

OPINION 8
TIME TO LOOK
AND ACT EAST**WORLD 11**
OLI IN NO MOOD TO RESIGN,
READY TO FACE PARL: OFFICIAL**SPORT 14**
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LUCKNOW, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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AMITABH
HINTS AT NEW
BEGINNINGS
12 VIVACITY

Jab for 45+ with comorbidities or 60+ from Mar 1

Free shots in 10,000 Govt hospitals, at a fee in pvt ones

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Everyone above 60 years of age and those over 45 years with comorbidities will be able to get Covid-19 vaccine from March 1 for free in 10,000 Government medical facilities and for a charge at over 20,000 private hospitals, the Government said on Wednesday.

The rate for vaccines will be decided by the Health Ministry within the next three-four days as discussions are on with manufacturers as well as hospitals, said the Ministry.

The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took a decision in this regard, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said at a media briefing here.

"The second phase of the world's largest vaccination drive will start from Monday in which anybody above 60 years, that may not be less than 10 crore people in the country, and 45 years plus with co-morbidities will be given vaccines in 10,000 Government medical facilities and also over 20,000 private hospitals," he said.

"Whoever goes to the Government centre will be administered a vaccine free of cost. The Indian Government will pay for them. The Government will purchase the necessary doses and will send



them to all the States," Javadekar said.

Those who want to get vaccinated from private hospitals will have to pay, but the amount will be decided by the Health Ministry within the next three-four days as they are in discussion with manufacturers as well as hospitals, he said.

Asked if people will have a choice on which vaccine — Covishield or Covaxin — they want to take, Javadekar said India is proud to have two vac-

cines which are both effective with proven efficacy.

While Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield is being manufactured by the Serum Institute, Covaxin is being produced by Bharat Biotech.

Javadekar said the world's largest vaccination drive started on January 16 with 1,07,67,000 people vaccinated and 14 lakh also having received a second dose.

"This section was primar-

ily for health workers and frontline workers and the whole expenditure was borne by the Government, they were vaccinated free," he said.

Javadekar asserted that the vaccination in India has been successful, "faultless with hardly any complaints".

Asked whether Ministers and the Prime Minister, who would now be in the category of those who can take the vaccination, will get inoculated, Javadekar said those who want

INDIA ON THE MEND

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to take the vaccination will take it at the place of their choosing from March 1.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who also briefed the media on the Cabinet decisions, said most of the Ministers are of the thinking that they will pay to get vaccinated.

The decision came as India's cumulative vaccination coverage has crossed 1.14 crore recipients.

8 more States witness upsurge in Covid cases

Centre rushes high-level teams to tackle crisis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Maharashtra and Kerala, at least eight more States — Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir — have started reporting a surge in fresh coronavirus infections.

A worried Centre has rushed high-level multi-disciplinary teams to these States for supporting them in public health measures for targeted Covid-19 response and management, and effectively tackling the pandemic. It has warned the States that slacking off on rules and measures to check infection will escalate the crisis, given the emergence of new virus strains.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has also written to seven States and Union Territories on the recent spurt in virus cases and has advised specific steps.



Municipal workers sanitise a platform at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in the view of the rising number of Covid-19 cases in Mumbai on Wednesday PTI

AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria has already sounded the alarm, warning that India is also vulnerable to the second wave of coronavirus and people should continue to follow social distancing, wearing mask and other precautions. His statement comes against the backdrop of a recent medical survey that has shown that over 70 per cent of the Indian population is still susceptible to Covid-19.

Dr RK Dhamija, Head of Neurology Department and public health expert from Dr

Lady Harding Hospital in New Delhi, did not rule out further surge in the cases and advised the Government to regularly conduct genome testing of the positive Covid cases. He also suggested that focus should be on hotspots, which contribute to between 70-80 per cent of cases, and those pockets in the States which have high number of people with comorbidities such as diabetes and stroke should be given preference in vaccination.

Continued on Page 11

UP Assembly passes bill on religious conversion amid din

Lucknow (PTI): Amid protests by the Opposition, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Wednesday passed by voice vote a bill aimed at curbing religious conversions by fraudulent or any other undue means, including through marriage.

The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2021 seeks to replace the ordinance promulgated in November last year that provides for imprisonment up to 10 years and a maximum fine of Rs 50,000 for violators.

The bill was passed in the House even as Aradhana Misra, the Congress Legislative Party leader and Lalji Verma, the leader of BSP in the Assembly, protested.

Under the bill, a marriage will be declared "null and void" if the conversion is solely for that purpose, and those wishing to change their religion after marriage need to apply to the district magistrate.

The bill mainly envisages

that no person shall convert, either directly or indirectly from one religion to another by use or practice of misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage nor shall any person abet, convince or conspire such conversion.

The onus to prove that the conversion has not been done forcibly will lie on the person accused of the act and the convert, it said.

An aggrieved person, his/her parents, brother, sister, or any other person who is related to him/her by blood, marriage or adoption may lodge an FIR about such conversion, according to the bill.

BJP leaders had said the legislation intends to counter alleged attempts to convert Hindu women to Islam in the guise of marriage, which right-wing Hindu activists refer to as 'love jihad'.

■ **Related reports on** Page 2

Ready for talks if farmers consider offer: Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday said the Government is ready to resume talks with protesting farmers if they accept its offer to put the three contentious farm laws on hold for one-and-a-half year and work out the difference during that time through a joint committee.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event, Tomar said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government is making efforts to double farmers' income and strengthen the Indian agriculture sector.

The Minister was replying to a query on Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait threatening to march on Parliament with 40 lakh tractors if laws are not repealed.

Whether the Government is making any effort to resume talks with unions, Tomar said, "The Government has been holding discussions with farmers sympathetically. Even today, whenever their response comes, the Government is always ready to hold talks."

Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, is

protesting at Delhi borders for around three months, seeking repeal of three new farm laws and a legal guarantee of the MSP.

So far, even after 11 rounds of talks, the Government and the agitating farmers' unions have failed to reach any consensus. The last talk was held on January 22. The farmers' leaders have continued to press for the demand that the government should repeal the three laws. They have alleged that these laws will end the mandi and MSP procurement systems and leave the farmers at the mercy of big corporates, even as the Government has rejected these apprehensions as misplaced.

During the 10th round of talks held on January 20, the Centre had offered to suspend the laws for 1-1.5 years and form a joint committee to find solutions, in return for protesting farmers going back to their respective homes from Delhi borders.

Farmer groups have alleged that these agriculture laws will end the mandi (APMC) and MSP procurement systems and leave the farmers at the mercy of big corporates, even as the Government has rejected these apprehensions as misplaced.



Union Minister of Agricultural and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar and MoS Agriculture Kailash Choudhary during a function of the 2nd anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI

Rajnath can resolve impasse if he is allowed to talk to farmers: Tikait

PTI ■ BARABANKI

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) president Naresh Tikait on Wednesday called Defence Minister Rajnath Singh a "caged parrot" and said the farmers' issues could be resolved if he is given the freedom to talk with them.

He accused the BJP-led Central Government of being "stubborn" over the three new agriculture laws, which farmer unions are insisting on repeal. The protesting farmers too are not ready to go back on their demands of complete repeal of the farm laws, he said.

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6 staffers test Covid positive at city school

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Six staffers of La Martiniere Boys' School tested positive for coronavirus infection on Wednesday. Nodal officer for Covid-19 Dr MK Singh said a total of 442 samples were collected from city schools for RT-PCR testing. The school was already closed and preparations were underway for re-opening from March 1.

Dr Singh 35 samples were collected on Tuesday and 407 on Wednesday. Out of the total samples which were collected on Tuesday, six came positive in antigen tests, after which health teams were sent to La Martiniere Boys' School on Wednesday when it was detected that the cluster was from the school.

"For the remaining staffers, RT-PCR tests were conducted and 35 tested negative. The reports of the rest are awaited. There were no students in the school except for 12 who are orphans," Dr Singh said. After all the reports arrive, instructions will be issued accordingly, he said.

On the likelihood of direc-

tions for closure of other schools, Dr Singh said it is unlikely. "This kind of positivity rate witnessed in this school, has not been seen in the other schools of the city," he said.

"Credit goes to the rapid response teams that detected the cases in time, otherwise these staffers could have spread the infection to many others. The cases have been detected, thanks to the intensive surveillance and testing carried out on a regular basis in Lucknow," he added.

It may be noted that under the focused sampling which was carried out by the Health department in Lucknow, random samplings were slated for schools on February 23 and 24.

City schools with classes IX to XII re-opened in a regular manner from February 9 and those with classes VI to VIII from February 10. However, some schools chose to remain closed.

Six cases in La Martiniere Boys' School has raised concern among parents of classes I to V students as they were gearing up to send their wards to schools from March 1.

Motera stadium named after PM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a controversy over a cricket stadium in Gujarat being renamed after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government on Wednesday said the name change involves only the Motera stadium and the sports complex where it is located will continue to be named after Sardar Patel.

Soon after President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, which will now be known as 'Narendra Modi stadium', social media was flooded with remarks including by some leaders of the Congress and other Opposition parties who alleged that the remaining exercise amounted to an "insult" to Sardar Patel.

Union Ministers Prakash Javadekar and Ravi Shankar Prasad hit out at the Congress leaders, saying those who never respected Sardar Patel were objecting to the stadium being



View of the world's largest cricket stadium, the Motera stadium, ahead of its inauguration on Wednesday in Ahmedabad PTI

named after Modi.

Asked about the allegations, Javadekar told reporters that only the Motera stadium has been renamed and the complex where it is located continues to be named after Vallabhbhai Patel.

Prasad, who was present alongside Javadekar at the media briefing after a cabinet meeting, took a swipe at the Congress leaders, asking whether party chief Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi have so far praised the world's tallest

Sports Complex continues to have Sardar Patel's name, clarifies Govt

statue of Sardar Patel erected at Kevadiya in Gujarat.

Javadekar said the two Congress leaders have not even visited the statue.

Prasad continued, "I want to say this with full responsibility that a tourist place getting global praise has not been visited yet or praised by the two Congress leaders. What else is there to say?"

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor tweeted, "Maybe they just realised the stadium was named for a Home Minister who had banned their parent organisation! Or maybe this is advance booking to ensure the next visiting Head of State is hosted here, like Trump? Or is this the beginning of a legacy-creation-thru-labelling spree?"

Continued on Page 11

PM: Won't allow in-red PSUs drain taxpayers' money

Govt committed to selling non-strategic units, iterates Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday made his strongest pitch for privatisation of non-strategic PSUs, saying the Government has no business to be in business and sustaining loss-making units on taxpayers' money drains resources that could otherwise have been spent on public welfare schemes.

He said about 100 under-utilised or unutilised assets with public sector units (PSUs), such as those in the oil and gas and power sectors, will be monetised, creating Rs 2.5 lakh crore of investment opportunities.

"It is Government's duty to support enterprises and businesses. But it is not essential

that it should own and run enterprises," the Prime Minister said at a webinar on the privatisation approach in the Budget for 2021-22.

The private sector brings in investment, global best practices, top-quality managers, changes in management and modernisation, he said, adding the money generated from the stake sales will be routed to public welfare schemes in areas like water and sanitation, education and healthcare.

Modi said his Government is committed to privatising all PSUs barring four strategic sectors — atomic energy, space and defence; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services, where the Government will retain a bare minimum presence.

"The Government has no business to be in the business," he said. "Modernise and monetise is the motto we will fol-

low."

Modi also said to speed up the disinvestment process, an empowered group of secretaries has been set up to settle investor issues. The Government has to focus on development and the public sector and whenever it engages in business, it leads to losses, he said, adding several loss-making PSUs are supported by taxpayers' money which otherwise should have gone into welfare schemes.

As such as Rs 1.75 lakh crore is being targeted from the sale of Government stake in firms such as India's second-biggest oil firm BPCL, national carrier Air India, largest shipping line Shipping Corporation of India Ltd, helicopter services company Pawan Hans, IDBI Bank and Container Corporation of India in the next fiscal year beginning April 1.

This, along with an initial public offering of Life

Insurance Corporation (LIC) and sale of two public sector banks and one general insurance company, will be the largest disinvestment drive ever.

The Government has already received "multiple expressions of interest" for privatisation of Air India, BPCL and Pawan Hans. The Prime Minister further said the current reforms seek to ensure that public funds are used efficiently.

Stating that PSUs are valuable assets that have helped the country in the past and have huge potential in future, he said best global practices for proper price discovery and stakeholder mapping will be followed for the privatisation drive.

"Implementation is also important. To ensure transparency and competition, our processes should be right. To ensure this, a clear roadmap for

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SP uproar in Council

Lucknow (PNS): Agitated over passage of some bills in the legislative council against their demand for voting on them, the Samajwadi Party members paralysed the proceedings of the Upper House for almost the entire day on Wednesday.

The SP members also got support from other opposition members, including those of Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress. The Legislative Council Chairman later served 'warning' notices to seven SP MLCS, asking them to maintain their conduct in future and not use any derogatory remark against the Chair of the House.

The notices were issued in the names of Udaiveer Singh, Sanjay Lathar, Rajpal Kashyap, Anand Bhaduriya, Sunil Singh Sajjan, Santosh Yadav 'Sunny', and Rajesh Yadav.

As soon as the House start-



NOTICE

I, Rank Sub. Surendra Kumar HQ Chief Engr. Central Command C/O 56 APO have changed the name of my son from DEVANSH to DEVANSH CHOUDHARY. My son name should be corrected in service records.

NOTICE

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I, Virendra Singh Gautam resident of 393/2 Swasnjayanti Vihar Satbari Kanpur have changed my son's name from Aadvik Singh to Ayaansh Singh vide affidavit dated 09.11.2020 before Kanpur Court

NOTICE

I legally inform to all concern that myself has broken the relations with my son from 1.12.20 Nameer Ahmad. He will be self responsible for all activities as social, political, economical & criminal. -From Moh. Gayas S/o Moh. Riyaz Mohalla. Begamganj house no. C-18A, Civil Lines Shahar Nawabganj PS Kotwali Nagar, Barabanki.

सूचना

हम विक्रेशगण शिवगोविन्द, हरिशंकर व अखिलेश कुमार निवासी ग्राम-कनकहा, परगना व तहसील मोहनलालगंज, लखनऊ भूमि गाटा संख्या-131 स्थित अरदौनामऊ, परा व तहशे सरोजनीनगर, लखनऊ का विक्रय कर रहा हूँ किसी को कोई आपत्ति हो तो 15 दिवस में उपरोक्त पते पर या मोबाइल नं० 9559508291 पर सूचित करें।

NOTICE

I No-15432831 M Rank NK/DVR Hrish Kumar Ojha, my wife's name in my service record was wrongly mentioned as NAMRATA OJHA. Her correct name is NAMRATA MISHRA as per affidavit No-3027/18.02.2021

NOTICE

That my name is written Rajesh Gupta is incorrect given in my Son Harsh kumar passed the high school Examination in the year 2019 -20 from the I.C.S.E. Board record, but correct name is Rajesh kumar, Rajesh kumar s/o late Mundrika prasad, R/O-Mohalla Vivekanand Colony,Banshi bazaar Ghazipur (UP)

ed its proceedings at 11am on Wednesday, the SP members, raising slogans against Chairman Kunwar Manvendra Singh, came inside the Well of the House and staged a dharna, forcing him to postpone the proceedings for half an hour and later till 12 noon.

The proceedings resumed at 12:30 noon after remaining suspended for two more intervals of 15-minute each. However, as the uproar continued, the chairman adjourned the House till 3 pm.

When the House met again, the SP members continued to make noisy scenes, forcing the chairman to adjourn the proceedings first till 5 pm and later for 10 more minutes. Finally the proceedings started at 5:10 pm during which the necessary proceedings listed for the day were completed and referred for necessary action. The proceedings were called off for the day after a brief address by Congress leader in the House, Deepak Singh, on vote of thanks to the Governor's address.

It may be mentioned that the SP members became agitated after Chairman Kunwar Manvendra Singh cleared some bills with voice vote against the opposition member's demand for voting. On Tuesday evening also, the SP members had entered the Well of the House against the chairman's decision and made an uproar leading to adjournment of the House for the day.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday claimed that the COVID-19 recovery rate in the state was the best in the country and that the World Health Organisation had praised the state's coronavirus pandemic management efforts.

"Active cases in the state are around 2,000, hospitals have below 500 positive cases and the recovery rate is the best in the country. Due to our constant efforts, the WHO also praised UP's COVID-19 management," the chief minister said while replying to the debate on motion of thanks to the Governor's address to the joint sitting of the UP Legislature.

He said the WHO had in fact honoured the 24 crore people of the state and every donor of the coronavirus relief fund.

Lauding the people's representatives, non-governmental organisations, donors and the common people, the chief minister said, "The government was able to fight the battle against the pandemic with the active support of all the MLAs who accepted the salary cut, suspension of Vidhyak Nidhi and many traders, businessmen and common people came forward to donate for the Covid Relief Fund."

Yogi Adityanath said so far over three crore Covid tests had

Yogi mounts blistering attack on oppn

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday mounted a blistering attack on the opposition.

Replying to the debate on the Governor's address, the chief minister slammed the opposition for raising objections over the Governor's delay of a few minutes in coming to the House for her address on February 18 and creating disturbance during her address.

"There should be respect for those occupying constitutional positions. They do not belong to one party but are above political lines. The tendency to attack such persons is a matter of concern," he said, and added, "The Governor is the constitutional head of the state and if the legislature fails to respect the head of the state then it will be a crisis before our political system."

The chief minister added, "The opposition may not like to respect the constitutional head of the state but they should at least respect a woman Governor, are we not hurting and damaging the constitutional symbols by our conduct."

The chief minister, without taking names, also criticised the Aam Aadmi Party

over its allegation of a scam in the purchase of oximeters and PPE kits.

"When we probed the matter, we found that these items were purchased at a much higher rate in Delhi. When we told this to them (AAP), they have been quiet after that," he said.

Targeting former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, the chief minister said that those who reached Parliament from Uttar Pradesh were now ridiculing the state in Kerala.

"Who is insulting UP and Amethi? Who has the time to visit Italy but not Amethi? Who is now visiting temples in UP?" he asked, even as Congress members made feeble attempts to protest.

Yogi Adityanath said the Congress had turned the coronavirus pandemic into a joke when it said it wanted to send 1,000 buses for migrant workers. The chief minister accused the Congress of playing dirty jokes on the people of UP and petty politics during the height of the crisis caused by the pandemic. "During the COVID-19 pandemic, they said that 1,000 buses were being provided for the labourers by the Congress general secretary. I called for an investigation so that they (buses) could be placed accordingly. I found that what

they called buses had number plates of scooters and three-wheelers. And more than half of the vehicles had already gone for scrap. Is this a joke with the people of UP or not? Such a joke should not have happened during the pandemic," Yogi Adityanath added.

"Now in Kerala, the same thing is happening. If Congress really wanted to give buses then why did it not provide buses to students stuck in Kota, Rajasthan," he said, hitting out at the Congress.

The chief minister said, "India has developed two vaccines and two more are to be made available soon and India has provided free vaccines to many friendly countries but some people are not happy with the emergence of a new India."

Accusing the Congress of maligning India and Indian army before the audience of foreigners, the chief minister said, "What kind of mentality is this where the Congress maligns the image of India, insults the Indian institutions and Indian army before the ambassadors of different countries in India."

The chief minister said this mentality of the Congress had created a new crisis of national security of India.

CM: Oppn misleading farmers on agri laws

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday accused the opposition parties of committing the cardinal sin by misleading farmers and spreading canard over the three agriculture laws for their narrow political ends.

"The government is open for amicable settlement of all issues through dialogue and the government is ready to provide all possible facilities and assistance to the farmers. Violence, arson and disrespect of the symbols of the Constitution is unacceptable," the chief minister said.

"For their narrow political ends, leaders of opposition parties are making irresponsible statements which are creating new fault lines. The government is sincerely working for the welfare of the farmers," he

said. Yogi Adityanath pointed out that the UP government had completed many irrigation projects which were pending for decades. "We inherited the same system of the government and officers yet we were able to add fresh capacity for irrigating 20 lakh hectare land, boost drip irrigation and enhance the income of farmers through crop diversification," he said.

Naming Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary, the chief minister said he made a deliberate misleading statement that the farmers would lose their land under the new agriculture law of contract farming. He also quoted specific instances of contract farming in the assembly constituency of Ram Govind Chaudhary in Ballia district. He said contract farming was being done in eastern UP for decades and there was never any dispute.

Making a scathing attack on the Congress, the chief minister said, "Some leaders of the Congress who are expert in the art of tweeting from Delhi have no idea of the ground reality and basic understanding of agriculture and do not know the difference between MRP and MSP as well as between sugarcane and mango but have become experts on agriculture laws."

The chief minister added, "The campaign by the opposition leaders against the agriculture laws is a grave sin against the interests of the farmers."

The chief minister asserted that the agriculture laws would prove to be a boon for farmers. He said the new agriculture laws came into being in June 2020 and since then no mandi had been closed.

"Why would we modernise the mandis if we had any plan to close them. In fact, the state

government has been developing 27 mandis as modern kisan mandis and ripening and cold storage facilities are being provided in 24 mandis," he added.

The chief minister reiterated that the MSP would stay and the middlemen would be eliminated from mandis. He asserted that the three laws would further simplify the agri-trade for the betterment of farmers as contract farming would provide more benefits to them under the provisions of new laws.

Yogi Adityanath said that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the state government ensured that all 119 sugar mills continued to operate and 31 crore quintal of sugarcane was crushed during this period. He said the government reduced the mandi fee and purchased wheat besides registering record purchase of paddy in the state.

‘Akhilesh govt was most corrupt’

Lucknow (PNS): Terming the Akhilesh Yadav government as the most corrupt, state government spokesperson and MSME Minister Sidharth Nath Singh said that in the SP government, the ministers indulged in corruption in the name of development.

"The morale of the mafia in the SP government was high because they had the patronage of the government. The Yogi Adityanath government has put a curb on criminals and mafia," he said in a statement issued here on Wednesday. He said that the regime of Akhilesh Yadav would go down in the history as the "most corrupt" and "anarchic". There was a lot of corruption in the recruitment of assistant manager (general) and assistant manager (computer) in Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank in the year 2015-16 and in 2016-17 for the posts

of manager and assistant/cashier, he said, adding that these recruitments were still being investigated by the government. The government spokesperson said that sugar mills were sold by the Samajwadi Party government. "The farmers were never paid for their produce on time. In sharp contrast, after the formation of Yogi Adityanath government, new sugar mills have opened in the state. Work in the sugar mills continued even during the Covid period. Record payments were made to sugarcane farmers. This gave employment to workers during the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

Singh said that the opposition was frustrated by the popularity of the Bharatiya Janata Party government. He said the state during the Akhilesh government witnessed the highest number of deaths, robberies and kidnappings.

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For J.K.Cement Ltd. (Shambhu Singh)
Asst. Vice President (Legal)
Place: Kanpur & Company Secretary
Date : 25.02.2021 M.No:FC5 5836

CM has a dig at ‘cap culture’

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had a dig at the opposition parties over the new culture of wearing caps of different colours in the House.

"Caps of different colours make the Vidhan Sabha look like a drama company," he said. "The august House should not be taken lightly as a 'drama company' with some members sporting caps in red, some in blue, some yellow or even green," he said. "A new tradition has started. Such things were never seen in the past. We used to see it only in drama parties," the chief minister said, addressing the Chair.

In an obvious reference to the Samajwadi Party without taking its name, Yogi Adityanath said, "There is a new culture of wearing caps of different colours red and yellow. I wonder whether they don the cap in their homes also." In the same breath he reached out to Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary sitting on the opposite side with his Samajwadi Party's bright red cap on. "It would have looked nice if you had used a turban or a 'safa'," he said smilingly.

Yogi Adityanath referred to Chaudhary's constituency in Ballia, a place associated with late prime minister and socialist leader Chandrareshkar, and said

it would have been better if he avoided such things.

The other leader who wears a yellow cap is Om Prakash Rajbhar of Suhledev Bhartiya Samaj Party.

The assembly witnessed peals of laughter when Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recalled how a child described a politician donning a cap as 'goonda' and appealed to the members to see that the august House did not look like a "drama company".

Recalling an incident, he said, "A child once pointed out to a politician sporting a cap and described him as goonda (hooligan)," he said, winding up the debate on motion of thanks to the Governor for her address to the joint sitting of the state legislature on February 18. Yogi Adityanath recalled that he had once been to a Basic Shiksha Parishad school in a village. There, an anna prashan (a ceremony where a child takes cereals for the first time) function was also organised. At that function, some people belonging to a certain political party rushed in to lodge protest. They were donning caps. A toddler, who was there with his mother for the ceremony, was surprised to see them and screamed, "Mummy, mummy... look goonda, goonda."

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"STOP CORONA : Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"						
N.I.T. No. 35 WEST-III/ (2020-21)						
S. No.	Description	Amount put to tender	Tender Fee	Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date/time for tender download through e procurement solution
1	Improvement of water supply system by Replacement of old damaged water line from Metro Pillar no 750 to 768 on Najafgarh Road in Uttam Nagar AC-32 under EE (West) III.	Rs. 25,42,641/-	Rs.500/-	NIL (Declaration to be filled)	23.02.2021 I.D. No. 2021_DJB 00454_1	12.03.2021 at 3:00 PM
Further details in this regard can be seen at (http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in .)						
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 439 (2020-21)						Sd/- EX. ENGINEER (WEST) III ASHOK KUMAR EE (WEST) III

यूनियन बैंक

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय : 117/H-1/240, पाण्डुनगर, कानपुर
प्रधान कार्यालय : 239, विद्यान भवन मार्ग, नारीमन वाईट, मुंबई

कच्चा सूचना (अचल सम्पत्तियों हेतु)
[Rule-8(1)]
 जैसा कि अयोध्यावासी वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के तहत यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया का प्राधिकृत अधिकारी होते हुये और उक्त अधिनियम की धारा-13 (12) 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 नोटिस प्राप्ति के 60 दिवस के भीतर देय राशि के अदायगी की अपेक्षा की गयी थी।
 ऋणी उपरोक्तानुसार अदायगी में विफल रहे हैं फलस्वरूप ऋणी एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अयोध्यावासी 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 कच्चा ले लिया गया है। ऋणी एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सावधान किया जाता है कि, बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों से किसी प्रकार का सम्यवहार न करें। कोई भी सम्यवहार यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया, के ऋण रुपये एवं उस पर अनुबंधित दर पर लागू ब्याज आदि के भार के अधीन होगा।
 ऋणी का ध्यान बंधक संपत्ति/सम्पत्तियों को मुक्त कराने हेतु उपलब्ध विषाद के संदर्भ में अधिनियम की उपधारा (8) धारा-13 की ओर भी आकर्षित किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	बकायदार/जमानतदार का नाम/पता व बंधक सम्पत्ति/सम्पत्ति मालिक एवं मांग सूचना तिथि/प्रलक्षित कच्चा तिथि/बकाया धनराशि
1.	बकायदार : मेसर्स सुभाषिनी विल्ड टेक, पता : 272 बी, तिवारीपुर बागिया, कानपुर, प्रोपराइटर : श्री अनुराग तिवारी पुत्र श्री रामप्रकाश तिवारी, निवासी : मकान सं. 278, तिवारीपुर बागिया जामऊ, कानपुर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 17.09.2020, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 19.02.2021 बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : भूमि व भवन स्थित कानपुर-लखनऊ रोड पर, आराजी सं. 304 (एम), उन्नाव नगर पालिका की सीमा अन्तर्गत मौजा गदनखेड़ा (निकट जी स्कूल) तहसील व जिला-उन्नाव। सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्री अनुराग तिवारी पुत्र श्री रामप्रकाश तिवारी, क्षेत्रफल : 501.80 वर्गमीटर, चौहद्दी: उत्तर : अरविन्द शुक्ला का प्लाट, दक्षिण : मिश्रा जी का प्लाट, पूरब : श्री जन्मानाथ व श्री लोकनाथ की आराजी, पश्चिम : लखनऊ-कानपुर हाईवे। मांग सूचना में बकाया धनराशि : ₹. 26,77,537.50 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्चे बकायदार : श्री जितेन्द्र कुमार मिश्रा पुत्र श्री ओमप्रकाश मिश्रा, निवासी : फ्लैट सं. जी-2, भूमितल, परिसर सं. 133/ओ/80, किदवाई नगर, कानपुर नगर एवं इसके अलावा ग्राम-रसनाथ, तहसील-सिकन्दरा, जिला-कानपुर देहात, जमानतदार : श्री विमल कुमार, निवासी : मकान सं. जी-2, प्लाट सं. 135, डब्लू-2, जूली कलां, श्रीयूमिनेक्स पैराडाइज अपार्टमेंट, कानपुर। मांग सूचना तिथि : 30.09.2020, प्रलक्षित कच्चा लेने की तिथि : 22.02.2021 बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण : आवासीय फ्लैट सं. जी-2, भूमितल, परिसर सं. 133/ओ/80, किदवाई नगर, कानपुर नगर, सम्पत्ति मालिक : श्री जितेन्द्र कुमार मिश्रा पुत्र श्री ओमप्रकाश मिश्रा, क्षेत्रफल : निर्मित क्षेत्रफल 85.20 वर्गमीटर एवं अधिवास भूमि में हिस्सा 33.88 वर्गमीटर, चौहद्दी: उत्तर : कोमन लॉबी, सीढ़ियों व लिफ्ट, दक्षिण : मिश्रा जी का प्लाट, पूरब : खुला हिस्सा, पश्चिम : खुला हिस्सा। मांग सूचना में बकाया धनराशि : ₹. 25,27,441.23 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्चे

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

E-Auction Notice
(for Immovable Property)

Bank Of Baroda
 Branch- Kutchehary Road, 125-A, Khajian Villa, Opp. City Kotwall, Kutchehary Distt- Gonda
 Phone : 9554968221
 E-mail: kutgon@bankofbaroda.co.in

Sale Notice For Immovable Properties “APPENDIX-IV-A [see Proviso Rule 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor (s)and Guarantor (s)that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s.The details of Borrower(s) /Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s) /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-
Date & Time of Auction: 17.03.2021 , 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM

Sr/ No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt	Description of the Property	Reserve Price (RP)/ Earnest Money (EM)(Rs.) Bid Increase Amount.	Date & Time of Property Inspection & Deposit of EMD
1-	Borrower:- Mangal Prasad S/o Lal Chandra Address: Village Gird Gonda, Budhai Purwa, Post Babhni Kanoongo Gonda 271002 Guarantor: (1) Shivakant S/o Vishvanath Address: H.No. 24A, Village Murawaan Purwa Post Pandari Krapaal, Gonda 271002. (2) Ram Kumar S/o Visheshwar. Address: Village Bhandaha, Post Pandari Krapaal, Gonda 271002. Demand Date : 03.06.2017 Possession Date : 16.08.2017. Outstanding Amount : Rs.13,41,157.76/- + interest thereon & other charges w.e.f. 24.02.2021 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	All part and parcel of property consisting of plot no. 269 situated at Mauja Gird Gonda Gramin, Pargana, Tahsil and District Gonda in the name of Mangal Prasad S/o Lal Chandra, Total Area 1340 sq. ft. Bounded as under: East: Land of Seller Mitthual West: Land of Seller Mitthual North: 12 feet Rasta South: Kachcha Rasta	Reserve Price Rs. 15,86,108/- (EM) Rs. 1,58,611/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-	25.02.2021 to 16.03.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 25.02.2021 to 16.03.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm & <https://ibapi.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 9554968221
Date: 25.02.2021

Place: Gonda

Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

Focused sampling begins at airport, bus & rly stations

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Focused sampling for coronavirus began at the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow-Agra Expressway, bus and railway stations on Wednesday. Nodal officer for Covid-19 Dr MK Singh said it was in view of the rising number of cases in some states.

“The motive is that if there is any chance of increase in transmission from any other part of the country, it should be contained immediately at these points. Only RT-PCR tests will be done under this sampling. We are taking preventive measures and we also had a meeting with the district magistrate and police officers in this regard,” he said.

Dr Singh said directions regarding genome sequencing of coronavirus samples have also been issued for detection of any mutant. Samples of people arriving from Maharashtra, Delhi and other states where there has been a spike in the number of Covid cases will be taken. On the Covid scenario in Lucknow where the cases have been decreasing of late, Dr Singh said: “The situation is under control for now and we have already designated over 18 teams for focused sampling. We will not be carrying out any antigen tests under this sampling.”



Sample collection for Covid testing at Charbagh railway station

“If anyone tests positive, we will take the full address of the patient and put him or her in home isolation or home treatment while genome sequencing will also be conducted,” he said.

In view of the rising number of cases in six states of the country, the DM had held a meeting with all the officials recently and said that the work of contact tracing should be done more vigorously. He had also given directions to the officials to secure one-week travel history those coming from states reeling under the resurgence of coronavirus

infection. Directions were also issued for target testing of dialysis centres at bigger hospitals.

The DM said that police should be deployed in old containment zones to see that the Covid protocols were being followed strictly, and action be taken against those flouting the guidelines.

Dr Singh, who is also the district immunisation officer, said the vaccination drive on February 25 will have a target of 9,397 beneficiaries.

“The total sessions in Lucknow are 117 and will include that of second dose for

health workers and mop-up rounds for health and frontline workers,” he added.

Meanwhile, head of KGMU’s Microbiology department Dr Amita Jain said they have begun genome sequencing of coronavirus samples for detection of any mutant. “We will be testing 30-40 samples in a week. There is no regular work being done and we will go as per the government policy in this regard. Ten per cent of the samples are supposed to be for genome sequencing,” she said. She added that they will not be reducing the regular testing of coronavirus samples.

Sub-inspector sent to lines for mibehaving with BJP leader

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A sub-inspector was given the marching orders for misbehaving with BJP leader Arun Rai, whose wife Snehlata who is a sitting corporator, after he went to Chintahat police station in connection with a case registered against two locals.

As per reports, Arun Rai went to the police station to plead the case of Mohammed Firoz and Amir who were challaned for breach of peace by Mohammed Sabir, the S-I in question. On Wednesday morning, the S-I reached the house of Firoz, abused him and threatened to send him

behind the bars. Firoz said the S-I hurled expletives at him and he felt humiliated. “I was so upset that I thought there was no point in living any longer. However, my wife counselled me and we went to the corporator, Snehlata, to demand justice,” he said. Arun Rai, along with Firoz, reached the police station and complained about the S-I’s conduct to SSI Umashanker Yadav.

“Sabir fumed with rage seeing me inside the police station and asking to leave. He made a disparaging remark for siding with Firoz,” Rai said.

He said he was so dis-

turbed at the conduct of the S-I that he staged a sit-in at the police station. “The S-I had no right to talk indecently to me or any person visiting the police station with a query or pursuing someone’s case,” he added.

The news spread like wildfire and a huge number of Rai’s supporters and traders, led by president of Adarsh Vyapar Mandal, reached the police station. ADCP Kasim Abdi also reached the scene. He placated Rai and the agitating traders and sent the S-I to Reserve Police Lines.

The vendors, shop-owners and locals criticised the police for the showdown with a public representative. “The police are in a habit of misbehaving with people. When political leaders and influential persons are treated with disdain by the police, what to say of the common man,” an irate local resident said.

Man killed in road mishap

Lucknow (PNS): A 39-year-old man was killed in a road mishap in Gomtinagar Vistar police station area on Tuesday night. Police were informed through a memo from RMLIMS on Wednesday. The victim was identified as Dharmendra Singh of Mayapuri Colony on Kursi road in Lucknow. He was a native of Rae Bareilly. He was rushed to the hospital where he was pronounced brought dead around 9:30 pm.

Investigating Ashok Kumar said Dharmendra was hit by some unidentified vehicle near Arsh Residency at Shaheed Path and suffered injuries. “He was rushed to hospital by his family members and was declared brought dead when doctors examined him,” he said.

In another incident, a 17-year-old girl reportedly committed suicide at her house in Banthra police station area on Wednesday. As per reports, the girl, identified as Chandni of Garhi Chunauti village, was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around her neck.

4-lane ROB to ease traffic congestion

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporation will start the construction of a four-lane railway over-bridge at Alamnagar Uthretiya bypass railway line on Banglabazaar-Bijnore road shortly.

A senior official said that diversions will be implemented for six months (till August 31) after which they will begin the piling work. The on-ground work is expected to begin in a week’s time.

“It will be a 1-km ROB to come up at the cost of Rs 120 crore. Indian Railways is bearing 50 per cent of the cost and the rest will be borne by the state government,” he said.

Pointing out that the project got an approval just recently and that the general arrangement drawing has already been finalised, he said the main purpose of having the bridge is that the traffic congestion which occurs on Kanpur road can be mitigated. It will allow smooth traffic movement at the railway crossing which is closed 10-15 times a day. The official said that the demand for the ROB was pending for a long time.

“It will also prove to be an alternative route for those who come from Cantt side and experience traffic congestion on Kanpur road. Someone coming from Banglabazaar will straightaway go towards Shaheed Path and then towards the airport. Traffic jams happening between Shaheed Path and Awadh crossing will be minimised to a large extent,” the official said.

The other construction works of the Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporations going on in the city include the construction of an elevated road from Shaheed Path to the airport and a bridge over Kukrail nullah for easing traffic snarls in Sarvodayanagar. It is a 69-metre-long bridge, piling of which has started now.

“There is also a Charak flyover proposed and its work has been put on hold because we have yet not received the NOC from the Archaeology department,” he pointed out.

The official said that with several government departments constructing the bridges, the city will witness less traffic snarls in future.

“Even the Lucknow Development Authority has proposed an elevated road connecting IIM road Kisan Path and Shaheed Path, and the state capital will see a lot of relief in the next four years,” he added.

Man posing as cop dupes woman of ornaments

Lucknow (PNS): An unidentified miscreant impersonating a policeman duped a woman of her ornaments in Gudamba police station area. Police registered a case six days after the incident took place on February 16. The police failed to explain the reason behind the delay in

registration of the case. As per reports, Meera Verma of Sitapur road scheme (sector-A) had gone to her sister’s house in the locality and was returning home. Around 3:30 pm, when she was walking towards her home, a man reached the scene and introduced himself as a

policeman. He told her that a woman wearing gold ornaments had been murdered in the locality. He asked her why was she moving on the road while wearing gold ornaments when the same was banned.

“He asked me to put off the ornaments and then gave me a

piece of paper. He asked me to wrap the ornaments in the paper and then did it himself. When I returned home, I found it was filled with stones,” she said. She alleged that the police made her do rounds of the police station before registering the case.

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To know how to recharge your NETC FASTag, visit www.netc.org.in or MyFASTag app.

*Vide Gazette Notification GSR 690 (E), dated 06.11.2020, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has mandated FASTag for all old vehicles (Class M & N category) sold before December 2017, w.e.f 1st January 2021

NETC FASTag

ZAROORI HAI

SPECIAL TRAINS-2021

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Special Trains as per the schedule given below :-

01081/01082 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Gorakhpur - Lokmanya Tilak (T) Special Train (Weekly)

TRAIN NO. 01081	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 01082
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.
---	16:40	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	23:45
20:50	21:25	Varanasi Jn	20:50
02:00	---	Gorakhpur	---
			16:05

Days of Run :

01081 from Lokmanya Tilak (T) on every Wednesday from 03.03.2021 to till further advice and 01082 from Gorakhpur on every Friday from 05.03.2021 to till further advice.

Accommodation :

AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & 2nd Seating (Reserved)

Stoppages :

Kalyan Jn, Nasik Road, Bhusaval Jn, Khandwa, Itarsi Jn. (for Train No. 01082 only), Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Katni, Maihar, Satna Jn., Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki Jn, Mirzapur, Aunrihar Jn, Mau Jn, Bhatni Jn and Deoria Sadar stations.

04102/04101 Kanpur Central - Prayagraj Sangam - Kanpur Central Unreserved Special Express Train

128 Trips

TRAIN NO. 04102	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04101
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.
---	09:40	Kanpur Central	21:05
14:45	---	Prayagraj Sangam	---
			16:15

Days of Run :

04102 from Kanpur Central and 04101 from Prayagraj Sangam everyday from 26.02.2021 to 30.04.2021.

Accommodation :

Unreserved

Stoppages :

Unnao, Bighapur, Raghuraj Singh, Lalganj, Dalmau Jn, Jalalpur Dhai, Unchahar Jn, Garhi Manikpur, Kundahamanganj, Lalgalpalganj, Phaphamau Jn and Prayag stations.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No.

139

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Bank of Baroda

RO Stressed Assets Recovery Branch

Saketpuri Awasiya Yojna, Deokali

Bypass Regional Office, 2nd Floor,

Disst. Ayodhya-224123

Mob.:9517599985

Email.: sarfai@bankofbaroda.com

E-Auction Notice

(for Immovable Property)

Sale Notice For Immovable Properties "APPENDIX-IV-A [see Proviso Rule 6(2)& 8(6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor (s)and Guarantor (s)that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s.The details of Borrower(s) /Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s) /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Date & Time of Auction: 17.03.2021 , 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM

Status of Possession- Constructive

Sr/ No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt	Description of the Property	Reserve Price (RP)/ Earnest Money (EM)(Rs.) Bid Increase Amount.	Date & Time of Property Inspection & Deposit of EMD
1-	Borrowers: M/s Chhanga Khan Rice & oil mill Through its proprietor Mr. Chhanga Khan s/o Subhan Khan Address:- Gulalpurwa Post- Balha, Tehsil- Nanpara Distt. Behraich- 271865 Date of Demand Notice: 20.03.2017 Date of Possession Notice: 30.07.2018 Outstanding Amount: Rs.1247425.02 +Interest and other charges w.e.f. 24.02.2021	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Registered Mortgage of land, khata No. 36 plot no 467 min. situated at vill Gulal purwa Balha, Nanpara, Distt- Behraich belonging to Chhanga Khan s/o Subhan Khan. Total Area 0.030 hectare Bounded by: East: Field of Abdul Ahad & others, West: Remaining land of plot no. 467 min, North: Field of Naseem Khan, South: Field of Hafeez Khan.	Reserve Price Rs.3,52,903.00/- (EM) Rs. 35,291/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-	25.02.2021 to 16.03.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 25.02.2021 to 16.03.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM
2-	Borrowers: M/s Vindra Prasad Nirmal Kumar Through its Proprietor Nirmal Kumar S/o Vindra Prasad. Address :- Village Kanchhar, Post Vishesharganj Payagpur, Bahraich- 271821. Guarantors: (1.) Om Prakash S/o Bhavani Prasad . Address:- Village Kanchhar, Vishesharganj Bahraich - 271821(2.) Abdul Bareeq S/o Hasmat Ali. Address:- House No. 315 Chandamau Bahraich- 271821 Date of Demand Notice: 16.01.2018 Date of Possession Notice: 17.11.2018 Outstanding Amount: Rs. 31,90,491.27/- + interest and other charges w.e.f.24.02.2021	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable Mortgage of Plot No. 458 min Situated at Village Kanchhar, Pargana Ikauna & District Bahraich measuring 404.27 sq. mtr. In the name of Nirmal Kumar S/o Vindra Prasad. Bounded as under: (As per sale deed) East: Plot of Hasmat Ali, West: Rasta 10 ft wide, North: Plot of Seller, South: Plot of Seller.	Reserve Price Rs. 23,02,000/- (EM) Rs. 2,30,200/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-	25.02.2021 to 16.03.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 25.02.2021 to 16.03.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM
3-	Borrower: M/s Sabeelul Mumtaz oil Mill Through its proprietor Israr Ahmad S/o Late Mumtaz Ahmad Add.: Near Rani Lattha par masjid,Mohalla Beldaran tola,Nanpara, Distt- Behraich 271865 Demand Notice: 02.07.2018 Possession Notice: 05.08.2019 Outstanding Amount:Rs.2079619.07/- +Interest and other charges w.e.f.24.02.2021	All part and parcel of the property consisting of land and building number 025 situated at near Raani lattha paar Masjid, mohalla Beldaran Tola, Nanpara,Tehsil-Nanpara, Distt- Behraich belonging to Israr Ahmad s/o Late Mumtaz Ahmad. Total Area 291.07 sq.mtr. Bounded by: East: 8 feet wide Raasta, West: House of Nusrat, North: House of Akram Khan & Alam Khan and Ahaata of Tahira Begum, South: House of Nusrat & Firoz Rajan	Reserve Price Rs. 29,29,488/- (EM) Rs. 2,92,949/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-	25.02.2021 to 16.03.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 25.02.2021 to 16.03.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm & <https://ibapi.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 9517599985

Date: 25.02.2021

Place: Bahraich

Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

Minor Dalit girl raped

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Inaction of Mahoba police to take legal action on charges of teasing led to gang-rape of a minor Dalit girl.

Reports said that a 16-year-old Dalit girl hailing from Panwadi locality in Mahoba had lodged a report with the local police last Thursday, alleging that two local youth - Rohit Yadav and Kallu Rajput had teased her and when she objected, they



उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

प्रतिक्रित, अनुमोी एवं ई-निविदा हेतु पंजीकृत निर्माताओं या उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि/आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से पारेषण दक्षिण-पूर्व क्षेत्र, प्रयागराज के अन्तर्गत निम्न सामग्री की आपूर्ति हेतु निविदायें दो भागों में उनके सम्मुख अलग-थिति एवं समय तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा के भाग प्रथम एवं भाग द्वितीय, निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय तक उडाग सरकार के ई-प्रोक्वायेमेंट सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड किये जा सकेंगे। निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि आरटीसीएच/एनईएफटी के माध्यम से जमा करायी जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथिनिर्धारित तिथि एवं समय (यदि अवकाश हो तो अगले कार्यदिनस में) पर खोली जायेगी। निविदा की वैधता खुलने की तिथि से 06 माह होनी चाहिए। सचात निविदायें किसी भी दशा में स्वीकार्य नहीं होनी।

ई-निविदा सं-18 / २0३0(पाठनरूग) / 2020-21: विद्युत पारेषण क्षेत्र दक्षिण-पूर्व प्रयागराज के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न उपकेंद्रों हेतु 36 कंथीग सीओटी, एवं जखन बाँसरा की आपूर्ति। निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि 14.03.2021 समय 17:00 बजे। निविदा खुलने की तिथि 15.03.2021 समय 14:00 निविदा प्राप्त शुल्क (जीएफएसटीओ सहित) रू० 1,180/- (रू० एक हजार एक सौ अस्सी मात्र)। धरोहर राशि रू० 9,000/- (रू० नौ हजार मात्र)।

ई-निविदा सं-19 / २0३0(पाठनरूग) / 2020-21: विद्युत पारेषण क्षेत्र दक्षिण-पूर्व प्रयागराज के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न उपकेंद्रों हेतु 36 कंथीग बस एवं लाइन आइसोलेटर की आपूर्ति। निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि 14.03.2021 समय 17:00 बजे। निविदा खुलने की तिथि 15.03.2021 समय 14:00 निविदा प्राप्त शुल्क (जीएफएसटीओ सहित) रू० 2360/- (रू० दो हजार तीन सौ साठ मात्र)। धरोहर राशि रू० 17,000/- (रू० सतरह हजार मात्र)।

ई-निविदा सं-20 / २0३0(पाठनरूग) / 2020-21: विद्युत रचना इकाई, प्रयागराज में हाइड्रोसोलोयिफ एसिड की आपूर्ति। निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि 14.03.2021 समय 17:00 बजे। निविदा खुलने की तिथि 15.03.2021 समय 14:00 बजे। निविदा प्राप्त शुल्क (जीएफएसटीओ सहित) रू० 1,180/- (रू० एक हजार एक सौ अस्सी मात्र)। धरोहर राशि रू० 6,000/- (रू० छः हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्राप्त की हॉर्ड कॉपी डाक द्वारा अथवा व्यक्तिगत सन्वाक के माध्यम से किसी भी दशा में स्वीकार नहीं किये जायेंगे। निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित विवरण/डाउनलोड/संशोधन/किताबिकाकरण हेतु निविदा खुलने के दिनांक तक वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर देदी जा सकती है। निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये अस्वीकार/ निर्माजित करने का अधिकार मुख्य अभियन्ता (पाठनरूग), प्रयागराज के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।

अधिसात्री अनियन्ता (सं०), कृ तै मुख्य अनियन्ता (पाठनरूग), पत्रांक - 353 दिनांक-24.2.2021 "राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचायें"



उडाग पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि०, अल्पकालीन इ-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्न कारत हेतु अनुमोी निविदादाताओं से दो भागों में इ-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इ-निविदा के प्रथम भाग में अधीक्षण अनियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, बरेली (बालू, खाता सं. 10897666087, IFSC : SBIN0000615 एस.बी.आई, सिविल लाइन्स, बरेली) के पक्ष में इ-निविदा मूल्य एवं धरो, धर धनराशि RTGS / NEFT के माध्यम से स्थानान्तरण का सूटी.आर. सं. तथा चे-इन रसिप की प्रति, भरा हुआ हस्ताक्षरित निविदा प्राप्त एवं अन्य वॉरिंफ प्राप्त तथा इ-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में Excel Sheet पर मूल्य/दरें, www.etender.up.nic.in in Web Site पर Up-Load की जानी है। इ-निविदा सम्बन्धी सफत जानकारी, नियम व अर्हकारी शर्त, निविदा प्राप्त में अंकित हैं। इ-निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी भी प्राप्त, भौतिक रूप से कार्यालय में स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा। अधोहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कारण बताये एक या समस्त निविदाओं को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। विस्तृत जानकारी, अन्य संशोधनों एवं तिथि विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में इ-निविदा Up-Load करने के दिनांक/समय तक वेबसाइट देखते रहें।

1. अल्पकालीन इ-निविदा सं 75/डब्ल्यू/वि.प्रा. (बं)/२020-21 : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बदामू के अन्तर्गत 132कै.बी. उपकेंद्र पीसीभीत पर, निविदा विशिष्टीकरण के अनुसार, प्दाने 10एमवीएआर कैपेसिटर बैंक की रूपायना एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित कार्य (नि.प्र. मूल्य रू. 1,180/- जी.एस.टी. सहित, (धरोहर धनराशि रू. 5,000/- वैधता अवधि 120 दिन, निविदा Upload करने की अन्तिम तिथि 11.03.2021 समय 17:00 बजे तक एवं निविदा खोलने की तिथि 12.03.2021 समय 12:00 बजे) **2. अल्पकालीन इ-निविदा सं 78/डब्ल्यू/वि.प्रा.मं(बं)/२020-21** : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बदामू के अन्तर्गत 132कै.बी. एएसएस उपकेंद्र सहजवाण पर क्षमतावृद्धि हेतु 40एमपीए परितर्क, निविदा विशिष्टीकरण के अनुसार, स्थापित करने एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित कार्य। (नि.प्र. मूल्य रू. 2,360/- जी.एस. टी. सहित, (धरोहर धनराशि रू. 12,000/-, वैधता अवधि 120 दिन, निविदा Upload करने की अन्तिम तिथि 22.03.2021 समय 17:00 बजे तक एवं निविदा खोलने की तिथि 23.03.2021 समय 12:00 बजे) **अधीक्षण अनियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, उडागपाटनकाउलिंग, बरेली।** पत्रांक- 319 दिनांक- 24.02.2021 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"

assaulted and threatened her with dire consequences. The cops registered a case but took no action.

The victim claimed that though the cops took no action in the matter but after learning that she had lodged a report, the accused barged into her house on Tuesday and brutally assaulted her while Rohit raped her.

According to Circle Officer of Kulpahar, Kalu Singh, after he learnt of the incident, he immediately conducted raids and arrested both the accused on Tuesday. The cops also got the victim medically examined.

In Gonda, a 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped and stabbed in a village, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday evening when the girl, a student of class 10, was returning from her school on a bicycle and four people dragged her into a farm and allegedly raped her.

She was also stabbed with a knife when she offered resistance, Superintendent of Police Shailesh Kumar Pandey said an FIR had been registered in this connection against one Khanderu and three unknown persons and the girl was sent for medical examination. Pandey said that there was an old dispute between the girl's family and the named accused and an investigation was underway. He said further action would be taken on the basis of the medical examination report.

Meanwhile in Pilibhit, a

man and his son have been booked for allegedly kidnaping and killing their rival after getting him released from a jail on bail. The victim was 'missing' under mysterious circumstances.

His wife, Shaira Begum, a resident of Naugawan Pakadia village, said that her husband Feroz Ali had a rivalry with Shabbir and his son Amir of Baghpat. "The father-son made several attempts to kill my husband but did not succeed," she alleged, adding that about four months ago, her husband, who had gone out of home for some work, did not return and when she searched for him she came to know that he had been sent to jail in a case registered under the Arms Act. "When I inquired with the police through my lawyer on January 29, I learnt that Shabbir and Amir had obtained a bail order for my husband just two days after he was lodged in the jail. They kidnapped my husband after he came out of the prison," she charged. "The father-son duo allegedly killed my husband and disposed of his body," Shaira said.

Shaira finally went to court when police failed to act on her complaint. Following the chief judicial magistrate's order, police have now booked Shabbir and his son Amir under sections 364 (kidnaping in order to murder) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. Police said they were trying to locate the victim as his body was yet to be recovered.

3 labourers hurt as scaffold caves in

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three labourers were injured when a scaffold of an under-construction guest house caved in. The guest house is owned by an officer of Environment department in Mubarakpur locality under Madaion police station area on Wednesday. The injured labourers were identified as Tulsī, Gautam and Nandlal and they were admitted to a hospital where their condition was said to be critical. As per reports, NK Singh of Gomtinagar is getting the

guest house constructed in the area and he has given the work to a contractor, identified as Ramji Singh. Around noon, the labourers were laying the roof on the second floor when the scaffold caved in.

There were unconfirmed reports that several labourers were under the debris and rescue officials were summoned to the spot after police reached the scene. The district administration carried out a rescue operation no other labourers were found under the debris. A probe into the incident has been ordered.

Govt assistance for overall development of courts

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to improve the work-govt of courts, the Uttar Pradesh government has allocated Rs 450 crore for the construction of new buildings in the district courts and for the over-all development of the courts.

The new buildings will be equipped with all modern facilities for the convenience of officials, lawyers as well as the common public.

"The government will take all possible measures to equip the advocate chambers with advanced technology and other facilities like booklets and magazines for the benefit of the young advocates and lawyers," a senior official said. With the focus on providing the best resources to the young advocates in the state, the government has proposed several provisions to empower them in the budget for 2021-22.

"A provision of Rs 5 crore has been made in the corpus fund to give financial aid to the young advocates and s sum of Rs 10 crore has been dedicated for the purchase of books, papers and magazines for the budding lawyers," he said, adding that the government would also spend Rs 20 crore to build modern lawyers' chambers in different dis-

tricts of the state. With the establishment of a national law university at Prayagraj, provision has also been made to construct multi-level parking and modern lawyers' chambers in the premises of the High Court on EPC mode.

A sum of Rs 100 crore has also been given for construction of houses for judges of the High Court. With this, a budgetary provision of Rs 150 crore has been made for construction of new buildings of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court and Rs 450 crores for the Allahabad High Court.

Former general secretary of Lucknow Bar Association, Suresh Pandey, lauded the decision of the Yogi Adityanath government for improving the infrastructural facilities of the judicial system in the state.

He said none of the previous governments had given attention to the lawyers and advocates in the state.

"For the first time, a government has dedicated so many schemes in the budget for lawyers and people associated with the judicial process. I would like to express my gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his government for the commendable efforts," Pandey said.

100% placements for IIM-L in first-ever virtual process

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

IIM-Lucknow concluded its final placements for the 35th batch of MBA and 16th batch of MBA-ABM, having successfully achieved its goal of 100% placement this season as well. The highest CTC (cost to company) domestic is Rs 51 lakh per annum while the highest CTC international Rs 56 lakh per annum. The average CTC is Rs 26 lakh per annum and median CTC Rs 23.5 lakh per annum.

"This feat has been attained in an unprecedented year, with the final placement process having been conducted virtually. Recruiters from across the country as well as from international companies participated in this year's placement cycle," a member of the media relation team of IIM-L said.

A host of leading recruiters offered a wide gamut of roles to candidates in various domains such as consulting, finance, general management, IT & analytics, and sales & marketing. "With most of the students back on campus and a few of them still in dispersed locations across the country, commendable efforts went into coordination between the recruiters and candidates while ensuring sufficient infrastructural and operational facilities in place to ensure smooth execution of the final placements cycle," he said.

The placements were conducted in two tiers: higher entry placement process (HEPP) for candidates with 12 or more months of work experience, and the final placement process where all candidates are eligible to appear for company processes.

Legacy recruiters, including Amazon, Byju's, Deloitte, Everest Group, Flipkart, Jio Platforms, Microsoft, Optum, PayTM, PayU, PwC US Advisory, RPG and Salesforce, participated in HEPP.

Legacy recruiters such as Accenture, American Express, Asian Paints, Aventus Capital, Bain and Company, Citi, GEP Consulting, Goldman Sachs, ICICI, Kearney, Kotak, KPMG, Mahindra and Mahindra, MasterCard Advisors, Mckinsey & Company, Morgan Stanley, Nestle, Reliance Industries Limited, State Street, Tata Administrative Services, Tata Sky, The Boston Consulting Group and Wells Fargo participated in the final placements.

International offers were extended by companies such as African Industries Group, Landmark Group and Noon. First-time recruiters included Amagi, Angel Broking, Bayer, Comviva, FMC, HDFC Securities, Indus Insights, Jana Bank, Morgan Stanley, Navi Technologies, Red Fort Capital, Sabre Partners and Zynga among many others.

4 girls missing from Kheri tracked in Uttarakhand

Lucknow (PNS): Much to the relief of their families and the men in khaki in Lakhimpur Kheri, the four girls who went missing on their way to school on Tuesday were finally tracked down in Uttarakhand on Wednesday afternoon. The girls apparently boarded a bus and went to Tehri Garhwal in Uttarakhand. He claimed that the girls had left their homes to visit Uttarakhand and were staying in a hotel under Muni ki Reti police station of Tehri Garhwal district.

They have been safely recovered by a police team which went from here, he added. The Uttarakhand police also helped in tracking down the girls. The police team is now bringing the girls back to hand them over to their families after recording their statements before a magistrate.

According to the police, technical surveillance was used to track down the girls, three of whom are minors.

One of the girls, 20, a student of Class 12, had left home with Rs 25,000 cash. In Close Circuit Television (CCTV) footage, she, along with three minor girls aged between 15 to 16 years, was seen boarding the bus. The district police chief said, "The bus conductor, who identified the girls, said he had dropped them at Sitapur bus station. It appears from the CCTV footage and the conductor's account that the girls left their homes on their own. We do not see anyone accompanying them." The police scanned the CCTV footage of the bus station and railway station and coordinated with their counterparts in Sitapur and Lucknow in the search operations but failed to get any further clues.

Finally, the cops managed to track down the girls' location in Tehri Garhwal after which they sought the help of Uttarakhand police and with their help, all the four were found present in a hotel room.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, अयोध्या-अम्बेडकरनगर वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, अयोध्या

दिनांक : 15.02.2021

निविदा सूचना (द्वि टेंडरफर)

1- उत्तर प्रदेश के महाह्वित राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता अयोध्या-अम्बेडकरनगर वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, अयोध्या द्वारा लोक निर्माण विभाग में क्या जगू ए केभी में केवद मर्मत एवं में फनीकृत पात्र एवं अनुसंधित टेकेदारों से उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के वेबसाइट <http://tender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से प्रतिसात दर के आधार पर आगलाह निविदा आमंत्रित करते हैं। बिडर्स को सवाह दी जाती है कि ये डका प्राप्त करने से सम्बन्धित व्ययमूल योग्यता के मानदण्ड इन्स्ट्रक्शन ड बिडर्स से नोट कर लें।

2-

क्र० सं०	जिला	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित सवात (लाख र० में)	बिड रिक्वायिरी (लाख र० में)	निविदा प्राप्त मुल्य (र० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	कार्य सवाहित करने वाले अधिसात्री अनियन्ता का पता	अधीक्षण अभियन्ता का पता	मुख्य अनियन्ता का पता
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(संकीर्ण की प्रत्यावा नी)									
1	बारांकी	छन्दरी-नी-कानपुर-मंडापुर के किमी 1 से किमी 19(600) में बीरछी से सामान्य मरम्मत के साथ नवीनीकरण का कार्य (हॉट मिक्स पाल्ट द्वारा	435.00	23.75	2354.00	06 माह	अधिसात्री अनियन्ता, प्रमोदी वार्ड, लो०नि०वि०, बारांकी।	अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, अयो-अम्बे वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, अयोध्या।	मुख्य अनियन्ता, अयोध्या-अम्बे वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, अयोध्या।

3- निविदा से संबंधित डाक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://tender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 27.02.2021 को मध्यम 12:00 बजे से 05.03.2021 को सवात 02:30 बजे तक आगलाह सवाहित (मरामत) किया जा सकता है। निविदाओं की सवातीनी बिड दिनांक 06.03.2021 को अपराह्न 02:30 बजे खोली जायेगी। **निविदाओं का तकनीकी पुर्णवर्णन प्रहरी सांकेदयर के माध्यम से किया जाना है, किसी विस्तृत जानकारी केिड का सवात संलग्न निविदा सूचना में संलग्न है।** अवेबलर न आवेबलर है कि ये उक्त वेबसाइट को निम्नलिखित रूप से देखते हें, ताकि किसी प्रकार के सांभारण/तुलुि की निमित्त की जानकारी उतनी समय से प्राप्त हो सके।

(अवेबलर धारण कीजायें) अधिसात्री अनियन्ता प्रमोदी वार्ड, लो०नि०वि०, बारांकी।

(अवेबलर अम्बेडकरनगर वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, अयोध्या।

उडाग 160958 दिनांक 22.2.2021 विज्ञान वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Office of The Superintending Engineer, Kanpur Circle, P.W.D., Kanpur

No. : 1116C/131C-KV/20-21

Short Term Tender Notice (Second Calling)

Dated: 18.02.2021

1. E-Tender is invited for Relevant contractors registered in UPPWD for Relevant Work on behalf of Hon'able Governor of U.P. as below

Sl. No.	Dist-riect	Name of Work	Estima-ted Cost (Lacs.)	Bid Security (Lacs.)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.)	Time of Completion (with rainy season)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Kanpur Nagar	Strengthening of lucknow Jhanshi road to Panki Power house road (ODR) (Length 2.25 km)	470.00	25.50	2950.00 with GST	6 Month

The Rate adopted in the BOQ including all taxes but excluding GST

COST Bid Document as per column 6 (non-refundable) To be deposited in the Account of UP e-tender online Account through e-tender portal by Internet Banking. Only All concerned please note that the bidding process will not move onward if the bid document's Cost (Tender Fee) is not paid through e-tender portal by Internet Banking.

Bid Security (EMD) Bids must be accompanied with security of the amount specified for the work in the table as per column 5. Bid security will be deposited in the account of UP e-tender online Account through e-tender portal by Internet Banking only All concerned please note that the bidding process will not move onward if the bid Security (EMD) is a pala through e-tender portal by Internet Banking No other form of bid security will be accepted The bidders are required to submit the following

1-Cost of Bid Document (Tender Fee) - Certificate of proof of payment in the account of UP e-tender online Account by Internet Banking which will be generated when payment made through e-tender portal by Internet Banking

2-Bid Security (EMD) - Certificate of proof of payment in the account of UP e-tender online account by Internet Banking which will be generated when payment made through e-tender Portal by Internet Banking Bids can be downloaded online from date 26.02.2021 to 05.03.2021 at 12:00 Noon and bid can be submitted online on or before 05.03.2021 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date 05.03.2021 at 03:30 PM According to the provisions of Government Order no. 1/2018/307078-2-2018/42 IT/17(22) Date 03.01.2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in department office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of GO. All terms and condition are available on website <http://tender.up.nic.in>.

(C.P. Gupta)
Executive Engineer
Construction Division Building, PWD, Kanpur Nagar.

(Jai Singh)
Superintending Engineer
Kanpur Circle, PWD Kanpur

UP 161065 Date 24.2.2021 विज्ञान वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता प्रांतीय खण्ड, लोक निर्माण विभाग, ललितपुर

दिनांक - 09 / 02 / 2021

ई-निविदा सूचना

1. महाह्वित राज्यपाल उडाग की ओर से उडाग लोक निर्माण विभाग के संलग्न तालिका के कॉलम 8 में निर्दिष्ट श्रेणी के पात्र पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से ई-टेंडरफर के माध्यम से नीचे दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है- 2

क्रम सं०	जानपद का नाम	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख र० में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख र० में)	निविदा प्रपत्र सौती करने की अवधि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (सर्वां ऋतु सहित)	टेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	ललितपुर	डोंगराबुई से घटना सम्मर्क मार्ग (ग्रामीण मार्ग) के किमी01 (400), 2 (700), 3 में सामान्य मरम्मत के साथ नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	13.30	1.33	रू० 944.00	2 माह	डी० एवं उच्च
2	ललितपुर	सेमराबाड़ा सम्मर्क मार्ग (ग्रामीण मार्ग) के किमी 1, 2 में सामान्य मरम्मत के साथ नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	12.67	1.27	रू० 944.00	2 माह	डी० एवं उच्च
3	ललितपुर	दशरारा से बरारानी सम्मर्क मार्ग (ग्रामीण मार्ग) के किमी01, 2, 3 (200) में सामान्य मरम्मत के साथ नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	13.94	1.39	रू० 944.00	3 माह	डी० एवं उच्च
4	ललितपुर	सौजना मझार मार्ग से टीकरा सम्मर्क मार्ग (ग्रामीण मार्ग) के किमी 1, 2, 3, 4 में सामान्य मरम्मत के साथ नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	25.33	2.53	रू० 944.00	3 माह	डी० एवं उच्च
5	ललितपुर	नेकौरा से मोडी तिहाई तक सम्मर्क मार्ग (ग्रामीण मार्ग) के किमी 1, 2, 3, 4 (700) में सामान्य मरम्मत के साथ नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	23.44	2.34	रू० 944.00	3 माह	डी० एवं उच्च
6	ललितपुर	छायन-कुहूँडी मार्ग (अन्य जिला मार्ग) के किमी 1, 2, 4 व 5 (650) में सामान्य मरम्मत के साथ नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	24.11	2.41	रू० 944.00	3 माह	डी० एवं उच्च
7	ललितपुर	विशीय वर्ष 2020-21 में जिला योजना के अन्तर्गत गिरार कारोदेलन मार्ग के शेष भाग सम्मर्क मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य।	27.26	2.73	रू० 944.00	5 माह	डी० एवं उच्च

3. बिड डाक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://tender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 26.02.2021 से 10.03.2021 तक उपलब्ध है जो कि दिनांक 10.03.2021 को समय 12:00 बजे अपराह्न तक अपलोड किये जा सकेंगे हैं। इसकी तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 10.03.2021 को समय 03:30 अपराह्न बजे खोली जायेगी।

4. निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://tender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। इस वेबसाइट के सापगस पोर्टल के प्रहरी सांकेदयर पर निविदा अपलोड की जायेगी। प्रहरी सांकेदयर की URL www.upppwd.gov.in/prahari है।

(ई० सुनील कुमार) अधिसात्री अनियन्ता प्रांतीय खण्ड, लो०नि०वि०, ललितपुर

उडाग 161011 दिनांक 23.02.2021 विज्ञान वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-1, PWD RAEBARELI

E-Tender Notice

No. 272/8Lekha/ 2020-21

Dated : 15.02.2021

The Executive Engineer C.D.-1, P.W.D. Raebareli on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered in Road Work with UP PWD, class 'A, B, C, D' The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

SL. No.	DIST-RICT	Name of Work	Estima-ted cost (Rs. In Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of Bid Docu-ment	Time of Comple-tion	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing the work	Address of Superin-tending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
FY 2020-21 : Construction of Roads (In Anticipation of Sanction)									
1	Raebareli	Construction of Pure Harsaha (Beta-Bheela) L.R. Km-1	31.20	3.12	860.00	06 Month	CD-1, PWD Raebareli	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D. Lucknow.	Central Zone, P.W.D. Lucknow.
2	Raebareli	Construction of Ambapur (Kunwaramu) Link Road. Km-1(800)	26.50	2.85	860.00	06 Month	CD-1, PWD Raebareli	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D. Lucknow.	Central Zone, P.W.D. Lucknow.
3	Raebareli	Construction of Kanpurpura (Kunwaramu) Link Road. Km-1(850)	29.40	2.94	860.00	06 Month	CD-1, PWD Raebareli	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D. Lucknow.	Central Zone, P.W.D. Lucknow.
4	Raebareli	Construction of Pure Bandhan Singh (Alampur) Link Road. Km-1(500)	18.30	1.83	860.00	06 Month	CD-1, PWD Raebareli	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D. Lucknow.	Central Zone, P.W.D. Lucknow.
5	Raebareli	Construction of Pure Diwha (Lakhpur) Link Road. Km-1(300)	10.50	1.05	860.00	06 Month	CD-1, PWD Raebareli	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D. Lucknow.	Central Zone, P.W.D. Lucknow.
6	Raebareli	Construction of Barato Machhmanwa Link Road. Km-1(750)	26.40	2.64	860.00	06 Month	CD-1, PWD Raebareli	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D. Lucknow.	Central Zone, P.W.D. Lucknow.
7	Raebareli	Construction of Pure Rai to Pure Thakur Pandey Link Road. Km-1(400)	14.50	1.45	860.00	06 Month	CD-1, PWD Raebareli	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D. Lucknow.	Central Zone, P.W.D. Lucknow.
8	Raebareli	Construction of Ashikabad to Shashidhar Link Road. Km-1(860)	27.60	2.76	860.00	06 Month	CD-1, PWD Raebareli	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D. Lucknow.	Central Zone, P.W.D. Lucknow.
9	Raebareli	Construction of Kamaluddippur Link Road							



CMO Dr VB Singh reviewing preparations for Dastak Abhiyan in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

Dastak Abhiyan to be held in March

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

For effective control and prevention of encephalitis and communicable diseases, a special campaign ‘Dastak Abhiyan’ will be started from March 1 to 31. The campaign will be conducted under the supervision of District Health Committee Chairman / District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma. In the campaign, 12 other departments will work together to control and prevent encephalitis and communicable diseases by coordinating with the Health department and making it successful.

The block level training was imparted under the chairmanship of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh at

his office on Tuesday. According to the CMO, as this campaign is a very ambitious programme of the Chief Minister, the Health department has started preparations to make it a success and all the medical officer incharges of all blocks and urban areas have been instructed to send the micro-plans at the earliest. ‘The campaign will be carried out by establishing mutual coordination among other departments including Medical and Health, Panchayati Raj, Animal Husbandry, Women and Child Development, Education, Social Welfare, Agriculture and Irrigation. In the campaign, people will be made aware to avoid mosquitoes by maintaining cleanliness,

regular garbage disposal, stopping water logging and ensuring availability of pure drinking water,’ he added.

ACMO and nodal officer Dr SS Kanauija informed that a task force meeting has already been held at the block level and soon medical officer incharges of urban areas and ASHA workers will be trained followed by sensitising of gram panchayat secretaries, ANMs, ASHA and Anganwadi workers. During the campaign, the Health department will make the public aware, Municipal Corporation, to clean the drains properly and then dispose of the wastes so that mosquitoes are not allowed to grow in the dirt and if the drains are open then they will be covered.

Panchayati Raj department will make the villagers aware of cleanliness.

District Malaria Officer Sharad Chand Pandey informed that during the campaign, information of potential patients will also be collected from house to house based on the symptoms of tuberculosis and if a potential patient is found, the patient’s name address and mobile number etc will be collected. He said that ₹ 500 is being sent every month to a registered patient to his/her bank account during treatment under TB Nutrition Scheme. He said that during the campaign a special cleanliness drive would be launched on every Sunday to control mosquitoes.

Health workers to get 2nd vaccine doses today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Health department has geared up its preparations and arrangements as a large number of health workers will get their second doses of vaccines on Thursday and Friday apart from those frontline workers from NDRE, CRPE, RPE, Nagar Nigam and many other departments who failed to turn out for vaccination in their earlier phases. The Health department is expecting that in comparison to previous responses this time the same would be enthusiastic because a spike in coronavirus cases is being seen in many parts of the country.

To review the arrangements, a meeting of medical officer in-charges, nodal officers and UNICEF representatives was held under the chairmanship of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh at Covid Command Centre



CMO Dr VB Singh reviewing preparations of vaccination at Covid Command Centre in Varanasi

Pioneer

on Tuesday evening in which they discussed about the arrangements in view of the instructions of the state government for vaccination on February 25 and 26. In this direction, it was decided to organise mini mop-up sessions at some places like Nagar Nigam, Police Lines, BLW and LBS Hospital

Ramnagar. At Nagar Nigam, the response of the employees was shocking during the last three days of vaccination there as it was just over 20 per cent.

It is expected that after getting almost all the top district and administrative officers apart from the heads of various security forces, the turnout of frontline workers

would be good and all those who failed to get their vaccines earlier would reach their vaccination centres during the two days. Though the vaccination was started on January 16, the same of frontline workers began on February 5 when it was just over 36 per cent.

ONE MORE TESTS POSITIVE: One more person has tested COVID-19 positive, increasing the tally of confirmed cases to 21,985 on Wednesday evening. With no COVID-19 death being reported in the last 24 hours, the death toll remains at 377. One more COVID-19 patient has been cured in home isolation. So far, 21,572 COVID-19 patients have recovered in the district-18,597 in home isolation and 2,975 in Covid hospitals. As present 36 active cases are under treatment in the district. The recovery rate in the district is 98.12 per cent.

BHU students continue agitation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Reiterating their demand to reopen the university for the all, the students of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) continued their agitation on the third day on Wednesday by blocking the main entrance gate of the university.

The varsity administration had decided to open the university on February 22 to run only the final year classes of graduate and post-graduate courses following the guidelines of the government in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. The administration of university had decided to open the university in phase-wise.

But the scores of students of the first and second years demanded the opening of the university for the all and staged a protest in favour of their demand and sat on dharna at the main entrance gate of the university in Lanka. The varsity administration also made it clear that no compromise could be made with the safety and health of the students. The other universities and colleges of the district have been opened for all the students, why has the BHU opened the university for the students only of final year, he questioned?

The varsity authority held discussions with the agitating students who remained adamant on their demand and

the discussion yielded fruitless. The students continued their protest on the third day by blocking the varsity main entrance gate.

Due to the protest at main varsity entrance gate, the patients faced inconvenience as they have to cover more distance to go to the Sir Sunderlal Hospital (BHU) for treatment. The patients not only from different parts of the district, but also from the adjoining districts and some parts of Bihar come to the hospital in large numbers for the treatment.

The common people also faced inconvenience who use the gate to go to various areas through the university as the agitating students allowed only ambulance to enter the university. The protest also caused traffic congestion on Lanka-Samne Ghat and Naria.

The varsity administration appealed to the agitating students to call off their protest but their agitation continued till the news last came in.

MGKVP STUDENTS’ UNION POLL TODAY: A total of 9,062 students will use their franchise in the election of student’s union of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKVP) which will go for the poll on Thursday. All the preparations have been completed to ensure the smooth and peaceful election. Meanwhile, the candidates

made their last ditch efforts to woo the voters by establishing personal contact.

All the preparations have been completed and the university is all set to ensure smooth polling for the student’s union, the election officer Prof KS Jaiswal informed and added that the barricading have been made through which the voters will go to the polling booths to vote. There will be an elaborate security arrangement in and outside the varsity premises to ensure the peaceful election, he informed.

As many as 9,062 students including 5,189 boys (57%) and 3,873 girls (43%) will use their exercise to elect their favorite candidates. There will be separate polling booths for the boys and girls to cast their votes, the election officer informed adding, the polling booth numbers from 1 to 13 will be for the boys, while the booth numbers from 14 to 23 will be for the girls.

The voting will be held from 8 am to 1 pm and the counting will begin at 3 pm, Prof Jaiswal informed and added, the results will also be announced the same day. After the declaration of the results, the winning candidates are required to reach the place in 10 minutes on the instructions of the election officer where the brief swearing-in ceremony is to be held, Prof

Jaiswal informed adding, there after the election certificates will be given to the winning candidates. No winning candidate will be allowed to reach the swearing-in place either in procession or in groups and he or she fails will be responsible for not taking oath of post and secrecy if fails in reaching the place within stipulated time of 10 minutes after the instruction of election officer, Prof Jaiswal informed adding, no dispute or controversy will be entertained after the election certificate is handed over to the winning candidates

In the meantime, the candidates contesting election on various posts preferred to visit door to door to establish personal contact in their last ditch efforts to woo the students in their favour.

There is triangular contest among the candidates of the SCS, the students wing of the Samajwadi Party, the ABVP, students wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the NSUI, students wing of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) particularly on the prestigious posts of president and general secretary. Besides these two posts, the election is also to be conducted on the posts of vice-president, library secretary and representatives of various faculties. As many 25 candidates are in election fray.

₹35 crore to be spent on 9 works under Smart City project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Sangam city is all set to witness several developmental works aimed to make the city look more beautiful and to provide amenities for the common man. Being carried out under the Smart City project, authorities have identified nine works on which an amount of ₹ 35 crore would be incurred.

Foremost among the developmental works would be revamping the facilities at Madan Mohan Malviya Stadium and renovation of the pond located at Shaheed Chandrasekhhar Azad Park of the city.

Prayagraj Smart City Limited has issued a tender of ₹ 35 crore for these two works along with seven other works. Following the revamping of the facilities at Madan Mohan Malviya Stadium, an amount of

₹76.86 lakh is expected to be spent. This amount would be spent on the repair of the stadium’s infrastructure and procurement of several sports equipment.

‘Madan Mohan Malviya stadium will become more beautiful and the enhanced sports equipment will also increase the viability of the city’s only multipurpose stadium,’ said Mission Director (Technical), Smart City Project, SK Sinha.

Likewise, an amount of ₹ 1.34 crore would be incurred on the complete renovation of the pond at Azad Park. In addition to this, an amount of ₹28.49 lakh will be incurred on filling water in the pond.

The Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) had constructed this large artificial pond near the main entrance of the company garden of the city in 2016. It was

part of the modernisation plan of the park for which an amount of ₹1950.71 lakh was spent. This huge pond had facilities like boating, colourful fountains and live ducks. Authorities had also installed two boats with self-cleaning mechanisms because there were all chances that the stagnant water of the lake would develop algae.

For filling up this around 20 feet deep lake, authorities had made provision of four bore wells around the lake. After opening, the lake functioned for around a year after which the stagnant water started developing a thick layer of algae and the lake started to die a slow death.

Presently, the entire pond has dried down and the fountain and other mechanical fittings are lying defunct and thus collecting rust. The base of the lake too has developed cracks

and the boulders are showing in the open. Although, the authorities have managed to maintain the surrounding flora and fauna that was developed along with the lake.

However, with the fresh decision, water will always be available in the pond under the new scheme and this pond will be the centre of attraction.

The tender floated for the renovation of the stadium and the pond by Smart City Limited, the agency, which would be awarded the work, will have to supervise these two for five years.

Similarly, all development works being done under Smart City will have to be completed within the stipulated period. ‘It would be the responsibility of the executing agency to carry out the maintenance for five years along with the period of completion of all work,’ said the official.

SC dismisses bail plea of Atique’s son

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Supreme Court has dismissed the bail plea, shocking Mohammad Omar, the son of mafia don Atique Ahmed. The petition was filed to fend the arrest.

Police have registered a case against Mohammed Omar, son of former MP and mafia don Atique Ahmed, in various sections including gangsters. The police have been searching for him for a long time. Raids were conducted in many cities of the state for his arrest but he was not caught by the police.

Mohammed Omar had filed a petition in the Supreme Court after the High Court dismissed his plea to avoid arrest, his anticipatory bail petition from the Supreme Court was dismissed on Tuesday.

It may be pointed out here the Yogi government has started preparing to cause loss of crores of rupees of mafia don Atique Ahmed. The mafia don and his henchmen will be hit by crores soon. The lakhs of rupees spent in demolishing their illegally built buildings will also be recovered from them. Apart from Prayagraj Development Authority, police

and other departments have also started preparing for this. Officials said that recovery will be done by issuing RC through district administration.

Police seized his illegally acquired properties under the Gangster Act. On the other hand, PDA also bulldozed his palatial buildings built illegally. More than 50 such properties were razed by the PDA. It includes Atique Ahmed, Abid, Zulfikar alias Tota, Akbar, Ashik alias Malli etc. as well as the marked mafia Dilip Mishra, Bachha Pasi, Rajesh Yadav and many more.

At the same time, after the

action of the district administration and Prayagraj Development Authority, government offices will be opened on the vacant Nazul land. For this, proposals have also been sent by many departments. There is a plan to have parking of vehicles under the Smart City on the plot located at Civil Lines.

A dozen bungalows have been evacuated long back. Library, Gymnasium etc. are proposed to be constructed on them under Smart City. In the course of action against the criminals, half a dozen plots of Nazul have been evacuated.

AU launches new website

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The new website of the University of Allahabad was launched on Wednesday over a zoom meeting by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sangeeta Srivastava. In her inaugural address she termed the website as vibrant user-friendly dynamic and at par with the global standards.

The meeting was joined by the Deans, the heads of the various departments, the coordinators and the directors of various departments and centres along with the members of the faculty and the administrative officials of the university. Speaking about the new website, the chairman of the ICT Cell Prof. Ashish Khare told that the website is easy to use and navigate. And it has been made using current trends and recent technology.

An important feature is that the website is scalable. Website and its content are optimised for different devices,

browsers, data speed, and search engines and so it is responsive means the website changes its layout and options to fit the device and browser size. Website follows standards and guidelines of security concerns. In the coming weeks and months it will be made more and more advanced in such a way that optimisation of website for search and social web will be introduced.

This will enable the feature that if any person starts searching certain academics on search engines and social media then our website will appear on the first page of searched results throughout the world.

A very important feature on the website, which will make the website fully dynamic in nature is that any authorised user of the website like deans, heads, faculty members, officers can themselves edit the information of their unit or their page.

Speaking on the occasion the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sangeeta Srivastava said that we

are the 4th oldest University in the country and we cannot be left in the ability to be able to keep up with the changing times. In view of the technological breakthrough happening across the world, the new website is using artificial intelligence to respond to the needs of the user.

In order to enable our students to make optimum use of the website an introduction to Artificial Intelligence will be made a part of the syllabus.

She said that she felt the need for a new website because the earlier website was insufficient in communicating the data and showcasing the achievements of the university. Both of the above are essential for creating a positive opinion and image of the university not just in the country but across the world. She suggested that teachers could create YouTube links of the lectures on important and pertinent subjects and upload the links on their pages on the website along with their important

academic achievements. She also said that data about faculty and administration will be regularly uploaded including notices and circulars from the Registrar’s office.

This will help in streamlining the process of dissipation of information from the office of the registrar and other administrative sections of the university.

Proposing the vote of thanks proposing the vote of thanks Registrar Professor NK Shukla said that the new website is an example of the leadership and the exemplary vision of the Vice-chancellor Prof. Sangeeta Srivastava. She had initiated the process of bringing in a new website soon after joining the university and set the task before the ICT cell. The ICT cell lived up to the challenge and the entire team of Professor Tanveer Jahan Siddiqui and Doctor Richa Mishra led by the Chairman Professor Ashish Khare worked hard to bring it to a reality within the deadline.

200 volunteers of Ganga Samagra choose 36 ghats for cleanliness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Around 200 volunteers of Ganga Samagra have chosen 36 ghats along the Ganga between Saidpur in Ghazipur and Varanasi districts in the Kashi Prant for their cleanliness and maintenance.

These 36 ghats are located in Ghazipur, Chandauli, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Kaushambi, Prayagraj and Pratapgarh districts. Apart from cleanliness and maintenance of the snan ghats, the volunteers will also start Ganga aarti and plantation, besides promoting organic farming for ‘Aviral’ and ‘Nirmal’ Ganga.

Ganga Samagra volunteers are working in 62 districts of five states and have also constituted snan and shamshan committees for maintaining cleanliness on the ghats. Chintamani Singh, a senior office-bearer of Ganga Samagra, said that, ‘We will start working on 36 ghats in seven districts. We will work to maintain water quality and to improve the agriculture practices on the land along Ganga. More importantly, Ganga aarti will be performed at all these ghats.’

Apart from restoration of

lost ponds in villages along the Ganga, a major plantation drive will also be undertaken under which Peepal, Mango, Guler, Banyan, Neem and Pakar saplings will be planted to conserve the environment, he added. We will also encourage farmers in these villages to start organic farming, which will fetch them better prices in the market, said Singh.

Teams will also be deployed to maintain the sewage treatment plants (STPs) to ensure untreated sewage and pollutants are not discharged in the river.

Ganga Samagra will also organise health camps for people in the villages on frequent intervals. A senior RSS functionary said, ‘We are promoting organic farming among farmers and have chalked out a plan for their training to check the use of chemical fertilisers. A majority of farmers use chemical fertilisers in their fields which wash down into the Ganga during rains and pollute the river water.’

THEATRE FESTIVAL ENDS: Characters created by Munshi Prem Chand in his celebrated stories conversed with the writer on the stage of

NCZCC to mark the end of the five-day theatre festival organised by Vinod Rastogi Smriti Sansthan in association with Ministry of Culture, Government of India on Wednesday when Darpan Gorakhpur staged ‘Prem Chand ke Patra- Prem Chand ke Saath’ written and directed by Manavendra Tripathi.

Munshi Prem Chand was quite upset to see the condition of his characters of Thakur Ka Kuan, Kafan, and Idgaah in the same pitiable condition even after so many years. He repents and thinks as to why his stories could not bring about the needed reforms for the uplift of the poor and downtrodden. Audience connected themselves with the characters of the legendary litterateur. They found Ghisu, Budhiya, and Hamid within themselves.

Ravindra Rangdhar was quite lively in the role of Munshi Prem Chand. Others who impressed the most include Radheshyam, Akanksha, Reena, Ankit, Ashok and Naveen. Lights were designed by Ravi Awasthi, while the play was produced by Ravi Shankar Khare.

MEETING: In a review

meeting held at Sai Complex of Police Lines, SP Shivhari Meena directed all police personnel to timely redress public grievances. The SP had called a meeting of police personnel of IGRS Cell, Women’s Help Desk of all the police stations besides the police office on Wednesday. He reviewed the progress of disposal of police-wise complaints. Also, he took information about the problems being faced in the disposal of complaints. The SP said that the complaints should be resolved within the stipulated period of whatever complaints are coming in the IGRS, Women’s Help Desk so that the complainant should not visit the police station and police office. The SP noticed that Ratanesh, a female constable from Fatanpur, was pregnant, yet attended the meeting. The SP gave her a prize of ₹ 11,000 on her diligence.

Meanwhile the S-I Doodh Nath Yadav of Sangipur police station launched a checking drive and stopped Vinod Kumar son of Omprakash resident of Bhodha near Budaha Canal Pulia during checking. The S-I found a countryside pistol from his possession.



Kanjur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar addressing Civil Services aspirants at CSJM University as part of Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana.

Pioneer

Time management key to achieving goals: Shekhar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar, while addressing the students aspiring for civil services at Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur, said that goals could be achieved easily provided one gave priority to time management.

He said the other factors that helped achieve one's goals were devotion, dedication and discipline.

Shekhar said students who were career-oriented should avail themselves of the Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana to fulfill their cherished dreams.

He said there was no exam which could not be cleared pro-

vided the students were focused on their goals. He said time management was highly essential as it allowed one to accomplish bigger results in a shorter period of time which led to more time freedom, helped focus better, allowed one to be more productive, lowered stress and gave more time to spend with the people that mattered most.

Shekhar said effective time management allowed students to complete more in less time, because their attention remained focused and they were not wasting time on distractions. He said it made an individual punctual and disciplined and trained one on the judicious use of time. He said people who understood the value of time were the ones

who managed to stand apart from the crowd.

He said research had shown that individuals who accomplished tasks on time were less prone to stress and anxiety. He said time management enabled an individual to prioritise tasks and activities at the workplace.

He said the objective of such a session was to encourage the students to perform best possible while appearing for civil services exams.

He discussed the nature of the exams, pattern of the exams, selection of subjects, methodology of preparation, handling subjective and objective questions and how to prepare for the final interview.

The session was graced by CSJMU registrar, dean of stu-

dents' welfare, DD Social Welfare, DD Panchayat, district social welfare officers, Dr Sudhanshu Rai and many others

The divisional commissioner also told the students about the government functioning, district level functioning and systems along with the role and responsibilities of district administration.

IG, Kanpur Range Mohit Aggarawal screened two short motivational and inspirational films to encourage the aspirants.

This was followed by a question and answer session. The students enquired about availability of online contents, hostel facilities for aspirants coming from other districts, scholarship etc.

ALC: Several welfare schemes launched by govt for labourers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional Labour Commissioner SP Shukla, while addressing a press meet on Wednesday, said the Uttar Pradesh government under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had introduced several welfare schemes for the labourers.

He said currently the labourers were getting benefit from over one dozen welfare schemes. He also said that a sum of Rs 59.55 crore had been distributed to around 1.18 lakh labourers.

Shukla said the government had come to realise that

there was not enough awareness among the masses about the welfare schemes and thus it had decided to spread awareness so that the labourers could avail themselves of the benefits.

He said maternal health was an important aspect for the development of any country in terms of increasing equity and reducing poverty. He said the survival and well-being of mothers was not only important in their own right but also central to solving broader economic, social and developmental challenges. He pointed out that till date 8.776 labourers had been covered under the

scheme.

The ALC said the other prominent welfare schemes run by the state government were Medhavi Chhatra Puraskar Yojana under which 2,110 students had been benefited. He said similarly Kanya Vivah Sahayata Yojana had extended benefits to around 2,110 labourers.

He said in addition to this they had been provided with houses, natural calamity benefits, and covered by Ravidas Yojana, Chikitsa Yojana.

He added that around 3,38,339 labourers from districts like Kanpur Dehat, Etawah, Auraiya, Kannauj,

Farrukhabad had got themselves registered to the schemes.

Shukla said that for various schemes Rs 92.12 crore had been allocated for over 2.25 lakh labourers.

He said the objective was to ensure that the labourers hit adversely during the COVID-19 period were extended all possible help and the UP government was committed to their welfare as well.

He also appealed to the labourers of the state to get registered so that they could avail themselves of the facilities extended by the state government.

Niine finds place in Forbes



Sharat Khemka with Niine pink pack.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

US magazine Forbes has made a special mention of Indian hygiene solutions providers Niine, the indigenous sanitary pad manufacturing company, in its recent issue.

The credit for this can be given to the recognition Niine won by being one of the prominent sponsors of IPL cricket matches, especially the Rajasthan Royal team.

As per Forbes, over two-thirds of product organisers had taken part and successfully brought this product to the cricket ground and its impact was highly encouraging.

As per Sharat Khemka, the impact of the product's emblem on the jersey of the Rajasthan Royals caught the attention of consumers across the world and this was highly encouraging.

This product in its own capacity had given a push to the Indian economy and brought the country back on rails, he said, adding that it had also been able to give momentum to the global economy.

The company came up just two years ago and in this short span, through the meticulous efforts of Khemka, it has successfully reached the international cricket arena. The product has been highly successful in removing the taboo regarding the product and its use and brought in a change and smiles in the lives of girls and women.

Khemka said to say Niine had left an indelible mark on the global minds would certainly not be wrong.

Niine finding space in the Forbes magazine has brought laurels to not only the country but especially to Uttar Pradesh.

Fire in two industrial units

KANPUR (PNS): Goods and properties worth lakhs of rupees were gutted in fire which broke out in two industrial units in the city on Wednesday morning. According to reports, a tannery, AS International, on 150 feet road suddenly caught fire due to short-circuit around 10 am. After coming into contact with the leather peelings and chemicals, the fire soon engulfed one portion of the tannery Due to the devastating flames and thick smoke, panic prevailed among the workers who immediately informed the police control room and tannery owner Ehsan of Jajmau (Chakeri) about the incident.

Two fire tenders along with cops of Jajmau outpost rushed to the spot and controlled the flames in two hours. Due to black smoke coming out of leather peelings, the firemen and local residents faced breathing problems. The exact amount of loss could not be estimated so far. Chakeri Station House Officer Dadhibal Tewari said this tannery had caught fire in September last also. Meanwhile, the Ashok Namkeen factory of Avinash Chandra Gupta of Vrindavan Bhavan, Karachi Khana, also caught fire in Panki Site No., 2 early Wednesday morning.

Factory supervisor Ram Bahadur Yadav of Jawahar Nagar said the fire broke out due to short-circuit in the electric panel and soon spread to the plastic rolls and other parts of the factory. The workers of all the adjacent factories came out on the street and their owners immediately shifted the inflammable material from their units to other safe places.

Around half-a-dozen fire tenders from Fazalganj, Latouche Road and Armapore fire stations reached the spot and took over three hours to extinguish the fire.

Ganja recovered, one arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Kachhawaan police arrested one accused and recovered two kg ganja from his possession on Tuesday. According to a report received here, during routine patrolling on Tuesday the police personnel intercepted a suspect near Khara turn. When they frisked him, they recovered two kg ganja from his possession. After registering a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act the police sent the accused to jail. He was identified as Bablu, a resident of Semara village Khaira under Kachhawaan police station.

Meanwhile another report said that the Adalhaat police

arrested an accused of molestation on Tuesday. It is learnt that the father of a minor girl had on February 16 lodged a case at the police station in which he had claimed that the accused had molested his daughter and when she protested against it he had hurled abuses at her and also threatened her with dire consequences. Acting on the case the police arrested the accused from Sabji Mandi Narainpur on Tuesday and sent him to jail. The accused was identified as Chandan Sonkar, a resident of Bhomar Mafi village under Adalhaat police station.

LIFE IMPRISONMENT: A man was awarded life imprisonment for murdering his daughter. As per the

reports, Rajesh, a resident of Gulalpur village under Lalganj police station had illicit relation with a woman. On April 2, 2016, his nine-year-old daughter had seen him with the said woman. On that very day the girl became sick, told her mother that her father had administered something to her, fainted and died during treatment. After a case was registered, the police arrested the accused and submitted the chargesheet in the court. During the trial the court found substantial evidences for punishing the accused and the court of ADJ (EC Act) Anil Kumar Yadav-I sentenced the accused to undergo life imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹30,000 on him.

DM inspects BSA office

CORRESPONDENT ■ JAUNPUR

District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma conducted a surprise inspection of the Basic Education Officer (BSA) office. On the occasion the DM inspected the attendance register of employees in which all of them were present. He obtained information regarding joining of new teachers. Besides he instructed that the teachers who have not been allotted PRAN number yet, the allotment work should be completed as soon as possible. On the occasion the DM obtained information about position of wardens in Kasturba Schools etc. During the inspection of Rajikya Kanya Pathshala the classroom was found to be well-organised in which enrolment of 186 children was found. The DM directed that the playground should be developed.



A meeting of sector and zonal magistrates being held under the presidency of DM Manish Kumar Verma at collectorate.

Besides, the BSA was instructed to make arrangements for parking in a systematic manner. Meanwhile the meeting of all sector and zonal magistrates was organised under the presidency of DM Manish Kumar Verma in the Collectorate auditorium for ensuring the smooth conduct of the forthcoming general election (Panchayat) 2021. On the occasion he directed to complete all preparations for the election.

Awareness programme held

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Under the 'Mission Shakti' campaign an awareness programme was organised at Vindhayavasi Degree College Bharuhna under Dehat Kotwali police station on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion Station House Officer (SHO)

police kept the identity of the caller secret so it was our duty to call on that number to help other women without any hesitation, she added. Responding to the girls SHO trained them about the use of numbers in case of an emergency and said on any call action was very swift. She

AWARD: For being declared as the best club among 82 chapters of district-3120, Rotary Club Mirzapur Gaurav celebrated it's achievement at a function was organised at Laldiggi recently. While addressing the members its president, Asheesh Mehrotra, praised the works of former president and his team. On the occasion he appealed to members to maintain the spirit and carry out activities throughout the year in a better way. Former president Himanshu Jaiswal said that it was due to the team spirit that the club was declared as the best one winning gold award and he himself won the diamond award as the best president. Moreover the club was declared the best in 24 different activities related to serving the society. The awards were conferred by Sanjay Agrwal rotary governor of the district-3120 in a district conference at Varanasi recently. Prominent among those who graced the function were Raj Bahadur Singh, Manoj Agrawal, Umang Agrawal, Nikhil Agrawal, Jaspreet Singh Minha and Manoj Jaiswal.



concluded her address by saying that the purpose behind the campaign was to make the women feel fearless at any corner because the police was with them and no doubt the atmosphere of fearlessness was the power to make a woman self-confident and self-reliant. The programme concluded with principal of college Dr Praveen Sethi proposing the vote of thanks.

Health camp benefits many

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

A health camp was organised in Birkunia community building under the guidance of Sunita Kumar, chairperson of Kriti Mahila Mandal, Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), and its vice-chairperson, Dr Sunita Kumari, Suchandra Sinha and Lakshmi Dubey. The camp in which as many as 263 villagers were benefited



was done and necessary medicines were distributed. After check-up of pregnant women who had came to the camp, medicines containing folic acid and iron were also distributed. Along with it masks and soaps were also given to the people who came there and they were made aware to take necessary precautions to prevent Covid-19. The medical camp was organ-

ised under the guidance of Abha Dwivedi, Poonam Kumar and Kiran Kumar. During the camp Dr B Kujur, regional medical officer, Nigahi, Dr VN Singh, medical officer, Dudhichua area and 17-member medical team of NCL Amlohri area rendered their medical services. In the past too courtesy Kriti Mahila Mandal medical camps have been organised to provide health facilities in the nearby areas.

BLANKETS DISTRIBUTED: The Kriti Mahila Mandal under the guidance of its chairperson Sangeeta Sinha distributed blankets among 16 needy women of Birkunia. It was distributed under campaign 'Pankh' (Prayas) recently. Jolly Choudhary, Mamta Pandey, Anita Godse and Sunita Agarwal contributed to the execution of this distribution work in order to protect rural women from cold. The Kriti Mahila Mandal through the three different branches of its multi-purpose campaign 'Prayas' i.e 'Jeevan Se Maitri', 'Pankh' and 'Gyan Jyoti' is doing remarkable work in the adjoining areas of NCL in the field of creating public awareness about health and hygiene in daily life, health safety, distribution of medicine, environmental protection, skill development, for empowerment of women and self-reliance, child nutrition as well as child education.

Doctors give tips on stress management

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

AYUSH Director Dr VS Katiyar, while speaking at a seminar on 'stress management' at government hospital in Geeta Nagar, said today as per the World Health Organisation, 40 million people were suffering from mental and physical health problems and it was estimated that by 2030 this figure was likely to go up by another 20 per cent and this was a major cause of concern.

He said physically and mentally healthy people were a strong human resource of any country and thus every effort had to be made to combat stress.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Arpita Raj said wellness meant that a person was physically and mentally healthy. He said the major cause of health problems was related to stress and thus people need to be aware of the factors which were silently affecting the human beings. She said the adage said a healthy body possessed a healthy mind and together they were productive at micro and macro levels. She advised people to refrain from allowing stress to set in, adding that for this regular exercise, yoga and a healthy diet were very important.

She said a healthy diet meant a balanced diet and this was to be followed strictly in one's life. She said it contained

different kinds of foods in certain quantities and proportions so that the requirement for calories, proteins, minerals, vitamins and alternative nutrients was adequate. She added that apart from this, a small provision was reserved for additional nutrients to endure the short length of leanness and thus a balanced diet ought to offer bioactive phytochemicals like dietary fiber, antioxidants and nutraceuticals that had positive health advantages.

Discussing the benefits, she said that healthy eating increased energy, improved the way the body functioned, strengthened the immune system and prevented weight gain. She said healthful eating prevented the risk of developing certain diseases such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease. She advised that one should feel energetic and manage one's weight.

Dr Raj said mental health was another cause of concern as stress affected it the most and mental health influenced how one thought, felt, and behaved in daily life. She said it also affected one's ability to cope with stress, overcome challenges, build relationships and recover from life's setbacks and hardships.

She said having solid mental health did not mean that one never went through bad times or experienced emotional problems and added that it was all part of

life. She added that physically healthy people were better able to bounce back from illness or injury, and people with strong mental health were better able to bounce back from adversity, trauma and stress and this ability was called resilience.

Dr Raj said people who were emotionally and mentally resilient had the tools for coping with difficult situations and maintaining a positive outlook. She said such people remained focused, flexible, and productive, in bad times as well as good, and their resilience made them less afraid of new experiences or an uncertain future.

She said that people tend to ignore the emotional messages that told us something was wrong and tried toughing it out by distracting ourselves or self-medicating with self-destructive behaviours. She said one needs to practice to elevate one's mood, become more resilient, and enjoy life more. She said only a little effort was needed for this.

She said in the fast-paced world, all were obsessed with seeking quick, simple answers to complex problems and most popped up pills rather than tackling the underlying issues. She suggested that whatever be the issues there were steps one could take to improve the way one felt and experience greater mental and emotional well-being.

Govt OK's ₹7,350 cr for making of desi gadgets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹7,350-crore scheme to boost production of laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers in the country, as it sought to woo global and domestic players to take advantage of India's manufacturing prowess.

Production worth ₹3.26 lakh crore and exports of ₹2.45 lakh crore are estimated over the next four years under the new scheme, which is expected to create 1.80 lakh jobs, said Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Briefing reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet, Prasad said the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has been approved for IT hardware products that would cover lap-



tops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers. The ₹7,350-crore scheme aims to promote India as a global hub for hardware manufacturing. The PLI push for hi-tech IT hardware gadgets comes close on the heels of the Cabinet last week clearing a ₹12,195 crore scheme for telecom equipment manufacturing, he said.

An incentive scheme for mobile phone manufacturing was announced last year and

has since garnered strong response from players despite the challenging times of the pandemic. The latest IT hardware scheme offers incentives between 4-1 per cent on net incremental sales (over base year 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four years, an official statement said.

The PLI scheme is expected to enhance the development of electronics ecosystem in India, at a time when globally manufacturing is undergoing a shift and companies across the world are looking to diversify their manufacturing locations to mitigate the risk involved in depending on a single market, said Prasad detailing the PLI scheme.

ED holds raids in ₹605 crore bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it has conducted searches in a money laundering case at various premises of accused Amar Chand Gupta, Ram Laal Gupta, Raj Kumar Gupta and other family members allegedly involved in siphoning and diversion of loan funds amounting to ₹605 crore by Shree Bankey Bihari Exports Limited (SBBEL).

The ED had initiated investigation under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of an FIR registered by CBI against SBBEL, its Directors Amar Chand Gupta and others and other unknown public servants/persons for a fraud of ₹605 crore.

"During investigation, it was gathered that SBBEL had diverted the loan funds

through its sister units and also by employing the modus operandi of showing bogus and fictitious sale/purchase transactions. The primary security had also been disposed without depositing the sale proceeds in the loan account," the ED said in a statement.

It was also gathered that the books of accounts had been secreted in various premises wherein business was being carried out by these accused persons Amar Chand Gupta, Ram Laal Gupta and Raj Kumar Gupta in the name of other family members. In order to uncover the trail of proceeds of crime and to recover documentary and electronic evidence, searches at residential and business premises of the directors and the entities being run by them along with residence of one key employee were conducted, it said.

Congress attacks BJP for renaming Motera stadium

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, which will now be known as 'Narendra Modi stadium', the Congress hit out at the BJP with its former chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday again invoking his 'Hum do humare do' jibe, claiming that truth was out with the stadium having the Prime Minister's name, two ends being named after corporate houses and Home Minister Amit Shah's son being involved in cricket administration. But the Government said the name change involves only the Motera stadium and the entire sports complex continues to be named after Sardar Patel.

"Beautiful how the truth reveals itself. Narendra Modi stadium — Adani end — Reliance end. With Jay Shah presiding," Rahul Gandhi tweeted, with the hashtag 'HumDoHumareDo'.

Insulting Indians favourite pastime of Rahul: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president JP Nadda and Union Ministers Prakash Javadekar, Smriti Irani and RK Singh on Wednesday hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his north and south politics remark, alleging that insulting Indians was a favourite pastime of his.

"Insulting Indians is a favourite pastime of Rahul Gandhi. Indians are not superior you are Mr Rahul Gandhi," tweeted Javadekar.

Senior BJP leaders slamming responses came a day after Rahul's statement where he said that Kerala was a refreshing experience for him after 15 years as an MP in the north.

Similar tweets were made by BJP president. "A few days back he was in the Northeast, spewing venom against the western part of India. Today in the South he is spewing venom against the North. Divide and rule politics won't work, Rahul Gandhi ji! People have rejected this politics. See what happened in Gujarat today!", said Nadda.

After Congress justified Rahul's remarks. Irani said that she completely agrees with Environment Minister Javadekar's statement that "insulting India and its citizens is the favourite pastime of Rahul Gandhi."

Speaking to television



channels, Irani said that this is not the first time that the Congress leader has said something against the country and its people.

The Union Minister said, "A netaji's job is to keep the whole country united and think for the interest of the country and its people, despite his/her own political indifference."

Taking a dig at the Wayanad (Kerala) MP whom she had defeated in the 2019 Amethi Lok Sabha election, Smriti Irani alleged, "Rahul Gandhi is the same person who on Republic Day had voiced his opinion in favour of country's division during tractor rally violence."

She also claimed that earlier, Rahul had also questioned the Indian Army on how it had attacked its enemy-nation Pakistan.

The Minister said, "My only question is that is Rahul

Gandhi has so much hatred for India and its people then why is he engaging in country's politics and pretending that he is always wishing for India's best interests".

She alleged that the Congress leader was creating "divisions" while a leader should be uniting the country

Union Minister and Lok Sabha MP from Bihar's Arrah constituency RK Singh said "Rahul Gandhi is talking about North and South, [but] if you do not work in any Constituency then you will be defeated. This is what happened to you in Amethi (Uttar Pradesh). You did not work, that's why the public voted out. Even if you do not work in Kerala the public will vote out."

"You think that if you keep winning from one constituency to another constituency, then it is not going to last long. You have to work, having been MP three times in a Constituency you lost the election because you did not do any developmental work. Do not divide people into North and South. People (of Kerala) are from India and if you do not work, then you will be voted out from here also," he said.

Rahul's ignorance about the presence of Fisheries Ministry had earlier in the week made him a subject of criticism from the BJP leaders.

North-South divide a toolkit by BJP: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With its former chief Rahul Gandhi coming under attack of the BJP over his comments in Kerala, the Congress on Wednesday sought to defend him saying the Wayanad MP had given a clarion call to the people to question the Government on real issues and the North-South divide was a "toolkit" being sold by the BJP to the public.

However, while former Union Minister Kapil Sibal said he was nobody to comment on what Rahul Gandhi has but still maintained "we must respect electors in the country and not denigrate their wisdom", another former Minister Anand Sharma said only Rahul can clarify so that there's no conjecture or misunderstanding.

The Congress alleged that the BJP was raising "superficial" issues on a daily basis to divert the country's attention from the people's issues. Several BJP leaders and union ministers accused Rahul Gandhi of being an 'opportunist' and alleged that he

belittled north Indians during the speech delivered in Kerala. Addressing a public gathering in Thiruvananthapuram, Rahul had said, "For the first 15 years, I was an MP in the north. I had got used to a different type of politics. For me, coming to Kerala was very refreshing as suddenly I found that people are interested in issues and not just superficially but going into detail in issues."

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's remarks, AICC chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala clarified that the former Congress president has given a clarion call to the people to question the government of the day, whether in the states or at the Centre, on issues paramount to people and to "ignore the superficial toolkit story being sold by the BJP day in and day out."

"The North-South divide is a toolkit being adopted and sold by the BJP to the news channels and the public. Let us all rise and ensure that the governments of the day answer on issues and not on superficiality that they want to divert our attention to," Surjewala said at AICC Press conference.

No extra chance in UPSC exam to those who exhausted last attempt amid pandemic: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea seeking an extra chance for UPSC civil services exam aspirants who exhausted their last attempt in October 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A bench headed by Justices A M Khanwilkar said that it was dismissing the plea filed by a civil services aspirant for the extra chance citing difficulties faced in preparations during the pandemic.

The Centre informed the top court on February 9 that it is against granting one-time relaxation on age limit to UPSC civil service aspirants, including those who had exhausted their last attempt in the 2020 exam amid the Covid-19 pandemic, as it would be discriminatory to other candidates.

The candidates from general category are allowed six attempts for the UPSC civil services exam till the age of 32; the

OBC, nine attempts till 35 years and the SC/ST candidates unlimited attempts till they turn 37.

The Centre was initially not willing to give an extra chance to the candidates but it had later agreed to do so at the suggestion of the bench.

It had on February 5 told the apex court that it was agreeable to giving an extra chance as a one-time relaxation to those civil service aspirants who had appeared in their last attempt in the 2020 exam and are not age-barred.

However, the bench on Wednesday dismissed the petition of Rachna and others.

The Centre had earlier furnished a chart in the apex court giving details of relaxation given by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in civil services exams since its inception and had said that in 1979, 1992 and 2015 relaxations were given to the candidates due to change in patterns of the examination.

Disengagement a win-win situation, says Army chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India and China are regularly holding talks to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Army Chief General MM Naravane said here on Wednesday the country has shown resolve.

He also said "nobody wants an unsettled border" and favoured resumption of all engagements with China.

In an apparent reference to the recent pull back of troops by both the armies from the Pangong Tso (lake), the Army Chief said the whole of the government approach ensured that India's interests were safe. He also said "our relations with China would develop along the path that we wish to develop."

Referring to the disengagement from the Pangong, he said it saw a good result and termed it as a win-win situation. However, there is still a long way to go, Naravane said adding China has been in the habit of making small incremental moves like in South China Sea which were not

challenged. However, the Ladakh face-offs have shown that this strategy will not work with India and "every move will be met resolutely."

"China has been in the habit of creeping forward and making very small incremental changes where each change by itself was not very big or worthy of a very strong reaction. Because of these small incremental moves which were never contested he has been able to achieve his aims without firing a shot or without any loss of life. What has happened in South China Sea is a very glaring example of that," he said at the webinar by Vivekananda Institute.

Airing these views, Naravane said nobody wants an unsettled border adding "as two neighbours who would like to have peace and tranquility on their borders and who would like that all the other engagements which have been going on in the past should continue also in the future."

As regards disengagement from other friction points at the

LAC, the Army Chief said there are pending issues in Eastern Ladakh and other parts along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) including Depsang Plains.

"End of the day we have achieved a lot," he said, stating, "We still have a long way to go. We now have to move on to the stage of de-escalation. After that de-induction of troops which went to the higher reaches."

Admitting there is trust deficit with China, Naravane said they will be wary and cautious and closely watching whatever moves that happen on either side of the LAC.

To a question if India has more tactical leverages like the domination of peaks on Kailash range which have now been vacated, Naravane said they do, without elaborating.

"Every agreement is premised that they are observed in letter and spirit. We will trust but we will verify," he said adding they have put in systems to verify that these heights are not re-occupied.

Foodgrain output to touch new record of 303.34 million tonnes in 2020-21

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Riding high on bumper rice and wheat output due to good monsoon rains and using good quality seeds, India's food-grain production for 2020-21 crop year is estimated at 303.34 million tonnes — an all-time record. It is estimated to be 5.84 million tonnes higher than the output in 2019-20 which stood at 296.50 million tons. This will be the fifth consecutive year of record production, propelled by record production of rice, wheat, pulses and cereals.

As per the second advance

estimate released by the Ministry of agriculture, production of both paddy and wheat is estimated to touch a new high of 120.32 million tonnes (118.87 million tons during the fourth advance estimate 2019-20) and 109.24 million tonnes (107.86 million tons), respectively, in 2020-21 a record high.

The projection of record production is significant amid the Covid-19 pandemic and farmers' agitation. Punjab, which has been the nerve centre of farmers' protest, has seen record procurement of rice at 13.58 million tonnes, which is 24 per cent

more than last year.

Pulses production, too, is slated to get a slight boost to 24.42 million tons nearly 1.4 million tons more than the previous year, mainly because of a record gram production which is expected to be around 11.62 million tons.

Total oilseed production during 2020-21 is estimated at 37.31 million tons which is 4.09 million tons more than the production of 33.22 million tons during 2019-20. The higher oilseed output is on account of higher yields expected in all three major oilseed crops —

groundnut, mustard and soyabean. The production of maize is also expected to be a record one at 30.16 million tons. Aided by a record maize production, total output of coarse cereals in 2020-21 is expected to go up to 49.36 million tons, which is nearly 1.6 million tons more than that in the previous year. Cotton production is estimated at 36.54 million bales (of 170 kg each), which is nearly half a million bales more than last year.

Similarly, sugarcane output is expected to be around 397.66 million tons which is substantially higher than the previous

year's 370.5 million tons.

"After achieving self-sufficiency in pulses, our focus is on raising oilseeds output to reduce dependence on edible oil imports. This year, we are likely to cross 34 million tonnes as against last year's fourth advance estimate of 33.4 million tonnes. The production of oilseeds will go up in subsequent years," the official said.

"There has been no impact of pandemic and farmers' agitation in farm activities so far in the country. Farmers in Punjab actively participated in the procurement exercise and planted

wheat across areas at last year's level," the official said.

The year-on-year record production has resulted in a surge in farm exports, which rose 25% to ₹1.02 lakh crore in the first three quarters of fiscal 2020-21.

The Union Government bought a record 658.61 lakh tons of kharif (monsoon crops) paddy in its ongoing procurement operations, 16.56 per cent more than it did last year. Nearly 95.23 lakh farmers have been paid minimum support prices worth ₹1.24 lakh crore for these purchases, the data show.

₹1.15L cr transferred to 10.75 cr farmers under PM-Kisan scheme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government on Wednesday said it has transferred over ₹1.15 lakh crore directly to bank accounts of more than 10.75 crore farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme and asked states to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are covered in this flagship programme.

Addressing a function on the occasion of the second anniversary of the PM-KISAN, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the Government has enhanced the income of farmers by providing ₹6,000 annually to farmers under this scheme in three equal instalments.

Danab Modi's CBI grilled my Bahu: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ HOOGHLY

Within 48 hours of Narendra Modi calling out for "real Poriboroti (change of guards)" from a public rally in Hooghly, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a blistering attack on the Prime Minister, calling him a "dangabaji" (rioter), a "daitya" and "danab" (demon) and daring him to defeat the Trinamool Congress in the (electoral) game that was in the offing.

Banerjee's no-holds-barred attack came a day after CBI officials questioned Rujira Narula Banerjee the wife of her nephew and TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee regarding her bank transactions in Thailand. The CBI is poring the multi-crore coal scam. Attacking the Prime Minister for using CBI against the opposition leaders, she said earlier they were threatening us but now they are entering the households and not

even sparing the young Bahus (housewives).

"They sent CBI to harass a Bahu of my house. They are calling us coal thieves ... but let me ask who is a thief. These people stay in the hotels constructed by coal mafia at Durgapur, their leaders stay in the house of the Ruias who have ruined the Dunlop company. They are selling out BSNL, Rail, LIC, SAIL, banks and are calling us coal thieves. Are the bahus of Bengal coal thieves?"

"I will play the Goalkeeper and see how many goals you can score," the Chief Minister said invoking the weird "Khela Hobey" (there will be a game) slogan that has recently gone into circulation in the poll-bound Bengal with the opposition leaders calling it a Trinamool ploy to terrorise the voters driving fears of a "bloody game" so that they remain indoors and do not venture out to vote.

Launching a fierce personal attack she said, "today the country is being ruled by a Hodol Kutkut (Bengali for a chubby person) and a Kimbhot Kimakar (weird looking guy) who have been peddling all kinds of lies against us to win elections."

"Let me tell you that they are bigger Tolabaji in fact they are Dangabaji (rioters) who ignite riots to win elections," Banerjee thundered from the same Dunlop Maidan where Modi addressed his rally on Monday and used the tolabaj jibe to attack the TMC.

"The other day the self-styled tallest leader of the country who thinks himself even taller than Mahatma Gandhi came here to tell all kind of lies ... he spoke of development done by his Government, he said that the TMC has done nothing. If I did nothing then who made the Noapara Dakshineshwar Metro Railway,

who made Joka Metro, who made Dankuni Amritsar freight corridor --- all these I had cleared as a Railway Minister of which this man is cutting ribbons and taking the credit," Banerjee said adding I have not seen a Prime Minister to tell such amount of lies."

"The country is being ruled by a doitya and a danab (Bengali for demons). They will try to break our spine. They will infiltrate and grab Bengal its culture and everything. Do you want that? Do you want Bengal to be ruled by Gujarat ... Bengal will be ruled by Bengal and not Gujarat," she said. Referring to the "great fall of Donald Trump" she said "he (Modi) had held that hands of Trump thinking that he will continue to help him everywhere but now see what has happened to him (the former US President). I tell you this man's condition will be even worse than that of Trump."

DADRA NAGAR HAVELI MP'S SUICIDE

Cong alleges UT Administrator was among officials who harassed Delkar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Demanding an enquiry into the alleged suicide by sitting MP Mohan S. Delkar, the ruling Congress on Wednesday turned the needle of suspicion towards Administrator of the Union Territory (UT) of Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu since 2016, Sawant and Dr Wagmare said in their representation to the State Home Minister.

"Mr Patel is a former BJP MLA from Himatnagar constituency in Gujarat for its 12th legislative Assembly. He also served as an Minister of State for Home of Gujarat and is very close to the RSS and BJP's national leadership," the two Congress leaders said. "It is pertinent to note that Delkar travelled to Mumbai late on Sunday, checked into a hotel and committed 'suicide' by hanging himself in the room. He may have chosen to come to Mumbai committing suicide because of he was not sure to get justice in the Union Territory," Saware and Dr Wafgmare said.

page suicide note in which he has mentioned the names of all the officials who harassed him. It is being discussed among people that he has mentioned the name of Praful Patel, who is currently working as the Administrator of Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu since 2016," Sawant and Dr Wagmare said in their representation to the State Home Minister.

"Mr Patel is a former BJP MLA from Himatnagar constituency in Gujarat for its 12th legislative Assembly. He also served as an Minister of State for Home of Gujarat and is very close to the RSS and BJP's national leadership," the two Congress leaders said. "It is pertinent to note that Delkar travelled to Mumbai late on Sunday, checked into a hotel and committed 'suicide' by hanging himself in the room. He may have chosen to come to Mumbai committing suicide because of he was not sure to get justice in the Union Territory," Saware and Dr Wafgmare said.

"He must have come to Mumbai with an expectation from the MVA government that the culprits who compelled him to take the extreme step would be punished by law," the two Congress leaders stated in their letter. On his part, the State Home Minister gave a patient hearing to the Congress, accepted their two-page representation and assured them that he would direct the Mumbai Police to look into the matter.

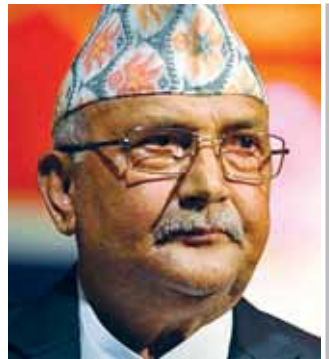
In their interaction with Deshmukh, the two Congress leaders alluded to a video released by Delkar sometime in mid-2020, in which the latter had threatened to resign as the MP as he could no longer bear the "insults and humiliating treatment" meted out to him continuously. "Delkar was clearly seen targeting the BJP in the video. The words used by him shed light on how he was targeted by the Modi government," the Congress leaders said in their representation to Deshmukh.



Trouble next door

Nepal's top court revokes PM Oli's Parliament dissolution decision, forcing him to face trust vote

In a major blow to Nepal's Prime Minister (PM) KP Sharma Oli, their Supreme Court has ruled that the Himalayan nation's Parliament, which was dissolved by Oli in December 2020, must be reconvened. The court has given Oli two weeks to reinstate the legislature, which was dissolved following protracted internal disputes within his ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP). In what is being seen as a major slap on the wrist for Oli, the top court ruled that the PM had overstepped his powers and the dissolution of the House was an unconstitutional act. The apex court's verdict means that Oli will face a no-confidence motion when the legislators reconvene because he had dissolved Parliament about two years before its mandated five-year term was to end, to head off a no-trust



Chinese Ambassador Hou Yanqi and initiated several major development projects as part of Chinese efforts to boost trade and transit links in the region.

Not only did this end India's monopoly in Nepal, it also led to increased tension between the neighbours as Oli issued many unsavoury and unwarranted remarks against India. The relations soured further as Beijing's influence in Nepal and its meddling in Oli's party grew. The last straw was Nepal coming out with a new political map in May 2020 claiming several areas in Uttarakhand to be part of its territory. However, to India's credit, it kept its cool with its long-time ally and made all-out efforts to mend fences. In the end, Oli did come around to better ties with India, particularly after it became clear to him that China was indifferent to his continuation in the Government if it helped avoid a split in the NCP. The shift in Oli's approach could be attributed to an attempt to reclaim the nationalist agenda that was the mainstay of his campaign that resulted in the NCP's win in 2018. That China lately appeared indifferent to his continuation in the Government is also believed to have contributed to Oli's stand. Now India and China, both jockeying for influence in Nepal, will keep a sharp eye on the political developments there. Where India is concerned, a weak coalition Government could be more supportive of New Delhi than hawkish Oli, who is seen as more interested in remaining in power in whatever way he can.

PICTALK



A farmer checks mustard flowers at a farm on the outskirts of Amritsar

PTI

Continuing travails

COVID-19 cases on the rise again, many States make negative RT-PCR test mandatory

It's happened so frequently in the recent history of public health in India that it's almost become a case of "so near and yet so far". Every time the authorities, the healthcare workers and the good Samaritans show due diligence and together bring COVID-19 cases under control, either a new strain is detected reaching our country or people — especially those living away from the metros and tier-I cities — ignore the standard protocols and become victims and carriers of the accursed virus. Now the latest news coming in is that the COVID-19 caseload across the country has shown a northward trend for the ninth successive day, crossing 13,000 on Tuesday, which is the longest such rolling average since infections peaked in September last year. In more worrying news, the Union Health Ministry has said that two new strains of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, have been detected in India. These new strains — N440K and E484K — have been detected in Kerala and Maharashtra. However, there is currently no evidence to show that the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in parts of these two States is due to these new variants.

Meanwhile, negative COVID-19 test report (negative RT-PCR test) has been made mandatory for entering several States: Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, J&K, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Ladakh and Chhattisgarh. Meanwhile, with the recent spurt in Coronavirus cases in five States, Delhi will make it essential for those arriving from these States to carry a negative COVID test report. People travelling to Delhi from Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab by flights, trains or buses will have to show a negative RT-PCR test from Saturday till March 15. But all's not bleak; there is some good news, too. The Union Cabinet has decided to provide the vaccines for free to certain sections, with Union Minister Prakash Javadekar tweeting that beginning March 1 "people over 60 years of age or over 45 with comorbidities will be able to get vaccinated at 10,000 Government facilities and many private hospitals". As of last week, there has globally been a "strong decline" in Coronavirus infections in the US and the UK since January. Inversely, however, it is very likely that such reports are offering a false sense of security to people to take it easy, which shouldn't be the case. If we let our guard down now, India with its population may find it high impossible to break free from the clutches of this virus. It's now or never!

Time to look and act East

While democracy is the most sought after means of governance, it becomes a farce when core values are compromised, like in the case of Myanmar

The long-awaited goal of democracy in Myanmar was achieved in 2011 after a five-decade struggle led by civil society, international actors and agencies against an autocratic military in the country. However, the recent *coup d'état* by the national Army has once again led Myanmar to uncertain times. The coup surprised the world and it shall be seen as the outcome of a compromised leadership by Aung San Suu Kyi. Despite registering a mammoth victory in the November 2020 elections, the Suu Kyi-led National League for Democracy (NLD) was accused by the Army and Opposition of poll irregularities, corruption and unethical means in "stealing" the victory; hence, the coup.

While the Union Election Commission has refuted all claims of poll irregularities by the NLD, it was in no way possible that the Army would not act to assert its political victory, considering an uneasy ride with the NLD Government in the last six years.

Amid mounting international pressure, the military junta was forced to pave the way for the entry of democratic forces in 2010. The political prisoners were released, including Suu Kyi, but the NLD boycotted the elections over alleged irregularities by the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party. However, over the next five years, the NLD gained popular support which was reflected in the 2015 general elections. The NLD won 168 of the 224 seats in the Amyotha Hluttaw (House of Nationalities), with 25 per cent seats going to the Army without any contest. It indicated more space for pro-democracy leadership and restoration of the multiparty parliamentary system. In 2011, President U Thein Sein had carried out significant political and economic reforms though these were in sync with the needs and demands of the military.

For the current fiasco, one needs to look at the 2008 Constitution of the Myanmar Army as one of the root causes. The Constitution had strength-



ened the Army's role in the parliamentary system on the legal front. Considering the popularity of Suu Kyi in the new political order, the Army had especially added that a President should have a military background and none of his/her spouses be subjects of a foreign power or citizen of a foreign country to limit her chances of holding the President's office as her two sons are British citizens. The Home and the Defence portfolios can be held only by the Army, and the 25 per cent reservation was to keep the military in full control. The emergency powers have further strengthened the Army's position.

In the course of a popular public movement demanding to reinstate a democratic order, Suu Kyi's rise became synonymous to democracy. Yet she failed to condemn and control the gross human rights violations of Rohingyas in the Rakhine State. The refugee Rohingyas moved *en masse* to neighbouring Bangladesh. While the world was looking at Suu Kyi to emerge as a messiah for ethnic Rohingyas, she chose to rescue her own party. More surprisingly, she was seen labelling Rohingyas as



THE CURRENT CASE OF MYANMAR IS NOTHING MORE THAN A MATTER OF COMPROMISED LEADERSHIP THAT WAS UNABLE TO BRING IN FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE ARMY'S FUNCTIONING

"illegal migrants" who were already tagged as "Islamic terrorists" by the Army. While Amnesty International stripped away her honours, there were calls to take back even the Nobel Peace Prize.

Suu Kyi may have been vocal for democracy in Myanmar but she failed to stand for it while in power. She condemned neither a State-sponsored ethnic cleansing by the Army nor the Buddhist lobby that was reportedly instrumental in the alleged brutalities. Therefore, while the world is condemning the coup, international actors are cautious in defending Suu Kyi. It is an open secret that the NLD co-existed with the Army, but the compulsions of democracy had kept them on different paths. In reality, the Generals never gave up on their political aspirations and failure through the electoral route made the coup inevitable.

India has aired its voice in favour of democracy and normalcy in Myanmar. At the same time, New Delhi has opted not to slap any sanctions unlike the US, UK and the EU. As a champion of democracy, India's appeal for its restoration remains the common element across the volatile political surfaces globally. It helps New

Delhi to convey the message of peace and democracy more actively. India's COVID-19 vaccine gift to Myanmar is proof of its commitment to peaceful humanitarian causes.

Meanwhile, as an important country in India's Act East policy, New Delhi needs to look at the Myanmar border with utmost caution. India's challenge will not be limited to tackling an increasing bonhomie between China and the Myanmar Army; the looming political crisis in Bangladesh will double India's Eastern challenge.

The recent *exposé* — 'All the Prime Minister's Men' by Al Jazeera, revealing an alleged criminal nexus between the Bangladesh Army chief, his brothers and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led Bangladesh Nationalist Party — has caused an uproar. While the Bangladesh Government has backed the Army, the alleged claims in the *exposé* are of grave concerns. Therefore, the Act East policy needs to include emergency strategies of diplomatic, intelligence, security and political nature. (The author is an ICSSR Doctoral Fellow at the JNU, New Delhi, and Senior Fellow at the AIDIA, Kathmandu. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DISHA RAVI VINDICATED

Sir — While granting bail to activist Disha Ravi, Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana demolished almost every charge levelled against her because "not even an iota of evidence was brought to the court's notice". This a rap on the knuckles of the Centre and the Delhi Police.

Interestingly, before speaking about the conscience of the nation, Judge Rana quoted the *Rig Veda* and reminded the nation: "This 5,000-year-old civilisation of ours has never been averse to ideas from varied quarters." For her part, the activist Disha Ravi said if it was sedition to highlight farmers' protest globally, she was willing to be imprisoned. She also clarified that there was no question of collaborating with the pro-Khalistani group, Poetic Justice Foundation.

But when the court has thrown this "toolkit" charge into the waste paper basket, one wonders whether it has made the BJP feel embarrassed of its own "toolkit": Charging innocent citizens with cooked-up stories, unleashing the ED, IT and/or the CBI on political opponents and toppling State Governments by way of horse trading. I strongly feel that the verdict is an encouragement to and booster for Disha Ravi to stand up against all concocted charges. One should be happy with her bail order but hope she draws a *Lakshman rekha* for herself; otherwise she may keep facing such problems in the future, too.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

PROVIDE FREE JABS TO SENIORS

Sir — Glad to read about the Union Government's decision to vaccinate people above the age of 60 years against Coronavirus from March 1, besides including people above 45 who suffer from comorbidities in the second phase. As per the statement made by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, India's vaccination drive proposal has been approved by the Union Cabinet and the above-mentioned groups will receive the shot at the Government's expense and at its facilities.

The announcement comes at a time when there is an alarming spurt in the

Congress needs a major shake-up



This refers to the editorial 'Shaky leadership' (February 24). With the sun setting for the Congress in Puducherry, it's the ninth State the 'Grand Old Party' has lost since 2014. It now enjoys power in merely three States — Punjab, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The story of Congress' decline isn't new; it has virtually been a repeat telecast since the BJP-led NDA came to power. The ideological bankruptcy of the top

leadership has trickled down to the ranks, leading to a crisis at the grassroots.

Though the BJP has the backing of the RSS-type booth-level workers, who are dedicated to consolidating votes in favour of the saffron party, the Congress misses its *Seva Dal* whose political significance has been overshadowed by a lack of intent and commitment. Also, the top leadership needs to acknowledge various inputs by the think tank within the Congress, mainly the G-23 (Group of 23 leaders) who wrote to demand leadership reforms. The party urgently needs an overhaul in ideology, besides flexibility to adapt as per the situation's demands.

By playing the card of soft Hindutva, the Congress is falling for the core competency of the BJP and it is bound to boomerang. The party needs to bridge the trust deficit, make the organisation less of a family enterprise and keep the cadres and alliance partners buoyant even in crises.

Nischai Vats | Sultanpur

number of COVID-19 cases across the country, particularly in Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir. I believe that the Centre does not have any alternative but to provide free vaccination to the citizens as quite a lot of people would not be able to afford it, thus preferring to stay back and take recourse to home-made remedies. This development, if it comes about, would totally defeat the purpose of the world's biggest inoculation programme as there would be critical gaps left uncovered in the chain of vaccinated Indians. Also, the Centre must insist that private hospitals also give free vaccines to people aged 60 and above with the cost being borne by the Government.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

A STADIUM STANDS TALL

Sir — In India, cricket is a religion and we look at our cricketers as demigods. To stay at the pinnacle of our global success in the sport, we need to have world-class stadia

for grooming our youngsters on their way up to the highest level. In this regard, the inauguration of the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad is a giant leap towards a new era.

The stadium, which was closed for renovation in 2015, has been a witness to some major milestones in Indian cricket in its previous avatar. Sunil Gavaskar reached his 10,000 run-mark in Test cricket here against Pakistan in 1987 and, in 1994, Kapil Dev claimed his 432nd Test wicket to become the highest wicket-taker in the world, surpassing Sir Richard Hadlee. The ground has a state-of-the-art drainage system that will take just 30 minutes from the time it stops raining to flush out the water. Also, it is the only cricket stadium in the world to have four dressing rooms for the players so that back-to-back games can be played on the same day.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

SOUND BITE

I cannot build any other capital (on the demand that Purnia be the State capital). If anyone else becomes the Chief Minister after me, they can do whatever they wish. I cannot do such a thing.

Bihar Chief Minister — Nitish Kumar

I am frustrated that (French company) Naval Group have not yet been able to finalise this contract but it will not be done at the expense

of Australian industry.

Australia's Defence Minister — Linda Reynolds

I miss my long hair. I miss tying that rubber band when I'm bare. I miss my long walks at the lake of my hometown's creek. I miss listening to my old-time playlist.

— Ayushmann Khurrana

Playing 100 Tests as a fast bowler is no mean feat and playing especially in our conditions, things can get so difficult. But he (Ishant Sharma) kept working hard.

Indian captain — Virat Kohli


We found that they (the Congress, during the pandemic) had given registration numbers of scooters and three-wheelers. Is this not a joke on the people?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister — Yogi Adityanath

FIRST COLUMN


TEXAS MUST READ UP ON GLOBAL WARMING

Climate change doesn't care whether you believe in it or not. And it may get worse



GWYNNE DYER

It's not funny when people die of the cold but there was some innocent amusement to be had from the indignation of Texans unable to boil their drinking water during the 'Big Freeze' because the power was still out. Things like that are not supposed to happen in a modern, developed country like the US of A. How dare they? Others, aware that Texas has cut every corner in public services that it's possible to cut, were unsurprised by the five-day mini-disaster that struck the country's second-biggest State. One blogger wrote philosophically: "Occasionally, something will happen in Texas to remind the people who live here that we live in a failed State." A winter temperature 25°C colder than usual for the time of year is rare, but this is not the first time it has snowed in Texas. The electricity failed, triggering a cascade of other disasters, mainly because of a long-standing refusal to connect the State power grid with the two main national ones. (This was done to avoid federal supervision on prices and standards). Others have cold snaps too. Germany, Russia, Canada, even northern China get much colder than Texas, but they don't end up freezing in the dark because they are prepared for it. Texas could have been prepared for it, too, but somebody in power would have had to read science journals for that. Since they almost all got elected with donations from fossil fuel producers, that was never very likely. The "explainers" in the media talk about a rogue 'Arctic vortex', but what's really happening is much simpler.



It's just what global warming has done to the northern hemisphere's 'jet stream.' The northern jet stream is a high-speed, high-altitude atmospheric "river" that flows from the West to the East all the way around the planet. It marks the boundary between the Polar air mass, sometimes called the 'Polar Vortex', and the warmer air masses of the mid-latitudes. East-bound airliners crossing the North Atlantic and the North Pacific often hitch a ride on the jet stream, saving up to an hour. The energy that drives the jet stream comes from the temperature difference between the two air masses it divides. However, the Arctic is warming much faster than the rest of the world, so that difference is shrinking and, with less energy the jet stream is slowing down. It used to blast straight East but even then it occasionally developed long S-shaped kinks called 'Rossby waves.' These are big loops extending far North and South of its usual track. As it has slowed down (the average speed is now 150-225 kmph), the Rossby waves have grown more frequent and bigger. They are often now great loops deviating from the straight track and bring with them cold Polar air rarely seen so far South, or warm air not seen previously so far North. That's what happened to Texas last week: One of those Rossby waves brought cold Arctic air all the way South. This pattern will recur and Texans will have to live with it.

Climate change doesn't care whether you believe in it or not. And it may get worse. In June-July 2018 record-breaking heatwaves hit western US, Western Europe and the Caucasus-Caspian Sea region, while there was extreme rainfall and flash flooding on the US east coast, in eastern Europe and Japan. It was all happening in big Rossby loops that had taken over the jet stream. All the loops, containing hot dry air or cool moist air, were stuck for over two weeks. By last year, researchers had found that over the last 20 years the same pattern of seven stalled peaks and lows over the same regions has lasted seven times for more than two weeks. In the previous 20 years (1980-2000), that had not happened even once. This suggests that the pattern is getting stronger. And, since the latitudes where the loops are stalling include most of the major "breadbasket" regions of the northern hemisphere, the crop-killing droughts and heatwaves they bring could cause a big loss in world food production. It's the unknowns that do the worst damage. (Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.' The views expressed are personal.)

Time to tackle online gender violence

Despite the existence of regulatory mechanisms, we have not been able to effectively handle online safety challenges owing to the lack of proper implementation

The internet has evolved as an indispensable tool for transforming our society and culture. Women, especially those living in rural India, have been empowered to speak about their diverse realities, discuss common concerns and organise for change. However, the challenges of censorship and overregulation emanating from actions like blocking of LGBTQ+ sites or silencing of female voices on social media through misogynistic hate speech and trolling, make it essential to find sustainable solutions to these concerns that are threatening the online safety of vulnerable communities. After all, with the internet becoming the ultimate manifestation of our social reality, attaining online equality is paramount for ensuring the same offline.

The feminist landscape of online hate: The last decade has witnessed instances of cyberstalking, rape threats and other forms of gendered violence increase at an alarming rate on the internet. In stark contrast to claims that "cyberhate" is predominantly innocuous, there are a range of academic studies which prove the widespread suffering caused, owing to the consequent social, psychological and economic harm inflicted upon women due to this challenge. The problem of gendered cyberhate has become far more prevalent since the advent of web 2.0, which was marked by the shift towards a greater amount of user-generated content, collaboration, interactivity and information sharing over the web. This facilitated online antagonists to get easier access to their targets in a manner that was never possible before. According to a 2015 report by the United Nations, 73 per cent of women have experienced some form of online violence. An analysis conducted by a leading daily revealed that out of every 10 writers who receive abusive comments online, eight were women.

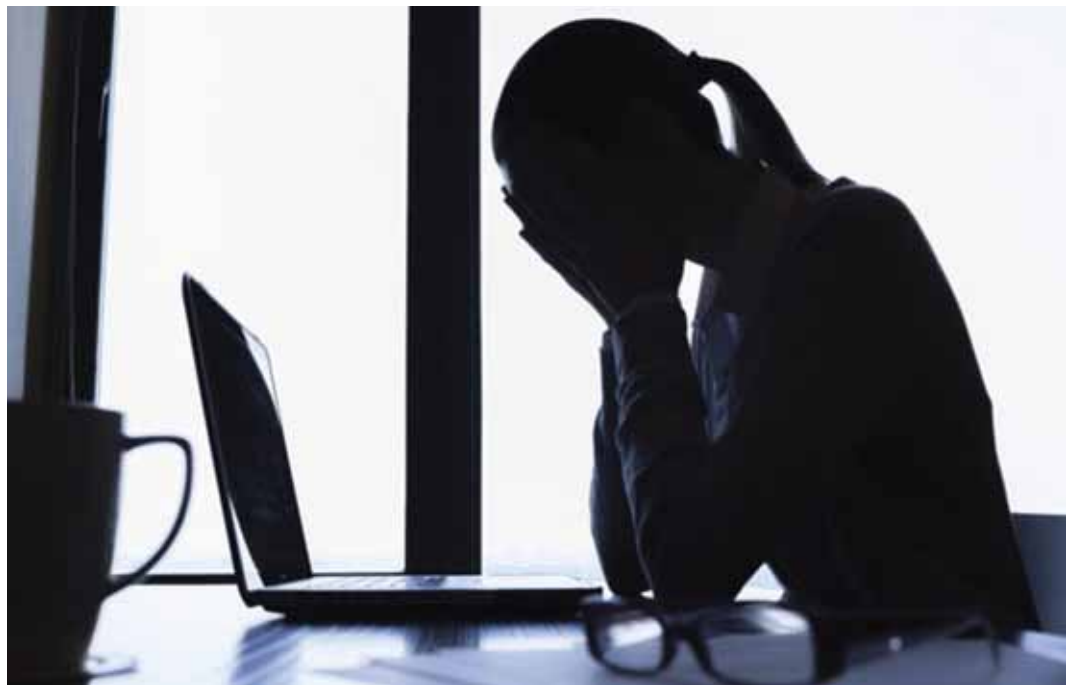
Types of online hate: Online abuse can be placed on a wide spectrum of violence, ranging from mildly irritating (cyberstalking) at one end to unequivocally criminal (revenge pornography) at the other. One peculiar characteristic of this challenge as seen in India and many other developing economies, is the dimension of domestic violence which is increasingly being observed as a major component of most of the cases of online harassment. Some of the most prominent forms of gendered cyberhate faced by women online include cyberbullying, a challenge whose primary target is mainly school and college girls. Then there is cyberstalking, which includes the perpetrator making unwarranted attempts to contact the target by installing a spyware on her phone or hacking her email/social media accounts. Plus there is denial of service, wherein, the online platforms disables the person to voice herself, often due to her unconventional views. Other major forms of online harm are doxing, which involves publication of personally identifiable information about a person that enables online antagonists to find their targets offline, and the most critically dangerous of all including revenge pornography (publishing sexually explicit content, often of a former partner without their consent) and sextortion (hacking webcams, installing malwares or impersonating as someone's romantic interest to obtain intimate information and images).

Implications of the harm on users: Extensive evidence exists to show that gendered cyberhate inflicts significant psychological, social, reputational and economic distress and harm upon women.



A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY FEMINISM IN INDIA UNDERScoreD THAT 50 PER CENT OF WOMEN IN MAJOR CITIES OF INDIA HAVE FACED ONLINE ABUSE. HOWEVER, WOMEN ARE NOT THE ONLY VICTIMS OF SUCH ABUSE. THERE IS CONCURRENTLY RAMPANT ONLINE HARASSMENT OF INDIVIDUALS FROM MARGINALISED GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES AS WELL

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This includes putting limitations on their ability to engage in meaningful activism to respond to the challenge of gendered cyberhate itself. This leads to serious concerns of violation of both rights guaranteed under international human rights laws and the Constitution of India, including their right to free speech, right to informational privacy, right to bodily integrity and right to reputation, to name a few. As another major concern, it is seen that women who depend on the internet to earn their livelihood are more prone to receiving online hate. This causes serious repercussions for them to find and keep access to their jobs and socially and professionally network themselves — causing blatant breach of their right to livelihood and gender equality.

Understanding and solving the problem: We must not forget that India has not only bagged one of the top ranks for having the highest number of internet users, but it is also the country that tops the statistics of global sexual harassment. The harassment faced by women in the physical world is mirrored by the image harassment faced by them in the online world. A survey conducted by Feminism in India underscored that 50 per cent of women in major cities of India have faced online abuse. However, women are not the only victims of such abuse. There is concurrently rampant online harassment of individuals from marginalised genders and sexualities as well. A truly intersectional view of the issue demands that it is specifically

addressed through policy and law, as it is evident that the laws at present that were created with the purpose of protecting women are failing at their task to create a safe place online. Cyberhate, specifically, is a growing issue in the Indian online space. With a charged society polarised by religion and politics, the instances of hateful, violating, or mean comments that occur in the comment sections, forums and on other websites or social media have multiplied. In the case of cyberhate not all violations may be explicitly against the law, they are still serious and unacceptable as a part of online presence, as much as it would be in the physical society. It is important to recognise that to truly tackle the issue of cyberhate, our society, platforms and institutions including the Government must come together. Cyberhate must be dealt with at a societal level through awareness and change in mindsets while institutions must provide for zero tolerance and also grievance redressal. It must exist at all levels. For example, employers must show a responsibility and obligation towards staff to provide them with tools or resources to deal with the cyberhate that they might face as a consequence of the work they are required to do online. Also, legal measures and institutional methods against hate speech are unlikely to be able to tackle the sheer volume of online publications. A complete solution would be to work together with ISPs and platforms i.e. intermediaries to develop comprehensive codes of conduct or community guidelines based on

which removal of offensive content takes place. Platforms have the ability to use their technology to detect such content and thereby filter/flag or even remove it. It is equally important to enhance their responsibility in these scenarios to be able to complement the efforts of law enforcement.

The way forward: With the IPC, IT Act and the POCSO rules in place we have adequate laws to tackle cyberhate. The challenge is to effectively implement these laws to ensure safe online space. The Draft Intermediary Guidelines, 2018, envisaged under the IT Act received extant criticism owing to its deleterious impact on free speech and privacy of users. If implemented, it would pierce the encryption-enabled anonymity enjoyed by women and marginalised groups. This anonymity is crucial to tackle trolls with counterspeech and ensure online safety. A recent study explains how the mandate of proactive monitoring under the Draft Guidelines by using automated tools and introducing traceability, by breaking encryption, would undermine the safety of users.

Despite the existence of regulatory mechanisms, we have not been able to effectively handle online safety challenges owing to the lack of proper implementation. The onus of reform cannot be entirely placed on regulation and also lies on the participants in the ecosystem who have a major role in ensuring that progressive laws and policies are rightly implemented and followed. It is the duty of the State to effectively prosecute perpetrators of online hate.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

FOR ME, COMING TO KERALA WAS REFRESHING AS I FOUND THAT PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN ISSUES. NOT SUPERFICIALLY BUT GOING INTO DETAILS.
—CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



A FEW DAYS AGO HE WAS IN THE NORTH-EAST SPEWING VENOM AGAINST THE WESTERN PART OF INDIA. TODAY HE IS SPEWING VENOM AGAINST THE NORTH.
—BJP PRESIDENT JP NADDA

Bumps in the way of adoption of EVs in India

EV technology is the future of mobility but dithering Government measures mean that this amazing technology is still stuck in neutral



KOTA SRIRAJ

Rising fuel prices, a nascent electric vehicle (EV) support infrastructure and the recently-announced vehicle scrappage policy amid worrying pollution levels, are creating an unprecedented crisis of sorts for Indians as far as commuting is concerned. These conditions are exacerbated by a creaking public transport system that is bursting at the seams. The seemingly unstoppable rally of fuel price hikes is undoubtedly the most disturbing development so far for a nation that is battling a pandemic-induced economic downturn and dwindling income levels. In view of a divided and weak Opposition, that repeatedly fails to take up key issues that affect the common man, the Government has mustered enough confidence to dish out 21 fuel hikes in the

The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal.

first two months of the new year, if media reports are to be believed. For many of us, the rise in pollution levels and fuel prices has come as an indication to shift towards EVs or public transport, but in these times of Coronavirus-induced social distancing, jostling in a crowded public conveyance does not seem to be a natural choice.

The finality of making an alternative choice for commuting has been further strengthened by the announcement of the vehicle scrappage policy which makes owning an old vehicle in Delhi-NCR impossible and very costly elsewhere in the country. Though this policy has delighted auto manufacturers as new vehicle demand is expected to soar, the citizens whose budgets have been severely hit by the pandemic

may not share the same enthusiasm, as many of their perfectly maintained vehicles will end up in scrapyards. In the midst of this chaos, the EV industry is emerging as the apt solution for all the existent problems, but the Indian EV sector is anything but fully ready to meet the challenge.

The auto sector, which was experiencing a slowdown even before the virus' outbreak, came to its knees as the full impact of the COVID-19 contagion was unleashed. The Union Budget addressed the sector's concerns by focusing on reliefs such as tax holidays for EV startups. The setting aside of ₹2,217 crore for 'Clean Air', for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population is also a good move that can spread awareness about the environmental benefits of EVs.



Similarly, the Government's plan for strengthening the public transport sector under the Public-Private-Partnership model with an outlay of ₹18,000 crore for operating 20,000 buses is encouraging for the EV industry.

The scheme can help fight air pollution effectively. But inexplicably, this is where the Government's vision gets blurry as the Budget does not mention any EV-focused initiative

or policy, including Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME).

Other expectations, including the ramping up of EV charging infrastructure, enablement of retail financing for EVs and moderation of the inverted Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure along with lowering of taxes on EV input components, including battery, were also not addressed.

The EV manufacturers were hopeful of a firmer policy commitment from the Government, especially in the duty structure pertaining to batteries. The Budget platform could have been used to fix the inverted duty structure for components such as batteries from 18 per cent to five per cent and for charging/swapping infrastructure services, too, from

18 per cent to five per cent. For instance, a lithium-ion battery fitted in an EV attracts 12 per cent GST but it is 18 per cent GST when sold separately. Correction of such issues would have lent enormous confidence to EV manufacturers and provided a much-needed push to the sector. Similarly, lowering of import duties on automotive parts instead of raising them would have had the same positive impact on the spirit of the industry, besides lowering the critical costs of production.

The absence of an aggressive push from the Government for the indigenous EV industry has raised concerns for its future. World leading EV manufacturers such as Tesla are already eyeing the huge potential of the Indian market. In fact, Tesla has already registered itself as

an entity in India in Bengaluru, with the intention of manufacturing EV cars. Hyundai's Kona and Morris Garages' ZS EV, are already making inroads in the Indian market as we speak. With competition already getting hot, Indian EV manufacturers need more support from the Government in the form of sops, tax holidays for four-wheel EV makers, better GST structures and lower import duties besides robust financing options for the consumers. These measures combined with superior nationwide charging infrastructure can render fossil fuel cars obsolete, paving the way for their phase-out.

EV technology is the future of mobility but dithering Government measures mean that this amazing technology is still stuck in neutral in the country.

Pvt banks can do Govt-related business: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Wednesday allowed all private sector banks to participate in government-related business like collection of taxes pension payments and small savings schemes.

At the moment, only few large private sector are allowed to conduct government-related business.

This step is expected to further enhance customer convenience, spur competition and higher efficiency in the standards of customer services, an official statement said.

"Embargo lifted on grant of Govt business to private Banks. All banks can now participate. Private banks can now be equal partners in development of the Indian economy, furthering Govt's social sector initiatives, and enhancing customer convenience," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a tweet. Private sector banks, which are at the forefront of imbibing and implementing latest technology and innovation in banking, will now be equal partners in development of the Indian economy

and in furthering the social sector initiatives of the government, the statement said.

"With the lifting of the embargo, there is now no bar on RBI for authorization of private sector banks (in addition to public sector banks) for Government business, including Government agency business. The Government has conveyed its decision to RBI," it added. The government has already announced its intent to privatise two public sector lenders, other than IDBI Bank, in the Budget 2021-22.

Sitharaman, while presenting Budget 2021-22 earlier this month, had announced the privatisation of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as part of the disinvestment drive to garner Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

"Other than IDBI Bank, we propose to take up the privatisation of two Public Sector Banks and one General Insurance company in the year 2021-22," she had said.

The government last year consolidated 10 public sector banks into four and as a result, the total number of PSBs came down to 12 from 27 in March 2017.

Cabinet approves ₹15,000 cr PLI scheme for pharma sector

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday approved a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the pharmaceutical sector, entailing an outlay of Rs 15,000 crore.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the scheme which will benefit domestic manufacturers, help create employment and is expected to contribute to the availability of a wider range of affordable medicines for consumers. The duration of the

scheme would be from 2020-21 to 2028-29 and is expected to promote the production of high value products in the country and increase the value addition in exports, an official release said. The total incremental sales of Rs 2,94,000 crore and total incremental exports of Rs 1,96,000 crore are estimated during six years from 2022-23 to 2027-28, it added.

The scheme is expected to generate 20,000 direct jobs and 80,000 indirect employment for both skilled and unskilled personnel, as a result of growth in the sector, the release said.

Indian corporate bond market can double to ₹65-70 lakh cr by March 2025, says Crisil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The supply of corporate bonds in the domestic market is expected to double to ₹65-70 lakh crore by fiscal 2025 with the financial sector contributing around 50 per cent to this growth, rating agency Crisil said.

The demand for corporate bonds, however, is likely to be ₹60-65 lakh crore by March 2025.

"Over the next five fiscals, corporate bond issuances outstanding could

more than double from around ₹ 33 lakh crore or 16 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of fiscal 2020 to ₹65-70 lakh crore – tantamount to 22-24 per cent of GDP – by the end of fiscal 2025," the agency's Managing Director Gurpreet Chhatwal said during a webinar. The financial sector will contribute around 50 per cent of the incremental supply, followed by innovation (close to 25 per cent) and infrastructure (about 20 per cent), the agency said.

RBI concerned over impact of cryptocurrency on financial stability, says Das

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is concerned over the impact cryptocurrencies may have on the financial stability in the economy and has conveyed the same to the government, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Wednesday.

"We have certain major concerns about cryptocurrencies. We have communicated them to the government.

It is under consideration in the government and I do expect and I think sooner or

later the government will take a call and if required Parliament also will consider and decide," he said in an interview with CNBC-TV18.

"I want to make it clear that the blockchain technology is different.

Blockchain technology

benefits have to be exploited,

that is another thing.

But on crypto we have

major concerns from the financial

stability angle and we have

shared it with the government.

The government will consider

and take a call," Das said.

Sensex zooms 1,030 pts, Nifty tops 14,950 in extended session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex soared 1,030.28 points and the Nifty rallied over 270 points on Wednesday, tracking strong buying in financial stocks, after trading hours were extended following a technical glitch at NSE. After resumption of trade at 3.45 pm, NSE Nifty zoomed 274.20 points or 1.86 per cent to end at 14,982.

Similarly, the 30-share BSE index settled 1,030.28 points or 2.07 per cent higher at 50,781.69.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack,

surging around 5 per cent, followed by HDFC twins, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance and SBI.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, Dr Reddy's, TCS and Asian Paints were among the laggards. Minutes before the scheduled closure of trade at 3.30 pm, leading bourses BSE and NSE said their equity and derivatives markets will remain open till 5 pm.

The move came after the National Stock Exchange (NSE) suffered an outage earlier in the day due to technical glitches. Trading across segments came to a halt at 1140 hrs due to connectivity issues.

Rupee firms up 11 paise to close at 72.35 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee furthered its gains by another 11 paise to settle at 72.35 against the US dollar on Wednesday amid persistent selling of the greenback by banks and exporters.

Besides, positive domestic equities and weaker American currency in the overseas market also helped the rupee consolidate gains. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.35 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 72.26 and a low of 72.41.

Gold falls ₹148, silver declines ₹886

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Wednesday fell Rs 148 to Rs 46,307 per 10 grams in the national capital, due to overnight selling in global prices and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 46,455 per 10 grams in the previous session.

Silver also declined Rs 886 to Rs 68,676 per kilogram, compared with the close of Rs 69,562 per kilogram in the previous trade.

Flipkart plans to deploy 25K electric vehicles by 2030

Bengaluru: A day after Amazon India said it has deployed nearly 100 Mahindra Treo three-wheelers, e-commerce marketplace Flipkart on Wednesday said it will deploy more than 25,000 electric vehicles in its supply chain by 2030.

Flipkart said it has already started piloting and deploying two-wheeler and three-wheeler electric vehicles in multiple locations for delivery across the country, including in Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati and Pune, to name a few.

I-T refunds worth over ₹1.95 L cr issued this fiscal

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department on Wednesday said it has issued over Rs 1.95 lakh crore worth refunds to over 1.93 crore taxpayers so far this fiscal. Of this, personal income tax refunds of Rs 69,653 crore have been issued to over 1.90 crore taxpayers and corporate tax refunds of Rs 1.26 lakh crore have been issued in 2.17 lakh cases. "CBDT issues refunds of over Rs 1.95,736 crore to more than 1.93 crore taxpayers between 1st April, 2020 to 22nd February, 2021," the I-T Department tweeted.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	14,729.15	15,008.80	14,723.05	14,982.00	274.20	
HDFCRANK	1,526.50	1,613.95	1,516.25	1,612.00	82.85	
COALINDIA	139.95	145	139.5	144.1	7.2	
AXISBANK	722	754.9	717.05	752.8	36.85	
ICICIBANK	615.1	645	615.1	640	23.7	
BAJFINANCE	5,444.00	5,578.90	5,383.00	5,556.85	173.15	
SBN	397	410.5	395.2	407.7	12.1	
HDPC	2,610.10	2,723.00	2,610.10	2,709.00	80.4	
KOTAKBANK	1,810.10	1,924.00	1,852.05	1,919.95	47.7	
LT	1,486.70	1,532.00	1,486.70	1,523.00	36.7	
ULTRACEMCO	6,319.00	6,450.00	6,210.00	6,406.00	137.55	
WIPRO	417.7	425.8	414.75	425.9	8.4	
GRASIM	1,239.00	1,258	1,231.25	1,239.70	24.2	
BAJAJFINSV	10,030.00	10,250.00	10,015.05	10,201.00	192.35	
BRITANNIA	3,360.00	3,415.00	3,341.00	3,399.95	64	
TITAN	1,424.05	1,474.00	1,424.05	1,451.00	26.95	
HDFCLIFE	712.05	721.5	697	719	13.3	
RELIANCE	2,030.00	2,065.25	2,026.15	2,060.55	37.1	
INDUSINDBK	1,947.30	1,976.00	1,941.25	1,967.00	18.7	
BHARTIARTL	568.1	574.1	565.2	573.9	8.35	
SHREKCEM	27,313.25	27,849.95	26,500.00	27,590.00	389.65	
NSTLEIND	16,283.00	16,378.00	16,100.00	16,375.00	205.05	
ONGC	114	115.35	111	113.6	1.4	
TECHM	990	993.9	986.65	997.5	11.75	
HEROMOTOCO	3,440.00	3,500.00	3,351.10	3,442.00	36.55	
DIVISLAB	3,496.90	3,509.80	3,412.40	3,481.00	32.75	
M&M	841.1	855.9	840	848	7.05	
BKPL	440	445	436.1	438.5	3.25	
ADANIAPORTS	666.7	671	653.4	666.4	4.4	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,927.00	3,990.00	3,855.35	3,936.95	24.7	
EICHERMOT	2,530.05	2,562.85	2,500.00	2,530.00	15.3	
INFY	1,260.05	1,276.60	1,252.00	1,272.70	6.35	
IOC	98.4	99.9	97	98	0.35	
SILIFE	870.1	875.9	852.7	872.8	3.1	
HCLTECH	918	919.45	905.5	913	3.05	
HINDUNILVR	2,188.50	2,188.50	2,155.55	2,183.00	3.75	
ITC	209.1	209.8	206.5	208.65	0.15	
HINDALCO	334.2	337.5	328	333	-0.05	
MARUTI	6,905.00	7,036.00	6,877.50	6,955.00	-15.5	
TATASTEEL	735	745	720	722.25	-20	
NTPC	104.5	104.7	102.1	103	-0.4	
ANIPAINPT	2,373.00	2,409.35	2,347.20	2,360.00	-12.2	
GAIL	147.55	148.1	142.9	146.5	-0.85	
SUNPHARMA	607.1	609.35	595.80	604.0	-3.65	
TATAMOTORS	325	330	316.5	321.2	-2.8	
CIPLA	794	798.1	776.25	784	-6.95	
TCS	2,972.00	3,003.35	2,921.15	2,946.85	-33.35	
JSWSTEEL	415	426.6	400	407.15	-5.45	
DRREDDY	4,495.15	4,523.75	4,377.00	4,430.95	-64.2	
POWERGRID	226.15	228.2	221.6	222.6	-3.5	
UPL	547	567	546	555	-11.4	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	34,823.50	34,830.50	34,396.60	34,766.10	184.8	
INDIGO	1,531.00	1,635.00	1,501.00	1,620.15	89.7	
CONCOR	272	282	244.5	282	27.7	
INDUSTOWER	272	282	244.5	282	10.35	
DANDHANBNK	326.8	336.3	324.05	335.4	10.1	
BFL	307.4	316	307.05	312.8	7.4	
ACC	1,708.00	1,745.00	1,708.00	1,737.00	39.95	
GODREJCP	680.25	705.6	676	695.5	15.7	
PNB	41.45	42.1	41.25	41.85	0.85	
HAVELLS	1,135.05	1,154.30	1,115.05	1,146.00	21.55	
AMBUJACEM	266	270.3	265.05	269.6	4.9	
PFC	122.8	125.7	124.10	124.05	2.25	
AIKEM	2,757.00	2,779.00	2,710.05	2,775.00	50.3	
TORNTPHARM	2,430.00	2,488.00	2,425.00	2,470.00	44.6	
ICICIPRULI	470	493.05	462	478.5	7.6	
SIEMENS	1,870.00	1,923.00	1,855.00	1,897.00	28.05	
ADANTRANS	740	758.9	687	745	10.5	
BANKBARODA	87.4	90.3	86.4	88	1.15	
HDFCAML	2,915.35	2,999.95	2,915.35	2,920.10	37.3	
OFSS	3,056.50	3,048.70	2,995.00	3,040.00	33.7	
BIOCEN	388.8	392.45	385.35	389.6	4.25	
BOSCHLTD	15,198.00	15,549.95	14,767.90	14,902.00	159.4	
AUROPHARMA	863	868.45	851.1	861.65	8.05	
MARICO	422.1	426.5	415.15	426	3.9	
DABUR	502.5	506.25	498.05	504	3.95	
SBCARD	1,038.00	1,048.75	1,014.75	1,037.00	7.7	
NMDC	124.15	125.8	123.1	123.6	0.75	
ABBOTINDIA	14,548.10	14,717.50	14,477.00	14,555.05	83.75	
PETRONET	252.95	257.35	250.55	253.85	1.45	
CADILAH	230.5	235.35	227.65	232.85	2.1	
CIKE	194.95	202.8	191	197.05	0.7	
BERGEPAINT	721.7	730	716	724	2.3	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,297.00	1,314.00	1,277.10	1,290.00	3.55	
HINDZINC	304.5	311	303	305.2	0.8	
HINDPETRO	246.75	248.85	242.6	245.25	0.35	
PEL	1,869.45	1,884.55	1,810.00	1,853.05	1.5	
LUPIN	1,016.00	1,019.55	990.1	1,011.00	0.5	
IGL	511.75	519	498.55	509	-0.25	
COALPL	1,558.75	1,583.00	1,533.00	1,553.25	-1.6	
UBPL	1,190.00	1,204.00	1,160.00	1,178.00	-2.85	
ICICIGI	1,508.00	1,508.00	1,477.00	1,495.80	-3.65	
PGHL	13,119.10	13,120.00	12,800.00	12,936.00	-41.05	
PIDILITIND	1,728.00	1,734.95	1,706.75	1,719.10	-6.75	
BAJAJHLTD	3,658.10	3,672.00	3,567.10	3,634.80	-16.7	
DMART	3,638.55	3,825.00	3,701.00	3,750.00	-19.55	
MCOWDOWELL-N	556	559.6	543.5	546.3	-4.1	
DMART	3,143.00	3,164.00	2,900.00	3,124.80	-27.15	
MOTHERSUNI	220.95	225.65	214	216.65	-2.9	
NAUKU	5,071.15	5,129.40	4,959.00	4,946.00	-125.15	
ADANIGREEN	1,209.70	1,209.70	1,139.00	1,161.50	-34.7	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	MPHASIS
BOSCHLTD	15,004	15,700	14,825.05	14,988.75	MMTC
TATAMOTORS	326.3	330	305.1	322.25	DABUR
SBN	396.65	415	395.2	406.15	NBCC
TATASTEEL	732	745	656.55	729.65	AMARAJABAT
RELIANCE	2,025.8	2,081.5	2,000.55	2,065.55	UNIONBANK
HDFCBANK	1,517	1,650	1,517	1,606.25	VOLTAS
ICICIBANK	612	646.6	582.2	641.4	DMART
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,911.9	3,945.75	3,802.2	3,929.45	HDFCAML
TCS	2,980.2	3,002.25	2,701	2,951.4	BALKRISIND
TATACONSUM	650	652.85	564.45	627.75	M&MFIN
BAJAJFINANCE	5,430	5,921.75	5,022	5,553	SHRECEM
INFY	1,264	1,276.35	1,230	1,274.1	GLENMART

Oli in no mood to resign, ready to face Parl: Official

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli will not resign immediately and implement the Supreme Court's verdict against him by facing Parliament that is due to convene within two weeks, an official representing the embattled premier said on Wednesday.

In a landmark ruling, a five-member constitutional bench led by Chief Justice Chandra Shumsher on Tuesday annulled the Oli government's "unconstitutional" decision to dissolve the 275-member lower house of Parliament. The court also ordered the government to summon the House session within the next 13 days.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 after President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolved the House and announced fresh elections on April 30 and May 10 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, amidst a tussle for power within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP).

Oli's Press Advisor Surya Thapa said the prime minister,



Nepalese supporters of a splinter group in the governing Nepal Communist Party participate in a rally to celebrate the Supreme Court order in Kathmandu on Wednesday

AP

who turned 69 this week, intends to implement the verdict of the apex court after facing Parliament that is due to convene within two weeks.

"The Supreme Court's verdict is controversial, however, it should be accepted and implemented. Its effects will be seen in the future as the decision has not provided any solution to the political problems," Thapa said. He claimed that the apex court's verdict will further fuel instability and pave way for

power-play. "The Prime Minister will face the House of Representatives to implement the verdict but will not tender his resignation as of now," Thapa was quoted as saying by The Himalayan Times.

Oli's Chief Advisor Bishnu Rimal, mirroring Thapa's sentiments, said that all will have to accept the court's decision. "However, it provides no solution to existing political complications," Rimal said.

Senate confirms Linda as US Ambassador to UN

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a veteran diplomat and Joe Biden's nominee, has been confirmed as America's next ambassador to the United Nations by the US Senate, adding a key member to the President's national security team as it seeks to reengage with the world body.

The 100-member Senate on Tuesday backed Thomas-Greenfield by 78 to 20 votes to be US' representative at the world body and a member of Biden's Cabinet. Thomas-Greenfield, 68, is a 35-year veteran of the Foreign Service who has served on four continents, most notably in Africa.

Vice President Kamala Harris is scheduled to administer her the oath of office at the White House on Wednesday.

"Today's Senate confirmation of Linda Thomas-Greenfield as the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations reinforces President Biden's commitment to restore and expand American leadership on the global stage," Secretary of State Tony Blinken said.

"Thomas-Greenfield is a seasoned diplomat, deeply committed to American values, and the right choice to rebuild our nation's standing at the UN and in other multilateral venues. I congratulate her on her confirmation, and eagerly anticipate our partnership in serving the American people and their interests," Blinken said in a statement.

China says Iran nuclear issue at 'critical point'

Beijing: Developments surrounding Iran's nuclear programme are at a "critical point" and lifting sanctions on the country is key to breaking the deadlock, China's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

Spokesperson Wang

Wenbin's comments came a day after Iran officially began restricting international inspections of its nuclear facilities in a bid to pressure European countries and the US into lifting crippling economic sanctions and restoring the 2015 nuclear deal.

Experts fear fresh wave of prisoners in Myanmar

AP ■ JAKARTA

Whether taken from their homes in the middle of the night or grabbed off the streets during protests, hundreds of people have been arrested in the weeks since Myanmar's military coup, leading human rights groups and experts to fear a sizable expansion in the number of political prisoners in the country.

As of Tuesday, some 696 people — including monks, writers, activists, politicians and others — had been arrested in relation to the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political



Prisoners, or AAPP, a Myanmar-based organisation.

Many of those arrested were charged using a legacy of laws — some dating back to British colonial times and others instituted under previous

military regimes — that have been used against critics by every government, including the one led by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, which was ousted in the Feb. 1 coup.

Myanmar's military junta must relinquish power: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Myanmar's military junta must relinquish power and restore the democratically-elected government, the US has said, asserting that it stands with the people and supports their aspirations in reinstating

a civilian-led government in the country. Myanmar's military early this month toppled the government and seized power for one year, detaining top political figures, including de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint in the bloodless coup.

Indonesia presses regional effort to resolve Myanmar crisis

Bangkok: Regional diplomatic efforts to resolve Myanmar's political crisis gathered pace Wednesday, while protests continued in Yangon and other cities calling for the country's coup-makers to stand down and Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government to be returned to power.

AP

Biden would not be okay if Taliban ruled Af: White House

Washington: US President Joe Biden would not be okay if the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, the White House has said, underlining that there is an ongoing process of considering the next steps to ensure peace in the war-torn country.

The US and the Taliban reached an agreement in February 2020 that called for a permanent ceasefire, peace negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government, and a withdrawal of all foreign forces by May 1. There are about 2,500 US

troops currently in the country. The Taliban had their ouster at the hands of US-led troops in 2001.

"I don't think he would say he'd be okay with that," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Tuesday when asked if Biden is okay with the Taliban ruling Afghanistan. "But again, there's an ongoing process of considering the next steps in Afghanistan. That's an ongoing discussion, and I'm not going to get ahead of where that sits at this point in time," Psaki said.

PTI

Afghan Taliban have had sanctuary in Pak: Ex-top US general

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A former top US military official has told lawmakers that the Afghan Taliban have had sanctuary in Pakistan and the terror group originated from the madrassas in that country.

During a Congressional hearing on Tuesday, General (ret) Joseph F Dunford, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also told lawmakers that the probability of civil war is high in the wake of a precipitous US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

US, Bangladesh agree to address challenges in S Asia, greater Indo-Pacific region

Washington: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and the two leaders discussed ways to deepen economic, defence and counterterrorism cooperation while agreeing to work together to address challenges in South Asia and the greater Indo-Pacific region.

Blinken called Momen over the phone on Tuesday. During their call, they discussed Myanmar, a durable solution to the Rohingya refugee crisis, and the importance of respect for labour and human rights.

PTI

Ghana is first nation in world to receive COVAX

Accra: Ghana has become the first country in the world to receive vaccines acquired through the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative with a delivery of 6,00,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India.

The vaccines, delivered by UNICEF, arrived at Accra's international airport early Wednesday and are part of the first wave of Covid-19 vaccines being sent by COVAX, an international cooperative programme formed to make sure low- and middle-income countries have fair access to Covid-19 vaccines.

AP

Putin warns of foreign efforts to destabilise Russia

Moscow: Russia's President Vladimir Putin ordered the nation's top counterintelligence agency Wednesday to redouble its efforts to address what he described as Western attempts to destabilise the country.

Speaking at a meeting of top officials of the Federal Security Service, or FSB, the main KGB successor agency, Putin pointed at the "so-called policy of containment of Russia," charging that it includes efforts to "derail our development, slow it down, create problems alongside our borders and undermine the values that unite Russian society."

US to seek election to Human Rights Council for 2022-24 term: Blinken

Washington: Asserting that the Biden administration is placing democracy and human rights at the center of its foreign policy, Secretary of State Tony Blinken announced on Wednesday that the US will seek election to the Human Rights Council for the 2022-24 term, almost three years after it quit the UN's top rights body. Former President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the UN's Human Rights Council in June 2018, describing it as a "hypocritical and self-serving organisation" that displayed "unending hostility towards Israel". The Geneva-based Human Rights Council is a 47-member inter-governmental body within the UN system tasked with upholding human rights. On Wednesday, the top American diplomat, in his virtual address to the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council said he sought the support of all UN member states America's bid to return to a seat in the inter-governmental body.

"The United States is placing democracy and human rights at the center of our foreign policy, because they are essential for peace and stability. This commitment is firm and grounded in our own experience as a democracy — imperfect and often falling short of our own ideals, but striving always for a more inclusive, respectful, and free country," Blinken said in his first address to the UNHRC.

FROM PAGE 1

8 MORE STATES WITNESS UPSURGE IN COVID CASES

An official from the Union Health Ministry, three-member multi-disciplinary teams have been sent to Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.

Each team is headed by Joint Secretary-level officers in the Health Ministry.

These teams are to work closely with the State administrations and inquire into reasons for the rise in cases. They will also coordinate with health authorities of the States and Union Territories for measures to break the chain of transmission, said the official.

The States have been asked to carry out a regular critical review of the emerging situation with officials of the districts concerned.

In addition, the Centre has written to Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, where there has been a rise in daily cases, alongside a drop in the proportion of RT-PCR tests.

The Centre has asked these States to increase RT-PCR testing and carry out both kinds of tests in a focused manner in districts worst affected.

Those showing symptoms but turning up negative in rapid antigen tests must take the RT-PCR test, the Government has said. The Centre has also called for strict contact-tracing of all positive cases.

Maharashtra and Kerala alone account for 75 per cent of the country's current active cases after a sudden rise in new infections in recent days.

Maharashtra on Wednesday recorded the highest number of 6,218 new cases, followed by Kerala (4,034), Tamil Nadu (449), Punjab (414) and Karnataka (383). Maharashtra reported 51 deaths in the last 24 hours, followed by Kerala with 14 and Punjab 10, Tamil Nadu, six and Karnataka, four, said the Health Ministry.

RAJNATH CAN RESOLVE IMPASSE IF HE'S ALLOWED TO TALK TO FARMERS: TIKAIT

"The Government has made Defence Minister Rajnath Singh a caged parrot (*pinjre ka tota*). If he is given the freedom to talk to farmers, I can guarantee that there would be a decision and the BJP's prestige will also remain intact," he said.

He said farmers respect the Defence Minister, but he is not given a chance by the government to deal with the farmers' issue.

Tikait addressed a farmers' mahapanchayat here and also spoke to reporters, claiming that the Centre was not paying heed to the farmers protesting against the laws.

"The government is stubborn and is not ready to hear out farmers. It should change its attitude," the BKU leader said.

"If the PM is not ready to repeal the laws, we are also not going to backtrack. The farmers are ruined and not getting the right price for their produce. The rise in prices of power, petrol

and diesel has affected them also," he said. "If this government continues for long, farmers will have to abandon agriculture," added.

The BKU leader said the way to Uttar Pradesh's Purvanchal is through Barabanki and if farmers here are made aware of the impact of the new laws, they will be able to tell farmers in that region about it.

"This government is defaming farmers, labelling them as terrorists and Khalistanis and we will not remain silent on this," he said.

Tikait indicated that he had no quarrel with Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan, whose supporters and those of the Rashtriya Lok Dal clashed recently over the farmers' protests.

He indirectly referred to the riots in western Uttar Pradesh in 2013, over which Balyan too had faced charges.

"Earlier Hindus and Muslims lived in amity. But from 2013, BJP spread misconceptions among them and divided society. But now people have understood their tricks," the BKU leader said.

Thousands of farmers have been camping at the border of Delhi since November-end, demanding the repeal of the new agri-marketing laws. They claim that the laws will weaken the minimum support price (MSP) system, an argument that the government rejects.

PM: WON'T ALLOW IN-RED PSUs DRAIN TAXPAYERS' MONEY

proper price discovery and stakeholder mapping has to be followed. We will have to learn from the best global practices. We will have to see that the decision that is being taken helps in the growth of that sector along with public welfare," he said.

Modi, who has in recent speeches underscored the importance of the private sector in building the economy, said the Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1 has provided a clear roadmap for putting India on a high-growth trajectory again with a focus on private sector partnership.

The private sector's role is crucial in not just privatisation but also the Rs 111 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline created to pull the economy out of the pandemic-induced slump, he emphasised.

The Prime Minister said state-owned firms were founded decades back when the Indian economy's needs and national priorities were different.

The policies that were right 50-60 years back, need improvement in today's changed circumstances, he said, adding the focus of the reforms has been to put public money to its best use. But there are public sector enterprises that are loss making and survive only on support by taxpayers' money, he said. "The money which is the right of the poor, right of youth is spent on these enterprises and hence this is burdensome on the economy."

"PSUs should not be run only because it is a legacy (enterprise) or because it is someone's pet project. If the public sector enterprise (PSE) is meeting the needs of any specific or impor-

tant sector or has strategic importance, I can then understand it but not otherwise," he said. "Government focus should be on public welfare. When governments start to do business, it sometimes also leads to losses."

Running companies not just drains financial resources but also diverts human resources which otherwise could have been utilised for the administration of the country, he said.

"The Government sector has a lot of under-utilised and unutilised assets and we have announced a national asset monetisation pipeline. We have kept a target of monetising 100 assets in oil and gas, power and other sectors. It could lead to an investment of Rs 2.5 trillion and this process will continue in future also," he pointed out.

Pitching India as an investment destination, he said the country is now one market with one tax rate, has easier entry-exit norms for companies, simplified tax system and compliances are being eased. "This is the time which will start a new phase in India's economic growth," he added.

MOTERA STADIUM NAMED AFTER PM

His party colleague Rajeev Satav said, "Renaming Motera cricket stadium from Sardar Patel to Narendra Modi is an absolute disgrace. This shows how narcissistic our PM has become. This is outrageous and a clear sign of autocratic dictatorship."

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, without directly talking about the stadium, tweeted a Hindi quote of Sardar Patel, "There is something unique in this soil, which has always been the abode of great souls despite many obstacles."

Later, Information and Broadcasting Minister Javedkar tweeted, "The name of the Sports Complex is Sardar Patel Sports Enclave. Only the name of the cricket stadium, within the complex, has been named after Narendra Modi. Ironically, 'The Family', which never respected Sardar Patel, even after his death, is now making hue and cry."

A similar post was tweeted by Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports.

Prasad, Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, also tweeted, "I want to ask Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi that while they have objection over renaming of Motera Stadium to Narendra Modi Stadium, Have they ever praised world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia? Have they even visited it?"

BJP's National President J P Nadda said that naming the world's largest stadium after Prime Minister Modi is a "humane attempt to honour his vision" to take India to the top-most position in the sports arena as well. The party's IT cell head Amit Malviya said that "the usual suspects" have a problem just because the cricket stadium, one of the many facilities in the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, has been named after PM Narendra Modi. "Get used to it! Today, several people speak of India and PM Modi in the same breath..." he tweeted.

Air pollution level worst in Delhi-NCR 8 of top 10 most polluted cities of India in UP; Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr at top: CSE report

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The most air polluted cities in India during this winter were located in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR, according to a Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) report.

As per the report, the most polluted cluster was the Delhi-NCR with Ghaziabad Bulandshahr, Greater Noida, Noida, and Delhi leading the pack. Eight of the top 10 most polluted cities were in UP with Ghaziabad and Bulandshahr taking the top spots; while Delhi was at number five and Bhiwadi in Rajasthan at number 10. Chandigarh is the only major city to be put among the five least polluted ones.

Kanpur was at sixth and Lucknow at ninth spot, while Bhiwani and Palwal in Haryana and Alwar in Rajasthan were the least polluted cities. The CSE carried out an analysis of real time data on the difference between 2020-21 winter and the previous winters.

CSE's executive director in charge of research and advocacy

Anumita Roychowdhury said, "Winter is a special challenge when inversion, and cool and calm weather traps and spikes daily pollution. While the northern Indo Gangetic Plain is most affected, other regions also experience a rise, but with lesser intensity."

"But this year even though the average level of PM2.5 during summer and monsoon months was considerably lower than the previous year due to the summer lockdown. PM2.5 concentration in winter has risen compared to 2019 winter in many cities across regions. This bouncing back of pollution post-lockdown unmasks the high impacts of local and regional pollution. This demands quicker regional reforms to curb pollution from vehicles, industry, power plants and waste burning to curb the winter pollution and also sustain annual improvement at a regional scale with speed."

"This analysis has considered 99 cities where data availability for two consecutive winters meets the minimum criteria of 75 per cent of data completeness requirement. This

analysis has helped to understand the regional differences in regional profile of winter pollution. Even though there is considerable regional variation, peak pollution episodes increased and synchronised within the regions during winter. At the same time, uneven rise across monitoring locations and contiguous cities bring out the impact of local pollution," says Avikal Somvanshi, programme manager in CSE's Urban Lab team of the Sustainable Cities programme.

The analysis is part of the air pollution tracker initiative of CSE. It is based on publicly available granular real time data (15-minute averages) from the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) official online portal Central Control Room for Air Quality Management. The data is captured from 248 official stations under the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) spread across 115 cities in 22 states and union territories. CAAQMS has many more cities in its network than included in the analysis.

Sasikala wants Amma's loyalists to join hands for Assembly polls

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The 73rd birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and AIADMK supremo J Jayalalithaa saw her close aide V K Sasikala asking "all Amma loyalists" to come together and fight the upcoming assembly elections to usher in Amma rule for the next 100 years.

Sasikala, who reached Chennai a fortnight ago after a 23-hour car journey from Bangalore where she was undergoing imprisonment for four years as an accused in a Disproportionate Asset case, garlanded a picture of Jayalalithaa at the former's T Nagar bungalow and briefly spoke to her loyalists, mainly Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), a political outfit floated by her nephew TTV Dinakaran.

"The true cadre of Amma should come together and win the

elections to form the government. Amma has mandated that even after 100 years, our government should be there. I am confident that you would accomplish that. I will also stand by you. Very soon, I will meet the people and the cadre," said Sasikala in her brief speech. AIADMK cadre and Tamil address Jayalalithaa as Amma as a mark of reverence.

Sasikala did not mention the name AIADMK even once. She wanted all cadres of Amma come together to win the elections. "To achieve that, you all should stand by me. Each one of you should work like bees and offer the victory in elections to her. You should take a vow towards this and work hard," said Sasikala giving enough indications about who the queen bee is.

Though no known AIADMK leaders were present during the small function, leaders of fringe

outfits like AISMK, Naam Tamilar (a Tamil chauvinistic organisation) and P R Pandian a CPI-leader-turned-farm leader called on Sasikala along with movie maker Bharati Raja called on Sasikala.

By evening there were reports that a Third-Front under Sasikala's leadership was being formed and film actor Vijayakanth would cast his lot with this front. Though Vijayakanth has been immobilized because of indifferent health, his spouse Premalatha who is the treasurer of the DMDK had declared her support for Sasikala.

The AIADMK is yet to commence its talks on seat sharing with prospective allies. The DMDK has been expressing restless over the delay in seat-allocation talks. It is expected that the talks would gather momentum once the Election Commission of India announces the poll schedule this week.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Virtual assistants extend desired value to consumers with a human touch. **MAAZ ANSARI** explains how chatbot helps in instant, personal and contextual conversations

Welcome! I am a chat helper. You can start a new chat or scroll up to see previous chats." You must have noticed these words often popping up in the bottom right section of your screen. A thought might've surfaced in your head, "Ah, so I have a companion for my queries." Of course, you do! But, it isn't a human being. It is a cognitive bot that utilises natural language to simulate conversations. It is one of the wonders of modern technology.

Leveraging state-of-the-art technology, these virtual assistants extend desired value to consumers with a human touch. They can also gauge diverse human emotions and intentions, thereby communicating while building on them accurately.

Consumers today are not merely looking for a product or a service, rather user experience. People look for easier ways to communicate with brands and services. It is because we are living in a world where everything is fast-paced. There's no time to fill out a form and wait till someone calls us back. We need answers to our queries immediately.

Chatbots turn out to be the much-needed alternative that consumers can engage with. And that's making more businesses realise that they should buckle up soon. They must deploy chatbots if they haven't already. Keeping this in mind, let's look at why there is a need to integrate a cognitive virtual assistant or chatbot into a business.

Automate customer support

In this era of digitisation, more people now dwell online. There is a high possibility that most of your potential customers going forward will discover your



business online rather than physically. They might simply search 'nearby services' on Google rather than asking a bystander. So, it may lead people to interact with businesses solely through digital platform or via digital platforms first.

In fact, customers are getting smarter and tend to stick with solutions that are qualitative and, at the same time, simple to use. Naturally, chatbots have become necessary and emerged as an easy solution to respond to similar and repetitive queries at no incremental costs. With deep learning, this can further be scaled to understand complex queries and initiate interactions. It will also help you achieve a stronger customer base and offer customised solutions and support.



Ensure 24/7 availability

Customers shopping online don't have a specific time to shop. It is more likely that they'll visit your website at a time convenient to them, which may possibly be at odd-hours of the day or night. At this moment, chatbots have become more relevant. They respond to customers in real-time

while providing them valuable insights about the product and your brand at your customers' convenience. If you are a digital business and cater to a wide audience base, having a cognitive bot is of paramount importance for you. It will help you considerably scale your customer interactions across different geographies and time-zones.

Boost conversions and sales

Once you start getting traffic on your platform, why not use friendly chatbots to engage these visitors? Easy and quick interaction that clear multiple doubts will help you to turn potential traffic into loyal customers. Additionally, helping users find what they are looking for faster, easier, and

with minimal effort is a win-win not only for your customers but also for your business.

Chatbot-powered conversational ads

Conversational advertising allows instant, personal, and real-time engagement with customers at the very beginning of the sales funnel. It allows businesses to capture focussed leads, thereby increasing the probability of conversions. By using an AI-powered chatbot, the whole process of marketing and sales can now be automated. Smart conversational marketing technologies can equip your advertisement with a chatbot, wherein a consumer interacts with your ad and your chatbot answers their queries.

Personalised and contextual conversations

For every business, 'Customer is the King' and improving customer experience is an integral part of any business strategy. In today's world, personalisation is increasingly becoming the norm and customers expect a certain level of personalisation. That's why investing in personalisation is the key to building business relationships, building a resonance with your audience and creating a better brand impression & brand experience. Well, this is where cognitive bots fit in and play a vital role in customer acquisition and retention. They can predict precisely what the customer is seeking and proactively suggest options based on the customers' likes, dislikes, hobbies, interests, and other parameters. These factors can also be translated into actionable insights that help brands enhance their Customer Relationship Management (CRM) for better re-

targeting and conversions.

Real-time customer feedback

It is no surprise that an e-commerce assistant knows your right apparel size and even your most preferred hue of blue. But how? A chatbot-supported cognitive conversation helps businesses collect feedback and maintain a database of everything you adore or may need in the future. It is done simply by using your previous purchases and wishlists. So, you no longer need to get feedback forms filled by your trusted customers.

Cross-platform support in preferred languages

Chatbots are bringing a new way for businesses to communicate with the world and most importantly with their customers. With a multi-channel approach, customers can message you directly from Google Search results. Today, businesses are enabling their online customers to converse with them anytime from anywhere and pick up the same conversation from their app, WhatsApp, or other social channels. It turns out to be a highly effective approach.

As we can see, bots are becoming an integral part of almost every business. In addition to increasing business opportunities with humanised, intent-based conversational experiences, they also let you provide anytime, anywhere support to their customers. Thus, cognitive chatbots must be a part of your businesses' operations across the value chain — from advertisement to sales to post sales support.

(The writer is co-founder and CEO of an end-to-end provider of conversational AI-powered chatbots, Ori.)

'My work is immortalised'

Actor **PARINEETI CHOPRA**'s artist-mother has made a painting to celebrate her forthcoming release *The Girl On The Train*

Actor Parineeti Chopra is feeling extremely aproud because her mother, noted artist Reena Chopra, has made a special painting to commemorate her forthcoming release *The Girl On The Train (TGOTT)*. The painting showcases a girl standing in front of a speeding yellow train, much like Pari's character in the film.

"My mother surprised me with this painting. I was not at all aware that she was making this for me. As most know that my mother is a professional painter and she sells her artwork but this one won't be sold as it is very precious. She has immortalised my work in *TGOTT* through her art. This is the sweetest, warmest and most special gift that I have ever received from her," says Parineeti and goes on to add, "She has never done this for any of my films before, so this shows the impact this film has had on her. I'm overwhelmed."

Parineeti's parents are the biggest pillars of strength for her and she has made special plans to put up this painting in her plush new house in Mumbai. She reveals, "My parents have been my biggest cheerleaders all through my life and I feel incredibly special to be their child. She has been my pole star, helping me navigate my path in this world and I don't have words to express what I'm feeling right now. This precious painting will be at my home and will constantly motivate me to do more films which will get her to do more such paintings for me!"

The Girl On The Train is an acclaimed book written by Paula Hawkins. It was made into a Hollywood film starring Emily Blunt in the lead in 2016. In the Bollywood version, Parineeti plays the eponymous girl taking the train, an alcoholic divorcee, who becomes involved in a missing person investigation and uncovers deeper secrets.

(Directed by Ribhu Dasgupta, the film will premiere on February 26 on Netflix.)



TREND TOOL

The perfect routine

Here are seven effective ways to tackle maskne

The new normal has called for us to diligently abide by wearing face masks. While masks remain an absolute essential, they also have a downside. 'Maskne' or mask-related acne is an umbrella of skincare problems, caused by wearing a mask as we step outdoors. The impurities on the face beneath the mask slowly build up, as we breathe in and out of the confined area, creating problems, predominantly that of acne, redness, clogged pores, irritation and so much more.

Here are a few suggestions one must follow to prevent the reoccurrence of maskne. Amazon Beauty, features a range of products which will help you fight against maskne.

Minimal skincare routine

Sometimes less is more, even when it comes to curating a skincare routine. Using too many products at once can lower the impact of the quality products and cause the skin woes to aggravate. To prevent and cure the new issue of maskne, following a simple daily routine of cleanse, tone, mask, sunscreen and moisturise, is always advisable.

Daily cleansing

It is essential to wash your face regularly, especially once you return from the daily grind of the day. Using a mild, fragrance free cleanser is highly recommended when tackling issues like acne. Mild cleansers help maintain the moisture of your skin while removing the built-up impurities.



Hydrate — Don't strip

One needs to be sure while selecting the right formula to treat 'maskne' at its best, while keeping the skin hydrated to minimise the chances of further breakouts. Choose a niacinamide infused serum, as it helps effectively treat issues like acne. It also helps unclog the pores and gives your skin an instant boost of rejuvenation.

Moisturise and nourish

Alongside the natural oils that the face produces, the skin also requires a protective layer of hydration and nourishment. Using a moisturiser is mandatory, even if you choose a minimal skincare routine. It is best advised to use mattifying or gel-based moisturisers for acne-prone skin.

Focus on minimal make-up

While choosing your desired make-up look, focus on bringing in the limelight to your eyes. Steer away from applying excessive face make-up within the mask area, as breathing in and out within the restrictive area causes

chemicals from the make-up products to seep into the pores of the skin. This in-turn causes massive breakouts on the face, leading to a severe case of maskne.

Avoid touching your face

As the emphasis on not touching our faces due to COVID remains stringent, an added reason to abstain from doing so would be to minimise the chances of additional bacteria sustaining on the face. This would further prevent breakouts, itchiness and redness caused by the impurities present on our skin, further leading to our main concern.

Switch your masks

One of the main reasons for maskne to remain persistent is that we seldom change our masks. When we wear a mask, the area underneath the fabric becomes moist and warm, further contributing to blemish forming. Ensure that you do not compromise on changing your masks on a weekly basis, or as and when you step out.

We may be living in times when dating is all about 'right swipes', 'right words', and 'being woke'. But old-fashioned love still hasn't lost its charm. Many still believe in the idea of enjoying a nice film with their date while others wouldn't think twice before serenading their love with heartfelt sonnets, songs and flowers. QuackQuack, an online dating app, released insights into how Indians are looking at dating in the forthcoming year, after having been stricken by the global pandemic. Results show that desi singles are still holding onto that thing called 'love' and intend to tread that path, but with precautions.

The year 2020 has been an unprecedented one. As the basic need to connect with other humans amplified during and after lockdown, more people flocked to the popular dating apps to fill that void. In an era when video calls are making it easy for us to see our partner located oceans away from us, 65 per cent still prefer to engage in longer text conversations that help them express themselves better, akin to writing long love letters back in the day. Out of the lot, women make up the major chunk with 90.8 per cent preferring to text over video call. Surprisingly, 60 per cent of people hailing from metros/bigger cities also come within the category of people preferring long text messages over quick video calls.

Simultaneously, in the backdrop of the ongoing health crisis, Indian millennials aren't letting their guard down. 60 per cent of people in the age bracket of 18-30 wear a mask when meeting their date as they still consider themselves at risk of contracting the virus. Amongst these, women are more cautious with 90 per cent stating that they never forget to wear a mask on a date. About 74 per cent of top city people and 66 per cent of small-city folks tend to follow precautions more rigidly and prefer to wear a mask on dates to ensure their safety.

Speaking about dating people from native city or a different city, nearly 68 per cent of people aged 31 and above



Love Aaj Kal

A survey reveals that many Indians prefer old school dates and mushy romance where a similar taste in food is the most favoured common ground that people are looking for

prefer dating from their location to avoid the risk of travelling as against majority youngsters who did prefer dating people from their location but were open to the idea of dating from other cities as well. Out of these, women (52 per cent) were more curious to meet people from other cities as compared to men who would still prefer dating from their own location. People from big cities (66 per cent) were more cautious in this regard as against those from smaller cities (58 per cent) who are more enthusiastic about dating from far off cities as well.

But surprises don't stop just there. Known for their love for food, about

64 per cent of Indians feel that matching food taste matters as having similar food taste is a sign of great compatibility, with women (66 per cent) attaching higher importance to it compared to men (61 per cent). Majority placed in the age group of 31 and above prefer watching films over web series on their date, with women being more in number (65 per cent). Dating is also a way to move on for many. More than 70 per cent of people from both top cities and smaller cities/towns would go ahead and meet new people to get over toxic relationships. They consider meeting new people and having more choices to pick from would get them

a compatible partner.

"Despite having spent the entire last year in gloom and doom, Indians are still keeping their hopes alive in the new year and haven't given up on the idea of finding love. The most interesting part of the survey has been the finding that many are still in for old school dates and mushy romance, with films and matching food taste topping the list of similarities that they are looking for. It is heartening to see that people are open to traveling across cities and trying new experiences for the sake of companionship. Dating apps sure have been a blessing in disguise for many given the current circumstances," says Ravi Mittal, Founder & CEO, QuackQuack.

Dating apps have even proven to be a meaningful exercise for many. About 25 per cent of those aged 31 and above said that meeting new people online helped them overcome loneliness and 15 per cent got over depression in 2020. Looking at these trends, it can be said that the Indian dating scenario is definitely going to catch more steam in the times to come.

TREND BLAZER



AMITABH HINTS AT NEW BEGINNINGS

Bollywood icon **AMITABH BACHCHAN** on Wednesday spoke of new beginnings, dropping hint that a big announcement is in the offing.

Big B penned a rhyme with names of his forthcoming films like *Chehre*, *Jhund* and *Brahmastra*, and wrote about following up these projects with something new. He tweeted in Hindi: "*Chehre Jhund Brahmastra hai kuch aane wale pal, jald shuru honge kuch aur, futenge nariyal!*"

He also shared a photograph where he can be seen playing football.

fairtalk

RAGHAV JUHAL



"The journey is on right track now. As an actor I am very initial and I am doing a lot of things. As a host, it has been several years for me but I am enjoying the process and the journey. I love what I do and I make it playful. I think that is the best part about me. I don't take things seriously. My job is to entertain, so I try to make the atmosphere around me playful too."

dailytalk

ROHAN MEHRA



"On Television, your looks will decide the kind of roles you will get. If you look good, you will get a rich boy or college stud type of role. But when I saw the film *Lagaan*, I felt that Aamir Khan doesn't look poor but his acting in the film convinced everyone. So I believe that if your look doesn't convince the audience, your acting should."

DREW SHARES TEENAGE EXPERIENCES

Hollywood actor **DREW BARRYMORE** was admitted to a psychiatric ward as a teenager when she went out of control. She recalls the time she spent in a padded room.

Drew's mother, Jaid Barrymore admitted her to a facility when she was 13 because her behaviour was getting out of control.



Fiscal Indicators:

- Estimated revenue receipts ₹1 lakh 84 thousand 330 crore 13 lakh.
- Estimated revenue expenditure ₹2 lakh 8 thousand 80 crore 17 lakh.
- Estimated revenue deficit ₹23 thousand 750 crore 4 lakh.
- Estimated fiscal deficit 147 thousand 652 crore 77 lakh which is 3.98 per cent of GSDP.
- First paperless budget in the State.

Corona management:

- Special COVID package.
- 2000 each to 33 lakh destitute families.
- Interest free loan up to ₹50,000.
- Seed money to start-ups, five lakh each.

Medical and health :

- Rajasthan Model of Public Health (RMPH).
- Nursing colleges at 25 district headquarters.
- Construction of hospital buildings and increase in various facilities including beds.
- 30 new PHCs and upgrading of 50 PHCs to CHCs.
- Upgrading hospitals as district hospitals, 10 new trauma centres.
- New district hospitals at Kota with 150 beds.
- Increase of 1000 beds in different hospitals.
- 12,000 Health and Wellness Centres.
- New ICU and NICU at medical colleges and new ICU at district hospitals.
- Institute of Tropical Medicine and Virology and Institute of Cardiology at Jaipur.
- Increase of medical facilities at SMS Medical College, Jaipur.
- 'Umaid Post Graduate Institute of Maternity and Neonatology and 'Regional Cancer Institute' at Jodhpur.

Road Safety:

- New Jeevan Rakshak Yojana.
- Integrated Traffic



Management System (ITMS)

- Primary Trauma Centre at 40 CHCs.
- ₹100 cr for Dedicated Road Safety Fund.
- New DTO and Sub DTO offices.

Education:

- Smart TVs and set-top boxes in schools, ₹82 cr.
- 1200 new English medium-Mahatma Gandhi Schools in next two years.
- Increase in infrastructure facilities in schools, ₹1450 cr.
- Directorate of Peace and Non-Violence.
- Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences-MGIGSS at Jaipur.

ON TRACK

Rajasthan Chief Minister ASHOK GEHLOT presents the 2021-22 State Budget. Here are a few salient features

- Fintech Digital University at Jodhpur.
- Rajasthan Institute of Advanced Learning at Jaipur.
- New colleges including girls-Sanskrit colleges and new ITIs.
- Four new girls colleges in the name of Late MLAs Master Bhanwar Lai, Kailash Trivedi, Kiran Maheshwari and Gajendra Singh Shaktawat.
- Rajiv Gandhi Centre of Advance Technology (R-CAT) at Jaipur, ₹200 Cr.
- Science and Space Clubs in 1500 government schools.
- Constitution of Rajeev Gandhi Yuva Core, 2500 Rajeev Gandhi Yuva Mitra and 50000 Rajeev Gandhi Yuva Volunteers.
- Common Eligibility Test, one-time verification system.
- Free travel in Rajasthan Roadways for exams.
- Recruitment on more than 50,000 posts in next two years.
- Indoor stadium at Pratapgarh and Stadium at Rajasmand and Sirohi.
- Gram Panchayat, Block, District and State level Popular games tournaments, expenditure of ₹30 cr.
- Two new residential sports schools at Jodhpur and Jaipur.

Youth and Employment:

- Internship of unemployed youth under Mukhyamantri yuva sambal yojana-2019, hike of ₹1,000 in allowance.

- New archery academy at Durgapur and Handball academy at Jaisalmer.

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry:

- Agriculture Budget from next year.
- Mini food park in each district, ₹200 Cr.
- Mega food park at Mathania-Jodhpur, ₹100 Cr.
- 1000 Kisan Sewa Kendra, 1000 new posts of agriculture supervisors.
- Provision of more than ₹16000 cr for agriculture electricity subsidy.
- New Agri-Discom.
- 50,000 solar pumps and 50,000 agriculture electricity connection to the farmers.
- Works of ₹1000 cr at *Krishhi Upaj Mandis*.
- Kisan Complex at Jodhpur, ₹20 cr.
- Three new agriculture colleges at Durgapur, Hindauli, Hanumangarh.

Industries:

- New MSME policy.
- Industrial areas at 64 sub divisions.
- Organising Rajasthan Investors Summit at Jaipur.
- Fintech Park (Financial Technology) at Jaipur.

Social Security:

- Announcement of Rajasthan Pattern.
- Rajasthan Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Law.
- Ambedkar DBT Voucher Scheme, 5000 Beneficiaries.
- Eight new ekalavya model residential schools.
- Construction of eight minority boys hostels.
- Construction of three minority girls residential schools.
- Minority boys hostels at Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota.
- SC, ST, OBC, Minority Development Funds, ₹100 cr each.
- Increase in scholarship of special abled students.

- 2000 scooty for specially abled students and youths.

Infrastructure Development: Roads — Urban Development:

- New State Road Policy 2021.
- Major repair works of three prominent roads in each district, ₹1900 cr.
- Major repair works of roads in Nagar Nigam, Nagar Parishad and Nagar Palika areas.
- Development of 27 state highways, ₹3880 cr.
- DPR of high level bridge in Kota district.
- Constitutional Club at Jaipur.
- Master Drainage System for Bharatpur, ₹200 cr.

PHED-WRD:

- 12 new major drinking water projects under JJM, ₹4700 cr.
- Starting of six new projects worth ₹2285 cr under JJM.
- Drinking water connections to 20 lac households under JJM.
- DPR for 22 projects under JJM.
- Providing drinking water from Kumbharam lift, ₹7700 cr.

Energy:

- Energy Policy 2021-2050
- Green Corridor of 6.3 Gigawatts by RRVPN.

Forest and Environment:

- Development of Keoladeo National Park as Wetland Birds Habitat Conservation Centre.
- Wildlife Management Training Centre at Talchapar Sanctuary, Churu.
- *Kailash Sankha Smriti Van* at Jodhpur.

Tourism, Art and Culture :

- Provision of ₹500 cr in Tourism Development Fund.
- Shekhawati Tourist Circuit.
- Godawari Tourist Circuit.
- Renovation of seven RTDC midways, ₹10 cr.
- Religious Tourist Circuits, ₹100 cr.

Step towards better services

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) during its 184th Meeting held on Monday under the chairmanship of Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State for Labour & Employment (Independent Charge), Govt. of India has taken several significant decisions to improve its service delivery mechanism and strengthen the medical infrastructure benefiting its insured workers.

◆Relaxation in contributory conditions to avail sickness benefit to the insured women availing maternity benefit

After the enhancement in duration of maternity benefit from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, in some cases insured women were not eligible to avail sickness benefit in the corresponding benefit period after availing maternity benefit as the mandatory contributory conditions of minimum 78 days were not met.

In such cases, it has now been decided that an insured women will be qualified to claim sickness benefit in the corresponding benefit period if the contribution in her respect were paid or payable for not less than half the number of days available for working in such shorter contribution period.

◆Relaxation in contributory conditions to avail sickness and maternity benefits for the benefit period of January to June, 2021

The pandemic resulted in the non-entitlement to avail sickness and maternity benefits for many insured persons/women as the mandatory days of contribution couldn't be met. Considering the hardship being faced by insured persons, ESIC has now decided to extend the relief to the IPs by relaxing the contributory conditions for availing the sickness and maternity benefits for the benefit period of January to June. Now, an insured Woman will be entitled to avail maternity benefit, if the contributions in respect of her were payable not less than 35 days



in immediately preceding two consecutive contribution periods.

In case of IPs/IWs appointed before the contribution period April-September, 2020, the eligibility condition will be decided on the basis of their contribution in previous contribution period i.e. September '2019 to March '2020, whereas, the IPs/IWs appointed during the contribution period April-September, 2020 will be eligible for sickness benefit in the benefit period January-June '2021 if contribution in respect of them were payable for not less than half the number of days available for working to them during the contribution period April-September '2020.

◆ESIC to construct 300 bedded hospital including 50 super specialty beds at Haridwar, Uttarakhand

To meet the medical services needs of IPs in Haridwar and surrounding districts, the ESI Corporation has decided to construct 300 bedded ESIC Hospital including 50 bedded super specialty beds and staff quarters in five acres of land at Haridwar, Uttarakhand. After construction, the hospital will provide medical care services to around 2.55 lakh insured workers and their family members.

◆ESIC to construct 350 bedded hospital with additional 50 bedded SST wing at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

The ESI Corporation has approved the project of construction of 350 bedded hospital with an additional 50 bedded SST wing and 128 staff quarters in a plot area

of 8.72 acres (approx.) at Sheelanagar, Vishakhapatnam. The proposed hospital, after construction, will provide medical services to around 14 lakh beneficiaries covered under ESI scheme in Vishakhapatnam and surrounding areas.

◆Establishment of negative pressure ICU at ESIC super specialty hospital and medical college at Hyderabad, Telangana

The decision to establish Negative Pressure ICU at ESIC Super Specialty Hospital & Medical College at Hyderabad, Telangana was also taken during the meeting. The establishment of Negative Pressure ICU will decrease the burden of infection to the healthcare workers and the secondary infections to other critically ill patients admitted in the ICU.

◆Revise estimates

The ESI corporation has also approved the revised estimates and budget estimates for the year 2020-21 & 2021-22 and performance budget for the year 2021-22 during the meeting.

Besides these, around 25 other agenda items pertaining to improvement in service delivery mechanism were also reported and approved. The other dignitaries were Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India, Anuradha Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoLE, Gol & Director General, ESIC, members of ESI Corporation, Sandhya Shukla, Financial Commissioner, ESIC, Garima Bhagat, CVO, ESIC and many others.

Create a greener world



Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), a utility supplying electricity in North Delhi, organised its annual flagship event — *Urja Mela* to sensitise school children on the importance of environment conservation, climate change, air pollution and promotion of renewable energy.

The broader aim of the event is to raise environmental awareness and inculcate a sense of responsibility amongst the youngsters.

The event witnessed participation from more than 75 Delhi schools, both government and private. It was conducted under strict COVID-19 safety guidelines.

The students shared information about the benefits of environment conservation, safety, air pollution and climate change through posters and insightful science models, slogans, drawings etc. Over 50 prizes were also given.

The participating schools are a part of Tata Power-DDL's Club Enerji program that sen-

sitises school children for bringing societal and behavioural change in energy consumption and conservation of natural resources. The club educates and creates awareness on related topics in a unique manner, through company's Brand Mascot- *Roshni*.

Students present at the event instantly connected with *Roshni* and participated in the pledge of becoming an environment champion. The kids also sported its its badge and had a photo-op with it.

Addressing the students and teachers, Ganesh Srinivasan, CEO, Tata Power-DDL said, "It is gratifying to witness bright young minds showcasing their talent, enthusiasm, unique ideas and knowledge towards creating a better environment. They are the torch-bearers of the future. With the world now dynamically changing, it has become imperative to shift our focus extensively towards clean energy spectrum and renewable resources. That is the need of the hour."

IN SHORT

Harendra Pratap, Chief Editor, Laghu Udyog Samachar, Government of India giving away Pandit Tilakraj Memorial Honour to Sulakshana Bhatia, Senior Programme Director, ICCR, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in Delhi.



Aluminium industry has a legacy issue of inverted duties on the primary inputs namely primary aluminium. ASMA (Aluminium Secondary Manufacturers Association) in association with IIFT, New Delhi, has done a study to understand the various anomalies associated with the tariff structure on the

primary and secondary imports in the aluminium sector. Imports from both FTA and non-FTA countries are studied, claims ASMA. It is found that India does not gain much by exporting primary aluminium but surrenders competitiveness of its downstream sector by paying higher for primary aluminium (imported or domestically bought) due to premium induced by high tariffs on import to fulfill its requirements, states ASMA.

Located atop the Malangtoli Hills in Joda Block, Pidhapokhri village, with a population of around 200 households, has been facing acute scarcity of water since decades. Due to local hydro-geological factors, it was a challenge for district administration to provide drinking water to the Joda block. Water used to be supplied in tankers, twice a day, which barely met the minimum needs of people, leading to multiple development deprivations. It is in this context that a 'Household Piped Water Supply Project' for the village was sanctioned through District Mineral Foundation at a cost of ₹2.63 cr in 2018 under the leadership of collector and DM, Keonjhar Ashish Thakare. Under the project, water sourced from a natural spring is lifted to a height of more than 300 feet using a 10 HP solar pump to an overhead tank and then supplied to households through individual tap connections, after filtration. Even though construction of the drinking water infrastructure was a major challenge, Rural Water supply and sanitation (RWSS) program which comes under Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, Govt of Odisha successfully completed the project.



All the street lights of the metropolis will be rectified before the Holi festival i.e. March 28. For this, the Municipal Corporation Ghaziabad has started a campaign. There are about 65,000 street lights in all 100 wards of the metropolis. City Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tanwar informed that a team of lighting department headed by Additional Municipal Commissioner Shiv Pujan Yadav has been formed in this regard. It will monitor all the street lights to be fixed. Instructions have also been given to manage proper lighting in the parks and decorate the electrical poles. The city commissioner informed that Yogesh Srivastava, the in-charge of lighting, will inspect the internal lanes in all the five zones of the metropolis. He informed that to make this campaign a success, cooperation of RWA and councilors of various colonies is also being taken.

— PNS (Ashok Nirwan)

Along with all the awareness programmes being run on cancer, the government has now directed to provide special OPD and day care facility for cancer victims in every district hospitals. For this, on behalf of the Director General, Medical and Health Services, a district doctor and two staff nurses have been directed to be deployed in all district hospitals of the State. Dr. Kiran Garg, NCD Clinic, has been nominated on behalf of Chief Medical Superintendent of Ghaziabad District MMG District Hospital. Dr. Anurag Bhargava, CMS, Apart from this, staff nurses Tanu and Gayatri Devi have been nominated for the day care facility being launched for cancer. Dr. Kiran is posted in the NCD (Non Communicable Disease Clinic) operating in the old building of District Women's Hospital and has been instrumental in tobacco control programs for cancer prevention. In fact, the purpose behind the introduction of special OPD and day care facility for cancer in district hospitals is that the disease can be detected in the first stage itself.

— PNS (Ashok Nirwan)



COVID-19 vaccination programme for front line workers started at Kasturba Gandhi Hospital of CLW from Tuesday as a part of National COVID-19 Vaccination Drive. District Health Authority and Nodal officer of CLW and ACMSP/ Dr. J. Mitra jointly administered the vaccination programme. The available vaccines require a two-dose schedule to be administered two, three or four weeks apart. These vaccines are administered through the intramuscular route. About 120 front line workers from RPF, RPSF participated in the drive. After vaccination, all of them were observed for 30 minutes. Around 404 health workers had already received the first dose of the vaccine since the launch of the drive on February 1 in CLW. The beneficiaries who were given the first shot on Day 1 will be administered with the second dose from March 1. An exclusive observation facility under an anaesthetist and a physician is set up at the vaccination centre with beds, oxygen supply and ventilators to render supportive care.

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has won six awards for its efforts in field of communication at the PRSI National Awards-2020 conferred upon by the Public Relations Society of India. The awards were given away by Baby Rani Maurya, Governor of Uttarakhand and Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Minister for Education, Government of India, during a virtual ceremony on Sunday. SAIL has been awarded in the categories of House Journal (English), Best Communication Campaign (External Publics), Communications Campaign of the Year - Covid-19, Special/Prestige Publication, E-newsletter and Corporate Website categories.



Delhi BJP President, Adesh Gupta, Member of Parliament, Meenakshi Lekhi and North Delhi Mayor, Jai Prakash inaugurated the Material Recovery Facility Centre for solid waste management under Zakhira fly-over. On the occasion Standing Committee Chairman, Chhail Bihari Goswami, Leader of House, Yogesh Verma, former Chairman Standing Committee, Veena Virmani, Councillors, Vipin Malhotra, Sunita Mishra, Former MLA, Subhash Sachdeva, Former Councillor, Bharat

ENVIRONMENT WARRIORS

Bhushan Madan and other dignitaries were present.

On the occasion, Gupta said that in the adverse conditions North Delhi Municipal Corporation is providing every possible facility to the citizens. He said that this facility centre would help North DMC in solid waste management.



Prakash said that this is first of its kind semi-automated waste management system in Delhi. He said that this centre would be operated by Chintan (NGO). Material Recovery Facility center has state of the art machineries which can process upto eight tons of waste per day. This socio-technological model for segregation and recycling

aims at developing solid waste management infrastructure for North DMC in a scientific manner in pursuance of the Swachh Bharat Mission and the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Founder-Director, Chintan (NGO), Bharati Chaturvedi said, "We will work with the North DMC to reduce the waste going to the Bhalsawa landfill."

The 14th National Education Summit 2021 was organised by ASSOCHAM from February 18 to 20 2021 (virtually as well as physically) with National Book Trust, India as the knowledge partner. The three-day summit discussed the impact of the National Education Policy 2020 on transforming the educational landscape of the nation and carving a road map for its implementation. Inaugurating the summit virtually, Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Minister of Education began with the objective that NEP will prove to be the dawn of a new India as the knowledge superpower. In his inaugural address, Dr

Nishank said that the policy which has been brought after much deliberation, is being praised not only by the country but all over the world. He praised ASSOCHAM's contribution in the process of its formation.

In the next session of the program, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma Chairman, National Book Trust, India shared his views on the "Researching Quality Assurance in Higher Education — Accreditation and Ranking of Universities" in the National Education Policy 2020. He said that quality education assurance has an important role to play in the development of any country. He praised the option of multiple entry



and exit points afforded to the student by NEP-2020.

Yuvraj Malik, Director National Book Trust, India in the afternoon session on "Road map for universalisation of education with 100 per cent GER in school education by 2020" spoke about the five deliverables of the NEP 2020 that will help turn it from a vision document to ground reality. Affordability, accountability, equity, accessibility and quality of

education will help build a strong foundation which in turn will curate a knowledge based citizenry, a global citizen. The Guest of Honour at this session was Dr Arun Kumar Sahoo, Odisha Cabinet Minister, Higher Education.

In the physical session on "Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities — An Approach to Attain the Highest Global Standards in Quality Education", the Guest of Honour Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhhe, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sport and President

ICCR shared his thoughts with the audience. Speaking at the session, Yuvraj Malik Director, NBT said, "Our education sector is an institution for nation building that influences the collective consciousness of the nation". Talking about the NEP 2020, he said that it is a vision document for our future generation, a draft for their future and each one of us has to come together as a stakeholder, be it teachers, schools, educationists, principals, owners, private institute honors, everyone has to contribute only then can we build a nation which we can call *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat*, and the developed India as a *viksit and shikshit bharat*.

Patel dominates at Motera

Axar's 6/38 dismantle England for 112 runs before Rohit's fifty cuts lead

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Axar Patel's devastating six-wicket haul bundled England out for 112 before Rohit Sharma's languid elegance shone through in an unbeaten half century that handed India the edge on the opening day of the day-night third Test here on Wednesday.

The spin combination of left-arm Patel and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin exploited the turning Motera pitch at the newly-inaugurated Narendra Modi stadium to the full and England's first innings folded in just 48.4 overs after the visitors opted to bat.

Patel (21.4-6-38-6) grabbed his second five-for in his second Test while Ashwin (16-6-26-3) took three.

At stumps, India were 99 for 3 from 33 overs with Rohit batting on 57 off 82 balls. Ajinkya Rahane (1) was giving him company following skipper Virat Kohli's dismissal in the last over of the day.

Kohli was dismissed for 27 off 58 balls by left-arm spinner Jack Leach (10-1-27-2).

India trailed by just 13 runs with seven first innings wickets in hand.

Before this, it was a nightmare that unfolded for England with the 47-run stand for the third wicket being their best.

They lost their last six wickets in the second session. The last seven wickets yielded just 38 runs.

This was after Ishant Sharma, only the second Indian fast bowler after Kapil Dev to play in 100 Tests, fittingly took India's first wicket in the third over to open the floodgates for



3rd Test. Day 2
Live from 2:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

the hosts.

In reply to a below par score, India negotiated the opening spells of much-vaunted England seamers James Anderson and Stuart Broad without any damage in the tricky twilight period. Rohit and Shubman Gill (11) did not face too much trouble seeing out the precarious phase.

Anderson and Broad did not get much the desired movement with the pink ball and the dew factor did not have a big role either.

But Jofra Archer (5-2-24-1) gave England the breakthrough

in the 15th over with Gill, trying a pull shot from the off stump, top-edged for Zak Crawley to end the 33-run opening partnership.

India lost another wicket soon after in Cheteshwar Pujara with Leach getting him trapped LBW for a first-ball duck to reduce India to 34 for 2.

After that, Rohit and Virat shared 64 runs for the third wicket, rotating the strike and finding the gaps as well for regular boundaries. Kohli was dropped by Ollie Pope when he was on 24. Pope also put down

a difficult chance to dismiss Rohit when the batsman was on 52.

Earlier, after Ishant had taken the first wicket, it was an Ashwin and Patel show as the duo bamboozled the England batsmen to complete the submission. Crawley (53 off 84 balls) was the lone exception and hit a delectable half-century.

Crawley's brilliance was, however, neutralised by the Indian spinners as England were left reeling at 81 for 4 going into tea after an exciting opening session.

Two wickets fell in as many overs after the resumption of the second session, with

Ashwin and Patel taking one each, to reduce England to 81 for 6.

Ashwin sent Pope's (1) off-stump cart-wheeling with a beauty of a delivery, bowling round the wicket, before Patel trapped Ben Stokes (6) LBW in the next over with a ball that spun in.

Jofra Archer (11) did a tad better as he hit a four off the second ball he faced and another boundary off Ashwin. But Patel dismissed him soon, cleaning up his off-stump to send England innings into a mess.

Padikkal's career-best 152 hands Karnataka big win

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Talented opening batsman Devdutt Padikkal continued his sizzling form to notch up a List A career-best score of 152 to help defending champions Karnataka register a massive 101-run win over Odisha in a Group E match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old opener smashed five sixes and 14 fours en route to his third List A century in his 16th game to propel Karnataka to 329 for five after being invited to bat at the KSCA Ground 3 in Alur.

The Royal Challengers Bangalore opener paced his innings brilliantly, taking 55 balls to reach his half-century and 119 deliveries for his ton.

But he took off in the final 10 overs as he cracked 52 runs off his last 21 balls to cruise to his maiden 150 off 138 deliveries.

Padikkal now has 301 runs from three matches, averaging 100.33 with scores of 52 and 97 in the first two matches.

In reply, Odisha were bowled out for 228 in 44 overs with Prasidh Krishna and Sheyash Gopal grabbing three wickets each to hand Karnataka their second win from three matches as they moved to second spot in the standings.

In another Group E match, Kerala defeated Railways by seven runs in a high-scoring thriller at the Just Cricket Academy to register their third win on the trot and consolidate their position atop the table.

Veteran opener Robin Uthappa (100 from 104 balls; 8x4s, 5x6s) cracked his second century from three matches in company of fellow opener Vishnu Vinod (107 from 107b;



5x4s, 4x6s) before Sanju Samson took charge with an explosive 61 to power Kerala to a massive 351

for 6.

Samson, who was appointed Rajasthan Royals skipper after they parted ways with Steve Smith, clobbered six fours and four sixes in his 29-ball knock, while Vathsala Govind remained unbeaten on a 34-ball 46 (2x4s, 3x6s).

Half-centuries from Mrunal Devdhar, Arindam Ghosh, Saurabh Singh and Harsh Tyagi meant the match went down to the wire.

But medium pacer MD Nidheesh (3/83) took two wickets — Amit Mishra and Tyagi — in successive balls in the last over to take Kerala over the line in a dramatic finish.

Baroda continue winning streak

SURAT: Baroda continued their winning streak in the Vijay Hazare Trophy after beating Hyderabad by 110 runs in their Elite Group A match, courtesy Kedar Devdhar's hundred and impressive show by the bowlers.

This is Baroda's third win on the trot after they had defeated Goa and Tripura.

Put into bat at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium, Baroda rode on Devdhar's stroke-filled 131 to post a competitive 316/7 on the board, and then bundled out the opposition for 206, with Babashafi Pathan (3/37) doing the bulk of the damage.

Devdhar was back among the runs as he tore apart the Hyderabad attack with his 139-ball innings, hammering 14 boundaries and two maximums.

PUNJAB BEAT ANDHRA

In Group B matches at Indore, Punjab bounced back from back-to-back defeats to

beat Andhra by seven wickets to register their first win.

Punjab skipper Mandeep Singh won the toss and sent Andhra in to bat. A disciplined bowling effort from Punjab meant Andhra innings never had the momentum. Kaul picked up four wickets while left-arm medium-pace Barinder Sran took three as Andhra were bowled out for 175 in the 49th over.

Chasing the target, Mandeep starred with an unbeaten 64 (81 balls, 8 fours) to take Punjab home in 36 overs and register their first win in the tournament.

In the second match of the group, Tamil Nadu, the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy winners, suffered their second defeat in the tournament after losing by 11 runs to Madhya Pradesh.

In the third game, Jharkhand beat Vidarbha by three wickets to top the standings with three wins from as many games. **PTI**



India's veteran fast bowler Ishant Sharma on Wednesday was accorded a guard of honour by his teammates ahead of his landmark 100th Test match before the start of 1st day play of 3rd Test between India and England at Narendra Modi Cricket stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday

BCCI/Twitter

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India's president on Wednesday inaugurated the world's largest cricket arena here, renamed from Sardar Patel stadium to Narendra Modi stadium in honour of the Prime Minister who is credited with conceptualising the facility in its current awe-inspiring form.

The state-of-the-art stadium, inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind, can accommodate a jaw-dropping 1.32 lakh spectators.

"This stadium was conceptualised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat. He was president of the Gujarat Cricket Association at that time," Kovind said in his address after the inauguration.

The renaming of the stadium was kept under wraps until after it was formally inaugurated.

"It represents India's aspirations and strength. India is called hub of cricket, so it is appropriate that we have the largest stadium. It will give India a new identity," Kovind said.

Also present on the occasion was Home Minister Amit Shah and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju along with a host of other dignitaries.

"We have decided to name it after the country's Prime Minister. It was Modi ji's dream project," said Shah after the inauguration.

The President also performed the ground-breaking ceremony for a sports complex in the stadium, to be named Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel sports enclave, for disciplines like football, hockey, basketball, kabaddi, boxing, and lawn tennis among others.



President Ram Nath Kovind and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the Bhumi Pujan of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave at Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad

PTI

Ahmedabad will emerge as India's sports city: Amit Shah

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that Ahmedabad in Gujarat would emerge as the country's "sports city" as world-class facilities for all kinds of games are being put in place here.

Shah made the statement after President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Narendra Modi stadium.

The president also performed the ground-breaking ceremony of a sports complex in the stadium, to be named Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, for disciplines like football, hockey, basketball, kabaddi, boxing, and lawn tennis among others.

Shah said that a complex spread over an area of 17 acres of area with world-class facilities



for different sports will also come up in Naranpura area of Ahmedabad.

"The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, the Narendra Modi stadium and the sports complex at Naranpura will offer complete facilities within the same city at the same place for any sports played internationally. With all these facilities, Ahmedabad will

be in a position to get ready within six months to host any international sports event," Shah said.

The minister said that the sports enclave will be available to play all the games that are played in Olympics, and it will have stadiums for football and hockey as well as an indoor stadium.

"Such sports facilities are not available in any other city in India at present. Ahmedabad, which Modiji transformed into India's heritage city, is now ready to become the country's sports city...Ahmedabad will be considered as India's sports city."

"With such sports infrastructure, Ahmedabad will be known as India's sports city, which is the dream that Prime Minister Narendra Modiji saw when he was the chief minister of Gujarat," Shah said.

Woods seriously injured in roll-over car crash



Workers move a vehicle after a rollover accident involving golfer Tiger Woods on Tuesday in Rancho Palos Verdes, a suburb of Los Angeles

AP

AFF ■ LOS ANGELES

Tiger Woods suffered serious injuries to both legs as his car flew off the road on Tuesday near Los Angeles in a crash he was "very fortunate" to survive, law enforcement officials who found the US golf legend said.

Woods did not appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the early-morning incident, and underwent surgery after the roll-over collision, said Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva.

No other vehicles or passengers were involved in the crash which occurred on a steep stretch of road known as a "hotspot" for high-speed accidents in recent years.

"I will say that it's very fortunate that Mr Woods was able to come out of this alive," said deputy Carlos Gonzalez, the first law enforcement official to arrive on scene.

Gonzalez found Woods trapped in his vehicle but conscious, appearing "calm and lucid" and able to identify himself.

"It is my understanding that he had serious injuries to

both legs," said Los Angeles County fire chief Daryl Osby.

Firefighters and paramedics extricated Woods from the wreckage of his SUV and transported him with a neck collar and backboard to a local hospital via road, where he underwent surgery.

There was "no evidence of impairment at this time" including any influence of narcotics, medication or alcohol, said Villanueva, adding that the crash remained "subject to investigation."

He added that no blood was drawn at the scene of the crash because the sheriff's office does not have that capability.

Woods, one of the most successful golfers of all time, has won 15 major golf championships.

He recently underwent his fifth back surgery, and said he was uncertain if he will be able to play at the upcoming Masters, which he last won in 2019.

Woods, 45, was in the area for his annual Genesis Invitational golf tournament at the Riviera Country Club, and was driving a courtesy car on the morning of the crash.

Advantage Chelsea

Giroud's bicycle kick gives Blues edge over Atletico

AFF ■ BUCHAREST

Olivier Giroud's magnificent bicycle kick broke Atletico Madrid's resistance and earned Chelsea a crucial away goal on Tuesday, a 1-0 victory giving Thomas Tuchel's side a slender advantage in the Champions League last 16.

Giroud's acrobatic strike was initially ruled out for offside but stood after VAR showed Mario Hermoso had got the final touch, delivering a huge blow to Atletico's hopes of reaching the quarter-finals.

"I didn't know what to think about the goal, I just focused on hitting the ball," said Giroud. "I love an overhead kick and I was just pleased to see the ball hit the back of the net. I had no clue about being



Olivier Giroud scores for Chelsea against Atletico Madrid in CL game

UEFA/Twitter

offside or not." Diego Simeone's side had put on a typically disciplined

defensive performance until that point but Giroud's moment of genius means they will have

to score in London on March 17 if they are to avoid an early exit.

It also continues a worrying dip for Atletico, whose lead in La Liga is also under threat after one win in four matches.

Chelsea, meanwhile, passed their biggest test since Tuchel was appointed at the end of January, backing up a strong run against lesser lights in the Premier League with a polished display against one of Europe's elite.

Giroud's goal in the 68th minute was only the third Atletico have conceded in 14 home legs of the Champions League knockout stages under Simeone, even if this fixture was at home only in name.

Their defeat makes it three home losses out of three for Spain's teams in the Champions League last 16 so far, after Barcelona were thrashed by Paris Saint-Germain and Sevilla were beaten by Borussia Dortmund last week.

LOCAL SPORTS

BANERJEE ELECTED TTFI SECRETARY

Arun Kumar Banerjee of Lucknow became the new secretary general of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI). He was elected unopposed during the Annual General Meeting, held at Panchkula on Wednesday. Prior to this, Banerjee was rendering duties of treasurer of the federation.

Dushyant Chautala retained his post of the president for the second consecutive four-year term. This is for the first time somebody from Uttar Pradesh has become the secretary general of the federation. Earlier, Prabhat Chandra Chaturvedi worked as the president of the federation from 2013-17.

HOCKEY TRIALS

The trails for the state junior boy's hockey team will be held at Mohd Shahid stadium from March 6. Interested may contact Paramjeet Singh on 9450709910.

RBN GLOBAL WIN

RBN Global Club defeated Mehta Cricket Club by two wickets in a league match of the Gaurav Mehta Memorial Cricket Tournament at NDBG ground on Wednesday.

BRIEF SCORES:

MCC: 176 (Mehtab 24, Zeeshan 24, Avi 23, Amit 21; Ankit 33/2, Md Danish 36/2)

RBN: 177 (Rohan 48, Shreyas 31; Shalabh 14/4, Zeeshan 26/3)