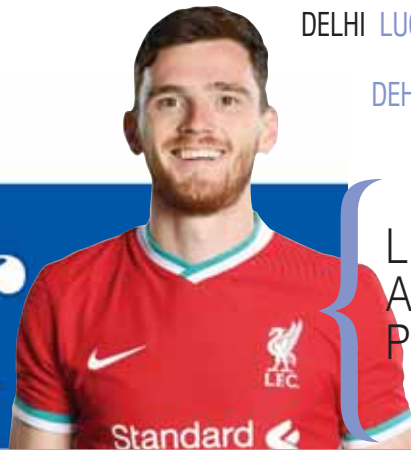




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14 SPORT

8-9 crore Indians Covid +ve: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 8-9 crore Indian, or one in 15 individuals aged over 10 years, may have been exposed to coronavirus by the end of August, according to the findings of the second serosurvey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

In percentage terms, the total people exposed to coronavirus will be estimated at around 7 per cent, which is 10 times higher than the numbers thrown by the findings of the first serosurvey released on September 11. It shows that between the two surveys, the infection has spread wildly.

"One in 15 individuals aged over 10 years were estimated to be exposed to Covid-19 by August 2020," ICMR chief Balram Bhargava said. "Earlier we had thought that it does not affect those below 18, but have now found there's no difference. The prevalence is not different by age group or gender."

The survey was conducted between August 17 and September 22. As per its findings, the prevalence of Covid-19 among individuals over 10 years was 6.6 per cent, and in adults (over 18 years of age) was 7.1 per cent.

Since India's population is around 140 crore, the total number of people exposed to coronavirus could be around 8-9 crore when we take out the below 10 age group.

Incidentally, the findings of the first national serosurvey which became public on September 11 indicated that 0.73 per cent of adults in India were exposed to SARS-CoV-2, amounting to a total of 6.4 million Covid-19 infections by early May.

Dr Bhargava also said that the second serosurvey report showed that urban slum and

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 62,19,224

DEATHS: 97,450

RECOVERED:

51,76,371

ACTIVE: 9,44,520

VP Naidu tests Covid positive, in good health

New Delhi: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19 but is in good health, the Vice President Secretariat said. Naidu, 71, who is asymptomatic, has been advised home quarantine.

In the evening, Naidu had addressed a virtual event on post-Covid healthcare where he urged the private sector to pitch in to improve healthcare system in rural India. "The Vice President of India who underwent a routine Covid-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is, however, asymptomatic and in good health," the Secretariat tweeted.

urban non-slum areas had higher SARS CoV 2 infection prevalence than that of rural areas. "Risk in urban slums twice than that in non-slum areas and 4 times the risk in the rural setting," the report stated.

Continued on Page 11

Amnesty cries witch-hunt as it shuts op in India, MHA says it flouted FCRA norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Amnesty International on Tuesday said it was halting all its activities in India due to the freezing of its accounts and "incessant witch-hunt" over "unfounded" and "motivated" allegations, claims which were strongly denied by the Ministry of Home (MHA).

In a statement, Amnesty India said the organisation has been compelled to let go of staff in India and pause all its ongoing campaign and research

work. "The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organization to a grinding halt," it said.

Reacting to the development, the MHA said the allegations of Amnesty International is unfortunate and exaggerated and said that the NGO violated the laws in accepting foreign donations.

Continued on Page 11

Offered just 27, LJP to take call on fighting Bihar polls as an ally

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Janshakti party (LJP) is expected to take a final call on contesting the Bihar polls as part of the NDA in the next 24 hours. The BJP top leadership is reported to have conveyed to LJP chief Chirag Paswan to accept 27 seats latest by Wednesday.

The nomination process for candidates for the first phase of the State elections will begin in two days.

Chirag met BJP president JP Nadda on Monday and demanded a decision on seat sharing soon. He is reportedly pressing for 42 seats, a demand the BJP leadership has completely ruled out.

If the BJP and LJP do not reach an agreement, the LJP is likely to contest 143 out of 243 seats in the Assembly polls and target the JD(U) by putting its candidates against the Nitish Kumar-led outfit.

Continued on Page 11

Those who lost source of black money against farm laws, says Modi

Protests insult to farmers, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Opposition for going against every single decision of the Government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that those who lost "another source of black money" were protesting against the farm Bills.

"Those opposing farm laws are insulting farmers," the Prime Minister said lashing out at the Opposition a day after Punjab Youth Congress workers set a tractor on fire near India Gate in the heart of Delhi during protests against the controversial farm laws.

"Several reforms, related to farmers, labourers and health, were brought during the recently concluded Parliament session. These reforms will



strengthen labourers, youth, women, farmers of the nation. But the nation can see how some people are opposing it just for the sake of it," Modi said while inaugurating six development projects in Uttarakhand through video-conferencing which included water and sewer cleaning projects and a museum.

Modi said the Opposition has been opposing every decision of his Government, including that is surgical-strikes and construction of Sardar Patel's statue in Gujarat.

Continued on Page 11

ICMR's 2nd serosurvey says cases rose 10 times since 1st results on September 11

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	13,66,129	36,181	10,69,159
Andhra Pradesh	6,87,351	5,780	6,22,136
Tamil Nadu	5,92,911	8,777	4,76,378
Karnataka	5,82,458	9,453	5,36,209
Uttar Pradesh	3,94,856	5,715	3,36,981
Delhi	2,73,098	5,272	2,40,703
West Bengal	2,53,768	4,899	2,22,805
Odisha	2,15,676	881	1,77,585
Telangana	1,89,283	1,116	1,58,690
Kerala	1,87,277	720	1,24,684
Bihar	1,81,471	894	1,67,890
Assam	1,77,221	680	1,42,297
Gujarat	1,36,004	3,442	1,15,959
Rajasthan	1,33,119	1,471	1,11,272
Haryana	1,26,974	1,356	1,10,814
Madhya Pradesh	1,24,166	2,242	1,00,012



A health worker collects a nasal swab sample to test for Covid-19 in Hyderabad on Tuesday AP

Hathras' Nirbhaya succumbs to brutality Protest at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, Cong questions PM's silence

PNS/ STAFF REPORTER ■ LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

A 19-year-old girl, who was gangraped in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district two weeks ago, died of her grievous injuries at a Delhi hospital on Tuesday morning.

As news of her death spread, protests broke out at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital as well as in Vijay Chowk and in Hathras. Leading the protests outside Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad appealed to all members of the Dalit community to take to the streets and demand the death penalty for the four men alleged to be involved in the crime who were arrested and will now face charges under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

"The Government should not test our patience. We will not rest until the culprits are hanged," said Azad, adding

that the victim was killed in the hospital to silence her forever and shield the culprits.

The Uttar Pradesh Government announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh for the victim's family.

Hitting out at the Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and women BJP leaders on the issue and alleged that the state has become the "crime capital" of the country.

The party also staged protests demanding justice for the victim at Vijay Chowk. The party said its leaders PL Punia, Udit Raj, Amrita Dhawan and other party leaders were detained at Mandir Marg Police station for the protest.

On September 14, the young woman had gone to the fields with her mother and went missing soon after. She was found later with severe injuries and her tongue cut as

India retorts as China provokes As Beijing refuses to recognise Ladakh UT, New Delhi says it never accepted unilaterally defined 1959 perception of LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indo-China stand-off has escalated as the Indian Government has rebuffed China's provocative assertion that Beijing didn't recognise Ladakh Union Territory and was opposed to India building military infrastructure in the border areas.

The MEA on Wednesday asserted that the country never accepted the so-called unilaterally-defined 1959 LAC and its position has been consistent and well known to the Chinese. India also asked China to refrain from advancing an "untenable unilateral" interpretation of the de-facto border.

India's reaction was in response to China's advice to India position to abide by its 1959 perception of the LAC.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry insisted it abides by that LAC as proposed by then Premier Zhou Enlai to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter on November 7, 1959.

Making this claim, China in a statement to a newspaper also blamed the Indian Army for the ongoing tension for the last five months in eastern Ladakh. It also termed the bloody brawl on June 15 in the Galwan valley leading to the death of 20 Indian Army personnel as an "unfortunate event."

Brushing aside the Chinese claim of the perception,



An Army convoy moves towards Ladakh amid border tension with China, at Manali-Leh highway

PTI

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said here, "India has never accepted the so-called unilaterally defined 1959 Line of Actual Control (LAC). This position has been consistent and well known, including to the Chinese side."

Srivastava referred to various bilateral agreements including the 1993 agreement on maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LAC, 1996 pact on confidence building measures (CBMs) and the 2005 agreement on political parameters and guiding principles for settlement of the boundary issue, to emphasise that both sides showed com-

mitment to reach a common understanding of the alignment of the LAC.

"Therefore, the insistence now of the Chinese side that there is only one LAC is con-

trary to the solemn commitments made by China in these agreements," he said, adding the Indian side has always respected and abided by the LAC.

27 soldiers killed due to poor bullets in 5 yrs, says Army

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twenty-seven soldiers were killed and 146 wounded due to poor bullets and shells between 2014 and 2019.

Gearing up for a long haul at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, the Army has expressed concern over the alleged poor quality of ammunition leading to casualties among soldiers.

The Army has noted that more than ₹960 crores was wasted on faulty ammunition and this money could have catered for buying more than 100 howitzers. These guns are very effective in mountain warfare and much needed on the borders facing China.

Pointing these critical deficiencies, the Army also said at least 27 soldiers were killed and 146 wounded due to poor bullets and shells in the period 2014-2019 and urged the Government to take immediate steps. They included fixing accountability and production of top-class ammunition.

Most of the ammunition in question was produced by the Ordnance Factory Board while it while it disposed off ₹960 crore worth of ammunition in the same period before their shelf life was complete, officials said here on Tuesday.



The faulty ammunition included 23-mm air defence shells, artillery shells, 125-mm tank rounds and different calibres of bullets used in infantry assault rifles.

"Lack of accountability and poor quality of production has resulted in frequent accidents over the years with injuries and death of soldiers," they said. On an average one accident has taken place per week, internal data of the Army from 2014 to 2019 shows. There were 403 incidents between 2014 to 2019 due to which the Army suffered 27 deaths and 146 injuries.

A significant quantity of products was disposed off without completing shelf life due to poor quality.

Continued on Page 11

Yogi govt takes steps for payment of MSP to farmers for kharif crop

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to facilitate payment of minimum support price (MSP) to farmers for their kharif crop, the Uttar Pradesh government has allowed the purchase agencies to go for loan or credit from nationalised banks up to Rs 3,000 crore.

The purchase of paddy starts from October 1.

This decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held here on Tuesday.

"The Uttar Pradesh State Food Corporation has been entrusted with the task of purchasing paddy from the farmers at MSP. The government has authorised the SFC to go for either soft loan or credit up to Rs 3,000 crore at nominal interest," the state government spokesman said.

He said the SFC would act

as a nodal agency and provide money to the purchase centres.

"It will be the responsibility of the SFC to collect money and interest from the centres and deposit it in the banks," he said.

The decision is significant in the wake of protests by political parties against the recently enacted farm laws. The MSP is at the centre of the protests as the political parties say that the procurement agencies will not pay the minimum support price to the farmers.

In another decision, the state cabinet gave approval to build power and public works infrastructure for Greenfield Jewar Airport at Noida with its own resources. Earlier, the cabinet had decided to develop this infrastructure on PPP model. The international airport, the land for which has been given

Continued on Page 11

Sushant didn't die of poisoning, says AIIMS report

But flags lapses in Cooper Hospital autopsy report for leaving out details

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The five-member board of doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) led by Dr Sudhir Gupta entrusted to re-evaluate film star Sushant Singh Rajput's post-mortem and viscera reports has submitted its finding to the CBI and ruled out death by poisoning but raised certain doubts on the autopsy report conducted by the Cooper Hospital, Mumbai.

The report is big blow to those who were claiming that Sushant was first poisoned and then hanged. The CBI investigation has so far not found any evidence to substantiate the

murder theory. The AIIMS report has ruled out poison allegation, leaving it for the CBI to arrive at its own conclusion on the basis evidences, if any.

The AIIMS team submitted the report at CBI HQ. The CBI is probing the death case of Sushant and the agency is seeking to ascertain whether it was a murder or suicide.

"The AIIMS has submitted the report. The CBI is studying the report. The report is definitely a help in investigation but not mandatory in all sense. Certain doubts raised by the medical board towards Cooper Hospital and the previous investigation agency which we will try to answer and find out the facts. The job of the agency is to find facts which can stand court of law with evidence. But AIIMS medical report can't be ruled out completely," a top source said.

Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

SI HELD FOR SHOOTING FATHER-IN-LAW, LOVER

New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested its sub-inspector Sandeep Dahiya who allegedly shot at and injured his female friend here and later killed his father-in-law in Rohtak, officials said. "Dahiya was arrested from Sector-3, Rohini around 11 am by the joint teams of special staff, cyber cell and Lahori Gate police station," a senior police officer said.

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY MAY TURN 'POOR' BY FRIDAY



New Delhi: The national Capital's air quality was recorded in the 'moderate' category on Tuesday, while a government forecasting agency said it is likely to turn 'poor' by Friday. Delhi recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 177, which falls in the 'moderate' category. It was 159 on Monday.

Recovery rate up; CM bats for proper medical care

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With recovery rate in Uttar Pradesh breaching the 85 per cent-mark, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that his government was committed to providing better medical care to the people and would ensure that the patients did not face any problem.

Yogi directed that all Covid hospitals be equipped with adequate availability of medicines and medical oxygen.

Chairing an Unlock review meeting at Lok Bhawan here on Tuesday, the chief minister said that Covid testing should be aggressive and more high-risk groups should be scanned.

He asked the officials to give emphasise on strong surveillance mechanisms to control the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Yogi directed officials to link KGMU with hospitals of the Health department and SGPGI with medical institutes and medical colleges under Medical Education department through virtual ICU.

"It will help serious patients in receiving better treatment through specialists," he said.

The chief minister stressed that protection was the only remedy against COVID-19 till specific medicine or vaccine was developed. He said that mass awareness about precautions through various modes of communication should be continued.

Yogi said that eSanjeevani, the online OPD service, was quite useful and there was need to publicise it widely for benefiting a large section of



populace.

He also asked the officials that training modules of doctors and paramedics be continued and asked them to pay extra attention on Lucknow and Kanpur Nagar for ensuring better recovery.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said that the number of recovered patients was more than the fresh cases. He said that recovery percentage in the state had gone up to 85.34 per cent.

Prasad said that there were 52,160 active cases in UP while the number of recovered patients stood at 3.36 lakh.

The additional chief secretary said 1.60 lakh sample were tested and there were 25,399 asymptomatic patients in home isolation. He said as many as 3,647 patients were admitted in private hospitals, 108 were in semi-paid hotels while the rest

were in government-run Covid hospitals.

He said over 3.90 lakh surveillance teams had visited 1,25,065 areas of the state and 2.54 crore houses to check the health of over 12.64 crore people.

On Wednesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will inaugurate seven Level -2 Covid hospitals across the state and with this, all the 75 districts of the state would have Level-1 and Level-2, Covid hospitals.

On the occasion the chief minister would also launch a month-long drive wherein Health teams would visit homes to prevent vector-borne diseases like AES, JE, malaria, dengue, swine flu, kala azar, and chikungunya.

From October 1 to 15, ASHA Bahus would also enrol children and pregnant women who missed vaccines during the lockdown.

High alert across UP on eve of Babri demolition verdict

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government sounded a high alert across the state with a Special CBI Court in Lucknow set to announce on Monday its verdict on the demolition of Babri mosque in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

Special Judge of the CBI court, SK Yadav, will read out his judgement from 10 am in the presence of all 32 accused, mostly on virtual platform due to ailment of several politicians. However, some of them will be present in the court.

Sources disclosed that former deputy prime minister Lal Krishna Advani and former minister Murli Manohar Joshi have been exempted from court appearance due to their age. While Uma Bharti is afflicted by COVID-19 and recuperating in Bhopal, former chief minister of UP, Kalyan Singh, is recovering from COVID-19 and is presently in Ghaziabad.

Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, too is not well after recovering from COVID-19.

After 28 years of oft-derailed probe and trial, the process was completed this month. The CBI Special Court in Lucknow took up daily hearing of the case since 2017, following a Supreme Court order. The trial saw 32 surviving accused appearing before the court and recording their statements under Section 313 of the Criminal Procedure Code. All the accused pleaded innocence and claimed that they had been framed in the case.

Minutes after the Babri mosque demolition, an FIR (No. 197/92) was registered against unknown karsevaks under sections 395, 397, 332, 337, 338, 295, 297, 153A of the Indian Penal Code and Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act at Ayodhya police station around 5:15 pm on December 6, 1992.

Ten minutes later, a second



FIR (No. 198/92) was registered under sections 153A, 153B, 505 of the IPC against LK Advani, Ashok Singhal, Giriraj Kishore, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti, Vinay Katiyar, Vishnu Hari Dalmia and Sadhyi Ritambhara for delivering hate-and-provocative speeches.

In a curious move, the then government recommended a CBI probe into case number 197 but case No. 198 against the accused politicians was handed over to the CBI wing of UP Police.



Congress (left) and Samajwadi Party workers staging protest against Hathras gang-rape and the deteriorating law and order in the state, in Lucknow on Tuesday

On August 27, 1993, the state government shifted all the remaining 48 cases, including case No. 198, to the CBI for probe.

The CBI later filed a consolidated charge-sheet against 40 people in all 49 cases in a Special CBI Court of Lucknow on October 5, 1993.

Two years down the line, on January 11, 1996, the agency filed a supplementary charge-sheet against nine prominent people, taking the tally of the accused to 49.

Contrary to initial FIRs, the CBI in its charge-sheet came up with the argument of having concrete and irrefutable evidence to prove that the mosque demolition was the fallout of a larger and sinister conspiracy. It also came up with new names as accused, that included senior Bharatiya Janata Party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leaders.

The charge of criminal conspiracy under Section 120(b) of the

IPC was added against the accused.

However, a speedy trial started from 2017 and last month, most of the prominent accused, including Advani, MM Joshi, Kalyan Singh, Uma Bharti, Vinay Katiyar and Champat Rai (Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary) recorded their statements.

The trial in the case was completed in the first week of September after which the court fixed September 30 for pronouncement of the verdict.

Over the years, several accused have died, including Bal Thackeray, Ashok Singhal and Giriraj Kishore.

Meanwhile, the UP Police braced itself for the D-day and all districts and Indo-Nepal border were alerted.

ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said in Lucknow on Tuesday that all districts had been alerted in the wake of the verdict.



Pioneer

Youth slays neighbour's pigeons to avenge insult

Lucknow (PNS): Irked at being scolded by a neighbour for spitting in front of his house, a youth killed 11 pigeons of the neighbour in Baghpat on Monday.

The police later registered a case and were making efforts to arrest the accused.

As per reports, Rahul Singh had the bad habit of spitting outside his neighbour Dharampal Singh's house. Dharampal admonished Rahul on this score and reminded that spitting was prohibited in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

To avenge the 'insult', Rahul climbed onto the roof of his neighbour's house and bludgeoned 11 pigeons kept in a cage on Monday evening. Upon learning of the incident, Dharampal made a video of the dead pigeons and lodged an FIR against Rahul, who is on the lam.



NOTICE

I have changed my name from SHIEKA SINHA to SHIKHA SINHA in all future purpose SHIKHA SINHA D/O Mukesh Sinha R/o Flat No.708 Ratan Yogi Apartment-122/735, Shastri Nagar Kanpur.

NOTICE

Anshuman Srivastava son of Pushpendra Srivastava R/o 391 A Leela Niwas Rajendra Nagar, Lucknow has really lost his class 10 marksheet and passing certificate Roll No. 6496990 of 2017 ICSE.

NOTICE

Original registered sale deed dated 31.10.2002 in Zild no 1 page 181/204 on no. 1402 in the office of sub-registrar Jaswantnagar executed by Ram Prakash S/o Sarman Singh in the favour of Saroj Kumari w/o Ashok Kumar has been lost somewhere notice to be public to inform any person find the same document. And the claim regarding this property is negligible and assumed that the property is free from any charge claim & interest Upendra Kumar Gulab Bari Jaswant Nagar mo:-9756004196

Oppn bare fangs over Hathras rape victim's death

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Opposition parties upped their ante against the Uttar Pradesh government after an 18-year-old Dalit gang-rape victim lost her battle for life at a Delhi hospital on Tuesday morning.

Leaders of Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Samajwadi Party and social activists staged demonstrations to protest the incident and shame the government for being insensitive towards growing crimes against women.

On its part, the police cane-charged Congress workers during a demonstration in front of the GPO and arrested more than 50 party workers, including City Congress chief Mukesh Singh Chauhan. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra hit out at the Yogi Adityanath government over the incident.

Priyanka tweeted on Tuesday, "A Dalit rape victim died in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. For two weeks she struggled with life and death in hospitals. Incidents of rape in Hathras, Shahjahanpur and Gorakhpur have shaken the state." In another tweet, she again targeted the Bharatiya Janata Party regime saying: "No semblance of security for women in the state and criminals are committing crimes in the open. It is the responsibility of the UP government to provide safety to women."

Former chief minister of UP and Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati tweeted, "The news of the death of Dalit gang-rape victim of Hathras today is very sad. Government should provide all possible help to the victim's family and ensure prompt punishment to the culprits by prosecuting them in fast track court." In another tweet, she claimed "Even

daughters and sisters from other sections of society are not safe in the state. The government must pay attention towards it."

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed the death of the Hathras gang-rape victim a matter of shame for the country as well as for the governments and demanded the hanging of the guilty.

"The death of Hathras victim is shameful for the entire society, country as well as for all the governments. It's sad that so many daughters are being sexually assaulted and we have not been able to protect them. The guilty must be hanged at the earliest," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi. Samajwadi Party spokesperson Sunil Singh Sajjan said that the incident had once again exposed the deteriorating law and order in the state.

"The incident and death of a Dalit girl from Hathras is a matter of shame. The girl was brutally assaulted but the police registered a case of eve-teasing as the accused belonged to a higher caste like the chief minister. When pressure mounted, the police were forced to add sections in the case. Today the girl succumbed and the sole responsibility lies with the chief minister of the state. There is a nexus between criminals and those sitting in power; such incidents like Hathras bring shame to all of us," Sajjan said.

AAP MP and UP incharge Sanjay Singh hit out at the state government for "giving shelter to rapists" and asked why the houses of Hathras rape case accused were not bulldozed. He also demanded Rs 50 lakh as compensation to the family of the deceased and security to her family as they were being threatened by the sympathisers of the accused.

DG Prison for dedicated efforts to check virus spread among inmates

Lucknow (PNS): With the prison brass initiating several measures to check coronavirus spread and adopting guidelines for treatment of affected prisoners, Director General of Prisons, Anand Kumar, wrote to district authorities seeking dedicated efforts in combating the pandemic. In a letter to all district magistrates, district police chiefs and chief medical officers, Kumar, while acknowledging and appreciating their assistance and support in battling the menace in jails, said that there were some issues of concern which need to be flagged.

The DG said that guidelines clearly enunciate and predicate aggressive testing, tracing, isolating and treating strategy but in certain districts, the rate of testing of inmates was very low.

"You will agree that testing is the bulwark to combat and prevent infection spread. Asymptomatic carriers are the main reason for this. Only aggressive testing approach can offset the spread," he said. Kumar said that in some districts, inmates in temporary jails were sent to district jails without following prescribed testing protocols. "Later they tested positive, defeating the very purpose of temporary jails. The net result is an increase in the

number of cases in district jails," he wrote in the letter. The DG Prisons said that in some districts the administration declared barracks in jails as Level-1 Covid hospitals to treat asymptomatic inmates and deputed medical professional which worked wonders. "Ballia, Jhansi, Etawah and Basti jails are cases in point to buttress this fact. Almost 200 infected inmates in each of these jails recovered within 10 days without any casualty due to proactive and consummate efforts of the administration. If this practice is adopted in other districts, the purpose of containment will be better served. Transporting inmates to outside hospitals may be resorted to only on a need basis," Kumar asserted.

JK Cement LTD.

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NOTICE

It is hereby notified that Share Certificate No.56869 for 18 Equity Shares bearing Distinctive Nos.43236650 to 43236667 standing in the sole name of Vishindas Daswani of Mumbai issued by the Company is reported lost. Any objection for issuance of duplicate share certificate must be filed with the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which duplicate share certificate will be issued without incurring any liability for the said issue.

Place : Kanpur For JK Cement Ltd. (Shambhu Singh) Company Secretary

Date : 18.09.2020

Outsiders trying to resurrect Mathura dispute: Teerth Mahasabha

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Akhil Bharatiya Teerth Mahasabha, a body of priests of the holy city Mathura, has opposed the move to resurrect the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple-Idgah dispute in the city. The mahasabha said some outsiders were trying to ignite the trouble in the otherwise peaceful city and this issue was settled over five decades back through an agreement.

"Some outsider lawyers are trying to vitiate the peace and tranquillity of the holy city of Mathura. After the settlement of the Ayodhya dispute, they are free so they are now concentrating on Mathura," said Mahesh Pathak, president of the Akhil Bharatiya Teerth Mahasabha.

Asked about his political affiliation, Pathak said, "I am associated with the Congress and I belong to the family of freedom fighters and I am a religious person."

"The common man in Mathura and the Teerth Mahasabha are not in favour of the suit filed in a local court and the case should be dismissed by the court. As the situation obtains, we may also file application in the court for Mahasabha to be implored as a party in the dispute so that we may get an opportunity to put the

record before the court," Pathak said.

Pathak said, "Even Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, head of the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust, who is a native of Mathura, is not in favour of resurrecting the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Idgah dispute. He had said on record that the deity Ram Lalla was living in a makeshift temple in Ayodhya while Krishna Bhagwan idol is installed in a temple."

A civil suit was filed before the court of civil judge, senior division, Mathura on September 26 on behalf of child deity Bhagwan Shri Krishna Virajman, seeking the removal of the Shahi Idgah, adjacent to the Shri Krishna temple complex at Mathura. Ranjana Agnihotri, an advocate of Lucknow, has filed the suit.

The UP Sunni Central Waqf Board and the Committee of Management of Trust of Shahi Idgah have been arraigned as defendants in the suit. The suit seeks recovery of 13.37 acres of land situated within the area of the temple.

The suit claims that the trust, with the help of some Muslims, encroached upon the land belonging to Shri Krishna Janamasthan Trust and the deity, and erected a structure. The birthplace of Lord Krishna lies beneath the structure raised by the trust, the suit said.

It was also claimed that Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan, which is the governing body of the temple complex, entered into an illegal compromise with the Shahi Idgah trust with a view to grab the property in question.

The civil suit argued that the Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan was working against the interests of the deity and devotees and fraudulently entered into a compromise with the Committee of Management of Trust Masjid Idgah (Trust) in 1968 conceding a considerable portion of the property belonging to the deity and the trust.

The civil judge, Mathura, passed a judgement on the suit regarding the alleged "compromise between the Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan and the Trust" on July 20, 1973. The present suit has now prayed for "cancelling this judgement".

Meanwhile, Akhada Parishad based at Prayagraj associated with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has already given a call for starting a movement for liberating the Krishna Janmabhoomi.

According to Mahant Narendra Giri, head of the Akhada Parishad, the next meeting of the Parishad to discuss the Krishna Janmabhoomi issue will be held in Vrindavan on October 15.

King George's Medical University U.P., Chowk, Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh, INDIA - 226003
Re-E - Tender Notice

Notice No.: 195/G.A. Dated : 28-09-2020

Online Second Time E-Tender are hereby invited two bid system latest by the Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Medical Gas System, Pipe Line, outlet points of oxygen, Compressor Air, Vacuum and Nitrous Oxide etc. of **New Emergency Complex & Trauma Centre, Pediatric Department, Gastro Surgery, Centenary Hospital Phase-I, Covid-19 Hospital (Rheumatology and Orthopedic Surgery) Geriatric & Mental Health, Cardiology and CTVS, Surgery(NSB) Department Urology with Pulmonary Medicine and Gandhi ward, King George Medical University U.P. Lucknow.** The details of tender document will be available on e-portal website <http://etender.up.nic.in>

Registrar

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण अभियन्त्रण विभाग, प्रखण्ड-सीतापुर

पत्रांक 639 / ग्रा0अ0शि / टी0एण्ड पी0-नीलामी / 2020-21, दिनांक 19.08.2020

नीलामी सूचना लाट सं0-01

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्न विवरण के अनुसार निम्नोद्योग अनुपयोगी वाहन रजिस्ट्रेशन सं0-यू0एस0एक्स0-6702(ट्रक) एवं रोड रोलर की नीलामी जहाँ है जैसी है के आधार पर दिनांक-21.10.2020 को अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे होना सुनिश्चित की गयी है। नीलामी हेतु इच्छुक व्यक्तियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि नीलामी हेतु उपलब्ध वाहनों का अवलोकन निर्धारित तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व किसी भी कार्यालय दिवस में आकर कर लें। नीलामी से पूर्व सभी बोलीदाताओं से लाट सं0-1 हेतु यु0 139281.00 (एक लाख उन्तालिस हजार दो सौ इक्कासी) की धनराशि ड्राफ्ट के रूप में जो अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण अभियन्त्रण विभाग, प्रखण्ड-सीतापुर के पक्ष में बना हो बतौर जमानत दिनांक 20.10.2020 को 12.00 बजे तक प्रखण्डीय के शिपय के पास जमा करना होगा। नीलामी हेतु प्रशासन द्वारा जारी कोविड-19 के दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करना आवश्यक होगा एवं नीलामी हेतु बोलीदाता स्वयं अथवा उसके द्वारा कानूनी रूप से अधिकृत एक व्यक्ति ही नीलामी में भाग ले सकेगा इसके अतिरिक्त किसी अन्य को उपस्थित होने की अनुमति नहीं होगी। नीलामी के उपरान्त अधिकतम बोलीदाता को सामग्री का शत प्रतिशत मूल्य तथा उस पर लागू कर आदि जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। शेष बोलीदाताओं की जमानत धनराशि नीलामी के उपरान्त उसी दिन वापस कर दी जायेगी। समस्त बोलियों को निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी का होगा।

नीलामी स्थल-कलेक्ट्रेट सभागार उपखण्ड सीतापुर। लाट सं0-01

क्र. सं.	वाहन का विवरण	मेक माडल	संख्या	न्यूनतम आरक्षित मूल्य
1	U.S.X.-6702 (ट्रक)	1986	1 No.	173562.00(एक लाख तिरहतर हजार पाँच सौ बासठ)
2	रोड रोलर	1988	1 No.	105000.00(एक लाख पाँच हजार)
कुल योग			2 No.	278562.00 (दो लाख अट्ठतर हजार पाँच सौ बासठ)

ज0प्र0 155439, दिनांक-26.09.2020
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India

शाखा : बरार विश्व बैंक, कानपुर
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय : 117/14-1/240, पणनगर, कानपुर
प्रधान कार्यालय : 239, विधान भवन मार्ग, नारीमन प्वाइंट, मुंबई

कच्चा सूचना (अचल सम्पत्ति हेतु) [Rule-8(1)]

जैसा कि अयोध्यास्थानी वित्तीय आसियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के तहत यूनियन बैंक आफ इंडिया का प्राधिकृत अधिकारी होते हुये और उक्त अधिनियम की धारा-13 (12) संपटित प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) नियम 2002 का नियम-3 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए मांग सूचना अन्तर्गत धारा 13 (2) निम्न खाता धारकों आदि को जारी किया गया था, जिसमें नोटिफ प्रॉप्टि के 60 दिवस के भीतर देय राशि के अदायगी की अपेक्षा की गयी थी।

अप्री उपरोक्तानुसार अदायगी में विफल रहे हैं फलस्वरूप अप्री एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अयोध्यास्थानी ने उक्त अधिनियम की उपधारा (4) धारा 13 संपटित नियम -8 के तहत प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) अधिनियम 2002, में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए निम्नलिखित बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों पर निम्नलिखित दिनांक को कब्जा ले लिया गया है। अप्री एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्वारा सावधान्य किया जाता है कि, बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों से किसी प्रकार का समन्वयहार न करें। कोई भी समन्वयहार यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया, के अप्री रुपये एवं उस पर अनुबंधित दर पर लागू ब्याज आदि के भार के अधीन होगा।

अप्री का ध्यान बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों को मुक्त कराने हेतु उपलब्ध मियाद के संदर्भ में अधिनियम की उपधारा (8) धारा-13 की ओर भी आकर्षित किया जाता है।

बकायदार/जमानतदार का नाम/पता व बंधक सम्पत्ति/सम्पत्ति मालिक एवं मांग सूचना तिथि/प्रसवित कच्चा तिथि/बकाया धनराशि

बकायदार : मेसर्स जायसवाल इण्टरमार्किंग, पता : 74/33-बी, कलकतरान, कानपुर नगर, प्रोपराइटर : श्री प्रेम कुमार पुत्र श्री शीतला प्रसाद जायसवाल, निवासी : मकान सं. 110, एम.आई.जी. योजना, रतनपुर, कानपुर नगर। जमानतदार : श्री आकाश जायसवाल पुत्र श्री प्रेम कुमार एवं श्रीमती सुनीता जायसवाल पत्नी श्री प्रेम कुमार जायसवाल, दोनों निवासी : मकान सं. 110, एम.आई.जी. योजना, रतनपुर, कानपुर नगर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 23.12.2019, प्रसवित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 25.09.2020, सम्पत्ति : आवासीय सम्पत्ति सं. 110, एम.आई.जी. योजना सं. 1 में, रतनपुर, पनकी, कानपुर नगर। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्रीमती सुनीता जायसवाल पत्नी श्री प्रेम कुमार जायसवाल। क्षेत्रफल : 250.80 वर्गमीटर, चौदहरी: उत्तर : मकान सं. ई-156, 157/1550, दक्षिण : 18 मीटर चौड़ी रोड, पूरब : 12 मीटर चौड़ी रोड, पश्चिम : लाट सं. 111, मांग सूचना तिथि में बकाया धनराशि : रु. 48,54,997.74 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्चे

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Health dept to test 15 contacts of every patient in the district

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bid to strengthen contact tracing in Lucknow, 15 contacts of every Covid patient, instead of 10, will be tested for better containment.

CMO Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh said it would help cover gaps and ensure effective contact tracing. "This is our endeavor and we are also getting success to some extent with regards to what we have been doing so far," he said.

He said review of every aspect of containment activity such as surveillance, death audit etc is carried out even as people have become aware and reach out to the health department in case of symptoms.

On Tuesday, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash had a meeting with senior officials at the Smart City office and directed the teams out in the field to test pregnant women and senior citizens.

He also directed the officials to hand over the list of referred cases to rapid response teams. The DM said that mass testing should be carried out in areas with maximum cases.

The DM said a home isolation incentive should be appointed for every CHC to monitor the patients confined to their homes.

Meanwhile, a senior official at the Health department pointed out that 216 of those

532 more test positive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 532 people tested positive for coronavirus in the city on Tuesday while 788 patients recovered. The death toll stands at 700 while there are 7,259 cases are active cases in the district.

A senior official at the CMO office said those who tested positive included 48 from Indiranagar, 42 from Gomtinagar, 36 from Jankipuram, 32 from Aliganj, 28 from Talkatora, 22 from Chowk, 21 from Madaon, 20

who have died in the district so far have been females while 467 males. As many as 18,468 women have tested positive as against 51,659 men in Lucknow.

Meanwhile, with the pandemic still in full rage, KGMU is unlikely to begin liver transplant programme which it had been conducting successfully till recently. While media cell of KGMU said it has no information on the issue, a senior doctor said it was difficult to start the programme in view of the increased manpower required for Covid ICU beds.

"We have been asked to have 250 more ICU beds,

from Chinhat, 19 from Vikasnagar, 16 from Hasanganj, 15 from Cantt, 14 each from Thakurganj, Mahanagar & Rae Bareilly road, 13 from Alambagh, 12 from Ashiyana, and 10 each from Sarojininar & Hussainganj. There were 10 deaths in the district and the deceased included four from Lucknow while six from other districts. Four patients died at KGMU on Tuesday.

In the state, 4,069 persons tested positive, including 182 in Kanpur, 225 in Ghaziabad

and 246 in Varanasi, taking the total number of cases to 3,94,856. There were 63 deaths in the state, including five each in Kanpur, Gorakhpur & Varanasi, four from Hardoi, three from Etawah, two each from Meerut, Ayodhya, Mathura, Bahraich & Farrukhabad and one each from Prayagraj, Gautambudhnagar, Bareilly, Moradabad, Agra, Shahjahanpur, Maharajganj, Gonda, Bulandshahr, Sitapur, Bijnore, Amroha, Jalaun and Chitrakoot.

which means that each and every department of KGMU will be involved in Covid care. We are also running so many wards which requires a good number of staff. Also, the liver transplant programme requires a team complete with doctors and technicians, which is not possible at this time," he said. Meanwhile, KGMU achieved a milestone with 200th plasma donation at the department of Transfusion Medicine on Monday. Spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said the department is being selected as nodal centre to develop plasma banks throughout the state. "A total

of 180 patients have benefited from plasma therapy till date," he said. The first plasma bank in the state was inaugurated at KGMU on the occasion of the Independence Day. Doctors have always maintained that the patients have to be counselled and motivated to donate plasma. Besides, KGMU and Central Command HQ signed a memorandum of understanding on Monday. "The purpose is to provide a comprehensive and rehabilitative medical care for acute management of casualties among army personnel," the KGMU spokesperson said.

Stress on study of brain samples of Covid patients

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): Brain samples should be collected at places maintaining the brain bank of Covid patients to unravel the knots and to unravel the mystery of this novel infection.

This was stated by Dr PK Seth, NASI senior scientist and platinum jubilee fellow, Biotech Park, at a webinar on 'Mental health: Causes and management during Covid pandemic', organised by Indian Institute of Toxicology Research and Indian Academy of Neurosciences.

Seth said Lucknow is a hub of neuroscientists and stressed that both basic and clinical neuroscientists should come closer to work on different aspects of mental health, which is one of the major challenges in the present time.

IITR director Alok Dhawan welcomed the distinguished speakers and members who participated in the programme online. In his opening remarks, he said isolation affects mental health to a great extent but the behavior and response of the society due to mass isolation is a different ball game. Emphasising that mental state is very important and the fact that a healthy mind signifies a healthy body, he said that the webinar has been organised to understand the intricacies and follow steps so that isolation does not affect people and society as a whole.

CM: Mahakumbh-2025 in Prayagraj to be memorable

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After organising the highly successful Kumbh 2019 as 'Divya Kumbh: Bhavya Kumbh', the Uttar Pradesh government will make the next Mahakumbh in Prayagraj as a memorable one with exemplary arrangements and grandeur.

Making this announcement, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked the officials to start preparations for the 'Mahakumbh' falling in 2025 and directed that the development works in Prayagraj should be planned while keeping the next Mahakumbh in mind. He also directed the officials to observe 'Kalpas' in the coming Magh mela in Prayagraj as per Covid protocol. The CM on Tuesday directed the officials to expedite the construction work of Rajju Bhairya University in Prayagraj besides fast-tracking the Rs 1,600-crore Smart City Mission in the Sangam City. He also mentioned the parking woes in Prayagraj and laid emphasis on multi-level parkings in the city. He further pointed out that the construction of Lal Bahadur Shastri Homeopathic Medical College is lying pending since the last two and a half decades and should be completed fast.

The chief minister was reviewing the development projects of Prayagraj division comprising Prayagraj,

Kaushambi, Pratagarh and Fatehpur through video-conferencing. There are 30 mega-projects with a cost of over Rs 50 crore each in the division.

The CM also directed the officials to pace up the construction of the medical colleges of Pratapgarh, Kaushambi and Fatehpur in such a manner that the teaching may be started from the next session.

The CM insisted on following all Covid protocols. "Let us all understand it well that protection is the only option before us till some medicine or vaccine comes in the market," he said while asserting that the effective surveillance system and contact tracing can save many lives from Covid besides spreading mass awareness at every level.

Laying emphasis on maintaining the timeline of all the projects, he pointed out that the utilisation certificate should be furnished after physical verification of the project at the earliest. He asked for completion of projects in time but with no compromise with the quality of work. Complementing Prayagraj in construction of community toilets, the CM laid stress on 100 per cent geo-tagging of toilets constructed under PM Awas Yojana and CM Awas Yojana or Swachh Bharat Mission.

The CM asserted that the money meant for develop-

ment should not be used elsewhere, otherwise it would invite stringent action from the government. Generate jobs under MNREGS work and accommodate migrant labour as much as possible, he added. He also directed the officials to conserve water in every possible way saying there is an urgent need to revive and conserve natural water bodies, ponds and wells.

He said that the repair of roads should be undertaken on a war-footing after the rains are over. Make roads free of potholes before onset of festival season. The CM said that the paddy purchase centres should be set up wherever required as the paddy purchase season is commencing on October 1. he asked the officials to ensure that the farmers do not get the price less than the MSP.

The chief minister said that Rs one lakh crore have been earmarked to improve agriculture infrastructure. The setting up of FPOs and construction of warehouses and other storage facilities should be done on the priority basis, he added.

He directed the officials concerned to facilitate loans to the entrepreneurs to set up MSME units. He also asked the districts to showcase, develop and market the products under One District One Product (ODOP) in an organised manner.

Admission office inaugurated at LU

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University Vice-Chancellor AK Rai inaugurated the admission office at the CPMT building on Tuesday. The objective is to help students seeking admission to the university. Spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava said it's the first time that an admission office has been opened at the university.

"We already had the office of DSW and chief provost at this building and now we have the admission office which will have all the data. Students seeking admission can approach this office and do not have to waste time going at different points," he said.

Meanwhile, with repeated requests from candidates regarding re-arranging of choices filled in the ongoing online off-campus counselling



process of undergraduate and undergraduate management programmes, the VC has allowed the choices of all such candidates who have already locked their choices to be

unlocked so that they can re-arrange them till 3 pm on September 30.

The LU spokesperson said such candidates will not have to pay any fees for this process

as they are already registered. All the candidates are advised to give as many choices as they want, especially those who have secured lower ranks, so that they are not denied a seat. Thereafter, the allotment process will begin, result of which will be available on the login of candidates.

Meanwhile, Lucknow University is joining hands with MGNCRE and a formal MoU was signed by VC AK Rai and chairman of MGNCRE WG Prasanna Kumar on Tuesday through video-conferencing. The salient points of the MoU are providing the course curriculum developed by the institute to LU and providing the online course content to the students and faculty members of LU. A senior faculty member said that Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE) depart-

ment of Higher Education, Union Ministry of Education has taken the onus of strengthening the process of teaching and learning with institutional systems and processes.

"Also, as per NEP-2020 guidelines, there is a need of faculty members who can adapt to the rapidly evolving learning environment. MGNCRE is the fore-runner in various path-breaking activities including propelling Rural Entrepreneurship Development (RED) activities. Gandhi's thoughts on village self-reliance or Atmanirbhar Bharat focus on village economic activities would help in promoting entrepreneurship opportunities in manufacturing and marketing rural products and rural services and exploring models of art, craft for entrepreneurship, and for self-reliance," he said.

LSWA seeks refund of licence fees

Lucknow (PNS): A delegation of Liquor Sellers' Welfare Association (LSWA) met Principal Secretary (Excise) Sanjay Bhosreddy on Tuesday, demanding that the licence fee be refunded. LSWA media incharge Devesh Jaiswal said general secretary KL Maurya and treasurer Shiv Kumar Jaiswal handed over the demand letter to the principal secretary.

Maurya said LSWA urged the state government to refund the licence fees of sellers whose shops were closed during lockdown and also of those who have their shops located in containment zones. He said the sellers suffered huge losses due to lockdown and closure of shops located in containment zones. He expressed satisfaction on the state government's decision to exempt liquor sellers from mandatorily availing the quarterly quota of liquor.

Cab driver accused of harassing woman held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Police on Tuesday arrested a cab driver who was accused of harassing a beauty parlour owner on Monday. The woman had lodged a complaint against the accused on Monday night.

In her complaint, the woman had alleged that the cab driver started staring at her in the rear-view mirror and she objected. "However, he overlooked my reservations and played music in full sound while making amorous advances towards me," she alleged.

She further alleged that the driver had malicious intentions and that was why he played the music at high volume. "He probably wanted to suppress my distress calls," she said. I reached the parlour and hurriedly got

down from the car. Later, I informed the police," she said.

A police team worked on the case and the accused, identified as Kamla Shanker Mishra of Vishwas Khand in Gomti Nagar, was arrested.

FLOWER VENDOR HANGS SELF

A flower vendor was found hanging at his house in Hasanganj on Tuesday. As per reports, Raman Kashyap of Barauliya area in Daliganj did not wake up on Tuesday morning and his father Ramesh went to wake him up around 7 am but found the doors bolted from inside. As there was no response from inside despite repeated knocks and calls, Ramesh peeped through a slit in the door and found Raman hanging from the ceiling with a bedsheet tied around his

neck. He called the police and a team reached the scene. The police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation.

In another case, a 35-year-old man, identified as Ravi Gautam of Motiheel Colony in Bazaarkhala, was found hanging at his house on Tuesday morning. His family members rushed him to a private nursing home where he was declared brought dead. Wife Anamika told the police that Ravi had returned home in a drunken state the previous night and had dinner before leaving for his room.

"My mother-in-law woke up early morning and found Ravi hanging from an iron rod with a dupatta tied around his neck in the courtyard. Ravi was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead," she said.

DEFAUDED

A businessman accused his manager/cashier of misappropriation of over Rs 3.94 lakh in Gomti Nagar on Tuesday. In his complaint, Inder Kumar Narang of Alambagh said he has a garments showroom at Anand Plaza in Patrakarpuram locality of Gomtinagar. He said he had appointed Neeraj Pal of Alambagh as manager/cashier of the shop.

"During checking, I found that Neeraj Pal had prepared fake bills and usurped Rs 3.94 lakh. We ran the business in partnership and got the account audited. It surfaced that Neeraj Pal had done bungling in credit card sales. He failed to give an explanation and when he was asked to pay the difference of the cash, he refused," Narang alleged. A case was registered in this connection.



A survey of Shaheed Path and city roads will be carried out jointly by Traffic & Transport, departments, NHAI, Nagar Nigam to review illegal cuts, service lanes and free turns at crossings and the report will be submitted within a week. Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar held a meeting on Tuesday for smooth flow of traffic in the city and it was attended by DCP (Traffic) P Singh, additional municipal commissioner Rakesh Kumar Yadav, RTO RP Dwivedi and NHAI project director NN Giri

CDRI honours 3 young researchers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Central Drug Research Institute on Tuesday felicitated three young researchers for their contribution to drug discovery and development. The awardees included Bushra Ateeq, Surajit Ghosh and Ravi Manjithaya. They received the 'CDRI Award, 2020' for their contribution in unfolding the cancer knot.

With a view to promoting drug discovery and development research in India, CDRI had instituted the award in 2004 to promote scientific excellence in the country and to recognise the outstanding contribution in the area of drug research and development. The award is given annually to scientists below 45 years of age for



outstanding research work in the area having direct bearing on drug research and development. Bushra Ateeq is currently an associate professor at the department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, IIT-Kanpur, who has worked in the area of prostate cancer.

Surajit Ghosh's contribution in discovery of nuclear localising cell penetrating peptide (CPP) for anti-cancer drug paved the way for his award. He received the award in biological sciences for the development

of efficient cell penetrating peptides (CPPs) with tremendous implications in medicine. He is presently a professor in the department of Bioscience and Bioengineering at IIT-Jodhpur.

Ravi Manjithaya's work on chemical genetics which provides mechanistic insights and therapeutic potential paved the way for his award. He is presently working as an associate professor at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru.

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा**
Bank of Baroda

REGIONAL OFFICE :
118/330, GUMTI NO. 5,
KAUSHALPUR KANPUR - 12

Branch : Sarai Maswanpur, Kanpur

Possession Notice

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of 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 a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date
Borrower : Smt. Niraj Devi W/o Shri Narendra Kumar Gupta, R/o : 1/46, Nawabganj, Near Gyaneshwar Mandir, Katarjiyora, Kanpur Nagar. Demand Notice Date : 16-06-2020 • Date of Constructive Possession : 24.09.2020 Property : Residential House No. 1/46, Nawabganj, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Niraj Devi W/o Shri Narendra Kumar Gupta, Area : 126.788 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : House No. 1/44, South : 10 Ft. Wide Govt. Road, East : House No. 1/45, West : House No. 1/47 O/S Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 13,49,297.03 + Intt. + Others Charges
Date : 30-09-2020
Place : Kanpur
Authorised Officer

**A.N.G. IDEAL**
GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

पॉलिटेक्निक
Diploma In Engg.

Mechanical	Civil	Electrical
Electronics	Automobile	Computer Science

D. Pharma (AYURVEDIC)	Nursing (G.N.M.) (AYURVEDIC)
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B.C.A., B.Sc. (CS), B.B.A., B.Com. (H)
B.Tech. M.C.A. M.B.A.



Campus: 1- Saraytakki, Babatpur (Near Airport), Varanasi (U.P.)
Campus: 2- Saraytakki, Babatpur (Near Airport), Varanasi (U.P.)

08009354629, 07800542000
09936085516, 09621651920

Website : angidealgroup.in, E-mail : angidealgroup@gmail.com

BJP promised moon but delivered nothing: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Renewing her attack on the BJP Government Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said it seldom delivered on its promises and resorted to communal propaganda for the sake of publicity during the elections.

The Chief Minister who was currently touring North Bengal said those in the central Government “had promised many things but delivered nothing ...they did nothing for the tea plantation workers but when it comes to voting they would raise communal issues to derive publicity.”

Claiming that her Government had done more than it promised Banerjee said

“we have continuously performed. Despite having performed so well for the past one decade there is no publicity because we do not engage in communal riots... rather we are defamed and become victims of disinformation campaigns despite having worked hard for the people of this region whereas when the elections will come they will incite communal riots to get cheap publicity and votes.”

Earlier Banerjee had attacked the Centre for bulldozing the opposition voice in Parliament to pass a number of “draconian anti-people laws” like the farm bill and said the people would take account of that during the elections. Bengal will go to Assembly polls in May next year.

The Chief Minister on Tuesday promised the plantation workers their own houses in a few years’ time. “The Government will construct houses for the plantation workers in three years,” she said adding “those who had come and promised to you so many things have done nothing for you which can be proved by the condition of the plantation workers and industry here.”

Reacting to Banerjee’s statements Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said “our Chief Minister is a person who loves to beat her own trumpet... If she has worked well then it will be for the people to see and for them to recognize her services ... but here it is different. The Chief Minister is patting her own back.”

IMA demands health emergency in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Taken aback by the surge in the number of Covid-19 patients, the Indian Medical Association, the highest policy making body of modern medicine practitioners have asked the Government of Kerala to declare a state of “Health Emergency”.

Dr Abraham Varghese, president, IMA (Kerala) said in a statement to the Government that the situation in Kerala is precarious and requires stringent action and an awareness campaign. The number of cases diagnosed with Covid-19 on a daily basis is disturbing. But what is of more concern is the number of patients contracting the pandemic through social contacts,” said Dr Varghese.

The soft-spoken doctor has been cautioning the author-

ities about community transmission which was set long back in the State.. He said the Government should go for strict social controls and regulations to check the number of people crowding at public places and shopping centres. “Offices and business establishments could work with skeleton staff and there should be restrictions on the number of people who could gather in public or private places,” said Dr Varghese.

Though the official figures state that almost 58,000 people are under treatment in the State for Covid-19, Government doctors themselves say that the figure has crossed 2 lakh mark. “The IMAs studies prove that the situation in Kerala is getting worse by the day as shown by the spurt in numbers.

7,354 new cases in Kerala, 5,546 in TN

KOCHI/CHENNAI: As the Indian Medical Association’s Kerala branch demanded a state of Health Emergency in the State, the number of new Covid-19 patients shot up to 7,354 which include 7,036 patients who contracted the pandemic through social contacts.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who briefed the media after an all party meeting said that there were 61,791 persons under treatment in the State for Covid-19 on Tuesday.

Neighboring Tamil Nadu is gradually bringing down the number of cases on a daily basis without any fanfare. On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu diagnosed 5,546 new persons afflicted with Covid-19. A medical bulletin released by the Tamil Nadu Government said the number of patients in the State as on Tuesday were 46,281 while was well below that in Kerala. Tamil Nadu saw 70 persons succumbing to the dreaded disease during the last 24 hours.

Kerala, which had claimed that it tamed Covid-19 as early as May 8 is facing a precarious position. Malappuram district alone diagnosed 1,040 new patients while the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram diagnosed 935 patients. The Chief Minister blamed the Opposition, particularly the BJP for the State’s failure in countering the pandemic. Tamil Nadu tested almost 85,000 persons across the State while Kerala had to content with 53,000 persons.

PNS

WB reports 3,188 fresh cases, 62 more deaths




Kolkata: West Bengal on Tuesday reported 3,188 new cases of COVID-19, taking its tally to 2,53,768, as per a bulletin issued by the Health Department.

The COVID-19 toll rose to 4,899 after 62 more people died. Since Monday, 2,961 people have recovered, improving the discharge rate to 87.80 per cent.

There are 26,064 active cases in the state at present. In the last 24 hours, 43,769 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state, the bulletin said.

PTI



Government of Odisha

Office of the Executive Engineer

Rural Works Division, Jaypore

Bid Identification No. EERWJYP-Online-04/2020-21

O-407

Letter No. 4046

Date: 25.09.2020

e-Procurement Notice.

Name of the work

Total No of works

Approx. Estimated Cost

Class of Contractor

Period of Completion

:- Road Works

:- 02 (Two) No

:- 196.28 & 292.87

:- "B" & "A" Class of Contractor

:- 3 (Three) Calendar Months

Procurement officer	Bid Identifcat	No of works	Availability of tender online for		Date & Time of Opening of Tender
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rural Works Division, Jaypore	EERW JYP-Online-04/20-20-21	02 (Two) No	07.10.20 20 at 10.00 AM	20.10.2 020 up to 05.00 PM	21.10.2020 at 11.00 AM

For Details can be seen from the Government website: www.tendersarissoa.gov.in

OIPR-25160/11/0004/2021

Executive Engineer

Rural Works Division, Jaypore

DHFL DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED		
National Office: HDIL Towers, B-wing, 8th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051 Branch Office: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Noida, Thane (West) 400602.		
DEMAND NOTICE		
Under Section 13(2) of the securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) UNDER Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 the said Act. In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) the "said Borrower(s)", to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.		
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Loan Code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	PROPERTY ADDRESS
(LC No. 00003601 of Varanasi Branch) Siyaram Prasad Limited (Borrower) Ashish Kumar Singh (Co Borrower 1) Priyanka Singh (Co Borrower 2) Sushila Singh (Guarantor 1) Harish Chandra Singh (Guarantor 2)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 24162363/- (₹ Two Crore Forty one lakh Sixty Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Three) NPA (01-03-2020)	Arazi No 288 , Hasanpur Colony Mauza Mansaadih Pargana Dehat Amanat Varanasi Uttar Pradesh - 221001
(LC No. 00000602 of Bareilly Branch) Kiran Gangavver (Borrower) Deepak Gangwar (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 2396530/- (₹ Twenty Three lakh Ninety Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty) NPA (01-04-2020)	Part Of Khasra No. 133,138,139 Plot No. 4 Gram Sherpur Bareilly Bareilly Uttar Pradesh - 243001
(LC No. 00042828 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Devendra Pratap Singh (Borrower) Poonam Singh (Co Borrower 1) Rana Pratap Singh (Co Borrower 2)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 677158/- (₹ Six lakh Seventy Seven Thousand One Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA (01-04-2020)	Plot No.40, Part Khasra No.70 Vill-haseamul Pargana & Tehsil Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00042693 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Prem Chand Verma (Borrower) Pankaj Kumar Verma (Co Borrower 1) Jay Shree (Co Borrower 2)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 448104/- (₹ Four lakh Forty Eight Thousand One Hundred Four) NPA (01-04-2020)	Plot On Part Of Khasra No 290 Sa Vill Aurangabad Jageer Ward Raja Biji Pasi Tehsil & Distt. Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00000606 of Jhansi Branch) Nelson Masih (Borrower) Rechal Nelson Masih (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1708929/- (₹ Seventeen lakh Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (01-03-2020)	H.No. 296/2 Mauza Ganiya Gaon Block Babina Isai Tola Nr Kali Mandir Prem Nagar Jhansi Jhansi Uttar Pradesh - 284002
(LC No. 00003825 of Varanasi Branch) Kamlesh Singh (Borrower) Renu Radha (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 965533/- (₹ Nine lakh Eighty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Three) NPA (01-04-2020)	Arazi No 31, Mauza Madhwa, Pargana Shivpur Varanasi Uttar Pradesh - 221001
(LC No. 00008081 of Lucknow Branch) Kamta Prasad Gaudin (Borrower) Shiv Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1597961/- (₹ Fifteen lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty One) NPA (01-05-2020)	Plot No. 111 & Part Of Plot No. 130-A, Part Of Khasra No. 124 Sa, Uttarhauna Pargana Tehsil & District Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00007083 of Lucknow Branch) Mohd Natiq (Borrower) Shahabe Alam (Co Borrower 1) Hafiz Zaid Hussain (Co Borrower 2)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1924436/- (₹ Nineteen lakh Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Six) NPA (01-05-2020)	House No. 101/17, Al Bairuni Khandak Ward- Shivaji Marg, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. LUK31706 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Yogendra Nand Misra (Borrower)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 951932/- (₹ Nine lakh Fifty One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Two) NPA (01-02-2020)	H/Flat No.4-A, Floor No. 1st, Plot No. 326, Khoura Bangar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh - 208024
(LC No. PTM31740 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Subramanian Krishnamoorthy (Borrower)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1464115/- (₹ Fourteen lakh Sixty Four Thousand One Hundred Fifteen) NPA (01-04-2020)	H/Flat No.237, Floor No. 1st, Gulmohar Esate , Sector, P1, Greater Noida Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201308
(LC No. DEL36008 of Delhi - Safdijung Branch) Shoorveer Singh (Borrower)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1666291/- (₹ Sixteen lakh Sixty Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety One) NPA (01-04-2020)	H/Flat No.Flat No. M 301 B, Floor No. Upper Ground Floor, Plot No.41, Shalimar Garden Ex, Terlon 1, Village, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201005
(LC No. DEL36009 of Delhi - Safdijung Branch) Shoorveer Singh (Borrower)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 663296/- (₹ Five lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Six) NPA (01-04-2020)	H/Flat No. Flat No M 301 B, Floor No. Upper Ground Floor, Plot No.41, Shalimar Garden Ex Terlon 1, Village, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201005
(LC No. 00003507 of New Delhi Branch) Shankar Sharma (Borrower) Suneeta (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 142666/- (₹ Eleven lakh Forty Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six) NPA (01-04-2020)	Plot No: F- 395 Indraprastha Phase - 2 Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201102
(LC No. 00001438 of Lucknow Branch) Jai Prakash Pandey (Borrower) Urmila Pandey (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 483308/- (₹ Four lakh Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Eight) NPA (01-05-2020)	Plot No 15 Part Of Khasra No 106 Amrai Goan Ward - Said Bhagat Singh Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226001
(LC No. 00001752 of Ghaziabad Branch) R.K. Bricks (Borrower) Lokendra Verma (Co Borrower 1) Savita Verma (Co Borrower 2) Rajat Verma (Guarantor 1) Kunal Verma (Guarantor 2) Sohan Biri (Guarantor 3)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 6851359/- (₹ Sixty Eight lakh Fifty One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Nine) NPA (01-04-2020)	Plot No 28 Block D, Kaushambi Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201012
(LC No. 00000839 of Meerut Branch) Sangam Mail Private Limited (Borrower) Ajay Goel (Co Borrower 1) Gaurav Goel (Co Borrower 2) Manish Goel (Guarantor 1) Shashi Goel (Guarantor 2)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 661386/- (₹ Sixty Six lakh Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Six) NPA (01-03-2020)	Redential Cum Commercial Property No 369 & 370 Kishanpura Near Malviya Flyover Village Malviya Baghatp Road Meerut Uttar Pradesh - 250001
(LC No. 00001919 of Lucknow Branch) Deepak (Borrower) Poonam (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1374351/- (₹ Thirteen lakh Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty One) NPA (01-01-2020)	Property No. 630, Khasra No. 192/2, Vill Aurangshapur Goidah, Saraswati Vihar Phase-4, Pargana, Tehsil & District Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00009486 of Lucknow Branch) Zaid Agrotech Private Limited (Borrower) Syed Mohammad Mehdi Zaidi (Co Borrower 1) Syed Taqi Mehdi Zaidi (Co Borrower 2) Saeeda Asgari Fatima Zaidi (Guarantor 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 431597/- (₹ Forty Three lakh Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Four) NPA (01-03-2020)	H.No 450/187/1 On Plot No-51 & 52a.kh No 319(m),ramganj,hata Mirja Ali Khan Husainabad, Daultaganj Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226003
(LC No. 00002193 of Lucknow Branch) Amit Kumar (Borrower) Mrs Sobha (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1085779/- (₹ Ten lakh Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Nine) NPA (01-03-2020)	Plot No E 98 Khs No 189 Terakhas Pargana Tehsil Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226001
(LC No. 00005117 of Dehradun Branch) Tasleem Ahmad (Borrower) Mustkim Ahmad (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1805186/- (₹ Eighteen lakh Five Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six) NPA (01-04-2020)	Khasra No 178 Gha.khta No 1823 Situated At Mauza Majra Pargana Central Doon Dehradun Dehradun Uttarnchal - 248001
(LC No. 00004930 of Lucknow Branch) Jairam (Borrower) Rekha Devi (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1719181/- (₹ Seventeen lakh Nineteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty One) NPA (01-05-2020)	Semi Finished House On Plot No-96 D Khasrano66ka Mirjumla Kanchanpurnamtyari Ward Shaheed Bhagat Singh Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00005147 of Lucknow Branch) Til Bahadur Biswakarma (Borrower) Poonam Devi (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1506373/- (₹ Fifteen lakh Six Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Three) NPA (01-03-2020)	House On Khasra No 189 Minjumila Vill Bhagwant Nagar Ward Ibrahimpur Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00001828 of Kanpur Branch) Sita Ram Mathur (Borrower) Kunti Devi Mathoor (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1527520/- (₹ Fifteen lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty) NPA (01-04-2020)	Plot No. 119, Block W-2 Scheme No. 2 Unit No. S-2, Rudra Sai Residency Juhni Kanpur Kanpur Rural Uttar Pradesh - 208014
(LC No. 00006012 of Lucknow Branch) Dhruv Malhotra (Borrower) Madhu Malhotra (Co Borrower 1) Sabyam Malhotra (Co Borrower 2)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 11938402/- (₹ One Crore Nineteen lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Two) NPA (01-04-2020)	H. No S 90 On Plot No 23, Over Kh No 39 Gram-Bastauli(Shakingnari) Ward- Maithi Sharan Gupta Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00001574 of Greater Noida Branch) Omkar Singh (Borrower) Rekha Rani (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1083100/- (₹ Ten lakh Eighty Three Thousand One Hundred Two) NPA (01-03-2020)	Plot No-bh-261, First Floor, Sector-12, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, Up. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201009
(LC No. 00000033 of Saharanpur Branch) Anuj Kumar (Borrower) Guddan (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 2224008/- (₹ Twenty Two lakh Twenty Four Thousand Eight) NPA (01-04-2020)	Plot No 312 Khasra No-663, Near Shiv Mandir Wake Dara Pathanpura Punjabi Bagh Colony Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh - 247001
(LC No. 00003534 of Agra Branch) Jitendra Singh Sisodia (Borrower) Kamlesh Sisodia (Co Borrower 1) Pappu Singh Sisodia (Co Borrower 2) Rajesh Sisodia (Guarantor 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 1072101/- (₹ Ten lakh Seventy Two Thousand One Hundred One) NPA (01-03-2020)	House On Khasra On-2291 Roshan Vihar Colony Near Nagla Mohan Lal Mauza-naraich,tehsil-etampur Agra Uttar Pradesh - 282006

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 30.09.2020
Place : Uttar Pradesh
Sd/-
(Authorised officer)
DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

Prior registration must for outside farmers to sell in Haryana mandis

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Prior registration on a Haryana Government portal is a must for farmers from outside the State bringing their produce for procurement in government-run “mandis”, a senior State Government official said on Tuesday.

In the wake of reports that some farmers from neighbouring Uttar Pradesh were not allowed to sell their paddy crop at government-run “mandis” in Karnal district a few days ago, the official said there is no bar, but they will have to register themselves on a portal and then wait for a message before they are called.

Notably, the farmers have to register on “Meri Fasal Mera Byora” portal uploading their details and then every registered farmer receives an SMS when they have to bring their produce. The official, however, said that registration is mandatory for farmers looking to sell non-basmati varieties of rice.

“This time, we have decided that from October 5 onwards the outside farmers can also register and then we will also give them a schedule and call them,” Additional Chief Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, PK Das told PTI over the phone.

Asked to comment on the Karnal incident, Das said “those who are coming with basmati, we are not stopping them because the Government



does not have to purchase that”.

“But if you look at it, when we are telling farmers in Karnal and elsewhere that we will call them by sending SMS and only then they have to come to mandis with the produce, how can we allow farmers from outside to come and sell at procurement price (without registration on portal).

“If a farmer from outside the state goes to some miller directly for a private transaction, we have no objection. But for the paddy variety which the government purchases at MSP, what we are saying that we will do procurement, but farmers will have to come through the system,” he said.

Giving an example, he said if any mandi has a capacity to handle 4,000 tonnes and if 14,000 tonnes of crop arrives there because farmers are allowed to come without any registration “then there will be complaints that we are not handling it well and it is taking days to clear the mandis”.

“We have a better system in place whereby each and every

farmer is registered, he is mapped,” the official said.

“When we have put a system for Haryana’s farmers, we cannot give latitude to others,” he said.

Replying to a question, Das said that after the passage of the three agriculture-related bills, the existing mandi system and MSP mechanism will continue as before. “We will be procuring in government mandis as earlier. So, those who are going to sell to government mandis will come there. We procure paddy through the Arhitiyas (commission agents) and we pay them their commission, so there is no loss to Arhitiyas as far as the procurement quantity goes,” he said.

Farmer gets the MSP which is the highest available in the market, Das added. “As far as the farmer goes, even in the new law, MSP is the highest price available in the market, there is no loss to him. And if there is a better price available outside, the farmer gains if he goes there,” he said.

On some farmers alleging delay in paddy procurement in couple of the four districts, where it started four days earlier than scheduled date of October 1, he said this year in four districts Ambala, Kurukshetra, Karnal and Kaithal, some farmers brought their paddy produce to the mandi early.

Schools in AP to reopen on Nov 2

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Schools in Andhra Pradesh would be re-opened for the 2020-21 academic year on November 2, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced here on Tuesday.

“We wanted to open the schools on October 5, but in view of the prevailing situation, we have now decided to re-open them on November 2,” the Chief Minister told district Collectors during a video conference. Schools remained shut due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic in the current academic year.

The state government initially announced September 5 as the re-opening day and later deferred it to October 5. Though the Centre is yet to issue fresh guidelines on opening the schools fully, the Chief Minister set November 2 as the date.

The Chief Minister said the

‘Jagannanna Vidya Kanuka’ (Jagans Education Gift) would, however, be distributed on October 5 to all students.

A school kit, including uniforms, would be distributed to the students under the freebie scheme.

“If we distribute the kits on October 5, students can get them stitched and be ready when the schools re-open on November 2,” he said. The Chief Minister, who reviewed the progress of the ‘Mana Badi, Naadu-Nedu’ scheme, under which school infrastructure is being renovated, directed the District Collectors to step up the works.

Of the 15,715 schools chosen for renovation in the first phase, works were yet to begin in 153 schools, he said. Start the works immediately.The district Joint Collectors should monitor the works daily and ensure that they are completed in time,” Jagan added.

PM inaugurates ₹521 cr Namami Gange projects

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated mega development projects worth ₹521 crore in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission through video conference on Tuesday. He inaugurated a total of eight sewage treatment plants (STPs) including four in Haridwar, two in

Rishikesh and one each in Muni-ki-Reti and Badrinath. He also inaugurated the Ganga Avalokan Museum, the first of its kind on the River Ganga at Haridwar and the

new logo for the Jal Jeevan Mission. With the inauguration of the STPs, about 15.2 crore litres of contaminated water will not end up in the Ganga daily.

Modi highlighted the importance of keeping the Ganga clean as it plays a significant role in sustaining the lives of about 50 per cent of the country’s population from its origin in Uttarakhand till West Bengal. He termed the Namami Gange Mission as the largest integrated river conservation mission which not only aims at the cleanliness of the Ganga but also focuses on com-

prehensive upkeep of the river.

The PM said this new thinking and approach had made the Ganga return back to life. Had the old methods been adopted, the situation would have been equally bad today. Old methods lacked public participation and foresight, he added. Modi highlighted the fact that under Namami Gange, projects worth more than Rs 30,000 crore are either in progress or have been completed. He pointed out that due to these projects the sewage treatment capacity of Uttarakhand has increased four times in the last six years.

The PM listed the efforts taken to close more than 130 drains in Uttarakhand from flowing into the Ganga. He referred specially to the Chandreshwarnagar drain which was an eyesore for visitors and rafters at Muni Ki Reti in Rishikesh. He applauded the closing of the drain and the construction of a four storied STP at Muni Ki Reti. Modi further said that as it was experienced by the pilgrims at Prayagraj Kumbh, the visitors to Haridwar Kumbh would also experience the clean and pure status of the Ganga in Uttarakhand.

He said fragmentation of work- on an important subject like water- into various ministries and departments, led to lack of clear guidelines and coordination.

As a result, problems related to irrigation and drinking water continued to persist. He lamented that even after so many years of independence, piped drinking water has not reached more than 15 crore households in the country. Today, about one lakh households are being provided piped water supply connections every day under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

PTI

222 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has seen a big spike in corona cases on Tuesday when 222 new COVID-19 patients have been detected, increasing the total number of cases to 13,224. Besides, the district also saw three more deaths, increasing the toll to 216. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 186 patients and 185 of them were recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 8,728 and just one has been discharged from the hospital and the number of cured patients from the hospitals has reached 2,665. The total number of cured patients is now 11,393, leaving 1,615 active patients. The recovery rate has declined slightly to 86.15 per cent and the mortality rate remained at 1.63 per cent.

Meanwhile, on the instructions of District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, antigen and other testing continued at various government hospitals, community/primary health centres (CHCs/PHCs) apart from



Antigen testing being done at SSPG Hospital in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

UPHCs and other places. Hundreds of such tests were done at different hospitals and other places during the day while a day ago three persons were found positive out of 490 tests done at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, while four out of 370 at adjacent Government Women's Hospital, three out of 78 from Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, 10 out of 222 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and five

out of 260 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU). However, all the 61 tests were negative at Shivpur CHC, 28 at Konia UPHC and 13 at Shakkaghat, Telianala Prahlad Ghat and Rajghat.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day by 11 am, 171 positive patients were detected out of 4,189 received reports. Till then, the total test reports

received were 2,01,333 and the results of 4,875 are awaited. Out of them, 1,88,160 were negative, while 13,173 positive. The total number of samples collected was 2,16,473. Earlier, two males aged 48 and 55 and a female (45) from Assi, Bhatti (Lohta) and Khojwa (Bhelupur) respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at SSH BHU while a female (59) from Ishwargangi died at DDU Hospital. Besides, with the addition of eight new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,021 including 360 red zones. Seven green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 1,661 green zones with seven new ones. CMO has also informed that the Health department has distributed 10,224 ivermectin tablets to 1,278 persons. So far, 9,67 lakh tablets were distributed to 1.20 lakh persons and out of them, 7.76 lakh tablets to 97,097 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.

253 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

As many as 340 people defeated corona against 253 new Covid infected persons which were reported within the last 24 hours on Monday night. 53 people freed of infection were discharged from various Covid hospitals. At the same time home isolation of 287 people was completed. A corona-infected patient died, who hails from the neighbouring district of Fatehpur.

According to CMO Major Dr GS Bajpai, the number of corona infected has so far reached 18,913 in the district. Home isolation of 3,085 people was completed. As of Monday, 11,203 patients were treated at home under the Covid protocol and were infection free. 4,364 infected people were treated in Covid hospitals.

More than 3,300 Covid testing were conducted in the district on Monday. Instructions have been given that those visiting the vasectomy and other camps should be subjected to Covid testing. Not only antigens, RTPCR screening of suspects should be done.



On Monday, the district witnessed three health workers along with three advocates, an auditor and two bank employees to be infected with COVID-19. Five retired officers from various departments have also been victims of infection.

Twenty six infected patients were admitted to Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram in the district till 8 pm on Monday. Unani Medical College Himmatganj has 13, 31 in Railway Hospital, 68 in Beli Hospital, 39 in United Medicity, 30 in Sainath

Vatsalya AMA Hospital and 136 corona infected patients admitted in L3 SRN Hospital.

The corona-infected patient who died on Monday at a private hospital for treatment has been included in the district's figures. According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr. Rishi Sahai, the patient was brought to a private hospital in critical condition. He was a resident of Fatehpur. The relatives living in Kareli with him wrote their home address and got Covid examined.

In 24 hours, only one coro-

na positive patient has died while 253 new corona positive patients have been found. That is, now the number of corona patients is also coming down. The Health department as well as the city dwellers has breathed a sigh of relief. In such a situation, a little more effort is required to be aware of and to follow the rules of COVID-19 to avoid corona.

It is a matter of relief that now the number of patients getting healthy is being reported more than the corona infected.

The number of patients recovering after home isolation initiatives has increased. On Monday, 253 positive cases were received, while 340 patients were also corona free, in which 287 patients were in home isolation and 53 patients were discharged from Covid hospitals. The number of corona patients reached 18,913 and the number of recuperating patients is 11,203.

CMO Dr GS Bajpai said that the number of corona patients is decreasing. Everyone will have to make a collective effort to fight this pandemic, he added.

₹2.8 crore for handicraft development

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Ministry of Textiles has sanctioned ₹ 2.8 crore under the project for the integrated and inclusive development and promotion of handicrafts for the parliamentary constituency of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This was informed by the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) Ravi Kapoor while talking to the Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal and other officers at a meeting held through video conferencing on Monday. Agrawal had sent a proposal to the ministry during the lockdown period for the betterment of the handicrafts of the city and the same was passed in the meeting.

The project will give new life to the handicrafts in recovering from the recession in the handicrafts industry due to the lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic period and will benefit artisans of the city and its surrounding areas related to wood toy, stone, metal painting, pink meenakari, black crockery, jute wall hanging, claw carving and glass beads.

Kapoor directed to start work under the project immediately after Dussehra under the supervision of DC. Later, Agrawal has nominated Joint



DC Deepak Agrawal holding a meeting in Varanasi on Monday

Pioneer

Commissioner (Industries) Umesh Kumar Singh as the nodal officer. While explaining in detail about the project, Agrawal said that modern toolkits will be made available to 2,000 handicrafts and 1,200 craftsmen will be covered by various training programmes. A two-month training in 'Design and Technical Upgradation' and 'Craft Skill Upgradation' and a five-day 'Soft Skill Upgradation' workshop will be organised. Apart from this, catalogs will also be prepared and publicised by photographing the products of handicrafts. The entire duration of the project is six months.

Meanwhile, while review-

ing the progress of the major projects in the district at a meeting, the DC has instructed the senior officers to make physical verification of progress, instead of depending on their subordinates. He also directed them to monitor daily progress and if required, increase the number of workers to ensure completion of projects in time. According to him, at Khirkhiya Ghat, the possibility of construction of a helipad is also being seen. He gave the deadline to complete the Rudraksha project by December 15 as the chairs for its auditorium are being brought from Kolkata.

Expressing displeasure over the slow pace of Godowlia

two-wheeler parking construction, he said that the same should be completed by December.

According to him, the work of Chetganj Fire Station, State Livestock and Agriculture unit, gate and boundary construction of Nateshwari Bhawani Temple, Sewage Treatment Scheme and Water Supply in Trans-Varuna areas and Multipurpose Seed Store Centre in Jansa have been completed. Besides, the progress of about 100 projects including national highway construction, bypass ring road phase-2, Lahartara-Phulwaria project, Panchkoshi to Nakai road, construction of driver training centre, IPDS works, various ponds like Nadesar, Chakra and Sonbhadra, beautification works, revitalization of ghats and redevelopment works of the road junction of the city were also reviewed point-wise.

DC said that there will be no compromise on quality as the government has zero tolerance towards corruption and in any case of laxity, action would be taken against the concerned officers and concerned contractors would be blacklisted. District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma and senior officers of various departments were also present.

House of sharp-shooter Rashid bulldozed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Prayagraj Development Authority bulldozed yet another property of Atique gang's sharp-shooter Rashid on Beli Road of the city. This property was raised on state land, if the officials are to be believed.

Women residing there opposed the demolition act tooth and nail, but added deployment of women police compelled them to vacate the premises for allowing the bulldozers and JCB machines to complete the task. Under pre-planned strategy women residing there refused to come out and started raising slogans against the government. The police officials asked for increasing the number of women police constables and



officials at the site, and later the women police succeeded in bringing the situation under control. After coming out these women sat on a dharna on the

road, but were removed from there after some time.

The PDA had pasted a demolition notice on the above building much earlier and the

family members of Rashid were quite alert. Only women and children were residing there to deal with the situation. They were pleading that the officials were denying them of right to shelter. The same point was raised by the Samajwadi Party leader Richa Singh when the house of Atique Ahmed was pulled down in Chakiya area of the city.

The officials are of the view that action will continue against illegal and unauthorised construction raised using muscle and gun power. Till today 13 properties of Atique Ahmed and his near and dear ones have been demolished, and over 10 have been put under seal. This Beli Road action was the fourth in a row on shooters and contract killers of the Atique gang.

Hindi is definition of national pride & self-respect: NCR GM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Rajbhasha Pakhwara closing ceremony and seminar was inaugurated by the General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry at North Central Railway Headquarters by garlanding Goddess Saraswati and lighting the ceremonial lamp. Addressing the officers and staff present in HQ and those connected through video conference, Chaudhary said that Hindi is definition of national pride and self-respect. Hindi is also a symbol of the national values that we have inherited from our rich heritage and national movement. For these reasons, Hindi reflects the sense of unity in diversity as the lingua franca of the entire country. Hindi is now being used in different mediums of information technology and its use is spreading rapidly. The area under North Central



NCR General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry

Railway has been the birthplace or workplace of well-known Hindi writers and Hindi has rich history in this area.

Chaudhry while expressing his views on Gandhiji's life,

deeds and philosophy said that Hindi is the real symbol of Mahatma Gandhi's swaraj. In North Central Railway, the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi has been celebrated as

Community Service Day and it was organised as a mission called 'Swachhata Hi Seva' from September 11 to October 2 last year. Through various sanitation works and programmes to be organised on October 2, 2020 we are taking steps on the call of the Prime Minister to move towards the nation dreamed by Mahatma Gandhi. The GM said that notable works are being done in spreading the use of Rajbhasha in North Central Railway. Our offices are implementing it in their internal functioning as per the Official Language Act and special attention is being given on compliance of Section 3 (3) and other important guidelines on use of Hindi. He also informed that work done by North Central Railway in promoting use of Hindi has been appreciated by the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.

Protest against Hathras gang-rape case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Annoyed with the death of Alledged Hathras gang-rape victim during the treatment, the women and girls in scores on Tuesday came on the road at Beerbhanpur village in Mirzamurad here demanding stringent action against the accused.

It may be said here that on September 14 last, four youths, said to be of upper caste, allegedly gang-raped a teenaged dalit girl at a village in Hathras district. The youths also made a murderous attack on her. The victim lodged a complaint with local police that arrested all the accused. In the serious condition, the

victim was admitted to a hospital in Aligarh and kept on a ventilator.

When her condition became more critical, she was rushed to a hospital in Delhi where she succumbed to injuries during the treatment on Tuesday morning.

Angry with her death during the treatment, the scores of women and girls of the above mentioned village gathered at Panchayat Bhavan in the village and staged a demonstration under the banner of an NGO Lok Samiti. They also took out a rally by tying black ribbon on their mouths to raise their protest against the incidents like violence against women, eve-

teasing with teenagers and rape.

They said that they will not sit silent against such heinous crimes against women and girls and demanded the government to provide security to women and girls. They will also not tolerate such incidents and demanded, the government should take initiatives to stop eve-teasing, rape and violence against women.

The accused of Hathras teenage gang-rape victim should be hanged to death, they demanded adding, the state government should also give compensation to her family besides, a government job to a family member. The inci-

dents of violence against women have risen in the state and the government should take stringent action against the miscreants, they demanded further.

The programmes such as street play, rally, public meeting and signature campaign would be held to generate consciousness among villagers about violence against women, they said adding, now the time has come that the women and girls themselves should take responsibility of their safety instead of being dependent on police.

Anita Patel, Soni, Asha, Saroj, Madhubala and many others joined the demonstration and rally.

Painting contest on cleanliness held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the ongoing 'Cleanliness Fortnight' being organised on the instructions of the Ministry of Railways, a painting competition was organised for school-children under 'Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW)' here on Tuesday. During the fortnight the entries of painting competition on the subject of COVID-19 and sanitation were invited online from the schoolchildren from the families of DLW workers. The contest was divided into two categories, for students up to Class V and above. A large number of entries were received in this painting competition in which the children have brilliantly highlighted the



A painting of a child on cleanliness at DLW in Varanasi on Tuesday

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importance of cleanliness during the COVID-19 pandemic period through their imagination. The result of the competition will be announced later, informed CPRO Vaibhav

Sohane.

Earlier, under the fortnight, 'Clean Water' and 'Clean Lavatory' programmes were organised in DLW a day ago. Under the 'Clean Water' pro-

gramme, major sources of water harvesting, water installations, filter plants, drains for water supply, etc. were specially cleaned in the entire campus. In addition, special cleaning of RO purifiers and other filter machines installed at various locations was ensured. Also, special attention was paid to rain water harvesting systems installed throughout the campus.

Under the 'Clean Lavatory' programme, extensive sanitation of public toilets located in the entire campus including offices, workshops, hospitals / health centres and rest houses was done and water availability was ensured in all the lavatories.

During their inspection, satisfaction was expressed by the concerned authorities.

3 killed in separate road mishaps

ALLAHABAD (PNS): Three people including father and son were killed in two different road accidents which took place in Prayagraj district from late Monday night to early morning on Tuesday. Three people including father and son were killed in it. The bike-borne father and sons died on Tuesday morning due to a collision with a tractor trolley at Badraha intersection in Karchana. The bike was hit by a dumper before it collided with a tractor trolley. At the same time, a farmer died after being hit by a tractor trolley under the Tharavai police station. This accident happened in the late night of Monday.

Chhoteylal (55), a resident of Chandapur Amilia village under Koraon, was ill for several days. Chhoteylal along with his son Panchraj (22) was in the city in the morning on a bike to take medicines. While they were trying to overtake a dumper running forward near the Bardaha intersection of

Karchhana met with an accident. The dumper hit the bike from the side. This led to Panchraj's lost his control from the bike and rammed into the tractor trolley going forward. Nearby people reached the spot and caught the dumper and tractor driver. Pancharaj died on the spot, while Chhoteylal was breathing then.

On receiving the information, the police rushed to the spot and took Chhoteylal to the Community Health Centre, where doctors declared him dead. The police got some papers from the bike and Panchraj's pockets, through which information was conveyed to his relatives. Karchhana Inspector said that the dumper and tractor driver are being interrogated after being taken into custody. So far the relatives of the deceased have not given written complaint. Further action will be taken after filing a report on the basis of the written complaint to be handed over by the kins

of the deceased. Meanwhile, in Kusugur village under the Tharavai police station in the district, the farmer died after being hit by a tractor trolley. Paras Nath Yadav, a resident of Kusugur village, left his house at around 1 am on Monday night to relieve himself. At the same time, an uncontrolled tractor trolley laden with clay running from the village route hit Paras Nath. When he fell on the ground, the tractor trolley knocked him down by crushing him. Hearing the scream, the family members and villagers reached there. The villagers rushed and caught the tractor trolley. After beating him, handed him over to the Tharavai police which reached there on being informed by the villagers.. Paras Nath, 66, was a farmer and he is survived by four sons.

KILLED: In a sensational incident, a Divyang (differently abled) youth was hacked to death by some unidentified miscreants on Monday night in

Semraha village under the Karchana police station in Prayagraj district. The Divyang had gone to guard the farming. The incident took place at bedtime. The murderers hit the Divyang youth with an axe on his chest. On receipt of information, police reached the spot and inspected the scene of the incident. The cops questioned the family members and villagers in this connection. The police are investigating but failed to find out any clue of the killers who are still at large. Sunny son of Jalu Nishad, resident of Semraha village in Karchhana is a Divyang. On Monday night, after having dinner, he went to guard the field. He was asleep at night. Meanwhile, some goons reached there and attacked Sunny's chest with an axe. When suddenly they assaulted, Sunny started screaming and shouting loudly. Hearing the screams, the attackers escaped from the scene until the villagers reached there.

Lab technicians protest non-payment of salaries

Covid sampling, testing work hit in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Dozens of lab technicians engaged in rapid response and contact tracing teams went berserk on Tuesday. They struck work and staged a massive demonstration at UHM Hospital in protest against non-disbursement of their salaries for the past two months.

Hearing about the ruckus in front of the Covid Control Room, Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil Mishra made a futile attempt to pacify the protesting lab technicians.

The protesters said due to non-receipt of salary for the past two months, it was very difficult to sustain their families. They said despite apprising the officials about their woes several times in the past, no solution had come so far, forcing them to resort to protest.

According to reports, around 100 lab technicians engaged from outsourcing refused to visit the allotted areas on Tuesday morning. This greatly affected the sampling and Covid testing work.

On being informed about the demonstration, Chief Development Officer Mahesh Kumar along with Dr Anil Mishra held a meeting with the lab technicians at the UHM Hospital conference room and assured them of early release of



CDO and CMO hold meeting with agitating lab technicians at UHM Hospital conference room on Tuesday.

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their salary.

However, the officials failed to give any satisfactory reply on the delay in disbursement of salaries to the lab technicians.

Kumar, while talking to the irate lab technicians, said it was their devotion which had helped in containing the spread of coronavirus.

"The number of coron-

avirus infected people has started coming down during the past one week. The state administration has also praised the efforts of district officials for this. Keeping all this in view, it is not good to resort to such types of agitation," he added.

Talking to media persons, Kumar denied any agitation by the lab technicians. He said

they went berserk due to delay in release of work order. He said all the lab technicians were engaged in his RRT Plus Team and were doing their work satisfactorily.

Kumar said under a scheme, technicians would be given incentive of Rs.500 for collecting samples beyond the given target.

182 more test positive

KANPUR (PNS): Kanpur Nagar reported 182 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday evening.

According to a report 182 more people testing positive between Monday evening and Tuesday evening, the tally of the confirmed coronavirus cases in the city had surged to 24827.

With 355 COVID-19 patients being discharged in the last 24 hours, 20,768 infected people had been cured in the city.

Five COVID-19 deaths were reported till Tuesday evening, taking the death toll to 649. At present 3410 active cases were undergoing treatment in the city.

KESCo workers take out procession

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of KESCo officers and employees took out a torch procession from Bijli Ghar, Parade Crossing, on Monday evening in protest against the privatisation of their company.

As the power staff marched to the KESCo headquarters, the additional city magistrate (ACM) received their memorandum at the MG Crossing. Speaking on the occasion, Vidyut Karmachari Sanyukta Sangharsh Samiti spokesperson Vijay Tripathi said with the privatisation of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam, the services of its employees would be affected.

He said the private company would provide electricity to commercial and industrial consumers on priority to earn more revenue as was being done in Noida and Agra.

Tripathi said the private company would not provide electricity to any consumer at less than the cost price.

He said the UP Power Corporation Limited was providing electricity to farmers and the below the poverty line (BPL) consumers having a monthly consumption up to 500 units, by sustaining loss, but after privatisation, these consumers would have to pay between Rs.8,000 and Rs.10,000 per month for electricity consumption.

Tripathi alleged that Torrent Power Limited was "looting" the consumers in Agra by violating the prescribed terms and conditions.

He said the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) team had also unearthed the financial scam of Torrent Power Limited but no action had been initiated against the private power distribution company. The Vidyut Karmachari Sanyukta Sangharsh Samiti spokesperson said the decision of the state government to privatise the UPPCL discoms was not in the interest of its employees and consumers. He said if the proposal for privatisation of discoms was not withdrawn, the power employees, junior engineers and engineers would strike work for three hours every day from Tuesday and go on complete strike from October 5. Prominent trade union leaders present in the procession included Vijay Tripathi, Ashwani Chaturvedi, BK Awasthi, Vishnu Pandey, Gaurav Dixit, Shiv Kumar Gautam, Shambhu Singh, Sonu Tewari and Sanjay Sonkar.

He said there was no denying the fact that the majority had zero tolerance towards any kind of harassment at the workplace, which must be at the core of all organisations.

He said everyone must ensure the safety of women, organise seminars and workshops that help foster awareness and dispel discriminatory or predatory mindsets at the workplace.

He said there was no doubt that women were breaking through ranks, shattering the proverbial glass ceilings of dogma and bias.

He said equal opportunities of growth and promotion that completely cleansed corporate policy of any discriminatory bias, providing an inclusive and meritocratic platform of progress for all, required a larger shift in mindset of employers.

Other speakers were nodal officer Pawan Srivastava, and Ratan Srivastava. They shared information about the Act and the procedure to file complaints under it.

DM's directive to ACMO

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel has directed the officials concerned to keep a close watch on Corona patients who were under home isolation. At a meeting held at Covid hospital located in Trauma centre in district hospital on Monday, the DM directed the ACMO to remain updated about each patient, especially those who were in their houses and under medical observation. He said details of such patients like temperature, improvement observed, medicines and treatment should be taken. He made it

clear that such patients should be brought to Covid hospital without inordinate delay if improvement was not as per expectations. The DM was



apprised by the ACMO that out of 1,05,510 tests, report of 1,03,105 had been received and 22 cases were found positive on Sunday. The meeting was attended by ADM UP Singh,

SIC Alok Kumar apart from other officials concerned.

BODIES FOUND: The Kachhawan police recovered two bodies at Baraini Ghat of Ganga on Monday. One of them was identified as of Vinay Sahu, son of Siya Ram, a resident of Ratanganj under Katra Kotwali police station, who had jumped into Ganga from Shastri Bridge two days ago. The second victim was identified as Shivam, a resident of Baraini village under Kachhawan police station, who had drowned at very that place. After recovering the bodies the police sent their bodies for the post-mortem examination.

RPF personnel honoured

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Director General, Railway Protection Force (RPF), Railway Board, Arun Kumar honoured officers, inspectors and Force members in the RPF, NER, with the DG's insignia disc and commendations for their outstanding service in the year 2019. In addition DG honoured officers, inspectors and Force members of NER with commendation certificates for their highly praiseworthy work done in view of Covid-19. These awards were presented by Principal Chief Safety Commissioner (PCSC), RPF, Atul Kumar Srivastava, to all officers, inspectors and members of the Force, which is a matter of pride for the NER's Safety department. DG, RPF, Railway Board, Arun Kumar, honoured NER's Security department's Senior Divisional Security Commissioner/

Lucknow, Amit Kumar Mishra, inspector, Crime Intelligence branch, Gorakhpur, Dashrath Prasad, S-I, Siwan, Ram Vilas, S-I, Varanasi, Sudhakar Tiwari, ASI/Varanasi, Virendra Kumar Chaubey and constable, Reserve Company, Gorakhpur, Ramendra Singh, with DG's insignia disc and commendations for their outstanding service in the year 2019 and for most praiseworthy work in view of Covid-19 Ravi Shankar Singh, Assistant Security Commissioner, RPF, Gorakhpur region, Abhay Kumar Rai, inspector, Crime Intelligence Branch, Praveen Kumar, inspector, RPF post, Gonda, Narendra Kumar, inspector, RPF post, Basti and Manoj Kumar Singh, inspector, RPF post, Gorakhpur Cantonment with commendation certificates. These awards were presented by PCSC RPF AK Srivastava to all officers, inspectors and members of the Force.

Arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Shubham Singh Barhaja, a President of Jai Nagar under the Barhaja police station area of Deoria, who carried a reward of ₹25,000 on his head was arrested on Monday night. He was surrounded by Cantt police near Ramnagar Karjahan under Khorabar police station while he coming from Deoria side. He tried to flee by firing at police but was given a hot chase and was caught along with a motorcycle. On frisking him a 315 bore pistol was recovered from his possession. Reports said that Shubham Singh had been dodging the police for the past seven days. CO Cantt Sumit Shukla said that a case of attempt to murder and under Arms Act was registered against Shubham at the Cantt station. He said that Shubham tried to escape by firing on policemen, but was given a chase and was caught along with the motorcycle.

Virtual meeting of Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

A virtual meeting of the Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti, Gorakhpur, was held under the presidentship of Additional General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER), Amit Kumar Agarwal, on Monday. Addressing it Agarwal said the month of September was very important for the Central Government establishments from the point of view of use and spread of Hindi. On the occasion of 'Hindi Divas' on September 14 all Government of India establishments were organising Rajbhasha Week/Rajbhasha Pakhwada in their respective offices. He said due to coronavirus pandemic they were not able to sit together and discuss but during this time despite being far were still present to communicate through virtual means.

This innovative experiment according to the time has also provided a new opportunity to work with full transparency through e-office. Now it was necessary that we all prepared ourselves mentally to work on e-office. There may have been some difficulties in the initial phase, but with continuous efforts we are being able to do our tasks more efficiently, he said. He expressed the hope that work in all offices was also being done through e-office. The official language has also made considerable progress in this direction. New tools have also been made available for working in Hindi, due to which working in it has now become simple and easy. Under Article 351 of the constitutional provision related to official language, Hindi, it was the responsibility of the heads of the department to increase its use and ensure its spread in the offices. It should be ensured that the report was received on time, he said. The officers should note that their half-yearly reports were sent to the committee office at the scheduled time. Also quarterly reports should be regularly posted on the Rajbhasha portal of the Ministry of Home

Affairs so that they could be reviewed properly, he said. Earlier Chief Rajbhasha Officer and Chief Mechanical Engineer Arvind Kumar Pandey welcomed everyone and said that there was a provision to hold two meetings of this committee in a year whose calendar was scheduled in April and September. However, the meeting scheduled to be held in April could not be held due to Corona pandemic. He expressed the hope that official language-related programmes must have been organised in all the offices. "Being located in 'A' area we all have a moral obligation to work in Hindi and encourage our subordinate employees to work in it," he said. Deputy Director, Rajbhasha, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ajay Malik, directed officers and employees to work in accordance with the policies of the Rajbhasha as well as send timely reports to the



Ministry of Home Affairs. During the meeting suggestions of members of the committee were sought by the rajbhasha officer. Deputy General Manager/ General and deputy chief Rajbhasha officer Omkar Nath Singh while proposing the vote of thanks said that due to Corona pandemic doing all official work online through e-office has now become the need of the hour and everyone was doing it through it with full readiness. The decisions taken in this meeting should be implemented in the respective offices and reports should be sent on the portal of the Ministry of Home Affairs on time as well as to the committee offices, he said. While conducting it Rajbhasha Officer Dhruv Kumar Srivastava informed the members about compliance status of key decisions of the minutes of previous meeting. Besides Deputy Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Rajbhasha Department, Ajay Malik, the meeting was attended by principal heads of department, heads/representatives of Central Government offices, corporations and enterprises located in Gorakhpur city and officers and employees of Rajbhasha department.

Webinar held during cleanliness fortnight

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The Swachhta Pakhwada is being observed from September 16 to 30 on the entire Indian Railways. Under it a webinar was organised under the presidentship of AGM Amit Kumar Agarwal at headquarters, Gorakhpur, on Monday. The webinar was virtually joined by 55 officials, including principal heads of various departments, heads of the department, ADM of divisions. AGM through the webinar emphasised on the importance of cleanliness in protection from Covid-19. He appealed to railway workers, railway passengers and railway personnel to imbibe the practical steps which can be adopted for protection from Covid-19. Agarwal said that the Railways organised the cleanliness fortnight from September 16 to 30 every year during which scheduled programmes like intensive cleaning of tracks, trains, toilets, stations, depot premises, water points, canteens and other work places was ensured. Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/ ENHM AP Pandey

and BN Chaudhary ACMS/Izzatnagar division made a presentation on the topic, 'Contribution of cleanliness in prevention of Covid.' Other speakers gave information about the use of masks for prevention of Covid, its reuse and its safe disposal and proper way to sanitise the hand. They also informed about the process of properly sanitising the surfaces that ones come in contact again and again. Apart from it the work being done by the NER for protection from Covid was also included in the lecture. Chief Rolling Stock Engineer/Coaching Yogesh Mohan conducted the proceedings during the webinar. In the same sequence under the fortnight various cleanliness programmes were conducted under the supervision of the designated officers at Izzatnagar, Lucknow Junction, Basti, Gonda, Badshahnagar, Khalilabad, Mankapur, Anandnagar, Balrampur, Barhni, Bahraich, Budhwal, Babhan, Gomtinagar, Jarwal Road, Lucknow City, Mahmudabad Nawad, Maskanwa, Nautanwa, Aungarh, Sitapur, Aishbagh stations etc were ensured besides and availability of water and its drainage there. On the other hand, plantation and cleanliness was carried out under the supervision of all the branch officers at all stations and offices under Izzatnagar division. Meanwhile such cleanliness programme will be run continuously till September 30, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

followed during all sanitation programmes. In Varanasi division under the supervision of designated officers under the cleanliness programme under the 'Clean Food' cleanliness was ensured at food stalls, Jan Aahar centres at various stations etc. In Lucknow division under the 'Clean Toilets' programme under the supervision of the designated officials cleanliness at toilets in Gorakhpur Junction, Lucknow Junction, Basti, Gonda, Badshahnagar, Khalilabad, Mankapur, Anandnagar, Balrampur, Barhni, Bahraich, Budhwal, Babhan, Gomtinagar, Jarwal Road, Lucknow City, Mahmudabad Nawad, Maskanwa, Nautanwa, Aungarh, Sitapur, Aishbagh stations etc were ensured besides and availability of water and its drainage there. On the other hand, plantation and cleanliness was carried out under the supervision of all the branch officers at all stations and offices under Izzatnagar division. Meanwhile such cleanliness programme will be run continuously till September 30, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

Raj Shekhar inspects work at Kanpur Metro site

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar has assured the Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation of all possible help for completing the Kanpur Metro project within the stipulated time frame.

He said the UP government was committed to development of the state and Kanpur Nagar was among its priority cities and thus all projects meant for the benefit of the general masses had to be given further momentum to complete them within the time frame.

The divisional commissioner, however, sounded a subtle caution to the officials and workers at the three prominent Metro sites that there should not be compromise on quality in order to speed up the work.

Shekhar first visited the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur from where the project has started, then went to the Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology to inspect the Metro work going on there and finally to the labour camps of



Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar inspecting the progress of Kanpur Metro at the site on Tuesday.

Pioneer

the Metro workers.

Kanpur Metro Project Director Arvind Singh apprised the divisional commissioner of the work in progress at the site.

Shekhar said the Kanpur Metro and AFCONS construction team had made good arrangement for the stay, food and health care of around 1,500 labourers and workers

and had taken every precaution to keep them safe from novel coronavirus infection.

It may be mentioned here that construction work is going on at the Kanpur Metro's priority section from IIT Kanpur to Motijheel. This 9-km stretch has nine stations.

The divisional commissioner said it was encouraging

to find that the physical progress of the work was around 35 per cent. He also expressed the hope that this section of the project would be completed in time and made operational by January 2022.

He interacted with the officials and workers at various points and praised their dedicated work.

Women have right to express, grow, contribute & feel safe: DLSA secy

KANPUR (PNS): District Legal Services Authority Secretary Aishwarya Pratap Singh, while chairing the

legal awareness camp on sexual harassment of women at workplace here on Tuesday, said the objective of the camp was to create awareness among the female employees about the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redress) Act, 2013 as the participation of women was increasing in the workforce.

He said because a law against sexual harassment existed, every company must have a well-documented mechanism to address complaints about sexual advances and demands for sexual favours at workplace.

He said this Act entitled every woman a safe work environment and offered guidelines on initiating action against any sexual misconduct.

The DLSA secretary said these camps were meant to create awareness among women and this was gaining momen-



Secretary DLSA, Aishwarya Pratap Singh addressing a legal awareness camp for women on Tuesday

Pioneer

tum.

Singh said women, be it at home or at workplace, had the right to express, grow, contribute and feel safe. He said this was not a tall order as it only demanded equal opportunities, equal encouragement and equal appreciation.

He said maternity leave should not be looked upon as a privilege, rather acknowledged as the birth right as women were giving birth to the next generation.

Dr Kapila Raghav, who is also the chairman of the inter-

nal complaint committee, said women were labelled as weaker sex and the fact was that despite all odds and hurdles, they had achieved excellence in nearly every field of her counterpart.

He said the camps were meant to encourage people, especially men, to encourage women and support them in order to make women achieve new heights.

Raghav suggested concrete actions to ensure the safety of women within their offices and also at their homes.

‘IAF ready to face any misadventure at LAC’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With no let up in the five-month-long tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, IAF chief RKS Bhadauria on Tuesday said the present security scenario along the border is at an “uneasy no war no peace” status. He said the IAF has responded to the situation with rapidity and is fully resolved to counter any “misadventure” in the region.

Making this point here during a conference, he said “The present security scenario along our northern frontiers is at an uneasy no war no peace status. Our defence forces are prepared for any eventuality as you are aware.”

The IAF is looking at inducting around 450 aircraft and helicopters in the next two decades, besides upgrading at least 200-300 planes during this period, the Air Chief said.

He also said the recent induction of the Rafale fighter jets along with previous acquisitions of C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft as well as Chinook and Apache helicopters have provided the IAF with substantial tactical and strategic capability enhancement.

“Air power will be a crucial enabler in our victory in any future conflict. It is therefore imperative that the IAF obtains and maintains technological



edge over our adversaries,” he said at the conference on energising the Indian aerospace industry.

Five French-made multi-role Rafale fighter jets were inducted into the IAF on September 10. The fleet has been carrying out sorties in eastern Ladakh in the last couple of weeks.

The Chief’s observations came in the backdrop of the IAF deploying all its frontline jets including the Su-30, Mirages, MIG-29 and Jaguars at the forward airbases all along the 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

The IAF is also carrying out night time combat air patrols over the eastern Ladakh region in an apparent message to China that it was ready to deal with any eventualities in the mountainous region.

The IAF Chief said the raising of two squadrons of light combat aircraft Tejas and integration of some indigenous weapons on the Su-30 MKI combat jets in a very reduced time frame have been the “most promising” development, reflecting the coun-

try’s capabilities to develop indigenous military hardware. He also strongly backed indigenous development of a fifth generation aircraft.

“We strongly support indigenous development of a fifth-generation aircraft. We need to have a single point agenda to have a fifth-generation aircraft with sixth generation technology,” said Bhadauria, while congratulating all the stakeholders in development of the light combat aircraft Tejas.

He also complimented the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for its airborne early warning and control system Netra, calling it a pathbreaking achievement. Bhadauria also asked the DRDOs and defence public sector undertakings to include the private sector in key projects and treat them as their own.

“Overall, we are looking at 450 aircraft orders. It will include the helicopter fleet,” Bhadauria said.

“There cannot be a better time to energise the aerospace sector and there cannot be a better opportunity... IAF is ready to be an engine of growth for the aerospace industry, you have to be ready to provide the requirement and get on board with confidence and determination,” he said.

AIKSCC plans pan-India protest from Oct 2



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the committee sat on railway tracks in Devidaspura in Amritsar, wearing black clothes, in protest against the laws

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) on Tuesday announced its plans to hold a massive all India farmers’ protests from October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Their decision came a day after Congress workers set a tractor on fire while protesting near India Gate. Meanwhile, the ‘Rail Roko’ agitation by the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee against the newly enacted farm laws entered the sixth day on Tuesday.

Members of the committee sat on railway tracks in Devidaspura in Amritsar, wearing black clothes, in protest against the laws. All 31 farmers unions will join in the protest of BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) of gheraoing the corporate businesses.

According to AIKSCC, farmers will hold a protest across India on October 2. All farmers will take a pledge for social boycott of those political leaders and representatives whose parties have not opposed these anti-farmers legislations and for holding village meetings

to adopt resolutions on October 2.

The committee has chalked out a month-long protest plans. The Committee also decided to stage a dharna at Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala’s residence on October 6. Punjab farmer rights’ associations are using social media to build momentum for the movement against the central laws.

In a related development, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Tuesday met farmers’ leaders and assured farmers of all possible legal and other steps to fight the ‘draconian’ new farm laws, including a special session of the Vidhan Sabha to discuss and decide the way forward. Chairing a meeting with representatives of 31 farmers’ unions

Farm reform laws like daggers through hearts of farmers, says Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday interacted virtually with farmers from several States. Accusing the Central Government of ‘breaking the back’ of the informal sector through its policy decisions, Rahul said while demonetisation and ‘ineffective’ rollout of GST had affected the poor, the recent farm laws are like a dagger through the heart of the farmers.

“We were told (demonetization) was aimed at fighting black money but that was a lie. The main aim was to financially hurt farmers and workers. Rollout of GST had the same aim. Similarly during the coronavirus pandemic too, money was needed but they did not give any,” Rahul said during the 10-minute-

long interaction which was telecast on his social media handles on Monday.

“The aim of this Government is to break the back of farmers and workers. There is no difference between demonetization and the farm laws. Or between the rollout of GST and the farm laws. The only difference is that the three farm laws are like a dagger through your hearts... I am very clear that we need to oppose this not just for the farmers alone but for the country,” he added.

During the interaction, farmers from states like Punjab, Bihar, Haryana and Maharashtra shared their views on the issue and raised concerns over minimum support price (MSP), scope of earning from their produce among other topics.

to take their views on the matter, the Chief Minister said he would be discussing the issue with his legal team later today to finalise the next steps, including challenging the farm laws in the Supreme Court.

On Monday, large-scale protests were held in several states of India including Uttar

Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Gujarat, Goa, Odisha and Tamil Nadu, where the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and its allies, including the Congress, hit the streets. The Congress has also planned to observe October 2 as ‘Kisan-Majdoor Bachao Diwas’ and hold dharnas across India.

States told to strictly implement ‘inventive containment strategies’ to keep Covid at bay

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wary of India seeing an explosion of coronavirus cases during the festival season, which starts next month, if people do not follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday asked the States to strictly implement inventive containment strategies to keep the virus under check.

So far, India has recorded 61,45,291 confirmed Covid-19 cases, including 96,318 deaths. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have reported the highest number of cases. However, infections are rising rapidly in states like Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, as per the government data.

“In the light of the upcoming festivities, winter season and mass gathering, inventive containment strategies need to be implemented by the states,” said Balram Bhargava, DG, ICMR at a press briefing here.

NITI Aayog member V K Paul urged people to keep following Covid-appropriate behaviour, saying there is no



reason to get lax if stability in coronavirus cases is observed.

“We need to have Puja, Chhath, Diwali and Eid with masks, it is very important to keep that in mind. We have seen a second peak in Delhi, Kerala and Punjab so we should not get lax and keep following Covid-appropriate behaviour,” he said.

People are more prone to respiratory infections like pneumonia and influenza in the coming winter months and festive seasons and “we have to put in all efforts, stay vigilant and diligently follow Covid-appropriate behav-

our”, Paul said.

The Navratri festival that involves temple visits and fasts for nine days will begin from October 17. It will culminate with Vijaya Dashmi or Dussehra on October 25 while Diwali will be celebrated on November 20. Chhath follows thereafter.

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said India has 4,453 Covid-19 cases and 70 deaths per million population which is among the lowest in the world. He also said that India’s recovery rate continues to rise and now stands at 83 per cent.

EC fixes schedule for bypoll to one LS, 56 Assembly seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday announced dates for bypolls to one Lok Sabha seat and 56 Assembly constituencies spread across 12 States. Bypolls to 54 Assembly constituencies will take place on November 3 while bypolls to the Lok Sabha seat and two Assembly constituencies will be conducted on November 7. The votes will be counted on November 10 alongside the counting of votes for the general assembly elections in Bihar.

Before announcing the schedule, the poll panel had issued a separate statement on Tuesday to announce that it has decided not to hold assembly bypolls in seven seats across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal “at this stage” after specific request from the states in conduct of polls.

By-polls will be held for Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of seats--27--among the 54 Assembly constituencies for which polling will be held on November 3. Next is Gujarat (eight), Uttar Pradesh (seven); Jharkhand, Karnataka, Nagaland, Odisha (two each) and one each from Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Haryana. The term of the legislative assemblies of the four states would end on different dates between May and June next year.

The bypolls in Madhya Pradesh were necessitated after 25 Congress MLAs followed their leader Jyotiraditya Scindia in joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in March. This led to the collapse of the state’s Congress government and paved way for the BJP to return to power. The bypolls were necessitated on three of the seats - Jaura, Agar and Biora - due to death of the MLAs - two from the Congress and one from BJP, and on the remain-



ing seats due to resignation of the then Congress MLAs.

The Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha seat fell vacant in February after the death of incumbent Lok Sabha MP Baidyanath Prasad Mahato of the JD(U). The bypolls were necessitated following resignations tendered by Congress MLAs, five in March and three in June. The reason is that the number of vacant seats in some states has changed due to various reasons, including court cases.

According to EC, the date of issue of notification for bypolls to 54 Assembly seats in various states, except Manipur, is October 10, while the last date of filing nominations is October 16, and date for withdrawal is October 19. In the two Assembly seats of Manipur, and one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar, the date for filing nominations October 20, and for withdrawal of nominations is October 23.

CEC in Patna to assess Bihar poll preparation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Commissioners Sushil Chandra and Rajiv Kumar visited Patna on Tuesday to assess preparations in poll-bound Bihar. On Wednesday, they would meet various stakeholders, including civil and police officials, and representatives of political parties. The Commission would also visit a few places in Bihar before returning to Delhi on October 1 evening, sources said.

SC directs States to provide dry rations to sex workers without insisting on identity proof



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all States to provide dry rations to sex workers, who are identified by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and legal services authorities, without insisting on any proof of identity.

The apex court asked all the states to file compliance report within four weeks giving details of number of sex workers who got dry ration within this period.

A bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and Ajay Rastogi said that it would later deal with the aspect of whether financial assistance could be provided to them during the period of COVID-19 pandemic.

The top court, which posted the matter for hearing after four weeks, said that states would provide dry rations to sex workers and would identify them with the assistance of NACO, district as well as state legal service authority.

The bench was hearing a plea which has raised the issue problems faced by sex workers on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It asked the states to file a detailed report on how they would provide ration cards and other facilities to sex workers.

“We are aware of the facts that states are coming forward to provide assistance but the problem is that these sex workers don’t have any proof of identity. Therefore, all should be given rations. States should tell

us how this should be implemented,” the bench said.

The counsel appearing for the Centre said it has no objection if states would provide dry ration to sex workers.

Advocate Pijush Kumar Roy, assisting the apex court as an amicus curiae in the matter, said bank accounts of sex workers should also be opened without insisting upon proof of identity in order to provide them financial assistance.

The apex court had last week taken note of problems faced by sex workers on account of COVID-19 pandemic and directed the Centre and states to apprise it about modalities for distribution of monthly dry rations and cash transfer to them without insisting on proof of identity.

Appearing for an NGO, senior advocate Anand Grover had argued that a survey among 1.2 lakh sex workers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana found that 96 per cent of them had lost their source of earning in the pandemic.

Senior advocate Jayant Bhushan, who has also been appointed as an amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter, had said plight of sex workers could be solved if they were provided ration cards without insisting on identity proof.

The apex court was hearing an application filed by NGO, Durbur Mahila Samanwaya Committee which had moved the SC to highlight the destitution faced by sex workers on the account of COVID-19.

SC acquits man in 20-year-old rape case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has acquitted a man in a 20-year-old rape case observing that he and the alleged victim were in love, their relationship was consensual and the case was “an afterthought” - filed when the man was about to marry another woman.

The bench of Justices RF Nariman, Navin Sinha and Indira Banerjee set aside the conviction by a trial court and the Jharkhand High Court quoting medical experts, who established that the woman was 25 years old when she filed the case in 1999, and not 20 as she claimed, making her a major at the time of the alleged assault in 1995.

The court added that letters exchanged between the two and their photographs together showed they were in love and that a case of rape and cheating on pretext of marriage was filed a year ahead of the man’s wedding to another woman.

It added that no woman, after being sexually assaulted at knife-point, would write love letters to the accused and share a live-in relationship with him for four years.

The woman had claimed she stayed quiet after the assault because the accused has promised to marry her.

“The marriage between them could not materialise due to societal reasons as the man belongs to a Scheduled Tribe, while the woman is a Christian... The woman had deposed that their marriage could not be solemnized because they belonged to different religions. She was therefore conscious of this obstacle all along...” the court said.

The court added it was not possible to hold, on the basis of evidence, that the man never intended to marry her and quoted the woman’s letters in which she had acknowledged that the man’s family always treated her well, and that their families even got them engaged.

₹15,000 cr loan cleared for projects: Urban Affairs Ministry

New Delhi: The National Capital Regional Planning Board (NCRPB) has sanctioned over ₹15,000 crore loan in over ₹31,000 crore worth of projects related to transport, regional rapid transport system, water supply, drainage, power, solid waste management, tourism and road infrastructure. Informing this, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) secretary Durga Shankar Mishra on Tuesday said that 265 projects of more than Rs 18,500 crore are complete and the rest is under construction.

Speaking at the launch of the Project Management Information System (P-MIS), Mishra said that MIS will help to monitor projects.

The NCR is presently spread over a 55,083 sq km area with around 60 million population.

According to the NCRPB, Haryana sub-region comprises of districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, Mewat, Palwal, Panipat, Mahendragarh, Jind, Karnal, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri. Rajasthan sub-region comprises districts of Alwar and Bharatpur.

Uttar Pradesh Sub-region comprises districts of Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Hapur, Muzaffarnagar, and Shamli.

Explaining the features of the software, Mishra said that the P-MIS is having unique feature of doing calculations at back end for monitoring various financial critical events for Guarantee validity date and monthly repayment of loan due date for each IA and generates alert for Guarantee Renewal and Payment of Loan in soft format i.e. email in advance.

PNS

Govt to hold review meeting on air pollution measures, stubble burning on Oct 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To review the progress of air pollution control initiatives and the problem of stubble burning, environment secretaries of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan along with officials from the Union Environment Ministry and representatives of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will hold a

meeting on October 1, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Tuesday.

“All the agencies were asked to make short, medium, and long-term plans in 2016 to fight pollution. The meeting will focus on reviewing the progress of these plans,” Javadekar told reporters here at a press briefing. The Government feels that as the economic activities have

opened up, air pollution is likely to rise to pre-lockdown levels.

Farm fires, which were noticed in Punjab last week, coupled with resumption of economic activities in the wake of Covid-19 lockdown has already started deteriorating air quality in Delhi.

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research

(SAFAR), which is run by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, the air quality in Delhi is set to worsen over the next three days.

“The problem of air pollution is not restricted to Delhi and NCR. It is a common problem of all the areas falling under the same airshed, which includes Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan,” Javadekar said adding that 50

teams of CPCB officials will be deployed from 15 October to monitor sources of pollution in Delhi, and recommend quick fixes.

The meeting, to be held virtually, will also be attended by chiefs of the Municipal Corporations of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Council.

Javadekar also listed some of the initiatives taken by the Narendra Modi government

since 2016 to fight pollution. These include introduction of BS VI vehicles and fuel, incentives to boost e-vehicles usage, and completion of peripheral highways that prevent unnecessary traffic from entering the capital.

He, however, said despite all efforts Delhi is likely to see increased pollution levels for two-three months in winter due to meteorological condi-

tions.

According to a report by the CPCB and the Ministry, cold, dry air, and ground based inversion with low wind conditions are responsible for increasing concentration of pollutants during winter in Delhi.

Javadekar also encouraged citizens to inculcate eco-friendly habits such as cycling to reduce pollution.

Another silent Nirbhaya

Dalit girl from Hathras dies after being brutally gang-raped. Where are the deterrent laws and action? Will we have to wait years again?



The “*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*” campaign is being slandered with each passing day as it becomes a “*Beti Hatao, Beti Darao*” mission in reality, with heinous crimes against the girl child and women going up every day across the country. So it is that just two days after Daughter’s Day, a 19-year-old Dalit girl was brutally gang-raped in Uttar Pradesh’s Hathras district. In a chilling throwback to the Nirbhaya case and the incident in Hyderabad not so long ago, the girl was left with her tongue cut out, ostensibly to prevent her from testifying. Her legs were bruised so severely and her spine was so lethally battered that she was completely paralysed while her arms could just about register a movement. Still she fought for her dear life over 15 days in hospital but gave up despite being brought to Delhi’s AIIMS. Yet there was no outcry for the last fortnight till she became just another cold statistic. Nobody mourned a young life snuffed out in its prime due to caste-based hatred, sexual depravity and a deteriorating law and order situation, particularly in the Hindi heartland. Exacerbating the situation, as usual, were the poorly conducted investigations and a slow justice system. The conviction rate for rape is only 27.2 per cent despite the fact that it accounts for 11.5 per cent of the total crime statistics. On an average, 91 rapes were reported every single day across India in 2018, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) says that trial in rape cases should be completed in 60 days but that never happens because of the tardiness of police investigations. Then there are judicial flaws that need to be plugged when it comes to rape, the primary being bail to the accused, which should be denied till the probe is completed. Some independent studies indicate that the average time of finishing trial even in fast track courts is eight months. And even if one were to get death penalty, acquittals, appeals and mercy petitions mean that only about five per cent death penalties are actually upheld by the Supreme Court. A traumatised rape survivor hardly has the courage to go through such travesty and gives up midway. The 2012 Nirbhaya rape, which shook the conscience of not just the nation but the world, too, compelled our parliamentarians to strengthen the punitive justice delivery system based on the recommendations of a committee that included eminent jurists. It led to some crucial amendments to the law, which included changing the very definition of “rape”, the establishment of fast-track courts to ensure victims get justice without undue delay, harsher punishments for the accused with the provision of death sentence being added to it and the abolition of the two-finger test among others. Two other such incidents, in Kathua and Unnao, where two children were raped, had widened the scope of punishment for raping a child under 12 to death penalty. Undoubtedly, there has been an increase in reportage of crimes against women after Nirbhaya though much of them are still under-reported. Besides, as the Hyderabad incident has shown, question marks remain on the use of the death penalty as criminals are now murdering their victims to destroy evidence. For the criminal, there is no deterrent. But yes, he can be stalled if deterrence is built into the system by fast-tracking procedures and ensuring swift justice. Conviction rates need to go up proportionately. At present, fast-track courts are no different from the usual courts in terms of case pile-ups and vacancies. A quick, fair and unbiased judicial set-up with requisite number of judges is a *sine qua non*. A continuously responsive system is a bigger deterrent than one or two landmark rulings.

The unchecked crimes against women and the girl child are also skewering gender equity in the rural hinterland. According to a study supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), that was conducted in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, the increasing crimes against women have deepened preferences for a son. So much so that we have lost around 4,60,000 girls to sex selection at birth each year between 2013 and 2017, according to the UNFPA. When errands go scot-free and the woman’s family is left to wallow in pain and shame, a malaise becomes a societal archetype. And the girl child will continue to be vulnerable, either used as a tool in a caste war as the rapists in Hathras belonged to the upper caste, a sacrifice in a revenge drama or a family feud or a life cheap enough to be pawned by male-dominated codes. Predictably, there is a political slugfest over this latest incident, with the Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) slamming the BJP Government in UP for the sorry plight of law and order in the State. Their protests will once again be tainted by the ruling party as “crocodile tears” and a “political conspiracy” to “defame the Government.” The Opposition will predictably make the rape a subset of excesses on Dalits. But neither the Opposition nor the ruling party was there for the girl when she was writhing in hospital for a fortnight. And much to the shame of India’s most populous State, nobody wants to roll back UP’s unique distinction of reporting the highest crime spiral against women. As for justice, will we have to wait another seven years?

Amnesty shuts shop

The human rights watchdog may have looked at India through a Western prism but can we dispute its findings on Delhi riots?



The trouble with human rights watchdogs is that they have, by virtue of countering the establishment narrative, assigned themselves a certain kind of legitimacy and credibility without realising that some of their own investigations are compromised by subjective assessment rather than objective investigation. This has also been a problem with Amnesty International, which has many times been accused of looking at India through a Western prism. But as a robust democracy, we have it within ourselves to accept vilification and acknowledge cogent counterpoints. We shouldn’t need lobbyists to get the other side of the story; our media should be free to do that. Besides, by and large, the organisation has an international acceptability even if we take some of its reports with a pinch of salt. But by targetting Amnesty, which says it is now forced to shut shop in India because the Government has completely frozen its bank accounts here, we appear to be in the bracket of oppressor and authoritative regimes like China. And considering its activists have been particularly penalised for tracking dissent pan-India over the last two years, it gives them a moral upper hand and claim a witch-hunt. The reasons that the organisation lists behind the Government crackdown on it are the same as those cited by tormented civil society activists — namely “unequivocal calls for transparency in the Government, more recently for accountability of the Delhi police and the Government of India regarding the grave human rights violations in Delhi riots and Jammu & Kashmir.” Frankly, even without the Amnesty’s reports, there is far too much on-ground evidence of the charges it has made. And the way the disclosure statements and names in the chargesheet of the Delhi Police on the city riots have been circled out, targetting the liberal intelligentsia, protesters and activists while leaving out the inflammatory fringe Rightists, there is a move to freeze the right of democratic dissent. So the timing of its India exit suits Amnesty more than us at this point of time.

It would have made more sense had the Government zeroed in on Amnesty in 2016, when it was booked in a sedition case for allowing “anti-India” slogans on Kashmir at an event in Bengaluru. But to pursue it for violating foreign funding rules in 2019 obviously raises questions on intent. Amnesty though claims that its India operations have been funded domestically. The immediate context seems to be the report it released last month on the complicity of Delhi police in the riots. Yes we must defend our pluralism and challenge the official narrative. But by hounding out Amnesty, we have a public relations battle ahead. Nothing will happen to it. Nothing would have if it had been allowed to continue.

New agricultural paradigm

The end of socialist-era impediments should ideally stimulate increased private sector investment across the value chain and help create jobs



SANDHYA JAIN

The over-hyped green revolution of the late 1960s introduced varieties of dwarf rice and wheat in northern India with a cocktail of chemical fertilisers and pesticides that sucked up groundwater and gradually made it unfit for drinking. The chemicals leached into the soil and water. State-sponsored propaganda about “miraculous yields” extended the phenomenon across the country, ruining soil fertility and the nutritious value of food crops; the impact on public health was noticed by the medical community but all voices were silenced. Today, Gurdaspur-to-Delhi trains are called “Cancer Express”, yet there has been no medical study of the harm caused by chemical agriculture to the health of humans, animals, soil and water resources.

Now, four momentous laws could pave the way for a revolution in which farmers drive the change, with technology playing a supportive role. If the Government repudiates the genetically-modified food crops lobby, India could return to farming methods that do not require costly inputs and force farmers into a vicious cycle of debt (and even suicide).

On September 16, 2020, one day before the three agriculture-related Bills were moved in Parliament, the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 was passed, bringing all cooperative banks under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It means stricter supervision of 1,482 urban and 58 multi-state cooperative banks, with deposits of ₹4.84 lakh crore.

The legislation undermines the strongmen who control the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs), *mandis*, loans and so on in many States. It is noteworthy that large farmers are resisting the new laws; earlier they opposed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) as they had to match wages or lose farm labour. The ongoing COVID pandemic has also improved the bargaining power of farm labourers and added to the bitterness of large farmers.

Often, agents arranged debt-funding for farmers from private moneylenders, who charged usurious interest and enjoyed political heft; such debt has been linked to



farmer suicides in some States.

Simultaneously, the Union Cabinet approved the ₹15,000 crore fund for animal husbandry as part of the *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* stimulus package and a scheme for interest subvention of two per cent to “*shishu*” loan category borrowers for one year under the *Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana*. These developments form the sub-text of the farm Bills.

The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020 allows sale and marketing of produce outside notified APMC *mandis*. State Governments cannot collect market fee, cess or levy for trade outside the APMC markets; inter-state trade barriers are nixed and provisions have been made for electronic trading of agricultural produce. No licence is needed; anyone with a PAN card can buy directly from farmers. The new system provides a dispute resolution mechanism in case farmers are not paid immediately or within three days.

The APMCs failed as they allowed vested interests to seize the system. States levied cess to earn extra revenue that was not part of the budget and was used for “discretionary” development spending, mostly under the Chief Minister’s orders. As the cess increased, political appointees took charge of the APMCs. Even the Food Corporation of India (FCI) paid cess. Small farmers were bur-

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dened with the cost of transport to take their produce to the *mandis* and deal with middlemen. For instance, waiting outside sugar mills, with heat evaporating the sugar content in the cane, desperate farmers have succumbed to agents (of near-by *mandis*) who arrive miraculously and dictate the price.

Under the new Act, politicians and urban elite farmers will find it difficult to get large “agricultural” incomes *mandi*-certified and pay zero per cent income tax, as payments have to be made against PAN cards.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 regulates contractual farming rules and State APMC Acts. Farmers can make contracts with a corporate entity or wholesaler at a mutually agreed price. The system already exists in 20 States; PepsiCo buys potatoes from 24,000 farmers across nine States. Further, 18 States already permit private *mandis* while Kerala and Bihar don’t have APMC *mandis* at all. More pertinently, the Act prohibits acquiring ownership rights of farmers’ land.

The Centre has funded ₹6,685 crore for the formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and the ₹1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The FPO will give farmers higher bargaining power while AIF and market reforms serve as additional enablers. They can invest

in farm equipment, infrastructure and build forward market linkages by making agreements with agribusinesses, thus improving access to technology and investment. Maharashtra Sahyadri Farmers Producer Co. Ltd, with 8,000 marginal farmers, exports 16,000 tonnes of grapes every season.

The end of socialist-era impediments should stimulate increased private sector investment across the value chain, creating jobs in logistics service providers, warehouse operators and processing unit staff. The rise of food-processing industries could create non-farm jobs in rural areas.

India processes less than 10 per cent of output (cereals, fruits, vegetables, fish, etc) and loses around ₹90,000 crore annually to wastage. Hopefully, market linkages will motivate farmers to diversify and grow crops such as edible oils and help reduce India’s edible oil import bill that currently stands at over \$10 billion.

Finally, The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 removes excessive control on production, storage, movement and distribution of food commodities; removes cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities, and paves the way for cold chain infrastructure to come up. Previously, control regarding the storage of essential commodities (onions, potatoes, edible oils, jute, rice paddy, sugar) gave draconian powers to authorities to raid “hoarders”, confiscate stocks, cancel licensing and even imprison offenders. This naturally discouraged investment in storage as entrepreneurs feared being prosecuted as “hoarders.” Lack of storage also contributed to volatility in prices as their stability depends on adequate warehousing infrastructure.

Henceforth, the ECA 2020 will be invoked only under extraordinary circumstances such as war, famine, natural calamity of grave nature and extraordinary price rise (100 per cent increase in retail price of horticultural produce over the preceding 12 months, or 50 per cent increase in retail price of non-perishables over the preceding five years).

Dismissing the propaganda that the new laws would end the minimum support price (MSP), the Centre has quietly ordered procurement, effectively nipping the canard that small and marginal farmers would be short-changed. Implementation will be the key.

(The author is a senior journalist. Views are personal)

SOUND BITE

I think home quarantine can play a role in the future and it’s something that is being considered by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, particularly as we move beyond the phase we’re in now.



Australian PM
—Scott Morrison

There is an undercurrent of painful events — passing away of people, the tragedy of migrants walking home — everything is in the back of my mind.



Artist
—Atul Dodiya

Yogi Adityanath Government kept sitting for eight days. Why was no action taken against the culprits all these days? It was only when the case was highlighted that the administration woke up.



Congress General Secretary
—Priyanka Gandhi

I would say it is a very crucial time for the team and each player should have her own yardstick and must work on raising the bar.



Former hockey player
—Deepika Thakur

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Road to revival?

Sir — The 2015 Assembly elections in Bihar saw the Congress regain a reasonable space in the State legislature. After a gap of 15 years, the party’s tally rose to double digits, as 27 out of 41 candidates in the fray won their seats. But will the grand old party be able to revive itself this time again? The Congress began to lose its support base as it failed to address backward caste aspirations between 1988 and 1990, when four of its Chief Ministers were nominated to the top post only to be pulled down swiftly, giving in to the intra-party caste divides. The support base also suffered massive erosion following the desertion by Muslims after the Bhalgalpur riots in 1989 and Babri Masjid demolition in 1992. However, the electoral prospects for the party seem rather good this time, particularly for its role in mitigating suffering of the migrants and students during the lockdown and its active support to farmers’ protests against the enactment of the three new farm laws. Also, Dalits and Muslims are now mobilising in favour of Congress.

Nihal Raj
Noida

A reminder of the 2012 Delhi gang-rape case

A woman passenger was allegedly gang-raped inside a moving bus for the entire night on September 25. The police found her lying unconscious on Delhi Road in Meerut the next morning and rushed her to the hospital. This comes as a chilling reminder of the harrowing 2012 Delhi gang-rape case when the 23-year-old female medical student, who came to be known as Nirbhaya, was severely assaulted and gang-raped by five men and a juvenile inside a moving bus in South Delhi.

This is the third incident in the last one month in Uttar Pradesh when a woman passenger, on her way to Delhi, was gang-raped on a moving bus and that too by the staff. This highlights how law and order in the State has deteriorated drastically. The victim, according to reports, told the police that she had boarded a bus from Bhaivali bus stand on Friday night. En route, she was given a cold drink which had been spiked after which she lost consciousness and was raped by the driver and the conductor throughout the night.

Stormy affair

Sir — The tussle in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), relating to the naming of the chief ministerial candidate for the 2021 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly election, continues with no solution in sight. Both Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O

Panneerselvam, who are chief ministerial hopefuls, have dug in their heels and are slugging it out. Even the five-hour-long meeting of the AIADMK executive council on Monday failed to arrive at a consensus on who will be its chief ministerial candidate. The final decision will be taken on October 7. Hopefully, by then, Palaniswami and Panneerselvam will be able to sort out their dif-

ferences and come to a decision.

CK Subramaniam

Tirumangalam

Battle for the ballot

Sir — The popularity of the ruling Janata Dal (United) and the BJP-led Government, headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is waning. While Nitish has been under fire for badly handling the

COVID outbreak and the returnee migrants, the BJP has taken on the defensive mode on questions of border security, economic stagnation and farmers’ backlash. This should be enough for the Opposition to challenge the State Government. However, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress together have not been able to push the Government on any substantial matter. Being held under exceptional circumstances, the battle for the ballot promises to be a challenging and exciting affair.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Legal fiction

Sir — The investigation into Sushant Singh Rajput’s death seems to have been sidetracked as officials haven’t been able to find any concrete evidence. It has become a whirlpool of misrepresented facts and concocted lies and sheer entertainment in the name of news, reducing a tragedy into a sensational drama.

Devendra Khurana

Bhopal

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

BJP all set to make it alone

It is well within its rights to expand its base and in times to come, go solo as the top brass believes in making the party electorally strong



KALYANI SHANKAR

The saffron party must slowly learn to live without its major allies now that its oldest partner, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), quit the BJP-led NDA alliance on Saturday. The BJP and the SAD had been partners even during the Jan Sangh days. However, with a brute majority in the Lok Sabha, the BJP's attitude now is "go if you want to leave." That is why there are no efforts to mollify miffed allies as it was done during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee era. There was a time in the eighties when it was difficult for the BJP to get allies but today Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in a strong position and hence the alliance partners are not needed by the party anymore.

The BJP had five major allies till two years ago. They were the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Shiv Sena, the SAD, the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). With the Bihar elections round the corner, the party is left with only the JD(U) as its major alliance partner now. The others are smaller parties. Out of all these NDA allies, the TDP was the first to leave in March 2018 over the issue of grant of special status to Andhra Pradesh. Soon after the TDP's departure, another one of the oldest allies, the Shiv Sena parted company in October 2019 on the issue of chief ministership in Maharashtra after the Assembly polls. The Sena formed the Government in the State under the Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) as partners. Now, the SAD too has left on the issue of the controversial farm Bills that were pushed through amid din and allegations of riding roughshod on the objections of the Opposition parties and allies alike.

The only partner the BJP itself dumped was the PDP in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). In any case, the BJP-PDP alliance was an uneasy marriage of convenience and the late PDP chief Mufti Mohammad Sayeed termed it as "an alliance of the North Pole and the South Pole."

The NDA partners had been unhappy with the BJP for long, claiming that they were not consulted or even informed about major issues. "Where is the NDA," asks SAD chief Sukhbir Badal. The relationship under Modi has changed compared to Vajpayee's time when one of the partners was the convener of the NDA while Vajpayee or later Advani were the chairmen of the alliance. There were NDA meetings on important issues. Though Modi has included the representatives of the allies, despite the BJP having a majority in both 2014 and 2019, there is no formal NDA structure now. However, the BJP needed them in the Rajya Sabha for pushing the Bills where it was in a minority.

The BJP, under the leadership of Modi has learnt the art of dividing the Opposition and pushing through even some controversial Bills like the recent farm ones and the earlier Citizenship Amendment Bill. Also, the Punjab elections are in 2022 and the next Lok Sabha polls are even further off, in 2024. Who knows what will happen by then? However, according to insiders, the BJP wants to improve its performance by going solo in the coming polls. The main grouse of the allies is that the BJP, which was the junior partner in Maharashtra and Punjab, has expanded its base in the last six years. Not only has it overtaken the allies, it has become the richest party, too. Notwithstanding the concerns of its partners, the BJP is aggressively pursuing its objective of coming to power in States where it is not in Government. The only aim of the party is to consolidate Hindu voters even further by eating into the votes of its alliance partners. It has a major presence in most big States and is now eyeing the South and the North-East for expansion. The saffron party has replaced the Left in Tripura and edged the Congress out in West Bengal and Odisha as the main challenger to the ruling party.

In the 552-member Lok Sabha, the NDA has 335 seats, of which the BJP alone has 303 representatives. It does not need partners in 334 seats and is dependent on allies in 212 seats. When the BJP came to power in 2014, it had only 23 Rajya Sabha seats but today, it has 87. So far, the party has managed to push even controversial Bills like the bifurcation of J&K and the Citizenship Amendment Bill by dividing the Opposition. The three farm reform Bills, too, were passed similarly.

The Modi regime wants to have ties in which the BJP stands to gain. This has mostly worked in the last six years. The BJP has overtaken the Sena in Maharashtra and in other States too it has improved its electoral chances. It is indeed well within its rights to expand its base and in times to come, go solo as the top brass believes in making the party electorally strong.

Is it not said that in politics there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies? The BJP, too, is banking on the old allies coming back to its fold and new allies joining it. If one looks at the coalition politics, which is practised by both the main parties — the Congress and the BJP — the Congress-led UPA too is not in a good shape.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

THESE (OPPOSITION) PARTIES ARE INSULTING THE FARMERS. THESE REFORMS WILL STRENGTHEN LABOURERS, YOUTH, WOMEN, FARMERS OF THE NATION.

—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



EVEN YOUR ALLY OF 24 YEARS, THE SHIROMANI AKALI DAL (SAD) HAS DUMPED YOU (ON THE FARMERS' ISSUE). MODI JJ, IS THE SAD INSULTING FARMERS?

—CONGRESS LEADER
KAPIL SIBAL

Education as revolution

The poor have found innovative ways of helping themselves and visionary leaders from among these communities are nurturing a growing industry of good quality private schools



MOIN QAZI

The state of India's school education continues to be abysmal despite so many high-sounding policy prescriptions being tossed around. There are, however, islands of excellence and even in this bleak landscape there are shoots of green. While Government schools are the mainstay of school education for the poor, some exceptional private schools are affordable even to the extremely marginalised. The accepted wisdom is that private schools serve the privileged; everyone else, especially the underprivileged, requires public schools. This logic is grounded on the assumption that the poor need Government assistance if they are to get a good education. Which helps explain why many school choice enthusiasts believe that the only way the poor can get the education they deserve is through Government schools.

But if we reflect on some of the underprivileged communities, we find these assumptions lacking. The poor have found remarkably innovative ways of helping themselves educationally and visionary leaders from among these communities are nurturing a large and growing industry of good quality private schools. Tikiapara, a sprawling slum in Howrah, is a witness and a willing participant in a quiet revolution led by Mamoon Akhtar that has the potential to turn around the lives of its residents, especially of its children. Mamoon was forced to drop out of middle school because his parents couldn't afford to educate him further. Three decades later, he is the driving force two schools in Tikiapara with 3,000 students, most of them children of unlettered parents. Mamoon's extraordinary journey from a victim to champion of the underprivileged started the day he decided that just because his family couldn't pay for his schooling, he wouldn't forego education. Mamoon's passion helped him overcome his deprivation.

His father was keen that his son get a good education. So he put him in one of the area's leading schools, St Thomas. After his father died, the teenager had to give up his studies and took up a librarian's job at a private school in Tikiapara, supplementing his income by giving private tuitions. Life would have gone on as usual but Mamoon couldn't get over the tragedy he suffered on being forced to lose out on education. The young idealist believed in giving direction to the fire within, not in extinguishing it.

In 1991, he started an informal "school", teaching five to six children in his own house in the Tikiapara slum. Thus began his lifetime romance with education. As the residents of the area became aware of this "school", more and more children started coming and soon there was no place to seat them. The enterprising Mamoon constructed a room on his own 600 square foot plot of land. In that one room, the Samaritan Help Mission School was born with 25 young and eager children flocking to it daily. The good Samaritan stretched his every rupee and canvassed from door to door to raise ₹28,000 per annum (in addition to his own contribution of ₹10,000). The organisation has continued to steadily grow through the years. The catchment area of the school can break the determination of even the greatest optimist but Mamoon is alive and equal to the challenge. The parents come from very poor backgrounds, some are rickshaw-pullers, drug peddlers and daily labourers. But with Mamoon's effort, their dreams of educating their children in an English-medium school has become a reality.

Social responsibility: As an educationist, Mamoon is also sharply aware of his role of a social reformer. Most children come from families afflicted with social maladies, with a large number of them being children of drug peddlers. Mamoon believes that schools should have the right to exclude pupils

TIKIAPARA, A SPRAWLING SLUM IN HOWRAH, IS A WITNESS AND A WILLING PARTICIPANT IN A QUIET REVOLUTION LED BY MAMOON AKHTAR, THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TURN AROUND THE LIVES OF ITS RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY OF ITS CHILDREN. MAMOON WAS FORCED TO DROP OUT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL BECAUSE HIS PARENTS COULDN'T AFFORD TO EDUCATE HIM FURTHER. THREE DECADES LATER, HE IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND A SCHOOL WITH 3,000 STUDENTS, MOST OF THEM CHILDREN OF UNLETTERED PARENTS



only as a last resort and that too, to protect the other children in the class as well as teachers. The excluded children, he avers, can be affected by anxiety, depression and loss of self-worth. There is a decline in their mental health and children become very reclusive. The stress of the exclusion takes its toll on parents, too.

Mamoon knows the pain of deprivation only too well. At a time when there is a widespread practice of pupils being shunted off a school's rolls in order to manipulate its exam results or rankings in league tables — he is doing his every bit to ensure that children remain at school during the day. There are hundreds of pupils who joined his school after being booting out of another one. Taking in as many vulnerable pupils as possible is the core of this teacher's mission. His school is single-handedly ensuring pupils remain on the rolls. There are a number of youngsters who wouldn't be getting an education were it not for the Samaritan Help Mission School. In a world where schools are clearly pushing vulnerable pupils out through the back door with little thought to their next steps and best interests, he is embracing them with a cheerful heart.

With a little help from friends: When he canvassed for help from the community around him, Mamoon reaped a bonus — a strong connect with the community. In 2007, the Samaritan Help Mission School became accredited and recognised by the West Bengal Government. Today, it is a co-educational English-medium school, affiliated to the State Board of Secondary Education, with an enrolment of 1,300. The big thing is that with the school being an English medium one, it makes a major difference to the future prospects of the kids once they go out into the world. However, the odds are stacked against the children of this locality given the inter-generational nature of poverty and the poor developmental outcomes that families face. This impacts the children in many ways. They battle poor academic achievement, inferiority complex, maladjustment, lack of initiative and

an underdeveloped personality. Disheartened and discouraged by financial stress and their own inadequacy, parents are ill-equipped to adequately support their children. Sadly, parents in Tikiapara have little motivation to invest in their children's education. Fortunately, Mamoon's conviction and commitment are unflagging and his enthusiasm is contagious, sending hope in the community.

Some of the students are orphans; some have run away from home; all are underprivileged. The Samaritan Help Mission School charges them a measly ₹5 a year, and that too because the teacher believes that people will not value anything that is free. Funds to run the school come from Mamoon's savings and private donors whose motivation is inspired by the good Samaritan's devotion. This led to an addition to the original school on Mamoon's plot, the IR Belilious Institution on Belilious Road, covering two acres of land bequeathed by a Jewish couple, Rebecca and Isaac Raphael Belilious. The school today has a football field, basketball court, a water body, a two-storeyed school building and a bigger one coming up close by. As a child Mamoon swam there, to later see the water body turn into a municipal garbage dump and the Government school that used to run there become virtually defunct, the whole space go derelict and transform into a den of drug pushers. The land on which the second Samaritan Help Mission School stands had thus been a garbage dump for years until Howrah City Police and the Howrah Municipal Corporation got together to create a conducive atmosphere for Mamoon to expand his initiative. The police helped them (Mamoon and his staff) build a wall, remove encroachments and start a school there.

Creating safe spaces for children at risk: Many children studying in the two schools attest to the fact that they have a fun-filled, interactive and encouraging atmosphere and that the teachers are extremely supportive. Children are engaged in creative activities like sports,

quiz competitions, picnics and recreational programmes in the local parks. Regular cleaning campaigns in Tikiapara are organised in which students, teachers and other volunteers take an active part. Mamoon has also introduced a paramedic course for senior students. His policy of inclusive education has ensured that the constitutional right to primary education is a reality in this slum. There are schools which identify parents who are not well-educated and living in the slum. They are approached informally and told that it "will be difficult for your child to stay" in the hope that the parents agree to move out or home-school their child. But Mamoon's schools are a safe learning haven where no one is shunned — either because of creed, low academic scores or poverty.

Innovative approaches: Mamoon says that the process of teaching and learning is an intimate act that neither computers nor markets can hope to replicate. It is a small wonder then that the technology-centric corporate business model has not worked in reforming the school system as there is simply no substitute for the personal element. There is no substitute for a good teacher and nothing more valuable than quality classroom instruction. But we also need more involved parents to make learning more effective.

The core objective of a school is to provide high-quality instruction: Fostering both excellent teaching and a learning environment in which students can thrive. These schools don't develop randomly on their own; an essential ingredient behind each of these success stories is transformational leadership.

A lot of good programmes got their start when one individual looked at a familiar landscape in a fresh way. What they did was to simply change the fundamental approach to solving problems, and the outcomes have been truly revolutionary. Thus, people only need to summon their will power the way game-changers like Mamoon are doing to bring about change.

(The writer is a well known development professional)

How many child deaths will it take to stop hunger?

The wasted, stunted, anaemic and mentally underdeveloped youth of our country, who barely survived, cannot build a strong nation



AR SINDHU

In the fourth month of the lockdown, the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) had warned India that if the nation does not seriously address the issue of hunger and malnutrition aggravated due to the shutdown and make proper arrangements for providing adequate nutritional food to underprivileged children, 3,00,000 more kids under the age of five would die within the next six months and make the toll a total of around 12-13 lakh this year.

Even before the Coronavirus pan-

demie struck, the situation was quite alarming. In 2018, a whopping 8.8 lakh children under the age of six died in India, says the UNICEF. Nearly half of all our children are underweight, about 45 per cent are stunted (too short for their age), 20 per cent are wasted (too thin for their height), 75 per cent are anaemic and 57 per cent are deficient in Vitamin A. Half of the world's malnourished children live in India.

The rate of malnutrition among India's children is almost five times more than China and double than that in Sub-Saharan Africa, says a World Bank report. A study commissioned by the UNICEF in 2019 had found that over 80 per cent of adolescents in India suffered from hidden malnutrition. This includes deficiency of one or more micronutrients such as iron, folate, zinc, vitamin A, vitamin B12, and vitamin D.

According to the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Mission document of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, out of the total

child births of 2.5 crore annually in India, child survival is only 1.75 crore. Infant mortality is 0.8 crore annually or 80,00,000 children die every year in our country before six months of age. This means that on an average as many as 21,917 children die every day in India. Maternal and child malnutrition is one of the reasons for 68 per cent under-five deaths in India.

What has been the COVID-19 lockdown impact? With job and income loss on a large scale, closing of schools and consequently the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and Anganwadis that gave hot, cooked meals, a poor Public Distribution System (PDS) and poor implementation of the announced schemes of free rations during the last five months, there is a situation of absolute poverty and hunger in our country that will have a serious impact on the already pathetic nutritional status of our people, especially the children and women.

The UNICEF has estimated that 120 million children living in South

Asian countries, including India, could slip into poverty within the next six months due to the COVID-19 crisis, taking the total number of such kids in the region to 360 million. The UNICEF also warns: "In the worst-case scenario, where health interventions are reduced by around 45 per cent, there could be as much as a 44.7 per cent increase in under-five child deaths and 38.6 per cent increase in maternal deaths per month."

In the last two decades, there have been many dialogues, debates, and legal steps like the Supreme Court Judgment on Right to food Act and so on to address the issue of malnutrition. But the schemes or missions rolled out by respective governments proved to be inadequate. The ICDS, the flagship scheme to address this crisis, has been deprived of funds despite the apex court's judgment for universalisation of the scheme. The fund allocation pattern has been changed to 60:40 in the last few years, putting a major financial burden on the States. With the

ongoing issues of lack of funds in States, things are going to worsen. In addition, there were drastic budget cuts. As an impact, according to the Global Hunger Index 2019, wasting among children in India rose from 16.5 per cent in 2008-2012 to 20.8 per cent in 2014-2018.

The much-acclaimed "Poshan Mission" is just policing of the Anganwadi workers, who are already overburdened with non-ICDS work. Similar is the case of the other schemes like the MDMS and the National Health Mission. At present, despite the warning bells, the announced packages do not address the problem of malnutrition. Moreover, there is an absence of a national composite guideline to address malnutrition at the community level.

To stop further loss of precious lives, there is an urgent need for the Government to show political will to recognise the right to food/nutrition of every citizen of India, make quality infrastructure and basic nutrition ser-

vices schemes like ICDS, MDMS efficient with increased financial allocation, so that the most marginalised and vulnerable are benefitted as well.

The pandemic has shown that the lakhs of community-based women caregivers like the Anganwadi workers and helpers, Accredited Social Health Activists and MDMS workers, are the crucial link between the community and policymakers. Their work must be regularised with minimum wages and social security, as recommended by the 45th Indian Labour Conference. Otherwise whom do we expect to be "skilling" for the 'Make in India' projects? The wasted, stunted, anaemic and mentally underdeveloped youth of our country, who barely survived, cannot build a strong nation. How many more deaths do we need before we realise so many of our children are dying?

(The writer is general secretary, All India Federation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers and national secretary of the CITU)



FOREIGN EYE



TEST, TRACE AND TEACH

Final figures on the take-up of UK's university places are not yet known. But predictions that the recruitment of international students would collapse due to COVID have not come true. This worst-case scenario having been avoided, UK's universities must ensure that students get the education they deserve, while obeying pandemic rules put in place. (The Guardian editorial)

Market takes a breather after 2-day stellar rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

After two consecutive sessions of thumping gains, benchmarks Sensex and Nifty took a pause on Tuesday amid lack of directional cues from domestic and global markets.

After starting the session on a positive note, the BSE Sensex was caught in an intense volatility as the trade progressed, paring all intra-day gains to end 8.41 points or 0.02 per cent lower at 37,973.22.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty slipped 5.15 points or 0.05 per cent to 11,222.40.

Analysts said that domestic equities traded on a choppy note amid lack of directional cues from the domestic as well as global markets.

On the Sensex chart, ONGC was the top loser, shedding around 3 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, PowerGrid, Axis Bank, HCL Tech, NTPC and ITC.

On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Tata Steel, Titan and HDFC were among the gainers.

Of the Sensex constituents, 20 logged losses and 10 registered gains. Sectorally, BSE telecom, utilities, FMCG, bankex, realty and power indices fell up to 2.13 per cent. On the other hand, consumer durables, metal, energy, basic materials, IT and auto indices rose up to 1.97 per cent.

Broader midcap and small-cap indices fell up to 0.16 per cent. After a gap up opening, the benchmark indices grew volatile, before ending the day flat. Global markets were also undecided and slightly negative for the day as the outcome of the first US presidential debate was awaited," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

With increasing coronavirus infections and chances of location-specific lockdowns,

Indian indices were also uncertain, he said, adding that markets are awaiting a trigger in the form of confirmation of a stimulus package by the government to boost economic activity.

Market participants across the globe are looking for cues from the first presidential debate between US President Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Joe Biden, set for later in the day.

Asian markets ended mixed after a mildly higher opening on Tuesday ahead of the first US presidential debate later in the global day, with investors also remaining cautious over the global economy's prospects as coronavirus deaths surpassed the one-million mark worldwide, market experts said.

Bourses in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains, while Hong Kong was in the red.

Concerns over pace of economic recovery have deepened: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The steady rise in caseloads and the spillover effects of the strict lockdown measures will continue to undermine economic growth in the country, says a report.

According to Dun and Bradstreet's Economy Forecast, concerns over the pace of economic recovery have deepened.

"The recovery now is expected to be gradual as rising infections pose constraints. Even if the growth takes the form of a V-shape, the level of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will matter. Credit growth has not picked up as envisaged," said Arun Singh, Global Chief Economist, Dun & Bradstreet. Moreover, with the credit guarantee scheme in place for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), credit off-take was expected to strengthen more than the

current level so far, Singh added.

According to various estimates, India's coronavirus-battered economy will witness significant contraction during the current financial year. India's economy suffered its worst slump on record in April-June, with the GDP contracting 23.9 per cent as the coronavirus-related lockdowns weighed on the already-declining consumer demand and investment. "The steady rise in caseloads and the spillover effects of the strict lockdown measures will continue to undermine the growth impulses during the subsequent quarters of the year. Constrained government finances, contraction in investment activity and probable defaults, both at the firm and consumer level will continue to be a drag on growth," Singh said.

According to the Union

Health Ministry's data updated on Tuesday, the total coronavirus cases in the country mounted to 61,45,291 with 70,589 new infections, while the death toll reached 96,318.

According to the Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) report, following the easing of lockdown restrictions, the pace of contraction in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is expected to reduce further.

"The pent-up demand and re-start of small businesses and street vendors along with medium and large firms are likely to drive demand for industrial goods. The index is expected to rebound to the positive territory from the month of October," the report said.

During August, D&B expects IIP to have fallen by (-) 4 per cent to (-) 3 per cent.

According to official data, India's industrial production shrank 10.4 per cent in July.

Over 16,400 tonnes paddy procured at MSP from Punjab, Haryana in last 72 hrs: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said 16,420 tonnes of paddy worth ₹31 crore has been procured at minimum support price (MSP) in the last 72 hours from farmers in Punjab and Haryana, while procurement has just commenced in other States. With the latest procurement data, the Government aims to send a message to farmers protesting against new farm laws that it has no intention of scrapping procurement at MSP. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana and several other states are protesting against the new farm laws, which they feel will lead to procurement in the hands of corporates and the end of MSP regime. The Union Agriculture Ministry, in a statement, said arrival of kharif crops has just begun and the government continues to procure 2020-21 kharif crops like paddy at MSP from farmers as

per the existing schemes. Paddy procurement commenced from September 26 in Punjab and Haryana, while it started on September 28 in other states.

In Punjab and Haryana alone, about 16,420 tonnes paddy at MSP of ₹1,888 per quintal, totalling ₹31 crore, has been procured up to September 28, it said. Of this, about 3,164 tonnes paddy has been purchased in Haryana, while 13,256 tonnes in Punjab from 1,443 farmers, it added. For the current year, the government has fixed the MSP of paddy (common grade) at ₹1,868 per quintal, while that of A grade variety has been fixed at Rs 1,888 per quintal. The Government has also given nod for procurement of 14.09 lakh tonnes of kharif pulses and oilseeds for Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Haryana under the Price Support Scheme (PSS).

Automobile sales may fall 20-25 pc this fiscal: Ind-Ra

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rating agency Ind-Ra expects automobile sales to decline by 20-25 per cent this fiscal against its earlier forecast

of 22-25 per cent on account of increasing preference for personal mobility and an expected demand rebound from rural and semi-urban markets.

At the same time, the rat-

ing agency has maintained a negative outlook for the auto sector for the second half of the fiscal, owing to continued weak consumer sentiments and macroeconomic headwinds

amid the disruptions caused by the pandemic, Ind-Ra said in a release.

The latest forecast is marginally better than the earlier forecast of 22-25 per cent

Y-o-Y decline in sales volume in FY2021, released in June this year, Ind-Ra said.

Favourable regulatory changes such as GST cuts or incentive-based scrappage pol-

icy could help demand revival in the medium-term, the ratings agency said.

It, however, warned that any significant spread of the virus to rural India could affect

the recovery trend due to further disruptions in those parts of the economy.

Both passenger vehicles (PVs) and two-wheelers (TWs) sales could fall 18-21 per cent

y-o-y in this fiscal while the decline in the commercial vehicles (CVs) sales would be 30-35 per cent y-o-y in FY2021, on account of lower economic activities, it said.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11,288.60	11,305.40	11,181.00	11,222.40	-5.15	
HINDALCO	169.45	177.3	168.1	176.6	8.9	
ULTRACEMCO	396.00	407.80	394.35	405.20	13.04	
HEROMOTOCO	310.00	322.05	310.45	317.90	8.8	
TITAN	1145.00	1174.15	1139.35	1169.00	30.25	
TCS	2434.85	2511.05	2426.30	2486.75	60.45	
TATASTEEL	365	371.8	361.7	369.5	8.5	
JSWSTEEL	277	286.8	276.05	282.85	5.85	
HDFC	1,692.00	1,720.00	1,682.10	1,712.65	31.2	
BPCL	394	394	378.15	392	6.85	
SHREECEM	19,599.00	19,970.00	19,351.40	19,795.00	261.85	
RELIANCE	2,225.00	2,264.00	2,216.25	2,241.90	25.65	
HDFCBANK	1,058.00	1,069.90	1,051.00	1,064.40	10.2	
ASIANPAINT	1,960.00	1,989.95	1,954.00	1,961.95	16.85	
EICHERMOT	2,190.00	2,218.50	2,180.00	2,195.80	14.35	
MARUTI	6,749.00	6,813.30	6,671.00	6,739.30	36	
INFY	10,108.00	10,128.00	10,041.00	10,138.5	3.45	
WIPRO	315	318.55	310.5	312	0.45	
ADANIPORTS	343.4	346.4	336.9	340	0.45	
M&M	615.25	626.5	608.1	611.85	3.4	
BRITANNIA	3,769.00	3,796.00	3,701.65	3,715.05	-22.3	
TATAMOTORS	134.95	136	130.7	131.95	-0.9	
NESTLEIND	15,800.00	15,851.05	15,575.00	15,595.00	-124.8	
GAIL	88.8	88.8	87	87.5	-0.7	
SUPLIFE	819	813.4	802.1	806.1	-6.9	
IT	909.95	912.85	892.4	894.25	-8.6	
SUNPHARMA	517.85	517.85	504.5	505.2	-4.9	
IOC	76	76.25	74.05	74.9	-0.75	
SBIN	188.5	188.95	183.25	185.3	-1.95	
KOTAKBANK	1,286.80	1,292.90	1,259.10	1,264.40	-14.3	
DREDDY	51,300.00	51,349.95	50,066.40	50,071.95	-57.9	
DIASLAB	3,100.00	3,154.95	3,048.65	3,061.90	-35.25	
ICICIBANK	363.75	363.75	354.25	358.4	-4.6	
BAFINANCE	3,358.00	3,372.00	3,254.50	3,287.00	-48.15	
HINDUNILVR	2,065.00	2,069.25	2,024.75	2,032.00	-31.3	
HDFCLIFE	586.8	586.8	573.65	570.7	-10.5	
BHARTIARTL	444	444.55	429.5	435.6	-8.05	
CIPLA	777.6	786	759.05	760.45	-14.35	
TECHM	785	790	764	764.85	-14.55	
GRASIM	736	739.9	715.05	718.1	-16.1	
ITC	174.75	174.75	169	169.5	-3.8	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,992.70	3,010.00	2,890.00	2,901.00	-65.35	
COALINDIA	121.15	121.55	117.15	117.35	-2.65	
BAJAJINSV	6,031.75	6,049.50	5,832.55	5,848.00	-137.95	
HCLTECH	837.4	841.1	810.2	815.35	-19.9	
NTPC	88.5	88.9	84.65	85.1	-2.4	
AXISBANK	442.4	443.3	424.8	427	-12.25	
POWERGRID	169	169.4	162.5	162.75	-5.4	
INDUSINDBK	559	561.85	528.95	535.9	-19.2	
ONGC	72.5	72.7	68.9	69.35	-2.5	
UPL	514.5	514.5	490.6	492	-17.8	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27,180.55	27,286.55	26,801.25	26,866.00	-124.9	
ADANIGREEN	714.1	714.1	714.1	714.1	34	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,102.05	1,144.30	1,093.30	1,129.00	39.2	
MIDCAP	113.9	116.7	111.9	116.5	3.9	
AMBUJACEM	214.05	218.5	210.8	217.15	5.5	
SIEMENS	1,250.00	1,277.10	1,236.00	1,241.00	18.2	
BOSCHLT	13,515.10	13,829.95	13,416.05	13,660.00	169.2	
OFSS	3,047.80	3,097.80	3,045.65	3,076.10	37.1	
NAUKRI	3,600.00	3,703.10	3,599.95	3,614.00	38.45	
HINDZINC	211.3	214.75	211.5	212.1	2.25	
NMDC	82.45	83.35	81.2	82.55	0.85	
ICICIPRULI	419.85	429.55	419.7	423.9	3.45	
DMART	2,108.40	2,150.60	2,082.90	2,125.00	16.6	
BIOCON	452	462.8	449.15	453.6	3.2	
TORNTPHARM	2,719.50	2,779.95	2,679.05	2,706.95	13.5	
SBICARD	845.1	854.85	836.65	845	3.6	
PEC	88.7	89.1	87	88.15	0.2	
ACC	1,380.40	1,398.60	1,358.30	1,378.40	3	
HINDPETRO	184.95	186.5	181.75	184.3	0.3	
HDFCAML	2,299.00	2,320.00	2,210.00	2,251.05	-0.5	
ABBOTINDIA	16,443.65	16,510.10	16,111.60	16,315.25	-2.95	
ALOK	2,806.95	2,830.00	2,765.00	2,772.60	-2.85	
PGHH	9,907.80	10,010.10	9,867.90	9,873.10	-14.35	
AUROPHARMA	805	809.9	790.35	796.6	-4.1	
PIDILITIND	1,446.00	1,456.40	1,422.65	1,425.00	-11.35	
CADILAH	388.1	394.8	385.35	386.75	-3.85	
GODREJCP	715.25	730	702.1	705.95	-7.3	
LTI	2,534.70	2,561.60	2,466.15	2,505.45	-30.6	
DABUR	503.05	510.3	496.25	497.05	-6.2	
PRATONET	224	225.4	217	219.65	-2.75	
ICICI	1,278.00	1,278.00	1,246.20	1,250.00	-18.5	
LUPIN	1,014.00	1,014.00	994	994.05	-14.9	
CONCOR	382.4	386	372.65	374.6	-5.7	
MARICO	362	366.35	354.75	355.05	-5.6	
BERGEPAINT	593.8	599.85	574.7	577.95	-9.5	
ADANITRANS	254.4	257	246.5	247	-4.2	
COLPAL	1,447.90	1,460.00	1,414.00	1,415.00	-25.9	
UBL	975	986.5	946.25	951.2	-18.4	
DLF	158.5	158.95	153	154.25	-3.45	
GICRE	126.5	126.6	121.75	122.4	-3.05	
BANDHANBNK	282.5	285.9	271.65	273.3	-7.15	
PEL	1,295.80	1,313.45	1,239.00	1,248.65	-34.65	
HAVELLS	688.5	691	661.4	666	-18.5	
BAJAJHLING	2,500.00	2,509.00	2,410.30	2,425.00	-67.6	
TATACONSUM	519.6	527	500.1	502	-15	
JGL	405	405.7	388.05	391.95	-11.9	
INDIGO	1,288.95	1,288.95	1,224.05	1,235.00	-40.4	
MCDOWELL-N	533	537.85	508.3	511	-17.3	
PNB	30.2	30.4	28.7	29.05	-1.1	
INFRATEL	185.9	186.3	177.25	178.45	-7.45	
BANKBARODA	43.4	43.6	40.7	41.4	-1.95	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	AMARAJABAT	747	761.85	744.6	756.8	LEMONTREE	28.85	28.85	27.7	28	GILLETTE	5416.25
RELIANCE	2222	2264	2217.15	2244.85	BEL	98.6	99.4	94.85	95.9	HEXAWARE	466	468	465	466.2	REPOHCOME	7790
BAFINANCE	3359.45	3372.25	3254.3	3293.1	DIXON	9066	9161.25	8943.85	9111.25	GODREPROP	891.2	895.85	870.95	878	ICICI	1284
IDEA	10.11	10.25	9.54	9.81	NESTLEIND	15800	15845	15577.85	15585	CORAMANDEL	810	810	783.8	792.1	DALBHARAT*	7790
GMM	3457.9	3821.8	3457.9	3821.8	TVSMOTOR	472.1	480.65	468	470.6	INDHOTEL	98	98.1	95	95.4	ERIS	54
TCS	2439	2512	2434	2487.25	CANBK	91.95	91.95	87.55	89.45	GRAPHITE	194.8	197.4	187	196.2	JAICORPLTD	83
TATAMOTORS	1352	136.1	130.75	131.7	IDFCFIRSTB	30.75	30.75	29.65	30.05	MARICO	362	366.3	354.85	355.65	AAVAS	1383.05
INDUSINDBK	560.9	561.5	528.65	536.25	CHOLAFIN	249.5	254.1	246.3	251	ULB	974	986.95	964.4	950.5	GSPIL	1987
SBIN	188.6	188.95	183.3	185	GMRINFRA	23.7	24.3	22.75	22.9	BCDL	305.7	311.05	300	303.1	EQUITAS	52
MARUTI	6750	6815	6667.3	6738.6	ALOKEITEX	21.7	21.95	20.55	20.55	CONCOR	385.25	385.25	372.6	374	VGUARD	167.7
INFY	1018.95	1028	1004.2	1010.25	BHARATFORG	459	459	447.05	448.05	RADICO	422	422	398.3	399.95	AGEISLOG	2395
SAIL	35.8	36.4	34.85	35.55	PAGEIND	20700	21595	20515.6	21510	ATUL	6148	6160.5	6035.15	6136.6	PGHL	5093
AXISBANK	440.55	443.35	424.75	426.75	BERGEPAINT	590	599.5	574.85	578.25	ABTINDINDIA	16499.85	16500	16143.6	16398.1	AUBANK	670
HEROMOTOCO	3113.7	3221.6	3103.1	3175	DABUR	503.9	510.2	496.1	496.95	SUZLON	3	3	2.92	2.96	KPRMILL	5903.3
HCLTECH	836.25	846	810.2	812.4	NOCLIL	147.1	148.65	141.15	144.1	ABFRL	133.25	133.5	129.3	132.2	CYIENT	392
KOTACKBANK	1288	1292.25	1260	1265.5	L&TFH	62.8	63.05	61.3	61.5	LTI	2495.5	2561	2468.05	2498	SUPREMEIND	1396.5
SANOFI	8492	8500	8396.3	8495.8	HAL	786	798	780.5	783.05	METROPOLIS	1895	1896.95	1772.65	1799.55	VAIBHAVBGL	1905
ITC	174.8	174.8	169	169.35	PIDILITIND	1454	1455.05	1422.35	1427	IPCALAB	2084.4	2175.95	2038.65	2132.3	BAJAICON	185.75
JSWSTEEL	276.4	286.6	276.1	283.2	BEML	619.95	633.75	616.55	617.55	PFC	85.5	89.5	87	88.35	ALLCARCO	129.3
BATAINDIA	1349.9	1404.6	1342.65	1346.2	NMDC	82.95	83.3	81.2	82.8	BIRLACORPN	697.1	688	657.1	668.1	IKITRE	59.4
BHARTIARTL	446	446	429.6	435.45	M&MFIN	126.5	126.7	122.55	124.7	GODFREYPHLP	930.50	930.6	913.4	917.6	GUJGAS	310.95
SUNPHARMA	516.25	516.6	504.65	505	FEDERALBNK	50.8	50.85	48.9	49.2	CHIMCORP	302.45	302.95	294.55	297.4	MINDAIND	346.95
ZEE	1694.75	1719.7	1682	1713.2	GNOF	208.55	214.35	208	209.5	PNBHOSMA	350	350.25	336	338.5	MRPL	25.15
JINDALSTEL	208.65	214.5	204.45	208.55	BSOFT	199	202	194.5	199.65	WOCKPHARMA	281.05	292.8	276.35	290.65	IKLASHMI	273.3
ESCORTS	1805	1823.15	182.15	192.15	FCFSUMSER	8.75	9.08	8.39	8.96	BANKINDIA	42.55	42.6	40.05	41.35	CRISIL	1779.95
DIVISLAB	3122.9	3137	3083.45	3131.05	ALKEAM	2810	2829.2	2767.6	2771.4	LALPATHLAB	1934	1945	1877.95	1881	ASTRAL	415
TATAELSI	1316	1323.05	1272.35	1279.45	JBCHPECHEN	1022	1034.25	974.55	990.65	CHANDINHOME	420.55	427.35	418.2	421.35	SHK	85.3
LT	907.05	912.8	892.2	895.15	COLPAL	1433.9	1459.65	1415	1417.4	APLTD	994	995	945	947	TIINDIA	570
ASHOKLEY	77.7	77.7	73.7	74.95	BLUEART	2965	3280	2878.55	3169.55	INDOCO	265.95	271.7	255.2	262.45	OFFSS	3064.85
KDREDDY	5145	5152.9	5087.5	5083.5	RMCOCEM	746	746	722.7	742.8	KPITTECH	112.7	118.8	109.2	115.45	EMAMILTD	359.2
STAR	710	754.8	689.8	726.6	ADANIGAS	191	194.65	189.65	191.45	JSWENERGY	58.8	59.8	57.2	59.25	GALAXYSURF	1865.9
TATASTEEL	363.6	371.6	361.8	370	ADANIPORTS	341.35	346.15	337.25	340	NBCCL	24.4	24.65	23.6	23.75	CCL	269.15
PVR	1246.95	1252.5	1182.55	1204.25	CADALAH	389.65	394.75	385.5	386.75	RECLTD	727.95	738	704.2	711.2	KALPAPOWR*	2937.6
BANDHANBNK	282	285.8	271.95	273.5	GRASIM	743	743	715	719	ECHLDR	103	103	99.85	100.15	PRESTIGE	252.05
HDFCAMC	2285	2317.8	2210	2255.5	APOLLOTRE	129.9	130.8	126.65	130.15	SONATSOFTW	321.05	328.4	315	317	DCAL	160
IDEX	202.7	211.7	199	209.3	BOSCHTL	13550	13808	13450	13666.65	FSL	73.45	74.5	71.75	72.1	IDBI	35.75
EICHERMOT	2199.45	2218.35	2181	2198.6	BRITANNIA	3794	3795.55	3707.55	3712.8	AJANTPHARM	1600	1620.35	1582.1	1594.8	SKFINDIA	1455.9
ADANIANT	297	307	292.25	298.15	ASTRAZEN	4432	4444.4	4275	4305.5	VENKYS	1443.5	1466.3	1407.25	1430	TV18BRDST	288.5
NATOPHARM	949	988	925.55	963.15	PNB	30.3	30.4	28.5	29.05	TATAMTRDVR	62	62.25	59.65	60.4	BAJAJSHART	252.7
ICICIBANK	364.4	364.4	354.25	356.95	PHILIPCARB	129.05	134.9	128.5	130.75	STRECH	151	153	147.45	148.4	ZENASARTECH	195.7
LAURUSLABS	297	308	284	289.15	COFORGE	2423	2423	2318.25	2327.25	SPARCO	177	177.3	170.8	173.9	INFIBEAM	75
HDFCBANK	1058.9	1069.9	1051	1062.5	APLAPOLLO	2879.95	2924	2795.85	2892.25	RELAXO	667	669.15	652.4	653.5	RITES	250
MINDTREE	1293.5	1367.05	1293.5	1334.15	PARAGMILK	102.35	108.75	102.35	107.65	VIPIND	299.75	305	291.05	292.15	UNIONBANK	27.8
NAUKRI	3600	3700	3600	3628.2	AMBAJACEM	210.35	218.25	210.35	217	CASTROLIND	110.8	110.8	109.45	110.5	JMFINANCIL	74.6
HINDUNILVR	2067.5	2069.7	2025.45	2034.2	VELATOCORP*	107	114.75	107	111.6	SOUTHBANK	6.98	6.99	6.76	6.81	IKPAPER*	92.4
PENL	1304	1312.4	1238.5	1253.15	DINATIORGA	1363.75	1417.95	1330	1347.55	ABB	866.15	874.75	853.1	855.75	GODREJAGRO	511.55
HINDALCO	170	177.25	169.25	176.55	KAJARIACER	535	555.5	534.15	549	RICHN	106	106	102.3	103.25	HEIDELBERG	181.35
BALKRISIND	1450.05	1497.15	1428	1482.8	MPSL	6200.05	6299.8	601.8	603.15	COCHINSHIP	337.5	337.8	325.6	326.8	PHOENIXLTD	188.5
CIPLA	776.05	786	759.65	762.25	POWERGRID	168.5	169.1	162.5	163.25	ASTERDM	138.65	142.75	136	138.4	IIFL	808.9
APOLLOHOSP	2064	2112.95	2055.05	2085.15	IRCTC	1375	1394.5	1363.55	1380	JOBLIANT	739.75	739.75	710.7	717	ENDURANCE	104.8
MM	613.9	626.25	603.15	613.85	WELSPUNIND	68.7	68.7	63.6	63.85	TATACOMM	878.8	885	834.25	838.7	SOHBA	238.35
WIPRO	312.55	318.5	310.5	311.4	FDC	377.2	378	360.2	365.1	VAKRANGEME	29.3	29.3	27.65	28.05	ESELEPRO	259.5
TORNTPHARM	2710	2778.55	2681.85	2712.7	PIIND	1956	2011.05	1935.65	1988.75	SUDARSCHEM	461.2	473.6	461.2	468.75	CREDITACC	669
ASIANPAINT	1947	1990	1947	1959.85	DMART	2124	2148.8	2083.05	2131.5	NH	332.65	335	321.2	347.4	ASHOKA	697.7
UPL	517.95	518	490.85	492	INDIACEM	115.75	118.8	112.65	114.7	DEEPAKFERT	155	155.5	151.15	153.75	ADANIPOWER	37.75
DLF	158	159	153	154.75						ABCAPALIT	64.95	65.05	62.7	63.2	NESCO	36.4
COALINDIA	1218	1218	117.2	117.65						NAVINFLOOR	2100	2100	2038	2091.75	PTC	46.65
IBULHSGFIN	155.4	157	150.35	152.05						TATACOFFEE	105	106.3	103.8	104.1	TCIEXP	780.25
BAJAJFINSV	6032	6050	5831.85	5852.9						GLAXO	1590.55	1591.15	1565	1576	BLUESTARCO	60.95
BAJAJ-AJF	3000	3011.55	2890.6	2898.9						GARFIBRES	2150	2189.9	2118.95	2118.95	NHPC	254.95
TITAN	1146.8	1173.9	1140.25	1167.45						UJVIJAN	216	216.3	209	213.1	ORIENTELE	181.85
BPCL	393	393.15	378.4	386.2						ITI	130	130.8	125.7	126.65	FINCABLES	285.7
SRF	4267.9	4325	4070	4135						WSWOLAR	240	242.85	227.05	230.5	BALMLAWRIE	103.95
AUROPHARMA	807	808.55	790.6	796.55						WABAG	193	194.9	188	190.5	RAJESHEXP	469.95
BIOCON	453.8	462.6	449.5	455.85						CROMPTON	265	265.405	258.1	279.35	DHANUKA	747
ULTRACEMCO	3950	4075	3946	4049.25						BBTC	1315.9	1323.75	1288.75	1296.6	GICRE	125.8
TATACONSOL	519	527.25	500.3	503.1						WELCORP	109.65	110.9	107.5	108.3	LUXIND	1435
INFRAEEL	182	185.8	177.3	178.8						GSFC	60.7	62	58.35	60.05	VSTIND	1388
SUNTV	469.6	475.65	465.5	470						TRIDENT	6.98	6.98	6.72	6.77	EIDIPARRY	280
GAIL	88.35	88.65	87	87.55						UFLEX	318.55	319.8	313.15	315.4	INDIANB	59.95
VEDL	141.3	141.45	138	139						BYACERCO	5942.1	5990.85	5855.3	5880.45	CARERATING	359.95
MUTHOOTFIN	1071	1143.85	1071	1130						CUMMINSIND	494.2	452.05	441.8	443.8	JAECHEM	1554.95
TATACHEM	286	306.95	297.4	299.8	MGL	851.1	864.8	826	835.75	ISEC	472	477.4	461	466	NILKAMAL	1299
INDIGO	1286	1289.45	1224.05	1235.6	ICICIPRULI	420.45	429.45	420.45	421.8	KRBL	286.1	288.15	282.6	284.8	KANSAINAR	485.6
DEEPAKNI	843	846.55	815.2	823.35	CEATLTD	950	102.32	950	994.6	KEC	339	349.35	325.25	340.35	TIMKEN	1116.95
BANKBARODA	43.6	43.6	40.75	41.45	NATIONALNUM	32.75	32.1	32	33.05	SUNTECK	266	279	266	270.5	GULFOILLUB	688
JUBLFOOD	2449	2449	2367	2373.3	LICHTSIND	284.9	285	275.65	279.1	CAPPL	576.1	578.35	553.8	558.15	MOTILALOFS*	67
ONGC	72.45	72.5	68.9	69.15	AARTIND	1023	10									

IN DEBATE

Last chance for Trump to define Biden

Washington: As a presidential candidate in 2016, Donald Trump seized control of the White House race and never let go.

He masterfully defined and denigrated his opponents with cutting nicknames and a say-anything debate style, and repeatedly drew his rivals into the controversies he created.

That's proven far more difficult for Trump in the 2020 race.

Though he may still be the most visible and visceral force in the White House contest, he has repeatedly struggled to control the contours of the campaign against Democrat Joe Biden.

The president's attacks on Biden have been scattershot and inconsistent, frustrating some Republicans who believe he has squandered repeated opportunities to define his rival.

His efforts to move past the coronavirus pandemic and onto issues he views as more favourable for his reelection prospects, including law enforcement and the economy, have failed to convince many voters that the public health crisis is any less of a concern or that his leadership during the pandemic has been effective.

Even Trump's rollout of Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his Supreme Court nominee on Saturday, a pick aimed at energizing conservative voters, was overshadowed the very next



day by bombshell revelations in The New York Times about his personal finances.

Tuesday's first presidential debate between Trump and Biden offers the president one of his last opportunities to reshape the race and colour voters' impressions of the former vice president.

But with just five weeks until Election Day, voting already underway in some battleground states, and partisan views among many voters deeply entrenched, some Republicans say Trump may have effectively run out of time.

"Donald Trump is essentially facing three enemies in this campaign: He's facing the coronavirus, he's facing Joe Biden, and he's facing the calendar," said Neil Newhouse, a Republican pollster.

Few leaders in either party are ready to truly count Trump

out, particularly given that polls broke late for him in his 2016 contest against Hillary Clinton.

And in the lead-up to Tuesday night's debate, Trump has previewed a broad attack on Biden's record, his character and his mental acuity.

But his messaging has inherent inconsistencies.

Sometimes Trump paints Biden as a far-left candidate; at other times he argues that while Biden is more moderate, he would be controlled by his party's most liberal factions.

Trump has aggressively argued that his 77-year-old rival has lost a step and isn't up for the job; yet in talking points Trump's campaign sent Republicans on Monday, they warned that Biden's abilities in the debate should not be underestimated.

Some of the president's supporters say they remain

confident Trump has both the time and the political skill to overtake Biden in this final stretch.

"President Trump has plenty of ready-made ammunition he has been using effectively on the campaign trail," said Ed Brookover, a Republican strategist who advised Trump's 2016 campaign before being ousted dur-

ing the general election.

"They will resonate as people learn more about Vice President Biden."

But privately many Republicans are perplexed that Trump, who skillfully identified and preyed on his rivals' weaknesses in 2016, seems to still be grasping for the most effective ways to define Biden at this late stage of the campaign. **AP**

Sikhs in US safe under Trump: Community leader

Washington: Asserting that Sikhs in the US have never been as safe as under the Trump administration, a prominent Sikh-American leader has claimed that the Biden campaign is trying to "demoralise and demotivate" the community.

Jasdeep Singh, co-chair of the Sikhs for Trump, said on Monday that it was because of President Donald Trump that so many Sikh youths were serving in the US military today with their turbans and beard intact.

This is because of the steps that he has taken with regard to religious freedom and liberty. Prominent Sikh American attorney Harmeet Dhillon is co-chair of Lawyers for Trump, he said.

"Sikhs in the United States

have never been as safe as under President Donald Trump. We are a martial community, no one can bully us. By saying so, the Biden campaign is trying to demoralise and demotivate us," Singh said.

His remarks came a day after the Biden campaign launched the 'Sikh Americans for Biden', an initiative to reach out to the Sikh community in the US. The Biden campaign vowed to address the unique challenges, including xenophobia, being faced by the Sikh community in the US.

In the November 3 presidential election, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris will challenge incumbent Republican President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. **PTI**

Pompeo voices support for talks between Greece, Turkey

Athens (Greece): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed support Tuesday for talks between Greece and Turkey, NATO allies whose relations have deteriorated sharply to the point where both had warships facing off in the Mediterranean.

Speaking from the Souda Bay military base on the island of Crete, on the second day of a five-day regional tour, Pompeo said relations between the United States and Greece are "at an all time high and getting stronger."

"Today I'm in Crete to showcase one of America's strongest military relationships throughout all of Europe," Pompeo said.

"We, the Americans, look to Greece as a true pillar for stability and prosperity in the eastern Mediterranean, and we're incredibly proud to support its leadership." Greece has been looking to the U.S. And the European Union for support in its dispute with

neighbouring Turkey, which it accuses of encroaching on its sovereign rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

Last month Turkey sent a research vessel, accompanied by warships, to prospect for energy resources in an area Greece claims is on its own continental shelf and where it claims exclusive economic rights. Athens sent warships of its own to the area, and put its armed forces on alert. The dispute has led to fears of open conflict. EU leaders are to discuss potentially imposing sanctions on Turkey for its actions later this week.

But tension has eased somewhat recently, with Athens and Ankara announcing they will restart an ongoing process of exploratory talks.

Technical discussions on a military level have also been taking place at NATO for the avoidance of a military accident, such as the collision in August of warships from the two sides, which reportedly

caused minor damage to a Turkish frigate and no injuries on either side.

"We strongly support dialogue between NATO allies Greece and Turkey and encourage them to resume discussion of these issues as soon as possible," Pompeo said in brief statements after meeting with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

"I spoke with (NATO) Secretary-General (Jens) Stoltenberg just two days ago on the progress being made at NATO. And we hope that these talks can continue in a serious way." Amid the tension with Turkey, Greece has announced major arms purchases, including fighter jets from France, as well as warships, helicopters and weapons systems.

"In the Mediterranean, there should be no waves caused by threats and rivalry. It is a sea of strategic importance, also for the United States," Mitsotakis said. **AP**

UAE defends decision to normalise Israel ties

United Nations: The United Arab Emirates has defended its decision to normalise ties with Israel and criticised interference in Arab affairs, an apparent reference to its foes Iran and Turkey.

Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the brother of Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, made the remarks during a speech Tuesday before the U.N. General Assembly.

He proclaimed that the UAE's decision announced in August to formalize ties with Israel froze a controversial Israeli plan to annex occupied

territory in the West Bank claimed by Palestinians.

Israel's prime minister, however, has insisted that plans have only been temporarily suspended.

"We hope this peace accord will provide the opportunity for the Palestinians and the Israelis to re-engage in negotiations to achieve peace," Al Nahyan said.

Palestinians have blasted the deals signed by the UAE and Bahrain with Israel, which were brokered by the United States, as acts of betrayal. President Mahmoud Abbas used his U.N. Speech

on Friday to stress that his government has not given a mandate to anyone to speak or negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people.

Abbas said that the only path for lasting peace is an end to the Israeli occupation and creation of a Palestinian state. The Emirati foreign minister also warned against what he said were "the expansionist ambitions of some countries in the region." Though he stopped short of naming any countries, the UAE has long accused Iran, Turkey and Qatar of meddling beyond their borders in the affairs of other states. **AP**

Afghan peace negotiator urges new era in ties with Pakistan

Islamabad: The chief of Afghanistan's peace negotiating team said Tuesday on a visit to Pakistan that the time has come for the two neighbouring countries to shun the suspicion, "stale rhetoric" and tired conspiracy theories that have dogged past relations.

Abdullah Abdullah is in Pakistan on a bridge-building mission meant to mend deep-rooted mistrust between the two countries. It was his first visit in 12 years.

Abdullah told the Institute of Strategic Studies in the federal capital of Islamabad that the two neighbors are on the threshold of a new relationship characterised by "mutual respect, sincere cooperation and shared prosperity."

"I am a firm believer that after many troubling years, we now need to go beyond the usual stale rhetoric and shadowy conspiracy theories that have held us back," Abdullah said. "We cannot afford to pursue business as usual. We

need fresh approaches and our people demand it. It is more urgent than ever to look to our region as one region."

His statements come ahead of meetings later Tuesday with Pakistan's powerful army chief and prime minister. His visit also comes at a crucial time in Afghanistan's troubled history as a government-appointed negotiation team is in the Gulf state of Qatar brokering an end to war with its Taliban foes.

Even before coming to power in 2018, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has advocated for a political end to Afghanistan's war and has been a strong critic of Washington's so-called war on terror saying it has left tens of thousands of Pakistanis and Afghans dead.

But many in Afghanistan have been critical of the support the Taliban received in Pakistan following the collapse of their rule in 2001 with the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan. **AP**

Tensions mount as Armenia, Azerbaijan continue fighting

Yerevan (Armenia): Armenian and Azerbaijani forces accused each other of attacks on their territory Tuesday, as fighting over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh continued for a third straight day following the reigniting of a decades-old conflict.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said Armenian forces shelled the Dashkesan region in Azerbaijan, while Armenian officials said Azeri forces opened fire on a military unit in the Armenian town, setting a bus on fire and killing one civilian.

Armenia's Foreign Ministry "completely" denied reports of shelling the Dashkesan region and said in a statement that with those reports Azerbaijan was laying the groundwork for "expanding the geography of hostilities, including the aggression against the Republic of Armenia."

The previous two days of



an Armenian soldier fires an artillery piece during fighting with Azerbaijan's forces in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh on Tuesday **AP**

fighting killed dozens and left

scores wounded. The Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Ministry reported 84 servicemen killed so far. Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, said Tuesday that 10 civilians were killed on its side, but he didn't offer any details on the country's military

casualties.

The heavy fighting broke out Sunday in Nagorno-Karabakh, which lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian government since 1994 at the end of a separatist war. **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

8-9 CRORE INDIANS COVID +VE: SURVEY

"Since a large portion of the population is yet susceptible, prevention fatigue is to be avoided and 5T strategy (Test, Track, Trace, Treat & Technology) is to be adhered to," Dr Bhargava said.

The ICMR chief said blood samples are collected from the general population and tested for Immunoglobulin G (or IgG) antibodies for the serological surveys. He said if a person is IgG positive, it means he was exposed to SARS-CoV-2 "sometime in the past".

For the second serosurvey, blood samples were collected from 29,082 individuals, Bhargava said. The data collected included socio-demographic details, history of respiratory symptoms, written informed consent, ethics clearance, along with a blood sample.

27 SOLDIERS KILLED ...

About Rs 658.58 crore worth of ammunition within shelf life was disposed off between April 2014 and April 2019. Moreover, after the accidental mine explosion at Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon, Maharashtra in May 2016, Rs 303.23 crore worth of mines were disposed off. They said the Rs 960 crore loss roughly mean 100-155 mm medium artillery guns could have been bought for this amount.

The medium artillery guns include howitzers which can easily be transported to inaccessible areas like Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh and other such tough terrains. These guns can be ferried in helicopters right up to hill tops. India signed a contract in 2018 for US manufactured M-777 howitzers. The deal is worth over Rs 5,000 crore for 144 howitzers. While 25 of these guns will be procured off the shelf the remaining lot is to be manufactured by an Indian private company.

The forces have favoured increased role of private companies in production of ammunition. However, these companies

want hand holding as they do not have the financial cushion if they do not get orders, sources said.

Faced with this situation, the Defence Ministry proposes corporatisation the 41 OFB factories located all over the country. However, the trade unions are against this move even though the Government recently appointed a KPMG-led consortium to advise the Government on ways to improve the functioning of the OFB.

The proposed corporatisation of the OFB will give it autonomy on a par with Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU) and a high-level Government panel is working out a roadmap to raise the OFB's turnover to Rs 30,000 crore by 2024-25 annually against existing Rs 12,000 crore after the move, sources said.

After corporatisation, the OFB will be allowed to forge partnerships with the private sector after the Defence Ministry nod and will continue to receive orders from the country's security forces.

The OFB will also be granted a special preference of 15 per cent above L1 price for "Make" and "Buy and Make" category products. The Centre will support OFB in case of losses, by way of loan for 30 per cent of the total shortfall and by way of equity investment for balance 70 per cent of the amount, they said.

The working capital for the next five years will be provided by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) as a one-time corpus fund and capital investment for ongoing and sanctioned projects will also be provided.

SUSHANT ...

Ruling out poisoning, the AIIMS panel has raised doubts about Cooper Hospital findings on the postmortem report of Rajput that did not even mention basic details like time of death, the sources said.

Earlier, the Board had asked Cooper Hospital on why Rajput's death cannot be murder and what should be done to rule this out. It also asked the Mumbai Hospital how a ligature mark on Rajput's neck was

on the lower band if he had committed suicide. Suicide by hanging should have led to a ligature mark on the upper side of the neck. The kind of ligature mark found on Rajput's neck is difficult in case of natural hanging.

HATHRAS' NIRBHAYA ...

Congress general secretary and in-charge of UP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra hit out at the Yogi Government over the incident. "A Dalit girl who died in Hathras died in Safdarjung Hospital. For two weeks she struggled with life and death in hospitals. Incidents of rape in Hathras, Shahjahanpur and Gorakhpur have shaken the State," she said.

In another tweet also she targeted the Government saying there is "no semblance of security" for women in the state and "criminals are committing crimes in the open". She claimed that it is the responsibility of the UP Government to provide safety to women. "@mryogiadiyanaath you are accountable for the safety of women in UP," the Congress leader tweeted.

Former UP Chief Minister and Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said, "The news of the death of Dalit victim after gangrape in Hathras is very sad. The Government should provide all possible help to the victim's family and ensure fast punishment to the culprits by prosecuting them in fast track court," she said.

Meanwhile Uttar Pradesh government spokesperson and State Cabinet Minister Sidharth Nath Singh said the incident is very saddening. "Our Government stands with the victim's family. The investigation started immediately and four accused have been arrested. Strict action will be taken. Law will take its own course," Singh told reporters here in Lucknow while confirming that the government is extending all help to the family members. .

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar expressed shock and sorrow saying his land has become the latest victim of lawlessness under the BJP's Yogi Government.

The DM denied reports of her tongue

being chopped off. He said the tongue of the girl was cut when the accused tried to strangle her.

On the other hand, IG Aligarh Piyush Mordia said on September 14, the victim's brother filed a complaint that a man strangled and tried to murder his sister. The victim was then shifted to a hospital. She in her statement said that the man had also harassed her, but made no other allegations. But on September 22, the victim named three more persons and made allegations of rape. The medical examination did not confirm rape. Samples were sent to the forensics lab and the report was awaited. All four accused have been arrested, the IG said. He said the trial of the case would be held in the fast track court. Now the police have added sections under Dalit atrocities and murder against all the four accused.

YOGI GOVT TAKES ...

by the state government, will be built on PPP model.

The government has also extended the dates for signing the concession agreement because of COVID-19 pandemic.

Ownership scheme: The cabinet has also approved the Union government's Swamitva Yojana (Ownership Scheme) to map residential land ownership in the rural areas using modern technology like the use of drones.

"The scheme will revolutionise property record maintenance in UP and was launched on the Panchayati Raj Diwas by the prime minister," the spokesman said.

The Swamitva Yojana is meant to create a record of land ownership in rural areas using modern technology and will be piloted by the Panchayati Raj department.

"The need for this scheme was felt since several villagers in rural areas do not have papers proving ownership on their land. In some areas, survey and measurement of the populated areas in the villages has not been done for the purpose of attestation/verification of properties. This scheme will fill this gap to provide own-

ership rights to the people in the villages," the official said.

The population in 1,08,648 villages will be surveyed under this scheme.

ODOP Retail: To make One District One Product (ODOP) a brand, the UP government has decided to set up retail shops at prominent places like railway stations and airports across the country. The government will also extend financial support for opening these centres.

At panchayat level, the help would be of Rs 40,000, at nagar palika area it would be Rs 60,000 and in nagar nigam region it would be Rs 1 lakh. At prominent airports like Delhi and Mumbai, the help would be up to Rs 5 lakh while for airports in smaller cities like Lucknow, Varanasi, Pune, Vadodara, Amritsar, Indore, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati it would be anything between Rs 1.50 lakh and Rs 4 lakh.

Medical faculty: The government has decided to appoint retired teachers of state medical colleges or Armed Forces Medical Services as professors in the newly-constructed medical colleges. This will help in tiding over the paucity of medical faculty in these medical colleges.

They will be appointed as consultant at an honorarium of Rs 2.20 lakh per month.

In other decisions, the government has decided to link Agnawadi with the State Rural Livelihood Mission and has approved revised estimates for construction of jail in Etawah. The cabinet has also approved giving land of Irrigation department to Indian Railways for construction of rail line between Deoband and Roorkee.

THOSE WHO LOST ...

"They are insulting the farmers by setting fire to the machines and equipment that is worshipped by them," he said.

The Prime Minister accused the Opposition of misleading farmers on the new farm laws including the Minimum Support Price (MSP) & its continuation.

"There will not only be MSP in the country but also the freedom for farmers

to sell their produce anywhere. But some people are unable to tolerate this freedom. Their one more medium to earn black income is finished," he said.

The Government has asserted that the new laws will free farmers from the middlemen and allow them to sell their products anywhere they want at a remunerative price.

The Congress-led-Opposition has alleged that the three farm laws passed by Parliament, last week, will hand over farming to the corporates through the contract farming.

The Modi-Government has said it is implementing what Congress has promised to the farmers in its 2019 manifesto.

OFFERED JUST 27, LJP...

The LJP's "aggressive stand" has come close on the heels of the Upendra Kushwaha-led Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) announcing that the party will contest the Bihar Assembly Elections along with the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Janwadi Party Socialist.

A day before BJP had ruled-out alliance with the RLSP which had quit NDA in 2019. The Bihar Assembly elections will be held in three phases - the first phase will be held on October 28, the second phase will be on November 3 and the third phase will be on November 7.

The JDU has asked the BJP to settle LJP's seat quota from about half of the total seats it is contesting.

AMNESTY CITES...

In a detailed statement, the MHA said that the Amnesty International received permission to accept money under FCRA only once in 2000 and later accepted money in dubious way by floating four companies and illegally shown as FDI. "Human Rights cannot be an excuse for defying the law of the land," said MHA in statement on the Amnesty's statement accusing Government of India for forcing them to shut their operations.

Business law as a specialisation is gaining popularity and with a degree in business law, young lawyers can also explore career options in different facets of business like legal fee auditors and transactional analysts, says DR SUKHVINDER SINGH DARI



Manage your business

Each day, new businesses are created with the aim of becoming profitable and successful. Businesses have always been intertwined with the legal regulations, and with the ever-evolving ecosystem, it becomes necessary for lawyers and solicitors to comprehend the importance of business law. Business law specifically deals with the evolution and establishment of new business ventures and any problems that may arise as the business associates with the government, other companies, and the public. It is, therefore, important to have a business-law attorney representing your business as well as to avoid any incidences of future litigation.

Individuals need to be governed by legal restrictions in a country in order to operate with some measures. Similarly, businesses need to operate under some legal guidelines. In the

absence of these laws, it will become extremely challenging to manage the various activities that are initiated in the name of the business. The laws also help to lay down the certainty and stability to the stakeholders of the business, besides providing a means to resolve disputes and protect the public against any wrongdoings for ensuring better profits or assured sustenance in a highly competitive market.

It is important to enter some form of a contract while doing business. Let's take an example of a wholesaler. A wholesaler wouldn't ship shoes to the retailer unless there is a legal document or a force that can bind the retailer to pay for the goods. When a business enters into a contract with other businesses, it is important to know who is bound to the contract and the outcomes in case the individuals who agreed upon the contract fail to perform as legally outlined in the

contract.

■ **Businesses need a universal set of standards:** A basic understanding of business law helps the business owners and other professionals to make better decisions. There are several legal rules and regulations that apply to businesses, and they need these legal guidelines to resolve disputes and grievances, provide certainty, define unacceptable behavior, and protect the employees.

■ **Handling contracts and legal agreements:** For a smooth business operation, it is important to keep all the legal documents clear of discrepancies. Studying business law can equip young legal professionals to suggest their legal team to make the appropriate changes to eliminate any terms that might seem conflicting with their business interests.

■ **The rationale for judgment calls:** Legal professionals need to tackle a

wide range of legal issues as a part of day to day business operation. Possessing appropriate knowledge of business law enables the professionals to not only fully understand these legal issues, but also their consequences and implications for the business. This, in turn, proves critical in helping the professionals to make the most beneficial decisions for the business.

■ **Outlines the legal responsibilities for the business and the consumer:** In the day-to-day operations of a business, engaging with other parties like customers or vendors is crucial to any business. Companies need to know that a set of legal responsibilities obligates them. Once it becomes complex, a clearly defined set of terms and conditions should be outlined by legal professionals to ensure the businesses' ethics and disputes are resolved in the best possible way.

■ **Help understand and manage**

transactions: Exchange of money taking place between businesses, customers, or banks helps businesses to make their transactions smooth. But the obligations associated with it are also necessary to be understood. Business law makes sure that the organisation is legally covered from all angles before any financial transaction takes place.

The legal team also prepares the documents to ensure that the business is protected on papers.

Business law as a specialisation is gaining popularity, and with a degree in business law, young lawyers can also explore career options in different facets of business like legal fee auditors, transactional analysts. All this translates into a plethora of options for law graduates to engage in a mix of business and law.

The writer is Director, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The more that learn to read the less learn how to make a living. That's one thing about a little education. It spoils you for actual work. The more you know the more you think somebody owes you a living.

— Will Rogers

FIITJEE's Big Bang Edge Test

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

FIITJEE's Big Bang Edge Test will be held across the country in Proctored Online Mode on October 18, 2020 for students presently in Class V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X & XI (going to Class VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI & XII in 2021).

It is a unique platform for students aspiring all-round excellence as it will help students realise and maximise their current potential for National and International Level Competitive as well as Scholastic exams. This test is also a scholarship test.

With the Big Bang Edge

Test, students will have a golden Opportunity to accelerate their preparation for JEE Advanced, JEE Main, BITSAT, Olympiads, KVPY, X & XII Boards, NTSE & Jr. Olympiads, without any break, impediments and hurdles even amidst COVID pandemic.

The test will showcase the student's readiness reflected by a single All India Rank Potential Index for the goals they aspire for, such as JEE (Main & Advanced), KVPY, Boards, BITSAT, NTSE, Senior and Junior Science Olympiads KVPY, BITSAT and X / XII Boards. For more details log on to www.bigbangedge.com.

Survey on skill development

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the current day scenario, Education is making major strides away from the erstwhile 'rote learning' which was its primary focus. Now, many companies look for individuals who do not just have a bag full of academic qualifications, but rather skills and experience that they bring with them making them work-ready.

A survey conducted by Vastum, a recruitment start-up, and Talerang, employability and training organisation, has released some insights by employees about what they consider to be vital career skills for success in the workplace.

The survey has revealed some interesting observations. Results show that there is a consensus among all about the importance of skill development for jobs. Skill development is no longer a matter of choice. It is inevitable to adapt, survive and succeed.

About 45.5% of the participants are graduates and 31.8% are employed full-time with various companies, but not necessarily having years of experience. About 14.9% are trained professionals who say that they acquired the necessary skill-set on the job. This goes to show the skill-gap that the existing education regime needs to address on an urgent basis.

Make way for entrepreneurs

Encouraging students for entrepreneurship in the under-graduation level allows them to develop and enhance skills such as creative thinking, problem-solving ability and time management, among others, says PROF DR C KARTHIKEYAN



Business models across the world have changed and the expectations of the customers' expectations, be it service or products, the ever increasing expectations to run business is getting tougher. With the change in the models, the opportunities to start ups and run business with support of other resources with combination of technology is ubiquitous. The opportunities to raise capital funding and advisory services are almost aplenty.

Hence the shift in the paradigm of business environment has undergone a massive transformation in recent years. This transformation has changed the perspective of our nation regarding various things including the approach we have towards developing students for the challenges thrown at the Indian Economy and Prosperity. Earlier, we concentrated on building job-ready students so that they can strengthen the economy.

However, this notion has changed in recent years. Nowadays, we as a nation are more focused on developing students who can create job opportunities; students who can not only strengthen the economy but can also take our country towards development. Therefore, entrepreneurship should be encouraged among students right from undergraduate degree education.

But, why should entrepreneurship encourage among students right from undergraduate courses?

The best platform to inculcate the qualities of entrepreneur is the undergraduate degree education, and enhancing interest and exposure to the opportunities of being an entrepreneur and helping them to develop basic entrepreneurial skills can give a strong foundation for students. It prepares the student for the journey ahead of them. Encouraging students for entrepreneurship in the under-graduation level

allows them to develop and enhance skills such as creative thinking, problem-solving ability, problem identification ability, time management, among others.

All these skills enable students to climb the ladder of success quickly. Moreover, these skills also prove beneficial in personal development. Therefore, in recent years colleges are encouraging entrepreneurship through courses such as BBA.

How is BBA suitable to foster entrepreneurial spirit as well as appropriate skills?

BBA is a professional degree programme has the potential to expose various business concepts that are basic requirements to start a business on own, as well as the basic skills of accounting and finance, which are indispensable to be an entrepreneur. It is also opening up chances to meet real life entrepreneurs in the form of guest lectures to listen to their experience and learn fruitful

lessons on the same. All the subjects of BBA together will assist students in acquiring business knowledge and management skills at an early stage. Furthermore, it also allows students to master in fields like finance, marketing, information systems, and international business.

The course is distributed in six semesters that spread across three years. Its curriculum is designed in a way that enables students to develop skills that are needed in the management career. The factors listed below establishes ways BBA is helping students to achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

The six semesters of the entire BBA curriculum has the potential to offer versatile nature. It provides students with an in-depth understanding of management concepts and its implementation in the business environment. BBA program not only provides the students with theoretical knowledge but also build them for practical applications of this knowledge through internships. The end of semester mini projects and specialisation project with viva presents ample opportunities to use creativity in completion of projects as well as presentation skills, alongside earning experience through internships.

The internship opportunity during college duration gives students an exposure to the work environment. Furthermore, allowing them to learn more about business practices. Along with it, they get a clear understanding of the domain they would like to pursue a career.

While at the pursuance of the course, many of the management colleges expose the students to special lectures in the form of entrepreneurship events, where in many real life entrepreneurs including the alumnus of the colleges who turn out to be a successful entrepreneur to share their experience in a common platform to encourage entrepreneurship among students. In conclusion, we can say that if one wants to open their own business or enhance their management skills to pursue a career in management, then BBA is the right choice for under-graduation.

The writer is Principal, T.John Institute of Management and Science

Earn while you learn

The pandemic has brought into focus the importance of upskilling, reskilling and expanding skillset to prevent job loss in the new normal, says VIKAS SHARMA

Experts have been debating for the last few years that the introduction of machines, automation and digitisation will cause job loss. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven it right, as the majority of work and other activities, approximately 69 per cent, have moved online.

Work online, buy online, learn online is the new normal.

The pandemic has changed the mindset and parameters of hiring managers. During this pandemic the online professional platform "LinkedIn" created a buzz by adding a tool to provide help to professionals who wanted a job change. In a short span of time more than 30 million members have used this tool to help them become more discoverable by hiring managers.

It is now common knowledge that organisations that have skilled employees with expertise in specific skill sets can manage operations with less staff but greater efficiency. That is the key learning for professionals. Upskill, reskill, and expand your skillset to prevent job loss in the new normal that has been brought into focus by the pandemic.

There is a huge demand for professionals in sectors such as ICT, FMCG, healthcare, logistics and e-commerce to name a few, who are not only skilled in the relevant field but also possess good problem solving, communication, research and presentation skills, and are also technologically savvy. It is expected that hiring in these sectors may go up by 15 per cent to 20 per cent during the current year. Even in the manufacturing sector, organisations are on the lookout for individuals with such skills.

India is a young nation with more than 65 per cent of its population being less than 35 years in age. It also possesses the largest workforce in the world. Our youth has an incredible opportunity to become skilled in white collar and blue-collar jobs. Universities focused on skilling such as Shri Vishwakarma Skill University of Government of Haryana, are doing a commendable job by skilling learners



Vikas Sharma

through a unique model of two-way learning, in various sectors. In this model, theoretical training is provided in the university by its expert faculty and the practical training is provided through on-the-job training by partner organisations. Students get the chance to experience practical training, through on-the-job to not only develop the skill sets in real life situations but also earn while they learn.

We hope this pandemic is seen as a wake-up call and more and more professionals and students embrace learning and skilling as a part of everyday life to make New India — Skilled India.

The writer is a public policy expert presently serving as Director & Chief Executive, Centre for Strategy & Leadership, New Delhi (me@vikassharma.name)

NSS day celebrations at IP varsity

The NSS Cell of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, in collaboration with the NSS unit of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, affiliated to GGSIPU, celebrated the NSS Day on September 29, 2020. The event was held online on Zoom and streamed live over YouTube and Facebook.

The theme was — Holistic Health and Wellbeing. Throughout the week, several online competitions were conducted including poster making, cooking, slogan writing, logo making, essay writing & recitation, NSS quiz and plantation campaign. The sub-themes were — mental health, nutrition, physical health, environment, anti-

tobacco, harmful effects of drugs and unhealthy lifestyle.

The welcome address was given by Dr BVR Reddy (programme coordinator of NSS Cell of the university). With motivating the NSS volunteers, he highlighted the previous activities of NSS Cell and said: "We have 10 units and have a list of promoted activities at respective units and also promote to adopt villages/slums so that, children get sensitised towards the societal problems and in a big way, university contributes in alleviating programmes and finding technical solutions by sending our children to what we call as special campaigns. These are our primary objectives."

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vidyamandir Classes, one of the leading institutes of the test preparation industry, is delighted to announce the launch of Vidyamandir Intellect Quest (VIQ). Its biggest admission & scholarship test of the year for one lakh plus prospective IITJEE and NEET aspirants.

VMC aims to pave the way for students scoring high marks in IITJEE and NEET through this launch. This exam will be conducted on October 24 and November 1, 2020 through the proctored online medium for

admissions in classroom and online programmes starting April 2021.

Students have the option of selecting any of the two dates as convenient considering festive period during the time of exam. In lieu of the pandemic, students will get to study at last year fee as Vidyamandir management has decided not to have the customary increase in fees implemented. Upon qualifying, students can register for the course at just ₹9,999 and pay the balance by April 2021.

This is a huge opportunity for students as they can get mini-

mum savings of ₹50,000 on select classroom programmes upon qualifying and upto 100 per cent scholarship on fees basis their merit and their score in this qualifying test. It is also a chance for the aspirants to be part of unique pedagogy of VMC, which outshines in JEE Main 2020 (Sep) with six toppers from four states Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar and J&K.

This exam is specially designed for IIT/JEE and NEET aspirants who want to be a part of the top engineering and medical colleges and want to pursue courses in these streams. This

exam is also a way for students to understand their current potential and basis their marks obtained in VIQ, students can comprehend their academic intellect. With VIQ Vidyamandir has also launched Prodigy Programme which caters to pre-Foundation stage students who will be entering Class VI to VIII in April. These students will get to build their acumen for reaching their fullest potential. The registration fee for the exam has been revised to ₹99/- during the lockdown. The students can visit the website www.vidyamandir.com for more information on VIQ.

VMC launches Intellect Quest

New book released

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh on September 29, 2020 launched *A bouquet of flowers*, a book written by author Dr Krishna Saksena, at his residence. This is the ninth book authored by the senior English Professor who is the first lady to get a PhD from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in 1955.

Through this

book, Dr Saksena, presents a series of anecdotes that allow the reader to extract the moral of the stories, rather than a didactic imposition of her views.

Speaking about the book, Dr Saksena says: "The book has been designed to allow the readers to travel their journey, arrive at their personal realisation and be inspired. I hope the readers enjoy and relate with it."



The JEE Advanced 2020 organised by IIT-Delhi for admission to the 23 IITs was held on September 27, 2020. There were two papers — Paper-I and Paper-II and both were compulsory. Analysis of JEE Advanced (Paper-I):

Total Marks: 198
The Paper had (54) questions in total.
It had three parts — Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics.
Maximum marks for each part was 66.

Over all analysis of Paper I: Students found the overall level of paper moderate to difficult level but not easy. However, it was easier compared to 2019 as per students.

Some students have reported Chemistry was easy to moderate, Physics was moderate but Maths relatively difficult.

In Physics almost questions from chapter of Classes XI and XII were asked. Some students reported Physics was lengthy. Chapters like Rotation, Work Power Energy, magnetism & Thermodynamics had more questions.

In Mathematics, there were five-six questions from Calculus. There were questions from

Let's analyse

The JEE Advanced 2020 was held on September 27, 2020. FITTJEE expert RAMESH BATLISH breaks down the two papers based on the feedback given by the aspirants

Students found the overall level of the Paper-II moderately tough. It was lengthy and tougher compared to Paper-I. Chemistry was easy to moderate, Maths was moderate & Physics was moderate to tough

Continuity & Differentiability, Application of Derivative, Definite Integrals. One question each from Probability, Complex Numbers, Determinants and two questions from 3 D Geometry.

In Chemistry, few questions on Organic Chemistry compared to Inorganic & Physical Chemistry. No mistakes reported till now as complete paper is yet to be analysed.

Over all analysis of Paper-II: Students found the overall level of the paper to be moderately tough.

It was lengthy and tougher compared to Paper-I.

Chemistry was easy to moderate, Mathematics was moderate & Physics was moderate to tough.

In Physics questions were more concept based and covered all chapters. Questions were asked from Chapters of Fluids , Ray Optics, Electromagnetic Induction, Current Electricity, Rotational Motion, Heat & Thermodynamics. Mixed concepts questions took more time.

In Mathematics, there were more questions from Calculus & Algebra . Questions were asked from Functions, Limits, Continuity & Differentiability, Application of Derivatives, Differential Equation. In Co-ordinate Geometry, there was a question from Hyperbola. In Algebra, there were questions from Permutation & Combination, Complex Numbers, Matrices. A

question on Probability was had lengthy calculations.

In Chemistry, questions from all chapters were covered and were Easy to Moderate level. Organic Chemistry had good no. of questions. In Physical Chemistry there were questions from Chapter of Solutions, Atomic Structure, Ionic Equilibrium & Chemical Kinetics.

No mistakes reported till now as complete paper is yet to be analysed. As the test was computer-based students had the option to clear response to change any option, they could mark it for review, save and next to proceed further.

The writer is head FITTJEE, Noida

‘GRE tests students on relevant metrics’

In order to secure a seat in a B-school globally, one must clear show academic capabilities. The GRE test is one of the best option available for aspirants, says ALBERTO ACEREDA

Every year, thousands of B-school aspirants apply for schools around the world as a first step to securing a place in prestigious institutes. Cracking one of these schools is not an easy task though. B-schools reflect this recognition and hence typically lean towards candidates who demonstrate all-round academic capabilities, a well-rounded personality, leadership qualities and intellectual vigour- attributes that are seen to be important for success in the real world of business and finance.

A key element of the admission process to these schools is a standardised assessment test. Given the abilities that are on test, the GRE is the one which best tests the students on the relevant metrics. The GRE measures the students' verbal reasoning, problem solving, critical reading and analytical writing ability- in short, it's a test for some major competencies that are required for success in B-Schools as enumerated above and is structured as such.

The first section is the analytical writing section which is essentially a task in writing two essays each spanning 30 minutes. The first essay is typically written by the student on a topic as chosen by her stating her position on an issue. The second essay is then written to dissect the logic provided in the first essay and to figure out where the logic falters and can therefore be improved.

The scoring is done on a scale of 0-6. Each essay is rated by a human reader and an e-reader and in case of difference in ratings, it's sent to another human reader and the average of the two human scores is taken. Analytical abilities and analytical writing in particular are important skills which are not only relevant to B-Schools but are extremely critical for success in the world outside.

This is followed by the verbal reasoning section. This section places a great deal of emphasis on vocabulary, logic and reading comprehension. This is important as proper vocabulary helps the student better communicate with peers and others in an academic environment. To crack this section, one would require a fair degree of expertise



Alberto Acereda
Executive Director, Higher Education,
Global Education Division,
Educational Testing Service

in reading and reasoning skills. A fair amount of habitual reading should get a student past this section comfortably. This section is scored on a scale of 130-170 with one-point increments.

The last section is the quantitative abilities section which involves problem solving and quantitative comparisons and essentially measures an individual's ability to interpret and analyze data and quantitative information using mathematical concepts. Quantitative reasoning is also on test here. Students are also allowed to use the calculator for this section. As in the previous section, here too the scoring is done on a scale of 130-170 with 1-point increments.

The three-hour 45 minutes assessment is a section adaptive test which means one can skip a question which is tough and move on to another one which could be answered first and come back to skipped question.

An important feature of the GRE is Score Select option. On test day, this enables a student to send scores from the most recent test or any other test taken within the last five years as per the student's preference. This has enabled students to send off their best scores, thus enhancing chances of success.

The writer is Sneha Sundaram,
Founder, Kutuki

Homeschooling is where children learn outside of a traditional school setting, the most common setting being their home. This was an option consciously chosen by a small segment of parents for reasons that could range from health to dissatisfaction with the traditional school system, flexibility to explore different methods of learning or to provide personalised attention that meet a family's value system or a child's learning need.

With COVID, however, homeschooling is no longer offbeat. It's become mainstream. This sudden shift has left parents across demographics grappling with a flurry of questions on how to turn their home into the primary learning environment.

This is where technology, when used correctly as the tool it is meant to be, can calm these anxieties. However, for it to work in a demographically diverse country like India, it must allow for:

Democratising learning: Technology erases geographical barriers and gives parents the opportunity to discover and choose from limitless learning opportunities, no matter where they are. Keeping in mind their child's learning needs, interests, their day-to-day schedule or the values they resonate with, parents can try out different homeschooling programs or learn with different teachers without being confined to a rigid curriculum. It has the potential to create a level playing field and put the power

MIND IT

of choice back in the hands of parents. In our own work in the preschool segment, we've seen parents from Jaisalmer to Majuli Pathanamthitta to Srinagar actively using technology to provide meaningful learning experiences for their little ones at home.

Transparency: The credibility and authenticity of Homeschooling resources or a teacher can be vetted and reviewed before signing up. Parents we interact with tell us that they avoid downloading a learning app that has less than a 4.2 rating on Play Store. They choose to download our app only after

reading our reviews and subscribe to it after going through the trial period where they get to experience what is being offered transparently. Service providers have to constantly be on top of their game, or risk losing customers to other qualitatively appealing options.

Affordability: With financial pressures associated with the COVID pandemic, many parents have had to realign life choices. However, the possibility of not providing the best education for their child is a compromise they would not like to make.

Technology can make access to quality learning resources and teachers affordable, flexible and customised to suit one's need.

Collaborative participation: Instead of packaging learning like instructions on a 'Ready To Cook' meal packet, technology should provide the right ingredients and the freshest ideas for parents and children to tinker, create, connect, collaborate, share feedback and add their own touch.

Localised product experiences: It is crucial that technology allows localised solutions to address learning needs at home — from using local languages in the product and content experience, to making the infrastructure light and easy to access in low bandwidth areas and devices with

limited storage. Technology should not be intimidating, but rather inclusive, and built on a strong premise of empathy so that a fundamental right like access to good quality education is not limited to only those who are experienced users of technology.

The pandemic has certainly gatecrashed into our lives but I also see this as a tremendous opportunity for different stakeholders in the education system be it parents, teachers or technology platforms to introspect and come together to usher in new ways to ensure continuity in education goals while always putting the needs of children first.

The writer is Sneha Sundaram,
Founder, Kutuki



arship is December 1, 2020.

Applications are invited from highly motivated applicants for the **Presidential Scholarship at Boston University**. The programme is open for international students.

Eligibility: Applicants must be an incoming first-year student at BU. Applicants must have SAT scores above 1500 and ACT scores above 33.

Award: \$25,000

Supporting documents: Submit all the required supporting documents such as secondary school records, English proficiency testing results, documentation of financial support, and copy of data page of the passport

Admission requirements: The candidates are advised to check the entry requirements asked by the university to study an UG degree programme.

Language requirement: If the candidate's first language is not English, then they have to demonstrate the English language ability by taking the TOEFL or IELTS test.

How to apply: After taking confirmation, no additional application form is required for this study-fund. The candidates will be automatically considered by the university based on their eligibility.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this scholarship is December 1, 2020.

Over **600 opportunities** are available at the **Tennessee Technological University, USA** for both home and international students.

Eligibility: Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University.

To complete the university's application, you must be admitted to Tennessee Tech (The admission application for Fall 2021)

Any required supplementary materials must be received and processed by January 15 to be fully considered. Supplementary materials include:

Official Transcripts from any institutions you have previously attended

FAFSA (completed by December 15, 2020 used for consideration for need-based awards)

Any required letters of recommendation (must be received in ScholarWeb by January 15)

Official ACT or SAT scores if you are a new freshman MUST be received by January 15.

Review the scholarship Timeline. Tennessee Tech's application must be completed each year.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is December 15, 2020.

ANGULAR 9 DEVELOPMENT AT FLEXIELE CONSULTING SERVICES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523550
Deadline: October 8, 2020

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AT SIRPI

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523552
Deadline: October 8, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT SAFEJOB

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523555
Application deadline: October 8, 2020

EVENT COORDINATION AT MILESTONE PAGEANTS

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523556
Application deadline: October 5, 2020

FRONT OFFICE OPERATIONS AT BOLLYGRAD STUDIOZ

Location: Chandigarh, Shimla, Mohali, Gurgaon, Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523557
Application deadline: October 7, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT WEBPULSE SOLUTION

Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523559
Application deadline: October 5, 2020

CAD DESIGNING & ANALYSIS AT INVENT GRID INDIA

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5523558
Application deadline: October 6, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

‘Study abroad can be an enriching experience’

Choosing right university to study abroad can be a daunting task hence students should tread carefully, says SADIQ BASHA

Choosing a university is one of the biggest decisions that you will make in terms of your education, and it can be overwhelming if you do not know where to start. Start researching universities and make sure you choose the right course.

There are many important factors that the students need to consider before shortlisting. University rankings are a good source for an overview of how a university is performing. Depending on which ranking you turn to, you can determine different information about an institution.

Students must also consider the total cost of studying in the country (both tuition fee and living costs). Other factors include working opportunities while studying, job prospects after completing education. Students can join webinars, organized by online study abroad platforms that will help them make decisions.

Organise your Finances
Financial planning is crucial

In the study abroad process. As a student you will be spending money on the university's tuition fee, accommodation, food, and other activities.

These costs vary from country to country. So it is essential to plan your expenses beforehand. One can also opt for an education loan. Banks in India provide education loan schemes with flexible repayment options. Education loan repayment starts six months after the student has completed their course.

Scholarships that you can look for

Students can apply for scholarship options provided by the Government as well as the university to support their education. Applying for scholarships can be confusing. Students can seek guidance from advisors on digital study abroad platforms such as Edvoy, who can help them through the process as they have direct partnerships with universities abroad.

Choosing to study overseas is one of the most rewarding decisions you will ever make in your life. Contemplate, plan and make the right choice.

The writer is CEO-founder, Edvoy

IN BRIEF

EDUCATION FEE PAYMENT MADE EASY

The education financing has been a key challenge for parents in India.

While it is still relatively easy to avail financing options for higher education there are not enough options available for school education. With rising aspirational levels of parents and wanting the best educational institutions for their child, paying hefty amounts of fees continues to be a challenge.

An average Indian household spends nearly 24 per cent of its total annual income on children's education, placing financing of education fees top-of-mind for parents. To add to this, due to the current COVID-19 induced financial crisis, parents are facing a huge liquidity crunch. This makes it even more challenging to finance the school education for their children.

Keeping these challenges in mind,

GrayQuest is an innovative fintech start-up which has taken the initiative of making the process of school fee payment more convenient and rewarding. It provides parents the option to pay their child's annual education fees in up to 12 monthly instalments – without incurring any extra cost – instead of paying it to their educational institution in two-three bulk instalments.

At present, the company is enabling over 3,00,000 students across the country to access education in an affordable manner while also becoming a strong source of liquidity and fee collection support for its partner institutions. Parents can also safeguard the lifetime education expenses against any fatality or unfortunate event to earning members of the household by a complimentary insurance cover.

NIU JOINS HANDS WITH UZBEKISTAN GOVERNMENT

The Noida International University (NIU) has joined hands with the Government of Uzbekistan.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan along with a number of other high ranking officials

from the Government and BSMI signed an MoU virtually.

With the signing of this MoU, joint faculty programmes will be introduced for MBBS and also the dual degrees

wherein the students can study for two degree courses at a time. Student exchange programmes, medical tourism and joint research programmes will be introduced at NIU and BSMI, Uzbekistan.

APP TO DETECT UNORIGINAL WORK IN SCHOOLS

Turnitin has launched a comprehensive academic integrity solution called Turnitin Originality. Turnitin Originality combines the text similarity checking functionality that Turnitin is known for with new features that help instructors address trends such as contract cheating and teach students the value of original thinking skills.

It uses comprehensive technology to help deter unoriginal work and support

students in learning how to properly attribute ideas and concepts to others. When reviewing submissions, it examines whether the work is similar to other known text, or if it has indications that it was not authored by the student. The need for this combined solution is clear: as schools and universities move to online instruction, they must be even more thoughtful and holistic about their approach to academic integrity.

