

OPINION 8

WHEN BABU
BECOMES NETA

WORLD 11

IF TRUMP LOSES, HE MAY
REFUSE PEACEFUL SHIFT

SPORT 14

HAVERTZ NETS HAT-TRICK
IN CHELSEA WIN

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

the pioneer

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YOUR WORK
HAS TO MAKE A
POINT: PANKAJ
12 VIVACITY

From Rail Roko to Bharat Bandh

Farmers begin protest in Punjab; others to join nationwide bandh today, indefinite Rail Roko protest from Oct 1 against farm Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Farmers' union in Punjab began their three-day "Rail Roko" protest on Thursday against the three farm Bills, while others have given a call for a nationwide "bandh" on September 25, and indefinite "Rail Roko" protest from October 1. According to farmers' leaders, roads, highways and rail tracks will be blocked.

Farmers from Western Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have decided to join the farmers' protests. The farmers have also received support from 18 political parties, including the Congress which has Governments in four States, TMC in West Bengal, Left in Kerala, AAP in Delhi, TRS in Telangana, Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, Shiv Sena and NCP in Maharashtra.

As many as 10 Central trade unions, including All India Trade Union Congress, National Trades Union Congress, Centre of Indian Trade Unions, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, All India United Trade

Union Centre and Trade Union Coordination Centre have come out in support of "Bharat Bandh". The Ola Cab Drivers' Association and lorry drivers' association too have decided to support the farmers and are unlikely to operate on Friday.

Meanwhile, several social media users were quick to point out that NCB has summoned Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone on September 25 itself in a drug case, on the day of nationwide protests by farmers. Social media is abuzz with speculation that this may act as a diversionary tactic.

In view of the mass protests, Railway authorities said 26 pairs of special trains and nine parcel trains will remain suspended from September 24 to September 26, while 20 trains have been partially canceled, five terminated before destination.

Among the trains that will remain suspended are the Golden Temple Mail (Amritsar-Mumbai Central), Jan Shatabdi Express (Haridwar-Amritsar), New Delhi-Jammu Tawi, Karambhoomi (Amritsar-New



Farmers block a railway track as they participate in Rail Roko Andolan during a protest against the Farm Bills passed in both the Houses of Parliament, at village Devi Dass Pura, about 20km from Amritsar, on Thursday

PTI

Jalpaiguri), Sachkhand Express (Nanded-Amritsar) and Shaheed Express (Amritsar-Jaynagar), officials said. Many freight and parcel trains have also been rescheduled.

Farmers under the banners of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee and the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) squatted on rail tracks in Barnala, Sangrur, Ferozepur and Amritsar on Thursday morning. They have set up tents on railway tracks in the State. Farmers in Fazilka and Abohar districts took out tractor rallies in their districts. They vowed to gherao BJP leaders and socially boycott those who voted in favour of

the farm Bills. According to farmers leaders, over 100 farmers and arhatiya (commission agents) will participate in the nationwide shutdown.

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Bills free farmers from middlemen's clutches: Minister

Terms of contract farming loaded in favour of farmers, says Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The farm Bills are loaded in favour of small farmers vis-à-vis investors and these would completely transform their lives, said Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Thursday.

Tomar said the Bills passed by Parliament will bring revolutionary changes in the lives of farmers as they can sell their produce to any buyer, get a guarantee of price of their crops, go for crop diversification, use new technology and reduce their input costs.

Addressing a Press conference here at the BJP headquarters, the Minister said in Punjab farmers are taxed by 8.5 per cent in the "mandis" and they are forced to sell their produce at a low price. They also bear the transportation cost of moving their produce to the mandis.

"We have given them freedom to sell their produce outside mandis where there is no tax either by the Central or State Government," the Minister said.

"Farmers do farming and



take their produce to mandis. There are 25-30 people with licences in these mandis. They do auction of produce. Whatever price is decided in the auction, farmers are bound to sell their produce at that price whether they are happy or not because if they decide to take their products and go home and come back again, they will have to pay additional logistics cost," Singh said.

He said 86 per cent of farmers in the country are small and marginal who would now get the guaranteed price of their produce from investor or processor without any risk. He said terms and conditions of the contract farming are loaded in favour of farmers. If prices of the produce go high after the contract is signed, investor is bound to give farmer a fixed percentage of high return than the originally agreed upon.

Continued on Page 11

Deepika arrives in Mumbai for NCB quizzing tomorrow

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Continuing its investigations in the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case and the expanded Bollywood-drug nexus case, the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) grilled Sushant's ex-manager Shruti Modi and fashioner designer Simone Khambatta and scheduled the questioning of actress Rakul Preet Singh and Deepika Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash for Friday and actress Deepika on Saturday.

Deepika arrived in Mumbai from Goa on Thursday night.

As a section of the electronic media carried on with their trial of the Bollywood personalities on issues relating to the Bollywood-drug nexus, the NCB grilled Shruti Modi for eight hours, while it questioned Simone for five hours.

"Today Simone Khambatta and Shruti Modi joined the investigation and statements in this regard have been recorded at NCB. Tomorrow Rakul and Karishma will be joining the investigation," NCBs Deputy Director (Operations) KPS Malhotra said.

Sources said that the NCB had also called director and executive producer Kshiti Ravi Prasad of Karan Johar's Dharma Production for questioning on Friday. However, there was no formal confirmation from the NCB that it had indeed issued summons issued to Kshiti.

During Thursday's questioning, Shruti Modi and Simone were grilled on the issues that had come to the fore during the grilling of Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Shweta.

Continued on Page 11

Nuclear scientist Sekhar Basu dies of Covid-19

Kolkata: Veteran atomic scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr Sekhar Basu succumbed to Covid-19 on Thursday at a private hospital here, a health department official said. He breathed his last just three days after turning 68. "Dr Basu was suffering from Covid and other kidney ailments. He died at 4.50 am," official said.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 58,12,646

DEATHS: 92,275

RECOVERED:

47,49,493

ACTIVE: 9,70,055



Harley Davidson to exit India, seeks partner to serve existing customers

New Delhi: American cult bike manufacturer Harley Davidson on Thursday said it is discontinuing sales and manufacturing operations in India, a decade after it started selling its premium bikes in the country.

Industry sources said the company is looking to tie up with a partner to run its business in the country. The India action will include an associated workforce reduction of approximately 70 employees, Harley-Davidson Inc said in an SEC filing.

In a separate statement, Harley-Davidson said it plans to close its manufacturing facility in Bawal (Haryana) and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurgaon.

State govt now plans to shame sexual harassment offenders

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Expressing displeasure over the increasing incidents of crime against women in the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday directed officials to take strict action against those involved in sexual harassment cases. The chief minister also ordered officials that posters those harassing females be put up at public places to "name and shame" them.

Earlier, posters were put up by the administration to "name and shame" the accused who allegedly caused damage to public property during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state capital.

According to an official

communiqué, women police personnel have been tasked with the responsibility of implementing 'Mission Durachari'. They will identify offenders, whose posters will then be put up at public places across the state.

The release said that the operation would be implemented as to the anti-Romeo squads operated in the state. The police teams in every district would be crack the whip on criminals committing crimes against women.

The chief minister further said that people should know who were the people who were vitiating the atmosphere in society and indulging in crime against women.

He said that in case any incident related to crime against women took place, the

beat in-charge, chowki in-charge, station officer and the circle officer would be held responsible.

Meanwhile, 'Operation Shakti' was also launched in Lucknow to tackle crimes against women in the state.

On the instructions of IG Lucknow Range, Laxmi Singh, this operation was conducted in Unnao, Hardoi, Sitapur, Lakhimpur, Rae Bareilly and Lucknow rural area.

So far, action has been initiated against 2,200 accused in a month. FIRs have been registered against 822 people while 770 accused have been served notice. The action also includes litigation, restriction and imposition of challoans for hampering the peace. This action was taken after reports of molestation surfaced from the area.

India's fresh Covid count twice of Asia's

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

Six months after India first imposed lockdown, the country has emerged as the worst global hotspot — so much so that India's daily tally is more than double of Asia and one and a half times more than that of entire Europe. Put together, these two continents have more than 100 nations.

India's daily spike is also 10 times more than the total number of cases recorded by 57 African nations.

When India declared the first of a series of lockdowns on March 25, the country had less than 500 Covid-19 cases and was placed at the bottom of the world tally. In six months, the cases have shot up to nearly 6 million, and India now occupies the second spot in the world.

During the same period, barring India all other Asian countries have staged remarkable fightbacks against coronavirus. On Thursday, while India recorded nearly 87,000 cases, 48 Asian countries put together reported just 40,000 cases. India's close neighbours

like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal recorded just 1,666, 533, 11 and 1,172 cases respectively.

While India is nearing 6 million caseloads, the next in the Asian list is Iran with just 4.32 lakh cases. Bangladesh, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey occupy third, fourth, fifth, and sixth spots with 3 lakh plus cases. Pakistan has 3,07,418 cases.

The latest trend shows that while Asian countries have come to terms with the virus — at least 10 of them recorded no fresh case on Thursday and 15 of them recorded new cases in double-digit only — Europe is seeing a resurgence in the number of cases and talks of fresh lockdowns have begun to do the rounds.

India's situation is worrisome because the country continues to see bigger spikes week after weeks. The number of cases is impacted by low testing on weekends or reduction in the number of testing due to any other reason.

The huge margin of error in antigen testing has clouded

the overall scenario.

In many States, ever since the antigen testing has been introduced, the positivity rate has drastically come down. It clearly shows that the real picture of coronavirus spread is far worse than reflected by the outcome of the tests.

The situation in Africa is far better than Asia. As many as 57 nations of the continent registered just 8,000 new cases on Thursday with an average of fewer than 150 cases. Of them, around 16 countries didn't register a single case while nearly two dozens logged cases in double-digit numbers.

The European situation is becoming alarming again with the United Kingdom, France and Spain registering around 10,000 new cases every day, but the USA has stabilised and numbers are also declining in some of the worst-affected nations of South America.

However, India is showing no sign of plateauing out. While some States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are reversing the trend and registering a reduced number of cases during the last one week, new States are replacing them with far bigger numbers.

For example, Kerala reported 6,324 new cases and 21 persons died in the State during the last 24 hours due to Covid-19. This is the biggest single-day spike for the State which boasted of taking the best possible measures to contain the pandemic. The State has so far not ever crossed 50,000 new cases in a day.

With winter now knocking at the door, India will have to hope and pray that the situation is salvaged through some divine intervention. The human factor has paid little results so far.

Fitness icons share with Modi secrets of staying healthy

First anniv of Fit India Movement, Modi's attempt to make India fit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday interacted with fitness influencers, sports persons and citizens during a nationwide online Fit India Dialogue organised to celebrate the first anniversary of the Fit India Movement.

The online interaction saw participants, including cricketer Virat Kohli, actor-model and fitness-freak Milind Soman and nutrition expert Rujuta



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually interacts with Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli during Fit India Dialogue on the first anniversary of Fit India Movement, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

Diwekar, sharing anecdotes and tips of their own fitness journey while drawing out guidance from the Prime Minister on his thoughts about fitness and good health.

Brainchild of the Prime Minister as a people's movement, the Fit India Dialogue is

an attempt to involve citizens of the country to draw out a plan to make India a fit nation.

The Prime Minister said fitness is not something which is very difficult to achieve but requires about thirty minutes "dose" of exercise daily.

Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

GOOGLE PAY APP SHARES TRANSACTION INFO DATA

New Delhi: Google India Digital Services Pvt Ltd, which operates the GPay app, has told the Delhi High Court that it is allowed to share customers transaction data with third parties with the prior permission of NPCI and payment service providing banks. The submission has been made by Google in its affidavit in response to a PIL seeking action against 'Google Pay' (GPay) for allegedly violating the RBI's guidelines related to data localisation, storage and sharing.

ALLAHABAD HC REJECTS PLEA TO RENAME ITSELF

Lucknow: The Allahabad High Court has dismissed a plea to rename itself either as the Prayagraj High Court or the Uttar Pradesh High Court.

Oz ex-batsman Dean Jones dies of cardiac arrest in Mumbai

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones, one of the finest exponents of ODI cricket, died of a sudden cardiac arrest in Mumbai on Thursday.



Jones, 59, was in Mumbai with the Star Sports' commentary team for the Indian Premier League. He was in a bio-bubble in a city hotel. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Jones played 52

Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia and was part of the 1987 World Cup winning team.

"It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing away of Dean Mervyn Jones AM. He died of a sudden cardiac arrest," Star Sports said a press release. According to an IPL source, it happened in matter of seconds.

Detailed report on P14

Link medical institutes with virtual ICUs: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked officials to start the process to link medical institutes with virtual ICUs by using technology in such a way that the serious patients may get treatment from experienced doctors.

He also asked the officials to keep ventilators/high flow nasal cannula (HFNC) functional in all districts.

Presiding over a high-level Unlock review meeting at the Lok Bhawan here on Thursday, Yogi also directed officials to adopt an effective strategy to control spread of novel coronavirus in districts where 100 or more positive cases are being found every day for the last one week.

The chief minister directed the chief secretary, additional chief secretaries of home (health and medical education) along with medical experts to hold a detailed discussion to finalise the action plan in this regard.

He reiterated that nodal officers be nominated in these districts with deployment of special secretary-rank officers with each of nodal officer.

The chief minister asked officials to maximise contact tracing for effective control on coronavirus infection. He also asked them to target high risk groups and put them to tests.

He said one-third of the total Covid tests per day should



be conducted through RT-PCR and the rest by rapid antigen method. He further directed officials to increase the number of beds in Covid Level-2 and Level-3 hospitals.

The chief minister stressed on taking up enforcement exercise to check observance of social distancing and use of masks by people.

“Create micro-containment zones as and where required. Public address systems should be functional all the time to spread awareness about protection from coronavirus and the prevailing traffic rules,” he said.

The chief minister directed officials to maintain the availability of all protective gears, including masks, PPE kits and sanitiser and medicines, testing kits used in the treatment.

“The Health department should also review these requirements from time to time,” he added, stressing on sanitation and cleanliness.

The chief minister said that the people should be sensitised about protection from COVID-19 in view of coming festivals. He said the festivals had to be celebrated at home and no public functions should be organised and all the norms of social distancing and use of masks should be followed strictly.

The chief minister directed officials to review progress of Smart City projects and AMRUT Yojana on a regular basis. He asked them to proceed in an organised manner to get maximum benefits of the special economic package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that more and more labourers and street vendors should be facilitated to get loans and the loaning for MSME units through packages should be facilitated accordingly.

He asked the officials to keep cow shelters in Bundelkhand region properly functional.

CM Yogi dedicates U-Rise portal to the people

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Stressing the need of imparting uniform education to all the students of the state, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said that uniformity in education would bring equality in society.

“In view of the future requirements, the education should be unified and all levels of education should be coordinated so that students have alternatives to choose their areas of skill,” the chief minister said while dedicating to the people of the state the Unified Re-imagined Innovation for Student Empowerment (U-Rise) portal at a function in Lok Bhawan here on Thursday.

It is a joint initiative of the Technical Education department, Training and Employment department and Skill Development Mission that has been developed by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University.

Underlining the importance of this portal, the chief minister said the convergence of educationists, employers and researchers through this portal would benefit lakhs of students.

“It will empower them by providing them every possible information from online exams to digital contents, digital assessment, to digital examination papers, webinar to internship, e-library, recorded video content and lastly employment,” he pointed out.

The chief minister said that about 20 lakh students, who were getting vocational and technical education, would be benefited from this portal which would guide them from learning to career counselling to employment. The e-content, e-library and online courses available on this portal would reach even the most interior parts of the state, he said.

The chief minister said the National Education Policy-2020 also espouses the cause of uniform education.

“There is ample scope and need of the time for a multi-discipline education system weaving various streams like science, arts, social science, humanities, engineering and sports into a unified syllabus,” he said.

The chief minister said digital technology brought by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the country in 2014 had proved to be very useful.

“We managed to bust several conspiracies of fake teachers through digital technology,” he said.

Through this, all students, teachers, trainers, institutions providing employment related to technical education, ITI and skill development may converge on one place with all the relevant information about the life-cycle of a student being available here.

It will not only empower the students but also provide them a useful platform to get exposed and open up to the entire world. The aim of the portal is to ensure uniform quality education to all the students who can improve their learning curve while using this portal.

It, in fact, is a place with a unique network of trainers, faculty and industry. The students once registered will continue to receive its benefits life-long and their track records will also be digitally stored which will help them in the future for employment purposes etc.

On the occasion, the chief minister released Rs 100 crore in the second phase of Deendayal Upadhyay Quality Improvement programme. It will be spent on the development of digital and physical infrastructure of various technical institutions in the state.

AAP to contest UP panchayat polls

Lucknow (PNS): Aam Aadmi Party (state president, Sabhajeet Singh said on Thursday that the party would contest on all the seats in the panchayat elections. Singh said the party had set up district level committees in 287 Assembly constituencies and committees for other constituencies would be formed soon. He said the party was carrying out a ‘Jan Jan Oximetre’ campaign in all districts of Uttar Pradesh. Singh said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had done historic work by implementing the Kejriwal model of development, under which people were being provided with free electricity, water supply and good education and health facilities in New Delhi. Addressing a press conference, AAP national spokesman Dilip Pandey said the people would break the myth of casteism in Uttar Pradesh panchayat and other elections. Pandey said the party would welcome those convinced with the Kejriwal form of governance in New Delhi. “If they think, Kejriwal has done public welfare work, served the people who voted the party to power, provided electricity and water supply free of cost, improved schools and hospitals and the quality of education and has bravely fought the coronavirus pandemic, they are welcome in the party,” he said.

North Eastern Railway

Notification No. 80/2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR RAIL PASSENGERS

It is notified for information of general public that due to doubling of Aurihar-Taron section, the following trains will be diverted and short termination as under -

Diversion

1. Train No. 09089 Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur Special Train JCO from 24.09.2020 to 10.10.2020 will be diverted via Varanasi-Jaunpur-Shahganj-Mau.

2. Train No. 09090 Gorakhpur-Ahmedabad Special Train JCO from 25.09.2020 to 11.10.2020 will be diverted via Mau-Shahganj-Jaunpur-Varanasi.

Short Termination

1. Train No. 05008 Lucknow-Varanasi City Special Train leaving Lucknow Jn. from 24.09.2020 to 11.10.2020 will be short terminated at Mau.

2. Train No. 05007 Varanasi City-Lucknow Jn. Special Train leaving Varanasi City on 25.09.2020 to 12.10.2020 will be originated Ex. Mau.

3. Train No. 02220 Anand Vihar (T)-Ghazipur City Special Train leaving Anand Vihar (T) on 08.10.2020, 10.10.2020 and 11.10.2020 will be short terminated at Jaunpur.

4. Train No. 02219 Ghazipur City-Anand Vihar (T) Special Train leaving Ghazipur City on 09.10.2020, 11.10.2020 and 12.10.2020 will be originate ex. Jaunpur.

5. Train No. 02234 Anand Vihar (T)-Ghazipur City Special Train leaving Anand Vihar (T) on 09.10.2020 will be short terminated at Jaunpur.

6. Train No. 02233 Ghazipur City-Anand Vihar (T) Special Train leaving Ghazipur City on 10.10.2020 will be originate ex. Jaunpur.

CPRO/T-15 Chief Pass. Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur

About any Passenger Amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955

Do not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

NOTICE

Bhartiya Manav Vikas Samiti's STDR Document of account no. 30027152756 of SBI, Nishatganj Branch, Lko. is lost. If any one found please contact - 7897105050.

NOTICE

I have change my name Sazid Khusain Khan to Sajid Husain Khan S/o Sabir Husain Khan for future purpose Dughela Maina Itwa Siddharthnagar

NOTICE

This is to bring in your kind notice that Mr. Anil Kumar S/o Shri Rangli Lal R/o 77 Vivekanand Puram Kalyanapur Lucknow is also known as Anil Yadav S/o Shri Rangli Lal Yadav.

NOTICE

I, Army No. 4203261F, Rank L/Nk Arun Kumar, Unit 15, Kumaon (Indore) C/o 56, APO, hereby declared that in my service records my wife's name inadvertently Smt. Purnima Devi. While her correct name is Smt. Poomima Devi and date of birth 13.07.1989 and same has to be incorporated in my service records.

NOTICE

I, Army No. JC 541423-L Sub Surinder Kumar S/o Shri Bihari Singh, Unit 15, Kumaon (Indore) C/o 56, APO, hereby declared that in my service records my son's (Kapil) date of birth inadvertently 17.07.2000. While his correct date of birth 01.01.1999 and same has to be incorporated in my service records.

NOTICE

I, Yasir Anis S/o Anis Ahmad Nadwi R/o 43, Tagore Marg, Nadwa Campus, New Hyderabad, Lucknow, declare that my and my father's name were wrongly written in 10th ICSE certificates as Yasir Anis Siddiqui S/o Anis Ahmad Siddiqui while my and my father's real name is Yasir Anis S/o Anis Ahmad Nadwi. So the real name must be used for all purposes.

NOTICE

I am Murti Devi W/o 6579284 Ex-Sep Murari Singh (Late) declare that as per Army Record my name Murati & Date of Birth 02-11-1935 is incorrect. My name is Murti Devi W/o Late Murari Singh & date of birth 01.07.1940 is written in all of my legal documents which is correct. Murti Devi w/o Late Murari Singh, Vill & Po.-Bardihia, Teh. Sagari, Dist.-Azamgarh (U.P.)

Dalit girl gang-raped in Hathras

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 19-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly gang-raped by four persons who also tried to strangle her to death to conceal the crime in Hathras.

The girl has been admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) in Aligarh medical college hospital. She managed to give her statement to the police days after the incident and stated that she was raped by four upper caste men on September 14 when she had gone to collect fodder for animals.

Earlier, based on her brother's complaint, the police had booked a man identified as Sandeep for attempt to murder and under the provisions of the SC/ST Act.

The accused was arrested and remanded to judicial custody after the family alleged that he had tried to kill the girl over some old enmity. However, after the victim regained her conscious and gave statement to the police, rape charges were added to the FIR and three more people were booked.

“One more accused has been held and others, too, will be arrested soon,” Hathras SP Vikrant Vir said on Thursday.

ASP Prakash Kumar said the girl's statement under Section 161 of CrPC was not recorded earlier by the investigating officer as she had been in the ICU after she was referred to Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College in Aligarh from Hathras district hospital. He said the chargesheet would be filed soon.

Congress MLC Deepak Singh also met the survivor and alleged that the family was being threatened by the accused as well as the police. He said that he would give a detailed report on the matter to party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Congress leader Sheoraj Jivan Valmiki, who also reached Hathras on Wednesday to meet the survivor's family members, has demanded action against the police officers for delay in recording the statement, adding that injustice to the members of the Dalit community would not be tolerated. In another incident, a police head constable reportedly ended his life in Moradabad. According to reports, Mazhar Hussain, head constable posted in reserve police lines in Moradabad, committed suicide by shooting himself with

the carbine inside his barrack early Thursday morning.

IG Moradabad Range, Ramit Sharma and SSP Moradabad, Prabhakar Chowdhary, rushed to the spot. They claimed that Hussain, hailing from Pilibhit, went on 10 days' leave but joined after remaining missing for 10 more days just on Wednesday evening. His family members were informed of the incident and the police were probing the reason for the suicide, Chowdhary claimed.

Meanwhile in Bairaich, a gangster, convicted for killing nine people, allegedly stole a buffalo while on parole and was arrested, police said on Thursday. Bulta, alias Muneshwar, was arrested on Wednesday in connection with the theft case. Bulta and his gang killed nine people in the Katarnighat police station area of the district in 1992. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in 2001. He was granted parole by the High Court, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Ashok Kumar said.

The district police have decided to appeal for getting his parole cancelled by the High Court, he added.

SP: Put up posters of those supporting rape accused

Lucknow (PNS): Hitting out at the Yogi Adityanath government over its decision to put up posters of people accused of eve-teasing, the Samajwadi Party on Thursday asked the government to put up posters of those supporting rape accused Kuldeep Singh Sengar and Swami Chinmayanand.

The advice from a Samajwadi Party leader came after the BJP government decided to put up posters of eve-teasers and those accused of other crimes against women, at prominent road crossings in the state.

SP leader Sunil Singh Sajjan said here on Thursday that the administration had failed to curb crimes against women and its ‘anti-Romeo Squads’ constituted for women's safety had failed.

“Today, the UP government issued a new diktat of putting up posters of eve-teasers. It should first say how many laws it has come up with in this regard so far. The government also said that those taking sides of the culprits will be punished. So will posters of those taking sides of accused like Kuldeep Singh Sengar and

Chinmayanand also be put up?,” the SP MLC said.

“We too believe that stringent action must be taken against the culprits, but let the courts do their work,” Sajjan said.

Covid recovery rate increases to 82 per cent

Lucknow (PNS): After consistently touching the over 5,000-mark for the last more than a month, Friday brought good news for Uttar Pradesh as the number of COVID-19 cases declined, bringing relief among the officials as the recovery rate climbed to 82 per cent.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said 4,674 fresh coronavirus positive cases were reported on Thursday while 4,922 people were discharged, taking the recovery rate to 82.19 per cent. Now the tally of confirmed coronavirus cases in the state has gone up to 3,84,277.

“There are 61,300 active cases in the

state while 3,17,611 COVID-19 patients have recovered, including 4,922 people discharged from hospitals on Thursday,” Prasad said.

On Wednesday, 1,53,458 Covid sample were tested in the state. “There are 31,751 asymptomatic patients in home isolation and 3,644 patients in private hospitals and 185 in the semi-paid hotels while the rest are in government-run Covid hospitals,” he said.

The additional chief secretary said that over 3.78 surveillance teams covered 1,18,865 areas in the state and visited 2.48 crore houses and checked the health of over 12.32 crore people.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to pay attention in 16 Covid-prone districts where the daily increase of the patients is over 100.

He has asked officials to deploy a special team to monitor the arrangements and to strengthen contact tracing in districts like Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Noida, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Jhansi Saharanpur and Varanasi. He also asked the hospitals to link with virtual ICUs so that the critical patients could get more benefit. He said the high risk people should be tested immediately.

Bizarre case of teachers exploitation in Meerut

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre incident of exploitation through blackmailing in Meerut, as many as 52 teachers of a private school have collectively lodged a complaint with the local police, alleging that the school management was covertly filming them in the school's washrooms and then using the videos and photographs to blackmail them into working without salary for several months.

Sources said that the teachers, in their complaint, stated that the secretary of the school's management committee threat-

ened them with their objectionable photographs and videos whenever they asked for the payment of their pending salaries.

Based on the complaint, the police on Wednesday, registered an FIR against the secretary and his son under sections 504 (intentional insult), 354 (a) (sexual harassment) and 354 (c) (voyeurism) of the Indian Penal Code.

Meanwhile, the secretary dismissed the allegations of sexual harassment levelled against him.

“There is no CCTV inside the women's toilet. But they have been installed in the gents' toilets. This was done against

the backdrop of recent cases of murder inside some schools,” the secretary told some media persons.

The secretary, however, admitted that for the past few months, the school had failed to pay salaries to the teachers. He attributed this failure to the ongoing pandemic situation.

A case has been registered and investigation is underway, Station House Officer (SHO) of the Sadar Bazaar police station, Vijay Gupta said, adding that a team of officials from the forensic department has been roped in to provide assistance to the police in the investigation.

He said that the entire Close Circuit Television footage would be examined and the statements of the staff and even students would be recorded before initiating any action.

The financial record of the school will be also scrutinised to confirm whether the salaries were not paid due to money shortage or not. It may be mentioned that in 2017, the same school had ordered its students to get their hair cut like chief minister Yogi Adityanath's. The students were also asked to not keep beards “as the school was not a madarasa where people offer namaz”.

Senior citizens account for 53% of Covid deaths

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even though only 9.9 per cent of the total number of patients detected in Lucknow so far have been senior citizens, they have accounted for 53 per cent of the Covid deaths across the district. A senior official at the Health department said people must take these stats seriously and protect the elderly from exposure to the deadly virus and adopt effective preventive measures.

The official pointed out that till now, 4,949 persons aged above

659 more test positive

Lucknow (PNS): As many as 659 persons tested positive for coronavirus in the city on Thursday while 852 recovered, taking the number of recoveries to 39,580. The active cases in the district are 9,391.

A senior official at the CMO office said those who tested positive in the city included 59 in Gomtinagar, 49 in Indiranagar, 38 in Chowk, 32 from Rae Bareilly road, 27 in Chinhath, 26 each in Alambagh & Vikasnagar, 25 in Hazratganj, 24 in Talkatora 23 in Ashiyana, 21 in Aliganj, 19 each in Thakurganj & Cantt, 17 in Mahanagar, 15 each in Bazaarkhala & Vrindavan Yojana, 12 each in Gomtinagar Extension, Telibagh, Sushant Golf City & Naka, 13 each in Hasanganj &

Madiaon, 11 in Para, and 10 each in Jankipuram & Kakori.

Besides, 10 Covid patients succumbed across the city and the deceased included six from Lucknow and four from other districts. Three Covid patients died at KGMU, including a 65-year-old man from Hardoi, a 50-year-old man from Hazratganj, and a 52-year-old man from Amausi.

In the state, 4,674 persons tested positive, including 250 in Kanpur, 275 in Prayagraj, 138 in Gorakhpur and 214 in Ghaziabad, taking the toll to 3,74,277. There were 68 deaths across the state. Besides, 4,922 patients recovered, taking the total number of recoveries in the state to 3,07,611. There are 61,300 active cases in the state.

60 years out of a total of 49,598 have contracted coronavirus infection, which is approximately 9.9 per cent. He said that out of 647 deceased, 347 have been senior citizens, which is 53.1 per cent.

Dr Tanmay Ghatak from SGPGI, while talking about mortality rate in senior citizens, said co-morbidity is one of the most important factor for deaths. "If the senior citizens have diabetes, the chances of mortality increase by 8-10 per cent while in case of hypertension, the chances of mortality increase by 6-7 per cent. If they suffer from COPD, the chances of mortality increase by 7 per cent. However, age factor also makes a difference. While in those up to 50 years of age, the mortality rate is just one per cent, but it starts increasing after 60," he said. He added that they have the best of facilities and the treatment is given depending upon the condition of patients, as per respective co-morbidities. Dr Tanmay said people should avoid the habit of having meals together for the time being because asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic adults may pass the infection to senior citizens. He further pointed out that patients aged above 60 years should be hospitalised early. "Senior citizens are brought to the hospital when they start getting pulmonary problems. They should immediately report if they have flu-like symptoms or fever because their immunity is already low

and it increases the chances of mortality," he said. He added that people should go for daily walks with masks on and ensure social distancing.

CMO Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh said proper care is being meted out to senior citizens who are suffering from Covid-19. He said patients having co-morbidities need to be taken care of.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash and Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar inspection the Covid hospital of KGMU at Limb Centre. The officials found no arrangements for the stay of attendants.

They also inspected the control room on the fourth floor of the new block and were informed that there are 110 beds and 82 of them are occupied. Except for 26 beds, cameras were fixated on all others. It was also found that a control room was established only for the new ward and not for the old ward, and directions were issued to set up separate control rooms for new and old wards. The DM inspected TS Mishra Hospital where he was informed that there are 100 isolation beds. There are 18 HDU beds on the first floor and 28 critical care beds on the sixth floor. The DM issued directions for deputing a senior resident on duty at the hospital. It was discovered that only 28 patients were being monitored. The DM issued directions for monitoring of all the patients.

Man attacks wife with knife, slashes his own throat


PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man slashed the throat of his wife during a verbal spat and then did the same to himself at their house in Banarasi Tola locality of Aliganj on Thursday morning.

The man is a resident of a slum area in Gudamba and works as a sweeper at a cinema complex. He is currently living with his wife in Banarasi Tola locality. On Thursday, the couple picked up a fight over some issue during which the man attacked his wife with a knife. He then slashed his own throat and both started writhing in pain. Neighbours reached the house and alerted police. The couple were rushed to hospital and later discharged. A police spokesman said the couple pleaded anonymity and the woman did not give any complaint.

ARRESTED

A team of anti-corruption organisation nabbed a junior clerk of Resham Directorate for demanding bribe from a retired driver of the department to release his GPF and insurance on Thursday. The accused, Alok Shukla, demanded Rs 10,000 from retired driver Kanhaiya Singh to clear his papers for GPF and insurance. The victim sought help of anti-corruption organisation and the accused was nabbed outside the office in Vishwas Khand.



बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

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


Possession NOTICE

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property Only)
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement rule, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice on date mentioned below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand Notice being amount mentioned below within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the security interest Enforcement Rules 2002 on the specified dated mentioned below. The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the properties will be subject to charge of the Bank of Baroda for an amount and interest there on mentioned against account herein below.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

S. N.	Name & Address of Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor	Description of the Immovable Properties	Amount Outstanding as on 27.06.2020 (inclusive of interest up to 29.04.2015)
1.	Borrower(s):- M/s Seth Srinivas Agarwal Memorial Samiti, through its President – Smt. Maya Devi Agarwal, President – Smt. Maya Devi Agarwal, Vice President- Mr. Sudhir Kumar Agarwal, Treasurer- Mr. Devang Tayal, Secretary- Mr. Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Member- Mr. Sunil Kumar Agarwal and Guarantors:- 1- Smt. Maya Devi Agarwal, 2- Mr. Sudhir Kumar Agarwal, 3- Mr. Devang Tayal, 4- Mr. Sushil Kumar Agarwal, 5- Sunil Kumar Agarwal and Corporate Guarantor- M/s Tayal Pipe Industries.	Property No- (1)- Equitable Mortgage Of College Land and building situated at Plot No- 833 AB, 834 & 850 at Village- Baghdaudi Kachhar, & Pagahi Kachhar, G.T. Road, Tehsil & District- Kanpur vide Original Sale Deed dated 31.08.1987 in the name of Sri Niwas Agarwal Regd. In the office of Sub- Registrar- Unnao in Book No.1, Vol. 1001, Page No. 88 to 90 at Sr. No. 4965 on 11.12.1987 and Original Vasiyatnama dated 12.12.2002 in the name of M/s Seth Srinivas Agarwal Memorial Samiti, Bounded as below:- East- Plot No. 978,972, & 970, West- Plot No. 835,836 & 845, North- Plot No. 830, 831 & 832, South- Plot No. 849,851,897 & 898. Property No- (2)- Equitable mortgage of land situated at Plot No.153-ka,155-ka, 907 MI, 908, 913, 920, 1008, 1009, 1011 & 1012 at Village Baghdaudi Kachhar, Tehsil & Dist- Kanpur in the name of Mr. Sudhir Kumar Agarwal, Mr. Sushil Kumar Agarwal, Mr. Sunil Kumar Agarwal and Mrs. Maya Devi Agarwal vide original Sale Deed dated 31.08.1987 in the name of Sri Niwas Agarwal Regd. In the office of Sub- Registrar- Unnao in Book No.1, Vol. 1001, Page No. 88 to 90 at Sr. No. 4965 on 11.12.1987, Bounded as below:- (RHS from Kalyanpur to Mandhana G T Road NH 91, Khasra No. 153 Ka, 155 Ka, 907,908,913 & 920), North- Khasra No. 638, South- Khasra No. 902,903, 904, East- Khasra No. 943,944,945, West- Samiti Land. (RHS from Kalyanpur to Mandhana G T Road NH 91, Khasra No. 1008, 1009, 1011 & 1012), North- G.T. Road, NH 91, South- Railway Line, 904, East- Khasra No. 1007, West- Junction of G.T. Road & Railway Line. Property No- (3)- Equitable Mortgage Of Land situated at Plot No.13K and 833 Ka at Village- Baghdaudi, Kachhar, Pagahi Kachhar, Tehsil & Dist- Kanpur owned by M/s Tayal Pipe Industries Vide Original Sale Deed dated 26.02.1990 in the name of M/s Tayal Pipe Industries Regd. In the office of Sub- Registrar- Kanpur in Book No.1, Vol. 349, Page No. 45 to 54 at Sr. No. 30192 on 03.05.1990 and original sale deed dated 10.09.1987 in the name of Tayal Pipe Industries Regd. In the office of Sub- Registrar, Kanpur in Book No. 1, Vol. No. 4450, Page No 396 to 398 at Sr. No. 17900 with musanna 17991 on 15.03.1988, Bounded as below:- (Plot No 13K)- North- Land of Village Sandila, South- Road, East- Road, West- Plot No. 12, (Plot No. 833 Ka)- North- Khasra No. 830, South- Remaining Part of Arazi No. 850, East- Remaining Part of Arazi No.833, West- Arazi No 835. Property No- (4)- Extension of equitable Mortgage Of House No 4/248-B(4-A), Vishnupuri, Kanpur in the name of Smt. Maya Devi Agarwal W/o Late Sri Niwas Agarwal vide Original Lease Deed dated 25.08.1987 executed in favour of Maya Devi Agarwal Regd. In Book No.1, Vol. 645, Page No. 129, Additional Folio Book No. 1, Vol. No. 659, Page No. 204 to 224 S. No. 588 with duplicate No. 589 on 20.11.1987 (This property is also mortgaged in the credit facility granted to M/s Krishna Spun Pipe works at Bank of Baroda, Tilak Nagar Branch, Kanpur), Bounded as below:- North- 80 Ft. Road, South- Bungalow of Sri J.P. Srivastava, East- Bungalow of Sri J.P. Srivastava, West- Plot No. 28.	3,60,73,738.63 (Three Crore Sixty Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Eight and Sixty Three Paise only + Interest charges) and other expenses w.e.f 30.04.2015. If any Date of Demand Notice: 10.07.2020 Date of Possession: 22.09.2020

Date: 22.09.2020 Place: Prayagraj, Branch: ZO SARB Mob. 9554951670 Authorized Officer, Bank of Broda



आर्यावर्त बैंक
ARYAVART BANK

(A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India)

(भारत सरकार, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार एवं बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया का संयुक्त उद्यम)


Regional Office: Lucknow, Aryavart Bhawan, 569/20/K/1, Sneha Nagar, V.I.P. Road, Opp. Awadh Hospital, Alambagh, Lucknow

Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) (for Imovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of ARYAVART BANK, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice in the account mentioned hereunder on the dates mentioned before the names calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notices along with interest within 60 days from the date of receipts said notices. The borrower/legal heirs of borrower and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrower /legal Heirs of borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described here below in exercise of power of conferred on him under sub-section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each property. The borrower /legal Heirs of borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the under noted property will be subject to the charge of ARYAVART BANK for the amount with interest and other charges etc. thereon. The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets
Details of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:-


Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Branch	Description of the properties	Amt. due as per demand notice Date of Possession
Borrower:- Mr. Rajesh Singh S/o Mr. Hari Nam Singh R/o Bhawan Kheda, H/o Ansari, Post- Haidergarh, Barabanki -225124 Distt- Barabanki. Guarantors:-(1) Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh S/o Ram Naresh Singh, Village Kisiya, Post-Haidergarh, Barabanki-227301. (2) Mr. Harinam Singh S/o Ram Charan Singh, Village-Bhawan Kheda, Ansun, Post- Haidergarh, Barabanki-227301 Branch-Chaubisi	Residential Property-Plot No -1141M Village-Ansari, Haidergarh, Barabanki, As Per Sale Deed Dated-15.06.2010, in the name of Mr. Rajesh Singh S/o Mr. Hari Nam Singh Boundaries:-East-Plot of Vijay Kumar, West- Khet Hanikesh, North- Road LKO To Sultanpus, South-Khet Hanikesh Area-125.46 Sq.mt	Rs. 4,59,288.00 + Interest & other Expenses 14.07.2017 21.09.2020
Borrower:- M/s Prabhat Traders, Prop. Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Ramdwar Singh R/o 26, Nandi Vihar Colony Sarai Sheikh Chinhath, Lucknow-226028, Distt- Lucknow. Guarantors:-(1) Mr. Anjani Kumar Mishra S/o B.N. Mishra, 55, Nandi Vihar Colony, Sarai Sheikh, Chinhath, Lucknow-226028 (2) Mr. Dileep Kumar S/o Mullo, Sarai Sheikh, Chinhath, Lucknow-226028 Branch-Chinhath	Residential Property-Plot No.26 minj Khasra No. 359, Gram/Mohalla-Sarai Sheikh, Pargana Tehsil & District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated-03.02.2010, in the name of Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Ramdwar Singh, Boundaries:-East-Plot No.18, West- Road 20 Ft. Wide, North- Plot No. 25, South- Plot No. 27 Area-116.17 Sq. mt	Rs. 3,09,311.80 + Interest & other Expenses 08.08.2019 22.09.2020
Borrower: M/s Balaji Enterprise, Prop. Mrs. Sunita Gupta W/o Neeraj Kumar@Neeraj Gupta R/o Banthara Bazar, Village- Hameerpur, Kanpur Road, Lucknow-226401. Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mr. Neeraj Kumar@Neeraj Gupta S/o Puttilal Gupta R/o Banthara Bazar, Village-Hameerpur, Kanpur Road, Lucknow-226401 Guarantor: Mr. Gulab Chandra Jaishwal S/o Late Rameshwar Prasad, 268/569 KA, Malviya Nagar, Aishbag, Lucknow-226004 Branch-Rakabganj	Residential Property-House with boundary wall built on part of Property Plot of land of Khasra No. 456 Min situated at Village- Banthara Sikanderpur, Pargana-Bijnaura, Tehsil- Sarojni Nagar, District-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated-02.01.2018, in the name of Mr. Neeraj Kumar@Neeraj Gupta S/o Puttilal Gupta Boundaries:-East- Remaining Part of Khasra No. 456 Rakesh Kumar & Putti Lal, West-Land Khasra No. 442 Rajesh Singh & Others, North- Land Khasra No. 442 Rajesh Singh & Others, South-Rasta thereafter Remaining Part of Khasra No. 456 Rakesh Kumar & Putti Lal Area:- 568 Sq. mtr	Rs. 26,64,073.12 + Interest & other Expenses 13.01.2020 24.09.2020
Borrower: Mrs. Pinki Tiwari W/o Mr.Rajesh Kumar Tiwari R/o Fatte Khara Kankaha Lucknow-227305 Distt- Lucknow Branch-Mau (Mohanlalganj)	Residential Property-Gata No 246 Village- kankaha, Pargana-Nigohan Tehsil- Mohanlalganj, As Per Sale Deed Dated- 19.01.2016, in the name of Mrs. Pinki Tiwari W/o Mr. Rajesh Kumar Tiwari Boundaries:-East-Lucknow Raibarelli Highway, West-Gata No. 193, 194, 195 land Gram Samaj, North- Gata No. 246 Part portion (Neelima Pal), South-Gata No. 246 Part portion (Ram Singh) Area:- .066 hect.	Rs. 20,85,475.60 + Interest & other Expenses 13.01.2020 24.09.2020

Date : 25.09.2020 Place : Lucknow Authorised Officer




लक्ष्य अन्त्योदय - प्रण अन्त्योदय - पथ अन्त्योदय
एकात्म मानववाद एवं अन्त्योदय के प्रणेता
महान विचारक व प्रखर राष्ट्रवादी
पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय जी
की जयन्ती पर
शत-शत नमन

(25 सितम्बर, 1916 - 11 फरवरी, 1968)



“ पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय जी के विचार आज भी प्रासंगिक हैं। 'एकात्म मानववाद' एवं 'अन्त्योदय' के उनके दर्शन से प्रेरित होकर भारत सरकार व उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार समाज के अन्तिम पायदान तक कल्याणकारी योजनाओं को पहुँचाने का कार्य कर रही हैं। ”
- योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश



अन्त्योदय दर्शन के शिल्पकार की जयन्ती पर सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश
के
पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय
सूचना परिसर
का
लोकार्पण
योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा
गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

केशव प्रसाद मौर्य
उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. दिनेश शर्मा
उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

सुरेश कुमार खन्ना
मंत्री, चित्त, संसदीय कार्य एवं चिकित्सा शिक्षा, उत्तर प्रदेश

स्वतंत्र देव सिंह
सदस्य विधान परिषद

दिनांक : 25 सितम्बर, 2020 | समय : मध्याह्न 12:00 बजे
स्थान : पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय सूचना परिसर, पार्क रोड,लखनऊ
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

146 new COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 146 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district here on Thursday, increasing the total number of cases to 12,345. Besides, the district also saw three more deaths, increasing the toll to 200. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 199 patients and out of them, 198 recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 7,942 and just one patient has been discharged from the hospital and the number of cured patients from the hospitals reached 2,615. The total number of cured patients is now 10,557, leaving 1,588 active patients. The recovery rate has improved slightly to 85.51 per cent but mortality rate remained at 1.62 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day by 11 am, 85 positive patients were detected out



A hotspot in Tripura Bhairavi area in Varanasi on Thursday

Pioneer

of 1,462 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 1,79,391 and the results of 6,943 are awaited. Out of them, 1,67,107 were negative, while 12,284 positive. The total number of samples collected was 1,96,598. Earlier, two males aged 62 and 59 from Maldahia and Kakarmata respectively succumbed to

COVID-19 at SSH BHU while one male aged 87 died at Apex Hospital. Besides, with the addition of 17 new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 1,950 including 347 red zones. Two green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,603 green zones with 67 new ones.

Earlier, on the instructions of District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, the ongoing mass/ group antigen tests continued and a day ago 604 persons were tested at Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital and out of them, five were found positive, while one was detected positive out of 498 tests at Government Women's Hospital, five out of 173 at LBS Hospital at Ramnagar, one out of 10 at Swami Vivekanand Hospital, Bhelapur and eight out of 453 at BHU. However, none out of 100 tests was found positive at Shivpur CHC. CMO has informed that the Health department has distributed 8,168 ivermectin tablets to 1,021 persons. So far, 9.21 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.15 lakh persons and out of them, 7.31 lakh tablets to 91,417 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.

Jaiswal takes PWD officers to task

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal has taken the officers of PWD to the task, seeing a big pit at Meerapur Basahi during his on-spot inspection here on Thursday. He expressed his surprise that even after spending ₹80 lakh during Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) when such huge structures have been built, in which low quality materials were used in the construction. He instructed the ADM (City) to prepare a report and sent it to the government. 'Such negligence would not be tolerated now and action would be taken against the guilty officers,' he added.

Jaiswal, checking the realities of all the claims of officers regarding making the roads pits-free, himself walked to many areas to see the quality of construction work. Recently, he



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal inspecting Meerapur Basahi area in Varanasi

held a meeting with the Divisional Commissioner, District Magistrate and other senior officers in which he had given them instructions to check the condition of the roads by making physical verifications apart from giving

them time to the concerned departments to ensure making the roads pits-free. Later, the DM had constituted four teams under the leadership of the SDM and magistrates to see the condition of roads in City North Assembly constituency.

Jaiswal represents the constituency.

To make physical verification, Jaiswal, along with the officials including ADM (City), ACM and officials of PWD and Nagar Nigam reached Central Jail road and then inspected Sikraul, Bhim Nagar, Kunj Vihar, Shivpur Bazar, Atulanand Bypass, Bhojubar Sindhora Road, Sabzi Mandi Bhojubar, Sarsauli and Meerapur Basahi. During his inspection, he said that due to lack of coordination between PWD and Nagar Nigam, contractors are being given the opportunity to delay the work so that the estimated costs can be increased. The road was not levelled by Nagar Nigam during the last eight months even after the completion of IPDS work near Sabzi Mandi on Bhojubar-Sindhora Road and asked the executive engineer of Nagar Nigam to ensure repair of the road within 24 hours.

DC, DM inspect ESIC Hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal and District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma inspected the ESIC Hospital here on Thursday and reviewed the arrangements and facilities available at this COVID-19 level-1 hospital. When the DC inquired about the availability of oxygen cylinders, he was informed that there are 28 D and three B cylinders which are sufficient for the patients. The Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) said that currently 24 patients of L1 symptoms are admitted. DC also inquired about the refilling system of oxygen supply.

Agrawal asked the medical superintendent about the seating area of the patients coming to the hospital, sanitisation and availability of medicines at the counters. He also asked



DC Deepak Agrawal inspecting ESIC Hospital in Varanasi on Thursday

Pioneer

about any problem in availability of resources in view to provide adequate treatment to the patients and assured the hospital management that if there is any problem, the same would be diagnosed immediately when it would be brought to the information of the district administration.

DM, while inspecting the reception/ registration counters of the hospital, asked about the

token vending machine there and asked how one takes the token, if one does not know about the machine. He was informed that the guards on duty help the people in this direction. Sharma was also informed that at four registration counters, tokens are being given from such vending machines so that the physical distance can be maintained during COVID-19 pandemic

period. Besides, the visiting officers also inspected the CCTV camera control room installed in the CMS' room. They also asked how the doctors are kept on duty in the wards and monitor the treatment of patients.

During the inspection, the DC wanted to talk to a patient and with the help of the control room, he asked about the treatment from a patient admitted there. He also asked the patient about the supply and quality of food, changing of bed sheets, cleanliness and availability of inhalers. The patient expressed satisfaction with the treatment and said that his treatment is being done well. The DC directed the CMS to give correct information about the patients' condition to their attendants, so that they would be satisfied and there was no confusion about the treatment.

55 houses allotted under Aasra: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma said that as many as 55 houses have been provided to the affected residents during the ongoing construction of Phulwaria four-lane and all the procedures will be completed within 24 hours to handover the houses allotted to these beneficiaries under Aasra scheme of District Urban Development Authority (DUDA). Not only this, he said that the vehicles like Tata Magic, Vikam, tractors, trolleys and labourers have also provided to help the affected residents carry their belongings to their new houses allotted to them under Aasra.

'Though the residents were settled illegally on the land of Defence department, yet the district administration had showed generosity and allotted them houses under the Aasra scheme to protect them from being homeless,' said that DM, adding that one of the priorities of the government was to change the alignment prepared by the Uttar Pradesh State Bridge

Corporation for the construction of Phulwaria four-lane with the cost of ₹307.77 crore. Discussions were held several times at the levels of Divisional Commissioner and District Magistrate, but it was found that it was not possible to change the alignment technically, he said, adding that after this, he also made physical inspection of the area along with the officials of Bridge Corporation and Public Works Department (PWD) and afterwards, the alignment was changed in such a technical way so that only the minimum number of houses would be affected on the spot.

DM said that many affected residents had already started shifting their all the belongings to Aasra houses from Wednesday. In the past, the affected 12 families had shifted to their allotted houses of Aasra scheme. The camp has been set up by the PWD to compensate the construction work done on the land on the site, in which the Aadhar card, bank account numbers are being collected. In the past, compensation to nine

families has been paid. Besides, on the spot, work on one out of five pillars was started earlier by Bridge Corporation but now the same has also been started on the remaining four pillars as well.

PROTEST: Strongly protesting the opening of a liquor shop at Karsara village in Rohania, the villagers on Thursday submitted a memorandum demanding the District Magistrate to direct the concerned authority to shift it elsewhere from here.

A licensed liquor shop was opened in the village which is located near the locality and an educational institution as well which leads to inconveniences to them, the villagers including women said after submitting a memorandum at the office of the DM.

The persons having drinks at the liquor shop passed filthy remarks on women and children of locality when they passed through there to go to Aaganwadi Kendra and school of village, the agitated villagers blamed adding, the dunkards

also misbehaved with the women of locality.

When they reached the liquor shop and asked its license holder to close it, he misbehaved with them.

Later on, the liquor shop owner along with his men reached the locality and threatened the women in the absence of male members of family for opposing the opening of shop further, the villagers charged adding, the local police is also favoring the shop owner instead of paying attention to their problem. Moreover, the police have made challan of some unknown villagers in this direction, they charged further.

The annoyed villagers submitted a memorandum urging the District Magistrate to cancel the challan and also ask the concerned authority to shift the shop elsewhere from here in the larger interest of women and children of the village.

Vinod Kumar, Tara Devi, Prabhavati, Heera Mani and many others were present at the time of submitting the memorandum.

248 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

As many as 341 patients outnumbered coronavirus for the second consecutive day on Covid infection, with more than 248 new corona infected late on Wednesday night.. These included 28 patients admitted to various Covid hospitals and 313 infected completing home isolation.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, 173 patients were found positive in the antigen test on Wednesday, 58 in the RTPCR test (including two private lab reports) and 17 in the True-test. About 3,500 people were tested for Covid. A total of 28 patients were discharged from various Covid Care Centres and Covid Hospitals. Maximum 154 infected are hospitalised at L3 SRN Hospital. In the same sequence, 13 infected patients are admitted in Kalindipuram Covid Care Centre, 20 in Unani Medical College, 46 in Railway Hospital, 67 in Beli, 37 in United Medicity and 30 in Sainath MMA Hospital.

According to CMO Dr Bajpai, the number of active corona patients in the district is 3,290. At the same time, 9,895 patients have become infection free by completing home isolation. Home isolation of 313 patients was completed on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, three corona infected died on Wednesday in the district. One of them remained infected, who reached SRN Hospital in critical condition but died before being admitted.

According to SRN's



Corona Deputy Incharge, Dr Sujit, a 73-year-old elderly resident of Georgetown was admitted to Covid treatment in a critical condition on Tuesday night. He was also a patient of BP and sugar with chronic asthma disease. He died during treatment at 7 o'clock this morning.

The 54-year-old Kanhaipur

resident was suffering from an infected kidney infection. He also had other diseases. He was also dialyzed twice on September 18 after admission. He died during treatment at 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening.

Meanwhile, the ivermectin drug is proving effective in treating patients suffering from corona. Now the Health

department is trying to make this medicine available to more and more people. Whether the test report of corona is positive or negative, this medicine will be made available to all the patients for free. For this, private hospitals have also been directed to provide ivermectin medicine to patients undergoing corona examination in their hospital. People can also take this medicine to prevent corona infection. Ivermectin medicine is very old which is effective in killing insects. Experts from several other institutes, including KGMU Lucknow, have suggested this medicine to kill the virus as well. On this, the government had directed all the Covid hospitals to take this medicine to the corona patients. This drug has been given to corona patients in Prayagraj since last month.

This is also proving effective. Nodal Officer for COVID-19, Dr Rishi Sahai said that it is listed in the list of essential medicines of WHO. This drug can be given to all individuals (except pregnant women, children under two years of age, and nursing mothers). He said that it is our effort that more and more people should take this medicine.

CMO Dr GS Bajpai said that a research has confirmed that the effect of ivermectin drug is very effective in fighting against the virus in viral diseases. This prevents the process of the virus's proteins getting inside and out of the cells' DNA. 24 hours after taking this drug, the viral load decreases from 93 per cent to 98 per cent, added Dr Bajpai.

SP comes forward to seek justice for Atique

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Now the Samajwadi Party has come forward to seek justice for mafia don Atique Ahmed who is facing the wrath of the Yogi Government at present particularly in and around Prayagraj.

Samajwadi Party leader Richa Singh met the Divisional Commissioner and the District Magistrate, and handed them over a memorandum seeking justice for the family members of Atique whose palatial house was also demolished in Chakiya area, denying shelter for the family members.

Atique and his younger brother Ashraf are in jail while his son is absconding. Atique's wife Shaista Parveen has shifted to the residence of her parents.

The house of Atique was in the name of his mother in records, but according to the officials of the Prayagraj Development Authority the whole construction was unauthorised and was raised without an approved blue print.

The SP leader Richa Singh is of the view that the prescribed legal procedure was not followed while demolishing the house of Atique's mother.

She quoted that Right to shelter is fundamental right under Article 19 (1) (e) read with Article 21 of Constitution of India, says the Allahabad High Court in Rajesh vs State of UP 2019 SCC online Alle 2555. Atique should have been provided with an opportunity to regularise the irregular constructions, said Richa Singh.

It may be mentioned here that about a dozen properties of Atique Ahmed and his gang men have been demolished in and around Prayagraj, and about 10 haven put under seal. Most of the above properties were raised on Nazul land by using muscle power.

Atique is one of the top gangsters of UP, and he was also involved in Guest House case of Lucknow where Mayawati was allegedly molested.

Richa Singh, former president of Allahabad University Students Union, got an accidental entry into the Samajwadi Party just before the above students union election, and then became a candidate for the Assembly election. Richa Singh had filed her nomination for the union election as an independent candidate. At the eleventh hour the nomination

papers of the official Samajwadi candidate were rejected. Then came the opportunity for Richa who was supported by the SP, and she made it.

Atique, though contested and won most of the Assembly elections as an independent candidate, supported by the SP. Later he joined Apna Dal, but won the Parliamentary election from Phulour on SP ticket.

RESULTS DECLARED: Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) on Wednesday declared the results of research officer, lecturer psychology and lecturer auto engineering. Commission Secretary Jagdish, Deputy Secretary Pushkar Srivastava and Deputy Secretary Lakhna Lal Shihware jointly informed that the research officer category under Uttar Pradesh Horticulture and Food Processing Department was selected on one of the two unreserved categories for which the interview process was conducted on September 18. In which Sachin Kumar Singh has been declared successful. Similarly, in September, the Commission conducted an interview for selection by direct recruitment on 31 posts of psychology lecturer of state

colleges under Higher Education department Uttar Pradesh. The result of which has also been announced. In which 31 candidates were declared successful. Among those who succeeded were Soumya Sharma, Vipul Kumar, Anjali Sharma, Anupam Kumar Yadav, Kirti Madhani, Vatsal Priyadarshi Pandey, Anubhuti Jain, Jyoti Srivastava, Garima Yadav, Surabhi Srivastava, Jaya Kumari, Swati Mishra, Shailendra Sharma, Priyanka Shukla, Astha Sakshi, Ruchi Pandey, Akanchha Devi, Akanchha Chaurasia, Amit Kumar Vishwakarma, Swati Gupta, Vishal Kumar Gupta, Krishna Kumari, Ruchi Satyendra Mani Vikram, Sudha Jaiswal, Yogesh Chandra, Yogendra Pratap Singh, Ghanshyam Saroj, Amit Kumar.

According to Deputy Secretary of the Commission, Lakhna Lal Shihware, Nisha Sharma, Durgesh Singh Bhadauria, Ankur Verma and Satish Namdev have been declared successful in the interview conducted on September 18 by the Commission for regular selection by direct recruitment under the Department of Technical Education.

Giri supports Kannauj MP's remark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Mahant Narendra Giri, President of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP), the largest organisation of saints, has supported Kannauj MP Subrata Pathak's statement that Bollywood is promoting Islamisation. It is part of a conspiracy to divide the society.

Speaking to media persons here on Thursday, Mahant Narendra Giri said that the sequence of spoiling the image of Gods and Goddesses in the movies has been going on for years. The situation was different when films started in India. Movies started with 'Om Namah Shivaya'. The saints and seers were respected. The situation changed in the later period, he added.

Now the Akhara Parishad will oppose the attempt to tarnish the image of Gods and Goddesses. If needed, legal action will be taken against the concerned artist, producer and director. He demanded the Central and Maharashtra Government to take tough steps to end Islamisation from Bollywood and said that no one should dominate there.

Welcoming the decision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to create a film city in Noida, the Akhara Parishad president said that this will also increase employment opportunities. It is hoped that the films made in UP will reflect the Indian culture and civilisation, Giri added.

SHUATS NSS VOLUNTEER BAGS AWARD: Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), an institute dedicated to agriculture education, research and extension for the last 110 years and the National Service Scheme (NSS) of the University has set another achievement as one of the NSS volunteer has been virtually awarded by the President of India on Thursday at a programme organised in New Delhi.

NSS Coordinator Dr Rohit Lal informed that a programme was organised on Thursday by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of India at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi in which President Ram Nath Kovind was virtually connected from Rashtrapati Bhavan. He presented the National Service Scheme Award 2018-19

to SHUATS NSS volunteer Chris John. On the occasion Sports Minister Kiran Rijjuji was also present. An amount of ₹ 1 lakh was also awarded to the SHUATS volunteer Chris John.

Dr Rohit Lal said that under the guidance of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Prof (Dr) SB Lal and Registrar Prof (Dr) Robin L Prasad, the NSS has set another record. Dr Rohit also thanked to NSS Regional Director, Dr Ashok Kumar Shroti and State Liaison Officer Dr Anshumali Sharma for their special support to SHUATS NSS.

Programme Officer Satyam Kumar Kesari said that students are also participating actively in the Prime Minister's Fit India programme, which will conclude on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti. With this achievement, there is an atmosphere of happiness among the SHUATS volunteers, students, teachers and staff.

ICICI BANK HOLDS PLACEMENT DRIVE: Placement drive was organised online by ICICI Bank at Motilal Nehru Institute of Research and Business Administration

(Monirba), Institute of Management, Allahabad University. Company officials closely assessed the students' ability, brain skills, confidence, and other aspects of personality in various stages of the process.

During this, many questions were also asked about corona from the students. On the other hand, in the corona era, where companies are being sorted, at the same time, students have made a place in ICICI Bank due to their talent and ability in which 11 students of the institute have been selected for the post of Deputy Manager. The average annual package has been fixed at ₹6.54 lakh. Aditya Vishwakarma, Aishwarya Kesari, Anjali Rajan, Harshit Jaiswal, Manisha Kanauija, Parigyan Singh, Rohit Juyal, Shivam Tiwari, Shrestha among the students selected in the placement drive organised under the guidance of Dr Ekta Verma, Placement Officer of Monirba. Dr. Ekta Verma informed that the selected students will be transferred to different parts of the country. More placements will be organised in the coming semester.

Crackdown on hospitals, pathology FIRs to be lodged against two

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari has directed the chief medical officer to lodge an FIR against Gyan Pathology which has been found guilty of giving wrong Covid test reports.

He said all the 30 samples sent from Gyan Pathology for cross-check were found negative.

The district magistrate said the Gyan Pathology would remain sealed.

He said the pathology was not only giving wrong reports but was also charging more than the rates fixed by the government and it He said this pathology was raided after many complaints were received against it.

Meanwhile, during crackdown against illegally run private nursing homes on Thursday, the district magistrate found blatant violation of norms and directed that FIR be lodged against Mahavir Nursing Home which was running without a licence and had admitted around 40 patients, including those suffering from COVID-19 and dengue.

Tiwari said what was more shocking was that there was not a single doctor in the nursing home except a few paramedics. He said the sam-



DM with his team raids a unlicensed private hospital on Thursday.

ples of COVID-19 and dengue patients admitted there were collected and the officials were directed to shift them to another private nursing home as per their choice.

In another similar raid, it was found that another private nursing home, Medanta Kanpur Hospital, was also running without any registration. The district magistrate directed officials to take legal action against it.

He said this nursing home had been running without legal sanction and had admitted many patients in violation of Covid protocol.

The district magistrate

warned private nursing homes of Kanpur Nagar that they should possess a valid legal sanction to run the nursing homes and have the basic infrastructure and equipment, especially if they were treating COVID-19 patients.

He directed the district officials to ensure that all the patients admitted in this nursing home were shifted to a licensed private nursing home with Level-2 facility.

Tiwari said six static magistrates had been posted at LLR Hospital and they would work in eight-hour shifts. He said Veterinary Officer Dr Ramapati Mishra and District

Social Welfare Officer Amnarjeet Singh had been made static magistrates of neuroscience ward and District Development Officer GP Gautam also placed in the neuroscience ward and District Probation Officer Abhay Kumar in the maternity ward.

He said besides them, Zila Udyan Adhikari CP Awasthi had also been stationed at the maternity ward. He said these static magistrates would remain there and monitor the working of the senior doctors and the paramedics, keep a vigil on the CCTV cameras and take feedback of the

patients who were critical and submit their daily reports to the chief medical officer.

Tiwari said in view of doctors' crisis in LLR Hospital, it had been decided to transfer five doctors from three cities — Jhansi, Meerut, Agra — there.

He said the five doctors to join LLR Hospital were of professor rank and were experts from anaesthesia, respiratory medicine and medicine departments.

He said with the arrival of these doctors the pressure on LLR Hospital would reduce and its working would be much more smoother.

Monitoring committee to take feedback from home isolation patients

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari has asked the home isolation monitoring committee to take feedback from the COVID-19 patients in home isolation.

He said the family members of such patients should strictly monitor the patients and immediately inform the control room if the condition deteriorates.

He said the control room had to apprise the kin of the

COVID-19 patients about their condition.

He said COVID-19 patients opting for home isolation would have to give an undertaking that they have home isolation facilities at their houses. He said in case of surprise visit, if the home isolation patient was found not in possession of health check-up kit, which included a thermometer, a pulse oximeter, Vitamin C and zinc tablets, masks the person would be admitted to hospital.

The district magistrate added that senior citizens who were asymptomatic COVID-19 patients and submitted medical fitness certificate could also be allowed home isolation.

He said pregnant women who were not at high risk and were expected to give birth within three weeks could be allowed home isolation after obtaining the opinion of a gynaecologist.

He also suggested that if a person was suffering from fever, cough, sore throat and

problem in breathing, he/she should immediately get oneself checked in a pathology.

He said they could also approach the LLR Hospital's Flu OPD. Besides, he added, those who come in contact with an affected person and have no symptom should get themselves checked and if needed they should also get their chest X-rayed.

Tiwari said the most encouraging part was that all the people in home isolation were getting cured.

274 more test positive in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 274 fresh cases of coronavirus infection till Thursday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said 274 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening, taking the count of confirmed cases to 23,937. He said a total of 73 cases were discharged and 6212 COVID-19 patients had been cured in the city so far, and at present 4331 active coronavirus cases were undergoing treatment.

The CMO said 8 COVID-19 deaths were reported in the city till Thursday evening taking the toll to 628.

He said a total of 5861 samples were sent for testing in the district.

Trade unions stage demonstration

KANPUR (PNS): Activists of Joint Forum of Central Trade Unions, on the call of their national leadership, staged demonstration at the statue of Martyr Chandra Shekhar Azad on Thursday in protest against the anti-labourers and anti-farmers bills passed in Parliament. Leaders of INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AICC-TU,s AIUTUC, TUCC and independent trade unions affiliated to the Joint Forum took part in the demonstration.

They handed over a 29-point memorandum, addressed to the Governor and President of India, to Additional Labour Commissioner SP Shukla.

had a potential to clear cytokines which caused the 'storm'. He said the double-filtration plasmapheresis was effective in removing particles bigger than 55-60 nm and the method stood the rationale of possibly coronavirus from blood.

Addressing the gathering, Dr VC Rastogi said any person between the age of 18-60 who had undergone treatment and possessed two negative Covid test reports was eligible for blood donation. He said the person must have a haemoglobin level of 12.5 gm.

He said with this blood bank becoming functional and having the most modern technologies and facilities, it would be successfully able to treat patients not only of COVID-19 but dengue as well.

Dr R Mittal, Dr Rajesh Jain, Dr Gaurav Dubey and several others were present on the occasion.



The office bearers of the IMA Charitable Blood Bank addressing presspersons

said Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus had spread throughout the world, most notably causing death owing to pneumonia and cytokine storm syndrome. He added that the treatment was highly supportive with no

definitive anti viral therapy and aimed to prevent further complications during viral clearance.

Dr Katiyar said the therapeutic plasma exchange was the separation of plasma from other blood components and

Kanpur's full-fledged blood bank opens today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

IMA Charitable Hospital Monitoring Committee chief Dr Pravin Katiyar while addressing presspersons on Thursday said the dream of the IMA-Kanpur to set up a full-fledged blood bank would be fulfilled with the blood bank becoming functional from Friday.

He said this blood bank had been given sanction for plasmapheresis — a medical procedure designed to remove some plasma from the blood.

Dr Katiyar said recently, convalescent plasma containing protective antibodies, donated from cured COVID-19 patients, had been shown as a promising and safe treatment of the coronavirus infection. He said during a plasma exchange, unhealthy plasma was swapped for healthy plasma or a plasma substitute, before the blood was returned to the body. He

Cantt Board to carry out development works

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Cantonment Board has decided to carry out development works worth ₹1.59 crore.

In the Cantonment Board meeting held on Tuesday, the members also approved the construction of zonal pumping station involving an expenditure of ₹12.12 crore.

They also approved a ₹ 50 lakh tender for repairing of pipeline leakage and laying of new pipelines

Many other estimates were passed by the Cantonment Board that included road construction up to Cantonment Board store (₹18.85 lakh); from Tagore Road to Circuit House (₹26.06 lakh); from Koela Ghat to Golf



Brig Dinar Didhe chairs the Board Meeting of Cantonment Board.

Course Gate (₹27.30 lakh); from Golf Course to Welcome gate (₹26.53 lakh); from Circuit

House to RN Lane (₹31 lakh); footpath construction near Cantonment Board (₹6.71 lakh); from Status Club to St Mary's School (₹15.21 lakh), repairing of sewer line near Pakaria Chauraha (₹ 3.08 lakh).

In the last Board meeting, it was decided to construct small zonal pumping station. But now it has decided to construct big zonal pumping station at a cost of ₹12.12 crore.

Cantonment Board Chairman Brig Dinar Didhe, Vice Chairman Lakhna Lal Omar, Pushpendra Kumar, Col Anurag Dwivedi, Col UK Vaishya, Lt. Col. MZ Khan, Prastavna Tewari, Mohd Farog Alam, Anita Yadav, Shikha Trivedi and Raju were present.

Trains to be diverted, short terminated

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to pre-interlocking and non-interlocking works in view of doubling of Aunrihar-Taraon rail section of Varanasi division the following trains will be diverted/short terminated/short originated, said CPRO PK Singh.

From September 24 to October 10, 09089 Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur special running from Ahmedabad will be run on the diverted route i.e. Varanasi Jn-Jaunpur-Shahganj-Mau. From September 25 to October 11 the 09090 Gorakhpur-Ahmedabad special running from Gorakhpur will be run on the diverted route i.e. Mau-Shahganj-Jaunpur-Varanasi Jn. Meanwhile from September 24 to October 11 the 05008 Lucknow Jn-Varanasi City Special train running from Lucknow Jn will short terminate at Mau Jn. Likewise from September 25 to October 12 the 05007 Varanasi City-Lucknow Junction special running from Varanasi City will be run from Mau Jn. On October 8, 10 and 11 the Anand Vihar Terminus-Ghaziपुर City special running from Anand Vihar will be short terminated at Jaunpur Jn. On October 09, 11 and 12 the 02219 Ghaziपुर City-Anand Vihar Terminus special running from Ghaziपुर City will be run from Jaunpur Jn. On October 9 the 02234 Anand Vihar Terminus-Ghaziपुर City Special Train running from Anand Vihar Terminus will be short termi-

nated to Jaunpur Junction. On the other hand, on October 10 the 02233 Ghaziपुर City-Anand Vihar Terminus - Special Train will be run from Jaunpur Junction.

CLEANLINESS FORT-NIGHT: Under the Swachhta Pakhwada being observed on the entire Indian Railways from September 16 to 30 on Izzatnagar, Lucknow and Varanasi divisions various programmes for cleanliness were run at various places, stations, railway premises and railway colonies etc under the supervision of the designated officers. Cleanliness programmes were organised under 'Clean premises, clean circulating area' in Lucknow Division, 'Clean premises/clean residential premises' in Varanasi division and in Izzatnagar division on Wednesday. In Izzatnagar, Bareilly City, Pilibhit, Kathgodam, Lalkuan, Tanakpur, Kashipur, Rudrapur City, Ramnagar, Kasganj, Farrukhabad, Mathura Cantt, Haldwani, Badaun, Hathras City and Kannauj stations of Izzatnagar division cleaning in their circulating area and premises was ensured by the designated officials. In Lucknow Junction, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Badshahnagar, Khalilabad, Basti and Mankapur stations of Lucknow division the designated officers and station managers got the circulating area cleaned. The designated officials got the railway colonies and residential areas cleaned under

'Clean premises/clean residential premises day' being observed on Varanasi division. Such cleanliness programmes will be run continuously till September 30, CPRO PK Singh said.

RPF'S BID TO PROTECT PASSENGERS: The Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER) is making constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities, CPRO PK Singh said. The RPF team on September 22 found a 10-year-old boy in an unclaimed condition in train no 01055 near Salempur station. On being questioned the boy said told that he had boarded the train by mistake. Thereafter the RPF post, Bhatni, handed over to the child to the Childline there. On September 22 the RPF team received the vehicle no. On September 22 RPF team found a 10-year-old boy crying in train No 02555. On interrogation, the boy said that he got separated from his father while going to Bandra and by mistake boarded this train. The boy RPF post Gonda handed him over to Childline, Gonda. On September 21 three persons were caught with three bundles of signal cables from Old Malgodam, Gonda, by inspector and staff of RPF post there. Action was taken against them under relevant sections of Railway Property Unlawful Possession Act and a case was registered against them.

Foundation of solar power plant laid

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Executive Director, NTPC Rihand, Balaji Iyengar, laid the foundation of 20 MW capacity solar power plant recently by digging the ground with shovel and performing traditional rituals. The plant will be set up on ash dyke at Tola Adhaura near Sirsioti village and is targeted to be completed by March next year. The function was organised following Covid-19 guidelines and was



and Devices)

also attended by GM (O&M) AC Sahu, GM (FM) M Ramesh, GM (Maintenance) S Srikrishna, GM (ADM) N Reddy, GMs (TS) E Nand Kishore and AK Papanaja, CMO of Dhanwantari Hospital Dr Renu Saxena, AGM (HR) KS Murthy, AGM (FQA) Umesh Kumar Srivastava, AGMs PB Pranije, Ravi Shankar and SK Srivastava, DGM (Project) SC Srivastava, DGM (TAC) D Mandal and project manager (Safety Control

DM's appeal to farmers

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

At a seminar organised by Agriculture department in Zila Panchayat on Wednesday DM SK Patel said that burning of residue of crop would be taken as crime and accused might face action. He quipped that when there were other ways of disposing of the crop residue then why were farmers opting for detrimental ways like burning it. He said that farmers were well aware about its harms but were adopting it as a shortcut. He appealed to them to mix residue in soil and make their fields more fertile. Highlighting government schemes introduced in farmers' interest he appealed to them to avail themselves of them. He further appealed to them that agriculture equipment were available at half price for which the applications were being submitted so they should apply for it timely and get them for increasing their yield. Emphasising over the use of

organic fertilisers the DM appealed to farmers to learn the ways from experts for preparing it apart from traditional ways. The seminar was also addressed by agricultural scientists from different institutions, including South Campus



Barkachha BHU. An earlier report said that DM at a meeting held at Collectorate directed the departments concerned to achieve the target under the mega drive to control communicable diseases timely. He said that the health department had been made the nodal department for it so other departments had to coordinate with it. He said that October month was the transition period of the year and it was

the time to be more alert. He said arrangements related to treatment, vaccination, ambulance service etc was the responsibility of the Health department. However, the other departments should complete their preparations, he said. The Panchayat Raj department had to build more toilets, install more hand-pumps, repair old ones and ensure sanitation in rural area, the Secondary Education department had to make students aware online about the precautions to be taken to check diseases and nagarपालikas had to ensure cleaning of drainage system, total sanitation, including fogging. For the Health department the DM made it clear that each and every field staff had to remain in their area with updated information of patients even of those with fever or cough. He said that the drive would run from October 1 to 31 and no laxity would be tolerated.

DRM inspects Gyanpur-Jhusi section

PNS ■ VARANASI

DRM, Varanasi Division of NER, VK Panjiar made a window trailing inspection on Manduadih-Prayagraj Rambag rail section on Wednesday to see the progress and quality of ongoing works and review the safety norms under doubling the tracks project between Gyanpur Road and Jhusi railway stations. DRM first reached Jhusi through new line in his special vehicle. He checked tracks, fittings, crossover lines, ballast spread, overhead traction, colour light signals, information/warning boards, station and block sections, major and minor bridges,

culverts, points and crossings, electric poles, road underpasses and other safety and distance



standards. He also made a thorough inspection of Gyanpur Road and Jhusi railway stations, seeing the yard plans in connection with doubling of infrastructure development works. Looking at the maps, he gave directions to the officers concerned. Panjiar also

gave directions to officers in connection with height of railway tracks, over head cable, 800 KV high tension crossing and traction line of Madhosingh-Jhusi rail section. He emphasised on completing the ongoing doubling-cum-electrification works in the section maintaining quality and time limit so that after the inspection of CRS, the train operations on the route could be started. He was accompanied by SDO Mr. Rohit Gupta, SDE (Coordination) Rajiv Agarwal, SDE-III Atul Tripathi, SDEE (Electrical Traction) Pankaj Kesharwani, SDS&TE Ashutosh Pandey and chief project manager of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited Vikas Chandra.

BSA inspects schools

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAU

BSA Premchand Yadav inspected the government schools of Basic Shiksha department recently. He inspected the schools at Bamhori Kala and Bardar.

At Bardar he issued a notice to an assistant teacher for not attending the school for long without permission. He inspected primary school, Rirua, and the composite upper primary school at Laikapur, where he instructed the authorities for proper implementation of Kayakalp Yojana. He inspected primary school, girls' primary school, and girls' upper primary school, Karmar. All the schools are under Dakor block. He instructed all principals and teachers to get toilets repaired and schools painted with the budget under Kayakalp Yojana. He found that the distribution of uniforms had been done in all schools.

Freight facilities reviewed

PNS ■ VARANASI

AGM of NER Amit Kumar Agarwal conducted a window trailing inspection between Deoria Sadar and Kusumhi railway stations in view of speedy movement of goods trains and providing improved freight transport facilities to the industry and traders. He also checked safety, security and speed of goods trains on the route. During his inspection he reviewed modernisation work of goods sheds and development of commercial facilities at Deoria Sadar, Chauri Chaura, Sardarnagar and Kusumhi stations. Agarwal first visited Deoria Sadar and inspected its goods shed seeing the progress made in development works of increasing trading facilities there. Subsequently he inspected goods sheds of Chauri Chaura, Sardarnagar and Kusumhi stations. During his visit he talked to traders and sought their suggestions to attract them for transporting goods through rail. AGM was accompanied by SDCM (Varanasi Division) Sanjeev Sharma, SDE-I JK Singh and others.

CRPF officer martyred in Budgam terror attack

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A senior officer of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) attained martyrdom in a terror attack in the central Kashmir district of Budgam while a joint team of the security forces eliminated a hardcore terrorist of Al Badr terror outfit in a separate encounter in Machama area of South Kashmir's Awantipora on Thursday. Meanwhile, another operation was launched by the security forces in Sirhama area of Anantnag late Thursday evening after receiving inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area.

Late last evening a Block Development Council Chairman of Khag Budgam, Bhupinder Singh, was shot dead by the 'unidentified' terrorists in the Budgam district. His mortal remains were shifted to Jammu on Thursday to perform his last rites. According to the official sources, terrorists targeted a CRPF officer in a bid to loot his service weapon at Kaisermulla in Budgam district. The officer was identified as Assistant Sub Inspector NC Badoley of 117 Bn, hailing from Nagpur area of Maharashtra.

According to the local police authorities, after seriously injuring a CRPF officer the terrorists ran away with his service weapon. Later ASI Badoley succumbed to injuries at the Army's 92 base hospital at Badami Bagh. In a second operation of the day, the joint teams of the security forces eliminated an Al-Badr terrorist in Machama area of Awantipora. According to a police spokesman, the

operation was launched by the Awantipora Police, 42 RR and 180 BN CRPF in the said area.

"During the search operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given an opportunity to surrender, however instead the terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter. The killed terrorist has been identified as Irfan-ul-Haq Dar of village Gadikhal Charsoo Awantipora associated with proscribed terror outfit Al-Badr".

As per the police records, the killed terrorist had a long history of criminal involvement. In April 2019 he was involved in grenade lobbing on Police Station Awantipora for which case vide FIR No. 54/2019 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Awantipora and the subject was arrested and subsequently sent to Kot Balwal Jail Jammu. Earlier in 2016 he was involved in a stone pelting/arson case of Police Station Awantipora FIR No. 126/2016 under relevant sections of law stands chargesheeted in the Court of law.

The police spokesman said, "after his release in April 2020, Irfan-ul-Haq was secretly involved in terror activities which include Al-Badr related recruitment in Awantipora & Tral areas. He was an important motivator and influenced young minds for joining terror ranks in Awantipora/Tral areas".

6,324 new cases in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In yet another sign that the situation arising out of Covid-19 has gone out of control in Kerala, the State on Thursday diagnosed 6,324 persons with the pandemic (the highest number to test positive on a single day till date). Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that 21 persons died in the State during the last 24 hours due to Covid-19.

Briefing the media on Thursday evening, Vijayan said that there were 45,919 Covid-19 patients across the State as on date. Kerala may overtake Tamil Nadu if this is the trend, according to medical professionals in the State. Tamil Nadu succeeded in containing the number of new patients on Thursday to 5,692 while there were 46, 405 patients across the State.

For the first time, Kozhikode topped the table of districts with the highest number of patients-883. Out of this, 820 contracted the pandemic through social contacts, said Vijayan. Thiruvananthapuram district had

875 Covid-19 patients as on Thursday evening. The chief minister disclosed that out of the 6,324 persons tested positive on Thursday, 5,321 persons contracted the disease through social contacts.

Abhijit, President of Kerala Students Union, who impersonated while undergoing Covid-19 detection test would face criminal charges under IPC and Kerala Epidemic Acts, said the Chief Minister. A person has been taken into custody at the capital city for video filming the nude scenes of a woman who was under observation in a Covid monitoring centre.

Chief Minister Vijayan also disclosed that the State had never experienced such a grievous situation as it was facing right now. "But it is only because of the irresponsible attitude of the opposition parties and the leader of the Opposition. Kerala was the role model for the country as well as other nations in how to check the spread of the pandemic. The demonstrations and agitations staged by the opposition parties caused havoc in the State," said Vijayan.

Bengaluru violence: NIA conducts searches at 30 places, arrests key conspirator

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after registering two cases in connection with the large-scale violence in Bengaluru in August, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted searches at 30 locations and arrested an alleged key conspirator related to the incident.

The arrested conspirator Sayed Saddiq Ali, 44, resident of Bengaluru, is alleged to have been involved in the attack on KG Halli Police Station in Bengaluru that took place late in the evening on August 11 resulting in "huge" damage and destruction of public and government property, including damage to the police station building and vehicles parked in its premises and nearby areas.

Ali works as a recovery agent with a bank and has been absconding since August 11, immediately after the riots.

In addition to Ali's arrest, searches were also conducted at 30 locations in Bengaluru city to unearth the conspiracy behind the attacks on DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations.

"During the searches, airgun, pellets, sharp weapons, iron rods, digital devices, DVRs and many SDPI & PFI-related incriminating documents and materials have been seized," the NIA said in a state-

ment. On Wednesday, pursuant to Union Home Ministry's directions, the NIA took up the investigation of two Bengaluru violence cases registered by the State police at DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations on August 12.

The cases have been registered under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), provisions of the Prevention of Damage to Public property Act, Karnataka Prevention of Destruction and Loss of Property Act and relevant Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

These cases pertain to a massive mob violence post a derogatory social media remark by one Naveen, nephew of Srinivas Akhanda Murthy, a sitting Congress M.L.A., (Pulakeshi Nagar, Bengaluru) allegedly insulting the religious sentiments of Muslims, the agency said.

"The State Secretary, Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), Muzamil Pasha and other members of SDPI/Popular Front of India (PFI) gathered a mob at the houses of Naveen, Akhanda Srinivas Murthy and at the premises of DJ Halli and KG Halli police stations, who vandalised the premises and resorted to arson, creating fear and panic among the masses," the agency said, adding further investigation in the case is continuing.

Singer SP Balasubramanyam's condition critical

Chennai: Tamil Nadu is in a state of anxiety as the health condition of legendary singer S P Balasubramanyam (SPB to friends and fans) deteriorated by Thursday evening, according to the corporate hospital where he had been admitted since August 5 for Covid treatment.

"His condition in the last 24 hours has deteriorated further warranting maximal life support and his condition is extremely critical. The team of experts at MGM Healthcare are closely monitoring his health condition," the health bulletin issued by Dr Anuradha Baskaran, Assistant Director-Medical Services, MGM Healthcare hospital

said.

SPB was in a serious condition earlier this month which necessitated to put him on a ventilator and ECMO. There were prayer meetings all over Tamil Nadu which were attended by mega stars like Rajinikanth, Sarat Kumar, Kamal Haassan and others. The prayer meeting was led by music maestro Ilayaraja.

The hospital authorities had said later that SPB tested negative for Covid-19. According to his son, Charan, the great master was getting ready to watch the live matches of the IPL which are underway at UAE when his health suffered a setback.

PNS

SAARC must defeat terrorism: Jaishankar

‘Blocking connectivity, obstructing trade other hurdles’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Listing cross-border terrorism as one of the main challenges, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has to overcome it to ensure everlasting peace in the region. The other hurdles are blocking connectivity and obstructing trade, he said.

The Minister made these observations in an obvious reference to Pakistan while addressing an informal virtual meeting of foreign ministers of the eight-member grouping. It was not functioning for some time now because of differences between India and Pakistan.

The meeting of the foreign ministers is an annual event held on the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. These meetings have often seen sharp exchanges between the two nations in recent years.

"Cross-border terrorism, blocking connectivity and obstructing trade are three key challenges that SAARC must overcome," Jaishankar said in a string of tweets highlighting the contents of his speech. "Only then will we see enduring

peace, prosperity and security in our South Asia region," he added.

The Minister said, "Over the last 35 years, Saarc has made significant progress. But our efforts towards collective collaboration and prosperity have been hampered by acts of terrorism and threats to national security.

"Such an environment impedes our shared objective of realising the full potential of our collective endeavour. It is, therefore, crucial that we collectively resolve to defeat the scourge of terrorism, including the forces that nurture, support and encourage it. This will generate the much needed trust and confidence to collectively build a stronger and prosperous Saarc."

India holds Pakistan responsible for cross-border terror in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

Jaishankar said he had also reaffirmed India's commitment to its "neighbourhood first" policy and towards building a connected, integrated, secure and prosperous South Asia. He also highlighted India's Covid-19-related cooperation efforts, including a commitment of \$10 million to the emergency fund for the region, the supply of essential

drugs, medical consumables, and protection and test kits to the region, and a video conference of health professionals from the region to share information and best practices on the pandemic.

India had also launched a Covid-19 Information Exchange Platform (COINEX) to facilitate exchange of specialised information, helped the development of an innovative website by the Saarc Disaster Management Centre to provide reliable information and updates on the evolving situation, and activated the Saarc Food Bank mechanism to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, he said.

In his address, Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi spoke of his country's "willingness to host the 19th SAARC Summit and for obstacles created in its way to be removed for SAARC to function as an effective instrument of regional cooperation."

The summit was scheduled to be held in Islamabad in November 2016 but was called off after an attack on an Indian Army camp at Uri in Kashmir that was blamed on Pakistan-based terrorists. Since then, SAARC has largely been dormant.

India posts more Covid-19 recoveries than fresh infections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Thursday said that new recoveries in India have continued to exceed the new cases for the last six days, pushing the national recovery rate to 81.55 per cent.

This even as India's Covid-19 caseload breached the 57-lakh mark and the death toll went past 91,000.

In all, 87,374 recoveries have been registered in the last 24 hours in the country, while the number of new confirmed cases stands at 86,508. With this, the total number of recoveries are 46.7 lakh (46,74,987). The death toll climbed to 91,149 with 1,129 people succumbing to the disease in a span of 24 hours.

The Covid-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection was recorded at 1.59 per cent. There are 9,66,382 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 16.86 per cent of the total caseload, the Ministry said.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and it went past 50 lakh on September 16.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 6,74,36,031 samples have been tested up to September 23 with 11,56,569 samples being tested on Wednesday.

Nearly 74 per cent of the new recovered cases are found in 10 States/UTs. Maharashtra has maintained this lead with 19,476 cases (22.3 per cent) for the sixth consecutive day, said the Ministry.

There has been sustained focus of the Union and State/UT governments on improved and effective clinical treatment in hospitals, supervised home isolation, use of non-invasive oxygen support, use of steroids, anticoagulants, and improved services of the ambulances for ferrying patients for prompt and timely treatment.

Farm Bills: Cong launches nationwide stir against Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday launched a two-month-long nationwide agitation against the Centre for passing the farm bills during the Monsoon Session of Parliament. The Congress said they will be also supporting the protests announced by various farmers groups across the country.

Widespread protests, especially in states like Punjab and Haryana, where farmers and farmer organisations have taken to the streets while opposing the move, are going on.

A farmers' body will hold a 'rail roko' agitation till September 26 to lodge their protest against the three agriculture ordinances passed by the Union Cabinet. "We have decided to hold a rail roko agitation from September 24 to 26 against the three agriculture ordinances," said Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee General Secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher.

Different farmers' organisations in Punjab have already given a call for a 'bandh' on September 25 in protest against the Bills.

Senior Congress leader and party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said that the decision to call for a silent protest and lend support

to protesting farmers were taken at a meeting of the State Unit Chiefs and General Secretaries early this week. The protest across the country will be led by party chief Sonia Gandhi and former chief Rahul Gandhi who have returned from the abroad after the former's treatment.

Party chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala informed that in due course the protest may be joined by other Opposition parties and like-minded parties.

Several opposition parties have protested the passage of the farm bills in Parliament and have boycotted the proceedings of both Houses. Opposition parties had also taken out march inside Parliament during this Monsoon Session.

"The Government has destroyed the democratic system. The agricultural bills are neither in the interest of the state government nor the farmers. We raised our voice against this in Parliament and will now take to the streets," senior Congress leader Ahmad Patel said.

Opposition parties also made a representation to President Ram Nath Kovind and requested him not to give his assent to the contentious farm bills. They conveyed to the President that the passage of the bills in Rajya Sabha was "unconstitutional.

U'khand's 'tiger safari' project inches towards reality

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand's ambitious tiger safari, proposed in the buffer zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve, inched towards reality with the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) under the Union Environment Ministry giving its nod to the project that aims at boosting the tourism revenue as well as providing home to the injured and old wild animals in the big cat habitat.

"We have been informed that the proposal has been cleared by the FAC in a recent meeting. But we are yet to get the minutes of the

meeting," Rahul, Field Director of the CTR, said adding that the safari will come up in the area sprawling over 106.16 hectares in the buffer area of the CTR.

He said that the ₹ 25-crore project envisages construction of five enclosures with each having 35 hectares area for two males and three female big cats. The safari will ease tourism pressure on the CTR which is visited by over 3 lakh tourists every year.

"Since tiger sighting at the safari will be 100 percent, it will mostly cater to the tourists who just want to see tigers and are not inter-

ested in enjoying other wildlife. Diverting such tourists to safaris will lessen the burden on the CTR and hence the wildlife," explained Rahul. CTR has over 231 big cats as per the latest census.

Besides ex-situ conservation, the safari will also have an off-exhibit rehabilitation centre for the rescued animals or those injured in infighting and in human-animal conflicts in the CTR, said the Field Director. The purpose is to divert tourism from the famous Dhikala zone and other adjoining areas of Bijrani, Jhirna and Sona Nadi to the Dhela range in the State.

Mamata announces monetary aid for Durga puja organisers

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced liberal largesse to the clubs organising Durga Puja prompting the Opposition BJP and Left to link her actions with next year's Assembly elections.

The Chief Minister's latest announcement include a grant of ₹50,000 to the clubs organising Durga Puja. This apart, Banerjee also announced a 50 percent rebate in

electricity charges for the Puja committees and requested the private-owned Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation to follow suit. Last year the State Government had allowed only 10 percent rebate in power charges for the Durga Puja committees. There are about 28,000 Durga Puja committees in Bengal and the dole could cost the Government about 200 crore, sources said. Besides, she said that no tax would be charged by the municipal authorities including Kolkata,

Howrah, Asansol and Siliguri Municipal corporations and panchayats were. The Fire Brigade Department too would not charge any fees from the Puja organisers, Banerjee said. She also said that this year round the much banded Durga Puja carnival would not be organised so as to maintain the corona protocols. Banerjee who also announced a number of 'dos' and 'donts' for the Puja organisers --- like making open pandals for better air circulation --- said she could not impose restriction

on Pujas fearing politics.

"People are doing politics regarding this. If I don't allow puja, they will say look they didn't allow puja to be celebrated," she said, adding "We will virtually show Durga puja and also announces prize on the virtual platform." With sponsorships coming in trickles in post-corona period the clubs have been under great stress to organise the Pujas. "This has come as a great relief to us. The Chief Minister has given us Rs 50,000 apart from granting rebate in taxes. This

will help the Puja committees to a great extent. We thank the Chief Minister for her gesture," said an organiser from South Kolkata.

The Chief Minister's declaration comes within a fortnight of announcing special allowances for the Hindu priests which the BJP dismissed as a pre-electoral bribe to the Hindu community to balance out her pro-Muslim bias which she had exhibited soon after coming to power when she announced allowances for Imams and Muezzins.

Ministry allows airlines to set 'baggage limit'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has amended provisions regarding baggage limit on domestic flights, giving airline carriers the freedom to decide on it as per their internal policy. Ahead of this, passengers flying domestic routes were only allowed to take one hand baggage and one check-in luggage.

Issuing a new memorandum, the MoCA said, "Baggage Limitation would be as per the airlines' policies." "The

matter with regard to check-in baggage has been reviewed based on the feedback/inputs received from the concerned stakeholders," the ministry noted. Following the notice, airlines will be able to reset the domestic check-in baggage limit back to 15 kg as it will help them slightly increase their revenues.

When the domestic passenger flights resumed on May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus pandemic, the ministry had stated that only one check-in baggage and one

Saudi Arabia partially relaxes ban on flights to India, allows only outbound passengers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Saudi Arabia has partially relaxed its suspension order for travel to and from India. It has decided that flights would be allowed from Saudi Arabia to India but not from India to Saudi Arabia.

Air India Express, which operates maximum flights between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, informed passengers of the partial relaxation.

The airline's official Twitter handle said, "Air India Express Vande Bharat flights would continue to carry passengers on its flights from Saudi Arabia to India. The Airline would not carry passengers from India to Saudi Arabia."

The General Authority of Civil Aviation in Saudi Arabia, in its order two days ago said, "Suspending travel to and from the following countries (India, Brazil and Argentina) including any person who has been in any of the mentioned countries above in the last (14) days prior to their arrival in the Kingdom." Saudi Arabia said this was in view of the growing number of Covid-19 cases in these countries. They however, excluded passengers who have official Government invitations from this order. Kuwait have a blanket ban on travel to and from India, jurisdictions like Hong Kong have an ongoing suspension on Air India's flights to its airport till October 3.

hand baggage per passenger must be allowed. Passengers were also allowed to carry check-in baggage up to 20 kg without any additional charge.

Currently, airlines are permitted to operate not more than 60 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic flights.

Recently, in a significant statement Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday told the Rajya Sabha that by the time its Diwali and towards the end of the year, India would have pre-Covid aviation figures of 3,00,000 passengers a day.

MES Jr engineer, GST officials arrested for graft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday arrested a Military Engineer Services (MES) Junior Engineer for accepting a bribe of ₹30,000. In a separate case, the agency arrested three GST officials in a graft case of ₹5 lakh.

The MES Junior Engineer Rajiv Ranjan Reddy was posted at Paradeep (Odisha) and was nabbed while demanding and accepting the bribe from the complainant, officials said.

The agency has registered a case under various Sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act on a complaint alleging that the accused official demanded a bribe of ₹30,000 from complainant's relative for forward-

ing bio-data of six persons of the complainant's firm to the Office of GE (I), MES, Bhubaneswar for formal approval relating to the Work Order in favour of victim firm. The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount from the complainant.

Searches at the office and residence of the accused officials were conducted leading to recovery of incriminating documents, the agency said.

In the GST graft case, the agency arrested two Superintendents and one Inspector, all working in the office of Commissioner, Central Goods & Service Tax, Central Excise, Belgaum (Karnataka) in an alleged bribery case

Advocate shot dead in Srinagar

Jammu: Less than 24 hours after a Chairman of the Block Development Council in the central Kashmir district of Budgam was shot dead by 'unidentified' terrorists from a close range, a famous Advocate who appeared on TV news channels and participated in 'volatile' debates on Kashmir issues was gunned down in Hawal area of Srinagar on Thursday evening.

The deceased Advocate has been identified as Babar Qadri. According to the

local police authorities, Advocate Babar Qadri was shot at from a close range and was rushed to the SKIMS where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Qadri had recently locked horns with his opponents on the social media who often labeled him an agent of 'agencies' in Kashmir valley.

In one such case, Qadri had even posted a tweet urging the police authorities to register FIR against one social media user.

Traitor to Govt cause

Salman Khurshid named in Delhi Police chargesheet on riots but there are no specifics on provocative speeches



This is more than a witch-hunt, it is a theatre of the absurd, this partisan investigation into the Delhi riots. One cannot even blame the police anymore, trotting out as it does the script that is handed down to it by the Home Ministry, having long lost the spine to stand up to its constitutional mandated functions and bending instead to the political masters of the day. The message, howsoever unpalatable to our Indian ethos and civilisational DNA, is clear — there can be only one ideology that works, anybody else choosing the other end of the divide just won't be tolerated. And that the democratic right to dissent, even one in defence of the

Constitution, is as good as treason. In this case, challenging the new law that makes grant of citizenship conditional on religion and tears asunder the secular rights of all Indians. What else can explain the names in the outrageous chargesheet of the Delhi Police on the February riots? Congressmen, Leftists, scientists, filmmakers, civil society activists, students, basically everybody who agreed to disagree with the Government. Take the case of Salman Khurshid. Forget that he has been a Congress veteran, a Union Minister handling key portfolios, an educationist, a legal eagle, a liberal Muslim who refused to be card-boarded into stereotypes or become an apologist of his faith. Forget his pedigree and lineage as the grandson of our third President Zakir Husain. Has there been any precedent of his anti-India intentions or has there been any visual footage of him delivering divisive and hate speeches? Or having an aggressive tenor of words? Yet he has been chargesheeted for instigating the riots in the city this February through provocative speeches and a studied design. No specifics have been mentioned. He has been named with his party colleague Udit Raj and CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat for fanning sentiments during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. The police claims to have “protected” witnesses, who were conspirators themselves and perhaps needed intense “security” to spill the beans on the complicity of senior leaders. And to indicate the weightage and seriousness of the statements, the police said they had been recorded before a Magistrate under Section 164 of Code of Criminal Procedure. Other big names in the disclosure statements include those of Left leader Kavita Krishnan, student activist Kawalpreet Kaur, scientist Gauhar Raza and advocate Prashant Bhushan. The bigger question is then what does one do with the stronger visual evidence of incendiary speeches by ruling BJP leaders, like “*goli maaro, saalo ka*,” that were repeatedly played out on news television. The likes of Anurag Thakur and Kapil Mishra have been spared, the latter spewing vitriol and issuing barely veiled threats under police watch. There were videos of a group of people cheering and chanting “*Jai Shri Ram*” as bricks and stones were unloaded. It was clear that violence was being planned and frantic appeals were made to Delhi Police to act. Later shops were set on fire in Muslim localities in Maujpur. So why was no action taken against the BJP motormouth for his hate speech and disruption of peace and communal harmony? Simply because he held rallies in favour of the new citizenship law and was the Government's mouthpiece? If hate begets hate, then there ought to have been two guilty parties, not one.

The brutality of targetting is even more evident as names uncomfortable to the establishment are circled out while provocateurs friendly to it are let off. Earlier, too, there was a motivated leaking of information about noted civil society activists figuring in a supplementary chargesheet based on disclosures of the accused. While the police had then claimed that the disclosure was not the sole basis of further action, and needed to be backed up by corroborative evidence, cross-checking and information, why were their names listed? CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury was labelled as an instigator for representing an ideological polarity. Riots probes by their very nature are sensitive and it is all the more necessary for the police to sift fact from fiction, identify the perpetrator and the victim, regardless of fear or pressure. For a society needs healing and by the Government's own figures, the minority communities have been affected more in the arson and violence that followed. What makes the Delhi riot probe a dangerous precedent is that there is nothing that separates the protester from the rioter, the dissenter from the conspirator and the citizen from an arsonist. If this is going to be the template going forward, then there would be no need for a trial by court. By deriding and selectively targetting some of the best educated and informed minds in the country, the new India is about using knowledge and wisdom to be a qualified conformist than a disgruntled critic. Disproportionately and sadly, the Government narrative of stereotyping the riots as another volatile expression of communal angst has swamped every logical argument on why citizenship should be selective. Most disturbingly, such actions prove that the Government can well do without civil society who might either become a voiceless and rare species or be coopted. But dangerously, we are also losing the Muslim intelligentsia to hate politics. One dreads to imagine its fallout.

Rafale under fire again

CAG says offset obligations under jet deal yet to be fulfilled; LCA project could be hit



The ruling BJP might have capped the Rafale deal as a non-issue during the general elections and there was general acceptability of the acquisition of the fighter jet for improving our strategic competence. But now the ghost of murky deal-making has returned with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) finding that French aerospace major Dassault Aviation and European missile maker MBDA have defaulted on offset clauses. The report says that till date they have “not confirmed” the transfer of technology for the indigenous development of the engine for the Light Combat Aircraft

(LCA) by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the offset contract relating to the nearly ₹60,000 crore deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets. Under the offset policy, a certain percentage of the deal value with foreign firms should flow into India as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which would eventually include technology transfer, local manufacturing of advanced components and creating jobs. Most vendors over-commit to get the contract and breaches of this nature aren't new. But such a lapse could prove costly for the Government. According to the CAG report tabled in Parliament, as the vendor has not confirmed the transfer of this technology till date, the targets for doing so had already been delayed badly and could not be met before deadline. In its defence, Dassault Aviation has said it will eventually meet its obligation, which has slowed down in the last few months due to the pandemic. If Dassault does not make good on its commitment, then the Kaveri engine project will continue to hang fire. For the DRDO, which has been involved in the LCA project for long and has been unable to give its engine the kind of performance and thrust that it had planned, had to choose one made by the US firm GE. However, hopes of indigenisation of the project were raised again when during the Rafale negotiations, France agreed to help India work on an upgraded Kaveri engine.

Worryingly, the CAG also warned against the efficacy of our offset policy, saying it did not find a single case of foreign vendors transferring high technology to Indian industry, particularly in the defence sector, which ranked 62 out of 63 sectors receiving FDI. The failure on the part of Dassault to keep its end of the bargain would give more ammunition to the Opposition, which has also opposed and questioned Anil Ambani's Reliance entering the deal as an offset partner for Dassault Aviation. The CAG report further said that “non-fulfilment of offset obligations by the vendor, especially when the contract period of the main procurement is over, is a direct benefit to the vendor.” This questions the Government's ability to drive a bargain. Would this report be a can of worms?

When *babu* becomes *neta*

Restrictions need to be placed to account for situations where the independence of the judiciary and of the civil services could be threatened



AJOY KUMAR

Like most people, I enjoy listening to music in my free time. Other than being an expression of art, songs are often a great medium to get a message across. Some are subtle where you have to find understated and intelligent references to the message that is hidden. However, at the same time you have songs with lyrics like “Sushant superstar, you were Bihar's treasure... The DGP came, he faced attacks but he took the case to the CBI. (The DGP) is the pride of the nation...” It is safe to say that this music video, which was released on the same day as the voluntary retirement of the DGP, can be a lot of things but “subtle” is certainly not one of them.

The release of the music video and the reports of Gupteshwar Pandey (the DGP in question) making a foray into politics, do, however, give us an opportunity to examine the situation in the country and the question of ethical conduct by certain individuals from the Indian civil services and the judiciary, two pillars on which the modern Indian state stands. The title of this week's piece may seem a tad ironic, especially considering that the writer himself was one time a “*babu*” and is now in active politics. However, having joined politics close to a decade after leaving the civil services, I believe that I can offer a unique perspective on the topic.

To be clear, this is far from the first time questions regarding the ethics of appointment or nomination of individuals who come from the civil services or the judiciary have been raised. Even in a meeting of the Constituent Assembly, this issue was discussed. Professor KT Shah moved an amendment, which contemplated restricting judges who had served for more than five years in the Supreme Court or on any of the High Courts, from being appointed to any executive office or Ministers in a Government. The intent, as explained by a supporter of the amendment, was imperative because “if the temptation of being appointed to other high positions after retirement is not removed, it will also be liable to be abused by the Executive or by any party in power and they may hold out such temptations which might affect the independence of the judiciary.” The amendment was ultimately

rejected by Dr BR Ambedkar because at the time he believed that this was only a theoretical protection as the “opportunity for the executive to influence the judiciary is very small”. While there is no such restriction, the Constitution of India does lay down administrative details like retirement of judges and remuneration in the Constitution. Similarly, civil servants are granted privileges like pension after retirement. Furthermore, removing a civil servant from service is an extremely difficult proposition. The intent of such protections is to ensure that both civil servants and judges carry out their duty as contemplated under the Constitution without fear or incentive to act otherwise.

Dr Ambedkar, in all probability, believed that the individuals, who would form part of the judiciary or the civil services, would exercise their personal ethical framework and to this extent the issue of independence of these institutions would not be tarnished. However, it is becoming increasingly obvious that there is a need for us to legislate ethics and punish its abdication.

Most recently from the judicial sphere, you have the case of the former Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi, getting nominated to the Rajya Sabha. This move drew sharp criticism from judges and lawyers alike, pointing to the fact that his appointment came barely months after his tenure as Chief Justice ended. Such is the criticism around the appointment that a news personality noted that the DGP's move to take voluntary retirement and possibly

“THE UPSC CAN BE TASKED WITH SHORTLISTING CANDIDATES FOR POST-RETIREMENT ASSIGNMENTS INSTEAD OF LEAVING SUCH DECISIONS TO THE WHIMS AND FANCIES OF ANY GOVT IN POWER. THE CRITERIA FOR SUCH APPOINTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC AND GO THROUGH A POINTS SYSTEM. THERE IS NEED FOR A STRUCTURAL SOLUTION”

join politics would be akin to “doing a Gogoi.” Another move that attracted criticism was of a Central Vigilance Commissioner joining a large corporate house immediately after retirement. But like I said, this is not about one particular instance. According to a study done by Vidhi, a legal think tank, close to 70 out of over a hundred retired judges have taken up assignments after their retirement. Unfortunately, this is inevitable considering the number of statutory authorities that require a retired judge to hold office under their parent statute.

Therefore, what is the way ahead? It is obvious that relying on the integrity of individuals to take the right call every time is not a tactic that has worked. While there are a number of individuals who have displayed and continue to display courage, integrity and a strong conscience, the damage by a few to the institutions that they have served can be so scarring that its impact would be felt on the core foundations of a democratic republic such as ours. Therefore, there is a need to legislate to account for situations where the independence of the judiciary and of the civil services may be threatened. One solution is to do away with post-retirement posts and to appoint only senior personnel who are currently serving as judges or civil servants. Another option is to legislate like the US has done, where in case of former senior civil servants (in certain departments) there is a permanent ban on appearing before Government authorities on mat-

ters where they may have participated personally or substantially. An alternative restraint could be establishing a separate authority like the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), as former civil servant Anil Swarup talks about in his book *Ethical Dilemmas of a Civil Servant*. Swarup suggests that the UPSC can be tasked with shortlisting candidates for post-retirement assignments instead of leaving such decisions to the whims and fancies of any Government in power. I would add that the criteria for such appointments should be made public and be through a points system. There are many possible solutions but in order to implement any solution, we need to first accept that there is a problem and that there is a dire need for a structural solution.

As said by Dr Martin Luther King, “The arc of the moral universe is long but bends towards justice.” Therefore, I am hopeful that in the long run our institutions will survive, not least because of the many righteous individuals who serve these institutions. I am hopeful that the examples that exist today will only serve as examples to future generations to keep their guard up, similar as to how examples from the Emergency serve as examples for today. However, with the benefit of hindsight, if Dr Ambedkar had a chance to discuss Professor KT Shah's amendment in the Constituent Assembly today, I have a feeling that the outcome would be quite different.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, a former MP and currently a member of AAP)

SOUND BITE

In our four biggest provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec), the second wave isn't just starting, it's already under way. We're on the brink of a fall that could be much worse than the spring.

Canadian PM
—Justin Trudeau



The Morrison Government will undertake the most significant reforms to Australia's insolvency framework in 30 years as part of our economic recovery plan.

Australian Treasurer
—Josh Frydenberg



The European Union is our key partner in restoring sovereignty, territorial integrity and supporting reforms... However, Ukraine wants full integration into the European Union.

Ukrainian President
—Volodymyr Zelensky



He (Sunil Chhetri) spoke about putting hard work and practice first, and the importance of rest and nutrition.

Footballer
—Sahal Abdul Samad



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour-friendly laws

Sir — The Constitution allows migration across the country for employment needs. However, there has been no comprehensive legal framework to protect the workers from exploitation. More than one crore migrant labourers returned home on foot during the lockdown and around 29,415 lost their lives in the process. This is the harsh reality of how safe the workers are under the present labour laws. Adding to the problem are the recently passed three key labour reform Bills that further dilute workers' rights than protect them. A more pragmatic approach with a full understanding of the problem must be put in place to alleviate labourers' underlying distress due to the Government's apathy.

SK Nag
Mumbai

Monsoon Session ends

Sir — The Monsoon Session of Parliament came to an end amid protest by the Opposition parties and suspension of eight members. The Rajya Sabha passed 25 bills, including 15 on the last two days, when the Opposition

members had boycotted the proceedings as they united against the Government for overriding parliamentary procedures to pass the two controversial farm Bills. The ruling dispensation failed to uphold the constitutional values and its dictatorial attitude made a mockery of the Parliament. Indeed a wrong precedent.

N Nagarajan
Secunderabad

The actual beneficiaries of farm Bills

The Central Government claims that farmers will have unfettered freedom to sell their produce at higher prices in any market in India hereafter, under the “revolutionary” Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and Farmers' Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services (Empowerment and Protection) Bill. However, the fear of traders about corporates dictating procurement terms is not altogether unfounded. With the dismantling of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis* and the Government having no power to keep a watchful eye on the deals struck between farmers and traders, there is a greater chance of the farmers being exploited by the heavily cartelised corporate giants. Also, the State Governments stand to lose the revenues from the APMCs, which fund the various farmers-related welfare measures.

Another claim made by the Government is that there will be an explosion in infrastructure in the agricultural sector with the inflow of massive private investments.



It would be dishonest to construe that the modern markets and the infrastructural facilities created with private funds will be available to the farmers at even nominal, if not free of charge. The Bills in no way give any freedom to the farmers, rather it is the private industries that will be benefitting.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Fair and responsible

Sir — It is a matter of deep concern that some media houses are using their platforms to create communal disharmony and spread hatred. *Sudarshan News' Bindass Bol* programme, that was aired on August 28, targeted the Muslim community and questioned the credibility of the UPSC. The Central Government

allowed the channel to air the show again on September 10 in the name of freedom of speech. It was only later on that Supreme Court barred the channel from going ahead with the telecast of the remaining episodes.

Hate speech should not be allowed to be disguised as freedom of speech. And media being the fourth pillar of democracy should act responsibly and not

further the communal agenda of the Government.

M N Musaeed
Mumbai

Rising COVID cases

Sir — COVID-19 cases in India crossed the 57 lakh mark with 86,508 new cases and 1,129 deaths reported in the last 24 hours. There are 9,66,382 active cases and 91,149 people have died. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised the need to increase focus on “effective testing, tracing, treatment and surveillance” to bring the coronavirus outbreak under control. In his virtual review meeting with Chief Ministers of seven states with the highest number of coronavirus cases in the country, he spoke of the need for clear messaging to dispel rumours about testing. However, the initiatives taken by the Government don't seem to help curb the crisis. It is, therefore, important that the people take the utmost precautions and follow WHO's guidelines.

Urvi Jain
Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The threat posed by hospital waste

Efficient bio-medical waste clearance is as important as efficient handling of the Coronavirus crisis. Else we will have to face a secondary wave



KOTA SRIRAJ

Imagine a public health epidemic of colossal proportions that also doubles up as a threat for the environment close on the heels of the devastating COVID-19. This is a possibility that can well turn out to be true if the mounting bio-medical waste generated while battling the pandemic is not managed and disposed properly. At the last update, COVID-19 had already caused a loss of 90,000 lives in India with a further 5.6 million active cases. This state of affairs can get considerably worse if a callously disposed bio-medical waste triggered a secondary wave of infections across the nation. Countless hospital premises, morgues, cremation grounds, ambulance parking lots and even garbage dumps in residential locations are replete with carelessly discarded PPE kits, gloves, suits and masks. This is in spite of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines that clearly state that COVID-19 related waste must be double-bagged and labelled. However, looking at the waste lying around, it is clear that this is not being followed and needless to say, these items carry the virus that can spread to healthy people, especially sanitation workers and those involved in sorting waste at landfills and waste incinerators. Delhi has two biomedical waste treatment facilities that can handle 63 tonnes of medical waste per day. But a study by Toxic Links noted that much of this waste is being disposed of as municipal solid waste. To make matters worse, many of the facilities generating this waste were not registered with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

The study's findings also revealed that 27.9 per cent of the hospitals did not have mandatory needle cutters whereas 34 per cent of the facilities did not have wheeled transportation for medical waste. As a result, the same was carried by hand for disposal through patient areas. Adding to this dismal state, a further 26.4 per cent of the facilities were also found to be disposing liquid medical waste into the public sewage system. With disturbing conditions such as these, India surely is not in a fit condition to handle the contagion-generated bio-medical waste. The gravity of the condition of bio-medical waste generation and its disposal can be gauged by the fact that the Union Home Ministry had to answer queries for the same in the Rajya Sabha recently. According to a paper published in *ScienceDirect*, India, the country currently generates approximately two kg of medical waste per bed, which includes anatomical, cytotoxic and sharps, but this is set to increase manifold due to the pandemic. Before the impact of the outbreak became acute, Delhi on an average generated 25 tonnes of medical waste but this output jumped to 349 tonnes per day in July. Similarly, Mumbai's per day waste generation went up from 12,200 tonnes in June to 24,889 tonnes in August. This deluge of waste has caused the already creaky waste management infrastructure to be stretched to its limit. There is an urgent need to address the issue before the metro cities become overwhelmed with biomedical waste and there is a need to follow the Government's guidelines on this.

As per the rules, the waste needs to be segregated into recyclable and non-recyclable bins and then isolated for 72 hours so that its infectious intensity is neutralised. Medical institutions must be inspected from time to time to ensure that they have the requisite equipment needed to safely dispose biomedical waste. More importantly, the liquid medical waste needs to be sent by authorised biomedical waste collection companies for requisite treatment and not dumped in the sewage system.

Western nations are setting high standards in Coronavirus waste management and a peek into their practices also tells us why these nations are getting back on their feet faster as far as biomedical waste management is concerned. Some of the best practices being followed in France and Germany include keeping a very strict record of the waste generated by each medical facility and ensuring the same quantity is actually and properly incinerated. Other advanced measures being followed include the usage of sodium hypochlorite solution in regularly cleaning the waste bins in the medical facilities.

France has moved a step further by focussing on the households where quarantined patients are. Waste is being collected at source by the authorities so that no inadvertent cross-contamination occurs. The quarantined residents are able to procure free sealable waste bins from pharmacies on producing their prescriptions, which they can then use to dispose their waste by handing over to the authorities. Germany on the other hand has set up specialised waste incinerating facilities in Bavaria. These measures have helped these nations save themselves from the boomerang effect of bio-medical waste and its harmful impact. Efficient bio-medical waste generation is as important as efficient handling of the crisis. This alone will prevent a secondary wave of infection and contamination.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

I CAME IN TO BAT AT NUMBER SEVEN POSITION TO GIVE YOUNGSTERS A CHANCE AS I HAVEN'T BATTED FOR A LONG TIME. A 14-DAY QUARANTINE DOESN'T HELP.
—CSK CAPTAIN MS DHONI

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



YEAH, YOU GOT TO GET UP. YOU HAVE TO AT LEAST GIVE YOURSELF THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE GAME. I'M NOT BUYING THAT.
—FORMER CRICKETER KEVIN PIETERSEN

Corona paints a bleak picture

Art talks to us like nothing else does. It re-awakens our senses and reminds us of the power of imagination in the face of the death and economic destruction brought about by the pandemic



UMA NAIR

The pandemic has brought the art world to its knees. The silence is ominous and the webinars and online propaganda are somewhat stifling when you think of how suddenly it is only about talking and voices and voices and talking. Amid the many cancellations of fairs, exhibitions, films, plays, performances and dances globally, we must ask ourselves questions about the value of art and culture at a time when humanity is under great stress. When it is fighting for its very survival as the virus throws up a kind of socio-economic disparity and devastation we have not witnessed in recent times.

At a time when people tell us that there are much more important things to worry about in this world than art, one would beg to differ. Art talks to us like nothing else does. It re-awakens our senses and reminds us of the power of imagination in the face of the death and destruction brought upon us by the pandemic.

The *New York Times* states that though fairs have been cancelled and galleries have closed, the wealthy are still buying. In India it's difficult to get true stories of buying and selling from art galleries/dealers/consultants/artists. The physicality of looking at a work and buying is something that needs to be worked upon. An image does not do justice to a work of art. Perhaps private appointments by clients are the way to go in the new pandemic scenario. But there are hectic announcements of online shows and galleries coming together to host prized possessions on the internet and social media. Some galleries are stating that they have a few sales but it's not as much as they would like in a stagnant market.

In the West, a report of 795 galleries representing 60 different national markets, called *The Impact of COVID-19 on the Gallery Sector*, written by the cultural economist Clare McAndrew, is the first major survey of how the contagion has hit art dealers globally. Until sales statistics are shared by galleries all over India, it's difficult to add a percentage of propensity to the real figures. But one scene that has remained buoyant is that of online auctions.

Pundoles looking West: Pundoles Mumbai ruled the roost the past month with its *Looking West* auction split into two parts, featuring a part of the collection of fish baron Masanari Fukuoka, who decided he wanted Pundoles to handle the sale rather than international houses like Christies, Sotheby's or even Saffronart. With blue chip names on its avant-garde list, the auction threw up some magnificent numbers. VS Gaitonde, the abstract master, was top draw. His untitled 1967 work set a new record at ₹32 crore as the selling hammer price. Two sculptures also set their own highs. The first was a "Bull's Head" (1998) by Tyeb Mehta, who created this sculpture as his tribute to the trussed bull (he used to hear their heart-wrenching cries when he lived next to a slaughterhouse in Mumbai). It sold at a new record of ₹3.2 crore.

The second sculpture was printmaker and sculptor Somnath Hore's "Goat" (1988) that sold at ₹65 lakh, a new high for this venerated master. India's greatest figurative master Jogen Chowdhury's "The Couple" (1999) sold for ₹1.7 crore, setting a new record for the 80-year-old Kolkata artist.

INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE LALIT KALA AKADEMI HAVE A GREAT ROLE TO PLAY IN OPENING THEIR SPACES TO AS MANY SOLO SHOWS AS POSSIBLE TO LIFT THE DARKNESS IN THE WORLD OF THE LONELY ARTIST WAITING IN THE WINGS. THE INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AND AIFACS DO YEOMAN'S SERVICE FOR THE ARTS. BIG ARTISTS, TOO, NEED TO GET OUT OF THEIR COCOONS AND HELP OTHERS IN NEED



Saffronart's success: The next auction high was Saffronart's *Evening Sale*. The highly-anticipated online live auction — the first since the pandemic — closed at 88 per cent lots sold, achieving a total sale of ₹66.4 crore amid enthusiastic bidding. The 300th auction in Saffronart's 20 years, this sale was a unique hybrid experience that allowed bidders from across the globe to participate virtually.

The sale was led by VS Gaitonde's masterpiece painting of 1974 from the collection of Sabira Merchant, which sold for ₹35.5 crore, making it the second-highest price achieved for the artist, as well as for a work of Indian art to be sold in an auction worldwide. Among the best works Gaitonde ever produced, this ethereal, luminescent work embodies his preoccupation with Zen Buddhism as well as his associations with the sea.

Among the top highlights of the sale were two exquisite works by modernist NS Bendre, including a figurative work from 1971 which sold for ₹1.56 crore, more than tripling its pre-sale estimate, and an untitled work (possibly a view of Mandu), 1982, which sold for ₹1.14 crore. Jehangir Sabavala's "The Cactus Wave", 2006, sold for ₹2.63 crore.

Artists in studios/homes: Across the land in homes, in studios that belong to them as well as others, artists are still pouring out their imagination. Those who have computers and laptops are busy with Zoom webinars and the like but my heart goes out to artists who have no technology. They continue to be inspired in their own small rooms with minimal media and

materials. Questions arise as to how they are eking out their living.

The buyer's market is not so well laid out. Galleries have their own list of collectors and buyers but it is only established artists who can share in that bouquet of well-being. One of the greatest contributions to an artist's life can be through corporate houses, hotels, Government and private offices and complexes that can use art works and help artists to thrive in a market that has fallen to the Covid climate.

Take for instance Tom Vattakuzhy, a brilliant artist in Kerala who lost out on a historic series of illustrations in the *Malayala Manorama* because of a misunderstanding with the Church. His works echo his solitude. They make everyone empathise with him and stir their inner recesses. Vattakuzhy, a Masters from Shantiniketan and then Vadodra, is a prime example of a brilliant artist waiting to be shown by a curator, gallery or promoter who will not throw him to the sharks. Let's face it, the art world thrives on profit margins and cut-throat competition. India needs more institutions and philanthropic agencies to help artists all over the country.

Institutions like the Lalit Kala Akademi have a great role to play in opening their spaces to as many solo shows as possible to lift the darkness in the world of the lonely artist waiting in the wings. The India International Centre and AIFACS do yeoman's service for the arts. Big artists, too, need to get out of their cocoons and help others in need.

Black Lives Matter: The most beautiful example of an artist helping

others has been that of the great artist Banksy. The British street artist financed a boat to rescue refugees attempting to reach Europe from north Africa. The vessel, named *Louise Michel* after a French feminist anarchist, set off in secrecy on August 18 from the Spanish port of Burriana, near Valencia, and was in the central Mediterranean Sea, where on August 30 it rescued 89 people, including 14 women and four children.

It was looking for a safe port to disembark the passengers or to transfer them to a European coast guard vessel. Since setting off from Burriana, the boat, registered in Germany and manned by a crew of activists from across Europe led by Pia Klemp, rescued more than 150 people off the coast of Libya. The majority of the passengers were transferred to a larger rescue vessel a few days ago, after European authorities appeared to ignore Mayday calls from the *Louise Michel*, which had become too overloaded to steer. The survivors finally arrived in the port of Palermo, Sicily.

Underscoring the hypocrisy of governments shouting out for racial equality while simultaneously taking a hardline anti-immigration stance, Banksy's video of the rescue mission, posted on Instagram, concluded with the words: "All Black Lives Matter." Perhaps in a blanket equation of everyone in the world, we could tweak it to say "All Lives Matter." Maybe the virtual world is here to stay until the virus is tackled with a vaccine that says: "Get thee behind me."

(The writer is a senior art critic and independent curator)

A double whammy to the girl child's survival

The rising crime against women has emerged as yet another factor for augmenting the traditional preference for sons



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Last week, a six-month pregnant woman in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh (UP), was attacked by her husband with a sharp-edged weapon. Her family alleged that he slit her stomach to find out the gender of the unborn baby. They told the police that the father of five daughters was so desperate for a son that he resorted to this brutal way to check if the foetus was that of a boy or a girl. Although a First Information Report (FIR) has been registered and the husband arrested, this gruesome crime underlines once again the deeply-entrenched preference for sons in our culture. Despite the best efforts of the Union Government, States and non-governmental organisations over the years, there seems to be very little change in attitudes towards the girl child in the country. This is not just deeply worrying but also frightening.

It is not, however, surprising that

girls are less valued than boys in UP, a State that has recorded the most crimes against women in the country. The latest 2018 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data ranked the State as the worst for women's security with 59,443 crimes against them. Incidentally, in 2018, the crime rate was the highest for cruelty by husbands and relatives. Although the NCRB data for 2019 has not been released as yet, media reports of crimes against women in UP during the last two years do not inspire confidence in the possibility of any turnaround.

But do the rising crimes against women have any bearing on the preference for a son? Yes, says a new study conducted in UP and Haryana. Its objective was to examine discrimination against the girl child and its linkages with the declining child sex ratio and violence against women. The report states that the responsibility of security and maintaining the chastity of daughters in the context of rising sexual violence in the country has added to the larger concern of wanting a son. In other words, the increasing crime against women has emerged as yet another factor for augmenting the traditional preference for a son.

Supported by the Indian Council

of Social Science Research (ICSSR), the study was conducted by Bijaylaxmi Nanda, Nupur Ray and Ritwika Mukherjee. The preliminary findings indicate that perceptions about crime play a pivotal role in the increasing preference for a male child. Thus, as long as women continue to remain insecure in the nation, chances that girls will be unwanted by families will be high.

Further, with three out of every 10 women, who had more daughters than sons, reporting that the husband/family members express dissatisfaction at the birth of a girl child, the study also reinforces the fact that gender inequality remains at the heart of violence against women in UP. The male offspring is preferred because he is culturally perceived as a protector and provider during the old age of the parents. An earlier study to understand the intrinsic relationship between masculinity, son preference and intimate partner violence came to similar conclusions.

The 2014 study by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), found that in UP, the two most important reasons for having a son were to carry on the family name and to provide

support to parents in their old age. Six years later, as the ICSSR study shows, little seems to have changed on the ground.

The ICRW-UNFPA report found that of the seven States studied, UP had the largest proportion of men reporting high control over their intimate partners and the lowest proportion of men displaying gender equitable attitudes.

Education is a big tool to engender transformation in beliefs, attitudes and practice. It is an equally important predictor of son-preference attitudes. In UP, the ICRW-UNFPA study found that 55 per cent of men with no education had a high preference for sons compared to 39 per cent of men with graduation or higher degrees.

Studies have shown that spouses of men with no or little education are unlikely to have ready access to sexual and reproductive health services. In the Badaun case, the fact that the woman had five children and was pregnant with her sixth child indicates she may have faced barriers in accessing family planning services. The fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2015-16) states that the unmet need in UP was 18 per cent for currently married women aged between

15 and 49 years. This means an estimated 8.2 million women have been denied access to family planning. In Badaun, which has a more than 70 per cent rural population, the total unserved need is almost 14 per cent. This is higher than the national average of 12.9 per cent.

The preference for sons puts women under so much pressure to produce a male heir that many times they are forced into numerous pregnancies and a series of abortions until they do so. The preference for a son has led to around 4,60,000 girls going missing due to sex selection at birth each year between 2013 and 2017, according to the UNFPA's 2020 *State of the Population Report*.

Last month, noted researcher Fengqing Chao of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia, and his colleagues projected an even darker future for girls in India. According to their research published in the journal *PLOS ONE*, the average annual number of missing female births between 2017 and 2025 was likely to be 4,69,000 per year and would increase to 5,19,000 per year for the time period between 2026 to 2030. This research singles out UP as the Indian State most likely to have the

maximum missing female births due to the preference for a boy and accounting for almost a third of the total number projected.

But girls don't just go missing at birth. India also has the highest rate of excess girl child deaths at 13.5 per 1,000 births. This critical data suggest post-birth sex selection. An estimated one in nine deaths of girls below the age of five may be attributed to post-birth sex selection, says the UNFPA report. So, while gender-biased sex selection accounts for about two-thirds of the total missing girls, post-birth girl child mortality accounts for about one-third.

UP lags behind on many indicators of gender equality, including early marriage and crimes against women.

If Yogi Adityanath really wants development, the Chief Minister must make greater investments in improving gender indicators. Prejudice against girls can be countered by programmes that focus on engaging boys and instilling values of gender equality in them at an early age. Comprehensive sex education in schools could help redefine notions of masculinity and foster respect for women.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



PAKISTAN MUST LEARN FROM INDIA

Numerous factors have been identified to ascertain the reasons behind the huge Corona outbreak in India. The lockdown was hastily imposed and the resultant mass return home of workers from the cities led to the virus' spread. The stories from across the border, raise a question that crops up frequently in the history of Pakistan-India affairs: Is there something that one neighbour could learn from the other? They could if they so wish.

(Dawn editorial)

Mkt tanks on slow eco recovery fear

■ MUMBAI

Dangers to an overall inter-national economic recovery such as rising Covid-19 cases, along with possible reim-position of lockdown mea-sures in some European coun-tries, pushed the global and the Indian stock markets deep into the red on Thursday, with the BSE Sensex losing 1,100 points, its worst performance in six months.

Besides, no new stimulus measures for the US, com-bined with a slower growth forecast for the world's largest economy, also impacted global sentiments.

Not just equities, but crude oil and precious metal prices fell, leading to a chaos across asset classes. However, the US dollar made the most of the bloodbath. The domino effect of such massive downside resulted in the Indian stock markets witnessing a gap-down opening on Thursday. The BSE Sensex lost 1,100 points and the NSE Nifty50 fell well below the

psychological 11,000 mark.

Post Thursday's selloff, Sensex lost 2,292 points in the last four sessions. This was the sixth consecutive session of loss for the Indian indices, as well as the biggest single day fall for the BSE Sensex in four months and the biggest losing streak (6 sessions) in seven months.

The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) fell well below the psychologi-cal 11,000 mark.

The recent bear run has been due to resurgence in coronavirus cases across the world, largely in Europe, and anticipation of fresh lockdown restrictions across several countries of the continent, including the UK and France.

The BSE Sensex closed at 36,553.60, lower by 1,114.82 points, or 2.96 per cent, from the previous close of 37,668.42.

It opened at 37,282.18 and touched an intra-day high of 37,304.26 or a low of 36,495.98 points.

The Nifty50 closed at 10,805.55, lower by 326.30

points or 2.93 per cent from its previous close.

Manish Hathiramani, techni-cal analyst, Deen Dayal Investments, said: "The support level of 10,900-10,950 has been disrespected during today's trading session. We have also pierced 10,882 which was made on August 3, 2020. This opens a new target of 10,750. Any bounce can be utilised to short the Nifty for this target."

Among the sectors, auto, banking, metal and IT indices lost the most.

"European stocks and Asian stocks dropped following a rout in tech shares in the US on Wednesday and as investors have largely given up on the idea that the US Congress will provide a new stimulus, while worrying about a recent rise in Covid-19 cases," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities.

"Economists at Goldman Sachs cut their US growth forecast for the fourth quarter in half, to 3 from 6 per cent. Investors are bombarded by a

perfect storm of problems including rising virus infec-tions, new lockdowns, a slow-ing economic recovery, stalled US stimulus talks and election uncertainty. Investors also fretted that a second wave of coronavirus cases during the north-ern hemisphere's coming win-ter will derail the economic recovery."

According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services: "Indian benchmark indices had a gap down opening and kept losing ground as the day wore on, to finally end the day around 2.8 per cent down. Markets tracked weak global cues as the uncer-tainty witnessed in the last few days gave way to negativ-ity, with broader markets also underperforming." "The uncer-tainty regarding an economic recovery, the unabated rise in virus infections, and today being derivatives expiry day, all contributed to the negativity. With volatility expected to be high, traders are advised to remain cautious."

₹ tumbles 32 paise to nearly one-month low against USD

■ MUMBAI

The rupee dived 32 paise to touch a near one-month low of 73.89 against the US dollar on Thursday, following massive sell-offs in equities and concerns over continuous surge in COVID-19 cases.

Besides, stronger dol-lar against key rivals cur-rencies and robust outflows of foreign funds from domestic markets weighed on forex market sentiment.

At the interbank forex market, the Indian currency opened on a weak note at 73.82 and traded in a range of 73.75 and 73.96 a dollar during the session.

Harley-Davidson plans to close India manufacturing facility

■ NEW DELHI

Cruiser bikes giant Harley-Davidson on Thursday said that it plans to close its manufacturing facility in Haryana's Bawal and signifi-cantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurugram.

The development comes as part of 'The Rewire' initiative which intends to overhaul the company's operating model and market structure.

The company said that it is changing the business model in India and evaluating options to continue to serve its customers.

"Harley-Davidson plans to close its manufacturing facility in Bawal and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurgaon (Gurugram)," the company said in a statement.

"The company is commu-nicating with its customers in India and will keep them



updated on future support. The Harley-Davidson dealer network will continue to serve customers through the contract term."

According to the company, these actions are aligned with 'The Rewire' which is planned to continue through the end of 2020, leading to 'The Hardwire', a new strategic plan for 2021-2025 aimed at building desir-ability for the Harley-Davidson brand and products.

Primary issuances attract most FPI inflows

■ MUMBAI

Inflow of foreign portfolio Investments (FPI) surged last month with around \$6 billion, or around ₹47,000 crore, of net investments by overseas investors with a majority meant for primary issuances of shares.

Around 63 per cent of net FPI flows last month were into primary issuances, according to a report by ICICI Securities.

Interestingly, last month, India outperformed other emerging markets in terms of inflows.

The report also said that domestic institutional invest-ments (DII) too had positive flows towards primary issuances, although the sec-ondary flows continued to be negative with an outflow of \$1.5 billion.

Allowed to share GPay customer transaction info with third parties with NPCI permission

■ NEW DELHI

Google India Digital Services Pvt. Ltd., which operates the GPay app, has told the Delhi High Court that it is allowed to share customers transaction data with third parties with the prior permission of NPCI and pay-

ment service provider (PSP) banks.

The submission has been made by Google in its affidavit filed before a Bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan in response to a PIL seeking action against 'Google Pay' (GPay) for allegedly violat-

ing the RBI's guidelines related to data localisation, storage and sharing. The High Court on September 24 listed the matter for hearing on November 10 as the Centre and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not filed their responses yet.

Google, in its affidavit, has

contended that under the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) procedural guidelines, issued by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), apps like GPay are permitted to share customers transaction data with third parties and group companies with prior permission of NPCI and

PSP banks.

It has also said that GPay only stores ordinary customer data — like name, address, email ID and transaction related details — in accordance with the NPCI guidelines and not payment sen-sitive data like debit card num-ber or UPI PIN. A customer's

payment sensitive data is stored only on the servers of the PSP bank, it has claimed.

The affidavit was filed in response to the petition by advo-cate Abhishek Sharma who has sought a direction to Google not to share any data from UPI switch with any other party.

Govt extends suspension of fresh insolvency proceedings for 3 months

■ NEW DELHI

The Government has extend-ed the suspension of fresh insolvency proceedings under the insolvency law for another three months, a senior official said on Thursday. In the wake

of the coronavirus pandemic, the corporate affairs ministry decid-ed to suspend initiation of fresh proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for six months starting from March 25.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY50	11011.00	11015.30	10790.20	10805.55	-326.30	
INFRATEL	165.00	175.65	162.20	171.70	4.75	
ZEE	185.00	195.80	182.85	193.50	1.70	
HINDUNILVR	204.00	208.10	203.05	205.60	5.05	
BRITANNIA	3390.00	3655.00	3560.20	3611.00	-13.90	
HDFCLIFE	574.80	580.80	572.70	577.35	-2.90	
DREDDY	5060.00	5202.90	5002.50	5058.00	-49.75	
NESTLEIND	1534.00	1548.30	1515.00	1521.60	-155.45	
IT	856.00	899.90	843.00	851.50	-9.10	
HEROMOTOCO	2911.35	2949.00	2900.00	294.70	-42.05	
HDFCBANK	1038.00	1047.00	1025.00	1030.50	-16.75	
RELIANCE	2207.50	2226.00	2176.05	2195.50	-35.80	
ASIANPAINT	1947.55	1945.00	1907.75	1915.00	-31.55	
HDFC	1646.80	1654.15	1623.00	1636.25	-30.85	
TITAN	1113.00	1113.90	1076.00	1093.35	-23.85	
POWERGRID	162.25	160.95	158.50	160.40	-3.50	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2964.90	3001.90	2921.80	2922.00	-64.20	
ELECTROMET	2052.45	2079.00	2023.00	2032.00	-44.80	
ULTRACEMCO	3869.00	3869.15	3753.90	3780.00	-89.15	
ONGC	66.05	67.35	65.50	65.95	-1.70	
BPCIL	378.20	386.15	375.35	377.55	-10.10	
KOTAKBANK	1267.00	1284.90	1236.00	1240.05	-35.35	
NTPC	84.10	85.65	82.15	82.70	-2.40	
SUNPHARMA	497.50	501.25	483.00	488.30	-14.60	
ITC	171.70	171.75	166.15	167.40	-5.10	
MARUTI	6435.00	6486.80	6270.15	6301.55	-199.75	
BHARTIARTL	42.25	43.50	41.65	41.95	-13.85	
HCLTECH	811.00	811.45	784.00	788.00	-26.10	
SHREECEM	18800.00	18846.90	18183.55	18340.00	-611.85	
ADANIPORTS	321.55	322.95	312.10	314.00	-10.60	
JSWSTEEL	263.05	264.95	257.55	259.30	-8.90	
GAIL	84.25	85.45	81.95	82.75	-2.95	
WIPRO	313.00	314.30	302.45	304.00	-10.85	
HINDALCO	158.00	162.30	154.90	159.50	-5.95	
AXISBANK	414.00	414.30	401.15	403.75	-16.60	
CPIA	764.45	766.65	730.00	738.00	-29.40	
COALINDIA	121.05	121.10	115.20	116.30	-4.75	
SBIN	181.10	181.80	175.50	176.45	-7.35	
BAJAJFINSV	5580.00	5600.00	5400.00	5415.00	-231.65	
ICICIBANK	344.95	346.95	337.35	337.35	-14.50	
INFY	1003.00	1009.00	970.00	977.75	-42.00	
IOC	75.00	75.20	71.65	72.35	-3.60	
TATASTEEL	356.80	357.25	342.75	344.00	-17.30	
M&M	60.05	60.60	56.75	58.20	-30.60	
TECHM	787.95	789.75	747.55	753.00	-40.05	
UPL	525.45	525.45	502.20	505.50	-26.90	
TCS	2450.00	2450.00	2302.60	2332.90	-134.55	
GRASIM	708.00	715.00	675.50	677.60	-40.80	
BAIFINANCE	3191.00	3194.75	3006.90	3030.65	-213.20	
TATAMOTORS	127.90	128.80	122.15	122.75	-8.65	
INDUSINDBK	517.15	519.00	485.00	488.70	-39.35	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	26056.25	26089.95	25636.70	25696.60	-593.40	
GODREJCP	673.30	701.95	670.00	690.85	11.95	
COLPAL	1357.00	1395.35	1340.00	1373.00	19.00	
MARICO	337.75	345.95	333.00	342.35	2.05	
ICICIPRULI	407.00	415.35	403.30	410.00	1.30	
DABUR	484.00	490.75	478.80	487.00	1.25	
BERGEPAINT	570.80	580.00	562.05	572.10	1.30	
ABBOTINDIA	15899.00	16194.95	15720.10	15994.90	6.55	
GICRE	120.00	123.75	119.00	121.65	-0.20	
ICICIGI	1240.05	1258.00	1225.10	1256.00	-2.15	
DMART	2047.90	2084.00	2037.60	2049.95	-5.35	
TORNTPHARM	2646.00	2678.35	2455.00	2652.00	-8.95	
NHPC	20.05	20.20	19.80	20.00	-0.10	
NAUKRI	3376.00	3450.00	3330.00	3370.15	-18.55	
SIEMENS	1221.10	1224.80	1193.60	1217.35	-13.20	
PGH	9959.05	9959.05	9812.80	9850.00	-109.05	
SBICARD	811.30	820.80	805.00	810.00	-11.05	
PIDILITIND	1408.00	1427.00	1395.00	1401.00	-19.85	
HAVELLS	669.90	678.60	657.60	663.00	-11.75	
CONCOR	373.45	378.50	366.00	370.50	-6.60	
PETRONET	213.45	215.20	209.60	211.65	-3.90	
HDFCAMC	2138.00	2138.45	210.10	2104.00	-39.10	
CADILAC	381.75	383.80	374.15	375.25	-8.65	
MUTHOOTFIN	1038.00	1039.00	1010.55	1020.50	-24.75	
DLF	148.00	148.35	144.40	146.85	-3.60	
BAJAJHLING	2425.05	2460.00	2405.05	2429.00	-65.75	
IGL	405.00	405.00	388.30	396.80	-10.85	
MCDOWELL-N	509.00	509.00	494.00	494.95	-14.20	
HINDPETRO	175.25	176.90	170.85	172.05	-5.30	
OFSS	3069.45	3069.45	2950.10	2956.00	-91.40	
BOSCHTIL	12511.05	12680.00	12111.15	12367.55	-381.90	
ADANITRANS	237.20	244.15	233.55	233.85	-7.90	
PAGEIND	19298.50	19499.00	18620.00	18700.00	-675.05	
HINDZINC	211.00	211.50	204.05	204.70	-7.85	
LUPIN	1090.00	1091.00	971.25	979.00	-37.55	
PUNJ	1220.00	1238.60	1178.55	1191.50	-46.00	
BIOCLON	421.60	423.40	406.10	408.00	-15.90	
DIVISLAB	3090.00	3151.80	2985.00	3022.00	-125.55	
ACC	1338.50	1350.00	1293.65	1300.00	-54.70	
AUROPHARMA	775.00	777.50	738.05	747.35	-32.85	
PFC	85.00	85.95	82.05	82.55	-3.65	
BANKBARODA	40.75	41.20	39.65	39.75	-1.80	
PNB	28.95	29.10	27.95	28.05	-1.30	
BANDHANBNK	262.80	264.85	252.70	255.85	-12.10	
UBL	960.00	960.00	915.10	917.95	-45.45	
SBILIFE	830.60	832.15	782.35	792.70	-40.30	
AMBUJACEM	108.00	108.00	102.30	103.60	-5.65	
MOTHERSUMI	206.15	208.20	197.45	197.75	-11.50	
NMDC	78.70	79.10	75.60	75.70	-4.50	
SRTRANFIN	600.00	600.00	555.55	571.00	-42.10	
INDIGO	1259.95	1264.20	1180.85	1192.00	-90.70	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	DABUR	484.80	490.80	479.20	487.30
ADANIPORTS	323.90	323.90	312.00	313.85	FLU/FOOD	2321.00	2321.00	2236.60	2264.48
IDEA	8.90	9.44	8.55	9.12	COLPAL	1351.05	1394.05	1339.30	1372.77
RELIANCE	2210.00	2226.00	2175.65	2181.15	ADANIEN	279.00	281.30	269.50	270.30
HEROMOTOCO	2910.00	2947.30	2901.40	2920.00	MFSL	580.00	588.10	568.00	578.85
BHARTIARTL	426.60	434.45	414.95	418.85	ADVZNYES	224.00	227.80	219.00	220.88
DREDDY	5075.00	5206.20	5000.00	5024.45	BPCL	379.65	385.85	375.55	377.22
BAIFINANCE	3205.00	3205.00	3008.85	3027.90	BERGEPAINT	572.00	579.95	565.50	575.33
ITC	171.60	171.60	166.15	166.60	BATAINDIA	1330.00	1333.65	1282.10	1297.99
TCS	2450.00	2450.00	2302.50	2331.50	CUMMINSIND	453.30	453.30	437.85	441.10
SFL	857.80	859.50	842.50	850.35	SUNTV	459.00	459.00	439.40	442.10
LTF	1362.00	1400.00	1312.35	1333.55	GODREJCP	669.00	701.80	669.00	691.20
ASHOKLEY	72.10	72.15	66.85	67.30	GRASIM	70.30	714.05	676.00	684.00
LALURISLABS	1332.00	1347.30	1246.45	1291.40	NESTLEIND	15362.95	15454.65	15180.85	15235.99
AXISBANK	410.05	414.00	400.00	402.40	POWERGRID	160.00	164.95	155.95	159.55
HDFC	1644.00	1655.00	1623.00	1637.80	HDFC	673.00	678.15	658.65	669.22
TATAMOTORS	127.80	128.80	122.15	122.80	MCX	1630.00	1642.90	1561.00	1630.06
HDFCBANK	1036.50	1045.05	1025.15	1029.95	ASTRAZEN	420.00	434.25	420.00	421.33
SBIN	181.15	181.45	175.55	176.45	ADIAMART	4745.00	4889.00	4683.90	4820.00
APOLLOHOSP	1798.00	1794.00	1794.35	1948.00	NAUKRI	3404.70	3449.00	3330.30	3376.66
HCLTECH	806.90	811.00	783.35	788.05	MRF	56814.55	56900.00	55360.35	55850.00
INDUSINDBK	518.70	519.95	485.00	490.00	BRITANNIA	435.10	440.5	427.95	435.99
BANDHANBNK	262.75	264.75	252.75	256.10	JCPEPHARM	918.70	956.20	872.10	919.98
MARUTI	6410.00	6482.45	6273.70	6295.85	BAIAJ-AUTO	2987.00	3001.40	2912.00	2912.00
HINDUNILVR	2040.00	2079.55	2034.65	2063.00	DMART	2053.40	2083.95	2037.80	2046.66
WIPRO	314.25	314.25	302.15	304.60	TATAMOTDRVR	59.00	61.70	57.20	57.20
INFRATEL	161.30	175.50	161.30	168.60	DIXON	8695.00	8695.00	8342.15	8513.99
GODREJIND	403.00	411.00	384.00	403.25	AARTIND	102.10	1021.10	883.00	934.30
ICICIBANK	345.55	347.20	334.00	335.80	IEX	181.05	195.00	185.00	190.98
SRTRANSFIN	590.00	605.15	555.90	565.75	IRCTC	1359.80	1365.05	1332.00	1337.88
CIPLA	768.00	766.25	729.65	732.80	PPC	83.60	85.80	82.15	82.55
JINDALSTEL	172.00	174.35	162.30	164.15	APLITD	899.00	948.20	883.00	934.30
ZEEL	184.00	195.70	183.00	192.85	ZSNARTSECH	20.00	211.20	205.90	205.99
ADANIGREEN	558.00	617.75	558.95	617.30	FORTIS	132.60	141.30	132.60	136.10
AUROPHARMA	772.00	777.45	737.90	743.05	NATIONALUM	31.60	31.60	30.00	30.01
IBULHSGFIN	1470.00	1506.35	137.60	138.95	CORAMANDEL	757.60	809.55	755.65	803.70
DIVISLAB	3128.00	3150.35	2986.70	3021.25	MONAPURAM	145.00	145.00	139.90	141.70
M&M	605.00	606.00	566.00	575.00	ICICIPULI	411.95	451.20	404.95	413.99
ADANITRANS	240.00	243.75	233.15	235.05	FRETAIL	83.95	85.10	82.35	82.30
KOTAKBANK	1265.00	1284.75	1236.05	1245.90	IGL	403.50	403.60	388.35	397.55
VEDL	129.00	139.95	128.10	132.00	COFORGE	220.00	2208.00	2101.00	2130.00
BAIAJFINSV	5590.00	5590.05	5401.00	5427.20	ALPOM	2742.70	2987.50	2682.95	2831.10
TATATEL	359.00	359.00	343.00	343.85	AKKOTLYOTRE	119.95	119.95	114.50	115.88
SBICARD	815.00	820.80	804.95	816.05	BSOFT	189.90	192.75	182.10	183.20
COALINDIA	121.00	121.00	115.10	115.70	KPITTECH	113.00	115.00	106.95	111.30
TECHM	786.25	786.30	747.35	748.00	TEAMLEASE	2128.70	2210.00	2102.10	2171.99
FEDERALBANK	46.80	47.90	45.50	45.75	ALKYALAMINE	2905.00	3025.70	2902.60	2965.00
SAIL	34.35	34.35	32.65	32.80	FSL	74.75	74.70	70.00	70.00
ESCORTS	1161.00	1205.00	1150.00	1154.00	JUSTDIAL	360.60	360.60	339.85	349.30

If Trump loses, he may refuse peaceful shift

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the November 3, 2020, election to his Democratic rival Joe Biden.

Trump, a Republican, also said he believed the election result could end up in the US Supreme Court, as he again cast doubt on postal voting. Many American states are encouraging mail-in voting, citing the need to keep Americans safe from the coronavirus pandemic that has killed over two lakh people in the country.

"Well, we're going to have to see what happens," Trump

said when asked whether he would commit to a peaceful transition, one of the cornerstones of American democracy.

"I have been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster..." Trump told reporters at a White House news conference on Wednesday when asked about a peaceful transition of power after the presidential polls in November irrespective of the outcome.

"President, real quickly, wins, lose or draw in this election, will you commit here today for a peaceful transfer of power after the election? And there has been rioting in Louisville, there has been riot-

ing in many cities across this country — red and so-called red and blue states — will you commit to making sure that there is a peaceful transfer of power after the election?" he was asked.

Not satisfied with Trump's answer, the reporter again asked. "Do you commit to making sure that there is a peaceful transfer of power?"

Trump exuded confidence that there will be a continuation of power. "We want to get rid of the ballots and we will have a very peaceful — there will not be a transfer. Frankly, there will be a continuation. The ballots are out of control, you know it, and you know who knows it

better than anybody else? The Democrats know it better than anybody else," the president said as he refused to entertain any other question from the same journalist.

"Go ahead. Please go ahead. Yes, go ahead. You asked a question. Go ahead please," he said. Trump's reluctance to commit to a peaceful transition was rooted in what he said were concerns about ballots, extending his assertion that widespread mail-in voting is rife with fraud.

In 2016, Trump also refused to commit to accepting the election results in his contest against the Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton,

which she characterised as an attack on democracy.

Trump was eventually declared the winner, although he lost the popular vote by three million, an outcome he still questioned. Meanwhile, Senator Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican who has stood at odds with the President in the past, slammed Trump's remarks.

"Fundamental to democracy is the peaceful transition of power; without that, there is Belarus," Romney tweeted.

"Any suggestion that a President might not respect this Constitutional guarantee is both unthinkable and unacceptable," he said.

China's military flew surveillance planes on 3 days, says Taiwan

AP ■ TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Taiwan on Thursday condemned recent Chinese military activity after Beijing sent two military surveillance planes toward the island for three straight days, calling it a "deliberate provocation."

Tensions have risen in the Taiwan Strait as the U.S. has stepped up its official engagement with the self-ruled island that China considers part of its national territory.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, China sent two planes into Taiwan's air defense identification zone, according to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense. In response, the Taiwanese side dispatched air patrols, the ministry said.

"We oppose China using military force against Taiwan, deliberately violating Taiwan's naval and airspace safety and damaging the status quo," added Chiu Chui-Cheng, deputy minister at Taiwan's

Mainland Affairs Council. "Our government will continue to cooperate with countries with similar values."

Last week, China sent a total of 37 warplanes, including bombers and fighter jets, across the Taiwan Strait in a warning as a high-level U.S. State Department official visited the island. The Taiwanese defense ministry said the planes crossed the midline of the Taiwan Strait.

The midline has acted as an unofficial buffer zone between China and Taiwan for decades, in what Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council on Thursday called "a tacit agreement that has kept the peace."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin on Monday denied the existence of any midline, saying that Taiwan is part of China. He also warned that China would retaliate for the U.S. visit. "We will take countermeasures, including against relevant individuals," he said.

UN rejection of sanctions marks 'victory' over Trump: Iran

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani declared "victory" over the United States after the UN Security Council rejected the Trump administration's bid to reimpose UN sanctions on the Islamic republic.

"The Iranian nation has achieved great political, legal and diplomatic success at the United Nations," Rouhani told a televised weekly meeting of his cabinet.

"The reason for this victory lies solely in the support and resistance of the people," he said.

"America's greatness has collapsed (just like) the global hegemony they thought they had."

In May 2018, US President Donald Trump withdrew from a landmark deal that gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for UN-verified guarantees that it is not seeking nuclear weapons.

US: Growing cooperation with India vital to free, open Indo-Pacific

Washington: Underlining that the scope of India and the United States partnership continues to expand, US State Department on Wednesday (local time) said that Washington's growing security and diplomatic cooperation with New Delhi is vital to a free, open, and inclusive Indian-Pacific region.

"The pace and scope of the #USIndia partnership continues to expand! Whether it's at @UN or with Quad partners, our growing security and diplomatic cooperation with India is vital to a free, open, and inclusive #IndoPacific," tweeted State Department for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA).

Indian-Pacific region is largely viewed as an area comprising the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean, including the South China Sea.

China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and its efforts to advance into the Indian Ocean are seen to have challenged the established rules-based system.

Amid China's growing assertiveness in the Indian-Pacific region, foreign ministers of Quad — India, Japan, the US and Australia — are planning to hold a meeting in Tokyo next month. The officials are likely to affirm their countries' cooperation to realise the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" vision upheld by Japan and the US.

Agencies

Trump-appointed judges under an election-year political lens

AP ■ NASHVILLE

US District Judge Eli Richardson, a Trump administration appointee who bucked the President's conservative base by blocking a Tennessee law that restricts mail-in voting, had an announcement to make before wrapping up his decision: it had nothing to do with politics. The declaration dropped as lower-court judges, like Richardson, face greater scrutiny over their perceived ideological purity. Richardson even took the step of addressing potential critics in his opinion.

Richardson ruled in favor of expanding the ability of first-time voters in this reliably Republican-leaning state to cast mail-in ballots this election. But first, the lifetime-appointed judge said, he had to "address head-on the proverbial elephant in the room," declaring his own impartiality in the case.

In his September 9 ruling, Richardson wrote that he was "not concerned about how his decisions could aid one side or the other on the political front." The judge from Tennessee's Middle District also said his personal opinions on election laws have "simply no bearing" on the constitutional claims brought before his bench. For months, President Donald Trump claimed without proof that there could be widespread voter fraud in November, even as officials in states that have relied on mail-in ballots cited little evidence of such.

Trump, Biden clash on handling of coronavirus

Washington: US President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden have clashed on the coronavirus pandemic, both putting forward their plans to bring America out of the worst health crisis if voted to power.

The US is the worst-affected country from the pandemic with over 200,000 Americans losing their lives to the disease. The virus has also battered the country's economy with millions of people losing their jobs.

Trump, a Republican, and Biden are pitted against each other for the November 3 presidential election.

"Our plan will crush the

virus. And actually, Biden's plan will crush America, if you think about it. You can't lock down. Again, we're growing at levels that nobody has ever seen before. Our plan is unleashing a rapid recovery. Our opponent's plan would hurt America very badly. It would send us into a depression," Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday, asserting that his Democratic challenger would not have been able to handle the pandemic.

"Our approach is pro-science. Biden's approach is anti-science. I don't think they know what their approach is, although a lot of it's copied from

what we've done," Trump said.

Talking about Johnson & Johnson announcing that their vaccine candidate has reached the final stage of clinical trials, Trump said, "this is record time. This is the fourth vaccine candidate in the United States to reach the final stage of trial. So, we have four candidates already at a very late date. 'Late' being a very positive word, in this case," he said.

Trump also announced that his administration is awarding \$200 million of CARES Act funding to all 50 states to prepare to distribute the vaccine to high-risk residents.

PTI

Seoul: N Korea kills S Korean official, burns his body

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea said on Thursday that North Korean troops fatally shot a South Korean Government official who may have attempted to defect and set his body on fire after finding him on a floating object near the countries' disputed sea boundary.

South Korean officials condemned what they called North Korea's "atrocious act" and urged it to apologize and punish those responsible. North Korea is unlikely to accept the South Korean demand, and ties

between the rivals — already strained amid a deadlock in broader nuclear diplomacy — will probably suffer a further setback, observers say.

According to Seoul, the man disappeared from a government ship that was checking on possible unauthorised fishing in an area south of the boundary on Monday, a day before he was found in North Korean waters.

North Korea sent officials wearing gas masks aboard a boat near the man to learn why he was there on Tuesday afternoon. Later in the day,

a North Korean navy boat came and opened fire at him, South Korea's Defense Ministry said.

Sailors from the boat clad in gas masks and protective suits poured gasoline on his body and set it aflame, the Defense Ministry said, citing intelligence gathered by surveillance equipment and other assets.

It's unclear how he ended up in North Korea. But a defense official said the man might have tried to defect to the North, citing acquired information.

FROM PAGE 1

BILLS FREE FARMERS FROM MIDDLEMEN'S CLUTCH: MINISTER

"Farmer can at any stage go back on his word and withdraw from the contract but the same cannot be done by investor who would be liable for a heavy penalty," Tomar said. The Minister said any dispute between investor and farmer would be settled by sub-divisional magistrate within 15 or 30 days.

"If a farmer wants to come out of the agreement, he can do so. But a trader cannot pull out of the agreement. The trader can only leave the agreement after paying the farmer the price he had promised. There is full protection for farmers in these Bills. There cannot be any action concerning farmers' land. If there is any dispute, recovery can only be done of the money, which the farmer has taken for growing the crop," he said.

Tomar said the Modi-led Government has provided the freedom to farmers through the Bills. He said the Bills will free farmers from chains of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC).

"Small farmers can now get a guarantee of their produce during the sowing of the crop. They can now go for expensive crops, use new technology, new seeds, good pesticides and reduce the input cost. These Bills are crucial and will bring revolutionary changes in the lives of farmers. I want to tell farmers that when provisions of these Bills will be implemented, there will be change in their lives," he said.

The Minister rejected Opposition criticism over the Bills and asserted that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and APMC will continue as in the past.

FROM RAIL ROKO TO BHARAT BANDH

"As per information from across the State, the call for bandh has received a positive response from various unions of truckers, buses, tempos, employees, youngsters, students, labourers and others," said Benod Pandey, a representative of all farm unions. He added that as per their initial estimates, rail tracks and roads would be blocked at around 125 locations across various districts of Punjab. In Haryana, INLD and Congress held protests at several districts. Farmer leaders said that several farmer organisations like Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), All India Farmers Union (AIFU), All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), All India Kisan Mahasangh (AIKM) have come on a common platform for the nationwide shutdown. Farmer leaders in Haryana are considering blocking the rail and road traffic in various districts of the State on the day, said leaders familiar with the developments.

Farmer union leaders, including the BKU (Charuni) and BKU (Tikait) were holding meetings with leaders of different organisations like Ahritia's (commission agents) Association, transporters and shopkeepers to support the Bharat Bandh by keeping their shops shut from 10 am to 4 pm. They claimed that all the mandis in the State had decided to remain shut and there will be no business on Friday.

Farmers in West Bengal will block roads and highways while farmers in Uttar Pradesh will jam their respective villages, towns and highways.

The Railways on Thursday said the 'rail roko' agitation in Punjab over farm Bills will severely impact the loading of food-

grains and other essential goods as well as the movement of passengers travelling on special trains, mostly on an urgent basis. Officials here said that Punjab loaded 990 rakes of FCI foodgrains in August this year and 816 rakes till September 23. Thus, FCI is loading more than 35 rakes of foodgrains daily from Punjab. They said Punjab also loads 9-10 rakes daily of fertiliser, cement, auto, mixed goods in containers. The State also receives around 20 rakes daily of coal, food grain, farm products, machinery petroleum products, imported fertiliser etc.

DEEPIKA ARRIVES IN MUMBAI FOR NCB QUIZZING TOMORROW

The NCB will continue the same line of questioning when its investigators grill actress Rakul and Deepika's Manager Karishma. "Deepika has acknowledged the summons and had submitted for joining investigation on Saturday," Malhotra said.

At Saturday's questioning, the NCB will record Deepika's statement under Section 67 in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The section 67 of the NDPS Act vests powers with the investigating agency "to call for information from any person for the purpose of satisfying himself whether there has been any contravention of the provisions of this Act, to require any person to produce or deliver any document or thing useful or relevant to the enquiry and to examine any person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case". Deepika will be questioned in the context of the information that surfaced during the questioning of actress-accused Rhea Chakraborty in the drug case.

Karishma works with Jaya Saha, with whom Rhea Chakraborty had chatted about CBD oil, as a manager in Kwan talent management agency. During the questioning, the NCB had reportedly quizzed Jaya if she had any knowledge about Karishma procuring drugs for Deepika Padukone.

The NCB had retrieved Deepika's WhatsApp chats with Karishma in which the two were seen discussing drugs. Earlier, Jaya's chats with Rhea Chakraborty about CBD oil were also retrieved by NCB. The NCB investigations have thrown up a whatsapp chat of 2017 between D (Deepika Padukone) and K (Karishma). In the chat, Deepika reportedly asks Karishma: "you have Maal?", Karishma responds saying: "Yes, but at home. I am at Bandra. Later Krishma tells Deepika that one Amit is bringing it to a high-end restaurant 'koko' at Lower Parel. Deepika seeks to confirm if it is hash not weed.

FITNESS ICONS SHARE WITH MODI SECRETS OF STAYING HEALTHY

The first anniversary of Fit India Movement saw Modi addressing Soman as 'Made in India Milind' after the 90's song that shot the actor to fame. Modi acknowledged how the 54-year-old star had contributed to the fitness movement in his own vocal way by even penning a book titled after the famous track.

On a lighter note, the Prime Minister pointed out about how netizens keep discussing his age and asked, "Whatever you say your age is - are you really that old or is it something else?"

A laughing Milind answered, "A lot of people ask me the same question about my age. They also ask me how am I able to run such long distances (like from Delhi to Mumbai in 2012) in this age. I tell them - my mother at 81 - is capable of doing all this.

She is a huge source of inspiration for me and for many others."

He further said, "If you go the villages, women travel kilometres to fill water and for other activities. The problem in cities with the widespread of technology is that we sit a lot at a place for work and other things. This makes them lazy."

He detailed on his women-only fitness programme, Pinkathon, where women aged even 60 above, begin with a regular run of 3 kms before moving on to regular exercises and ending up running 100 kms.

Interacting with Indian captain Kohli, the Prime Minister quipped "your name is Virat and kam bhi aisa hi hai" and then asked him as how he keeps himself fit.

Kohli while interacting with the Prime Minister talked about the importance of fitness in daily lives. The cricketer, who is currently in the United Arab Emirates with the Royal Challengers Bangalore, gave insights on his own experience with the transition to importance of fitness over the years in cricket.

In the digital interaction Kohli said he experienced the need for fitness levels to be better in his initial playing days.

"I experienced a transition. In the era when I started playing cricket, the demands of the game were changing very quickly. Our fitness routines weren't fit for the demands of the game and we needed to change. We were short from fitness point of view, the skills were not an issue," Kohli told the Prime Minister.

"I experienced a self-realisation on fitness, that it should be a priority. I realised that I needed to improve on my fitness. Now, the priority on fitness is such that I won't mind losing training sessions but I feel bad when I lose fitness session," he said.

Modi pointed out that Virat, who hails from Delhi, must be missing the delicious foods of the city, naming "chhole bhature" in particular, to which Virat chuckled and said that he had to sacrifice the food to maintain his fitness levels.

"I miss the chhole bhature in Delhi so much! But I never experienced health issues with our native diet. My grandmother is so healthy and she always used to eat homemade food. I, on the other hand, had city food because we travel everywhere. We used to eat out and some food items were unhealthy. So that made me realise that fitness is important," said Kohli.

"If we don't improve our fitness, we would be far behind in terms of our game too. Our brain and body fitness works together," he said. The Indian cricket captain further pointed out that in daily lives, it is important to keep fitness priority, instead of weight loss.

"Important to give time in between food intake. We eat heavy food in our daily lives, and in between, we continue to have other food intakes. We don't allow our system to process the food. There is no activity in between food intake. These small things are important, you need to give time for body to process food," said Kohli. "It is important to keep priority - if you're doing it for weight loss or fitness," he said.

Kohli said despite the significant improvement in fitness levels among the Indian team members, the side still lags behind the other international sides on the same. He pointed it out in reply to Modi's question on the need of Yo Yo Tests in Indian cricket setup. "It (Yo Yo Test) was very important. Our level in fitness in comparison to other teams is still low. Yo Yo Tests were a basic requirement," said Kohli.

"The T20Is and ODIs last only one day but the Test match is of five days, and so the fitness standard from that point of view is important. Even I won't be available for selection if I fail the test. It is important to set the fitness culture. It improves overall culture of the side," he said.

HK activist Wong held over unauthorised assembly

Hong Kong (AP): Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong said he was arrested again Thursday for allegedly participating in an unauthorised assembly last October. Wong tweeted that he was arrested when he reported to the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's Central Police Station as part of

a bail requirement. He said he was also accused of violating a pre-coronavirus law banning the wearing of masks in public places on the pretext they obscure identity. Wong told reporters after leaving the police station that it is the third case against him. He vowed to continue to resist.

Wong rose to prominence as

a student leader during the 2014 Umbrella Movement protests for universal suffrage, and is among a growing number of activists being charged for various relatively minor offenses since Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law on the territory that has severely restricted political speech.

Facebook oversight board to start operating in October

London (AP): Facebook's long-awaited oversight board that will act as a referee on whether specific content is allowed on the tech giant's platforms is set to launch in October.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg said two years ago that he was setting up the quasi-independent board, following intense criticism that the company wasn't moving fast enough to remove misinformation, hate speech and malign influence campaigns.

The board is intended to rule on thorny content issues, such as when Facebook or

Instagram posts constitute hate speech.

We are currently testing the newly deployed technical systems that will allow users to appeal and the Board to review cases," it said in a statement Thursday.

If those tests go to plan, the board said it would start accepting and reviewing appeals from users in mid to late October.

The board was initially expected to start operating in early 2020 but the launch was delayed.

"Building a process that is

thorough, principled and globally effective takes time and our members have been working aggressively to launch as soon as possible, the board said.

The board's 20 members are a multinational group that includes legal scholars, human rights experts and journalists.

It will start by hearing appeals from users whose content has been taken down by Facebook before expanding to appeals from users who want the company to remove content. Facebook can also refer cases to the board on its own.

Key trading route between Nepal, China reopens after eight months

Kathmandu (PTI): A key trading route between Nepal and Tibet in China has been reopened for movement of goods, over eight months after it was closed following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Rasuwagadhi-Kerung transit point was opened on Wednesday after the Chinese authorities agreed to conditionally reopen the border point for movement of goods.

The Chinese authorities have allowed the movement of a limited number of cargo vehicles abiding specific rules, according to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies.

Some cargo trucks carrying Chinese products entered Nepal on Wednesday and Thursday. Both Nepal-China border points of Rasuwagadhi-

Kerung and Tatopani-Khasa remained closed since late January to prevent the spread of the coronavirus which was first detected in China's Wuhan city in Hubei Province in late 2019. Over the period, these trade points were opened only for a few days allowing the movement of a limited number of cargo trucks carrying medical kits in particular.

The representatives of both the governments will hold a virtual dialogue on Friday to ease vehicular movements through the land route between the two countries, the ministry sources said.

During the talks, the matter relating to resumption of vehicular movement through the Tatopani-Khasa border point, situated 120 km east of Kathmandu, is also expected to feature.

UK preparing HR curbs against Belarus

London (AP): Britain is preparing sanctions on individuals allegedly involved in human rights violations in Belarus, working with the United States and Canada to hold President Alexander Lukashenko and his government to account.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told the House of Commons in London on Thursday that in light of the European Union's delay in preparing its own sanctions, the UK would join other allies to adopt targeted sanctions against those responsible for human rights abuses. We will apply all the tools at our disposal to hold Lukashenko and his regime to account, he said.

Thousands of Belarus citi-

zens have taken part in nearly seven weeks of rallies against the authoritarian leader's reelection, which the opposition says was rigged. We are willing to join the EU in adopting targeted sanctions against those responsible for the violence, the repression and the vote-rigging, although the EU process has now been delayed in Brussels, Raab said. Given that delay... we're co-ordinating with the United States and Canada to prepare appropriate listings as a matter of urgency. The EU said that the swearing in of Lukashenko on Wednesday to a sixth term lacks democratic legitimacy, defies the will of the Belarusian people and will only deepen the country's political crisis.

Trend Slazer

‘Glad to do some memorable comedies’

Actor **PANKAJ TRIPATHI**, who is loved for his versatility on screen, says he is glad that he got a chance to essay several interesting comic roles in Bollywood.

Tripathi’s comic streak as an actor has been particularly popular in films such as *Stree*, the *Fukrey* franchise, *Bareilly Ki Barfi*, *Luka Chuppi* and *Angrezi Medium*.

“Every piece of work has to make a point. That’s the whole point of art. Although the nineties had a certain brand of comedy, new-age films demand that we poke fun more responsibly and use comedy to say something effective. In such a scenario, comedy films have to offer more than just about laughs and fun,” Tripathi said.



‘I think it’s unfair. Right now, they are talking about the consumption of drugs. It is

the choice of an individual, not of an industry. So do not blame the industry. Whether it is in politics, fashion or in the corporate world, there are people who are doing drugs. We should not generalise the situation.’

—Karan Kundra

Actor **SHWETA TRIPATHI SHARMA** believes it is essential to discuss mental health as the unlock process continues all over India.



“A detailed conversation around mental health must ensue during the unlock phase. Considering people are stepping out to work amid the fear of COVID-19, it’s important to conduct systematic counselling sessions,” she said.

“Lockdown experiences are different from case to case but the phase has been riddled with existential questions,” she added.

Mariah felt not worthy of existing

Singer **MARIAH CAREY** has recalled the time when she did not feel worthy of existing.

The pop star was a guest on Oprah Winfrey’s show *The Oprah Conversation*. In a short video of the episode, Carey and Winfrey can be seen discussing topics ranging from the time the singer was held in the back-seat of a police car to a moment in her life when she didn’t feel “worthy of existing.”

“I wouldn’t have gone here if I hadn’t been treated as an ATM machine with a wig on,” Carey says in the clip.

It’s unclear what or who Carey was specifically referring to but Winfrey responds, “The loneliness and sadness behind the facade, I now understand it.”



The illegal tiger trade is threatening the survival of one of nature’s most beautiful beasts. Exposing the shocking secrets of illegal tiger farms and the power players who profit, former Royal Marine Commando Aldo Kane uncovers key trafficking routes connecting Malaysia, China, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, covertly filming the traffickers, and meeting those trying to conserve tigers. He calls the series, *Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers*, a gripping, fearless and an action-packed investigation into the sickening network of ruthless, organised wildlife crime. It’s also a crusading film, with enough clout to ignite a campaign for real change, before a majestic species is wiped out completely. Excerpts:

What is the film about?

We look at how the growth in illegal tiger farms throughout Southeast Asia and China is stimulating a demand for tiger products like tiger bone, wine and glue. Tiger trafficking is now big business and this rise in demand is having a devastating effect on the world’s wild tiger population as a premium is now paid for its wild provenance. This film investigates the murky underworld of the illegal tiger farms feeding this demand. It is about the complex issues that surround the trade and tries to raise awareness of the immediate threat to these endangered animals. I, alongside a team of investigators, try to expose and piece together the shocking secrets of the illegal tiger farms and those who profit. Numbers of wild tigers in much of Southeast Asia are declining and wild tigers risk getting extinct if this illegal trade continues and is left unchecked.

What attracted you to this project?

Since I first joined the Royal Marines at the age of 16, I have spent many years travelling the globe and a huge amount of time in the jungles of Southeast Asia. I still remember the exhilarating feeling of sharing the dense forests with the wild tiger — for me, the most majestic Apex predator. Since then, I have been fascinated by these beautiful creatures and acutely aware of their plight as an endangered species.

A few years ago, I was talking with director Orlando Von Einsiedel from Grain Media about such risky stories which needed to be told. And this one topped the list. Telling a story of a species closer to extinction partly due to man’s desire to turn it into “luxury” products would require intricate storytelling, investigative journalism and a healthy dose of risk-taking. It felt like the perfect project to me.

You have spent the last few years working with anti-poaching patrols. What motivated you to expose tiger trafficking?

I have been working over the years with a charity that offers former service



Another kind of hunter

Presenter and former Royal Marine Commando **ALDO KANE**’s forthcoming series, *Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers*, is a secret investigation into the destruction of the apex predator in Southeast Asia, providing an insight into how the commodification of a farmed product is pushing an entire wildlife species towards extinction. By **TEAM VIVA**

personnel the opportunity to play a critical role in conservation and the prevention of wildlife crime around the world. As highly military trained individuals, our work on the ground is very much focussed on training and mentoring anti-poaching units to deal with illegal poaching. The poachers, who are risking their lives for very little in return, are very often the ones with the least options. The real issue is the organised trafficking networks across Southeast Asia and the increasing demand for illegal products. Poaching happens because there is a demand for an illegal animal product.

It soon became very clear to me that all anti-poaching operations were being continually undermined by this growing demand, high-tech trafficking syndicates and endemic governmental corruption. Where there is a demand, there will always be someone willing to risk their life to supply. That is why I wanted to try and find out more about the networks, the organised crime and the government complicity in this illegal and lucrative trade.

What were the on-ground challenges?

Carrying out this investigation was fraught with challenges. The trade spans

nearly all across Southeast Asia — from Malaysia right up through Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and further into China. Due to the nature of the trade in these countries, trafficking can also be linked to other illegal activities such as drug smuggling, illegal logging and human trafficking. So the level of risk and danger is quite high. But the biggest challenge and risk was to the investigators we worked alongside because in some of these countries they could risk their lives for exposing these illegal trade operations. For me, the biggest challenge was feeling quite helpless at the industrial scale of the trade.

You have put yourself in some extremely risky situations to make this film. How has your former life as a Royal Marines Commando Sniper equipped you to deal with them?

My background turned out to be valuable throughout the filming. I was able to use many of the skills I was taught in the Marines like collecting useful information for the investigation. Often, it was just myself and my director Laura out on the ground, gathering information. We had to plan operations as if they were a military tasking, taking into account vehicle moves, communications, actions and worst-case scenario planning. Flexibility is the biggest asset to any live investigation. Sometimes, we would be out on the ground for 18 hours and then all of a sudden, we had to follow a different lead into a different country, the whole time being aware that what we were doing was incredibly risky and dangerous.

Any memorable or shocking moment...

One of the most memorable parts about the filming was spending time with



the Counter Tiger Poaching units in the Taman Negara National Park, Malaysia. We spent weeks in the jungle tracking down tiger poachers. They have dedicated their lives to the protection of the few wild tigers left in Malaysia. It’s frustrating that their efforts are being completely undermined by the industrial scale poaching taking place in their own backyard. The wild tigers are being trafficked North into Vietnam and China where a premium is fetched as the dead or butchered ones are worth more than those alive and wild. It was truly great to spend time with these dedicated and loyal teams, learning how they operate and what their biggest challenges were. This gave me the background knowledge and drive to find out more about the illegal trade.

For me, the most shocking scenes revealed how large some tiger facilities were. I also visited some places where hundreds of tigers were locked up in cages. The tiger trade is hidden from sight, unlike the ivory or rhino trade where the brutality is on show for the world to see. The world is largely unaware of the brutal way in which they are farmed and ultimately slaughtered for their bones. Breaking into these facilities to expose the cruelty these tigers are exposed to is a vital part of bringing the truth to the wider world.

Why should people watch the film and what do you hope they’ll take away from it?

Anyone with an interest in conservation should watch this film. It is an investigation into the destruction and extinction of an apex predator, an insight into how the commodification of a farmed product can affect an entire wildlife species. It is an action-packed, thrilling shocker of an investigation that will take the viewer to some unexpected places. I hope that this film will make a small difference and add to the weight of work that international and local NGOs are doing in the field of tiger protection and conservation.

(The series premieres on October 3 at 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

Young at heart

The Nissan Kicks 1.3 Turbo CVT proves the adage ‘the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak’

First things first, this new 1330cc turbocharged petrol engine on the Nissan Kicks and on the Renault Duster is a blast. It is by far and away the most powerful small engine available in India right now. Its 156PS of power is 10 per cent greater than the 1.4 GDi turbo on the Creta and Seltos. When you press the throttle pedal, you realise that it is not just a number, the Kicks can move. With this car, you genuinely need to be constantly wary of the hundreds of speed cameras that the Delhi Traffic Police have been installing across the city since once you get the hang of the power band, you just ride the turbo. It is addictive — the power on this car. The Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) is not bad either. It does ensure that you stay within a proper engine range for fun if that is what you want and is conservative at lower urban speeds as well.

However, then you show this car a corner. Of late, I have become quite accustomed to even mass-produced small hatchbacks having good handling at higher speeds. Some small cars have even surprised me with handling that you would have thought is far above their price band, the Hyundai Grand i10 comes to mind here. The Kicks, on the other hand, feel old. That is because it is old, based on the first-genera-



NISSAN KICKS 1.3 Turbo XV

ENGINE: 1330cc Turbocharged Petrol
POWER: 156PS
TRANSMISSION: CVT Automatic
EX-SHOWROOM PRICE (AS TESTED) ₹13.44 LAKH
MILAGE (RATED/TESTED): 14.2 kmpl/11 kmpl
RATING: 6.5/10
COMPETITION: Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos, Maruti S-Cross, Renault Duster Turbo
“Lots of power for the money but not for the untrained driver”

tion Duster platform. In fact, the Duster and Kicks have been upgraded with this engine and transmission at the same time. Initially, I thought this car did not have traction control as there was no ‘off’ switch for that feature. But later, I discovered that it did have a permanently enabled TCS. Maybe the TCS needs a bit of fine tuning but it is a good thing that owners cannot switch it off at the push of a button. It’s because the Kicks will teach you understeer if you hit a corner a bit aggressively. But at speeds that the Korean twins and even the S-Cross can man-

age fairly nonchalantly. However, in a straight line, the Kicks Turbo is fabulously fun.

The other issue I have with this car, in addition to the silly card-like keys that Nissan and Renault keep using, are the quality of the interiors and the plastics. The seats with their quilted leather are very comfortable but the instrument cluster feels rather like a low-end display, given the display on competition cars. The Kicks’ remarkably tiny pedal area still feels small even with one pedal removed.

The plastics also feel a bit low-end and you feel

that on the bare plastic steering wheel in particular and with the blanked out area for steering controls. You can get better interiors for the price, even though the mid-spec Korean twins that the Kicks goes up against (in price) are not as fancy as their top-spec versions. On the XV CVT that I was driving, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto came as standard through the touchscreen but I did find the factory-fitted speakers a bit off the mark. Rear-seat comfort while cruising is no better nor worse than the competition but the sharply raked rear means that storage space might feel a bit compromised.

That said, if you like driving and most importantly, you understand some nuances of cornering and dealing with power, the Kicks is amazing albeit it might prove to be unforgiving and can easily catch you out. But 150+ horsepower at 13 lakh on-road, if you buy the manual, is stunning value for power!



Fast and steady

I first drove the BMW X4 around the Blue Ridge mountains on the border between North and South Carolina in the summer of 2018. This is because most of the BMW manufactures’ ‘X’ range of Sports Utility Vehicles is at a factory in Spartanburg, South Carolina. In fact, if Donald Trump had imposed taxes on European imports into the United States and Europe had responded, BMW would have been the worst affected carmaker because it would have suffered from both ends.

Opposite the factory, there is a BMW track where they test their SUVs. There was one sweeping left-hander, which in the US is on the other side of the steering wheel, and had a negative camber. That is the inside of the turn was higher than the outside, quite unlike turns on most racetracks which are angled into the turn, described as positive camber. In a positive camber turn, the most extreme examples of which are oval racetracks in the US, the banking of the corner helps turn the car into the corner with less steering input, thanks to centrifugal force. In a negative camber corner, you are fighting that force that wants to pull you down and those are challenging for both the car as well as the driver. But in a two-ton SUV, it is even more challenging because of the sheer weight of the car. The fact that SUVs aren’t really sporty.

Then you drive the X4 through that turn and get shocked at just how well it handles it, even after a couple of laps having switched some of the driver aids off. It is a testament to just how superlative handling has become on some SUVs, that a corner like that which might have led to a rollover at higher speeds a decade ago, can be handled so darn easily. One reason for that is the couple like shape of

The BMW X4 is great but not the most practical car



BMW X4 30d M Sport

ENGINE: 2993cc six-cylinder Turbocharged Diesel
POWER: 265HP
TRANSMISSION: 8-speed Dual-Clutch
EX-SHOWROOM PRICE (AS TESTED) ₹67.9 LAKH
MILAGE (RATED/TESTED): 16.8 kmpl/11 kmpl
RATING: 8/10
COMPETITION: Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupe, Jaguar F-Pace, Porsche Macan

“Brings the ‘Sports’ back in to Sports Utility Vehicle but the X3 makes more sense”

the X4, giving it a lower stance than the X3 on which it is based. On the twisty hill roads in the Carolinas, the X4 was really fun to drive. Well, the X4 30d, the top-end variant that BMW India sells, is just how I remember it around the corners. Fast and steady.

But then you realise that out here in India, it is quite difficult to make a case for a car like this. The BMW X3 might not have this amazing engine and definitely cannot take the corners as well, but it makes much more practical sense here. Firstly, the X4 is a far more driver-oriented car than the X3, and unless you

are driving yourself all the time, one can question the extra ₹5,00,000 you spend on a comparable 30i petrol-engine variant. I agree that the 265hp 30d variant with the three-litre turbocharged diesel is not available on the X3 but that just highlights my point that the X4 is a driver’s car. If you really want drivability, the five-series sedan with the petrol engine is ₹10,00,000 less, although the M Sport 530i with all the toys costs 61 lakh, the sedan is better.

Yes, the X4 will stand out and the 30d has a lot of power to get out of almost any situation. But the X4 is targeted at a single person or a young couple because the X3 is a lot more practical with its shape able to hold a lot more luggage inside. I feel that the X4 30d is better value in terms of its overall package than the Jaguar F-Pace or even the Porsche Macan, the latter being a bit pricier. The Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupe 300d is its biggest rival. While, even in the case of the Merc, I’d buy the standard GLC body shape, I think the Bimmer wins on the handling front. The X4 is an excellent vehicle but maybe this is because I’m getting older now, I just cannot see the logic of it when the X3 is around.



It's a well-known fact that rice has always been a staple food in Asia but we usually think or talk about white rice. However, did you know about black rice, the surprising health benefits that it consists? Well, it has properties such as anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, anti-diabetes and antioxidants. This superfood is also a rich source of nutrients and minerals like protein, fiber, iron and copper. Unprecedented times like these calls for boosting our immune system. The rich source of antioxidants in black rice helps to build up the immunity and improves the body's ability to fight diseases.

Black rice, also known as as forbidden rice or purple rice, used to be a valuable commodity in ancient China and this is why every grain of it was seized and consumed by the royalty only. Hence, the term forbidden was coined. It mainly grows in the Northeast (called as Chak Hao) and the Southern parts (called as Kavuni in Tamil) of India. In order to select the best variety, closely look at the colour of the rice — the darker the shade, the more nutrition it has. Here are a few benefits and uses of it:

RICH IN ANTIOXIDANTS

Black rice is a grain, which is loaded with antioxidants. The deep black colour is a mark of its antioxidant properties. The anthocyanin content found in it is way more than most of the grains and this is what makes it stand out in comparison to other superfoods such as quinoa and red rice. Despite being less popular than other rice

CHOOSE THE DARK SHADE

Did you know the surprising health benefits of black rice? Nutrition coach PRIYA PRAKASH lists some



varieties, research shows that black rice has the highest overall antioxidant capacity and activity. Antioxidants protect cells against oxidative stress caused by free radicals. Adding black rice to your meal helps in more disease protecting antioxidants. Studies have shown that the anthocyanin antioxidants in grains helps the body to protect

against heart diseases, cancer and many more. It is good for eye, immune health and skin as well.

LOADED WITH FIBER

Black rice is loaded with fiber and minerals. A typical bowl of 100 gm of black rice serving has over 4.9 grams of fiber. This is

double the amount available in brown rice. If you are looking for a fiber rich diet then it is better to start consuming black rice.

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY PROPERTIES

Black rice is a natural healing food. Research has shown that it helps in reducing inflammatory compounds in your body and increase the anti-inflammatory compounds. This increase in the anti-inflammatory compounds further help in reducing inflammation in various diseases such as cancer, arthritis and allergies.

A NATURAL DETOXIFYING AGENT

It is a rich and natural detoxifying agent. Studies have shown that the phytonutrients in black rice help detoxify your body and remove harmful toxins from your liver. It helps the liver to flush out waste material with its antioxidant property. So next time you throw a party, have a detox week by consuming it.

A GLUTEN-FREE GRAIN

Gluten is a group of seed storage proteins found in cereal grains. Eating foods with gluten causes an immune reaction that damages the lining of their small intestines. Since most nutrients are absorbed through

the small intestine, this can lead to nutritional deficiencies. And black rice is naturally gluten-free. If you are allergic to gluten and have the Celiac (an autoimmune disorder that's triggered when you eat gluten) disease, then you should consider having black rice in your daily diet plan. The potential to cause intestinal damage is a major disadvantage of gluten. Gluten can also cause abdominal and bloating pain. Not everyone can digest it easily. Black rice provides all healthy nutrients including protein and fiber.

FIGHTS DIABETES

The black rice bran contains fiber, which in turn helps glucose to be absorbed by your body over a longer period of time. Research has proven that eating whole grains like black rice helps your body lower the risk of Type 2 Diabetes and also keeps your weight in check in addition to boosting your energy levels. It maintains consistent sugar level. So if you are a diabetic person, you must substitute your regular rice with black one as it's way better and helps fight diabetes.

YOUR WEIGHT LOSS PARTNER

Since it's a whole grain and super-rich in fiber, this combination helps your body reduce signals of hunger, thus, helping in

preventing overeating. In addition, researchers have found out that it helps prevent insulin resistance in your body, which leads to and is related to the risk of becoming overweight or obese. So if you are someone who is looking to reduce weight, start with including black rice in your weight loss regime.

PROMOTES HEALTHY HEART

A healing food like black rice has been shown to reduce the atherosclerotic plaque formation in the arteries, which is the main reason for a heart attack and stroke. In addition to this, it also helps to reduce the two common factors in heart disease, namely LDL, triacylglycerol and total cholesterol. Consider including forbidden rice to promote a healthy heart and keep heart-related ailments at bay.

SUPPORTS EYE HEALTH

It includes zeaxanthin and lutein that protect retina from damaging free radicals. Hence, black rice is an ideal food for achieving a healthy body. They are a package of nutrients with several health benefits. Switch to black rice to stay fit!

(The author is the co-founder of Naturally Yours.)

R E C I P E S



OLD BOMBAY NANKHATAI

WHAT YOU NEED

- Ghee: 1/2 cup
- Powdered sugar: 1/2 cup
- Refined flour: 3/4 cup
- California Walnuts powder: 1/4 cup
- Salt
- Semolina: 2 tbsp
- Baking soda: 1/4 tsp
- Cardamom powder: 1/2 tsp

For glazing:

- Milk: 2 tbsp
- Powdered sugar: 1 tbsp

METHOD

- In a mixing bowl, put *ghee* and powdered sugar. Whip for 10 minutes until smooth as it needs to be soft, white, fluffy and creamy.
- Add refined flour, walnut powder, salt, semolina and baking soda, cardamom powder.
- Mix well and knead the dough manually. Do not over-knead.
- Roll into a baking sheet till the dough is one cm thick. Transfer onto a baking tray.
- Cut into long rectangles.
- Mix milk and sugar in a bowl and apply on top of the cut triangles using a brush.
- Bake at 180 degree C for 10 minutes.
- Remove the tray and allow the cake to cool completely.
- Store in an airtight container.

Courtesy: Chef Varun Inamdar.



STUFFED RAVIOLI

WHAT YOU NEED

For ravioli filling

- Pumpkin: 600 gm
- Shallots: 5-6
- Garlic cloves: 3-4
- Olive oil: 1 tbsp
- Salt: To taste
- Pepper: To taste
- Walnut: 60 gm
- Parmesan cheese: 100 gm
- Oregano

For ravioli dough

- All-purpose flour: 250 gm
- Egg yolk: 8
- Whole egg: 1
- Olive oil: 20 gm
- Salt: 25 gm

ALMOND PUMPKIN KEBAB

WHAT YOU NEED

- Pumpkin: 500 gm
- Green chillies (chopped): 1 1/2 tsp
- Garlic and ginger (chopped): 2 tbsp
- Cumin seeds: 1 tsp
- Cracked coriander: 1 tsp
- Red chilli powder: 1 tbsp
- Nutmeg powder: 1/8 tsp
- Chat masala: 1 tbsp
- Dry mango powder: 1 tbsp
- Desi ghee: 40 gm
- Almonds (slivered): 20 gm
- Almonds (chopped): 40 gm

METHOD

- Peel, deseed and grate the pumpkin.
- Heat *desi ghee* in a thick bottom casserole pan and sauté ginger and garlic, green chillies, cumin seeds and all the spices.
- Add the pumpkin. Cook for 15-20 minutes till the water has dried out.



- Add the chopped almonds and cook for another five minutes. Let the mixture cool down. Cut them into rough, thin patties of 30 gm each. Coat them with slivered almonds.
- Heat *desi ghee* in a pan and place the patties in medium hot oil. Cook till the bottom caramelises and then carefully turn the patties. Cook them till they are crisp from outside.

Courtesy: Chef Manish Mehrotra.

SMOKED SALMON FISH CAKES

WHAT YOU NEED

- Smoked salmon: 400 gm
- Mashed potatoes: 300 gm
- Melted butter: 2 tbsp
- Wholegrain mustard: 2 tbsp
- Fresh dill (chopped): 1 tbsp
- Fresh parsley (chopped): 1 tbsp
- Fresh chives (chopped): 1 tbsp
- Lemon juice
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Flour (seasoned): 1/2 cup
- Eggs, beaten: 2
- Breadcrumbs: 1 1/2 cups
- Oil: 100ml



METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 190 degree Celsius.
- Place the salmon in a roasting dish, cover with foil and place in the oven for 15 minutes to heat through.
- Flake the salmon with a fork and place in a large bowl together with the

- mashed potatoes, butter, and mustard. Mix well.
- Add the dill, parsley, chives, lemon juice and zest. Season well with salt and pepper and mix thoroughly.
- Divide the mixture into 12 portions and form into balls. Flatten each ball to

- about 1cm thick.
- Dip each fishcake in the seasoned flour, then the beaten egg and finally the breadcrumbs to coat each one.
- Fry the fishcakes in 2 tbsp oil over medium-high heat for five to eight minutes on each side until golden brown and crispy.

Courtesy: Le Creuset.

Bravo is progressing very well, and if he has a couple of good days of training, he could come into selection consideration for the next game

It's unfair to judge Cummins right now. He is one of the best going around in the world. I trust him and I'm sure, he will come good. We are just happy to have him

I back myself to play the pull shots and have practised quite a bit. Pretty happy with the performance of my squad. All my shots were good

We were actually keeping things pretty simple, we knew what strokes are to be executed on this ground, so we just stuck to our plan and it went out really well

KLassic knock

Rahul's unbeaten 132 powers KXIP to easy win over RCB



Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul celebrates with teammate Karun Nair after he hits Dale Steyn for a six

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper KL Rahul's sublime hundred was the highlight of an all-round performance as Kings XI Punjab defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore by a whopping 97-run margin here on Thursday.

Opening the innings, Rahul punished the RCB bowlers into submission to help KXIP to a daunting 206 for three before the bowling attack put up a disciplined effort to bundle Virat Kohli's side for 109 with three overs to spare.

The KXIP skipper, who was dropped twice by Kohli late in the innings, scored an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls that was laced with 14 boundaries and seven sixes.

With his spectacular knock,

KXIP CAPTAIN KL RAHUL SMASHED AN UNBEATEN 132 OFF 69 DELIVERIES AGAINST RCB TO RECORD THE HIGHEST-EVER SCORE BY AN INDIAN IN THE HISTORY OF IPL. IT IS ALSO THE HIGHEST-EVER SCORE BY A CAPTAIN IN IPL. RAHUL ALSO BECAME THE FASTEST INDIAN BATSMAN TO REACH 2,000 IPL RUNS, TAKING 60 INNINGS

Rahul surpassed Rishabh Pant (128 in 2018) to post the highest individual score by an Indian and a captain in IPL history.

It was a rather ordinary performance from RCB after the win against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their tournament opener. For KXIP, the win came after a super over loss against Delhi Capitals.

RCB were in all sorts for trouble from the beginning of the run chase with Devdutt Padikkal (1) and Josh Philippe (0) returning back to the dug out in the first two overs. After dropping two catches, Kohli, undoubtedly one of the best when it comes to run-chasing, failed with the bat managing just a run off five balls before he was caught off a Sheldon

Cottrell delivery. Opener Aaron Finch (20) was then joined in the middle by AB de Villiers (28). The duo looked dangerous, milking deliveries wherever possible. The two added 49-runs before the young Ravi Bishnoi broke the stand by getting rid of the Australian limited overs captain. Bishnoi (3/32) and Murugan Ashwin (3/21) dismissed Finch and de Villiers in quick succession with RCB reeling at 57 for five. Washington Sundar was the top scorer for RCB, hitting 30 off 27 deliveries.

Ashwin was the pick of the bowlers for KXIP, he picked three wickets giving away 21 runs. Bishnoi too claimed three wickets and was impressive once again. Cottrell (2/17), Mohammad Shami (1/14) and Glenn Maxwell (1/10) too bowled economical spells.

Earlier, Rahul also became the fastest Indian to reach 2000 IPL runs, reaching the milestone in his 60th innings. The stylish batsman clipped away a full length delivery to fine leg for four to break Sachin Tendulkar's record, who reached the milestone in 63 matches.

Opening the batting with Rahul, Mayank Agarwal (26) looked dangerous and shared a 57-run stand with his captain. However, with the introduction of the spin into the attack in the seventh over, Yuzvendra Chahal (1/25) struck with the last ball, cleaning up Agarwal (26) with a delightful googly. The pace troika of Umesh Yadav (0/35), Dale Steyn (0/57) and Navdeep Saini (0/37) had a torrid time as the KXIP skipper was on fire in his second game as captain.

All players wore black arm-bands to honour Australian cricketer turned commentator Dean Jones, who died in Mumbai due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday.

Youth vs Experience

CSK Dad's Army take on Iyer's youth brigade

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's much-awaited promotion in the batting order will be an area of interest when Chennai Super Kings strive to pick up pieces against a confident Delhi Capitals in their third IPL encounter on Friday.

The shock defeat against Rajasthan Royals on a batting belt at Sharjah could be primarily attributed to a poor show by their spinners along with a disastrous 20th over but the batsmen can't absolve themselves completely, especially Murali Vijay, Kedar Jadhav and the skipper himself.

Dhoni had come in to bat at number seven, promoting the likes of Sam Curran, Jadhav and Ruturaj Gaikwad ahead of himself but the play backfired badly leaving Faf du Plessis with too much work in too little time.

While his fans still swear by his six-hitting ability, a closer look would show that Dhoni is unable to change the gears against express pace and it was only when Tom Curran came with his medium fast, Dhoni launched an attack. That too when the match as a contest was over.

However on a big Dubai ground with bigger-sized boundaries, the skipper can rotate the strike better unlike Sharjah and also take those extra deliveries to settle down.

For Delhi Capitals, winning a cliffhanger right at the onset would have given them a lot of confidence even though Ravichandran Ashwin's probable absence after a shoulder injury could force them to reshuffle their bowling line-up.

Senior spinner Amit Mishra could be an option to partner Axar Patel in case Ashwin is unable to

make it.

The cushion of bigger boundaries can always help a wrist spinner attack more by tossing the ball up.

Another aspect will be pacer Mohit Sharma's performance. While Mohit got KL Rahul at the beginning but his loose deliveries at the back-end made things difficult for the Capitals even as Kagiso Rabada bowled tightly at one end.

Against a side like CSK which revels in attacking the last 10 overs, the Capitals might like to try Harshal Patel, who is also a handy batsman at any number having opened in domestic cricket.

This is if Ishant Sharma, who is still nursing an ankle injury is available.

Anrich Nortje in his first IPL game wasn't bad but left-armer Daniel Sams could create those awkward angles that batsmen dislike.

Shimron Hetmyer is likely to get one more chance unless Ricky Ponting wants to bring in some stability in the form of Alex Carey.



DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



13 years ago on September 24, 2007, India under MS Dhoni beat Pakistan by 5 runs in the final of the inaugural edition of World T20 at Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg

KL RAHUL BREAKS SACHIN'S RECORD

Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul on Thursday became the fastest Indian batsman to reach 2000 IPL runs. Rahul overtook Sachin Tendulkar, who till Thursday held the record for being the fastest to 2000 IPL runs. Tendulkar, who played all six seasons of IPL for Mumbai Indians, had reached the milestone in 63 innings. Rahul did it in 60 innings. Gautam Gambhir is the 3rd on the list, who had scored 2000 runs in 68 innings followed by Suresh Raina (69) and Virender Sehwag (70)

DHONI WILL GET BETTER AND BETTER

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming on Thursday defended under-fire skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, saying it takes "a bit of work" to find best form after a long break and he will "get better and better" as the IPL progresses.









"MS is one of the players that hasn't played much cricket in the last year-and-a-half. Everyone expects MS to come out and do what he has done in the past. It doesn't just happen, it takes a bit of work," Fleming said. "As the tournament goes on, he'll just get better and better. To come in and expect him to get a 30-ball 70 would be a tough ask and we've other players also who are in good form and can do a job. "So, it's valuing what each player can do and also respecting Dhoni is one of a kind when he's in form and has been playing."

DECISION ON ASH, ISHANT AFTER TRAINING

Delhi Capitals will decide on spinner R Ashwin and pacer Ishant Sharma for their next match against CSK after their practice session on Thursday. While Ishant picked up an injury before their first match of the season against KXIP, Ashwin dislocated his shoulder during the game. "Ashwin is going for practice today (Thursday) and we haven't taken a call yet if he is going to be available or not for tomorrow's (Friday) game. We will see how the practice goes," assistant coach Mohammad Kaif said in pre-match conference. "We are monitoring him closely. But yes, if he is not fit to play tomorrow, we have Amit Mishra who is a very experienced player, and has been doing well in the IPL." Kaif said that Ishant "was sprinting well and is currently under observation". "Our team physio has been keeping a close eye on him and we will also take a call today after our practice session in the evening," said the 39-year-old.

DIFFICULT TO BAT FOR LONG DURATION

Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma admitted that sapping condition in the UAE makes it difficult to bat for long duration and that's the reason he felt a bit tired by the end of his match-winning knock against KKR. "It is not easy to play long innings here. It takes a lot out of you to play in these conditions. Maybe I was a bit tired in the end and it was a lesson for us that one set batsmen needs to bat deep till the end," Rohit said. "We've seen it in the past and that's what I tried to do." While the heat and humidity made it difficult but it was imperative to bat as long as possible after a six-month break, Rohit said. "I haven't played a lot of cricket in the last six months time and was looking to spend some time in the middle; it didn't come out well in the first innings but glad to have done it tonight."

POINTS TABLE						
		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	 MI	2	1	1	+0.99	2
2	 RR	1	1	0	+0.80	2
3	 RCB	1	1	0	+0.50	2
4	 DC	1	1	0	+0.00	2
5	 CSK	2	1	1	-0.14	2
6	 KXIP	1	0	1	+0.00	0
7	 SRH	1	0	1	-0.50	0
8	 KKR	1	0	1	-2.45	0

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones, one of the finest exponents of ODI cricket, died of a sudden cardiac arrest in Mumbai on Thursday.

Jones, 59, was in Mumbai with the *Star Sports'* commentary team for the Indian Premier League. He was in a bio-bubble in a city hotel. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Jones played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia and was part of the 1987 World Cup winning team.

"It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing away of Mr Dean Mervyn Jones AM. He died of a sudden cardiac arrest," *Star Sports* said a press release.

"We express our deep condolences to his family and stand ready to support them in this difficult time. We are in touch

‘Professor Deano’ dies of cardiac arrest

with the Australian High Commission to make the necessary arrangements," the release added.

According to an IPL source, it happened in matter of seconds.

"Deano was standing in the hotel lobby and he suddenly collapsed. Brett Lee was standing by his side. Brett tried to revive him by applying CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) but he didn't respond," said the source.

"He was then taken to Harkisan Das Hospital in Girgaon where he was announced dead on arrival."

Jones' family is in Melbourne and the Australian High Commission is in touch with them.



A player well ahead of his time, Jones scored over 6068 ODI runs at an average of 44.61 with seven hundred and 46 fifties.

For Indian fans, he will for-

ever remain in their memory for the historic tied Test in Chepauk, where he laid the foundation of a big Australian score with an unbeaten double hundred in challenging conditions.

There was an iconic picture of Jones throwing up while batting and so severely dehydrated he was that he had to be admitted to a hospital during the course of the Test match.

In ODI cricket and those numerous World Series Cup matches on Australia's *Channel 9*, Jones, clad in yellow jersey and the lips lined with zinc cream is still etched in memories of the late 80s and early 90s generation.

In ODI cricket, he would often charge down the track against fast bowlers and hitting them over in-field. He played a match winning knock against India in the 1992 World Cup in Brisbane, a thriller that India lost by one run.

In his post retirement life he

performed the role of a cricket analyst for various channels, primarily in South Asia — India and Pakistan, where he was immensely popular.

One of the Indian news channel named him *Professor Deano*, a moniker that stuck with him and was also his Twitter handle.

He could polarise opinion and would often get trolled. He also once courted controversy for calling Hashim Amla "terrorist" on air, a light-hearted comment but the racist undertone forced the particular broadcaster to take him off air.

His online banter with fellow commentator and Trans Tasman all-rounder Scott Styris was enjoyed and lapped up by new generation of cricket followers.



Modi asks Kohli about Yo-Yo test

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Skipper Virat Kohli explained Show the Yo-Yo test helped Indian cricketers aim for high-level fitness when Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked him about the mandatory running aerobic fitness routine.

Prime Minister Modi was interacting with fitness experts and influencers from across the country to mark the one-year anniversary of the *Fit India Movement*.

Modi was keen to know what is Yo-Yo test and asked if the captain also has to pass it or he gets spared?

"I heard these days there is a Yo-Yo test for the team, what is this test," asked Modi during the virtual interaction.

Kohli, smiling, replied, "This Test was very important from fitness point of view. If we talk about global fitness level,

our fitness level is still low compared to other teams and we want to take it up, which is a basic requirement."

The gruelling routine has two sets of cones that are 20 metres apart. Once the beep is sounded, the athlete has to reach the marker on the other side by the time the next beep sounds, turn and get back to where he started before the third beep.

The frequency of the beeps gradually increases for the subsequent runs.

Kohli, who is currently in the UAE for the IPL, said even he has to clear the test to get selected for the India team.

"I'm the one who goes to run first and this is the condition that if I fail that I am also not available for selection. It is important to set that culture and it will lead to improvement in overall fitness levels."

Hat-trick hero Havertz

AFP ■ LONDON

Frank Lampard said Kai Havertz is just getting started after opening his Chelsea account with a hat-trick in a 6-0 thrashing of Barnsley, while Arsenal also booked their place in the League Cup fourth round with a 2-0 win at Leicester.

Havertz had struggled to make an impact in his first two Premier League games since sealing a reported \$94 million move from Bayer Leverkusen as the most expensive signing of Chelsea's £200 million spending spree in the transfer market.

But the 21-year-old German was one of just three players to retain his place from Sunday's 2-0 defeat to Liverpool and Lampard's decision reaped its reward as he scored his first senior hat-trick.

"I am delighted with Kai, it was everything I wanted from him," said Lampard.

"He had no pre-season so I wanted to give him more time on the pitch with his teammates, learning how we play and press. It was a great night for Kai and it is the first of

many for him."

Thiago Silva and Ben Chilwell also made their Chelsea debuts, while Tammy Abraham and Ross Barkley made the most of rare starts to get their names on the scoresheet.

Abraham pounced on loose pass deep in the Barnsley half to slam home the opener before Havertz's calm finish opened his Chelsea

account.

A brilliant unselfish flick from Abraham teed Havertz up perfectly to convert his second after Barkley drove home on his weaker left foot.

Havertz was due to be replaced by Chilwell 25 minutes from time but just completed his hat-trick in time by rounding Brad Collins before tapping into an empty net before Olivier Giroud completed the scoring.

"I am very happy to score three goals, but this is just my beginning at the club and I want to score more and more goals," said Havertz.

Arsenal won the only all-Premier League tie of the night as Christian Fuchs's own goal broke the deadlock at the King Power.

Eddie Nketiah added a late second for the Gunners, who could face Liverpool at Anfield twice in three days next week should the Premier League champions progress past Lincoln.

Everton continued their fine start to the season with a 5-2 win at League One Fleetwood despite two howlers from England number one goal-



Mendy joins Chelsea

London: Chelsea on Thursday announced the signing of goalkeeper Edouard Mendy from Rennes on a five-year deal for a reported fee of 22 million pounds.

The Senegalese international will compete with Kepa Arrizabalaga and Willy Caballero for a starting spot at Stamford Bridge.

"I am so excited to be joining Chelsea," said Mendy. "It's a dream for me to be a part of this exciting squad and to work with Frank Lampard and all of his coaching staff."

"I look forward to meeting my team-mates and can't wait to get started."

AFP



Luis Suarez poses with all the trophies that he won during his 6-year Barcelona's career which includes 2015 UEFA Champions League, UEFA Super Cup, FIFA Club World Cup, 4 La Liga, 4 Copa del Rey, one Supercopa de España

Suarez moves from Barca to Atlético

Barcelona: Atletico Madrid announced the signing of Barcelona forward Luis Suarez on Wednesday, confirming the Uruguayan striker is set to continue playing in La Liga rather than joining Juventus in Italy.

Barcelona said that Atletico had agreed to pay six million euros for Suarez, who left his last training session in tears on Wednesday having been told over the summer that he was no longer required by new coach Ronald Koeman.

Since joining Barca from

Liverpool in 2014, Suarez has won a host of trophies, including the 2015 Champions League and four Liga titles.

He leaves as the club's third highest scorer with 198 goals behind Cesar Rodriguez (232) and Lionel Messi (634).

The move to Barcelona's La Liga rivals follows a failed attempt to join Juventus.

Juve coach Andrea Pirlo disclosed last week a deal was unlikely because of delays in the Uruguayan's bid to get an Italian passport.

AFP