us about MTV *Sound Trippin'* and what prompted you to be a part of it?

I have been watching *Sound Trippin'* for quite some time now. It's one of my favourite shows. They proposed that I should become a part of it. It was something that didn't take me much time to jump on to because the idea was exciting and I was actually looking at something to challenge me in terms of making a new kind of sound. It was perfect in every sense. I have always believed that art enables you to bend things most people see as a straight line. That's exactly what I get to do in the show by exploring unexplored sounds and creating music out of elements that don't fit the routine.

❖How has been the experience of travelling and shooting on-ground, especially after the lockdown?

Well, you can say that it was challenging because I've been indoors for quite a while, so I was very nervous in the beginning. But we got a really good unit, a great pro-



duction team and we kind of really did our homework. We did a bunch of meetings about how we could approach the shoot and I think by the second or the third day of it, we realised that we are in safe hands. We didn't need to be that nervous because we had set up some stringent rules of how we were going to shoot. By the end of it when we returned to Mumbai, we all got ourselves checked and everyone was COVID negative, so we were relieved. It was quite something we were happy and proud about.

❖Out of the four cities, Uttarakhand, Goa, Mumbai and Jodhpur, where you travelled and shot for the show, which was the most memorable one and why?

We travelled via Dehradun to Mussoorie and Rishikesh, we travelled to Goa, Jodhpur and then came back to Mumbai. For me, going back to Uttarakhand was the most exciting because it's my hometown. Being indoors for so long, I was kind of missing home, so being back to where I belong was the most thrilling experience. Having said that, the excitement levels that I got in Rajasthan was another level, it was just so surreal.

❖What has been some of the major challenges since the time you started and how did you overcome them?

I have been making music since the 90s, so if I start counting the challenges then there will be a never ending list. But the one thing that is recurring in an independent musician's life is that every time you feel that you have found a comfortable spot, life throws another challenge at you. I think one must be on their toes all the time when it comes to doing something that you really love. It is not very conve-

nient but the kind of satisfaction and the kind of love you get from doing something that you love is beyond comparison.

❖Gully Boy has been a raging success and people have loved your work. How would you describe that journey?

*Gully Boy* was quite a unique experience for me, especially because I do not make hip hop music. I listen a lot of hip hop, but I do not make it per se. For me, it was a very interesting journey as it was one of the few times where a major film from the country was expressing a unique, honest sound. Usually what ends up happening is that things get a sugar coating from the film industry but in this case it was the director herself, she was kind of adamant in presenting a raw image. So, it was an amazing experience for me to work on a project where everyone was bringing out their 'A-game'. Every department was challenging the other department to get better.

❖What is next for you? Any forthcoming projects that you would like to share?

There are a few projects coming up, in terms of there are a couple of movies. Shakun Batra is directing one, Gurmeet Singh is directing one. Shakun's film is with Dharma, the other one is with Excel and apart from that there are a few Netflix projects that are coming up. Right now, I just finished *A Suitable Boy* that recently released on Netflix. Then there is a show with Conde Nast that is coming out on Netflix where I've done music supervision. I have worked on my single, my EP and more.

(The show premieres every Friday at 7 pm only on MTV.)



## Cut through the noise

Rapper RAFTAAR gears up to unleash a rivetting single for generating awareness around the snowballing surge of misinformation and fake news on COVID-19

As the world continues to fight its battle against COVID-19, rapper Raftaar gears up to unleash a rivetting single with a timely message. Inspired by the United Nation's Pause campaign, which is part of the Verified initiative, *Mask On* aims to generate awareness around the snowballing surge of misinformation in the wake of the unprecedented global crisis. Produced by independent music label Kalamkaar and featuring its affiliates Rashmeet Kaur, Karma and Yunan, the inspiring anthem encourages listeners to support the global crusade against misinformation by verifying the authenticity of information before they share it.

Commenting on this, Raftaar states, "This is Kalamkaar's humble contribution on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UN. Currently the world is in a state of chaos. A lot of people want to lament on a lot of things due to the built-up anguish, anxiety and annoyance and it's understandable. Unfortunately, over the years the human race hasn't given importance to mastery of emotions and thoughts and now we face serious trials when there is a multitude of emotions being generated due to the unprecedented crisis. However, this doesn't give anyone the right to spread misinformation which is a virus and exploits our biases and prejudices. We are in a moment of global unrest with growing COVID-19 cases, economic volatility, climate emergency, worldwide protests for racial justice. Misinformation, hate speech and fake news is empowering and distorting all of these issues. Often, we share on impulse, before checking the authenticity of the content but I urge everyone to contain this impulse."

Echoing his views, Rashmeet adds, "COVID-19 has provided a stark reminder that access to accu-



rate, trusted information can be the difference between pessimism and optimism, division and unity, and even life and death. We are proud to be supporting Verified and its work to tackle the Coronavirus infodemic by rapidly spreading reliable, science-based information to protect people and communities around the world. Misinformation and fake news on COVID-19 across social media and other communication channels can be deadly, disrupt crucial health services and endanger life. Taking a brief pause before sharing information will help to break the chain and significantly lessen the inclination to share shocking or emotive material and slow the spread of misinformation."

Misinformation is damaging the world. It hijacks people's emotions, taps into their weaknesses, tricking them into contributing to a chain of events that can have serious consequences on people. COVID-19 misinformation undermines the collective ability to control the pandemic and keep people safe. In response to COVID-19 infodemic, the initiative is focussing on empowering people to help combat false information by sharing only trusted information, fact-based advice and stories from the best of humanity.

### CAUSE 15 MINUTES

## Bring back the roar

Actor and fitness enthusiast VIDYUT JAMMWAL comes on board to support the cause of saving the wild tiger population. He says that he takes inspiration from the agility and fierceness of the animal and incorporates the same in life

mega line-up of wildlife documentaries in the third season of *Mission Big Cat*, an anthology of shows dedicated to big cats. The programming included series like *Big Cat Tales*, *Big Cats of Serengeti*, *Desert King*, *The Lion Queens of India*, *Tigerland* and *The Lion Kingdom*.

"Tigers teach us so many attributes that are applicable towards shaping our personalities. I often take inspiration of their agility and fierceness in several aspects of my life. As part of this initiative, I tried to depict and imbibe the nature, kindness and ferocity of the beast through *Kalaripayattu*," Vidyut shares.

"Saving the tiger population is certainly the need of the hour. Its sur-



This year, actor, martial artist and wildlife enthusiast, who is known to follow a vegan life, Vidyut Jammwal, has come on board to support the cause and help raise awareness about conservation of the big cat and their habitat. Animal Planet, in partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF India) and others, is back with a new edition of its flagship initiative Project C.A.T: *Conserving Acres for Tigers*, that aims to sensitise people about the cause of saving the wild tiger population.

Vidyut who has always shown affinity towards animals, is well poised to front this social service campaign on tiger conservation. In the campaign video, actor encourages people to be a part of this initiative by helping the nearly extinct species by donating towards the cause to help conserve the habitat. The actor made the campaign video special by performing *Kalaripayattu* moves inspired by the movements of tigers to make sure the message of their conservation hit homes.

As part of this initiative, the channel recently introduced a stellar

vival and presence plays a crucial role in the sustenance, balance and well-being of the ecosystem. It is our duty to conserve their habitat and help increase the number of wild tigers in any way we can. I feel honored to be associated with the channel to promote such an important cause," adds he.

"We remain committed in our efforts of spreading awareness and conserving the wildlife. Project C.A.T is our effort towards the global goal of doubling the number of tigers in the wild by 2022. We are confident that Vidyut's strong support for this noble initiative will help more people to join us and encourage them to contribute towards the same," says Megha Tata, Managing Director — South Asia, Discovery.

By conserving nearly six million acres of protected land including India and Bhutan among other countries, this initiative aims to ensure a healthy habitat for tigers. The channel has further increased the ambit of the project by extending support for tiger conservation initiatives in Sundarbans forest located in the coastal region of Bay of Bengal.





# A HOPELESS SUMMER

Amid an already crisis-hit situation, a recent pest attack on paddy crop has wreaked havoc on the farmers of Chhattisgarh. By SHRAVAN HURRA

Farmers across the country have been protesting against the Centre’s farm reform laws, particularly and more extensively, in Punjab and Haryana. Majority of farmers, on one hand, are unable to accept the new reforms and on the other, are suffering huge losses due to unpredictable weather conditions. The problems are several with no solution in sight.

Drought and erratic monsoons have been a major concern for farmers across the states but this year, farmers in rural regions of the eastern state of Chhattisgarh are struggling hard to protect their ready-to-harvest crops from pests. The reason behind this sudden pest infestation on crops is the rainfall in October and the brunt is being faced by farmers — specially the small-holding farmers. According to the District Agriculture Department, outbreaks of pests have been observed in approximately 10 per cent of the total crops in the Kanker district of Chhattisgarh.

The farmers of Ghota village in

Bhanupratapur block, located about 50 km from the district headquarters in Kanker, are worried about their crops being damaged. Inhabited by merely 1,500 people, almost everyone in this village relies upon agriculture. Despite the unfavourable weather conditions in the initial half of the sowing season, farmers were hopeful of a good yield this year and a good monsoon held their hopes high. The rainfall in the months of August and September was helpful but the extended rainfall in October along with a strong sunlight made the environment too humid, leading to pest infestation. As a result, the standing crop of paddy began drying up. The troubled farmers are using different types of medicines to save the paddy from diseases like stem borer, blast fungus and manage the presence of brown plant hopper. To the disappointment of the farmers, none of their efforts have shown positive results so far.

Well, it’s not just the crop they have to worry about. Most of the farmers, especially the small-holding ones, take



loan every year to sow the crops and return the debt after selling the harvest. This year, too, many had taken loan but looking at the current situation, the chances of returning the loan on time looks feeble.

Chaituram Uikey, a farmer in the village who had taken a loan of ₹60,000 from the large-sized Adivasi Multipurpose Society (LAMPS), said, “During the plantation of paddy, there was no rain. We somehow managed that time-hoping for a good yield but now when it is about time to harvest the crop, the unseasonal rains have wreaked havoc on us. Forget about repaying the loan, looking at the extent of damage, I don’t think I will have enough to run my house this year.”

Gangabai Chakradhari, another farmer from the same village, is worried that this year she might not be able to repay her loan of ₹35,000. The pest attack might result into lesser crop production than last year, forcing Gangabai to extend the time period for the repayment of loan to the next year. She is now worried about the interest, which she will have to continue paying along with managing her other everyday expenses.

There are many farmers like Gangabai who are concerned about repaying even small amounts of loan and have started looking for other sources of livelihood to return the debt. “I have taken a loan of ₹30,000 from the LAMPS. I thought that I would repay the loan within a year but this crop loss of 40 to 50 per cent in my field has left me devastated. I will now have to work for daily wages to repay the debt,” shared Ankalram Hurra, another affected farmer from the village. Ankalram has no faith in the crop insurance mechanism as he has not yet received compensation for the crop damage that he had suffered in 2016.

When asked about the situation, the Village Head, Ramprasad Kavade said that no support has been received from the Agriculture Department this year. “No officials have visited the village so far. Earlier, Gram Sevak would occasionally visit the village and would share useful information with the farmers but this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we haven’t seen him in a long time. I have

taken a loan of ₹1 lakh and now, I landed in a huge debt crisis due to the pest attacks.”

Explaining the official stance, Kiran Kumar Bhandari, the Rural Agricultural Extension Officer of the region, shared, “The weather has led to pest infestation in the paddy crop in the entire district, damaging 10 per cent of the total crops. Farmers in Ghota village are too facing similar challenges. They have been advised to spray medicines to minimise the damage. Farmers who have insured their crops will receive the benefit if the damage is more than 30 per cent of their total crop.”

Life of farmers has always been full of challenges and that too at different fronts. On one hand, while many have been waiting for policies that benefit them directly and get them the right price for their hard work, on the other, many keep suffering the damage caused by recurring and extensive natural hazards like drought, excessive rainfall, floods, and thunderstorms.

The country’s agriculture sector accounts for around 14 per cent of the country’s economy and 42 per cent of total employment sector. In these unprecedented times of the global pandemic of COVID-19, agriculture has been the only sector to grow for April-June 2020 and contribute to India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Well, growth of this sector is certainly vital for our country and that is enough of a reason to hear the plight of the farmers.

—Charkha Features



## Listen to the whispers from within

If human values are not restored now, a great moral disaster is inevitable, which will land the world into a series of economic, political, social and civilisational crises, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

The West, where there are high percentages of literacy, per-capita income, standards of living, etc, is considered as a civilised society. But is it really civilised? Looking at the increasing number of cases of rape, murder, child sexual abuse, and robbery, can we really call it that?

A country, where the government manufactures weapons for mass killing, people alter their level of consciousness by using alcohol or intoxicating drugs, where there are illicit children, broken homes, divorced spouses and everyone is running after money, sex and sensuous entertainments, can we call such a society civil?

Deforestation of jungles, building sky-scrappers, using knife and fork to eat, and handling sophisticated gadgets — does this all determine a society’s civilised status? We can say that there are hospitals, courts, police stations, fire brigades, schemes for social welfare and child care, etc, but are they really personally civilised as a society? Doesn’t the existence of more police and courts indicate how there is a lot of crime and litigation because people have no integrity or honesty. Else, why do we need more and more police, law courts, lawyers, the jurisdiction and jails?



Similarly, doesn’t the existence of a very large number of doctors, dispensing chemists and hospitals, indicate that a lot many people are suffering from various diseases? Further, why are they suffering from so many psychosomatic diseases, which are caused by, or are linked to, mental stress, tension, worry, fear, fatigue, etc? Doesn’t that mean that there are no happy relations, there is no sense of belonging or feeling of love and everyone is selfish? Doesn’t all this mean that there is a serious violation of moral, social, human or spiritual values?

We need to understand that the real problem, underlying all problems, whether these be labelled as economic, social, political, communal or by whatever other name, is man. Man who violates human values, cares only for himself and is after fulfillment of his own ambitions, irrespective of what happens to others, they are always harmful for the society’s peaceful functioning. We should, therefore, realise that life today has become so much linked and interdependent in a complicated way, that one’s capacity to do wrong or bad has multiplied manifold.

In view of this, we must lay proper emphasis on observance of values, else we will be inviting our own doom in the form of environmental pollution, nuclear weapons, high growth rate of population, global warming, etc. Our present-day society is marching towards barbarity, worse than we could have even conceived a century ago. Man’s inner conscience has become more vulgar and beastly than it ever was and he has fallen further into quagmire of vices. The worst thing is that man has lost his conscience, moral voice, and the whispers of silence from within. Even at this stage, if values are not restored, then a great moral disaster is inevitable, which will land the world into a series of economic, political, social and civilisational crises and, eventually, all our wonderful global progresses will mix into the dust! Let us, therefore, understand what a “civilised society” actually means and how much we need to let each one of us individually inculcate the values in us if we want to create a better world to live in.

When a weather report recently announced on the radio, “Freezing temperatures are predicted for tonight, thus ending the gardening season,” the deadpan delivery of this dramatic — for gardeners — statement made me realise that the announcer was no gardener. Freezing temperatures do not end the gardening season!

Despite that frost, aren’t there still leaves on trees, some of them still to turn spectacular, fiery colours? If I can’t consider trees part of my “garden,” how about some shrubs in the flower beds? Butterfly bush are still coughing out a few fragrant blossoms. Rhododendron and heath look as spry the morning after the freeze.



**Hardier vegetables and flowers**

Okay, so maybe the guy on the radio meant vegetables and herbaceous flowers when he was talking about gardening. Yes, bean and marigold plants definitely froze to death as recent night temperatures plummeted to 29 degrees Fahrenheit at my New York home, as did zinnias, corn, peppers, cosmos and bachelor’s buttons.

But even weekend gardeners grow more than just these tender vegetables and annuals. Black-eyed Susans are still dressed up like it’s summer, and mums — doesn’t just about

## Forever bloom

Freezing temperatures do not end the gardening season, say experts

everybody plant mums? — are unfolding new blossoms. Perennial flowers generally are unfazed by temperatures down into the 20s.

Among annual flowers, there are plenty that likewise are unfazed by freezing temperatures.

### Microclimates

Look around and you might even find some tender annual flowers still treading water through the frosty spell. A wall, paving or tree canopy each prevent temperatures nearby from dropping as low as in more exposed locations. In a flower bed butted up against the west wall of my house, zinnias and marigolds still look spry.

Let’s go back to the vegetables now. Although freezing temperatures snuffed the life from tender veggies, there are plenty of cold-

hardy ones in the garden. Kale, spinach, broccoli, lettuce and radishes look fine after a night or a few nights of below-freezing temperatures. In fact, these vegetables look and taste better during this kind of weather than they do in the summer heat.

With a bit of planning, a fall freeze doesn’t need to leave the vegetable or flower garden looking forlorn. If you have planted plenty of hardy vegetables and flowers, the freeze acts on the garden the way a developing solution acts on a photograph — as tender

plants wilt and are cleared away, hardy plants come into prominence.

Effecting this transformation means choosing hardy plants and giving them enough time to grow. With sunlight at a premium this time of year, all plants, whether hardy or tender, make little growth. That weather reporter might more correctly have stated that the growing season, not the gardening season, was drawing slowly to a close. Not because of one frosty night though.

—AP

“

The most precious resource we all have is time.  
—Steve Jobs

”

### STARS AND PLANETS GROW AS SIBLINGS

In a unique study, astronomers have found compelling evidence that the planets begin forming while stars are still infants and they grow up together like siblings.

The high-resolution image obtained with the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) shows a young proto-stellar disk with multiple gaps and rings of dust.

This new result, published in the journal *Nature*, shows the youngest and most detailed example of dust rings acting as cosmic cradles, where the seeds of planets form and take hold.

An international team of scientists led by Dominique Segura-Cox at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (MPE) in Germany targeted the proto-star IRS 63 with the ALMA radio observatory.



### ALGORITHM PREDICTS ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY

A new artificial-intelligence-based tool can help clinicians predict which hospitalised patients face a high risk of developing acute kidney injury (AKI), say researchers, including one of Indian-origin.

AKI is common among hospitalised patients and has a significant impact on morbidity and mortality.

Unfortunately, it’s difficult to predict which patients are most likely to develop AKI and could benefit from preventative treatments. To address this, the research team at Dascena Inc. in the US developed and evaluated a prediction algorithm based on machine learning, a type of artificial intelligence.

The algorithm analysed 7,122 patient encounters and was compared with the standard of care, the Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) scoring system.

The Dascena algorithm outperformed SOFA, demonstrating superior performance in predicting acute kidney injury 72 hours prior to onset.



### PTSD PERSON PRONE TO ALCOHOL USE DISORDER

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) linked to alcohol use disorder, say researchers adding that males and females exhibit their own distinct symptoms and brain features of PTSD and alcohol use disorder.

The findings, published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*, present a new model for identifying biomarkers that may indicate a person with PTSD is more likely to develop alcohol use disorder.

“Having PTSD significantly increases the risk of developing alcohol use disorder, as individuals use alcohol to cope with stress and anxiety,” said study author Dean Kirson from the Scripps Research Institute in the US.

Yet the underlying biology of comorbid disorders is generally not well understood.

“We hope our new knowledge of sex-specific changes in the brain will help propel the development of more targeted treatments,” Kirson added.

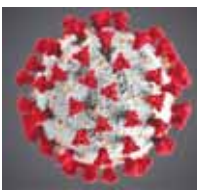


### COVID DOUBLE BLOW FOR CHRONIC PATIENTS

Researchers have revealed that COVID-19 pandemic came as a double blow for people with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cancer, respiratory problems or cardiovascular conditions in countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and others.

The study, published in the journal, *Frontiers in Public Health*, found people with NCDs are more vulnerable to catching and dying from COVID-19 and their exposure to NCD risk factors — such as substance abuse, social isolation and unhealthy diets — has increased during the pandemic.

The researchers also found COVID-19 disrupted essential public health services which people with NCDs rely on to manage their conditions. They reviewed the literature on the synergistic impact of COVID-19 on people with NCDs in low and middle-income countries such as Brazil, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Nigeria.



### MOLECULAR LINK BETWEEN MEAT DIET, CANCER

An international team of researchers has identified a direct molecular link between meat and dairy diets and the development of antibodies in the blood that increase the chances of developing cancer.

This connection may explain the high incidence of cancer among those who consume large amounts of dairy products and red meat, similar to the link between high cholesterol and an increased risk of heart disease.

According to the study, published in the journal *BMC Medicine*, Neu5Gc is a sugar molecule found in the tissues of mammals but not in poultry or fish.

Humans develop antibodies to Neu5Gc in infancy, when they are first exposed to dairy and meat products.

While it is known that these antibodies increase the risk of cancer, especially colorectal cancer, no direct link had been found between the antibodies and meat and dairy consumption.





I think the upcoming two games are really important, and it's all about staying positive and backing to our strength and backing each and every individual

I'm not a part of that thinking group but if I had to take a guess, we'd like to try and finish in the top two. That's our number one goal, so the next game is also as important as the last one

This season Jadeja has been fantastic. He's been the only batsman in our team who has taken the job of scoring in the last few overs. Not just using his power but through point if the field is up

Nagarkoti probably didn't have enough runs to defend (in the final over), would have liked 16-17. He's a young guy, he'll take it on the chin and move on

# MI look to spoil Delhi's party

## Stokes overshadows Gayle

### Rajasthan Royals beat Kings XI Punjab by seven wickets

**PTI ■ DUBAI**

Their play-off berth secured, defending champions Mumbai Indians would look to add to the woes of Delhi Capitals, who are on a three-match losing streak, and consolidate their position at the top when the two teams face each other in their penultimate league game here on Saturday.

Chennai Super Kings six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday sealed MI's play-off berth. The defending champions are currently on 16 points and with an excellent net run rate, are almost certain to finish in the top two.

Despite three defeats on the trot against Kings XI Punjab, KKR and Sunrisers Hyderabad, DC are placed third with 14 points from 12 games, courtesy their consistent run in the first phase of the league.

The three defeats should come as an eye opener for DC as they can ill-afford to take things lightly and need at least a win to seal their play-off place.

But it won't be an easy task as their last two games are against the top two teams on the table — MI and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

If DC lose their last two games, it is entirely possible that KXIP will go past them on NRR even if they finish on 14 points and in such a case, the Delhi side could be eliminated if other teams on 14 have a higher NRR.

Going by paper,

MATCHES

DELHI CAPITALS

12

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

19

MI definitely have a clear-cut edge over DC and having confirmed their last four berth, the title holders would be playing without any pressure.

Regular skipper Rohit Sharma, who missed the last three games due to a left-leg hamstring injury, is unlikely to take the field again, but there is no substantial word from the MI management in this regard yet.

MI are unlikely to tinker with the playing XI, with their top-order firing on all cylinders.

While MI had roared back to form after thrashing RCB by five-wickets in the last game, there are problems aplenty for DC.

The Shreyas Iyer led side need to pull up their socks quickly after a hat-trick of defeats.

Their batsmen crumbled under pressure against SRH in their last game and were bundled out for 131 while chasing an imposing 220-run target.

Shikhar Dhawan (471 runs) has been in blazing form for DC, with two centuries but needs support from the likes of Ajinkya Rahane, who has replaced Prithvi Shaw, skipper Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, Shimron Hetmyer and Marcus Stoinis.

The South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (23 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (15) have been exceptional for DC, barring an off day against SRH.

**SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER**



**PTI ■ ABU DHABI**

Former Australia captain Steve Smith has ruled himself out of the upcoming Big Bash League to avoid spending more time in a bio-secure environment.

Star Australian cricketers including Smith have been in a bio-bubble since August when they toured England before moving to the protected environment of the IPL in September. "I'll be honest with you — absolutely no chance," Smith told *News Corp*.

The pull outs, if happen, are in complete contrast to the wishes of Cricket Australia's broadcast rights holders, *Seven* and *Foxtel*, who are desperate for top international players participation in the latter stages of the league.

While making his mind clear, Smith, who is the captain of Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, said he took the decision considering the adverse affect of bio-bubbles, which includes staying away from family for a longer period of time than expected.



highlighting the mental strain on players who have been away from home since August.

Smith's colleagues David Warner and Pat Cummins are also expected to miss this year's BBL.

# RCB one win short of playoffs, SRH need wins, luck

**PTI ■ SHARJAH**

An IPL Play-offs spot at stake, Royal Challengers Bangalore need to shrug off the disappointment of two back-to-back defeats and put up a strong challenge against strong-willed Sunrisers Hyderabad when the two teams clash, here on Saturday.

But it would be easier said than done since SRH are brimming with confidence after their crushing win over Delhi Capitals.

Going by current standings, RCB are better-placed at number two and they need to win one of their remaining two games — against SRH or DC — to make the cut.

And even if RCB lose both their matches and stay on 14 points, they can still qualify. But for that they need favourable results from other games.

RCB can ill afford to lose both their last two games as it will affect their NRR, resulting in their elimination if other teams on 14 points have higher run rates.

SRH, on the other hand, have nothing to lose. Sitting on the sixth spot with 10 points from 12 games, the Hyderabad outfit need to win their remaining two matches — against RCB and MI — to reach 14 points to stay in the reckoning.

Just winning both the games might not be enough for SRH. They would be hoping that at least one out of RCB, DC (14 points) and Kings XI Punjab (12 points) don't reach the magic figure of 16.

If that happens, SRH will progress to the play-offs because of a superior NRR than all the teams which can finish on 14 points.

RCB need to regroup as their confidence definitely took a beating after crushing defeats at the hands of MI and CSK.

For RCB, batting has been their strength with the likes of Virat Kohli, young inform opener Devdutt Padikkal, AB de Villiers and Aaron Finch doing the job.

Their biggest challenge will be to counter Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan, who remain an unsolved mystery for batsmen in the 2020 season. The pressure he build with dot balls has helped SRH in big way.

SRH, on the hand, were clinical in their 88-run win over DC and would look to continue in the same vein.

David Warner & Wriddhiman Saha, were a treat to watch against DC.

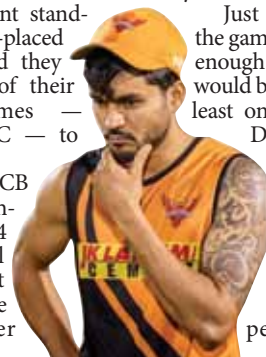
**MATCHES**

**ROYAL CHALLENGERS**

**07**

**SUNRISERS HYDERABAD**

**15**



## Lorgat named in nine-member interim CSA board

**PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG**

Former CEO Haroon Lorgat was on Friday named in a nine-member interim board to run crisis-ridden Cricket South Africa (CSA).

The new interim board, which has been appointed by the Government, will be chaired by Judge Zak Yaqoob and also includes former batsman Andre Odendaal and South African Cricketers' Association (SACA) president Omphile Ramela.

Other members include Stavros Nikalo, Judith February, Andile Dawn Mbatha, Xolani Vonye and Nkeko Caroline Mampuru.

The development comes after the entire 10-member Board of Directors resigned on Monday.

# Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on Nov 29

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Some of the world's top run-rners are expected to take part in the prestigious Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on November 29, with the organisers promising to provide bio-secure zones to ensure a Covid-19 free race for the elite runners.

While the international and Indian elite runners will be at the start line at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here, the amateurs from across the globe will join them via the exclusive Airtel Delhi Half Marathon Mobile App.

Their participation this year will be from a convenient location, wherever they are.

The World Athletics Gold Label race, recognised by the Association of International

Marathons & Distance Races (AIMS), will have a total prize purse of \$233,270.

One of the first global sporting events to be hosted by India during the Covid-19 pandemic, Airtel Delhi Half Marathon will maintain all mandatory protocols in line with the advisory issued by the Government of India.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said sport has always been a symbol of optimism and he is looking forward to the event. "We extend our full support to this event that is India's pride and welcome the world's best athletes to our capital city. The Airtel Delhi Half Marathon is representative of a healthier and fitter nation and reinforces the vision of the Fit India movement," he said in a release.

**AFP ■ LONDON**

Tottenham Hotspur slumped to a shock 1-0 Europa League defeat at Royal Antwerp on Thursday, while Serie A leaders AC Milan eased to victory over Sparta Prague.

Jose Mourinho's Spurs failed to create a single chance of note in a lifeless display, with Gareth Bale, who rejoined the club on loan from Real Madrid in the close-season, lasting less than an hour before being substituted.

The surprise win takes Antwerp to the top of the early Group I table after their opening 2-1 victory at Ludogorets last week.

The Belgian outfit are playing in the main stage of a European competition for the first time since a Uefa Cup first-round loss to Newcastle United in 1994.

The hosts took the lead just before the half-hour mark, with

## ATK Mohun Bagan face Kerala Blasters in ISL opener

**PTI ■ MARGAO**

ATK Mohun Bagan will face Kerala Blasters in the opening match of this year's Indian Super League on November 20 as the high-profile event, to be played behind closed doors, unveiled just the first leg fixtures on Friday due to the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

ATK clinched the title last season after beating Chennaiyin FC in the final though FC Goa won the league phase shield to grab the AFC Champions League spot. ATK have since merged with I-League champions Mohun Bagan and they will play as one club.

The ISL organisers released the fixtures of only the first half of the 11-team league. The schedule covers matches to be played till January 11, 2011. The remaining fixtures will be released later.



# Gunners win with ease

## AC Milan extend unbeaten start; Spurs suffer shock defeat to Antwerp

Dieumerci Mbokani robbing makeshift Spurs centre-back Ben Davies before feeding Israeli forward Lior Refaelov to drill a fierce shot into the corner.

Antwerp wasted a golden chance to double the lead in the 54th minute, as Congolese striker Mbokani contrived to fire the ball over an open net when only three yards from goal.

Mourinho threw on Harry Kane and Son Heung-min for Bale and Dele Alli in search of an equaliser, but again it



was their opponents who should have scored when Norwegian wing-back Simen Jakuderoe ran clean through on goal and blazed wildly over the bar.

Spurs dominated possession but never seriously threatened, and the Antwerp players were able to celebrate a famous triumph in an empty stadium.

**M I L A N EXTEND RUN**

Milan made it two wins from two in Group H with a 3-0 success over

Sparta, despite Zlatan Ibrahimovic missing a first-half penalty.

Goals from Brahim Diaz, Rafael Leao and on-loan Manchester United wing-back Diogo Dalot saw Milan extend their unbeaten run to 23 matches in all competitions.

Stefano Pioli's side sit two points clear of Lille at the top of the group, after the French outfit fought back from two goals down to grab a 2-2 home draw with Celtic.

"We are not thinking about the (unbeaten) streak, we are focused only on the next game," said Pioli.

Arsenal overcame a plucky

Dundalk side with a 3-0 win at the Emirates Stadium.

The Irish visitors held the Gunners at bay for 41 minutes, but Eddie Nketiah and Joe Willock goals put the hosts two goals ahead before half-time.

Nicolas Pepe added further gloss to the score-line with a fine second-half strike.

In-form Napoli bounced back from their opening loss to AZ Alkmaar with a 1-0 win over La Liga leaders Real Sociedad in Group F.

Jamie Vardy netted a spot-kick as Leicester City made it back-to-back victories in with a 2-1 win at AEK Athens.



## DUGOUT

### MOTION PICTURE



Kings XI Punjab batsman Chris Gayle do push ups during practice session before start of IPL match on Friday

@Ionsdenkdp



Rajasthan Royals take dig of fellow IPL teams Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad, as their fate too depends on Rajasthan's result against Kings XI Punjab

@Rajasthanroyals



Delhi Capitals players' signed autographed bats

@DelhiCapitals



Delhi Capitals batsman Ajinkya Rahane lifts weight during gym session

@DelhiCapitals



Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni chats with KKR spinner Varun Chakravarty after IPL game

@ChennaiIPL



Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner and batsman Manish Pandey play table-tennis

@SunRisers

## POINTS TABLE

		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	MI (Q)	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	13	6	7	-0.467	12
6	SRH	12	5	7	+0.396	10
7	RR	12	5	7	-0.505	10
8	CSK	13	5	8	-0.532	10