

OPINION 8
MUMBAI BELONGS
TO INDIA**WORLD 11**
TRUMP WARNS NO TIKTOK DEAL IF
CHINA'S BYTEDANCE KEEPS ANY 'CONTROL'**SPORT 14**
HALEP WINS
ITALIAN OPEN

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2020; PAGES 14 & 3

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KAREENA
TURNS 40,
WISHES POUR IN
13 VIVACITY

8 Opp MPs suspended for Session

Naidu rejects no-confidence motion against Harivansh; suspended MPs sit on dharna on Parliament premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu on Monday suspended eight Opposition members from the House for the rest of the Monsoon Session over the unprecedented chaos in the Upper House during the passing of the controversial farm Bills on Sunday. Naidu also rejected a no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition parties against Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narain Singh.

The suspended members refused to leave the House and sat on a protest dharna in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Parliament premises.

The suspended members were joined by almost all the Opposition leaders, including former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, Samajwadi Party leaders Ram Gopal Yadav, Jaya Bachchan, and leaders from the Shiv Sena.

Meanwhile, 18 Opposition parties have written to the President of India, requesting him not to give his approval to the farm sector Bills passed by both Houses.

The protest will continue overnight and the suspended members will again attempt to



TMC MPs Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference MP Farooq Abdullah and others stage a protest over the suspension of 8 Rajya Sabha members, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

enter the Upper House. If they are stopped, the protest will continue on the Parliament lawns. A similar protest overnight had happened on the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill when members remained in the Lok Sabha till wee hours.

The suspended members — TMC's Derek O'Brien and Dola Banerjee, AAP's Sanjay Singh, Congress's Rajeev Satav, Sayid Nasir Hussain, Ripun Bora; CPI(M)'s KK Ragesh and Elamaram Kareem — were told by the Chairman that they had displayed "unruly behaviour especially with the Chair and gross disorderly conduct."

"I am pained at what happened yesterday. It defies logic. It is a bad day for the Rajya

Sabha," Naidu said.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraliedharan moved the

motion for the suspension of the eight MPs.

Naidu also rejected the no-confidence motion moved by 12 Opposition parties against his Deputy Harivansh, saying a notice period of 14 days is required. The suspended members were asked to leave the House, but when they refused to do so, the session was adjourned until 10 am and then for a hour again.

After the House reconvened at 10.30 am, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said he will ask the Leader of the Opposition to speak before any Bills are discussed, but said that those who have been named by the Chairman cannot participate.

Continued on Page 11

PM: Farm reform Bills need of 21st century

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of continuing protest over the passage of the farm Bills passed by Parliament on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that the Bills were the need of 21st century India and reassured farmers that the Government "Mandis", the Government purchase of their produce, and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism will continue.

Opposition parties and some RSS-affiliated organisations have maintained that the Bills were tilted towards corporates vis-à-vis the small and marginal farmers, constituting over 85 per cent of the farmers in the country.

The PM, however, said that changes will help small farmers organise and get better price for their produce.

Attacking those opposing the Bills, the Prime Minister said a "clique" of people exploited farmers for long as they

remained in shackles of rules regulating the sale of their produce and stated that this needed to change, which his Government has done.

"After these historical changes in the agricultural sector, some people are losing their control of it. So now these people are trying to mislead farmers on MSP. They are the same people who sat for years on the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee on MSP," Modi said striking at the Congress without naming it.

Describing the legislations as "very historic", the Prime Minister said if somebody says that Government-regulated agriculture markets will be finished after these reforms, then he is "blatantly lying".

Noting that his Government had brought the farm Ordinances, which these legislations will replace, in June, he said farmers are already getting a better price by 15 to 20 per cent for their produce in several States.

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NCB likely to quiz actresses soon

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid the likelihood of Bollywood actresses Sara Ali Khan, Rakul Preet Singh and fashion designer Simone Khambatta being summoned by it for questioning later this week, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Monday questioned Suashant's talent manager Jaya Saha in connection with the ongoing drug case related to

actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

Meanwhile, a national TV channel reported that the NCB is likely to summon Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone after a few drug chats that came under NCB's scrutiny had mentions of individuals with initials "D" and "K".

Sushant's ex-manager Shruti Modi will also be questioned by the NCB officials on Tuesday.

India asks China to make first move for pullback

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The military-level talks between India and China resumed on Monday after six weeks to defuse the tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with both sides reaffirming the need for early disengagement and de-escalation.

India made it clear that pullback has to be from all the friction points in Ladakh, while the Chinese wanted the Indian Army to first vacate the heights on the south bank of the Pangong Tso (lake). The last round of parleys was held on August 2.

The Indian delegation was directed to insist that China has to make the first move of disengagement and New Delhi will then respond positively reducing its troop strength, sources said.

Given the complex and sensitive nature of the issue against the backdrop of the volatile situation at the border for the last four months, the two delegations decided to continue the dialogue. They also agreed to follow the five-point roadmap laid down by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. They had held a bilateral meeting on the LAC on September 10 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) in Moscow.

With these guidelines etched at the political level, the dialogue at the Moldo meeting point on the Chinese side in Chushul on Monday went a notch higher with diplomats also part of the Indian delegation. Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Minister Navin

Srivastava, who heads the Working Mechanism for Co-ordination and Co-operation (WMCC) for India-China border issue, along with an Inspector General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) participated in the parleys.

The Indian team was led by Lt General Harinder Singh and two Major Generals. Lt General PG Menon also attended the crucial meeting. He is likely to replace Harinder Singh after his tenure as Leh-based 14 Corps ends in another couple of weeks.

The Indian strategy for the latest round of military-diplomatic level talks was cleared by the China Study Group (CSG) last week. It was made clear China has to refrain from its aggressive actions to unilaterally change the LAC.

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Trainee pilot dies in Azamgarh plane crash

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A trainee pilot was killed when his aircraft crashed near Kushwapur village in Sarai Meer police station area of Azamgarh on Monday morning.

Officials suspect that bad weather led to the mishap.

The aircraft belonged to Central government-run Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udan Akademi (IGRUA) at Amethi. Azamgarh District Magistrate Rajesh Kumar said, "The plane took off around 10:30 am from a training institute and was being flown by a trainee pilot and he was the lone crew when the aircraft crashed around 11:30 am."

A senior police officer said that a native of Kushapur village said that the aircraft started losing height all of a sudden and broke into several pieces after crashing into the ground.

The deceased pilot was identified as Konark Saran from Palwal in Haryana.

A spokesperson for IGRUA, said, "Saran had 125 hours of flying experience as a trainee, including 52 hours of solo flying. He was a skilled trainee with a very good track record. Prima facie his aircraft got caught in dense CB (cumulonimbus) clouds, leading to the tragedy.

The official further said, "He was flying a four-seater SOCATA TB 20 aircraft with fully equipped avionics and related instruments. The incident is unfortunate and all due procedures are being carried out. A probe has already been ordered into the tragedy."

In a first, Navy deploys women on warships



Sub Lt Riti Singh and Sub Lt Kumudini Tyagi, the first women airborne tacticians who will operate from deck of warships, pose for pictures after they passed out of Indian Navy's Observer Course, at Southern Naval Command, Kochi on Monday

PTI

IAF training woman pilot to fly Rafale

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a historic move to provide equal opportunity to women officers, for the first time the Indian Navy has allowed deployment of women officers on warships. Till now, women were not given duties on sea-bound ships due to a variety of reasons, including lack of privacy and separate washrooms.

In another development, the IAF has started training a woman pilot for flying the newly-inducted five Rafale jets.

The force has already inducted ten women officers as fighter pilots to fly various planes like the Mig-21s.

As regards the Navy, Sub Lieutenant Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lieutenant Riti Singh will be the first women officers deployed on Navy warships as part of the ship's crew.

These two officers are training to operate a host of sensors onboard multi-role helicopters, including sonar consoles and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) payloads. Earlier, entry of women was restricted to the fixed wing aircraft that took off and landed ashore.

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Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 55,57,517

DEATHS: 88,943

RECOVERED:

44,92,134

ACTIVE: 9,75,643



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	12,08,642	32,671	8,84,341
Andhra Pradesh	6,31,749	5,410	5,51,821
Tamil Nadu	5,47,337	8,871	4,91,971
Karnataka	5,26,876	8,145	4,23,377
Uttar Pradesh	3,58,893	5,135	2,89,594
Delhi	2,49,259	5,014	2,13,304
West Bengal	2,28,302	4,421	1,98,983
Odisha	1,84,122	763	1,49,379
Telangana	1,72,608	1,042	1,41,930
Bihar	1,69,856	870	1,55,824
Assam	1,59,320	578	1,29,130
Kerala	1,38,633	554	98,720
Gujarat	1,24,767	3,337	1,05,191
Rajasthan	1,16,881	1,352	97,284
Haryana	1,13,075	1,177	90,884
Madhya Pradesh	1,05,644	1,970	81,374

Now is the time to come to UP: Yogi ...to industrialists and entrepreneurs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called upon industrialists, entrepreneurs and investors to invest in the state saying that now was the time to come to UP.

To buttress his statement, Yogi said that UP secured second slot in the country in Ease of Doing Business due to sustained efforts of the state government in the last three years. He said that his government had come a long way in transforming UP into an investor-friendly place, conducive to industrialisation with proactive measures in place.

Presiding over a meeting of high level empowered committee of Invest UP, formerly known as Udyog Bandhu, the chief minister said that his government had strived to develop infrastructure in terms of power, road, communication, transport and efficient law and order and UP was now on the path of releasing its much-cherished dream of attaining one trillion dollar economy status.

"It was the government's goodwill coupled with tangible facilities that led to the signing of MoUs worth Rs 4.28 lakh crore during UP Investors' Summit in 2018. MoUs worth Rs 2 lakh crore have already actualised and the government has received over 50 investment proposals worth over Rs 7,000 crore from investors of 10 countries," Yogi said.

Aimed at attracting and promoting investment in the state, Invest UP would provide all facilities to investors, removing obstacles in setting up units here.

The chief minister said that Nivesh Mitra, which provides 146 services, was quite successful with a track record of 98 per cent redressal of grievances of investors and entrepreneurs.

He said that UP had a ready land bank of 20,000 acres on which industries could be set up and the state government was coming up with a comprehensive

...interacts with representatives of industry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath while presiding over the meeting of Invest UP also interacted with the representatives of industry through video conferencing.

The representatives from FICCI, CII, Northern Region, PHDCCI, IIA, Trade Promotion Council of India, and Laghu Udyog Bharti participated in the meeting.

The chief minister announced that the application for land use change from agriculture to industrial would be disposed of within 90 days by the Housing and Urban Development department. He said the fee for the land use change had also been reduced from 35 per cent of the circle rate to 20 per cent. He said the actual fee on the large plots of land would be only 14 per cent.

The chief minister said the industrial units located in rural areas would be exempted from double taxation as 60 per cent of the total tax collected by the district panchayat would be spent on the maintenance of the industrial areas.

Reiterating his commitment to making UP the most favoured



destination for investors, the chief minister said a new industrial estate would be developed in Meerut on the land of the closed spinning mill.

He directed the district magistrates to hold meeting of the Udyog Bandhu every month for redressal of the grievances of the entrepreneurs at the local level.

The chief minister also directed the divisional commissioners to hold meeting of the Udyog Bandhu every second month. He said all the issues related to urban development

authorities, UP Housing and Development Board should also be addressed at the local, level.

Representatives of the industry who participated in the meeting included FICCI President Dr Sangita Reddy, CII, Northern Region Chairman Nikhil Sawhney, PHDCCI President DK Agarwal, IIA President Pankaj Kumar, Trade Promotion Council of India Chairman Mohit Singh, Sharad Kumar Sarraf from Trade Promotion Council of India and Laghu Udyog Bharti President Baldev Bhai Prajapati.

land policy besides formulating new pharma policy and data policy. Yogi said that defence and aerospace, warehousing, data centres, electrical vehicles and pharma sector were some of the emerging investment centres in UP.

"The government's ambitious project of defence manufacturing corridor has potentially promised an investment of Rs 50,000 crore in the next two years and offers a good investment opportunity. Also the revised MSME Policy and Start-up Policy has provided fillip to the growth potential of the state,"

the chief minister said.

Yogi said that the government had also implemented 186 of 187 reforms proposed in the action plan of Union Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade in 20 departments of the state.

Speaking on infrastructure, the chief minister said that UP was going to have a large network of expressways criss-crossing the state and referred to the 340-km Purvanchal Expressway from Lucknow to Ghazipur, the 290-km Bundelkhand Expressway linking Chitrakoot to Agra-Lucknow Expressway,

the 90-km Gorakhpur Link Expressway and the 170-km Prayagraj Link Expressway.

Yogi also said that his government also decided to construct a 600-km Ganga Expressway from Prayagraj to the National Capital Region through Haridoi, Shahjahanpur, Kannauj and Meerut. He said it would be the longest expressway of the country.

The meeting was attended by Minister for MSME, Export Promotion, Sidharth Nath Singh, Chief Secretary RK Tiwari and several additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries.

UP to add 7,260 MW power generation by 2022: Sharma

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government will increase its own power generation by adding 7,260 megawatt by 2022 through commencement of new thermal power units. Around 1,320 MW of power would be added within this year.

Energy Minister Shrikant Sharma, after reviewing the performance of the UP Thermal Power Generation Corporation, said after the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in the state in 2017, efforts were made to increase the power generation and ensure adequate supply of electricity to consumers.

"The two units (660 MW) of Meja thermal power station in Prayagraj district are being constructed jointly by UP government and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). The first unit was completed last year in April and the second unit is likely to be commissioned in October. The total cost of this project is around Rs 12,176 crore," he said.

The first unit of 660 MW thermal power station of Harduaganj would be commissioned by December next. The government is spending Rs 6011.83 crore on it.

Besides, two units of 660 MW under construction at Obra-C thermal power station at a cost of Rs 10,416 crore would be completed by March, 2022. The two 660 MW units of the Jawaharpur thermal power station, being constructed at a cost of Rs 10,566 crore, would also be completed by March, 2022.



The minister said the construction work of the new thermal plant at Panki in Kanpur at a cost of Rs 5,816.70 crore would also be completed by December, 2021.

Besides, the three thermal power units of UP government and NLC joint venture unit at Ghatampur will also start generating electricity by May, 2022. The total cost of the Ghatampur thermal power plant is Rs 17,237 crore and it would generate 1,980 MW electricity.

After completion of these projects, the total power generation of the state through thermal power station will increase to 12,734 MW which includes 9,434 MW from the state-owned units and 3,300 MW from the joint venture units.

Sharma said the government was very concerned about the environmental aspect of the power plants and all the power stations in the state had cleared the norms. In most of the power units, FGZ plants are being installed as per the norms of the Environment department.

Man rips open wife's belly ...to ascertain gender of foetus, arrested

Lucknow (PNS): In a horrendous incident, a man ripped open his pregnant wife's belly to ascertain the gender of the foetus in Budaun on Sunday.

After an initial probe, the police said that the man, a father of five girls, wanted a son.

As per reports, daily wageer Pannalal returned to his Nekpur locality home in Civil Line police station area late Sunday evening. An inebriated Pannalal soon got

into an argument with his wife and slit open her belly with a sharp-edged weapon to find out the gender of the foetus.

While the foetus was untimely terminated, the seriously injured woman was rushed to district hospital by her neighbours. She was later referred to a Bareilly hospital in a serious condition.

The police were trying to determine the motive of the crime. An FIR was registered and the man was arrested.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE
I have changed my name from Anif Ahmad to Mo. Anif. Mo. Anif S/o Sufi Aftab Ahmad, R/o B-99, Baba Nagar Sufi Sahab Ka Makan, Machariya, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur.

NOTICE
I Mohammad Rizwan S/o Saddiq Ahmad, R/o 2, Usman Road, Sadar, Cantt, Lucknow hereby declared that I have changed my son name from Mohd Suab to Mohd Suyeb for all future purposes.

NOTICE
This is to inform that the name of my wife Pratibha Mishra is mis-spelt / wrong in my service record. Her correct name is Pratibha Mishra. Vikas Mishra, Army no. 15344247M. Rank HAV. Address : G/P Ambara Pashchim, Dist. Raebareilly (UP).

NOTICE
I, Suketi Singh Rathore daughter of Dheerendra Kumar Singh Rathore, resident of 5/36, Viraj Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, have changed my name from Suketi Singh Rathore to Suketi Rathore vide affidavit dated 17/09/2020 before District and Session Court, Lucknow.

आवश्यकता
आवश्यकता है
पुष्पा सिंह विधि महाविद्यालय बेरोई बुनार सिर्जापुर उत्तर प्रदेश सम्बद्ध: महामा गांधी कशी विद्यापीठ वाराणसी। स्ववित्तपोषित योजनान्तर्गत विधि संकाय में प्राचार्य एवं प्रवक्तृओं की आवश्यकता है योग्यता यूजीसीसीए एवं बीओसीआई परिनिष्ठावली के अनुसार इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी 21 दिन के अंदर सभी शैक्षिक प्रमाण पत्रों एवं फोटो सहित महाविद्यालय के पते पर आवेदन करें
संपर्क सूत्र: प्रबंधक 9415085950, 7355365236

Taj unlocked after six months of lockdown

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Six months after restrictions were imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Taj Mahal was opened for tourists under strict guidelines of social distancing and using of facial masks.

"Taj Mahal and other historic monuments in Agra opened today after six months of closure due to the pandemic. In the initial hours, tourists inflow to the Monument of Love was low but we are expecting an encouraging footfall in a week," Agra's District Magistrate Prabhu N Singh told this reporter over phone on Monday afternoon.

The white marble architectural marvel was closed in March after lockdown was imposed across the country to slow down the spread of novel coronavirus. With the government deciding to Unlock various sectors, there was demand from tourism industry to open the Taj Mahal along with other monuments like Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri.

"A maximum of 5,000 visitors will be allowed entry in two shifts a day. Not more



than five persons will be allowed inside the mausoleum which has graves of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz," Singh said.

"Tourists will go through thermal checking at the main gate and also get their hands sanitised. An ambulance would be available for the tourists for emergency," the official said.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) official AN Gupta said that the majestic sheen of the monument was ensured during lockdown along with manicuring of the sprawling lawns.

"Now, we are ready to welcome tourists with Covid guidelines. The visitors have been asked not to touch railings and dispose of tissue papers, gloves and used masks in dustbins only," Gupta said.

"The gates of the monument were opened at 6:30 am but only a handful of visitors made their way in. We did not expect a large crowd today. But the opening of Taj Mahal is a big event not only for tourism but also for local businessmen," Gupta said.

Taj Mahal has attracted tourists from across the globe. Many dignitaries too visit this monument of love during their visits to India. The last dignitary to visit the monument was US President Donald Trump and wife in February this year.

Emperor Shah Jahan had Taj Mahal built between 1632 and 1654 for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, after her death. He also planned on being buried next to her and the complex house their graves and a mosque, along with several other graves of lesser Mughal royalty. The stunning monument is India's biggest tourist draw and registers about three million visitors each year.

Teenaged girl torched by rivals over land, critical

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An 18-year-old girl was critically injured after rivals tried to burn her alive over a property-related dispute in Sultanpur, while two minor girls, supposedly lesbians, were found hanging from a tree in Bahraich.

In Sultanpur, Shradhdha Singh (18) of Tadrasa hamlet of Baldirai suffered 80 per cent burns after Jaikaran, Subhash and Mahantey of Parsauli hamlet gagged and tied her and doused her in kerosene before torching her alive on Monday morning.

Shradhdha was alone at home and was filling water from a hand pump when she was attacked by the assailants over a property-related dispute. She was rescued by her neighbours and rushed to the district hospital. Later, she was referred to the Trauma Centre of KGMU in Lucknow for specialised treatment.

The police said that Shradhdha's father Pradeep Singh and Jaikaran had a property-

related dispute and both parties came to a head on June 2, resulting in injuries to several people from both sides. Jaikaran's kin Kunwar was critically injured and died at a Lucknow hospital after which Pradeep Singh and his aides were jailed.

The police are yet to receive any complaint as the victim was shifted to Lucknow from the district hospital in Sultanpur. Monday's attack was being perceived by the police as an act of vendetta to avenge the death of Kunwar Singh by Jaikaran.

Elsewhere in Bahraich, the bodies of two girls, Prema (17) and Lakshmi (15), were found hanging from a tree in Loniyanpur hamlet of Ramgaon on Monday morning. The girls were reported to be intimate with each other and could be seen in each other's company at home and in the fields. Locals claimed that their families were opposed to their liaison and had tried to stop them from meeting.

It appeared that upset with their kin, the two disappeared on

Sunday morning and later ended their lives. The bodies were sent for autopsy and investigations were on.

Meanwhile in Pratapgarh, seven cops, including a SHO, were attached to the Reserve Police Lines on Monday after the death of an elderly man during a raid in Babu Tara village of Lalgaon.

The Lalgaon police raided the house of Maqbool (60) and nabbed him around 1 am on Saturday. In the meantime, Maqbool's health deteriorated and the police returned after leaving him home. But soon after the team left, Maqbool died.

His family alleged that the raiding police team assaulted him due to which the elderly man died. Seven cops, including Lalgaon police station in-charge Pramod Kumar, were attached to the Reserve Police Lines.

Enraged over the incident, the kin and locals created a ruckus at the morgue. The family demanded that a case be filed against the guilty cops.

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Sl. No.	Name of the Account/Branch	Name of the Guarantors	Description of the Properties Mortgaged	Amount Demanded in the Notice/Notice Date
1.	M/s Arvind Kumar Prop.: Shri Arvind Kumar Branch: Panwari Ph. No. 05281-242468	Shri Arvind Kumar Agarwal S/o Late Vrindavan Agarwal	All that part and parcel of the property Main Market, Near Sabji Mandi, Mauja Panwari, Tehsil: Kulpahar, Mahoba, (U.P.) (Sale deed Registered at S.R.O. Kulpahar, Date 17.02.1988, Bahi No. 1, Khand No. 66 on the page No. 318 to 319 as Deed No. 224) Area: 450 Sq. ft, Boundary: East: Masjid West: Way followed by House of Shri Pradeep Agrawal North: House of Shri Govind Das South: Shop of Shri Kalu Ram	Rs. 34,58,193.00 Date: 27.08.2020
2.	M/s Suman Enterprises Prop.: Smt. Suman Sharma Branch: Panwari Ph. No. 05281-242468	Smt. Suman Sharma W/o Sn Vinay Sharma	Equitable Mortgage of Plot with Gata No. 600, Situated at Mauja Panwari, Tehsil: Kulpahar, Distt. Mahoba, (U.P.) (North to South: 40 Ft., East to West: 20 ft. (Sale deed Registered at S.R.O. Kulpahar, Date 21.08.2017, Bahi No. 1, Khand No.2065 on the page No. 297 to 334 as Deed No. 2350) Area: 80 Sq. ft, Boundary: East: Land of Seller West: Plot of Charan Singh North: Common Road 12 ft. South: Common Road 10 ft.	Rs. 10,72,030.00 Date: 07.02.2020

Place : Panwari, Mahoba, Dated : 21.09.2020 Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Positivity rate of city highest in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Positivity rate of Lucknow is much lower than that of other metropolitan cities, a senior official at the Health department said. The positivity rate of Lucknow is 12.4 per cent but it is lower as compared to other metropolitan cities which have a positivity rate as high as 18-20 per cent. However, it is still the highest in Uttar Pradesh.

The positivity rate is the number of persons testing positive for every 100 Covid tests conducted. The official said that the infectivity rate of Lucknow — the number of persons getting infected by a Covid patient — is also low. “Through contact tracing, we are coming to know that the number of persons infected is less as compared to the metros where number of people infected by one Covid patient is more,” he added.

Regarding the strategy to battle coronavirus, he said there was no major change in the containment strategy. “We are focusing on robust contact tracing and trying to get maximum people traced under contact surveillance,” he said, adding that they had already started noticing a downward trend in some of the districts across the state.

However, he pointed out that Lucknow is not showing any downward trend as far as the number of coronavirus cases is concerned. “We are augmenting the number of beds and carrying out focused

1,037 more patients detected

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The surge in cases continued as 1,037 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 in Lucknow on Monday. However, 1,114 were discharged after they completely recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 36,826. The death toll stands at 604 even as there are 9,746 active cases in the district.

On Monday, there were 15 deaths across the city and eight of the deceased belonged to Lucknow while others from other districts like Sultanpur, Gonda, Jaunpur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur and Deoria.

A senior official at the CMO office said those who tested positive in the city included 72 from Gomtinagar,

59 from Indiranagar, 53 from Chinhat, 41 from Talkatora, 37 from Chowk 39 from Hazratganj, 34 from Ashiyana, 32 from Alambagh, 33 from Aliganj, 30 from Rae Bareilly road, 26 from Cantt, 24 from Krishnanagar, 23 each from Jankipuram & Vikasnagar, 21 each from Sarojininar & Vrindavan Yojana, 19 each from Madaon & Thakurganj, 18 from Telibagh, 16 from Mahanagar, 17 from Gomtinagar Extension, 16 from Vibhuti Khand, 15 from Naka, 14 from Bazaarkhala, 13 from Gudamba and 12 from Hasanganj.

Four Covid-19 patients succumbed at KGMU, including a 34-year-old woman from Chowk, a 65-year-old woman from Lakhimpur Kheri, a 47-year-old man from Aliganj

and a 57 year old woman from Jankipuram.

Across the state, 4,703 persons tested Covid positive, including 295 in Kanpur, 329 in Prayagraj, 105 in Gorakhpur, 169 in Ghaziabad, 184 in Varanasi and 102 in Bareilly, taking the total number of cases to 3,58,893.

There were 88 deaths across the state, including nine in Kanpur, five each in Meerut & Gorakhpur, four in Prayagraj, three each from Saharanpur & Rae Bareilly, two each from Varanasi, Amroha, Ballia, Mathura, Kaushambi, Basti & Pilibhit and one each in Agra, Hardoi, Muzaffarnagar, Ghazipur, Sitapur, Unnao, Siddharthnagar, Chandauli, Badaun, Ferozabad, Kannauj and Lalitpur.

phobia and depression. The maximum complaints are of weakness and there is a high level of phobia of the disease. These patients are referred to respective OPDs. However, there is no count of these patients since the whole focus is on the number of recoveries and deaths,” he added.

Former head of Plastic Surgery department, KGMU, AK Singh said there has been a drop by 70 per cent in the number of patients coming during the pandemic.

“There are several reasons: first, we are not running the regular OPD; and second, there is a fear among people coming to the hospitals. Third, if there is no pain, people are avoiding surgeries; and fourth, income of people has dropped and some surgeries which go with affluence are also not being performed,” he explained.

Meanwhile, drug inspector Brijesh Pathak said the sale of pulse oximeters has increased by 50 per cent with home isolation cases increasing in the district. The sales of thermal scanners has also increased but it is less than that of pulse oximeters,” he added.

It may be noted that there are government directives for installation of oximeters at public places so that people want to check their oxygen levels. President of Adarsh Vyapar Mandal Sanjay Gupta said 85 per cent of the major showrooms are keeping oximeters, as per instructions of the district administration.

Couple being brought by police from Bareilly consume poison

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A couple being brought to Lucknow from Bareilly consumed some poisonous substance on the way on Monday. The escorting team rushed them to KGMU Trauma Centre where both were declared brought dead. Police said they were bringing the couple to Lucknow as the woman had to be produced before a since her mother had lodged a case of kidnapping. The deceased were identified as Vikas Soni (34) of New Premnagar in Krishnanagar while the girl as Parul Rawat of Thakurganj.

As per reports, Vikas and Parul had eloped a few months ago and got married against the wishes of their families. They were staying in Bareilly. After the woman went missing, her mother lodged a case but police sat on it. She moved court, after which the Krishna Nagar police were directed to recover the woman and present her before the court.

Krishnanagar SHO DK Upadhyay said a police team traced the couple's location in Bareilly and a team was dispatched to the district to bring the couple to Lucknow. “The police team was in a private vehicle with the woman's brother and her brother-in-law. When the woman was asked to go along with the police team as the court had

Asked if the couple were in custody, the Krishnanagar police said they were following court's order. The police said the couple went inside their room in Bareilly to change their clothes and consumed poisonous substance in the meantime

summoned her to get her statement recorded, she said she would not move without Vikas and thus he was also allowed to travel with the police team,” the SHO said. On the way, the woman started vomiting. After a while, Vikas also started vomiting. “When asked by the police, the woman said they consumed poisonous substance as they wanted to live and die together,” he added.

The police team rushed the couple to KGMU Trauma Centre where the couple were declared brought dead.

Asked if the couple were in custody, the Krishnanagar police said they were following court's order. The police said the couple went inside their room in Bareilly to change their clothes and consumed poisonous substance in the meantime.

Sources said there were no female cops in the team that had gone to bring the woman back to Lucknow. “That the couple consumed poison

while changing their clothes is a lame excuse. They should have been taken for a medical check-up,” the sources said.

The police explained that Vikas was named in sections 498 and 506 (Enticing or taking away or detaining with criminal intent a married woman), which is a cognisable offence and police can investigate only after court's instructions, and the accused cannot be arrested without a warrant which was not issued by court. The police explained that the team consisted of a sub-inspector and a constable and it was evident that they had no intention to arrest the couple. The police said their relatives had asked them to come along.

“The couple went inside their house to take their clothes and ate some poisonous substance, three tablets of which were recovered from the house during a search by police. The search operation was videographed,” the police explained.



Social distancing guidelines apparently being flouted at a hospital on Monday

Pioneer

2 jail inmates infected with coronavirus succumb

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Death of two jail inmates, who had tested positive for coronavirus, created a flutter on Monday. Jail officials confirmed that both the inmates had tested Covid positive. However, they said the cause of death was yet to be ascertained. As per reports, Amit Gautam (30) died at Balrampur hospital on September 18 while Bachcha Yadav aka Rakesh Yadav (42) at Lok Bandhu Hospital on Monday.

The PRO of DG, Prison, confirmed that two sick jail inmates died. “Both were found to be suffering from serious ailments and they tested positive for coronavirus,” he said.

Sources opined that the jail inmates had co-morbidities which made matters worse for them. Since the autopsy report of both is yet to be obtained, the cause of death is still not known, the sources said.

Apollo Medics Covid Hospital inaugurated

Lucknow (PNS): The Chief Secretary inaugurated Apollo Medics Covid Hospital on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, he said doctors were doing a commendable job as frontline workers in the battle against

coronavirus. He said the new Covid facility was set up in five days under a high-end water proof German Hanger and critical Covid-19 patients would be taken care of there. He said the manner in which the coron-

avirus cases were increasing, it was important to create this kind of facility. He said doctors should take care of themselves even as they fight the virus.

He added that the Covid-19 patients' bodies should be hand-

led over to their relatives within an hour. The hospital will be providing quality care. It has ventilator, dialysis and isolation beds. Also present on the occasion were DM Abhishek Prakash and other senior officials.

3 gun-runners land in STF net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

STF sleuths claimed to have nabbed three gun-runners, identified as Vinay Kumar, Aditya Kumar Vaishya and Banshi Thakur (all of Ferozabad), near Indira canal in Chinhat on Monday. The team recovered four pistols (each of .32 bore), eight magazines (each of .32 bore), two mobile phones, two Aadhaar cards, a PAN card and Rs 1,030 in cash.

According to an official communiqué, the STF was working on an inter-state gang of gun-runners. On Monday, the STF got a tip-off about the miscreants who were carrying a consignment of illegal weapons manufactured in Munger district of Bihar. They laid a trap and nabbed the accused, who owned up their crime and disclosed

that they had set up a network for supply of illegal pistols manufactured by a person, identified as Babu of Munger, Bihar. The accused disclosed that they used to sell 25-30 pistols costing Rs 25,000-30,000 each. The cost of manufacturing a pistol is Rs 10,000, as per the accused. The STF shared the information with Chinhat police who are working making further investigations.

Sources said the gun-runners were active in the city for a long time. “In the murder of a Hasanganj resident, Ashutosh Trivedi, accused Jai Singh had allegedly used an illegal pistol. The police were probing from where he got the pistol and sought opinion of ballistic experts. “If it is proved that Jai Singh used an illegal pistol, it is clear that he got the same from some gun-runner,” the sources said.

First time in 100 years, no Aishbagh Ramlila due to corona pandemic

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

It is after a hundred years that the oldest Ramlila (of Aishbagh) will not be staged this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Aditya Dwivedi from Aishbagh Ramlila Samiti said though basic puja rituals would be performed and the effigy of Ravan set on fire in the absence of general public, Ramlila would not be staged. The staging of Ramlila would have traditionally started on October 17.

Aishbagh Ramlila, which was started during the time of Tulsidas by sadhus who did not travel during rains and collect in Aishbagh ground to perform Ramlila, which is being staged for the past several years.

“Since then, Ramlila has been regularly performed with-

out a break, except for the time of pandemic (plague) a hundred years ago, and only the puja rituals were performed. We have decided not to stage Ramlila this year because of the coronavirus pandemic,” he said.

He added that Ramlila cannot be staged because of the various fight sequences and crowds required for the staging. However, we will perform puja, Ram janam, Ramabhishek and Ravan dahan with no crowd presence,” he said. He added that they would keep end of corona as the theme of Ravan dahan and hope it eliminates the disease. The Aishbagh Ramlila has been a big favourite with great personalities having visited the Aishbagh ground. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has visited the Ramlila many times and his last visit was in

2019. “Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Aishbagh Ramlila in 2016 and there have been many dignitaries visiting it in the past. President Ram Nath Kovind visited us even before he became the president of India,” he said. He added that several artists have performed at Aishbagh Ramlila as they always look forward to it. “It is a labour of love for them and they do not do it for money,” Dwivedi said.

Aishbagh Ramlila Samiti members said people in large number would come to witness the show. “We made it specifically interesting for them and added things which are not found on the small screen. After a scene was enacted, we would give out details for the general public,” a member said.

14-year-old domestic help found hanging in employer's house

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 14-year-old domestic help was found hanging at her employer's house under mysterious circumstances in Gomtinagar Extension police station area on Monday.

As per reports, the girl, who was a resident of Ujariara, was hired by Shashank Pathak of Gomti Nagar Extension (Sector-6) to mop the floor. Police said the girl reached Pathak's house on Monday morning and later ended her life.

A police spokesman said the girl was found hanging from the ceiling of a room with a dupatta tied around her neck. He said Pathak was not home and the incident came to light when other workers reached there. The father of the victim worked at a hotel. The case is being investigated by a sub-inspector.

The police said they would probe how a minor girl was employed as a maid. However, the police ruled out the possibility of foul play but said they were waiting for the autopsy report.

In another incident, a 30-year-old woman, identified as Shanno, ended her life at her house in Gosainganj police station area on Monday morning. Reports said Shanno lived with her husband Ramu in

Gauriya Kala village of the area. Their niece Shivani was staying with the couple and their children.

On Monday morning, Ramu left for the market to purchase fish for lunch and when he returned, he came to know about the incident. Shanno was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around her neck. Police said Shanno got married 13 years back, scotching speculations that the woman was being harassed for dowry or facing domestic violence.

Meanwhile, a woman alleged that a relatives of her husband blackmailed her after he filmed her while taking a bath at her house in Gudamba. In her complaint, she said her husband was out of town when the accused visited the house to stay with them.

“The accused made a video of me while bathing and then started blackmailing me to get money. I had to sell all my ornaments to give him money. However, the accused still showed the video to my husband, making him doubt my character. He left for Mumbai and later divorced me. When I sought an explanation from my husband, he sent me the video,” she told the police. She added that when she confronted the accused, he threatened to chop off her legs.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India		शाखा स्वल्प नगर : 7/135, मन्दाकिनी लाना, स्वल्प नगर, कानपुर
अन्धारा Andhra		क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय : 117/H-1/240, पाण्डुरा, कानपुर
प्रधान कार्यालय : 239, विधान भवन मार्ग, नारीमन प्लांट, मुंबई		
कच्चा सूचना (अचल सम्पत्तियों हेतु) [Rule-8(1)]		
जैसा कि अधोस्तावकी वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के तहत यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया का प्राधिकृत अधिकारी होते हुये और उक्त अधिनियम की धारा-13 (12) सपष्टित प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) नियम 2002 का नियम-3 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए मांग सूचना अन्तर्गत धारा 13 (2) निम्न खाता धारकों आदि को जारी किया गया था, जिसमें नोटिस प्राप्त के 60 दिवस के भीतर देय राशि के अवयवों की अपेक्षा की गयी थी।		
ऋणी उपरोक्तानुसार अवयवों में विफल रहे हैं फलस्वरूप ऋणी एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अधोस्तावकी ने उक्त अधिनियम की उपधारा (4) धारा 13 सपष्टित नियम -8 के तहत प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) अधिनियम 2002, में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए निम्नलिखित बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों पर निम्नलिखित विनांकों को कच्चा ले लिया गया है। ऋणी एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सावधान किया जाता है कि, बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों से किसी प्रकार का समव्यवहार न करे। कोई भी समव्यवहार यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया, के ऋण रुपये एवं उस पर अनुबंधित दर पर लागू ब्याज आदि के भार के अधीन होगा।		
ऋणी का ध्यान बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों को मुक्त कराने हेतु उपलब्ध निषेध के संदर्भ में अधिनियम की उपधारा (8) धारा-13 की ओर भी आकर्षित किया जाता है।		
क्र. बकायेदार/जमानतदार का नाम/पता व बंधक सम्पत्ति/सम्पत्ति मालिक एवं मांग सूचना तिथि/प्रलक्षित कच्चा तिथि/बकाया धनराशि		
1. बकायेदार : श्री शैलेन्द्र दुबे एवं श्रीमती अल्का दुबे, दोनों निवासी : मकान सं. 811, ब्लाक-एफ, सुन्दर नगर, पनकी, कानपुर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 06.12.2019, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 17.09.2020 मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 10,32,264.80 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्च बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : आवासीय मकान सं. 811, ब्लाक-एफ, सुन्दर नगर, पनकी, जिला-कानपुर नगर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्रीमती अल्का दुबे, निवासी : मकान सं. 811, ब्लाक-एफ, सुन्दर नगर, पनकी, कानपुर। क्षेत्रफल : 66.88 वर्गमीटर, चौड़ाई : उत्तर : मकान सं. 810, दक्षिण : 3 मीटर रोड, पूरब : मकान सं. 805, पश्चिम : 3 मीटर रोड।		
2. बकायेदार : श्री अवधेश कुमार मिश्रा एवं श्रीमती सुधा मिश्रा, दोनों निवासी : मकान सं. 117/214, पी-ब्लाक, हितकारी नगर, काकादेव, कानपुर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 06.07.2019, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 17.09.2020 मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 17,75,446.93 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्च बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : आवासीय मकान स्थित आराजी सं. 366 (हिस्सा), विनायकपुर, जिला-कानपुर नगर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्री अवधेश कुमार मिश्रा, निवासी : मकान सं. 117/214, पी-ब्लाक, हितकारी नगर, काकादेव, कानपुर। क्षेत्रफल : 83.61 वर्गमीटर, चौड़ाई : उत्तर : श्रीमती राखी शुक्ला का प्लाट, दक्षिण : प्रमोद सिंह का प्लाट, पूरब : विनोद कुमार का मकान, पश्चिम : 9.14 मीटर रोड।		
3. बकायेदार : श्रीमती पुष्पा पाण्डेय पत्नी श्री रमकान्त पाण्डेय एवं श्री सत्यम् कुमार पाण्डेय, दोनों निवासी : मकान सं. 113, ई-504, ब्लाक-ई, शताब्दी नगर, रतनपुर विस्तार, कानपुर नगर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 09.08.2019, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 17.09.2020 मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 12,83,163.72 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्च बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : आवासीय मकान स्थित प्लाट सं. 113, ई-504, ब्लाक-ई, शताब्दी नगर, रतनपुर विस्तार, कानपुर नगर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्रीमती पुष्पा पाण्डेय पत्नी श्री रमकान्त पाण्डेय, निवासी : मकान सं. 16/22, पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कालोनी, स्थित लाइन्स, कानपुर एवं इसके अलावा मकान सं. 113, ई-504, ब्लाक-ई, शताब्दी नगर, रतनपुर विस्तार, कानपुर नगर। क्षेत्रफल : 30 वर्गमीटर, चौड़ाई : उत्तर : प्लाट सं. सी-107, दक्षिण : 6 मीटर रोड, पूरब : प्लाट सं. ई-503, पश्चिम : प्लाट सं. ई-505।		
4. बकायेदार : श्री सुनील कुमार रमानी एवं श्रीमती वर्षा रमानी, दोनों निवासी : मकान सं. 1/5, एम.पी., एम.आई.जी. दबौली, रतनलाल नगर, कानपुर। जमानतदार : श्री अनिल रमानी, निवासी : मकान सं. 1/5, एम.पी., एम.आई.जी. दबौली, रतनलाल नगर, कानपुर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 11.03.2020, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 18.09.2020 मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 14,36,878.39 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्च बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : मकान निर्मित प्राइवेट प्लाट सं. 17 स्थित आराजी सं. 56 पर, ग्राम-मर्दनपुर, जिला-कानपुर नगर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्री सुनील कुमार रमानी पुत्र स्व. हरदास मल रमानी पाण्डेय, निवासी : मकान सं. 1/5, एम.पी., एम.आई.जी. दबौली, रतनलाल नगर, कानपुर। क्षेत्रफल : 167.22 वर्गमीटर, चौड़ाई : उत्तर : अन्य भूमि, दक्षिण : 20 फीट प्रस्तावित सड़क, पूरब : प्राइवेट प्लाट सं. 16, पश्चिम : प्राइवेट प्लाट सं. 18।		
5. बकायेदार : श्री मनीष कटियार एवं श्रीमती प्रभा देवी, दोनों निवासी : मकान सं. 58, एल.आई.जी.-1, ब्लाक-सी, बरौ-8, कानपुर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 07.01.2020, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 18.09.2020 मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 5,46,204.00 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्च बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : मकान निर्मित प्लाट सं. 58 पर, ब्लाक एल.आई.जी.-1, बरौ (यू.पी.यू.डी.पी.), कानपुर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्रीमती प्रभा देवी पत्नी श्री प्रभु दयाल कटियार, निवासी : मकान सं. 58, एल.आई.जी.-1, ब्लाक-सी, बरौ-8, कानपुर। क्षेत्रफल : 42.19 वर्गमीटर, चौड़ाई : उत्तर : प्लाट सं. 59, दक्षिण : प्लाट सं. 57, पूरब : प्लाट सं. 61, पश्चिम : 2.50 मीटर रोड।		
6. बकायेदार : श्री कमलेश मिश्रा एवं श्रीमती सुनीता मिश्रा, दोनों निवासी : प्लाट सं. 69, योजना सं. 2, आराजी सं. 953 का हिस्सा, देहली सुजानपुर, कानपुर। क्षेत्रफल : श्री शोभित कुमार विप्रादी, निवासी : मकान सं. 130/2, न्यू लेबर कालोनी, कानपुर नगर-208022 मांग सूचना तिथि : 05.10.2019, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 18.09.2020 मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 18,43,454.74 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्च बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : मकान निर्मित प्लाट सं. 69 पर, आराजी सं. 953 के हिस्से पर स्थित योजना सं. 2, देहली सुजानपुर, जिला-कानपुर नगर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्री कमलेश मिश्रा एवं श्रीमती सुनीता मिश्रा, दोनों निवासी : प्लाट सं. 69, योजना सं. 2, आराजी सं. 953 का हिस्सा, देहली सुजानपुर, कानपुर। क्षेत्रफल : 83.61 वर्गमीटर, चौड़ाई : उत्तर : 12.19 मीटर चौड़ी सड़क, दक्षिण : प्लाट सं. 68, पूरब : प्लाट सं. 51, पश्चिम : प्लाट का हिस्सा।		
7. बकायेदार : श्रीमती विन्नु माला सिंह एवं श्रीमती भावना सिंह, दोनों निवासी : मकान सं. 117/152 क्यू, शारदा नगर, कानपुर। जमानतदार : (1) श्री जगदीश चन्द्र, निवासी : एम.आई.जी. 335, कैलाश विहार, कल्याणपुर, कानपुर (2) श्री मनीष कुमार सिंह, निवासी : 117/152 क्यू, शारदा नगर, कानपुर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 06.05.2019, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 19.09.2020 मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 20,12,417.96 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्च बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : आवासीय मकान सं. 117/क्यू/152, आराजी सं. 143 का हिस्सा, स्थित शारदा नगर, कानपुर नगर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्रीमती विन्नु माला सिंह व श्रीमती भावना सिंह एवं श्रीमती मनीष कुमार सिंह, समस्त निवासी : मकान सं. 117/152 क्यू, शारदा नगर, कानपुर। क्षेत्रफल : 167.22 वर्गमीटर, चौड़ाई : उत्तर : आराजी सं. 143 का हिस्सा, दक्षिण : गुलाबी का प्लाट (राम चन्द्र गुप्ता), पूरब : आराजी सं. 143 का हिस्सा, पश्चिम : 40 फीट रोड।		
8. बकायेदार : श्रीमती रजनी देवी तिवारी पत्नी श्री दयाशंकर तिवारी, निवासी : मकान सं. ई/552/876, ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. ब्लाक, रतनपुर, पनकी, कानपुर एवं इसके अलावा मकान सं. 456/876, ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. रतनपुर कालोनी, पनकी, कानपुर। जमानतदार : श्री दयाशंकर तिवारी, निवासी : मकान सं. ई/552/876, ब्लाक ई.डब्ल्यू.एस., योजना रतनपुर, पनकी, कानपुर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 11.03.2020, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 19.09.2020 मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 7,76,967.50 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्च बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : आवासीय भूमि व भवन स्थित प्लाट सं. ई/552/876, ब्लाक ई.डब्ल्यू.एस., योजना रतनपुर, पनकी, जिला-कानपुर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्रीमती रजनी देवी पुत्री श्री कृष्ण पाण्डेय, निवासी : मकान सं. ई/552/876, योजना रतनपुर, पनकी, कानपुर। क्षेत्रफल : 49.01 वर्गमीटर, चौड़ाई : उत्तर : 18 मीटर चौड़ी रोड, दक्षिण : मकान सं. 457, पूरब : मकान सं. 551, पश्चिम : 12 मीटर चौड़ी रोड।		
9. बकायेदार : श्री जयवीर सिंह एवं श्रीमती सरोज यादव, दोनों निवासी : प्लाट सं. 48, कालोनी सं. 3, सेक्टर-च, पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. को-ऑपरेटिव हाउसिंग सोसायटी, आराजी सं. 178, नई बस्ती, मिर्जापुर, कानपुर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 19.02.2020, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 19.09.2020 मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 4,25,461.76 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्च बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : प्राइवेट प्लाट सं. 48 पर, आराजी सं. 178, कालोनी सं. 3, सेक्टर-च, मौजा मिर्जापुर, जिला-कानपुर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्रीमती सरोज यादव पत्नी श्री जयवीर सिंह, निवासी : प्लाट सं. 48, कालोनी सं. 3, सेक्टर-च, पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. को-ऑपरेटिव हाउसिंग सोसायटी, आराजी सं. 178, नई बस्ती, मिर्जापुर, कानपुर। क्षेत्रफल : 83.61 वर्गमीटर, चौड़ाई : उत्तर : 20 फीट रोड (प्रस्तावित), दक्षिण : अन्य की आराजी सं. 176, पूरब : प्लाट सं. 47 (प्रस्तावित), पश्चिम : प्लाट सं. 49 (प्रस्तावित)।		
प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया		

Gayatri Prajapati’s company director alleges threat to life

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Gayatri Prajapati’s company director Brij Bhawan on Monday alleged that the former Cabinet minister and his men were threatening to kill. He said an FIR has already been lodged with the Lucknow police in this regard.

Brij Bhawan said he would request the Income Tax

department a probe financial transactions between Prajapati and Chitrakoot woman who had first accused the former minister but later turned hostile.

“The Chitrakoot woman acquired property worth Rs 4.3 crore in the last three years through illegal means,” he alleged. Brij Bhawan also claimed that he has a list of 20

aides of the minister involved in the mining scam.

He also claimed that the first contract deal for mining of a particular land was given to a contractor and suddenly it was revoked and given to another contractor who gave a higher price to the former minister. “No rules and regulations were followed in allotment of tenders,” he alleged.

He claimed that he has details of all the movable and immovable assets of the former minister and also under whose name the same were registered.

“If I remain alive after recording my statement with the ED, I will share the details with mediapersons,” he said.

Brij Bhawan also alleged that Prajapati got all the lux-

uries when he was admitted to KGMU as he had a good rapport with a leader in the ruling party.

Brij Bhawan hogged lime-light after he lodged an FIR against Prajapati and his son and also the Chitrakoot woman on September 17. He alleged that the former minister, his son Anil and his men forced him to get a land worth

Rs 2.5 crore registered in the name of the woman who had accused Prajapati of rape. He said the woman turned hostile and was threatening him to take his name in her statement to be recorded in a rape case registered last year in Gautampalli police station, while the aides of Prajapati were also threatening to kidnap his son.

Advovated duped of ₹40,000

Lucknow (PNS): An advocate, identified as Priya Singh, accused a woman and her brother of duping her of Rs 40,000 in the name of empanelling her with legal supervisor in the legal cell of the bank and also of threatening. In her complaint, she said she got a call from a woman who introduced herself as Dipti Vishwakarma. She told Priya that she worked with a private bank.

“She asked me to pay Rs 2 lakh for empanelment. I met the woman near a hospital in Gudamba, gave her Rs 40,000 and promised to give the remaining amount later. A week later, I called Dipti to seek the progress and she asked me to forget about it and not call her again. I then got a call from Dipti’s brother Shivam who threatened me,” she alleged.

In another case, common impersonating cops duped an courier company employee of gold ornaments in Chowk on Monday. Teams were formed to track the commn and police said they were scanning CCTV footage. The victim, identified as Awdhesh Tripathi of Alambagh, works as an agent of a company which deals in

delivery of gold ornaments. On Monday, Tripathi received the order from a jeweller and he left for Alambagh where the company’s office is situated. As he reached Charak crossing, a man appeared from somewhere and introduced himself as a policeman. He asked Tripathi that his boss had asked him to get the bag checked.

They took the bag and opened it. They later changed the jewellery box in the bag and shooed him away.

“I was cautious when they were checking the bag. But one of the miscreants engaged me in futile talks while the other replaced the box. I checked the bag after moving a few steps ahead and found the ornaments missing,” he said. Circle officer, Chowk, said the police were hunting for the accused.

Meanwhile, thieves made off with cash and ornaments from the house of a labourer in Bazaarkhala police station area. The incident came to light when Bhagauti Prasad of Gulzar Nagar returned home from his native house in Barabanki on Monday. He said the thieves decamped with some cash and his wife’s ornaments.

CITYBRIEFS

LABOURERS GET RATION KITS

Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia inaugurated the food distribution programme organised by Samarth, with the collaboration of UN World Food Programme (UNWFP) at the regional centre of IGNOU on Monday. She gave away ration kits to labourers who came from different places. Almost 45 local labourers affected by coronavirus pandemic were there. Five trans-genders were also invited to the programme. Speaking on the occasion, the mayor said it would give help to the needy. She said the pandemic has adversely affected people cutting across castes, categories and genders. Regional director, IGNOU, Manorama Singh stressed on the importance of proper education and precautions for protection. SP (STF) Vishal Vikram said it’s the time when women have to come forward to educate society. He said this food assistance would reduce people’s burden to some extent and they would be able to invest in education of their children.

MACFAIR INTERNATIONAL KICKS OFF

Five-day ‘Macfair International-2020’, an international competition of Science and Computer organised by City Montessori School, Mahanagar Campus, was inaugurated online on Monday. The chief guest on the occasion was CEO of Aayushman Bharat and MD of Medical Supplies Corporation Sangeeta Singh. The participating teams from Nepal and various states of India introduced themselves amidst educational-cultural items presented by CMS students virtually. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi and others were also present on the occasion. Forty teams of students from India and abroad are participating in the event online to showcase their scientific skills. In her inaugural speech, Sangeeta Singh said people were open to change due to the pandemic and it brought them closer to the fundamentals of life.

बिहार स्टेट मिल्क को-ऑपरेटिव फेडरेशन लि.
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निविदा सूचना
पशु आहार कारखाना, रॉबी के लिए कच्चे सामग्रियों की आपूर्ति हेतु निर्बंधित आपूर्तिकर्ता या निर्माताओं से मुहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं । नये आपूर्तिकर्ता जो इस संस्था को कच्चे सामग्रियों की आपूर्ति करना चाहते हैं अपना आवेदन, पैन नम्बर एवं जी.एस.टी. नं. की छायाप्रति एवं रु. 5500-/- का ड्राफ्ट (जिसमें रु. 5000-/-सिस्चुरिटी मनी एवं रु. 500-/- रजिस्ट्रेशन हेतु है) उपरोक्त पते पर भेज कर निबंधन भी करा सकते हैं । सामग्रियों का विवरण एवं शर्तों की जानकारी के लिये निविदा प्रपत्र हमारे वेबसाईट www.sudha.coop से डाउनलोड (download) किया जा सकता है । निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 13.10.2020 के संंध्या 4.00 बजे तक है । प्राप्त निविदाएं दिनांक 15.10.2020 को 11.30 बजे प्रातः उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष इस कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी ।

प्रबन्ध निदेशक

मध्योचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना
अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा विभिन्न कार्यों हेतु कार्य में अनुभवी व दक्ष विद्युत ठेकेदारों से निम्नांकित ई-निविदायें (क्रमांक, निविदा संख्या, खण्ड का नाम, कार्य का नाम , कार्य की अनुमा. नित लागत, निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क, एवं घोरोहर राशि) आमंत्रित की जाती है। **(1)70/विशि मंआ /2020-21**, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड – फतेहपुर के अंतर्गत 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्र कुर्सी से पोषित 3000 बकायेदार उपभोक्ताओं के कनेक्शनों का विच्छेदन एवं राजस्व वसूली का कार्य तीन माह की अवधि में पूर्ण करने का कार्य, 7.50 लाख, 1180/-, 7500/- **(2) 71/विशि मंआ /2020-21**, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-फतेहपुर के अंतर्गत 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्र फतेहपुर न्यु एवं ओल्ड से पोषित 3500 बकायेदार उपभोक्ताओं के कनेक्शनों का विच्छेदन एवं राजस्व वसूली का कार्य तीन माह की अवधि में पूर्ण करने का कार्य, 8.75 लाख, 1180/-, 8800/-, **(3)72/विशि मंआ /2020-21** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-फतेहपुर के अंतर्गत जमा योजना के प्रस्तावित कार्यों को ससमय पूर्ण करने हेतु कार्यदायी संस्था का घयन का कार्य, 9.50 लाख , 1180/-, 9500/-, ई निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 07.10.2020 को सांय 5 बजे तक उप्र सरकार की वेबसाईट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं । ई निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 08.10.2020 को प्रातः 11 बजे पूर्वाह्न से खोला जायेगा। ई निविदा का प्रथम भाग उपयुक्त पाये जाने की स्थिति में ई निविदा के द्वितीय भाग खोला जायेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र मध्योचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड की वेबसाइट www.mvvnli.in पर भी देखे जा सकते हैं। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तारण तथा शुद्धिपत्र से संबंधित सूचना यदि कोई होगी तो केवल वेबसाईट पर डाली जायेगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाईट को नियमित देखें। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, बाराबंकी। संख्या 2615, दिनांक 21.09.2020 **“राष्ट्र हित में विजली बचाये”**

AMU anti-CAA protester Sharjeel under lens
PNS ■ ALIGARH
Former AMU student Sharjeel Usmani, who was among the main accused in connection with the ruckus in AMU regarding the CAA-NRC, is once again on the radar of the district police and agencies. After objection to the post made on social media recently, his investigation is being conducted from the SP city level. At the same time, legal opinion has been sought from SPO on whether this comes under the crime or not? The decision will be taken only after getting a legal opinion for filing the case. Meanwhile, other agencies including ATS are monitoring his activities. Shamil Usmani, an alumnus of AMU, who was the main accused of inciting the ruckus on 15th December night in AMU campus, was arrested from Azamgarh. He was sent to jail in two main cases of AMU ruckus. After this, Sharjeel was released from prison on bail. After his release from prison, he tweeted one post from his Twitter account last week in which he has asked people to come out on the streets and protesting and finished his tweet with poetry. This post was objected by the former student of AMU and former district spokesperson of BJP, Nishit Sharma, and tagged the tweet-er account of the UP Police for action. Taking cognizance of this, the Aligarh Police has started an investigation. In view of his activities, agencies are also keeping an eye on him. According to the sources, an attempt is being made to know that no other mind is working behind it. SSP Muniraj said that on receiving a complaint about the post made by Sharjeel on social media, an investigation has been started at the SP city level. Legal opinion on that post has also been sought from the SPO level and asked whether based on the post, a crime is committed or not? SPO opinion is yet to be received and we are

10 Kerala districts under security scanner post al-Qaeda arrests

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Ten out of 14 districts in Kerala have come under the scanner of various intelligence agencies of the Centre , according to sources in National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The caution by the Centre has come as a follow up to Saturday morning’s arrest in Ernakulam district of three persons with allege link to Al Qaeda. The three were taken to Delhi where they are being questioned about their activities in Kerala.

“Ten districts in the State have sleeper cells of various terrorist organisations and they are under observation. We are also in the process of finding out their associates in the State Police,” said an official who did not want his name to be quoted. The presence of thousands of migrant workers across the State have become a serious issue in Kerala.

An intelligence official said that the Gandhi Bazar in Perumbavoor, a popular shopping centre, is now known as Bhai Bazar because it is frequented by hundreds of migrant labourers.

“But we cannot tell that they are all from Bangladesh. Shops in this centre sell materials brought from their native places like Bengal, Assam and other north eastern States. Some shops even sell paan masala, a product banned in Kerala. But we cannot torment them as they do not create law and order problems on a regular basis,” said the official. A state police official also said that tough action is initiated against those who violate the tranquillity of the town. “It is difficult to separate grain from chaff. We are proceeding cautiously,” said the inspector tasked with keeping an eye over the migrant workers.

1,036 new Covid cases, 23 die in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

Twenty three Covid-19 patients died in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Monday while the total number of recoveries reported a slight jump in comparison to total number of fresh positive cases.

According to the media bulletin, 1,158 patients recovered and discharged from different hospitals while 1036 new cases were detected taking the tally of active positive cases of Coronavirus to 21887 while the death toll reached 1024.

Out of these 1036 fresh cases, Jammu division reported 536 and Kashmir division reported 473 cases. On the other hand, out of 23 deaths, 14 deaths were reported from Jammu region and nine patients died across Kashmir valley on Monday.

Out of a total number fo 65026 positive cases, 42115 patients have recovered so far while 21887 are active positive. Out of these 12643 cases are active in Jammu and 9244 in Kashmir region.

On the other hand, the team of doctors headed by Principal Government Medical College,Jammu Dr NC Digra Monday claimed the premier Health Institution is catering well to all sick patients amid the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Principal said that the Hospital is tackling the situation well despite manpower issues. “Maximum positive cases admitted in the hospital have recovered. The recovery rate of the hospital is no less than the National Average”, he said and added 12 covid patients have been discharged in last 24 hours after full recovery.

J&K LG launches home delivery of prasad for Vaishno Devi pilgrims

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, who is the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on Monday formally launched home delivery of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pooja Prasad for devotees who may not be able to visit the famed Hindu pilgrimage, located between three peaked mountains popularly known as ‘Trikuta’, during the Board meeting at the Raj Bhavan on Monday. To get Prasad delivered home packed in sanitized boxes, a devotee can book the Pooja Prasad through Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board’s website.

Once the booking is done, the Board ensures that Pooja is performed within 72 hours

and Prasad is dispatched through Speed Post.

So far, around 1500 packets of Pooja Prasad have been dispatched by the Shrine Board to the devotees across the country through speed post for which the Board has entered into an agreement with the Postal Department.

The Lieutenant Governor, while chairing the first meeting of the Shrine Board since taking over in August this year, welcomed the Board Members, at the outset.

The meeting was attended by the Board Members - H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Justice (Retd) Permod Kohli, K. K. Sharma, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Shiv Kumar Sharma, and K. B. Kachru.

Karnataka MLA Sangamesh tests Covid +ve

Bengaluru: Karnataka’s Congress legislator BK Sangamesh from Bhadravathi has been admitted in a private city hospital after testing coronavirus positive , a party official said on Monday. ‘As 55-year-old Sangamesh tested positive on Sunday, he was brought to Bengaluru from Shivamogga and admitted in the private hospital here for treatment,” party spokesman Rajeev Gowda told IANS.

Bhadravathi is about 280km northwest of Bengaluru in the southern state. “It appears that the MLA got infected after four workers at his home in Shivamogga tested positive last week,” Gowda said.

Jamaat-e Islami questions legality of arrests by NIA

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Welfare Party of India, the political outfit launched by the Jamaat e Islami, came out on Monday questioning the legality of the arrests of three migrant workers from Ernakulam district by the NIA on Saturday.

“We cannot believe the version of the NIA that the three were arrested because of their links with Al Qaeda. These arrests smack of a conspiracy,” said Hameed Vaniyambalam, WPI, president, in a statement released to the media.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता निर्माण खण्ड-4, लो०नि०वि०, सीतापुर

फ़ोन-1406 / ई-प्रोक्वोरिंग पोर्टल/ 2020-21

ई-निविदा सूचना (अत्यकालीन निविदा)

राष्ट्रीय आर्माण

महानगरीय राजस्व, उ०अ० की ओर से उ०अ० लोक निर्माण विभाग के 'ए.बी.सी.टी.' श्रेणी के पात्र संजीवक निविदादाताओं से ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से नीचे द्तराये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदादाता को सहज ही जाती है कि वह मूलतः अर्द्धा के सम्बन्ध में निविदादाता निर्देश पुरिका में वर्णित ठेका प्राप्त करने के नियमों से अवगत हो सें।

क्र० सं०	जनपद का नाम	कार्य का नाम	लगत (लाख में)	घरोहर नमरां (लाख में)	निविदा प्राप्त का मूल्य समस्त कर सहित (रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (वर्षों अतु सहित)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
सिटी बॉ 2020-21 में राज्य/प्रमुख/राष्ट्री/अन्य विस्त एवं ग्रामीन मार्ग पर सामान्य नमरता के साथ नवीनीकरण के कार्य (बिमान सप्त-सीतापुर)।						
1	सीतापुर	एन०एन०-24 से गडकनगर विधिमन्तर समर्क मार्ग के नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	21.50	220	800.00	01 माह
2	सीतापुर	विजीपुर समर्क मार्ग के नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	24.80	250	800.00	01 माह

कि० जामुनपुर वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 25.09.2020 से 08.10.2020 तक उपलब्ध है जो कि निनांक 08.10.2020 को समय अवसन् 1200 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। इसकी सननीकी वि० दिनांक 08.10.2020 को दोपहर 200 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

(ई० मण्डल) अधिकांसी अभियन्ता निर्माण खण्ड-4, लो०नि०वि०, सीतापुर

उ०अ० 155235 दिनांक 19.9.2019 विधानपु वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

दिनांक- 16 /9 /2020

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR
e - Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION NO SENC (R&B) /07/ 2020-21

No. 3018 Dtd. 18.09.2020

- The Superintending Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage Rate** bids in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of **Building works** as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
- No of works= **03 (Three (Buildings-03 Nos).**
- Tender Cost: **Rs. 10,000/-**
- Class of contractor: **"B" Class, "A" Class & "Special" class**
- Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids From **30.09.2020 to 17.00 Hours of 14.10.2020.**
- Date of opening of Technical Bid **15.10.2020 at 11.00 Hours.**
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
- Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. (S.N. Acharya)
Superintending Engineer, Northern (R&W) Circle, Sambalpur

OIPR - 34035/11/0008/2021

150 new COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 150 new COVID-19 cases have been detected in the district on Monday, increasing the total number of cases to 11,771. Besides, the district also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 191. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 160 patients and all of them recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 7,394 as none of the patients has been discharged from the hospital and the number of cured patients from the hospitals remained at 2,611. The total number of cured patients is now 9,965, leaving 1,615 active patients. The recovery rate has improved to 84.65 per cent and mortality rate to 1.62 per cent.

Meanwhile, the testing through antigen kits has intensified not only in the district but also in all the 10 districts of three division of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP). By the morning report, in Varanasi the total of 1,69,951 reports received whereas by a day ago, in this region, the number of tests has inched close to 10 lakh-mark as it was 9,92,188. For the last many days, testing is being done at many government hospitals including Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG)



Antigen test being done at SSPG Hospital in Varanasi on Monday

Pioneer

Hospital, adjacent Government Women's Hospital, LBS Hospital Ramnagar, Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur, Shivpur CHC and many UPHCs and PHCs apart from other places under mass/ group antigen testing on the instructions of District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma.

Even on Sunday when OPDs of government hospitals were closed, the testing was done by Health department personnel at many places as one person was found positive out of 48 tests done at Panchganga Ghat. However, in all the 359 tests done at two branches of Sant Atulanand Public School at Shivpur and

Koirajpur, 198 in Ramnagar, 21 at Prahlad Ghat and Rajghat and 19 at Konia UPHC, all the tests were negative. Besides, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that the Health department has distributed 8,720 ivermectin tablets to 1,090 persons. So far, 8.95 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.11 lakh persons and out of them, 7.05 lakh tablets to 88,189 persons were distributed only by the Health department while rest of tablets by other departments including Supply and Education departments and Civil Defence so far.

CMO has also informed that in the first report of the day by 11 am, 101 positive patients

were detected out of 1,601 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 1,69,951 and the results of 4,213 are awaited.

Out of them, 1,58,229 were negative while 11,722 positive. The total number of samples collected was 1,84,428. Earlier, a male aged 60 from Sarai Nandan succumbed to Covid-19 at SSH BHU, while a female (60) from Khojwa died at DDU Hospital.

Besides, with the addition of nine new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 1,897 including 382 red zones. During the day no green zone has been converted into a red zone again. There are 1,515 green zones including 12 new ones.

Earlier, in this region 479 new cases were found on Sunday and maximum 162 cases were detected in Varanasi, followed by 65 in Ballia, 57 in Azamgarh, 47 in Jaunpur, 35 in Mau, 31 in Sonbhadra, 27 in Ghazipur, 24 in Chandauli, 18 in Mirzapur and 13 in Bhadohi. During the day, as many as 554 patients were recovered either during home isolation or from the hospitals. The total number of cases has increased to 40,480 and overall recovered rate continued above 85 per cent and mortality rate around 1.32 per cent.

SP workers protest against faulty policies of state govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Amidst the deployment of heavy police force, the Samajwadi Party (SP) workers on Monday staged a demonstration in protest against the faulty policies of the state government, poor law & order situation and rising number of unemployment in the state. They submitted a memorandum to district administration regarding their demands.

On the call of Tehsil Chalo given by party national president and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, the SP workers reached Sadar Tehsil in large numbers and demonstrated to raise their protest against the faulty policies being adopted by the government in the state. There was already deployment of heavy police force in view of the proposed protest of the SP. Even, the SSP was also present to avert any untoward situation.

The farmers, unemployed youths, weavers and labourers are facing hard times because of faulty policies of government, they said blaming, the government has failed in providing urea to farmers and also the price of their crops. The government has promised



SP workers staging dharna at Sadar Tehsil in Varanasi on Monday

Pioneer

of doubling farmers' income but the fact is that they are facing hardship and have no option except to commit suicide, they blamed further.

The workers and labourers in lakhs had to return to various districts of UP from other states after they lost their jobs during lockdown, but the state government failed in reducing their miseries by providing jobs to them in their hometowns, they blamed adding, rather, the government is making their exploitation. The state government has also failed in clearing the dues of labourers, they blamed further.

The number of unemployment is rapidly rising in the state and the government has failed in generating employment to sort out this acute crisis, they blamed adding, instead of providing employment to unemployed youths, the government has added to their woes by deciding the recruitment in government departments on the five-year contractual basis.

The government promises of investment at large-scale but in reality, the development has come to a grinding halt in the state. The weavers are already facing financial crunch

due to lockdown and instead of addressing their problems, the government has hiked electricity tariff, they blamed adding, moreover, the government has a proposal of privatising the PVVNL. The law and order situation has come to its worst and the government has virtually failed in controlling the crime, they blamed adding, the exploitation of party workers has increased during the last few months.

They demanded, the government should realise electric tariff from weavers at flat rate, reconsider its decision to make privatisation of PVVNL, take initiative to generate employment for unemployed youths in order to lower their miseries, reconsider its decision on contractual basis recruitment, stop the exploitation of party workers, check the crime effectively, waive off five months school fee of students, restore old system of admission to SC students in BED and other courses, etc. They submitted a memorandum of their demands to the representative of the DM to be forwarded to the Governor. Ex-state minister Manoj Rai Dhoochandni, Sujit Yadav, Vishnu Sharma and others joined the demonstration.

USFBL launches combo branch

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To mark its 11th anniversary, the Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (USFBL) on Monday launched its combo branch with new banking services at Sriga here. The bank as an NBFC MFI also started group loans with four branches of district.

District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma formally inaugurated the new branch and appreciated the efforts put in by Utkarsh in the area of financial inclusion for the last 11 years. He also recognised the efforts put in by the bank during the COVID-19 pandemic by serving their customers on pan India basis. The bank has also participated in various government initiatives like PM SVANidhi Yojana by making loans available at affordable rates to the needy sections of the society. The bank disbursed 7 loans under the PM SVANidhi Yojana, amongst other loans.

The bank's customers at Sriga branch can now avail the bank's services and deposit products including savings bank account, term deposits and recurring deposits. The USFBL caters to more than 27 lakh customers through its 523 banking outlets spread across more than 175 districts of 16 States & 2 Union Territories and served by more than 8,700 employees.

Speaking on occasion, Govind Singh, MD & CEO, USFBL, said, 'We are pleased to



DM KR Sharma inaugurating new USFBL branch at Sriga in Varanasi on Monday

Pioneer

expand our footprint by launching the new concept of combo branch at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The focus has always been to reach out and serve the marginalised and unbanked. With its branch infrastructure, digital banking capabilities and ATM network, the bank provides integrated customer service.'

The bank provides access to financial assistance and credit to the underprivileged, while serving other segments of the society. The launch of this combo branch in Varanasi, coinciding with the completion of 11 years of Utkarsh's journey, is aligned with the bank's strategy to extend its reach and offer various financial services

including current and savings account, fixed and recurring deposits, loans, credit, insurance and investment products to customers across our network. The customers can access banking services through multiple channels like banking outlets, 24*7 ATM, internet banking, mobile banking and call centre. As Utkarsh expands into newer markets and geographies, it continues to widen its customer base. The bank officials, observing social distancing norms, were present during the event. The USFBL started its banking operations in January 2017 post receiving the final license from Reserve Bank of India. Prior to that, Utkarsh was operating as a

micro finance institution under NBFC - MFI license. It is a Scheduled Commercial Bank having received the scheduled status in November 2017. Apart from banking services, Utkarsh also provides corporate social services through Utkarsh Welfare Foundation (UWF), which aims at providing financial awareness to thousands of unserved people in the rural area. The CSR initiatives with 'UWF' focus on education (financial awareness) and health (poly clinics with mobile van) activities. It also undertakes vocational training with market linkage and organises blood donation camps and supports orphanages and elderly homes.

272 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In the case of corona infection, Sunday was a big relief. On this day, the number of newly infected people came down to 300 after 27 days, while the number of people recovering was more than the new patients for the sixth consecutive day. The recovery rate reached 78 per cent on Sunday. However, four people died due to infection.

CMO Dr GS Bajpai said that a total of 272 new infections were found on Sunday. With this, the figure of corona patients in the district has increased to 16,687. and 13,010 people have been cured so far. A total of 369 people became infection-free on Sunday. Of them, 31 people were discharged from the hospital, while the home isolation of 338 was completed.

Those who were discharged included six from the railway hospital, one from Beli, eight from two private hospitals and 16 from the SRN Hospital. This has also reduced the number of active cases which stands at 3,432. There are 3,110 people in home isolation, while 322 people are admitted in different hospitals. As many as 151 patients admitted in SRN Hospital, 55 in Railway Hospital, 25 in Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, 12 in Unani Medical College, 87 in two private hospitals and 49 in Beli Hospital.

According to the Health department report, the number



of newly infected people has come down to 300 in 24 hours after 27 days. Earlier, on August 24, 260 patients were found in one day. Since then the figure has been consistently more than 300.

Meanwhile the testing for COVID-19 has been started with a new and advanced technology CT scan machine in SRN Hospital from Sunday. It is housed in the PMSSY building. This will only test Covid patients. Physicians said that this will further ease the treatment of Covid patients.

Principal of Moti Lal Nehru Medical College, Dr SP Singh said that CT scan machine was constantly being demanded by the doctors. After

the approval from the government, the CT scan machine was installed and operated on Sunday. This machine is equipped with new and modern technology. Even after the patient is in the same position, the body will be scanned and reported back. This will only do a CT scan of corona patients. There is already a CT scan machine in the old building for other patients.

Dr. Mohit Jain, incharge of PMSSY Building said that the system has been developed in advance for the report. After the scan, the report can be transmitted directly to the concerned physician present in the ICU or other wards.

Dr Jain further informed

that more than 50 per cent of the patients admitted are those who need CT scan. With its introduction, infection in the lungs can now be easily detected in patients. The first CT scan with this new machine was done for the patient admitted in Covid ward number 13. This was followed by a CT scan of 10 more patients. During this period, the Principal of the college, Dr SP Singh, Superintendent of Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, Dr AK Srivastava, Vice-Principal Dr. VK Pandey, Superintendent Covid Dr Mohit. Jain, Dr SB Yadav, Dr Santosh Singh, Superintendent Gautam Tripathi etc were present on the occasion.

AU authorities faced with problem of multiple upload of answer sheets

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Even as the Allahabad University holds online exams for final year students of undergraduate (UG) and post-graduate (PG) courses, its authorities are faced with the problem of multiple upload of answer sheet by the students. Of the first three days of the exams, several examinees uploaded their answer sheets even five times. The exams began on September 14 and will continue till October 19.

Controller of Examination Prof RK Singh said that problems are being faced by both students and the varsity. All this could be avoided if the students stick to the guidelines.

Explaining further, he said that as the website opens for the question paper of a given course, far too many unauthorised persons log on to it although they are not enrolled in any course.

Likewise, when we have given two hours for writing the paper and additional two hours to upload the answer sheet, stu-

dents keep on writing for around three and half hours and then start uploading the answer sheet in the last half an hour. And because of the rush, the server becomes slow and causes problems, said Prof Singh. However, to solve the problem, AU has opened several options in the larger interest of the students.

'We have opened a separate counter at the Arts campus office where the examinees can submit the hard copy of the answer sheets. Besides, students are mailing me, sending copies through speed post, registry, courier, etc., and we are accepting them,' the controller assured the students.

The problem, being faced by the varsity authorities could be gauged by the fact that on the first three days of the final examinations some students uploaded their answer sheets even five times.

On one such day, 782 students were registered for the examination, to be held for both the shifts, whereas at 10am, around 5,500 people

started searching the paper on the website slowing down the server. 'I would request the students to stick to the time limit given to them to solve the paper (two hours) and upload the paper as soon as they complete the same. I assure them that there would be no problem in the server,' said Prof Singh.

He added that the counter for taking the hard copy, would be open till 6 pm and students can submit their copies their too, but that should be the last option in view of corona crisis, he suggested.

FDP ORGANISED: A five-day Faculty Development Programme and workshop on 'Creative Problem Solving and Critical Thinking' was organised by Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad.

Prof P Nagabhushan, Director of IIIT-A inaugurated the programme and enlightened everyone with his knowledge, stating that 'creativity is in everything, creativity comes from intelligence, intelligence

in everywhere'.

The convenor Dr Vijayshri Tewari, also the Head of the Department said that the 'workshop was the demand of today's dynamic world'.

Dr Madhavendra Mishra, Co-chair and Associate Professor threw light on the different aspects of creativity.

Prashant Mishra, Vice-President, Genpat, Abhinav Johri, Director & Practice Head of Digital Transformation, EY, Manu Sharma, Partner Wipro Digital Consulting, UK will be sharing their knowledge. There will be a panel discussion on September 23 focussing to increase the interactions and collaborative knowledge sharing between the industry & academia.

Prof US Tiwary (Dean HA); Prof Pramod Pathak, IIT(ISM) Dhanbad, Prof Y Sinha, University of Allahabad Prof Shekhar Verma (Dean IP&RM); Prof T Lahari (Dean A&R); Prof Anupam (Dean TPA) and Prof Shrishu Verma (Registrar) spoke on the occasion.

While extending vote of thanks the programme incharge Madhukant Mishra recited Vah Todati Patthar.

Musical rendering of Hindi poets

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Under Hindi Pakhwada programme of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC) a musical rendering of the creations of all time great Hindi poets was organised online. The programme Hindotsav-2020 included signature poems of Kabir, Meera, Niralal, Dinkar, Mahadevi Verma, Shivmangal Singh Suman, Bachchan and Ashok Chakradhar and were sung by Chinmayee Tripathi and Joyel Mukherjee from Mumbai.



The NCZCC Director Indrajit Grover welcomed the artists and the audience and highlighted the importance of Hindi Pakhwada.

The programme began with Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's revolutionary poem Kalam Aaj Unki Jay Ho, rendered by Chinmayee Tripathi. This was

followed by Niralal's Baandho Na Naav Is ghaat Bandhu, Dinkar's Rashmi Rathi, Mahadevi's Jaa Re Tujhko Door Jaanaa Hai, Ashok Chakradhar's Mhare Hibada Mein Uthe Re Hilon, Bachchan's Pagala Mallah, and Shivmangal Singh Suman's Patavaar Toofano Ki Or Ghumado. Bhajans of Meera and Kabir were also rendered on the occasion.

While extending vote of thanks the programme incharge Madhukant Mishra recited Vah Todati Patthar.

NCR observing Swachhta Pakhwara

ALLAHABAD (PNS): North Central Railway is observing Swachhta Pakhwara from September 16 to October 2. Besides intensive sanitisation and cleanliness drives in different areas; creating awareness is an integral and important part of ongoing Swachhta Pakwara. In this connection a rally-cum-awareness campaign was organised by St John Ambulance Brigade to create awareness in railway colonies.

Under the aegis of NCR Central Hospital Prayagraj, members of St John Ambulance Brigade distributed mask, sanitiser, and pamphlets on COVID-19 related precautions in GRP, Malgodam

and other Railway colonies at Prayagraj. During the campaign residents of railway colonies were informed on importance of social distancing norms, use of face cover/masks, hand washing and personal hygiene habits. Railway employee and their family members were also made aware on symptoms of COVID-19 and advised to visit Central hospital Prayagraj for further screening in case they have symptoms like cough, fever.

Brigade members advised residents in colonies that they need not be afraid of COVID-19 and urged them to follow all COVID-19 guidelines given by central and state govern-

ment. This rally-cum-awareness campaign was coordinated and organised by CMS Prayagraj Dr Sumant Bhal, ACMS Prayagraj Dr Rakesh Nigam, Sr DMO(Health) Dr Parvej, members of St John Ambulance Brigade Pavan Kumar Yadav, Alok Kumar Verma, Uday Chandra Maurya.

On Swachh Hospital Diwas being observed on September 21 and 22 intensive cleaning, sanitisation and disinfection have been undertaken in hospitals and health units of North Central Railway. During COVID-19, sanitisation and cleanliness of healthcare facilities has been a thrust area and so far, more than 600 formal

and informal training sessions covering ICE and sanitisation have been conducted for doctors, paramedical and other staff of Railway hospitals over NCR. As on September 20, 2020 more than 14,000 Railway employees and their family members have been screened in five separate clinics being operated in Railway hospitals to screen patients with COVID-19 like symptoms. As on September 20 approximately 30,000 PPE coveralls, 2.5 lakh three ply masks, 47,000 N 95 masks, 1.92 lakh gloves, 26,000 shoe covers, 35,000 goggles and 36,000 face shields have been made available in different hospitals on NCR.

DM's midnight raid reveals shocking state of LLRH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In a midnight swoop on the LLR Covid Hospital, District Magistrate Alok Tiwari found over half-a-dozen doctors missing and the control room locked.

The crackdown came in the wake of the death of eight COVID-19 patients on Sunday.

The district magistrate expressed shock and concern over the mismanagement in the LLR Hospital and has apprised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of the situation.

The three-member team led by District Magistrate Alok Tiwari and having Chief Development Officer Mahesh Kumar and Additional District Magistrate (Supplies) Basant Lal as the other members, found several irregularities in the hospital.

Meanwhile, the junior doctors strongly protested the high-handed attitude of the district magistrate and gheraoed GSVM Medical College Principal Dr RB Kamal in the morning.

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari, since taking over charge of the district, has been constantly raiding government and private hospitals, pathologies, gas suppliers in the wake of large-scale corrupt practices being adopted by them.

The arrival of the district magistrate and his team at the LLR Hospital at 12:00 midnight came as a big surprise and caught the medical staff and doctors off the guard. The doctors initially did not allow the team to enter the ICU unit



District Magistrate, Alok Tiwari, carried out a midnight raid on LLR Hospital.

Pioneer

on the third floor but the team barged in and came to know about the absence of senior doctors, including anaesthetists, and half-a-dozen junior doctors.

The district magistrate said that in the absence of doctors, including anaesthetists, eight critical COVID-19 patients died in the hospital which was gross negligence and needed strictest action against the erring medical officials.

Tiwari said in view of violation of Covid protocol, it was felt that there need to conduct raids to find out the facts. He said the team entered the hospital wearing full person-

al protective equipment (PPE) kits and did not violate any hospital norms.

The district magistrate said the medical staff at the hospital, when caught red-handed, resorted to blame game. He said if there was supply of sub-standard PPE kits, it should be brought to the notice of the authorities.

Tiwari said eight doctors being absent from duty and death of eight patients that day demanded legal and disciplinary action. He said recommendations had already been made to higher authorities along with the raid report.

The district magistrate said there had been many

complaints against LLR Hospital by the relatives of patients admitted there and even those who had died. He said the main concern of the relatives of the patients was that as their patient was inside the ICU, they were not aware of what was going on inside the ICU, nor were they aware if their patient was being attended to or not.

Tiwari said surprisingly, the control room which was required to function 24 hours a day and seven days a week was found locked. He said during the raid there was not even one official who could inform them who had the key of the locked control room.

Complaints galore against LLR Hosp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital, which has the highest number of COVID-19 deaths in Kanpur Nagar and over two dozen complaints of corrupt practices in different areas, has earned notoriety. The constant visits of the chief secretary, principal secretaries, medical and health director and district officials to the hospital and frequent shifting of doctors and other medical personnel substantiates the charge.

Despite the best efforts, the COVID-19 deaths continue to

be the highest at the LLRH.

During Chief Secretary RK Tiwari's visit to LLR Hospital, a CCTV footage was shown in which ward boys and safai karmacharis were seen carrying out Covid test in the laboratory. The senior doctors cared two hoots to enter or cross-check the reports. The issue was swept beneath the carpet on account of political influence and it was claimed by the hospital authorities that "just for fun", the ward boys were conducting test in the Covid laboratory. It was a serious offence yet nothing hap-

pened on the issue.

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari on Sunday summoned all the doctors from the ICU unit for verification as there were reports that due to the PPE kits covering one from head to toe, it was difficult to recognise the doctors or paramedical staff on duty.

There were reports that doctors played truant and the ward boys and safai karmacharis sat in the ICU posing as doctors.

On Sunday, the doctors tried to resist coming out of the ICU and removing the PPE

kits. However, the adamant district magistrate made them remove the PPE kits and found that half-a-dozen doctors were absent from the ICU duty.

Another corruption issue was the supply of sub-standard ventilators, PPE kits, opacity in performing tests honestly in the laboratory and all this had together been the reason for the constant high death rate in LLR Hospital.

Although the district magistrate refused to disclose any details of the midnight raid, it was said that he had found grave irregularities.

LLRH to have 20K litre liquid oxygen plant, says CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said that in view of the sudden increase in oxygen demand, it had been decided to set up a 20,000 litre liquid oxygen plant at the LLR Hospital.

Dr Mishra said currently over 170 COVID-19 patients were admitted at the LLRH

and thus there was an increased demand of oxygen. He said in the neuroscience centre alone, the requirement of liquid oxygen was maximum and thus it had been decided to set up a bigger liquid oxygen plant.

The CMO said the constant inspections and surprise raids had brought trans-

parency in the working and in 18 days of September alone, contact tracing and sample collection had increased in the district.

Dr Mishra said in Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow was at the top in detection of confirmed coronavirus positive cases, followed closely by Kanpur Nagar. He admitted that

COVID-19 deaths were more in Kanpur Nagar compared to Lucknow.

He said to break the coronavirus chain, contact tracing was under focus and those identified positive were also provided treatment.

He said the recovery rate in Kanpur Nagar was also quite encouraging.

Criminal escapes from police custody

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A notorious criminal escaped from police custody at Chamanganj police station on Monday morning.

Police were conducting raids to arrest him.

He was found involved in around 25 cases registered against him at different police stations of the city, including Chamanganj, Begumganj, Colonelganj and Bajaria for loot, theft and fraud.

Chamanganj SHO Raj Bahadur Singh said Javed alias Jugunu, after his release from the jail about two months back, had again started committing crime with his gang members. During patrolling on Sunday evening, he was arrested and put in the lock-up.

Around 8:30 am on Monday, Javed wanted to go to toilet to ease himself. When constable Kishanlal was taking him to the toilet, Javed thrashed him and escaped. He was chased by Kishan Lal, Nitesh Kumar and Rahul post-



Notorious criminal Javed alias Jugunu escaped from police custody on Monday morning.

Pioneer.

ed at the police station but managed to flee.

The issue was brought to

the notice of higher police officers. After lodging an FIR against

Javed, two teams were deputed to arrest him.

263 more test positive in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 263 fresh cases of coronavirus infection till Monday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said 263 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Sunday evening and Monday evening, taking the count of confirmed cases to 23,146. He said a total of 79 cases were discharged and 6015 COVID-19 patients had been cured in the city so far, and at present 4690 active coronavirus cases were undergoing treatment.

The CMO said 7 COVID-19 deaths were reported in the city till Monday evening taking the toll to 603.

He said a total of 7128 samples were sent for testing in the district.

Man beaten to death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A man, who broke into a house with malintention late Sunday night, was battered to death in Paras village in Ghatampur Kotwali police area.

During questioning by police, the villagers disclosed that the deceased often indulged in obscene acts.

According to reports, Guddan Singh (45) of Paras village was a bachelor. Late Sunday night he broke into the house of a neighbour and entered the room of a woman with malintention. Seeing him there, when the woman raised alarm, the local residents rushed to the spot and caught Guddan and brutally beat him up.

The police took the unconscious Guddan to the community health centre but he succumbed to his injuries on the way.

Police took many villagers into custody and were carrying out investigation.

SHO Satyadeo Shara said Guddan had entered the neighbour's house to commit theft.

KDA to offer cheap flats, plots during Diwali festival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority plans to offer cheaper flats and plots to the citizens during Diwali festival season.

KDA Executive Engineer Ashu Mittal said on the directives of the development Authority's Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh, they planned to offer cheaper flats and plots to the citizens in various schemes during Diwali festival season. He said the action plan was being prepared with a list of vacant plots for sale.

The plots available for sale are in Jawaharpuram and Shatabdi Nagar schemes.

For the plots available in these two schemes, the KDA may organise lottery to sell them.

In the Jawaharpuram scheme, there are 200 plots suiting everybody's requirements. Priority would be given to sale of 90 disputed plots while the remaining plots would be sold through lottery. The cost of these plots ranges from ₹.30,000 to ₹.32,000 per square metre.

In the Shatabdi Nagar scheme, there are 150 plots and they will cost ₹.25,000 per square metre.

The cost of 800 flats available in the scheme ranges from ₹.7.50 lakh to ₹.12 lakh, according to Mittal.

During a meeting with the officers, the KDA vice chairman directed them to identify the vacant plots for sale.

Meanwhile, efforts are on to sell 2,000 flats to the police department. Exchange of correspondence with the state administration has already been started. A letter has also been sent to the additional chief secretary to approve the purchase of 2,000 flats worth around ₹.500 crore.

4 nabbed with 125 fertiliser bags

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Police under the leadership of SHO Padari Venkatesh Tiwari arrested four accused, recovered 125 bags of DAP fertiliser and seized a DCM truck on Sunday. Giving details, ASP Sanjay Kumar said that the police teams were already active for working out the case since an FIR had been lodged at Padari police station on August 24 about the theft of fertiliser from Parasanpur cooperative godown. Under the investigation the police was collecting the clue when on Sunday morning on being tipped off by an informer about the presence of a DCM truck loaded with fertiliser bags at a stone crusher the police raided the site located at Bhendua hillock in Chaandleva village under Padari police station. The ASP said that the accused confessed that after the theft they had hidden the fertiliser at a mining site and were waiting for a suitable time for dispose it of. But after loading the truck when they started moving they were caught by the police. The accused were identified as Ramlakhan Patel, a resident of Bujahaan village under Mandhata police station in Pratapgarh, Arjun Patel, a resident of Raipur village under City Kotwali, Pratapgarh, Deepak Patel, a resident of Hatimpur village under Soraon police station in Prayagraj and Veerendra Patel, a resident of Veerbanpur village under Holagarh police station in Prayagraj. For successfully working out the case the police team was awarded a cash prize of ₹5,000. An earlier report said that the Padari police have arrested one accused along with stolen goods worth lakhs of rupees recently. As per the received reports, SHO Padari



ASP (City) Sanjay Kumar giving details to media persons at Police Lines on Sunday

was on patrolling duty when he was tipped off by informer that some persons were trying to sell some electronic goods at low cost in Mohanpur Pahadi village. At the information the police swung into action which was already investigating the case of theft in a mobile shop at Sikari village which was registered a few days ago and raided the place. Seeing the police, two persons managed to flee but one was caught. When the suspect was interrogated he told the police about the stock of stolen items and revealed about his accomplices who had fled from the scene. On clues provided by him police recovered a laptop, 17 android mobile phones, 10 keypad phones, data cables, monitor, UPS etc. The accused was identified as Ramashankar alias Chhotu Patel, a resident of Surhuruvaan village under Padari police station. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail.

PROPERTY CONFISCATED: Jamalpur police confiscated the property worth ₹30 lakhs of a cattle smuggler on Sunday. As per the received reports, Jamalpur police had invoked Gangster Act against Siraj Khan, son of Riyaj Khan, a resident of Bakharia village under Auraiya police station in

Auraiya district, for cattle smuggling. On the report of SO Jamalpur, on the recommendation of SP and on the approval of the DM the order for the confiscation of truck No UP 77-AN/0207 was complied with under Gangster Act. About the recovery of truck the SO Vijay Shankar Saroj said that it was seized by the police earlier when cattle was being smuggled in it.

THREE DIE: As many as three persons lost their lives in the district in separate incidents recently. As per the reports received here, Badama Devi (55), wife of Mukhlal Bind, a resident of Devhat village under Halia police station, was bitten by a snake which was hiding in her house. Thereafter a snake charmer Bahadur (55) was called but he too also bitten by the snake. The villagers somehow managed to catch the snake but Badama and Bahadur could not be saved and died. In another case, Lalbahadur Bind (30), a resident of Aghawar village under Padari police station, was run over by a train at Aamghat railway crossing in the morning recently. On being informed about the matter, the police reached the spot, took the body of the victim into custody and completed the legal formalities.

Campaign to make stations clean

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the entire Indian Railways and on the directive of direction of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vijay Kumar Panjiar on Varanasi division the 'Swachhata Rail Swachh Bharat Pakhwada' is being organised from September 16 to 30. Under it on Varanasi division Clean Station Day was observed on Sunday. During the day an effort was made to make stations clean under which an extensive cleanliness campaign was run by designated officers in apart from A-1 and A



category stations in all the remaining B and D category stations like Sarnath, Banaras, Varanasi City, Audihar, Siwan, Ballia, Bhatni, Yusufpur, Nandganj, Ghazipur City, Azamgarh, Didarganj, Fariha, Sathiaon, Chhapra Rural, Dullahapur, Dunderon, Ekma, Ghughuli, Gyanpur Road, Hathua, Kaptanganj, Khadda, Kiriharapur, Lar Road, Muhammadabad, Sahatwar, Thave and Chhapra Junction

intensive cleaning was done. During this period, the designated officials and senior supervisors did intensive inspection and ensured the availability of separate dustbins for dry and wet waste, suitable uniforms for the cleaning staff and saw to it that the station platforms were garbage free. They also saw the cleaning equipment and ensured the uninterrupted supply at water booths and smooth drainage

passengers aware about cleanliness. During this campaign through posters, banners, street plays etc awareness was being spread about hygiene in station premises. Through public address system passengers are being made aware of cleanliness in stations and trains during the journey and an appeal was being made to make others aware about cleanliness, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ashok Kumar said.

One held with ganja

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIN

On the directive of Superintendent of Police (SP) Yashveer Singh and Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Dr Awadhesh police apprehended one accused along with 1.35 kg ganja. Sub-inspector (S-I) Divyaprakash Tiwari, Hadruck outpost incharge arrested the accused Golu alias Yogendra Balmiki from five km south of Harsinghpur village under Kuthond police station. Police lodged a first infor-

30-yr-old man dies as tractor overturns

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A 30-year-old man died when his tractor overturned near Mamari village under the Madihan police station recently.

According to a report received here, Anup Kumar Singh, a resident of Pachokhara village under Madihan police station, died when his tractor suddenly overturned near Mamari village. On getting information, the Madihan police reached the spot and took the body of the victim into custody for completing the legal formalities.

NCL bid to empower women

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a mini-ratna company of the Government of India, under corporate social responsibility (CSR) through skill development is doing remarkable work in the direction of empowerment of women and their self-reliance in its surrounding areas. In the same sequence Block B area of NCL during the Covid-19-generated crisis trained over 20 women to stitch masks and provided them self-employment opportunities. Besides the Block B area purchased more than 10,000 masks



made by these women under corporate social responsibility and distributed them among the needy people belonging to the nearby areas in view of Covid-19 pandemic. It may be pointed out

here that the Block B area had earlier trained these young women under CSR in sewing and embroidery. As a result these young women were leading their lives with respect and earning through sewing work.

Opp behaviour in Rajya Sabha ‘very shameful’: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that it had a clear majority in the Rajya Sabha during the passage of the farm Bills, the Government on Monday described the behaviour of Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha as “very shameful and irresponsible” as also their refusal to leave the house despite the Chairman’s order to suspend them on Monday. The Government also pointed out that there is enough visual evidence that the Deputy Chairman would have been nearly physically assaulted had the Marshals not protected him.

Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the conduct of leaders of opposition parties was “illegal” and violative of all parliamentary norms and rules and accused the Congress of double standards on the issues including contract farming.

“The Government had a clear majority yesterday, 110 present members were supporting the Agriculture Bills and only 72 were opposing. We had a decisive majority...their agenda was to stop the House (Rajya Sabha) from passing the Bills,” Prasad maintained.

On the Opposition’s claim that the bills were passed without voting on Sunday, Prasad

said the deputy chairman had asked the members of Parliament (MPs), who went to the well of the house, to return to their seats 13 times. He said discussion went on peacefully from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm and after that the deputy-speaker said “you want it to go to select committee, I have to put it to motion and please, go back on your seats”. “How can voting take place when you won’t go to your seats,” he asked.

Pointing to the possibility of the chairman being physically attacked, the Union minister said, “Yesterday was a shameful day in parliament history. Mic was broken, a leader of a party tore a rule book” and the chair came “very close to being physically hurt”. “But for Marshalls, some physical hurt was possible”, he sought to say adding there is enough visual evidence if Marshalls would have not protected the Deputy Chairperson, he would have been nearly physically assaulted.

He said following their suspension the opposition members had no right to stay back in the house which they did on Sunday. He said once suspension is ordered there is no discussion allowed and members have to exit the house.

LS clears changes in FCRA, Aadhaar must for NGOs now

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 that seek to make Aadhaar mandatory for NGOs to receive foreign funds. The amendments aim to streamline the provisions of the FCRA by strengthening the compliance mechanism and enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year, said MoS Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

The amendments will limit the use of foreign funds received under FCRA for administrative purposes from the current limit of 50% to 20%. Also, Aadhaar card will be mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs and other organisations which are seeking funds from foreign sources.

“The annual inflow of foreign contribution has almost doubled between the years 2010 and 2019, but many recipients of foreign contribution have not utilised the same for the purpose for which they were registered or granted prior permission under the said Act. Many of them were also found wanting in ensuring basic statutory compliances such as submission of annual returns and maintenance of proper accounts,” the proposed

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill passed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Monday passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Bill providing reliefs to companies facing insolvency due to the lockdown. Rajya Sabha had already passed the Bill. Finance Minister told Lok Sabha while replying to the debate on IBC (Second Amendment Bill) that the Government passed Ordinance to protect the companies facing insolvency cases due to the Lockdown. “Many countries changed rules due to the Lockdown to protect the companies who were facing insolvency cases and recovery cases.”

These amendments were mainly to stop the recoveries and extension of time limit due to Lockdown,” she said, explaining why Government brought Ordinance and needed to accommodate the amendments.

“This has led to a situation where the Central Government had to cancel certificates of registration of more than 19,000 recipient organisations, including non-governmental organisations,

Bill to shield docs, healthcare workers from attack OK’d

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Monday passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill 2020 to include Covid-19 pandemic in the list of epidemic diseases and also include the stringent punishments to those attack doctors and healthcare workers. Rajya Sabha had passed the Bill earlier. During the pandemic, the Government had issued an Ordinance to protect doctors and healthcare workers after a series of reports of attacks against them. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan thanked the Lok Sabha MPs for passing the Bill unanimously and said society must observe zero-tolerance to any form of violence against healthcare service personnel and damage to property. As per its provisions, the commission or abetment of such acts of violence will be punishable with an imprisonment for a term of three months to five years, and with a fine of ₹50,000 to ₹2,00,000.

during the period between 2011 and 2019,” it added.

Dementia education, brain boosting games may reduce Alzheimer’s risk

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

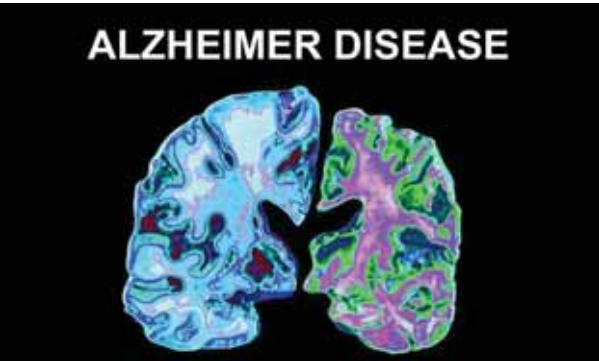
An eight-week programme combining dementia education with lifestyle changes to diet, physical activity and cognitive engagement through brain boosting games can significantly improve cognitive performance and reduce the risk of Alzheimer’s disease among seniors with pre-dementia conditions, researchers have found.

Alzheimer’s disease is a neurological disorder which causes problems with memory, thinking skills, and behaviour and is the most common form of dementia.

The study used the BrainHQ app from Posit Science for its brain exercise component. Published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, the randomised trial assigned 119 participants over the age of 65 to either an active control group or an intervention group.

The research team found that the intervention group had a significantly larger reduction in Alzheimer’s risk — using the Australian National University Alzheimer’s Disease Risk Index — than the control group over the duration of the study. The size of the risk reduction was clinically significant, similar to the difference in Alzheimer’s risk between a person who has diabetes and one who doesn’t.

Memory loss is one of the



earliest symptoms, along with a gradual decline of other intellectual and cognitive functions leading to change of behavior, RK Dhamija (Director Professor and HOD), Department of Neurology at Delhi-based Lady Hardinge Medical College said. He added that as there is no cure, it is important that one should take up reading, play brain challenging games like crosswords and Sudoku, connecting with people to keep the mind active. “Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure should be strictly controlled.

“Since it is a neuro-degenerative disease, it is therefore important to recognise the symptoms early. Timely and regular follow-up with a neurologist along with good supportive care can minimise the suffering of these patients,” Dr Dhamija said.

Initial symptoms are memory impairment, word-

finding difficulties during conversation, patients may forget their recent conversation, where they had kept their wallets, they may even forget whether they had food or not or forget bank/ATM passwords or their way to home.

Around 5 crore people are suffering with dementia and it is estimated that every year one crore people with dementia are added, said Dr Dhamija. In India, 40 lakh people are afflicted with the neurodegenerative disease.

“The Government isn’t currently prioritising their needs, since the medical system is already burdened with the responsibility of providing basic care for infectious illnesses, cardiac ailments, oncology problems etc. But the Government needs to look into this gap in geriatric care on an urgent basis,” said Joy Desai, Director of the Neurology Department at Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai.

SC agrees to hear plea seeking re-opening of anganwadi centres



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea which has sought directions to the Centre, all States and Union Territories to forthwith re-open all Anganwadi centres in the country which were closed amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The apex court issued notices to the Centre, states and UTs and sought their responses on the plea which has claimed that functioning of all Anganwadi centres in the country came to a “sudden halt” and poor pregnant and lactating women and children were “left in the lurch”.

“Issue notice, returnable in four weeks. Counsel for the petitioner is permitted to serve a copy of this petition to the office of Solicitor General of India,” a bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, R S Reddy and M R Shah said.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by Maharashtra-based Dipika Jagatram Sahani who has sought a direction to the Centre, all states and UTs to “conduct growth monitoring of children to document growth in the wake of the after effects of the pandemic more particularly malnourishment among children and anaemia in girl children and initiate corrective steps forthwith”.

The petition has said that the Centre, states and UTs should forthwith re-open all Anganwadi centres and provide Anganwadi services in accordance with the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

“This public interest petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, relates to the closure of the integrated child development services all across the country, which provided supplementary nutrition to pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children up to the age of 6 years,” it said.

“The Anganwadi centres which were running under this scheme for decades were closed down using COVID as an excuse,” it claimed, adding,

“As a result, the most vulnerable sections of the Indian population suffered malnutrition nation-wide. This petition seeks the re-starting of the Anganwadi centres immediately.”

It has also sought a direction to the Centre, states and UTs to provide hot cooked meals, take home rations in consonance with the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 as well as The Supplementary Nutrition (under the Integrated Child development Services Scheme) Rules, 2020.

Pakistan trying to target Indians working in Afghanistan, Parl told

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday informed the Parliament that Pakistan is trying to target Indians working in Afghanistan.

The Government in a written reply in Lok Sabha said that several Indians working in development projects in Afghanistan have been attacked or kidnapped in the last 12 years.

Pakistan under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267 has also tried to designate four Indians working in Afghanistan as terrorists, the Government

reportedly said adding that the request was not approved.

“Pakistan has been targeting Indian professionals working in Afghanistan through a variety of ways. Several Indians working in Afghanistan on various development projects have been attacked and kidnapped over the past 12 years,” Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said.

“With the assistance of [the] Government of Afghanistan, India has been able to secure [the] release of many Indians from captivity. In addition, [the] Indian

embassy and its consulates have also been attacked,” he said.

The Government also informed Monday that it has adopted a multi-pronged approach to strengthen protection along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan. In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, the Government informed that improved technological surveillance, weapons and equipment for security forces, improved intelligence and operational coordination are also being carried out, reported a news agency.

MoHUA gets metro rail proposals from 6 States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA) has received proposals of 392 km metro rail from six States with an estimated cost of ₹1,27,825 crore so far. The proposals have been received from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, remaining three corridors of Delhi metro phase 4 and Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the ministry data, the remaining three corridors of Delhi Metro Phase IV – Inderlok-Indraprastha, Rithala-Bawana-Narela, and Lajpat Nagar-Saket G Block corridors would be 44 kms long

and it would cost Rs 12,635 crore. The deadline of the project is December 2024.

Bangalore Metro Rail Project (Phase 2A and 2B) will be 58 kms long and it would cost ₹14,844 crore. The project is expected to be completed within 45 months from the date of sanction.

Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase –II is 119 kms long and it would cost ₹63,246 crore. The deadline of this project is June, 2026.

Maharashtra’s metro rail projects include Nagpur, Thane, Pune and Nashik. The total length of these four cities’ metro will be 119 kms and it would cost ₹22,961 crore.

CBI files case against Delhi-based firm for causing loss to banks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against Delhi-based private firm Kwaliti Ltd and its directors for causing an alleged loss of over ₹1,400 crore to a consortium of banks led by Bank of India.

Following registration of the case on September 10, the agency on Monday conducted searches at the premises of the accused firm and its directors.

The CBI registered the case on a complaint from Bank of India against Kwaliti Ltd and others including its Directors, and other unknown persons for causing an alleged loss of ₹1,400.62 crore to Bank of India and other consortium banks, the agency said.

“It was alleged in the complaint that the said accused had cheated the Bank of India-led consortium comprising BOI (lead bank), Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, IDBI, Central Bank of India, Dhanlaxmi Bank and Syndicate Bank to the tune of ₹1,400.62 crore by way of diversion of bank funds, sham transactions with related parties, fabricated documents/receipts, falsified books of accounts, created false assets and liabilities among others,” it said.

The searches were conducted at eight locations including Delhi, Saharanpur, Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh), Ajmer (Rajasthan) and Palwal (Haryana) at the premises of the private company and other accused persons in the case. Further investigation is continuing, it further said.

Those named as accused in the case include Kwaliti Ltd, Sanjay Dhingra, Siddhant Gupta, Arun Srivastava and other unknown persons.

According to the FIR, diversion/misappropriation of public money by the accused firm and individuals was done during the period 2010-2017.

CCMB scientists analyse 2,000 SARS-CoV-2 genomes from India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad have analysed more than 2,000 SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19 genomes from India available in the public domain to understand the various strains in circulation.

The clade or genetic group circulating in India has 70 per cent similarity with the major strain around the world, hence, one vaccine or drug is sufficient to fight it, they said.

Earlier in June, the team had revealed the presence of a distinct virus population among Indians. This was named the clade I/A3i, and is recognised by the presence of 4 specific variations in their genetic makeup (genomes).

At that time, 41 per cent of all Indian SARS-CoV-2

genomes belonged to this clade.

However, the current analysis showed that the proportion of the A3i clade dropped to 18 per cent, it said. The findings of the study done with scientists from CSIR-Institute of Integrative Biology as collaborators, are now peer-reviewed and published in the journal Open Forum Infectious Diseases published by the Oxford University Press.

The decrease in the proportion of A3i clade is accompanied by an increase of the A2a clade, also referred to as the G clade or the 20A/B/C clades in other nomenclatures.

Viruses of the A2a or the G clade carry the D614G mutation in their spike protein which is shown to be associated with an increased infectivity.

At present, approximately 70 per cent of all Indian as well

as global SARS-CoV-2 genomes fall into this clade.

As expected for a strain which is more infectious, A2a clade quickly became the dominant clade in India just like everywhere else. There is no evidence to state that this mutation is clinically a more difficult one,” Dr Rakesh K Mishra, Director, CCMB and a co-author of the study said.

“The similarity in viral genome globally should be considered a positive news, because a vaccine or a drug targeting this mutation will work with the same effectiveness all over the world,” he added.

It is, however, important to note that no clade at present has been conclusively shown to be associated with a more severe form of COVID-9, or an increased risk of death, said the scientists.

Only 4% patients got Covid-19 ICU beds via proper channel: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the number of coronavirus cases in India mounts and demand for medical facilities increases, a survey by LocalCircles said that only four per cent patients were able to get a Covid-19 ICU bed through the routine process, while 78 per cent had to use connections and clout. Another four per cent said they did not get an ICU bed at all.

After receiving many complaints from citizens from across the country about their family friends or associates not being able to find an ICU bed at a government or private hospital, LocalCircles conducted a survey to get citizen’s pulse on the issue and received over 17,000 responses from



citizens located in over 211 districts of the country.

On experiences of people in their social network with regard to getting a COVID-19 ICU bed, 55 per cent citizens said that they did not have any person in their network who needed it.

Thirty eight per cent respondents said they had to use clout to secure an ICU bed while seven per cent said they had to follow up extensively to secure the ICU bed.

Computerised over 16K lower courts; more than 51L cases pending in HCs: Law Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has completed computerisation of 16,845 district and subordinate courts, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Union Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad also said 51,52,921 cases were pending in high courts across the country.

In a written reply to a query in Lok Sabha, the minister said the Government has released ₹1,459.52 crore to

various organisations involved in implementation of the project.

This includes ₹1,077.76 crore released to all high courts, out of which ₹790.04 crore has been utilized till August 31, he said.

In the 2020-21 fiscal, funds have been released for eSewa Kendras in high courts and district court complexes, equipment for VC cabins and connectivity in court complexes and creating help desk counters

There can’t be universal policy on right to protest: SC in anti-CAA blockade case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There cannot be a “universal policy” on right to protest and possible curbs as also balancing it with acts like blocking of roads are needed because the situation may “vary” from case-to-case, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

The top court’s observation came while reserving the verdict on a batch of pleas against the anti-CAA protests which had led to blocking of a road in Shaheen Bagh in the national capital last December.

The situation normalised later due to COVID-19

pandemic fear and subsequent observance of protocol.

“There were some supervening circumstances which came into play and it was no one’s hand. God almighty itself intervened,” said a bench comprising Justices S K Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari.

Taking note of the submissions of lawyers including Shashank Deo Sudhi, the bench said: “We have to balance right to protest and the blocking of roads. We have to deal with the issue. Their cannot be universal policy as the situation may vary on case to case basis.

“In parliamentary

democracy protest can happen in Parliament and on roads but on road it has to be peaceful”.

Amit Sahni, one of the lawyers who had filed the plea in the case, said that this kind of protests should not have been allowed in the larger public interest.

“This was allowed to have continued for more than 100 days and people faced difficulty. This kind of incident should not have happened.

Yesterday in Haryana there was ‘Chakka Jam’ in Haryana. They have also called Bharat Bandh on September 24-25,” he said.

UAE-based defence firm renews commitment to supply over 93K carbines to Indian Army

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UAE-based arms manufacturer Caracal on Monday renewed its commitment to supply 93,895 carbines to the Indian Army under a deal which has been pending since 2018.

The Caracal in a statement stressed that it is committed to the ‘Make in India’ initiative and referred to its selection for the deal to supply the carbines.

“Caracal has already identified the required land, facility and local partners to be able to commence production immediately.

Over 20 per cent of the components fitted on the CAR 816 are already made in India, with Caracal now making commitment to fully manufacture the rifles in (the) country, in alignment with the ‘Make in India’ initiative,” the company said in a statement.

SC stays ex-UP Min’s interim bail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday stayed former Uttar Pradesh minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati’s interim bail, granted for two months on medical grounds by the Allahabad High Court, in a gang rape case.

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on September 3 had granted the interim bail to Prajapati who was a minister in the erstwhile Samajwadi Party Government.

Mockery of House

The Govt’s steamrolling of farm Bills in Rajya Sabha erodes parliamentary procedure. Worse, it sets a precedent



It would not like to show that it has been taken aback on the farm Bills but it certainly is trying to undo the damage. Clearly the Government has become over-confident about subverting parliamentary fairplay and justifying its authoritative weight. That it has been forced to consider a hike in the minimum support price (MSP) of Rabi crops and repeatedly assure that *kisaan haats* would continue are an admission of its somewhat dodgy understanding of Indian farmers and their concerns. The latter are not only a volatile political constituency; they are aware stakeholders and not a silent majority. So while the Government is in a rush to push big bang farm

reforms, steamrolling three Bills that began as ordinances and would have lapsed otherwise, it has ignored their questions and dishonoured the democratic convention of dialogue, consultation and careful consideration. Worse, it has even made Parliament a tool in its exercise of ticking off the boxes in its manifesto, trampling any opposing view as redundant, even if well-argued. Controversial Bills in this country have always been open for discussion in the House, often moved to relevant parliamentary committees for in-depth appraisal and closing deficiencies. By skipping the rulebook, the Government has stretched its political adventurism a bit much. While it insists that the new laws will remove trade barriers so that the smallest farmers can sell their produce outside monopolised markets and get a higher price, the reality is that such farmers are still unprotected against the corporatisation implicit in these Bills. Architecture-wise, the Bills look reformist, dismantling the heavily cartelised Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis* and middlemen, but growers need gestational and transitional time to come out of a regulatory framework and take charge of their individual fortunes. For one, the smaller and marginal farmers are not literate or educated enough and entering into one-on-one contracts with corporations would give the latter negotiating rights and greater control over price fixing. In that sense, they could still end up being exploited as before. The middleman would simply get replaced by a food major or a retail giant, which, as a “sponsor,” can control inputs in the “farm to fork” chain. Besides, farmers, knowing their limitations, have never been into direct dealing but operated through commission agents, some of whom are a trusted link in their eco-system. The farmers fear that in an open, competitive market, they would not get the MSP that the Government promises to continue and given the diversity and multiplicity of markets, the guaranteed official procurement would be hit over time. They would, therefore, still be in a crisis. The bigger market players would also affect their cropping patterns. Besides, the proposed laws are still vague on definition of mechanisms that would replace the regulated economy. Considering that farmers form 60 per cent of the country’s population, any sweeping change concerning them merits some thought and actionable plans than a blanket and summary imposition.

Politically, this was the Government’s worst move in the House. As the Opposition protested, demanding that there be a discussion and possibly a referral to a committee, the live telecast was muted so that the nation did not hear the counter-arguments. Frustrated and agitated, the Opposition stormed the Well of the House. Procedure says that no Bill can be passed amid such din. But the Deputy Chairman, Harivansh Narayan Singh, precisely used this noise, knowing full well that the Government did not have the numbers in the Upper House to afford a division of votes, to his advantage. He called a voice vote, a highly subjective assessment method based on decibel power of members, and saw through the Bills. A voice vote is allowed only in Bills that have majority support. For a Bill that is split down the middle in terms of support, a division of votes is the only way out to decide the outcome. Especially when even the BJP’s House collaborators from the Opposition — regional parties like the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), the YSR Congress and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) — opposed the farm Bills. How did Singh assess through all that commotion that ruling party MPs were louder? Will serious business in the House be henceforth transacted on the basis of a shouting match or subjected to the discretion of the Chair than the rulebook? Also, if any Opposition member challenges a voice vote, the rulebook provides for a division of votes. Opposition MPs claim they asked for a division but were ignored. Clearly, the Government’s brief to the Deputy Chairman was clear, the Bills had to be passed at any cost. The Government may claim a pyrrhic victory but what of the farmers’ protests that are spreading like wildfire? The Opposition parties may be inconsequential to it but they represent the voice of the people, too. More importantly, after small farmers, what would happen to the small workers, as another Bill that allows firms with up to 300 workers to fire them without Government nod, is pending? Can the Government then shed the capitalist tag? Time and again Prime Minister Narendra Modi wishes there was a responsible and aggressive Opposition to push him harder but conversation is a two-way traffic that depends on his Government’s willingness to listen in the first place. By taking away the mikes, podiums and cameras, parliamentary proceedings look like a silent era film. Only a drone-like narration can be heard. Accepted for its stupor-inducing repetition and rant than as a matter of faith.

Going rural

Forcing post-graduate medical students to spend three months in rural areas will be beneficial for the doctors too



In an answer to Parliament in 2019, Ashwini Choubey, Minister of State for Health, had stated that assuming an availability of 80 per cent, there was only one doctor per 1,445 people in India. Of course, if one added up alternative systems of medication, the number would be closer to the World Health Organisation’s mandated one doctor per thousand population but over the past few months, we have seen many alternative medical practices wither away in the face of the pandemic. What these statistics do not reveal is just how skewed India’s medical system is towards large metropolitan areas. It is only when you see thousands of patients from across

India crowding the entrances at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi that you realise just how bad things must be for families to transport critically ill patients hundreds of kilometers for proper care. The fact is that cities like Delhi and Mumbai, while suffering immensely from the pandemic, have enough beds and facilities. There was a joke, not one of any laughing matter though, that there were more intensive care beds and ventilators in Delhi’s Saket area alone than in some other Indian states.

Part of the reason for the deficiency of healthcare in upcountry India is that young specialist doctors want to work, for rather obvious reasons, in big city hospitals. And it is unfair, given the poor facilities in even smaller towns, let alone rural areas, to expect young doctors to work there for extended periods of time. However, if young medical specialists did spend time in rural areas, they would possibly understand the gravity of the medical scenario a lot better than they currently do and suggest innovations in existing infrastructure. Operating in cities, they are often insulated from the realities of India just as much as “expert commentators” on news television channels. The Government’s mandate that post-graduate medical students spend three months in rural areas is understandable and while some of them might be disappointed, this is a practice that should ideally be spread across disciplines. If we talk about “two Indias,” then the only way to redress that is to ensure that young people from urban India see the problems of rural India and understand why they behave — with their votes and their money — the way that they do. Being a warrior on social media isn’t quite the same thing.

opinion08

Mumbai belongs to India

The Constitution gives its citizens the right ‘to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India’ and no political power should try to redefine it



A SURYA PRAKASH

The crass attempt by Shiv Sena to intimidate the national award-winning actor, Kangana Ranaut, and to demolish her property without adequate notice, must be condemned by all those who cherish democracy and rule of law in the country. It is also time to tell the Shiv Sena that it does not own Mumbai and no Indian will grant it the power to issue entry visas for the city. Mumbai belongs to India.

The demolition of the actor’s property in Pali Hill area on September 9 for alleged violations was preceded by repeated threats by party leaders and some goons, who warned her not to return to her home in Mumbai from Himachal Pradesh. Among those who adopted such a threatening tone was the State’s Home Minister. In addition, party leaders have hurled filthy abuses at her. Somebody should tell these worthies to read Article 19(1)(d) and (e) of the Constitution of India which says all citizens shall have the right “to move freely throughout the territory of India” and “to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India”. The Shiv Sena must also be told that “we the people” are not going to give up these rights ever and give in to *goon-da raj*.

The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur, has rightly taken up the cudgels on behalf of Ranaut and said that the attitude of the Maharashtra Government is “condemnable” and smacks of vendetta politics. This disrespect to “Himachal’s daughter” is intolerable, he said while ensuring “Y Plus” security for her. This should alert the Maharashtra Chief Minister to what lies ahead because nobody will tolerate this kind of behaviour by Shiv Sainiks towards citizens hailing from other States.

The Bombay High Court has rightly rapped the municipal corporation on the knuckles and said the demolition “smacks of malafide” and is “deplorable”. The court noted that what the corporation terms as “unauthorised” construction did not come up overnight. However, the corporation had suddenly woken up from its slumber, issued a notice to Ranaut when she was out of the city and proceeded with the demolition 24 hours later. Further, the court wondered whether the municipal corporation would act with “similar swiftness” in respect



other numerous unauthorised constructions. In its order of September 9, the court has recorded in detail the attempts made by the municipal corporation to stall the hearing and to prevent it from taking cognisance of the petition until it had completed the demolition. This is indicative of the arrogance of the executive and disrespect for the judiciary.

The Shiv Sena has to be told that it does not own Mumbai. Sainiks have lived in this delusion for too long. In fact, seven decades ago, there was a strong argument in favour of making Bombay a Union Territory in view of its cosmopolitan outlook and strategic location.

A memorandum submitted on behalf of the Gujarat Research Society in 1948 to the Linguistic Provinces Commission argued for Bombay’s independence. It said “Bombay has been an all Indian city with an international outlook and a distinctive non-provincial culture in which people from all provinces of India and even foreigners play their part...It would, therefore, be unfair to transfer an international port like Bombay to the province of Maharashtra ... created on the narrow ground of a provincial language.”

The Commission saw merit in this argument and said: “Nationalism and sub-nationalism are two emotional experiences which grow at the expense of each other.” It said Bombay “should receive special treatment and be disposed of in the best interests of India as a whole” and in its own interest.

“THE SHIV SENA HAS TO BE TOLD THAT IT DOES NOT OWN MUMBAI. SAINIKS HAVE LIVED IN THIS DELUSION FOR TOO LONG. IN FACT, SEVEN DECADES AGO THERE WAS A STRONG ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR OF MAKING BOMBAY A UNION TERRITORY IN VIEW OF ITS COSMOPOLITAN OUTLOOK AND STRATEGIC LOCATION”



SOUND BITE

Without swift and immediate action, at an unprecedented pace and scale, we will miss the window of opportunity to ‘reset’ for...a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Prince of Wales
—Charles Philip Arthur George



I appeal to those Senate Republicans — please follow your conscience, let the people speak, cool the flames that have been engulfing our country.

Democratic leader
—Joe Biden



Suspension of the eight MPs who fought to protect farmers’ interests is unfortunate and reflective of this autocratic Government’s mindset.

West Bengal CM
—Mamata Banerjee



It pained me a lot because what happened yesterday in the House is unfortunate, unacceptable and condemnable.

Rajya Sabha Chairman
—M Venkaiah Naidu



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public indifference

Sir — It is due to the complete disregard for COVID-19 protocols that Mumbai has become the worst-hit State in the country. It was recently observed that walkers on Marine Drive had been openly flouting the guidelines under which both wearing a face mask and following social distance is mandatory. They not only risked their lives but also put others in danger. Despite BMC’s attempt to keep law and order, the officials have been facing resistance from the people who are unwilling to pay fines for non-compliance. CSMT, Crawford Market and Bora Bazaar are other areas where such irresponsible attitude is on public display. It’s high time that people realise their responsibility in helping the State Government stop the spread of the virus.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Time to adapt

Sir — The mega sporting extravaganza, Indian Premier League, that started last week, was eager-

The politics of religious hate-mongering

The Supreme Court made some pertinent and instructive observations while hearing a plea alleging that *Sudarshan News’ Bindas Bol* show makes communal remarks about the entry of members of the Muslim community into the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The court made it amply clear that the media cannot target or malign a religious community in the name of journalistic freedom. It is a sad reality that sections of the media sometimes use national security for justifying violations of constitutionally guaranteed rights.

The programme tried to link civil service aspirants from the Muslim community to “illegal funding” and “overseas terror organisations” and showed green T-shirts, skull caps and flames with the intent of portraying Indian Muslims as the fifth column.

The very phrases like “love jihad” and “enticement of wives and daughters” were coined to show the community in a bad light. It is a bare-faced calumny to say that the Muslim youth join the civil services as part of



a “deep-seated conspiracy.”

The TV programme is not an aberration but a part of a wider project of spreading religious hatred for political gains. A secular democracy like ours cannot tolerate masses being pigeonholed as “us-and-them” on the basis of religion.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Aid for farmers

Sir — Appropriate policy response and sustainable alternatives are needed to further the argument around the current agricultural methods practised in India. According to the latest data released by National Crime Records Bureau on accidental deaths and suicides, 10,281 farmers committed suicide in 2019,

down from 10,357 in 2018, whereas the figure for daily wagers rose to 32,559 from 30,132. The total number of suicides in the country went up to 1,39,123 in 2019 from 1,34,516 in 2018. These worrying statistics call for an urgent response from the Government to assist the food producers of this nation.

Noor Ahmad
Hyderabad

Suicidal behaviour

Sir — The spike in self-harm, suicidal ideation and behaviour amid COVID-19 pandemic is a major concern. Anxiety, job loss, stress, loneliness and financial insecurity top the list of concerns during this time. Help-seeking was highest among individuals aged 25 to 40 years, followed by those between 18 and 25 years and between 40 and 60 years, as reported. Given the gravity of the issue, the Government needs to increase socio-economic safety nets and devise ways to support those in need.

Khushbu Ved
Ujjain

MLALADF released

Sir — The Himachal Pradesh Government has announced the release of the MLAs Local Area Development Fund (MLALADF), stating that the first instalment would be available in October. Other States, too, should release funds for development.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

New weapons in doctors' tool box

The healthcare sector is improving efficiencies due to the surge in usage of robotics and AI in medical processes and other operations



AMIT KUMAR

Mobile robots are becoming increasingly popular across different business sectors as they are used to assist work processes and even accomplish tasks that are impossible or dangerous for humans. Due to their advanced technological systems, mobile robots can be used for surveillance, planetary exploration, patrolling, emergency and rescue operations, reconnaissance, petrochemical applications, industrial automation, construction, entertainment, as museum guides, for personal services and intervention in extreme environment, transportation, medical care as well as many other industrial and non-industrial applications.

Hence, mobile robotics is one of the fastest-expanding fields of scientific research. And now, more than ever, the Coronavirus crisis has highlighted the way we can optimise the use of mobile robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to successfully fight any pandemic. Given the highly infectious nature of the Coronavirus and the consequential need for social distancing, companies, both large and small, have realised that robots can provide contact-free alternatives to healthcare workers. Hospitals are devising ways to use robots to minimise the presence of healthcare staff in the Covid-care facilities. Hence, a large number of hospitals across the globe are currently using robots for rendering services such as automated testing, supporting public safety and public works, decontaminating hospitals and public spaces, ensuring delivery services, maintaining patient database and diagnosing diseases.

Multi-purpose robots are also used for temperature checking, as dispensers, for patient registration entry, delivering medication, food and so on. The aim is to quickly deploy telehealth technology during the current outbreak to allow for curbside screening of patients as enabling remote screening will reduce the contact time between patients and frontline healthcare workers, who are critical in the fight against the pandemic.

Applications of robotics are playing a major role in laboratory diagnostics services, too. However, apart from automation of laboratory and testing services, robots can also automate manual operations that are labour-intensive, time-consuming and repetitive in order to reduce the burden on frontline healthcare workers. They can play an important role in high-tech applications, too, such as performing complex surgeries like the latest Elon Musk's Neuralink chip implantation surgery, other neuro surgeries, cutting bones and so on.

AI is transforming our lifestyles by mimicking human intelligence for solving various issues. With technological advancement, AI is getting increasingly sophisticated at doing what humans do, but more efficiently, rapidly and at a lower cost. AI in healthcare provides an upper hand undoubtedly over traditional analysing and clinical decision-making techniques.

A few of the roles played by AI during the pandemic relate to early warnings and alerts, prediction and detection of outbreak of diseases, real-time disease monitoring worldwide, analysis and visualisation of spreading trends, prediction of infection rate and infection trend, rapid decision-making to identify effective treatments, study and analysis of the pathogens and drug discovery. During this time, AI diagnostic tools are used to distinguish COVID-19 from other types of pneumonia within seconds by analysing the patients' chest CT scan images.

Newer models hold great potential to relieve the pressure of frontline radiologists, improve early diagnosis, isolation and treatment, and thus contribute to the control of the epidemic. Medical robotics can be considered as the application of robotics technology to healthcare to diagnose and treat diseases, or to correct, restore or modify a body function or a body part. With the help of medical robotics, surgeons can carry out operations more precisely and in a less invasive way. Surgical robotics segment dominated the medical robotics market in terms of revenue in 2019 and rehabilitation robots are gaining popularity due to the rising ageing population subject to increasing physical disabilities. It is predicted that hospital and pharmacy robots will contribute around 12 per cent to the global medical robotics market by 2025.

Due to the major use of automation processes, the robotics industry is reaching major heights by contributing to every sector of the economy and working as a lever to reduce human efforts. The healthcare sector has improved efficiencies because of it.

(The writer is Co-Founder, Addverb Technologies)

THESE BILLS REFLECT MODI JI'S UNWAVERING RESOLVE TOWARDS THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FARMERS AND STRENGTHENING OF THE FARM SECTOR.

—UNION HOME MINISTER

AMIT SHAH

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN SHAMED BY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT PASSED DEATH WARRANTS AGAINST FARMERS IN THE FORM OF THE FARM BILLS.

—CONGRESS LEADER

RAHUL GANDHI

Don't bank on banks

There's no pressing need for a firm hit by the crisis to rush to banks for relief. To enjoy the fruits when the going is good and come to the bank or Govt for help when in crisis is unacceptable



UTTAM GUPTA

On March 27 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, announced a comprehensive action plan to resuscitate the economy devastated by the Coronavirus. Apart from measures to increase availability of credit and reduction in the cost of capital, the plan sought to ease the stress of loan repayments on businesses and individuals. Among others, this included a three-month moratorium on payment of instalments in respect of all term loans outstanding on March 31. On May 22, Das announced extension of the moratorium for three months till August 31. To ease the burden of payment on those who availed of working capital facilities, the Governor allowed them to convert accumulated interest for the deferment period into a funded interest term loan (FITL) which can be paid by March 31, 2021.

The RBI eased asset classification norms for all accounts coming under moratorium, too. These accounts will be treated as non-performing assets (NPA) from 270 days overdue instead of 90 days overdue as per extant rule. It has also extended the 210-day resolution period for all large stressed accounts under its June 7, 2019 circular (on its expiry, if banks are not ready with a resolution plan, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code [IBC] comes into play) by a further 180 days. To address the situation after the moratorium ends, on August 6, the RBI announced a scheme for one-time restructuring of the debt for large companies, besides extending till March 31, an existing restructuring scheme for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) with relaxed norms. It also set up an expert committee under KV Kamath to recommend the required financial parameters, along with the sector-specific benchmarks for this special window.

Meanwhile, one Gajendra Sharma had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court (SC) demanding waiver on interest charged by a private bank, citing relief given by the RBI on payment of Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) during March and August 31, due to the pandemic. During the last three months or so, the SC has heard the matter thrice. It has made the following observations: On June 4 it said, "On one hand, you are granting moratorium (on loans) but continuing with interest. It is more detrimental." On June 17 it observed, "There is no merit in burdening customers, who have opted for the RBI-approved loan moratorium, with additional interest. Once you fix a moratorium it should serve the purpose desired. We see no merit in charging interest on interest."

On September 10, 2020, it said, "We are keen to waive interest on interest" for borrowers who availed the moratorium and asked the Government and the RBI to come up with a "concrete plan" with regard to the vexed issue. It posted the matter for hearing on September 28, when it is likely to give its final order.

From the above, it is abundantly clear that the SC does not want banks to charge interest on interest for the moratorium period. Whether or not this will get reflected in its order, one can only wait and watch. Meanwhile, it may be worthwhile to look at the desirability or otherwise of such a move in particular, its impact on the viability and financial stability of the banking system.

At the outset, by granting moratorium to all and sundry, the RBI gave a signal that almost everyone

“IMAGINE A SITUATION WHERE A BANK DEFERS PAYMENT OF THE INTEREST PORTION SAY BY SIX MONTHS (BECAUSE IT IS UNDER STRESS FOR THAT LONG). THEN, IT WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO PAY 'INTEREST ON THE UNPAID INTEREST AMOUNT.' THE DEPOSITOR WON'T FOREGO THIS JUST BECAUSE THE BANK WAS UNDER STRESS. THIS LOGIC HOLDS WITH EQUAL FORCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE BORROWER DISCHARGING HIS/HER LIABILITIES TO THE BANK. IF THE FORMER DELAYS PAYMENT OF INTEREST (COURTESY, MORATORIUM MANDATED BY RBI) THEN, IT MUST PAY 'INTEREST ON UNPAID INTEREST AMOUNT' TO THE LATTER



would be devastated by the pandemic.

The SC has gone a step further by aligning itself with a plea that the banks should also not be charging "interest on unpaid interest amount during the moratorium period." Such a sweeping and broad-based generalisation is totally divorced from the reality. No doubt, the Coronavirus has caused unprecedented damage but this can't be pushed to a point of arguing that almost everyone has been incapacitated and hence unable to service the loans. After all, even during the lockdown, a number of activities, especially health related, all essential goods and services besides firms in several other sectors permitting work from home (WFH) continued their business. Look at the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). During April-June 2020 it was about 23 per cent less than during April-June 2019 but it was not reduced to zero.

Businesses which contributed to this GDP (about ₹2,55,000 crore during April-June 2020) can't be termed as not being in a position to service their loan. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. A large number of borrowers have not availed of the moratorium. For instance, in case of the State Bank of India (SBI), over 80 per cent of its retail borrowers did not avail of the moratorium for two out of the first three months (March-May) initially allowed by the RBI. Further, 90 per cent of such borrowers did not avail of the moratorium for one month. In other words, they continued to pay their EMI.

Yet, in retrospect, the SC allows waiver of "interest on unpaid interest amount" for all and sundry, this will be unfair to and discriminate against such borrowers who decided not to avail of the moratorium and continued to service their loans. A business by nature has ups and downs. Every enterprise has a phase of buoyancy when it gets to reap extraordi-

nary profit (for instance, in the automobile sector during 2017-18/2018-19). Why can't the surplus or savings from those years be used as a buffer against the current setback? Alternatively, in future, say during 2022-23, when the pandemic impact will subside and the sectors start generating good profits, the surplus to be retained therefrom will provide adequate cushion to pay for current liabilities (including interest on interest).

The point in short is that there is no compelling need for a firm impacted by the crisis to rush to banks for relief. To enjoy the fruits when the going is good and come to the bank or Government for bail-out when in crisis is totally unacceptable. A bank does not run a charity. Its business model involves taking money from depositors in lieu of promising a fixed return (call it interest rate) which is added to the invested amount and returned to the depositor on maturity. The bank lends the funds thus collected to borrowers, viz. industries, businesses or individuals and so on and uses the interest earning to service its depositors (besides paying for its own "intermediation" expenses).

The bank is legally bound to honour its contractual obligation to the depositor i.e. it must return to him/her the principal amount plus accrued interest on the maturity/due date. Imagine a situation wherein a bank defers payment of the interest portion say by six months (because it is under stress for that long). Then it will necessarily have to pay "interest on the unpaid interest amount."

The depositor won't forego this just because the bank was under stress. This logic holds with equal force when it comes to the borrower discharging his/her liabilities to the bank. If the former delays payment of interest (courtesy, moratorium mandated by RBI) then it must pay "interest on unpaid interest amount" to the

latter. Yet, if the top court forces banks to forego it, this will dent their ability to service the depositors. It will strike at the root of architecture of the financial system and pose a serious threat to the viability of bank.

Businesses can always approach banks for support by way of additional funding and negotiate for changes in the terms of payment. This is precisely what the RBI is facilitating by way of one-time restructuring scheme (as 26 sectors have been identified by the Kamath Committee for a customised package). But to expect banks to bear a portion of the cost in a broadside and high-handed manner is an abhorrent idea.

On the other hand, to expect the Government to pick up the cost tag would also be illogical and unfair. Apart from COVID-related expenses on medical facilities and health infrastructure (besides increasing expenditure on defence in the current security environment), the Union's scarce resources need to be preserved only for addressing basic needs of the poor whose survival depends on daily wages and who — unlike firms — had neither any savings from the past nor any hope of having any windfall gain in the future.

To conclude, if SC orders what it has alluded to, this will affect the viability of banks or further bloat fiscal deficit (in case, the Government foots the bill), thereby jeopardising the country's macro-economic fundamentals. This should be avoided and businesses need to remain focussed on making best use of the RBI's package. Even so, the most crucial requirement at this juncture is to "flatten" the COVID curve at the fastest pace so that economic activities get back to normal. Sans this, any relief, howsoever generous, won't be of much help.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Get a healthy mix of online, classroom learning

Just 25 per cent students have access to smartphones, laptops and the net. HEIs must develop mechanisms with in-built functionalities to overcome this



MONIKA S GARG

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers accreditation to institutions for running open distance learning and online programmes. This is a unique opportunity for Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) to enhance the courses being offered, improve access, increase enrolment and provide opportunities for lifelong learning. Even before the lockdown, online learning platforms like NPTEL and MOOCs were being utilised in Uttar Pradesh (UP) for technical education. However, these were considered largely experimental and the reliance on e-learning in higher education was minimal. The pandemic, however, decreed teach-from-home and learn-from-home. The PM e-Vidya scheme was launched and HEIs in UP embraced online education. Around 15,000 teachers adopted online pedagogy and over nine lakh students

benefitted from it during the first two phases of the lockdown.

However, like any technological revolution, online education brings with it both opportunities for unparalleled growth and threats in the form of newly vulnerable populations. To get maximum dividends, we need to construct a structured environment for online education with the twin targets of inclusion and personalisation.

Content preparation, delivery and assessment will need to be optimised differentially to match the needs of varied target groups. High calibre e-content is the foundation of any such programme. A wealth of course content is available in English on various open source platforms. This may be integrated into the curriculum to maximise delivery at the earliest. Meanwhile, efforts have to be made to prepare content in regional languages. The course material needs to be engaging and interactive, with liberal use of audio, video, visuals and other features tailored to the course.

For instance, a course in zoology would be more visual while a course in language will require an interface equipped with grammar and spellcheck. Online learning is self-paced and self-motivated. Students can learn at their own speed, going back and re-

reading, skipping or accelerating through concepts as they choose. However, it relies heavily on the learner's inclinations. Laid-back students may fall behind the rest of the class. Thus, a time bound-schedule with frequent evaluation is necessary. Special attention must be paid to students not doing well, as to why their grades are slipping.

This scenario again points to the need of a robust system of content delivery and assessment. Discussion forums and Breakout rooms (Google Classroom, Moodle, Zoom and so on) allow small-sized groups to be formed, with the instructor being able to visit each of these and share his notes. With whiteboard integration, science teachers find mini gadgets like tabs with pens convenient for performing mathematical derivations and solving numerical problems. Cross-institutional collaborative learning is also possible on platforms such as MS Teams, WebEx, Skype and Google Hangouts which allow learners to discuss problems in real time. Simulation software and virtual labs help in imparting practical knowledge to the students. This needs to be supplemented by tutorials and remedial classes, which should be personalised and customised further.

Classroom interactions are also

essential for learning from peer groups and acquiring networking skills and civic sense. The challenge is to arrive at an optimal blend of online and classroom teaching. Topics that require introspection and debate should be taken up in traditional settings. For example, philosophy requires the ability to analyse a given set of hypotheses and synthesise new postulates. It may be difficult to acquire this proficiency virtually. Assessment of the students both during and at the end of a course has always been a challenge for distance learning programmes. Using e-platforms, a combination of online and offline evaluations may be used. Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled verification, face movement recognition, screen locking and remote vigilance are some techniques that can minimise chances of use of unfair means during online tests.

Simultaneously, stringent quality control measures need to be put in place to evaluate teachers. Of course, the end-term performance of the students is an absolute parameter for making such assessments. But concurrent evaluations are essential to check time lags and protect the students' interests. The Learning Management System (LMS) is a good solution that can be indigenised and adapted by institutes. It can review per-

formance and learn about the impact of teaching with dashboards and reports. Institutions can modify the existing features of LMS to identify a user's learning abilities, articulate accordingly and extract meta-data to make suitable recommendations for helping them.

External reviews of content delivery by subject experts and industry doyens will be vital to upgrading the standards of education. Peer review is a necessary part of any academic endeavour and will become easier through e-platforms. The NEP paves the way for multi-disciplinary institutes through course flexibility and transfer of credits. Online education will be a cornerstone in this. A Computer Science major student wanting to create a start-up can do courses not being offered in his/her college, like an Economics or Commerce minor, from a university specialising in it, through an e-platform. This way, students can get a well-rounded education encompassing all their diverse interests.

Basic compulsory courses like ethics, health and hygiene, digital awareness and communication skills can also be offered by universities online. Some HEIs can strive to become centres of excellence for providing specialised courses, like AI,

Internet of Things and Machine Learning, creative and liberal arts or yoga and meditation, online. Students can attend these even during their vacations, thus freeing up time for regular courses. The increased flexibility in timings may be used to maximise the payoff from physical college hours.

However, the biggest challenge in UP is equity and inclusion. The NITI Aayog, in its *Strategy for New India @75* report, highlighted the quality and reliability of the internet as a major bottleneck. Only about 25 per cent of students have access to smartphones, laptops and the internet. Universities will have to develop mechanisms with in-built functionalities to overcome these deficiencies.

They can develop tabs preloaded with e-content and devise a system for issuing such tabs for a fixed time, like books issued from library. Students can use them at home, even without internet connectivity. The local industry can be motivated to use their Corporate Social Responsibility funds (CSR) to provide hardware and software to colleges. The National Broadband Mission, aiming to provide internet access in all villages by 2022, will be a great help. The Government can establish e-Learning Parks in schools in remote areas with computers and internet connectivity.

Students enrolled in higher education programmes can use these to access digital platforms after school hours.

The benefits of online learning extend to beyond just students. Online education opens up avenues for lifelong learning. Once people get habituated to learning and absorbing content through e-platforms, they can continue to read and learn beyond the years of formal training. The NEP has called for a complete revamping of the higher education sector. Colleges will have to re-imagine their mission and work together towards reforming education. Coordination and collaboration will be key to future growth. To jump start the process, the UP Department of Higher Education has developed a portal for uploading of e-content by HEIs. This is available to students across the country free of cost. Called the UP Higher Education Digital Library, this bilingual portal was started on Teacher's Day. UP has declared September and October as *Vidyadaan Maah* and urged teachers to contribute to this library, in keeping with our culture of charity. More than 3,000 pieces have been uploaded by HEI faculty voluntarily on the library till date.

(The author is Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education Department, UP)

Sensex falls 800 points as Covid cases surge globally

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian stock market plunged on Monday, tracking a global selloff due to a fresh spurt of coronavirus cases across Europe.

The BSE Sensex plunged over 800 points and the Nifty50 closed below the 11,300 mark as the resurgence in Covid cases has also given fuel to anticipation of renewed lockdown restrictions across countries in Europe, including the UK and France.

The BSE Sensex closed at 38,034.14, lower by 811.68 points, or 2.09 per cent, from the previous close of 38,845.82. The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) settled at 11,222.20, lower by 282.75 point, or 2.46 per cent, from its previous close.

The across-the-board sell-off was led by auto, telecom, metal and FMCG stocks.

Manish Hathiramani,

technical analyst with Deen Dayal Investments, said: “The markets have broken the support of 11,300 on a closing basis and this is definitely an alarming situation. We could drop to 10,950-11,000 levels as the fall today has been fierce and on the back of good volumes.”

“The resistance on the upside is at 11,550-11,600. Until then the markets look weak,” he added. Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said that the global cues were negative at the start of the day with lofty valuations, fading US stimulus and fresh wave of coronavirus infections in Europe being major risks. “In the US, attention is turning back to negotiations on fresh stimulus and the forthcoming election. Further, European markets fell after a report on bank allegations and signs that London is heading for a second lockdown,” he added.

₹ rises by 7 paise to 73.38 in line with Asian peers

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee strengthened by 7 paise to close at 73.38 against the US dollar on Monday, extending its gains for the second day on the back of firm Asian currencies and weak crude oil prices.

Forex dealers said inflows into Indian equities and firming Asian currencies against the dollar lent support to the local currency.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.43 and later rose to a high of 73.26 in the day trade.

2-year wait for States not opting for GST compensation formula

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

States which failed to submit their options before the GST Council meeting in October will have to wait for at least two years to get compensation on Goods and Services Tax collection shortfall expected during the transition period, Finance Ministry sources said on Monday.

The sources said that such states will have to wait till June 2022 to get compensation dues, subject to the condition that the GST Council extends the cess collection period beyond 2022.

This is so because the Council is expected to adopt one of the two options given by the Centre to meet the GST compensation needs of the states this year.

The states which decide against operationalisation of the new GST compensation formula will get their dues only to the extent of compensation cess collected in FY21

and distributed in proportion among all states and union territories.

The balance shortfall will only be met from the collection of GST compensation cess beyond the five-year transition period that ends in June 2022. This will be subject to GST Council approval to the extension of compensation cess.

The GST Council, in its 41st meeting on August 27, 2020, had decided to give its member-states two borrowing options to meet their compensation shortfall and a response time of 7 working days from the formal receipt of the detailed proposal on the options by email. Almost 15 states had submitted their options by September 15 and more have joined since.

Option-1 on GST compensation brought before the Council last month allows states to borrow, under a special dispensation from the Reserve Bank of India, a sum of about Rs 97,000 crore short-

Privatise select PSU banks, dilute role of DFS: Rajan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan on Monday suggested the government to privatise select public sector banks, set up a bad bank to deal with NPAs and dilute the role of Department of Financial Services.

The reforms are necessary to ensure growth of the banking government without the periodic boom-bust cycles, said a paper titled ‘Indian Banks: A Time to Reform?’, co-authored by Rajan and former Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Viral Acharya.

“Re-privatization of select PSBs can then be undertaken as part of a carefully calibrated strategy, bringing in private investors who have both financial expertise as well as technological expertise; corporate houses must be kept from acquiring significant stakes,

given their natural conflicts of interest,” the paper said.

Noting that the government obtains enormous power from directing bank lending, it said sometimes this power is exercised to advance public goals such as financial inclusion or infrastructure finance, sometimes it is used to offer patronage to, or exercise control over, industrialists. “Winding down Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance is essential, both as an affirmative signal of the intent to grant bank boards and management independence and as a commitment not to engage in ‘mission creep’ when compulsions arise to use banks for serving costly social or political objectives,” the paper noted.

Acc to the paper, private asset management and national asset management ‘bad banks’ should be encouraged in parallel to the online platform for distressed loan sales.

Banks not risk averse, they are being prudent: SBI chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that there is muted demand for loans, SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar on Monday said banks are not risk averse but they are being prudent in these trying times to avoid a repeat of the post-2008 scenario when there was “dilution” in credit underwrit-

ing standards.

Data clearly shows that investment in the economy has come down, the head of the country’s biggest lender said.

“If the capex (capital expenditure) is not happening and investment in the economy is not happening at the same pace, then obviously this is a

demand issue and the risk aversion would be where there is a demand and banks are not lending,” he said at a virtual event organised by AIMA.

Non-food bank credit grew 6.7 per cent year-on-year in July as against a growth of 11.4 per cent in the same month of the last year, as per latest data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Govt sets foodgrain output target at record 301 mn tonnes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has set foodgrain production target at a record 301 million tonnes for the 2021-21 crop year, up nearly 1.5 per cent from the previous year’s output,

on the back of good monsoon rains and higher acreage in the kharif season. The target for the 2020-21 crop year (July-June) was set at the National Conference for Rabi Campaign 2020, which was held on Mon to review the progress of the kharif

(summer-sown) season and plan for the rabi crops. Addressing the event, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar congratulated farmers and state govts for record foodgrain production of 296.65 million tonnes in the 2019-20 crop year.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11503.80	11535.25	11218.50	11250.55	-254.40	
TCS	2465.00	2504.90	2452.15	2467.00	-17.10	
INFY	1001.00	1031.00	1000.50	1007.00	-4.85	
KOTAKBANK	1276.00	1319.45	1273.15	1281.85	-4.75	
HDFC	1722.80	1738.75	1701.85	1707.75	-16.25	
HDFCLIFE	587.00	589.80	577.25	578.65	-6.45	
POWERGRID	171.00	171.70	167.65	169.95	-1.95	
HCLTECH	823.00	849.90	793.45	801.15	-9.45	
UPL	537.00	546.50	521.85	530.60	-6.70	
HDFCBANK	1055.00	1071.35	1041.50	1042.10	-15.20	
WIPRO	315.90	324.50	309.95	311.05	-5.45	
TECHM	807.00	830.00	784.30	789.60	-15.05	
COALINDIA	123.65	124.15	121.10	121.20	-2.45	
ITC	180.00	180.60	175.05	175.30	-3.80	
HEROMOTOCO	3122.00	3124.45	3033.05	3042.90	-69.75	
RELIANCE	2300.00	2336.00	2247.35	2250.00	-55.70	
LIT	91.00	90.80	87.40	87.55	-22.15	
EICHERMOT	2153.05	2160.90	2088.10	2094.40	-58.55	
ASIANPAINT	2036.40	2057.00	1962.30	1973.10	-55.30	
NTPC	91.15	91.35	87.35	88.00	-2.55	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3045.95	3045.95	2960.10	2962.20	-88.75	
HINDUNILVR	2098.70	2099.00	2022.10	2035.60	-63.70	
BPCL	413.50	415.70	399.05	399.40	-12.65	
ADANI PORTS	358.00	359.00	343.95	345.95	-11.90	
BAJAJFINSV	5896.00	5900.90	5631.00	5690.00	-198.45	
ULTRACEMCO	4002.60	4003.60	3850.00	3857.00	-145.60	
SICAR	523.80	528.25	499.00	504.05	-19.30	
SBIN	193.05	193.50	184.25	185.40	-7.20	
SHRECE	19520.95	19600.00	18707.65	18778.90	-742.05	
DRREDDY	5333.35	5512.65	5111.25	5130.00	-203.35	
TITAN	1163.60	1171.80	1115.05	1116.95	-46.65	
BRITANNIA	390.00	379.00	361.50	364.30	-154.00	
JOC	80.80	81.00	77.00	77.40	-3.30	
GRASIM	749.65	749.65	710.05	711.30	-32.00	
BAJFINANCE	3642.80	3467.00	3314.25	3321.85	-172.00	
NESTLEIND	16025.00	16049.50	15154.50	15370.55	-112.90	
ONGC	74.00	74.10	70.90	71.00	-3.80	
ZEEL	221.75	224.80	204.35	210.50	-9.80	
GAIL	92.20	92.20	87.40	87.95	-4.15	
AXISBANK	443.40	444.00	420.55	422.30	-21.05	
MARUTI	6964.75	6986.90	6790.00	6631.50	-333.25	
CIPLA	806.25	811.95	762.00	765.15	-41.10	
ICICIBANK	366.65	367.40	348.50	350.70	-18.85	
INFRATEL	199.20	199.20	186.70	189.10	-10.25	
M&M	657.00	666.60	615.45	619.95	-34.20	
BHARTIARTL	496.00	496.00	461.25	467.55	-27.40	
JSWSTEEL	289.40	290.30	270.05	270.30	-17.00	
TATASTEEL	396.00	399.20	371.00	371.55	-23.95	
HINDALCO	179.40	180.70	161.00	166.50	-13.00	
TATAMOTORS	147.75	147.75	135.50	136.30	-11.60	
INDUSINDBK	612.90	617.40	553.85	560.95	-52.25	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27601.80	27601.80	26544.45	26671.25	-881.60	
OFSS	3020.00	3185.00	3010.00	3028.00	-37.30	
PGHIL	9895.00	9948.55	9737.25	9895.05	-7.50	
SBILIFE	849.00	851.80	835.60	838.50	-9.60	
COLPAL	1376.10	1385.45	1352.00	1356.35	-16.30	
HAVELLS	668.65	688.50	665.00	666.75	-8.50	
SRTRANSFIN	649.40	652.85	631.00	638.80	-8.60	
PIDILITIND	1455.00	1460.75	1410.55	1435.00	-20.10	
IGL	416.90	429.00	412.10	414.00	-6.00	
ICICI	1304.45	1315.55	1260.60	1273.00	-22.95	
BERGEPAINT	580.15	583.50	565.10	566.95	-11.55	
PETRONET	225.95	228.50	222.50	223.50	-4.70	
BOSCHLTD	13080.00	13115.00	12750.00	12800.00	-270.60	
INDIGO	1321.70	1350.80	1286.60	1287.55	-27.65	
HDFCAMC	2199.90	2208.00	2159.00	2168.00	-47.45	
SIEMENS	1257.45	1259.90	1228.00	1228.60	-28.25	
GICRE	129.10	129.90	124.10	125.85	-3.15	
PAGEIND	18745.00	18868.75	18127.35	18198.20	-466.05	
ICICIPRULI	421.55	423.30	408.50	411.00	-10.75	
CONCOR	388.00	388.00	372.05	375.95	-10.50	
DMAT	2175.00	2177.00	2056.00	2090.00	-59.05	
HINDPETRO	194.50	198.50	188.25	188.50	-5.55	
BAJAJHLING	2608.00	2615.00	2490.00	2510.30	-77.20	
SBICARD	855.00	857.00	811.00	824.05	-25.35	
NHPC	21.35	21.35	20.35	20.50	-0.70	
NAUKRI	3475.00	3583.55	3361.10	3370.35	-116.95	
ABOTINDIA	16511.05	16800.00	15660.00	15898.90	-607.25	
CADILAH	412.90	416.95	390.55	394.05	-15.65	
MARICO	362.00	363.45	347.65	348.60	-13.90	
HINDZINC	214.20	214.00	204.80	205.10	-8.35	
DABUR	510.00	511.95	487.25	488.00	-20.45	
LUPIN	1085.85	1097.85	1030.30	1040.55	-45.35	
UBL	1018.65	1022.15	971.00	974.90	-43.85	
ACC	1431.40	1431.40	1366.20	1369.00	-62.80	
NMDC	87.35	87.35	82.55	82.90	-4.00	
GODREJCP	715.90	716.95	680.05	680.55	-33.20	
AUROPHARMA	835.00	857.90	785.80	789.55	-38.55	
MCDOWELL-N	544.75	545.00	511.20	516.30	-27.40	
AMBIANTANS	259.75	259.75	244.15	244.55	-13.40	
ADANIS	220.00	220.25	207.70	208.20	-11.80	
BANKBARODA	45.30	45.30	42.50	42.60	-2.45	
DIVISLAB	3350.95	3374.25	3120.05	3151.35	-193.05	
PFC	94.00	94.00	87.85	88.00	-5.40	
TORNTPHARM	2890.00	2890.50	2685.35	2700.90	-175.40	
MUTHOOTFIN	1111.00	1119.75	1036.10	1036.50	-68.50	
BIOCON	453.95	453.95	425.35	425.35	-28.65	
MOTHERSUMI	122.85	123.10	112.90	114.90	-7.75	
DLF	161.65	162.45	150.00	150.90	-10.35	
PNB	32.55	32.60	30.40	30.45	-2.15	
REL	1352.50	1354.95	1260.00	1261.00	-90.90	
BANDHANBNK	298.00	298.00	273.10	275.95	-22.80	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
DRREDDY	5338.00	5514.65	5114.10	5139.20
RELIANCE	2305.00	2336.55	2248.00	2255.15
SBIN	193.00	193.50	184.30	185.80
IDEA	11.25	11.36	10.30	10.39
HCLTECH	822.60	849.70	794.05	802.30
INDUSINDBK	609.00	617.20	554.30	560.20
BAJFINANCE	3470.00	3470.00	3315.00	3327.95
HDFCBANK	1052.00	1071.20	1041.15	1048.70
INFY	1000.00	1030.80	1000.00	1009.30
BHARTIARTL	496.40	496.40	461.35	467.85
TATAMOTORS	148.40	148.00	135.50	137.40
JINDALSTEEL	199.70	199.70	168.70	175.30
IBULHSGFIN	180.20	181.95	151.80	154.90
LAURUSLABS	1503.00	1549.80	1391.45	1426.55
ICICIBANK	366.25	368.65	349.25	350.85
CIPLA	806.85	811.40	762.10	767.70
KOTAKBANK	1270.00	1318.85	1270.00	1289.35
ITC	180.20	180.40	175.05	175.70
HINDUNILVR	2099.00	2100.00	2022.95	2038.90
TCS	2460.00	2505.00	2453.60	2464.60
AUROPHARMA	833.00	857.00	785.55	791.00
DIVISLAB	3355.50	3374.00	312.95	3159.50
MARUTI	6971.00	6985.00	6589.50	6622.35
WIPRO	316.45	324.55	310.05	311.95
M&M	658.00	666.35	615.50	622.35
ASHOKLEY	80.00	80.90	73.70	74.50
TECHM	805.00	829.95	784.45	787.15
AXISBANK	444.30	444.30	420.60	423.25
BAJAJFINSV	5880.00	5930.00	5630.75	5707.50
ASIANPAINT	2040.00	2056.40	1963.45	1972.70
TATASTEEL	395.25	399.00	371.00	373.25
MINDTREE	1280.00	1322.70	1263.00	1270.35
HEROMOTOCO	3114.25	3131.65	3035.50	3053.20
DLF	163.40	163.40	150.55	152.19
LT	900.20	904.30	874.55	881.92
HDFCAMC	2199.00	2207.35	2156.05	2165.55
NESTLEIND	16100.00	16100.00	15160.54	15148.89
JSWSTEEL	287.70	290.05	270.15	271.33
GLNEMARK	509.00	513.75	461.75	471.30
BANDHANBANK	298.00	298.00	273.30	277.20
COLPAL	1372.95	1383.25	1353.00	1368.89
RLBANK	181.40	182.20	168.05	169.10
APOLLOHOSP	1828.00	1899.35	1812.00	1830.99
TATACHEM	288.05	295.00	285.05	286.66
ULTRACEMCO	4000.00	4003.15	3851.10	3888.89
IDFCFIRSTB	31.10	31.20	29.10	29.89
ZEEL	22.20	224.80	20.45	210.50
ADANIANT	295.00	295.90	265.80	277.40
PVR	95.90	92.30	87.50	88.11
BHEL	1205.00	1211.35	1103.00	1115.44
LUPIN	34.40	35.55	34.05	34.30
BHUP	1094.95	1097.40	1031.05	1040.75
HINDALCO	179.70	180.60	163.30	167.10
BALKRISIND	1395.70	1431.80	1303.45	1324.99
FEDERALBNK	51.90	52.00	49.90	49.97
TTIAN	1168.00	1171.30	1115.05	1119.66
MOTHERSUMI	122.75	123.10	113.00	114.11
STAR	712.60	720.00	654.95	659.19
MANAPPURAM	162.00	165.45	155.00	156.20
INDIAMART	5069.90	5069.90	4506.00	4763.00
SUNPHARMA*	524.70	528.45	499.50	503.66
SRTSRANSFIN	649.95	652.65	631.10	637.40
MGL	916.50	940.90	879.15	884.20
MUTHOOTFIN	1116.00	1118.95	1035.05	1042.90
UPL	57.85	56.15	52.10	53.14
HDFC	173.10	1747.15	1702.35	1708.99
DMART	2170.00	2175.00	2055.15	2093.30
NATOPHARM	893.95	929.50	875.30	890.70
JBCEPHARM	1136.00	1150.00	1046.50	1079.30
VEDL	131.00	133.60	127.25	129.11
ASTRAZEN	4400.00	4535.75	4300.00	4407.55
CADILAC	416.85	416.95	390.50	396.30
IRCTC	1429.00	1429.00	1380.15	1396.69
GRANULES	370.00	373.25	355.05	360.20
FRETAIL	97.50	99.90	95.40	95.40
BPCIL	412.10	415.55	399.25	401.10
SUNTV	480.80	506.55	470.15	475.55
BIOCEN	54.25	54.25	425.80	425.88
APOLLOTYRE	132.00	133.10	123.00	124.12
SKFINDIA	1550.00	1561.00	1504.70	1510.00
BRITANNIA	3797.70	3798.00	3612.70	3629.30
EICHEMOT	2156.50	2157.55	2089.00	2104.00
L&TF	63.90	63.90	60.30	60.66
INDIGO	1320.00	1350.00	1286.15	1296.65
PNB	32.60	32.60	30.40	30.66
TORNTPHARM	2866.00	2889.15	2688.00	2704.20
TATAELXSI	1274.10	1313.00	1271.00	1284.76
NAUKRI	3468.00	3581.00	3365.85	3401.70
DEEPAKRI	857.00	867.50	805.50	813.80
BANKBARODA	45.10	45.30	42.50	42.80
ALKEM	2911.00	2911.00	2835.75	2864.70
ESSELPRO	255.55	263.55	236.95	240.50
MFSL	610.00	621.00	591.20	600.00
BAJAJ-AUTO	3044.00	3045.00	2965.65	2984.40
TATACONSUM	542.80	542.80	502.60	505.90
SAIL	38.80	38.15	35.00	35.94
IOC	81.10	81.10	77.00	77.30
ESCORTS	1237.50	1258.40	1199.75	1216.00
M&MFIN	136.95	133.95	125.00	125.88
HDFCLIFE	583.50	589.65	577.20	579.15
SBICARD	851.50	857.70	811.35	818.80
HINDPETRO	194.00	198.50	188.45	189.45
MCX	1769.00	1769.00	1612.70	1627.00
PIDILITIND	1455.10	1458.35	1411.00	1446.70
IEX	208.80	210.00	190.20	195.10
GMM	5299.00	5350.00	4994.05	5241.00
TATAPOWER	56.00	56.50	52.50	52.99
ONGC	74.25	74.25	70.90	71.20

SOUTH CHINA SEA WATCH

Timeline of recent developments

Beijing: A look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbours in multiple territorial disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons. The waters are a major shipping route for global commerce and are rich in fish and possible oil and gas reserves.

CHINA SEND WAR-PLANES OVER TAIWAN

China flooded the Taiwan Strait at the northern end of the South China Sea with warplanes over two days last week in an apparent attempt to intimidate the self-governing island democracy it claims as its own territory.

The drills were timed to coincide with the visit to Taiwan by a high-ranking US envoy for talks and to attend a memorial service for former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui, who led the island's transition to full democracy in the face of Chinese threats.

China's defence ministry said the planes, including 32 fighters of various types, four bombers and one anti-subma-



rine warfare aircraft, crossed into Taiwan's air defense identification zone on Friday and Saturday.

Taiwan responded by activating its ground-based air defence systems and scrambling fighters, who ordered the Chinese planes to leave, saying they would "bear all the consequences" if they did not.

The Taiwan Strait is a busy transit route to and from the South China Sea which is roughly divided between China to the west and Taiwan to the east.

CHINA COAST GUARD LEAVES INDONESIA WATERS

An Indonesian patrol ship confronted a Chinese coast guard vessel that spent almost three days in waters where Indonesia claims economic rights and are near the southernmost part of China's disputed South China Sea claims.

"We asked them to move out as it was Indonesia's EEZ. But they insisted that it is China's nine-dash- line territory. Our officers at the vessel argued with them until they moved out," said Aan Kurnia, chief of the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency.

"The Chinese coast guard vessel finally left the North Natuna Sea on Monday at 11:20 am," he said.

China's "nine-dash line" delineates its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. A 2016 international arbitration ruling involving the Philippines invalidated most of China's sweeping claims in the sea, but China has ignored the ruling.

US OFFICIAL: CHINA INSINCERE TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA

A US official accused China last week of bullying and insincerity in its dealings with Southeast Asian nations.

US Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell said Tuesday that Chinese insincerity is best illustrated in its aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea, where it has turned disputed reefs into weaponised artificial island outposts despite a commitment not to militarise the region.

In later testimony before the Senate, Stilwell said it was now clear to the US and others that China "seeks to disrupt and reshape the international environment around the narrow self-centered interests and authoritarian values of a single beneficiary, the Chinese Communist Party."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi lashed back at the US in last week's ASEAN meetings, saying Washington was the "biggest driver of militarisation" and the "most dangerous factor damaging peace" in the region.

Woman suspected of sending package containing poison to Trump arrested

Washington: Authorities have arrested a person suspected of sending the deadly poison ricin in an envelope addressed to the White House but intercepted before it could be delivered there, a law enforcement source said on Sunday.

In response to a Reuters query seeking confirmation of media reports that a woman accused of mailing the ricin-tainted letter had been taken into custody at the US-Canadian border, the FBI field office in Washington issued a statement saying: "An arrest was made of an individual allegedly responsible for sending a suspicious letter."

The investigation is ongoing.

The law enforcement source, familiar with the case but speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters the "suspicious letter" referred to in the FBI statement was the same as the envelope found to have contained ricin.

The source also said the person arrested was a woman

of Canadian citizenship.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said on Saturday that it had received a request for assistance from the FBI in the investigation and that the suspicious letter in question appeared to have been sent from Canada.

The RCMP further stated that an FBI analysis of a substance inside the envelope detected "the presence of ricin," a highly toxic agent derived from castor beans.

While naturally occurring, the toxin requires a deliberate act to convert it into a biological weapon, with exposure to an amount as small as a pinhead capable of causing death within 36 to 72 hours. No known antidote exists.

Initially asked about the incident on Saturday, the FBI said it had joined the US Secret Service and the US Postal Inspection Service in the investigation of "a suspicious letter received at a U.S. government mail facility."

Trump warns no TikTok deal if China's ByteDance keeps any 'control'

Washington: President Donald Trump on Monday threw into doubt a deal to restructure ownership of the popular video app TikTok, vowing to block any deal that allows its Chinese parent firm to retain any control.

The comments raised fresh concerns over a weekend deal that appeared to avert a US-ordered ban of TikTok, which the Trump administration has called a national security risk.

The deal would make Silicon Valley giant Oracle the data partner for TikTok with retail giant Walmart also taking a stake in a new entity to be called TikTok Global.

But details of the plan remained unclear, amid differing accounts on the American and Chinese shares of the new firm, and who would be in control of the data and algorithms.

Trump on Monday told Fox News that TikTok's Chinese parent firm ByteDance "will have nothing to do with it and if they do, then we just won't make the deal."

He added Oracle and Walmart "are going to have total control over it. They're going to own the controlling interest... If we find they don't have total control, then we're not going to approve the deal."

ByteDance, under pressure in China not to give in to US demands, said it would hold an 80 per cent stake in TikTok Global after a public share offering. The Chinese firm said the current plan "does not involve the transfer of any algorithms and technologies" and that reports to the contrary were "rumors."

A separate statement from Oracle offered a different view of the transaction.

"Upon creation of TikTok Global, Oracle/Walmart will make their investment and the TikTok Global shares will be distributed to their owners. Americans will be the majority and ByteDance will have no ownership in TikTok Global," Oracle vice president Ken Glueck said.

Biden for less US reliance on nukes for defence

Washington (AP): Democrat Joe Biden leaves little doubt that if elected he would try to scale back President Donald Trump's buildup in nuclear weapons spending. And although the former vice president has not fully detailed his nuclear priorities, he says he would make the US less reliant on the world's deadliest weapons.

The two candidates' views on nuclear weapons policy and strategy carry unusual significance in this election because the United States is at a turning point in deciding the future of its weapons arsenal and because of growing debate about the threat posed by Chinese and Russian nuclear advances.

China, whose relatively small nuclear force is growing in sophistication, is cited by the Pentagon's top nuclear commander as a leading reason why the United States should go all out on nuclear modernization.

"We are going into a very different world," Adm. Charles Richard, the head of U.S. Strategic Command, said Sept. 14. "We are on a trajectory, for the first time in our nation's history, to face two peer nuclear-capable competitors." He was referring to Russia,

which has long been a nuclear peer, and China, whose leaders Richard says have put a strategic nuclear buildup "next on their to-do list."

Days later, Richard said China could become a peer "by the end of the decade, if not sooner." But other estimates suggest a slower pace. The Pentagon recently said Beijing may double its nuclear stockpile over the next 10 years, which would still leave it far behind the US.

Trump entered the White House in 2017 with little to say on the subject of nuclear weapons, but his administration produced a policy document a year later that the Pentagon portrayed as largely tracking the path of the Obama administration.

Trump did, however, add two weapon types and beef up the budget for a years-long overhaul of the nuclear arsenal — an overhaul that Biden sees as excessive.

"Our nuclear now is in the best shape it's been in decades," the president said this month, although the military says the arsenal's main components are so old they are long past due for replacement.

He has boasted in broad, sometimes cryptic, terms of U.S. nuclear advances, telling

journalist Bob Woodward in 2019 that he had built a secret nuclear weapon that neither Russian nor China knew about.

If reelected, Trump would be expected to stay on his path of modernizing the nuclear arsenal, which has bipartisan support in Congress despite growing budget pressures. Less clear is how Trump would approach nuclear arms control, including the problem of North Korea's unconstrained arsenal. His administration has walked away from one arms control deal with Russia and balked at extending an Obama-era strategic nuclear treaty with Russia that Biden says he would keep in place.

Just days before Trump entered the White House, then-Vice President Biden cautioned against abandoning Obama's approach. "If future budgets reverse the choices we've made, and pour additional money into a nuclear buildup, it hearkens back to the Cold War and will do nothing to increase the day-to-day security of the United States or our allies," Biden said in a Jan. 11, 2017, speech at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

James Acton, a nuclear expert at the Carnegie

Endowment, says Biden's instincts on nuclear weapons are more liberal than those of much of the Democratic Party's defense establishment. But that doesn't necessarily mean he would fundamentally change U.S. nuclear policy.

"In practice, there are often pressures to continue the status quo," Acton said in an interview.

Biden embraces the notion that nuclear weapons should play a smaller role in defense strategy and that the ultimate goal should be a nuclear-free world. He has not spelled out how he would pursue this, but he has dropped clues.

He has said, for example, that he opposes the Trump administration's decision to develop and deploy two types of missiles armed with less-powerful "low-yield" nuclear warheads. One is a sea-launched cruise missile that is some years from being fielded; the other is a long-range ballistic missile that the Navy began deploying aboard submarines nearly a year ago.

"Bad idea," Biden said in July 2019. Having these makes the U.S. "more inclined to use them," he added.

During the campaign, Biden also has embraced what

nuclear strategists call a "no first use" policy. In simplest terms, that means not initiating a nuclear war — not being the first to pull the trigger, so that in a nuclear crisis, the U.S. president might opt to unleash a retaliatory strike but not a preemptive one.

Longstanding U.S. policy has been to reserve the option of striking first, arguing that this makes war less likely.

Obama considered but rejected a shift to "no first use." The Biden campaign has made few pronouncements on U.S. nuclear weapons policy or strategy and it declined to make an adviser available for an interview.

The campaign website says Biden believes "the sole purpose of the U.S. nuclear arsenal should be deterring — and if necessary, retaliating against — a nuclear attack."

As president, he will work to put that belief into practice, in consultation with our allies and military." In a questionnaire last year by the Council for a Livable World in which Biden and other candidates were asked whether the U.S. should review its policy reserving the option of using nuclear weapons first, Biden said yes but did not elaborate.

Greece says talks with Turkey on East Med could restart soon

Athens: Greece and Turkey are close to reviving talks on a tense dispute over rights to exploit potential offshore natural gas deposits in the eastern Mediterranean, a Greek official said on Monday.

"We are close to restarting the exploratory talks. ... There will be an announcement when this is finalised but the atmosphere is good," Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas told reporters.

Petsas also confirmed local media reports that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is expected to visit Greece for a meeting with Greek Prime Minister

Kyriakos Mitsotakis to discuss the crisis, but added that the schedule is still being worked out.

The two neighbouring NATO members have been at odds for decades over maritime boundaries for commercial exploitation in an area between Turkey's southern coast, several Greek islands and the war-divided island of Cyprus.

Under international pressure, Turkey pulled back a research vessel in the area while both countries have also eased their naval presence and halted military exercises.

Greek-Turkish talks on the issue were last held in 2016. In recent years, the dispute that has been fueled by soured relations between the EU and Turkey and well as the discoveries of large natural gas fields in other parts of the eastern Mediterranean.

Turkey argues that Greek islands near its coastline should be excluded from the calculation of commercial maritime boundaries that far exceed the limits of territorial waters.

Athens calls the Turkish position a violation of international law but says it is willing to settle the dispute at an international court.

Opp in Pakistan launches alliance to oust PM Imran

Islamabad: Demanding Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's immediate resignation, the country's major Opposition parties have launched an alliance to hold a countrywide protest movement to oust his government.

A 26-point joint resolution was adopted on Sunday by the

All Parties Conference (APC), which was hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and attended by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) and several other parties.

At a joint press conference after the end of the multi-party

meeting, JUI-F chief Mualana Fazl ur Rehman read out the resolution and said that the Opposition parties have agreed to launch an alliance named Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to organise countrywide protests against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government from October.

FROM PAGE 1

8 OPP MPS SUSPENDED FOR SESSION

The suspended members refused to leave the House while the Opposition protested loudly against the action, causing five adjournments of the Rajya Sabha. The Opposition said the members should have been given a chance to explain and demanded a vote on their suspension, but the Rajya Sabha said the decision was based on a Government motion.

Naidu said the members threw papers, wrenched mics away, "physically threatened" Deputy Chairman Harivansh Singh and even abused him.

"I am naming Mr Derek O'Brien. Please go out of the House," Naidu said, as he named the suspended members.

But the eight suspended MPs didn't budge, even after the House adjourned, and one of them even called for a blanket and pillows for an overnight stay. Later, the protest started on the lawns of the Parliament complex, with MPs holding up placards that read - "We will fight for farmers" and "Parliament assassinated".

Two of the Government's three farm Bills, which have led to massive protests by Opposition parties and farmers, were passed on Sunday amid an uproar in the Rajya Sabha.

Congress termed "undemocratic" and "one-sided" the suspension of eight Opposition Rajya Sabha MPs, including three of its own, with Rahul Gandhi saying the "muting of democratic India continues by initially silencing and later suspending the parliamentarians."

"Muting Of Democratic India continues: by initially silencing and later, suspending MPs in Parliament and turning a blind eye to farmers' concerns on the black agriculture laws. This 'omniscient' Government's endless arrogance has brought economic disaster for the entire country," tweeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee posted: "Absolutely unbelievable! BJP MURDERED democracy by ruthlessly silencing all the Opposition leaders in Rajya Sabha. Citizens of the nation, raise your voice before we're completely under Narendra Modi's dictatorship! #BJPKilledDemocracy".

The Congress party's leader in the Lok

Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and its chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala later addressed a Press conference where they accused Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh of acting at the behest of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Chowdhury alleged that the newly elected Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha was working under Government obligation. "At the behest of PMO, he tried to muzzle and throttle the voices of the Opposition parties," he said.

"Congress condemns this kind of expulsion of members of the Rajya Sabha in such a brazen and undemocratic manner? We will be protesting to restore the status quo ante of our honourable members of the Rajya Sabha," Chowdhury told reporters.

PM: FARM REFORM BILLS NEED OF 21ST CENTURY

Modi made the comments at a virtual ceremony to lay foundation stones of nine highway projects in Bihar and to inaugurate optical fibre internet services through which all 45,945 villages in the State will be connected.

The Prime Minister said he wanted to make it clear that the Bills are not against agriculture 'mandis' (agricultural markets) and they will continue like they always have.

No Government has done as much to boost MSP and Government procurement of farmers' produce than his dispensation, the Prime Minister said.

During the coronavirus pandemic, a record purchase of wheat was made from farmers during the rabi season, he said, adding that farmers were paid Rs 1.13 lakh crore at MSP for wheat, paddy, pulses and oilseeds.

"If I talk about pulses and oilseeds, then Government procurement of pulses and oilseeds has been increased almost 24 times more than before," he said.

Noting that a majority of farmers have small landholdings, he said the changes will help them organise and get a better price of their produce.

On the occasion, Modi laid the foundation stone of nine highway projects and launched optical fibre network in Bihar through video conferencing on Monday.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also attended the ceremony.

These nine highway projects involve a road length of about 350 kilometres at a cost of Rs 14,258 crores. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the optical fibre internet services under which all the 45,945 villages of Bihar will be connected through optical fibre internet service.

The roads will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in and around the State and movement of people and goods will also improve substantially, especially with the neighbouring States of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

The optical fibre internet services will make the internet available to remote villages in Bihar. Digital services like e-education, e-agriculture, telemedicine, tele-law and other social security schemes will be easily available to all citizens of Bihar through the implementation of this project, according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office.

INDIA ASKS CHINA TO MAKE FIRST MOVE FOR PULLBACK

The last round of Corps Commander talks between Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin was held on August 2. The two sides then agreed to mutually disengage but China later went back on its word and instead pumped in more troops at the friction point including the contentious Pangong Tso.

The last five rounds of military commander talks since June 5 discussed the modalities of withdrawal from the face-of sites and thinning out troops from the depth areas. Both the sides deployed additional troops and heavy weapons since the face offs commenced in mid-May and efforts were on to reduce the troops as a confidence building measure, sources said.

IN A FIRST, NAVY DEPLOYS WOMEN ON WARSHIPS

These officers are a part of a group of 17 officers of the Indian Navy, including four women officers and three officers of the Indian Coast Guard, who were awarded "wings" on graduating as "observers" at

a ceremony held on Monday at INS Garuda, Kochi. The ceremony was presided by Rear Admiral Antony George, Chief Staff Officer (Training) who presented the awards and coveted wings to the graduating officers.

In addition, he also awarded the 'Instructor Badge' to six other officers, (five from the Indian Navy including a woman and another from Indian Coast Guard) who had successfully graduated as Qualified Navigation Instructors (QNI) on the occasion.

Sources said Tyagi and Singh will eventually fly the Navy's new MH-60R helicopters. Widely considered the most advanced multi-role helicopters of their class in the world, the MH-60R is designed to detect enemy ships and submarines which can be engaged using missiles and torpedoes. The 2.6 billion dollar deal was approved in 2018 for procuring these helicopters manufactured by the Lockheed-Martin.

Hailing from Ghaziabad, Tyagi is the first from her family to join the Armed forces while Singh who is her course-mate is fourth generation Services officer. Her father had retired from the Navy some years back.

Both of them said the training was very rigorous and thorough and the two officers completed more than 60 hours of flying. Once inducted on the warships, they will be responsible for hunting enemy submarine and provide crucial information to the pilot to fire missiles or torpedoes to neutralise the threat. When asked about pressure, the two officers said the training has equipped "them to take pressure and tension bang on."

Meanwhile, the IAF has selected a woman pilot for training to fly the multi-role Rafale jets. Operational conversion of this officer has begun and she may join the Golden Arrows squadron of the Rafales at the Ambala airbase.

In 2016, Flight Lieutenant Bhawanna Kanth, Flight Lieutenant Avani Chaturvedi, and Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh became India's first women fighter pilots. At the moment, the IAF has 1,875 women in service including 10 fighter pilots. Eighteen women officers are navigators deployed in the fighter-fleet as well, operating as Weapons Systems Operators on fighter jets.

COVID cases could rise exponentially in UK, warns top medical advisor

London (PTI): Britain has turned a corner in the coronavirus pandemic in a "bad sense", which means infections will rise at a dangerous pace unless tougher action is taken, the UK's top medical advisor said on Monday.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Chris Whitty joined the government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Patrick Vallance, at a Downing Street briefing to present a host of charts and data to warn that the rate at which coronavirus is spreading across the country could see 50,000 new cases a day by mid-October without further restrictions.

Their warnings indicate that tighter lockdown measures on household interactions and hospitality businesses are imminent.

"We have, in a bad sense, literally

turned a corner, although only relatively recently," said Whitty.

"If this continued, the number of deaths directly from COVID will continue to rise, potentially on an exponential curve, that means doubling and doubling and doubling again. And you can quickly move from really quite small numbers to really very large numbers because of that exponential process," he warned. Both senior scientific experts, addressing their first briefing without being accompanied by either Prime Minister Boris Johnson or a senior Cabinet minister, were brought in to issue a stark warning that the UK was headed in the "wrong direction" and lay the groundwork for further UK-wide curbs expected to be announced by the government later in the week.

Saudi Arabia to launch app for Mecca pilgrims amid virus

Riyadh (AP): Saudi Arabia on Monday released new details on how it plans to gradually allow Muslims back to Islam's holiest site in Mecca to perform the smaller, year-round pilgrimage, which has been suspended for the past seven months due to the coronavirus.

Haji Minister Muhammad Benteen said the kingdom will launch an online application that allows citizens, residents of Saudi Arabia and visitors to apply and reserve a specific time and date in which they can perform the pilgrimage, known as "umrah," to avoid crowding and maintain social-distancing guidelines.

The minister, who spoke during a virtual seminar, did not say when the pilgrimage would be permitted to resume nor how many people would be allowed to perform it at the same time.

The kingdom held a dramatically downsized, symbolic hajj pilgrimage in

July due to concerns that it could easily have become a global super-spreader event for the virus. Pilgrims were selected after applying through an online portal and all were residents or citizens of Saudi Arabia. Rather than the more than 2 million pilgrims the kingdom hosts for the annual event, as little as 1,000 took part after being tested for the virus and quarantined.

Saudi Arabia on Monday began easing some restrictions on international flights for the first time in six months.

The kingdom allowed Gulf Arab nationals and foreign residents of Saudi Arabia abroad to enter the country, provided they are not infected with the coronavirus. The kingdom also allowed for some residents of Saudi Arabia, such as Saudi students with scholarships abroad and foreign embassy staff, to exit and enter the kingdom.

DOCYARD

DR BALBIR SINGH

Chairman — Cardiac Sciences

MAX HOSPITAL, SAKET, NEW DELHI



Stay young at heart

Cardiac ailments are considered to be one of the deadliest diseases and the leading cause of mortality in India. As per the reports of WHO, cardiac problems are estimated to kill at least one in every five men and one in every eight women. Progressive heart failure which is caused due to the plaque (fatty substance) build up in the arterial linings of the blood vessels are primarily attributed to lifestyle habits and conditions such as smoking, overweight, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Heart attacks were once only associated with old age. Recently, more people in their 20s, 30s and 40s have been suffering from heart ailments. Apart from a person's genetic disposition and family history which are the most common and uncontrollable risk factors, the Indian youth is now being succumbed to heart ailments due to poor lifestyle, stress, erratic sleep patterns. This in turn causes inflammation and raises the risk of cardiac ailments. Sedentary lifestyle clubbed with smoking are further risk factors that trigger the risk symptoms among the younger generation.

Cardiac Hospitals in India perform more than 2 lakh open heart surgeries and are increasing annually by 25 per cent but they are not able to control the numbers of heart attacks. The surgeries done are only palliative. Educating the essentials about Heart disease and its risk factors is important to eradicate the casualties from the root.

What are the symptoms?
Not every CHD patient has the same symptoms and angina chest pain as its most common feature. Symptoms may vary from nil to severe, some may have an uncomfortable feeling like indigestion and some cases may be experiencing severe pain, heaviness or tightness. The pain is usually felt in the centre of the chest, that spreads to the arms, neck, jaw and even to stomach, and is accompanied by palpitation and unusual breathlessness.

The discomfort or pain of a heart attack is usually similar to that of angina, but is often more severe and may be associated with sweating, lightheadedness, nausea and breathlessness. This is more common in people with Diabetes

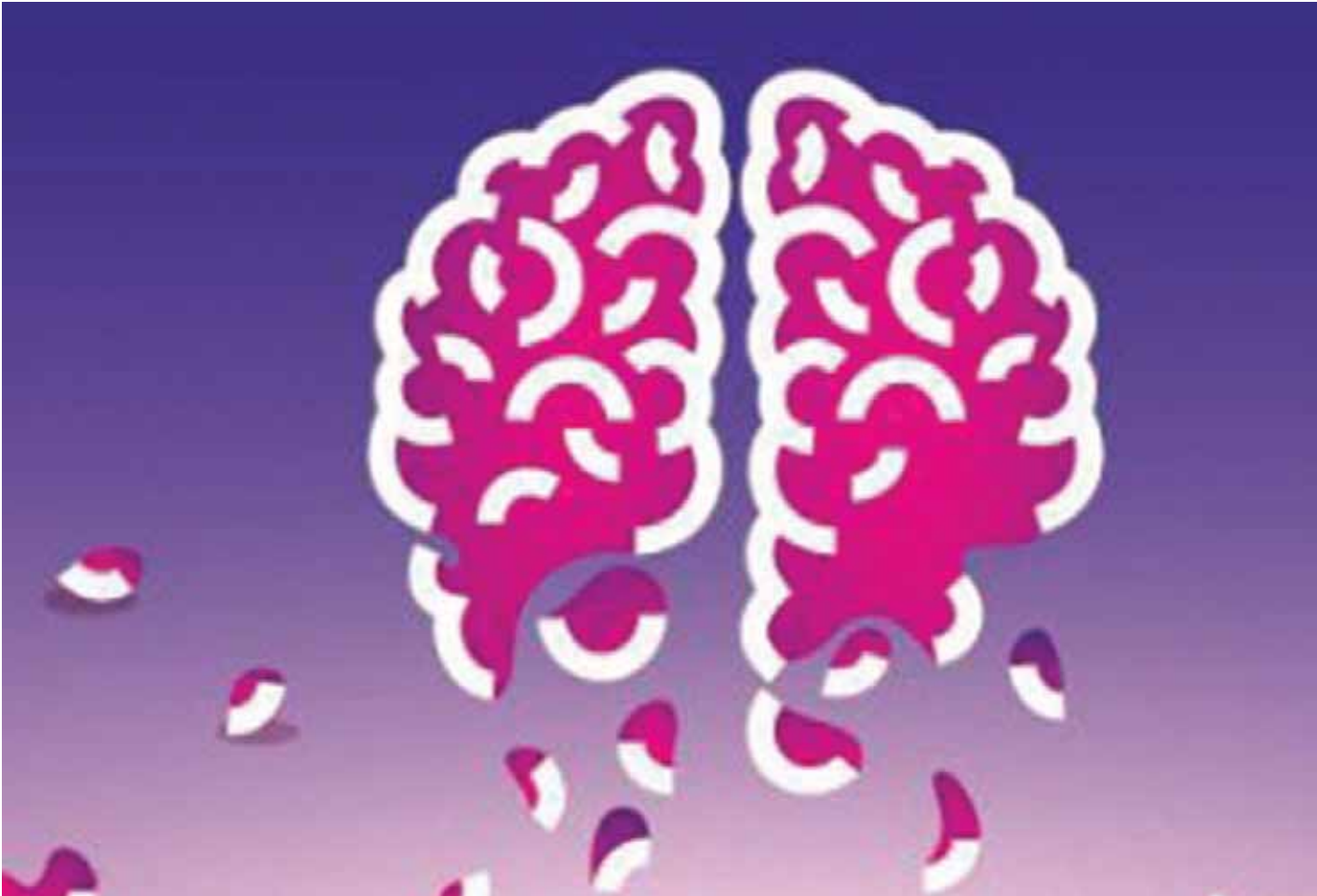
attack if not treated straight away can be fatal.
Assessment of a suspected CHD patient involves the medical and family history, assessing the lifestyle and taking blood tests. Further tests to confirm a diagnosis of CHD includes non-invasive tests like an electrocardiogram (ECG) to identify the structure, thickness and movement of each heart valve, X-ray to look at the heart, lungs and chest wall to rule out any other conditions that may be causing symptoms, Treadmill test (TMT) during exercise to know the effect of exercise on the heart, Cardiovascular cartography heart flow mapping, CT angiography and the invasive coronary angiography to identify whether the coronary arteries are narrowed and how severe the blockages are.

Although coronary heart disease cannot be cured, treatment can help manage the symptoms, improve the functioning of the heart and reduce the chances of problems such as heart attacks. Effective management includes a combination of lifestyle changes, medicines and non-invasive treatments. Invasive and surgical treatments are required in more severe cases and the outcomes are favourable in most of the cases, where the person is able to resume their normal life. Some simple lifestyle changes include eating a healthy balanced diet, doing regular exercise, no smoking and controlling blood cholesterol and sugar levels. These can reduce the risk of CHD, stroke and dementia.

SUMMERCoolERS

CINNAMON: If one is to sell something during the current time, all that is needed is to call it immunity booster and it will run out of the shelves at the speed of light. And rightly so, when immunity is your preliminary shield to keep the COVID-19 infection at bay. But one needs not look for such an ingredient in the markets, it is right in the kitchen. Cinnamon, widely used as a flavouring agent, is loaded with powerful antioxidants, such as polyphenols. It has anti-inflammatory properties.

Not only this, cinnamon as a spice is also known for its immunity boosting properties. Just add it in your *kadha* and you are good to go. It is also linked to a reduced risk of heart disease, the world's most common cause of premature death. It keeps cholesterol, triglycerides and blood pressure under check. Apart from the beneficial effects on insulin resistance, cinnamon can lower blood sugar by several other mechanisms. So now you have more than one reason to add it in your daily routine.



Create memories

It is estimated that at least 50 lakh people live with Alzheimer's in India and the number is expected to increase in the coming years.

DR AZAD IRANI tells you the early symptoms one should look out for

SEP 21 | WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY

Alzheimer's disease first described in 1906 by Alois Alzheimer (in Latin 'de', which means a deprivation or loss; 'ment', which means mind; and 'ia', is a state). Alzheimer's disease is presently the commonest cause of dementia having its onset most often after the age of 65 years. Presently, it is estimated that at least 50 lakh people live with Alzheimer's disease in India (that is 0.003 per cent of our entire population). However, as life span increases, it is estimated that this figure may double in the ensuing decades.

The term dementia includes symptoms not only of memory loss but may also include abnormalities of various other cognitive domains such as language functions, social and behavioural aspects, inability to navigate and directional confusion occurring in a person with previously intact such abilities.

Alzheimer's disease is characterised by gradually progressive memory loss as its core feature which also is the earliest feature. The memory loss is mainly for recent events and episodes (called episodic memory in medical terminology). The patients' memory for past events of life remains unaffected in

the early years. Early features of episodic memory loss include repeating the same questions again, misplacing personal items, forgetting to pay bills, keep appointments, difficulty retrieving names and also multi-tasking which was previously easily possible. A change in personality or development of late-life depression or anxiety also warrants an evaluation for onset of dementia.

Current studies believe that the brain abnormality leading to Alzheimer's disease starts at a much earlier age and may be strongly related to poor life-style habits namely bad sleeping habits, like late nights or lesser sleep hours, excessive stress, obesity, Diabetes, high cholesterol levels, physical inactivity, excessive tobacco or alcohol intake. Genetic factors certainly would be incriminated if there are multiple members from the same family developing memory loss or for the younger onset cases.

A common parlance among the young these days is that they suffer from poor memory. Encouraging for them would be to note that this generally is the result of lack of concentration arising out of poor sleeping habits, excessive stress and physical inactivity. However, if these poor lifestyle factors are not addressed in time they may sow the seeds for future dementia. Therapy for Alzheimer's unfortunately is not curative. As is known the dementia

AN ADEQUATE SLEEP SCHEDULE, A GOOD FITNESS REGIME, A HEALTHY DIET, REGULAR MEDITATION AND AVOIDANCE OF STRESS IN TODAY'S FAST LIFE WOULD HENCE BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO PREVENT THIS UNFORGIVING ILLNESS

slowly progresses to a point where in the later stages the patient loses most of the memory, mobility and sense of bladder-bowel control. Therapy mainly remains symptomatic with medications that help replace some chemicals in the brain to partially boost up the memory. Stimulating the mind with brain games, social interaction with family/friends, music therapy or any hobby that interests the patient helps slow down the symptom progress. Massive funds have been spent and even presently being invested all over the world on experimental studies for drugs still in the pipe-line.

So would knowing the early symptoms help us? Yes, changing one's life style habits for the better with strict control of contributory illnesses like Diabetes mellitus, hypertension, obesity, sleep apnea are the best ways thence, to fight this fiercely progressive condition which affects not only the patient but the entire family who has to cope with this illness which may run into years resulting in what is often known as caregiver burnout for family members. An adequate sleep schedule, a good fitness regime, a healthy diet, regular meditation and avoidance of stress in today's fast life would hence be of utmost importance to prevent this unforgiving illness.

The writer is Consultant Neurologist, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre

SAY BYE TO STRAWBERRY LEGS

Strawberry legs can make you feel a little conscious of your appearance. However, this is not something that one should worry about.

RUKSHMANI THAKKAR shares tips that can help you get rid of it

Women have multiple hair removal options, if they choose to. From waxing to epilators to laser hair removal and shaving, are some of the easily available options for hair removal. Keratosis Pilaris is a non-contagious skin condition which can be caused due to shaving. Also known as a strawberry legs, this condition gives you small red bumps that have a seed like appearance.

Strawberry legs can make you feel a little conscious of your appearance if you're wearing shorts, skirts or dresses. However, this is not something that one should worry about. Its one of the most common skin conditions and has over 1 crore cases each year in India alone. It can be easily controlled and treated by selecting the right skin care routine and service.

Here are some insights into this problem and how one can deal with it. Characterised by the appearance dark spots, Strawberry legs can be caused due to unclogged pores, excessive keratin building up extra skin which blocks pores and hair follicles. These blocked pores and hair follicles can lead to ingrown hair, causing the skin to get patchy and dry. Frequent usage of razors can also cause a condition called Folliculitis, where hair follicles can become inflamed and infected.

You can prevent strawberry legs with the following:

- Opt for dry brushing or exfoliation a day before shaving
- Opt for waxing instead of shaving
- Moisturise your skin to prevent dryness, patchiness and uneven skin
- Use a loofah during shower
- Shave once hair growth is enough

Home treatments for strawberry legs:

■ **Dry brushing:** Using this technique can help you in removing excessive skin build up. It also prevents ingrowths.

■ **Scrubbing/exfoliation:** Scrubbing and exfoliating on a daily basis can help in cleaning out clogged pores. It also makes skin soft and supple. One can use Human and Kind Body Scrub, it is vegan and gentle on the skin.

If you don't wish to buy one, you can also make a scrub at home with semolina, oil and honey. Baking soda and milk can also be used.

■ **Loofah:** Loofah also helps in exfoliating and removing dry skin. Ideally, a loofah should be used for every alternate shower.

■ **Doctor prescribed creams and ointment** can also help in curing the appearance of strawberry legs if the condition is aggravated.

■ **Chemical exfoliation:** Chemical peels are also a great option but should be used under the guidance of a professional aesthetician.

The writer is Technical Head — Skin, Enrich Salon

DadiKaKehna

Most women love long and silky hair but end up with dull and lifeless ones and hence prefer to keep them short. ROSHANI DEVI shares household tips that one can follow to keep long tresses



One of the most basic things that one must do for long hair is to oil them regularly. One can use coconut, almond or even olive oil. Massage it into the scalp and leave it overnight. Wash with a mild shampoo in the morning. However, if you have an oily skin, oil your hair and leave it for an hour and then wash off. One can wrap a hot towel around the head for 10 minutes to help in the better absorption of the oil.

If one reason why you don't want to sport long hair is because they fall, use aloe vera. It soothes the scalp and conditions hair. It reduces dandruff and unblock hair

follicles that may be blocked by excess oil. You can apply pure aloe vera gel to your scalp and hair a few times a week. Apply a m mask made of egg; it is an excellent source of protein, which helps your hair grow longer. Just crack open two eggs, strain the yolks and use the egg white on your hair. Let it stay for 20 minutes and wash off. Another reason why hair don't grow long could be split ends. Boil two-three cloves of garlic with an essential oil and massage this on hair roots. Garlic is known to reduce breakage and improve blood circulation, which leads to long hair.



TIPTOP

In a first-ever recorded medical procedure of its kind, doctors at BLK Hospital removed a ruptured Hydatid cyst from the right lung of Ruhi-Un-Nisa, a 45-year-old woman from Srinagar, without conducting an open chest surgery. The cyst, formed by the larvae of tapeworms, was excised piecemeal by freezing it using a cryoprobe.

The patient showed initial symptoms and discomfort in July this year when she spit blood while coughing. She underwent a CT scan of the chest which revealed 43 X 35mm cyst (equivalent to a size of tennis ball) in superior segment of lower lobe of right lung. The patient followed the CT scan with a bronchoscopy procedure thereafter in Srinagar. However, her condition deteriorated, and she went into respiratory distress. Ruhi-Un-Nisa was unable to lie down and had not slept for close to two months. She had severe difficulty in breathing; she went to hospital in Kashmir where

she was advised to rush to Delhi for emergency treatment.

The patient came with severe breathlessness and constantly felt a salty-bitter taste in her mouth. Doctors suspected the symptoms to be caused by a ruptured Hydatid cyst.

The team led by Dr Sandeep Nayar HOD, Chest & Respiratory Diseases, at BLK Hospital flushed out the spilled fluids/contents from both lungs. He then excised the ruptured membrane with the help of a Cryoprobe (a surgical probe to apply extreme cold to body tissues and freeze them). The membrane was frozen and extracted through the mouth and it gave immediate relief to the patient from her symptoms. Dr Nayar performed this procedure through bronchoscope under local anaesthesia. CT chest and bronchoscopy repeated after four days ensured that the lung was completely cleared of the cyst.

SLIMLINE

Long hours of digital exposure dehydrate the skin, damages our skin cells and the delicate skin around the eyes. Le Ritual has therefore launched the range to detoxify and repair the skin damage. The current range includes a face serum and eye serum apt for use in both morning and evening skincare regime.

Le Ritual Antioxidant Rich Face Serum builds a defense system for your skin and repairs the skin against digital exposure. It also hydrates, brightens, reduces wrinkles, dark spots and hyperpigmentation. It also

detoxifies, protects the skin collagen against UV, pollutants damage, glowing screens.

Le Ritual Omega Rich Under Eye is proven to work best for under-eye dark circles, fine lines, wrinkles and puffiness. Regular use of serum helps boost collagen around the eyes and increases elasticity, firmness and stimulates micro-circulation around the eyes

The digital detox duo set is available at ₹2090.

The duo is exclusively available at Amazon, Nykaa, Flipkart and Big Basket.

INBRIEF

In a rare case, 86 year old lady who herself was a doctor, became one of the oldest cadaveric donor in Delhi. A resident of South Delhi, the lady was declared brain dead on September 12 late at night, at a Delhi hospital, after suffering from an acute stroke post which the family expressed her wish of donating her liver and kidney at the time of her death.

Many hospitals were apprehensive of retrieving the organs from an 86 year old, undermining the health of those organs, but Indraprastha Apollo welcomed this liver donation as it would be life saving for a patient in need. A 42 year old man who was a patient of Hepatitis C, consequently, had suffered from liver failure and was in urgent need of a liver transplant. The liver transplant team headed by Dr Neerav Goyal carried out the process of extracting the liver from the lady, harvesting it to ensure it can be used for transplant in a healthy condition and successfully conducting the procedure of liver transplant. While the kidney was accepted by the hospital where she died, the donor's liver was transplanted at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, into the 42 year old man at midnight on September 13, within hours of the donation.

Dr Neerav Goyal, Senior Consultant, Liver Transplant, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said: "The usual acceptable age for cadaver organ transplant is 65 years of age, people beyond that age are considered as marginal donors. When we got to know that there is a cadaver donor for liver, we decided to evaluate the organ to examine whether it will be suitable for donation. The liver biopsy revealed that the lady had a perfectly healthy liver, like that of a young person, hence we decided to go ahead with the procedure."

Trend Slazer

Kareena turns 40, wishes pour in

Actor **KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN** turned 40 on Monday, and several Bollywood personalities took to social media to wish her.

Sister and actor Karisma Kapoor wrote, "Will continue to protect you always. Happy 40th birthday to my lifeline! Love you the most."

"Happy birthday and congratulations on the to be addition," wrote Kajol, referring to the fact that Kareena is expecting her second child with Saif.

Alia Bhatt wrote, "Happy birthday, dearest Bebo. May every wish you make come true." Katrina Kaif posted, "Happiest birthday to the most wonderful, there's no one like you, may u get back all the kindness & love."



'I travelled enthusiastically during a pandemic, got quarantined and five COVID

tests with a smile but that one 'Short Run' hit me hard. What's technology for if it can't be used? It's time BCCI introduces new rules. I've always believed in being graceful in a win or loss but it's also important to ask for policy changes that improve the game in future.' —**Preity Zinta**

Director **ANDRIJ PAREKH**, the Indian connect in the Emmys 2020 winner roster, has dedicated his award to all people of colour.



Parekh, who is of Indian-Ukrainian descent, won an Emmy for directing his debut *Hunting* episode of drama series *Succession*, one of the big winners at the annual gala this year.

"I am deeply honoured and humbled by this award. This distinction has been bestowed upon me on my birthday. So, thank you for the gift," Parekh said.

He dedicated the award to "all the kids whose names like mine are difficult to pronounce."

A mini Friends reunion at Emmys



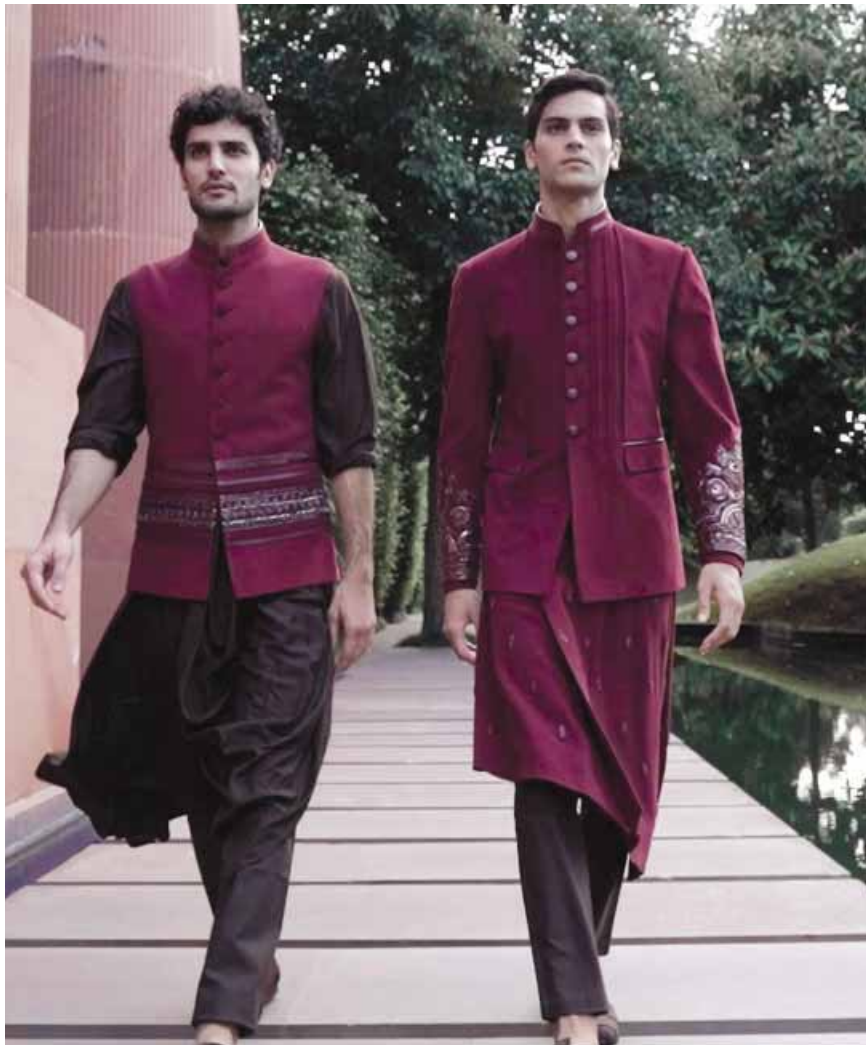
Actors **JENNIFER ANISTON**, **LISA KUDROW** and **COURTENEY COX** united for a mini reunion to celebrate their hugely popular sitcom, *Friends*, during a video call with host **Jimmy Kimmel** at the virtual Emmy award gala.

While Aniston was on video call with Kimmel, Cox joined in. "Of course I'm here. We live together," she said.

"Yeah, we've been roommates since 1994, Jimmy," Aniston added, referring to the year when the sitcom premiered.

Kudrow also entered the picture, following which Kimmel wondered if they don't live with their own families. "Where else would I live?," Kudrow said.

The first *Friends* episode had aired on September 22, 1994, and the show lasted till 2004.



A hopeful rebound

SHANTANU & NIKHIL's collection, *The Resurgence*, is all about recreating the grandeur which brides dreamt of before the pandemic, simply because luxury is timeless and will continue to be prized by Indians.

By **CHAHAK MITTAL**

After days of uncertainty and nothingness due to the pandemic-induced lockdown, many are finding their own ways to rise to life again. For designers Shantanu and Nikhil, the spirit of this much-needed revival came with the FDCI India Couture Week 2020. What better than the duo's collection, *The Resurgence*, could explain this?

For them, it is an ode to hope, the spirit to resurface and recommence their duties for the universe. Said Shantanu, "With an almost spiritual connotation to the capabilities of cyclic existence, the collection celebrates a renewed strength and power to adapt and #RiseAgain."

So how does a Shantanu-Nikhil bride look like this time? Taking inspiration from the central emotion of the duo's collection — "hope" — their bride celebrates her way towards a new, optimistic world of happiness, leaving the sorrow and uncertainty behind. Added Shantanu, "With hope, we're moving ahead of the

sorrow that has gripped the world. While we take baby steps towards normalcy, the collection reconstructs romance through fluidic drapes and godly architecture symbolic of the hope within. With this, we also celebrate a new world and our 20 years. We are reinterpreting our classics and bringing back the opulence of our journey with new sustainable practices put into place for our brides. We take pride in our artisans and their craftsmanship. This season we did revisit a lot of metallic embroidery, Goth applique and the classic zaradozi, all creating neo-luxe bridal



looks."

For Nikhil, newer times call for newer actions and with the blurring lines between technology and fashion in the new normal, it felt "fitting" to have showcased the duo's Ceremonial Couture '20 Collection, virtually. He added, "It is an exciting and unusual experience and feels great to be a part of an ecosystem that is constantly innovating and connecting with a larger audience every now and then."

Shot at The Roseate Hotels and Resorts, Delhi Aerocity, its architectural design added to the collection's raw portrayal. The anti-trend aesthetics, the structure and the linearity as a signature were kept intact. For the duo, "this digital model of a showcase definitely democratised fashion and integrated with it a cutting-edge customer experience. We have tried to use this platform creatively to showcase a film-like presentation than just a blatant runway showing."

So has it been pivoted around the wedding perspective only? Nikhil said, "In this pandemic, one thing is very clear that design will become a lot more precious, sustainable, valuable and yet, luxurious. We have always been strong advocates of anti-trend couture, where the focus is on neo-shapes, silhouettes, minimalism and of course, the wearer. The brides of today are looking at timeless and classic vintage with hints of contemporary lightness."

To represent the strength we need to leave behind the melancholy and fight on, the collection was given a

metallic touch. The gold and sheen done in hand-woven silks and brocades represented a beacon of hope. The abundance of fluidic drapes created through light fabrics like georgette and chiffon worked in tandem to create a sense of positivity and ease, which is much needed at a time like this.

Talking about whether the festive market is outdoing the wedding market this year, Shantanu said, "India has always been a country of celebrations and there is nothing more celebratory than an Indian wedding. Hence, the demand for heavy and glorious couture will remain unchanged. With several weddings being postponed, the new wedding season has brought with it double excitement and the brides will not compromise on their wedding outfits now. The voluminous ball gowns, our signature drapes, anti-trend styles and cuts are still our brides' go-to apparel for their dream wedding."

He added that their brides are looking for the same grandeur as it was earlier but they are now far more emotional about things they do in their lives. Hence, buying behaviour is now hedonistic in nature and design is paramount.

While the designers tweak their approaches a little to showcase couture, they feel going digital has made every fashionista their front row client. Nikhil said, "We have opted for digital launch in the past as well and it has helped us connect to a larger and newer audience. In the wake of the ongoing pandemic, when the entire world is relying on the digital platforms to keep themselves busy and run their businesses, there is no other medium bigger than this to present fashion to people. Hence, the challenge now at hand would be to translate the grandeur of the physical runway into a virtual one, making it as alive and experiential as the former where everyone will have a front row access."

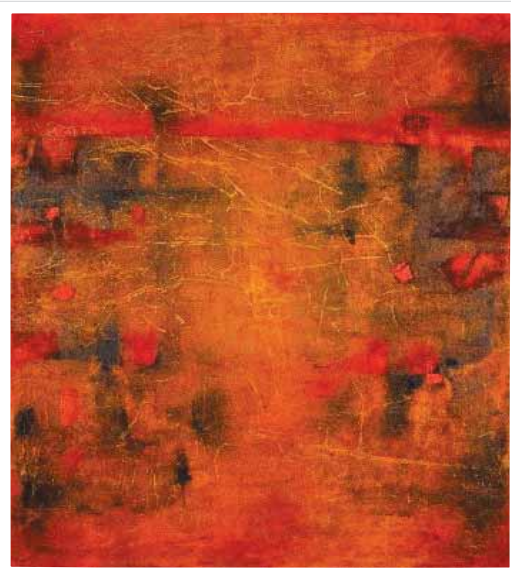
THE MODERN MASTER

Three works by **VASUDEO S GAITONDE**, an artist who captured the essence of Indian modernism, go on sale at the Christie's and the Sotheby's. By **UMA NAIR**

Bringing alive the timeless French song, *La Mer* by Charles Trenet, a painting by artist VS Gaitonde, in a suffusion of green, showcasing the softness and gentility of the sand, is reminiscent of the sea. This is a masterpiece created in 1983 and was bought at the Pundole Gallery. It is also one of the three works by the artist to go up on sale. It will be a part of the Christie's South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art Sale on September 23 in New York.

The other two works belong to the Sotheby's sale that will be held in London on September 29. Part of The Gunnar and Inger Hansen Collection, these two works celebrate Gaitonde as the ultimate abstract master.

The first is a 1954 amorphous-looking work that belongs to George Butcher, a British art critic for *The Guardian* and a stalwart supporter of the burgeoning Indian and South Asian modern art scene. He spent more than two years in India and befriended many artists, gallerists and critics. Using his knowledge and contacts, he curated several shows on South Asian art featuring artists from both home and abroad. Butcher was one of the first writers to assert the unique and remarkable contribution of South Asian artists to a global form of modernism. He has left an



indelible mark on the history of modern Indian and South Asian art.

The second comes from the Inger Hansen collection, a Danish couple who collected Indian art. The work hails from 1969, a smoky crimson and tangerine sunset that heralds the sounds and flats and sharps of a *raga*.

Following a 1964 trip to New York on the Rockefeller Fund Fellowship, where Gaitonde encountered several abstract expressionists' works and conceptual artists for the first time, his style began to evolve. His paintings began to explore the rela-

tionships between form, light and colour in a diligent and sophisticated manner. The work was all about how the "planes of paint spread over the canvas, a reminder of nothing other than self. An almost spiritual sublimation gets created from within paint rather than by reference to any school of thought."

What makes Gaitonde stand apart in the Indian modern art tradition was the way he immersed into its shared language and a universal vocabulary. For many of his contemporaries, the language was just a tool to express something. For



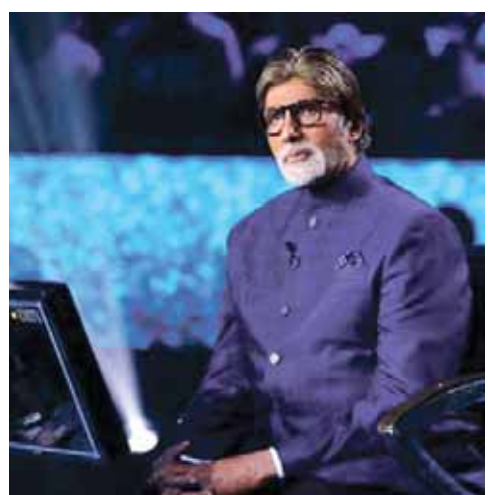
Gaitonde, the language became the subject. He did not attempt to use line and colour to create forms; his forte was the exploration of the relationship between line and colour. If he captured the essence of Indian modernism, it was by disengaging from its effusion, its gaiety and its materialism.

"The central characteristic of Gaitonde's artistic personality, it must be understood, is that he likes to stand alone. This independent-mindedness was accompanied by a firm belief in his identity as a painter," wrote critic Dnyaneshwar

Nadkarni.

An uncompromising artist of integrity, Gaitonde distanced himself from anything he deemed superfluous to the contemplative rigour he believed his art required. After he shifted Delhi in the early 1970s, he was "very much the artist in a garret." The few writers who visited him spoke about the dusty interiors and the immense reticence of the place.

Goan artist Theodore Mesquita, who met him in Delhi in 1991, described him as a "hermit," who is impassive to the mundane world around him.



KBC returns

Deviyon aur sajjano, brace yourself for the 12th season of *Kaun Banega Crorepati* (KBC). This season, the show makes a comeback with a two-fold messaging that conveys not just a better return amid a pandemic but also a motivational nudge for participants and viewers to consider setbacks as a stepping stone. It is produced by StudioNEXT and hosted by actor Amitabh Bachchan.

The first ever digital audition of this season raised hope, dreams and aspirations among people from across the country.

While the core of the show remains the same, it comes with a few changes relevant to the current times. It will not host in-studio audiences keeping in line with the government mandated safety guidelines and protocols in response to COVID-19. The in-studio audience played a huge role as a lifeline — Audience Poll, to help the contestants on the hotseat move ahead in the game. This year, this lifeline will be replaced by another lifeline Video-A-Friend. The other three lifelines remain the same — 50:50, Ask The Expert and Flip The Question. The number of fastest finger first contestants who will compete to be on the hot seat per week, has been reduced from the usual 10 to 8.

With *KBC Play Along* on Sony LIV, viewers can enjoy the gameshow by participating and matching their knowledge with the contestants on the hot seat.

(The show premieres from September 28, Monday to Friday at 9 pm on Sony Entertainment Television.)

I was a bit nervous in the beginning, but it was more excitement than nervousness for me to make my debut. I just wanted to do well and help my team win

It was a weird game, sometimes the luck goes your way, but it's easy to become the villain from the hero. So it's important to enjoy the good days

Rohit is always open to take suggestions on the ground. I crunch situations he is very calm, cool and composed. He takes tough decisions during that time

If the team wants to go with six bowlers then you need an all-rounder and if Stoinis can contribute with both bat and ball it's really good for the team



Devdutt Padikkal chats with RCB teammate Aaron Finch during IPL game IPLT20.com

Dream debut for Devdutt

Padikkal makes 56, Chahal strikes for RCB's 10-run win

PTI ■ DUBAI

Young opener Devdutt Padikkal starred on debut before Yuvvendra Chahal produced a crafty spell to set up a 10-run win for Royal Challengers Bangalore in their opening IPL contest against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Monday.

Padikkal (56 off 42, 8 fours) displayed his highly rated talent with a half-century before AB de Villiers (51 of 30) provided the much needed final flourish to take RCB to 163 for five after they were sent in to bat. Chasing 164 for a win, SRH were all out for 153 in 19.4 overs.

The Sunrisers were on course for a comfortable chase with Jonny Bairstow (61 off 43) looking in ominous touch. Chahal (3/18) removed the Englishman and Vijay Shankar in successive balls in the 16th over to tilt the game decisively in his team's favour.

Bairstow perished in his attempt to hoick Chahal out of the park while Shankar had

no clue about the perfectly placed googly.

That double blow led to a batting collapse, exposing Sunrisers' inexperienced middle-order. Mitchell Marsh suffering an ankle injury while bowling meant he came at number 10 and could only last a ball.

Pacer Navdeep Saini (2/25) and Shivam Dube (2/15) also returned tidy figures but Umesh Yadav was expensive for RCB yet again, leaking 48 runs in four overs.

Earlier, the class and calmness Padikkal showed in his first high-profile game was remarkable, so much so that Australian limited overs captain Aaron Finch (29 off 27) was happy to play second fiddle at the other end.

Sunrisers pulled things back in the middle overs following a 90-run opening stand between Padikkal and Finch. De Villiers came up with crucial boundary hits towards the end to take the team score past 160.

The 20-year-old Padikkal, possessing a near perfect bal-

ance in the crease, played all around the ground, playing the pull and aerial cover drive with equal confidence.

Padikkal got going with three boundaries in an over off left-arm pacer T Natarajan. The left-handed opener brought up his half-century with a slog sweep over the fielder at deep square leg. With the openers looking good, RCB cruised to 86 for no loss in 10 overs. However, both Padikkal and Finch fell off successive balls and that put the brakes on the scoring rate with RCB collecting only 30 runs from the next five overs.

Skipper Virat Kohli departed after scoring 14 off 13, leaving de Villiers to provide the final flourish. The South African star delivered once again, smashing his 200th six for RCB in the process.

There was also an injury scare for Australian all-rounder Marsh, who limped off the field with an ankle injury after bowling four balls in his debut game for the Sunrisers.

Mitch Marsh suffers injury while bowling



PTI ■ DUBAI

Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh suffered an ankle injury while bowling during his side Sunrisers Hyderabad's IPL opener against Royal Challengers on Monday.

The 28-year-old Marsh twisted his ankle on the follow through during the fifth over of the RCB innings and he was seen hobbling out of the ground. Vijay Shankar completed the remaining two balls of the over and gave away nine runs.

Marsh, who bowled only four deliveries, has had a history of injuries in the past due to which he has missed number of editions of IPL. Marsh didn't come back to field during the rest of the RCB innings.

Royals start as underdogs against Super Kings

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Depleted Rajasthan Royals have an onerous task of stopping the mighty Chennai Super Kings on a Sharjah belter with no Ben Stokes in their line-up but skipper Steve Smith's availability after recovering from a concussion injury has lifted some gloom ahead of their IPL match on Tuesday.

The absence of Stokes would severely impact Royals' campaign at least in the first half of the tournament because of the balance he brings to the side but having Smith in the playing XI would mean that the contest will not be without a fight.

Smith, who missed the ODI series against England, has undergone various concussion test protocols and is ready to tee off.

Apart from premier all-rounder Stokes, also absent from the first match will be Jos Buttler, their impact player at the top-order. The England batsman will be missing the first game as he arrived separately with his family and need to

undergo mandatory 36-hour quarantine in Dubai.

Jofra Archer's presence will be important along with seasoned T20 stars like South African batsman David Miller, Australian pacer Andrew Tye and England all-rounder Tom Curran.

The Royals' main problem lies in their Indian core, which hasn't exactly been consistent. The likes of Sanju Samson, Robin Uthappa, Jaydev Nadakat

and Varun Aaron have failed to live up to the expectations over the years.

Sharjah pitch will be a different challenge for the bowlers both in terms of surface as well as the size of the ground.

CSK have once again showed how to work around with resources and Sam Curran coming good with an all-round show means that Dwayne Bravo would not be missed even if he misses a few more games due to injury.

Rayudu and Faf du Plessis perfectly maintained the CSK "run-chase template" of attacking in the back 10 by preserving wickets.

The addition of Piyush Chawla, a very successful IPL bowler, is also a big plus.

However it needs to be seen how Deepak Chahar is shaping up after sustaining a niggle in the final over of the MI innings. In case, Chahar can't make it, they have ready replacement in Shardul Thakur.

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It hurts to not close off game: Agarwal

PTI ■ DUBAI

Crestfallen after losing their IPL opener, Kings XI Punjab batsman Mayank Agarwal said it feels terrible to not close off the game after making a stupendous comeback against Delhi Capitals here.

Chasing 158 to win, KXIP were looking down the barrel at 55 for 5 but Agarwal's blistering 89-run knock took them to 157. They needed one run off the final two balls but Marcus Stoinis' twin strike took the game to the Super Over, which they lost on Sunday night.

"We had a tough day. There are a lot of positives to take out. The way we came back was fantastic, the way we bowled with the new ball was terrific. It really hurts to not close off the game from the situation we were in, feels terrible," Mayank told KXIP TV.

"This is just the first game. We can get things rolling again, let's see how we will go in the coming games. I think to play a game like that first up was fantastic. Everyone was up for it, guys really put in the effort.

"Definitely, we should have finished the game when we needed one run," he added.

KXIP appeal against 'short run' call

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kings XI Punjab have appealed against on-field umpire Nitin Menon's controversial 'short run' call at crunch time of their IPL game against Delhi Capitals as former players seek more technological intervention for the sake of fair results.

Before the match went into Super Over, the TV footage showed that square leg umpire Menon had erred in calling Chris Jordan for a 'short run' in the third ball of the 19th over, bowled by Kagiso Rabada.

The TV replays showed that Jordan's bat was inside the crease when he completed the first run, starting from the non-striker's end.

However to KXIP's horror, Menon gestured that Jordan has not completed the run and only one run was added to Mayank Agarwal and the Punjab team's total.

The decision was not reversed despite technological evidence that it was a wrong call.

In the final over, Punjab needed 13 runs to win and Agarwal managed 12 runs in the first three balls.

If that one 'short run' was credited to their total, Punjab would have won with three balls to spare but they lost two wickets in the final two balls after a dot fourth ball and it spilled to a Super Over, which they lost.



"We have appealed to the match referee. While a human error can happen and we understand that, there is no room for human errors like these in a world class tournament like the IPL. This one run could cost us a play off berth," KXIP CEO Satish Menon told PTI.

"A loss of a game is a loss of a game. It is unfair. Hope the rules are reviewed so that there is no margin for human error."

However the appeal is unlikely to yield any result since rule 2.12 (Umpire's decision) in the IPL rule book on playing conditions says that "an umpire may alter any decision provided that such alteration is made promptly. This apart, an umpire's decision, once made, is final."

ASHWIN PAIN HAS SETTLED DOWN

Senior India off-spinner R Ashwin is hopeful of recovering from his shoulder injury as his pain has subsided considerably and the scan reports have been "encouraging" after a nasty fall during Delhi Capitals' IPL opener against KXIP. Ashwin endured dream and nightmare in a space of six deliveries as he scalped two KXIP batsmen and then suffered a jerk on his left shoulder trying to dive and stop a run. "I was in pain as I left the field last night, but the pain has settled down and the scan reports are pretty encouraging too. Thanks for all your love and support," Ashwin tweeted.

FLEMING HAILS SAM'S ATTITUDE

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming is impressed with debutant Sam Curran's attitude and said his contribution in the IPL opener went a long way in covering the absence of star all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who is recovering from an injury. Sam played an instrumental role in CSK's five-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians. After an economical spell with the ball, the 22-year-old scored a quick-fire 18 off just six balls to help his side start the campaign on a positive note. "Losing Dwayne (Bravo) was a big loss and Sam went a long way in filling that," Fleming told the CSK website. "The things that impressed us with Sam is his attitude first and foremost, almost the harder it gets the better he gets, his all-round skill component and the fact that the captain was able to trust him straightaway to go in at a crucial time and hit the way he did."

HOPEFULLY WILL PULL UP WELL: SMITH

Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer said it was difficult to comprehend the ebbs and flows of a roller coaster IPL match against KXIP which ended in a Super Over win for his side. "It was difficult to see the game turning in different directions. We are used to this. Even last season we faced these. KG is the winning performer, and the way Stoinis batted was game-changing," Iyer said.

Pirlo off to winning start



Turin: Andrea Pirlo got his coaching career off to a winning start as Juventus launched their bid for a 10th consecutive league title with a 3-0 win over Sampdoria on Sunday.

Swedish debutant Dejan Kulusevski opened the scoring after 13 minutes in Turin with Leonardo Bonucci adding a second on 78 minutes and Cristiano Ronaldo a late third.

The match was played in front of 1,000 spectators as Serie A stadiums reopened on Sunday to a limited number of fans after a seven-month coronavirus lockdown.

Pirlo could not have hoped for a better start to his coaching career having taken over

from Maurizio Sarri this summer.

The win against Sampdoria, coached by veteran Claudio Ranieri, came just days after the former Italy and Juventus star received his coaching diploma.

Juventus handed debuts to new signing Weston McKennie and Kulusevski, who joined from Atalanta in January before immediately returning to Parma on loan.

Kulusevski curled in the first goal in a move started by Ronaldo, who hit the bar minutes later. But it was not until the last quarter of an hour that the champions finally killed off the game they dominated. AP

Real toil in goalless draw

AFF ■ MADRID

It wasn't the best of starts for defending champion Real Madrid, which needed a good performance by goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois to salvage a 0-0 draw at Real Sociedad in La Liga opener.

With a squad mostly unchanged from last season, Madrid looked out of rhythm on Sunday and couldn't get more than a point in a lackluster match at the Reale Arena in the Basque Country.

Zinedine Zidane's team struggled in attack and saw Sociedad create some of the most dangerous chances, including one by forward Alexander Isak just before halftime that forced Courtois to make a superb save with his legs as he charged out from the goal. "We were well organised," Courtois said.

"We didn't allow them many opportunities other than the save I made and another shot that went wide. The problem is that we couldn't score, but that will come with time."

David Silva made his La Liga return after a decade with Manchester City as he took the place of Alexander Isak for the final 25 minutes.



Halep finally wins Italian Open

AFF ■ ROME

Top seed Simona Halep won her first Italian Open title on Monday after defending champion Karolina Pliskova retired injured while trailing 6-0, 2-1 in the final.

World No 2 Halep was competing in her third Rome WTA final, having finished runner-up in 2017 and 2018 on the clay at the Foro Italico.

"Finally after two finals I could win this title," the Romanian said.

"I love this tournament and I'm really happy to have this beautiful trophy in my hand."

"In 2013 here I started to go in the top in world tennis. I really enjoyed and I really was happy on court that I could play the semi-finals back then. Since then I have started to play really well."

Pliskova, the second seed, was playing with her left thigh heavily bandaged.

The Czech struggled with her serve from the outset, falling behind to a double break, handing Halep a 3-0 advantage with a double fault.

Halep, 28, saved three break points against her on her next service game

before conquering a first one-sided round in 20 minutes.

Pliskova had treatment on her lower back and upper leg before the second set, but pushed on with a break for 1-1 after half an hour.



But the 28-year-old called time in the third game, heading towards Halep to signify the end of the match after 32 minutes.

In total, Halep converted five of seven break point opportunities for her eighth win in 13 meetings with Pliskova, who converted one of four.

Wimbledon champion Halep's 22nd career title comes just a week before the start of the French Open which she won in 2018.

Halep extended her winning streak this season to 14 consecutive victories.

She won the Dubai title in February, before the coronavirus lockdown, coming back to claim victory in Prague last month having skipped the US Open.

Former world No 1 Pliskova, now ranked four, had been having a successful week on clay after her disappointing second round exit in the US Open where she was the top seed.

In the men's final, world No 1 Novak Djokovic will bid for a record 36th Masters title later Monday against Argentine Diego Schwartzman.

The Serbian, a four-time winner, is currently tied on 35 Masters crowns with Rafael Nadal, who fell in the quarter-finals this week to Schwartzman.

Prajnesh advances, Nagal exits from French Open Qualifiers

PTI ■ PARIS

Indian tennis player Prajnesh Gunneswaran overcame a sluggish start to advance to the second round of the French Open men's singles qualifying event but country's top player Sumit Nagal bowed out after a close defeat on Monday.

Seeded 16th, Nagal — who became the first Indian in seven years to win a singles match at a Grand Slam with his opening round victory at the US Open — lost 6-7 (4), 5-7 to Germany's seasoned player Dustin Brown in one hour and 47 minutes.

Nagal had his chances in the second set as he was leading 3-0 but Brown did not let him continue with the momentum.

Prajnesh, India's second-highest ranked singles player, got the better of Turkey's Cem Ilkel 6-3, 6-1 after losing his service early in his opening qualifier of the clay court Grand Slam.

Another Indian featuring in the qualifying draw is Ramkumar Ramanathan, who is up against local wildcard Tristan Lamasine.