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SPURS RETURN

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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China stalling bid to defuse tension at LAC

Beijing yet to confirm date of upgraded military-level talks planned for this week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After agreeing to hold upgraded military-level talks this week, China is yet to confirm the date, stalling attempt to defuse the volatile situation prevailing at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. The situation is so grim that the border saw at least four incidents of firing by the Indian and Chinese armies in the last 15 days.

Tension cooled down after extensive talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on September 10. It was agreed there to continue the military and diplomatic-level talks.

Sources said China was yet to inform India about the next date though they had agreed in principle to have the next round sometime this week.

With the Opposition seeking to know from the Government if China occupied any part of our land during repeated attempted transgression since May, the Defence Minister will make a statement on India-China issue in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

This announcement came after a meeting chaired by the Defence Minister resolved that the Government will allow dis-

cussions on issues like the China crisis, GST, Covid and National Education Policy.

During the meeting, Rajnath agreed to take one or two questions on the LAC situation after his speech in the Rajya Sabha.

India is concerned over the PLA troops build-up because the Chinese have so far not given any indication of starting the process of genuine disengagement. So far Lt General Harinder Singh and his Chinese counterpart Liu Lin have held five rounds of talks since June but could not achieve any breakthrough. In the last round of talks on August 2, both sides agreed to withdraw their troops from the friction points and pull back additional troops from the depth areas as a confidence-building measure. However, China later refused to do so and the stalemate continues.

Holding a bilateral meeting at the political level in Moscow for the first time since the stand-off on the LAC in Eastern Ladakh started in May, the two Foreign Ministers agreed on a five-point plan to disengage and de-escalate at the border. Since then relative peace prevailed with both the armies staying put at their positions on all the friction points.



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PLA troop build-up because the Chinese have so far not given any indication of starting the process of genuine disengagement

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As regards incidents of firing, sources said here on Wednesday the border witnessed four such episodes. This revelation came even as both the sides so far maintained that one incident had taken place on September 7. While China had blamed India of opening fire, India flatly denied the accusation and held responsible Chinese troops for breaching the 45-year-old peace.

Giving the chronology of events, sources in the security establishment said the first two incidents took place on August 29 and 30 when the Indian troops thwarted a Chinese provocative action to advance into south bank of the Pangong Tso (lake).

The third incident also

took place there on September 7 when the belligerent Chinese troops fired warning shots in the air but the Indian Army maintained calm. This

provocative act by the Chinese was part of a failed attempt to dislodge the Indian Army troops now positioned on the strategically important hill tops

Withdrawal of Army's purported statement on readiness to take on China creates confusion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A purported statement from the Indian Army about its operational preparedness to take on China in a war has created a lot of confusion after the "statement" was cancelled on Wednesday evening.

The source of the confusion was an email sent by the

PRO of Udhampur (Defence) to Jammu-based reporters of all major TV channels and print media. The statement attributed to a spokesman of the Northern Command said, "The Indian Army is fully prepared and more than capable of fighting a full-fledged war even in winters in Eastern Ladakh."

The spokesman said the Indian soldiers have experience of winter warfare and are psychologically tuned to operate at short notice.

He said, "The Indian Army has experience in Siachen where conditions are much more demanding than the frontiers with China."

Continued on Page 11

Babri demolition case verdict on Sept 30

Advani, Joshi, Kalyan and Uma asked to be present in court

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The special CBI court hearing the Babri mosque demolition case of December 6, 1992, in which senior BJP leaders LK Advani, Murlidhar Manohar Joshi, Kalyan Singh and Uma Bharti are among the 32 accused, will pronounce its judgment on September 30.

Special judge SK Yadav has completed all the arguments and reserved his judgment on September 2 last.

The special court has directed all the 32 accused, including former Deputy Prime Minister Advani, former Union Minister Joshi and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, to be present in the court on the day of the judgment.

The hearing of the trial was completed on August 30 but the written submission was made on September 2, after which the ver-



dict was reserved.

The special judge SK Yadav, who has retired but was on extension by the orders of the Supreme Court, has been asked by the SC to complete the formalities by September 30.

Advani, who recorded his statement on July 24, 2020 through video conferencing, had denied all charges of the CBI made against him on the conspiracy to demolish the Babri mosque structure.

Similarly, Joshi pleaded to

say he was innocent.

Dr Joshi said he was not present there at the time of the demolition and he was politically implicated in the case.

Kalyan, while appearing before the trial court on July 13, 2020 had blamed the then Congress Government of implicating him in the Ayodhya demolition case.

"As a Chief Minister of UP, we had made elaborate security to protect the structure and from time to time have given orders to strengthen its security cover," he had said before the court.

Kalyan was admitted in the SGPGI for treatment of Covid.

The other accused, who recorded their statements are BJP MPs Braj Bhushan Sharan Singh, Lalu Singh, Sakshi Maharaj, former MPs Vinay Katiyar, Ram Vilas Vedanti, VHP leader and Ramjanambhoomi Tirath Kheta Trust general secretary Champat Rai, Sadhvi Ritambhara, Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, Mahant Dharamdas, R N Srivastava, Pawan Kumar Pandey and Satish Pradhan.

869 more test +ve in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

For once, the number of COVID-19 patients who recovered was more than the fresh cases reported across Uttar Pradesh and in the state capital on Wednesday. As many as 869 people tested positive for coronavirus infection in Lucknow, taking the tally to 41,958 on Wednesday evening.

However, 986 COVID-19 patients recovered in the city during the last 24 hours. With this, 31,827 coronavirus infected people have been cured in the city so far. At present 9,577 active cases are undergoing treatment. There were 16 COVID-19 deaths in the city, pushing the toll to 554.

The health workers collected 9,866 samples for testing in the district.

Meanwhile, 6,337 people tested positive across the state, taking the tally of confirmed cases to 3,30,265. With 6,476 COVID-19 patients recovering in the last 24 hours, 2,58,573 infected people have been cured in the state which has 67,002 active cases.

17.5K-page chargesheet filed against 15 for riots in Delhi

Anti-CAA WhatsApp groups used to trigger violence, says chargesheet

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police on Wednesday filed a 17,500-page chargesheet against 15 people at Karkardooma court in a "larger conspiracy" case under the stringent anti terror law — Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act-related to the communal violence that broke out in February in the national Capital.

Police have so far arrested 21 people and 15 names mentioned in the chargesheet are based on scientific, documentary and testimonial evidence gathered during investigation. Police said the chargesheet against the remaining six names will be filed after collecting sufficient evidence and completing statutory and pro-



cedural requirements.

Among those named in the chargesheet are Pnirja Tod members and JNU students Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha, former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan,

Meeran Haider, Jamia Coordination Committee members Safoora Zargar, expelled Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Councillor Tahir Hussain and activist Khalid Saifi. Apart from these, the names of Mohammad Pervez Ahmed, Mohammad Illas, Shahdab Ahmad, Taslim Ahmad, Salim Malik, Mohammad Salim Khan and Athar Khan appear in the chargesheet as key conspirators.

According to police, the chargesheet includes accounts of over 700 witnesses, technical evidences WhatsApp chats and call data records (CDRs).

"Police teams have specifically mentioned about the WhatsApp chats on February 24 as evidence in the chargesheet. That was the time when riots were happening in the city. At that point, the key conspirators were guiding their foot shoulders about violence in the Northeast area. They were directly in touch with rioters," said the sources.

Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

PM TO OPEN HISTORIC KOSHI RAIL BRIDGE

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation the "historic" Kosi rail mega bridge through video-conference on Friday and also inaugurate 12 rail projects related to passenger facilities in Bihar, his office said.

DU COLLEGES DIVERTED SALARY FUND: SISODIA

New Delhi: Delhi University teachers on Wednesday held a strike to protest against the alleged non-payment of salaries to employees of 12 varsity colleges fully funded by the city Government for the last five months. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, in a press conference, said there is huge misappropriation found in audit of Delhi University colleges. The colleges have enough funds in their FD and other existing accounts yet the administration is not paying salaries to its staff, Sisodia, who also holds the Education portfolio, said. "The Delhi Government has provided sufficient funds to the colleges for their projected salary needs, under the pattern of assistance," he said.

Delhi sees record single-day Covid spike; BJP State chief tests +ve

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Covid-19 tally rose to more than 2.30 lakh after record 4,473 fresh cases were reported on Wednesday, which was the highest single-day spike in the national Capital recorded so far.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Wednesday said he has tested positive for Covid-19. "I was feeling unwell. The first report was negative. The report has now come as positive," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Thirty-three fatalities pushed the death toll in the national Capital to 4,839, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department. Four of these 33 deaths are from the previous days. The Covid-19 death toll in Delhi stood at 4,806 on Tuesday.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 51,15,893

DEATHS: 83,230

RECOVERED:

40,22,049

ACTIVE: 10,09,886



Serum Institute of India gets DCGI nod to resume Oxford vaccine trial

New Delhi: Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr VG Somani has given permission to Serum Institute of India to resume clinical trial of the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine candidate in the country while revoking its earlier order of suspending any new recruitment for phase two and three trial, but with certain safety conditions.

Russia to give 10 cr doses of Sputnik-V to India

New Delhi: Russia on Wednesday said Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which is leading the Covid-19 vaccine project in India, will supply 10 crore doses to Dr Reddy's Laboratories. It is in partnership with Dr Reddy's Laboratories for clinical trials and distribution of its Covid-19 vaccine "Sputnik V" in India.

Gadkari tests Covid positive

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said he has tested positive for the coronavirus and has isolated himself. Taking to Twitter, Gadkari said, "Yesterday, I was feeling weak and consulted my doctor. I have been tested Covid-19 positive. I have isolated myself."

Centre delayed Covid lockdown for 'Namaste Trump', alleges Opp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Wednesday alleged that the imposition of the nationwide lockdown in the wake of Covid pandemic situation was delayed because of the "Namaste Trump" event and to bring down the elected Government in Madhya Pradesh.

Participating in the first ever discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the Covid-19 situation, DMK MP Tiruchi Siva said that the Government deliberately delayed the lockdown and the reason was Donald Trump.

"Was the lockdown announcement delayed because of US President Donald Trump's February visit? The delay was because of Donald Trump. You had a gala event planned," Siva said.

US President Donald Trump made a two-day State visit to India beginning February 23. The events planned for his trip included a massive "Namaste Trump" rally in Ahmedabad.

Responding to Health Minister Harsh Vardhan's statement, the Opposition was of the view that the lockdown was unplanned and the people suffered as a result.

Congress leader Anand Sharma initiated the discussion on the statement of Health Minister and targeted the Government over the "sudden lockdown". He said the Government is claiming it prevented nearly 14 to 29 lakh Covid-19 infections and now the Centre is saying it does not have the data for migrant labourers.

Continued on Page 11

Tata wins bid for new Parliament building construction contract

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Projects Ltd has emerged as lowest bidder for the project to construct and maintain the new Parliament building for five years.

After the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) opened financial bids, on Wednesday, Tata Projects Ltd quoted a bid worth ₹861.90 crore, while Larsen and Toubro Ltd quoted ₹865 crore. The bid document estimated the cost of the project at roughly ₹889 crore. Work on the building is likely to begin after the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament comes to an end.

According to the CPWD, three bidders had qualified in the technical round but only two firms ended up submitting their financial bids. Shapoorji



Pallonji & Company Private Limited was the third firms which qualified for financial bids for this project.

"The contract is likely to be awarded to the lowest bidder. In infrastructure projects the firm is selected only after getting the letter of award for the project," the officials added.

The proposed work is of very prestigious nature and is required to be completed within the prescribed 21 months with the highest standards of quality and workmanship, the bid document said.

Continued on Page 11

आवश्यक सूचना

श्रीमती विप्लव लक्ष्मी पानी गुरासत सिंह निवारितरि
मान सं. 82 ब्लाक सी, रथाना नगर, कानपुर नगर द्वारा
द्रास कायदाखंड में रथानी श्री कोमलानंद भारती द्वारा
हथकर चार भाटिया, विप्लव सं. 106/1, 1 भांडा
नगर, कानपुर नगर व हालत निवारित सं. 47/12 नगर
पुखवा, कानपुर नगर द्वारा विप्लव दिवस 2020 का आयोजन
प्रतिष्ठित किया गया है। उपरोक्त आयोजन हेतु (सम्पूर्णतया
प्रधान) किया गया है। परमेश्वर सहीदगाना विप्लव
श्रीमती विप्लव लक्ष्मी देवदत्त

सर्व सहायका की सुवर्धन किया जाता है।
बसीरानागन के सम्बन्ध में यहि कोडें ग्योति अगवा संस
अनना दाना /अपित प्रस्तुत करवा चहे की स राज
को प्रसाहा की शक्ति के चारि को अन्दर किये की
कारि दिवस में अनना दाना चारि अपर प्रतिनिधि,
अधिकवता अनना प्रीकृत अनन के मध्यम से प्रस्तुत का
सक्य है। निवारित अथि के बाद प्रस्तुत का अनियम
सक्य है। ग्योति सहीद होनी थका विप्लव का अभियान
नियमनुसार कर दिवस जाणगी।

(आलोक शुक्ला,
उप निबन्धक,
सदर-चतुर्थी, कानपुर नगर)

जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण, श्रावस्ती

कार्यालय आदेश

संख्या 63 डीएलएएसएओ-श्रावस्ती

दिनांक 11.09.2020

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण के पत्र संख्या 1324/SLSA-23/2016 दिनांकित 07.09.2020 के अनुसार श्रावस्ती जनपद में स्थानी लोक अदालत का गठन शासनवादी संख्या - 02/2018/661/सात-यू-7-2018-47/2002 दिनांक 30.01.2018 के अनुसार किया जा चुका है तथा जनपद में गठित स्थानी लोक अदालत में अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति हो चुकी है। स्थानी लोक अदालत के संचालन हेतु संविदा के आधार पर एक पेशकार एक आसुलपिक तथा एक चपरसी की नियुक्ति की जानी है। इस हेतु यदी की संविदा, मानदेय, अग्रति तथा आवसक योनायतयें निम्नतल है :-

क्रमांक	पदनाम	की पदी संख्या	मानदेय	अग्रति (अधिकतम)	आवसक योयता
1.	पेशकार	01	9000/- रु० प्रतिमाह	02 वर्ष	जिला न्यायालय अथवा कलेक्टर के सेवानिवृत्तकर्मि जिलकी आयु 65 वर्ष के कम हो, को अनुबोधित कर कार्य करया जायेगा।
2.	आसुलपिक	01	9000/- रु० प्रतिमाह	02 वर्ष	जिला न्यायालय अथवा कलेक्टर के सेवानिवृत्तकर्मि जिलकी आयु 65 वर्ष के कम हो, को अनुबोधित कर कार्य करया जायेगा।
3.	चपरसी	01	7000/- रु० प्रतिमाह	02 वर्ष	जिला न्यायालय अथवा कलेक्टर के सेवानिवृत्तकर्मि जिलकी आयु 65 वर्ष के कम हो, को अनुबोधित कर कार्य करया जायेगा।

ऐसे इच्छुक अम्श्याी जो जिला न्यायालय अथवा कलेक्टर के सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचाी तल 65 वर्ष के कम आयु हो, हो, से दिनांक 22.9.2020 तक आवेदनपत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। इच्छुक अम्श्याी निर्धारित तिथि तक अपना आवेदनपत्र जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण, श्रावस्ती के कार्यालय में सांकाल 10 बजे तक जमा करेंगे। निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के उपरान्त तथा अधिक समय के साथ प्राप्त आवेदनपत्रों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। अम्श्याीयों अपने आवेदनपत्र के साथ अपनी प्रमाणित फोटो, आधार कार्ड की प्रमाणित फोटोकॉपी, राजस्वीय सेवा से अवकाश करने की तिथि तथा उल्लेखित पद और तिथि कार्यालय से अवकाश ग्रहण किया है, यह भी संलिखित करेंगे। यह स्पष्ट उल्लेखित किया जाते कि आवेदनपत्र पत्र पद हेतु प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है। आवेदनपत्र में आवेदन अपना मोहानाद गन्ध व ई-नेम आईडी नही भी आवसक रूप से अंकित करें।

इस कार्यालय आदेश की एक प्रति जिला सूचना अधिकारी, श्रावस्ती को सामान्यतः में निम्नलुक्त प्रकाशित करवाये जाते हेतु भेजी गयी है तथा दीवानी न्यायालय, कलेक्टर एवं तहसील के सूचनादाता के साथ-साथ रोजेंडज सर स्टेशन, राजकीय जिला अस्पताल एवं ऐसे सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर भी वसरा करवा जाये, जिसे जनसामान्य देख सके।

दिनांक 14.9.2020

उपपत्र - 155115 Date 16.09.2020

डिजाइन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(सुदेश कुमार सिंह)

अध्यक्ष,

जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण/ जिला जज, श्रावस्ती।

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Fraudster duping job-seekers nabbed in Lok Bhawan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Hazratganj police claimed to have arrested a fraudster impersonating a review officer in Home department who had duped several people of huge cash in the name of facilitating government jobs. The accused, identified as Prem Sagar of Ambedkar Nagar, was arrested from Lok Bhawan on the complaint of Abu Faisal of Khurram Nagar. The complainant had given money to the accused for a government job.

He tried to impress upon the cops on being asked to stop. However, the police took him to Hazratganj Kotwali where he was interrogated. He reportedly owned up his crime and disclosed that he used to visit Lok Bhawan frequently with the help of a fake ID card, which was recovered by the police from his possession later. The police said they were summing up the number of people defrauded by the accused. It surfaced that Prem Sagar had duped several

persons in his home district, Ambedkarnagar. He had been staying at Officers' Colony in Chinhhat for the last four years. The police recovered a vehicle pass for entry to Secretariat and another with his designation mentioned as review officer, Home department.

In another case, an Amethi resident was duped of Rs 96 lakh on the promise of attractive profit against investment in a herbal company in Gomti Nagar. According to the complainant, Deshraj of Kamrauli in Amethi, he met company's directors (Jai Prakash Prajapati, Zainuddin Ansari, Dharmendra Prajapati and Ratan Chandra) at the office in Vikas Khand, Gontinagar. He said he was offered attractive profit against investment and he agreed to invest the money. "For three months, I got a profit of Rs one lakh per month but the company stopped the payment later," he alleged.

He said he contacted the company's directors and was assured that he would be given

the profit. "As I did not get the money, I contacted the company's directors again. CMD Ratan Chand gave a cheque of Rs 5 lakh to me but it was dishonoured by the bank. I approached the company officials but was thrown out of the office," he alleged. The police registered a case in this connection and started probe.

Meanwhile, a 21-year-old vegetable vendor was mowed down by a train in Gosainganj on Wednesday morning. The deceased was identified as Anil Kumar of Bhaduha village in Gosainganj. Anil left his house to attend nature's call on Wednesday morning but did not return home. After waiting for him, his family went out to search for him and reached railway tracks in the village where they found his mutilated body. In the meantime, station master of Anoopganj Surendra Yadav sent a memo to the police, informing them about death of a youth on railway tracks between Rehmatnagar and Chandraul stations. The police said Anil's uncle Satish Chandra identified the body.

In another case, a youth fell into a pond in Sushant Golf City Police station area and died on Wednesday. Reports said Shubham Yadav (23) of Mai Ji Ka Purwa locality in the area was going to sow seeds in the field and fell down in the pond. Locals rushed him to Trauma Centre of KGMU where he was declared brought dead.

Recovery rate improves to 76%

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the Covid positive cases continue to surge, the recovery rate in Lucknow has improved from 74 per cent last month to 76 per cent now. A senior official at the CMO office said the figure is close to the average recovery rate of Uttar Pradesh which is 77.8 per cent. The mortality rate in the district is 1.3 per cent, which is less than the state average of 1.4 per cent.

Overall, the positivity rate has been 12.2 per cent this month, which means over a dozen people out of 100 being tested are coming out Covid positive. Earlier, the positivity rate was 9 per cent, he pointed out.

The official said the recovery rate was good because of the treatment facilities being provided at the various hospitals in Lucknow. "This is the reason why people from across the state come to Lucknow for treatment," he said.

On Wednesday, three Covid-19 patients succumbed at KGMU and the deceased included a 59-year-old man from Ashiyana. He died of cardiopulmonary arrest. A 50-year-old man from Vishwalok Colony died of acute respiratory distress syndrome while a 62-year-old man from Hardoi died of respiratory failure.

Kalyan Singh discharged from SGPGI

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former UP Chief Minister Kalyan Singh was discharged from the Rajdhani Covid hospital of SGPGI on the request of his relatives on Wednesday. He will now be admitted to Yashoda Hospital in Delhi. "He was stable and was improving. He was maintaining 100 per cent oxygen

saturation and did not have fever. His blood pressure was also normal. However, as per the wishes of his kin, he was discharged at 3 pm," a doctor said.

Singh was admitted to the Rajdhani Covid hospital of SGPGI on September 14 after he complained of fever, dry cough and breathlessness on minimal exertion. His condi-

tion had been stable and on initial evaluation, his oxygen saturation during rest was 97% on room air.

After initial evaluation, blood investigations and CT scan of chest were done and he was transferred to ICU for close observation. He was later shifted to a private ward when his condition improved on Tuesday.

said.

The depot is engaged in supplies of RT-PCR Kits, RNA extraction kits, viral transport medium and miscellaneous items like magnetic stand and thermal blocks. There are seven faculty members from medical university deputed for smooth and seamless functioning of the depot. The KGMU depot is well equipped for storage of these reagents at lower temperatures — maintaining cold chain is a prerequisite for quality assurance.

Meanwhile, CDRI spokesperson Sanjeev Yadav said they would come up with a few more repurposing drugs for Covid-19 after Umifevonir. "We are almost reaching the conclusion and if everything goes in right direction, we may come up with these drugs in a

month's time," he said. He added that the clinical trials of Umifevonir were already on and the results were likely by the last week of October.

"If the trials are successful, the drug will be in the markets soon," he said. Regarding the sequencing of coronavirus samples which they are doing, he said CDRI has increased its target. "Earlier, we had decided to sequence 100 samples but later increased to 200 and now we are sequencing 500 samples. The analysis of these samples will give us the unique characteristic of the mutant varieties from UP. We have decided to increase the samples to 500 because the more the data, the better will be the analysis. We are feeding this data on a common portal where several other institutes can reach out to

Ranjan Kumar takes charge as div commissioner



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ranjan Kumar (left) assumed charged as divisional commissioner on Wednesday. He said his priority would be to strengthen the system so that people could get better facilities in the times of coronavirus pandemic. He said suspected cases needed to be identified and infection spread contained.

He said he would also ensure quick resolution of people's problems related to traffic and cleanliness.

Ranjan said all the schemes and projects of the state government would be taken up on priority. The commission-

er said development works would be carried out in time with no quality compromise so that maximum people could be benefited. He said that with several festivals coming up in the next month such as Dussehra, Durga Puja Diwali and Chehelum, it would be essential to provide a peaceful atmosphere to people.

A 2000-batch IAS officer, Ranjan comes from Nalanda, Bihar. He has been the DM of Chitrakoot, Auraiyya, Ballia, Banda, Baghpat, Pratapgarh, Shamli, Amroha and Gorakhpur. Before this assignment, he was KPWD secretary. He has also served as divisional commissioner of Mirzapur.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Zonal Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Prayagraj
19-A, Dwarka Bhawan, 1st Floor, Tagore Town, Prayagraj-211002

Show Cause Notice for declaring **M/s Vinay Wire and Poly Products Pvt. Ltd. and its Directors/ Partners/ Proprietor/ Guarantors- Mr. Brajesh Kanodia S/o Hanuman Prasad Kanodia, Mr. Vinay Kanodia S/o Hanuman Prasad, Smt. Gyatri Devi Kanodia W/o Hanuman Prasad Kanodia, Smt. Shweta Kanodia W/o Vinay Kanodia and M/s Simon Plast Pvt. Ltd. as Wilful Defaulters and Opportunity for Representation there against.**

Borrowers/Directors:- (1)- M/s Vinay Wires and Poly Products (P) Ltd., Address (1):- 16/40, Civil Lines, Kanpur Nagar, PIN: 208001, (Uttar Pradesh). **Address (2):-** Premises No C-2 to C-5, UPSIDC, Industrial Area Site -II, Rania , Kanpur Dehat (U.P.), **(2)- Mr. Brijesh Kanodia S/o Mr. Hanumaan Prasad Kanodia,** 26/21, Birhana Road, Kanpur Nagar Pin: 208001 (Uttar Pradesh). **(3)- Mrs. Gayatri Devi Kanodia W/o Mr. Hanumaan Prasad Kanodia,** 26/21, Birhana Road, Kanpur Nagar, Pin: 208001 (Uttar Pradesh). **(4)- Mr. Vinay Kanodia S/o Mr. Hanumaan Prasad Kanodia,** 26/21, Birhana Road, Kanpur Nagar, Pin: 208001 (Uttar Pradesh). **Guarantors:- (1)- Mr. Brijesh Kanodia S/o Mr. Hanumaan Prasad Kanodia,** 26/21, Birhana Road, Kanpur Nagar, Pin: 208001 (Uttar Pradesh). **(2)- Mrs. Gyatri Devi Kanodia W/o Mr. Hanumaan Prasad Kanodia,** 26/21, Birhana Road, Kanpur Nagar, Pin: 208001 (Uttar Pradesh). **(3)- Mr. Vinay Kanodia S/o Mr. Hanumaan Prasad Kanodia,** 26/21, Birhana Road, Kanpur Nagar, Pin: 208001 (Uttar Pradesh). **(4)- Mrs. Shweta Kanodia W/o Mr Vinay Kanodia,** 26/21, Birhana Road, Kanpur Nagar, Pin: 208001 (Uttar Pradesh). **(5)- M/s Simone Plast (P) Ltd,** 16/40 Civil Lines, Kanpur Nagar, Pin: 208001 (Uttar Pradesh).

We refer to your captioned account and write to inform you that due to non-payment of interest/installment, account turned to Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Bank on **01.04.2018**. We further write to inform you that as per the directions of the Committee of Executives on Wilful Defaulters of our Bank and on scrutiny of your account based on your acts of omission and commission, deeds/ documents and writings, performed /executed by the company/firm/borrower/guarantors, the company/firm and its Directors/ Partners/ Proprietor/ Guarantors be classified as Wilful defaulter as per guidelines of RBI on the following grounds:

It is observed that the credit facility of borrowings company (**M/s Vinay Wires & Poly Products Pvt Ltd.**) with us was not running satisfactorily during FY-2014-15 as total 22 LCs involving aggregate amount of **Rs.23.81 crore** were devolved and **10 cheques returned** due to financial reasons. Hence, **Mr. Vinay Kanodia, Mr. Brijesh Kanodia and Mrs. Gayatri Devi Kanodia**, directors in the associate company quit from directorship on 20 Feb, 25 Feb & 28 Feb 2015 respectively. **Mrs. Shweta Kanodia W/o Mr. Vinay Kanodia** remained as director of the company. From the above it is derived/ evident that Mr. Vinay Kanodia was well aware of the Pros and cons of banking. They were aware that since their account with our bank branch was not satisfactory and while availing facility for its associate to PNB, the credit report of **M/s Vinay Wire & Poly Products Pvt. Ltd** may affect the loan process adversely. The quitting Directors managed land and authorized capital in the associate before resignation. Therefore the act on the part of the company directors appears to be well thought & deliberate.

The Company opened current accounts with other banks without prior permission. Funds realizes from debtors were not routed through bank and, hence funds were diverted. The company manipulated the financial statement i.e. book debt/stock statement submitted in such a way to avail excess drawing power. They used short term working capital for long term purpose. Round tripping (suspicious trade) through inland letter of credit with associates/related parties. Substantial amount has been received and paid to an undisclosed interconnected parties and the company didn't disclose the related party transactions .i.e. Vin Skill Developers is involved in education/training whose **Directors are Vinay Kanodia and Shweta Kanodia**. In the Year 2018-19, **M/s Vasu Met Plast has paid to M/s Vinay Wire & Poly Products Pvt Ltd. An amount of Rs. 8.50 Cr. &Rs. 2.29 Cr.** As appearing in CC Hypo account of M/s Vasu Met Plast Pvt Ltd in PNB Mall Road Branch but all the amount is diverted into some other unknown accounts of the borrower company with other banks. Suspicious trade transaction observed through Inland Letter of Credit with **M/s Plastic Products**. The Prop. of the firm is **Mrs. Anviya Malviya w/o Mr. Chandra Narayan Malviya**. **Mr. Chandra Narayan Malviya** was the technical director in the borrowing company up to **24.06.2016**. the firm maintain current account no **006102/1719** with us and **A/c no- 33583154372** with SBI Dabauli Branch Kanpur. Apart from fund diversion, the Company was involved in fraudulent activities also such as, LCs opened on suppliers and related parties located locally on local Bank branch and managed to receive the funds back from suppliers by discounting the same Letter of Credit. In such round tripped transactions manipulated lorry receipts/ invoices used. Heavy amounts transactions layered into accounts without any underline sale/ purchase to conceal the trail of layered money.

The Director of the borrowing company **Mr. Vinay Kanodia, Mr. Brijesh Kanodia, Mrs. Gyatri Devi Kanodia and Guarantor Mrs. Shweta Kanodia** have incorporated the new private limited company **M/s Vasu Met Plast Pvt. Ltd. & M/s Vin Skills Pvt. Ltd. M/s Vasu Met Plast Ltd.** was in the same line of business and in the same locality at **plot no-B-12 in Rania Site II UPSIDC**. The New company **M/s Vasu Met Plast Pvt. Ltd.** Incorporated on **03.01.2013** i.e. within a year from sanction of loan to the borrowing company. The Director of the company purchased 0.4090 hectare immovable properties in the name of **M/s Vasu Met Plast. Pvt. Ltd.** From the fund of borrowing company i.e. **M/s Vinay wire and poly product Pvt. Ltd.** it is evident that the Directors syphoned the funds availed from us and incorporated and invested the fund in their new Company. The Unusual trend observed in Profit and Loss of the Company and its associate. The profit booked by borrowing company in 2011 to 2015 appears to be consistent but a sudden loss of **Rs.132.64 lac** in 2016 on increasing trend up to 2018 **Rs.259.86 lac** is quite unusual. Incidentally, fraudulent activities, unusual layering and round tripping of funds, and incidence of fund diversion, creation of new associates and sharp reduction in business volume in Iron/steel pipe Unit occurred during the period from 2015-16 to 2018. When company was incurring losses since 2015-16 simultaneously Company was refunding the unsecured loans to their Directors and related parties. The Level of USL of **Rs.640.83 lac** in 2015 reduced continuously to **Rs.268.94 lac** as on Mar 2018. Thus the borrowing company and its directors have cheated the bank, perpetrated the fraud and syphoned off Bank's fund for their unlawful pecuniary gain through the accounts of associates/ others companies. Account declared as fraud on **19.12.2019** and same is reported to RBI on **06.01.2020**.

Thus,

(a)-The unit has defaulted in meeting its payment/ repayment obligations to the lender even when it has the capacity to honor the said obligations

(b)- The unit has defaulted in meeting its payment/ repayment obligations to the lender and has not utilised the finance from the lender for the specific purposes for which finance was availed of but has diverted the funds for other purposes.

(c)The unit has defaulted in meeting its payment/ repayment obligations to the lender and has syphoned off the funds so that the funds have not been utilized for the specific purpose for which finance was availed of, nor are the funds available with the unit in the form of other assets.

In terms of RBI guidelines and to comply principles of natural justice, if you, desire, you may send your submission for consideration by the Committee of Executives, headed by our Executive Director **within - 15- days from the date of receipt of this letter** as to why your account and you be not classified by Bank as a Wilful Defaulter. The Committee reserves the right to give or not to give the personal hearing to decide about classifying as wilful defaulter in case your submission is received.

Please note that, in case your submission against the intention of Bank to declare you as a Wilful Defaulter is not received within -15- days from the date of receipt of this letter, the Bank will proceed further and classify your account as wilful defaulter. Bank reserves the Right to publish the name and photograph of Wilful Defaulter in News Paper and will initiate the necessary recovery action as per extant guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India.

This communication is issued as per the directions of the Committee of Executives on Wilful Defaulters (COE)

Date : 02.03.2020 Place: Prayagraj Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

Police announce cash reward on Mukhtar Ansari's sons

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Tightening the noose around mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, the Lucknow police on Wednesday announced a cash reward of Rs 25,000 each on the arrest of his sons. The move came close on the heels of a case which was registered against them at Hazratganj police station on August 27.

DCP (Central) Somen Verma said the cash reward was announced after a case was registered against Abbas Ansari and Umar Ansari on the complaint of lekhpal Surjan Lal following the order of district administration.

The cash reward was announced after a case was registered against Abbas Ansari and Umar Ansari on the complaint of lekhpal Surjan Lal following the order of district administration

He said that the district administration had demolished the illegal buildings constructed by Ansari's sons. He said the police conducted a probe into the case and started legal procedure, but Abbas and Umar absconded following which the reward was announced. He said Ansari and his sons were found guilty of fraud, tampering with government documents and preparing fake documents to stake claim on the land.

The police have attached property worth Rs 66 lakh in stern action against Ansari and several persons have been arrested. Also, under Gangster Act, UP Police had initiated action against seven close aides of Ansari and cancelled the arm licenses of 75 persons. Besides, 12 close aides of Ansari have been externed by the police. Sources said the Lucknow police were mulling to initiate an action against Ansari and were in consultation with the Law department.

हुनर को मिलेगी नई पहचान

विश्वकर्मा श्रम सम्मान योजना

के अन्तर्गत दूल् कित व प्रशिक्षण प्रमाण पत्र तथा नयी पहल के तहत मुद्रा योजनान्तर्गत ऋण वितरण कार्यक्रम का शुभारम्भ

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

सिद्धार्थनाथ सिंह

मंत्री, खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग, रेशम उद्योग, वस्त्र उद्योग, सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम, निर्यात प्रोत्साहन, एन.आर.आई. तथा निवेश प्रोत्साहन, उत्तर प्रदेश

चौ. उदयभान सिंह

राज्यमंत्री, सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग, रेशम उद्योग वस्त्र उद्योग तथा निर्यात प्रोत्साहन उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 17 सितम्बर, 2020 | समय : अपराह्न 4:30 बजे

स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

प्रदेश के शहरी एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के पारम्परिक कारीगर जैसे बड़ई, दर्जी, टोकरी-बुनकर, नाई, सुनार, लोहार, कुम्हार, हलवाई, मोची, राजमिस्त्री एवं हस्तशिल्पियों की आजीविका के साधनों का सुदृढीकरण करने की नई पहल

सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम एवं निर्यात प्रोत्साहन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

As per reports, Kamal Kishor of Govind Nagar in Mohanlalganj, along with his

Kamal Kishor later told the police that he had an electricity connection in the name of his father Sukhlal. He said the department installed a faulty electric meter at his house due to which the bill shot up to Rs 14,342 in 15 days.

Monanlalganj SHO said Kamal Kishor reached the office of the executive engineer and threatened to immolate himself. "His brother and other consumers present at the office overpowered him and called the police," he said.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

BBAU spokesperson Rachna Gangwar said the immuno-suppressive biosensor was developed using the protein secreted by TB bacteria as a biomarker and certain specific antibodies against it. "It makes early diagnosis of the

“The number of people suffering from this disease is increasing every year in India. According to a report released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 24.04 lakh people were affected by TB in 2019. The number was 14 per cent higher than the previous year. In addition, the report said that 79,144 people died due to TB in 2019. The increase in mortality due to this disease annually is a seri-

Meanwhile, Engineer's Day was celebrated on the birth anniversary of SM Visvesvaraya by BBAU's UIET department on Wednesday. An international webinar was organised by the department and it was

¹ National Council member
and chairman of Civil

Engineering Division of The Institute of Engineers, VBS Singh told the students about the life and achievements of Visvesvaraya whose efforts laid the foundation for modern India. He said Vrindavan Garden of Mysore, Hirakud Dam, Mokama Bridge were excellent examples of Visvesvaraya's engineering. He was awarded Bharat Ratna for his contribution to the country.

In view of the critical condition of the woman, the cops

SI Sushil Pawar has said that the doctors should have treated the woman. As a video of the incident has gone viral, the SI is being praised for his efforts whereas it has left the health department red-faced.

On the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, mayor Sanyukta Bhatia kicked off the cleanliness campaign in Lucknow near Manaknagar railway station on Wednesday.

PNS ■ **LUCKNOW**

Earlier, the BSP used to stay away from bypolls but after facing a humiliating defeat in the

The Bharatiya Janata Party, the Samajwadi Party and the Congress have already announced to contest the bypolls that are scheduled to be held along with the Bihar Assembly polls in the next two months. Both the Congress and the BSP have nothing to lose in these bypolls as out of these

The BJP has already started the process for selection of its candidates for these seats while the SP is inviting applications from the candidates. The Congress on Wednesday announced committees for selection of the candidates for each seat. The seats where the bypolls are slated are Nagaon Sadat (Amroha), Bulandshahr, Tundla (Firozabad), Swar (Rampur), Bangarmau (Unnao), Ghatampur (Kanpur Dehat), Malhani (Jaunpur) and Deoria Sadar.

उप प्रो भावर दानमिशन कारपोरेशन
छुलु खोली निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना
आधोस्ताभकारता द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य
कार्य हेतु अनुमति केन्दरीय/फर्म से मांगे
नये निविदा दो माग में निविदा प्रस्था-33
दिनांक 28-09-2020 को 14.00 बजे तक
आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिने 15.00
बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से उपस्थित किया
निविदाकारों अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों को
उपस्थिति में आधोस्ताभकारी अथवा अधिकारी
प्रतिनिधि द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा के
माग में बरोहर घनराशि, अनुभव का विवरण
आधार कर /आयकर /बैंकाकर का रजिस्ट्रेशन
प्रमाण पत्र तथा दूसरे माग में देरे एवं जांचियुक्त
निविदा व शर्तें होंगी। निविदा की बैकता सुक
की तिथि से 90 दिने होगी। वरोहर राशि का
प्रत्येक निविदा के अनुसार होगी, जो ब
झुट /गोडीआवर/एम्पनोडीआवर के रू
में अधिशारी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड
गोण्डा के पदानाम में बनक होगी अथवा
निविदा प्राप्त सुक एवं इंटोएमडी अधिशारी
अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के बै
सक में (बैंक का नाम- पंजाब नेशनल बैंक
खाता सं-0181002100120697, आईएफएस
कोड- PUNB0018100) निविदा की जायेगी।
एन्क्रेप्टी की माध्यम से जमा कर्दाए सुक
सकनी है तथा बैक में जमा किये जाने का
साक्ष्य यथा योज्य यूसीआर संख्या, खाते का
नाम, निरतताका बैंक अधिशारी बैक
हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदाकार द्वारा
प्रतिस्ताभकारित पे-इन रिस्का की स्कैन्ड कॉपी
ईपैडी के लिए बैक रिस्का की स्कैन्ड कॉपी
जारीकर्ताके बैंक के कम्परेसन गैल की प्र
टेण्डर प्रमाण के साथ जमा किये जाने
आमंत्राय है। बरोहर घनराशि के निमा एवं
सर्शात निविदाएर एकदर नहीं की जायेगी।
निविदा प्रपत्र नकद या बैंक ड्राएर अथवा
आरओडीओएस द्वारा मुतागत कर निवि
सुलने की कीमत 12.00 लक्ष तक अधिशारी
अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा
कार्यालय से क्य/पाएर किये जा सकरी है।
निविदा का मूल्य रु० 236/- (रु
निविदा सुलने की तिथि को अवकाश
निर्धारित नहीं, निविदा अमले काय दिवस
निष्पत्ति समय तक प्राप्त कर खोली जायेगी।
आधोस्ताभकारी को किसी या समस्त निविदाएर
को निस्तर करके ता अधिकार सुरक्षित है।
विस्तृत विवरण www.upptcl.org वेबसाई
पर प देखा जा सकता है एवं निविदा
डाउनलोड करके उपलब्ध साथ निविदा मु
का ड्राएर संलग्न कर भी स्वीकार्य है।
निविदा रूप-32/विभाग/गो/2020-21
विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बहराइत के अंतर्गत
उपखण्ड-अधिकारी, विद्युत पारेषण
उपखण्ड-निगहा हुन 01 अदर वाहन उपलब्ध
करकर समन्वयी करी। बरोहर राशि रु०
2,000/-ना। अधोक्षण अभियन्ता मु
पारेषण मण्डल 220 केवीओ उपकेन्द्र-स
जेल रोड, गोण्डा संस्था-1530/ विभाग/गो
गो/टेडर नु-32 ईओडीओडी/गो/गो,
2020-21, दिनांक- 14.09.2020 "राष्ट्र धि
में विजली वितरण साधारण बल के स्थाप
एलओडीओडी बल्य का प्रयोग करे "

Lucknow (PNS): Already making a frontal attack on chief minister Yogi Adityanath over various issues affecting the public at large in UP, Congress general secretary, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday asked the committees to gear up and mingle with the common man so that all the key problems faced by them could be incorporated in the Election Manifesto for 2024 Assembly elections.

Sources said that in his virtual meeting with the committees formed last week, a strategy has been finalised for curating the election manifesto and key points include

SWACHHATA PAKHWARA

Swachhata Pakhwara under Central government's Swachh Bharat Mission kicked off at RDSO on Wednesday. Director-general RDSO, Virendra Kumar administered cleanliness pledge to officials in the mini-conference hall while adhering to Covid guidelines. In other directorates and field units of RDSO, the senior-most officers administered pledge to respective officials. A webinar, video-conferencing with field unit officials will be held in the coming days. Kumar appealed to officials to shun use of plastic bags and reduce the use of single-use plastic.

SPARDHA-2020
City Montessori School RDSO Campus, organised a virtual sports event 'Spardha 2020' in the memory of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. Students from schools of Thailand and many states of India sent their entries of sports activities for participation and the best

law and order situation, farmers' issues, corruption, unemployment and worsening economic conditions. A meeting in this regard was convened by the General Secretary and state Congress in-charge Privanka Gandhi Vadra.

The key meeting was held between Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Manifesto Committee member Salman Khurshid, Rajya Sabha MP PL Punia, Supriya Srinetra, Vivek Bansal, Amitabh Dubey along with State President Ajay Kumar Lallu and CLP leader Aradhana Mishra 'Moni'. It was decided to hold meetings across districts in the state to gather first-hand inputs.

entries were awarded online at a closing and prize distribution ceremony. Former Indian cricketer Chetan Sharma was the chief guest whose virtual presence infused enthusiasm in young players. CMS students presented a virtual world parliament, discussing the role of sports in education and establishing world unity.

ADMISSION OFFER

Harsh Bhatnagar, a student of City Montessori School, Rajendra Nagar Campus I, has been selected for admission by two noted universities of England. He has been offered admission by the University of Glasgow and University of Reading. Harsh has got this opportunity for higher education due to his academic excellence and diligence and he attributed his success to the robust academic atmosphere of CMS.

PUBLIC NOTICE				
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our Client intends to acquire lands measuring approximately 234 acres situated in Village Sarhat, Tehsil Manikpur, District Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh, more particularly described in the schedule below ("Subject Lands"), from its owners mentioned against each of the lands in the schedule below.				
In view of the aforesaid, if any person including any individual, partnership firm, limited liability partnership, Hindu undivided family, company, corporate entity, Bank, Financial Institution, non-banking financial company, firms, association of persons, any body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors and/ or any other entity having or claiming any right, title, claim, benefit, estate, share, demand or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Subject Lands or any part thereof by way of sale, conveyance, transfer, allotment, exchange, assignment, muniment, charge, gift, covenant, trust, wakf, license, occupancy rights, care-take rights, tenancy, protected tenancy, share, sub-tenancy, succession, inheritance, claim, let, lease, sub-lease, lien, mortgage, easement, maintenance, devise, bequest, hypothecation, encumbrance, possession, development rights, joint-development rights, sub-development, project management, joint venture, collaboration, possession in part performance, partnership, family arrangement/ settlement, will, testamentary instruments, letters or administration, probate, <i>its pendens</i> , decree or order of any Court of Law or otherwise howsoever by operation of law or otherwise, is hereby called upon to make the same known in writing, with notarized documentary proof, to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the purported right, title, benefit, estate, interest, share, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever, as the case may be, will be considered to be waived off and/or abandoned and/or relinquished and the Subject Lands shall be presumed to be free from any and all sorts of encumbrance(s) of any nature and it shall be deemed that the title and possession of the owners mentioned below to the Subject Lands is clear and marketable.				
Khasra Details of the Land in Village Sarhat, Tehsil Manikpur, District Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh				
Khasra Details	Area (Hectares)	Area (Acres)	Current Owners	
260 Min., 260/1	1.417	3.501	Rudra Prasad, Durga Prasad, Kailash Babu sons of Ram Pratap	
249/2, 260/1	0.394	0.973	Suresh Prasad and Awadesh Prasad sons of Ram Prakash	
222/1, 228, 229, 249/1, 250	2.915	7.852	Suresh Prasad and Awadesh Prasad sons of Ram Prakash	
223, 224, 225	0.945	2.335	Satya Narayan son of Kudhai @ Rameshwar	
219/1, 220, 226, 227, 231	2.187	5.404	Chandrika Prasad, Ram Milan and Maksudhan sons of Hira Lal	
230 Min, 248 Min,	0.276	0.681	Santosh Kumar and Badri Vishal sons of Babulal	
172/1, 173, 177/2, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182/3, 210, 211, 212	20.545	50.766	Akhilesh Prasad, Anant Kumar (sons), Jagjabai (wife) of Ram Sunder, Ram Kishore son of Chandra Shekhar	
209/2, 215/1, 221/4	0.682	1.685	Gyaneshwar Prasad, Udaybhan and Arun Prasad sons of Dwarika Prasad	
61, 63, 64/2, 71, 72, 73, 82 83, 84, 89, 182, 184, 185, 86, 88	13.007	32.14	Daya Shankar, Ram Gopal (sons), Babu (wife) of Ram Swayambar, Ram Naresh, Tirath Prasad sons of Kodu, Awadh Naresh, Ram Kishore, Ram Narayan sons of Bholu, Babu Lal, Santosh Kumar sons of Makhan Lal, Chhitani son of Gaya Prasad, Rajesh Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Santosh Kumar, Vimlesh Kumar sons of Bachcha, Sonu, Monu (sons), Deenu (minor son), Sumila (wife) of Rajender Kumar	
184/2/4	0.49	1.21079	Dayashankar, Rajendra, Ram Gopal son of Swayambar, Babu wife of Swayambar	
89	1.785	4.408	Chunki wife of Ram Chandler, Shiv Kumar son of Mahesh Prasad, Sheetal Prasad and Babu Lal sons of Lala, Radhey and Shiv Murat sons of Bachcha, Raj Kumar, Sanjay Yadav (sons), Beena Yadav (wife) of Shiv Varan	
64 Ka, 72, 73, 82, 84, 182, 184, 185, 61, 63, 64, 66, 71, 72, 83, 86, 184, 185	12.675	31.32	Shiv Kumar son of Mahesh Prasad, Sheetal Prasad and Babu Lal sons of Lala, Radhey and Shiv Murat sons of Bachcha, Raj Kumar, Sanjay Yadav (sons), Beena Yadav (wife) of Shiv Varan	
175, 176/2	2.984	7.373	Naveen Kumar, Shisir Kumar, Kshitesh Kumar, Varun Kumar sons of Surendra Prasad	
61, 63, 64/2, 71, 72, 73, 82, 83, 84, 86, 88, 89, 184, 185	13.327	32.931	Lovelesh Kumar son Chedilal, Ramnarayan son Kedar, Ramcharan son of Kedar	
182	0.202	0.498	Lovelesh Kumar son of Chedilal, Ramnarayan son of Kedar	
175/2	2.1	5.189	Awadhesh Kumar son of of Ramprakash, Kamla Devi wife of Awadhesh Prasad	
175/3	2.922	7.217	Awadhanresh, Awadbihari sons of Ramswhare	
222/2	0.7	1.729	Awadhanresh, son of Ramswhare	
177/1	2.8	6.918	Brajkishore, Mahesh Prasad son of Mitha Lal, Umesh Kumar, Ganesh Prasad, Gopal Chandra, Santosh Kumar son of Mewalal, Vinod Kumar, Gudu sons of Anandi	
182/2	0.805	1.989	Kishuna, Raja son of Gajraj, Ramnarayan @ Lulu son of Horil, Dinesh, Bachelal, Serman sons of Sobha, Ramcharan son of Kedar	
184/2/2, 185/3	2.512	6.204	Kishuna, Raja sons of Gajraj, Ramnarayan @ Lulu son of Horil, Dinesh, Bachelal, Serman sons of Sobha	
184/1/3	0.525	1.296	Kishuna, Raja son of Gajraj, Ramnarayn @ Lallu son of Horil, Dinesh, Sermon, Bchchelal son of Shobha, Gudiya wife of Ramnaresh, Kalavati wife of Ram Vilas, Ramkali wife of Mataabdal	
221, 222/4, 209/1	2.879	7.114	Gyaneshwar Prasad son of Dwaraka Prasad, Udaybhan son of Dwarika Prasad, Arun Kumar son of Dwarika Prasad, Chandrashekar son of Baijnath, Akhilesh, Anant Kumar son of Ramsunder, Jagia Bai wife of Ramsunder	
222/3, 219/2	0.052	0.128	Ram Gulam son of Natthu, Shiv Prasad son of Natthu, Kamta son of Jaganaath	
176/3, 260 Min, 175/4, 260/1.	1.585	3.916	Awadesh Prasad son of Ram Prakash	
172/2	1.846	4.561	Gilla son of Gunda, Chota minor son Mayaram care-taker Gendia (Mother), Bhalu wife of Mayaram	
225/6/2	0.07	0.172	Ambuj Kumar son of Madav Murari	
230/1	0.254	0.627	Rameshwar Prasad, Ram Vishal, Santosh Kumar, Radvirishal sons of Babulal	
230 Min, 248 Min	0.276	0.681	Kamlesh Kumar and Vimlesh Kumar sons of Ram Sufal, Rameshwar and Ram Vishal sons of Babu Lal	
282/2	0.298	0.736	Bela Prasad son of Thegai	
88	0.247	0.610337	Shivkumar son of Mahesh Prasad, Sheetal Prasad son of Lal, Babulal son of Lala, Radhe, Shivmurti, Shivnarayan sons of Bacha, Surdas son of Chandprad, Sasikala wife of Lal Chandra	
260 Min	0.359	0.887089	Suresh Prasad son of Ram Prakash	

Sd/-
Vaibhav Suri

198 new COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 198 new COVID-19 cases have been detected in the district here on Wednesday, increasing the total number of cases to 10,881. Besides, the district also saw three more deaths, increasing the toll to 181. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 218 patients. Out of them, 205 patients recovered from home isolation and the total number of patients cured at home has increased to 6,486. Besides, 13 recovered from the hospital and the number of patients who have been discharged from the hospitals has reached 2,572. The total number of cured patients is now 9,058, leaving 1,642 active patients. The recovery rate has improved

to 83.24 per cent and mortality rate remained at 1.66 per cent. Meanwhile, on the instructions of District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, a special campaign has been launched to test the co-morbid persons suffering from chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, cancer etc for coronavirus. In this direction, four mobile teams of lab-bikes (LA-bikes) are busy and on the first day, they tested 361 persons, out of which 16 persons were found positive. ACO and District Immunisation Officer Dr VS Rai said that the risk of corona infection in co-morbid patients is high, due to which the surveillance campaign was conducted. So far, 92,493 per-

sons suffering from symptoms similar to the corona and suffering from chronic diseases have been examined under the campaign. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. VB Singh informed that the mass / group corona antigen tests were done at various places in the district. A day ago, in 57 tests at the Police Lines, all were found negative. Similarly, out of 206 tests at Kuber Complex, Rathyatra, all the people were found negative, while 15 tested at Hotel Adesh (Dashaswamedh police station) and 12 at Urban PHC Raighat, but none of them was detected positive. However, in 79 tests at Collectorate and Sessions Court premises, five were found positive while two were detected positive out of

112 at Haraha Sarai (Nai Sarak). CMO has informed that by the first of the day at 11 am, 145 positive patients were detected out of 2,020 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 1,54,428 and the results of 3,173 are awaited. Out of them, 1,43,600 were negative, while 10,828 positive. The total number of samples collected was 1,67,556. Earlier, two males aged 60 and 65 from Salarpur and Manduadih succumbed to COVID-19 at HIMS and Apex Hospital respectively. Besides, with the addition of 14 new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 1,838 including 386 red zones. There are 1,452 green zones including 49 new ones.

Kinnars offer 'shraddh' for ancestors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The members of Kinnar (eunuchs) Samaj led by Mahamandleshwar Lakshmi Narayan Tripathi offered Tripindi Shraddha for the peace of the souls of all the Kinnar Gurus, known and unknown ancestors of eunuchs at a religious ritual programme organised at mythological Pichasmochan Talab (pond) here on Wednesday. On the penultimate day of ongoing Pitrapaksh, there were heavy rush of the people and it is expected that the same would be increased more on the last day on Thursday. As the famous site witnessed heavy rush of people throughout the day, rarely social distancing was maintained. Besides, a good number of participants were also not wearing masks, making a mockery of all coronavirus



Kinnars offering rituals for ancestors at Pichasmochan in Varanasi on Wednesday

Pioneer

guidelines. However, the day's attraction was the pinddaan by the members of Kinnar Akhara. They strictly performed all the rituals as per the Sanathan Dharm. Lakshmi said that through the programme, they also prayed for rest in

peace of the souls of all the corona victims whose death after rituals as per the tradition could not be performed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The rituals were conducted by the priests under the leadership of Munna Lal Panda which last-

ed for almost two hours. The other important persons of the Kinnar Samaj including Devi Pavitra and Kamini Mai were also present. It was not for the first time, the eunuchs did such rituals here but in the past they came here on many occasions. Lakshmi said that eunuchs from various parts of the country came here to attend the religious programme. She said that for the first time in history, the eunuchs started a new tradition of offering pind-daan to their ancestors nearly 3,000 years after the episode of Shikhandi during the Mahabharata period. In order to pray for the peace of the souls of their ancestors and salvation, the eunuchs performed rituals. They also prayed for rest in peace of soul of Kinnar Guru Ekta Joshi who was murdered recently.

Fire breaks out in DLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A fire incident took place during morning hours in Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) here on Wednesday in which, property worth lakhs was damaged. In connection of the incident, the DLW administration has constituted a five-member committee to investigate the causes behind the incident and it will also assess the details of losses. The committee will be led by Deputy Chief Security Officer (DSDO), DLW. According to Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Vaibhav Sohane, the fire incident came into the light around



Fire incident takes place at DLW in Varanasi on Wednesday

Pioneer

6.15 am at ToT building, adjacent to Administrative Building. Fire alarm system

installed in the building sounded immediately. Two fire tenders of DLW reached the spot

immediately and started extinguishing the fire. DLW safety officials, Civil Defence and St. John's Brigade volunteers and medical team with ambulance also reached the site within 10 minutes. GAIL and UP state fire service tenders were also given a call and they also reached the site at around 7 am. With all efforts the fire was controlled by around 8.15 am. No casualties or injuries have been reported. 'Prima facie it appears that the fire broke out in the import stores section due to which the office equipment, furniture and false ceiling caught fire', said the CPRO. To extinguish the fire, the fire fighters broke several windows of the building.

BJP launches massive cleanliness drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a massive cleanliness drive on the third day of ongoing Service Week being observed to celebrate the 70th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the campaign, apart from senior party leaders and ministers, district and city office-bearers took part and offered their shramdaan. The party workers at regional, sector and ward levels also participated in the campaign. BJP state co-incharge Sunil Ojha led the cleanliness drive at Shultankeshwar temple. Expressing his views on the occasion, Ojha said that a healthy mind resides in a clean body. 'Prime Minister Modi had started the cleanliness drive from his parliamentary constituency in 2014 which has taken the form of a mass movement today. We should take care of cleanliness in and around ourselves so that diseases caused by dirt can be avoided,' he added. On the



BJP co-state incharge Sunil Ojha and others offering shramdaan during cleanliness drive in Varanasi on Wednesday

Pioneer

occasion, Kashi and Goraksh Pranth units general secretary Ratnakar, district president Hansraj Vishwakarma, Rohanian MLA Surendra Narayan Singh and many others were also present. Besides, regional president (Kashi unit) Mahesh Chand Srivastava launched the cleanliness drive near the statue of Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya

near BHU Gate at Lanka. After garlanding the statue of Malviya ji he reached Ravidas Ghat carrying a broom in his hand and sweeping the main road. Sivastava said that since the drive was launched in 2014 from Assi Ghat here by the PM, the people of the country became aware of the same and as a result this campaign has now become a mass move-

ment. Ex-MLC Dr. Veena Pandey, state spokesperson Ashok Pandey, regional media incharge Navratan Rath, Sudhir Mishra and many others were also present. UP Cabinet Minister Anil Rajbhar inaugurated the cleanliness drive at Kaccha Baba temple, Chiragaon in Shivpur assembly constituency, while Minister of State (Independent charge) Dr Neelkanth Tiwari launched the cleanliness drive at several places including Chittaranjan Park and Nawabganj spearheading the cleanliness drive in various wards of City South assembly constituency. Another local minister Ravindra Jaiswal started a drive at Maldahia, cleaning up the entire premises near the statues of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Munshi Premachandra at Pandeypur in City North constituency. MLC Laxman Acharya launched the drive in Ramnagar while MLA Saurabh Srivastava in Shivpurwa and Mayor Mridula Jaiswal at slum locality at Chittipur.

ABVP for CBI probe in BHU student missing case

VARANASI (PNS): Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), student wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on Wednesday staged a protest against the indifferent attitude of the administration of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in searching for a varsity student went missing about seven months ago and

demanding a CBI inquiry into the matter. Activists of the ABVP in scores gathered at main entrance gate of BHU and staged a protest to raise their voices against the apathy shown by varsity administration in searching for Shiv Kumar Trivedi, a BHU student who went missing about seven months ago. It is a matter of

shame that a student has been missing for last seven months but the BHU administration took no initiative to search for him and rather, it overcame its responsibility in this matter, blamed the activists adding, it is shocking that the police also did not take any concrete step to search for him. It was said that a second year B Sc student

of BHU Shiv was last seen on February 12 last. After the intervention of the court, the police started searching for him after six months of his missing but there is no headway in this connection and thus the matter should be handed over to the central investigating agency Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

388 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The outbreak of the corona pandemic continues in the Prayagraj city. In the last 24 hours, 388 new corona positive cases have been found in the district, now the number of patients has reached beyond 15,000 marks. Four corona patients died. On one hand, the graph of the corona is increasing, while on the other hand, the number of patients recovering from this deadly virus is also increasing rapidly. On Tuesday, 404 corona patients were discharged from home isolation and Covid hospitals.

The new corona patients included half-a-dozen doctors, health workers, bank workers. A doctor in the Department of Surgery of Covid ward of SRN Hospital, a junior doctor in the Department of Medicine, a pharmacist at the Mauaima Primary Health Centre, Anoop Pathology technician and a doctor of the Sahson PHC Covid Hospital tested positive.

Besides, the assistant manager posted at the rural bank of Sikandra, the assistant manager of Indian Bank Zero Road Branch and the manager of Garapur Gramin Bank have also been found infected. The corona virus has also been confirmed in CRPF personnel including a corporator, a constable of SP City office.

Another doctor's report posted at Sahaso Primary



Health Centre has again been corona positive. Four days ago, junior doctors of Swaroop Rani Nehru Covid Hospital also came positive. In fact, Sahaso's doctors tested corona positive a month ago in an RTPCR testing. About 10 days later he became negative and he was convinced that he would no longer have corona. But due to some symptoms, he got his own RTPCR check conducted along with his mother, and he was also shocked to see the report. His mother was negative in the report, but he was startled to know that his report was positive again.

Dr. Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer for COVID-19, said that the doctor's report came positive for the second time. This necessitates the patients who have become corona negative. He advised the people not to be careless, because the risk of being positive again increases. The number of active cases is 3,698. This has been confirmed by Dr. Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer of Corona. He said that the total number of infected people in the district has increased to 15,084 with 388 new infections being received on Monday, while

11,171 people have been cured. Because of this, the recovery rate remains around 73 per cent. The number of active cases has dropped to 3,698. There are 373 patients admitted in different hospitals. Most patients are admitted to Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital. According to the report, a total of 140 infected belonging to Prayagraj are admitted here in the hospital. Apart from this, 53 infected admitted in railways, 56 in Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, seven in Unani Medical College, 74 in two private hospitals, 43 in Beli Hospital. The remaining 3,325 people are in home isolation. Apart from this, 47 people have been discharged from hospitals. Of them 10 people discharged from Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, three from Railway Hospital, one from Unani Medical College, seven from Beli, seven from two private hospitals and 19 from SRN Hospital. Apart from this, samples have been taken for testing of 2,875 suspects and reports of 3,151 people have come negative. Nodal Officer for COVID-19, Dr Rishi Sahai said that 231 people have been found infected by antigen test, 136 from RTPCR and 21 in Trunot among those who came positive on Tuesday. In RTPCR, 41 people were examined in a private lab. He said that more than 55 people were tested in private and their reports came positive.

Swachhhta kit distributed among 200 Railway employees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Swachhhta Pakhwara is being observed from September 16 to 30 over North Central Railway. Swachhhta kit was distributed among 200 Railway staff at NCR HQ on Swachhhta Awareness Day. Like previous years Swachhhta Pakhwara is being observed all over North Central Railway which has advised divisions, workshops, training institutes and other units over its territory to dedicate specific days to cleaning of stations, trains, tracks, circulating area, yards, depots, toilets, drains, water vending points, pantry cars/ canteens duly observing social distancing norms.

Further seminars, competitions, reviews, publicity, awareness campaigns shall also be done through virtual or online means due to COVID-19. Focus shall also be on eradication of Single Use Plastic and it has been decided that Mahatma Gandhi birth anniversary on October 2 shall be observed in a befitting manner all over North Central Railway. Accordingly a schedule for observing Swachhhta Pakhwara over NCR has been decided. North Central Railway kick started Swachhhta Pakhwara by observing of Swachhhta Awareness Diwas at HQ office, divisions and other units on September 16. In a programme

organised under guidance of GM Rajiv Chaudhry on Swachhhta Awareness Diwas; PCME NCR Kundan Kumar and officials from EnHM wing of NCR distributed Swachhhta kit among Railway staff to create awareness on importance of personal hygiene especially during COVID-19 crisis. This kit containing mask, sanitiser and soap was distributed among 200 Railway men and women of NCR HQ office. Similar awareness campaigns were also organised by divisions and other units of NCR. **4 JUDGES TAKE OATH:** Four newly appointed judges of the Allahabad High Court took oath on Wednesday in the

Chief Justice's court room at 10 am. The oath was administered by the Chief Justice, Govind Mathur, following the rule of social distancing. All the four judges, who took oath were senior judges of the rank of district judge in the lower judiciary. A notification of their appointments was issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice on September 11, 2020 as additional judges of the Allahabad High Court for a period of two years. The judges, who took oath are - Justice Sanjay Kumar Pachauri, Justice Subhash Chandra Sharma, Justice Subhash Chandra, and Justice Saroj Yadav.

Army prepared for winter challenges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In an official communique the Defence PRO has apprised of the operational logistics readiness of the Indian Army when the neighbours are creating disturbances on the border. India is a peace loving country and wishes to have good relations with its neighbours. India always prefers to resolve issues through dialogue. While talks are in progress to resolve the issue of borders with China in Eastern Ladakh, at military level it is well prepared for the prolonged stand off.

Altitudes in Ladakh ranges from high to super high altitude and there is a lot of snow fall, after the month of November upto 40 feet of snow is experienced. Coupled with this, temperature dipping down to minus 30-40 degrees is a usual phenomenon. Wind chill factor makes matters further worse for the troops. The roads also get closed due to the snow.

But despite all this, most encouraging part for India is that the Indian soldiers have a huge experience of winter warfare and are psychologically tuned to operate at short notice.

While this fact is known to the world, the operational logistics capabilities are hardly known. Media outlets of adversary (China) media reports that India's Operational Logistics is not geared up adequately and will not be able to fight through winters effectively.

This can best be attributed to ignorance. Indian Army is fully prepared and more than capable for fighting a full fledged war even in winters in Eastern Ladakh.

Logistic capability relates to mobility, habitat and billeting, quality services from health, special rations, repair and recovery, heating systems, high quality weapons, ammunition, quality clothing, and so on.

While much of this capability existed earlier and troops could simply plug and play, a lot has also been boosted since May this year when China showed first

signs of aggression.

It is important to understand that Army has experience of Siachen where conditions are much more demanding than the frontiers with China. Traditionally there were two routes for moving into Ladakh, that is through Zojila and Rohtang Passes. Recently India commissioned the third road from Darcha to Leh which is much shorter distance wise and less prone to closure. Completion of Atal tunnel on the Rohtang route has force multiplied the logistic capacities.

In addition, we have a large number of air bases with the help of which we can maintain the army well. Modern snow clearing equipment has also been placed on these routes to keep them open beyond November, thus giving us more time for daily maintenance of the troops.

Special fuel and lubricants for tanks and armoured personnel carriers have also been stocked adequately, including spares for their maintenance. Water points and tubewells have been established for the troops and animals like mules and yaks. The living barracks have also been prepared which are comfortable and warm. Facilities such as central heating system are some of the high points of these facilities. Ammunition of various types including small arms, missiles and tank and artillery ammunition have also been adequately stocked. The medical system is also in place for any eventuality.

Compared to Indian troops that are battle hardened physically and psychologically, Chinese troops are mostly from urban areas and not used to hardships or prolonged deployment under field conditions.

China's concept has always been to win the Wars without fighting, hence if they create conditions for war, they will come across a better trained, better prepared, rested and psychologically hardened Indian troops. These worries have been percolating the minds of Chinese troops and is visible in Chinese media.

Girl allegedly raped by doc, BJP leader

ALLAHABAD (PNS): A 22-year-old girl, student of BA final year in Colonelganj, was allegedly gang-raped after the former was offered a cold drink mixed with sedatives. It is alleged that in the name of first aid, the doctor posted at Beli Hospital raped her and later pressurised her to go to the BJP leader.

Police said that an investigation is underway after registering a report on the basis of a written complaint given by the victim.

The student has given a complaint to the police, alleging that her father was badly injured in a road accident in 2011. The treatment cost a huge amount of money, with the family destroyed in debt. An acquaintance introduced her to Anil Dwivedi, a doctor in the TB section of Beli Hospital, who developed his proximity to the family by pretending to sell the land.

Then one day, he fraudulently called her to Jaya Hospital in Alolipbagh and gave her a cold drink with intoxicants and forced her for physical relations. At the same time, he also threatened her and her family for dire consequence if she dared open her mouth in this connection.

A few days later, the doctor again pressured her on the phone and then raped her at his residence near the Myorabad intersection.

After about a week, the doctor put her under pressure and took her to the Hotel Star Regency at Civil Lines near his familiar BJP leader Shyam Prakash Dwivedi. Shyam Prakash Dwivedi who was allegedly armed with a pistol, and the doctor gang raped her there. Also, they threatened to kill her if she tried to leak the issue to anyone.

The Colonelganj Inspector said that a report has been registered against the BJP leader and doctor on the basis of the victim's written complaint.

Investigation is underway. On the other hand, accused BJP leader Shyam Prakash Dwivedi alleged that he opposed conversion to an educational institution, so he was implicated under the conspiracy.

Drug controller asked to ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply

No shortage of Covid medicines: ACS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Rajnesh Dube has directed the Uttar Pradesh Drug Controller to ensure that there is no crisis of oxygen and COVID-19 drugs.

He said all steps had been taken to ensure that oxygen was supplied to government hospitals at the rates decided in the supply agreement. He warned that if there was any complaint of black-marketing of oxygen, strict legal action would be taken against the firm concerned.

The additional chief secretary directed private hospitals to sign contract with oxygen suppliers so that it was supplied at the rates settled by them. He said there were reports that in the absence of rate contract, some oxygen suppliers had increased the rates.

Dube, who addressed Kanpur Nagar officials through video conferencing, said there

369 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 369 fresh cases of coronavirus infection till Wednesday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said 369 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening, taking the count of confirmed cases to 21374. He said a total of 65 cases were discharged and 5737 COVID-19 patients had been cured in the city so far, and at present 4822 active coronavirus cases were undergoing treatment.

The CMO said 11 COVID-19 deaths were reported in the city till Wednesday evening taking the toll to 554. He said a total of 6637 samples were sent for testing in the district.

were rumours that there was an acute crisis of remdesivir injections but the health officials had informed the government that there was enough stock of it so treatment of COVID-19 patients would never be hindered.

The additional chief secretary directed the authorities concerned to ensure that there was no crisis of any medicine

or oxygen, as was being reported by the media.

He said strict monitoring should also be done of the druggists and suppliers. He asked the district officials to see that there was no hoarding of oxygen cylinders, adding that hoarding of oxygen cylinders was punishable as per law.

It may be mentioned here

that private hospitals have hiked the price of oxygen cylinders in the patients' bill on the pretext that it being short in supply, its was being provided to hospitals at higher rate. People who approach medical stores for oxygen cylinder have to pay the hiked price or return empty-handed. This is causing problems to COVID-19 patients in home isolation.

Meanwhile, LLR Hospital Chief Medical Superintendent Dr Richa Giri said as 80 per cent of the medicines were being supplied by Uttar Pradesh Medical Supply Corporation and only 20 per cent were being purchased at the local level, this had created a crisis of antibiotics.

She claimed that currently there was a stock of just 25 days and if the restriction on local purchase of medicines was not lifted immediately, it could create problems.

Dr Giri said the issue had already been brought to the notice of the government.

Niine joins hands with RR to break a taboo

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Conversations around periods and the usage of sanitary napkins must no longer be held in hushed tones. Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day speech highlighted his support for breaking taboos about menstruation. These discussions cannot be restricted to only women if we are to break the stigma surrounding this biological process as menstruation concerns us all.

In order to bring menstruation and safe menstrual hygiene practices into the mainstream, home grown brand Niine has partnered with the Rajasthan Royals.

Rajasthan Royals will display the Niine logo on the back of the team's jersey for the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League to be held in the UAE from September 19 to November 10, 2020.

Niine brand, born from a small town of UP just over two years ago has managed to establish a strong market with its premium yet affordable range of products.

Niine has constantly been a driving force for social acceptability to free women from menstrual shackles that may be imposed by society. At Niine, there has been a conscious effort to break stereotypes and ensure that families and men, in particular, are open to seeing and discussing sanitary products within their families.

By breaking taboos and encouraging conversations, Niine has become instrumental in empowering women to be at the forefront of this initiative. Rajasthan Royals, as a sporting organisation, believe in being at the forefront of change by working with empowered women to further educate society through their meaningful initiatives.

This partnership is a true exemplification of the synergy between the two brands and the belief and vision carried by them. Prior to this, back in 2016, Niine's parent company, Shudh Plus, had joined hands with Gujarat Lions in a front title sponsorship.

Sharat Khemka, founder of the brand, is fond of cricket. Khemka also understands that cricket is not just a game but a religion in India, hence the best platform for making people, especially men, more aware for a cause like this and help bring menstruation at the forefront.

Rajasthan Royals are poised to be the vehicle that will help educate men through the IPL 2020 season by building not only awareness but also understanding on a grand scale.

"Rajasthan Royals is known for their affinity with social causes, and share a common vision of empowering women to strengthen India further. We are very excited at this partnership and look forward to a strong season of innings and knock out menstrual shackles from lives of our girls and women, together."

"We also believe IPL is a powerful platform that reaches out to millions and millions of men and women in our country and internationally, and can be a catalyst in doing away with the embarrassment faced by many when it comes to sanitary napkins or in talks about periods."

Drug peddlers' gang busted

KANPUR (PNS): The Anwarganj police have busted a gang of drug peddlers with the arrest of three persons carrying 14.350 kg ganja late Tuesday night.

Police registered a case under NDPS Act against the accused and sent them to jail.

SHO Gangadhar said during vehicle checking at Bansmandi crossing, three suspicious youths were spotted riding a bike and a scooter.

During search, they were found in possession of 14.350 kg ganja, one country-made pistol, one live cartridge, motorcycle, scooter and two mobile phones.

The accused were identified as Mohd Aziz alias Bhaiya of Lalimli, Civil Lines; Sagar and Sunny of Makhi (Unnao). Sagar and Sunny were involved in smuggling of drugs and delivery of goods to different districts.

8 pairs of clone spl trains to run from Sep 21

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

As per the decision taken by the Railway Board the movement of eight pairs of clone special trains will be done from/via North Eastern Railway (NER) from September 21. Clone special trains will be fully reserved, said CPRO PK Singh. The advance reservation time for these trains is 10 days and their fare will be like Humsafar Express. The movement of clone specials from NER:- 04055 Ballia-Delhi tri-weekly clone special train will depart from Ballia at 14.10 hours on every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and reach Delhi at 06:25 hours the second day. During the return journey 04056 Delhi-Ballia tri-weekly clone special train will depart from Delhi every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 18.00 hours and reach Ballia at 10.00 am the second day. The 04055/04056 Ballia-Delhi-Ballia clone special train will stop at Ghazipur City, Jaunpur, Prayagraj Jn and Kanpur Central Stations on its journey route. The 09065 Surat-Chhapra weekly clone special train will leave Surat at 08:30 hrs on every Monday and reach Chhapra at 14:30 hrs on second day. During the return journey the 09066 Chhapra-Surat Weekly clone special train will leave Chhapra every Wednesday at 08:30 hrs and reach Surat at 14:45 hrs the next day. The 09065/09066 Surat-Chhapra-Surat weekly clone special train will stop at Bhusaval, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Prayagraj Jn, Varanasi and Shahganj stations on its journey route. The movement of clone specials through NER:- The 02563 Saharsa-New Delhi clone special will leave Saharsa at 05:15 hours daily and reach New Delhi at 05:10 hours the next day. In the return journey 02564 New Delhi-Saharsa clone special train will depart from New Delhi at 17:50 hours daily and reach Saharsa at 18:30 hours the next day. The 02563/02564 Saharsa-New Delhi-Saharsa clone special train will stop at Barauni, Chapra, Gorakhpur, Aishbagh and Kanpur Central stations on its journey route. The 02569 Darbhanga-New Delhi clone special will depart from Darbhanga daily at 07:00 hours and reach New Delhi at 04:00 hours the next day. During the return journey 02570 New Delhi-Darbhanga clone special will depart from New Delhi at 12:15 hours daily and reach Darbhanga at 09:15 hours the next day. The 02569/02570 Darbhanga-New Delhi-Darbhanga clone special will stop at

Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Chhapra, Gorakhpur, Aishbagh and Kanpur Central stations on its journey route. The 02573 Muzaffarpur-Delhi weekly clone special will depart from Muzaffarpur every Sunday at 09:40 hours and reach Delhi at 05:30 hours the next day. During the return journey 02574 Delhi-Muzaffarpur weekly clone special will leave Delhi at 12.50 hours on every Monday and reach Muzaffarpur at 10:30 hours the next day. The 02573/02574 Muzaffarpur-Delhi-Muzaffarpur weekly clone special will stop at Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Moradabad stations on its journey route. The 04653 New Jalpaiguri-Amritsar weekly clone special will depart from New Jalpaiguri every Friday at 07:00 hours and reach Amritsar at 16:20 hours the next day. In the return journey 04654 Amritsar-Newjalpaiguri weekly clone special will leave Amritsar at 08:10 hours on every Wednesday and reach New Jalpaiguri at 17:45 hours the next day. The 04653/04654 New Jalpaiguri-Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri weekly clone special on its journey route will stop at Katihar, Samastipur, Chhapra, Gorakhpur, Sitapur, Moradabad and Saharanpur stations. The 04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar tri-weekly clone special will depart from Jaynagar at 06:15 hrs on every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday and reach Amritsar at 13:00 hours the next day. During the return journey 04652 Amritsar-Jaynagar tri-weekly clone special will leave Amritsar at 10:55 hours every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday and reach Jaynagar at 20:00 hours the next day. The 04651/04652 Jaynagar-Amritsar-Jaynagar tri-weekly clone special will on its journey route stop at Samastipur, Chhapra, Shahganj, Lucknow, Moradabad, Delhi and Ambala Cantt stations. The 09465 Ahmedabad-Darbhanga Weekly clone special will leave Ahmedabad at 20:40 hrs on every Friday and reach Darbhanga at 09:30 hrs on the third day. In the return journey 09466 Darbhanga-Ahmedabad weekly clone special will leave Darbhanga at 04:00 hrs on every Monday and reach Ahmedabad at 16:20 hrs the next day. 09465/09466 Ahmedabad-Darbhanga-Ahmedabad weekly clone special will halt at Ratlam, Ujjain, Guna, Jhansi, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Faizabad, Shahganj, Chapra and Samastipur stations. The rakes of Humsafar Express will be used in these clone special trains in which a total of 18 coaches will be attached, including two each of generator-cum-luggage and third AC and four of sleeper class.

Ganja seized; 6 arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Six smugglers were arrested along with 225 kg ganja worth ₹20 lakh on Monday. The joint team of SWAT, SOG and Vindhychal police received an input about the transportation of ganja and started checking vehicles at Doodhnath Tiraha. When the police stopped an Innova its four occupants tried to flee but were caught. At this the two occupants of a DCM truck which was behind it too tried to flee but were nabbed. During interrogation the accused said that the ganja was being transported from Odisha by hiding it under coconuts and was to be sold at Mathura and its adjoining places. The police team was awarded cash reward of ₹15,000.



Regional Manager, Bank of Baroda, Basant Singh Chaudhary honouring bank's law officer Vivek Tripathi at the regional office in Bettahata, Gorakhpur. DyRM SK Singh and Rajphasha Officer Rahul Kumar were also present.

One held with intoxicating powder

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Katra Kotwali police arrested a criminal along with intoxicating powder. The Dankenganj police outpost incharge was patrolling when was informed about the presence of some miscreants near PNB. The police raided the spot and arrested Dilip alias Lalau Yadav whose name figured in the list of top-10 criminals with a countrymade gun etc.

Three criminals apprehended

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUIN

Three criminals were arrested in connection with a loot case from the road connecting Ajnari village to Kanpur-Jhansi highway on Tuesday. The police confiscated two illegal pistols, five cartridges, 115 gm intoxicating powder, a knife, three cell phones, ₹550 and a Swift Dzire car etc from the possession of the criminals identified as Shakil, Namu Narayan and Mohan. SP Yashveer Singh said that the complaint of Ikbai Singh Bhatia, a resident of Jhansi, regarding the loot of his car on September 10 an FIR was lodged. A team was constituted under the guidance of ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh and leadership of CO Santosh Kumar. The joint

teams of SOG, surveillance and Kotwali Orail launched a search operation. The police arrested two accused with the looted Swift Dzire car during an encounter. The third accused Mohan was nabbed from Kanpur-Jhansi highway. SP said that the accused administered some intoxicating substance to the victim and committed the crime when he lost his consciousness. The team which made the arrest comprised inspector JP Pal, incharge Kotwali Orail, S-I Praveen Kumar (SOG incharge), S-Is Chandan Pandey and Ramveer Singh, head constable, Satya Prakash, and constables Ajay Kumar, Pradeep Kumar, Ramu Yadav, Akhil Kumar, Mukesh Purohit, Shailendra Chauhan, Bhupendra Singh, Gaurav Bajpai, Jagdish, Vinay Pratap Singh, Shreeram Prajapati, Punit Kumar and Karmveer.

20 girls benefit under Kishori Shiksha Samadhan Yojana

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUIN

A programme under Kishori Shiksha Samadhan Yojana was held under the presidency of DM Mannan Akhtar at the GIC, Orail, on Tuesday. The distinguished guests were SP Dr Yashveer Singh and CMO Dr Alpna Barataria. DM in collaboration with the district administration, Secondary Education department, Jalauin, and social workers provided benefits to 20 girls. It was conducted by DIOS Bhagwat Patel. DM said that social workers would provide books and education materials to girls. Social worker Sanjay Singh provided items of daily use to girls. DIOS said that Shivani, Niketa Devi and Kajal

were adopted by a social worker Dr Nitin Mittal for their education and Kriti Soni by Dr Alpna Barataria. Besides Ricky was adopted by DIOS, Priyanka and Laxmi by Dr CP Gupta, Dipanjali by Vineet Agarwal, Shipri Devi by Kaushal Kishore Gurjar, Anushka Jatav by Bhupendra Rajput, Sakshi and Rohini by Rupesh Batham, Sanjuma by Avinash, Sadhana by Ajay Itauriya, Kirti and Sadhana by Rajaram Niranjan, Madhu by Uttam Kumar Niranjan, Nisha and Meera by Mahendra Gupta for their education. Cell phones and 15 tablets were given to girls and bicycles to three others. Social workers Alim Sir, Sanjeev Tyagi, Dr Mamta Swarnakar, Anurag and Amit Nayak were present.

Hindi Fortnight concludes at NTPC Rihand

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The Hindi Fortnight concluded at NTPC Rihand with the organising of award distribution function at administrative building on Monday in a simplistic manner maintaining social distancing. ED Balaji lyengar was the chief guest. He inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp along with other guests. Earlier the guests were welcomed and NTPC song was sung. In his address lyengar appreciated various programmes organised during the fortnight and said that we could help in furthering Hindi by using it more and more in our daily lives. "Hindi should be there in our thinking. To enrich Hindi, we should study Hindi literature," he added. Later the awards were presented to the winners by the jury members and other guests. Earlier, AGM (HR) KS Murthy welcomed the guests and gave details of the programme organised during the fortnight. The first winners of various online competitions gave their presentations which were highly appreciated. The function was conducted jointly by executive (Corporate Communications) Shiksha Gupta and B Seshan while the vote of thanks was proposed by AGM (EEMG) and Rajbhasha Implementation Committee member Hareram Singh. CGM (O&M) AC Sahu, GMs M Ramesh, AK Chattopadhyay, KN Reddy, S Krishna, KC Tripathi,

Nand Kishore and AK Papanaja were also present. **HINDI DIWAS:** ED of NTPC Vindhychal Munish Johri, throwing light on the development and importance of Rajbhasha Hindi in his message on Monday said that it was a great day for us because on this day i.e. on September 14, 1949, Hindi was adopted by our Constitution as the official language of the Union of India. He greeted all the GMs, heads of departments and employees connected through online during the day's programme. He said that it was a commendable work done by Rajbhasha unit of NTPC Vindhychal that during the global pandemic various competitions were organised online maintaining the guidelines of Rajbhasha department of Union Ministry of Home Affairs. He expressed the hope that NTPC Vindhychal would continue its efforts in future to get first position in compliance with Rajbhasha implementation. GM (HR) Uttam Lal greeted everyone on Hindi Diwas and informed about the importance of the day and the work being done by NTPC Vindhychal. CGM (O&M), all GMs, heads of various departments, senior officers and employees were connected through online. Earlier during the fortnight, Hindi GK competition related to technical/administrative/official terminology for all project employees was conducted online. Senior officials and employees participated in it with great enthusiasm.

DM asks docs to remain in hospital during duty hours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari has asked doctors to remain present in the hospital during their duty hours and warned that disciplinary action would be taken against those not found at hospital while on duty.

Addressing a meeting here on Wednesday, Tiwari directed the static magistrates to ensure that anaesthetists, chest specialists and post-graduate doctors were available in the hospital round-the-clock. He said all these doctors had to report their presence on duty to the chief medical officer every day.

The district magistrate said all static magistrates would have to be present at the hospital assigned to them to monitor the presence of doctors. Tiwari said the static mag-



The District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari, along with other official carried out a surprise raid on Rama Medical College on Wednesday.

istrates would see that there was no over-billing and in case of any complaint in this regard, the facts would be cross-checked and if found true, action would be taken against the hospital administration and the static magistrates as well.

He stressed on special monitoring of critical patients. The district magistrate made surprise inspection of Rama Medical College and took feedback about the ICU facility.

Tiwari directed the hospital management to increase the ICU beds to 75 on a war footing. He also directed the hospital authorities to ensure the presence of doctors in the prescribed ratio.

He then took feedback from the patients in the ICU and also interacted with their relatives.

PS reviews KDA geotagging work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh held a meeting with the Principal Secretary (Housing & Urban Planning) through video conference on Wednesday in which the latter reviewed the progress of geotagging work for the establishment of Uttar Pradesh Centre for Geo Informatics.

Singh later held a meeting with KDA officials and directed Secretary SP Singh to submit a report on installation of rainwater harvesting system, issuance of completion certificates and initiating compounding action within the next two weeks.

He also sought a report on geo-tagging from sales incharge and executive engineer within a week.

Retired IAS officer Keshav



KDA Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh reviews progress of various works with departmental officers on Wednesday.

Verma gave a presentation on Riverfront Development. Secretary SP Singh, Additional Secretary Gudakesh Sharma and other senior officers were

present in the meeting. Meanwhile, KDA enforcement squad got land worth around Rs.3.39 crore freed from unauthorised possession

on Tuesday.

Under the Sujatganj Housing Scheme, the team found unauthorised possession on plot Nos 253, 175 and 176 and got it vacated. Thereafter, the possession was handed over the allottees of these plots.

During the drive, OSD Alok Kumar Verma, Joint Secretary KK Singh, Executive Engineer Manoj Kumar Upadhyaya, Tehsildar Vyas Narain, Assistant Engineer RK Pandey, Junior Engineer Ravindra Prakash, SK Gupta, MM Sati, officials of engineering and enforcement department, local police and PAC force were present.

It may be recalled that on the directives of the KDA vice chairman, a drive has been launched to free plots from unauthorised possession and remove unauthorised constructions.

Jagruk Matdata Manch honours 51 karsewaks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Under the aegis of Jagruk Matdata Manch, a Karsewak Samman Samaroh in the memory of Vishwa Hindu parishad chief Ashok Singhal was organised at Gyan Bharti Balika Inter College in Birhana Road here on Tuesday evening. The event was organised to mark Sangharsh Divas when on September 15, 2004, police had cane-charged the then BJP MLA Salil Vishnoi and caused him serious injury during his agitation for civic amenities.

On this occasion, as many as 51 karsewaks who had played a leading role during Ram Janmabhoomi movement and were lodged in jail, were felicitated by the RSS prant pracharak Ramji, vibhag karyavah Bhavani Bhikh and

BJP state vice-president and convener of the programme Salil Vishnoi.

Recalling the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, Ramji highlighted the contribution of Ashok Singhal and praised the role of thousands of karsewaks.

Mannalal Omar of Koda (Jahanabad), who has donated Rs 30 lakh for the Ram temple construction, was extended special felicitation. The proceedings were conducted by Jagruk Matdata Manch secretary Dharm Prakash Gupta while president of the organisation, Kamlesh Pathak, proposed the vote of thanks.

Prominent persons present on the occasion were RSS district sarsangchalak Hari Shyam Gupta, corporators Yashpal Singh, Vikas

Jaiswal, Guru Narain Gupta, Deepak Sharma, Ramesh Balmiki, Vijay Omar, Sanhya Misra and Chandra Kant.

MAN KILLS DAUGHTER

In a case of honour killing, a man axed his daughter to death when she was present with her paramour in Khanpana village under Gajner police station of Kanpur Dehat on Wednesday morning.

Police arrested the assailant and recovered the blood-stained axe from the spot.

SP (Kanpur Dehat) Keshav Kumar and ASP Anoop Kumar along with forensic team reached the spot and carried out investigations.

The villagers informed the police that the 19-year-old

girl was having an affair with a neighbouring youth and both secretly met and often went outside the village together without the knowledge of their family members.

They said four days ago, he girl's mother had gone to her parents' house in Maitha village, leaving behind her daughter to cook food.

On Wednesday morning, her father had gone to the field. On returning home, he saw his daughter with the youth. On being scolded, when the daughter started arguing, he attacked the couple with the axe, killing his daughter while her lover managed to escape.

The injured youth was admitted to hospital.

A police force was deployed there to avert any untoward incident.

Russia inks deal with Dr Reddy's for Sputnik-V trial in India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the world races to develop vaccines to combat the deadly Covid-19, India on Wednesday witnessed two major developments in the sector: While the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) inked a deal with Dr Reddy's Laboratories to conduct a clinical trial and distribution of 100 million doses of its Covid-19 vaccine, Sputnik V, in India, the Serum Institute of India (SII) got the DCGI nod to resume the clinical trial of the Oxford coronavirus vaccine candidate here but with certain precautionary conditions.

Under the agreement, RDIF, which is Russia's sovereign wealth fund, will supply 100 million doses of Russia's shot to the Indian drug maker. Both the trials and supply deal depend on central drug regulator's approval. If the trials are successful, the vaccine will be available in India by the end of this year, said the RDIF in a statement. It was developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology on August 11 and was registered by the Ministry of Health of Russia to become the world's first registered vaccine against Covid-19 based on the human adenovi-

Covid cases in paramilitary forces cross 33K mark

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 infections in the paramilitary forces have surpassed the 33,000-mark and the deaths due to the disease have breached the 100 tally.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has reported 9,253 cases of Covid-19 infections till now and 42 patients have succumbed to the illness. While 1,463 patients continue to be active, the remaining have been cured.

Likewise, the Border Security Force (BSF) has reported 9,337 cases of infection and 25 casualties to Covid-19. As many as 1,860 cases continue to be active in the BSF ranks.

ral vectors platform.

The RDIF further said, "Upon regulatory approval in India, RDIF shall supply to Dr. Reddy's 100 million doses of the vaccine. The Sputnik V



The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has reported 5,719 cases of Covid-19 infection in its ranks and 24 personnel have died due to the disease. A total of 1,293 patients continue to be active.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has reported

3,428 cases of Covid-19 and seven personnel have died due to the viral disease. As many as 856 patients continue to be active.

The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has recorded 3,132 cases of Covid-19 and seven casualties due to the infection.

"Deliveries could potentially begin in late 2020 subject to completion of successful trials and registration of the vaccine by regulatory authorities in India," it added.

The National Security Guards (NSG) has reported 230 cases of novel coronavirus infection without a single casualty in its ranks. Forty five patients are still active in the NSG ranks.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has reported 493 cases of Covid-19 infection and one death due to the pandemic. Ten cases are active in its ranks.

As on September 10, the Assam Rifles has reported 1,605 cases of Covid-19 and deaths due to the viral disease.

The total number of Covid-19 infections across the paramilitary forces stand at 33,280 cases and 111 deaths due to the viral disease.

Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, said: "We are very pleased to partner with Dr.Reddy's in India. India is amongst most severely impact-

Next of kin of CAPF personnel to get addl ₹15L in case of Covid death

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday informed the Parliament that in addition to the normal benefits available to a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel on death, it has been decided to provide ₹ 15 lakh to the next of kin through Bharat Ke Veer funds in case of fatality due to the viral infection contracted while deployed on Covid-19 related duties.

Covid-19"

GV Prasad, Co-Chairman and Managing Director of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, said that the Phase I and II results have shown promise, and we will be conducting Phase-III trials in India to meet the requirements of the Indian regulators. "Sputnik-V vaccine could provide a credible option in our fight against Covid-19 in India," he said.

Meanwhile, giving its nod to the SII to start the trial, the DCGI asked the SII to submit details of medication used in accordance with the protocol for management of adverse events. The DCGI also revoked its order on new recruitment for phase two and three trials to the SII.

The DCGI had on September 11 directed SII to suspend any new recruitment in the phase two and three clinical trial of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine candidate till further orders in the backdrop of pharma giant AstraZeneca pausing the clinical trials in other countries because of "an unexplained illness" in a participant in the study.

Nadda accuses Cong of being 'double faced' over farmers' Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of three bills related to farmers being voted in Parliament, BJP President JP Nadda on Wednesday charged the Congress with being "double faced" and playing politics by opposing the "revolutionary bills" in the two houses even as he asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is actually implementing what the opposition party had promised to the farmers in its 2019 manifesto.

A day after the Lok Sabha passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which seeks to deregulate food items, including cereals, pulses and onion and aimed at raising farmers' income, the BJP claimed that its Government was "freeing" farmers from an outdated and restrictive system.

The Bill, which would now go to the Rajya Sabha and two other bills on the floor, have been described as "revolutionary" and "far sighted" by Nadda. He said it would increase the price of the produce, give freedom to farmers to sell their produce outside the 'Mandi' and increase private investment in agriculture.

He said the Essential

Commodities Act, 1955, had turned outdated as it was then needed to regulate the market and prevent hoarding.

The produce of wheat, rice and dal, he said, has now increased ten, four and two and half-times respectively and the market requires to be deregulated.

"You can now sell produce outside mandi also in a competitive market to get the best price in a transparent manner," said the BJP President.

Nadda said contract farming would be on a written document on the produce and not on the land with "assured price, bonus and variables for the farmer", he claimed.

Charging Congress with having a "double-faced" stand, the BJP chief said Congress promised to remove all restrictions on the agriculture produce in its 2019 manifesto and demanded replacement of 1955 Act.

"Modiji has implemented what Congress promised. The same Congress is now opposing these bills in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha," Nadda said and asserted they were meant for the "azadi of kisans".

He said despite the progressive legislation for farmers, the system of Minimum Support Price for the farmers would continue.

June 19 a 'black day', Modi lied to nation on Chinese aggression: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday called June 19 a "black day" in India's history, alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "lied" to the nation on the day about the Chinese transgressions in Ladakh.

The party also attacked the Modi Government for taking loans to the tune of ₹750 million (₹5,521 crore) from Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to provide financial support to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), a scheme launched to help the poor hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, at a time when the armed forces were fighting China's People's Liberation Army in eastern Ladakh.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi too attacked the government on the issue. "Understand the chronology: PM said no one has entered Indian territory, then took loans from China-based bank, then defence minister said China has intruded into our territory and now

home minister says no infiltration along India-China border. Is the Modi government with Indian armed forces or with China? Why is there so much of fear?" Rahul, who is currently abroad, tweeted.

Addressing reporters outside the Parliament House complex here, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera claimed that the Union ministers are speaking in different languages on the India-China border standoff.

"June 19 is a black day in the history of India because that was the first time that any Prime Minister lied to the nation. Not only did he give a clean chit to China that day, but also signed a loan agreement with the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to the tune of ₹750 million (Rs 5,521 crore)," he said. China is the largest shareholder in AIIB.

"By then, 20 of our brave soldiers had sacrificed their lives while protecting our sovereignty in violent clashes with Chinese troops," added Khera.

SC orders fresh probe into mysterious death of NLU student in 2017

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside a closure report filed by Rajasthan Police and ordered a fresh investigation into the mysterious death of a third-year student of the National Law University, Jodhpur, in August 2017.

A bench of justices R F Nariman, Navin Sinha and Indira Banerjee said, "We have set aside the closure report. We have directed a de-novo investigation with certain more directions".

On September 8, the top court had said there is a need for a re-investigation in the case. "We may direct re-investigation. This is not the way," the top court had observed after perusing the report filed by the Rajasthan Police in the matter. In July, the top court had said that the investigation in the matter should be completed within two months and a final report be filed before it. While claiming that an FIR was lodged in the case after a delay of around 10 months in June 2018, the petitioner has alleged that the manner in which the probe was conducted "leads to an inescapable reasonable apprehension" that it is a result of a "probable collusion to shield some high, mighty and influential person(s)".

Centre approved anti-viral medicines to treat Covid-19 patients, says SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said there was an approval by the Central Government on use of Remdesivir and Favipiravir as medicines to treat COVID-19.

The top court was hearing a plea seeking registration of an FIR by the CBI against ten Indian pharmaceutical firms for manufacturing and selling these two medicines for treating COVID-19 patients allegedly without valid licences.

Remdesivir and Favipiravir are antiviral drugs and their efficacy in treating COVID-19 patients have been a matter of debate among medical experts.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian referred to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2018 and said these medicines have been permitted by the Government for using in treatment of novel coronavirus patients.

Archaeological hotspot 'Sinauli' gets 'national importance' tag

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Around 28 hectares of the Archaeologically rich site in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat area in Sinauli where "sacred chambers", chariots, decorated "legged coffins" as well as fascinating artifact pointing to the presence of a warrior class around 4,000 years ago were excavated two years ago has got the tag of 'national importance'. The Government issued a notification in this regard recently.

The Union Culture Ministry, which supervises the functioning of the country's premier conservation body, Archeological

Survey of India (ASI), had issued a preliminary notification in June to bring the site under its fold.

The aim is to protect the site from encroachment, tampering and destruction. Around 28.67 hectares of land mostly belonging to the locals in the region has been brought under protection, according to which while the farmers of the land will be allowed to carry on agricultural practices but they will not be permitted to construct any permanent structure. "Sanauli is an important site from an archeological point of view as artifacts

found from the venue are not only of national importance but of international importance too. Much remains yet to be explored," said archeologist SK Manjul who is credited for the unearthing coffins and sacred chambers important artifacts from the site in 2018.

Sanauli is located on the left bank of the River Yamuna, 68 km north-east of Delhi which brought to light the largest necropolis of the late Harappan period datable to around early part of second millennium BCE.

Manjul said that the unearthed chariots, some



coffins, shields, swords and helmets points towards the

existence of a "warrior class in the area around 2,000 BCE". The three chariots found in burial pits indicate the possibility of "royal burials" while other findings confirm the population of a warrior class here, he added. "These findings are important to understand the culture pattern of the Upper Ganga-Yamuna doab. We found copper swords, helmets, shields and chariots," Manjul said.

He claimed that the discovery of chariots put India on a par with ancient civilisations in Mesopotamia and Greece, where chariots were used extensively.

After 6-month, Mamata to resume administrative meetings soon

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After almost a six-month gap Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has decided to visit the districts to hold administrative meetings. Her district tour will begin with visits to North Bengal towns where the Chief Minister will take stock of situations, officials at State Secretariat Nabanna said.

The resumption of Banerjee's administrative meetings amid corona crisis comes in the backdrop intensified movements on the part of principal Opposition party BJP.

The Chief Minister will reach Siliguri on September 21 where she will stay for a night before holding meetings with district officials of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri districts at

"Uttarkanya" building which is the second secretariat of the State.

After meeting officials there she would the district authorities of Darjeeling, Coochbehar and Kalimpong before returning to Kolkata on September 24, sources said.

Soon after coming to power Banerjee had started regular administrative trips to district headquarters taking along with him respective ministers, and secretaries. During administrative meetings she would confront local authorities and evaluate their progress report on various pending projects. Besides she would also meet local people to take feedbacks from them.

The formula had yielded results with the effect that projects were speedily completed.

Banerjee had held an administrative meeting out of Kolkata for the last time in the month of March when she visited Malda. Subsequently with the outbreak of corona pandemic the programmes had to be halted.

On whether corona protocols would be compromised in the crowded meetings in the district a senior official said "all precautions are being taken".

Meanwhile, pooh-poohing the resumption of administrative meeting State BJP leader Sayantan Basu said "such eye-washes would hardly yield any result because the people have already made up their minds to throw out this Government... We had said that in 2019 we will make them half and we have done that by reducing the TMC to 22 out of 42 seats ...

State BJP to stage Nabanna march on Oct 6

Now we have promised to make them 'saaf' (clear them out) and we will do that with the help of the people. No amount of administrative meeting will help."

Bengal Minister Partho Chatterjee however said "The victory of 2019 has gone to BJP's head and in the past one year they have shown their metal to the people. Now they have once again made up their mind because they know that their future lies with Mamata Banerjee and not the communal party like BJP"

Meanwhile, the State BJP had decided to stage a Nabanna march on October 6, party sources said adding the march will be organized to raise a number of issues including corruption, syndicate raj, falling law and order situation etc.

JAYA BACHCHAN REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF BOLLYWOOD

Mumbai Police ramps up security outside 'Jalsa'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After actress-turned-Samajwadi MP Jaya Bachchan spoke vociferously in Rajya Sabha against the attempts being made by certain people to "vilify" Bollywood, the Mumbai Police on Wednesday beefed up security outside the outside Bachchans' bungalow "Jalsa" at Juhu in north-west Mumbai.

Taking serious cognisance of intense trolling that Jaya has come under after remarks in Rajya Sabha made in response to BJP MP and Bhojpuri actor Ravi Kishan and actress Kangana Ranaut, the Mumbai police deployed police personnel outside Bachchans residence "Jalsa" to ensure against untoward incidents.

Simultaneously, the Mumbai Police Cyber Cell is looking into trolling and virulent social media posts that have targeted the Bachchans during the last two days. Talking to media persons here, Mumbai Guardian Minister Aslam Shaikh said: "I have told the Mumbai police to increase security for the Bachchan family which is being trolled and targeted viciously in the social media after her remarks in support of Bollywood in Parliament"

It may be recalled that actor Ravi Kishan said that there was a drug problem in Bollywood, Jaya Bachchan had hit back saying that some attempts were being made to "vilify" Bollywood.

"Just because of a few people, you cannot vilify the whole

industry... I was really embarrassed and ashamed that yesterday one of our members in the Lok Sabha, who is from the industry, spoke against the film industry. Jis thaali mein khaate hain usi mein chhed karte hain (they are biting the hand that feeds them)," Jaya had said in Rajya Sabha, without naming Kishan.

"At a time when the financial situation is in a depressing state and employment rate at the worst levels, in order to divert the attention of people, we are being flooded on social media and there is no support from the government.... the entertainment industry in the country provides direct employment to 5 lakh people daily and indirect employment to 5 million people," Jaya had said.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

"Pinarayi Vijayan is the direct beneficiary of gold smuggling scam, LIFE Mission corruption and drug trafficking. That's the reason behind his over enthusiasm in saving and protecting K T Jaleel, the minister for higher education who has been questioned by the Enforcement Directorate," declared K Surendran, president of the Kerala BJP on Wednesday.

Surendran, who was addressing hundreds of party workers including activists of Mahila Morcha, said that Vijayan was afraid of his own shadow. "It is because of his sense of guilt. We want the investigating agencies to question Vijayan's daughter and son-in-law in these cases," said the BJP leader.

The BJP president was referring to Vijayan's press briefing on Tuesday evening when he shouted at the former describing him as a person who lost his mental balance. "A sense of fear is haunting Vijayan and it is because of his involvement in the criminal deeds," charged Surendran.

Earlier VV Rajesh, senior BJP leader, alleged that the CPI(M) was conspiring with the Police in sabotaging the rallies and demonstrations organized by the saffron brigade all over Kerala.

"There were many instances at Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur when policemen without name-boards and number plates beating up BJP activists," alleged Rajesh.

Pak renews map war

Despite Russia's protests, it circulates fictitious map showing parts of India at SCO. Is China behind this adventurism?



Pakistan is playing a dangerous geo-political game, needling India from the other end as China's serf State, without realising that all of it could boomerang on itself. Having failed to internationalise the Kashmir issue despite the abrogation of Article 370, it has now taken its territorial aggression to redrawing its maps and appropriating what it fancifully feels is owed to it. So in August it released a new map, incorporating Kashmir, parts of Ladakh and Junagadh in Gujarat. India had rightly called this vacuous and unilateral declaration, which is not backed by any credible reasoning, support groups, historical reasoning or legal validity, as a "political absurdity." So Pakistan, in a bid to legitimise its claims, circulated this map at a virtual meeting of the national security advisors of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries, despite host Russia's resistance. India rightly walked out of the meeting, saying Pakistan's move violated SCO norms, which mandated that no bilateral issue would be discussed and that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member-states would be respected. The Russia-India-China axis dominates the SCO, which, as a counterweight to the US-dominated NATO, has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations accounting for almost 44 per cent of the world population, stretching from the Arctic Ocean to the Indian Ocean and from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea. China is seeking to use it in its global domination against the US and while it has sufficiently debt-trapped Central Asian republics and other regional players to do its bidding, it is trying to neutralise Russia by becoming its biggest investor and is now needling India. Considering that India is intransigent on yielding to China's terms on the Ladakh standoff, regardless of the meetings of the Foreign and Defence Ministers of both nations on the sidelines of the SCO, it just wanted to embarrass India, making it look like an "occupier" at a public forum. And for this it used its proxy, Pakistan. China has also been trying to convince Russia to scale down its defence deals with India following the border stand-off and the map fiasco, which undoubtedly has left Moscow red-faced, was about strong-arming it as well. True, Russia is pragmatic enough about keeping both China and India on its side to establish its relevance in a multi-polar world and even front India to counter Chinese heft. But China certainly doesn't want India, which has won brownie points at international fora for being decorous and respecting the rule of law, to prevail at SCO. In fact, it was what Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said recently that shows this cartographic offensive to be a part of a larger pattern and not just Pakistan's independent move. "The new map shows Kashmir shares a clear border with China," a clear indication that like Nepal, this attempt to redraw boundaries was made at China's behest and underlines our eastern neighbour's desire for strategic contiguity in the region than Pakistan's any real concern for Kashmir. While India is firm on Chinese withdrawal from eastern Ladakh that seems to have driven a wedge in their greater plan to control the Karakoram by squeezing us with salami-slicing, Pakistan's map claims are clearly intended to warn us of a two-front offensive. Pakistan is heating up the Line of Control (LoC), having moved almost 20,000 soldiers recently to match Chinese deployment on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Its ceasefire violations and infiltration bids have gone up by about 60 per cent this year, something which didn't happen even after the Balakot airstrikes. If recent reports are to be believed, then the Chinese are no longer shadow-boxing. Just like in Nepal, their officials have had a series of meetings with their Pakistani counterparts in Gilgit-Baltistan and have been aiding them clandestinely to revive old terror networks against India. Debt-trapped by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with its economy in the doldrums and heavily dependent on borrowings and bailouts, Pakistan is but a pawn in China's gameplan.

Yet Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan forgets that such unilateralism will beget unilateralism from the Indian side as well. And hurt its interests. The new map is nothing but an adventurist version of its 1947-48 map and in one blow scythes through all bilateral agreements that came after it, primarily the 1972 Shimla Agreement. If Khan wants to negate the understanding that bilateral disputes will be resolved bilaterally, is he also prepared for the negation of all other bilateral treaties we have regarding water-sharing? And if he has taken the liberty of depicting territories under Indian control as Pakistani territory, then how would he counter other valid land claims from our side? In that sense, Pakistan's latest offensive is nothing short of playing with fire. Realising that the US is now more an ally of India and is humouring it, Pakistan is desperately coopting the Kashmir issue under the banner of pan-Islamism. So it is involving Turkey, which wants to be a leader of the neo-Islamic world, in its criticism of India and seeking Chinese endorsement. Only Pakistan doesn't realise that its Kashmir strategy is still not quite exportable. And that China, while using it for posturing, will continue to engage with India for geo-strategic reasons.

Life on Venus

There's proof of life in the unlikelyst of planets, also known for being one of the least explored



For years, the search for extraterrestrial life inside our solar system has always concentrated on the "red" planet Mars. That is because Mars is similar in size to Earth. There is now clear evidence that there was once water on its surface and most importantly, like Earth, it is also in the so-called "habitable" zone, close enough to its star for enough radiation but not so much that life wouldn't take off. Mars is, therefore, considered to either have life or to have once harboured life and capable of supporting a human expedition. As a result, we are constantly sending probes to Mars and even to its tiny moons. Probes that circle the planet as well as robotic vehicles that have roamed its surface. We actually have a greater grasp of the surface of Mars than we do of the bottom of our oceans. Even now, the aim for mankind, both in real and reel life, is to make Mars the first step on our eventual voyage to the stars.

Venus, the second rock from the Sun, is, however, given as an example of where global warming will take us. A planet benign on the outside but one where every probe sent since the start of space exploration has been dissolved in acid in the atmosphere or fried by the extreme heat that the greenhouse effect has caused. Even though the Soviet Venera programme did land several probes on Venus and many survived a few hours, there was a succession of lens cap failures. As a result, Venus is one of the least explored planets of the solar system, lacking the romanticism of Mars and the grandeur of Jupiter and Saturn, which have both seen billion-dollar spacecraft visit them in the past decade. Yet, the discovery of phosphine in the Venusian atmosphere is an intriguing prospect because the only way for this gas, with three hydrogen molecules attached to one phosphorus molecule, to occur naturally is as a byproduct of biological processes. While the gas can be made industrially by man, that isn't clearly a possibility on Venus. So, have we been barking up the wrong tree for decades? After all, as the old adage goes, "Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus" and as we all know, women have all the answers. Maybe some strange process creates phosphine on Venus that we are unaware of and we should send a probe or two to the planet we never thought could harbour life. But as we know from Earth herself, life can survive in some really extreme conditions. This time though, let us make sure that the lens caps work.



JS RAJPUT

For over six decades, one has never witnessed such a strong projection of the national resolve to implement a policy. This rare privilege goes to the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The President of India addresses the nation, the Prime Minister addresses twice within a week, the Union Education Minister and his team seem busy 24x7, conducting and guiding national-level webinars on specific topics that would require new initiatives and action at the implementation stage. It's evident that the nation has realised that for equitable growth, progress and development, it has to be "education, education, and education." India is now determined to create a pool of teachers who would not only be degree-holders but possess "personalities." These would be people imbued with a comprehensive multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional perspective.

In fact, the new approach to teacher preparation would expect every instructor to develop a comprehensive perspective on life and living. They would internalise the higher goals of education. The focus, henceforth, would be on them believing in *Sarva Bhut Hite Ratah*. And as was the ancient tradition, they would be life-long learners, *yavadjeevait adhiyate viprah*. It is, in a sense, a revolutionary recommendation that by 2030 all teachers would be prepared in multi-faculty colleges and universities through four-year integrated programmes. As one goes through the various sections of the NEP, this expectation becomes evident to everyone.

The objective of achieving *scharyatwa* would require a strong support system that must emerge from the establishment and society. There are clear indications to ensure that: "In order to improve and reach the levels of integrity and credibility required to restore the prestige of the teaching profession, the regulatory system shall be empowered to take stringent action against sub-standard and dysfunctional Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) that do not meet the basic educational criterion, after giving one year for the remedy of breaches. By 2030, only educationally sound, multi-disciplinary and integrated teacher education programmes shall be in force." This objective of restoring the credibility



ty of TEIs is achievable. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) had, during 1998-99, successfully exercised this authority, and certain well-known but sub-standard teacher preparation programmes were closed down. Once teacher educators accept this responsibility, they could transform the entire system. Let them never forget that the recommendations on teacher education arise from the expectations and aspirations of the young. But somewhere besides these is also the hidden pain and anguish which was recorded – with a heavy heart – by late Justice JS Verma: "A majority of stand-alone TEIs – over 10,000 in number – are not even attempting serious teacher education but are essentially selling degrees for a price." One could mention it only with immense pain, as the first chairperson of the NCTE said, that all these 10,000 institutions selling degrees were certified by senior teachers, teacher educators, professors and other academics. The policy has done its part, no more stand-alone colleges. Now it is the responsibility of teachers, teacher educators and professionals in the field to ensure that in future regulatory mechanisms are not trivialised.

This policy suggests alternative regulatory structures, which would transform the manner in which future multi-disciplinary

teacher preparations institutions and universities would emerge. The responsibility of teachers at every stage would grow multi-fold as autonomy would be the in-thing.

When one goes through the various general recommendations in the policy, one finds serious concern for drastic change in teacher education in content and pedagogy, and the need to achieve an attitudinal transformation among aspiring teachers. It is now learning, learning and more learning. Examinations shall no more be days of nationwide anxiety and widespread tension. The focus of assessment in schools shifts to application of knowledge gained and internalised.

The present pattern of examinations was transplanted in this country by alien rulers. It had been discarded in Britain much earlier but we still adhere to it in India. Teachers, and teacher educators, have a tremendous task ahead in implementing curriculum load reduction, to ensure that textbooks and textual materials are neither deficient on new knowledge nor too overloaded with obsolete content.

Teaching and learning shall become more interactive, and much would transpire outside the closed classroom. Skill development and bringing in vocational education elements early in

schools would require TEIs absorbing them in their own curricula. Those who know the story of Richard Feynman would find it much easier to visualise its great transformative and inspiring impact on the system as a whole. It would be possible only when the promises to ensure the assured recruitment process are put to practice, and the assurances on the professionally acceptable teacher-student ratio is implemented without any aberrations. One must not ignore considerable dilution in the quality of education and decline in the acceptability and credibility of schools funded by the public. The policy realises this.

The ancient Indian tradition of knowledge quest spreads over four stages: *adhyayan*, *manan*, *chintan* and *upayog*. And its relevance is eternal. It is the essence of the process of transfer of knowledge to generations ahead. Every teacher, henceforth, would be expected to comprehend the essence of Indian philosophy of education that finds reflection throughout this policy.

Let me recall three sentences of Sri Aurobindo; first being that the process must begin with "from near, to far"; and hence the mother tongue medium and other aspects. His second principle was that "nothing can be taught." Every active, alert and vibrant teacher shall

have to grasp its essence. It is "learning the treasure within." It is the perfection within that the child is discovering, and teachers are assisting, supporting, guiding, and much more.

When Sri Aurobindo states that the "mind must be consulted in its growth," he is emphasising how pertinent it is to "know the child." It is the comprehension of these basic principles that has led to the restricting of the school education system to 5+3+3+4. The most significant is the addition of initial three years, after the age of 3. India would need very specialised teachers for this age group.

A couple of years ago, India had anticipated the importance of open and distance learning. That experience comes very handy as the global attention diverts to online learning. Creation of digital platforms and e-content had already begun in full swing and has come handy during the corona crisis, as children are confined to their homes. The pedagogy is undergoing unprecedented change, teachers associated with schools will have to gear up to learn new skills. While tools and techniques shall change – sometimes beyond recognition – the pedagogical principles would remain the same.

(The writer works in education and social cohesion)

SOUNDBITE

I call on the Palestinian leadership to recognise reality and show responsibility as did the UAE leaders, by returning to negotiating table.

Israeli Minister
—Gabi Ashkenazi



Security Council reform is very important, not only for the member states but also to the United Nations as a whole.

Turkish diplomat
—Volkan Bozkir



We will be taking action to counter the unjust tariffs put on Canadian aluminum by the United States. We will always be there to defend Canadian workers, defend our aluminum sector.

Canadian PM
—Justin Trudeau



If J&K UT government is of the view that it has no concern and duty for the feelings of Kashmir's masses, then it must take that position, categorically.

Former Union Minister
—Saifuddin Soz



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Medical education

Sir — The Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed a Bill to provide 7.5 per cent horizontal reservation in medical admissions for State Government students who clear the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). The provisions of the new law are applicable to all government and private medical, dental, Indian medicine and homeopathy streams. The reservation will benefit 300 underprivileged scholars annually and will be implemented from this year onwards.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Madhya Pradesh

No arrest warrant

Sir — The Uttar Pradesh Government has issued a notification for setting up a Special Security Force (SSF). It will be given responsibility of important Government buildings, industrial establishments, major sites, airports, metros and other important places. Empowered to make "arrests" and conduct "searches" without any prior

MPLADS should be permanently scrapped

In the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak, the Government has decided to reallocate the funds from the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). Amounting to ₹5 crore a year per Member of Parliament (MP), the money will now be allocated by the Centre for relief packages. Rather than just suspending the scheme, it should be permanently scrapped.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Parliament and Planning Commission termed MPLADS useless and as encouraging corruption. A sting operation caught few parliamentarians accepting bribes to approve schemes to be funded through MPLADS. The then Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee had argued for scrapping the scheme. Many members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly have been over-generous by funding their favourite organisations through this scheme even though such funding may have had nothing to do with public welfare. It may be recalled that trusts floated by the then Chief Election Commissioner



Navin Chawla were generously funded by parliamentarians cutting across party-lines from MPLADS. Already, the Bihar government has abolished such a programme. All such suggested reforms should be implemented both at the Centre and in States.

Madhu Agrawal
Chandni Chowk

Inflation a concern

Sir — Inflation is primarily driven by food prices, which account for 39 per cent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, and a sharp spiral in prices of transport and communication services, which amount

to 8.6 per cent. The sub category of petrol and diesel for vehicles and telephone charges for mobiles account for around 50 per cent of transport and communication charges, which have been growing in double digits in July and August. Prices of basic food items such as pulses, vegetables, edible oil, meat, fish and

eggs have doubled. Even fruits are extremely costly. While the CPI in August is lower than that of July by 0.04 per cent, it is still higher than the upper limit of the RBI's comfort level of six per cent for the fifth consecutive month. The data is not at all encouraging.

CK Ramanathan
Ghaziabad

A proud moment

Sir — India got elected as Member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the principal global body focussed on gender equality and women empowerment, beating China in a hotly-contested election. India garnered 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast.

India and Afghanistan will join Argentina, Austria, Dominican Republic, Israel, Latvia, Nigeria, Turkey and Zambia, which were elected by acclamation, to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term between 2021 and 2025. This is a proud moment for us indeed.

Vihaan Gupta
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Mitigate data intrusion worries

Instead of thinking of security as a prevention tool, firms must incorporate it into product design from the start so that the architect systems are impenetrable



RIPU **BAJWA**

In the new digital era, where data is growing at an unprecedented rate by the second and where organisations are quickly becoming data-first, one thing has become crystal clear. That the “this is good enough” approach by businesses, across the globe and in India, is no more acceptable when it comes to safeguarding the most precious capital, i.e. data, from an external intrusion. Ever since businesses have become increasingly dependent on their data to fuel innovation, drive new revenue streams and so on, Information Technology decision-makers have not just been evaluating their current data protection preparedness but have also been ramping up their investments in this regard.

However, over the past few months, since organisations have been fixated on quickly transitioning towards remote working due to the Coronavirus pandemic, they might have missed out on something vital that they should have been focussing on and that is the threats that come along with this work culture. As a result, the world and India with it, has been witnessing a steady uptick in the instances of cyber attacks.

For example, as per a recent report, India witnessed a 37 per cent increase in cyber attacks in the first quarter of this year as compared to the last quarter of 2019. The data also show that India now ranks 27th globally in the number of web-threats detected in the first quarter of this year as compared to when it ranked on the 32nd position globally in the fourth quarter of 2019. India also ranks 11th worldwide in the number of attacks caused by servers that were hosted in the country, which accounts for 22,99,682 incidents in the first quarter of this year as compared to 8,54,782 incidents detected in the fourth quarter of 2019, says the Kaspersky Security Network report.

Another report claims that data of over 21,000 Indian students, including their Aadhaar cards, photos and so on, have been put on sale on the Dark Web. Another instance of data being leaked on the Dark Web came to light in June, with a massive data packet — nearly 100 gigabytes in size — being put up for sale. The data comprises scanned identity documents of over one lakh Indians, including passports, PAN cards, Aadhaar cards, voter IDs and driver’s licences. Thus, given the rising data security concerns and incidents, chief technology officers (CTOs) need to look for a holistic approach towards data protection and management. Now, they need to be cognisant about how to respond, recover and learn in case a cyber intrusion occurs. Here are a few tips for CTOs that will help them redefine their data protection strategy.

Drift away from security to resilience: With the evolving nature of cyber attacks, it’s time for businesses to start reacting and start anticipating. Loss of critical data has the power to not just cripple a company in no time but also damage its reputation for the long-term. Hence, instead of relying on traditional methods of data security i.e. identify, protect, detect, respond and then recover, organisations must imbibe state-of-the-art resilience strategies i.e. learn, respond, monitor and anticipate.

Adopt a security strategy ingrained in product mindset: Businesses must not only think about making security intrinsic to technology infrastructure but also aim at enabling security professionals become intrinsic to future product development. They need to transform into a data-first and product-first mindset organisation in order to be able to remain competitive in the future. Thus, instead of thinking of security as a prevention tool, the need of the hour is to incorporate it into the product design from the beginning so that it will make the architect systems and processes impenetrable.

The key to a winning strike is the right digital partner: In the past, businesses have been using a hit and trial method with regard to choosing their digital partner and this approach has brought in more vulnerability to their sensitive data assets. As per a report by Vanson Bourne, organisations in the Asia Pacific and Japan, which were relying on more than one data protection solution provider, were almost four times more vulnerable to a cyber incident that prevents access to their data. Hence, in order to combat the external threats, businesses must choose a single technology partner that delivers multi-platform security.

While it is critical to invest in the right technologies, it has also become utmost important for businesses to ramp up their education and awareness levels to stay abreast with new security threats. Therefore, to end the constant tussle between finding the right data protection architecture and keeping up with the modern security approaches, CTOs must focus on strategies that redefine their data protection ecosystems from time to time.

(The writer is Director and General Manager, Data Protection Solutions, Dell Technologies)

WE WANT TO WORK WITH YOU TO REALLY RECOGNISE THE CHANGE IN CLIMATE AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR FORESTS. WE CAN’T BURY OUR HEAD IN THE SAND. —CALIFORNIA SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES WADE CROWFOOT

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



IT WILL ALL START GETTING COOLER SOON, YOU JUST WATCH. I DON’T THINK SCIENCE KNOWS, ACTUALLY —US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

The pleasures of victimhood

If impersonating was Jessica Krug’s way of legitimising herself as an academic, mobilising the disenfranchised and then representing them as perpetual victims is another



JYOTIRMAYA **TRIPATHY**

The recent confession of Professor Jessica Krug about her true identity may have outraged many. However, it offers an opportunity to re-evaluate what academics given to consciousness-raising often do. Krug, a historian teaching African history at George Washington University, admitted in a blog that she is a Jew born of White parents and has nothing to do with African-American Blackness, something which she had been claiming for a long time. She regretted that her action was “the very epitome of violence, of thievery and appropriation, of the myriad ways in which non-Black people continue to use and abuse Black identities and cultures.” In the same breath, Krug declared that she is no culture vulture but a culture leech. Her actions though have proved otherwise. Prior to her outing of herself in the blog, Krug had used a more African-sounding name (Jessica La Bombalera) in her activist avatar, and during a demonstration had questioned the gentrification of New York by calling out the “White New Yorkers” for having failed to spare a thought for Black and Brown New Yorkers. We don’t know what prompted her to come out as White though it is said that there were increasing murmurs about her identity that forced her to do so.

The knowledge market: On the face of it, a situation such as this is not representative of the academic environment in the US or India. This is where the present intervention marks its departure. Krug’s admission, no doubt, betrays her inability to fake it any longer, but more importantly, it reveals the malaise of contemporary academic knowledge production. The difference between usurping the voice of the weak (what academics do) and pretending to be the weak (what Krug did) is perhaps one of degree and not of kind. When Krug claimed to be a culture leech rather than a vulture, she was highlighting that subtle difference. We can be reasonably sure that Krug is not the first one and won’t be the last, at least until the academic market stops converting experience of marginality to elitist knowledge and suspends placing a premium on the dish of victimhood.

Those who see Krug’s problem as an individual transgression are either oblivious of what goes in the name of knowledge or are beneficiaries of such methods. Academic scholarship has often been obsessed with not just representing cultural difference but also in producing, controlling and owning it. Few questions are raised about the moral foundation of such knowledge. It is taken for granted that if cultural difference does not exist, it is to be invented and if academic knowledge has to sustain itself, “savage slots” are to be continuously filled. Krug took it one step further. Instead of being content with immersion or academic self-othering, or sponging on cultural difference of the Blacks like a leech, she chose to become indistinguishable from what she was writing about.

A few years ago, Harvard University had gone to the market advertising its culture of diversity by projecting Elizabeth Warren, a law professor who claimed to be a Cherokee Indian (and went on to have a thriving political career). The difference between birth identity and assumed identity may appear as academically adventurous and a cool way of moving beyond fixed identities, but in reality, and for the people whose identity is thus stolen, it is an act of violence. In a post-modern academic world, race is increasingly seen as a political invention rather

“KRUG CONVERTED THE BLACK EXPERIENCE TO SOME BARE CODES DEFINING BLACK AUTHENTICITY: ANGRY, VIOLENT, ABUSIVE. THAT IS WHAT SHE WAS DOING WHILE APPEARING AS JESSICA LA BOMBALERA. THE RESONANCE OF THIS MENTALITY IN INDIA IS NOT DIFFICULT TO FIND. DALITS AND MUSLIMS ARE OFTEN PROJECTED IN THE MEDIA AS ANGRY AND VIOLENT BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO BE WEAK AND A MINORITY. BEING HELPLESS AND BEING VIOLENT ARE THE EXPRESSIONS OF THE SAME AUTHENTIC CORE”



than a frozen identity, thus creating a pathway for becoming someone else, or belonging without believing. That way, what Krug did was chic because she was making herself a trans-individual. But we all understand that Blackness as knowledge and Blackness as experience (not just individual but collective and communal) are different things. One is of romanticisation, appropriation, exoticisation, even silencing, and the other of everyday-ness and its struggle.

Though living the marginal life involves costs in real life — humiliation, powerlessness, sub-human life and so on — the academic world knows the benefits of being Black or minority, at least in the latter’s potential for being objects of knowledge. In the market of scholarship, victimhood sells and is safely monetised: Black or Coloured in America and Muslim or Dalit in India. Cultural difference and victimhood are a minefield of fame and money.

That said, the demonstrations over the death of George Floyd or over atrocities against Dalits reveal a mindset of remembering the victim only when they can be used as a medium of accumulating symbolic capital. It is not just about dehumanising and instrumentalising them for advancing one’s career but also the belief that being a victim pays. The willingness to barter away one’s identity, as Krug did, springs from the conviction that academically benefit from such impersonation outweighs the losses.

Imaginary victims: What Krug did not acknowledge in her confession is that her violence was not only directed as genuine Black experience but also at White experience. While faking to be Black, she was creating a template in which Whiteness is antagonistic to Blackness and so was perpetuating a race binary. She was reducing her own race by making it appear inflexible, intolerant, exclusivist and the negation of Black experience. Her impersonation implied that sincere appreciation

of Black history is not possible while being White. She also pandered to those radical elements who believe that genuine understanding of the other is possible only by denying one’s own authenticity. Her pretension perpetuated the academic world of make-believe that being majority is a matter of shame and its disavowal or degradation is necessary to speak for the weak.

Krug converted the Black experience to some bare codes defining Black authenticity: Angry, violent, abusive. That is what she was doing while appearing as Jessica La Bombalera. The resonance of this mentality in India is not difficult to find. Dalits and Muslims are often projected in the media as angry and violent because that is the only way to be weak and a minority. Being helpless and being violent are the expressions of the same authentic core. Academics like Krug not only stereotype or steal identity, they also create norms which guide victimhood. As long as the Black man is anti-police or a Muslim is anti-State or a Dalit is anti-Brahmin, they are authentic; a republican African-American is beyond this template as is a nationalist Indian Muslim.

An academic from Hunter College named Yarimar Bonilla said something very revealing about Krug, that the latter not only fooled others about being a woman of colour, but also into thinking that they are actually inferior, intellectually and politically. Krug was denying them their being, their worth outside her own writings and activism. What it reveals is that being a victim of violence has more moral, academic and perhaps political worth than being normal and majority.

So behind minority identity, its production and circulation, there is a political economy of cultural difference and of diversity that can be a passport to capital — economic or symbolic. Becoming the other involves a life-time of dedication to live another life. Krug must have internalised the new identity. In the acknowl-

edgment section of her book *Fugitive Modernities*, she thanked her “ancestors, unknown, unnamed, who bled life into a future they had no reason to believe could or should exist. ... Those whose names I cannot say for their own safety, whether in my barrio, in Angola, or in Brazil.” It may be mentioned here that Krug had received financial assistance for writing this book from Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

It is not important to know whether being White or feigning Blackness is better for being a scholar of African history. What is important is the knowledge itself — of victims and minority. As long as we are getting ethnic food in Delhi *haat* (market), it does not matter if the cook is White or Brown. There may be many service providers but the good/service is the same.

Impersonation as passport: If impersonating was Krug’s way of legitimising herself as an academic, making common cause with a supposedly discriminating law or mobilising the disenfranchised and then representing them as perpetual victims is another. The latter is much more rampant and a fairly common practice governing funding agencies that guide research on minority cultures. Though such politically engaged research may appear as a fight for an inclusive polity, it also betrays the desire to be the source of all cultural politics.

That partly explains Brahmin academics monopolising Dalit experiences. At a poetry reading session, a very fair-skinned Brahmin poet advocated “our own” Dravidian cause and how her Dravidian skin will always be a marker of her identity. She spoke with a flair even as her complexion struggled to adjust itself to the political narrative. Playing around this politics of “we” and trying too hard to be someone else in order to be legitimised is an effort complementary to Krug’s.

(The writer is Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras and a cultural critic.)

Why the double standards on demolition of holy places?

Will the global Muslim community raise its voice for the restoration of the holiest of Islam’s revered sites that were destroyed by the Wahhabis?



HASAN **KHURSHID**

The five centuries-old Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished on December 6, 1992 by a Hindu mob, mostly comprising diehard *Kar Sevaks* (volunteers) of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad led by Sangh Parivar leaders. Intellectuals across the globe, irrespective of caste, creed and religion condemned the demolition, as did the Supreme Court (SC). No sane person will justify the demolition of the Babri Masjid but the bigger heinous crimes of massacres, multiple demolitions and destruction of the holiest of religious and heritage sites, shrines, relics have taken place in Saudi Arabia. This was done at the behest of its Wahhabis/Salafi rulers of Zionist ancestry who, wearing the cloak of Islam, in the middle of the

18th century introduced a new and distorted version of the faith based on terrorism. The demolished and desecrated holiest of Islamic religious places included the birth place of Prophet Mohammad.

Wahhabism, the new, distorted version of Islam, aimed to capture worldwide political power using terrorism. The dreaded terrorist, Abu Bakr Baghdadi, is one such example of this diabolical plan. This negative ideology was created by one Sheikh Najdi ibn Abd-al-Wahhab, in association with a Bedouin tribal leader Muhammad-ibn-Saud. Wahhabis ideology should not be mistaken as Islam’s tenets, although its practitioners shrewdly camouflage their real identity under the cover of Sunni Islam and associate the names of their terror groups with typical Islamic names, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and so on.

Wahhabis ideology manifestly declares, “Follow my ideology, else get ready to be killed.” According to renowned British historian and writer Charles Allen, all dreaded terrorist organisations like the ISIS, the

Taliban, the Al-Qaeda, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Boko Haram, and so on, follow Wahhabis ideology. And, Abu Bakr Baghdadi’s ISIS, following the Wahhabis ideology alone, murdered more than 20 lakh people. A majority of them were Muslim youth in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

On December 6, 2019, the day marking the 27th anniversary of the demolition of Babri Masjid, several review petitions were filed in the SC by individuals who were party to the case. The pleas were supported by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. Earlier, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind had also filed a review petition against the order saying justice can be done only by ordering the Centre and the UP Government to build the mosque at the disputed site.

Surprisingly, the entire Muslim community across the globe, including the intellectuals, remained silent spectators when Saudi ruler Abd-al-Aziz, the son of Muhammad ibn Saud, who was also the son-in-law of Sheikh Muhammad Najdi ibn Abd-al-Wahab, the founder of Wahhabism, in 1802 attacked

Karbala in Iraq. He allowed the desecration of the shrine of Hazrat Imam Husain (grandson of Prophet Mohammad).

Giving the details of the attack, Charles Allen in his book, *God’s Terrorists: The Wahhabi Cult and the Hidden Roots of Modern Jihad*, has quoted Lieutenant Francis Warden who wrote, “They pillaged the whole of it and plundered the tomb of Hazrat Imam Husain, slaying in the course of the day, with circumstances of peculiar cruelty, about 5,000 of the inhabitants. A huge amount of booty was seized.”

In 1803, Abd-al-Aziz ibn Saud obtained a visit permit from the Sharief of Mecca on the pretext of performing Haj, whereupon his Wahhabis fighters laid waste Islam’s holiest shrine the *Kaaba*, wherein Muslims across the globe perform the ritual of Haj. Abd-al-Aziz ibn Saud followed in the footsteps of Yazid who had earlier desecrated *Kaaba* in 682 AD.

According to TE Ravenshaw, author of *A Memorandum on the Sect of Wahhabees*, “They robbed the splendid tombs of the Mahomedan

saints, who were interred there and their fanatical zeal did not even spare the Prophet’s Mosque (in Medina), which they robbed of the immense treasures and costly furniture to which each Mahomedan Prince of Europe, Asia and Africa had contributed his share.”

In 1804, a Wahhabi gang crossed the great desert in the Hijaz and destroyed tombs of Prophet Mohammad’s family members at Jannat-ul-Baqi, the ancient cemetery of Medina, and even despoiled the grave of the prophet. After this, the Wahhabis reached Mecca and demolished another heritage site, the cemetery of Jannat-ul-Mualla, where the ancestors and other close relatives of Prophet Mohammad are interred. Again on April 21, 1925, Wahhabis demolished the shrine of Prophet Mohammad’s daughter Hazrat Fatima Zehra as well as those of his grandsons, namely Imam Hasan, Imam Zain ul Abideen and Imam Mohammad Baqir. The shrines are still lying demolished and the Saudi Government does not repair them or allow pilgrims to offer prayers at the revered sites.

Again in 2014, a leading Saudi academic had proposed to destroy the tomb of the Prophet Mohammad in Medina with the mala fide intention of removing the remains of the Prophet from there and burying them anonymously in the Jannat-ul-Baqi cemetery. However, the nefarious plan to destroy the tomb under the custody of Saudi monarch Abdullah was exposed by another academic, hence it could not be executed. Had it been executed, the motionless Muslims would have remained calm as the perpetrators were Wahhabis in Muslim attire and not people from any other religion.

In India, those who demolished the Babri Masjid are still facing trial in the Special CBI Court at Lucknow, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. In all, there are 32 accused and the apex court has directed the Special CBI Court to conclude the hearing by September 30 this year. Till now the CBI has presented 351 witnesses before the court.

What legal action has the Saudi Government or the groups of

Muslim countries taken against the perpetrators of mass destruction and demolition of heritage and revered sites and massacres committed by Wahhabis feasting on Saudi petrodollars and spreading terrorism in the name of Islam? There is a deafening silence on that account.

The cacophony created by the Muslim leadership and millions of their followers on the matter of Babri Masjid may be based on the presumption that its perpetrators were Hindu bigots and the thugs behind the demolition of the holiest of Islamic sites, like the Jannat-ul-Baqi in Medina and the Jannat-ul-Mualla in Mecca, were Muslims. It matters little to them that the perpetrators of the crimes against Islam are Muslims just in name.

Will the global Muslim community raise its voice and take a conscious decision for the restoration of the holiest of Islam’s revered sites of religious and heritage importance that were systematically destroyed by the Wahhabis? If they don’t it will smack of hypocrisy and bigotry.

(The writer is a legal journalist and author)

Economic recovery still not well entrenched: RBI Guv

New Delhi: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said economic recovery is still not well entrenched and that the central bank is "battle ready" to take appropriate measures to support growth.

Addressing a virtual conference organised by industry body Ficci, Das said that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data released by the government was a "reflection of the ravages of the COVID-19".

The economy contracted 23.9 per cent during the April-June quarter on account of the strict lockdown imposed by the government towards end of March to check the spread of coronavirus infections.

"Nevertheless, high frequency indicators of agricultural activity, the purchasing managers' index that is PMI for manufacturing and certain private estimates on unemployment point to some stabilisation of economic activity in the second quarter of the current year, while of course contractions in several other sectors are also simultaneously easing," he said.

However, Das said that the economic recovery was not yet fully entrenched and also that the recovery is likely to be gradual.

"The recovery is, however, not yet fully entrenched and moreover, in some sectors, the uptick, which was noticed in June and July they appear to have

levelled off. By all indications the recovery is likely to be gradual as efforts towards the reopening of the economy are confronted with rising infections," he said.

At the same time, Das assured the industry that the RBI stands "battle ready" and whatever measures are required will be taken to support liquidity, growth and control price rise.

According to him, the immediate policy response to COVID-19 in the country has been to prioritise the stabilisation of the economy and support quick recovery policies for durable and sustainable high growth in the medium term post the coronavirus. **PTI**

Banking regulation Bill taking Urban Co-Operative banks under RBI passed in Lok Sabha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill bringing the Urban Co-Operative Banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India to protect the interest of depositors. The Bill was supported by many opposition parties including Shiv Sena while the Congress and the Trinamool Congress objected that the Bill intended to usurp the State's power in the co-operative sector.

Replying to opposition, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the bill is only intended to protect the depositors and only apply to

the banking operation of the Co-operative Banks and not applicable to primary agricultural credit societies.

"This is not the first time RBI intervening into the banking operations co-operative banks. From 1965, RBI issued many circulars on this regard. Many urban co-operative banks are facing serious problems like NPA and many wound up losing money of the depositors. Those functioning as Banks must work as Commercial Banks and RBI rules must apply on them," she said. She also clarified that co-operative banks engaged in land mortgage will come under the RBI supervision since it is a banking activity.

Govt working on setting up single window system for clearances: Goyal

New Delhi: The Government is working on setting up a single window system for clearances and approvals of industry, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said despite the presence of several IT platforms for investing in India such as in departments of the central government, and state single window clearances, investors have to visit multiple platforms to gather information and obtain clearances from different stakeholders.

To address this, he said, the creation of a centralised investment clearance cell which would provide end-to-end facilitation

support, including pre-investment advisory, information related to land banks and facilitating clearances at central and state level, was proposed.

"The government is working on setting up a Single Window System for clearances and approvals of industry in the country," he said.

He also said the cell is being planned as a one-stop digital platform to obtain all requisite central and state clearances/approvals to start business operations in India.

The investment clearance cell will be a national portal that integrates the existing clearance systems of various ministries/departments of the government and of states. **PTI**

5G services relying on equipment, eco, telcos' economic consideration: Govt

New Delhi:The Government on Wednesday informed Parliament that introduction of 5G services in the country will depend on equipment, device ecosystem and economic considerations by telecom operators.

The Government also said that State-owned BSNL and MTNL have not planned introducing 5G services yet on their networks.

Minister of State for Telecommunications Sanjay Dhotre, in a written reply to a question on the 5G rollout, said, "5G services depends on 5G equipment and device ecosystem, and economic considerations by the telecom service providers." **PTI**

94 phishing incidents reported during Jan-Aug 2020: Dhotre

New Delhi:A total of 194 phishing incidents and two financial fraud incidents affecting ATMs, cards, point-of-sale (PoS) systems and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) were reported between January-August this year, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. As per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total of 454, 472

and 194 phishing incidents were observed during the year 2018, 2019 and 2020 (till August) respectively, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Sanjay Dhotre said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. "Further, a total of 6, 4 and 2 financial fraud incidents affecting ATMs, Cards, Point-of- Sale (PoS) systems and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) have been reported during the year 2018, 2019 and 2020

(till August) respectively," he added. Dhotre said cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet.

"With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for misuse of cyberspace including identity theft, creation of fake emails and websites is a global issue," he added.

India's GDP to contract by 8.6 pc in FY21, fiscal stimulus needed soon: UBS Securities

Mumbai:Swiss brokerage UBS Securities said it forecasts a GDP contraction of 8.6 per cent in FY21 as against its earlier prediction of 5.8 per cent, citing factors including the "modest" government response to the crisis for its estimate.

It said the country's potential rate of growth has also come down to 5.75-6.25 per cent as per its estimate as against 7.1 per cent, driven by factors including the weak government response to arrest the growth slide. Some improvement is being observed in the high frequency data, but much of it is pent-up demand and eco-

nomc recovery will be "gradual" after the September quarter, its chief economist Tanvee Gupta Jain told reporters.

It can be noted that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) shrunk by nearly a fourth in the June quarter as the COVID-19 pandemic fuelled lockdowns chilled all economic activity. Jain said the modest recovery which we are seeing right now cannot be sustained because of the rising infections and also income uncertainty, which is holding back people from consumption in the economy that relies 60 per cent on consumption.

Markets build on gains ahead of Fed decision; Nifty reclaims 11,600

Mumbai:Equity benchmarks darted up for the second straight session on Wednesday as banking, auto and IT stocks saw robust buying amid mixed global cues. A strengthening rupee and supportive comments by the RBI Governor also bolstered investor sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 258.50 points or 0.66 per cent to close at 39,302.85. The broader NSE Nifty rose 82.75 points or 0.72 per cent to finish at 11,604.55.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 4.24 per cent, fol-

lowed by Bajaj Auto, Sun Pharma, HDFC Bank, Infosys, L&T and UltraTech Cement. On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, SBI, ONGC, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank were among the laggards, skidding up to 1.80 per cent. According to traders, stock-specific action and sustained foreign fund inflows drove domestic equities higher, despite mixed cues from global markets ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy outcome. Foreign institutional investors bought equities worth Rs 1,170.89 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, exchange data showed. **PTI**

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY50	11,538.45	11,618.10	11,516.75	11,604.55	82.75	
DREDDY	4,455.00	4,650.80	4,411.00	4,639.60	197.25	
M&M	616	649.8	616	638.05	24.6	
HINDALCO	1771	184.6	175.45	183.65	6.9	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,942.50	3,049.00	2,937.40	3,040.65	103.3	
BRITANNIA	3,742.00	3,860.00	3,737.15	3,848.00	113.9	
SUNPHARMA	510.15	520	503.4	518.65	12.25	
HDFCBANK	1,070.20	1,096.00	1,068.35	1,092.50	22	
INFY	986	1,005.65	982	1,001.80	19.35	
TATAMOTORS	149.2	154.3	148.55	151	2.6	
WIPRO	307	313.5	304.00	312.5	5.15	
CIFLA	743.95	756.5	732	753.2	10.75	
ITL	915	924	911.35	922.45	12.5	
SHREECEM	20,065.25	20,492.55	19,946.15	20,300.00	234.75	
ULTRACEMCO	3,933.00	3,983.85	3,920.05	3,972.25	40.8	
NESTLEIND	16,066.50	16,225.00	16,050.00	16,184.30	143.35	
EICHERMOT	2,155.00	2,187.85	2,145.00	2,158.15	17.55	
HDFCLIFE	594.5	609.45	592.8	599	4.8	
ICICIBANK	371.35	376.7	365	374.25	2.7	
HINDUNILVR	2,125.00	2,158.95	2,112.70	2,140.00	15.55	
HEROMOTOCO	3,033.00	3,105.00	3,024.65	3,059.30	22.15	
HDFC	1,766.00	1,774.70	1,743.45	1,768.00	9.25	
BAJAJFINSV	6,414.60	6,239.95	6,101.15	6,146.90	31.35	
TCS	2,488.95	2,507.60	2,477.30	2,502.00	10.6	
TITAN	1,180.00	1,189.00	1,164.70	1,179.15	4.6	
IOC	82.25	83.05	81.45	82.55	0.3	
RELIANCE	1,320.00	2,369.35	2,300.55	2,324.90	60.5	
KOTAKBANK	2,324.00	1,332.00	1,310.55	1,326.75	2.8	
ADANIPORTS	352.25	356.1	348.95	352.9	0.25	
MARUTI	7,074.00	7,169.00	7,041.00	7,055.00	22	
COALINDIA	124.6	124.6	123.1	124.1	0	
BPCL	415	420.5	411.4	414.4	0	
BAFINANCE	3,517.95	3,567.40	3,481.65	3,512.30	-1.1	
GRASIM	722.95	737.2	714.1	720	-0.4	
TECHM	792	794.25	784	790.55	-0.6	
ASIANPAINT	2,027.00	2,027.00	1,994.15	2,015.00	-2.55	
TATASTEEL	406.45	410	402.7	404.3	-0.95	
UPL	530.05	533.25	521.95	527	-2.7	
HCLTECH	790.05	796.3	779.25	798.45	-4.25	
GAIL	92.75	92.75	91.35	91.6	-0.5	
ITC	181.85	183.5	180.05	180.6	-1.2	
ZEEL	218.5	219.35	213.65	215.95	-1.5	
JSWSTEEL	289	291.7	286.3	287.55	-2.05	
POWERGRID	173	173.45	170.2	172	-1.3	
BHARTIARTL	487	490.7	480.55	481.55	-4	
ONGC	74.25	74.45	72.55	73.15	-0.65	
AXISBANK	449.55	450.6	440	444.95	-4.6	
SBIN	199.85	200.05	196.25	198	-2.15	
INFRATEL	202.7	204.45	199	200.2	-2.3	
NTPC	91.6	91.6	89.3	89.6	-1.5	
INDUSINDBK	641	641	613.65	620.75	-12.65	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27,621.00	27,698.85	27,548.10	27,646.05	130.25	
DLF	156.4	164.2	154.1	163.65	8.1	
CAPLALHC	377.15	390	375.1	389.05	14	
LUDIN	1,005.90	1,033.00	995.85	1,022.00	21.15	
PFC	93.25	95.2	93	94.85	1.9	
DIVISLAB	3,181.10	3,274.00	3,179.00	3,245.00	60.05	
ICICIPRULI	426	437.85	425.2	435.15	7.75	
SIEMENS	1,244.80	1,267.20	1,227.75	1,255.95	18.2	
AUROPHARMA	844	851.35	823.1	830.75	11.95	
NMDC	90.6	94.7	89.7	90.9	1.3	
MCDOWELL-N	543	552.75	534.15	549.05	7.65	
HAVELLS	673.6	682.5	669.55	679.55	8.5	
MOTHERSUMI	121.7	124.6	121	122.35	1.45	
ICIGICI	1,310.00	1,333.00	1,305.00	1,319.00	14.5	
BAJAJHLONG	2,509.95	2,532.00	2,500.00	2,525.00	25.65	
NHPC	20.85	21.4	20.75	20.95	0.2	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,135.00	1,173.00	1,128.15	1,141.25	10.2	
DABUR	507	513	504.3	510	4.25	
PEL	1,358.00	1,384.60	1,340.25	1,358.00	10.55	
PNB	33.35	33.7	32.75	33.55	0.25	
SRTRANSAM	654.35	665.75	645.6	655.9	3.55	
AMBUJACEM	217.95	221	216.05	218.5	1.05	
ACC	1,384.40	1,396.45	1,376.00	1,393.00	6.1	
BERGEPAINT	581.45	587.95	577	584.2	2.35	
BANDHANBNK	304.7	307.7	303	304.75	1.05	
BOSCHLTD	13,040.00	13,274.85	12,990.55	13,116.95	35.4	
MARICO	365	366.4	362.7	365.2	0.7	
NAUKRI	3,560.70	3,581.70	3,505.00	3,540.00	6.45	
SBILIFE	865	873.5	861.3	866	1.3	
GICRE	136.3	136.3	133.3	133.85	0.2	
COLPAL	1,421.00	1,425.00	1,412.60	1,421.00	0.85	
DMRT	2,152.55	2,173.00	2,130.70	2,137.00	0.85	
PAGEIND	18,990.00	19,098.00	18,751.10	18,850.00	-20.15	
GODREJCP	710	713	698.8	705	-1.2	
CONCOR	388.1	390.4	384	388	-0.75	
PGHH	10,129.95	10,161.95	10,010.05	10,050.00	-31.65	
TORNTPHARM	2,822.55	2,864.80	2,817.35	2,841.15	-9.35	
INDIGO	1,510.00	1,513.90	1,486.40	1,491.80	-6.75	
BANKBARODA	46.55	46.7	45.85	46.3	-0.25	
ADANITRANS	267	272.9	265.35	267.65	-1.5	
BIOCON	440.05	453.9	434.55	437.15	-2.9	
SBICARD	863.55	865	850	852.7	-5.9	
HDFCAML	2,324.00	2,324.00	2,288.00	2,289.40	-17.9	
HINDZINC	220.5	223.4	218	218.8	-2.55	
OFSS	3,050.00	3,054.95	2,963.00	2,987.80	-37.1	
PETRONET	241.05	242.25	236.95	237.3	-3.2	
HINDPETRO	197.85	199.2	193.85	195.6	-2.65	
IGL	420	422	408.85	413.65	-6.2	
UNIL	1,056.50	1,058.30	1,028.00	1,033.00	-15.75	
DBIO	1,351.90	1,353.05	1,313.00	1,317.00	-26.55	
ABBOTINDIA	16,999.95	16,999.95	16,485.75	16,535.00	-360.6	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
IXEY	205.6	219.05	204	211.05
RELIANCE	2323.7	2368.8	2311.75	2323.85
INFY	990.95	1006	982.3	1001.05
PIIND	2020	2068.4	1963.75	2052.95
HINDALSTEL	206.55	209.6	203.2	204.1
INDUSINDBK	642.1	642.1	614	622.1
HDFCBANK	1069.75	1095.5	1069.75	1093.5
BAFINANCE	3515.35	3565.1	3481.95	3519.75
TATAMOTORS	149.05	154.25	148.6	151.6
HDFC	1768	1774	1744.9	1768
DREDDY	4445	4651.95	4415	4631.55
M&M	614.55	649.45	614.55	639.6
FEDERALBNK	54.45	54.45	52.85	53.55
KOTAKBANK	1329	1332.6	1301	1324.7
SBIN	199.9	200	196.3	198.25
SCHAEFFLER	4164	4190	3984.8	4023.35
IDEA	111.83	111.83	114.6	115.2
BELSTARCO	694.5	695.25	665.8	675.95
TCUS	2490	2501.7	2478.5	2502.65
BHARTIARTL	487.7	490.5	480.45	481.65
AXISBANK	449	450.45	439.95	445.95
AUROPHARMA	847.9	850.8	823.25	831.55
LUPIN	1008.6	1032.7	996	1028.4
DLF	156.5	164.25	154.2	163.4
WIPRO	307	313.45	304.1	312.1
RBLBANK	183.1	187.1	182.2	185.65
TITAN	1177	1188.7	1164	1182.45
ICICIBANK	372.7	376.75	365	374.75
BANDHANBNK	305.3	307.8	303	305.05
ASHOKLEY	77	80.4	76.55	78.85
BAJAJ-AUTO	2966	3046.95	2942.65	3037.55
ITEC	181.95	183.5	180	180.65
DEEPAKNI	861.1	866.55	818.4	856.75
DIVISLAB	3189	3214.45	3186.1	3244
HEROMOTOCO	3000	3074.05	3000	3055.55
CONCOR	389	390.1	384.1	386.95
HINDUNILVR	2128	2158	2113.1	2142.7
ADANIGREEN	695.2	699	643.35	675.6
SUNPHARMA*	511	519.9	503.85	518.7
MARUTI	7063.1	7165	7046.45	7054.35
PVR	1268	1285	1235.95	1247.9
EICHEMOTM	2144.05	2187.8	2144	2162.95
CIPLA	749	756.2	732.25	752.7
GAIL	92.7	92.7	91.35	92.25
LCYTECH	792	796.15	779.65	789.35
ESCORTS	1229.55	1270.95	1229.55	1254.2
NMDC	90.1	94.65	89.75	90.75
APOLLOHOSP*	1690	1738.65	1678.95	1688.95
IBULHSGFIN	188.8	193.35	185.05	186.3
SKRTRANSF	651.2	665.75	646	657.95
BAJAJFINSV	6154.5	6230	6100	6143.6
EDFICIRSTB	32.25	32.35	31.6	32.1
LT	912.2	923.5	912.2	921.95

PAK ‘EPICENTRE OF TERRORISM’: INDIA

Persecutes Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, says India at Geneva; slams OIC, Turkey, Pakistan over Kashmir

PTI ■ GENEVA

Describing Pakistan as an “epi-center of terrorism”, India has said that no one deserves an unsolicited lecture on human rights from Islamabad that has consistently persecuted its ethnic and religious minorities including Hindus, Sikhs and Christians.

Exercising the Right of Reply to the statements made by Pakistan at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) here, the Indian representative on Tuesday said that it has become habitual for Pakistan to malign India with false and fabricated narratives for its self-serving malicious purposes.

“Neither India nor others deserve this unsolicited lecture on human rights from a country that has consistently persecuted its ethnic and religious minorities, is an epicenter of terrorism, has the distinction of providing pensions to individuals on UN Sanctions list and has a Prime Minister who proudly admits training tens of thousands of terrorists to fight in Jammu & Kashmir,” the Indian diplomat said.

It was not surprising that other relevant multilateral institutions have been raising serious concerns on Pakistan’s failure to stop terror financing and lack of effective actions against all terror entities in Pakistan, India said.

Highlighting the nefarious designs of Pakistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), it said, “the mass influx of outsiders has whittled down the number of Kashmiris to an insignificant number in Pakistan occupied parts of Indian Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh”.

“In its zeal to reassert its theocratic ideology, it (Pakistan) has ensured that ethnic and religious minorities have no future through systematic persecution, blasphemy

laws, forced conversions, targeted killings, sectarian violence and faith-based discrimination,” India said.

Thousands of Sikh, Hindu and Christian minority women and girls have been subjected to abductions, forced marriages and conversions in Pakistan, it said.

On the plight of people in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, India said, “Not a single day has gone by when a family in Balochistan doesn’t find its members picked up or kidnapped by the security forces of Pakistan.”

“Pakistan does well when it comes to intimidation and attacks against journalists, human rights defenders and political dissidents in particular by its state machinery. It is not without a reason that Pakistan has been highlighted by international organisations as a country where journalists are slain and their killers go scot free,” India said.

India also slammed Pakistan for “abusing various HRC mechanisms and platforms for raising issues, which are extraneous to the mandate of the HRC and which relate to the internal affairs of India, with a view to distract the attention of the international community from serious human rights violations committed by it against its own people, including in Indian territories occupied by it.” India also rejected the reference made by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to Jammu & Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. “The OIC has no locus standi to comment on internal affairs of India. The OIC has allowed itself to be misused by Pakistan to subvert its own Agenda. It’s for the members of the OIC to decide if it is in their interests to allow Pakistan to do so,” it said. India also advised Turkey to refrain from commenting on its internal affairs and develop a better understanding of the democratic practices.

He’s taking something: Trump accuses Biden of using drugs

AFF ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump, in his latest shredding of political niceties, suggested Tuesday that his Democratic opponent Joe Biden has taken drugs to improve his performance in debates. The Republican, who is well behind in national polls, initially insinuated during a Fox News interview that “something was strange” with what he saw as Biden’s improvement during the Democratic primary season debates.

Early on, when there were multiple Democratic candidates lined up on stage, Biden was “a disaster” and

“grossly incompetent,” Trump said. But at a later debate where Biden was one-on-one with leftist rival Bernie Sanders, “he was OK.”

Trump told Fox he didn’t want to say what he thought was the reason for the improvement. Seconds later, he did. “He’s taking something (that) you know, gives him some clarity, or whatever,” he said.

Trump repeated his demand that Biden should undergo a drug test before their first of three presidential debates scheduled for September 29.

“I would take one too,” he said.

Biden responded by telling a Florida radio station “I’m looking for-

ward to the debate and he’s a fool. The comments are just foolish.”

Trump, 74, has for months tried to persuade voters that Biden, 77, is suffering from mental decline.

The former businessman cites Biden’s penchant for gaffes — which some believe to be linked to the Democrat’s lifelong struggle with stuttering — and his reluctance to face unscripted questioning from reporters. Trump — who takes questions from reporters almost daily but is known for his own frequently garbled and baffling statements — said, “Joe is lost. We can’t have a president that is mentally lost.”

Trump making dent in Indian-American vote bank: Survey

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has made inroads into the Indian-American vote bank, the biggest ever by a Republican president, according to a survey which has sent worrying signals to the Democrats that the support of this influential ethnic community can no longer be taken for granted.

The survey by Indiaspora and Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Data on Tuesday showed that a majority of Indian-Americans still favour former vice president Biden, the Democratic Party’s nominee in the November 3 US presidential election.

It found that 74-year-old Trump, seeking re-election, is making a big dent into the Indian-American vote bank despite the fact that Biden has a strong relationship with the community and played a key role in bilateral ties over the past few decades. Biden, 77, also scripted history last month by selecting Senator Kamala Harris, 55, as his running mate.

According to the survey, 66 per cent Indian-Americans

currently favour Biden and 28 per cent favour Trump while six per cent were undecided.

Notably in the 2016 presidential election, 77 per cent voted for former US secretary Hillary Clinton, and 16 per cent for Trump. In 2012, as many as 84 per cent Indian-Americans voted for Barack Obama. Dr Karthick Ramakrishnan, professor of public policy and political science at University of California, Riverside and founder of AAPI Data who is author of the survey, said that the Indian-Americans’ support to Trump, in case of a swing of the undecided Indian-Americans, would probably reach the 30 per cent mark.

“Democrats absolutely should be concerned about making sure that they conduct sufficient outreach to the Indian-Americans,” Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said. “The Democrats should conduct sufficient outreach to the different groups that comprise Indian-Americans, because every vote is going to count, especially in those battleground states as the survey result indicated,” he said.

Report: Biden holds lead over Trump among Indian-American voters

AGENCIES ■ SAN FRANCISCO/ WASHINGTON

Sixty-six per cent of Indian Americans currently favour Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden for the 2020 presidential election as compared to only 28 per cent who prefer President Donald Trump, according to a survey released on Tuesday.

Indiaspora, a nonprofit member organisation of global Indian diaspora leaders, and Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAP) Data on Tuesday released their joint report on Indian American voters’ attitudes in the upcoming 2020 US presidential election.

“66 per cent of Indian Americans currently favour Vice President Biden, 28 per cent favour President Donald Trump, and 6 percent were undecided. In the 2016 presidential election, 77percent voted for Secretary Hillary Clinton, and 16 per cent voted for President Trump. If the remaining undecided voters broke in the same pattern as those who have madeup their mind, Joe Biden would secure 70 per cent of the vote, when compared to 30 per cent for Trump,” the report read.

Election experts project that Democrats should be worried about Indian American voters attrition considering the overall percentage number may have dropped down for the Democrats from the 84 per cent that supported Obama in 2012 and the 77 per cent who supported Hillary Clinton 2016

as compared to the 66 per cent supporting former Vice President Joe Biden. Meanwhile, President Trump’s vote share has gone up from 16 percent in 2016 to 28 per cent.

“I think Democrats absolutely should be concerned about making sure that they conduct sufficient outreach to Indian Americans that they conduct sufficient outreach to the different groups that comprise bases and Indian Americans because every vote is going to count especially in those battleground states,” said Raja Krishnamoorthi, a Democrat congressman.

An Indian American himself and representative from state of Illinois, Raja Krishnamoorthi further said that the states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida and North Carolina could be a part of tipping factor this election. “And because of that I think the Joe Biden campaign has to be especially attentive,” Raja Krishnamoorthi further asserted. The survey report also documents the strengthening political power of the Indian American electorate in the U.S. due to factors such as their rapidly growing population and increased political participation.

“With increased attention being paid to the Indian American vote given our growing numbers, increasing political contributions and overall political engagement, we wanted to shine a spotlight on the issues that really matter to Indian American voters,” said MR Rangaswami, founder of Indiaspora.

China sends 9 satellites into space in first sea-based commercial launch

Beijing: China has successfully sent nine satellites into orbit in its first commercial launch of a rocket from a platform at sea, state media reported on Wednesday.

The satellites, one of which belonged to video-sharing platform Bilibili, were deployed by a Long March 11 rocket from the Yellow Sea on Tuesday, media reported.

The Long March 11, designed to be deployed quickly and from mobile launch sites such as a ship, is mainly used to carry small satellites. The rocket made its first sea launch in June last year.

“Sea launch platforms will

increase the number of China’s launch areas, improve launch efficiency, and make launches safer and more flexible,” the official People’s Daily cited Li Zongli, director of the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, as saying. China has three inland space launch centres, where used rocket stages return to earth and sometimes pose a danger to inhabited areas. Sea launches would reduce that risk.

China has made its space programme a top priority in recent years as it races to catch up with the United States and become a major space power by 2030.

Agencies

ByteDance to place Tik Tok’s global HQ in US to escape Trump ban

Beijing (PTI): China’s ByteDance has decided to place the headquarters of its popular video platform app TikTok in the US in order to escape President Donald Trump’s ban, official media here reported on Wednesday.

As per the plan presented to the US officials by ByteDance, TikTok will remain

the majority shareholder of the new US headquartered company, and tech firm Oracle will be a minority shareholder, state-run CGTN TV reported.

Other potential US investors such as the world’s largest retailer Walmart, which had launched a joint bid with Microsoft, would own a minority stake, the report said.

People familiar with the negotiation process emphasised that specific details of the plan may change.

Independent third parties will serve as directors of the new company, and ByteDance will continue to control TikTok and its core algorithms.

In order to allay US concerns about “national security,”

TikTok’s data from America will be stored in the US and Oracle will serve as the data service provider, the report said. “There’s also a commitment to create TikTok Global as a US headquartered company with 20,000 new jobs,” Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Monday in an interview with CNBC, adding

that Oracle will be the trusted technology partner.

ByteDance on Monday said it will not sell TikTok’s US operations to Microsoft or Oracle, nor will the company give the source code to any US buyers.

On August 6, Trump issued an executive order stating that TikTok’s US business

must be sold before September 20, and threatened to block the video app in the US.

TikTok was among the 59 Chinese apps banned by India in June this year saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country. Later India followed up with ban on 118 more Chinese apps.

FROM PAGE 1

NO INFILTRATION REPORTED ALONG INDIA-CHINA BORDER IN LAST 6 MONTHS, RS TOLD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too had in May categorically stated at an all-party meeting that “neither is anyone inside our territory nor is any of our post captured”, post which the PMO had to clarify that the “observation that there was no Chinese presence on our side of the LAC pertained to the situation as a consequence of the bravery of our armed forces”.

WITHDRAWAL OF ARMY’S PURPORTED STATEMENT ON READINESS ...

Referring to the propaganda by the China’s State media especially Global Times, that the Indian Army would not be able to withstand the harsh conditions in Ladakh heights, the Northern Command spokesman said that it can be best attributed to the “ignorance” of Chinese media.

“The Indian Army is fully prepared and more than capable of fighting a full-fledged war even in winters in Eastern Ladakh.”

After the statement became viral and was uploaded on the websites of all TV channels and publications, the PRO issued another statement, saying, “The mail in trail may please be treated as cancelled. This statement doesn’t represent the views of either Northern Command or Indian Army.” Defence PRO (Jammu) also issued a similar statement.

Incidentally, several TV channels had ran detailed stories from forward bases about the Indian Army’s readiness to take on China.

18K-PAGE CHARGESHEET FILED AGAINST 15 FOR DELHI RIOTS

Police sources also said the conspirators used a WhatsApp group, which is now closed, for violence in two areas. “Twenty-five WhatsApp groups were especially created for protest sites in the city,” said the sources.

“The impression was given that they were an anti-CAA protest group, but through these groups conspirators were being guided,” he added.

The chargesheet, which includes Tahir in the Delhi riots case, does not have names of former JNU student leader Umar Khalid and Sharjeel

Imam as accused.

“Khalid and Imam were arrested a few days ago and their names will be in the supplementary chargesheet,” a Delhi police official said.

Earlier, the Delhi Police had said the riots were the result of a planned conspiracy after finding a common pattern during their investigation.

According to Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), the first chargesheet in case FIR 59/2020 has been filed by the Special Cell.

“The riots which broke out in parts of North East Delhi in February 2020 had claimed 53 deaths, 583 persons were injured and there was destruction and damage of both Government as well as private properties on a huge scale. Claims amounting to more than Rs 20crore to compensate for loss of property have been filed before the GNCTD, which indicates the scale and immense cost of the tragedy,” said Mittal.

“Over 16,000 PCR calls were received and a total of 751 cases were registered by Delhi Police in connection with these riots. 59 cases were assigned to SIT constituted in the Crime Branch, 691 cases were investigated by the district police and one case which was registered on March 6, 2020 to investigate the larger conspiracy behind these riots was assigned to the Special Cell,” said Mittal.

“In the course of investigation of the 750 FIRs registered concerning the specific offences committed during the riots, 12 pistols, 121 empty cartridges, 92 live cartridges, 61 glass bottles filled with noxious chemicals and an assortment of sharp-edged weapons have been seized so far by Delhi Police,” said Mittal.

“As regards the above-mentioned case with the Special Cell, it took 195 days to complete the first phase of investigation. During this period, 747 witnesses have been examined and approximately 75 electronic devices have been seized as part of the investigation,” said Mittal adding that further investigation into the matter is continuing and supplementary chargesheets are likely to be filed in due course.

Enacted in December 2019, the CAA grants citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, and Parsi immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.

CENTRE DELAYED COVID LOCKDOWN FOR ‘NAMASTE TRUMP’, ALLEGES OPP

Sharma sought to know from the Health Minister if the Government made any preparation before announcing the lockdown from 25

March.

“Yesterday, the Health Minister said that this decision (lockdown) could prevent approximately 14 to 29 lakh Covid-19 cases and 37,000-78,000 deaths. This House must be informed what is the scientific basis of this and how we have reached this conclusion,” Sharma said. He said that there was a very wide gap.

Sharma also questioned why the Government has no data on the migrant workers. He highlighted that had facilities like quarantine centres been in place in the cities for the migrant workers, their reverse migration could have been restricted and the pandemic could have been contained from spreading to the rural areas.

While CPI-M MP E Kareem alleged that the “lockdown was only announced when the government was toppled in Madhya Pradesh.

Kareem was referring to the late-March shift in Government in Madhya Pradesh that followed a rebellion mounted by Jyotiraditya Scindia and his loyalists against the erstwhile Congress administration.

While RJD MP Manoj Jha said the programme has cost the country dearly, and “later the Government thought that the lockdown was the cure”, JD(U) MP RCP Singh said the ‘migrant’ word should be scrapped as “how a citizen of the country can be a migrant in another State.

This was in reaction to Minister of State for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar statement that ‘no such data is maintained’ by the Government, in reply to a written question in the Lok Sabha.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu had set aside two hours for a discussion on coronavirus, but extended it to four hours at the instance of the Opposition. While a two-hour discussion took place Wednesday, another two hours is slotted for Thursday. The Centre will then reply. Nominated MP Swapna Dasgupta too sought a “clarification from the Government on the statistical robustness of the figures”. “Is there a science behind it?”

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Derek O’Brien referred to the Government’s claims about having held video conferences with States in the run-up to the lockdown. “We want to know how many were held before 25 March,” he said. Prasanna Acharya of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) said all State Governments are reeling under an economic crisis, but the Central Government is “not coming forward to assist them”. “What is the assistance from the Centre to deal with Covid apart from issuing advisories and circulars?”

K Keshava Rao of the Telangana Rashtra



YOSHIIHIDE SUGA NAMED JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER, SUCCEEDING ABE: Japan's Parliament elected Yoshihide Suga as Prime Minister on Wednesday, replacing long-serving leader Shinzo Abe with his right-hand man. Suga, who was chief Cabinet secretary in Abe's Government, is to launch his own Cabinet later Wednesday. (In pic) Yoshihide Suga, second from right, being appointed Japan's new Prime Minister by Emperor Naruhito, left, during attestation ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, on Wednesday AP

Just monkeying around: Primate takes phone, then selfies!

Kuala Lumpur: A Malaysian student whose cellphone was stolen while he was sleeping has tracked down the culprit: a monkey who took photo and the video selfies with the device before abandoning it.

Zackrydz Rodzi, 20, said his phone was missing from his bedroom when he woke up Saturday. He found the phone’s casing under his bed but there was no sign of robbery in his house in southern Johor state.

When his father saw a monkey the next day, he launched a search in the jungle behind his house. Using his brother’s phone to call the device, he found it covered in mud under a palm tree. But a bigger surprise came when he checked his phone and found a series of monkey selfies and videos recorded in the phone.

“My uncle was joking that maybe the monkey took some selfies with the phone... So when I checked my phone picture gallery, I was shocked. The suspect’s face was plastered on the screen. It was hilarious,” Zackrydz said. AP

Israel strikes Gaza after rocket fire during US ceremony

Jerusalem: The Israeli military struck Hamas militant sites in the Gaza Strip early on Wednesday in response to rocket fire toward Israel the previous night that coincided with the signing of normalisation agreements between Israel and two Arab countries at the White House.

The barrage against Israel began on Tuesday night just as the ceremony in Washington was getting underway to formalize the new agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Two Israelis were lightly wounded.

The rocket fire continued overnight, with sirens sounding across southern Israel. The military said five projectiles landed in open areas with the rest intercepted by Israel’s rocket defense system.

In response, the military said it struck about 10 sites belonging to Gaza’s militant Hamas rulers, including a weapons and explosives manufacturing factory, underground infrastructure and a military training compound. AP

Trend Slazer

'Love the lockdown life'

Actor **SONAKSHI SINHA** says she is not fretting about getting back to work or how the industry will change in the COVID era.

The actor shared that she is loving the lockdown life for now.

"I am just going to admit that I am loving lockdown life. In the last 10 years, I haven't gotten a break for so long where I have been able to spend time with myself, understand what I want from life, do the things I like to do and just be one with yourself, sort your head out, contemplate and understand what's important and what's not," Sonakshi said.

"I am not worried about when work will start and how it will be," added she.



'In our younger years, the idea of a villain was rather limited. It was obviously by

virtue of how the stories played out, but villains were a little over the top in their tonality. With Mirzapur and Gurgaon or even Sacred Games, I have been able to explore the dark side of the human psyche in greater depth. I choose the negative characters wisely.'

—Pankaj Tripathi

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** says only

people with strong spiritual core can recognise the delusion that is showbiz.

"Show business is absolutely intoxicating. It makes one believe in an alternate reality, a little bubble of their own, it takes a very strong spiritual core to recognise this delusion," Kangana tweeted.

Earlier, she criticised Samajwadi Party MP and actor Jaya Bachchan for her remarks against people who are trying to tarnish the image of the film industry, and questioned whether her stance would change if her children were involved.



Kim freezes her Insta, FB account

Reality TV star **KIM KARDASHIAN WEST**, who has one of the biggest Instagram followings in the world — 188.8 million — decided to freeze her social media accounts to protest against the spread of 'hate, propaganda and misinformation'.

Kim wrote: "I love that I can connect directly with you through Instagram and Facebook, but I can't sit by and stay silent while these platforms continue to allow the spreading of hate, propaganda and misinformation."

Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Orlando Bloom, Kerry Washington and Sacha Baron Cohen are among those who took part in the protest.



VOCAL FOR LOCAL

From import subsidisation to vendor development, creation of green supply chains, minimising carbon footprints, the Indian hospitality sector uses more than 90 per cent local resources, making it an embodiment of an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. By **AYUSHI SHARMA**

The Indian tourism sector has had a long journey of growth and finding its place on the world map. The era after the economic liberalisation of the 90s in India sparked the growth of the sector and attained new heights. In 2018, tourism contributed more than nine per cent to India's GDP and accounted for eight per cent of the country's employment. As per the statistics, states like Sikkim, tourism helped increase its employment rate to 33 per cent. And the hospitality industry constitutes a majority share of the tourism sector. Hotels are a part of essential tourism infrastructure as providers of tourist accommodation in all categories. From providing basic facilities to a weary traveller who wants to break the journey to rest and refuel, wayside motels have come a long way and become centres for culinary delights, venues for events and destinations for leisure seekers.

PM Narendra Modi has advocated that the ongoing pandemic should be looked at as an opportunity and given a clarion call to the nation to build an *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-reliant India). As per the Hotel Association of India (HAI), the hotel industry is proud to say that it is an embodiment of his cherished dream. Today, Indian hotels are among the best globally and have won accolades and awards for excellence in service by business and leisure tourists alike. And what is commendable is the fact that global recognition has come by practising the age-old Indian tradition of "Atithi Devo

Bhava" and by using local sources, be it money, material, machines or manpower. The Indian hospitality industry uses more than 90 per cent local resources.

Puneet Chhatwal, President of Hotel Association of India, explains that tourism is integral to any nation's prosperity as it creates jobs, drives exports, enhances foreign exchange earnings and creates sustainable livelihoods. He says, "We all know that tourism is much more than what meets the eye. It is one of the fastest growing sectors of Indian economy over the past decade at a CAGR of 8.5 per cent. The sector employs close to 10-12 per cent of all workforce in the country, thereby contributing to building livelihood with a multiplier effect. In addition, the sector contributes to over ₹10,000 crores to the exchequer every year. Hotels are significant employers of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers. The industry also promotes gender diversity and equal opportunity. From import subsidisation to vendor development, creation of green supply chains, minimising carbon footprints, the industry contributes richly to the economy."

BEING SELF RELIANT

The industry's endeavour has been to increase its focus on local sourcing of ingredients/components in its key pillars of food and beverage, infrastructure and engineering equipment. From about 65 per cent in the year 2000, there has been consistent efforts to increase the extent of local sourcing which rose to about 87



per cent in 2020.

Priya Paul, Chairperson of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited and Executive Committee Member of Hotel Association of India, says, "THE Park Hotels as well as our social catalyst brand, Zone by THE Park, are a true reflection of contemporary India. Our DNA of creativity and innovation is expressed in distinctive ways. We work with numerous Indian designers, products as well as local artisans and even promote new Indian performing arts. For instance, at our Hyderabad branch, we worked with more than 25 designers for our various spaces. We commissioned local artisans and craftsmen to work on the dying art of *Kalamkari* and to recreate it in a con-

temporary way."

She adds, "We have been promoting farm-to-fork concept for the last many years. We work closely with the local organic farmers and have been promoting sustainable food practices. Before the lockdown, our hotels in New Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata used to have weekly organic farmer markets. Our menus are also designed in a way where information on the source of food is also shared. For us, this has been a practice for a very long time."

The industry aspires to increase this further to an overall 95 per cent and more by 2025. In certain value components such as DG sets, AC units, mechanical equipment and elevators, it would be closer to 100 per cent. However, the question is — despite seeing no guests at all for the past five months and currently not attracting many tourists due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, how does the self-reliant claim stand true? Puneet tells us, "The impact of the pandemic has definitely been severe. As per The Horwath HTL India Report, this is best reflected by the loss of demand and revenue. The aggregate loss for March to June 2020, compared to 2019, is ₹4,810 crore for the hospitality sector."

"Even in the given bleak scenario, the sector has been able to hold its ground and is working hard to weather this storm. It is adapting to the new normal with enhanced safety and hygiene practices, moving swiftly towards

increased digitisation and rolling out new products and alternative revenue streams like online food delivery. However, due to a lack of uniform regulations across states, hotels are continuing to bear the brunt. While the Indian hospitality sector is very much self-reliant, it requires a few extraordinary measures, including the support from its stakeholders and the government," adds he.

EXEMPLIFYING NATIONAL PRESTIGE

Indian hospitality has brought India on the world tourism map. From playing host to heads of states, celebrities, senior officials, industrialists and entrepreneurs, facilitating large and prestigious national as well as international conventions and events to providing a secure comfortable abode for people during disasters, Indian hotels have displayed their commitment to the nation.

"Hotels have always showcased India's rich culture and diversity. They support local artists and artisans by giving them a platform to exhibit their craft. They are the centres for the promotion of Indian heritage, textiles, cuisines, handicrafts, culture, art and artists. They have also introduced the world to our ancient practices of yoga and Ayurveda. And they will continue to carry forward this tradition," shares Puneet.

The fact that some of the best hotels in the world are managed by Indians adds to the national pride.

PROVIDING LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Indian hospitality sector employs close to 4.5 crore people and livelihood to many more. It provides an opportunity for women and to the differently-abled. From the humble basic tourist accommodation tents and lodges, the industry has offerings also for the first-class traveller to those seeking ultra-luxury, thus, giving all Indians an opportunity to experience the country's rich touristic treasures, undertake pilgrimages and much more.

Christie's to sell Parton's jewels

Christie's announced an online-only charity auction — *NASHVILLE: An Auction to benefit ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Response Fund* — led by a Swarovski-crystal bedazzled four-string dulcimer, owned by Dolly Parton for 30 years. It's accompanied by its original stand and used by the artist as she celebrated her 50th anniversary performing at the Grand Ole Opry in 2019. The dulcimer is estimated at \$50,000-1,00,000 and leads a sale featuring items generously donated by country music's biggest names, including Reba McEntire, Tim McGraw, Marty Stuart, Bernie Taupin, and Trisha Yearwood.

The auction received a special mention during the live broadcast of the 55th Academy of Country Music Awards hosted by Keith Urban on Wednesday. ACM Lifting Lives is the philanthropic arm of the Academy of Country Music dedicated to improving lives through the power of music. The auction dates and additional lots will be announced at a later date.

Dolly Parton said, "Seeing my country music community suffer due to the pandemic has broken my heart. It was important to donate the dulcimer that was designed for my 50th Opry Anniversary so we can raise awareness and much needed funds to keep these folks on their feet before we can open the doors to our stages once again."

Lyndsay Cruz, Executive Director, ACM Lifting Lives, said, "We are immensely grateful to the artists in the Nashville community and beyond who have generously donated items for this auction in collaboration with Christie's. Every winning bid will go towards our COVID-19 Response Fund to support the workers of our country music community — the tour bus drivers, aspiring musicians, techs and venue workers — so many of whom have lost their livelihoods overnight during the course of this pandemic."



So far, the fund has distributed \$1.5 million and we are hoping the sale of these iconic items will enable us to support more affected by this crisis." "Christie's is honored to work with the music community in Nashville and partner with ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Response Fund to support the country music frontline workers who are in need at this time. We are particularly excited to be offering the first musical instrument ever to appear at a global auction from Dolly Parton," said Nancy Valentino, Strategic Business and Client Development, Christie's.

While the dulcimer is an ancient instrument, the Appalachian dulcimer is a cornerstone to the sound of country music, and one that Country Music Hall of Famer Dolly Parton has used throughout her career.



DISCOVERING INDIA

As a part of a new series — *Lost Essence of India* — singer, actor and avid photographer **MEIYANG CHANG** helps the audience uncover hidden gems that have been forgotten over time

As a part of the Discovery Channel's latest series — *Lost Essence of India* — singer, actor and an avid photographer, Meiyang Chang, who is also the host of the show, takes viewers on an enchanting journey and helps them uncover hidden gems that have been forgotten over time.

In the first episode of this four-part series, Chang explores the Rivona Caves in Goa known to be creation of Buddhist monks around the 6th century, entering some of the remotest parts of the country, with roads that are not well-trodden.

The second episode witness-

es Chang relishing the Saraswat Brahmin cuisine that not many have been fortunate to enjoy. Moving on to the third episode, he explores the lost heart of Kashmir, Choharnag, which is surrounded by meadows all around. In the finale episode, Chang goes on to unveil another gem, Naranag Temple in Kashmir, one of the important archaeological sites of the country.

"India boasts of an immensely rich culture and architecture, and we only know about the popular and promoted aspects of it. There are a million more places, stories and experiences that are

yet to be discovered. And that's what we set out to do with *Lost Essence of India*," said Chang.

"I have been to Goa and Kashmir before and yet I was unaware of the existence of these experiences. It was a breath-taking, mindset-changing journey through lesser taken paths to discover the lost essence of some magnificent places in the country. I pray you love this and get to experience it someday while being a responsible tourist. Respect nature and nature will love you back. Also, I can't wait to see where we head to next," he added.



JUST A CLICK AWAY

Chhattisgarh CM BHUPESH BAGHEL launches CG-COP mobile app through which citizens will have access to at least 14 services online

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel recently launched CG-COP mobile app of Chhattisgarh Police, at his residence office. On the occasion, Baghel said that the app developed by Chhattisgarh Police will help in developing mutual trust between common

people and the police, bringing them closer. It will be now more comfortable for people to seek help from the police. The app will act as a bridge between the citizens and the police in the direction of crime control. Through the app, citizens will be able to give information about crime

or the information related to different cases with a single click. Citizens will be able to avail 14 types of services without having to go to the police stations. It has features that helps file civil FIR, online complaint about theft, missing, seized vehicle, unknown body, seized mobile, miss-

ing person, to share clue with police, search case status, police telephone directory, help centre, share details of the arrested person, locate nearest police station and access helpline services. On this occasion, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Chief

Secretary RP Mandal, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahu, Director General of Police DM Awasthi, Director General of Police, Jail, Sanjay Pillay, Special Director General of Police RK Vij and Ashok Juneja along with other senior officers of the police department were present.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat via Sohna-Manesar-Kharkhauda. The total length of the project is 121.7 km. This will facilitate diversion of traffic not meant for Delhi and will help in developing multimodal logistics hubs in Haryana sub-region of NCR.

IMPLEMENTATION

The project will be implemented by Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (HRIDC), a joint venture company set up by Ministry of Railways with the Government of Haryana.

The estimated completion cost of the project is ₹5,617 crore and it is proposed to be completed in five years.

The line will start from Palwal and end at existing Harsana Kalan station (On Delhi-Ambala section). This will also give connectivity enroute to existing Patli Station (On Delhi-Rewari line), Sultanpur station (On Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar Line) and Asaudha Station (On Delhi Rohtak Line).

BENEFITS

The districts of Palwal, Nuh, Gurugram, Jhajjar and Sonipat districts of Haryana will be benefitted through this railway line.

It will provide high-speed seam-

Diverting routes

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat



less connectivity of this region to Dedicated Freight Corridor network resulting in reduction of cost and time of transportation for EXIM traffic from NCR to ports of India, making exports of goods more competitive. The transport corridor along with other initiatives will provide enabling infrastructure to attract multinational industries to set up manufacturing units to fulfill the 'Make in India' mission.

The project will connect unserved areas of the state of Haryana, thereby boosting economic and social activities in Haryana. This multi-purpose transport project will also facilitate affordable and

BACKGROUND

The Orbital Rail Corridor from Palwal to Sonipat by passing Delhi is a crucial infrastructure project for sustainable development of the NCR and to de-congest existing Indian Railway network in Delhi area.

The alignment of this project is adjacent to the western peripheral (Kundli-Manesar-Palwal) Expressway and has been under consideration for some time. The project will have connectivity with all the existing railway routes originating from Delhi and passing through Haryana State as well as with the Dedicated Freight Corridor network.



WRWWO supports Corona warriors' widows

As a token of support, Tanuja Kansal, President of Western Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (WRWWO), recently distributed the 'Samvedna Rashi' to the widows of the Western Railway's 15 Corona Warriors of frontline staff.

According to Sumit Thakur, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Kansal handed over an amount of ₹5,000 each to the 15 widows of the employees of frontline staff.

She said, "It is very disheartening and unfortunate that these employees lost their lives while performing their duty during the COVID-19 pandemic. These employees came from various fields like Ticket Checking, Ticket Booking, Loco Pilot, Guard, Fitter, Technician, Trackman etc."

The WRWWO salutes its sincere and dedicated employees. Kansal and the executive committee members encouraged railway employees to empower themselves and be confident to face adversities.

In her address on this occasion, Kansal said that be it during the COVID-19 pandemic, natural calamities or serious illness, WRWWO has always empathised with the employees and their families and is ready to reach out to them in difficult times. She said that our corona warriors without caring for their life have sincerely carried out their duty. "It is very unfortunate that while performing their duties, some of them got infected with the Coronavirus and lost their lives. There is no compensation to the lives lost. WRWWO and its members salute such brave employees and stand by their bereaved families," she added. Kansal said that the wives of these employees have always backed their husbands and stood by them with grit and determination.

The recipients of the amount were Sujata w/o Arun Tenbulkar — MCF, Lower Parel; Janki w/o Ramavadh Shastri — chief booking supervisor, Vasai Road; Jashuben w/o Jitendra Gamit, Chief Ticket Inspector, Ahmedabad; Mira Devi w/o Durga Lal Meena, Mail Guard, Surat; Devanti w/o Kapil Dev Bhagat, Fitter, Borivali; Namita w/o Nitin Gharat, Technician, Lower Parel; Shushma w/o Rajesh Mishra, ELF, Kandivali; Ruma w/o Ganeshchandra Mujkuri, Loco Pilot /Mail, Bandra Terminus; Nirmala w/o Vijay Bote, TCM, Mumbai Central; Sunita w/o Sunil Khandre, Chief Booking Supervisor, Santacruz; Leena w/o Vincent Fernandes, Head Constable, Kankariya; Chandrika w/o Tulsibhai Vaghela, HKA, Chirai; Gayatri Devi w/o Narendra Gosai, Tech, Diesel Shed, Sabarmati; Devendramma w/o Nagappa Agasur, Trackman, Borivali and Prabha w/o R S Sharma, Dy Chief Ticket Inspector, Rajdhani Express.

BHEL signs MoU with SwissRapid AG

To expand its footprint in the Urban Transportation Sector as a part of its diversification initiatives, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SwissRapid AG for Maglev Train projects in India.

To this effect, an MoU was signed

by SV Srinivasan, GM and Head (Transportation Business Group), BHEL and Niklaus H Koenig, President and CEO, SwissRapid AG.

Significantly, the agreement has been signed in the backdrop of the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, and will enable BHEL to bring the latest,

world-class technology to India and manufacture state-of-the-art Maglev Trains indigenously.

The MoU sets out the foundation to cooperate and explore mutually beneficial business opportunities, and utilise both the companies' inherent capabilities, skills, knowledge and assets.

Notably, the Maglev Rail system hovers in the air instead of rolling, due to magnetic levitation, thus the vehicles have no physical contact with the guideway. This enables the system to be highly energy efficient, allow operating speeds of 500 km/h easily and significantly reduce the total cost of system ownership.

Port Blair airport to have a new terminal building

Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair is soon going to have a new terminal building. The airport currently handles 18 lakh passengers annually. Considering the surge in the passenger traffic, Airports Authority of India has undertaken the construction of integrated terminal building there at ₹700 crore.

With total built up area of 40,837 sqm, the building will be capable to handle 1,200 passengers during peak hours and about 50 lakh passengers annually. The new passenger terminal building will have three levels comprising of lower ground, upper ground and first floor. The lower ground floor will be used as



remote arrival, departure and service area, the upper ground floor will have entry and exit gates and the first floor as awaiting lounge for interna-

tional passengers.

The building will be equipped with modern passenger's facilities with 28 check-in counters, three pas-

senger boarding bridges, five conveyor belts with in-line scan system and state-of-the-art firefighting and fire alarm system. City side area of the

Airport will also be developed with adequate parking facilities for car, taxi and buses along with the landscaping.

Inspired from nature, the design of the terminal is a shell shaped structure depicting sea and islands. It is a structural steel framed building provided with aluminum sheet roofing and cable net glazing all around. The entire terminal will also have 100 per cent natural lighting through skylights provided at roof level.

Curved shaped Cable Net Glazing will be provided all around the building. More than 65 per cent of the project is completed and the building is scheduled to be ready by mid-2021.

ALERT FOR PENSIONERS

In view of the ongoing pandemic and the vulnerability of elderly population to Coronavirus, the Government has relaxed the existing timeline for submission of Life Certificate. This year, all Central Government pensioners can submit Life Certificate from November 1 to December 31. The pensioners in the age group of 80 years and above, can submit their certificate from October 1. Earlier, this used to be only for the month of November.

During this extended period, the pension will be continued to be paid by the Pension Disbursing Authorities (PDAs) uninterrupted.

In addition to above, in the line of RBI notification no. RBI/2019-20/138, dated January 9 which permits Video based Customer Identification Process

(V-CIP) as a consent based alternate method of establishing the customer's identity, Pension Disbursing Banks have been also asked to explore the said methodology for obtaining a Life Certificate from the pensioner, to the extent permitted by RBI guidelines, in order to avoid rush at the branch-

es and maintain social distancing, while obtaining Life Certificates.

Pensioners can submit life certificate by visiting the bank branches. However, the department has been promoting the Digital Life Certificate which can be given from the comfort of one's home also.

ASHA schools go solar

Government-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), India's leading NBFC, has installed a stand-alone solar rooftop system at ASHA School, run by Indian Army Wives Welfare Association in the Delhi Cantonment area. The installation has been carried out as part of PFC's CSR initiative.

Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Chairman and Managing Director, PFC along with Lt General R K Anand inaugurated the stand alone solar



rooftop system of 5kWp capacity. PK Singh, Director Commercial, R

Murahari, Executive Director-CSR and M Prabhakar Das, Chief General Manager

(CSR & SD), PFC also graced the occasion along with other Indian Army officials and school staff.

Under the CSR initiative, PFC is providing 5kWp standalone solar rooftop systems with battery backup in 37 Asha schools across the country.

PFC is also providing solar lanterns to Indian Army under its CSR initiative. Around 5,000 solar lanterns have already been supplied to Indian Army which is helping them in tough terrains and forward posts.

DJB celebrates Engineer's Day

In remembrance of M Visvesvaraya, recipient of Bharat Ratna, Delhi Jal Board celebrated Engineer's Day on Tuesday. Every year the day is celebrated at large scale, commemorating the contribution made by the eminent personalities in engineering parlance.

Keeping social distancing and the current crisis in mind, DJB cherished the essence of this day by naming the Andrews Ganj building as DJB Engineers Bhawan by Chairman (DJB), Satyendar Jain in presence of Vice Chairman (DJB), Raghav Chadha, Kasturba Nagar MLA Madanlal, CEO(DJB) Nikhil Kumar, Member (Water), Member (Drainage), Member (Administration), Member (Finance) and other officers.

India celebrates this day every year to mark the birth anniversary of Visvesvaraya, the engineering pioneer of India. Fondly known as Sir MV or the Builder of India, Visvesvaraya was born in 1860 in Chikkaballapura district of Karnataka. DJB Engineers

Bhawan is a four storied building situated at Andrews Ganj and shall be used as public grievance redressal office regarding water, wastewater, etc. for the residents of South Delhi. The knowledge dissemination regarding RWH and various other DJB schemes for the benefit of the residents can also be availed from there.

On the occasion, Jain said, "We are equipped with engineers, who work round the clock to make Delhi a better place by bringing it into the ambit of water and wastewater services and providing state-of-the-art technology. In future DJB will provide consultancy services to other states and countries. Creativity and innovation are two important aspects that should be kept in mind with every project."

On closing the event, Shalabh Kumar, President of The Engineers Association, DJB Delhi and Member (Water) DJB assured Jain that their resolution to work in the interest of the people will always be intact along with striving for betterment.

I N S H O R T



Metro Railway has upgraded several passenger amenities at different Metro stations maintaining social distancing and other COVID-19 protocols. A new escalator was commissioned at Chandni Chowk station on Monday by replacing the old one. With smooth co-operation of civil and electrical departments, the escalator has been commissioned in record time. Metro commuters will get the benefits.



From left to Right: Upender Pandey, Poet and Manjari Mishra, Poetess playing the role of Judges in MSME Hindi Poetry Competition held in Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi on Monday. Assistant Director (OL), Pankaj, is at extreme right.



As per the instructions from the Railway Board, the Swachhata Panchavati is being organised at various locations at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), which will continue till September 30. All the necessary precautions have been ensured, keeping in mind the Coronavirus pandemic. Each day, Panchavati will be associated with a particular theme related to cleanliness and sanitisation. There will be workshops, online drawing competitions on the theme of Swachhata, Swachh Ahar to develop awareness and communication around better hygiene conditions. CLW staff, officers and volunteers of Bharat Scout & Guide are participating.



DDA is set to e-auction 25 functional sites for hosting marriages and other ceremonies. The 10th phase of Mega e-auction is scheduled to be launched soon by Delhi Development Authority which will also include 25 functional sites across Delhi. The allotment will be on License fee basis subject to compliances with all the clean, green protocols and Swachh Bharat Mission norms. DDA is also planning to e-auction Kiosks at various locations in addition to various other types of plots including industrial, institutional, commercial, residential, Expandable Housing Scheme plots, shops, etc., are also part of the forthcoming Mega e-auction.

General Manager, Northern & North Central Railways, Rajiv Chaudhry has released a booklet *Initiatives Taken by Northern Railway to Enhance Safety Standards During Lockdown*. It is a compilation of work done by the various departments and divisions of the zone focussing on safety during the lockdown period of COVID-19. It highlights the efforts put in by the Railway men to deep check, maintain and repair the track system and the rolling stock assets to meet all laid safety standards. The Northern Railway has been ceaselessly working throughout the lockdown period to support the nation fight the pandemic. The time was effectively utilised by the zone for inspecting, maintaining and repairing its assets. The efforts have resulted in no consequential train accident during the period April to August 2020. Releasing the book, Chaudhry called upon the employees to keep up their good work. He added that as the nation's prime transporter, the Railways has a greater responsibility post-lockdown and it will leave no effort in contributing towards India's growth and development.



Metro services in Kolkata have resumed. A total of 110 services are being run on North-South Metro corridor and 72 services are being run on East-West Metro corridor from 8 am to 8 pm.

It's being made sure that the commuters maintain social distancing and all other COVID-19 safety protocols inside Metro premises have been ensured. Metro staff at different stations are helping commuters to follow safety guidelines like sanitisation,

maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, etc. RPF staff checks e-pass of each commuter as well as screen his/her body temperature with thermal gun.

Frequent announcements are made inside the Metro premises requesting all to maintain distancing norms. Short-film on Do's and Don'ts is also being shown on Platform TVs to educate commuters how to stay secure and help others too.

Eng nose ahead in series decider

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Jonny Bairstow struck 112 and under-pinned another innings rebuild with Sam Billings as England recovered from losing two wickets from the first two balls to set Australia a target of 303 in the deciding one-day international on Wednesday.

Mitchell Starc removed Jason Roy and Joe Root off successive deliveries to leave England in early turmoil on a glorious afternoon at Old Trafford, and both Eoin Morgan (23) and Jos Buttler (8) also departed cheaply.

From 96-4, Bairstow and Billings (57) put on 114 runs for the fifth wicket to bring England right back into the match — just as they did in the first ODI on Friday when sharing a stand of 113 in defeat.

Bairstow reached his 10th ODI century before some lusty hits by Chris Woakes (53 off 39 balls) lifted the hosts to 302-7, leaving Australia needing a record run chase at the Manchester venue. Fifty-three runs came from the last five overs.

The series is tied at 1-1.

England is looking to preserve its five-year unbeaten record in bilateral ODI series, and finish its international summer — during which all of its games have been played without fans — unbeaten in all formats against the West Indies, Ireland, Pakistan and Australia.

It is Australia's final match of its white-ball tour, with the team having already lost the Twenty20 series 2-1.

Steve Smith was again missing for the Australians after failing to fully recover from being hit on the head from a throwdown in the nets before the first match of the series. Australia captain Aaron Finch said Smith had a hit in the nets on Tuesday but "just did not pull up well" and felt "a bit groggy".



Novak remains perfect

Djokovic extends unbeaten run on court, behaves better in 1st match since US Open default

AP ■ ROME

Novak Djokovic expressed his relief there was no "mental or emotional blockages or drama" as he swept past Italian wild card entry Salvatore Caruso into the Italian Open third round on Wednesday in his first match since his US Open default.

"I was actually looking forward to get the official match as soon as possible after what happened in New York," said the world No 1.

The Serb was on his best behaviour after his dramatic last 16 disqualification on September 6 after he accidentally struck a line judge with a ball hit in frustration.

"I didn't feel that I had any mental or emotional blockages or any dramas playing a match today," he said.

Djokovic, who had said he had learned a "big lesson" from his first ever disqualification, was keen to move on in Rome.

The 33-year-old playfully greeted an imaginary crowd in an empty Central Court at the Foro Italico because of strict coronavirus measures.

Only some noisy workers managed to unnerve the 17-time Grand Slam winner after missing break points.

"It was very, very quiet, which is very unusual to what we are used to here in Rome, which has one of the loudest and most energetic crowd atmospheres on the tour.

Djokovic continued where he left off before his US Open exit, having won the Cincinnati Masters on the same Flushing Meadows courts.

"It was a very good test for me. I'm very pleased with the way I handled myself in important moments," said Djokovic, who was unbeaten in 2020 before his US Open default.

"I was in control of the match," Djokovic, who has played nine finals



Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Salvatore Caruso, at the Italian Open tourney in Rome on Wednesday

in Rome, and won four titles, will meet either 29th-ranked compatriot Filip Krajinovic or Italian qualifier Marco Cecchinato, ranked 113th, for a place in the quarter-finals.

Nine-time Rome winner Rafael Nadal will make his return to competi-

tion later on Wednesday after a six-month hiatus linked to the coronavirus pandemic.

The number two seed plays fellow Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta, a recent semi-finalist at the US Open, for a place in the third round.



US Open champion Naomi Osaka took a direct swipe at critics of her recent activism saying the people who told her that sportspeople should stay out of politics inspired her to win her third Grand Slam title

Third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas fell to Italian teenager Jannik Sinner 6-1, 6-7 (9/11), 6-2, with sixth seeded Belgian David Goffin also exiting 6-2, 6-2 to Croatia's Marin Cilic.

HALEP, AZARENKA ADVANCE

Top women's seed Simona Halep returned a month after winning in Prague to ease past 99th-ranked Italian Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 6-4.

"It was a little bit difficult to get the rhythm and to get relaxed," said the 28-year-old Romanian, who skipped the US Open but is warming up for a bid for a second French Open title later this month.

The world No 2, a two-time Rome finalist, next meets either American Amanda Anisimova or Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine.

US Open finalist Victoria Azarenka shrugged off the move from hard court to the clay surface to beat American Venus Williams 7-6 (9/7), 6-2, in their first round match.

Belarusian Azarenka will play third seeded American Sofia Kenin, the reigning Australian Open champion, for a place in the third round.

Swiss sixth seed Belinda Bencic fell 6-3, 6-1 in her second round match to Montenegro's 86th-ranked Danka Kovinic.

Boult's inclusion gives edge to MI: Gambhir



New Delhi: Former India opener Gautam Gambhir feels New Zealand pacer Trent Boult forms a formidable pair with Jasprit Bumrah, giving Mumbai Indians an edge over Chennai Super Kings in this IPL.

With Mumbai Indians taking on Chennai Super Kings in the tournament opener on Saturday in Abu Dhabi, Gambhir said he is waiting to see how Boult and Bumrah go about their business.

"I am really excited to watch how Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah will bowl with the new ball, because we all know Bumrah and Boult are world class bowlers, and in the T20 format both are wicket-taking options," Gambhir said on *Star Sports show Cricket Connected*.

"A left-arm seamer, who will bring the ball inside for a right hand batsman while Jasprit Bumrah believes in an unorthodox style of bowling."

A vital cog in CSK's wheel, Raina had pulled out of the IPL due to "personal reasons" and Gambhir feels it will be a challenge for CSK without him at number 3.

"There will be a challenge

for Chennai Super Kings considering they do not have Suresh Raina batting at No 3. Shane Watson has not played international cricket for a long time, so we would want to know who will open with him and how will these batsmen face these bowlers," the former Kolkata Knight Riders skipper said.

Gambhir, a two-time IPL-winning skipper, believes four-time champions Mumbai Indians will be favourites against Chennai considering the overall team balance and depth after the addition of Boult.

"I am skewed more towards Mumbai Indians for the opening match because if we notice the team balance and the depth of the squad while not forgetting the addition of Trent Boult in the squad can prove to be an excellent option," he said.

"Every team wants a bowler who will take wickets with a new ball and use Jasprit Bumrah in an experimental way. I would want to see how these two bowlers perform with the new ball not only in the first match but throughout the tournament." PTI

Hardik looking to make strong comeback

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Back from a lengthy injury layoff, Mumbai Indians' star all-rounder Hardik Pandya said the setback motivated him to work harder and he is now in good shape both physically and mentally for the IPL.

Pandya's form will be crucial for defending champions Mumbai Indians, who will take on Chennai Super Kings in the lung-opener of the cash-rich T20 league on September 19.

"The way I'm hitting the ball right now, the shape I'm in, the men-



tal space I'm in, it is just a matter of time that I go and spend some time on the ground and I think things will come out pretty well," Pandya said in a video posted by Mumbai Indians' official Twitter handle.

"No matter how far I go from the game, no matter how long I stay out, when I come back, it has to be worth it. I have prepared very well and I think, great things are coming ahead," the 26-year-old flamboyant all-rounder added.

Last year in November, Pandya had undergone a back surgery in London. He came back in the DY

Patil T20 tournament held in early March.

He was even selected for the ODI series against South Africa, but the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced the rubber to be abandoned, delayed his return. He is now looking forward to the IPL.

"IPL is something that I have enjoyed a lot and I would like to make a comeback very strong and I'm just looking forward to it," said Pandya. He also conceded that injuries would be a part of his cricketing journey and motivate him to do better.

This year's IPL will be extra special: Sehwag

New Delhi: Former Indian opener Virender Sehwag expects this year's IPL to be "extra special" and a major reason for that is Mahendra Singh Dhoni getting back on the pitch after announcing his international retirement following a year-long sabbatical from the game.

"I think this tournament will be extra special for everyone — the players as well as the audience... Watching Dhoni back on the pitch is sure to be a delight. There's so much in store, need I say more?" Sehwag, who will be co-hosting a show *Power Play with Champions* on *Fliptart Video*, said.

Sehwag said cricket is an integral part of an Indian's life and the fans have waited long for the sport to return.

"I've spent a lot of my time during the lockdown watching old matches. Cricket forms an important part of our DNA as Indians and we've waited with bated breath for it to return" he said. PNS

'Russell currently is world's best all-rounder'



PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Kolkata Knight Riders batsman Rinku Singh feels no one can match the big-hitting prowess of explosive all-rounder Andre Russell and he remains the World's best all-rounder at the moment.

The Jamaican allrounder, who joined KKR in 2014, has been in sensational form in the last two seasons and remains

the talk of the town ahead of the 13th edition which will get underway on Saturday.

"There is no one who can hit the ball better than him. He has a lot of life and strength in him," Singh said in an interview in KKR's website.

"His sixes are massive and I just don't see any batsman as a competition to him. He is the best all-rounder in the world at this moment," Singh added.

Will have better idea of conditions once IPL starts, says Amit

Dubai: The pitches in UAE are expected to aid spinners but Delhi Capitals leg-spinner Amit Mishra feels it is too early to predict that as the conditions have been "neutral" so far.

The 36-year-old India spinner said UAE pitches suiting batsmen or bowlers more can only be ascertained only once the tournament progresses.

"The conditions so far have

Adjusting to UAE heat biggest challenge: ABD

PTI ■ DUBAI

South African star AB de Villiers believes the biggest challenge for all teams in the upcoming Indian Premier League will be adjusting to the prevailing hot and humid conditions in the UAE.

Most games will be played in the night but the conditions would still be challenging.

"I am not really used to these kind of conditions to be honest. It's very hot, it reminds



me of a Test match we played in July in Chennai once where Viru (Virender Sehwag) scored 300. It was one of the hottest weather conditions I have experience in my life," he said in an interview posted on RCB's Twitter handle.

"The humidity is similar to that, even at 10 at night.

When I arrived here I checked the weather conditions of a few months and it seems to be getting better. It is definitely going to play a part and you have to make sure you have the energy for the backend of the innings or last 5 overs of your bowling spell."

De Villiers said he would also miss playing in front of packed crowds in India with the event to be played behind closed doors in UAE due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I think obviously all are used to playing in front of crowds in big stage, there is certainly an amount of adrenaline that pumped into you when it gets really loud, especially in Chinnaswamy when the RCB crowd gets going, its difficult to stop the RCB team. So, well miss that there is no doubt about it."

"But I won't say I am not used to it, I have played a lot of cricket in empty stadiums. I grew up like that. It's only in my international career that I have played in front of crowd," he said.

Bale close to Spurs return

AFP ■ LONDON

Gareth Bale's agent says the Real Madrid forward is "close" to a move back to Tottenham but admitted it is a complicated deal to thrash out.

The Wales international has been frozen out by Real manager Zinedine Zidane and said earlier this month that he was open to returning to the Premier League.

It has been reported that Spurs and Manchester United are interested in signing Bale but Jose Mourinho appears to be leading the race to land the 31-year-old.

"It's close but not done," Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett told AFP. "It's a complicated



deal."

Bale has two years left on a contract that pays him a reported salary of about £600,000 (\$775,000) a week at

Real.

It has been reported the Spanish club would be willing to pay some of that salary to finally move on from their troubled relationship with the forward.

Bale left Tottenham for Real in 2013 for a then world-record fee of £85 million.

He has won four Champions League titles and two La Liga crowns during his time in Spain, but his turbulent relationship with Zidane has left him a peripheral player.

The winger still has an emotional attachment to Tottenham after joining the club from Southampton as a teenager and developing into one of the world's most exciting forwards.

Brazilian Govt backs Neymar in racism row

AFP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazil's Government sent its support to Neymar on Tuesday after he was red-carded for a fight in a Ligue 1 match in France, condemning the "racism" that triggered the brawl.

The Paris Saint-Germain star is facing punishment by the French league's disciplinary commission after slapping defender Alvaro Gonzalez near the end of PSG's 1-0 loss to Marseille, accusing the Spaniard of calling him a "monkey."

Gonzalez denies the accusation. But in Neymar's native Brazil, the ministry responsible for human rights issues said it stood behind the world's most expensive foot-



Neymar reacts after receiving red card

baller.

"In the face of yet another case of racism that has

come to the surface in sport, the ministry of women, the family and human rights publicly voices its solidarity with the player Neymar Jr," the ministry said in a statement.

"Racism is a crime."

The statement came after Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday retweeted Neymar's own version of events.

The Brazilian striker slapped Gonzalez on the back of the head near the end of Sunday's match, sparking a mass brawl that ended with five players sent off, including Neymar.

He now faces a potential multi-match suspension, as does Gonzalez, if league officials find Neymar's accusation is true.

Emiliano Martinez joins Aston Villa

London: Aston Villa announced the signing of Arsenal goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez on Wednesday for a reported fee of £20 million (\$26 million).

The 28-year-old Argentine, who has signed a four-year deal, helped Arsenal to FA Cup victory last season and Community Shield glory last month but faced playing second fiddle to Bernd Leno.

Villa boss Dean Smith said: "We are really pleased with the signing of our new goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez."

"We know how highly Arsenal rated him and we watched his outstanding performances last season in a trophy-



winning top side.

"We moved for Emi when we saw the opportunity, as it is rare to be able to buy a top-class goalkeeper who hasn't yet reached their peak age and who can therefore be a key player for our club for the long term."