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2 FARM BILLS PUSHED THROUGH RS AMID RUCKUS

Opp MPs tear apart papers, yank mikes from Chairman's desk, throw Parliament rule book at presiding officer

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Sunday passed two key farm Bills amid an unprecedented ruckus as Opposition members rushed in the Well against the Covid-19 protocol, tore off documents, yanked mikes fixed to the Chairman's desk and threw Parliament rule book at the presiding officer, Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narain Singh.

The ruling party managed to push through both the controversial farm Bills — Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 — of the three it had proposed and got passed in the Lok Sabha amid uproar from Opposition MPs.

The trouble started when sitting of the Rajya Sabha was extended beyond the scheduled time to allow passage of the Bills. Opposition members, who felt such a move should be resorted to only by consensus,

■ The Government is likely to introduce the third farm Bill in the Upper House of Parliament on Monday
■ These Bills will now be sent to President Ram Nath Kovind for his assent
■ Four Opposition-sponsored motions to send the two Bills to a House panel for greater scrutiny were negated by voice vote, but the Congress, TMC, CPI(M) and DMK members sought a division of vote on the issue
■ As Harivansh over-ruled them saying division of votes can take place only when members are on their seat, TMC leader Derek O'Brien charged towards

the podium, thrusting the rule book into the face of the Deputy Chairman

■ The other parties that clearly expressed their party's stance against the Bills included the Congress which has 40 (MPs), SP (8 MPs), Trinamool Congress (13 MPs), DMK (7 MPs), AAP (3 MPs), NCP (4 MPs), RJD (5 MPs) and the CPI and CPI(M) which together send 6 MPs to the House

■ Parties that clearly supported the Bill included BJP (86), YSR Congress (6), AIADMK (9) and BPF (1). Leaders of Shiv Sena and the BSP raised some objections but also found merit in the Bills



rushed into the Well, shouting slogans against the Government and terming the Bill as death warrants for farmers. While Opposition has now moved a no confidence against Deputy Chairman Harivansh, the Government and Chairman Rajya Sabha M Venkaiah Naidu are mulling what action to be taken against the Members who created a pandemonium in the House.

The Government is likely to introduce the third farm Bill

in the Upper House of Parliament on Monday. These Bills will now be sent to President Ram Nath Kovind for his assent. Four Opposition-sponsored motions to send the two Bills to a House panel for greater scrutiny were negated by voice vote, but the Congress, TMC, CPI(M) and DMK members sought a division of vote on the issue.

As Harivansh over-ruled them saying division of votes can take place only when mem-

bers are on their seat, TMC leader Derek O'Brien charged towards the podium, thrusting the rule book into the face of the Deputy Chairman.

House marshals thwarted the move and blocked a book that was flung towards Harivansh. An attempt was also made to pull microphones away from the chair but the marshals physically stopped that from happening. DMK leader Tiruchi Siva, who along with O'Brien, KC Venugopal of

the Congress and KK Ragesh of CPI(M), had moved resolutions for sending the Bills to the Select Committee, tore papers and flung them into the air.

Harivansh, who asked members to go back to their places and not come into the Well due to the Covid-19 protocol requiring physical separation, first muted the audio of the live proceedings but with the ruckus continuing, he adjourned the proceedings for 15 minutes.

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Covid absentees help Govt pip Opp to post

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The total strength of the Rajya Sabha is 243 at present. The half way mark if all are present and voting is 122. But what worried the Government side on Sunday was according to Rajya Sabha Secretariat records, nearly 13 members on the Government side are either Covid-hit or have not been attending the House.

Similarly on the Opposition side, the number of Covid positive and absent due to age factor number is close to

20 with Members like Manmohan Singh, P Chidambaram, Sukhendu Shekhar Roy not coming.

With this status of the floor remained at 210 and the half way mark standing at 106.

The BJP has 86 members and with five members of JDU MPs, along with nominated and Independent members, the BJP calculated support of 105 MPs.

Those against the Bill were the Congress, the NCP, the AAP, the TMC, the BSP, the SP, the Left, the DMK, the RJD, the SAD, the TRS and others with

109 members.

On the numbers with both the Treasury, the Opposition had an edge on the day for the particular farm Bills.

Regional parties like the BJD, the AGP, the TRS, which rescued the Government in the past in similar situation, spoke against the Bill.

The AIADMK and the BJD have nine members each and the YSRCP which supported the Bill has six members.

The Shiv Sena which has three MPs in the Upper House decided not to support the Bill in present format.

“I said it earlier and I say it once again: System of MSP will remain. Government procurement will continue...We are here to serve our farmers. We will do everything possible to support them and ensure a better life for their coming generations

NARENDRA MODI

“Democracy is not majority oppression but about consultation, conciliation and consensus...All three democratic virtues were ignored in today's proceedings

SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL

“The farmers grow gold from land, but the arrogance of the Modi Government is making farmers

shed tears of blood

RAHUL GANDHI

“Nowhere in the new farm reform Bill, there is any talk of abolishing the crop MSP...The day, under the present system, if a farmer does not get the MSP for his crop, I will quit my post

DUSHYANT CHAULTALA

Opp moves no-trust against Harivansh, alleges prejudice

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition have moved a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh for allegedly violating Parliamentary rules to help the Government pass the two farm sector Bills in the RS on Sunday. The motion, signed by around 100 members, has been submitted in the notice office of Parliament as the Secretary-General was not present.

On the other hand, Rajya Sabha chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu will take a call on the action against the Opposition MPs who trooped into the well of the House and created massive ruckus while protesting against the farm Bills.

Naidu called an urgent meeting with the Deputy

Chairman Harivansh and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlaad Joshi and discussed the issue along with Union Minister Piyush Goyal and Tomar. Sources said Naidu is likely to make a statement on the issue on Monday when the House resumes and may announce action, if any, after the Government moves a resolution on the rules as provided.

As per the rules of the House, the decision to ask an MP to leave is taken by the Chairman. Rule 256 provides for suspension of member. It says, "If the Chairman may, if he deems it necessary, name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the Council by persistently and willfully obstructing the business thereof.

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Farmers' rage spills on to road in Haryana Police use water cannons to stop farmers from entering Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmers in Haryana on Sunday protested against the agriculture-related farm Bills, blocking most of the national and State highways across the State. The Bharatiya Kisan Union's Haryana unit, supported by other farmer outfits, held the Statewide protest against the Centre's farm Bills during which protesters had blocked the roads for three hours from 12 pm to 3 pm.

BKU state president Gurnam Singh Charuni led the protest in Yamunanagar and lashed out at the Central Government for allegedly betraying the farming community. A large number of farmers had blocked NH 344 also known as Ambala-Roorkee national highway near Milk Majra village of Yamunanagar district in Haryana to oppose the farm reform Bills.

In another part of the State,



as farmers from Punjab led by the Youth Congress unit attempted to break the barricades on Ambala-Mohali highway near the Punjab-Haryana border, police resorted to use of force and water cannons in an

attempt to disperse them. Punjab Youth Congress had planned a tractor rally from Punjab to Delhi against the Centre's farm-related measures.

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Yogi welcomes farmers' bills

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has welcomed the two farmers-friendly bills — the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 — passed by Parliament, saying that they would bring about wide-ranging changes in the agriculture sector. Yogi said these bills reflected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to ensure welfare of the farmers.

"I thank the prime minister for this public welfare endeavour. The provisions of these bills will herald a new era in the agriculture sector," he said. The chief minister said that both the bills favoured farmers and the agriculture sector as a whole.

See Page 2

PM hails reform Bills, assures MSP, Govt buying to continue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the passing of two farm reform Bills by Parliament as "historic" even as his top Ministers decried the behaviour of the Opposition party MPs in the Rajya Sabha. Chairman of the Upper House Venkaiah Naidu discussed with the Government what action it proposed to take against the MPs who tossed Parliament's rule book at the Deputy Chairman and yanked out his microphone.

Soon after the RS passed two key farm Bills aimed at giving "marketing freedom to farmers", the PM assured the farmers that Minimum support Price and the Government procurement of their produce would continue. "The passing of historic agrarian reform

Bills in the Lok Sabha is an important moment for the country's farmers and the agricultural sector. These Bills will truly free the farmers from middlemen and all obstacles," Modi tweeted.

Modi said it would empower farmers. "This agrarian reform will provide new opportunities for farmers to sell their produce, which will increase their profits. With this, our agriculture sector will get the benefit of modern technology, whereas the farmers will be empowered," he said.

Meanwhile, strongly condemning the behaviour of Opposition parties against the Deputy-Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday described it as "very shameful".

Continued on Page 4

Cong pits Pilot against Scindia in royal bastion in MP bypolls

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The upcoming bypolls in Madhya Pradesh would witness former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot against Jyotiraditya Scindia at least in 16 Assembly constituencies falling in Gwalior-Chambal region.

Bypolls are scheduled in 28 constituencies of Madhya Pradesh. There are 16 constituency of Scindia influence. There are 14 Ministers in Shivraj Singh Chouhan Cabinet, who are not MLAs. They include 11 Scindia supporters. While the BJP and Scindia have already

launched election campaign, the Congress has adopted a multipronged strategy to settle the Pilot question hounding it since the July-August 2020 rebellion.

Party sources said on the initiative of PCC Chief and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath, Pilot has agreed to campaign against his old friend Scindia. After Pilot had defected from the Congress, it would be a new assignment for him to prove his loyalty to the party.

In March this year, Scindia had walked away from the Congress making 22 MLAs resign from their seats, which

brought down the Kamal Nath regime barely 15 months after it had come to power in the State. Three more Congress MLAs defected and the death of three sitting MLAs are necessitating the by-polls, which are likely to be held in later half of October.

MPCC Spokesperson Bhupendra Gupta said Pilot's strength in these regions is the presence of Gujar voters and the former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister's ability to deliver punchlines. He certainly has influence in the bordering constituencies, he added.

Continued on Page 4

Bill to tighten FCRA rules tabled, Aadhaar must for registration

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Government on Sunday introduced the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 in the Lok Sabha to make the law more stringent and make Aadhaar mandatory for registration.

Moving the Bill on behalf of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, his junior and Minister of State of Home Nityanand Rai said this law did not breach the right of any organisation if they follow the law and do not

get distracted from their purpose. "We only take action against any organisation under the rule when they do not follow the law. Where is the breach of their rights in it?"

TMC MP Saugata Roy said, "This law has been used for the last six years against those who go against the Government," and maintained that this was another example of "big brother watching", a charge rejected by the Minister who said "the law does not discriminate on the basis of religion".

Continued on Page 4

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 54,80,711

DEATHS: 87,866

RECOVERED:

43,88,677

ACTIVE: 10,03,392



No significant SARS-CoV-2 mutation in India, ICMR exploring saliva-based test: Vardhan

New Delhi: The ICMR is actively exploring saliva-based test for detection of Covid-19, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Sunday and asserted that no significant or drastic mutation in strains of SARS-CoV-2 has been found in India till now.

During an interaction with his social media followers, Vardhan informed them the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been conducting large-scale sequencing of nationally representative strains of SARS-CoV-2 virus collected for several months over different time-points.

2.39 CRORE COVID TESTS CONDUCTED IN INDIA IN AUGUST

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India conducted 2.39 crore Covid-19 tests in August, of which 1.24 crore were done using rapid antigen kits, the Government said on Sunday.

Till September 18, a total of 6,17,33,533 tests were conducted across the country, Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey said in the Rajya Sabha.

CAPSULE

'STUBBLE BURNING CAN EXACERBATE COVID-19'

Chandigarh: The stubble burning which is likely to start later this month ahead of the Rabi crop sowing season can exacerbate the coronavirus crisis, an agricultural-cum-environment expert has cautioned.

TAJ MAHAL, AGRA FORT TO REOPEN FROM MON

Agra: India's star tourist attraction, the 17th-century monument of love, the Taj Mahal, and the Agra Fort, are all set to reopen from Monday, after an unprecedented closure of six months, due to Covid-19 pandemic.

MHA discounts UN report on ISIS in Kerala, K'taka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Sunday told the Lok Sabha that "a United Nations report which suggested presence of 'significant numbers' of ISIS terrorists in Kerala and Karnataka are "factually not correct".

Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy was giving a written reply to a question on whether the Government is aware of the United Nations report titled 'The 26th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIS, Al-Qaeda and associated individuals and entities' stating that there are "significant numbers" of ISIS ter-

rorists in Kerala and Karnataka. The Minister refuted the report and gave the statistics of the cases registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in this regard.

"The said report claiming presence of 'significant numbers' of ISIS terrorists in Kerala and Karnataka, is factually not correct. The Government continuously takes necessary measures to put forth India's correct position through established mechanism in unequivocal and categorical terms at various international, multi-lateral and bilateral for a and also through diplomatic channels, the Minister said. Reddy also said 34 cases

related to presence of Islamic State (IS) and 20 cases related to presence of Lashkar-e-Toiba across the country were registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and 240 people were arrested in this connection. "The Government is aware of the presence of the terrorist outfits in the country including ISIS, Daesh, IS Khorasan, Lashkar-e-Toiba, etc. The NIA has so far registered and investigated 34 cases related to presence of Islamic State (IS) and 20 cases related to presence of Lashkar-e-Toiba across the country and arrested 160 and 80 accused persons respectively," he said.

TUNNEL FOUND IN HOUSE OF ARRESTED QAEDA MOLE IN MURSHIDABAD

Kolkata: One of the Al Qaeda terror moles Abu Sufiyan arrested from Murshidabad had constructed a secret tunnel inside his house at Ranimagar, National Investigation Agency sources that busted the network said, adding the tunnel apparently was made to store explosives. Sufiyan's kin, however, contradicted the claim saying it was not a tunnel but a newly constructed sanitary tank still not in use.

Yogi: Farmers' bills will bring change in farm sector

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has welcomed the two farmers-friendly bills — the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 — passed by Parliament and said they would bring about wide-ranging changes in agriculture sector.

Yogi said these bills reflected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to ensure welfare of the farmers .

"I thank the prime minister for this public welfare endeavour. The provisions of these bills will

herald a new era in the agricultural sector," he said.

Describing it as a unique and historic step of the prime minister, the chief minister said that both the bills favoured farmers and the agriculture sector as a whole. He said they would help in increasing the incomes of farmers manifold.

"The provisions of these bills will free the farmers from unnecessary legislation, bring fundamental changes in the agriculture sector, give impetus to investment in the farm sector and increase employment. It will favourably affect the agricultural economy which in turn will strengthen the economy of the country," Yogi said.

The chief minister said that

the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 would promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce. "This will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders can enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce," he said.

Echoing the commitment of the prime minister to double the income of farmers, the chief minister said that this bill was entirely in the favour of the farmer community. "It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who brought about a historical and unprecedented increase in minimum support price (MSP) and ensured the right price to farmers for their produce in a speedy

and transparent manner," he added. Hitting out at the opposition parties, Yogi said while the Central and the state governments were busy fulfilling their commitment to ensuring fair price to farmers for their produce, certain political parties were showing their mala fide intentions by making misleading statements. He appealed to farmers to not be misled by these political entities which were the same that considered farmers only as a vote bank for the last six-seven decades without ever caring for their welfare.

"The state government is also striving hard to double the income of the farmers and was following the guidance of the prime minister to achieve this.

The state government has taken several policy decisions for agriculture and farmers' welfare," he said.

Elaborating on the initiatives of the UP government, he said that during lockdown, the state government exempted 45 items of fruits and vegetables from mandi tax fee which benefited the farmers directly. "Now the farmers are free to sell their fruits and vegetables anywhere in the state," he said.

The chief minister said that the reforms brought by the Central government would favourably impact the farmers. "The farmers will no longer be bound to sell their produce in the Mandi premises. From now onwards, they may sell their

produce from warehouse, cold storage or food processing units instead of notified mandis only. Not only this, they can sell the produce to traders/food processing units at farm gates at a right price. This will save transportation and freight charges as well," he said. Yogi said that the promotion of contract farming would help the farmers reach an agreement with the food processing units/exporters on individual or organised basis. "This will enable them to reduce fertiliser, seed and other inputs' costs and use modern techniques to maximise their products and get a better market. This will also help the farmer work according to national-international demands," he said.

CM approves transfer of 54,120 teachers

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has approved inter-district transfer of 54,120 teachers who had applied for transfer online.

"The basic problems of the teachers would be taken into account during this transfer. This would be the first time that such a large number of teachers would be transferred for the benefit of the teachers," the government spokesman said here on Sunday. The officials said that the transfers of 28,306 female and 25,814 male teachers had been approved. Among the approved transfer list, 917 are teachers from the family of central security forces and their approval was given on priority. Besides, 2,285 divyangian and another 2,186 teachers have been transferred on health related compensation grounds. The officials said that the transfers would be carried out in a transparent manner. They said those teachers who had applied on the NIC Software would be considered for the transfer. The announcement came a day after the chief minister directed officials to complete the process for the recruitment of 31,661 teachers in the Basic Education department within a week.

Covid-19 recovery rate increases in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

For the second successive day, the number of COVID-19 patients released from hospitals was more than those tested positive in Uttar Pradesh, showing that the fight against the novel coronavirus was going in the right direction.

On Sunday, 5,809 fresh positive cases were reported while 6,584 COVID-19 patients were released from hospital after recovery. With the new cases, the tally of confirmed coronavirus positive cases in the state has gone up to 3,54,275

The COVID-19 recovery rate has also increased to 79.96 per cent.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said here on Sunday that there were 65,954 active cases in the state while 2,83,274 COVID-19 patients had recovered so far, including 6,584 discharged from hospitals during he past 24 hours.

He said on Saturday, 1,40,754 sample were tested.

"There are 34,119 asymptomatic patients in home isolation while 3,786 patients are in private hospitals and 231 in semi-paid hotels and the rest in government run Covid hospitals. A total of 1,82,242 patients had preferred home isolation out of which 1,48,123 have recovered," he said.

On Sunday too, Lucknow continued to lead the state with 874 people testing positive, followed by 394 in Kanpur, 302 in Prayagraj and 210 in Gorakhpur.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday inaugurated the portal for Covid testing where the patients can get the details of their tests and it can be used for record.

Prasad said that all the tests conducted since September 16 would be loaded in this portal and the tested people could get their report details and even print it.

H said the tested people would have to register their mobile number at the time of testing and the report would be sent after verification by an OTP sent on the mobile number.

One would have to either log in on <http://dgmap.gov.in> or labreport.upcovid19trackin to get the Covid test report.

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आवश्यकता है

पुष्पा सिंह विधि महाविद्यालय बरेली
चुनार मिर्जापुर उत्तर प्रदेश सम्बद्ध: महामा गांधी काशी विद्यापीठ वाराणसी।
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संपर्क सूत्र: प्रबंधक 9415089590, 7355365236

Bhandarkar meets CM; discusses film city



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that the Uttar Pradesh government would set up the country's biggest film city in the state, director Madhur Bhandarkar on Sunday met him and discussed the proposed film city in UP.

According to official sources, Bhandarkar reached the official residence of the chief minister on Sunday morning where both held a meeting for about 45 minutes. In the presence of a couple of officials, the two discussed the place and other modalities of the venture.

Later, the chief minister gifted the Bollywood producer director with 'prasad' of the Ram temple at Ayodhya, a coin on Lord Ram, Ramcharitmanas, tulsi mala and coffee table book on Kumbh.

After his talks with the chief minister, Bhandarkar told media persons that he had suggested that the new film city in UP would be similar to the Ramoji Rao film city of Hyderabad.

"I have thanked the UP chief minister for his new effort and hope that it will benefit the Bollywood and the film and TV

sector," he said.

Earlier, while announcing the new film city near Noida, the chief minister on Friday last had said that his government would make the country's biggest and beautiful film city either in Noida, Greater Noida or on the Yamuna Expressway. The chief minister has asked the officials concerned to select the place and go ahead with the new film city and develop it in a fast track process.

After the announcement of the film city, actor Kangana Ranaut had thanked Yogi Adityanath for his move and hoped that it would boost the film industry, including Hollywood, which would be attracted towards India.

Bharatiya Janata Party MP and Bhojpuri actor Ravi Kishan said that the new film city would boost employment and the youth would get an opportunity to showcase their talents.

Singer and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari too said that the new film city would boost development in north India and it would develop the film industry in the region.

Bhajan and ghazal singer Anup Jalota too appreciated the move of the UP government.

‘Govt misleading people with data on employment’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Uttar Pradesh government of misleading people with the data on employment released to the media. Yadav on Sunday said that in the data on employment, the BJP government also included the jobs given during the previous Samajwadi Party regime.

The UP government had earlier released data of jobs given to youth during its three-and-half year rule of the present dispensation.

The SP president said the data included most of the people employed on contractual basis and asked how could the government claim it to be an achievement.

The SP chief alleged that the figures on employment released by the state government were false and the sole aim of the government was to mislead the people. He said 90 per cent of the vacancies filled in Medical Health and Family Welfare departments were by contract or outsourcing.

"In the National Health Mission, 100 per cent recruitment is contractual. Why does the government consider outsourcing and contract jobs as an achievement?" he asked.


"Why does the government not provide details of outsourcing, contractual recruitments and permanent jobs? The recruitments done by the

Subordinate Selection Service Commission and Public Service Commission are the ones whose results came in 2017 during the Samajwadi Party regime. The government also added this to its achievements. Why is the Bharatiya Janata Party government describing the recruitments made during Samajwadi Party regime as its achievement," Yadav said.

However, countering the attack, the Bharatiya Janata Party claimed that its government had given more jobs in just three-and-half years than the Samajwadi Party or Bahujan Samaj Party could give in five years. It also claimed to have provided employment to more than three lakh people in the state, whereas, over one-and-half crore jobs were provided during the COVID-19-induced lockdown.

Earlier, in a meeting with officers of the Recruitment Board on Friday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had asked government departments to furnish details of all vacant posts. He had also directed recruitment agencies to fill up the vacancies within the next three months and give appointment letters to the applicants within six months.

BJP state vice-president and MLC Vijay Bahadur Pathak had said that the Yogi Adityanath-led government was the first to go for such a large-scale recruitment against the vacancies in the government departments.



INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
R.O : C 33/2, Sri Prem Complex, Chandua, Varanasi-221002. Ph: 0542-2220631

E-AUCTION NOTICE

Sale of immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHAT EVER THERE IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform on **22.10.2020 between 11.00 am to 2.00 pm** provided at the Web Portal "<https://auctions.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi>".

Sl No	Name of the Branch and Borrower Name	Brief Description of mortgaged Property/ies	Outstanding Dues (Rs. in Lakhs)	Reserve Price (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs) A/c No. where the EMD to be deposited/ IFSC codes	Name of contact Person & Mob. No.
1.	PROPERTY AT CHITRAKOOT Branch : Chitrakoot Dham Borrowers : Sh. Narendra Kumar & Guarantor - Ms. Seema Devi, 225, Ward No. 4, Laxmanpuri, Karwi - 210205	All that part & parcel of property consisting of House No. 323 survey No. 923/2ka, Ward No. 4 (Old), 6 (New) situated at Mauza - Karwi Sarkar, Laxmanpuri within the registration Sub-District. Karwi & District Chitrakoot Bounded : North : Road, South : Boundry of G.G.I College, East : Plot of Smt. Maina Devi, West :Land of Jevan Das & Ram Das.	5.42 as on 18.09.2020 with further intt + other cost	58.05	5.81 24720113301010 IOBA0002472	Vimal Mishra Mob : 8687347784

Inspection of properties : Till 20.10.2020 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Submission of online application for bid with EMD : 21.09.2020 onwards
Last date for submission of online application for bid with EMD : 21.10.2020 by 5.00 p.m. E-Auction Date & Time : 22.10.2020, 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

TERMS AND CONDITION OF E-AUCTION SALE:- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: (i) The properties are being sold on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS'. (ii)The particulars of secured Assets Specified in the schedule-here in above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable, for any error, misstatement, or omission in this proclamation. (iii) The secured assets will be not sold below the reserve price. (iv) The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal "<https://auctions.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi>". (v) The bidders are also advised go through the portal <http://www.ibapi.in> for detailed terms and conditions for e-auctions sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. (vi) The interested bidders shall deposit the EMD through NEFT/RTGS before last date of depositing of EMD i.e. 21.10.2020 before 5.00 pm. For other terms and conditions of e-auctions please visit website <http://www.ibapi.in> **Helpline No.:** 033-22901004, **E-mail :** varanasilaw@ioibnet.co.in

Date : 19.09.2020 Place : Chitrakoot

Authorised Officer- Indian Overseas Bank



शिक्षा व्यवस्था में बढ़ते कदम
वर्चुअल स्कूल

कक्षा-10 एवं 12 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए दूरदर्शन, उत्तर प्रदेश (DD UP) चैनल और कक्षा-9 एवं 11 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए चैनल e vidya-9 एवं e vidya-11 पर शैक्षणिक वीडियो के माध्यम से
21.09.2020 से 25.09.2020 तक ई-लर्निंग प्रसारण का पांचवां चरण

दूरदर्शन, उत्तर प्रदेश (DD UP) चैनल पर यू.पी. बोर्ड की कक्षा-10 एवं 12 हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी

दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-10				कक्षा-12			
	अपराह्न 1:30 से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 3:30 से अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:30 से सायं 5:00 बजे तक	सायं 6:00 से सायं 6:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 1:00 से अपराह्न 1:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 2:30 से अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:00 से अपराह्न 4:30 बजे तक	सायं 5:30 से सायं 6:00 बजे तक
21-09-2020 सोमवार	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-15 Compositions भाग-2	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-15 Compositions भाग-3	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-15 Compositions भाग-4	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-15 Compositions भाग-5	इतिहास अध्याय-2 राजा किसान और नगर भाग-1	इतिहास अध्याय-2 राजा किसान और नगर भाग-2	नागरिक शास्त्र अध्याय-2 दो धुरीयता का अंत भाग-1	नागरिक शास्त्र अध्याय-2 दो धुरीयता का अंत भाग-2
22-09-2020 मंगलवार	हिन्दी अध्याय-6 हिमालय से वर्षा सुन्दरी के प्रति भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-4 भारतीय संस्कृति डॉ. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-4 भारतीय संस्कृति डॉ. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद भाग-2	हिन्दी अध्याय-5 चौटी भाग-1	भूगोल अध्याय-4 मानव विकास भाग-1	भूगोल अध्याय-4 मानव विकास भाग-2	हिन्दी अध्याय-5 श्रद्धा मनु-रचयिता जयशंकर प्रसाद भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-5 श्रद्धा मनु-रचयिता जयशंकर प्रसाद भाग-2
23-09-2020 बुधवार	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-2 (Poetry) The Psalm of Life	गणित अध्याय-12 वृत्तों से सम्बन्धित क्षेत्रफल भाग-1	विज्ञान अध्याय-4 कार्बन और उसके यौगिक भाग-1	विज्ञान अध्याय-4 कार्बन और उसके यौगिक भाग-2	हिन्दी अध्याय-5 श्रद्धा मनु-रचयिता जयशंकर प्रसाद भाग-3	संस्कृत अध्याय-खण्ड-ग अभिज्ञानशाकुंतलम् भाग-2	संस्कृत अध्याय-खण्ड-ग अभिज्ञानशाकुंतलम् भाग-3	संस्कृत अध्याय-खण्ड-ग अभिज्ञानशाकुंतलम् भाग-4
24-09-2020 गुरुवार	विज्ञान अध्याय-4 कार्बन और उसके यौगिक भाग-3	विज्ञान अध्याय-4 कार्बन और उसके यौगिक भाग-4	विज्ञान अध्याय-9 अनुवांशिकता एवं जैव विकास भाग-1	विज्ञान अध्याय-9 अनुवांशिकता एवं जैव विकास भाग-2	संस्कृत अध्याय-खण्ड-ग अभिज्ञानशाकुंतलम् भाग-5	गणित अध्याय-5 सांतत्य एवं अवकलनीयता भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-5 सांतत्य एवं अवकलनीयता भाग-2	गणित अध्याय-5 सांतत्य एवं अवकलनीयता भाग-3
25-09-2020 शुक्रवार	विज्ञान अध्याय-13 विद्युत धारा के चुम्बकीय प्रभाव भाग-1	विज्ञान अध्याय-13 विद्युत धारा के चुम्बकीय प्रभाव भाग-2	विज्ञान अध्याय-13 विद्युत धारा के चुम्बकीय प्रभाव भाग-3	विज्ञान अध्याय-13 विद्युत धारा के चुम्बकीय प्रभाव भाग-4	गणित अध्याय-5 सांतत्य एवं अवकलनीयता भाग-4	गणित अध्याय-5 सांतत्य एवं अवकलनीयता भाग-5	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-10 हैलोएल्केन्स तथा हैलोएरिन्स भाग-4	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-10 हैलोएल्केन्स तथा हैलोएरिन्स भाग-5

चैनल e vidya-9 पर कक्षा-9 एवं चैनल e vidya-11 पर कक्षा-11 यू.पी. बोर्ड हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी

दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-9		कक्षा-11	
	प्रातः 8:30 से प्रातः 9:00 बजे तक	प्रातः 9:00 से प्रातः 9:30 बजे तक	सायं 6:30 से सायं 7:00 बजे तक	सायं 7:00 से सायं 7:30 बजे तक
21-09-2020 सोमवार	हिन्दी, अध्याय-हिन्दी व्याकरण काव्य सौन्दर्य के तत्व, भाग-1	सामाजिक विज्ञान, अध्याय-2 भारत का भौतिक स्वरूप, भाग-1	संस्कृत, अध्याय-खण्ड-ख, द्वितीय सर्ग रघुवंशम् महाकाव्य, भाग-1	हिन्दी, अध्याय-1, संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका बन्धना, भाग-1
22-09-2020 मंगलवार	सामाजिक विज्ञान, अध्याय-2 संसाधन के रूप में लोग, भाग-1	विज्ञान, अध्याय-3 परमाणु एवं अणु, भाग-1	संस्कृत, अध्याय-खण्ड-ख, द्वितीय सर्ग रघुवंशम् महाकाव्य, भाग-2	हिन्दी, अध्याय-2, संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका प्रयागः, भाग-1
23-09-2020 बुधवार	विज्ञान, अध्याय-3 परमाणु एवं अणु, भाग-2	विज्ञान, अध्याय-3 परमाणु एवं अणु, भाग-3	अंग्रेजी, अध्याय-2 Comprehension Passage Book, भाग-1	रसायन विज्ञान, अध्याय-2 परमाणु संरचना, भाग-5
24-09-2020 गुरुवार	सामाजिक विज्ञान, अध्याय-1 भारत आकार और स्थिति, भाग-1	संस्कृत, अध्याय-प्रथमः पाठः कथा नाटक, गार्गी याज्ञवल्क्यसंवाद, भाग-1	अंग्रेजी, अध्याय-1, One Words Substitution Idioms and Phrases, भाग-1	रसायन विज्ञान, अध्याय-2 परमाणु संरचना, भाग-6
25-09-2020 शुक्रवार	संस्कृत, अध्याय-प्रथमः पाठः कथा नाटक, गार्गी याज्ञवल्क्यसंवाद, भाग-2	संस्कृत, अध्याय-प्रथमः पाठः पद्य पौशुशम्, रामस्य पितृभक्ति, भाग-1	जीव विज्ञान, अध्याय-5 पुष्पी पादपों में आकारिकी, भाग-1	जीव विज्ञान, अध्याय-5 पुष्पी पादपों में आकारिकी, भाग-2

नोट: e vidya-9, जियो टीवी एप, डिश टीवी चैनल-950, वीडियोकॉन चैनल-447, एयरटेल चैनल-440, फ्री डिश-128 तथा टाटा स्काई चैनल-756 पर उपलब्ध है।
e vidya-11, जियो टीवी एप, डिश टीवी चैनल-952 तथा NCERT OFFICIAL YouTube पर उपलब्ध है।

माध्यमिक शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश की एक पहल

Containment activities to be reinforced

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Containment activities such as testing, treatment and isolation being carried out to restrain the spread of the virus will be reinforced for better results. The health department is expected to increase the number of teams for containment activities.

CMO Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh said over 8,000 samples were being tested in Lucknow daily while Ivermectin tablets are also being given to contacts of the patients. He said they were working on another helpline number which would be introduced shortly. He said they would be making additional facilities, as per requirement in future.

A senior official at the CMO office said the number of patients in home isolation is 31,745 while 23,992 of them have recovered. On Saturday, around 90 patients insisted for in home isolation and returned the ambulances.

Besides, according to KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh, plasma therapy has been given to 80 patients while 155 cured patients of Covid-19 have donated plasma. "Plasma has been sent to Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, SGPPI and Agra for patients in need. We are giving plasma to patients admitted in other hospitals as well, depending on the availability of stock," he said.

He pointed out that the cumulative recovery rate of Covid-19 patients at KGMU has been 87 per cent. Incharge



874 more test +ve for coronavirus

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 874 persons tested positive for coronavirus on Sunday. Besides, 1,118 patients recovered on Sunday taking the number of recoveries to 35,712. The total number of deaths has gone up to 591 while there are 9,836 active cases in the city.

A senior official at the CMO office said those who tested positive included 61 from Gomtinagar, 52 from Indiranagar, 49 from Rae Bareilly road, 42 from Cantt, 40 from Alambagh, 39 from

Chowk, 37 from Ashiyana, 36 from Chinhat, 32 from Telibagh, 31 from Aliganj, 29 from Sarojininar, 27 from Vrindavan, 25 from Gomtinagar Extension, 23 from Talkatora, 22 from Madaion, 21 each from Hazratganj & Mahanagar, 15 each from Vikasnagar, Bazaarkhala & Hasanganj, 14 from Thakurganj, 12 from Vibhuti Khand and 10 from Sushant Golf City.

There were two Covid deaths at KGMU, included that of an 84-year-old man from Unnao and a 48-year-

old man from Amethi.

Meanwhile, in the state, 5,809 persons Covid positive, included 210 in Gorakhpur, 394 in Kanpur, 182 in Varanasi, 125 in Noida and 230 in Meerut, taking the total number of cases to 3,54,275.

There were 94 deaths in the state, including 13 in Kanpur, seven in Prayagraj, six in Lucknow, four each in Meerut, Jhansi & Deoria, three each in Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Saharanpur, Barabanki, Unnao and Bijnore.

gen saturation levels fall while walking or doing any physical work," he pointed out. Besides, as the patients are given high

steroid doses, their sugar levels increase and it becomes a major issue for diabetics. "Nearly 10-20 per cent of the patients who have recovered have come back to us with a varied set of problems for which we consult other physicians because the OPDs are not working," he added.

Meanwhile, senior scientist and former CEO of Biotech Park PK Seth, while commenting on the course of the disease, said he expects the death rate to come down and there would be fewer fatalities by the end of this month.

"We have been fortunate to have had a low death rate and though the number of coronavirus cases may increase in the coming months, there would be fewer deaths. With people getting exposed one way or the other, the threat of death which we are facing today will cease to exist but people having comorbidities still need to be cautious," he said.

"The vaccine is likely to come by December. However, ours is a very large population and it is important that the vaccination is carried out on the basis of what was done for polio," he added.

Seth said free movement would be possible only by the middle of next year. He asserted that wearing a mask and practising social distancing was the only way of prevention at the moment.

Meanwhile, Food Safety and Drug Administration, under the directions of district magistrate, inspected the kitchens of Covid care centres and hospitals across the district.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 32-year-old private photographer, who was said to be suffering from depression, shot himself at the house of his elder brother in Para police station area on Sunday morning.

As per reports, Sonu Shukla of Bharawan (Hardoi) was staying with his elder brother Shiv Prakash in Badarkheda locality these days as he had to consult a doctor for himself.

On Sunday morning, Sonu took out Shiv's licenced double-barrel gun, sat in the verandah with his back resting against a pillar and then shot himself. Hearing the gunshot, Shiv and his nephew Prashant, who were resting in a room on the first floor, came down, only to find Sonu in a pool of blood.

The news spread like wildfire and a huge number of residents also reached the scene. As police came to know about the incident, a team reached the scene for investigation. The police recovered the double-barrel gun and a

Labourer crushed to death by car

Lucknow (PNS): A labourer was crushed to death while four others injured as a speeding car ran over a group of labourers carrying out road-widening work on Chandrika Devi road under BKT police station area on Sunday. The car was being driven allegedly by a woman who was learning driving. However, police remained tightlipped on this.

The deceased was identified as Buddha (55) of Khanpur (Itaunja) while the injured as Krishna Kumar, Lalla, Savinar and Ram Khelawan, all of the same village. The injured were

rushed to the community health centre where Buddha was declared brought dead. The injured labourers told the police that the car was being driven by a woman.

The police said the body was sent for autopsy while Ram Khelawan was referred to KGMU Trauma Centre.

In another incident, three persons suffered injuries after their vehicle rammed into a truck parked on Lucknow-Sitapur highway on Sunday. The injured were identified as Akhtar Ali, Noor and Riyaz, all of Madaion.

bullet shell from the scene.

The bullet pierced through his skull and he bled to death on the spot. The police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation.

Preliminary probe revealed that Sonu had been suffering from depression for the last several months and

come to Lucknow to see a doctor. He had a photo studio in Hardoi but it was closed due to lack of work. Bereaved kin told the police that Sonu got married eight years back but the couple fell apart after a few months. His wife had filed a case seeking separation from Sonu in a Hardoi court.

Culture department finds Ramayana links to Pak

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Culture department has found Pakistani links to Ramayana in the ongoing series of webinars which it has been conducting for creating a global encyclopaedia.

Joint director, Culture, YP Singh said digital connect because of Covid-19 has given them associations of Ramayana all across the globe.

"Sajjad Ali from the Swat University of Pakistan gave information about the Ram temple which existed several years back in the region which was later demolished. Gandhara region in Pakistan was the region where most of the Vedas were written. The

scholar from Pakistan talked about the existence of 'Ram Takht' and villages such as 'Sita Gaon' and 'Ram Gaon' in Pakistan," he said.

"Lahore in Pakistan is named after Luv, the son of Lord Rama, while Multan was the 'mool sthan' of Hindus and it has a Surya temple till date," he said.

"There were three professors at the university who had done research on Lord Rama. We all come from the same roots and have the same background. Lord Rama was playing the role of bringing us together," Sajjad Ali was quoted as saying by Singh. Ramlilas were also being performed at Pakistan, according

to Ali. Singh said that from Etruscan civilization of Italy to Volga region of Russia, from Swat valley Ram Takht of Pakistan to Melbourne, findings of Ramayana Culture and heritage by various eminent personalities from Australia, Europe, Russia and America keep pouring in.

"Persian Ramayana and old coins of Nayaka dynasty also depicted Ramayana. This international webinar was successfully organised with all these important findings. We are stuck in 4-5 incidents of Ramayana but the whole world now is finding its elements and how important it is for the entire society," Singh said.

Govt schools waiting for guidelines, pvt ones reluctant to re-open

Lucknow (PNS): Although the Central government had issued guidelines for reopening of schools (classes IX to XII), the schools will not be reopening on Monday (September 21). Government schools are waiting for further orders while private schools are reluctant to take the risk even if government issues directives in this regard.

District inspector of schools (DIOS) Mukesh Singh said government schools would not be reopening because they have received no directions.

President of Unaided Private Schools Anil Agarwal said they have decided to not open the schools even if the government issues any guidelines in this regard in view of the rising

number of cases. "However, we will submit a proposal to Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma regarding the reopening of schools from October 12 for X and XII students.

We will hold the classes till October 25 (Dussehra) and during this period, we will carry out practical work, assignments, project work and see the

situation. Students can come in two shifts of three hours each. We will initially call only class X and class XII students as it would be a large assemblage otherwise and problems would mount.

"The maximum number of students should be 500 and that too in two shifts with not more than 15-20 students in a

class," he said. He said schools have to commence some day as nobody knows what the future has in store. "We cannot go on and on with online studies as it is only a stopgap arrangement," he said. He added that they were not in favour of reopening the schools from Monday as it would be a risky proposition for students.

84.76% attendance in UPSEE



Students coming out of an exam centre in Lucknow on Sunday

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

UPSEE witnessed 84.76 per cent attendance in the city in three shifts on Sunday. The pan-India attendance was 73 per cent. AKTU spokesperson Ashesh Mishra said the city attendance was slightly less than that last year.

"Forms had been filled before the coronavirus scare and some of candidates may have opted for Lucknow but could not come because of the prevailing conditions. It could well be the reason for the

slightly less attendance. The pan-India Covid effect was seen more because there was only one centre in each state outside UP. People from that particular city where the examination was held may have made it while those from other places could not because of the rising corona graph," he explained. Outside the state, examination centers were set up in Delhi, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Patna, Mumbai, Bhopal, Jaipur, Ranchi, Roorkee, and Kolkata.

Mishra said there were

proper arrangements for sanitisation and social distancing at all exam centres. AKTU Vice-Chancellor VK Pathak and registrar Nand Lal Singh conducted surprise inspection at the exam centres in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut and NCR. "There was no inconvenience caused to any candidate. Through WhatsApp bot, live reports of each centre were received, due to which there was effective coordination," he said. Pathak said all the nodal officers were connected through the bot.

LU announces schedule of entrance tests

Lucknow (PNS): The tentative schedule of entrance tests for all PG programmes was announced by Lucknow University on Sunday. Spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava said all efforts have been made to eliminate any overlap of subjects opted by students who have applied in more than one programme.

"However, if there is still any overlap in multiple programmes, applicants can notify on email along with scanned copies of application forms of all programmes in which they have applied, latest by September 22. The final schedule will be declared thereafter," he said. He said that in view of the prevailing coronavirus pandemic, changes have been made in the admission process only for 2020-21 session.

"In MVA programmes, admissions will be done only on the basis of marks obtained in the written test. There will be no practical or viva. There will be 100 MCQs. In LLM, admissions will be done only on the basis of marks obtained in the written test and academic index. There will be no interview," Srivastava elaborated.

Digital assistance can boost tourism: Meshram

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Releasing online 360-degree video views of unexplored tourist destinations can help promote tourism in pandemic times, Principal Secretary (Tourism and Culture) Mukesh Meshram said while addressing a webinar on "Tourism in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era: Challenges and the Way Forward". It was organised by Centre for Marketing in Emerging Economies (CMEE), IIM-Lucknow.

Meshram stressed on the importance of digital assistance in these times. He was concerned that people have a lot of psychological problems so starting with the idea of faith, tourism doesn't cost much. He also highlighted ecotourism and medical-tourism,

religious tours, organic farming and various initiatives with the assistance from World Bank focusing on infrastructure expansion.

"We have already sighted around 200 acres of land in Agra and Sarnath for further development of new and existing tourist circuits. By engaging the youngsters, adventure tourism or *swadesh darshan* can be boosted," he said.

"Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, UP has been one of the most proactive and responsible states in managing the pandemic with less mortality due to Covid-19 while economic activities have begun with precautions," he added.

The webinar was an attempt to discuss concerns of different stakeholders on

tourism in the times of pandemic and to understand the challenges and opportunities of the Indian tourism sector.

C M E E chair man Satyabhushan Dash introduced different activities of CMEE, discussed the underlying stress people are going through and how tourism consumption can be a coping mechanism to reduce stress. He suggested improving the performance of online airline sites and IRCTC in the face of corona crisis by showing findings from user-generated reviews. He also announced the next pan-India research on tourism consumption behaviour in the times of Covid-19.

IIM-L director Archana Shukla stressed on the importance of tourism sector in India's economy and called for

joint efforts from different stakeholders to revive the confidence of tourists.

Devashish Das Gupta of IIM-L said the need of the hour was to focus on interdepartmental cooperation. He talked about a 5-phase experience model which involves the anticipation phase, travelling to the actual site, on-site experiences and activities, travelling back and finally recollecting the experiences.

"We should be looking for more social media handle-oriented activities rather than advertisements and campaigns in the current situation as it will be a waste of money for us. Senior citizens are rapidly growing and they can be our potential customers, thus we need to seize this opportunity," he added.

पुरुष नसबंदी दिवस

दिनांक: 21 सितम्बर, 2020

मैंने पुरुष नसबंदी अपनाई है

पुरुष नसबंदी (एन.एस.वी.)

हर महीने की 21 तारीख (अवकाश की दशा में अगले कार्य दिवस में) प्रत्येक जिला अस्पताल में एन.एस.वी. दिवस के रूप में मनाई जाती है।

पुरुषों की अब है बारी, परिवार नियोजन में भागीदारी

- नसबंदी के बाद किसी भी तरह की कमजोरी या थकान नहीं होती है, आप अगले दिन से काम पर जा सकते हैं।
- एन.एस.वी. के बाद लाभार्थी कोई भी भारी काम पहले जैसा कर सकता है।

पुरुष नसबंदी होने पर विवाहित जोड़े को 90 दिनों के लिए कण्डोम या अन्य गर्भनिरोधक साधन प्रयोग करना चाहिए।

पुरुष नसबंदी करवाने पर 57 एम.पी.वी. जनपदों में ₹. 3000/- एवं अन्य जनपदों में ₹. 2000/- की प्रतिपूर्ति राशि लाभार्थी को प्रदान की जाती है।

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Bareilly to have Textile Park, says CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that Bareilly would soon have a Textile Park.

“All hurdles in this regard have been removed and the work is likely to commence soon,” the chief minister said during a review meeting here on Sunday. He said that all the districts of Bareilly division had rich social-cultural resources which promised great potential of development.

The chief minister said the

Smart City project of Bareilly should be executed in expeditious manner so that it set an example. He asked officials to expedite road projects and warned that no road construction project should remain pending, especially in Pilibhit as it was a border district.

He said the Safe City Project of Bareilly should also be accorded importance. He laid stress on expediting the projects under the AMRUT scheme, adding that providing drinking water to all households was among the top priorities of the government. “No laxity in this

will be tolerated,” he warned.

The chief minister was reviewing the development projects of the Bareilly division comprising Bareilly, Pilibhit, Budaun and Shahjahanpur districts. There are 14 ongoing projects in the division worth over Rs 50 crore each, out of which 10 are in Bareilly, two in Pilibhit, and one each in Budaun and Shahjahanpur. In addition to this, eight road projects of over Rs 50 crore each are in progress in the division.

UP Minister for Labour and Employment Swami Prasad Maurya, Animal Husbandry and

Dairy Development Minister Lakshmi Narayan Chaudhary and Minister of State for Urban Development Mahesh Chandra Gupta along with people's representatives of all the districts were present in the meeting presided over by the chief minister through video conferencing.

Union Minister for Labour and Employment (Independent Charge) Santosh Kumar Gangwar gave his valuable suggestions regarding development works during the video conferencing.

Emphasising on quality of work

and maintenance of timelines of all the projects, the chief minister pointed out that any delay in the development works unnecessarily escalated the project cost.

He asked the district magistrates to appoint nodal officers for every project to monitor their progress and check quality. He also said that the utilisation certificate should be made available after completion of 75 per cent of the work so that the remaining funds could be released timely. He said file should remain pending for more than seven days at government level.

FROM PAGE 1

2 FARM BILLS PUSHED THROUGH RS AMID RUCKUS

When the House reassembled, Opposition parties chanted slogans but this did not prevent Harivansh from putting the Bill to voice vote.

As the first Bill got voice approval of the House and motions for sending it to a select committee were rejected, at least two members tried to climb on the table of Rajya Sabha officers but were pulled down.

Both the Bills were passed by voice vote and amendments moved by the Opposition parties rejected. However, the Congress and other Opposition party members sat in protest inside the Rajya Sabha even after the House was adjourned for after the passage of the two farm Bills.

The House sitting ends at 1 pm and Rajya Sabha chamber has to be sanitised by 3 pm when Lok Sabha sits for a session. Both the chambers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are being used for each House to allow members to follow physical distancing norms.

As a result, the Lok Sabha had to be adjourned till 4 pm as Congress members demanded that the House proceedings should not take place till Rajya Sabha galleries are cleared of the agitating members of the Upper House.

Shortly after the passage of the Bills, SAD chief Sukbir Singh Badal urged President Ram Nath Kovind not to give his assent to the legislations and return them to Parliament for reconsideration. Badal's party had earlier pulled out Harismart Kaur Badal from the Union Cabinet in protest against the Bills.

Three regional heavyweights - its oldest ally, Punjab's Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), and the ruling BJD in Odisha and Telangana's TRS which the BJP usually backed on to get support for crucial Bills --- opposed the Bills. Together the three parties send 19 MPs to the Upper House.

The other parties that clearly expressed their party's stance against the Bills included the Congress which has 40 (MPs), SP (8 MPs), Trinamool Congress (13 MPs), DMK (7 MPs), AAP (3 MPs), NCP (4 MPs), RJD (5 MPs) and the CPI and CPI(M) which together send 6 MPs to the House.

Parties that clearly supported the Bill included BJP (86), YSR Congress (6), AIADMK (9) and BPP (1). Leaders of Shiv Sena and the BSP raised some objections but also found merit in the Bills.

Unlike its ally SAD which has not supported this Bill, Modi's another ally JD(U) supported the Bills with party member in Rajya Sabha Ram Chandra Prasad Singh said it is for the first time that a farmers' policy has come after a long time. He said in 1991 when the country saw liberalisation, it missed bringing agriculture reforms.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) the oldest constituent in the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), said that there can't be any talks with the Centre unless the agriculture Bills are taken back.

AIADMK part of the NDA, opposed the Bills claiming the Bills favoured the corporate houses. The AAP too opposed the farm Bills, similarly TRS alleged these Bills would cause great injustice to farmers in the country.

The party led by Jagan Mohan Reddy announced its support for the Bill. YSRCP MP Vijaysai Reddy slammed the Congress and said that there is no reason for it to oppose agriculture-related Bills.

Shiv Sena took a stand against the farm Bills with its leader Sanjay Raut demanding a special session to discuss them.

The Trinamool Congress, DMK, RJD, JMM, and CPI(M) wanted the Bill to be sent to a select committee of Rajya Sabha for greater scrutiny.

Deputy Chairman Harivansh put their demands for vote and said the motions have been negated by voice vote. There was then slogan-shouting as the members tried to heckle the presiding officer who was protected by House marshals.

TMC member Derek O'Brien, who flung the rule book right in front of the Chair, said that it was "sad, sad day for Parliamentary democracy" and alleged that despite

Opposition's demand for a vote the Government pushed through the legislation with a heavy hand since it was outnumbered on the issue.

The Rajya Sabha had to be adjourned for a few minutes after some Opposition MPs snatched papers from the Chair desk and damaged the microphones on his desk. Marshals had to be called in to control the situation.

Soon after 1 o'clock when the Agriculture Minister was responding to the objections raised during the debate on the Bills, the Deputy Chairperson announced an extension in the time of the session.

Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad objected saying that the House could only be extended through consensus and the consensus among members was to adjourn the House till Monday.

OPP MOVES NO-TRUST AGAINST HARIVANSH, ALLEGES PREJUDICE

Congress MP Ahmed Patel told media outside the Parliament that the way these bills have been passed went against democratic processes and amounted to killing democracy.

"Twelve Opposition parties have moved a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy chairman. He (Harivansh) should safeguard the democratic traditions but instead, his attitude today harmed the democratic traditions and processes. So we have decided to move a no-confidence motion against him," Patel said.

Opposition MPs protested against agriculture Bills and were demanding that bills be sent to the select committee.

While protesting, some MPs broke the microphones on the chairman's desk; and were seen on camera tearing papers. Derek O'Brien from the TMC was caught waving the rule book at the chair, AAP's Sanjay Singh was carried out by the marshals later. At least 12 Members of the Opposition later sat in protest in the House, after the proceedings were over.

BJP MP and national general secretary, Bhupender Yadav criticised the "unruly behaviour" of the opposition members. He said the "chair is competent" to take a decision on what action should be taken.

While several MPs complained the audio system was turned off, hampering the live proceedings of the House through the Rajya Sabha TV; there was no clarity on whether the mikes were turned off on the instruction of the chair.

Speaking outside Parliament, parliamentary affairs minister Prahlad Joshi criticised the behavior of the Opposition. "The people of the country have given a mandate to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and 'this (ruckus) is an insult of the people's mandate," he said.

Questions were also raised about the propriety of MPs shooting videos inside the House. O'Brien who tweeted a video from inside Parliament, told mediapersons that recordings were made by MPs to put on record the proceedings. He said he did not tear up the rule book and will put out the proof at the right time.

PM HAILS REFORM BILLS, ASSURES MSP, GOVT BUYING TO CONTINUE

On the question as why the Government did not remove the misgivings on the MSP by guaranteeing it in the bill as was suggested by the RSS affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Rajnath, who was addressing a press conference along with five other Union Ministers, said such had never been done in the Act previously but assured that MSP and APMC (Agriculture Produce Market committee) would continue for the benefit of the farmers.

"Mai do took shabdo main kisan ko message dena chahta hoo ki, kisi bhi surat main MSP aur APMC khatam nahin honnge", Rajnath said stressing that he too was a 'kisan' and a former Agriculture Minister.

He said the Government has increased the MSP and been successful "to a large extent" towards "doubling the income of the farmers" and "we are moving further in the direction"

FARMERS' RAGE SPILLS ON TO ROAD IN HARYANA

In Kaithal, the farmers blocked the Ambala-Hisar highway near Titram Mor of Kaithal. In Hisar, farmers blocked the toll plaza near Mayyar village on the National Highway. The Jind-Delhi road was blocked in Julana while in Charkhi Dadri district, Dadri Kanina road was blocked by the farmers.

During the statewide protest, the farmers shouted slogans against the Centre and demanded withdrawal of three farm bills. On September 10 also, the BKU along with some other farmer outfits had held a protest in Kurukshetra's Pipli against the bills.

Haryana BKU chief Gurnam Singh Chaduni while talking to The Pioneer said that the protest will continue and a nationwide farmers' protest would be held now against the bills passed in the Parliament. We will hold discussions with farmers' associations across the country to devise a strategy for a nationwide protest, he said.

Condemning the Central Government, Gurnam Singh said the BJP has betrayed the farmers. Two farm bills were passed in an unconstitutional way in the Rajya Sabha. These bills have been opposed by the opposition parties also. The bills are anti-farmer as the agriculture sector will be left to the fate of corporate interests, he alleged.

Earlier, the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had on Saturday appealed for deferring the stir and invited the farmers for talks. He had asserted that the farm reforms were in the interest of farmers and claimed opposition was misleading them.

Notably, elaborate security arrangements were made across Haryana in view of the famers' protest and executive magistrates remained stationed along with their police counterparts at all such places where congregation of protestors were anticipated. Haryana Police had conducted patrolling of the national and state highways and important roads in various parts of the state, including Ambala, Kurukshetra, Sonapat, Jind, Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar and Bhiwani.

The Rajya Sabha had on Sunday passed two contentious farm bills by voice vote as the House witnessed chaotic scenes. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, was passed by the upper House.

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, part of the broader farm liberalisation plan, could not be taken up and the House was adjourned for the day.

CONG PITS PILOT AGAINST SCINDIA IN ROYAL BASTION IN MP BYPOLLS

Incidentally, in November 2015, the Congress had won Ratlam Lok Sabha in MalwaNimar where Pilot had campaigned extensively. After his victory, Congress MP Kantilal Bhuria had made a point to send a thank you note to Pilot.

Out of the 28 assembly seats going to polls, 16 fall in Gwalior-Chambal region, which is considered as Scindia's fiefdom. There are seven more seats in Malwa-Nimar region where Scindia fancies himself as a vote influencer. There are reports the ruling BJP is lagging behind in many of these seats due to onepmanship among Scindia, MP BJP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar. In Congress' assessment, Scindia's popularity is also on the wane and its focus on painting Scindia and his supporters as betrayers is finding some traction.

Pilot versus Scindia line-up in Madhya Pradesh is likely interesting. In July this year, when Pilot had rebelled against Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, the former Maharaja of Gwalior, firmly in the BJP, was reportedly encouraging Pilot to 'do a Scindia' in Madhya Pradesh, i.e. to make a substantial number of Congress MLAs resign and bring down the Gehlot regime.

BILL TO TIGHTEN FCRA RULES TABLED, AADHAAR MUST FOR REGISTRATION

Shah who to originally present the bill was not in the house which was adjourned by the speaker Om Birla for one-hour on request of Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Citing former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram's statement which he made at a time while bringing FCRA law on August 19, 2010, Rai said "Mr Chidambaram had mentioned in his statement that there are now around 40,000 working organisations. My biggest problem is that half of the organisations do not give details of their foreign contribution."

Based on the Supreme Court's judgment on Aadhaar, the minister said "we are making it mandatory for the directors of those organisations so that the government could know their identity and address. There is no discrimination in the law. All religions are being given equal rights to receive foreign donations in religious activities as per the provisions in earlier law."

"The law does not discriminate in any region. Our aim is to ensure that the organisations receiving foreign contribution should not distract from their purpose and their activities do not affect the country's internal security. The money should be used for the same purpose for which it is donated," the minister said. Now there is a provision to open accounts in State Bank of India (SBI), said Rai, along with arrangement that the organisation can open these bank accounts from their place and they do not need to come to Delhi.

13 persons killed in separate mishaps

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

At least 13 people were killed and over 18 injured in separate accidents in the state. Among the people who were killed, four were fishermen who died in an accident in Ayodhya, three were girls who drowned in Kaushambi, two were homeguards who died in a road mishap in Pratapgarh, and four who died in a mishap in Saharanpur.

A report from Ayodhya said four fishermen were crushed to death and seven others were injured when their tempo was hit by a truck near Sohawal crossing in Ronahi police station area.

The deceased were identified as Heeralal (60), Shiv Kumar (32), Sonu (35) and Raju (27), all of Bhadrasa area of the district. The tempo was coming from the wrong side which led to the accident. Seven people were also injured in the accident. The tempo carrying more than a dozen fishermen was moving at high speed and in the wrong

direction and collided with a speeding truck in the wee hours of Sunday. The fishermen were going for fishing in the Saryu river. Another report from Kaushambi said three teenaged girls drowned at Kurali ghat in the river Ganga in Puramufti police station area. The girls drowned while trying to save a boy from drowning. However, the boy was saved by these girls identified as Asha (13), Meenu (15) and Sita (14).

In Pratapgarh, two motorcycle-borne homeguards were crushed to death by a truck near Gaura canal under Kodhiyar police station. They were identified as Durgesh Prasad Ojha (33) and Dev Prasad (45).

A report from Saharanpur said four people were killed in a head-on collision between a truck and a van on Titro-Gangoh highway near Jharawan village. Five people were also injured in the accident. Police identified the deceased as Vipin, Nitu, Sonu and Sompal, all travelling in the van.

Woman shot dead

Lucknow (PNS): Two motorcycle-borne unidentified miscreants shot at a woman and her daughter who were going home on scooter on Sunday afternoon in Gorakhpur's Basharatpur area. The woman succumbed to injuries while her daughter is undergoing treatment at a medical college hospital. Police and forensic teams and dog squad reached the spot for investigation. While the police suspect some personal enmity to be the cause behind the attack, the family members denied enmity with anyone.

As per reports, 40-year-old primary school principal, Nivedita aka Devina wife of Manish, along with her 16-year-old daughter, Delsia, was returning home by a scooter. When they reached near Ashiyana turn at Rajiv Nagar, the assailants overtook the scooter and then opened fire at them. The local residents informed the police and the cops rushed them to BRD Medical College hospital where the doctors pronounced Nivedita dead. Her daughter is undergoing treatment at the hospital. "A woman was killed with bullet injury and her daughter is undergoing treatment at BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur. They were shot at when they were going on scooter in Basharatpur area under Shahpur police station. Two teams have been constituted and police are trying to find out the motive behind the attack and also if there was any enmity with someone," the police said.

Murder accused held by STF

Lucknow (PNS): Sleuths of the Special Task Force nabbed a hard-core criminal wanted in a murder case in Sultanpur district on Saturday. The criminal carried a reward of Rs 25,000 on his arrest. He was identified as Mitrasen Maurya of Kadipur locality in Sultanpur. Police recovered Rs 450 in cash from him at the time of arrest.

The accused owned up his crime and disclosed that he along with Ramsahai Singh, Pawan Maurya, both of Sultanpur, had shot dead one Hari Prasad Jaiswal of Dostpur in Sultanpur on July 23, 2020. Hari Prasad's mother had lodged a report against Ramsahai Singh, his son and others and Hari Prasad was a witness in the case. Ramsahai was forcing Hari Prasad to withdraw the FIR and not appear as a witness. Ramsahai later hired Mitrasen who gunned down Hari Prasad.

Office of the Principal B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh
(Email Id: brdmcgkp1969@gmail.com, Website: www.brdmc.ac.in)

Tender Notice No. 44/BRG/Chemical/NH-20			Dated:-15 Sept,2020		
<u>SORT TERM TENDER INVITING NOTICE</u>					
On behalf of Govt. of Uttar Pradesh e-tender is invited from the "high quality manufacturing firms (Indians/Foreign) or the reputed Indian distributors, in two parts (Technical Bid and Financial Bid) for the supply of Lab Chemical, Glass Ware, Lab Ware & Diagnostic Reagent Kits and Swine Flu (Covid-19) for Nehru Chikitshalaya, Gorakhpur					
S. No.	Chemical Description	EMD Value	E-Tender Cost	Last Date & Time bid Submission E-Tender	E-Tender Opening Date
1	Glass Ware, Lab Ware & Diagnostic Reagent Kits and Swine Flu	₹0 50,000.00	₹0 1000+18 प्रतिशत जीएसटी	30.09.2020 अपरान्ह 5.00 बजे	01.10.2020 अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे

Detailed advertisement and Tender document can be downloaded from www.etender.up.nic.in and this tender notice shall also be available our college web site www.brdmc.ac.in. The down loading start from 23.09.2020 and last date of online submission of tender offer is due on 30.09.2020 up to 05:00 PM. Tender will be open on 01.10.2020 at 2.00 PM. Number of quantity may be increased or decreased. **The e-bid EMD is Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) & The e-tender document processing cost is Rs. 1,180.00 (1,000.00+18%G.S.T.)** only. EMD For companies who could not get any product awarded in our previous **Tenderno-30/ BRD/Chemical/ NH/ E Tender/ 2020-21** wish to participate in this fresh Tender The EMD Submitted Earlier as Online payment by Bidders of previous Tender Notice shall be considered in This Tender But... They need to submit a fresh Tender Processing cost again. The Principal reserves right to cancel or reject in full or in part of all tenders received without assign in any reason in lieu thereof. In the event of the specified date of e-Bid opening being declared a holiday for the Purchaser, the e-Bids shall be opened at the appointed time and place on the next working day.

SIC
Nehru Chikitshalaya,
B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur

Principal
B.R.D. Medical College
Gorakhpur

UP 155129 Date 17.9.2019 डिजिटल वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Office of the
Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle PWD, Lucknow
Address:- Nirman Bhawan 96, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Lucknow, UP
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice

Letter No. 2157/203Com-PMGSY Circle/2020 **Dated- 17/09/2020**

1- The Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD, Lucknow on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for Renewal of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of Lucknow for Groups No. UP46/02 R including theirafter maintenance for five years. The eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD/UP RES, in appropriate class (A or B as per limit) or equivalent category in CPWD/MES/ P&T/ Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments

Sl. No.	District	Group No.	Name of work	Total Cost excluding GST (Rs Lakh)	Five Years Maintenance Cost including GST (Rs. Lakh)	Total Amount (Col 5+6) (Rs Lakh)	Period of Completion	Cost of Bid Document including all taxes	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Lucknow	UP46/02R	(a)Sided Marvi Road To Mahesh Khera	37.46	28.20	65.66	03 Months	Rs. 5000.00	1.32
			(b) Sided To Marvi (Via Rani Khera) Link Road						
			(c) Lucknow Raebareilly Rd. To Kalendra Khera						
			(d)Lucknow Raebareilly Rd. To Madani Khera						

2- Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement 24.09.2020

3- Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:
a. The bid document shall be available online from 24.09.2020 (dd/mm/yyyy) to 15.10.2020 (dd/mm/yyyy) and should be submitted online in <http://pmgsytendersup.gov.in>
b. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.
c. The bidders are required to submit,
(1) Original demand draft towards the cost of bid document,
(2) Original bid security in approved form and
(3) Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD, Lucknow on a date **not later than a working day after the last date and time for receipt of bids through e-procurement** of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. Bidder shall write only the bid-id-number (generated through e-tendering web site on submission of bid on-line) on the envelop containing the documents mentioned above in para 4-c and the package number for which they have bid. Bidder SHALL NOT WRITE their own names or name of their firm on this envelop in order to ensure confidentiality of the bid.
d. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 15.10.2020 (dd/mm/yyyy) **upto 12:00 Noon** and **the technical qualification part of the bid shall be opened the same day from 1:00 PM** in the Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Cell, PWD Lucknow
For further details please log on to <http://pmgsytendersup.gov.in>

UP 155183 Date 19.9.2020
डिजिटल वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

**Superintending Engineer,
PMGSY Circle, PWD,
Lucknow**
(Designation and address of Authority inviting bids)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि, विद्युत कालीनी, गोविन्द नगर, कानपुर-208006 अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना अघोहस्तारकर्ता द्वारा विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-कानपुर नगर के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित विवरण के अनुसार कार्य हेतु अनुभवों व सक्षम निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है, निविदा सम्बन्धी पूर्ण सूचना एवं ई-निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन अथवा निविदा खुलने की तिथि में विस्तार होता है तो इसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
क्र० 1. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं० 83/वि०वि०म० का०/2020-21 विवरण विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्रों के परिचालन हेतु आवश्यक 06 नग 24 वोल्ट बैट्री की आपूर्ति का कार्य।
क्र० 2. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं० 84/वि०वि०म० का०/2020-21 विवरण विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, चौबेपुर के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्रों के परिचालन हेतु आवश्यक 06 नग 24 वोल्ट बैट्री की आपूर्ति का कार्य।
क्र० 3. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं० 85/वि०वि०म० का०/2020-21 विवरण विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-तृतीय, घाटमपुर के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्रों के परिचालन हेतु आवश्यक 06 नग 24 वोल्ट बैट्री की आपूर्ति का कार्य।
क्र० 4. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं० 86/वि०वि०म० का०/2020-21 विवरण विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड-कानपुर के अन्तर्गत एच०वी० 2 उपभोक्ताओं के परिसर पर स्थापित 11 के०वी०/110 वोल्ट मीटरिंग पी०टी० की मरम्मत एवं बदलने का कार्य।
क्र० 5. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं० 87/वि०वि०म० का०/2020-21 विवरण विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत स्थापित विभिन्न 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्रों में स्थापित उपकरणों के परीक्षण का कार्य।
क्र० 6. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं० 88/वि०वि०म० का०/2020-21 विवरण विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, चौबेपुर के अन्तर्गत स्थापित विभिन्न 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्रों में स्थापित उपकरणों के परीक्षण का कार्य।
क्र० 7. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं० 89/वि०वि०म० का०/2020-21 विवरण विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-तृतीय, घाटमपुर के अन्तर्गत स्थापित विभिन्न 33/11 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेंद्रों में स्थापित उपकरणों के परीक्षण का कार्य।
क्र० 8. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं० 90/वि०वि०म० का०/2020-21 विवरण विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-कानपुर के अन्तर्गत सोशल मीडिया प्रकोष्ठ हेतु 02 नग कम्प्यूटर, प्रिन्टर, स्कैनर एवं यू०पी०एस० की आपूर्ति का कार्य।
क्र० 9. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं० 91/वि०वि०म० का०/2020-21 विवरण विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-तृतीय, घाटमपुर के अन्तर्गत किराये पर 01 नग डीजल चलित जेनरेटर की आपूर्ति का कार्य।
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता पत्रांक 1227 दिनांक 19.9.2020 राष्ट्रहित में विजली बचायें।

कार्यालय नियंत्रक, शासकीय मुद्रण तथा लेखन सामग्री, म.प्र. भोपाल
कमांकजीपीआर/दो/8/2/0008/292 भोपाल, दिनांक 14/09/2020
ई-निविदा सूचना
सिंग फाईल विथ स्टैण्ड के निर्धारित तकनीकी विवरण अनुसार समस्त कर सहित प्रदाय करने के इच्छुक निर्माता, विक्रेता एवं प्रदायकर्ता फर्मों से आईटी डिपॉजिट की वेबसाइट https://mptenders.gov.in से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं दिनांक 28.09.2020 अपरान्ह 1.00 बजे तक की-डेट्स अनुसार आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
2. ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा की हार्डकोंपी, नमूने अभिप्राणित हस्ताक्षर सहित, शर्त पर सहमति हस्ताक्षर सहित की-डेट्स अनुसार कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत करना होगा। ऑनलाइन तकनीकी भाग को दिनांक 29.09.2020 को अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदाकारों/उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष पोटल से डाउनलोड किया जावेगा एवं हार्डकोंपी के प्रस्तुत दस्तावेजों को खोला जावेगा।
3. किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन/सुधार/परिवर्तन होने की सूचना https://mptenders.gov.in एवं

162 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

For the second day in succession, as many as 162 new COVID-19 cases have been detected here on Sunday, increasing the total number of cases to 11,621. Besides, the district also saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 190. During the day, the following negative reports included 169 patients. Out of them, 163 patients recovered from home isolation and the total number of patients cured at home has increased to 7,194. Besides, six recovered from the hospital and the number of patients who have been discharged from the hospitals has reached 2,611. The total number of cured patients is now 9,805, leaving 1,626 active patients. The recovery rate has improved to 84.37 per cent and mortality rate to 1.63 per cent.

Meanwhile, in view of extending the scope of investigation of corona infection by the state government, it has been ensured that the corona test report can now be sent on mobile phones. Earlier, the

report of anyone being positive was given through the Covid Command Control Centre but one can see the same on one's mobile phone now. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh said that by clicking the link <https://labreports.upcovid19tra.cks.in/>, one should enter mobile number and after entering one time password (OTP), one will see one's report details.

CMO has also informed that in the first report of the day by 11 am, 70 positive patients were detected out of 1,582 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 1,67,104 and the results of 5,023 are awaited. Out of them, 1,55,575 were negative while 11,529 positive. The total number of samples collected was 1,82,391. Earlier, two males aged 26 and 66 from Laxmipur (Lohta) and Police Lines respectively and a female aged 65 from Bajardiha succumbed to COVID-19 at SSH BHU. Besides, with the addition of eight new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 1,888 including

385 red zones. One green zone has been converted into red zone again. There are 1,503 green zones including three new ones.

Earlier, this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) comprising 10 districts of three divisions has crossed 40K mark as the number of COVID-19 cases has reached 40,001 on Saturday. Out of these, maximum number of cases (22,567) was in Varanasi division followed by Azamgarh (11,263) and Vindhyachal (6,171). The best mortality rate was of Vindhyachal (1.13%) while the same was 1.30% in Azamgarh and 1.39% in Varanasi while the best recovery rate (86.84%) was in Azamgarh followed by Vindhyachal (85.35%) and Varanasi (85.06%). The overall recovery rate in the region was 85.61% while mortality rate 1.32%. Ballia has become the second district after Varanasi which crossed 5K mark as total number of cases reached 5,021.

Meanwhile, under the direction of District Magistrate

(DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, the mass/group antigen testing drive continued and a day ago 588 tests were done at Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital and one of them was found positive. Similarly, one out of 75 was positive at Shivpur Community Health Centre, one out of 109 at Vivekanand Hospital (Bhelupur) and three health workers out of 109 in BHU. However, all 405 tests were negative at Government Women's Hospital while all six tests were negative at parliamentary office of Prime Minister at Gurudham Colony, 22 at Prahlad Ghat and Rajghat Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) and 29 at Konia UPHC. Besides, the Health department has distributed ivermectin tablets to 1,078 persons. So far, he added that 8.87 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.10 lakh persons and out of them, 6.96 lakh tablets to 87,099 persons were distributed by the Health department while rest of tablets by other departments including Supply and Education departments and Civil Defence so far.

308 new COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

There was relief for the denizens of Prayagraj district for the fifth consecutive day. On Saturday, the number of cured people was higher than the infected. A total of 404 people were discharged from hospital after they beat corona infection in a single day while the number of those infected remained 308. This was confirmed by Dr Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer for Coronavirus. He said that the total number of people who got rid of the disease has increased to 12,651.

CMO Dr GS Bajpai said that with 308 new infections on Saturday, the total number of infected people in the district increased to 16,415. On Saturday, 62 people were discharged from the hospital after their Covid report came negative and home isolation of 361 people was completed. With this, the recovery rate has increased to 76 per cent.

The number of active cases has increased to 3,533 on Saturday as the number of infection-free people has increased. There are 344 patients admitted to different hospitals. The maximum 70 patients are admitted to Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital.



Railway workers sanitising coaches at Prayagraj Junction in Prayagraj

Pioneer

Apart from this, 55 are admitted in Railway Hospital, 21 in Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, nine in Unani Medical College, 62 in two private hospitals, 37 in Beli Hospital.

The remaining 3,189 people are in home isolation. Apart from this, 43 people have been discharged from various Covid hospitals. Eight persons were discharged from Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, two from Railway Hospital, seven from Beli, 13 from two private hospitals and 10 from SRN Hospital.

The fear of coronavirus

continues unabated throughout the country. The residents of the Pratapgarh district are also troubled by the pandemic of coronavirus. New cases are also being received regularly. In such a situation, there is a different kind of fear in people everywhere. However, during the transmission period of this epidemic people need to be very careful. Along with avoiding infection, there is a need to give freshness to the heart and mind as well.

Coronavirus infection has spread from cities to villages. People of all ages and every profession are falling prey to

this epidemic. In such a situation, doctors advise not to let fear of disease dominate your mind. It can make a psycho. Keeping the mind focused on it at all times can make anyone psychopathic. So, be sensitive to the disease, but do not let the mind get boiled over.

Dr. Ajay Kumar Mishra, senior psychiatrist of Pratapgarh advises that everyone should keep their mind healthy this time. People must read stories, jokes and religious, historical books. And they should get into the habit of exercise and walking. Children should also not be involved all the time about corona related issues..

Rather, tell them the importance of sanitisation, hot water, 'kaadha' and inspire them for its intake. By the way, people are doing different kinds of efforts to protect themselves.

Most of the people are also preferring the Ayurvedic method so that they do not touch the infection. Parents are also giving children 'kaadha', hot water.

The situation is that there is a lot of demand for Chyawanprash, Vitamin C and D pills in the market. People should try to keep their body healthy, added Dr Mishra.

Sankatmochan temple reopens after 183 days

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

One of the leading temples of this holy city, Sankatmochan Mandir has been reopened after 183 days from Sunday. Due to worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the temple remained closed for almost six months. Though several places of worship including one of the Dwadas Jyotilingas Kashi Vishwanath temple were reopened on June 10 last, immediately after the government and district administration allowed them for the same, many leading temples remained closed as the management of the same could not seek permissions as they felt it difficult to follow the COVID-19 guidelines. Famous Kaal Bhairav temple also took several weeks to reopen its doors.

Mahant of Sankatmochan temple Prof Vishambhar Nath Mishra said 'as the temple sees



Devotees start offering prayer at Sankatmochan temple after 183 days in Varanasi

heavy rush of devotees, especially on Tuesdays and Saturdays, it was difficult for the temple management to control them but now in view of the requests of the devotees, we've decided to open temple's doors with several restrictions.' He further said that all the devotees would only be allowed

to enter the premises wearing masks and they would pass through a sanitising box and no one would be permitted to carry sweets and other articles inside the temple for offering the same to the Lord Hanuman. 'At a time only 10 devotees would be allowed to enter the premises,' he said,

adding that the temple management would follow all the COVID-19 guidelines of Union Home Ministry.

As it is one of the famous temples of the city which was founded none other than Goswami Tulsidas, who had penned down 'Ramcharitmanas' here several centuries ago, even when its doors were closed a good number of devotees reached there and offered prayer standing outside the main gate. During this closure period, the temple management had successfully organised its traditional Sangeet Samaroh in which the leading artistes presented their programme digitally. This virtual event was a successful as due to increasing number of artistes, its duration was extended by a day. Legendary vocalist Padma Vibhushan Pt Jasraj, who died recently, had also presented his virtual show from the USA.

Seven sectors identified for increasing GDP of Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Seven sectors have been identified to enhance gross domestic product (GDP) of Varanasi. The concerned sectors will chalk out an action plan to make a remarkable improvement to increase per capita income of the district.

The assessment of GDP is to be made in 2021 and keeping this in mind, the concerned authorities have started brainstorming to make improvement in the sectors which have immense possibilities to enhance per capita income of the district.

There are immense possibilities to enhance per capita income of the district and to materialise it, seven sectors have been identified such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, manufacturing and horticulture. The employment will be generated in these sectors by improving work quality and providing better services, said the Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal while review-



DC Deepak Agrawal holding a meeting of officers in Varanasi on Saturday

Pioneer

ing the works of Zila Vikas Yojana during a meeting at his office here on Saturday so that the GDP of the district could be increased.

The emphasis is to be given so that the tourists could stay more days here during their tour and the adjoining districts would be linked to tourist places of district for the purpose, he said adding, the

importance has been given to improve quality, enhance the organic products, better packaging, marketing and strengthening branding besides increasing products in agriculture. All the Gram Sabha of districts of Varanasi division are useful for the fisheries and the district could be the hub of this sector, he said further.

The dairy is the biggest sec-

tor to enhance GDP of the district and small and medium industries are more helpful for the purpose, he said adding, there is an increase of 1.8 GDP with 10 per cent increase in MSME. Agrawal asked the departmental officers to monitor the works done by individuals or private sector to increase the GDP.

Meanwhile, the works are being carried out rapidly to develop the district as the agricultural hub of this eastern belt of UP, he said adding, the work is being done to establish a pack house at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Babatpur to increase the export of fruits and vegetables. It will be the first pack house at any airport in the country, he informed adding, the cargo facility centre in Rajasthan is also being upgraded. The target has been set to produce the famous Banarasi Langda mango in 70 hectare land, he informed further while reviewing the works of various departments.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A 25-year-old young man was shot at and injured by some unidentified miscreants in the Ganga Kachar on Sunday afternoon in Prayagraj. The miscreant escaped threatening the young man for dire consequence if he dared reveal it to cops. On receipt of information, police reached the spot, admitted the young man to hospital for treatment. The bullet hit the young man's leg. The police are investigating the case. However, the accused are away from the grip of the police.

A youth identified as Mukesh was shot at under the Shivkuti police station of the city on Sunday afternoon. After the incident, the attackers escaped the scene. Mukesh, a resident of Shivkuti, cultivates the farming at the Ganga kachar. He was in the kachar on Sunday afternoon. It is alleged that during this, a young man named Sunny fired on him with a country-made pistol. He fell on the ground when he was shot in the leg, the attacker escaped threatening. Police reached the spot on getting information and carried out the investigation.

In relation to this, Inspector Mahesh Singh of Shivkuti police station said that the reason for the shooting is yet to ascertain. The matter is under investigation.

Necessary action will be taken after filing a case on the basis of the written complaint being given by the victim.

Meanwhile, a case of assaulting and threatening advocate Anshuman Tripathi for not giving extortion money has come to light.. The victim lodged an FIR against Mithilesh Pal, his father Lote Pal and brother and three unknowns at the Colonelganj police station. The incident happened three days ago. The advocate alleged that he was sitting in the chamber. Meanwhile, Mithilesh came with his brother, father and some companions and then started asking for extortion of ₹ 1 lakh. They started hitting him when the former resisted. They also attacked his partner Ramvish when he came for his rescue. Police said that investigations are being done after filing a case on the basis of a written complaint given by the victim.

Meanwhile, on being demanded the money for the egg, some people beat shopkeeper Amit Sahu. And managed to escape, threatening him to kill the entire family. The victim has filed a report against Sanjay, Neelu, Sant Lal and Kallu at Kareli police station. Amit, a resident of Karelalbagh, alleged that he was selling goods at his general store shop. Then Sanjay and his companions bought eggs.

When Amit asked for money, they started beating and abusing him, Amit alleged..

HYDROPHOBIC POLYURETHANE GROUTING OF JOINTS DONE: Hydrophobic Polyurethane Grouting of Limited Height Subway joints have been done by the North Central Railway to stop water seepage. NCR is completing road user safety works in mission mode.

A few RUBs or LHSs made in area with high water table suffer with problem of water seepage from joints. Besides provision of covered shed on both side approaches, temporary pumping arrangement is also made at all such location during monsoon to avoid water logging in passage for road users. With continuous efforts of Railway engineers of North Central Railway now a permanent solution to the problem of water seepage from LHS joints have been found. At LHS no 29 in Mathura Jn.- Alwar section of Agra division, Railway engineers have successfully arrested water seepage through use of hydrophobic polyurethane grouting. This LHS situated by the side of canal used to have regular water logging and problem got aggravated during full running of canal. Railway engineers identified 150 location and grouted these locations with hydrophobic polyurethane and penetrant mortar resulting in complete sealing of leakages.

After treatment this LHS is completely dry providing safe and easy passage to road users.

This hydrophobic polyurethane based grouting is also being done at one location each in Prayagraj and Jhansi division to study its efficacy in detail and to incorporate improvements before implementing it at other RUBs/ LHSs having water seepage problem. GM Rajiv Chaudhry complemented the team of engineers of Agra division involved in this work and advised that detailed procedure should be properly documented for future reference. North Central Railway is completing works related to road user safety in mission mode. Till August 2020 in current financial year 15 manned level crossing have been removed and 3 RUBs have been constructed. Power lifting electrical barrier has been provided at 12 LCs; 3 LCs have been interlocked with signaling system and sliding boom has been provided at 25 level crossings at second layer of protection in case of primary boom breakage. Secured communication between gate-man and SM provided at 14 level crossing gates, train approach warning hooter provided at 46 LCs for early alert to gateman on approaching train and 120 level crossing gates of North Central railway are equipped with CCTV with recording facility of approx. 30 days.

DM for taking proper care of elders

VARANASI (PNS): District Magistrate (DM) and Chairman of District Health Committee Kaushal Raj Sharma stressed the need for taking proper care of the elders while expressing his views on the eve of World Alzheimer's and Dementia Day on Monday. National Dementia Awareness Week will be observed from September 21 to 27 to make one aware of the diseases. 'There is a need to be vigilant and alert apart from taking special care of the elders at the home, keeping them away from stress. If the weak memory symptoms start among the elders, they should be given proper medical attention immediately,' said that the DM, emphasising on paying special attention to the physical and mental health of the old aged

persons during the corona pandemic period. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh informed that in the National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) under the National Health Mission (NHM), special attention is being paid to the proper treatment of senior citizens. OPD and Indoor services have been started by deploying specialist doctors and staff separately in Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, apart from making arrangements of psychiatrist and psychologist for proper counselling on mental health of the elderly. If symptoms of Alzheimer's are found, the mental patients can consult specialist in Room No.10 and old people in Room No.7. Besides, from time to time

special camps are also organised for testing and treatment of physical and mental health of the elderly and free medicines are also given to them.

Nodal Officer and ACMO Dr PP Gupta informed that seminars, camps and signature campaigns etc. will be conducted for public awareness during the awareness week. Explaining about the symptoms, he said that dementia is often seen in old age. Due to this, Alzheimer's disease occurs in which memory becomes weak and develops the habit of forgetting everything, inability to communicate and delay in responding. The diseases occur due to chronic diseases like diabetes, blood pressure, high cholesterol, head injury, brain stroke, anemia and malnutrition. 'If it is detected initially,

then the treatment becomes easy,' he added.

PRELIM EXAM HELD: Amidst the following of guidelines of COVID-19, the preliminary examinations of Samiksha Adhikari (Review Officer) and Sahayak Samiksha Adhikari (Assistant Review Officer) were conducted in the district. But the attendance of the candidates was not as per expectation. To conduct the smooth preliminary examinations of RO and ARO conducted by UP Public Service Commission, as many as 97 examination centres have been made in the districts. As many as 34 sector magistrates have been appointed to ensure the fair and peaceful examinations. Three static magistrates have also been appointed at each sector.

ALLAHABAD (PNS): Three people were killed in two separate road accidents that took place in different areas of the Prayagraj district. The first road accident occurred under the Lalgalpalganj police station on Prayagraj-Lucknow highway. On Sunday morning, two teenaged youths who were going for Ganga snan in Shringverpur on bicycle fell victim to the accident when the uncontrolled truck hit the bicycle from behind. Both fell on the road and the truck crushed them.

One of the teenaged died on the spot, while the other young man was taken to the hospital in critical condition, where he too died shortly after.

Angry people blocked the highway, threw stones at the police. The cops had to use mild force to control the crowd and released tear gas to disperse them. Many were also detained. Some police personnel were injured in the stone pelting.

Similarly, another accident also happened in the same police station area. The truck hit a motorcycle on which an old woman died in the accident while another woman was critically injured.

The first accident occurred at 5 am on the Prayagraj-Lucknow highway. Mukesh Saroj and Ankit Vishwakarma, residents of Ibrahimpur village in Lalgalpalganj, were going to take a bath in Ganga at

Shringverpurdam on the same cycle on Sunday morning. Both the youths had reached Kathua bridge on the highway of Lalgalpalganj when an uncontrollable bus coming from behind knocked them down killing Mukesh Saroj (16) son of Ram Asare who died on the spot in the accident. While Ankit Vishwakarma (18) son of Arvind was seriously injured and he was immediately rushed to the hospital, where he too succumbed.

The villagers, angered by the death of two in the accident, blocked the Kathua bridge and the Lucknow highway at Ibrahimpur. On the news of the incident, CO Soraon Ashok Venkat,

Nawabganj Inspector Suresh Singh along with his subordinates reached the spot. Angry villagers threw stones at the police. To control the deteriorating situation, police from Holagarh, Soraon and Mauaima police station reached the spot. Police also used tear gas and lathicharge in Kathoupl to disperse the mob.

Similarly, another accident occurred at around 9 am on Kilhanpur turn on Lucknow highway under the Lalgalpalganj police station. A high speed truck hit the bike. In the accident, the old grandmother of a young man sitting on a bike died on the spot. On the other hand, the driver escaped with the truck.

Gyan Pathology sealed for overcharging, wrong reports Crackdown on paths, hospitals continues in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari on Sunday directed the officials concerned to seal Gyan Pathology with immediate effect and send all the test samples collected by it to government pathology for testing.

The district magistrate found the pathology prima facie guilty of overcharging, giving wrong COVID-19 test reports and inordinate delay in giving reports.

The sudden raid on Gyan Pathology has made most of the pathologies jittery as they are trying to exploit the situation to make a fast buck during the pandemic.

A three-member team comprising additional chief medical officer and two additional district magistrates swooped on the prominent pathologies of the city and seized the records, cash register, reports and other documents.

The Gyan Pathology was caught off guard. During examination of records, it was found that the pathology had been openly violating Covid norms, it was giving wrong reports, was not maintaining proper records of the coronavirus positive patients and was charging a hefty amount not to disclose details and address of the positive cases to the district administration.

The three member team said these charges would be probed further and more action could be taken against the pathology.



The DM carries a surprise raid on Gyan Pathology on Sunday.

The district magistrate asked the officials to cross-check all the tests carried out by the pathology in the past three days and also see what amount had been charged for the tests.

He also said the version of the kin of the coronavirus positive cases be recorded prior to taking legal action.

Tiwari directed the ACMO to ensure that all the samples were immediately sent to the government pathology for testing and the relatives be informed that their reports

could be collected from the particular pathology.

The district magistrate also made a surprise inspection of Regency Hospital in Govind Nagar where he found that the hospital had failed to fulfil the required strength of anaesthetists. He directed the hospital management to appoint one MD (Medicine) and one more anaesthetist within four days.

It was found that the hospital had increased the ICU beds to the desired strength of 60 bed.

It may be mentioned here that it was alleged that most of the pathologies were overcharging for tests and were also charging a big amount to keep the name and address of the person testing positive secret from the district administration.

351 MORE TEST POSITIVE

Kanpur Nagar reported 351 fresh cases of coronavirus infection till Sunday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said 351 more people had tested positive for

coronavirus infection between Saturday evening and Sunday evening, taking the count of confirmed cases to 22,883. He said a total of 44 cases were discharged and 5936 COVID-19 patients had been cured in the city so far, and at present 4796 active coronavirus cases were undergoing treatment.

The CMO said 7 COVID-19 deaths were reported in the city till Sunday evening taking the toll to 596. He said a total of 5719 samples were sent for testing in the district.

Teenaged girl shoots self

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A teenaged girl committed suicide by shooting herself by the licensed gun of her uncle in Jawahar Nagar (East) locality in Ghatampur Kotwali police area on Saturday night.

According to reports, Dharmendra Singh of Bakharia village in Patara police station area is a retired armyman. For the past several years, he has been living in Jawahar Nagar. His younger brother Narendra's daughter Diksha, a student of BSc second year, was also living with him to pursue her studies.

On Saturday night, Diksha suddenly shot herself from the licensed gun of her uncle.

On hearing the gunshot, the girl's aunt immediately informed Dharmendra, Narendra and other family members about the incident. Ghatampur SHO Satyadeo Sharma reached the spot with forensic team and carried out investigations.

According to police, after sitting on the bed, Diksha had pushed the trigger by her big toe. The bullet splinters had pierced through the chest and penetrated the ceiling and the wall of the room.

No suicide note was recovered from the room.

It was not clear what pushed the girl to take the extreme step.

70 quintal iron rods looted from shop

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A round half-a-dozen miscreants looted iron rods worth around Rs 3 lakh after tying the shopkeeper to a cot in Nyoraj Samastpur village under Rasoolabad police station of Kanpur Dehat in the early hours of Sunday.

The gang of robbers took away the iron rods in a truck. According to reports, Brijendra has a shop selling construction material on the outskirts of the village and he sleeps there in the night.

Around 2 am on Sunday, over half-a-dozen miscreants entered the shop and tied Brijendra, who was fast asleep, to the cot and threatened to shoot him if he raised an alarm.

Thereafter, the thieves loaded 70 quintal iron rods in a truck and escaped.

Brijendra somehow freed himself and informed the police about the loot.

Circle Officer Ram Sharan along with Rasoolabad police reached the spot and carried out investigations.

40-yr-old woman shot dead

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Motorcycle-borne miscreants opened fire at a woman and her daughter in Basharatpur under Shahpur police station on Sunday afternoon. The seriously injured victims were taken to the Medical College by their family members where the doctor declared the woman dead. However, the con-

dition of her daughter was stated to be critical, last reports received here said. According to information, Nivedita Major alias Davina (40), wife of Manish Major, a resident of Basharatpur locality, was going on a Scooty with her daughter, Delasia, to her in-laws place in Milan Lawn Ramjanaki Nagar Poorvi Mohalla when two motorcycle-borne miscreants opened fire at them on the

Ashiana turn in Rajiv Nagar. As a result they fell on the road. On hearing the screams people from the nearby areas rushed there. The goons managed to escape by firing in the air. On getting information SSP Joginder Kumar, SP (City) Dr Kaustubh, SP (Crime), CO Gorakhnath, SHO Shahpur and Crime Branch team arrived there and started investigating the matter.

Four accused apprehended

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUN

On the directive of SP Yashveer Singh and ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh police apprehended four accused from Auraiya-Jalaun highway on Saturday. ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh said that they were tipped off by an informer that four suspects were standing on the highway for committing a crime. The Jalaun Kotwali police immediately reached the spot and arrested them. The arrested accused were identified as Ritesh Kanjad, Dinesh alias Langda, Tilak Singh Kanjad and Baba alias Sakar Kanjad. He said that 200 gm



charas and ₹9,500 was seized from Ritesh Kanjad and an FIR was lodged against him under Section 18/20 NDPS Act. The team confiscated an illegal pistol, two cartridges and ₹8,500 from Dinesh alias Langda and booked him under Section 3/25(A) Arms Act. A knife and ₹10,000 were confiscated from Tilak Singh Kanjad. Besides ₹7,000 and a knife from Baba

alias Sakar. An FIR was lodged against both of them under Section 4/25(A) of the Arms Act. ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh also said that they were notorious criminals and cases were registered against them in different police stations of Jalaun. The team which made the arrest comprised inspector Ramesh Chandra Mishra, Jalaun Kotwali incharge, S-I Sanjeev Kumar Dixit, Jalaun outpost incharge, S-Is Deshraj Singh Yadav, Ramnareish Yadav and Ramchandra, and constables Satyendra Rajput, Pankaj, Deepak, Ankita Mishra, Sakshi Yadav, Savita, Amit Yadav, Archana and Preity Tomar were also present.

Expected increase in goods loading on NER

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The marketing efforts of the

Business Development Unit set up at the headquarters and divisional level on NER, improvement and expansion of goods sheds, concessions being given by the Ministry of Railways in loading of goods and the increasing speed of goods trains are bringing positive results. In August this year 0.202 metric tonnes of goods were loaded while 0.189 metric tonnes of it was loaded in August last year. In the ongoing month the sequence of expected increase in loading of goods continues. Loading was done in 4,027 wagons in August this year while during the corresponding period last year it

was done in 3,927 wagons, Chief Public Relations Officer Pankaj Kumar Singh said. A total of 207 rakes were loaded on the NER in July and August this while during the same period last year loading was done in 176 rakes. In July and August this year four rakes of wheat from Lucknow and Varanasi divisions and from Izzatnagar division through two NMG rakes loading of automobile was done for Bangladesh. Besides in 15 NMG rakes automobiles were loaded from Haldi Road station for Changsari, Fatua, Sankarel and Santnagar stations. Seven rakes of sugar were loaded from Bahedi, Bajpur and Farrukhabad stations. From stations under Varanasi and Lucknow divisions

there was an expected increase in loading of jaggery, grains and other items. Till September 14 this year goods had been loaded in 47 rakes. Due to almost double increase in the average speed of goods trains, railway wagons are becoming available for next loading soon. The average speed of goods trains in July and August was about 46 km/hr while in July and August last year it was 19 km per hour. Due to the increase in the average speed of goods trains travel time has decreased significantly due to which the inclination of business establishments has increased towards the Railways. As a result of the increase in loading of goods there is also an expected increase in railway revenue.

No crisis of oxygen, says CDO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Development Officer Mahendra Singh, while carrying a surprise inspection of the oxygen gas godown of Kanshiram Hospital on Sunday, said the hospital had enough backup reserve.

He carried out an inspection of the oxygen plant and filling section and claimed that the hospital had enough of reserve and the plant was functioning normally.

Singh said there was panic buying of oxygen in the city especially for COVID-19 patients in home isolation and thus people selling oxygen cylinders had jacked up the price.

He said there was no crisis of oxygen and advised people not to hoard oxygen cylinders

as it could lead to crisis at the time when required.

It may be mentioned here that it was "claimed" by some that 25 per cent of the factories engaged in iron bar and cylinder production had closed down on account of short supply of oxygen.

With the oxygen supply being diverted to hospitals and home isolation patients, the production was mainly being used for medical purposes. The price of oxygen cylinder has shot up from Rs 240 to Rs 900 as it is being sold in black market.

The IIA has expressed concern over the oxygen crisis and said the production of angles and bars for construction and industrial purposes has been hit adversely. It has appealed to the government to take immediate steps for the survival of

these industries.

Nursing Homes Association president Dr MK Saraogi said the with oxygen cylinder now being sold at higher prices, the district administration would have to revise the hospital charges it had fixed earlier as it was not possible now to treat patients at the old rates.

He said the district administration should strictly check the black-marketing and price rise of oxygen cylinder. He said if the rates of oxygen were fixed and controlled there would be no complaint of overbilling.

Naraina Medical College's Managing Director Udit Narayan said in a short span of time there had been more than 40 per cent rise in oxygen demand and this had forced the manufacturers to jack up the prices by over six times.

Some hospitals who have oxygen plants and were filling cylinders are allegedly hoarding oxygen cylinders and indulging in black-marketing and the district administration has been apprised of the facts.

While these plants shop crisis from front door sales, they are making supplies through the back door sales in black market. Unless the district administration launches a crackdown on the oxygen production units and maintains a surveillance, the crisis will continue.

The MD of a private hospital said that the oxygen crisis was man made and was being intentionally hyped to facilitate overpricing and hoarding. He said if a crackdown was launched regularly, the oxygen supply could be controlled.

BJPKM members plant saplings



BJP State Spokesperson Dr Manoj Misra planting sapling at Ramlala Inter College ground on Sunday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Under the party's Seva Saptah campaign, members of Bharatiya Janata Party Kisan Morcha planted saplings at 70 places on the occasion of the 70th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Sunday.

After planting the saplings at Rawatpur, Shastri Nagar, Gangaganj, Tikra, Kapli, Maqsoodabad and other places, the BJP Kisan Morcha members appealed to the local residents to protect them.

At Ralala Inter College grounds, BJP state spokesperson Manoj Mishra, college

principal Juli Verma and BJP Kisan Morcha district president Santosh Shukla planted the saplings of Neem and Aegle Marmelos (Bel fruit).

They asked the volunteers to take a vow to protect the saplings by erecting tree guards around them. Prominent activists who took part in the

tree plantation drive included Ashok Singh Dadda, Kamlesh Dixit, Girja Shanker Dixit, Shashank Pandey, Ra Nivas Batham, Gopi Chand Tripathi, Vinay Dwivedi, Yatindra Sharma, Ramakant Prajapati, Rajesh Senger, Shyam Tewari, Kaushal Tewari, Gyan Prakash Diwakar and Manoj Singh.

'Complete allotment of houses under KAY'

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Sushil Kumar Patel directed the Project Officer, DUDA, to complete the work of allotment of houses to eligible persons without

delay under Kanshiram Avas Yojana (KAY). During a meeting held under Kanshiram Sahri Avas Yojana at the Collectorate on Saturday, the DM was apprised by the Project Officer, DUDA, that total 2,508 houses had been constructed under the scheme in Mirzapur, Kachhawan and Chunar and 2,004 of them had been allotted already. The process for allotment of 504 of them was in process, the PO added. He said that against the availability of 504 houses 1,090 applications had been received and it had been sent to tehils to ascertain the eligibility and 420 had been identified as eligible. The DM directed the Jal Nigam, Nagar Palika and

Energy department officials to make available civic amenities in the newly-constructed houses prior to the allotment and directed to tehsil staff to submit the report about the eligibility of the applicants without inordinate delay. The

meeting was attended by ADM UP Singh, EOs of NagarPalikas and other officials concerned.

THANA SAMADHAN DIVAS: After a long gap of about six months Thana Samadhan Divas held at all the police stations of the

district on Saturday. Out of 48 applications three were disposed of on the spot while for others joint teams of police as well as revenue officials were sent to the site for disposal. As per the police, three applications were received at Katra Kotwali, five at Kachhawan police station, one at Padari, 13 at Chunar, 2 at Adalhaat police station, four at Jamalpur, five at Madihan, 10 at Lalganj and five at Halia police station.

'Clean Station Day' observed at NER, DLW

PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the ongoing cleanliness fortnight in the entire Indian Railways, 'Clean Station Day' was observed at various railway stations of Varanasi Division of NER. A massive cleanliness drive was launched at all the A1, A and B grade stations, including Varanasi City, Prayagraj Rambaug, Mau, Khurasan Road, Baitalpur, Deoria Sadar, Chhapra and others, maintaining social distancing and all Covid-19 guidelines. During the day circulating areas, main buildings, enquiry rooms, ticket counters, platforms, corridor, foot overbridges, benches, water



sengers and others. Earlier, under 'Swachh Samvad' programme cleanliness was done in Manduadih coaching depot premises apart from extensive drive at entry and exit gates of Varanasi City railway station, retiring rooms, foot overbridge and platforms. Besides, massive cleanliness drive was also launched at various other important stations of the division, including Jhusi, Ghazipur City, Ballia, Bhatni, Deoria Sadar, Belthara Road, Chhapra, Siwan and Thawe. Along with this on the instructions of SDME (C&W) Satyaprakash Srivastava and DME (Environment and Housekeeping Management) Dushyant Singh, banners and posters with messages on cleanliness were pasted at different places of A1 and A stations. In Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), a leading production unit of Indian Railways, various

programmes were also organised when machines, apparatus and plant premises were made clean. Campaign was also launched to mobilise the people for proper disposal of garbage and plastic wastes and efforts were made to keep the DLW premises as 'plastic free zone'. Proper cleanliness was also done at all solar units installed at service buildings. Drive was also launched in offices, workshops and township areas. Earlier, programmes were organised under Swachh Samvad day. Workshops on information and education were conducted in view of Covid-19 apart from awareness campaigns for garbage disposal and sanitation in offices and markets. Besides, DLW employees were mobilised towards safety, hygiene and Covid-19 guidelines and wide-spread awareness and publicity towards cleanliness was spread through banners, posters, pamphlets, SMS, WhatsApp etc.

Modi calls passage of farm reform Bills ‘historic’



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described the passing of the farm reform Bills by Parliament as “historic” and said it would provide “new opportunities” to farmers to sell their produce on higher prices and “free farmers from middlemen”.

Soon after Rajya Sabha passed the two key farm Bills aimed at giving ‘marketing freedom to farmers’, the Prime Minister assured the farmers that Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Government procurement of their produce would continue.

The Bill has been described by Opposition and even RSS-affiliated Bhartiya Kisan Sangh as “tilted in favour of the corporates” and against small and marginal farmers.

The BKS had demanded that bills must be sent to the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture for wider consultations and suitable amendments.

Those opposing the ‘reform bills’ apprehend that with the marketing reforms, government may do away with the MSP and in the new contract system leave around 87 per cent small farmers to a lesser fate vis-à-vis the farmers with big land holdings.

The Government did not concede the demand and ‘suc-

Rajnath allays farmers’ fear, says MSP, APMC will continue



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Sunday fielded Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who pitched himself as a ‘farmer’ and showcased his credentials as a former Agriculture Minister, to allay the fears of the farmers over the farm Bills passed by the Parliament. Singh said he wanted to send a clear message to the farmers that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) would continue for their benefit.

Strongly condemning the behaviour of the Opposition parties against Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh, the Defence Minister described it as “very shameful”.

He, however, left the question of no confidence motion proposed by the

Opposition against the Deputy Chairman to the discretion of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha M Venkaiah Naidu.

On the question as to why the Government does not remove the misgivings on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) by guaranteeing it in the Bill as was suggested by the RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Rajnath, who was addressing a press conference along with five other Union Ministers, said such was never done in the Act.

He said the Government has increased the MSP and been successful “to a large extent” towards “doubling the income of the farmers” and “we are moving further in the direction”.

Condemning the ruckus in the RS, he said he was “deeply pained” by the misbehaviour by Opposition members with ‘Harivanshji’ who, he said, always practiced high values. The Minister said it was unprecedented in the history of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for members to tear the rule-book and stand on the

chair of the Deputy-Chairman.

The Minister said the opposition actions in the upper house, which is described as “house of elders”, were very sad. Its “mere condemnation is not enough”. “This has deeply hurt and lowered the parliamentary dignity,” he said.

On the question of opposition contemplating no-confidence motion against Harivansh, Rajnath said it was the “prerogative of the Chairman of the RS to decide on the issue”.

When asked why the Deputy-Chairman did not accept the demand of a division in the house, Union Minister of state for Minority Affairs Mikhitar Abbas Naqvi responded by saying that the Deputy Chairman asked opposition MPs to go back to their seats but instead he was encircled and were “slogan-shouting”.

Besides Rajnath and Naqvi, other union ministers included Prakash Javadekar, Prahlad Joshi, Thawarchand Gehlot and Piyush Goyal.

bills will truly free the farmers from middlemen and all obstacles,” Modi tweeted.

Asserting that it would

Farm reform Bills anti-farmers, says Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after Union Minister Rajnath Singh briefed the media over the controversial farm Bills, Congress said the legislations, which were passed in Rajya Sabha amid a din, are against the interest of farmers and the day will be remembered as a black day for democracy.

The party announced to move a no confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy

Chairman Harivansh who, according to Congress and other Opposition parties, did not pay heed to the demands of the Opposition benches and by action completely favoured and worked for the Government.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who is abroad, tweeted, that the farmers grow gold from land, but the arrogance of the Modi government is making farmers shed tears of blood.

“I saw the press conference by Rajnath Singh and five other Ministers. They are justifying Deputy Chairman’s action and attitude. That was very unfortunate. We expected decent reaction from senior Ministers. They should have at least condemned the practice by Deputy Chairman,” said Congress leader KC Venugopal during press briefing. He was joined by party leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Randeep

Surjewala, Rajeev Satav and Pratap Singh Bajwa.

“The members become upset. Everyone went in the well of the House. BJP leader Bhupinder Yadav was also seen whispering in Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman’s ear. What conspiracy is happening? Today’s entire episode was a conspiracy by BJP leaders. We are not going to leave this issue,” Venugopal said addressing late event press conference.

“The irresponsible act of opposition is unfortunate. They violated the protocols, Chairman will take note of it and take action.

The democratic system should function smoothly, we’ll request Chairman to take steps for the same,” said Nadda who is also a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Defence Minister Rajath Singh lauded the bill and congratulated Agriculture Minister for explaining all aspects of the Bills with clarity and conviction in both the Houses of Parliament.

Taking to Twitter, Rajnath, also a former agriculture minister, said, “With the passing of two landmark agriculture Bills in Rajya Sabha today, India has cemented the strong foundation for ‘Atmanirbhar Agriculture’. This is the result of endless dedication and determination of the Govt under the leadership of PM

Shri @narendramodi,” he sought to say.

The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 were passed in Rajya Sabha on Sunday (September 20) by voice vote despite stiff protest by Opposition lawmakers.

The bills were cleared amid mayhem in Rajya Sabha with several MPs taking to the well of the House and raising anti-government slogans.

Earlier, during a discussion on the farm bills, Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal, an ally of the BJP, announced in Lok Sabha that his party opposes the bills.

The lone SAD minister in the Modi-Government Harshimrat Kaur has resigned.

Opp blames Govt for lapses in curbing Covid pandemic



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha on Sunday debated the Covid-19 scenario across the country with the initiator of the debate RSP MP NK Premachandran, ironically, unable to attend as he tested positive on Saturday.

Opposition MPs highlighted many lapses in the administration for the past six months to tackle the pandemic and blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for declaring lockdown within four hours, leading to chaos and miseries in public and migrant labourers fleeing back to their home towns from their work places.

BJP MPs countered the Opposition charges and highlighted the faults in administration in the Opposition-ruled states like Maharashtra. Opening up the debate, Speaker Om Birla assured that he will give chance to all MPs and urged them to bring out the problems faced in their constituencies. “This debate should be specific. Come with your experiences,” he said, opening the floor for the more than four hour long debate.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor highlighted the lacunas in the health administration of the country in tackling the pandemic and blamed the Government for having no data on this regard. He charged the Government with creating disasters in economy,

Mandatory for PG med students to serve in designated district hosps for 3 mths

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed to ensure trained health human resources across the districts, postgraduate (PG) medical students, from both private and Government medical colleges, will have to compulsorily serve in a designated district hospital (100 bedded or more) for three months.

Besides meeting the human resource shortage at the district level, the measure would also help expose the future physicians/specialists of wide-ranging clinical material and enables them to learn care of such patients in ecosystems with varied resources and teams.

Paving way for such move, the Board of Governors at the Medical Council of India (MCI) has launched a District



Residency Program from the current academic session 2020 and a gazette notification has been issued in this regard. Such rotation shall take place in the 3rd or 4th or 5th semester of the Postgraduate program and postgraduate medical students undergoing training shall be termed as a ‘District Resident’.

The Programme will be implemented with the PG (broad specialty) batch joining in 2020, stated gazette notification, which also laid down the details of the program. Following the amendment of the Post-graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000, a

new clause has been added to incorporate the District Residency Programme.

The programme is for all PG medical students in government and private medical colleges including those affiliated to deemed universities and students who fail to complete the course will not be allowed to take their final exams.

District hospitals represent the backbone of the country’s secondary-level health care providing specialty treatment. These hospitals are closer to people and an overwhelming source of services in rural and urban areas.

The student will be drawing full stipend/salary from their medical colleges during this duration and would also be getting a certificate at the end of their training.

“tific” measures like lighting and hitting on plates from balconies.

BJP MPs, including Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, highlighted the slew of measures implemented by the Centre to tackle the pandemic and accused the Opposition of “involving in just blame games”.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Health Minister Harsh Vardhan were always in touch with all opposition leaders and Chief Ministers across the

ICMR mulls saliva-based test for Covid-19 detection: Vardhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ICMR is actively exploring saliva-based test for detection of COVID-19, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Sunday and asserted that no significant or drastic mutation in strains of SARS-CoV-2 has been found in India till now.

During an interaction with his social media followers on ‘Sunday Samvad’ platform, Dr Harsh Vardhan informed them the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been conducting large-scale sequencing of nationally representative strains of SARS-CoV-2 virus collected for several months over different time-points.

Detailed results on mutations and evolution of the virus will be available in early October, he said.

Meanwhile, India’s first CRISPR Covid-19 test ‘Feluda’ that claims to match accuracy levels of traditional RT-PCR tests, with quicker turnaround time has been given nod by the Drug Controller General of India. “Feluda met the high-quality benchmarks with 96 per cent sensitivity and 98 per

cent specificity for detecting the novel coronavirus,” said the joint statement by Tata Group and CSIR-IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology) which have jointly developed the test.

CRISPR is a genome-editing technology to diagnosing diseases.

“The Tata CRISPR test is the world’s first diagnostic test to deploy a specially adapted Cas9 protein to successfully detect the virus causing Covid-19. This marks a significant achievement for the Indian scientific community, moving from R&D to a high-accuracy, scalable and reliable test in less than 100 days. The Tata CRISPR test achieves accuracy levels of traditional RT-PCR tests, with quicker turnaround time, less expensive equipment, and better ease of use. Moreover, CRISPR is a futuristic technology that can also be configured for detection of multiple other pathogens in the future,” the statement added.

Tata described it as a ‘Made in India’ product that is “safe, reliable, affordable, and accessible”.

country and improvising measures on a regular basis. “Everybody was united.”

In Hyderabad, Owaisi and RSS were united in the field to serve people.

It is unfair that you criticizing us unnecessarily,” said Dubey urging the Opposition MPs to consult their Chief Ministers before leveling allegations.

220 Covid-19 insurance claims pending with insurance firms till Sept 17, Parliament told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As on September 17, at least 220 Covid-19 insurance claims are pending with the insurance companies. Of these, in 212 cases, complete claim documents are to be submitted by the states and eight claims approved by the insurance company are pending for the nominee details, said the Government in Parliament on Sunday.

The Centre has, through a number of letters, asked states and Union Territories to ensure swift processing of insurance claims under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package’ to frontline health workers fighting COVID-19. Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey said in a written reply

in Rajya Sabha. Replying to another question, the Minister said that disposal of biomedical waste including PPE kits worn by healthcare professionals and public became a challenge during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Replying to another query, Choubey said India has 15,403 Covid-19 treatment facilities with 15,54,022 isolation beds, 63,758 ICU beds and 2,32,505 oxygen supported beds while so far, a total of 344.78 lakh N95 masks and 141.46 lakh PPE kits have been supplied to states, Union Territories and central government institutions.

“There is no shortage of PPE kits and ventilators in the dedicated Covid-19 facilities across the country,” the minister said.

China agrees for talk to defuse border tension

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After dilly dallying for days, China has agreed to have another round of high level military level talks with India on Monday to resolve the ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. This meeting was agreed upon in the parleys between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on September 10 in Moscow. The two ministers agreed for speedy disengagement and de-escalation at the border.

The military talks comprise Corps Commander level talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and his Chinese counterpart Major General Liu Lin. They have already held five rounds of talks since June 6 to bring down temperatures but these parleys did not yield any



result. The last round was held on August 2 and both the sides agreed to withdraw mutually from all the friction points and reduce additional troops and weapons from the depth areas on either sides of the LAC.

However, China did not honour the commitment and refused to withdraw troops leading to increasing tension in the already volatile situation. In fact, this issue figured prominently during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh talks with China

defence minister Wei Fenghe and the foreign ministers of the two nations.

At the moment, more than one lakh troops from both the countries are amassed at the 1,700 km LAC in the Ladakh. The China Study Group headed by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval two days back finalized the stand to be taken by the Indian commander during the forthcoming talks.

The high powered CSG attended by the Defence Minister and the external affairs minister besides the military top brass also reviewed the operational readiness of the armed forces in guarding the 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

Home Ministry stresses on border management

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has stressed that border management along frontiers with Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar should be emphasized as seriously as those along the borders with China and Pakistan.

Border guarding forces like Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Assam Rifles have been asked to hold meetings with Union Home Secretary Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronic Limited (BEL) to identify technological solutions for improved border management. The decision was taken by Union Home Ministry Amit Shah

on April 2 to review the progress of the recommendations made during his meeting with the border guarding forces late last year, officials said.

The move assumes significance as the frontiers along Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar are considered friendly. Strengthening border management on the alignment with these countries could be seen in the backdrop of either China’s footprint in these countries or Beijing’s likely intent to provoke them in order to reduce Indian influence in the region.

In the backdrop of Doklam faceoff and Chinese designs, Shah was alerted and in a farsighted move sought prompt strengthening of border guarding mechanism, officials added.

Pak has been eliminating its Sikh population for decades: Author

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan has been eliminating its Sikh population for decades through killings, abductions and forced marriages of young women, yet is funding and fueling Khalistani terrorism and separatist movement globally to achieve its sinister plans to break up India, a Canadian expert, who authored a recently released report on the subject, has said.

Terry Milewski, who wrote the September 9 report “Khalistan: A Project of Pakistan” published by the Canadian think-tank MacDonald-Laurier Institute, said the Khalistani terrorist had sworn their allegiance to Pakistan, which in turn has pledged to play the tunes of China.

He made these observations at a webinar “Khalistani Terrorism and Canada” organised by Delhi-headquartered think-tank Law and Society Alliance and strategic affairs publication Defence.Capital through video conferencing over the weekend.

The MacDonald-Laurier Institute report has triggered an intense global debate on Khalistani terrorism, and exposing Pakistan’s major hand in it. Milewski said his report had exposed the Khalistan extremists and Pakistan, where real Sikhs still suffer from forcible conversion to Islam, attack on Gurudwara, abductions and

killings.

He said the trigger for writing the report even after 35 years of the Khalistani terrorists’ Air India bombing, the largest mass killing Canada has ever seen and its victims yet to see complete justice delivered, was the ambitious Khalistan map that he saw of the ‘Referendum 2020’ campaign. The proposed Khalistan map had included several parts of India, including some land-mass of Rajasthan, the entire Indian side of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi.

“But this map, put up by Sikhs For Justice as part of the voter enlisting exercise in Canada, did not claim a single inch of Pakistani territory as part of Khalistan. It should have included Lahore, from where Maharaja Ranjit Singh ran an empire, and Nakanana Sahib, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born. Why are those parts of land with Sikh history being left out? The answer is that people who are organising the movement for Khalistan cannot afford to run the campaign without Pakistan’s monetary and other kinds of support. They do not want to annoy their masters.”

Milewski said he had seen the open Pakistan support to the extremist Khalistani during the August 15 protests organised in front of Indian missions in Canada.

No people's vaccine

As rich nations corner more than half the doses, they must realise that vaccinated pockets don't lead to stable economies



Vaccine nationalism is rearing its ugly head again even as the Coronavirus pandemic rages on. The implications of manipulating access to essential drugs, particularly HIV-AIDS ones in developing countries, due to bulk purchasing power of richer nations and honouring of pharmaceutical patents, are already known. That crisis worsened. Sadly, the trend continues as the race to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 intensifies with five leading candidates currently in phase three clinical trials. Who gets hold of the vaccine and when determines which country stops the caseload from going up exponentially, saves lives, escapes the second and third wave predicted by experts and gets on the path of economic recovery faster. However, with the pharmaceutical industry being largely cartelised, it won't come as a surprise if developing countries are at the far end of the line. Remember the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic? Australia, which was the first country to come up with a vaccine at that time, blocked exports while some of the wealthiest countries entered into pre-purchase agreements with several pharmaceutical companies. The US alone obtained the right to buy 6,00,000 doses. It was only when the H1N1 pandemic began to recede that developed countries offered to donate vaccine doses to poorer economies. However, the damage at that time was not as severe as it will be this time round because the Coronavirus is far more infectious and deadlier than the H1N1 and has almost strangled the have-not nations. If a recent report released by Oxfam is to be believed, wealthy nations, accounting for just 13 per cent of the global population, have cornered a whopping 51 per cent of the promised vaccine doses. It is just what poorer nations and the World Health Organisation (WHO) had feared, that while they would be prime picks for vaccine trials, they would get to use doses the last. The inevitable result would be a deepening of the pandemic. Right now, many world leaders, like US President Donald Trump, who is facing a re-election in November, will not listen to the feeble voice of the poor or the WHO. A vaccine is his ticket to the White House, he needs it for his voters. This "vaccine nationalism" has also emerged at a time when global majors are trying to establish their political prowess while using their scientific superiority to validate the claim. Thus, whoever has the first access to the vaccine will end up on the top of the global pyramid of power, apart from reaping the enormous monetary benefits that come out of it.

One of the developers of the COVID vaccine is Moderna, which has received \$2.48 billion in committed taxpayers' money. It intends to profit from its vaccine and has sold supplies to rich nations at prices that range from \$12-16 per dose in the US to around \$35 per dose for other countries, leaving poorer nations out of the procurement loop entirely. However, according to reports, the company's production capacity is barely enough for 475 million people or six per cent of the world's population. Even if all five vaccine candidates succeed, which is rather unlikely, it is only by 2022 that two-thirds of the world's population will have access to them. Also, even if one country does get vaccinated, how will its policy on travelling restrictions change? Will the restriction be limited to those who are yet to get access to the vaccine or will they have vaccines for those entering their land? Remember it's a global pandemic and just like the WHO warned, creating vaccinated pockets will not be beneficial for long if one is aiming for a stable economy. This is why various organisations are calling for a "people's vaccine", free of the monopolistic control of the pharmaceutical companies over its sale and urging nations to share the needed information with others so that it is available to every single human being at affordable rates and can be distributed on a need-based rather than a paid-for basis.

If all the five vaccines work, Oxfam says that would amount to a combined production capacity at 5.94 billion doses, enough for 2.97 billion people, keeping in mind that the vaccines will most likely require two doses. The supply deals already agreed upon are for 5.303 billion doses, out of which 2.728 billion (51 per cent) have already been procured by developed countries including the UK, US, Australia, Hong Kong and Macau, Japan, Switzerland and Israel, as well as the European Union. The remaining 2.575 billion doses have either been bought by or promised to emerging countries, including India, Bangladesh, China, Brazil, Indonesia and Mexico among others. This also includes the 300 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine pledged to the Covax Advanced Market Commitment (AMC), the vaccine pooling mechanism, promised to developing countries. It is essential for global powers to understand the gravity of the situation and on ethical grounds work in favour of public health and the global economy.

The IPL is back

The entire experience will be very different without crowds cheering on the teams



The Indian Premier League (IPL) has come back to our screens and by the time you read this, the first set of matches would have been played. Early favourites would have been determined, new heroes would be on the tips of everyone's tongues, old stars would find themselves rejuvenated and superstars could be down in the dumps. It is taking place six months after it was supposed to start and the entire tournament is taking place in the United Arab Emirates with matches being played in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah. The return of the IPL will give many of us an indication that things are returning to normal. The additional consumption that the event will drive ahead of the festive season might give a major boost to the economy over the next six weeks and provide the much-needed succour for television viewers from hate-filled and spiteful content that masquerades as news on most channels.

Yet, part of the excitement of the IPL, and this is despite previous tournaments which have been played on foreign soil, are the crowds. Purists of regional and national identity-based cricket may not like the idea of franchise cricket, let alone the T20 format, but it does make for compelling entertainment and some strange bedfellows. Whoever thought that a boy from Ranchi could become the biggest superstar in Tamil Nadu or that a Delhiite could become a hero in Bengaluru and adored by the crowds? Of course, cricketers are used to playing Test and domestic cricket, where scant crowds are the order of the day, but not having crowds in the IPL defeats the purpose of such a spectacle for some. Then again, other professional leagues such as those in the US and professional football leagues in Europe have also restarted without crowds, although the former is now allowing in limited spectators. The Wuhan contagion has changed many aspects of modern life but it appears that professional sport has been the hardest hit of all. The return of the IPL might not take away from the fact that the number of cases continues to rise sharply but it could prove that things might return to normal sooner rather than later. And you know what, that is not a bad thing.

opinion08

Pawns in his game

The sordid reality of the 21st century's portrayal of Indian female celebrities is that it defeats all that feminism has tried to achieve so far



RINKU GHOSH

As women have come into their own, do they realise that they continue to be objectified even in changed contexts for purposes of mass consumption? And are projected for the wrong reasons than the right ones? That they legitimise the male gaze as a uniform societal response by falling into a trap of imaging they believe empowers and acknowledges them? Further, if they happen to be celebrities with a fair sweep of popular culture, then they are prone to be more "sexualised" as it were as talking heads. So much so that they are now being itemised for politics instead of the big screen, used for advocacy rather than reason, prized for their appearance than their intelligence, made icons of causes that thousands of faceless women are struggling with and drawing accolades and likes that may not be earned or deserved. And should such unevolved but rapidly recognisable faces happen to represent binaries, then you have a catfight that has become the new prime-time fix. In the end, fighting women make a mockery of all that feminism has tried to achieve so far.

What else would explain the obsessive coverage of Kangana Ranaut, Rhea Chakraborty, Urmila Matondkar and their ping-pong exchanges by the media or their appropriation by political parties of the day to amplify their respective narratives? Let's begin with Kangana Ranaut. An actor par excellence, she has lived through sordid exploitation and displayed a rare grit to carve her space and more importantly, own it. There have been many outsiders in the film industry, co-opted or rebels, but she was neither. Instead, she challenged a system that was based on nepotism and dynastic privileges and insisted on a democracy that would enrich the creative space. She even did her bit, though not the only one, to push the envelope, choosing flesh and blood roles that made real women protagonists as much a revenue-earner for the film industry as its male stars. And there was a straight-forward honesty and boldness about her approach that endeared her to everybody. Most of all she appeared independently sensible and not just fashionably articulate. And much before #MeToo, she called out her male exploiters in the industry, not denying what she had been subjected to but was frank enough to admit that she spoke when she had equal power and respect.

She did carve out a new constituency among the chatterati and was conscious enough to use it to magnify her own appeal. She became a regular at media summits and talks, thereby developing another facet outside films that would lengthen her shelf life. The media, in turn, used her to grab eyeballs. As she became sure-footed, she sailed



with the prevailing political winds, beginning with nationalism and then professing her Right wing loyalties. Every citizen, including actors, is entitled to his/her ideological preferences but Kangana, who took years to craft her own disruptive brand, has been waylaid and absorbed this time around. Using her troll-worthy capacities and no holds barred verbal ammunition, the BJP has just made her a pawn in its grand design, whether it is lampooning the Nehru-Gandhis, taking on its arch enemy, the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, or stoking fires in the mysterious death of Sushant Singh Rajput. And it is here that Kangana has faltered and given into the prevailing rant and sentiments of the day than calibrating them to her advantage. Undoubtedly, the Shiv Sena leaders are not known for their standards when they decide to shred somebody apart but for Kangana to liken Mumbai to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir was not only politically immature but more hurtful to her own self than the Sena. Of course, the BJP benefitted from the scream fest without dirtying its fingers. And compared to the troublesome Anurag Thakur and Kapil Mishra, it has found a palatable public lobbyist of some repute. The fact that she is from the film industry would work both ways for it, as an asset if she got traction, maybe a liability at times and a salacious aberration at worst if she failed.

But it is in the process of cleansing the drug taint from the film industry that she has gone overboard, attacking women colleagues in the industry, unarmed with logic and defeating the very women's cause that she loves to represent. She locked horns with Jaya Bachchan, actor and Rajya Sabha MP of the Samajwadi

Party, an industry veteran and an active parliamentarian who has spoken out on societal issues. Rightfully, she decided to argue for an industry that was being vilified over a few bad apples and drug abuse, generalised as a sin city than the enormous talent it nurtures and made to look like a villain of all societal ills when fact is, it supported jobs and created opportunities. This, she said, despite the "non-support of the Government." Kangana's rebuttal for the sake of one not only lacked refinement, it undid the work of several women actors who made it possible for her to make her current space and be heard. Taking a potshot at Jaya's remark that actors were ungrateful to the industry that fed them, Kangana retorted, "Got one *thaali* which included two minutes of fame in item numbers and one romantic scene with the hero, that too after sleeping with him. I have taught feminism to the film industry." Reality check? Jaya Bachchan has been a bigger path-breaker than her because she etched powerful women characters despite a hostile climate set by the movie mafia, the single-hero domination and a less than encouraging commercial logic where strong women onscreen were considered artsy and NFDC material. Jaya tried to mainstream that discourse. Kangana perhaps also forgot her own sensuous numbers on screen before she called actor and now Congress member Urmila Matondkar a "soft porn" star. Apart from a pervert television audience that sees news as entertainment, this discourse did nothing but perpetuate the stereotype that "women are their own worst enemy." Something that Jaya's peer and BJP MP Hema Malini realised as she supported Jaya's speech instead of

mindlessly toeing what her party propagandists would have wanted her to do.

Kangana may get a BJP ticket to contest elections in the future but she would again not earn it by her own rules but by conforming to the misogynistic mindset that sees women stars as a whiff of fresh air in the dry world of politics. She should have taken lessons from the late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha, whom she is portraying onscreen. Jayalalitha became the respected leader she was by mastering all the rules of the political game, working the ground, breaking out of the shadows of her mentor MGR and battling the authoritarianism that had already been established by her male counterparts on equal terms. Kangana, sadly, is in danger of looking like a stooge. Does she realise that for all her headline grabbing acts on social and visual media, she is being used to divert attention from the nation's more pressing problems like the pandemic mismanagement, the Ladakh incursions or the tanking economy? That she is fuelling exactly what the ruling dispensation wants her to do, namely create a cloud of inconsequential nothingness?

At the other end is starlet Rhea Chakraborty, who is on everybody's search engine, not because of her films or work but as an exploitative girlfriend of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput. No doubt he was a talent snuffed out too early, but the mysterious circumstances of his death, his troubled history with drugs and mental health, his Bihari identity and his "outsider" status in the film industry have far too many elements to be exploited by politicians and their new handmaiden, the broadcast media. The conspiracy theory that she might have pushed him to addic-

tion, swindled him, could have diverted funds and in the process pushed him over the edge by entrapping him in a world of debt and drug cartels, has become a credible story that the nation is devouring hungrily. Simply because legal evidence and cold facts of the actor's death are too dry to be juiced out for news cycles. Simply because a good-looking starlet allows the masses to project their sinful obsessions, aspirations and high crimes to her kind and claim moral righteousness by exclusion. So Rhea's going to jail becomes a visual that is more satisfying as a portrait of instant justice. Many film personalities have been involved in the drug racket. Yet Rhea's arrest, for possessing just 59 grams of weed, makes a seething urban sub-culture a sensational discovery. She, too, is aware of the fame that the unfortunate death of her boyfriend has given her. Flashing a victory sign and sporting T-shirts emblazoned with "down with patriarchy" slogans, she, too, could emerge out of this mess as a prime pick for advocacy of women's rights and the lynch mob trial she was subjected to. She may or may not be a success in films going forward but, like Sushant, has been appropriated as a political tool. If the BJP is fuelling the "justice for Sushant" campaign, the Congress has taken up the "justice for Rhea" crusade. Self-appointed activists shouted slogans opposing the "vilification campaign" against the "daughter of Bengal" and held up placards that said, "We will not stop till she gets justice." Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury even invested her with casteist respectability, calling her a "Bengali Brahmin." What Rhea wouldn't appreciate, if she walks into this trap, is that she is hated mostly by women with a patriarchal mindset over tea and conversations, seen as a woman who made capital out of what is called "easy virtue." In this sense, both the newsmaker and the news recipient are defeated, simply because neither gets respect nor understanding. But they certainly perpetuate a male construct of how women are.

Sadly, women newsmakers from popular culture around the globe are being chased for their representational rather than their authentic selves. Their activism, therefore, appears to be more and more fake. And as they use social media to build intimate partnerships with their communities and followers, they are shaping a market economy of medievalism, where women are dependable worker bees but are actually living in a shell believing they are the queen bees.

(The writer is Associate Editor, The Pioneer)

SOUNDBITE

Peru cannot come to a halt due to the content of some audios without any validity; the management of the pandemic and economic reactivation cannot be suspended.

Peruvian President
—Martin Vizcarra



All three ordinances of agriculture shall encourage middlemen and will promote the big industrialists. Also, black marketing will shoot up.

Rajasthan PCC Chief
—Govind Singh Dotasari



We will talk with Washington on all issues of interest solely on the basis of equality mutual benefit, and the search for a balance of interest.

Russia's Foreign Minister
—Sergey Lavrov



Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings are the two franchises that are most loved by the fans and that's how IPL has become special.

Cricketer
—Hardik Pandya



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New farm Bills

Sir — The Lok Sabha passed three contentious agriculture Bills in the ongoing monsoon session amid strong protests by Opposition parties. The outcome of the proposed legislations can only be the corporatisation of the farming sector, leading to commercial exploitation of agricultural lands.

These reforms will re-introduce the *zamindari* system in a new insidious form. Forced to take to the streets due to the pandemic, the farmers need more than the ritual obeisance paid to them for being the backbone of society.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Ban cryptocurrencies

Sir — Reports of the Government pondering over a ban on cryptocurrencies is doing the rounds on social media. Earlier in April 2018, the Reserve Bank of India issued a circular, thwarting any exchange which facilitated the use of cryptocurrencies. However, later on, the Supreme Court quashed the RBI's circular. Now, the Government must take a call on how to regulate cryptocurren-

cies but only after thoroughly analysing its long-term effects.

Rahul Chouhan
Ujjain

Section 144 re-imposed

Sir — Section 144 was already imposed in Mumbai but its re-imposition has caused panic

among many. The section prohibits the gathering of four or more people in an area, effectively not changing anything. This extension will be applicable till September 30 as Mumbai is one of the worst pandemic-affected cities and the numbers of infected people continue to rise. It is high time for people to understand the gravity of the situation

and remain indoors as the Government has assured that the supply of essential goods, services and medical emergencies will remain unaffected.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Fined for nothing

Sir — Advocate Saurabh Sharma

Protect the farmers

The Centre may have rushed through farm reform legislations without confabulating with all parties and stakeholders concerned or creating a defined architecture for farmers to follow the new template on the ground. The Bills intend to create a viable alternative to Agricultural Market Produce Committees (APMCs) and facilitate contract farming to help small farmers discover fair prices for their farm produce. Truth be told, APMC's haven't lived up to their promise due to cartelisation and small farmers continue to have problems transporting their produce to APMC market yards.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made a weighty promise to farmers, 86 per cent of whom are small and marginal farmers, to double their income by 2022. The status quo, including minimum support price (MSP), isn't helping enough farmers, unlike direct benefit transfers, besides distorting markets and cropping patterns.

The Centre has clarified that it isn't undermining APMC's or MSP's but merely increasing competition by allowing agri-businesses, food processors, whole-



salers, exporters and big retailers to source directly from farmers. Even though the Opposition parties are joining the protests to reap political mileage, the Government must immediately ensure that the corporatisation implicit in these steps doesn't rob the farmer of his autonomy or replace one clique with another.

N Sadhasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

was issued a fine of ₹500 for not wearing a facemask while driving alone in his car. During the hearing, KC Mittal, appearing for Sharma, argued that the guidelines issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority merely stated that masks were to be worn in a public place or workplace, and not inside an empty vehicle.

Sharma's *challan* must be quashed and the fined amount refunded. The advocate also deserves to be compensated for time wasted besides mental agony caused.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Time to act

Sir — After Nepal's Parliament approved a new political map, showing three Indian territories (Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani) as part of Nepal, it has now introduced the same map in the school curriculum. It is high time India breaks its silence as it stands to lose its territory to both Nepal and China.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Not such a big deal after all

The only thing that actually happened in DC was that the UAE and Bahrain went public on their previously covert ties with Israel, especially in the arms trade



GWYNNE DYER

US President Donald Trump declared “the dawn of a new Middle East” in Washington recently as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain signed public agreements with Israel for the first time. Not “peace agreements”, as President Trump claimed, since neither country has ever been at war with Israel. Just documents involving an exchange of ambassadors, trade deals and the like. And it was significant that while Trump and Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were there in person, the UAE and Bahraini rulers just sent their foreign ministers for the signing of the papers. The only thing that actually happened at the White House was that two of the Gulf’s most progressive States went public on their ties with Israel, especially in the arms trade. This had previously not been a secret, but at least their ties with Jerusalem had been discreet. Apart from that, it’s still the same old Middle East, as corrupt, violent, dysfunctional and ironically as ambitious, glittering and fashionable as ever. The last time Israel fought an actual war against any of its Arab neighbours was in 1982, a full-scale invasion of Lebanon that ended in a prolonged Israeli military occupation of the southern part of the country. That’s long over now, although Lebanon remains a ghastly mess, but all the region’s other wars trundle on uninterrupted. The second Libyan civil war continues into its sixth year, with a cast of foreign participants and supporters that now includes Russia, Turkey, France, Egypt and the UAE. The atrocious foreign military intervention in Yemen, led by Saudi Arabia but involving most of the autocratic Arab States and their Western arms suppliers, is only one year younger and still killing around 5,000 a month.

The Syrian civil war is in its ninth year. It has killed at least half a million people and driven almost half the population from their homes. It may be creeping towards an end now, with only one province still in rebel hands, but the rebels have Turkish military support and the Russian air force fights for the Assad regime.

Iraq is enjoying only its second year of relative peace since the US invasion of 2003, but the signs are multiplying that Islamic State is going to launch a major comeback bid there. The collapse of the oil price has left much of the population destitute. Urban youth are in open revolt, with hundreds shot by the police this year. And when something genuinely new does crop up in the endless churn that distinguishes the region’s politics, it is often unwelcome. Saudi Arabia, once the stable, conservative linchpin of inter-Arab politics, has turned into a loose cannon, starting unwinnable wars (like Yemen), funneling money and arms to jihadi extremists (in Syria), and commissioning the cold-blooded killing of critics of the regime (as in the murder and dismemberment of journalist Jamal Khashoggi).

Overshadowing all these wars, and actually driving some of them, is the religious and strategic confrontation between revolutionary Shia Iran and the conservative Sunni monarchies and dictatorships of the eastern Arab world. That’s what those huge Arab arms purchases are for, not for fighting Israel. Indeed, Jerusalem is a silent partner in this region-wide Cold War between the Sunni Arab States and Iran; that’s what made the little ceremony at the White House possible. There is no Arab-Israeli conflict. The major Arab players are already undeclared Israeli allies, and the Israeli army refers to its sporadic punitive strikes against the Palestinians as “mowing the lawn.”

Real change in this region happens with glacial slowness, if at all, but that does not mean that it is stable. On the contrary, it could tip suddenly into a radically different state. It almost did so in 2010-12, the years of the aborted ‘Arab spring’, and the forces that drove that uprising are even stronger now. Half the population in Middle Eastern and North African countries is under 25. As populations have soared (Iraq’s has doubled to 40 million since the first Gulf War in 1990), economies have not kept pace and living standards have fallen almost everywhere. A huge, mostly jobless young population living close to despair is now the Arab norm.

The oil-rich Gulf States used to be the exception to this rule, but no longer. The oil-price crash this time is not temporary: Demand is falling and will continue to fall as the climate crisis and cheaper new “clean energy” sources eat into oil’s traditional markets. The recent pantomime at the White House was about tidying up a few of the loose ends of an old conflict. It would have a certain relevance if the future was going to be just more of the present, but that is not the case. The timing is uncertain but the destination is clear: Big changes are coming that will sweep away many of the existing regimes and reshape the politics of the region. Happy endings are not inevitable, but different endings are practically guaranteed.

(Gwynne Dyer’s new book is ‘Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.’)

THE CENTRE’S BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO UTTAR PRADESH FOR MINORITY WELFARE WAS REDUCED BY 50 PER CENT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

—BSP MP

KUNWAR DANISH ALI

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



ATTEMPTS ARE MADE TO DISCREDIT THE BJP BY CITING STATISTICS. EVERYONE KNOWS HOW MUSLIMS HAD BEEN REDUCED TO A MERE VOTE BANK IN THE PAST.

—UP BJP SECRETARY CHANDRAMOHAN

The flaws of feedback

Competition in education and research brought through the evaluation system may drive all in the same direction at the cost of diversity



INDRANIL DE

SUSHANTA SARMA

Feedback is a very important tool to nudge people and organisations to adopt desirable behaviour. Nobel laureate Richard H Thaler and his co-author Cass R Sunstein, in their international bestseller *Nudge*, suggest feedback as one of the strategies to motivate agents to adopt responsive behaviour. It is against the idea of command and control policies of governments or paternalism of any institution. Nudging human behaviour in a desirable direction without any command and control is what they call “libertarian paternalism.” A nudge in the right direction may be as simple as the lap-top warning the users to plug in the charger when the battery is about to die out, or the display screen of a car suggesting that the driver change gears when the gear applied and the speed of the car mismatch. These feedback mechanisms are alarms which nudge people to take corrective measures.

Education, being delivered by organisations, Government or private, benefits from feedback to spearhead in the intended direction. It may be feedback on the course, faculty or educational institute. It helps enhance performance and improve the delivery of education service through the voluntary adoption of corrective measures. In higher academics, the ranking of journals, again based on the feedback on the quality of research work published, is an important mechanism to improve research and publication. Feedback, when made public, increases competition among peers. Then comment works as a mechanism to remove the asymmetry of information in the market. The potential customers or beneficiaries become aware of the quality of goods or services offered. Different agents or stakeholders give comments for all elements of education and research. On the course and faculty, it is students who provide the feedback. It is meant to improve the course content and delivery of the faculty. Educational institutes are given ratings by different agencies, including the Government, national and international bodies and media about their infrastructure, processes and quality of education. The assessment of research journals is obtained by the number of citations of research articles published in them over a stipulated period. In all this, the moot question is how far does the feedback mechanism serve the purpose of delivery of education services in the desired direction?

If we consider that the feedback on the course and faculty is given by the students, then it may be counterproductive. The desired pattern of delivery may not be best determined by students as they are not competent enough to assess. Nevertheless, many renowned educational institutes use their feedback to evaluate faculty performance. It is even considered for promotions. However, there are exceptions. Harvard Business School does not take student response on any course or faculty. When asked about it, one tenured professor replied that “we do not take feedback from amateurs.” If they have to assess a course or faculty, some experts of the area attend the class and appraise the course delivery.

Research is an extremely complicated output which is determined by the methodology, results and overall interest on a particular topic. The citation of the articles may depend on all these factors. The journals in the area of social sciences and management at times may prefer publishing certain types of results. Journals may aim at increasing citation and hence prefer the articles which deal with subjects that are likely to have enough research fund-

“ EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES ARE GIVEN RATINGS BY DIFFERENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND MEDIA ABOUT THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE, PROCESSES AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION. THE FEEDBACK FOR RESEARCH JOURNALS IS OBTAINED BY THE NUMBER OF CITATIONS OF RESEARCH ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THEM OVER A STIPULATED PERIOD. IN ALL THIS, THE MOOT QUESTION IS HOW FAR DOES THE FEEDBACK MECHANISM SERVE THE PURPOSE OF DELIVERY OF EDUCATION SERVICES IN THE DESIRED DIRECTION? ”



ing in future. New ideas or results which contradict some existing dominant idea may not receive enough funding and attention. Thus, it creates an endogenous system which encourages a dominant idea and is detrimental to newer, provocative ideas.

This problem is more severe for lesser-known institutes from developing countries. Each research article goes through a peer-review process conducted by the journals. The editors take a decision on publication after taking into account the reviewers’ comments. Nevertheless, the reviewers’ performance is not predictable. In a 2007 study on 306 experienced reviewers, published in *PLOS Medicine*, researchers found that there is no scientifically-established predictor of reviewer performance. Hence it is not possible to systematically improve the selection of reviewers and implement a routine review rating system.

Sadly, journals do take reviewer ratings from the editors. Furthermore, journal editors may find articles with a very new or provocative idea or result contrary to dominant ideas unacceptable, more so when the researchers are affiliated to renowned institutes, or they themselves are well-known. Hence, the feedback process in research may not always encourage path-breaking discoveries, especially for developing nations.

Ranking or rating of educational institutions is considered as a way of giving feedback on the performance of the institute on certain predetermined indicators. Over the years, ranking and accreditation have gained strength and momentum globally, including in India. Ranking is perceived as an indicator of quality of services offered by educational institutions. There seems to be a growing consensus that ranking influences the perception of stakeholders (students, recruiters and investors) about the

prospect of educational institutions. While there is no denying that ranking has made institutes look at the quality of services, it also introduced new practices within the sector. From the viewpoint of organisational research, ranking has offered a new template to educational institutions and codified them in different categories. Post the ranking announcement of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), it has been observed that many of the educational institutes have showcased their positions on their websites to demonstrate their skills, achievements and desirability to stakeholders.

The organisational template propagated through ranking carries its own characteristics. For example, under the NIRF, the template is assessed through five parameters focussing on teaching, publications, consultancy, employability and overall perception. Institutes are measured along these parameters to identify the “best” ones scoring the highest marks/points across these parameters. Going forward, these institutes would become a role model and irrespective of their individual values, purpose and origin, all would be in a race to adopt a codified organisational template. This would have a detrimental impact on institutions striving to pursue a niche domain. The codified organisational template would often fail to recognise the unique features of educational institutions by virtue of their values and origin. As a result, such institutes would often fall behind in the so-called performance indicators, creating a poor impression about the quality of education imparted by them. This, in turn, would have a detrimental impact on their ability to attract resources and eventually lead to quivering of the very existence of individuality among organisations.

As the ranking is made public, this feedback mechanism ignites fierce competition among the educational institutes.

The urgency to perform well in the ranking exercise has resulted in many adopting the recommended organisational template in a hurried manner. The high-speed diffusion of the template is often facilitated by a new breed of “institutional intermediaries” i.e. entities helping organisations to build capacity so as to adopt the new template. In recent years, the ranking industry in higher education has been populated by intermediaries certifying institutions through their own ranking exercises. Their role was primarily limited to assessment of quality on indicators. We should now expect to see more intermediaries who would be helping the educational institutions to build their capacity to perform well in rankings and adopt a standardised template.

The feedback mechanism should nudge desirable behaviour, but it may be counterproductive to education and research when that feedback is made public. Then it becomes a means of increasing competition in a particular direction. Two major problems in the evaluation mechanism in education have been identified. One, when feedback is taken from those whose expertise, capability or eligibility to provide an assessment is questionable. A difficult subject would be eventually dropped from the curriculum or a strict instructor would be penalised. Bias in the assessment of a new idea or contradictory results in research may throttle publication in journals. Second, when assessment is based on a standard set of criteria and is made public, then it nullifies the emergence and growth of educational organisations with diverse ideas and objectives. Competition brought through the feedback system may drive all in the same direction at the cost of diversity.

(De is Associate Professor and Sarma is Assistant Professor, Institute of Rural Management, Anand. Views expressed here are personal)

Face the bitter truth of the past, not bury it

A repressed history that is not fully understood eventually re-emerges as an unresolved entity



NADEEM PARACHA

In his book *Blood and Rage*, British historian Michael Burleigh writes that as soon as Nazi Germany lost World War-II in 1945, there was a concentrated effort by the new German Government and polity to completely erase the country’s Nazi past. On May 9, 1945, at 11.01 pm, the Allied Forces ceased their attacks on the already destroyed Berlin and this, to Germans, came to be known as “*Stunde Null*” or Hour Zero.

From this point in time, Germany was to begin anew. Burleigh writes that this also meant a collective effort by “new Germany” to repress all memory of anything that had to do with the dramatic rise of Nazism in Germany, the collective euphoria that had accompanied its consolidation and the many

atrocities that Nazism had encouraged and justified as an ideology. Indeed, there were thousands of Germans who had directly participated in the many physical and psychological acts of violence in the name of racial superiority. But millions of Germans who were not necessarily members of the Nazi party and its affiliates, had stood aside, choosing to ignore increasing evidence of their States violent conduct against those it believed were racially inferior or enemies of the “national body.”

The German State and governments that replaced the fallen Nazis, and German society as a whole, began to vigorously exorcise memories related to Germany’s Nazi past. The British documentary filmmaker, Adam Curtis, in his 1995 documentary *The Living Dead*, demonstrates that this exorcism was encouraged by the US and Britain once Germany became an ally and rebounded as an economic powerhouse within a decade after the war. Because, even though a number of former Nazis who had survived the defeat were tried and executed or given long jail sentences, many, who were

bureaucrats and scientists, were eventually allowed to integrate into the new German State and society to aid the country’s revival.

In the first few years after Germany’s defeat, Nazism was rightly demonised but, according to Curtis, the cause of its rise was never fully investigated. The memory of it was then completely repressed. German professors, teachers, politicians and parents simply stopped talking about it, as if there was never a Nazi Germany.

According to both Burleigh and Curtis, an inconvenient past, when repressed without being fully understood, eventually re-emerges as an unresolved entity. In the late 1960s, German youth, who were born just before the war or immediately afterwards, began to question their leaders, teachers and parents, not only about their country’s unspoken Nazi past but also about their role in it. Violence soon followed as German youth outfits accused their elders and State of being former Nazis. This commotion did produce some studies investigating the reasons behind the rise of a hateful ideology, and the support it had received

from millions of Germans. But according to Curtis, such efforts were hampered by the ideological tendencies and violence of the youth, many of who became as myopic and totalitarian in their acts and beliefs as the past that they were now raging against. By 1977, the lid was once again placed on it.

It blew off again after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent end of the Cold War in 1991. The unresolved, repressed fascist past, not only in Germany but in the rest of Europe too, returned. A brutal civil war between ethnic groups in what was once Yugoslavia, and the rise of violent expressions of ethno-nationalism in Europe and the former Soviet states proved that the “victory of democratic nations” during World War II did not treat the conditions that trigger fascist/nationalist hatred and chauvinism. Instead, this victory had simply placed a lid on these conditions. It keeps blowing off. Dread and violence has been spewing out from this hole ever since.

As a student of history, I spent almost a decade studying the silence

that one comes across Pakistan’s varying segments of the intelligentsia, educational and cultural products between 1971 and the early 1990s, on what is often referred to as the 1971 “East Pakistan debacle.” In 2018, I was able to further this study by accessing Washington DC’s Library of Congress, the largest library in the world. I went through 177 newspapers, magazines, journals (both English and Urdu) published in Pakistan between 1972 and 1992, plus 27 Urdu films released during this period. After 1974, there was almost no mention of the 1971 civil war in the former East Pakistan which had dismembered the country. Articles and editorials did emerge across 1972, but only a handful tried to explore the reasons behind the “debacle.”

An investigation was launched (The Humoodur Rahman Inquiry Commission) by the Government, but its findings were never made public until 29 years later. Instead, and especially from 1973 onwards, the emphasis was put on demonising ethno-nationalist politics and then on explaining what remained of the country as its “natural” state (along the River

Indus). There was then a systematic effort to forgo a past before 1971, by first admonishing it for failing to make Islam central to Pakistan’s national body and then treating this past as an almost alien occurrence, whose memory had no place in the “new Pakistan.”

There is hardly any mention of a region that was once called East Pakistan in Pakistani films and TV plays made after 1972. By the mid-1980s, its memory and the memory of a Pakistan before the “debacle” had been successfully repressed. Even parents wouldn’t talk about it as such. But it was an unresolved memory that kept re-emerging, sometimes violently, in the shape of ethnic riots.

In the mid-1990s, some journalists began to once again speak of the Humoodur Rahman Report. I was a senior reporter and saw rookie journalists having no idea what that was. Finally, parts of the report began to emerge from 2000 onwards. In 2003, while watching a TV talk show on the report, an elderly relative of mine exhibited a most painful expression and sighed, “what’s the use of talking

about this?” A painful memory that had been repressed (but never resolved) had returned to haunt him. He was in East Pakistan during the civil war as a Government employee.

Conditions that lead to painful episodes cannot be made to go away by just repressing the memories of the episodes. On a collective level, these keep coming back in various shapes, because the conditions that led to the pain were not treated. After watching Nazi atrocities, a Scottish psychiatrist, Donald Ewen Cameron, theorised that if “bad memories” could be wiped away from a person’s mind, s/he can avoid mental illnesses and also the impulse to commit atrocious acts.

Dr Cameron devised a method he called “psychic driving” that used a combination of electric shock therapy and powerful sleep-inducing drugs on mentally disturbed patients, to eliminate painful memories. He was largely successful. But what resulted were individuals with no memories, beyond basic instincts. And some regressed into a vegetative state. Not the ideally blissful state to be in.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

GST SHORTFALL 21 States accept ₹97,000 cr borrowing proposal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 21 States, mostly ruled by BJP or parties which have supported it on various issues, have opted to borrow ₹97,000 crore to meet the GST revenue shortfall in the current fiscal, sources said on Sunday.

The states and union territories (UTs) which have intimated their decision to the Centre are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Finance Ministry sources said Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal are yet to respond to the GST Council proposal to decide their options.

The states which do not submit their borrowing options before the due GST Council meet on October 5, 2020 will have to wait till June 2022 to get their compensation dues, subject to the condition that the GST Council extends the cess collection period beyond 2022, the sources said.

GST Council with full

presence of states and UTs needs, as per the GST Act, only 20 states to pass any resolution, in case voting is required on any issue, the sources added.

In the current fiscal, the states are staring at a staggering ₹2.35 lakh crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue shortfall.

Of this, as per Centre's calculation, shortfall of about ₹97,000 crore is on account of GST implementation and rest ₹1.38 lakh crore is due to the impact of COVID-19 on states' revenues.

The Centre late last month gave two options to the states to borrow either ₹97,000 crore from a special window facilitated by the RBI or ₹2.35 lakh crore from market, and has also proposed extending the compensation cess levied on luxury, demerit and sin goods beyond 2022 to repay the borrowing.

The sources said few more states are also to intimate their borrowing option in a day or two.

They added that Manipur, which had earlier opted to borrow ₹2.35 lakh crore, later changed its preference to the ₹97,000 crore option.

The non-BJP ruled states are at loggerheads with the Centre over the issue of funding shortfall.

The chief ministers of six

non-BJP ruled states -- West Bengal, Kerala, Delhi, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu -- have written to Centre opposing the options which require states to borrow to meet the shortfall.

While these states want Centre to borrow to meet the shortfall, Centre has argued that the revenue accruing from GST compensation cess goes to the states and the Centre cannot borrow on the security of the tax it does not own.

Under the GST structure, taxes are levied under 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent slabs. On top of the highest tax slab, a cess is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods, and the proceeds from the same are used to compensate states for any revenue loss.

The Attorney General for India K K Venugopal had given his legal view on the compensation cess issue where he has opined that there is no obligation on the Centre under the GST laws to compensate for loss of revenue.

He had opined that the GST Council has to find ways to meet any revenue shortfall arising out of GST implementation.

The payment of GST compensation to states became an issue after revenue from imposition of cess started dwindling since August 2019.

Banks not asked by RBI to raise capital to brace for possible NPAs: MoS Finance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The RBI has not asked banks and non-banking financial institutions to raise capital to brace for a possible pile up in bad debt in the coming months, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur informed the Rajya Sabha.

However, he said, "banks and non-banking financial institutions are required to maintain capital as per prudential capital adequacy norms on an ongoing basis."

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at an event in July had advised that banks need to raise capital on anticipatory basis to build up adequate capital buffers to mitigate risks arising out of coronavirus outbreak.

"In such a situation, it has become a lot more important that the banks have to improve their governance, sharpen their risk management skills and banks have to raise capital on an anticipatory basis instead of waiting for a situation to arise. Proactively, it is necessary for both public and private sector banks to build up adequate capital buffers," Das had said.

The economic impact of the pandemic - due to lockdown and anticipated post lockdown compression in economic growth - may result in higher non-performing assets and capital erosion of banks, he had said.

A recapitalisation plan for public sector and private banks

has, therefore, become necessary, Das added.

The government in the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants has sought Parliament nod for Rs 20,000 crore towards recapitalisation of public sector banks during the current fiscal.

With the intent to ease financial stress caused by COVID-19 disruptions and meet the challenges of bad loans, the RBI in August permitted lending institutions to grant concession to eligible borrowers for COVID-19 related stress in personal, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and corporate loans by implementing individual resolution plans in respect of eligible loans.

Resolution plan would include alteration in the rate of interest, sacrifice by lending institution on the amount payable to interest, waiver of penal interest and conversion of accumulated interest into a fresh loan with a deferred payment schedule, Thakur said.

Replying to another question, the minister said the government has implemented a judicious mix of fiscal and monetary policies to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on the economy.

On May 12, 2020, the government announced the Aatmanirbhar Package, a special economic and comprehensive package of more than Rs 20 lakh crore equivalent to 10 per cent of India's GDP with

an aim to encourage business, attract investments and strengthen the resolve for 'Make in India'.

On the monetary front, Thakur said, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) responded with a mix of conventional and unconventional monetary and liquidity measures to mitigate the negative economic fallout of COVID-19.

The policy rates have been significantly reduced and around Rs 9.57 lakh crore or 4.7 per cent of GDP have been injected since February 2020 to enhance the credit flow in the economy, he said.

The RBI has taken several developmental and regulatory policy measures to enhance liquidity support for financial markets and other stakeholders, ease financial stress caused by COVID-19 disruptions while strengthening credit discipline, improve the flow of credit, deepen digital payment systems and facilitate innovations across the financial sector by leveraging on technology, he said.

"It has announced certain regulatory measures wherein, in respect of all term loans (including agricultural term loans, retail and crop loans) outstanding as on March 1, 2020, all regulated lending institutions were permitted to grant a moratorium of six months on payment of all instalments falling due between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020," he said.

Google forced Paytm to roll back cashback campaign which is legal in India



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Global internet giant Google's Play store rules forced Paytm to roll back a UPI cashback campaign which is legal in India, digital payments company Paytm claimed on Sunday.

The company in a blog alleged that it was arm-twisted to take down its campaign while Google Pay has been running similar cricket-based promotions. Google had blocked Paytm on its Play store following a policy update on September 18, ahead of the IPL cricket tournament, to disallow apps that support any unregulated gambling but restored the mobile app after a few hours after it rolled back the campaign.

The homegrown financial services firm Paytm said that it was forced to comply with Google's mandate to remove the UPI cashback and scratch cards campaign to get re-listed on the Android Play Store.

"Offering both is legal in India, and cashback was being given following all rules and

regulations set by the government," Paytm said.

The digital payments firm alleged that it was "arm-twisted" by the search engine major to comply with its biased app Play Store policies "that are meant to artificially create Google's market dominance."

Paytm in the blog said that Google Pay has started its Tez Shots Campaign which clearly says, "Score Runs to earn assured rewards worth up to Rs 1 lakh" at the beginning of this cricket season itself. No immediate comments were received from Google on the subject. Paytm in its blog said in the Tez Shots game a user can play as many times as they want and earn vouchers that they can unlock at each milestone.

Finally, they qualify for a lucky draw through which they get assured tickets up to Rs 1 lakh with any qualifying payment. For different scores starting from 50 to all the way to 1000 plus they also earn rewards and discounts on different services that they avail via the Google Pay app, Paytm said in the blog.

Diesel prices fall again on easing global crude prices

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel prices continued to decline for the fourth consecutive day on Sunday on the back of falling global crude prices.

In the national capital, diesel was priced at ₹71.58 per litre, down from ₹71.82 on Saturday. Similarly in the other metros of Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for ₹78.02, ₹76.99 and ₹75.09 on Sunday, respectively, against the previous levels of ₹78.27, ₹77.21 and ₹75.32 per litre. The recent fall in transport fuel prices comes in the wake of softening of global oil prices as an extended run of Covid-19 has depressed demand and created a glut in the market.

Prices of petrol, however, remained unchanged for the second straight day at ₹81.14, ₹87.82, ₹84.21 and ₹82.67 per litre across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, respectively.

₹4.29 L cr cost overrun reported in 432 infra projects

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 432 infrastructure projects, each worth at least Rs 150 crore, have reported total cost overruns of over ₹4.29 lakh crore, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

According to the data, as of August 1, 2020, out of the 1,670 central sector infrastructure projects costing ₹150 crore and above, 8 projects are ahead of schedule, 212 are on schedule, 505 are delayed, 432 have reported cost overrun and 202 projects reported both time and cost overrun with respect to their original project implementation schedules.

"Total original cost of implementation of the 1,670 projects was ₹20,58,193.26 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be ₹24,87,361.54 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of ₹4,29,168.28 crore (20.85 per cent of original cost)," the report said.

The expenditure incurred on these projects till July 2020 is over ₹11.51 lakh crore, which is 46.28 per cent of the anti-

Out of 505 delayed projects, 120 projects have overall delay in the range of 1 to 12 months, 118 projects have delay in the range of 13 to 24 months, 157 projects have delay in the range of 25 to 60 months and 110 projects have delay of 61 months and above

ciated cost of the projects. The Flash Report On Central Sector Projects' noted that the number of delayed projects however, decreases to 418 if delay is calculated on the basis of the latest schedule of completion. Further, for 945 projects neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative gestation period has been reported, it said.

Out of 505 delayed projects, 120 projects have overall delay in the range of 1 to 12 months, 118 projects have delay in the range of 13 to 24 months, 157 projects have delay in the range of 25 to 60 months and 110 projects have delay of 61 months and above. The average time overrun in these 505 delayed projects is 43.49 months.

Oracle, Walmart rescue TikTok in US with Trump's 'blessing'

IANIS ■ SAN FRANCISCO

In a surprise move, Oracle and Walmart have come together to save TikTok from the ban, forming a new company called TikTok Global which will be headquartered in the US. President Donald Trump said he has given the deal his blessing.

Trump on Saturday announced that China-based ByteDance which is the parent company of TikTok has received tentative approval for an agreement with the US government to resolve the outstanding issues, which will now include Oracle and Walmart together investing to acquire 20 per cent of the newly-formed TikTok Global business. Oracle announced it was chosen as TikTok's secure cloud provider and will become a minority investor with a 12.5 per cent stake.

Walmart said it has tentatively agreed to a purchase 7.5 per cent stake in TikTok and its CEO Doug McMillon would

serve as one of the five board members of the newly-created company.

The parent company ByteDance will own the remaining 80 per cent of TikTok.

"TikTok Global will be majority owned by American investors, including Oracle and Walmart. TikTok Global will be an independent American company, headquartered in the US, with four Americans out of the five member Board of Directors," Walmart and Oracle said in a joint statement.

Talking to reporters, Trump said: "I have given the deal my blessing. I approve the deal in concept."

"It will have nothing to do with China, it'll be totally secure, that'll be part of the deal. The security will be 100 per cent. They'll be using separate clouds and a lot of very, very powerful security." All the TikTok technology will be in possession of TikTok Global, and comply with US laws and privacy regulations.

Blockchain policy ensures access to Govt services 'anywhere, anytime'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Blockchain policy, unveiled by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami, would benefit the public at large by ensuring that government departments connect and design efficient workflows for users in various sectors.

The platform 'Nambikkai Inaiyam' (Blockchain Backbone) would help establish a single trusted source that would be used to create an efficient and manipulation resilient system for government services, the IT department said in a policy note.

"The initiative will directly benefit the public of Tamil Nadu," it said.

"The Nambikkai Inaiyam is the state's blockchain backbone. It will be a state-of-the-art blockchain platform that will allow government departments, public, start-ups, private sector to connect, transact, build secure applications and design efficient workflows upon it", it added.

The blockchain facility would be a single platform that can be used for developing and deploying block chain applications for all departments and public sector enterprises within the state.

Some of the key features

THE INITIATIVE WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT THE PUBLIC OF TAMIL NADU

of the policy include seamless access to government services 'anywhere, anytime'.

"It is one of the largest blockchain roll out in the country," the government said.

The facility would provide a secure, scalable and signature-based authentication for electronic data, machines and personal information.

Enterprise-grade government to government and government to citizens products and services would be implemented using this infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the safe and ethical artificial intelligence policy also launched by the Palaniswami government aims to address the challenges faced in the use of AI technology. The policy recommends -- six dimensional framework, transparency and audit, accountability and legal challenges, misuse protection, digital divide and data deficit among others, the note said.

Coal India output may fall below 600 MT in FY21 on sluggish demand: Analysts

PTI ■ KOLKATA

State-run Coal India Ltd may witness de-growth in production during the current fiscal as its output is likely to fall below 600 million tonnes amid subdued demand, analysts said.

The miner could end the current year with the production of around 580 million tonnes of coal as against its revised target of 650-660 million tonnes, they said.

Analysts of brokerage firm Motilal Oswal projected production of 582 million tonne for Coal India and off-take of 565 million tonnes in FY2021 while ICICI Securities had estimated an output of 580 million tonne and sales of 550 million tonne this year.

However, the miner is hopeful of achieving a 10 per cent growth in 2020-21 over 602 million tonne of coal produced last year, notwithstanding the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a Coal India official said.

The coal behemoth had earlier set a production target of 710 million tonne for the current fiscal.

"Coal India has to match with the demand and can't keep on producing even if it has the capacity. Demand for coal remains subdued.

In FY20, production was at

THE MINER IS HOPEFUL OF ACHIEVING A 10 PER CENT GROWTH IN 2020-21 OVER 602 MILLION TONNE OF COAL PRODUCED LAST YEAR

602 million tonne but offtake remained at 581 million tonne," an analyst said on condition of anonymity.

The brokerage firms also projected a lower EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) of 17-18 per cent for Coal India in the current fiscal.

The analysts are not optimistic on sales demand even though the miner has introduced a new category of spot e-auction for importers only and aimed at replacing 150 million tonne of the fuel sourced from abroad with domestic supply.

The coal procured under the "special spot e-auction scheme 2020 for import substitution" will be for use within the country.

Govt garners ₹9,538 crore from direct tax dispute resolution scheme so far

New Delhi: The Government has collected Rs 9,538 crore revenue from the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas scheme, Parliament was informed on Sunday.

Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said as many as 35,074 declarations have been filed under the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas scheme till September 8, 2020. "The revenue generated till date through the (Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas) Act is Rs 9,538 crore. This figure does not include the payments made by the taxpayers who are yet to file their declarations under the scheme," Thakur said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had proposed the direct tax dispute resolution scheme, which provides opportunity to taxpayers to pay outstanding taxes and get waiver of interest and penalty, in her Union Budget speech on February 1. In March, Parliament passed the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Act. The dispute resolution scheme is valid till December 31, 2020. Under the scheme, taxpayers willing to settle disputes shall be allowed a complete waiver of interest and penalty if they pay the entire amount of tax in dispute by December 31, 2020.

Over 19,800 cases pending before NCLT till July 31

New Delhi: As many as 19,844 cases were pending before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) as on July 31 this year and majority of them were under the insolvency law, according to the corporate affairs ministry. Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur said a total 320 posts of officers/staff have been created in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

PTI

Garg takes over charge as director/Business Development of DMRC

New Delhi: An officer of the 1992 batch of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), Garg was earlier working as Executive Director/Consultancy Business in DMRC. He is a Civil Engineering Graduate from the University of Roorkee (now IIT) and Post Graduate from IIT (Delhi). Garg has a vast experience of 27 years and has served with distinction in various capacities in Indian Railways as well as DMRC.

Garg received the 'Project



Leader of the Year' award in 2019 from Project Management Association, India for the efficient completion of the NOIDA-Greater NOIDA Metro line.



Greater Noida becomes first city in NCR to use Ground Penetrating Machine (GPR) for sewer and water line mapping

Trump supports deal to allow TikTok to continue

Washington/New York: US President Donald Trump said he supports a deal that will allow TikTok to continue to operate in the United States, after threatening to ban the Chinese-owned app in August.

He told reporters at the White House he backs the deal with TikTok owner ByteDance, Oracle and Walmart to create a new company that will assume TikTok's U.S. operations called TikTok Global.

The U.S. Treasury said in a statement "Oracle will be responsible for key technology and security responsibilities to protect all U.S. user data. Approval of the transaction is subject to a closing with Oracle and Walmart and necessary documentation and conditions to be approved by" the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

The Commerce Department said on Saturday it will delay by one week an order that had been set to take effect late Sunday that would stop Alphabet Inc's Google



and Apple Inc from offering TikTok in their U.S. app stores.

A person briefed on the matter said the administration had given the parties a week to close the deal.

US shareholders are expected to control 53% of TikTok Global, a person briefed on the matter said, while Chinese investors will hold 36%.

Trump said the new company will be "totally controlled by Oracle and Walmart ... All of the control is Oracle and Walmart."

Oracle said it will take a 12.5% stake in TikTok Global. TikTok said under the deal, Oracle and Walmart will take part in a TikTok Global pre-

IPO financing round in which they can take up to a 20% cumulative stake in the company.

The remaining 80% will be held by ByteDance but is not clear if the ByteDance shares in TikTok Global will be distributed to ByteDance's investors when TikTok Global is incorporated, according to the source.

U.S. investors currently own about 40% of ByteDance. TikTok said it was "pleased that the proposal by TikTok, Oracle, and Walmart will resolve the security concerns of the U.S. Administration and settle questions around TikTok's future in the U.S."

TikTok said Oracle will become the company's "trusted technology provider, responsible for hosting all U.S. user data and securing associated computer systems to ensure U.S. national security requirements are fully satisfied"

Trump offered strong support for the deal he said would create 25,000 U.S. jobs. "I have given the deal my blessing," Trump said. "I approve the deal in concept."

Sikh girl missing in Pakistan's Punjab province

Police file case against 'unknown abductor'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A 22-year-old Sikh girl is missing in Pakistan's Punjab province and police have launched a case against an "unknown abductor", according to a media report on Sunday.

The incident occurred recently in Attock district's Hassanabdal city, which is home to the famous Gurdwara Panja Sahib — one of the most sacred sites in Sikhism.

According to a report published in Dawn newspaper, the girl stepped out of her house to throw away trash, but never returned. Her father runs a shop in Hassanabdal.

The report, however, did not mention the date of the incident.

A case had been registered by Hassanabdal police against an "unknown abductor" on

the complaint of the girl's father under Section 365-B of the Pakistan Penal Code for kidnapping, abducting or inducing a woman to marry, the report said, quoting Raja Fayyaz-ul-Hassan, the sub-divisional police officer.

Police have launched a hunt for the missing girl, the officer said.

Sub-Inspector Tahir Iqbal, the spokesman for district police, also said that a case was registered against an "unknown abductor" immediately after the girl's father filed a complaint.

The day after she went missing she reportedly sent a WhatsApp message to her father telling him that she had contracted a marriage of her own will and converted to Islam, said sub-divisional police officer Hassan.

He said several police teams were looking for the girl so that she could be produced before a court of law and her statement recorded.

Afghan airstrikes kill 24 civilians: Witnesses

Kabul: Government airstrikes in the north of Afghanistan killed 24 civilians, including children, and wounded six others, witnesses told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The two witnesses contacted by the AP said that most of those killed in Saturday's airstrikes, which struck the village of Sayed Ramazan in northern Kunduz province, were civilians. The Khanabad district in the province where the village is located is Taliban controlled.

The Afghan Defence Ministry, however, said the airstrikes killed 30 Taliban fighters, but added an investigation was being held into claims that civilians were among those killed.

The airstrikes come as Taliban and government-appointed negotiators are meeting for the first time in Qatar to discuss the future of Afghanistan and an end to decades of war and conflict.

Villagers said an initial airstrike targeted a house belonging to a Taliban fighter, whose home doubled as a check post that stops and

frisks people to ensure they are not connected to the government. The explosion set fire to a nearby home, trapping a family inside, said Latif Rahmani who witnessed the airstrikes.

Speaking to the AP by phone, Rahmani said farmers and villagers ran to douse the fire and rescue trapped family members inside when a second airstrike hit, killing many of them.

Rahmani, who said he was working on his house at the time of the airstrike, warned his neighbors against running toward the burning buildings for fear of a second airstrike.

"I yelled at people and told them not to go because maybe there would be another bombing, but they ran to help and to put out the fire," Rahmani said.

A second witness in the area, Kalamuddin, who like many Afghans uses just one name, said the lone Taliban fighter living in the house that was initially hit had been killed.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid con-

demned the airstrikes and said the Taliban had no military operations in the area at the time of the airstrike.

The United Nations has harshly criticised both sides in the conflict for the relentless killing of civilians in Afghanistan's protracted war.

The peace talks in Qatar are part of a US brokered deal with the Taliban that will eventually lead to US withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan.

In early July, Afghan national army personnel fired mortars into a busy market in southern Helmand, killing 23 people. The Defence Ministry is still investigating the incident.

Also Saturday, at least six rockets were fired at NATO's Resolute Support base in southern Kandahar. No casualties were reported and no one claimed responsibility.

NATO said in a statement that if the Taliban were behind the rocket fire, it could jeopardise the US peace deal in which the Taliban have promised not to attack US and NATO forces.

US judge approves injunction to delay WeChat restrictions

New York: A federal judge has approved a request from a group of WeChat users to delay looming US government restrictions that could effectively make the popular app nearly impossible to use.

In a ruling dated Saturday, Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler in California said the government's actions would affect users' First Amendment rights as an effective ban on the app removes their platform for communication.

WeChat is a messaging-focused app popular with many Chinese-speaking Americans that serves as a lifeline to friends, family, customers and business contacts in China. It's owned by Chinese tech giant Tencent.

A group of WeChat users had made the request after the U.S. Commerce Department said Friday it would bar WeChat from U.S. App stores and keep it from accessing essential internet services in the country, beginning Sunday night at 11:59 p.m.

The government cited national security and data-privacy concerns in taking action

against WeChat and imposing similar restrictions on TikTok, another popular Chinese-owned app.

The restrictions on TikTok were pushed back by a week Saturday after President Donald Trump said he supported a proposed deal that would make TikTok a U.S. Company.

WeChat users had argued the moves targeting the all-in-one app with instant-messaging, social media and other communication tools would restrict free speech.

In the ruling, the court said that a WeChat ban "eliminates all meaningful access to communication in the plaintiffs' community," and that an injunction would be in public interest.

The US government had earlier argued that it is not restricting free speech because WeChat users still "are free to speak on alternative platforms that do not pose a national security threat." Specific evidence about WeChat posing a national security threat was also "modest," according to Judge Beeler.

\$13,000 fine for breaking Covid rules in England

London: People in England who refuse to self-isolate to stop the spread of coronavirus could face fines of up to 10,000 pounds (\$13,000, 11,000 euros) under tough new regulations announced Saturday to tackle a surge in cases.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said this week that Britain was seeing a second wave of Covid-19, and introduced new restrictions for millions of people across north-west, northern and central England.

In a further measure announced late Saturday, he said that from September 28 people will be legally obliged to self-isolate if they test positive or are told to by the National Health Service (NHS) tracing programme.

"The best way we can fight this virus is by everyone following the rules and self-isolating if they're at risk of passing on coronavirus," Johnson said in a statement.

"And so nobody underestimates just how important this is, new regulations will mean you are legally obliged to do so if you have the virus or have been asked to do so by NHS Test and Trace"

Currently people who have symptoms or test positive are asked to self-isolate for 10 days. Those who live with someone who either has symptoms or tests positive must self-isolate for 14 days.

The new fines will start at 1,000 pounds — in line with breaking quarantine after international travel — and rise to 10,000 pounds for repeat offences and the worst breaches, including businesses that threaten self-isolating staff with redundancy, officials said.

In an incentive to get people to comply, those on low incomes will be able to claim an extra lump sum of 500 pounds if they are unable to work from home during their isolation.

Iran says US 'isolated' as world powers dismiss sanctions

Tehran: Iran said on Sunday its arch-foe the United States was "isolated" after a US unilateral declaration that UN sanctions are back in force against the Islamic republic was dismissed by other major powers.

The Trump administration said the so-called "snapback" of the sanctions was in effect and threatened to "impose consequences" on any UN member state that fails to comply.

"The United States is very, very isolated in its claims," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said. "The whole world is saying nothing has changed."

The sanctions in question were lifted in 2015 when Iran and six world powers -- Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US -- reached a landmark nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

But US President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, saying the deal — negotiated by his predecessor Barack Obama — was



insufficient. He also renewed and even strengthened Washington's own sanctions.

The US insists it is still a participant in the agreement that it walked out of, but only so it can activate the snapback option, which it announced on August 20.

Virtually every other Security Council member disputes Washington's ability to execute this legal ploy, and the UN body has not taken the measure any further.

On Sunday, two permanent council members — France and Britain — issued a joint

statement along with non-permanent member Germany saying the US's "purported notification" was "incapable of having any legal effect".

Russia also said the US lacked legal authority.

"The illegitimate initiatives and actions of the United States by definition cannot have international legal consequences for other countries," said its foreign ministry.

Iran brushed off the move and called on the rest of the world to unite against what it called the US's "reckless actions".

March of 100,000 marks week 7 of Belarus protests

Kyiv: Tens of thousands of Belarusians calling for the authoritarian president to resign marched through the capital Sunday as the country's wave of protests entered its seventh week.

Hundreds of soldiers blocked off the center of Minsk, deploying water cannons and armored personnel carriers and erecting barbed wire barriers. Protests also took place in several other cities, including Brest and Grodno.

The crowd in Minsk included about 100,000 people, said Ales Bialiatski, head of the Viasna human rights organization. He said dozens of demonstrators were arrested in Minsk and Grodno.

Protests began Aug. 9 after an election that official results say gave President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office; opponents and some poll workers say the results were manipulated. Lukashenko, who has repressed opposition and independent news media during 26 years in power, has rejected suggestions of dialogue with the protesters.

Thousands march in Berlin in support of refugees in Greece

AP ■ BERLIN

Thousands of people marched in Berlin on Sunday demanding that the government do more to help migrants stuck in Greece, many of whom have been made homeless since fires ravaged the country's largest refugee camp.

The crowd marched through the capital to the landmark Victory Column carrying signs with slogans like "we have space" and "Seehofer, be a Christian" — a reference to Interior Minister Horst Seehofer.

A little girl held a sign saying "let the people in" while a woman waved a placard saying "People are suffering, Fortress Europe looks on — and cuddles up to the right."

More than 12,000 migrants and refugees fled the fires, which the Greek government says were deliberately set by a

small group of Afghan migrants to protest a virus lockdown at the Moria camp.

Thousands have slept outdoors on a nearby roadside in the nights since the blazes.

Germany's government said last week it would take in 1,553 migrants — 408 families with children — from various Greek islands who already have been granted protected status in Greece. The move came on top of a decision to take in up to 150 unaccompanied children as part of a European effort.

The weekend demonstrators demanded that Germany do more, and that the government not block independent state or municipal efforts to take in refugees themselves.

About 3,000 people had registered to take part in the march, but police told the dpa news agency the crowd numbered in the "mid four-digit range."



Participants in a demonstration of an alliance for the immediate evacuation of all Greek camps hold protest signs in Berlin, Germany on Sunday

GOP hopeful Supreme Court battle will help shift election

Washington: Four years ago, the allure of conservative Supreme Court appointments helped persuade skeptical Republicans to support Donald Trump for president. Two years ago, a contentious clash over Trump's choice of Brett Kavanaugh for the court was credited with bolstering GOP gains in the Senate in an otherwise bad midterm election.

And now, just 44 days before Trump's reelection will be decided, Republicans are again looking to a Supreme Court nomination fight to unite a deeply fractured party as it faces the very real possibility of losing the White House and control of the Senate this fall.

GOP leaders are optimistic they can pull it off. In the turbulent Trump era, nothing has motivated the Republican Party's disparate factions to

come home quite like the prospect of a lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court.

"This can be an important galvanizing force for President Trump," said Leonard Leo, co-chairman of the conservative Federalist Society who has advised the Trump administration on its first two confirmations — for Neil Gorsuch and Kavanaugh.

The emerging nomination debate that follows the death Friday of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg threatens to reshuffle voter priorities in the closing weeks of an election that had been squarely focused on another set of generational issues: the pandemic, economic devastation and deep civil unrest.

Trump, backed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, is pledging to

replace the liberal Ginsburg with a conservative jurist, promising on Saturday evening that he will announce his nominee "very soon." Plans are in motion for a swift nomination and confirmation.

Lest there be any questions about the political implications, Trump is expected to make his choice in a matter of days. Those close to the president are encouraging him to announce his pick before the first presidential debate against Democratic challenger Joe Biden on September 29.

Biden said the winner of the Nov. 3 election should choose the next justice. Biden's team is skeptical that the Supreme Court clash will fundamentally change the contours of a race Trump was trailing so close to Election Day. Indeed, five states are already voting.

Verdict against young artists in Sudan stirs controversy

Cairo (AP): A Sudanese court's decision to send five young artists to prison has stirred controversy both in Sudan and abroad, with activists and rights groups calling for judicial reforms following last year's pro-democracy uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

The artists known for their support for the uprising were convicted and sentenced Thursday to two months in prison on charges of public disturbance and violating public safety measures by a criminal court in the capital, Khartoum, their lawyer Othman al-Basry said.

The artists were also fined 5,000 Sudanese pounds (90) each, the lawyer said. The verdict can be appealed.

Among the jailed artists is award-winning filmmaker Hajojo Kuka, whose films Beats of the Antonov and aKasha were exhibited at the Venice and Toronto film festivals.

The judiciary system continues to be heavily influenced by the militant Islamist ideology of the ex-regime, which criminalized freedom of association and arts and undermined the existence of women in the public sphere, said the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa, or SIHA.

Nawaz Sharif makes political comeback

Launches scathing attack on Army, Imran Khan Govt

Islamabad: Pakistan's deposed premier Nawaz Sharif on Sunday staged a political comeback by criticising the powerful Army and said the Opposition was not against Prime Minister Imran Khan but against those who brought an "inefficient" man to power.

Addressing the All-Parties Conference (APC) hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) via a video link aimed at launching a protest movement against the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) government, the three-time premier launched a scathing attack on the ruling party for its "failure to address the basic problems of the people".

Sharif, 70, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supreme, has been living in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment.

On Friday, PPP chairman Zardari talked to him over phone and invited him to virtually attend the Opposition-led All Parties Conference (APC) scheduled to be held on Sunday.

Addressing the conference, Sharif criticised the country's powerful establishment for allegedly supporting Khan.

"Our struggle is not against Imran Khan. Today, our struggle is against those who installed Imran Khan and who manipulated elections (of 2018) to bring an inefficient man like him into power and thus destroyed the country," he said.

Sharif said that the foremost priority should be to remove "this selected government and this system", adding that "if the change is not brought, it will bring irreversible loss to this country".

He asked the powerful

Army to stay away from politics and follow the Constitution and vision of the country's father 'Quaid-e-Azam' Muhammad Ali Jinnah. "It is very important that our armed forces stay away from our governmental system according to our Constitution and the Quaid's speech, and not interfere with the people's choice. We have made this country a joke in our own eyes and internationally as well," he said.

Sharif pointed out that former prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani once said that there was "a state within a state" in Pakistan.

"It is saddening that the situation has escalated to a state

above the state. This parallel government illness is the root-cause of our problems," he said.

He asked the leaders attending the conference to make important decisions to change the system of the country, alleging that the current government has enforced "martial law" in the country. "This conference should bring forth a concrete plan of action for saving democracy, a concrete policy should be made for solving the problem of a parallel state... I again urge this all-party conference to go beyond its traditional ways and form a plan of action," he said.

Sharif reiterated that the vote of people should be hon-

oured which was the only way to save democracy and the country.

"Pakistan has been constantly deprived from a democratic system. When the vote is dishonored, the entire democratic system becomes meaningless. When it is decided before the election process as to who will win and who will lose, then it can be guessed how the public is betrayed and how the public's mandate is stolen," he said. He said that military dictators ruled for multiple years but none of the elected prime ministers had been allowed to complete the allotted five years.

Trend Slazer

We need one film industry: Kangana

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** says she wants film industries of different states to have a collective identity.

This comes after UP CM Yogi Adityanath said he plans to build the “biggest film city” in UP.

“I applaud this announcement by @myogiadityanath ji. We need many reforms in the film industry, first, we need one big film industry called Indian film industry. We are divided based on many factors, Hollywood films get advantage of this. One industry, but many film cities,” she tweeted.

She added that the best of dubbed regional films don’t get pan-India release but dubbed Hollywood films get mainstream release, adding that the trend was “alarming.”

‘Most boys have mothers, don’t they? So they do interact with the opposite gender. Maybe what we need are anti-marital rape laws? Perhaps, if you grew up seeing your mother has a choice, her consent matters, you might value that for other women too?’

—**Reema Kagti**

Actor **SHWETA TRIPATHI** says the claim that an overwhelming majority of Bollywood is on drugs is an incorrect generalisation, adding that such an assertion is a half-truth.

She said, “I think narratives doing the rounds that half the people of the film industry are drug addicts, female actresses are sleeping around to get work, and outsiders can make their space in the ‘big bad world of cinema’ only after compromising make for great and interesting scripts. But no, that’s not how Bollywood works. Trust me when I say this, no one is forcefully putting drugs in our mouths! If a youngster wants to get into drugs, they will do it anyway — whether in Mumbai or anywhere.”

Dwayne breaks gate manually

Actor and former wrestling champion **DWAYNE JOHNSON** flaunted his physical strength off screen by ripping the gate off with his bare hands because he did not want to be late to work.

Taking to social media, Dwayne shared a photo of a gate that lay on the ground.

He captioned it: “Not my finest hour, but a man’s gotta go to work. We experienced a power outage due to severe storms, causing my front gate not to open. I tried to override the hydraulic system to open the gates, which usually works when power goes out but this time it wouldn’t.”

Deadly viruses stay beneath the surface and need just one moment of triggering to emerge in the atmosphere and take the world by storm. One would never realise when that virus sneaks into the lives of callous human beings and creates havoc like the novel Coronavirus has.

British researcher, author and medical historian Dr Mark Honigsbaum feels that our global interconnectedness has resulted in our cities becoming disease reservoirs and our greed for territorial conquest has brought us closer to the animal species that allows the virus to “jump.” Scientists and microbiologists are aware of the permanence of such threats. However, the medical community’s hubris and a fixed approach to treatment often blind them to the unknown threats that still lurk in the dark.

Mark’s book, *The Pandemic Century: A History of Global Contagion from the Spanish Flu to Covid-19*, traces a century-long history of recurring pandemics, with a new chapter on the Coronavirus. He highlights how after the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic, scientists dreamt of preventing catastrophic outbreaks of an infectious disease. But despite research and years of progress, our medical protocols have not been aligned to them, resulting in the severity of the current pandemic. Excerpts:

- Your previous book, *The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria and Hubris* (2019), was re-edited to include the current pandemic of COVID-19. What was your approach while comparing the pandemic to the previous ones?
- Since the pandemic is not at a very advanced level of research, was it challenging to find the right facts and figures?



IT HUNTS US, STAY ALERT!

British researcher, author and medical historian **Dr MARK HONIGSBAUM**, in his book, *The Pandemic Century: A History of Global Contagion from the Spanish Flu to Covid-19*, explains why viral disasters like the Coronavirus continue to attack humanity and take the healthcare community by surprise. By **CHAHAK MITTAL**

chapter on COVID-19 in March, it was unclear whether the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was closer to 10 per cent or one per cent, and what percentage of the population was being infected with the SARS-CoV-2 without developing the obvious symptoms. We still don’t have a definitive answer to those questions, though most experts now seem to agree that about two in five people (40 per cent) infected with the virus will be asymptomatic or experience very mild symptoms and that the true CFR is between 0.7 and one per cent.

The bigger fact unknown still is the extent to which people may enjoy a degree of immunity to SARS-CoV-2, either because of previous exposure to a related Coronavirus, or because their immune systems have some in-built genetic advantage.

□ What was your first point of reference while doing the research? How long did it take for you to complete it?

I first became interested in epidemics and pandemics in 2005 when I was working for *The Observer* (British Weekly) and visited Vietnam to report on the outbreak of the H5N1 Bird Flu. This led to a PhD on the history of influenza pandemics. So one way or another, I have been thinking about this subject for 15 years.

One of the themes of my monograph, *A History of the Great Influenza Pandemics: Death, Panic and Hysteria, 1830-1920* (Bloomsbury, 2020), was the way in which the epidemiological risk models and the media amplify anxiety about infectious diseases. For instance, during the 1889-92 Russian influenza pandemic, tele-

graphic communications provoked a popular dread of the flu. The medical journal, *The Lancet*, went as far as calling the Russian Flu “an epidemic started by the telegraph.” However, it was the 2014 Ebola virus epidemic that crystallised my ideas about the role of scientific knowledge in generating complacency as well as anxiety about threats. The key moment came in May 2014 when I attended a meeting on Ebola at Chatham House and all the experts essentially said about the outbreak in Southeastern Guinea, “We’ve seen this before in other parts of Africa; there’s nothing to worry about.” Three months later Ebola arrived in Monrovia and Freetown and everyone started

blaming the WHO for failing to appreciate the danger.

Then, in 2015, while we were still fighting the Ebola in West Africa, the world was confronted with another outbreak that no one had anticipated — the Zika. This led me to reconsider the previous epidemics and pandemics and the extent to which such blind spots were the product of particular laboratory technologies and “ways of knowing” infectious diseases.

□ Your research has time and again tried to highlight how such viruses just live beneath the surface and are awakened due to human consequences and actions. How can we ensure a co-living and sustainable functioning between humans and the environment? What’s the way forward?

The Coronavirus and other viruses like Ebola have always been ‘out there’ in nature. But it’s

only when we disrupt the natural habitats of the wild animals, where they harbour such viruses, the risks of an emerging infectious disease becoming a large epidemic or pandemic increase. Building roads and faster rail links to such areas make it more likely that a virus that spills over into a remote farming community will reach a large urban area.

So we have to reduce the pressure on these natural habitats by building protected zones for wildlife and discourage farming on the edges of rainforests. And we have to encourage more sustainable livestock practices and do a better job of regulating the trade in wild animals.

□ There have been many advances in technology and medicine over the last few decades and yet such viruses pose a great threat and an unprecedented damage to humankind. Why is that?

The point is we cannot prevent all spillover events or predict precisely when or where the next one will happen. What we can do — and should do often — is invest in local laboratories and diagnostic services so that we can spot unusual outbreaks early and close them down quickly.

We should invest much more in public hospitals and local community care centres so that when people fall ill, they have access to the best medical care close to where they need the facilities.

□ You had earlier said, “Our understanding of infectious disease and our attempt to control it through rational scientific means and technologies are constantly being disrupted.” What did you mean?

One of the heroes of my book is French-born Rockefeller researcher, Rene Dubos. He was a brilliant medical researcher, who developed the first commercial antibiotic in 1939. But he also realised that the narrow focus on microbial causation risked missing the wider ecological and environmental picture. Indeed, by the 1970s, he was advising his colleagues to guard against the hubristic assumption that science could solve all our medical problems.

Instead, he believed medical researchers should “develop an alertness to the unexpected” and advised scientists to “avoid pride of intellect and guard against any illusion or pretence as to the extent and depth of what he knows.”

However, today we also have another problem — growing societal hubris or complacency about the infectious diseases of the past. This is what I was referring to when I talked about the rational scientific means and technologies being disrupted. We have vaccines against a host of childhood diseases but because of how social media spreads misinformation about vaccines, trust in science is declining. According to a recent poll, as many as a third of Americans say that they would refuse a vaccine for COVID-19 if one was offered to them.

From Broadway to Amazon



HEIDI SCHRECK’s play about women’s rights and domestic abuse, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, is set to release on the OTT platform in more than 240 countries

A critically-acclaimed, award-winning play *What the Constitution Means to Me*, created by and starring Heidi Schreck, is set to premiere on Amazon Prime Video, in more than 240 countries and territories worldwide. In the final, record-breaking week of its Broadway run, director Marielle Heller captured the play at the Helen Hayes Theatre.

Through the play, that premiered on Broadway on March 31, 2019, Schreck addresses themes such as

women’s rights, immigration, and domestic abuse.

Fifteen-year-old Schreck earned her college tuition by winning Constitutional debate competitions across the United States. In this hilarious, hopeful, and achingly human show, Heidi resurrects her teenage self in order to trace the profound relationship between four generations of women and the founding document that shaped their lives.

“I’m delighted with how beautifully Mari Heller has translated the Constitution to the screen and I am thankful to Big Beach and Amazon Studios for making it possible to share the show with more people — especially right now when we can’t

gather together in theatres,” said Schreck.

She added, “In light of the moment we are living through, I am donating part of my proceeds from this film to the Broadway Cares COVID Relief Fund and to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund’s voting rights initiative.”

Albert Cheng, COO and Co-Head of Television, Amazon Studios, said, “Heidi Schreck is one of today’s most relevant and original voices, and *What the Constitution Means to Me* delivers a point of view that is equal parts hilarious, heart-breaking and hopeful. We are proud to bring the award-winning Broadway show to the screen for Prime Video

and we know that Schreck’s next projects will embody the same intelligence and humanity.”

The *Los Angeles Times*’ Ashley Lee called *What the Constitution Means to Me* “a deeply personal tour de force.” Jesse Green of *The New York Times* proclaimed it “not just the best play to open on Broadway so far this season, but also the most important.”

After an extended run on Broadway, the play got a sold-out, limited run at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC as well as at the Mark Taper Forum in L.A. It hopes to continue its national tour in 2021.

(The play premieres on Amazon Prime Video on October 16.)

WEBBED



THE TRANSPARENT MUSICAL FINALE

The award-winning series *Transparent* comes to an end in raucous fashion with a two-hour musical episode. After the death of Maura, the Pfeffermans must deal with their grief — and the horror of learning that Shelly plans to stage a musical play based on the family.

Starring Judith Light, the musical releases on Amazon Prime Video on September 27.



COUNTRY-ISH

Country artist Coffey Anderson and his wife, hip-hop dancer Criscilla, juggle family life, career goals and tests of faith in this reality show.

The season 1 releases on Netflix on September 25.



FANDANGO AT THE WALL

Directed by Varda Bar-Kar, the documentary follows the journey of Grammy-winning musician Arturo O’Farrill and producer Kabir Sehgal in Veracruz, Mexico, where they recruit musicians for a live album recording at the US-Mexico border wall.

The film releases on HBO on September 25.

Ear to the ground

The interest of farmers should always be kept at the centre of any ordinance, scheme, policy or programme at all levels. There is a need to listen to their unheard voices so that they're benefitted for their contribution to the nation's economy, says PANKAJ SINGH BISHT



Farmers across several states are opposing the Centre's agriculture-related ordinances. In Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, protests have been staged against the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, and an amendment in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, which have been tabled as bills for discussion during the Parliament's Monsoon Session. The protesting farmers fear that these ordinances will allow corporates to dominate the field that is largely owned by them and the government. The struggle of the farmer community is only intensifying with each passing day. Farmers are responsible for running a crucial sector that contributes about 17 to 18 per cent to the country's GDP, provides employment to over 60 per cent of the population and over 70 per cent of the rural households depend on agriculture. The recognition of the farmers — their achievements, struggles and demands never make it to the list of government's priorities. Every now and then, farmers have to shout at top of their voices

to be heard while many, with no one to listen, choose death to register their protest. During lockdown, farmers were among the worst affected communities. Preliminary findings of a survey conducted by the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health and the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA, Hyderabad) confirms the same. The survey which was conducted with more than 1,000 agricultural households across 12 Indian states show that "60 per cent of those who did harvest reported a yield loss, and 1/10th of them could not harvest their crop in the past month. More than half (56 per cent) of the farmers said that the lockdown has impacted their ability to prepare for the forthcoming sowing season." The hilly state of Uttarakhand is no exception. Here, too, the several challenges that farmers have been facing for quite some time now, have only intensified during the lockdown period that was imposed because of the pandemic. During monsoon, different types of fruits and vegetables are produced here which provide income to farmers for their yearly sustenance. In local vegetable

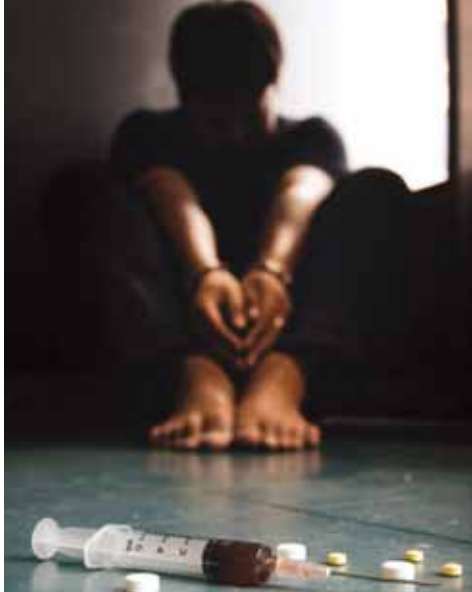


markets (Mandis), the impact of lockdown has been such that farmers have stopped getting the right price for the produce. With meagre earnings, it has become difficult for them to meet their daily expenses. The frustration among them is evident as they have been forced to take loans with no hope of future income. Ramgarh, Dhari, Mukteshwar, Satbunga, Dhanachuli, Nathuvakhan and may other regions of Nainital district are famous for apple production. 8550 metric tons of apple is produced on a huge expanse of 1244.67 hectares.

Farmers dedicate their sweat and blood to these orchards with hopes of promising returns. But when this produce is presented in market, they are faced by several challenges — no buyers for the price they deserve, they are told that the quality isn't good enough for the quoted price which pushes them to sell their hard work at unfairly low prices. Government officials and local representatives consider the old variety of apples, and traditional methods of horticulture to be the main reason behind the challenges faced by these farmers in these areas. The popular opinion is that

Uttarakhand should follow the footsteps of the leading fruit producing state of Himachal Pradesh but when it comes to formulating and implementing policies supporting farmers, the void is huge. Plans are conceptualised and implemented mostly without any scientific and technical knowledge. According to farmers of the Mukteshwar region, who wish to stay anonymous, the government had launched a scheme to encourage intensive apple horticulture in the state. The horticulture department was given the responsibility to identify beneficiaries and implement the scheme. Although, the department was quick enough to implement the scheme but when requests for arranging quality planting material to establish orchards were raised, the department took a backstep putting the entire responsibility on farmers. They asked farmers to make arrangement on their own leaving them helpless. In this regard, Dr Narayan Singh, an expert working on horticulture development in Mukteshwar region, says that "Another major drawback of this scheme is that farmers have to establish orchard on a minimum of one-acre land. This excludes several small farmers from participating in the scheme. If the state government really wants to provide benefits to the farmers, then it will have to formulate plans keeping in mind small holding farmers as well. This step will not only help in expansion of the scheme but has the potential of turning the state into a horticulture-intensive region." With minus 23.9 per cent GDP, we have officially entered a recessionary phase this year, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) shows. Amid such grim situation, it is only the agriculture sector that gives hope for future as it registered a 3.4 per cent GDP growth. There is a need to uphold this hope by strengthening the farmers, specially the smaller ones. The current way of formulating policies clearly misses out on the concerns of the farmers who face several, complicated challenges on field. The good intentions of policy makers fall short in addressing these challenges. There is a need to listen to these unheard voices before introducing changes that farmers are unable to understand and benefit from. The direct interest of farmers should always be kept at the centre of any ordinance, scheme, policy or programme at all levels. It is about time that farmers receive fair benefits for contributing significantly to our nation's economy.

—Charkha Features



SAY NO TO DRUGS

Meditation is an effective addiction recovery technique as it rewires critical pathways in the brain, thereby increasing self-awareness in a person, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Recently, the horrific news of a young boy who under the influence of 'ice drug' (methamphetamines) gouged out his own eyeballs and ate them in a hospital's emergency department shooked the whole world. This makes us think deep as to what makes one get into such a temptation which is so fatal?

A recent survey by Govt of India Health and Family Welfare Ministry shows that among the boys aged between 15-19, 28.6 per cent reported tobacco use and 15 per cent were addicted to alcohol. 5.5 per cent girls under the same age group used tobacco while 4 per cent were addicted to alcohol. Isn't it shocking? Well, what is even more shocking is that when we as a society ostracise kids instead of helping and reforming them. We need to understand that any kind of addiction usually does not happen overnight. Rather, people who become addicted to any substance such as tobacco, alcohol, cocaine etc. are gradually introduced and desensitised to them over a period of time. They may initially enjoy the use of drugs in a recreational way, but it soon turns into a hard habit which takes them to a dangerous route. As their consumption of drugs rises, they become physically dependent on it to an extent that its absence makes them sick. Most of the drugs are illegal, so in order to have them continually, people get involved in criminal activities. Ultimately, they die a painful death with nobody besides them, remaining sad all along.

According to psychologists, most of the drug addicts are quite immature in nature and suffer from insecure personality. They lack confidence due to various psychogenic problems, especially those from their immediate family. Another surprising fact about such people is that most of them are aware that substance abuse would bring them intellectual impairment and substantive, cognitive and memory disturbances resulting in deterioration of their social and family relations. But unfortunately, their habit and dependency on these substances does not let them easily give up on its use. A body of research proves meditation as an effective addiction recovery technique. Researchers who examined incarcerated substance abusers found that those who were taught how to meditate had lower levels of relapse and more positive outcomes after release than those who received only conventional recovery treatments. Hence, it would not be difficult to recognise the value of meditation for elimination of drug habits. It will also be beneficial to introduce this theory and practise as a subject in education so that the youth and children can be saved from dependence on drugs at a primitive level. Many people may pose a question: why meditation? Well, the answer is that it has been proved that it rewires critical pathways in the brain thereby increasing self-awareness in a person which allows him/her to focus on things that demand their attention. Remember, calming the mind for a few minutes may provide the distance needed to make a reasonable and healthy decision about whether to light a cigarette or find a meditation centre. So, all the young people, make the right choice of a healthy future by saying no to drugs and yes to meditation.



The children of India face an array of problems that haven't seen the limelight in long aeons. Some of these should be carefully cross-examined and dissected by our Parliament. It must be freed from its shackles if we are ever to hope that our issues may be addressed one day. What can we call a Parliament that shies away from questioning? We need a system, which can effectively surveil and look into all new decisions and plans. For this, we require no system other than the one we already have in place; it only calls for it's complete and absolute freedom. Upon seeing news reports regarding the removal of the Question and Zero Hour, I was much concerned and decided to write this piece. So the question is — why does this curtailment lead to so much controversy? The government has moved to restrict democratic voices and hide from probing questions about its policies and actions. This is yet another act that edges this government closer to the brink of centralising power. In this case, they have tried to avoid the checks and balances that Parliament provides. What this means is that it provides the government with an opportunity to execute a number of corrupt or damning decisions, hidden from the common man's eye and the Parliament's scrutiny. However, in this blatant attempt to blind the people of this country, it is not just the Parliament that is subject to such actions. The media, too, has been blindsided by the destruction of their free-

Answer my question

A student, NEIL BINOY talks about the curtailment and dilution of Question and Zero Hours in Parliament and the cascading effect on children

dom, resulting in a world filled with fake news and soothsayers. But these decisions against freedom of speech also threaten to cause a vast amount of damage to the environment through two specific decisions: One, the brand new plan to widen the roads into highways in the Himalayas, a decision which has already led to widespread muck dumping and damage the sensitive essence of the mountains. In a sickening report, it has been revealed that the project has been the root cause of an increase in landslides and putrid clumps of waste in the surrounding areas. Second, the government has plans in place to change the definition of illegal mining, opening up new loopholes to be exploited. This requires the questioning that is currently being silenced. Why is the environment the least concern? Why is it not being given the importance it should? It is inevitably our mismanagement of the environment that has given rise to the devastating natural disasters that have come raining down on our heads. There is yet still one more aspect which is rarely considered. This environment is something that we are to inherit, but in the current state, it will be hard to repair it. Eventually, our country will



become uninhabitable with the increasing number of natural disasters. If the Parliament will not be allowed to protect the vast biodiversity and ecosystems of our country, then what or who, is left to stay the destructive nature of many of the policies that come flying down the tubes? Poor decisions combined with the lack of any prior announcement can be deadly as we have already seen in the pandemic-induced lockdown. It has had its share of adverse effects. When the lockdown came flying literally out of the blue in March, with just a few

hours of notice, nobody knew what hit them. People who had come to the big cities to work, now found themselves in a terrifying predicament. They were stranded in a foreign environment with steadily rising bills. Cross that with the massive layoffs that have been a staple of the pandemic so far and they are left with no means to pay those bills. In an act of desperation, a 15-year-old student was forced to cycle 1,200 kilometres with her ailing father, subsisting on a meagre ration of biscuits. What are millions of tons of grains doing rotting in Indian

silos, while men, women and children die of hunger on the streets? These, in and of themselves, are problems enough but the mismanagement of the pandemic has spawned yet more. As demands for crops go down, farmers' crops are no longer profitable and many are unable to pay back their debts, leading up to a widespread increase in the number of farmer suicides. Where is the necessary parliamentary criticism that can bring an end to their pain? Aren't they citizens of this country as well, just as deserving of the rights and privileges we enjoy today? During this lockdown, another prominent feature is that of online education. However, not many children can find the means to access it. The government can at least have provided small tablet devices. Why is a divide between haves and have-nots being allowed to develop? Why is this issue, one which matters to millions of children, not being questioned? Recently, I have been reading articles lauding the new National Education Policy but none of them talks about the content of education. Most of us today aspire to be successful businessmen and philanthropists like that of Bill Gates and Azim Premji. However, our current education system doesn't teach us how to start a business or how to run a charity. If money-making is vital for economic development, why are we not taught this highly important subject? This is an issue not solely restricted to business and phil-

anthropy but also something essential to our society which is, regrettably, missing from our schooling systems: Empathy, Sympathy and Ethics. Why are our students not taught about the very holding line of a community? We have reached a stage where we can no longer swear by textbook education and hope for the best. To create a massive, nationwide change, we require a change in our curriculum and the way children are taught in India. We require a system with a more hands-on, example-based and grounded approach to education. As our world evolves, so should mould our education systems to tailor itself to fit the new world. I would like to be the voice of those millions of children in our country. We are the future of India. Respected Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Speaker of Lok Sabha, you are holding positions of great importance, which can easily make or break our potential future. Without the supporting role that our Parliament's questionings provide, the weakened framework will inevitably come blazing down. I suggest you open the Parliament for children for one day in a year to listen to our voices. We, the children can come out with better questions, better suggestions and raise issues that matter to us. Parliament is a great institution to question the system. If questions are not allowed, many wrongs can happen that could destroy the future of our country. (The writer is a 12-year-old student and a gold medalist at the International English Olympiad.)

Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits. —Thomas Edison

10 MINUTES OF MASSAGE WILL RELAX YOU

If you had a tiring week, just 10 minutes of simple massage at home can do wonders to rejuvenate your mind and body, suggests a new research. All you need to do is find someone to do that for you. This study indicates that massage is an easy-to-apply intervention that can boost the body's principal engine for relaxation — the parasympathetic nervous system (PNS) — and also lead to a reduction in perceived mental stress. The discovery that massage is effective on the level of both psychology and physiology via the PNS may pave the way for future studies on understanding the role of relaxation on stress. "We are very encouraged by the findings that short periods of dis-engagement are enough to relax not just the mind but also the body," said study first author Maria Meier from the University of Konstanz in Germany.



CHILDHOOD NEGLECT LEADS TO TEEN PREGNANCY

Researchers have found that children who experience neglect are seven times more likely than other abuse victims to have a teen pregnancy. The researchers found neglected children have the highest rates of teen pregnancy, and were at a three- to five-fold increased risk of failing school, anxiety, depression, psychosis and cannabis abuse problems. "Although most children in our study experienced multiple types of maltreatment, child neglect and emotional abuse were specifically linked to the worst outcomes," said study author Jake Najman from the University of Queensland in Australia. For the findings, the researchers looked at data from 8,000 women and children beginning in pregnancy and continuing into early adulthood. "These problems are extremely serious and difficult to treat in adulthood. We need to do all that we can to prevent them from happening in the first place," Najman added.



COVID-19 PATIENTS ARE FACING CARDIAC ISSUES

The original thought was that the novel Coronavirus is a respiratory disease but as the number of patients who have contracted the virus are increasing, it has become clear that COVID-19 has several other implications. The impact of the virus goes beyond the respiratory system and the lungs. It has tremendous impact on the cardiovascular system of the human body as well. Reports have suggested that heart failure has been one of the main causes of death in COVID-19 patients, even in the ones who do not have severe breathing problems. Dr Vaibhav Mishra, Director-CTVS, Fortis Hospital Noida, says that myocarditis (inflammation of the heart), cytokine storm, lack of oxygen and stress cardiomyopathy are some of the reasons as to why COVID-19 causes heart damage.



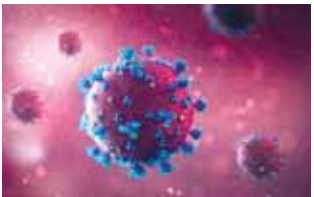
SMOKING LINKED TO BLEEDING IN THE BRAIN

Smoking most likely has a significant share in all cases of subarachnoid haemorrhage, the most fatal type of cerebrovascular disturbances in the brain, warn researchers. The study, published in the journal Stroke, reaffirmed a link between smoking and subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH), a type of bleeding stroke that occurs under the membrane that covers the brain and is frequently fatal. "Our study provides evidence about the link between smoking and bleeding in the brain," said study researcher Ilari Rautalin from the University of Helsinki in Finland. This study utilized health care data from the Finnish Twin Cohort, a national database of 32,564 individuals (16,282 same-sex, twin pairs in Finland) who were born before 1958 and alive in 1974, and followed for over 42 years between 1976 and 2018.



WHAT IS AIDING INDIA'S LOW MORTALITY RATE

A study conducted by top genetic experts has revealed that Indians should be thankful to their genes for avoiding over the COVID pandemic with a relatively lesser mortality rate as compared to the US and European nations. A team comprising distinguished genetic experts from six institutions, led by Prof Gyaneshwer Chaubey of the Banaras Hindu University, analysed complete DNA data of the Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) gene of X chromosome from various continental populations and found that it is the Indian genes that have protected the population and helped battle the deadly virus. This explains why the mortality rate of COVID-19 has been much higher in European countries and in the US, as compared to India and Southeast Asian countries.





The pitch was doing a bit with the new ball but it came a bit easier once the dew came on. We just wanted to get stuck in there and get through

None of our batsmen carried on for us, like du Plessis and Rayudu did for CSK. Credit to the CSK bowlers, they bowled well at the end to pull back things

Every team has a perfect mix of world-class overseas players and quality Indian players. Ours is a pretty good balanced side in all departments

I concentrate on bowling dot balls and putting pressure on the batsman so he can take risks. My focus is the team's requirement, what helps the team is important to me

DC sail through in Super Over

KINGS XI PUNJAB FAIL TO CAPITALISE ON MAYANK'S 89

PTI ■ DUBAI

Marcus Stoinis' last over star turns with both bat and ball was beautifully complemented by Kagiso Rabada's brilliant Super Over that ensured a thrilling opening round IPL victory for Delhi Capitals over Kings XI Punjab on Sunday.

Stoinis first blasted his way to a 21-ball-53 as his late assault ensured a decent 157 for 8 for Capitals with 57 coming off last three overs. Stoinis hit seven fours and three sixes.

In reply, Capitals were in control for 15 overs before Mayank Agarwal 89 off 60 balls nearly won it for KXIP before Stoinis came into the picture again with opposition needing one off three balls. The first one was a dot followed by wickets of Agarwal and Chris Jordan as match ended in a tie and went into Super Over.

Rabada, a Super Over specialist then removed KL Rahul and Nicholas Pooran off successive balls to keep an easy three run target off one over. Rishabh Pant got a couple and Mohammed Shami bowled a wide as Capitals got their hard earned two points. The Capitals



Felt like a senior walking into the team: Ashwin

DUBAI: Ravichandran Ashwin made his debut for Delhi Capitals against his former team Kings XI Punjab on Sunday but the spinner said that he already felt like one of the seniors when he first came to the team. Ashwin captained KXIP last season and this year he will be joining Indian team mates Shikhar Dhawan, Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant, Prithvi Shaw and captain Shreyas

Iyer, among others. "Playing the game is close to my heart. Six months is a lot of time. There's a bit of nervous energy, feels like I'm starting all over again," said Ashwin on Star Sports on Sunday. "It's been great because most of these are boys I've played with in the Indian team. They've been nice to me. I've felt very nice, I've felt like the senior walking into the team."

IANS

Staying indoors was difficult but gave time to strategise: Rahul

DUBAI: Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul chose to bowl first after winning the toss against Delhi Capitals on Sunday and said that he doesn't really know what to expect from the pitch at the Dubai International Stadium. "Fresh wicket, don't really know what to expect. I'm confident and so is the entire team, great opportunity to go out and play some cricket," said Rahul after the toss. "Staying indoors was difficult, but it also gave us time to think about our strategy, Maxwell, Pooran, Jordan and Cottrell are our four overseas players. Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer said that they would have bowled first as well. "I have learnt to take some responsibility, with the likes of (Ricky) Ponting and (Sourav) Ganguly, it makes my task a bit easier. Looking forward to a great season. We have plenty of options and it was difficult settling for the best XI," he said.

IANS

32 balls, Mohammed Shami 3/15).

Kings XI Punjab 157/8 (Mayank Agarwal 89 off 60 balls, Marcus Stoinis 2/29, Kagiso Rabada 2/28, R Ashwin 2/2).

BRIEF SCORES: **Delhi Capitals** 157/8 (Marcus Stoinis 53 off 21 balls, Shreyas Iyer 39 off

scored 57 runs in the last 18 balls with Stoinis producing a whirlwind knock that had seven fours and three sixes. The pitch had a tinge of grass, the ball was swinging and pacer Shami relished the bowling on a helpful track.

His wicket-taking and run-choking act seemed to have made the difference before Stoinis' outstanding hitting changed the complexion of the game in matter of minutes.

Kohli begins hunt for elusive title

PTI ■ DUBAI

Virat Kohli will begin his quest for an elusive IPL title when perennial under-achievers Royal Challengers Bangalore take on David Warner's low profile but consistent Sunrisers Hyderabad in their opening IPL encounter here on Monday.

Both teams possess dangerous batsmen who can single-handedly take the game away from the opposition.

Kohli has always led from the front but he knows his search for a maiden title will remain incomplete if the team doesn't perform in all departments.

The addition of Australian limited overs captain Aaron Finch to the squad gives the star-studded batting line up more firepower. Expectations are also high from highly rated young opener Devdutt Padikal.

On the other hand, Warner, whose exploits in the IPL include winning the 'Orange Cap' thrice and leading his side to a maiden title triumph in 2016, will



once again pair up with the dangerous Jonny Bairstow.

Sunrisers also have the batting prowess of Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Mitchell Marsh and Fabian Allen.

Following a nightmarish 2019 season when they finished last, RCB seem to have much better balance but their ability to hit late in the innings is yet to be tested.

Sunrisers' blind spot also lies in the lack of depth in their batting order. The franchise has invested in youngsters like Virat Singh, Abhishek Sharma,

Priyam Garg, and Abdul Samad and the management in the hopes that one of them could become the vital cog in the middle order.

A team that is known for its depth and variation in bowling, Sunrisers' core unit remains unchanged. Bhuvneshwar Kumar will spearhead the pace department with Sandeep Sharma, Siddarth Kaul and Basil Thampi playing secondary roles.

Armed with presence of the top T20 bowler Afghanistan leggie Rashid Khan and No 1 all-rounder in the format Mohammad Nabi.

RCB also boasts of a potent spin unit, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal will again be the key as he has been over the past seasons with Washington Sundar, Pawan Negi, Adam Zampa and Moeen Ali lending more options.

RCB have also addressed the issue of their weak death bowling that plagued their campaign last season. The franchise has bought South African bowling all-rounder Chris Morris.

Experience of 300 ODIs pays off: Dhoni

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Chennai Super Kings skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has said his team's tremendous "experience" proved to be a crucial factor in its five-wicket victory over defending champions Mumbai Indians in the IPL opener.

Ambati Rayudu and Faf du Plessis set up the win with a 115-run stand for the third wicket, while Piyush Chawla was exceptional with the ball and was aided by likes of Sam Curran, Deepak Chahar and Lungi Ngidi.

"The experience pays off, everyone talks about it. You get it only after you play a lot of games. 300 ODIs is a dream for anybody to play and when you put an XI on the field, you need a good mix of youngsters and experi-



enced players," Dhoni said.

"You need the experienced players to guide the youngsters on and off the field. The young players get 60-70 days with the seniors in the IPL," the veteran added at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Dhoni also spoke about what all things the team learnt from the first game.

"We may practice enough but when you go on the field you need to assess the conditions and give it your best. It took time for the bowlers to find the right length on

this pitch. Plenty of positives but still plenty of areas for us to improve.

"In the second half there is a bit of movement till the dew sets in. If you don't lose wickets early, you have the upper hand. These are the learnings. Rayudu had a wonderful partnership with Faf. Most of us are retired so luckily no injuries as well."

MI skipper Rohit Sharma was upset that none of his batsmen could carry on the initial momentum that they gained.

"None of our batsmen carried on for us, like du Plessis and Rayudu did for CSK. I think we were 85 in the first 10 overs. Credit to the CSK bowlers, they bowled well at the end to pull back things. Something for us to learn," Rohit said.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



BRAVO TO MISS COUPLE OF GAMES

Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming has confirmed that their star all-rounder Dwayne Bravo will miss another couple of matches of the 13th IPL. "Dwayne Bravo is out for a couple of games," Fleming said. Bravo picked a niggle during the recently-concluded Caribbean Premier League and didn't bowl in the final due to a knee injury.

CURRAN SURPRISED BY DHONI'S MOVE

Sam Curran says he was left "surprised" by "genius" Mahendra Singh Dhoni's move to send the England all-rounder ahead of himself during the IPL opener against Mumbai Indians. The 22-year-old all-rounder played an instrumental role in CSK's win. After an economical spell with the ball, he scored a quick-fire 18 off just six balls to help his side start the campaign on a positive note. "To be honest, I was very surprised that I went in. He (Dhoni) is a genius and obviously thought something (about sending me before himself)," Curran said. "We targeted that over (18th) and I went in with a six or out mentality... Sometimes it comes off and sometimes it doesn't," he added.

ISHANT SUFFERS BACK INJURY

Senior pacer Ishant Sharma suffered an injury during training on the eve of Delhi Capitals' IPL opener against KXIP on Sunday. A report in Cricbuzz said the 32-year-old Sharma injured his back during practice session and is set to be sidelined for a considerable period of time.

BUTTLER TO MISS RR OPENING GAME

England wicket-keeper batsman Jos Buttler will miss Rajasthan Royals' opening IPL game against Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday as he is in the middle of his mandatory quarantine period, having arrived here with his family. "I'm unfortunately going to miss the first match for Rajasthan because I'm going to be doing my quarantine period because I'm here with my family — which is great that the Royals have allowed me to have my family out here," he said in an Instagram Live from the official Royals' handle.

RASHID FOCUS TO BOWL ECONOMICALLY

With 55 wickets in three seasons, Rashid Khan is one of the lethal bowlers operating in the IPL but he is not taking wickets but bowling economically. The world number one T20 bowler, who plays for Sunrisers Hyderabad, said he "never thought about taking so many wickets." He enjoys the best bowling economy of 6.55 at an average of 21.69 in the IPL. "My focus is always bowling economically well for the team. When I bowl economically it helps the bowlers on the other end to take wickets," Rashid said. "I concentrate on bowling dot balls and putting pressure on the batsman so he can take risks. My focus is the team's requirement, what helps the team is important to me."

CUMMINS REALLY ADMIRE MCCULLUM

KKR pacer Pat Cummins has said he is happy to have head coach Brendon McCullum by his side as the team aims to win a third title. Aussie pacer Cummins, after serving his room-quarantine, will be joining the rest of his teammates at KKR in just a few days' time. "The first thing that I am really excited about is that I don't have to bowl to him (McCullum) anymore," Cummins told kkr.in. "He was one of the best and most feared hitters I have come up against in my career. It can be the first ball of the match and he might be hitting over your head for a six." Cummins said he admires Bazz for his aggression. "So, I am happy that he is in my team as a coach and that I don't have to bowl to him. He is someone I really admire for his fire."

TENDULKAR BACKS MI TO WIN TITLE

Batting great Sachin Tendulkar has no doubts as to which team he is supporting this season in the IPL. Tendulkar, who captained the Mumbai Indians for four years, said that he favours the reigning champions to defend the title while adding that all teams are on equal footing. "Of course, the Men in Blue, are there any doubts? I've always been in blue everywhere."



Angel Di Maria celebrates with Mbaye after scoring

PSG is back in form

AFF ■ NICE

Kylian Mbappe returned to the starting line-up for Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday and scored the opener in a 3-0 win at Nice which marks another step on the road to recovery for the French champions.

The 21-year-old, who tested positive for coronavirus on September 7, was on target from the penalty spot in the 38th minute.

Angel di Maria added a second just before half-time and Marquinhos headed the third after 66 minutes. Mbappe thought he had scored a fourth late on but it was ruled out for offside.

It was a second successive Ligue 1 win for PSG who began the season still smarting from defeat in the Champions League final. They lost their opening two games and the second ended in a mass brawl against Marseille which led to the suspension of Brazilian forward Neymar.

Sonday

Heung-min nets four as Spurs batter Saints

AFF ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Son Heung-min destroyed Southampton with a four-goal blitz as Tottenham Hotspur earned their first Premier League win of the season with a 5-2 victory at St Mary's on Sunday.

Just 24 hours after Tottenham signed Gareth Bale, South Korea forward Son delivered a virtuoso display that showed Jose Mourinho's side already have plenty of firepower.

Danny Ings put Southampton ahead in the first half, but Son equalised before the break and scored three more in the second half.

Kane, who hit the back of the net twice in the first half only to have them ruled out for offside, capped a swaggering display with his second goal of the season.

After losing to Everton in their Premier League opener last weekend, Tottenham have lifted the gloom with this vibrant second half performance after the Bale coup.

DEVASTATING SPURS

Ings has been linked with a



move to Tottenham after a prolific campaign last term and the qualities that attracted Mourinho were on show as he put Southampton ahead in the 32nd minute.

Running onto Kyle Walker-Peters' long pass, Ings displayed his astute movement as he got in behind Eric Dier, then demonstrated his predatory instincts by guiding his shot across Lloris into the far corner.

With Tottenham looking increasingly bedraggled, it was a surprise when they equalised against the run of play in first half stoppage-time.

Tanguy Ndombele picked out

Kane on the left and the striker's cross reached Son, who ignored the acute angle to clip a sublime finish past Alex McCarthy.

Son's goal was a huge boost to Tottenham's morale and they took the lead with a well-crafted goal two minutes after half-time.

Once again it was Kane and Son who prised open the Southampton defence as the England captain fed the South Korean with a delicate pass.

Son surged through on goal and calmly guided a precise strike past McCarthy with his left foot.

Tottenham's star forwards weren't finished yet and they left Southampton for dead in the 64th minute.

Dropping deep to devastating effect, Kane was the provider with a superb lofted pass over the Saints defence and Son finished in emphatic fashion.

Southampton had no answers to Kane and Son and another deft pass from the Tottenham striker in the 73rd minute picked out the South Korean, who was never going to miss from close-range.

Kane and Son have now combined for more Premier League goals (24) than any other duo in the competition since August 2015.

Kane got the goal he deserved with a close-range finish in the 82nd minute before Ings netted again with a 90th minute penalty awarded for handball by Matt Doherty.

Osimhen stars on debut



Naples: Victor Osimhen proved decisive on his Serie A debut inspiring Napoli to a season-opening 2-0 win at Parma on Sunday, the first game in which fans were allowed to return to an Italian stadium.

Italy's Government from Sunday allowed up to 1,000 spectators at open-air sports events.

And Rino Gattuso's Napoli and new Parma coach Fabio Liverani's side faced off on front of a sparse gathering at the Stadio Ennio Tardini.

After a barren first hour in Emilia Romagna, Osimhen came off the

bench to provide an electric shock for Gattuso's side.

Dries Mertens and Lorenzo Insigne scored both goals after his arrival which were set up by Mexican Hirving Lozano.

"Oshimen at this moment has an extra gear," said Gattuso of the 21-year-old Napoli paid French club Lille a club record 80 million euros for this summer. "He's a serious lad who does not forget where he comes from, he lost his parents as a child, he is a young man with the head of a 40-year-old."

AFF

Halep reaches Italian Open final

AFF ■ ROME

Top seed Simona Halep ousted Spaniard Garbine Muguruza in three sets to advance to her third final at the Italian Open on Sunday, played on front of a small number of spectators for the first time.

The Romanian dropped her second set on clay in Rome before seeing off Muguruza 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in a battle of former French Open champions before Roland Garros in a week's time.

Halep — the 2018 French Open winner — will next play either Czech defending champion Karolina Pliskova, the second seed, or Marketa Vondrousova for a place in the final.

The Wimbledon champion, 28, has finished runner-up in her two previous finals at the Foro Italico in 2017 and 2018.

Ninth seed Muguruza, the 2016 Roland Garros champion, fell to her fourth semi-final defeat in Rome, the furthest she has gone in the tournament.

World No 2 Halep extended her winning streak this season to 13 consecutive victories.

