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FEAR PULLS YOU BACK: KRITI SANON 12 VIVACITY

Pak agrees to keep LoC calm

India, Pak DGMOs say 2 armies will honour 2003 ceasefire pact; but it doesn't restrict Indian forces from carrying out anti-terrorist, anti-infiltration ops in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major step to reduce tension at the Line of Control (LoC), India and Pakistan on Thursday decided to strictly adhere to a ceasefire for "mutually beneficial and sustainable peace." The agreement arrived at between the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) on Thursday was aimed at avoiding civilian casualties on either side during firing.

However, the ceasefire, which came into force from midnight of February 24-25, will not restrict the Indian security forces from carrying out anti-terrorist and anti-infiltration operations in Jammu & Kashmir, it was clarified here.

Agreeing to adhere to the ceasefire announced by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003, a joint statement issued by both the countries said the two armies will observe all agreements on ceasefire along the 750-km long LoC and other sectors, according to a joint statement issued on Thursday.

The decision was taken during talks between India DGMO Lt General PS Sangha and his Pakistani counterpart Major General Nauman Zakaria on the hotline.

The two DGMOs held dis-



cussions and reviewed the situation along the LoC in a "free, frank and cordial atmosphere", the statement said.

It added that in the interest of achieving mutually beneficial and sustainable peace along the borders, the two DGMOs agreed to address each other's core issues and concerns which have propensity to disturb peace and lead to violence.

Both sides agreed for strict observance of all agreements, understandings and ceasefire along the LoC and all other sectors with effect from midnight 24/25 February 2021.

Both sides reiterated that existing mechanisms of hotline contact and border flag meetings will be utilised to resolve any unforeseen situation or

misunderstanding. Incidentally, the two armies in 2018 had also agreed to follow the 2003 guidelines. However, situation remained volatile at the LoC. Sources said the latest pact came about after rounds of back channel talks between the two countries over the last few months, adding National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval held talks in this regard with Prime Minister Imran Khan's special assistant Moed W Yusuf.

Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, the most powerful figure there to shape the national policies, earlier this month also favoured talks and said it is time to extend a hand of peace in all directions.

In Pakistan, Army

spokesperson Major General Babar Iftikhar said regarding the joint statement that "there have been contacts between India and Pakistan on a hotline level since 1987. Frequently, the DGMOs of both countries stay in contact through this established mechanism."

According to media report from there, he also said from 2014 there was a spike in ceasefire violations along the LoC. "Both the DGMOs have agreed that the existing 2003 understanding should be implemented in letter and spirit," he added.

Dawn newspaper said the latest development is seen as a thaw after years of tension between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. Both Prime Minister Imran Khan and Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa recently offered India to resolve all issues through dialogue.

Ties between India and Pakistan nosedived after a terror attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016 by terror groups based in the neighbouring country. Subsequent attacks, including one on the Indian Army camp in Uri, deteriorated the relationship.

The relationship dipped further after IAF carried out air strikes against a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist training camp in Balakot on

February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans were killed on February 15 the same year.

The ties between the two countries worsened after India in 2019 announced abrogation of Article 370 giving special status to Jammu & Kashmir and divided the State into two Union Territories. There were 5,133 ceasefire violations last year in which 22 civilians were killed and 71 injured on the Indian side. Moreover, 24 security personnel were also killed in the firing while 126 were wounded. Moreover, nearly 300 incidents of ceasefire violation were recorded till January end this year.

In a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha earlier this month, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said a total of 10,752 cases of ceasefire violations have taken place along India's border with Pakistan in the last three years, in which 72 security personnel and 70 civilians were killed.

He said 364 security personnel and 341 civilians were injured in cross-border firings along the International Border and the LoC in Jammu & Kashmir in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Centre frames rules for OTT, social media apps

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tightening its grip on unregulated media, the Government on Thursday announced a set of stringent regulations for social media firm like Facebook and Twitter as well as OTT players such as Netflix, requiring them to remove any content flagged by authorities within 36 hours and setting up a complaint redressal mechanism with an officer being based in the country.

The guidelines will also apply to popular mobile apps like WhatsApp and Telegram. The Government also announced guidelines for news portals operating from India, asking them to keep the rules and norms applicable to print and TV channel codes.

This is the first time such rules have been framed for digital and online media operating within the country's jurisdiction. IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad addressing media with I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar said concerns have been raised over rampant abuse of social media platforms and spread of fake news. To fix the fake ID users, the guidelines also insisted that social media platforms must verify the users through mobile phone firms.

"Social media companies are welcome to do business in India, and empower Indians...We welcome criti-



Union Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad addresses a press conference as Union Minister for Environment Prakash Javadekar looks on in New Delhi on Thursday

cism and dissent... But it is important that users of social media are given a proper forum for the resolution of their grievances in a time-bound manner," Prasad said.

Prasad said intermediaries will fall into two categories — social media intermediary and significant social media intermediary. This distinction is based on the number of users on the social media platform, and the Government will soon notify the threshold of the user base that will distinguish the two. The rules require the "significant" social media intermediaries to follow additional due diligence including the appointment of chief compliance officer, a nodal contact person and a resident grievance officer. All the three officials will have to be resident-citizens of India.

The guidelines also make it mandatory for platforms such

as Twitter and WhatsApp to identify the originator of a message that authorities consider to be anti-national and against the security and sovereignty of the country. The rules about digital media and OTT focus more on in-house and self-regulation mechanism whereby a robust grievance redressal mechanism has been provided while upholding journalistic and creative freedom.

As per the guidelines, all social media, OTT platforms and news portals must have a resident Indian citizen grievance officer to handle the complaints. He must make a decision in 15 days and must maintain monthly data of such complaints. Social media and OTT firms also must have resident Indian citizen compliance officer and nodal officer, who will be responsible in responding to the Government agencies.

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UK court says Nirav has a case to answer in India

PNS ■ LONDON/NEW DELHI

The UK's Westminster Magistrates' Court on Thursday ruled that diamond merchant and prime accused in the PNB credit fraud case Nirav Modi has a case to answer before Indian courts. With the UK court now clearing the legal pathway for Modi's extradition, the judgment will now need ratification of British Home Secretary Priti Patel for sending the fugitive back to India.

Reacting to the Westminster Magistrates' Court ruling, the CBI said the British court has accepted the contention of the Centre to extradite him.

"The UK Court delivered the verdict wherein it held that the evidence against Nirav Modi is prima facie sufficient to order his extradition to India to face the charges. The (UK) court also upheld the assurances of the Government of India and rejected the submissions of defence regarding human rights violations, fair trial and prison conditions.

Rejecting the arguments of defence, the UK court decided



to send his case to the Secretary of the State, the UK for final decision," the CBI said in a statement.

India is a designated Part 2 country under the Extradition Act 2003 and the UK's Cabinet Minister has the authority to order the requested person's extradition after considering a number of further issues.

Under the Act, the Secretary of State must consider the possibility of imposition of the death penalty, in which case extradition cannot be ordered; the rule of speciality, which prohibits a person being dealt with in the requesting state for matters other than

those referenced in the extradition request; and whether or not the person was in the UK following extradition from another state, in which case that state's permission must be obtained before extraditing to a third state.

If these factors do not apply, the Minister must order extradition within two months of the day on which the District Judge referred his decision to the office of Secretary of State, in this case by the end of April.

The Home Secretary's order rarely goes against the court's conclusions, as she has to consider only these provisions under the Act which cannot apply as the court has already junked those claims of the defendant.

However, the Westminster court has granted Modi a window of appeal in the High Court and has up to 14 days to make that application after the Home Secretary makes her decision known. Any appeal, if granted, will be heard at the Administrative Division of the High Court in London.

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DCGI seeks more data for Sputnik V emergency use approval in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sputnik V, the Russian vaccine against the Covid-19, will have to wait longer to get approval for emergency use authorisation (EUA) in India.

The country's top drug regulator's subject expert committee (SEC) has asked Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories to submit more data before a final decision could be taken about its fate.

Dr Reddy's Lab is locally conducting clinical trials on Sputnik V.

The DCGI decision seeking more data from Dr Reddy's has been slammed by a section of health experts. They contended when the Covishield by Serum Institute of India and Covaxin by Bharat Biotech can get EUA without complete data, then why the nod for the Russian vaccine was being held up despite it showing good preliminary results.

Dr Reddy's Lab had applied to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation on February 19 for EUA as the human adenoviral vector-based vaccine candidate.

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N-E will be India's growth hub: Shah

AGENCIES ■ GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has identified the Northeast region as India's "Growth Hub".

Addressing a gathering in Nagaon district's Batadrava Than, Shah said the Modi government has already started work to make the region as the growth engine of India.

"To take the Northeast development in a mission mode, the Prime Minister had visited the region 35 times in the past five years. The Congress leaders and ministers visited Assam only during the election time," the senior BJP leader said.

"Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stewardship, a new era of development has started in Assam and the Northeast region. Entire Northeast region is transforming. Northeast India will emerge as the highest contributor in the GDP of India," said Shah.

Urging the people to reinstall the BJP government for

the second time, Shah promised that his party's vision is to make Assam an infiltration free, flood free, corruption free, violence free, agitation free and number one state in India.

"A satellite based survey has been conducted and plans are afoot to permanently resolve the flood problem and to undertake many projects to develop tourism and other infrastructures," he said.

The Batadrava Than in central Assam's Nagaon district is the birthplace of social reformer Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva, who was a 15th-16th century Assamese saint, scholar, poet, playwright, social-religious reformer and a figure of importance in Assam's cultural and religious history.

Shah on Thursday launched the work of a state-funded Rs 188-crore project for the beautification of Batadrava Than.

Saying that the Centre and state double engine governments of the BJP have undertaken a large number of steps for the all round development of Assam and protection of Assamese culture and tradi-

Mercury soars in parts of UP

LUCKNOW: Weather remained dry with day temperature rising in many parts of the state in the last 24 hours, the Met office said on Thursday.

The maximum temperatures rose appreciably in Allahabad, Kanpur, Ayodhya, Kanpur, Lucknow divisions but there was no major change in other divisions over the state. Jhansi was the hottest place in the state as the maximum temperature there settled at 35.5 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature in the state was recorded at 12.4 degree Celsius in Fursatganj.

According to the Met office forecast, weather is likely to remain dry across the state on Friday.

Meanwhile, it was a warm Thursday with a clear sky in New Delhi as the maximum temperature settled at 33.2 degrees Celsius and the minimum at 13.4 degrees Celsius, a notch above the season's average, the meteorological office here said.

"The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 34 degrees Celsius and 13 degrees Celsius respectively," the Met department said.

CAPSULE

5 KILLED IN BLAST IN TN FIREWORKS FACTORY
Virudhunagar (TN): Five people were killed and six injured in an explosion at a fireworks factory near Sivakasi in the district on Thursday, police said.

CAR WITH EXPLOSIVES FOUND NEAR ANTILIA
Mumbai: A suspicious vehicle with gelatin, an explosive material, inside was found parked near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house in Mumbai on Thursday evening.

KEJRIWAL'S SECURITY NOT REDUCED: MHA
New Delhi: A day before Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's roadshow in Gujarat's Surat, sources in the AAP Government alleged on Thursday that his security cover has been scaled down, a charge denied by the Union Home Ministry and the Delhi Police.

INS asks Google to raise publisher share in ad revenue to 85%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Newspaper Society (INS), which represents print media houses, on Thursday asked Google to increase the publisher share of advertising revenue to 85 per cent.

It also asked the technology giant to ensure more transparency in the revenue reports provided to publishers.

In a letter to Google India, INS President L Adimoolam said publishers are facing a "very opaque advertising system", as they are unable to get details of Google's advertising value chain.

INS has asked Google to compensate the Indian newspapers "comprehensively" for using contents published by them and to share its advertising revenues properly.

"The Society insisted that Google should increase the publisher share of advertising revenue to 85 per cent, and also ensure more transparency in the revenue reports provided to publishers by Google," said INS in a statement.

Content generated and published by newspapers at the considerable expense is proprietary, said INS while pointing out that it is this credible content that has given Google the authenticity in India ever since its inception.

"It has demanded Google should pay for news generated by the newspapers which employ thousands of journalists on the ground, at considerable expense, for gathering and verifying information," it said.

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Ashwin fastest Indian to take 400 Test wickets

India win 3rd Test against England, inch closer to WTC final

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Ravichandran Ashwin on Thursday became only the fourth Indian and sixth spinner in the world to take 400 Test wickets, a feat which was nothing short of a "fairytale" for the seasoned pro who was called a "modern day legend" by skipper Virat Kohli.

Ashwin reached the landmark in the day-night third Test against England here when he dismissed Jofra Archer in England's second innings as India won the 3rd Test and inched closer to WTC final. Left-arm spinner Axar Patel created an illusion of turn with 11 straighter deliveries that put India on the brink of the World Test Championship final with a 10-wicket demolition of



Indian bowler R Ashwin celebrates the dismissal of England's Jack Leach with his team on the second day of the 3rd cricket test match between India and England at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday

England inside two days in the day-night third Test here on Thursday. The result was their lowest total against India — 81 all out in 30.4 overs leaving the hosts with a target of 49 which they achieved with minimum fuss taking a 2-1 lead in the four-match series. The visitors were also knocked out of contention from the WTC final.

"It feels amazing actually (to reach 400 Test wickets). The entire stadium stood up and clapped for me. Pleased it hap-

pened in the winning cause. I can't really get a grip of what has happened in the last 2-3 months. It has been a dreamy run and a fairytale," Ashwin, who took seven wickets in the match to tally 431 victims from 77 Tests, said.

Skipper Kohli was effusive in his praise, saying, "I think we need to stand up and take notice of what Ashwin has done. In Tests, he is a modern day legend."

Ashwin credited his self-belief for reaching where he has. "It has been all about self belief. At the start of the Australian tour, I didn't think I would be starting, but then (Ravindra) Jadeja broke down and it might have had to happen," said Ashwin, who played a big role in India's historic Test series win last month.

Former captain Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev (434), and Harbhajan Singh (417) are the other Indians who have 400 Test wickets to their cred-

it. Ashwin also became the second fastest to reach the milestone after Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan, who made it in his 72nd Test.

The veteran came into the match six short of the landmark and took three England wickets in the first innings.

Talking about the match, he said, "We were worried after getting bowled out for 145, didn't think we didn't have many runs on the board. But we then bowled beautifully on a wicket assisting us."

"I don't know if I'm ageing, but it's incredibly hard to watch the game. To come back (after losing first Test) and win it is even more special."

Asked this was his best as a bowler, Ashwin said, "In 2015-16 everyone asked me (if I'm bowling at my best), the same in 2016-17. One thing is sure I've always wanted to improve. I won't be surprised if I improve further in the future."



NOTICE

I have change my name Samsher to Shamshir Ahmad S/o Sajjuddin for Future purpose Mohammadabad Fatehpur.

NOTICE

Original Sale Deed belonging to Smt. Kamla Devi and Smt. Shyama Kumari Bansal. For House Property located at 286/063KHA/02-03/04/05/06, Niwaz Khera, Moti Nagar, Lucknow has been lost. Finder may inform on M.No. 9889201010, Police LAR No. 111902/2021.

NOTICE

I, Shashwat Sudip Mukherji, S/o Smt. Nupur Mukherji, R/o, A 905/04, Indranagar, Lucknow here by notify that I have changed my name to Shashwat Mukherjee. I may be known by my new name for all purposes in future.

सूचना

मैंने अपना नाम महेश चन्द्र से बदलकर महेश चन्द्र त्रिपाठी रख लिया है। मुझे भविष्य में इसी नाम से जाना पहचाना व पुकारा जायेगा। महेश चन्द्र त्रिपाठी पुत्र श्रीकान्त त्रिपाठी निवासी एल0आई0जी0 57, दहेली सुजानपुर, के0डी0ए0 कालोनी, श्याम नगर, कानपुर नगर

NOTICE

I, RAM DHIRAJ holding Indian Passport No: J6885870 issued at LUCKNOW on 14/03/2021 and Permanent Resident of ANDHIYARI MANKAPUR BULAR GONDA and presently working at LE REAV APT 32-01 DUBAI MARINA AL SUFU ROAD, UAE do hereby change my name from RAM DHIRAJ to RAM KARAN with immediate effect

सूचना

मेरा वर्ष 1990 का आईसीएससी बोर्ड का हाईस्कूल अंक पत्र (रोल नंबर: टी/497/042) और प्रमाण पत्र तथा वर्ष 1992 का यूपी बोर्ड का इंटरमीडिएट अंक पत्र (रोल नंबर: 342989) और प्रमाण पत्र वास्तव में कहीं खो गए हैं। -वीरेश मिश्रा पुत्र श्री अशोक कुमार मिश्रा, उत्सव एनक्लेव, ई-ब्लॉक, फ्लैट नंबर जी-1, फैजाबाद रोड, एचएल के समने, हरिदा नगर, लखनऊ

NOTICE

I Virendra Kumar Pandey age about 50 S/o Lt Shambhunath Pandey Resident at 569K/545 Snehnagar VIP Road Alambagh Lucknow. I have changed my daughter's name from Peehu Pandey to Vaanya Pandey vide affidavit at 23.2.2021 sworn before notary Lucknow

NOTICE

In my service record my son Avesh Ahmad Khan, date of birth mention as 05/07/1999 that is wrong in other records including high school certificate date of birth is mentioned 07/01/2001 that is true. Sarur Ahmad Khan, Ex. Nayab Subedar, Army No. 1551624N, VIII/Post Inayatpur, District-Sultanpur (U.P.)

NOTICE

I Syed Ajaz Haider Naqvi S/o Syed Ilyas Haider Naqvi R/o 337/207, Sultan Bhador Road Mansoor Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. wants to change my daughter's name from Mumza Naqvi (Date of Birth-16.12.2006) to Mumzah Naqvi and from today consider her true name as Mumzah Naqvi in her school records and all other documents.

Previous govts failed to deliver: Yogi

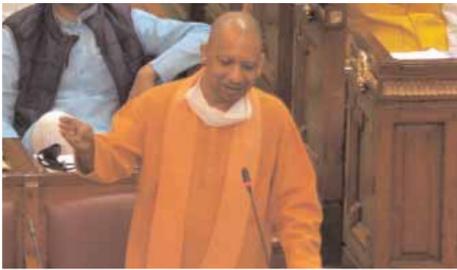
PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After targeting the opposition, mainly the Congress, in the UP Assembly, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday concentrated his attack on Samajwadi Party, claiming that it had been given a chance and a lot could have been done but these parties failed to deliver.

The chief minister mentioned the achievements of his government and also explained why the previous regime drew flak despite having all the resources at its disposal.

Speaking on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address in the UP Legislative Council, the chief minister said that his government changed the picture of Uttar Pradesh. Showing a mirror to the Samajwadi Party, the chief minister was at his eloquent best when he said that his "socialist friends" did not want to accept the reality, the reality of their non-governance during the last regime.

"If Akhilesh Yadav had done everything, then why did the public reject him? Why did SP lose in the Lok Sabha elections?" he asked, while making a sweeping remark that the SP had taken the people for a ride and was taking the state itself to the brink of selling.



The chief minister cited an example of Azamgarh in view of a slew of developmental schemes having been launched there. "Today Azamgarh is being seen as a name of development," he said and added, "The same Azamgarh sent Akhilesh Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav to Parliament, but what did they give Azamgarh in return?"

He said there was a severe identity crisis in front of Azamgarh but the scenario was changed by the efforts of 'our' government.

"Gone are the days when people of Azamgarh were looked at with suspicion. Now, the town of Azamgarh is known for expressways and university which is coming up there," he pointed out, again putting a poser before SP as to why they could not do it earlier.

He asked the leaders of the opposition what they were doing for five years.

The chief minister went on to reiterate his government's agenda of development saying, "We have a development agenda with us as our guide is Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all works are going on with his vision." The address of the chief minister was constantly punctuated by disruptive tactics of the opposition, especially SP. So much so that the Chair had to intervene on several occasions to ask the members to behave and maintain dignity in the House.

The chief minister, miffed with the attitude of the members, reminded them of high norms of legislative propriety and traditions. At one point of time, the chief minister made

a snide remark on the conduct of the members and said people were remembered for their behaviour.

He also recalled the infamous state guest house incident of June 2, 1995, which, according to him, put the Samajwadi Party in the bad light for all times to come.

"The biggest crisis in politics is the crisis of credibility which all the politicians have to address by presenting them in an ideal mould," he asserted.

Listing his government's achievement, the chief minister said that the opposition should not be in a denial mode and praise the good works done by his government.

"Our financial management saw tiding over the tough coronavirus pandemic period with every single penny being used," he said, adding "The record purchase of paddy, wheat and maize during his regime is the testimony of the fact that how miserable was the performance of the previous government."

It showed who is anti-farmer and who is pro-farmer, he added.

Rapping the Congress, he said the people of this land used to send their leaders to Parliament but they abused the same people. In an oblique remark on Rahul Gandhi, Yogi

Adityanath said he had been indulging in maligning the image of this state but he could not open a medical college even in Amethi.

"We are opening a medical college there too," he added.

The chief minister asked the opposition to accept the commendable work done in the field of infrastructure. "We have stopped the loot," he added.

He said that Chief Minister Samuhik Vivah Scheme was laughed at by the opposition when it was launched but today this scheme was one of the popular schemes.

Comparing several schemes of his government, including women, old age pension and scholarships, with the schemes of the previous government, he said that the BJP did not discriminate on caste, religion or region while providing benefits of government schemes. "That is why the picture of UP has changed for the good," he added.

With regards to better transport facilities, he said while the roads and expressways were being built, some landmark works had been done to improve air connectivity in the state with many new airports coming up after 2017.

"The same goes with the power sector," he pointed out.

India to roll out two more Covid vaccines: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking pride in successful management of COVID-19 in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that soon India would roll out two new vaccines against the novel coronavirus in addition to the existing one.

The chief minister showed immense appreciation to all the scientists and researchers in his speech for their untiring efforts and quick innovation of the Covid vaccine which emerged as a 'fitting tribute' to the corona warriors.

The chief minister, while addressing the UP Legislative Council, on Thursday, also remembered the people who lost their lives because of the pandemic and paid tributes to them.

Miffed over opposition for perpetrating negative politics, Yogi, during his speech on motion of thanks to the Governor's address, said, "The same country was there before but every citizen is himself a witness to the country's progress now that visionary leadership can transform the image of the country."

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said that the Centre had given its full cooperation to the state government. He said under Modi's leadership, India managed to make two indigenous vaccines that were giving the best results.

Yogi further threw light on the fact that there were about 2,000 active coronavirus cases in the state and that the state had been able to keep the positivity rate below 5 per cent throughout the pandemic with the highest recovery rate.

'Maintain effective system of COVID-19 treatment'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to maintain an effective system of treatment of COVID-19 patients, saying that even a little carelessness in this regard can be dangerous hence full vigilance should be taken at every level.

The chief minister was on Thursday reviewing the Covid situation in a meeting at his official residence here.

He said that though COVID-19 was completely under control in the state, yet extra care should be taken in view of the increase in coronavirus positive cases in some states. He asked the officials to carry on the contact tracing and surveillance works with full activeness.

The chief minister said that testing had an important role in breaking the chain of COVID-19 infection and in view of this, the testing work should be conducted with full capacity in the state.

It was informed in the meeting that at present the testing work was being

conducted effectively, giving priority to focus testing.

The chief minister said that people should be constantly made aware about prevention from COVID-19 and compliance with Covid protocol should be ensured. He added that it should also be ensured that people use masks outside the house. He said full attention should also be paid to social distancing.

The chief minister instructed the officials to run the integrated command and control centres established in the districts with full activeness.

"The situation should be reviewed by all district magistrates and chief medical officers in the morning in Covid hospitals and in the evening at the integrated command and control centres," he said.

Reviewing the Covid vaccination campaign, the chief minister said that this work should be conducted as per the guidelines and order of the Government of India. He also instructed officials to conduct regular monitoring of vaccination work.

any support.

Yogi further said that India's vaccine production and delivery capacity would be used to fight the coronavirus infection globally. He said under the guidance of PM Modi, India was supplying COVID-19 vaccines to neighbouring countries including Bhutan, Maldives,

Nepal, Bangladesh, etc.

The chief minister said that initially during the lockdown, PPE kits used to come for Rs 5,000-15,000 but when his government set up around 200 units to manufacture PPE kits, the state started getting them for Rs 200-500 because of more demand.

Claiming the influx of migrants and their rehabilitation as one of the biggest challenges for any government, the chief minister quoted the lines from the poem of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, 'Aadmi na ucha hota hai, na neecha hota hai, na chhota hota hai, na bada hota hai, aadmi to aadmi hota hai'.

Repeating the lines, he said that his government was working on the ideology of the former prime minister and helped the vulnerable migrants by hiring 1,660 trains to bring them back from various places.

He said the state government not only ensured basics like food and water to migrants but also procured the latest machines to jack up Covid testing capacity up to two lakh per day, which was a record.

He said the state Health Department had installed ventilators in government-run hospitals in all 75 districts of the state.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also recognised the outstanding contribution of the police force during the time of the pandemic in ensuring the safety and well-being of the public. He said the government made sure there was no shortage of sanitiser in the state and it also extended support to 27 other states by distributing sanitiser to them. He said the government also made provisions for two lakh isolation beds in the state.

Govt rejects demand to reduce VAT on petroleum products

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government categorically rejected the demand of the opposition in the state assembly to lower the VAT (value-added tax) on petroleum products in view of the rising prices of diesel and petrol in the country.

The opposition, including Samajwadi Party and Congress, walked out from the House in protest against the government's reply during the question hour.

UP Industry Minister Satish Mahana, while replying to the question of SP members, said on Thursday that due to the huge requirement of funds for strengthening the health infrastructure in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and financial resources required for the development works, there was no proposal before the state government to reduce the VAT on petroleum products.

However, the minister said that the prices of diesel in UP were less than 14 other states and the price of petrol in UP was less than 13 other states.

Mahana said that the VAT rate had not been changed since what the previous Samajwadi Party government had imposed, which was 17.48 per cent on diesel and 28.8 per cent on petrol.

Presently the price of diesel in the state is Rs 80.63 per litre and of petrol around Rs 89 per litre.

Mahana also said the state had no control on the prices of LPG cylinders as it was fully controlled by the Central PSU (public sector undertaking) oil companies.

The opposition members wanted to know why the government was not including petroleum products under GST but the minister did not comment.

Cong protest against rise in petro prices

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress leaders and workers on Thursday staged demonstrations at all district headquarters in the state to protest the increase in diesel, petrol and LPG prices besides the three "black" farm laws, a party leader said.

The protests were held on the directive of party national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

In Deoria, the protesters were stopped by the administration, which later also used force and arrested Congress district president Virendra Patel. Several workers, including women, were injured

in the lathicharge.

In Kanpur Nagar, former MP Rajaram Pal led the protest and later staged a demonstration at the district headquarters.

In Lucknow, hundreds of leaders belonging to the Congress City and District units took out a march and staged a protest outside the collectorate.

Congress city chief Mukesh Singh Chauhan and district chief Ved Prakash Tripathi accused the Central government of working against the common man by raising the prices of petroleum products which had resulted in a steep hike in the prices of all other essential commodities.

Similar protests were held in other districts of the state, including Sitapur, Faizabad, Balrampur, Basti and several other districts.

It may be mentioned that the opposition parties, including Congress, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Tuesday attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party government over the rise in fuel prices, saying it was unfair to trouble people reeling from the impact of COVID-19.

The parties demanded that the government immediately stop burdening the public with the increase in fuel prices

Radha Mohan praises Yogi gov't budget

Lucknow (PNS): Bharatiya Janata Party national vice-president and UP in-charge Radha Mohan Singh said that the budget presented by the Uttar Pradesh government was aimed at development of the poor as per the ideology of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Singh, who arrived in Lucknow on a two-day stay on Thursday, said that this budget would prove to be a milestone in making the state's economy one trillion dollars. He said the UP government under Yogi Adityanath was paying attention to the interests of all sections of society, including villagers, poor, farmers, youth and women. "In order to give impetus to the economy of the state,

the government has taken many important steps. Despite the COVID-19, provisions have been made in the budget for education, health, women's welfare, agriculture, irrigation, tourism and all other areas. Special attention has also been given to the expressways and road networks," he said. Singh said the credit went to the present government for improving law and order because the previous Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party governments had patronised criminals. "During the SP, BSP regimes, the perception of Uttar Pradesh was that of a criminal and corrupt state. That image has changed now and the state is marching towards the path of progress," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be inform that my client DBI Bank Ltd. intends to provide a finance to one of its client Sri Uttam Kumar Srivastava and Smt. Arti Srivastava against their property being House No. B-3/47, admeasuring 112.50 sq mts, only situated at Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Ward. Rajiv Gandhi, Lucknow and in chain of title of said property being original allotment letter dated 25.01.1997 issued by Lucknow Development Authority in favour of Arvind Kumar Jain, is allegedly lost and misplaced. If any person has any right, title or interest over the said property, he may approach to the undersigned within seven days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest and if no such objection will be received within the said period it will be presumed that the property in question is free from all encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against owners shall be void and ineffective.

(Tarun Prakash Srivastava) Advocate Mob: 9335914262 Office : Room No. 111, CITI Tower, 24, B.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow

Directorate of Technical Education Uttarakhand, Srinagar (Garhwal) Govt. Polytechnic Campus, Srinagar Garhwal Ph.No. & Fax No.: 01946-250169/251937/250168 www.ukdte.in E-mail: dteuttarakhand@gmail.com E-Tender Notice For Computers, UPS and Integrated Classroom Solution The Directorate of Technical Education Uttarakhand invites E-Tender for Computers, UPS and Integrated Classroom Solution for various Government Polytechnic Institutes situated in Uttarakhand in conformity with the detailed terms and conditions as specified in the document. Detailed tender documents will be available on Uttarakhand Government e-tender portal www.uktenders.gov.in from 26 February, 2021 onwards. Ref. No: 9063/UKDTE/E-Tender/Store/2020-21 Dated: 25/02/2021 Director

Haldwani Rudrapur Cluster SWM Society (HRCSWMS) (Nagar Nigam Haldwani -Kathgodam)

Reference No. 31 Corrigendum Date 25/02/2021

E Tender Notice (Reference No.29, Date 12/02/2021) for Request for proposal are invited for the development of "Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Processing & Disposal Facility, SLF & Bio-mining of legacy waste on site for HRCSWMS Haldwani Distt-Nainital"

The changed dates of Proposal Due Date & Opening of Pre-qualification & Technical Bids for above mentioned E Tender as follows:

Proposal Due Date : 15-03-2021 Till 13.00 hours. Opening of Pre-qualification & Technical Bids: 15-03-2021 14.00 hours.

There will be no change in the remaining dates. Pre Bid Meeting related corrigendum will be available in www.uktenders.gov.in from 26/02/2021 14.00 hours onward.

(Chandra Singh Martolia) (Dr.Jogendra Pal Singh Rautela) Member Secretary HRCSWMS/ Honourable Chairman HRCSWMS/ Nagar Aayukta Nagar Nigam Haldwani Mayor Nagar Nigam Haldwani

Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender

No.SSA/Esstt/Pre-Primary/Furniture/406/2020/4616 Date:25.02.2021

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from reputed Manufacturer /Authorized Dealer/Distributor of manufacturer of plastic moulded furniture for supply of Plastic Moulded Storage Cupboard.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/ Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should

Sd/-Executive Director, Janasanyog /CF/5357/20 SSA, Assam, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक (अभियन्त्रण) उ०प्र० राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण, ए-1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एस्तद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत विकास कार्य और अनुसंधान एवं स्व-स्वायत्त कार्य हेतु सरकारी विभाग/ सार्वजनिक उपकरण/ निगम/ प्राधिकरण/ परिवहन/ नगर निकायों में अर्ह 'ए' श्रेणी में विद्युत लाईसेन्सी फर्म/डीएलसी/अनुमती निर्माता/लाइसेन्सी ठेकेदारों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो दिनांक 26.02.2021 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 08.03.2021 को 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। लिखित निविदा 09.03.2021 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे कोला जायेगा। निविदा चरताओं द्वारा प्रेषण करने की मूल प्रतियाँ दिनांक 12.03.2021 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

Table with 4 columns: क्रमांक, कार्य का नाम, कार्य की लागत रु. (लाख में), and Bid Amount. Items include construction of MVA sub-station, LED street light network, and power network systems.

नोट: 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में सम्मिलित कर एवं जीएनएफटी-सी सहित दरे अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देना नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्य हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय 'विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग' उ०प्र० शासन, लखनऊ में श्रेणी 'क' अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा।

निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी निगम की website: www.upsidc.com पर स्थित ई-लैंक एवं यूपीएलसी की website: http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (मु०) विद्युत उ०प्र०राज्यऔद्योगिक, कानपुर

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE NO.31 DATE 25.02.2021

E-Mail: cos@ner.railnet.gov.in Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, and on behalf of The President of India, invites tenders through e-Procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.ireps.gov.in.

Table with 5 columns: Item No., Tender No., Brief Description of Stores, Reserved to be procured from, Qty. Required, and Earnest Money. Items include brake caliper unit, mobile phone charger, water tank, flushing valve, contact tip, relay, terminal block, maintenance force valve, FRP litter bin, dissolved acetylene gas, non-asbestos based K-type, set of ermelo fitting, metal oxide gapless, and lavatory door.

CPRO/S-60 Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955 "DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority or of binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

11,086 frontline, health workers vaccinated in Lucknow

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Covid immunisation exercise for frontline and health workers on Thursday recorded 117 per cent vaccination in Lucknow district with the number of beneficiaries getting vaccinated being more than the target.

Giving this information, District Immunisation Officer MK Singh said the target was to vaccinate 9,488 frontline and health workers but over 11,086 took the vaccine jab.

This was a mop up round for health and frontline workers as well as the second dose session for the health workers.

Singh said that amongst those to be given the second dose, 6,414 got vaccinated out of 6,970 which was a 92 per cent achievement. He said that for the first dose, over 4,672 beneficiaries were vaccinated against the target of 1082.

He said that both Covishield and Covaxin were administered to the beneficiaries.

"As many as 10,540 were administered Covishield vaccine against a target of 9,196 and 546 were vaccinated with Covaxin against 292," he said.

Meanwhile, Nodal Covid RML Hospital said that there was an increase in the number of people coming for getting



Frontline workers taking the vaccine jab in Lucknow on Thursday

Pioneer

vaccinated at the hospital. RML Director AK Singh said that over 825 were vaccinated by 6 pm.

Many frontline workers said that they came for vaccination after they learnt from media reports that it was the last chance for them to get vaccinated.

Policeman Alok Kumar Rai posted at the office of the DCP (Women Crime) at Mahanagar said that he

received his first dose of the vaccine on Thursday.

"Earlier I had not received any message but today through the newspaper I came to know that this was the last chance for getting vaccinated and hence I decided to get myself vaccinated," he said, adding that he was feeling perfectly fine.

Meanwhile, a member of Covid Task Force at KGMU, Dr Surya Kant Tripathi, said that with school students testing

positive in Maharashtra, Delhi, his was of the view that Classes 1 to V should not be opened in the state.

"Children of Class 6 onwards can follow the protocol and they can understand when explained about Covid guidelines but we cannot expect children from Class 1 to 5 to follow what is told to them and this is why I am against the opening of schools as of now," he said.

When asked if a student from Class 1-5 tested positive how threatening a situation it would be, he said that fortunately mortality rate in the general population was very low in India.

He said that selectively the schools should be closed where Covid cases have been coming out.

He said that people should follow the Covid protocols in Lucknow or face the consequences. He said the Covid protocols had to be followed strictly.

Regarding the movement of people across the country in the times of increasing numbers of cases, he said that it was advisable that unless it was very important those who were chronically ill or those who were elderly should avoid movement across the country.

Meanwhile, MK Singh said after six staffers who had tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday at La Martiniere Boys' School, the remaining RT-PCR tests turned out to be negative on Thursday.

It may be noted that six antigen tests had turned out to be positive in the school because of which rapid response teams were sent there and over 442 samples collected on Wednesday.

UP, Vietnam can take advantage of each other's strength: Sehgal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh and Vietnam can collaborate and take advantage of each other's strengths as Vietnam is good in electronics and UP is good in textile and agro-based industry.

This was stated by Additional Chief Secretary (MSME) Navneet Sehgal at a virtual discussion organised between IIA and the Embassy of Vietnam on Thursday.

To promote and to enable the Indian and Vietnam MSMEs to know each other, understand the business opportunities and promote bilateral trade and investment and to encourage trade links and helping SMEs on both sides of the countries Indian Industries Association (IIA) and the Embassy of Vietnam in India organised 'Virtual Discussion on India-Vietnam Trade and Investment Connect' with all concerned stakeholders.

This virtual meet made entrepreneurs aware of the opportunities and scope of investment for expanding their business in Vietnam which could help them to make their presence in the global market.

Navneet Sehgal said that UP had liberalised its policies and brought many changes in the ecosystem and there was various potential growth areas for tie-ups.

"We have 60 products

under ODOP which we are exporting in large numbers to other countries. This type of meetings can be a good platform provided by the embassy where industry to industry kind of interaction can be done. The UP government is very positive towards any kind of tie-ups with the embassy and creates a common group which can jointly work on potential areas and technology transfer which can be explored. Whatever we can do for support and collaboration we will definitely do so," he said.

He said that if Vietnam was interested then they could establish an ecosystem, subsidy on capital and GST reforms, labour, technology, hand-holding process, land availability, airports, proper connectivity and power availability.

"We also welcome investment from Vietnam in agriculture, textile. If you establish MSME units in UP, you will get easy access to all requirements, including various incentives. We are glad to announce that we are at number two position in ease of doing business" he added.

Ambassador of Vietnam to India PhamSanh Chau, expressed his views and said that Vietnam recently raised its economic growth rate by three per cent which was a good sign to attract more investment.

"Indian companies can easily invest in Vietnam due to its

political stability. Areas where in Vietnam is looking for investment from India are automobile, granite, marbles and marbles, textiles, home appliances, agricultural, and pharmaceuticals. Vietnam is also influenced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aim of making India self-reliant and invites Indian businesses to set up their operations in Vietnam as they will get access to a domestic market of 90 million," he said.

In his address, IIA President Pankaj Kumar said that the rising importance of Vietnam in global supply chains had the potential to strengthen India-Vietnam ties further.

He said Indian industries may also seek the potential to set up businesses in Vietnam in energy, mineral exploration, agrochemicals, sugar, tea, coffee manufacturing, IT, and auto components.

"Vietnam provides several lucrative reasons to invest such as increased access to markets, favourable investment policies, free trade agreements, economic growth, political stability, low labour costs and a young workforce. Defence Production Corridor is set up in UP after Tamil Nadu. This field is full of opportunities for Indian MSMEs and our counterpart Vietnam. We both can share support in this field also bilaterally" he said.

Two fraudsters arrested by cyber cell

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of two fraudsters, the cyber cell of Lucknow police claimed to have busted a gang which duped several innocent people by cloning their fingerprints and using it in Aadhaar enabled payment system (AEPS).

Those arrested were identified as Devendra Kumar Maurya of Azamgarh and Ramesh Kumar of Jaunpur. The police recovered four mobile phones, a stamp machine, fingerprint samples, four biometric devices, image booster and other items from them.

The arrest came during a follow-up exercise on a case of fraud, which was registered at Krishna Nagar police station in February this year.

In his confession, Devendra said he honed the skill to commit fraud while working in a company PayINR. He said the company provided AEPS facilities to the customers.

He said he had ID password of the distributor/master distributor and he used to provide the password.

The accused said they used a Central government scheme under which the customers of villages had been provided the facility to withdraw cash up to Rs 10,000 by using their Aadhaar number and fingerprint.

Devendra, who is class 8 pass, used to provide the facility of a retailer and used to give the password.

To dupe the innocent people, the accused retrieved the information from website Bhulekh in which data of properties, Aadhaar card and fingerprint of owners are stored.

The accused used to download the information and also the fingerprints which they later turned into real one by using chemical, thermal scanner, butter paper and image booster.

They then used these clone fingerprints on biometric machines and retrieve the information related to bank details using the Aadhaar card number.

Devendra had used his skill and experience in use of AEPS and the accused used to withdraw the cash from bank accounts of different customers.

UP PHDCC holds retail leadership summit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Chapter of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) organised a retail leadership summit on Thursday.

The rationale of the summit was to create a platform where leading retailers of the state shared their insights to revive and push up the retail sector in the state.

The summit also aimed to bring together all the stakeholders of the retail under one roof who exchanged their ideas, way-forwards for the growth of this sector.

Mukesh Bahadur Singh, senior advisor, UP State Chapter, PHDCCI, discussed about the best practices being followed by the retailers and state government to revive the retail sector and to encourage the retailers. He also discussed some challenges which were being faced by the sector due



to the pandemic. He suggested the Chamber for drafting a White Paper on the basis of deliberation led by the experts during the summit and submit the same to the government officials as well as leading retailers of the state in order to further enhance and improve the retail industry.

Saraswati Singh, executive vice-president at a Trans-Gomti Mall in her address gave the industrial perspective of the sector. She said that the retail sector

was an economic heavyweight and on average across OECD economies, about 1 in 12 workers were employed in retail and the sector accounted for almost 10 per cent of the GDP.

"Moreover, it mainly serves final demand, and thus occupies an important position in value chains both as a provider to households and as an outlet for upstream sectors. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the retail sector is heterogeneous and

depends on the combined effect of several characteristics," she said.

She said that the effect of social distancing measures on individual retail businesses depended on whether they were deemed essential, while on one hand, most non-essential retail activities had been shut down; on the other, essential retail businesses often operated in difficult conditions, including labour supply shortages, major disruptions in supply chains and working conditions, and sometimes large spikes in demand for specific items.

She also highlighted some of the way forwards for the sector to consider which were retailers must have a plan that ensures the safety of the employees while also trying to maintain business as usual activities.

Sandeep Kohli, partner, Kohli Brothers, said that coronavirus

had dominated headlines for months now, and the impact it has had on businesses across different sectors had been devastating. He said that the wider impact on the retail sector had been widely discussed across the country and moreover, the ongoing debate around mass unemployment, workforce crunch, rents, and uncertain future for many businesses had worsened the situation. He also shared some of the practices which retailers had to follow in order to get back the business on track and also to serve best to their customers at the same time. Some of them were following all safety measures; ensuring social distancing; promoting contactless retail to promote the footfall; be more purpose-oriented as the customer would not spend much of his/her time due to the fear of catching the virus; easy access and distribution of mask at the shopping centers etc.

Woman killed for dowry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman was killed for dowry, allegedly by her husband and in-laws, in Sarojinagar police station area on Thursday.

After killing the woman, the alleged killers fled the house to evade police action.

The deceased was identified as Heena Bano (28) of Katra Bijanaur locality. She was married to one Irfan in 2018. The deceased's brother, Shah Nawaz, in his complaint alleged that Irfan and his family members used to torture Heena for dowry since her marriage. He said he and his parents tried their best to patch up the differences and also gave gifts as dowry to meet Irfan's demand.

"But they are very greedy and they kept torturing Heena for dowry. We were helpless and the police were not helpful. Irfan and his parents killed Heena and fled the house," he said. Shah Nawaz said he got information about the death of Heena by some of his acquaintances in the locality and when he reached the house the body of Heena was lying there and no one of the family present.

The woman was found hanging at her house on Thursday morning. When the police reached the scene, it found the body lying at the house. Police said the woman committed suicide.

The body was sent for autopsy.

SUICIDE

A class VII girl student was found hanging at her house in Kakori on Thursday. The girl, identified as Swati (12) of Palehda village, was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around her neck.

The family saw her hanging in the morning and informed the police. Investigation is underway.

IIM-L Manifest to witness govt dept collaboration

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The annual fest of the Indian Institute of Management-Lucknow, Manifest Varchasva, to be held online this year, will witness IIM-L collaborating with the state government departments like UP IT and UPSDM and also NHM (National Health Mission).

A member from the core committee of IIM-L Manifest Varchasva said these collaborations would include case competitions where students need to provide solutions to problems based on the working of these departments.

Manifest Varchasva's IIM Lucknow Campus run is a new avatar of the city run which has a rich legacy of

over 10 years. In the pre-Covid times, the run witnessed the participation of people from the city and was held in the city however it will be different this year.

"This year's run will emphasise standing together against COVID-19 for a better future. The run will be organised in the institute itself and will witness the participation of selected students. No other person will be allowed to participate keeping the Covid protocols in mind," he said.

He informed that over 35 events would be held during the event. "All the competitions will be held in online mode. The participants will send their online entries. The final rounds will be held live online. The



Pro-Shows will be held at the end of each day to take the overall experience of the events from the day to the next level," he added. He said the artists for this year would be Bollywood playback singer KK and Vipul Goyal, renowned stand-up comedian, actor. "They will also perform online."

"The Policy Conclave, which is a panel discussion

with people who have an in-depth knowledge of policy-making in the country, will feature Armstrong Pame (IAS officer), Amitabh Thakur (IPS officer) and Karuna Nundy (Supreme Court advocate)," he added.

The Leaders Express will include NR Narayana Murthy, founder of Infosys, Dr KV Subramanian, Chief Economic

Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender
 No.SS/MDMS/Plates & Glass/20/2020/4630 Date: 25.02.2021
 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission cum State Nodal Officer-MDM, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturer/Supplier of Steel Utensil for supply of Stainless Steel Plates and Stainless Steel Glass for Mid Day Meal.
 To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
 The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
 Sd/- Executive Director,
 SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
 Janasanyog /CF/5360/20

CCI slaps fine on FPBAI for anti-competitive practices

Lucknow (PNS): The Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a penalty of Rs 4 lakh on the Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association in India (FPBAI) and its present and past presidents for anti-competitive practices.

The CCI also directed the FPBAI, SC Sethi and Sunil Sachdev to cease and desist from indulging in activities found to be in contraventions of Section 3 of the Competition Act, relating to anti-competitive agreements, in an order delivered last Tuesday.

The case relates to the Good Offices Committee (GOC) set up under the FPBAI, which issued directions to all its members who deal in print journals and e-resources to not give discounts on the publishers' prices to the Indian subscribers, the order said.

As per the informant, the GOC threatened to take coercive actions against those members who refused to comply with its directions by expelling them from the FPBAI. Such practices prevented price competition between vendors, the informant said.

Membership of the FPBAI is an eligibility condition in the advertisements for the supply of books, journals and periodicals

issued by many governmental subscribers while many private suppliers also make it a consideration, according to the informant.

An investigation by the director general, ordered by the commission, found that by restricting discounts, the FPBAI indirectly determined sale prices of books and journals sold by its members in contravention of the law.

Further, the FPBAI indirectly limited and controlled the supply of books and journals by issuing advisories directing members to refrain from participating in procurement advertisements which had conditions not in accord with the conditions expected by the FPBAI.

In its 25-page order, the CCI noted that the advisories from the FPBAI were not merely recommendatory in nature, but rather it coerced its members to abide by issuing notices and seeking explanations for violations.

The regulator slapped the FPBAI with a penalty of Rs 2 lakh while the federation's current president SC Sethi and former president Sunil Sachdev were asked to pay Rs 1 lakh each, to be deposited within 60 days of receipt of the order.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
Roshnabad Branch
 Yadav Chauraha, Roshnabad Village, Lucknow - 226020, Ph: 7565004453
 Email: vjrosh@bankofbaroda.com

Sale notice for immovable properties "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso of 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) 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 below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Assets/s/Dues/Reserve Price/E-Auction date & time, EMD and Bid increase Amount are mentioned below:
Date of E-Auction: 20.03.2021 **Last Date of EMD Submission: 19.03.2021 upto 4.00 PM**

Sl.	Name & Address of the borrower/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price/EMD/Bid increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1.	Borrower : M/s O.S.M. Group Add: 302, 304 3rd floor, Prince Complex, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001, Prop. Mr. Chandrar Shekhar Bhardwaj R/o SS-1407/D-1, Sector D-1, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow-226005 Guarantor: Mr. Ram Bahadur Verma S/o Mr. Jawaia Prasad Verma R/o 570/94/34/KA VIP Road, Service Lane, Pakri ka Pul, Shinye Nagar, Azad Nagar, Alambagh, Lucknow-226005	Equitable Mortgage of Shop No. 302, 304, 3rd floor, Prince Complex, Nawal Kishore Road, Hazratganj, Lucknow (U.P.) Area: 18.122 Sq.Mtr. Bounded By: East: Open Path; West: Office space no. 303; North: Open path; South: Office space no. 301	Rs.19,10,722.00 + interest and other charges (minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice).	20.03.2021 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	Rs. 14,62,000/- (RP) Rs. 1,46,200/- (EMD) Rs. 10,000/- (Bid Increase Amount)	Constructive	18.03.2021 between 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link "E-Auction" provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. www.bankofbaroda.com & www.ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 7565004453
 Date: 26.02.2021; Place Lucknow
 Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

Social media helping senior cops monitor subordinates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Social media has come handy for senior police officers in monitoring their subordinate holding charge of different police stations.

After the Thakurganj case, the Gudamba police arrested a youth who had thrashed a vegetable vendor and upturned his cart on being denied freebies.

The accused was identified as Abhay Chauhan of sector H of Jankipuram. He had purchased vegetables from a vendor on Wednesday from Chaur Number crossing and had thrashed the vendor when he did not allow the accused to go without paying.

The victim was cynical that he would ever get justice as the incident was a common one that vendors face almost every day. But the act of the accused was shot by some commuters and uploaded on social media. The video clip travelled faster than sunlight and reached senior police officials who enquired about it from the officials concerned.

The police swung into action and the cops contacted the vendor who gave a complaint. Later the accused was nabbed.

In the Thakurganj case, the senior police officials took cognisance of a video in which a woman was being beaten up by the persons whom she had accused of harassing her daughter.

The video kept doing rounds and by afternoon it drew several comments on social media. Senior officials intervened immediately and the case was solved.

The Lucknow police commissionerate has set up a social media cell to keep a hawk eye on even minute incidents. "The cell has proved helpful to the police to monitor the cops holding the charges of different police stations. A dedicated team of cops is handling the cell at present," a cop working with the cell said.

According to sources, senior officials find social media as helpful and they keep asking the status and facts related to an incident once it is

uploaded on social media. They say the cops holding the charge of different police stations are however not very happy. "The policemen are apprehensive of being filmed in some video and so they take much precaution while reacting to any query or any incident. The social media is disciplining the cops, in a way," the sources said.

ARRESTED

A stalker was arrested for harassing a girl and threatening to burn her face by throwing acid on her in Hazratganj on Thursday.

The accused was identified as Shikhar Uppal of Sadar Bazaar in Sandila town of HarDOI district.

Women's Commission asked to make women self-reliant and secure

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Continuing the government's thrust on women initiatives, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi on Thursday met the members of Uttar Pradesh Commission for Women and asked them to take all necessary measures on women's welfare and empowerment.

He asked the state Commission for Women to organise various programmes on March 10 to make women more empowered and self-reliant.

It may be mentioned here that the government has already announced a new scheme Mahila Samarthyta Yojana to push the state's women on the path of development.

The scheme has been allocated Rs 100 crore in the budget presented on Monday. The objective of this scheme is to motivate women towards employment and to raise their standard of living through home and cottage industries based on local resources. Under this scheme, the market will also be provided by the government to the women to sell their produce.

According to an official communiqué released here on Thursday, Awasthi held a meeting with a delegation of the State Commission for Women led by its Chairperson Vimla Botham and directed them to make dedicated efforts under the Mission Shakti to ensure more safe and peaceful atmosphere to women, to control crime against women, to extend hundred per cent benefit of government sponsored schemes for women's welfare launched by the government etc.

Awasthi said that the officials of the Health and other government departments must review the working to check whether different schemes run by the government were reaching to the women or not. He said that the Mission Shakti would succeed only when each and every woman felt secure and self-reliant.

He asked the Commission for Women to hold a seminar at its office on March 10 and call successful women entrepreneurs to share the ways and means of their achievement before the invites so that more and more participants were inspired to take their own business and become self-reliant besides giving jobs to many others.

Awasthi further said that to promote women entrepreneurs of the state, general awareness, counselling programmes, exposure visits, seminars, workshops, and training programmes would be organised.

CIMAP-Lucknow launches aroma mission in Assam

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow (PNS): The CSIR Aroma Mission was launched at Majuli island of Assam on Thursday to prevent land erosion and degradation due to floods.

Spokesperson of the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Lucknow, Manoj Semwal, said the river island of Majuli, located in the middle reach of the mighty river Brahmaputra in Assam, was under serious threat as recurring floods and erosion of the banks had reduced the land area drastically by shifting its bank-line, degrading its fertile soil with unproductive sand deposits and degrading the water bodies in the island.

He said in an effort toward the conservation and restoration of the degraded land by promoting cultivation of flood-resilient aromatic crops like vetiver, the CIMAP-Lucknow organised a training-cum-awareness programme at Majuli for selection of progressive farmers for the cultivation and processing of aromatic crops under Aroma Mission Phase-II.

CIMAP Director Dr Prabodh Kumar Trivedi said that Majuli may be converted into an organic cluster of aromatic crops.



"These crops may improve the economic condition of the farmers. Initially, vetiver crops may be planted in flood-affected areas and lemongrass in unirrigated areas of Majuli. Vetiver can prevent soil erosion and it is also helpful in the rehabilitation of metal-polluted soils. Mentha crops will be planted in January-February when the land is vacant after the harvesting of paddy," he said.

Dr Trivedi also distributed the planting material of vetiver and lemongrass to the interested participants.

About 100 progressive farmers of the area, especially the Missing tribe, participated in this launch.

Office of The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, U.P. Jal Nigam, HarDOI

Letter No.-516/विधि-3/07
Date :- 24.02.2021

Short Term E-Tender Notice

Online item rate e-tenders in one bid pattern of Renovation of Laboratory under "Jal Jeevan Mission" Programme of District-HarDOI on turn key basis is hereby invited on behalf of the Chairman U.P. Jal Nigam from the reputed contractors. Tender document shall be available on e-procurement website <http://e-tender.up.nic.in> & <http://in.upscd.gov.in> latest by 08.03.2021 at 17:00 hrs. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online as per schedule given below -

Date for:-

- 1) Uploading Bid document at website : 01.03.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
- 2) Submission of E-tender fee/Earnest money would be deposited by RTGS : 01.03.2021 to 08.03.2021 up to 17:00 hrs.
- 3) Online submission of e-bids : 01.03.2021 to 08.03.2021 up to 17:00 hrs.
- 4) Opening of E-bid : 08.03.2021 at 12:00 hrs.

One more Bike Bot scheme accused held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The sleuths of the Special Task Force (STF) arrested Badri Narayan Tiwari from Manoj Pandey crossing in Gomtinagar on Thursday. The cops said that Tiwari owned a news channel and also manufactured batteries that were used in running bikes owned by Garvit Innovators Promoters Limited (GIPL).

The GIPL was a company owned by Sanjay Bhati, who had cheated 2.6 lakh people by launching a ponzi scheme named Bike Bot. They lured people to invest by promising to double their money within a year.

During interrogation, Badri Narayan Tiwari disclosed that he had met Vijendra Singh Hooda who was one of the owners of GIPL, in NoIDA.

The police said Tiwari had shown interest in the bike bot scheme as a company owned by him also used to manufacture bikes running on batteries. Later, these bikes were also supplied to GIPL.

As per police, GIPL allegedly used to lure glibble investors with Rs 62,000 investment per bike of Tiwari's company.

Under the scheme, the investors were promised a monthly return of Rs 9,765, which included Rs 4,590 as bike rent and Rs 5,175 as profit. This amounted to Rs 1.17 lakh a year, while additional bonuses were announced for those taking three bikes.

However, after getting profits in the schemes the directors, partners and owners of the scheme fled and did not return any share to the investors who later lodged FIRs with the Gautam Buddha Nagar police in 2019. The EOW had taken over the case of GIPL on March 2, 2020, and the ED had also registered a case and attached moveable and immovable assets worth over Rs 103 crore of the company.

So far, as many as 25 persons, including proprietors, owners and directors of the company have been arrested by teams of STF and the Economic Offences Wing of the Uttar Pradesh Police.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड शुद्धि-पर एतद्वारा पत्र सं० 547-वि०सं० ३०(काव) /दिनांक 12.02.2021 द्वारा दिनांक 13.02.2021 को प्रकाशित निविदा सं० 01 वि०सं०(काव)/2020-21 में निम्नलिखित विनू दुई वस फूट गये थे जिनको निम्नानुसार पदा जाये। निम्नलिखित कार्य सम्पदन/सामग्री की आपूर्ति/कार्य हेतु अनुगवी, दस एवं जीएलएसटीडी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से नियमानुसार भाग ले सकते हैं अपरान्त 15.00 बजे तक दो अलग-अलग भागों में मुहरबन्द निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं निविदा उरसी दिन अपरान्त 1500 बजे अघोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता अथवा नामित अधिकारी द्वारा सांकेतिक रूप से उपस्थित निविदाताओं/प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष विपुल संरचना इकाई कर्नाज कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। लिफाफे पर फर्म का नाम, निविदा संख्या, भाग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय एवं खुलने की तिथि स्पष्ट अंकित होनी चाहिये। निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरो, हर धनराशि एक०डी०आर०/सी०डी०आर०/टी०डी०आर०/एच (RTGS/NEFT IFS CODE/PUNB04591100 A/C No 4591000100004067) के माध्यम से भी अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत संरचना इकाई कर्नाज के पक्ष में बचक की जा सकती है तथा निविदा के दूसरे भाग में दरें व शर्तें होगी। धरोहर धनराशि के अभाव में निविदा का दूसरा भाग नहीं खोला जायेगा। अघोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता को सम्पूर्ण निविदा या उसके किसी अंश को बिना कारण बलाये स्वीकार/अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। निष्पत्ति तिथि में अवकाश पड़ने पर सारी प्रक्रिया अगले कार्यदिवस में सम्पन्न होगी। अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत संरचना इकाई कर्नाज धरंका - 557/वि०सं०(क) दि. 25.02.2021 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचावें

SCHOOLSCAN

FAMILY UNITY CONFERENCE

A grand virtual 'Family Unity Conference' was organised by City Montessori School's Rajajipuram Campus II. In his inaugural address, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, who was the chief guest, said that family played a pivotal role in social development and family unity was the axis of social unity. He said everybody needed unity, peace, happiness and prosperity which actually originate from the smallest yet the most important unit of social development, the family, and the dream of unity and peace could be actualised only on the basis of family unity. He said all-round development of a child automatically took place when the family lived happily in an atmosphere of peace and unity. Then the children become the pride of society, he added. Many eminent personalities also expressed their views to make the young generation realise the importance of unity in the family. The prize winners of various competitions held to mark the Family Unity Conference were also felicitated on the occasion. Students from Thailand, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Russia and various states of India took active participation in a series of interesting competitions viz. Le Costume Deguise (fancy dress competition), Waste-O-Mania (model making competition), Lineage (photography competition), Collais (collage making competition) and Musique (singing competition). Students of Vidyabharti Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Jharkhand grabbed the championship trophy while Adarsh Public School, Balinagar, New Delhi won the first runners-up trophy and CMS Rajendra Nagar Campus I won the second runners-up trophy. Earlier, the students of CMS Rajajipuram Campus II virtually presented songs and dances based upon the theme of unity, peace and love. Speaking on this occasion, CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi said that since the inception of CMS, was preparing the young generation to face the challenges of the future besides imparting social, moral and spiritual education to them. CMS president and managing director, Prof Geeta Gandhi Kingdon said that the foundation of the world family could only be laid by connecting children with family, parents and teachers.

Can't trust Pak: LoC residents



MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Despite facing the brunt of heavy shelling along the Line of Control in Poonch and Rajouri sectors large number of border residents living in the direct line of firing on Thursday reacted cautiously to the joint statement by the India and Pakistan army to strictly observe all agreements, understandings and ceasefire along the Line of Control and all other sectors with effect from midnight 24/25 Feb 2021.

"We have been repeatedly targeted by the roaring Pak guns in the forward areas. We want to live in peace and cultivate our fields. But due to heightened tension in the region we were not able to do so for a long time. Students in the region suffered the most due to prolonged suspension of classes due to repeated incidents of cross LoC firing, Mohd Imtiaz of village Shahpur in Poonch said.

A local panch in the area claimed, we cannot trust Pakistan so easily. It's in the habit of pushing infiltrators via this route. Our parents suffered due to regular shelling. Now our generation is also facing the same. We regularly pray and want peace to prevail. The reaction of border residents in the Nowshera area of Rajouri was no different. Most of the villagers engaged in the farming activity said, we always want peace to prevail and lead peaceful lives without facing the brunt of border firing. We have seen armies standing eyeball to eyeball and now we want to see our next generation to live in peace and focus on their careers.

Meanwhile, political parties in Jammu and Kashmir welcomed the agreement between armies of India and Pakistan on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors.

"We welcome it and hope that the statement will be followed in letter & spirit. JKNC has always been a strong supporter of the ceasefire along the LoC," the party said in a statement. "This will allow people living along the LoC & IB (International Border) to go about their normal lives with minimal disruption & risk," the party said.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti in a tweet welcomed the ceasefire announcement and said dialogue was the only way forward.

"A big & welcome development that India & Pakistan have agreed to a ceasefire along the LoC. Dialogue is the only way forward if both countries want to stop the unending cycle of violence & bloodshed across the borders and J&K," Mehbooba said.

In a statement, Congress party said that it always favoured any initiatives aimed at restoration of peace on the borders and LOC and ensuring safety of our residents and jawans in Jammu and Kashmir but questioned whether the infiltration and cross border terrorism has been stopped by Pakistan. Reacting to the latest developments, JKPC Chief G A Mir Thursday questioned the Modi government for its flip flop policy as it had been stating that the talks and terrorism / cross border firing can't go together.

BJP had been always saying that the no talks are possible with Pakistan till it stops cross border terrorism and infiltration. It had been targeting the previous UPA government for track two diplomacy and dialogue on the ground that no talks should be held till Pakistan stops cross border Terrorism and firing. It always advocated tough posturing with Pakistan by claiming that you need a 56" chest to deal with Pakistan.

लखनऊ नगर निगम
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संख्या : 182/मु.अ./2020-21 दिनांक : 24.02.2021

अति-अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

समस्त पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों को निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु 10.03.2021 को मोहरबन्द निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा पत्र 09.03.2021 तक अपरान्त 2 बजे तक कार्यालय दिवस व अवधि में फार्म कोपर कार्यालय के अतिरिक्त, मुख्य अभियन्ता एवं वरिष्ठ विल लेखाधिकारी कार्यालय से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं या नगर निगम की वेबसाइट upgov.nic.in से डाउन लोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा दिनांक 10.03.2021 को अपरान्त तीन बजे तक जिलाधिकारी महोदय के कार्यालय एवं मण्डलायुक्त लखनऊ के कार्यालय कक्ष में एवं मुख्य अभियन्ता के कार्यालय कक्ष में रखे निविदा बाक्स में डाली जा सकती है। प्राप्त निविदाओं को 10.03.2021 को अपरान्त 4 बजे मुख्य अभियन्ता के समक्ष खोला जायेगा। यदि निविदा तिथि को अवकाश होता है तो निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस को डाली एवं खोली जायेगी। किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार एवं अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सक्षम अधिकारी में निहित होगा। घेव कार्य हेतु निविदादाता को पास स्वयं का कम्प्यूटराइज्ड हार्ड मिक्स प्लान्ट व ब्राइवेटेड रोलर होना आवश्यक है।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	आगणन धनराशि (रु० में)	जमानत धनराशि (रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	12% GST	कुल निविदा मूल्य
1	हरदीनाराय नगर वार्ड के अनर्गत राजाजीपुरम में सरस्वती शिशु मन्दिर के सामने प्रभा वाटिका में पाथवे का निर्माण कार्य।	801769.00	80177	2 माह	802	96	898
2	हरदीनाराय नगर वार्ड के अनर्गत राजाजीपुरम में सरस्वती शिशु मन्दिर के सामने प्रभा वाटिका में सौन्दर्यकरण के साथ-साथ टैकए झुलेवेन्च का कार्य।	449653.00	44965	2 माह	450	54	504
3	अम्बेडकर नगर वार्ड के अनर्गत गढ़ी कनौरा में लक्ष्मी नारायण गुप्ता (अशोक कुमार) के घर के पास एक समरसेविल निर्माण कार्य।	112962.00	11296	2 माह	113	14	127
4	अम्बेडकर नगर वार्ड के अनर्गत विजय खेड़ा में राखल तिवारी के घर के सामने एक नग समरसेविल निर्माण कार्य।	112962.00	11296	2 माह	113	14	127
5	अम्बेडकर नगर वार्ड के अनर्गत मो० शिव क्लार नगर में लक्ष्मी नारायण गुप्ता के घर के सामने नाली की दीवाल एवं सीसी द्वारा सुधार कार्य।	267672.00	26767	2 माह	268	32	300
6	ऐशबाग वार्ड के अनर्गत सरस्वती छात्रावास से लव नर्सिंग होम तक नाली व पेवर द्वारा सड़क सुधार कार्य।	442055.00	44206	2 माह	442	53	495
7	ऐशबाग वार्ड के अनर्गत कल्लू के अखाड़े के पास कुर्दूस की दुकान से अंग्रजी दवा की दुकान होते हुए सत्तार के मकान तक नाली मरम्मत व सीसी द्वारा गली का निर्माण कार्य।	440942.00	44094	2 माह	452	54	494
8	तिलक नगर/कुण्डरी रकाबगंज वार्ड के अनर्गत म०न० 255/254 से म०न० 255/268 तक गली का सीसी द्वारा सुधार कार्य।	194726.00	19473	2 माह	195	23	218
9	तिलक नगर/कुण्डरी रकाबगंज वार्ड के अनर्गत 155/32 लाहिर हूँसन के मकान से सुमन सदन होते हुए बाजपेई मकान तक सीसी व नाली का कार्य।	246554.00	24655	2 माह	247	30	276
10	तिलक नगर/कुण्डरी रकाबगंज वार्ड के अनर्गत विधिन् चार स्थानों पर समरसेविल का कार्य। 1-शिव मन्दिर देवी मन्दिर के पास, 2-तिलक नगर वार्ड, 3- नरेश प्रजापति के घर के बाहर, ऐशबाग वार्ड के बाहर	451849.00	45185	2 माह	452	54	506
11	तिलक नगर/कुण्डरी रकाबगंज वार्ड के अनर्गत खजूआ में रमेश जायसवाल के घर के पास एक समरसेविल लगाने का कार्य।	112962.00	11296	2 माह	113	14	127
12	मोतीलाल नेहरू नगर/चन्द्रभानु गुप्ता नगर वार्ड के अनर्गत मवैया शिवा यादव के म०न० 281/94 मिल रोड के सामने समरसेविल पम्प लगाने का कार्य।	88398.00	8840	2 माह	88	11	99
13	मोतीलाल नेहरू नगर/ चन्द्रभानु गुप्ता नगर वार्ड के अनर्गत मवैया में निकट सिंधी स्कूल के पास समरसेविल पम्प लगाने का कार्य।	88398.00	8840	2 माह	88	11	99
14	मोतीलाल नेहरू नगर/चन्द्रभानु गुप्ता नगर वार्ड के अनर्गत चारबाग सब्जी मण्डी में चौथे की कोठी के पास जनता डेवरी पर समरसेविल पम्प लगाने का कार्य।	88398.00	8840	2 माह	88	11	99
15	कुर्वर ज्योति प्रसाद वार्ड के अनर्गत विचय द्विवेदी के मकान से बाबूलाल गुप्ता के मकान तक नाली व इण्टरलॉकिंग का सुधार कार्य।	797697.00	79770	2 माह	798	96	893
16	कुर्वर ज्योति प्रसाद वार्ड के अनर्गत मैकूल के मकान से राजेन्द्र कुमार के मकान तक नाली व इण्टरलॉकिंग का कार्य।	868464.00	86846	2 माह	868	104	973
17	कुर्वर ज्योति प्रसाद वार्ड के अनर्गत मो० मैदी बेग खेड़ा में (छठ पूजा स्थल) पार्क हेतु बाउण्ड्रीवाल का कार्य।	629656.00	62966	2 माह	630	76	705
18	लेबर कालोनी वार्ड के अनर्गत म०न० सी-1443 के सामने सड़क एवं नाली का कार्य।	789687.00	78969	2 माह	790	95	884
19	राजाजीपुरम वार्ड के अनर्गत म०न० डी-94 से डी-154 तथा पार्क के तीन तरफ सड़क व नाली का कार्य।	442392.00	44239	2 माह	442	53	495
20	यादियागंज/नेताजी सुभाष वार्ड के अनर्गत बाबूजी टोला में तुलसी पार्क का निर्माण कार्य।	869717.00	86972	2 माह	870	104	974
21	यादियागंज/नेताजी सुभाष वार्ड के अनर्गत विधिन् स्थानों पर समरसेविल पम्प स्थापना कार्य।	677772.00	67777	2 माह	678	81	759

शर्तें :- 1.15 प्रतिशत से अधिक निम्न निविदाओं को स्वतः निरस्त माना जायेगा। 2.15 प्रतिशत कम की निविदा हेतु अतिरिक्त जमानत धनराशि (Extra Performance Guarantee) जमा करनी होगी। 3.10 प्रतिशत निम्न निविदा वाले जाने पर 0.50 प्रतिशत प्रति 1 प्रतिशत की दर से तथा 10 प्रतिशत से निम्न निविदा डाले जाने पर 1.00 प्रतिशत की दर से सिस्कोरिटी/परफरमेंस गारंटी ली जायेगी। 4.शासनादेश श सं० 962/नै-9-2017/81ज/17 दिनांक 17.10.2017 के अनुसार जीएलएसटीडी का भुगतान फर्म द्वारा वास्तविक वाउचर प्रस्तुत करने के उपरान्त प्रतिपूर्ति की जायेगी। 5.शासनादेश संख्या-715/ नै-5-2018-120 बजट/2013, दिनांक 17 मार्च 2018 के अनुसार 'नगरीय सड़क सुधार योजना' अन्तर्गत सीमेण्ट कंक्रीट (सीपीसी) की सड़क पर 5 बर्षों तक रख-रखाव किये जाने की जिम्मेदारी सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार की होगी। बिटुमिन रोड 05 वर्षों तक के रख-रखाव हेतु आगणन में अतिरिक्त धनराशि सम्मिलित की जाय। परियोजना लागत की 5 प्रतिशत धनराशि परफरमेंस गारंटी के रूप में 5 वर्षों तक के उपरान्त सड़कों के सम्पत्ति रख-रखाव होने के दशा में भुगतान सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार को किया जाय" के अनुसार अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करना होगा। 6. आवेक निविदादाता को शासनादेश सं०-3890/नै-5-19-14स/2019 दिनांक 20 सितम्बर 2019 का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करना होगा।

मुख्य अभियन्ता



Ex-CM Akhilesh Yadav being welcomed by SP workers at LBSI airport in Varanasi on Thursday

Pioneer

Akhilesh flays BJP govt for fuel price hike

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

President of Samajwadi Party (SP) and former Chief Minister (CM) Akhilesh Yadav strongly criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government for sharp hike in prices of petroleum products. 'In the manner, the prices of petrol and diesel have increased in recent times, the government had collected Rs 2.5 lakh crore much earlier,' he said while talking to the presspersons in informal chat at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport,

Babatpur here on Thursday. Yadav came here en route to his visit to adjoining Jaunpur district to meet the bereaved families of four-time MLA from Machilishahar Jwala Yadav and ex-MLA from Sadar Haji Afzal apart from the relatives of Kishan Yadav, allegedly died in the police custody. He is on his three days tour to this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) during which he has also planned to visit Mirzapur and other areas in view to strengthen the party's organisational structure on the eve of forth-

coming assembly election next year. Making further attacks on the government, the SP chief said that before coming to power, the BJP had made several promises but now it has maintained silence why the river Ganga is still dirty and when the cities would be made smart. 'How long the Banarasi would wait to see a clean river Varuna,' he questioned. When he was the CM, 'Varuna Corridor' was one of his 'dream projects' where the work has virtually halted since he lost

power in the state. Speaking on inflation, he said that everyone is worried in the manner poverty has increased in the entire state, along with unemployment. 'The government should tell how long the free vaccines would be given to the poor,' he asked. When Akhilesh landed at the airport, a good number of party leaders and others reached there to accord him welcome. The security forces present there had a tough time to control the enthusiastic party workers.

Vimlesh Yadav elected MGKVP students' union president

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha (SCS) candidate Vimlesh Yadav was elected as the new president of the student's union of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKVP) but two other important posts of vice-president and general secretary were won by the candidates of National Students Union of India (NSUI) Sandeep Pal and Prafull Pandey respectively. The SCS candidate Ashish Goswami was elected as the new library secretary. Earlier, the voting passed off peacefully and 47.38 per cent voters exercised their franchises. The SCS, student wing of Samajwadi Party (SP), candidate of the prestigious post of president Vimlesh Yadav bagged 1,859 votes and defeated his nearest rival Alok Ranjan of NSUI, student wing of All India Congress Committee (AICC) Alok Ranjan by a comfortable margin of 635 votes. Alok got 1224 votes. On the post of vice-president, the NSUI candidate Sandeep Pal secured 2,467 votes and defeated his nearest



Victorious candidates of MGKVP Students Union in Varanasi on Thursday

rival Sanjay Kumar Yadav of SCS by a huge margin of 1,269 votes. Sanjay has to satisfy with 1,198 votes. The NSUI candidate of other prestigious post of general secretary Prafull Pandey bagged 2,360 votes and defeated the candidate of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), student wing of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Abhay Shakti Singh by a comfortable margin of 1,559 votes. Abhay got 801 votes. On the post of library secretary, the SCS candidate Ashish Goswami secured a total of 2,767 votes and defeated ABVP candidate Ankit Verma with a

huge margin of 1,494 votes. Ankit managed to get 1,273 votes. Besides, Gautam Sharma, Deepak Patel, Satendra Kumar, Ishwar Chandra Patel and Vishal Kannoujia secured 1,034, 152, 125, 107 and 225 votes and were elected as the representative of humanitarian faculty, education faculty, law faculty, social work faculty and science & technology faculty respectively. Milan Modanwal and Ritesh Sonkar were elected unopposed as the representative of social science faculty and faculty of commerce & management respectively. The newly elected office-bearers of the student's union

took the oath of post and secrecy in a brief swearing-in ceremony at humanitarian faculty and they were also handed over the certificate of their election. The election officer Prof KS Jaiswal announced the results of the election. Earlier, the voting took place peacefully amidst tight security arrangements. The students were allowed to enter the varsity premises only after showing the identity cards. As many as 21 polling booths including from 1 to 13 for the boys and from 14 to 23 for the girls, were made in the premises of humanitarian faculty for the smooth voting. The voting began at 9 am and continued till 3 pm. In the beginning, the voting was slow but after 11 am, the students started turning up the polling booths in large numbers. Out of total 9,062 voters, as many as 4,294 electorates (47.38%) including 2,866 boys and 1,428 girls used their franchises. The candidates made their last ditch efforts to woo the students and they did not hesitate even in bowing down to their feet to get their favour.

Big campaign to clean Ganga on March 7

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A massive campaign will be launched to clean the river Ganga under the leadership of District Ganga Committee on March 7 in which all the ghats between Sant Ravidas Park and Rajghat will be made dirt free. This decision was taken at a meeting of the committee held under the chairmanship of District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma here on Wednesday. One volunteer will be deployed on every 5 metres area and in all a total of 1,600 volunteers will work together for cleaning the stretch of eight kilometres. For the success of campaign, the participation of all citizens, including civil servants, boatmen, domes, aarti committees, government

departments, NGOs, Civil Defence volunteers, Ganga Praharis, Ganga Mitras and personnel of NDRF, SDRF, Task Force etc would be ensured. Greater publicity will be made for maximum participation of people. Moving forward as a mass movement, a continuous campaign will be organised every month to ensure the cleanliness of both the rivers Varuna and Assi along with Ganga in future. Meanwhile, a district level committee meeting of Food Safety and Drug Administration department was also held. Presiding over the meeting the DM reviewed the enforcement action taken by the department. He directed expeditious

filing of legal action and effective decision of the filed claims based on the reports received after testing the samples collected during the enforcement proceedings. Under the 'Eat Healthy Abhiyan' to be run in the city, the department has to list four categories, viz hotels / lodges, restaurants, chaats and other prepared food shops including carts and temporary stalls by March 10. The DM instructed to train the food workers of food units to follow the norms as per Schedule 4 of Indian Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 within 30 days. The Schedule 4 introduces the concept of FSMS based on implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Hygiene

Practices (GHP) by food businesses. In training, the food traders should be asked to keep the walls, doors, floors etc clean, use covered dustbins, maintain raw materials and hygiene properly apart from providing them information about use of high quality ingredients in food item manufacturing and their quality checks. After the training, food business workers will be provided seven days time for improvement. Later by April 10, the establishments of food traders would be inspected and certified for hygiene rating and if any of them failed to follow the norms, action would be taken against the same.

NCR GM reviews safety measures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

General Manager NCR and former Chief Minister Vinay Kumar Tripathi reviewed status of safety, asset reliability, punctuality, loading, revenue and expenditure control measures over North Central Railway. In this meeting conducted through video conference AGM NCR Ranjan Yadav, concerned PHODs, DRMs from Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra and other officials from Headquarters and Divisions participated. During safety review, action to be taken in case of boom breakage at level crossings was discussed. GM Tripathi emphasised that each case of boom breakage must be thoroughly analysed and taken to logical conclusion to curb

these incidences. Besides regular awareness campaigns for road users, North Central Railway has also equipped its busy level crossing gates with secondary sliding booms to minimise detentions in case of primary boom breakage. During the ongoing financial year 39 gates have been equipped with sliding booms. Timely completion of mobility improvement works has been a key focus area on North Central Railway. Under the leadership of GM VK Tripathi and guidance of PCSTE Arun Kumar and DRM Prayagraj Mohit Chandra, project unit of NCR and Prayagraj division have commissioned automatic signalling in 7.5 Km section between Kanspur Gugauli-Malwan stations in Prayagraj Division. CSTE

Project Bholendra Singh informed that so far automatic signaling in six block sections totaling 39 kms has been commissioned in this financial year and efforts are on to commission automatic signaling in complete Kanpur-Fatehpur section by March 2021. Unreserved trains: Railway administration has decided to run unreserved special trains which were cancelled earlier to contain the spread COVID-19 pandemic. North Central Railway will be running, Train no.-04102/04101 Kanpur Central-Prayagraj Sangam unreserved special express trains (Daily), Train no.-04110/04109 Kanpur-Chitrakutdham Karvi unreserved special express trains (Daily), Train no.-04117/04118 Khajuraho-Lalitpur unreserved

special express trains (Daily), Train no.-04171/04172 Mathura-Alwar unreserved special express trains (Daily) from February 26. In wake of the running of these unreserved special trains railway administration has decided to restore the services of UTS ticket booking at all related en-route stations where stoppages of these trains have been scheduled. Apart from it, the catering units which were closed due to unavailability of trains on few stations will also start operating with the restoration of trains in graded manner. Railway authorities have issued an appeal to the passengers to follow the Covid guidelines and cooperate with the railwaymen in implementing Covid protocols.

Schools ask guardians to ensure protection of wards from Covid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Schools and colleges have issued an appeal to the guardians of the students to ensure protection of their wards from Covid. The awareness of the guardians will act as a shield for their wards. It is noticed that the Corona positive students are asymptomatic, so it is difficult to differentiate between the Corona positive and negative students. The guardians have to play a pivotal role to check the spread of Corona.

Corona was well under control in the state, especially in Prayagraj, and it impelled the government to open schools and colleges with certain guidelines. Students who had been closed in their houses for almost one year, are happy, but they must understand that Corona was still there and they would have to take extra precautions to protect themselves. It has been witnessed that the number of cases are swelling with the opening of

cinema halls and educational institutions besides malls. It is but natural that the guardians of the students will be worried because immune system of children is not that strong as compared to the young men. A report of All India Institute of Medical Sciences also says that children below 12 years often do not show any symptom of Corona even though they are positive. Children do not maintain social distancing in schools, and during their transportation. Schools are adhering to

the guidelines, but the guardians should also be alert. As per the guidelines only one student should sit on one seat of the school trolley, or bus. Students should be given sanitiser with an instruction to use the same frequently. They should wear mask while stepping out and should use it during school time, and should not touch unnecessary things. They should use sanitiser before touching their nose or eyes, the schools have told the guardians.

Building of Asad demolished

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) on Thursday razed to earth a palatial building of Asad, a close associate of mafia don Atique Ahmed in Kareli area. During the demolition process a big portion of the building collapsed, but fortunately nothing untoward happened there. Under 'Operation Mafia' launched by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath the PDA has so far demolished dozens of buildings of the big criminals, gangsters, and their associates. On Thursday the PDA officials reached 60 feet road in Kareli with JCB machines and heavy police force to pull down the huge building of Asad. An

SDM was also there. The house owner was allowed to take out his belongings, and then the JCB machines were pressed to demolish the building which had been raised illegally without an approved blue print of the layout. Asad had been looking after the business of Atique Ahmed. ADVOCATES BOYCOTT WORK: Advocates boycotted judicial work on Thursday here at the Allahabad High Court to oppose the Education Tribunal Bill, saying that it was passed in the upper house of UP with unfair means. The strike will continue on Friday also, decided the High Court Bar Association on Thursday. LT GEN KLER VISITS

MILITARY STATION: Lt Gen Alok Kler, PVSM, VSM, Army Commander, South Western (Sapta Shakti Command) visited Prayagraj Military Station from February 21 to 25, 2021 to review the operational preparedness of Red Eagle Division. The Army Commander interacted with Maj Gen Anupinder Bevi, VSM, GOC Red Eagle Division and complimented the formation for its professionalism. He exhorted all ranks to continue to work with zeal and enthusiasm. The Army Commander also felicitated selected individuals for distinguished service and devotion to duty. FIRE BREAKS OUT IN HOUSE: A mysterious fire broke out in a house in the busy

market of Kothaparcha on Thursday morning reducing properties worth lakhs of rupees to ashes. The house owner Anand Sharma (4 A/5 Kothaparcha) left the house in the morning with his wife. It was around 9.30 am when the neighbours called him on phone in informed that thick smokes were oozing out from his house. He rushed back and entered the house to remove LPG cylinders from the kitchen, which he did successfully, but the flames had reduced all his belongings to ashes. Fire tenders doused the fire and the LPG cylinders were cooled down to void any further disaster. Most probably electric short circuit was behind this fire accident.

Hundreds get 2nd Covid vaccine shot

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Hundreds of doctors and health workers who had received their first vaccines last month vaccinated for second shots on Thursday to complete the course of two doses. Besides, hundreds of frontline workers, who failed to turn-out on the vaccination days earlier, were also vaccinated in 48 sessions at 34 centres. The process of vaccination would continue on Friday when 3,087 health workers would receive vaccines in 40 sessions at 29 centres. During the vaccination process, several senior officers

of district administration and Health department inspected some of the centres and despite all the repeated appeals, the vaccination percentage has yet not received very enthusiastic response in the district. Meanwhile, the preparations are also going on for the vaccination of 60 plus and above 45 with comorbidities from March 1. During the vaccination, enthusiasm was seen at some rural and urban centres but the response was very poor at a few centres as it was seen on all the previous vaccination days. It was the 12th day since the beginning of the

process on January 16 last. FOUR TEST COVID-19 POSITIVE: Four more persons have tested COVID-19 positive, increasing the tally of confirmed cases to 21,989 by Thursday evening. With no COVID-19 death being reported in the last 24 hours, the death toll remains at 377. As no more COVID-19 patient has been cured in home isolation, the number of COVID-19 patients recovered in the district so far remains at 21,572 including 18,597 in home isolation and 2,975 in Covid hospitals. As present 40 active cases

are under treatment in the district. The recovery rate in the district is 98.10 per cent and the mortality rate 1.71 per cent. Meanwhile, mass / group corona antigen tests continued and all the 182 tests were found negative at SSPG Hospital Kabirchaura apart from 29 at CHC Shivpur, 75 at Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur, 97 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar and 100 at SSH BHU. Along with this, samples of 179 from SSPG, 70 from Vivekanand Hospital and 94 from SSH BHU have been sent for RTPCR investigation.

BHU professor brings laurels

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A professor working in Gynecology Department of Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has brought laurels to the city as Anjali Rani has been awarded the title of Mrs Goodness Ambassador in the VPR Mrs India 2021 competition held at the all-India level recently. As many as 41 contestants from across the country took part in this competition held in Ahmedabad (Gujarat). This competition, organised for married women, aims to encourage their contribution in various roles, so that they can move forward to fulfill their dreams and become part of the campaign to bring positive change in the society. Prof Anjali Rani said that she participated in this competition so that she can spread aware-



Prof Anjali Rani of IMS BHU who won Mrs Goodness Ambassador title at Mrs India 2021

ness about the problems faced by women during pregnancy and maternal mortality rate. GST REMOVAL FROM FARM MACHINERY DEMANDED: A meeting of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturing Association (AMMA) India was held at its Kabirchaura office here on Thursday in which the participants, while lauding the efforts of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for providing the necessary facilities including crop insurance given to farmers in the UP Budget, they demanded withdrawal of Goods and Service Tax (GST) from all types of agricultural machinery along with hand and power operated grazing machines. State vice-president of AMMA India and Kashi unit



Samajwadi Party members staging a dharna-cum-demonstration to protest fuel price hike on Thursday

Pioneer

SP workers protest against petro price hike

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of Samajwadi Party members came out on road carrying huge poster of Petroleum Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, at Ghantaghar Crossing and later staged an angry demonstration to protest the colossal and unprecedented hike in fossil fuel and LPG prices which had broken all past records of price hike. The members shouted anti-government slogans and demanded a roll back of prices and warned that in case they remained apathetic then they would give further momentum to this movement. Addressing the gathering the city president, Dr Imran

said the fuel price hike was in fact audaciously being done at the behest of the Central Government.

He said what is very shameful that when the global prices of crude had crashed then pushing the price of fuel to around ₹100 can be termed as 'daylight loot'. He said the PM had lured the voters by offering them dreams of 'Achehe Din' but today on account of the quixotic policies of the BJP government the people of the country were being crushed and were suffering in silence on account of the arm-twisting and brow-beating strategies.

He reminded that at a point of time when the BJP was

in Opposition it used to raise a hue and cry over the minor price rise in fuel and LPG now when it had shot to the zenith it was totally insensitive to the common man's problem. He said it was sheer hypocrisy that the government on the one hand screamed of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' but on the other it was misleading and beguiling the masses.

He said the price hike of fuel always had an all round effect on commodities and today the price of each and every object has skyrocketed. He said the worst hit were the middle class and the poor section who were unable to meet a square meal for their families.

He said it had been proved beyond doubt that whenever the BJP was the helm of affairs it had brought in drastic inflation to fill their coffers and benefit capitalists.

He demanded roll back of the price hike. He said the BJP was stretching the patience of the common man too much and it would be highly damaging in the times to come. Prominent who took part in the dharna were MLA Irfan Solanki, Abhishek Gupta, Narendra Singh Pintu, Tilla Jaiswal, Saurabh Jain, Kulwant Singh Gill, Noori Shaikat, Shaheen Fatima, Ambar Trivedi, Asif Kadri, Pinky Yadav, Anil Chaubey and many more.

Police to use drone cameras to trap criminals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The city police are all set to use LED mounted high-tech drone cameras to trap criminals, especially during night hours. Superintendent of Police (West) Dr Anil Kumar said one such camera had been received on Tuesday.

This will help police in zeroing in on the criminals particularly during night hours, he added.

The advanced drone camera arrived at the Reserve Police Lines would soon be added to the surveillance fleet of Kanpur police.

He said 'we will start using an advanced version of LED mounted high-tech drones for surveillance soon and will get more gadgets in near future. We had already used drone cameras during lockdown to nab those who were not following COVID-19 protocol. This night vision drone camera will be able to capture a picture from a distance of nearly 10m in the air.'

A mock drill would soon be conducted to train the policemen, the official said and added dragon light, torch, search lights and vehicle headlights used by the police during night hours alert criminals from a distance. And taking advantage of darkness, they often flee. The move aimed at preventing recurrence of Bikru type of incident. Therefore, a decision had been taken to upgrade the surveillance system of the district police which needs to be better than the networking system of the anti-social elements, said the official.

Foot march conducted

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

In order to maintain law and order and to instil confidence among people a foot march was conducted by in the district on Wednesday. In the city the march was led by Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Kumar Singh and was accompanied by ASP (City) Sanjay Kumar. It started from Sankatmochan and passed via Tarkapur, Ramaipatti and other local-



SP Ajay Kumar Singh and ASP City Sanjay Kumar during the foot march on Wednesday

ities of the city. During the march the police checked the suspects, vehicles, interacted with public and took a feedback. On the occasion an appeal made to people to maintain peace. Station House Officer (SHO) City Kotwali, Ravindra Yadav, incharge Vasliganj police outpost Ravi Kant Mishra and heavy police force was present during the march.

DM visits polyhouse

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

In order to inspect works carried out by Horticulture department District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar visited the polyhouse built at Nuaanv village under City block on Wednesday. During his visit the DM interacted with a farmer who said that he was earning ₹3-4 lakh per annum through farming of melon and cucumber in 2,000 square metre area poly-



DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar inspecting the polyhouse in Nuaanv village under block City in Mirzapur on Wednesday

house. Besides another farmer, Gyan Prakash Dubey, told the DM that he had built the polyhouse in 2019. He said with the support of expert of Horticulture department he had planted banana tissues and dragon fruits and was earning ₹6-7 lakh per annum and added that he had saved water through the use of sprinkler. Horticulture officer Meva Lal told the DM that

the polyhouses had been constructed in the district in the 20,000 square metre area and farmers were earning more through cultivation of dragon fruits.

PROGRAMME ORGANISED: Under the campaigns 'Mission Shakti' and 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' a 'Hak Ki Baat Jiladhikari Ke Saath' programme was organised at Collectorate on Wednesday. Under it the girl students who had come from the different schools wanted to know from DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar about the initiatives taken by the government for eradicating social evils like child marriages, sex-related violence, dowry etc. Responding to the girls the DM said that though laws already had been made to safeguard the rights of women but awareness campaign was felt necessary to instil self-confidence among women and make them self-reliant. Enumerating the programmes related to women the DM said that One Stop Centre, women helplines etc were the facilities under which instant help was available. On the issue of the dowry the DM expressed anguish over the mentality of the society under which double standard was being adopted. While referring to child marriage the DM said it was already illegal as per law. He concluded his address by saying that awareness programmes were being organised in order to make women aware about the laws and their rights. The programme was conducted by probation officer G Dubey and was attended by principals of different schools, members of NGOs and the officials concerned.

Govt gears up for safety of women, girls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar, while addressing a meeting at his camp office on Thursday said government had geared up for the safety of women and girls. He said this objective will be accomplished with the cooperation of Women and Child Development and the Department of Home Affairs. He said the ambitious scheme of the Central Government 'Safe City' will be operated in another 13 districts of the of the state including Kanpur and Lucknow.

He said the purpose of Safe City was to ensure that all public places were safe for women and girls. He said it also aimed at enabling women and girls to boldly stand up to all occasions beyond the threat of gender based violence and harassment.

He said for this purpose, department of police, municipal transport, urban local bodies and women's welfare department will work jointly.

Shekhar said an integrated Smart Control Room will be set up at district level by the police department and will be connected to service like Dial 112 and 1090.

He said CCTV and drones will monitor at various locations of the city. He said the pink booth and pink police post will be set up for women and patrolling will be carried out by women policemen driving pink SUVs and pink two-wheelers. He said a help desk will also be established in each police station.

He said apart from this pink toilets will be set up by the Kanpur Nagar Nigam and such sites will be selected where movement of women was more. He said if there was no road light or poor illumination proper arrangements will be made for lighting up such dark

spots. He said CCTV cameras and panic buttons will be installed in public buses. He added that bus and SUVs will also be run for the movement of women personnel and Asha Jyoti Centres and women's shelter homes will be made more effective and equipped with all facilities.

Others who took part in the meeting were Deputy Chairman, Kanpur Development Authority, Municipal Commissioner, Additional District Magistrate, Police Superintendent, West, Deputy Director Women Welfare and District Probation Officer etc.

Celebrations at Dharmnath Swami Temple concludes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The three-day celebrations at Shri Dharmnath Swami Temple belonging to the Svetambar Jains, also known as the 'Kaanch Ka Mandir' (Jain Glass Temple), organised in honour of its 150th foundation day were concluded on Thursday.

Initially built out of stone, this temple was transformed by Lala Raghunath Bhandari with colourful glasses and meenakari work which has turned it into a major international tourist attraction. People visit the temple to participate in prayers and treat themselves with exquisite artworks. The Jain Glass Temple celebrated 150 years of its completion in February.

A three-day festival which concluded on Thursday was hosted to celebrate this historic occasion. '18 Abhishek Pujan', a temple purification ceremony in the Jain religion where 18 urns of different herbs and holy water were used and a religious music ceremony was conducted on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, a historical tour of the Shri Siddha Chakra Pujan Temple and aarti ceremony with 108 earthen lamps was organised. Thursday's list of festivities included Sattarbhadi Puja and Dhawja Mahotsava, traditional ceremonies conducted to pay obeisance to the Jain Tirthankars.

Among the several religious relics of the Jain religion that find a home at this temple, is the idol of Dharmanath Swamiji, the 15th Jain Tirthankar and Shri Suparshvanatha Swamiji, the 7th Jain Tirthankar. The garden located in the centre of the temple gives it an aura of serenity and calm.

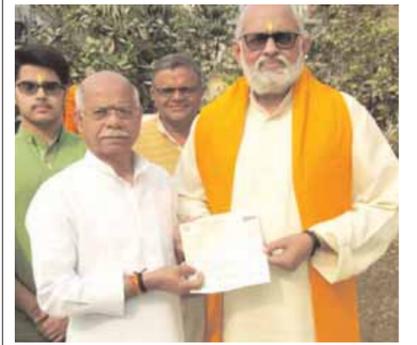
The temple walls are ornamented with a glass display of the visuals of Bihar's Sammed Shikarji Teerth Kshetra where 20 out of 24 Jain Tirthankars attained nirvana in Iranian and Rajasthani style of artistic creativity.

'If art and beauty arouse peacefulness within you, then Jain Glass Temple is the place you should definitely visit. A haven for devotees of all religions, the tranquillity of this place will help you in unlocking higher stages of meditation', said a devotee Rahul.

One caught

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER), makes continuous efforts to provide security to passengers. In the same sequence, the staff of RPF Crime Intelligence Branch (CIB), Gorakhpur area, caught one person along with 11 e-tickets from a shop recently against whom action was taken under the Railways Act and a case was registered in this connection. Besides the staff of RRF post, Gorakhpur, found a mentally retarded girl aged 15 years in an abandoned condition on platform No 9 of Gorakhpur Junction railway station recently. After questioning, the girl was handed over to Child Line, Gorakhpur, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. An earlier report said that the escort team of RPF found one purse in an unclaimed condition from train number -02091 recently. It was handed over to the passenger concerned by RPF Kathgodam. On the other hand, the RPF, Kannauj, found two bags in an unclaimed condition on a platform of Kannauj station. It was later handed over to the passenger concerned. Besides a 13-year-old boy was found in an unclaimed condition in train No 09159. After questioning, he was handed over to Child Line, Ghazipur. Besides the RPF post, Nakha Jungle, caught one person from the route going to Basti from Banshi Chauraha along with one illegal e-ticket recently.



Rajya Sabha MP Shiv Pratap Shukla receiving a cheque of ₹1,11,111 from social worker Radheshyam Upadhyay in Gorakhpur on Wednesday evening for the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya

Youth's body found

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The body of an unidentified youth was found lying on the railway track near Gaipura railway station on Wednesday. GRP Vindhyachal took the body into custody for completing the legal formalities and was trying to ascertain the identity of the youth. Meanwhile another report said that the body Chhviraji Devi (70), wife of late Badri Vishwakarma, a resident of Kantit under Vindhyachal police station, was found on railway track at Vindhyachal. The police took the body for legal formalities. SHO Shesh Dhar Pandey said on the basis of an application investigation was on and as per preliminary investigation it was a case of suicide.

DM conducts surprise raid at RTO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari conducted a surprise raid at the RTO on Thursday and directed the RTO Officer to ensure he traced all the persons who fled the scene on his arrival through the video. He also directed that strict action be taken against the 'unauthorised' people who were present on the campus. He directed the officials concerned to ensure there was no entry to people who did not have any specifically assigned task at the RTO.

He then took a round of the entire office and came to the registration window where he found a huge queue of people standing at the counters. He interacted with each person standing in the queue and



District Magistrate, City raids RTO office on Thursday

Pioneer

in getting their work done at the counters or if they were being made to run from pillar to post for no rhyme or reason. He warned the officials that in case the people who took to heels on his arrival be identified without fail and proper explanation had to be given as to why they fled the scene.

It may be mentioned here that RTO has a very strong syndicate for each and every work and without hiring a 'tout' one cannot get any work done smoothly or in the stipulated time frame.

The DM then carried out a sudden inspection of the Land Acquisition Office at WestCott Building and took a first hand feedback. He then informed that everything was found to be in order at the office.

matched the papers in their possession.

He also matched their claim for their presence on the campus with the papers in their possession. He then asked

each person if he or she had been demanded money for any specific work directly or indirectly.

He inquired the people if they were facing any problem

Singhania Memorial Bridge Tournament from today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

All India Sir Padampat Singhania Memorial Bridge Tournament will be organised online from February 26 to 28. Addressing mediapersons, Organising Secretary Lalit Khanna said the tournament can be seen all over the world. Total 26 players on 13 table will play 25 rounds of bridge from various parts of the country. It will be monitored and controlled by the Tournament Manager and Assistant Secretary of Bridge Federation of India TC Pant from Delhi. It carries a total



Lalit Khanna, Organising Secretary, Bridge Tournament, addressing mediapersons on Thursday

Pioneer

first winner. The tournament was started in 1999 by Late Dr Gaur Hari Singhania in the fond memory of his beloved father Late Sir Padampat Singhania. His son Yadupati Singhania who took over the legacy unfortunately also died on August 13 last year. Thereafter, the key person of this tournament Kailaspat Newatia also passed away recently on February 20. He said the winners would be awarded prizes through electronic transfers. Office Secretary Gajendra Singh was also present at the press conference.

Ways to stay away from stress told

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

A family counselling seminar was organised in order to apprise the families of coal personnel deployed in Nigahi Project, Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) about the working of mines and the day-to-day challenges, to provide some vital information related to their safety along with health and for discussing important topics like establishing coordination in the work area and family life. On the occasion the safety and rescue team of Nigahi area explained to the personnel how to stay away from stress and intoxication. Besides medical examination of the personnel present there



and their family members was also conducted. The event organised at Nigahi View Point was attended by as many as 19 personnel with their families. Project Officer of Nigahi Area Rajendra Verma, Mines Manager G Senapati, Staff Officer (Personnel) Sunil Kumar Tiwari, Regional

Security Officer PK Singh, Medical Superintendent P Paswan, labour union office-bearers besides other officers and employees were present during the programme. Notably, in all the projects of NCL family counselling programmes have been organised from time to time.

Cooking competition organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

A cooking competition was organised by Suhasini Sangh, a voluntary organisation of NTPC-Vindhyachal. During it participants had to prepare salty items from potatoes and sweet dishes with sesame. Members of Suhasini Sangh participated in it and prepared tasty dishes. In this competition Executive Director (Vindhyachal) Munish Johri, General Manager (Operation & Maintenance) SC Nayak, General Manager (SSC-NR Vindhyachal) Vipan Kumar

and General Manager (Operation) Rajeev Subedar played the role of judges. On the occasion chairperson of Suhasini Sangh, Mridula Johri, vice-chairperson, S Nayak, adviser (Welfare) Vinita Subedar, adviser (Tiny Tots) Suman Bhatia and secretary, Suhasini Sangh, Richa Mangla, along with other office-bearers and members were present. After evaluating the delicious dishes prepared from potatoes and sesame by all the contestants the jury gave its decision. According to it in the sweet dish competition, first prize

was given to Firdaus, second to Kusum Singh and third to Anjali Mishra and Neena Aggarwal. On the other hand, Anju Dwivedi and Rashmi Sinha were awarded the consolation prizes. Besides in the salty dish competition, Shobha Verma was honoured with the first prize, Rashmi Gupta second and Vibhuti Rastogi third prize. Besides Neena Aggarwal, Deepa Pal, Priyanka Shrivastava and Sadhana Daunde were presented the consolation prize. The efforts of the participants as well as dishes prepared by them were appreciated by all the judges.

No let up in Covid cases in Maha, 7 other States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is no let up in the renewed rise in daily new cases in States like Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh.

A total of 16,738 new daily Covid-19 cases have been recorded in a span of 24 hours taking the total tally of active infection to 1,51,708.

The Union Health Ministry said 89.57 per cent of the new cases are from the seven states with Maharashtra continuing to top the chart at the highest daily new cases at 8,807. It is followed by Kerala with 4,106 cases while Punjab reported 558 new cases. In fact, Maharashtra reported 80 deaths, highest in two months (since December 24, when 89 deaths were reported). With this, the total cases in the State jumped to 21,21,119 and the toll touched 51,937. The Centre has already deputed high-level multi-disciplinary teams there to ascertain reasons for the surge and coordinate with the state health departments in Covid-19 control and containment measures.

The Centre has also written to states and UTs to focus on undertaking aggressive



measures to break the chain of transmission.

States and UTs have been advised to increase testing in a focussed manner in the affected districts with the appropriate split of RT-PCR and rapid antigen tests and to also ensure that all symptomatic negatives of antigen tests are compulsorily tested via RT-PCR tests.

The positive persons are to be isolated/hospitalised, all their close contacts be traced and also tested without delay. They have been advised to critically review the emerging situation on a regular basis with district officials concerned to ensure that gains made so far in Covid-19 management are not lost.

India has administered over 1.30 Crore vaccine doses so far. A total of 1,30,67,047 vaccine doses have been given through 2,77,303 Sessions, as per the provisional report till 6

The five most affected States by total cases are Maharashtra (2,121,119), Kerala (1,045,009), Karnataka (949,183), Andhra Pradesh (889,503), and Tamil Nadu (849,629)

pm on Thursday. These include 65,82,007 HCWs (75.5%) who have taken the 1st dose and 18,60,859 HCWs (63.6%) who have taken the 2nd dose, along with 46,24,181 frontline workers (FLWs) (1st dose) (45.1%). While the countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on 16th Jan 2021.

Vaccination of the FLWs started on 2nd Feb 2021. Just eight states account for more than 56 per cent of the total vaccine doses.

Constitutional institutions should work together for a strong democracy: Speaker

PNS ■ SHILLONG / NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said it is important for all constitutional institutions to complement and cooperate with each other for a strong democracy. "Democracy can be strengthened only when all constitutional institutions work in tandem and cooperate with each other within their respective constitutional jurisdictions. All the institutions should complement each other," Birla said, addressing the members of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

"There can be dissent during discussions but we should not reach an impasse. Our discussions should lead to the welfare of the people of the country," the Speaker added.

Birla, who is currently on a two-day visit to Meghalaya, said one of his foremost priorities in Parliament was to make women, young and newly-elected MPs aware of various parliamentary conventions and practices. "I always promote and welcome their active participation in debates and discussions that take place in the House. It is very important to ensure the

capacity-building of the members to pave way for constructive debates in Parliament," he said.

The Speaker also talked about some of the new initiatives being taken in Lok Sabha to enhance the practical knowledge of the members, including briefing sessions on the bills being introduced in the lower house.

He advised that similar programmes should be organised in the legislative assemblies as well. Birla also talked about PRISM, a new service that was introduced in Parliament during the Budget Session, to provide MPs with parliamentary research and information support.

"I would like you to set up a similar modern research wing in the legislative assembly to provide round-the-clock support to the members. We will be happy to provide all possible support for setting up such a research wing," he told the MLAs.

City Innovation Exchange platform to find solutions to challenges



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The City Innovation Exchange (CiX) platform was launched by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, at an online event on Thursday. The platform will be a significant addition to the growing innovation ecosystem of India and focuses on fostering innovative practices in cities. CiX, through an 'open innovation' process, engages with innovators to design-test-deliver on solutions to pressing urban

challenges.

According to the HUA ministry, this initiative is among the ongoing efforts of the Government to realise Prime Minister's vision of New and Atmanirbhar Bharat, by making cities more self-reliant and enabled to meet the needs of and provide services to their citizens.

Anil Agrawal, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary and Mission

Director, Smart Cities Mission, CEOs of Smart Cities and other officers of the Central and State Governments were also present at the event.

The City Innovation Exchange (CiX) will connect cities to innovators across the national ecosystem to design innovative solutions for their pressing challenges. The platform will ease the discovery, design & validation of solutions through a robust, transparent and user centric process that will reduce barriers for innovators and cities to discover fitting solutions.

MoU pushes for farming, fisheries ops & income

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a first step towards setting up of the Farmers Produce Organisations (FPOs) and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) in the Union Territory Lakshadweep, the island administration and National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC), have inked a pact to scale up farming operations of the agricultural and coastal communities for better access to quality input, technology, credit and market through economies of scale.

The MoU was signed recently by Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director of NCDC, on behalf of the apex finance entity under the Union Agriculture Ministry with A Anbarasu, Advisor to Lakshadweep Administrator in the presence of UT Administrator Praful Patel.

As part of the collaboration, among various activities, the NCDC would also appoint Community based Business Organisation (CBBO) to promote FPOs and FFPOs by collaborating with them in a holistic manner, said Nayak.

The NCDC will provide handholding to these organizations for next five years to help them realise a better price of their farm produce and make them self-reliant in the long term, he added.

On his part, Anbarasu welcomed the initiative saying that the collaboration will



The MoU was signed recently by Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director of NCDC, on behalf of the apex finance entity under the Union Agriculture Ministry with A Anbarasu, Advisor to Lakshadweep Administrator in the presence of UT Administrator Praful Patel.

bring innumerable benefits in the region. "This will ensure employment and entrepreneurship skills among farmers and fishermen in the island."

One out of seven persons is a fisherman here engaged in coastal activities like fisheries, seaweed business and coconut trade besides farming. This is a good beginning and we are looking forward to forming entities of the farmers and fishermen for their benefits besides all round development of the community."

Setting up the FPOs and FFPOs is the part of the Narendra Modi Government's scheme of bringing more and more small and marginal farmers on a big platform as

a joint entity for which budgetary support of ₹4.496 crore by 2024 has been allocated. Aim is to form and promote at least 10,000 new FPOs by that period across the States. Currently, there are over 3,000 FPOs in the country, considered to be quite low given the fact that the total marginal and small farmers, having landholding size of up to five acres, account for over 85 per cent of total farmers in the country.

Besides, as per the pact, the NCDC and Lakshadweep administration will also work together on areas such as animal husbandry, dairy, agriculture, food processing, rural finance and women issues through cooperative principles in the island.

Govt cannot implement farm laws as matter is with SC: Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when farmer unions have decided to support the Bharat Bandh called by transport and trade unions on February 26 and appealed farmers to make it success, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Thursday said the Government cannot implement the farm laws as the matter is with the Supreme Court and the SC-constituted committee is yet to submit its feedback. The Minister also added that the farmer unions, which have been protesting against the farm laws for nearly three months, have not given their feedback on the centre's proposal of putting the farm laws on hold for 1.5 years.

The Minister said that the Government is fully sensitive towards farmers. "The government has held 12 rounds of talks with the farmers and they are ready to talk to farmers anytime. We have held several rounds of talks (with unions). We proposed many amendments as well as keeping the farm reform Acts on hold for 1.5 years and setting up a joint panel to find solutions. But, they have not responded to our proposals," Tomar said on the sidelines of an event on Thursday.

"We can't implement the farm laws as the matter is with Supreme Court. The Supreme Court constituted committee is yet to submit its feedback. They did not respond to the proposal. We are ready for talks whenever farmers bring their views on the government's proposal," Tomar added.

NIA files chargesheet against TPC commander

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Thursday filed a chargesheet against the self-styled Zonal Commander of Tertiary Prastuti Committee (TPC), a Jharkhand based terrorist group of Naxal hue. The second supplementary chargesheet was filed before the NIA special court, Ranchi against Vikas Ganju, who is known with aliases like Avinash, Dashrath Ganju and Varun Ji, is a Zonal Commander of TPC. The agency chargesheeted him under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy and extortion besides provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Fishers need independent Ministry, says Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said fisherfolk need an independent fisheries ministry and not just a department within a Ministry, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swipe at him.

At a public meeting in Pudukcherry, the Prime Minister expressed shock over Rahul Gandhi's statement last week that there was no "dedicated" fisheries ministry. At the time, BJP leaders, including Union

ministers, had also taken a swipe at Gandhi.

Responding to the PM's swipe, Rahul tweeted, "Dear PM, Fisherfolk need an independent and dedicated ministry of fisheries, not just a department within a ministry." "PS- 'Hum do Humare do' obviously hurt bad," he said referring to the jibe he had used against the Government recently to allege that it is being run by Modi and his "corporate friends".

Modi, in his remarks in Pudukcherry, said, "Congress

leaders say we will make a fisheries ministry. I was shocked. The truth is, it is the current NDA government that had made a ministry for fisheries in 2019." In 2019, the Modi Government had formed a Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

In a separate tweet, Rahul Gandhi also attacked the government over a media report claiming that the government has started clearing foreign direct investment proposals from China on a case-by-case basis.

JNCASR scientists develop molecule to halt dementia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After nearly a decade of research, scientists from the Jawaharlar Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, have developed a molecule that could be a potential drug candidate to halt or cure the leading cause of dementia (70-80 per cent) worldwide. The research has been

published in the journal Advanced Therapeutics.

About 5-6 per cent of individuals between the ages of 65-70 years in India suffer from Alzheimer's disease, a neuro degenerative condition which is incurable. However, a recent trend has been observed where people in their 30s or 40s are also developing signs of Alzheimer's disease, which is a cause of

worry. In such a dismal scenario, the study by the JNCASR, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) is a ray of hope for many. As per the study, Dr T Govindaraju, Professor, JNCASR, and his team designed and synthesised molecules which can reduce the toxicity of amyloid peptide—that accumulates in the central nervous system.

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Sale Notice For Immovable Properties "APPENDIX-IV-A [See Provision to rule 6(2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 6(2) & 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) 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 as Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Secured assets/dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date and time, EMD and Bid increase are mentioned below.

Date of e-Auction : 16-03-2021 **Last Date of EMD Submission : 15-03-2021 upto 4.00 PM**

Sl. No.	Name & Address of th Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of e-Auction	Reserve Price/EMD/ Bid increase (EMD)	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	Borrower : M/s Romi Battery & Spare Parts, Address: Plot No. 79, Gadarain Purwa, Kanpur. Proprietor : Shri Gurjeet Singh S/o Late Sardar Kulwant Singh Bhatia, R/o: Flat No. G-3, Guru Vandana Apartment, Plot No. 127/676, W-1, Saket Nagar, Kanpur. Guarantor : Smt. Harmohan Kaur W/o Late Sardar Kulwant Singh Bhatia. Builtup Area : 99.03 Sq. Mtr. & Undivided share in Land 42.50 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : Flat No. G-2, South : Open Setback then House No. 127/675, East : Open Court Yard then House No. 127/700, West : Common Passage & Stairs then Flat No. G-1	Flat No. G-3 on Ground Floor at Guru Vandana Apartment, Premises No. 127/676, W-1, Saket Nagar, Kanpur in the name of Smt. Harmohan Kaur W/o Late Sardar Kulwant Singh Bhatia. Builtup Area : 99.03 Sq. Mtr. & Undivided share in Land 42.50 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : Flat No. G-2, South : Open Setback then House No. 127/675, East : Open Court Yard then House No. 127/700, West : Common Passage & Stairs then Flat No. G-1	Rs. 40,30,926.87 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	16-03-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 32,51,000/- (RP) ₹ 3,26,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	12-03-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
2.	Borrower : M/s Le Mart International, Proprietor : Shri Riyaz Akhtar S/o Ahmad Ali Ansari, R/o : 36/1, Pragati Vihar, Gajipurwa, Kanpur. Guarantor : Smt. Anna Khatoon W/o Ahmad Ali Ansari, R/o : 4/6, Ganga Vihar, KDA Colony Jajmau, Kanpur.	House No. 36/1, Gajipurwa, Kanpur in the name of Smt. Anna Khatoon. Area : 272.53 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North: Plot No. 35 of Rashid Ahmad & Anwar Iqbal, South: Open Arazi Land, East: Property of M/s Prakash Pen Co., West : 30 Ft. Road.	Rs. 25,46,410.67 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	16-03-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 54,24,000/- (RP) ₹ 5,43,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	12-03-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
3.	Borrower : M/s Maurya Enterprises, Partners : Shri Sushil Kumar and Shri Suraj Singh Kushwaha, Address : Village Dubiya, Tehsil -Bilhaar, Kanpur Nagar. Guarantor : Shri Heera Lal S/o Shri Janki Prasad, R/o: Village Dubiya, Tehsil -Bilhaar, Kanpur Nagar.	Land & Building Plot No. 20 (Old Gata No. 32, 41, 42 & 43) situated at Village Dubiya, Tehsil-Bilhaar, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Shri Heera Lal S/o Shri Janki Prasad. Area : 0.0916 Hectare., Bounded-North : Part of Gata No. 20 (Narayan etc.), South : Part of Gata No. 20 (Rakesh etc.) East : Kaccha Road, West: Gata No. 21 (Bhikari etc.)	Rs. 32,03,000.00 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	16-03-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 32,73,000/- (RP) ₹ 3,28,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	12-03-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
4.	Borrower : M/s. BAB International, Address : House No. 298, EWS Ganga Vihar, KDA Colony, Jajmau, Kanpur. Proprietor : Mohd. Rizwan S/o Shri Azaz Ahmad, R/o House No. 298, EWS Block-F, Scheme 39, Jajmau, Kanpur.	Land & Building Situated at House No. 298, EWS Block-F, Scheme 39, Jajmau, Kanpur in the name of Mohd. Rizwan Qureshi, Area : 43.81 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : House No. 288 & 300 EWS, South : House No. 296 EWS, East : House No. 297 EWS & 30 Ft. Road, West : Property KDA.	Rs. 20,93,842.00 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	16-03-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 15,66,000/- (RP) ₹ 1,57,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	12-03-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
5.	Borrower : M/s Kripa Metal Works, Regd. Office: D-5, Industrial Area at Rania, Site-2 District-Kanpur Dehat, Proprietor : Smt. Seema Tiwari W/o Sri Pradeep Tiwari, R/o: House No. 127/744, W-1, Saket Nagar, Kanpur Nagar.	Plot No. D-5, Situated at Industrial Area of Rania, Site-2, Kanpur Dehat in the name of Smt. Seema Tiwari. Area : 450 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : Plot No. D-4, South : Plot No. D-6, East : Plot No. D-2, West: 12 Mtr. Wide Road No. 4.	Rs. 55,03,193.00 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	16-03-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 31,13,000/- (RP) ₹ 3,12,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	12-03-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
6.	Borrower : M/s Vikrant Trading Corporation, Proprietor : Shri Vikrant Sharma S/o Shri Avadhesh Sharma, Address : 6 Nagwa, Swam Jayanti Vihar, Kanpur & Also at House No. 2/87-B, LIG, Swam Jayanti Vihar, Satbari, Kanpur. Guarantor : Smt. Rekha Sharma W/o Shri Avadhesh Sharma, R/o: House No. 2/87-B, LIG, Swam Jayanti Vihar, Satbari, Kanpur.	Land and Building bearing House No. 2/87-B, Block LIG, Scheme Swam Jayanti Vihar, Satbari, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Rekha Sharma W/o Shri Avadhesh Sharma. Area : 74.30 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : House No. 2/87 Block LIG, South : House No. 2/86-B Block LIG, East : House No. 2/80-B Block, LIG, West : 7.50 Mtr. Road.	Rs. 52,47,621.67 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	16-03-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 32,33,000/- (RP) ₹ 3,24,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	12-03-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
7.	Borrower : M/s Laxmi Narayan Trading Company, Proprietor : Shri Shatrughan Gupta S/o Shri Kedar Nath Gupta, Office & R/o : Poora Nadiha, Uttaripura, Shanti Nagar, Shivrajpur, Kanpur. Guarantor : (1) Shri Santosh Kumar S/o Shri Kedar Nath, R/o : Arazi No. 1109, Village Poora, Tehsil Bilhaar, Kanpur Nagar. (2) Smt. Ranjana Gupta W/o Shri Shatrughan Gupta, R/o : Poora Nadiha Road, Uttaripura, Shanti Nagar, Shivrajpur, Kanpur Nagar.	Land & Building having Plot Part of Arazi No. 1109, Village Poora, Tehsil Bilhaar, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Ranjana Gupta W/o Shri Shatrughan Gupta. Area : 0.0340 Hectare, Bounded-North : Plot of Pradeep Pandey, South : Land of Purchaser, East : Land of Basant Lal Rathore, West: Kachha Rasta 12 Ft.	Rs. 45,95,181.11 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	16-03-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 17,50,000/- (RP) ₹ 1,75,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	12-03-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
8.	Borrower : M/s Taj Mahal Marble, Address: Cabin No. 320 on 3rd Floor, City Center, Premises No. 63/2, The Mall, Kanpur Nagar, Proprietor : Shri Prashant Awasthi S/o Shri Ram Autar Awasthi, R/o: House No. 1252, Y-Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur. Guarantor : Smt. Kavita Awasthi W/o Shri Prashant Awasthi & Shri Ram Autar Awasthi, Both R/o: House No. 1252, Y-Block Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur.	Land & Building situated at Cabin No. 320 on 3rd Floor, Premises No. 63/2, City Center, The Mall, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Shri Prashant Awasthi S/o Shri Ram Autar Awasthi. Area : 31.78 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : Unit No. 321, South : Unit No. 319, East : Common Passage, West: Narohna Building.	Rs. 71,44,490.56 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	16-03-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 28,50,000/- (RP) ₹ 2,85,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	12-03-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
9.	Borrower : Shree Balaji Enterprises, Address : Arazi No. 368, Khazuri, Bilhaar, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Proprietor : Shri Awdhesh Kalyan S/o Shri Ram Autar Kalyan, R/o : 18/44, Azad Nagar, Bilhaar, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Guarantor : Smt. Rajeshwari W/o Shri Ram Autar Kalyan & Smt. Uma Devi W/o Shri Awdhesh Kumar Both R/o : 18/44, Azad Nagar (Ashiq Bag), Bilhaar, Distt. Kanpur Nagar.	Land & Building having Non-Agricultural Land part of bearing gata no. 368 located at Village Khazuri, Tehsil Bilhaar, Distt. Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Uma Devi W/o Shri Awdhesh Kumar. Area : 0.141 Hectare, Bounded-North : Part of Land Gata No. 368 Ml, Owned by Ram Autar, South : Link Road Khazuri Khurd, East : Agriculture Land Gata No. 367, West: Agriculture Land Gata No. 370.	Rs. 76,50,365.71 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	16-03-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 40,62,000/- (RP) ₹ 4,07,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	12-03-2021 between 10:00 am to 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, & e-bikray, <https://ibapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 7080701712

Date : 26-02-2021 **Place : Kanpur /Kanpur Dehat** **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Slip of the tongue?

Rahul's remarks in Kerala, if made off the cuff, should not lead to a 'divisive politics' slugfest

Whether it was the heat of the moment or well-considered action, only the Gandhi scion would know. But the bullet has been fired and now it is for Rahul and the Congress to bear the recoil. At a recent rally in Kerala, Rahul said: "For the first 15 years, I was a Member of Parliament from the North, so I had got used to a different type of politics. For me, coming to Kerala was very refreshing because suddenly I found that people (here) are interested in issues, and not just superficially but in detail." Whether it will reap dividends or prove counterproductive to the 'Grand Old Party' in the forthcoming Assembly elections is best left to the wisdom of voters but Rahul's latest statement has provided the BJP with fresh fodder to attack the Congress. To be fair, Rahul is not known for making statements that reek of divisive politics: He is straightforward, to the point and plain, and this is what makes him vulnerable. His statements often lend themselves to the creation of memes, courtesy Information Technology (IT) cells affiliated to other political parties who strive hard to prove that Rahul doesn't have the "potential" to be a leader, forget about becoming the Prime Minister in future. However, if the statement was made after due consideration, it's probably time for him to think about changing his advisors. What he said, could still have been conveyed without generating a controversy had he been a little more careful with his choice of words.



On the face of it, there is nothing inappropriate in the statement unless implied meanings are derived from it. But such derivations are common in politics and if Rahul is ignorant of it, it's his fault. Going by the adage that "politics is all about opportunity", senior BJP leaders jumped at the chance and accused the Congress leader of indulging in divisive politics for gains in the Kerala elections. In a country where leaders regularly stoop to new lows and then get away by claiming that they didn't actually mean what they said, Rahul's comment is nothing to make such a hullabaloo about. Our heads still drop in shame when we are reminded of remarks like "khaki underwear" by Azam Khan or when Mulayam Singh Yadav justified rape, saying "Boys err at times, wrong to hang rapists", or even Lalu Prasad's boastful remark that "Bihar's roads would be made like the cheeks of Hema Malini". Now, Rahul has cancelled his Left-Congress joint rally in Bengal, apparently to focus more on Kerala. It could be that the southern State seems more promising to him since the Congress' prospects are rather bleak in West Bengal where the fight is directly between the TMC and the BJP. Well, while Rahul is caught in a storm, the Congress old guard have come up with some sound advice, with Kapil Sibal saying the "wisdom of the electors" should be respected for they know "who to vote for and why". With leaders of such acumen, balance and maturity still serving the party, one wonders why Rahul doesn't seek their advice before making such foot-in-the-mouth remarks. Could it be something to do with the internal fault lines? Let's leave it for the Congress to decide.

West Bengal and Bangladesh

There has been a major change in people's thinking ahead of State poll; even the most secular of them fear that Bengal might become another Bangladesh



PRAFULL GORADIA

As lucidly brought out by Timur Kuran, a Turkish American economist who teaches at the Duke University, the practice of Islam inhibits business growth and, therefore, does not enable economic progress or development. The prohibition of usury is an example. This explains why Islamic societies have not been economically productive. Therefore, they had to become adept at the conquest of other lands in search of resources.

Bangladesh has an added handicap. For centuries, the Bengali elite was more land-owning than business-running. The Bangladeshi culture took its cue from the Bengali elite. Islam is a comprehensive prescription for living, including politics, with the *Quran* as the ultimate reference point. No Muslim ruler could deviate from that path. Ideally, *jamhuriyat* (consensus) was the solution. Monarchy, autocracy and oligarchy were the only alternatives, which left democracy no space.

Sheikh Hasina Wazed somehow fights elections. She has won four terms in all, is relatively secular and grateful to India for the freedom of Bangladesh. Her predecessor, Begum Khaleda Zia, was not. Khaleda's husband Ziaur Rahman was almost pro-Pakistani, being a Muslim *ashraf* (a descendant of Prophet Muhammad). But what after Hasina Wazed retires or relinquishes power? Would not there be a change in the country's foreign policy, especially *vis-à-vis* India?

It is uncanny that the Bengali Hindu elite founded a Hindu political ideology. Raj Narain Bose is reputed to have coined the term "Hindutva", or at least used it for the first time in 1863. He was the grandfather of Yogi Aurobindo Ghosh. The Hindu Anushilan Samiti was founded and functioned only in Bengal, with even the great poet Rabindranath Tagore being its leading light. The movement against the partition of Bengal in 1905 was largely led by Yogi Aurobindo and actively supported by Tagore. The Bengal Renaissance was a Hindu phenomenon.



With the annulment of the partition of Bengal by Emperor George V in 1911 at the Delhi Durbar, the Hindu punch softened with the idea of having Hindu-Muslim cordiality. That was the inauguration of so-called secularism in Bengal. The Bengali elite began regretting their conduct towards Muslims. Say, inviting a Muslim co-villager to a wedding dinner, making him sit separately to eat and then expecting him to carry his *thali* to clean. This is just one example.

With the rise of Netaji Subhas, the Hindu-Muslim cordiality tended towards friendship. A moderate leader, Fazlur Rahman of the Krishak Party, became the Premier of Bengal; this secular trend continued. By early 1947, Netaji's elder brother Sarat Bose, Fazlur Rahman and Sir Abdul Rahim were discussing the prospects of a third dominion, namely, undivided Bengal in addition to Hindustan and Pakistan.

After Independence, the Nehruvian ethos and the appeasement of Muslims for their votes inflated this trend. The Partition, which displaced many Hindus, did not lead to any real antagonism against Muslims in Bengal in its immediate aftermath as well as later. So much so that being associ-

ated with the RSS, the Hindu Mahasabha or the Jana Sangh became infra dig. The Hindu political movement could not throw up a popular leader after Syama Prasad Mookerjee died mysteriously in Kashmir. Jana Sangh leader Haripada Bharati was respected but without mass appeal. The secular show persisted and infiltrators from Bangladesh were encouraged for their votes.

Yet, the Islamist penny dropped at last in the Bengali Hindu's mind. Clearly a revolutionary change is taking place that may well have a reaction across the border in Bangladesh. There has been a cataclysmic change in the thinking of people in West Bengal with the approaching Assembly elections. It is truly a metamorphosis because, for decades, West Bengal has both resisted the domination of what the *bhadralok* would call a "Hindi heartland party" and has prided itself on its avowedly secular outlook; the Bengali identity has been preponderant over the religious one.

However, the incessant molycoddling of the religious minority and even the most radical jihadist elements has slowly but surely brought on an about-turn in the Bengali mind. To the extent that even the most

secular among them have begun to fear that their State might become another Bangladesh. The first major sign of West Bengal's changing political mood was the 2019 Lok Sabha election in which the BJP won 18 out of 42 parliamentary seats. The rapidly shifting scenario with the approach of the 2021 Assembly election is the beginning of a new chapter in West Bengal's political journey, one that will have implications beyond the State.

West Bengal is very much in the news, especially because of the impending Assembly elections. The country is witnessing an acrimonious tussle where the ruling Trinamool Congress' incumbent Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is fighting to save her Government in the face of a determined assault by the BJP. The remarkable drama of the West Bengal elections is the by-now-discernible wave of discontent against Mamata — sitting Ministers and political heavyweights do not otherwise quit on poll eve to join the Opposition. But more significant is the change taking place in the Bengali psyche. There is growing willingness to be more integrally an arm of Bharat.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)



THE FIRST MAJOR SIGN OF WEST BENGAL'S CHANGING POLITICAL MOOD WAS THE 2019 LOK SABHA ELECTION IN WHICH THE BJP WON 18 OUT OF 42 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS. THE ASSEMBLY POLL IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CHAPTER IN WEST BENGAL'S POLITICAL JOURNEY

PICTALK



A gun store owner holds a rifle in Americana, Brazil

Blood on hands

Over 6,500 migrants, including 2,711 Indians, have died working on Qatar's World Cup-related projects

It's called "The beautiful game". The loftiest event of the sport, known as the World Cup, garners the maximum number of viewers in any discipline of any sporting contest across the globe. The "greatest spectacle on Earth" involves glamour, charisma, passion, super-human athleticism, national pride and, certainly not the least, zillions of dollars for the host country as well as for the Zurich-headquartered Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) in television broadcast and other rights. The FIFA World Cup taxes the host nation a lot in terms of manpower, infrastructure and other facilities, but the monetary returns far outweigh the cost input and the moolah raked in is a purse bigger than what you'd see from any other event, even the Olympics. And Qatar is the proud host of the next edition of the World Cup in November 2022. But behind all the glitz and razzmatazz of the shiny stadia and the spruced setup in the Persian Gulf nation, is a sordid tale of hardships, torture and human rights abuse, ending in death. According to *The Guardian*, thousands of migrant workers have died in Qatar since it was unexpectedly chosen as the host for the extravaganza in December 2010.



More than 6,500 migrant labourers from five South Asian countries — India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have died, on an average of 12 deaths each week, according to the British daily. While 2,711 of those who died hailed from India, Nepali workers accounted for 1,641 deaths, followed by Bangladesh at more than 1,000 and Pakistan 824. With inconsistent and imprecise records, it is difficult to assess the exact causes for the deaths but official records range from "blunt trauma" to "asphyxia" and "hanging", though the most common is "natural death". The actual toll is likely to be significantly higher given that the analysis did not include deaths from other countries known to send large numbers of workers to Qatar, such as Kenya and the Philippines. It is likely that a significant number of the total deaths occurred on projects related to the World Cup as Qatar has undertaken a massive construction programme to prepare for the tournament, including building seven stadiums, a new airport as well as broad additions to its public transportation network. It's time for the Indian Government, as well as the United Nations Human Rights Council, to finally take cognisance of the pitiable working and dwelling conditions of migrant workers in Qatar and censure it severely.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROTECT COVID VACCINES FROM MAFIA

Sir — It is indeed great that the Government has decided to involve private hospitals in the vaccination drive. The step was much needed as it is almost impossible to vaccinate such a large population as ours through the Government machinery only.

The Government cares for the elderly population, that's why it took the decision that everyone above 60 years of age and those over 45 years with comorbidities will be able to get COVID-19 vaccines from March 1 for free in 10,000 Government medical facilities and for a charge at over 20,000 private hospitals. However, how much this charge will be is yet to be seen. The Government must ensure that private hospitals do not charge "too much" for the jabs.

It is often seen that corrupt employees of Government hospitals, often in collusion with private entities, create such a scenario that medicines are not available in hospital pharmacies or run out of stock while these are sold at exorbitant prices by private ones. If the COVID vaccine meets the same fate, it will be unfortunate and the ambitious programme will fall flat. Meanwhile, we must not be ready to dole out whatever cost the private hospitals quote for the jab. The private hospitals often take undue advantage as we want to avoid long queues in Government hospitals just to save time. We must remember that they charge extra only because we are ready to pay it.

M Pradyu | Kannur

IT'S DO-OR-DIE SITUATION FOR INDIANS

Sir — It refers to the editorial "Continuing travails" (February 25). With several States reporting a surge in COVID-19 cases, it is high time that the RT-PCR test should be made mandatory for entry into all States. There should also be reasonable restrictions over interstate movement while unnecessary movement should not be allowed at all.

The increase in Coronavirus cases is because many people have stopped follow-

Beat the stress but not on driver's seat



It's unfortunate that world-renowned golfer Tiger Woods got injured in a dramatic rollover crash involving his SUV. However, the American golfer was lucky to get immediate help from the authorities present nearby. Accidents can be avoided if necessary precautions are taken. In any accident, first aid and timely help matters a lot.

In India, we see that people are largely indif-

ferent towards road accident victims. This is because they don't want to land in any sort of trouble or unnecessary questioning by the police. They are not completely wrong, for the police often misbehaves with those who help road accident victims. Instead of commending or boosting their morale, the cops usually look upon them as suspects.

Many personalities from the fields of sports and films must be used to driving at high speeds to cope with the tension and stress they face in their daily lives. But rather than driving madly and crazily, there are several other ways to chill out and beat stress. Playing indoor games, spending time with children, taking water therapy like a deep plunge into water bodies, visiting natural vistas and watering a garden are some of these ways. People from all walks of life must visit natural places like pristine forests for getting rejuvenated. We wish good health and recovery to Tiger Woods!

P Senthil | Mumbai

ing the precautions and are lackadaisical in their approach. People are seen wearing masks improperly and are not sanitising their hands. Further, the Government also relaxed the norms as we have seen in Maharashtra, where all categories of commuters were allowed to travel in the local trains. This added to the problem which is now assuming gigantic proportions.

The situation is worse in villages and small towns where people don't even care to wear a mask. They have developed a self-conceived notion that "Corona has gone" and vaccines have been developed, hence there is no need to worry. Its time that the Government spread more awareness and told people that there is no substitute to the precautions. The situation is do-or-die but we are not ready to accept it.

Bal Govind | Noida

WHY DO WE HAVE CASINOS?

Sir — Why do we have casinos and why do Governments want them? What ben-

efit are they? Is it because of the great amount of money the Government receives from them? The casinos are involved in crimes like money laundering.

I would like to make just a short comment on casinos. Several Australian casinos have been accused of money laundering and generally poor control. The new one in Sydney cannot yet get a licence to operate until it changes its processes.

I must admit that I personally don't like casinos and the fact that most people will lose money, as is obvious by the fact they are profitable. I don't mind the occasional bet on horses and a lottery ticket even though I don't expect to win every week. But casinos are a lucrative business for the Government and the profits are high.

Dennis Fitzgerald | Melbourne

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Since the last three months, the price of domestic LPG has increased by ₹200 while petrol and diesel are inching towards ₹100. The Modi Government is battling for its billionaire friends from both ends while the common man is suffering.

Congress leader — Priyanka Gandhi

Law enforcement forces have prevented 72 terrorist crimes in the country in 2020, up from 57 a year earlier.

Russian President — Vladimir Putin

Bollywood producers neither have the money nor talent to cater to audiences who want something beyond the popular and the mainstream.

Actor — Abhay Deol

The IOC Future Host Commission recommended that the executive committee initiate a targeted dialogue with Brisbane and the Australian Olympic Committee for the organisation of the 2032 Olympics.

IOC president — Thomas Bach

The Assembly proceedings will not be conducted on notified Government holidays during the upcoming Budget session of the Assembly.

Goa Chief Minister — Pramod Sawant



FIRST COLUMN

COVID LESSONS FOR ENTREPRENEURS

It's vital to be calm, think rationally and make decisions that affect your work environment positively



PRITIKA SINGH

The year 2020, and the Coronavirus outbreak that dominated it, set everyone back, whether it was work or life. However, the contagion's economic impact was felt more than the social one. The financial implications of the pandemic had everyone in a tizzy, confused and thinking, will I make it? Will I survive? It took a toll on the global economy, businesses, work, personal affairs at home and made everyone question and rethink their priorities and then put them in survival mode. One of the key takeaways from the outbreak, especially for entrepreneurs leading organisations was: Invest in your mental health. That is and should be a priority. If you have peace of mind, in spite of everything else falling, crumbling around you, half the battle is won. It's important to be calm, think rationally and make decisions that affect your health and your work environment in a positive way.

The healthcare sector was overwhelmed when the pandemic hit the country. Doctors and nurses were overworked as was the other hospital staff. People were in a state of panic. However, there is no overcoming something if you are in a constant state of flux. This is especially true of leaders tasked with guiding an organisation. They have to come to grips with the reality that the pandemic will stay for a long time and the only way to work and move forward is to be transparent with staff, hear them out, value their inputs and look after them.



The biggest change that the outbreak brought to our lives was the need to maintain social distancing, which gave birth to the culture of work from home (WFH). Hospitals were overflowing with Coronavirus patients and medical professionals were in constant contact with people, other than patients. It was important for most medical facilities to cut down on administrative staff and allow WFH in order to curb the spread of the contagion. This move gave doctors and nurses free movement, enabled quick decisions and resulted in quicker turnarounds.

As the CEO of a hospital, it was amazing to see people adapt to two roles and the extra workload more efficiently and quickly. It made one realise that the biggest learning from the pandemic was WFH. It changed the way we function as human beings and value the time and effort that someone else puts in. It also increased efficiency and kept employees and their families safe.

There was a lesson for leaders as well. If you take tough but benevolent decisions when you are the head of an organisation, people value you more, respect you and put in that extra bit to make sure that the company succeeds. Cutting down on manpower and cost-cutting is never the solution. The mental health of staff is very important, not just good salaries and, employees run a company based on the top leadership's vision.

Another lesson that the contagion taught us was the fact that women, who have always been a stabilising and calming factor in society, are equally adept at dealing with an emergency. During this pandemic, women COVID warriors, frontline workers, office-goers, homemakers and Government employees rose to the occasion and in some cases were leading from the front.

Lastly, technology has come to the rescue of mankind as we have been forced to change the way we work, handle documents, process information, hold meetings, seminars and even deliver healthcare. One also has to realise that even though we are in this situation right now, it will change and things will go back to normal. But for now, we need to learn and adapt to this so-called new normal. Entrepreneurs, especially women leaders, have to learn and grow from this.

(The writer is CEO, Prayag Hospital. The views expressed are personal.)

Should the global debt pandemic worry us?

As long as primary Budget deficits are not too large, the main problem is to stabilise public debt, independent of the size of the economy so that it may not go beyond control



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

The previous decade saw the fastest increase in debt in emerging economies in the last 50 years. The IMF estimated that global public debt at the end of 2020 would touch 98 per cent of the GDP, and India's gross Government debt would be at 90 per cent of the GDP. According to the IMF's Fiscal Monitor, the debt-to-GDP ratio exceeds 100 per cent in most OECD countries and close to 100 per cent in emerging ones. Among the major economies, only China (66.5 per cent), Australia (70 per cent) and Germany (72 per cent) have fared better. The problem economies of Italy and Greece have seen debt levels rising to 158 per cent and 200 per cent of the GDP, respectively, while Japan's debt is 264 per cent. From 2021 onwards, global debt will rise higher than in the pre-COVID times. A credible medium-term fiscal framework is essential to combat rising debt, but with the pandemic still out of control, additional revenue mobilisation necessary for public spending on health and infrastructure is now more difficult than ever before in most developing countries. The saving grace is that borrowing is now cheap, thanks to the interest rates falling to exceptionally low levels and is expected to remain lower than the growth rates in most countries. According to S&P Global, in 2023, growth will outpace interest rates not only in all rich countries, but also in 53 out of 60 emerging economies. The "growth-corrected interest rate", the differential between interest and nominal growth rates, will be -3.6 per cent in India, -6.5 per cent in China and -33.8 per cent in Argentina.

This legitimately raises the question, should emerging economies also rethink their fiscal limits? The Economist quoted India's budgeted fiscal deficit of 9.5 per cent of the GDP this fiscal year with no road map to bring it below the three per cent limit prescribed by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, while it noted that the latest Economic Survey had also highlighted that India's interest rate has been below its growth rate "by norm, not by exception", and its assertion that higher debt and fiscal spending during an economic crisis should not cause unnecessary worries. But Fitch Ratings, noted that in the last decade, the average interest rate had fallen from four per cent to two per cent in developed economies, while across emerging markets, it had increased from 4.3-5.1 per cent. Thus the benefits of lower rates are mostly available to rich nations.

The classical Domar Model lays down two conditions for sustainability of Government debt: First, the nominal growth rate should exceed the interest rate on public debt and, second, the primary account of the Government, which means taking out the interest payment, should not have any deficit. If both conditions are satisfied, the debt stock in GDP will decrease fast, and even if the primary account has a deficit, it will ultimately converge to a sustainable level. But if the growth rate lags behind the interest rate, then public debt will increase indefinitely to be unsustainable. Thus public debt can stabilise at a higher level but this would render a country vulnerable to economic shocks. However, since this model does not consider the interdependencies existing between the interest rate, the structure of public spending, the degree of public indebtedness and the growth rate which influence each other, economists Hamilton and Flavin suggested another model. According to it, the inter-temporal Budget constraint must be satisfied to make the debt



AS THE PANDEMIC NOW TESTS THE RESILIENCE OF ECONOMIES, A GLOBAL RECESSION WHICH WAS ALREADY RAGING, IS NOW PUSHING THE WORLD INTO A DEEP DEBT CRISIS. WHICH MARKED THE END OF EACH PREVIOUS WAVE. LIKE IN THE CASE OF PREVIOUS WAVES, NOW ALSO DEEPER STRUCTURAL REFORMS ARE CALLED FOR

The writer is a former Director-General of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and an academic. The views expressed are personal.



stock sustainable, which requires the present value of future primary surpluses to cover the size of the current public debt. The uncertainty of future values of projections, interest rates and inflation remains the weakness of this model, but whatever model is used, increasing public debt does not necessarily imply its unsustainability, especially when a country needs additional finance to carry out structural forms or for making capital investments on infrastructure.

As long as primary Budget deficits are not too large, the main problem is to stabilise public debt, independent of the size of the economy so that it may not go beyond control. This is simple budgetary arithmetic: If the debt was stable at 60 per cent of the GDP with a primary deficit of three per cent, to stabilise it at 80 per cent would require the primary deficit to be limited to four per cent. The Economic Survey points out that GDP growth in India has always exceeded interest rates in the last 25 years, though the primary account has often been in deficit, but less than the maximum limit defined by the debt sustainability equations. The survey concludes that even in the worst case scenario, with real growth being only four per cent for the next 10 years and high primary deficits 6.8 per cent of the GDP (Centre plus States), five per cent inflation and a nominal interest rate of six per cent, public debt will still be sustainable. This scenario is not peculiar to India. The IMF says that emerging economies have experienced growth rates exceeding interest rates 75 per cent of the time. Of course, there is an element of risk in

case of high prevalence of external debt in the overall debt portfolio because if the exchange rate weakens, the debt-to-GDP ratio will rise sharply even if the interest rate remains modest. But for India, this risk is minimal as external debt constitutes only about six per cent of our total liabilities (₹5.85 lakh crore in 2019-20).

Government debt amounted to 73.8 per cent of the GDP in 2019-20, before the pandemic pushed it much higher. As per the road map prescribed by the 15th Finance Commission, India's debt should decline marginally from 89.8 per cent to 85.7 per cent of the GDP over 2020-26, but the decline will practically take place in the last three years. Thus we need to stabilise our debt around that level provided these projections hold. This may not be the case as additional spending will be required on health and infrastructure.

But the moot question is whether the high debt level is desirable even if it is sustainable, as public borrowing generally crowds out private investment and hurts the economy. Perhaps the answer lies in how the borrowed funds are used. If the Government spends on investment, like the 26 per cent increase in capital spending budgeted for the next fiscal, this risk would be less, especially when the economy is operating below capacity as is the case now; public spending can then bring in additional private investment by improving incomes and profitability.

However, this is not the first time a debt pandemic has hit the world and there were three earlier waves of debt

accumulation during 1970-89, 1990-2001 and 2002-09, all of which began during periods of low real interest rates and easy access to borrowing from the financial markets. Each caused global recessions in 1982, 1991 and 2009 and economic downturns in 1998 and 2001, and were followed by structural reforms designed to lower vulnerabilities, with greater reserve accumulation and strengthening of policy frameworks. Controls like inflation targeting, fiscal rules and more robust financial sector supervision became the norm.

We are now riding the crest of the fourth wave that began in 2010 but peaked during the pandemic with the slowing of economic growth in most countries. The conditions were remarkably similar to those after the 2008 meltdown, when interest rates were low and access to financial markets for capital was easy due to the banks having extended their outreach remarkably. As the pandemic now tests the resilience of economies, a global recession which was already raging, is now pushing the world into a deep debt crisis, which marked the end of each previous wave. Like in the case of previous waves, now also deeper structural reforms are called for. In the Indian context, this will mean many more reforms of the factor markets, along with reform of agriculture and financial sectors while strengthening the overall regulatory mechanisms. Appropriate policy choices are crucial because once recovery gets underway, only reforms and the accompanying institutional mechanisms can help restore our fiscal and debt sustainability.

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



INSULTING INDIANS IS A FAVOURITE PASTIME OF RAHUL GANDHI. INDIANS ARE NOT SUPERFICIAL BUT YOU ARE, MR RAHUL GANDHI.

—UNION MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR

India needs a standard metric for the social cost of GHG

We must also develop a metric for quantifying the social cost of other components so that the impact of local air pollution, too, can be monetised for policy formulation

Actions on the climate change front are again in the news in the US after President Joe Biden took charge. One of his first executive orders pertained to reassembling a federal, cross-Government team to figure out the "social cost of carbon."

So, what is the social cost of carbon (SCC) or of Green House Gases (GHG)? SCC is the present value of future harm caused by an incremental ton of carbon dioxide emissions.

It is difficult to estimate SCC because carbon emissions, climate change, and economic harm are related through complex processes that are not fully understood. Additionally, the rate at which to discount future harm is contentious and critical to the magnitude of the present value.



AMIT KUMAR

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As per the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, the US Government's technical support document 2010: "The SCC is an estimate of the monetised damages associated with an incremental increase in carbon emissions in a given year. It is intended to include (but is not limited to) changes in net agricultural productivity, human health, property damages from increased flood risk and the value of ecosystem services due to climate change."

It is a well-established fact that consequent to climate change, countries face a slew of adverse impacts; damages that are not adequately quantified while assessing these impacts. Developing economies like India are going to bear an unduly larger share of such

impacts. An analysis of the Climate Risk Index (CRI), 2021, shows India to be among the top 10 most affected countries in 2019 on account of climate change-induced extreme weather events.

India's annual monsoon season continued for a month longer than usual. From June to the end of September 2019, 110 per cent of the normal rainfall occurred, a record since 1994.

According to the CRI, the floods caused by the heavy rains were responsible for 1,800 deaths across 14 States and led to the displacement of 1.8 million people. Overall, 11.8 million people were affected by the intense monsoon season with the economic damage estimated to be \$10 billion.



Furthermore, with a total of eight tropical cyclones, 2019 was one of the most active Northern Indian Ocean cyclone seasons on record. Six of the eight cyclones intensified to become "very severe."

The worst was Cyclone Fani that occurred in May 2019 and impacted a total of 28 million people, killing nearly 90 people in India and

Bangladesh and causing economic losses of \$8.1 billion. Then, there are other consequences in terms of impacts on human health and on food security, to name a few.

The relation between fossil fuels and climate change, too, is now accepted beyond any doubt. However, while carrying out the cost-benefit analysis of different options to replace fossil fuels, these damages — also known as "externalities" — are either not taken into account or remain fuzzy. And that is where a tool like the SCC may help.

As per the Institute for Policy Integrity, the SCC is "a metric designed to quantify and monetise climate damages, representing the net economic cost of carbon dioxide emissions."

In a country like ours that is trying to transition to

clean energy through its ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in terms of emission-intensity reductions and quantum increase in non-fossil electricity; it is imperative that policymaking and regulatory frameworks are informed by scientific evidence.

This, in turn, demands a methodology to quantify the impacts that are based on verifiable numbers and are standardised across sectors.

But even more importantly, it is developed in an academically rigorous, transparent and peer-reviewed process so as to have universal acceptability.

And that is where an inter-agency or an inter-ministerial approach helps in forging a joint ownership. Given that this is not a one-time exercise, a formal mech-

anism needs to be put in place.

The Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) constituted by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) may very well provide such a unified platform. The mechanism must also provide for engaging with the public and other stakeholders in an ongoing fashion.

Going forward, we should aim at not only developing a metric for quantifying the social cost of GHG but also of other components so that the impact of local air pollution, too, can be holistically monetised from a policy formulation perspective.

It is time that such complex matters attract a more science-based approach, thereby obviating any kind of biases.

Budget tilted towards supporting growth: Moody's

FY22 FISCAL DEFICIT TARGET OF 6.8 PC REALISTIC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Budget is tilted towards supporting growth and the fiscal deficit target of 6.8 per cent for 2021-22 is realistic, Moody's Investors Service said on Thursday.

With regard to India's finances, Moody's said weak fiscal position will remain a key credit challenge in 2021.

It said the government's fiscal deficit for 2020-21 and 2021-22 should be lower than projected, supported by stronger revenue generation in ongoing March quarter and higher nominal GDP growth in the next fiscal year.

"India Budget tends to tilt a little bit in favour of support for growth. The deficit in Budget for FY'22 was above what we expected, but nevertheless we think that the deficit

target is a realistic one. "The government has incorporated a conservative assumption of nominal GDP growth and we think most revenue assumptions conservative, with the possible exception of monetisation expectations pegged in Budget," Moody's Associate Managing Director (Sovereign Risk) Gene Fang said.

Wide fiscal deficits combined with lower real and nominal

GDP growth over the medium term will constrain the government's ability to reduce its debt burden, Fang said in an online conference organised by Moody's and its affiliate ICRA on 'India Credit Outlook 2021'.

Moody's said the prospects for fiscal consolidation remain weak particularly given the government's mixed track record of implementing revenue-raising measures.

Retail loans to remain most affected due to pandemic: Moody's

New Delhi: Moody's Investors Service on Thursday said loans to retail customers, especially those to low-income borrowers, will remain most affected due to the shock caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Despite the pandemic challenges, asset quality at Indian banks has performed better than expected at the start of the outbreak, Moody's said. "Corporate loans, in particular, have performed well because banks prior to the pandemic had largely provisioned for legacy problem loans and tightened underwriting standards," Moody's Vice President and Senior Credit Officer Srikanth Vadlamani said.

PTI

Govt accords top priority to startups, wants to create congenial atmosphere for growth: Minister



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government accords top priority to startups and wants to create a congenial atmosphere for them to grow through various incentives and schemes, Union Minister Som Parkash said on Thursday.

Addressing the 'Assocham Startup Finale' event virtually, the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry highlighted that a number of incentives are being provided by the government for startups, ranging from how to form a busi-

ness to income-tax exemption and relaxation in labour laws. He also observed that the credit guarantee scheme and a Fund of Funds with SIDBI have also been initiated.

"So, the government is giving top priority to these schemes. I assure from the government side whatever help is required, we should work together to make India strong, to make India Aatmanirbhar," Parkash said, adding that he sees the future of India in these startups.

Subsidised, non-subsidised LPG price hiked by ₹25 per cylinder

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cooking gas LPG price on Thursday was hiked by ₹25 per cylinder across all categories, including subsidised fuel and those availed by Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries.

This is the third increase in rates this month on the back of spiralling international rates as demand recovered.

A 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi now costs ₹794 as against ₹769 at which they were supplied on Wednesday, according to a price notification from state-owned fuel retailers. The increase is applicable across all categories including subsidised and non-subsidised users. LPG is available only at one rate, market price, across the country. The government, however, gives a small subsidy to select customers. However, this subsidy has been eliminated in metros and major cities through successive price increases over the past couple of years.

IN BRIEF

NORTHERN RAILWAY BARAT & SCOUTS GUIDES CELEBRATES THE WORLD THINKING DAY

On the occasion of 164th Birth Anniversary of Lord Baden Powell (founder of Scouting) and the 132th Birth Anniversary of Lady Baden Powell, Northern Railway Barat & Scouts Guides celebrated the World Thinking Day on 22.02.2021 across all Districts of Northern Railway Barat & Scouts Guides.

The day offers and opportunity for the scouts & guides to think about others and focus on a wider issue that impact the others within the guiding and scouting moments. The day aims to bring together the young people around the world to celebrate in international fun and friendship and focus on the global theme of the year. The World Thinking Day 2021 is "Peace Building".

NORTHERN RAILWAY GM INSPECTS THE BHATINDA - JIND RAIL SECTION OF DELHI DIVISION

General Manager, Northern Railway, Ashutosh Gangal conducted extensive inspection of Bhatinda - Jind Rail Section today. He was accompanied by SC Jain, Divisional Railway Manager, Delhi, Principal Head of Departments of Northern Railway and Senior Divisional Officers of Delhi Division. Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager inspected Katar Singh Wala Railway Station and small track machine display was also organized. He also inspected Level Crossing No.237-C, Turnout No. 88 & 89, Long Welded Rail(LWR) No. 17 DN & Switch Expansion Joint (SEJ) No. 35 DN. In Kot Fateh - Maisar Khana section, GM Inspected Bridge no. 345-A and Maur - Sarda Singh Wala Section, GM Inspected Curve No. 38 DN.

SBI, SHAPOORJI PALLONJI REAL ESTATE SIGN MOU

Mumbai: State Bank of India and Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable faster processing of home loans, approvals and to provide other benefits. The lender's head and chief general manager (Real Estate & Housing Business Unit) Shreekanth said the collaboration will create win-win business opportunities for all stakeholders.

Cheque bounce cases: SC asks Centre if it can set up additional courts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In order to reduce pendency of cheque bounce cases which have reached 35 lakh

across courts, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre whether it can create additional courts for expeditious disposal of such matters.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices L Nageswara Rao and S Ravindra Bhat asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee to

inform it by next week whether the central government was willing to create additional courts under Article 247 for speedy disposal of cases under

Negotiable Instrument Act (NI ACT).

Banerjee said he would seek instruction and inform the court by next date of hearing.

Article 247 of the Constitution gives power to Parliament to establish certain additional courts for the better administration of laws made by

it or of any existing laws with respect to a matter enumerated in the Union List. The top court was hearing a suo motu case to work out a mechanism

for expeditious and just adjudication of cases relating to dishonour of cheques, fulfilling the mandate of law and reduce high pendency.

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	15079.85	15176.50	15065.35	15097.35	115.35
COALINDIA	146.90	157.70	145.75	156.90	12.50
ADANI	669.40	711.35	667.15	705.00	39.80
HINDALCO	337.60	354.60	337.00	350.00	17.20
NTPC	411.95	467.80	411.85	461.30	22.60
RELIANCE	2076.00	2152.00	2073.00	2147.00	86.00
INDUSINDBK	325.35	334.70	323.25	333.60	11.95
IOC	99.40	101.95	98.85	101.45	3.50
JSWSTEEL	411.00	425.00	410.00	421.00	12.90
CIPLA	795.00	814.00	790.45	813.40	24.35
GAIL	147.50	152.80	146.20	150.45	4.00
AXISBANK	765.00	783.50	762.15	769.00	19.60
TATASTEEL	732.00	753.00	731.95	745.00	16.80
POWERGRID	223.70	232.80	220.80	227.80	5.05
HDCLIFE	724.00	744.00	721.00	734.95	16.15
HCLTECH	925.00	934.00	922.15	931.80	15.85
GRASIM	1258.00	1289.00	1254.00	1275.00	21.40
SUNPHARMA	604.00	618.90	602.70	611.15	9.70
TCS	2974.00	3029.00	2968.45	2985.05	36.95
BHARTIARTL	579.90	584.45	577.05	580.10	7.15
DRREDDY	4421.15	4590.00	4421.15	4486.00	50.45
M&M	853.10	866.60	842.05	859.10	9.50
EICHERMOT	2555.00	2558.95	2517.00	2554.00	18.20
BAJAJ-AUTO	3936.00	3980.00	3910.05	3953.50	21.65
ULTRACEMCO	606.00	648.00	638.45	641.10	26.55
SBI	473.20	482.90	469.70	480.00	34.50
ASIANPAINT	2375.00	2386.25	2336.20	2369.90	8.55
BAJAJFINSV	10340.00	10377.95	10316.60	10234.00	34.40
SBN	41.00	41.90	40.55	40.70	1.15
ITC	209.50	211.20	208.80	209.20	0.35
BRITANNIA	3420.00	3425.70	3374.60	3407.50	1.95
INFY	1288.45	1299.75	1272.00	1275.00	0.70
HDFCBANK	1609.75	1636.25	1602.00	1605.40	-1.05
HEROMOTOCO	3450.00	3460.00	3402.35	3458.50	-5.80
TECHM	964.00	969.00	952.25	958.00	-2.05
SHREECEM	2753.00	2789.90	2723.30	2748.35	-67.65
WIPRO	423.10	429.00	420.45	421.95	-1.15
MARUTI	7065.00	7069.00	6915.00	6926.05	-26.90
BAFINANCE	5611.00	5619.95	5511.35	5540.00	-22.90
HINDUNILVR	2170.00	2185.00	2167.00	2163.45	-15.40
HDFC	2718.50	2739.00	2677.00	2687.00	-20.75
TITAN	1460.00	1462.95	1430.50	1440.25	-11.80
KOTAKBANK	1927.00	1965.20	1887.55	1892.20	-19.00
ICICI	1534.00	1540.60	1502.00	1510.00	-16.60
DIVISLAB	347.25	3513.30	3432.00	3436.40	-43.65
NESTLEIND	16306.00	16373.30	16100.00	16118.95	-226.30
ICICIBANK	642.70	648.40	626.30	629.00	-12.10

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	Change
RELIANCE	2078.00	2152.25	2071.00	2144.85	147.30
TATAMOTORS	325.40	334.50	323.30	333.10	82.50
ADANI	2733.00	2739.00	2677.65	2684.00	8975.00
HDFC	1291.00	1299.00	1271.85	1274.75	863.15
INFY	41.80	49.30	39.70	49.30	1343.95
HSCIL	766.00	783.25	760.00	770.80	863.15
AXISBANK	2998.00	3029.45	2969.10	2992.90	1330.90
TCS	640.15	648.35	626.55	627.95	30.25
ICICIBANK	86.75	94.65	86.75	93.65	30.25
EQUITAS	41.00	41.90	40.60	40.25	30.25
SBIN	146.90	158.60	145.85	156.35	30.25
COALINDIA	678.00	737.70	676.45	732.80	30.25
TATASTEEL	733.10	752.85	731.60	742.90	30.25
IOC	441.30	467.60	441.30	461.60	30.25
GAIL	43.50	47.75	43.40	47.20	30.25
INDUSINDBK	1081.90	1119.20	1081.00	1109.75	30.25
MARUTI	7094.00	7094.00	6912.85	6927.10	30.25
BAFINANCE	5608.00	5618.00	5513.45	5530.15	30.25
HINDUNILVR	2190.00	2190.00	2160.00	2163.60	30.25
ADANI	667.30	711.40	667.30	704.60	30.25
ONGC	115.60	120.50	115.60	119.00	30.25
BHARTIARTL	581.00	584.45	577.00	579.15	30.25
HINDALCO	336.55	354.45	336.55	350.95	30.25
TCS	564.95	596.80	559.40	592.45	30.25
DRREDDY	94.70	97.60	94.45	96.05	30.25
TATAPOWER	11.52	11.83	11.46	11.64	30.25
IDEA	2369.00	2387.00	2336.60	2373.50	30.25
ASIANPAINT	815.00	862.05	808.20	843.35	30.25
ADANI	949.80	960.00	930.20	945.95	30.25
KAJARIACER	90.20	101.95	98.90	100.90	30.25
HCLTECH	923.95	934.00	913.15	928.45	30.25
DRREDDY	4429.00	4589.45	4423.80	4479.25	30.25
NTPC	103.50	110.10	103.05	107.95	30.25
HDFCBANK	1622.00	1635.80	1601.40	1605.75	30.25
JUSTDIAL	671.00	767.50	666.90	767.50	30.25
ITC	209.80	211.20	208.90	209.15	30.25
GAIL	146.85	152.70	146.30	150.85	30.25
BANKBARODA	90.00	90.70	89.10	89.90	30.25
LI	1531.30	1540.90	1502.90	1506.60	30.25
CIPLA	792.35	815.00	790.35	809.10	30.25
IRCTC	1690.00	1738.30	1670.65	1726.10	30.25
HDFCLIFE	722.50	744.00	720.00	733.60	30.25
SUNPHARMA	603.00	618.80	602.65	609.05	30.25
GRASIM	1256.15	1288.70	1255.00	1271.85	30.25
IBULHSGFIN	220.80	227.40	220.00	225.50	30.25
KOTAKBANK	1935.00	1964.95	1886.90	1895.35	30.25
M&M	855.00	866.55	842.40	849.60	30.25
PNB	42.15	42.70	41.75	41.90	30.25
ULTRACEMCO	644.00	646.00	630.10	640.75	30.25
ASHOKLEY	128.00	131.60	127.30	131.15	30.25
SAIL	72.45	73.85	72.10	73.20	30.25
WIPRO	428.00	429.00	420.50	421.40	30.25
BAJAJFINSV	10270.00	10374.25	10130.35	10263.25	30.25
JSWSTEEL	412.95	424.90	409.35	421.65	30.25
NESTLEIND	16394.70	16394.70	16102.00	16114.35	30.25
TITAN	1460.00	1460.00	1430.75	1436.05	30.25
MPSL	899.30	938.65	885.80	889.15	30.25
POWERGRID	2254.00	2372.00	220.80	227.75	30.25
EICHERMOT	2280.00	2560.00	2517.05	2552.05	30.25
TECHM	969.90	969.90	952.80	957.80	30.25
VEDL	207.40	210.85	205.55	207.95	30.25
DMART	3150.00	3177.40	3071.00	3086.60	30.25
IDFCFIRSTB	64.90	65.85	64.45	64.70	30.25
SICAR	1045.00	1137.70	1042.00	1109.40	30.25
IOX	310.40	310.40	299.15	301.25	30.25
NAUKRI	4975.00	5058.40	4944.00	4958.45	30.25
MAHABANK	25.00	25.83	24.70	25.83	30.25
ZEEL	206.25	210.80	206.25	208.65	30.25

Junta supporters attack anti-coup demonstrators

Yangon: Supporters of Myanmar's junta attacked protesters demanding the end to the military government that took power in a coup, using slingshots, iron rods and knives Thursday to injure several of the demonstrators.

The violence complicates an already intractable standoff between the military and a protest movement that has been staging large rallies daily to demand that Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government be restored to power. She and other politicians were ousted and arrested on February 1 in a takeover that shocked the international community and reversed years of slow progress toward democracy.

Facebook, meanwhile, announced that it would ban all accounts linked to the country's military as well as ads from military-controlled companies — a reflection of international outrage over the takeover.

On Thursday, tensions escalated on the streets between anti-coup protesters and supporters of the military. Photos and videos posted on social media showed groups attacking



A woman helps an unidentified man lying on the sidewalk of Sule Pagoda Road after he was attacked by a group of Junta supporters in Yangon, Myanmar on Thursday

people in downtown Yangon as police stood by without intervening. The number of injured people and their condition was not immediately clear.

According to accounts and photos posted on social media, hundreds of people marched Thursday in support of the coup. They carried banners in English with the slogans "We Stand With Our Defense Services" and "We Stand With State Administration Council," which is the official name of the new junta.

When the marchers were

jeered by bystanders near the city's Central Railway station, they responded by firing slingshots, throwing stones and then chasing down the bystanders. One band that broke away stabbed and kicked a man they had chased. Video shows there had been both pro and anti-coup crowds near the station Thursday.

Supporters of the military have gathered in the streets before, especially in the days immediately before and after the coup, but had not used violence so openly.

Facebook bans all Myanmar military-linked accounts, ads

Yangon: Social media giant Facebook announced on Thursday it was banning all accounts linked to Myanmar's military as well as ads from military-controlled companies in the wake of the army's seizure of power on February 1.

It said in a statement that it was treating the post-coup situation in Myanmar as an "emergency," explaining that the ban was precipitated by events since the coup, including "deadly violence."

Facebook already has banned several military-linked accounts since the coup, including army-controlled Myawaddy TV and state television broadcaster MRTV.

The bans are also being applied on Instagram, which is owned by Facebook. Facebook and other social media platforms came under enormous criticism in 2017 when right groups said they failed to act enough to stop hate speech against Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority.

Xi claims complete victory in eradicating poverty in China

Beijing: President Xi Jinping on Thursday declared that China has scored a "complete victory" in its fight against poverty by lifting over 770 million people out of it in the last four decades, calling it another "miracle" created by the country that will go down in history.

Absolute poverty has been eradicated in the world's most populous country, Xi announced while addressing a gathering held here to mark the country's accomplishments in poverty alleviation and honour its model poverty fighters.

China has a population of around 1.4 billion.

"No country has been able to lift hundreds of millions of

people out of poverty in such a short time," Xi said.

Xi said that all poor people in rural areas have been lifted out of poverty.

With this, China has achieved the UN goal of poverty eradication 10 years ahead of the 2030 deadline, he said.

Over the past eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty. All the 832 impoverished counties and 1,28,000 impoverished villages have been removed from the poverty list, he said.

Since the launch of the reform and opening up in the

late 1970s, 770 million impoverished rural residents have shaken off poverty when calculated according to China's current poverty line, he said.

China has contributed to more than 70 per cent of global poverty reduction over the same period, Xi, also General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), said.

With such achievements, China has created another "miracle" that will "go down in history," he said.

Xi said since he assumed power, China has invested accumulative fiscal funds of nearly 1.6 trillion yuan (about \$246 billion) into poverty alleviation

over the past eight years. He said according to the World Bank's international poverty line, the number of Chinese people lifted out of poverty over the past 40 years accounts for more than 70 per cent of the global total.

China considers extreme rural poor are those with annual per capita income of less than \$620, or about \$1.69 a day at current exchange rates, which compared closely with the World Bank's minimum standard of \$1.90 a day.

Complete eradication of poverty in China was the main goal announced by Xi when he came to power towards the end of 2012.

PTI

GOP rallies solidly against Dems' virus relief package

Washington: Republicans rallied solidly against Democrats' proposed \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief bill as lawmakers awaited a decision by the Senate's parliamentarian that could bolster or potentially kill a pivotal provision hiking the federal minimum wage.

Despite their paper-thin congressional majorities, Democratic leaders were poised to push the sweeping package through the House on Friday. They were hoping the Senate, where changes seem likely, would follow quickly enough to have legislation on President Joe Biden's desk by mid-March.

By late Wednesday, not one Republican in either chamber had publicly said he or she would back the legislation. GOP leaders were honing attacks on the package as a job killer that does too little to reopen schools or businesses shuttered for the coronavirus pandemic and that was not only wasteful but also even unscrupulous.

"I haven't seen a Republican yet that's found something in there that they agree with," said House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. "I think all



House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

Republicans believe in three simple things: They want a bill that puts us back to work, back to school and back to health. This bill is too costly, too corrupt and too liberal."

The hardening opposition suggested that Biden's first major legislative initiative could encounter unanimous GOP opposition. That was a counterpoint to the new president's refrain during his campaign about bringing the country together and a replay of the Republican wall that new President Barack Obama encountered in 2009 and most of his administration.

Democrats showed no signs of backing down, citing

the assistance the measure would spread to people, businesses and state and local governments.

"If congressional Republicans want to oppose all that, my response is: Good luck," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said on the Senate floor.

By Wednesday evening, the most suspense was over a decision anticipated from Elizabeth MacDonough, the Senate's nonpartisan arbiter of its rules, that promised enormous political and legislative consequences.

The relief bill includes a provision that over five years would hike the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. The parliamentarian is involved because Democrats are pushing the overall \$1.9 trillion measure through Congress under special rules that will let them avoid a Senate filibuster by Republicans.

Those same rules prohibit provisions with only an "incidental" impact on the federal budget because they are chiefly driven by other policy purposes. The parliamentarian decides if a provision passes that test.

Republicans push back on Pelosi proposal for riot commission

Washington: Republican leaders in the House and Senate say a proposed plan for an independent commission to study the Capitol insurrection is overly tilted toward Democrats, arguing that the panel should have an even party split like the one formed to study the September 11 terrorist attacks.

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Wednesday that a legitimate commission would be comprised of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats. A draft proposed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi would create an 11-member commission with four Republicans and seven Democrats, three of whom would be chosen by President Joe Biden, according to one of multiple aides who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the details under negotiation.

Pelosi has not commented on the draft or said why there should be more Democratic members.

AP

China denies subjecting US diplomats to coronavirus anal tests

AP ■ BEIJING

China on Thursday denied subjecting US diplomats to COVID-19 anal tests following reports from Washington that some of its personnel were being made to undergo the procedure.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told reporters at a daily briefing that "China has never asked US diplomats in China to go through anal swab tests." A US State Department spokesperson said Washington was "committed to guaranteeing the safety and security of American diplomats and their families while preserving their dignity, consistent

with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations as well as other relevant diplomatic law provisions." The Washington Post reported last week that some US personnel had told the department they had been subjected to the anal tests.

The procedure has been applied in China because it is reportedly more accurate than nasal or mouth swabs.

China has not reported a new local case of Covid-19 in more than a week, but has maintained strict testing, especially for people arriving from abroad. Diplomats and other foreigners with special status are exempted from a ban on most foreigners entering the country.

Countering Chinese Propaganda Act introduced in US Congress

Washington: A legislation has been introduced in the US Congress for countering the Chinese propaganda by creating a new sanctions authority against state-backed disinformation networks.

Republican Study Committee Chairman Congressman Jim Banks and Senator Tom Cotton on Wednesday introduced the Countering Chinese Propaganda Act.

The bill requires the Secretary of State to examine whether or not the United Front Work Department meets the criteria to be sanctioned under this new authority.

The legislation is based on recommendations from the Republican Study Committee's National Security Strategy and authorises sanctions against the United Front Work Department

(UFWD), which is an overseas influence arm of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC). The United Front participated directly in the Uyghur genocide and the oppression of Christians in China, but its ultimate goal is to spread those persecutory tactics around the globe, Banks said.

"The leadership in Washington may have changed, but China's political warfare hasn't. It's fallen to Congress to expose and counter Communist Party disinformation. We can't back down now," he said.

"The Chinese Communist Party expands its disinformation campaign each day — concealing information on the origin of Covid-19, lying about its oppression of Uighurs and other religious minorities, and infiltrating American universities and businesses," Cotton said.

PTI

German police raid suspected Islamic extremists in Berlin

AP ■ BERLIN

Hundreds of German police officers conducted coordinated raids early on Thursday in Berlin and the surrounding state of Brandenburg in the investigation of an organisation banned over allegations of Islamic extremism. Some 850 police, including SWAT teams, were involved in the raids of apartments linked to members of the organisation known as Jama'at Berlin, the state Interior Ministry said. The organisation, whose name translates literally as the "Berlin Group," was banned by Berlin's state Interior Minister Andreas Geisel ahead of the raids on the grounds it was a "very radical" group that followed the Islamic State group's ideology. "The ban is another clear signal to all religious extremists," Geisel said. "We will fight the roots of terror. We will tolerate no place where terror is preached and the so-called Islamic State is glorified."

Armenian PM faces army's demand to resign

Yerevan: Armenia's prime minister accused top military officers on Thursday of attempting a coup after they demanded he step down, adding fuel to months long protests calling for his resignation following the nation's defeat in a conflict with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The demonstrations began immediately after Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signed a November 10 peace deal that saw Azerbaijan reclaim control over large parts of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas that had been held by Armenian forces for more than a quarter-century.

Those protests have gathered pace this week, and the feud with his top military commanders has weakened Pashinyan's position. The immediate trigger for the standoff was Pashinyan's decision to oust the first deputy chief

of the military's General Staff, a group of the armed forces' top commanders. In response, the General Staff called for Pashinyan's resignation — but the prime minister doubled down and dismissed the chief of the General Staff.

He described the military's statement as a "military coup attempt" and urged troops to only listen to his orders.

He also called on his backers to come to the streets and then later walked among them, using a loud-speaker to rally support. "We need a conversation, not a confrontation," he said.

Pashinyan denied rumors that he was preparing to flee the country.

Supporters of Pashinyan and the opposition engaged in sporadic scuffles on the streets of Yerevan on Thursday.

AP

Medical oxygen scarce in Africa

AP ■ DAKAR

A crisis over the supply of medical oxygen for coronavirus patients has struck nations in Africa and Latin America, where warnings went unheeded at the start of the pandemic and doctors say the shortage has led to unnecessary deaths.

It takes about 12 weeks to install a hospital oxygen plant and even less time to convert industrial oxygen manufacturing systems into a medical-grade network. But in Brazil

and Nigeria, as well as in less-populous nations, decisions to fully address inadequate supplies only started being made last month, after hospitals were overwhelmed and patients started to die. The gap in medical oxygen availability "is one of the defining health equity issues, I think, of our age," said Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, who said he survived a severe coronavirus infection thanks to the oxygen he received.

Doctors in Nigeria anx-

iously monitor traffic as oxygen deliveries move through the gridlocked streets of Lagos. Desperate families of patients around the world sometimes turn to the black market. Governments take action only after hospitals are overwhelmed and the infected die by the dozens.

In Brazil's Amazonas state, a pair of swindlers were caught reselling fire extinguishers painted to look like medical oxygen tanks. In Peru, people camped out in lines to get cylinders for sick relatives.

Only after the lack of oxygen was blamed for the deaths of four people at an Egyptian hospital in January and six people at one in Pakistan in December did governments address the problems.

John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said medical oxygen is a "huge critical need" across the continent of 1.3 billion people and is a main reason that Covid-19 patients are more likely to die there during surges.

FROM PAGE 1

CENTRE FRAMES RULES FOR OTT, SOCIAL MEDIA APPS

As far as news portals, the guidelines insist on a self-regulatory body like TV channels and overseeing mechanism in the Information Broadcasting Ministry.

Javadekar said publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, providing a level-playing field between the offline (print, TV) and digital media, an official statement said.

"Digital media portals have no right to spread rumour. Media's freedom is absolute but with reasonable restrictions. Content matter, especially media, OTT and digital media will be administered by I&B Ministry. Intermediary platforms monitoring will be done by the IT Ministry in the manner they have been doing it," Javadekar said.

In a move that could have major ramifications for players like Twitter and WhatsApp, the Government said that significant social media intermediaries providing services primarily in the nature of messaging will have to enable identification of the "first originator" of the information that undermines sovereignty of India, security of the State, or public order. The intermediary, however, will not be required to disclose the contents of any message. The rules also state that users who voluntarily want to verify their accounts should be given an

appropriate mechanism to do so, and be accorded a visible mark of verification.

Users will have to be provided with a prior intimation and explanation when significant social media intermediary removes content on its own. In such cases, users have to be provided an adequate and reasonable opportunity to dispute the action taken by the intermediary.

Rules related to social media will be administered by the Ministry of Electronics and IT, while those related Code of Ethics and procedure and safeguards in relation to digital media will be administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. On rules related to over-the-top (OTT) and digital media, the Government said, guidelines have been framed keeping in mind the difference between viewership in a theatre and television, as compared to watching it on internet. A Code of Ethics and three-tier grievance redressal mechanism would be applicable for news publishers, OTT platforms and digital media.

DCGI SEEKS MORE DATA FOR SPUTNIK V EMERGENCY USE APPROVAL IN INDIA

The subject expert committee (SEC) took up the application on Wednesday, but did not give emergency use authorisation on the basis of the current data set that was produced before its members.

"The subject expert committee has

sought more data such as the immunogenicity data from the company. The application has not been rejected, they will be given a chance to present their case once again after they have all the relevant documents," said a senior Government official on the condition of anonymity.

The company had presented the safety profile of Phase 2 clinical trials, and interim data from Phase 3 trials.

However, Dr Giridhara R Babu, Bengaluru-based epidemiologist questioned the DCGI stand and asked, "What's the rationale for differential decisions? Phase 3 of Sputnik published similar to Covishield based on data from other countries. No results from the latter on bridging study but approved for use. Covaxin is approved without phase 3 results," he tweeted.

Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director-Bone Marrow Transplant Programme, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram too termed "wrong" the DCGI's move to hold the approval decision.

He pointed out that Covaxin was given EUA in January this year based on 1,500 patients data (phase I and II data). He also pointed out that while Covishield had a data from 23,000 patients from European countries, but it had a very low number of Indian patient data. In contrast, Sputnik has efficacy data of 91 per cent with 15,000 subjects, has not been given the nod, he asserted.

A study published in The Lancet said, "Russia's Sputnik V vaccine demonstrated efficacy of 91.6 per cent against Covid-19, according to interim results of Phase 3 trials."

Several countries like Argentina,

Venezuela, UAE, Iran have also started giving Sputnik V jabs to their citizens. The vaccine is undergoing phase 3 clinical trials in India, Dr Bhargava noted.

In September last year, Dr Reddy's partnered with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) to conduct the clinical trials of Sputnik V and for its distribution rights in India.

According to the RDIF, Egypt has recently approved Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against Covid-19, becoming the 34th country outside of Russia and third in North Africa to do so. RDIF, Russia's sovereign wealth fund is responsible for marketing the vaccine abroad.

UK COURT SAYS NIRAV HAS A CASE TO ANSWER IN INDIA

Modi can also appeal to the UK Supreme Court but only after the High Court certifies that the appeal involves a point of law of general public importance, and either the High Court or the Supreme Court gives leave for the appeal to be made.

Meanwhile, Indian-origin Minister Priti Patel has a number of matters related to Indian economic offenders adding up. Mallya's case is yet to be fully concluded and that of accused arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari is set to begin its magistrates' court proceedings from April.

The UK Court's judgment is a significant achievement in the context of CBI's efforts to curb corruption and is a reminder that fugitives, who have eluded the process of law after commission of large value frauds, cannot consider themselves

above the process merely because they have changed jurisdictions. The judgement also vindicates the painstaking investigation by CBI, especially since Nirav Modi had raised various issues with regard to the admissibility of evidence, the fairness of investigation, trial, prison conditions, availability of health facilities in India and extraneous consideration, with a view to divert attention from his own acts, it said.

INS ASKS GOOGLE TO RAISE PUBLISHER SHARE IN AD REVENUE TO 85%

Pointing out that publishers have been providing complete access to "quality journalism with credible news, current affairs, analysis, information and entertainment", INS said there is a huge distinction between the editorial content from quality publications and fake news that is spreading on other information platforms. INS has also noted the development taken place in Australia and

some other countries in this regard. It said that over the past year, publishers across the world have been raising the issue of fair payment for content and of proper sharing of advertising revenue with Google. "It is also noted that Google has recently agreed to better compensate and pay publishers in France, the European Union and notably in Australia," said INS.

The Society has also pointed out that advertising has been the financial backbone of the news industry. "However, newspaper publishers are seeing their share of the advertising pie shrinking in the digital space, even as Google is taking a 'giant share of advertising spends', leaving publishers with a small share," it said.

INS has also raised the issue of giving greater prominence to editorial content from registered news publishers to tackle fake news, as Google picks up content from several sites that are not credible, thus "amplifying misinformation and propagation of fake news".

Pointing out that the INS is engaged in discussions with Google on these vital issues, the letter also reiterated that "Indian print media is the most credible source of news and information in the country, and newspapers play a vital role in nation-building".

It also added that the pandemic and the current digital business model have been unfair to publishers, making it unviable for the print media industry. "We invest heavily on journalism, the core of our news operations because newspapers play a vital role in the society."



Bollywood
 You will never win if you don't deal with your work ethically. You need to stick to your principles.
 —Ranveer Singh

TRENDBLAZER



SUSHMITA SEN CONFIRMS AARYA2

Bollywood actress **SUSHMITA SEN** on Thursday confirmed a second season of her web series *Aarya*, which marked her digital debut last year. "She sees a storm coming...in the mirror. #Aarya #season2. Your wish is our command. Let's do this," the actress wrote on Instagram. Sushmita made her comeback on screen with the Ram Madhvani web series. The series was a hit and fans have been waiting for a second season. The series marked the actor's return to the screen five years after her last release, the 2015 Bengali film *Nirbaak*.

fairtalk

KRITI SANON



"I don't think you can be scared and cautious and still move ahead in your career. Fear pulls you back. Once I know why I am doing a project, there is no fear. You like the film, the storyline, the scene. You know you are doing something slightly different. Yes, it can be experimental but that's your reason for doing it. I believe in all the films I am doing right now."

dailytalk

ABHAY DEOL



"OTT platforms are a limited space for content, not at the mercy of multiplexes and single screen cinemas that get taken over by bigger films and producers that don't allow space for newer ideas. While the OTT platforms have to make popular cinema as they should, they have the ability to cater to those who want something outside the mainstream."

THERON OPENS UP ON RELATIONSHIPS

Academy Award winning actress **CHARLIZE THERON** opened up about men and past relationships in a show hosted by Hollywood star **Drew Barrymore**. Theron says she thinks back how she made herself smaller for a guy or in a relationship.



LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST

Adventure sports help to discover ourselves and overcome fears. **NIHARIKA NIGAM** shares the change in perspective in the last decade towards this field

Experiential travel has gained momentum over the years. People want to spend on experiences and creating memories more than ever, and this has become a favourable trend for the adventure sports industry. Comprising of various diverse activities services and experiences, it has created a niche for itself in all holiday packages and itineraries, be it budget trips or luxury vacations.

The term 'extreme sports' is associated with high-adrenaline activities like bungee jumping, skydiving, scuba diving, surfing, rock climbing, etc. They are different from our usual sporting activities, in the sense that they are more mentally challenging and about overcoming fears. They consciously establish equanimity amidst 'perceived chaos' or usually fearful situations, rather than a test of skill and stamina. This is why standing at the edge of the bungee bridge, you can have an athlete back off, while someone at 110 kgs could not only attempt it but accomplish as well. It's an entirely different ball game and we love seeing people face their fears and rise above them.

Why indulge in adventure sports? They offer thrill, excitement and adrenaline rush of accomplishing a milestone by overcoming fears. By indulging in these action-packed activities, people get to have their once-in-a-lifetime experiences and memories to be cherished forever. Needless to say, it's a great de-stressor too.

Discover yourself Adventure sports are also a way towards self-discovery. Extreme sports such as mountain biking, scuba diving, kayaking, rafting, and bungee jumping are life-changing experiences that demand extreme courage



and mental strength. Those who step out of their comfort zone for leisure are considered to be extremely audacious.

Research published in the Journal of Humanistic Psychology reveals that adventure sports lead to a positive transformation in courage and humility. Bane, one of the research participants discussed his experience of windsurfing in storm conditions and admitted that it triggered an absolute life transformation, making him better and stronger.

Test your limits People participating in adventure sports go beyond their limits to overcome the anxiety and negativity in their lives. Moreover, they acquire self-reliance, improved self-esteem, and confidence to face challenges and situations more optimistically. Such experiences often result in better well-being and improved life expectancy, reveals the researches.



Joy of living

It is a common misconception that adventure sports are for fitness/adventure enthusiasts or 'experts'. Just like any other activity in life, while better fitness levels improve the experience, it is definitely not a prerequisite. In fact, one must experience these activities to generally improve their joy of living.

Find your calm

When the pandemic struck us, tourism was the worst hit. However, once everything started getting unlocked, people found solace in traveling and adventure sports to satiate their wanderlust.

Pushing your mental confines, adventure sports often put you in extreme situations which naturally make you handle it maturely and calmly. Flying in the open air after jumping out of the plane is not a cakewalk. Being in such a situation triggers chemical reactions in your mind but keeping your cool is what it demands. Such epiphanies develop you into a more matured and composed personality.

Broaden your horizons

Meeting new people and visiting new places introduce you to a new world every time. It expands the range of your knowledge and perception. New culture, habits and lifestyle help you become adaptive to the environment. You get the opportunity to indulge in unexplored terrains of life and perpetually gain better perspective. Involving in adventurous activities is an ideal getaway from the anxious life. This is a self-realisation journey that welcomes you to an entirely different world of thrill and positivity.

(The writer is Director-Business Development of an adventure sports company, Jumpin Heights.)

Vaani gears up for 3 releases



Actor **Vaani Kapoor** is gearing up for three back-to-back releases in three months. With *Bell-Bottom* locking May 28 as its release date, *Shamshera* releasing on June 25 and *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui* on July 9, Vaani will be in an intensely hectic promotional schedule starting April. She is thrilled that all her films are slated to be big screen entertainers. Vaani says, "It is remarkable that I have three back-to-back releases in three months. So, I'm mentally preparing myself for an intensely hectic work schedule. I don't think I will have a single minute for myself for the next five months and I'm not complaining about that."

The actor is excited to present herself in three different and diverse avatars in a span of three months. "It is exciting that

the audience will see me in three extremely diverse ways through these projects. I'm only hoping that all these three films are accepted by audiences and play an instrumental role in making people come back to the theatres," she says.

Vaani expects the audience to come back to the theatres to watch good cinema that gives them an unforgettable experience. She says, "I have shot for these films during the pandemic. The industry has shown its intent to only entertain audiences when COVID-19 subsides. So, I'm really looking forward to how the audience will support our films and the industry. We will offer them some of the best films and I'm hoping people will appreciate the content and head to the theatres."

A JAB OF EXCITEMENT

Sacre bleu, the Kiger is actually good



Later today, the Indian Car Of The Year (ICOTY) jury will announce the ICOTY for 2021. There are some very strong contenders this year and with the diverse jury, of which I am a member, will take a measured decision about which car will win. It will be a close contest I am sure. But I recently drove a car which is already a strong contender for next year's award, the Renault Kiger.

Despite recent events in Japan, the arrest and subsequent epic escape of Carlos Ghosn — which have shaken the Renault-Nissan alliance to its core, the two companies continue to work together in India. They share a large manufacturing facility South of Chennai and also share several vehicle platforms. The latest shared platform is the CMF-A modular platform, that allow for vehicles of different purposes to be built sharing common mechanicals. The first car from this was 2019's Renault Triber, which was quite a good car. Now the Nissan Magnite and the Renault Kiger go head-to-head in the rather unique to India, 'subcompact' Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) or what some describe as the 'beefed up' hatchback segment.

I'll get to the battle between the Magnite and the Kiger soon, but first a bit about Renault. The French carmaker has been moderately successful in India. They came into the market with

their eyes open, realised that India was a price-sensitive market and entered with the Duster, a built-to-a-price vehicle from Renault's Dacia stable in Romania. As we all know, the Duster was a hit. Yes, Renault's alliance with Mahindra was an ill-fated one which likely hit the success of the Logan sedan, but so did India's bizarre four-metre rule for cars. The Fluence and the Kaptur were commercial failures, possibly because Renault India did not have the pricing power that management thought they did, but conversely that is why the Kwid was a hit. Renault is clearly viewed as a value-for-money carmaker that doesn't make bad cars.

Honestly, the Kiger is a good car for the money that you are paying for it. Prices

start at ₹5.45 lakh for the base model with the 72PS naturally-aspirated engine. The RXZ variant powered by the 100PS turbocharged engine that I was driving had an ex-showroom price of ₹8.55 lakh and had been specified with features like a wireless charger and a two-tone colour scheme which would have brought up the price a bit, but even at eight and a half lakh, you are flabbergasted at just how good the value on the car is.

Let me get one thing straight up front, is this the best car in its class? No, it is not as nice inside and to drive as the Korean twins, the Sonet and Venue. The handling is not as sharp and while this turbo-engine responds faster and sounds smoother than what you experience on its rivals, the

overall ride comfort, handling and interiors, particularly the quality of the seats and plastics are better on the Korean cars. That said, you will be paying almost two lakh more for a properly specified variant compared to this manual turbo Kiger. And it isn't as if you don't get some nice features, you can specify wireless charging as an accessory which allows for wireless smartphone integration. The Renault infotainment operating system feels simpler than those on its rivals, but its simplicity means it is easier to navigate. The seven-inch digital display for the instrument cluster is well laid out and can be changed depending on which of the three drive modes (Eco, Urban or Sport) you select. Sport mode does

really does sharpen the engine and on the narrow winding roads of Goa's interiors, if you are willing to deal with some slight floatiness when you corner hard. My biggest gripe about the Kiger was actually the stitching on the steering wheel that isn't flush and when your hands need to move about a bit can be irritating.

Between the Magnite and the Kiger then, which one should you choose? Keep in mind that these two cars have far more in common than the Sonet and Venue, not least because unlike Kia and Hyundai they have their own separate factories. While the Sonet and Venue as well as the Creta and Seltos are built on the same platform, the vehicles don't only look very dif-

ferent, they have noticeable differences in the way that they drive and handle. The Kiger and Magnite are built on the same production line by the same assembly workers and honestly, I would probably be nitpicking if I really wanted to find ride and handling differences.

The main differences are in the looks and interiors. Now, I heard a comment that called the Kiger 'a Kwid on steroids' but, that said, I actually like the Kwid's looks particularly after the refresh. Personally, I think the Renault looks smarter because while the Magnite is not bad-looking, I really do not like the grille. But aesthetics are a personal choice. But, I do prefer the interiors of the Kiger, things feel a bit better laid out, and while the interiors are similar to the Triber, the Triber does have a nice passenger cabin. So, for me, it would be the Kiger, but things are marginal here as well, you are more than welcome to disagree with me on this.

But the biggest difference is between the two brands, as I wrote earlier, Renault is well-established. The Duster, Kwid and Triber have all done relatively well in the Indian market, there is a trust about the brand, you know that the product will be good and sales and service should not be worries. Nissan has not had that success over the years, and while the new management of the company is trying to make a difference, in the short run, I'm pretty sure the Kiger will outsell the Magnite even though both cars pretty much cost the same.

Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender

No.SSA/Pre Primary/FM/411/2020/4618 Date: 25.02.2021
 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from reputed manufacturer of manufacturer of Eva Sheet for supply of Floor Mat.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Executive Director,
 SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
 Janasanyog /CFI/5366/20

CLASSICS IN CONTEMPORARY FORM

Each dish at The House of Celeste is centered around one core ingredient and is created to perfection with contrasting textures, colours and flavours, says AYUSHI SHARMA



Mixologist Dhawan Singh Jeena



Corporate chef Valice Francis



Sous chef Ishan Ahluwalia

How would you define good times? Rather, how would you describe that I am really "into" the food? For me, it's when a dish lands at my table and 'just one bite' turns into five... The next thing I know is I am overeating just to hit that single moment of satisfaction over and over again. Doesn't it happen with you too? Well, tucked away in Gurugram's upmarket 32nd Milestone, THC — The House of Celeste is an Indian restaurant that triggered this feeling of contentment.

You know what they say, "The best chefs don't merely prepare food, but they serve memories." And it makes so much sense because once your belly is full, your sense of taste has been stimulated and your craving mitigated, what lives on are the memories. You may not remember all that you ate for a particular dinner but you will consistently recall the fulfillment you felt toward its end, perhaps, because of the freshness of the ingredients or the aroma of a specific dish. And that's why I think my visit to The House of Celeste was worth it!

Walking past the exteriors, through a hallway, I made my way into the cafe, which was segregated into different parts. The interiors were done up with round mirrors. The ambience — replete with solid colours, peppered with floral upholstery — seemed to be tailor-made for experimentation. As I ran my eyes over the menu, I realised that the cafe's USP was to offer a sense of familiarity and nostalgia. For instance, the very first dish corporate chef Valice Francis brought to the table was *Puchka Pebbles*. He asked me to have it in one go, which I did, and later to my surprise, I found out that they were a modern take on *pani puris* aka *gol gappas*. The 'pebbles' were made of white chocolate and had a chilly shell with a filling of tamarind chutney, mint and coriander water, and saffron tart. This sweet-salty, not so spicy treat was a great way



to start the meal. "This idea actually came from a molten choco lava cake," chef Francis shared. The cafe presents 'borderless cuisine with Indian elements'. The main endeavour was to provide rich and flavourful food made with local ingredients and vegetables, which have been sourced with highest safety standards in mind. It presented an innovative and contemporary menu offering small plates, large plates, sides and desserts with the season's finest ingredients. Each dish was centered around one core ingredient and was created to perfection with contrasting textures, colours and flavours.

Next in line was the *THC Papadi Chaat*. It was prepared using crisp fried dough wafers known as *papadi*, along with boiled chickpeas, boiled potatoes, *dahi* (yogurt), tamarind chutney, and topped with *chat masala* and *sev*. The dish had sweet, sour, tangy and spicy flavours blended in one. I can still feel its creamy and crunchy texture in my mouth.

The next dish that caught my fancy was *Calcutta Beat*

Balls. Yes, it very much resembles the non-vegetarian meat balls. It was an unique entirely vegetarian creation that imitates non-vegetarian flavours. The tiny red balls were made of beetroot with a filling of smoked goat cheese cream to give an illusion of the meat balls — both visually and in taste. The flavours were impeccable, but the way it was presented was what stole the show. The chef rightly said as he chuckled, "It's an ideal option for a vegetarian who wishes to know what meat tastes like."

Typically, people, especially the more gastronomically experienced ones, concur that being a vegetarian is "out of place" with being a foodie. However, I can proudly say that I am both — a vegetarian and a foodie. And the menu bore witness to it too as it had a delectable list of vegetarian dishes.

Just like the food, the specially-curated cocktails were nothing short of indulgent. The cocktail menu aimed to elevate pleasure to a celestial level, where the familiar takes on a new sparkle, where the comfort-

ing becomes playful, and where classics find a contemporary form. Mixologist Dhawan Singh Jeena shared that they had an absolute-zero-waste bar. "For instance, fruit peels, dry flowers, coffee powder, leftover mint stems, squeezed limes, orange shells or other freeze-dried items are usually used in syrups and concoctions," said he. He believes that small steps can result in big changes.

To accompany the delectable food, the mixologist made a few cocktails like *Coffee Colada*, *Bittle Blush*, *Celest Mule* and more. Mixologist Dhawan shared that they haven't finalised their cocktail menu yet as they are still testing and poking around in the bar to create something refreshing and new. They would continue to add drinks to the menu, which seemed like a bonus for me to return.

The cafe had an inviting, comforting and laidback atmosphere. As I was still sampling food, *Paneer Khurchan* made its way to my plate. Apparently, the idea of the dish was derived from

the Hindi word '*khurchana*' which means 'to scrape'. So it was basically scraped paneer in a semi-dry gravy with some *achar* cream in it. The filling was stuffed in a steamed bun, which looked similar to a mini *kulcha*. I can bet one could eat this not so spicy and creamy delicacy even on a full stomach.

As I neared a saturation, the main course was in line, which included *Paneer Pasanda*, *Soya Keema Chettinad*, *Dal Moradabadi* along with *Gobi-Matar Kulcha* and traditional *Jodhpuri Chur Chur Naan*. The sous chef Ishan Ahluwalia's approach towards *Paneer Pasanda* was a little European and hence, he engineered the dish in the form of Ravioli. The cherry on top was that the *paneer* was baked instead of fried. The chef explained, "The authentic one is usually shallow fried. The stuffing has a lot of variations, but people prefer adding *khoya* and chopped nuts to it." It was served with parmesan crisp as garnish. Its gravy was a modification of *Makhani* gravy with the addition of onion paste. Well, full marks to the presentation as well as for setting my tongue on fire.

I am sure you would agree that *Keema* recipes are a popular element among all the meat lovers. THC's *Soya Keema*, prepared in a very Chettinad way, is a bonus for vegetarians like me. It had South-inspired flavours. They garnished it with *Malgapudi*, a South Indian spice mix, traditionally served with *idlis*. When you have travelled approximately 45 kms on traffic-stuffed streets that too on a weeknight with very little expectations from the food, but are welcomed with something marvelous, it is bound to win hearts.

With all this and more, what made my visit to THC priceless was the care and attention that chef Francis, sous chef Ishan and mixologist Dhawan put into every element, from the flavours, texture, presentation to the smell and the taste.



You are what you eat

Ahead of Protein Day, nutrition expert

Dr JAGMEET MADAN shares that issues around this important nutrient need to be constantly discussed and propagated

While a number of socio-economic issues hound us today, our right to basic nutrition and health is one that should be demanded across the globe, especially in India. It is, therefore, not surprising that the second goal in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is 'Zero Hunger', which aims to reduce malnutrition in infants and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older people. While India continues towards its commitment to becoming a malnutrition-free country, a number of hurdles, further exacerbated by the pandemic, continue to hinder and slow down the progress. It is estimated that the pandemic will lead to a rise in hunger, with approximately 270 million people facing food insecurity as opposed to the 149 million during pre-COVID times. These findings are not only grave but a serious cause for alarm — India ranks 94 out of 107 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2020; in addition to grappling with an advanced protein deficiency issue with more than 70 per cent of our population at a risk of protein deficiency across age groups. A recent survey indicated that every second household in India has experienced a reduction in their intake of cereals, pulses and vegetables, even months after lockdown restrictions were lifted in most parts of the country.

It is, therefore, important — nay critical — to tackle the pressing issue of malnutrition and protein deficiency in specific head-on by not only creating awareness of protein-rich food sources but also dispelling misconceptions around accessibility, affordability, cultural nuances, and inherent hyperlocal habits. And this Protein Day, celebrated on February 27, with its theme of *Powering With Plant Protein*, let's delve into everything protein.

WHY PLANT PROTEIN?

We are perhaps the country with the single largest vegetarian population in the world with also a sizable population of flexitarians i.e. those who prefer a vegetarian diet while still enjoying meat (animal protein) in moderation. One of the key myths affecting the protein deficiency debate in India is the perception that not only are protein-rich foods expensive but that there is limited variety for those who don't eat meat — over 76 per cent recently surveyed shared this sentiment. Moreover, when presented with a number of protein-rich sources, a large segment of Indian mothers could only identify three out of 11 protein-rich foods correctly; thereby eliminating several key protein-rich sources completely.

This lack of knowledge coupled with the misconceptions that plant-protein is nutritionally inferior is myth to dispel as we continue in our quest to educate Indians about the role of proteins, especially plant-based protein rich diets that will help bridge the protein based nutrition and affordability gap.

IS IT FOR EVERYONE?

The quantity, quality and timing of protein consumed throughout the day across one's life span together play a role

in determining the health benefits of dietary protein. While one needs different levels of protein across different phases of life, the underlying key fact remains — protein is a key micronutrient that is essential for one's growth and development throughout life.

It begins with pregnant women and lactating mothers. A woman's diet during and immediately after pregnancy is pivotal for both, mother, and child, with proteins playing a key role in overall health and the baby's development. Diversity of diet and adequate quantity and quality of protein through variety of sources like pulses, dals, millets, whole grain cereals, milk and milk products, variety of beans and nuts and oilseeds are pertinent to be included in daily diet. For babies, the immunoglobulin of the breast milk derived from the colostrums adds to the benefits accrued from exclusive breast feeding of a baby for a minimum of six months which needs to be emphasised to all lactating mothers. The good quality protein based weaning foods with plant protein diversity should be an integral part of an infant's weaning foods.

For growing children, the need for protein intake is even more augmented as it not only helps in muscle and bone growth but also adds significantly to strengthening their immunity. Be it the usual routine at school, extra-curricular activities and cognitive development, protein plays an important role. The variety can be obtained from pulses and legumes, nuts and oilseeds, millets, oats, soybeans, almond or soy milk and peanut butter.

For healthy adults, who go about their day-to-day life, it is much required to continue to build immunity, maintain a healthy gut and repair of muscle wear and tear. In fact, it is believed that we may begin to naturally lose as much as eight per cent of overall muscle mass every decade after we turn 40, making it more important than ever to consume more protein as we age. Be it increased amounts of nuts, seeds, tofu, soy chunks, plant-based milk, beans such as edamame, green vegetables, jackfruit and pulses and legumes, adequate protein consumption based on one's requirements and lifestyle is crucial.

And while one may believe that protein's role with age might diminish, it is quite the contrary: With reports suggesting that one in three adults over the age of 50 experiences advanced muscle and strength loss, and thus, adequate protein intake is recommended for aging adults to support muscle and strength requirements.

Even as we recognise and act this Protein Day, it is important to make note that this cannot be a one-time or one-day discourse. Protein-related issues are very much an ongoing concern that need constant discussion, dialogue and education to continue on India's journey in becoming a healthy nation with sustainable well-being at its core.

(The writer is the National President of Indian Dietetic Association and supporter of the Right To Protein initiative.)

R E C I P E S

GULAB JAMUN CHEESECAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Plain digestive biscuits: 350 gm
- Ghee or unsalted butter: 120 gm
- Cream cheese: 600 gm
- Jaggery: 350 gm
- Gulab Jamun: 8
- Sour cream: 1 cup
- Thickened cream: 200 ml
- Eggs (lightly beaten): 4
- Cornflour: 1/3 cup
- Lemon juice: 2 tsp
- Blueberry compote: 50 gm

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 180 C. Grease a round 20 cm springform cake pan and line the base. Side with baking paper.
- Place biscuits in a food processor and whiz to crumbs. Add ghee and whiz to combine. Press into the base of prepared pan and chill until needed.



- Place cream cheese and 250 gm jaggery in a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and beat until smooth. Beat in sour cream. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in

cornflour and lemon juice. Cut the *gulab jamuns* into halves and place them on the biscuit base. Then pour the cream cheese mix over it. Wrap the outside of the pan in three layers of foil and place in a large roasting pan. Add enough boiling water to come halfway up the sides of the cake.

- Reduce oven to 150 C and bake cake for one hour 40 minutes or until just set with a gentle wobble in the centre.
- Turn off oven and cool for three hours approximately or until cold. Remove from pan and place on a serving plate.
- When ready to serve, melt remaining 100 gm jaggery in a small saucepan over medium heat with two tablespoons of water, stirring to dissolve the jaggery. Cool completely, then pour over the cake.
- Garnish with blueberry compote and fresh mint leaves.

Courtesy: Chef Anas Qureshi at Molecule.

YAM FISH CURRY IN GOA ORGANIC MASALA

WHAT YOU NEED

- Yam: 3 cup
- Red pepper
- Coconut milk: 5 cup
- Onion (medium): 1
- Salt to taste
- ORCO hand-ground organic fish masala
- Organic ginger powder
- Organic cinnamon powder: 1/4 tsp
- Garlic: 4
- Organic Kashmiri chilli powder: 3 tsp
- Organic paprika powder: 1/4 cup
- Balsamic or apple cider vinegar: 1/4 cup

METHOD

- In a steamer or pressure cooker, cook the yam pieces for 10 to 15 minutes until tender. Pierce the yams with a fork on all sides to allow the organic



masala to be absorbed. Keep aside.

- While the yams are steaming, grind together all the organic masala ingredients into a fine paste.
- This paste can stay for three months so if you like, you can make a large batch and store in the fridge.

- In a pan on medium flame, add one cup of water, the organic masala and the onion and stir. Cook until the water is almost gone and you are left with a thick paste.
- Add the cooked yam pieces, coconut milk and salt. Stir

- thoroughly to mix and boil it.
- Once boiling, lower the heat, add the red pepper slices and turn off the heat.
- Serve hot with rice or millets.

Courtesy: ORCO

Pitch was good, quality of batting wasn't: Kohli

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday said poor batting and not the pitch was responsible for the day-night third Test against England winding up inside two days and described the performance of batsmen on both sides as "bizarre".

Kohli insisted there were no demons in the pitch, which has been called "not ideal" by several former players like Michael Vaughan and Harbhajan Singh. Kohli said the track was absolutely fine at least in the first innings and only the odd ball was turning in the game which India won by 10 wickets on Thursday.

"To be honest, I don't think the quality of batting was up to standards. We were 100 for 3 and bowled out for less than 150. It was just that the odd ball turning and it was a good wicket to bat in the first innings," the India skipper said in his defence of the pitch.

Kohli said batsmen of both the sides did not apply themselves enough. Only Rohit Sharma (66 and 25 not out) and from England Zak Crawley (53 in first innings) managed to bat with ease.

"It was bizarre that 21 of the 30 wickets fell to straight balls. Test cricket is about trusting your defence. Lack of application ensured it was a quick finish," Kohli said.

Left-arm spinner Axar Patel stole the limelight in only his second Test along side veteran Ravichandran Ashwin by returning with match figures of 11 for 70 to earn the player-of-the-match award as India decimated England by 10 wickets to take an unassailable 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

Off-spinner Ashwin (15-3-48-4) also became the fourth Indian bowler and second fastest in the world to complete a commendable milestone of 400 Test wickets on Thursday.

Kohli showered praise on his two spinners for their match-winning efforts.

"A bizarre game which got over in 2 days. A lot of people were relieved when Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja) got injured. But then this guy (Axar) comes in. Bowls it quicker and from a bigger height as well. If the wick-



et has something in it, Axar is very lethal.

"I think we need to stand up and take notice of what Ashwin has done. In Tests, he is a modern day legend. As a captain, I am so pleased he is in my team," he said.

England skipper Joe Root was in no mood to give excuses for the heavy defeat, saying the tourists failed to capitalise on a decent start in the first innings after opting to bat.

"We were 70 for 2. But we didn't really capitalise on it. 250 on that wicket would have made it different. We will come back using this hurt and come back as a better team," he said.

Instead of blaming the pitch, Root said it was India's "high quality bowling" that made the difference.

"The plastic coating on the ball gathered

pace of the wicket. It was high quality bowling as well. Both sides struggled on that wicket. We don't define ourselves on a performance like this," he said.

"We shouldn't have any baggage from the previous games going into the last game. We have seen with the ball in hand, we can pick up wickets. I think it sums up the wicket, if I am getting a fiver."

He also congratulated Ishant Sharma for playing his landmark 100 Tests and Ashwin for his 400 Test wickets.

Man-of-the-match Axar said his focus would remain on bowling wicket-to-wicket, a plan which has reaped him rich dividends so far in his nascent Test career.

"When it happens, it feels so easy, not so much when it doesn't," he joked. "I am not thinking much. I want to con-

Kohli eclipses Dhoni's record

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Virat Kohli on Thursday surpassed Mahendra Singh Dhoni's record of winning maximum number of Test matches as captain on home soil after leading the side to a 10-wicket victory over England in the day-night third Test.

Kohli now has 22 victories at home in 29 Tests as captain which is one better than Dhoni, who had 21 wins in 30 Tests. Kohli already is India's most successful Test captain with 35 wins.

Sourav Ganguly and Mohammed Azharuddin have 21 and 14 victories to their credit as captains.

Virat Kohli said he is happy that if he is not contributing with the bat, he is doing it with the ball.

"My strength is to bowl wicket-to-wicket and not give any room...I just want to bowl as many dot balls as possible and make life difficult for batsmen," he said.

It's for ICC to decide whether Motera pitch is fit for purpose: Root

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

England skipper Joe Root on Thursday said it is up to the ICC, and not the players, to decide whether the "difficult" Motera pitch is suitable for Test cricket after his side was crushed inside two days by India in a low-scoring day-nighter here.

Root refused to blame the surface for England's batting woes after the team folded for 112 and 81 in its two innings. But he said it is the ICC that should consider the suitability of the pitch for Test cricket.

"I think that this surface, it's a very challenging one, is a very difficult one to play on. It is not for players to decide whether it is fit for purpose or not and that is up to the ICC," said Root, who took a career-best five-wicket haul during India's first innings.

"As players we are going to try and counter what is in front of us as best as we can," he added.

Root said his team missed the opportunity to get a big first innings total, which seemed possible when it was 70 odd for just two wickets.

"We are disappointed, I feel we have missed an opportunity, more so in the first innings than anything. The position we found ourselves in at 71/2, we had a real chance to (score big).

"In hindsight, if we would have got 200, that would have been a very good score on that wicket and the game would have looked completely different," Root said at the virtual post-match press conference.

India's left-arm spinner Axar Patel (6/38 and 5/32) and Ravichandran Ashwin (3/26 and 4/48) wreaked havoc on the surface. "We have got to get better and we are going to keep looking to find a way to scoring runs on surfaces like this," Root said.

England out of WTC final race

Ahmedabad: India knocked England out of contention from the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final in June with their 10-wicket triumph which propelled the hosts to the top of the standings.

India now have to either win or draw the final game here starting March 4 to claim the right to take on New Zealand at the Lords. The Black Caps have already qualified and are placed second in the latest list.

"England have dropped to 64.1 percentage points on the points table, which is now led by India with 71 percentage

points," the ICC stated.

"England are out of the race for a place in the final of the ICC World Test Championship after losing the third Test against India in Ahmedabad," it added.

England, who are now 2-1 down in the four-match series, needed to win the four-match series 3-1 to play the June 18-22 final. New Zealand are assured of a place in the final with 70 percentage points.

If India lose the final Test then Australia, who are in third place with 69.2 percentage points, will sneak in to make the final. PTI

Guptill finds form in run fest

AFP ■ DUNEDIN

Veteran batsman Martin Guptill returned to form with a blistering 97 as New Zealand held on for a nail-biting win over Australia in the second T20I in Dunedin on Thursday.

Guptill's Black Caps set Australia a challenging target of 220 after losing the toss but were made to sweat as Australia came within four runs of victory.

Both sides took advantage of University Oval's short boundaries in a thrilling match that featured 30 sixes and 434 runs at an average of 10.9 an over.

Marcus Stoinis starred for the Australians with 78 from 37 balls but Guptill's 97 from 50 laid the foundation for New Zealand's win.

Black Caps spinner Mitchell Santner also shone amid the batting fireworks, taking four for 31, while Australian paceman Kane Richardson managed three for 43.

New Zealand allrounder Jimmy Neesham was another exceptional performer, taking two wickets in the final over when a rampant Australia needed 15 runs for victory. Neesham also scored an undefeated 45, including six sixes.

The result puts New Zealand 2-0 up in the five-match series, on the brink of a win over the world's second-ranked T20 team.

Guptill's innings gave him the record for the most sixes in T20 Internationals with 132, taking him past India's Rohit Sharma on 127.

The 34-year-old clubbed the ball over the boundary eight times, bludgeoning all comers in the Australian attack. He fell just short of his third Twenty20 century after being caught trying

to hit a Daniel Sams delivery out of the ground.

Guptill averaged only 17 in the recent series against the West Indies and Pakistan, then managed just 11.5 in the domestic competition before picking up a hamstring injury.

Pressure on the opener intensified when he made a duck in the first match against Australia on Monday, with calls for uncapped Finn Allen to join the squad. But he answered his critics with a return to his big-hitting best, bringing up 50 off 27 balls, with eight boundaries, including four sixes. Guptill had not changed his approach during the game-turning innings.

Pressure on the opener intensified when he made a duck in the first match against Australia on Monday, with calls for uncapped Finn Allen to join the squad. But he answered his critics with a return to his big-hitting best, bringing up 50 off 27 balls, with eight boundaries, including four sixes. Guptill had not changed his approach during the game-turning innings.

Captain Shaw creates Vijay Hazare history

Prithvi slams unbeaten 227 as Mumbai make record 457-4 against Puducherry



PTI ■ JAIPUR

Mumbai captain Prithvi Shaw on Thursday became the highest individual scorer in Vijay Hazare Trophy national 50-over championships as he smashed an unbeaten 227 off just 152 balls to help Mumbai beat Puducherry by 233 runs in their Elite Group D game here.

The 21-year-old Shaw, who has played in five Tests and five ODIs, broke the earlier record of the highest individual score held by Sanju Samson (212 not out against Goa in 2019).

This was the maiden List-A double hundred for Shaw, which he got in 142 balls. Shaw hammered 31 fours and five sixes during his onslaught. He also became the eighth Indian to score a List A double hundred.

This was the fourth double hundred in the history of the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Also, this was Prithvi's second century of the tournament after his unbeaten 105 in the lung-opener against Delhi. This was also the highest score by a captain in List A cricket in the world after the youngster surpassed the unbeaten 222 by Graeme Pollock versus Border in East London.

For the record, the existing highest individual List A score is 268 by Ali Brown.

Puducherry's decision to put Mumbai in to bat backfired badly as Shaw and Suryakumar Yadav (133 off 58 balls) toyed with their bowling attack at the Saiwam Mangsingh Stadium and post a mammoth 457/4.

Leg-spinner Prashant Solanki (5/48) then picked a five-for as Mumbai bundled out Puducherry for 224 to register their third win on the trot.

HIGHEST LIST-A TOTALS OF ALL TIME					
Team	Score	Opposition	Ground	Date	
Surrey	496/4	Gloucestershire	The Oval	29 Apr 2007	
England	481/6	Australia	Nottingham	19 Jun 2018	
India A	458/4	Leicestershire	Leicester	19 Jun 2018	
Mumbai	457/4	Pondicherry	Jaipur	25 Feb 2021	

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL LIST A SCORES OF ALL TIME (MEN'S)					
Player	Runs	Team	Opposition	Ground	Date
Alistair Brown	268	Surrey	Glamorgan	The Oval	19 Jun 2002
Rohit Sharma	264	India	Sri Lanka	Kolkata	13 Nov 2014
D'Arcy Short	257	West Aust	Queensland	Sydney	28 Sep 2018
Shikhar Dhawan	248	India A	South Africa A	Pretoria	12 Aug 2013
Martin Guptill	237*	New Zealand	West Indies	Wellington	21 Mar 2015
Prithvi Shaw	227*	Mumbai	Pondicherry	Jaipur	25 Mar 2021

the diminutive right-handed Shaw and Yashasvi Jaiswal (10) added 58 runs for the first wicket to lay the foundation.

After Jaiswal was dismissed, Shaw found an able partner in Aditya Tare (56, 7x4) as the duo stitched a 153-run stand for the second wicket. Tare played the perfect second fiddle to Shaw.

Suryakumar, who came in at No. 4, was in his elements, hitting 22 fours and four sixes. He and Shaw added 201 runs for the third wicket stand and helped Mumbai go past the 400-run mark.

SINGLES

BOORA IN STRANDJA MEDAL ROUNDS

NEW DELHI: Naveen Boora (69kg) assured himself of at least a Bronze by advancing to the semifinals while Manjeet Singh (+91kg) entered the quarters on an all-win day for Indian boxers at the 72nd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. Boora defeated Brazil's Eravio Edson in his quarterfinal bout, prevailing 5-0 in the contest. Manjeet, on the other hand, got the better of Ireland's Gytis Lisinskas in his last-16 stage bout.

INDIA SKEET SHOOTERS IN LINE FOR MEDALS

CAIRO: Indian skeet shooters, including Olympic quota holders Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Anagad Vir Singh Bajwa, were in line for medals in the team events at the Shotgun World Cup. On Wednesday, both the men's and women's three-member teams ended the first three qualification rounds in medal winning positions, with two more qualification rounds to go before the finals.

HEWITT NAMED TO TENNIS HALL OF FAME

LONDON: Two-time Grand Slam winner Lleyton Hewitt was named to the International Tennis Hall of Fame class of 2021 on Wednesday, along with the Original 9 of the women's professional tour. The honor for former world number one Hewitt came on his 40th birthday. Hewitt, who amassed 30 tour-level singles titles in his 18-year career, will be inducted in the Player Category.

GAUFF ADVANCES TO ADELAIDE SEMIS

ADELAIDE: Coco Gauff and Jil Teichmann advanced to the Adelaide International semifinals on Thursday after three-set wins on the Memorial Drive hard courts. The 16-year-old Gauff beat Shelby Rogers 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, and Teichmann defeated Anastasiya Sevastova 6-4, 6-7 (8), 7-5. Gauff will next face second-seeded Belinda Bencic, who beat Storm Sanders 6-2, 6-4.

MASHAL SPORTS INVITE BIDS FOR MEDIA RIGHTS

NEW DELHI: Mashal Sports, the co-owners of the Pro Kabaddi League have issued a tender for the auction of the media rights for the next five editions of the league. The document can be purchased online at ₹25,00,000 plus taxes for entities incorporated in India and \$3,500 plus taxes for entities incorporated outside India. The shortlisted, eligible bidders can subsequently place bids for one or more of the following media rights packages, through an e-auction process. Star India was the broadcaster of the first seven editions of the league and were also the majority stakeholders in the league since the second edition of the competition. AGENCIES

Messi's brace helps Barca close gap on top



Barcelona: Lionel Messi soared past Luis Suarez to become La Liga's top scorer on Wednesday by adding his 17th and 18th goals of the season in a much-needed 3-0 victory for Barcelona over Elche.

Barca had followed up last week's crushing Champions League loss to PSG by drawing at home to Cadiz on Sunday but eased the strain with a comfortable win at the Camp Nou.

Messi's double owed much to a pair of super assists, with a supreme dribble from Frankie de Jong coming after a sublime flick from Martin Braithwaite, who also set up Jordi Alba to score a third.

After failing to take full advantage of league leaders Atletico Madrid's defeat by Levante on Saturday, this victory puts Barcelona back in third, five points off the top, having played a game more than Atletico.

Just as importantly, it puts Ronald Koeman's side back on track after two disappointing results threatened to extinguish momentum gained in recent weeks.

Even if Atletico prove too far ahead to catch, a positive performance was important, especially with a semi-final second leg to come next week against Sevilla in the Copa del Rey, which may be their only chance of winning a trophy this term.

Messi's return to top form comes as a huge boost too. This was his fifth and sixth goal in his last four games while no player from the top five European leagues has scored more than his 13 this year in all competitions. Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski is closest on 12. AFP

AP ■ BERGAMO

Real Madrid struggled to break down 10-man Atalanta before Ferland Mendy netted an 86th-minute winner to give the Spanish giant a 1-0 win in the first leg of the round of 16.

Madrid entered the game as the big favorite despite a slew of injuries, and Atalanta's chances diminished further when midfielder Remo Freuler was sent off in the 17th minute after being adjudged to have denied a scoring opportunity.

"The match was ruined," Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini said. "I don't know what the result would have been, we might have still lost, but it would have been a much different and better match."

Madrid — playing without Karim Benzema, Eden Hazard

Job done for Zizou

Late Mendy goal gives Madrid 1-0 win over 10-man Atalanta



and captain Sergio Ramos — still found it difficult to test Atalanta goalkeeper Pierluigi Gollini until the end of the first half, when he pulled off a great reaction save to keep out Casemiro's header from Toni Kroos' free kick.

Just as it looked as if Atalanta would hold on for a

Spurs through in Europa

London: Dele Alli scored with an overhead kick and set up two other goals as Tottenham beat Wolfsburg 4-0 in the Europa League to become the first team to qualify for the last 16.

Alli, handed a rare start by Jose Mourinho, flicked the ball up after meeting a right-wing cross by Matt Doherty then leapt with his back to goal and directed an acrobatic effort into the bottom cor-

ner in the 11th minute of the second-leg match in the round of 32.

The midfielder crossed for Carlos Vinicius to head in the second goal in the 50th then played in substitute Gareth Bale to curl a powerful 73rd-minute shot into the top corner.

Vinicius added a fourth for Tottenham, which completed an 8-1 victory on aggregate.

draw, Mendy received the ball outside the area after a corner and curled a shot into the right side of the net from 20 yards.

"Yes, we'd practiced that play, but it wasn't supposed to be Ferland who took the shot," said Madrid coach Zinedine

Zidane with a smile. "We didn't have a great game tonight but what was most important was the result. Scoring away from home was important for us."

The second leg will be on March 16 in Madrid. Atalanta can take comfort from the fact it has won all its European matches away from home this season, including a 2-0 victory over Liverpool at Anfield.

"We just have to win in Madrid," Gasperini said. "It's easy, we just have one possibility. We must win."

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Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender
 No. SSA/Esst/Pre-Primary/Furniture/405/2020/4614 Date: 25.02.2021
 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process from Manufacturer/Authorized Dealer/Distributor of manufacturer of plastic moulded furniture for supply of Low Height Plastic Table and Chair.
 To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
 The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
 Sd/-Executive Director,
 Janasanyog/CF/5363/20 SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19