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Under 'strain', Boris cancels R-Day visit

Johnson stays put in UK to tackle new coronavirus variant, orders severe lockdown

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Given the current alarming situation in the United Kingdom after the new strain of coronavirus, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has cancelled his visit to India later this month. He was named as the chief guest at the Republic Day parade.

Johnson had accepted the invitation last month and it was to be his first bilateral visit after the UK parted ways with the European Union in December. Incidentally, his scheduled visit to New Delhi would have been the first such event involving a world leader since the pandemic broke out.

The UK PM announced the decision to cancel his visit hours after his Government ordered a fresh lockdown in England following the new strain of coronavirus affecting a large number of people there.

Johnson called off the visit after speaking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi this morning, to express his regret that he will be unable to visit India later this month as planned," read a statement from his Downing Street office.

"In light of the national lockdown announced last night, and the speed at which the new coronavirus variant is spreading, the Prime Minister said it was important for him to remain in the UK so he can focus on the domestic response to the virus," it read.

"The leaders underlined their shared commitment to the bilateral relationship, and to continuing to build on the close collaboration between our countries, including in response to the pandemic," it added.

Johnson would have become the second British Prime Minister to attend the Republic Day parade as the Chief Guest after his predecessor John Major in 1993. "The Prime Minister said he hopes to be able to visit India in the first half of 2021, and ahead of the UK's G7 Summit that Prime Minister Modi is due to attend as a guest," his office said.

While accepting Modi's invitation, Johnson had extended an invite to the Indian Prime Minister to attend the UK's G7 Summit as one of three guest nations alongside South Korea and Australia — with a focus on his declared ambition to work with a group of "like-minded democracies" to advance shared interests and tackle common challenges.

Continued on Page 11

First Covid shot by Jan 13 likely

Based on dry-run feedback, Ministry ready to introduce it within 10 days from date of emergency use approval

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 vaccines cleared by the top drug controller (DCGI) on January 3 is likely to be rolled out within 10 days from the date of emergency use authorisation, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday even as it added that the final decision lies with the Government.

"Based on the feedback of dry-run, the Ministry is ready to introduce Covid-19 vaccine within 10 days from date of emergency use authorisation," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a Press conference here.

The country's drugs regulator on January 3 granted restricted emergency use approval to Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield and also to indigenously developed Covaxin of Bharat Biotech. Prior to it, the Government had successfully held dry-run pan India with an aim to test the laid-out mechanism for the mega vaccination drive and to assess operational feasibility of using Co-WIN application in field environment for planning, implementation and reporting at the block, district and State levels.

Bhushan said healthcare workers and frontline workers need not register themselves as their database has been populated in the Co-WIN vaccine delivery management system in a bulk manner. The Ministry also put forward the CoWIN Delivery Management plan.

A health-worker takes part in a dry run as part of preparedness for the administration of Covid-19 vaccine, at Moti Lal Nehru Hospital in Prayagraj on Tuesday PTI

"There are 4 primary vaccine stores called GMSD located in Karnal, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, and there are 37 vaccine stores in the country. They store vaccines in bulk and distributes further," Bhushan said, adding that the vaccine will further be taken from these stores and taken to sub-centres "via passive equipment like rice boxes."

Bhushan said the Co-WIN app can be used by any country who wants to do so, as the system is made for India and the world.

While healthcare and frontline workers will not be required to register themselves, Bhushan said when they would come to the population priority group, the need for registration would come.

Continued on Page 11

Global leaders hail India's scientific innovation, decisive action against Covid

New York: Global leaders have lauded India's leadership in scientific innovation and decisive action to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, as the country gets set to begin the world's largest vaccination drive against the coronavirus. *PTI*

SII, Bharat Biotech vow synergy for Covid jabs' smooth rollout in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after engaging in a war of words over the efficacy of coronavirus jabs, the vaccine manufacturing firms, Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech on Tuesday apparently buried the differences by issuing a joint statement in which the duo pledged to work jointly on the vaccine rollout project.

"Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech Jointly communicate their pledge towards a smooth rollout of Covid-19 vaccines in India and the world," read the statement signed by SII CEO Adar Poonawala and Bharat Biotech Chairman Krishna Ella on behalf of the two companies communicating their combined intent to develop, manufacture and supply the Covid-19 vaccines in India and abroad.

"Vaccines are a global public health good and have the power to save lives and accelerate the return to economic normalcy at the earliest," said the statement.

They said now that two vaccines have been issued EUA (emergency use authorisation) in India, the focus is on manufacturing, supply and distribution so that populations that need them the most receive high quality, safe and efficacious ones.

"Both our companies are fully engaged in this activity and consider it our duty to the nation and the world at large to ensure a smooth rollout of vaccines. Each of our companies continue their Covid-19 vaccines development activities as planned," the statement said.

They said they are fully aware of the importance of the vaccines for people and countries alike. "We hereby communicate our joint pledge to provide global access for our Covid-19 vaccines."

Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

INDIAN ECONOMY MAY CONTRACT BY 9.6%: WB

Washington: India's economy is estimated to contract by 9.6 per cent in the fiscal year 2020-21, reflecting a sharp drop in household spending and private investment, and the growth is expected to recover to 5.4 per cent in 2021, the World Bank said on Tuesday.

GZB ROOF COLLAPSE: NSA AGAINST ACCUSED

Lucknow: Taking note of the crematorium roof collapse incident in Ghaziabad's Murad Nagar that claimed 24 lives, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday directed officials to invoke the stringent National Security Act against the accused.

4L POULTRY BIRDS DIE IN PANCHKULA IN 10 DAYS

Chandigarh: Over four lakh poultry birds have died at 20 farms in Haryana's Panchkula district in the past 10 days, officials said on Tuesday.
A team of experts from Jalandhar-based Regional Disease Diagnosis Laboratory has collected samples of birds at poultry farms, they said. Haryana's Animal Husbandry Department has issued an advisory regarding poultry products.

SC clears Central Vista project in 2:1 verdict

Junks petitions on violation of land use and green norms

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court by a 2:1 majority on Tuesday allowed the Government to go ahead with the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, which included construction of a new Parliament Building and a common Central Secretariat, with certain riders. The court rejected a batch of petitions challenging the scheme for alleged violation of land use and environmental norms.

The 611-page majority verdict was given by Justices AM Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari. The third judge on the bench, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, dissented with regard to change of land use and prior approval of Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC). Justice Khanna also found the environment clearance inadequate.

Justice Khanwilkar and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari held that there were no infirmities in the clearances given for the project and the grant of environmental clearance and the notification for change in land use for the project was valid.

"We hold that there is no infirmity in the grant of: (a) 'No Objection' by the Central Vista Committee (CVC).... 'Approval' by the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) as per the DUAC Act, 1973; and (c) 'Prior approval' by the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC) under clause 1.12 of the Building Byelaws for Delhi, 2016," said Justice Khanwilkar and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari.

The majority verdict held that the exercise of power by the Central Government under the DDA Act was "just and proper" in affecting the modifications regarding the change in land use of seven plots of the Central Vista project. It confirmed the Government's notification of March 20, 2020 on land use.

"The recommendation of Environmental Clearance (EC) by Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and grant thereof by MoEF is just, proper, and in accordance with law including the 2006 Notification. We uphold the same along with appropriate directions therein to ensure that the highlighted mitigating measures are followed by the project proponent in their letter and spirit," it held.

Continued on Page 11

Farmers defer tractor march to Jan 7

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Farmers on a tractor raise slogans during their protest against Centre's farm reform laws, at the Delhi-UP border near Ghazipur in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

Following the bad weather in Delhi-NCR, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha on Tuesday deferred their proposed tractor march by a day to January 7 to intensify their protest against the Centre's new farm laws.

Addressing a Press conference at Singhu Border, the epicentre of the protest, Sanyukt Kisan Morcha leaders said thousands of farmers will take out the tractor march from all protest sites to the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) on January 7.

"The decision to defer the march was taken over forecast of bad weather condition on Wednesday. The agitation against the three agriculture laws will be intensified in the coming days," said Yogendra Yadav, Swaraj Abhiyan leader.

Talking about their other proposed tractor march to Delhi on January 26, farmer leader Joginder Nain said, "The farmers have decided to send 10 tractor trollies from every village in Haryana. We request people to come — at least one from a house. And a total of 11 women from a village."

Earlier, on January 2, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha had announced their plan of action to intensify and deepen their movement.

"A fortnight of nationwide campaign will be started to counter the Government's propaganda called "Desh Jagriti Abhiyan" from January 6 to 20 which will include rallies, conferences and dharnas all over the country," the morch said.

"Lohri and Sankarnati festivals will be marked as Kisan Sankalp Diwas by burning the copies of these three laws. On January 18 farmers will be celebrating Mahila Kisan Diwas to underline the role of women farmers while Azad Hind Kisan Diwas will be marked on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary on January 23 by protesting outside Governors' official residence in all State Capitals," they had said.

The 8th round of talks between the Government and the unions is scheuled for January 8.

China tried to change status quo in Ladakh: Def Ministry

India responded to in a firm and non-escalatory way, says report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As tension continues for the ninth month at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and several rounds of talks unable to break the logjam, the Defence Ministry has said China tried to forcefully and unilaterally change the status quo in Ladakh.

China also ramped up its troop strength in the border region on its side of the LAC leading to stand-off and tension all along the LAC, the Ministry said in its annual year-end review released recently.

Unilateral and provocative actions by the Chinese to change the status quo by force, in more than one area on the LAC, were responded to in a firm and non-escalatory way, ensuring the sanctity of our claims in Eastern Ladakh, the report said.

"The Indian Army has maintained all protocols and agreements between the two countries while the Chinese escalated the situation by utilisation of unorthodox weapons and amassing a large number of troops," the report said.

The use of orthodox weapons was in obvious reference to the Chinese troops using clubs and nail-studded rods to attack the Indian soldiers in the Galwan valley on June 15. The bloody brawl left 20 Indians, including the commanding officer, dead. Scores of Chinese casualties were also reported.

The Indian Army with assistance from IAF, mobilised troops, including accretionary forces, in a very short duration including heavy equipment like guns, tanks as also ammunition, rations and clothing.

On August 28-29, the Indian troops in a precautionary step, pre-empted Chinese expansionist designs and occupied heights along the southern bank of Pangong Tso.

Continued on Page 11

Budget on Feb 1; 2nd part of Session from Mar 8 to Apr 8

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament will be convened for Budget Session on January 29, starting with President's address and Budget to be presented on February 1. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) on Tuesday recommended convening Budget Session in two parts. The first part of the Session will be from January 29 to February 15 and the second part will be from March 8 to April 8.

The forthcoming Budget Session is expected to have very heavy legislative business as the Winter Session was cancelled while the Monsoon Session was curtailed. The Covid-19 protocols will be maintained strictly like the previous Session ended in September, said, officials.

They said that both Houses will be working four hours daily on separate schedules. Earlier the Rajya Sabha worked in the morning time and the Lok Sabha in the afternoon.

This is the first budget of the Modi Government after the year when the economy suffered a major shock due to Covid-19 pandemic. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has already concluded pre-Budget consultations with the captains of industry.

Now, Sports Minister quits Mamata Govt

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress continues to crumble with exodus as on Tuesday State Sports Minister and former India player Laxmi Ratan Shukla quit the Mamata Banerjee Cabinet in order to, what he said, concentrate more on his game — cricket.

The 39-year-old Shukla, former Bengal captain, found an instant supporter in fellow MLA Baishali Dalmiya, the daughter of late BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya who said the former all-rounder had quit because he was not given to work the way he wanted.

"He was in chains. He was not allowed to work by vested interests …clearly he was prey of interest group politics. This is unfortunate," Dalmiya said.

Shukla also resigned as the president of North Howrah district unit of the party.

Continued on Page 11

Trump vows to slug it out for presidency

AP ■ DALTON (US)

With mounting desperation, Donald Trump has declared he would "fight like hell" to hold on to the presidency and appealed to Republican lawmakers to reverse his election loss to Joe Biden when they convene this week to confirm the Electoral College vote.

Electoral voters won by President-elect Biden are "not gonna take this White House!" he shouted as supporters cheered at an outdoor rally in Georgia on Monday night.

Trump's announced purpose for the trip was to boost Republican Senate candidates in Tuesday's runoff election, but he spent much of his speech complaining bitterly about his election loss — which he insists he won "by a lot."

Earlier, in Washington, he pressed Republican lawmakers to formally object on Wednesday at a joint session of Congress that is to confirm Biden's victory in the Electoral College, a confirmation of Biden's November 3 victory.

Though he got nothing but cheers on Monday night, Trump's attempt to overturn the presidential election is splitting the Republican Party.

Some GOP lawmakers backing him are rushing ahead, despite an outpouring of condemnation from current and former party officials warning the effort is undermining Americans faith in democracy.

Detailed report on P11

2nd Covid vaccination dry run conducted across UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The second dry run of Covid-19 vaccination was conducted in all 75 districts of the state on Tuesday to test the preparedness of health officials and doctors. The actual vaccination drive is expected near Makar Sankranti.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who visited Ram Manohar Lohia hospital in the state capital to witness the dry run, spoke to all the district officials, including DMs, CMOs, SP, IG, DIGs, commissioners and other officials through video-conferencing to make them aware about the vaccination protocols and other norms.

Director Dr AK Singh said that the chief minister took stock of the situation and inquired about the various steps followed in the drive.

"The CM sought details like from where will the beneficiaries of the vaccination enter and where will they stand. He also inspected the AEFI room where all the equipment are placed and where the beneficiaries will be treated for any sort of discomfort post vaccination. There were three beds in this room and the CM suggested an extra bed," the director said. Also present were District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash and CMO Dr Sanjay Bhatnagar.

Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Navneet Sehgal told mediapersons here on Tuesday that the CM has directed that vaccination protocols of the Central government should be strictly adhered to and there should not be violation in the process.

He said that the state government is fully geared up for the vaccination and the date would be announced soon.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Amit Mohan Prasad said the second dry run was successful in all the 75 districts.

He said though there was a norm that every district should hold the dry run in three urban and as many rural hospitals, the numbers were more but in some districts.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath taking stock of the second Covid vaccination dry run at Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow on Tuesday Pioneer

"The dry run was conducted to check the preparedness of the Health department for the vaccination and plug the loopholes, if any," he said.

"The CM has also instructed officials concerned to maintain more vigilance in view of the new strain of coronavirus and keeping this in view, the work of contact tracing should be carried out effectively. The surveillance system should be kept active and medical testing be carried out with full capacity. Care should be taken at every level to break the chain of Covid-19 infection," he added.

People should be regularly made aware about prevention from Covid-19 and public address systems and various publicity medium should be used for this, Prasad said. The CM has also said that Covid-19 help desks should be set up in all government offices, business establishments and MSME units will full activeness.

Expressing satisfaction over the use of e-Sanjeevani App by more than 3.50 lakh people in the state, the CM has issued directions that the benefit of online consultation be provided through this app to maximum people requiring it. The CM also said that the app should be widely publicised.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, the number of fresh Covid 19 cases was 771, taking the UP tally to 12,286. Among these positive cases, 4,929 patients are in home isolation, 1,255 in private hospitals and the rest in government-run Covid facilities. Till date, 5,68,892 people have recovered from the virus, including 928, on Tuesday. The recovery rate has gone up to 96.49%. Besides, 8,433 people have died, and the fatality rate is 1.43 per cent.

In Lucknow, 142 persons tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday while 161 patients recovered. Lucknow's death toll stands at 1,121 while there are 2,487 active cases in the district. The fresh cases included 14 each from Indiranagar, Gomtinagar & Ashiyana, 11 from Hazratganj, and 10 each from Chowk, Rae Bareli road, Vikasnagar & Mahanagar.

In Lucknow, a senior health official said the second dry run was a success. Two sessions each were carried out at 12 hospitals, including KGMU, SGPGI, Sahara Hospital, RMLIMS, ERA's Medical College and Hospital, Ram Sagar Mishra, Lok Bandhu and Medanta hospitals besides Malihabad, Maal, Kakori and Indiranagar CHCs.

"There were two teams at each centre with each team having one police constable, one homeguard, two vaccinators, one ASHA worker and one Aanganwadi worker. There were no lapses because on January 4, we had held a meeting in which nodal officers from all the departments, vaccinators and nodal officers of the 12 hospitals were present. All the details of the logistics had been sent to the nodal officers who had gone to the sites a day prior to the exercise and took stock of the feasibility of having three rooms and other arrangements," the official said. He added that the third dry run is unlikely, however, there is a meeting is scheduled to be held on January 7. The official said they still do not have any information about which vaccine will they get.

On how senior citizens with co-morbidities can register for the vaccination, he said that the state government would issue a notification to that effect.

"When the actual vaccinations begins, a total of 51,000 health workers will be vaccinated in the first phase. There will be 510 sessions and cold chains will be created at 40 points. CCTV cameras will also be installed at the centres where the vaccines will be administered. Directions have been given to these centres to have skilled medical staff in the observation room," he added.

Centre's nod to 6,000-km rural road network

Lucknow (PNS): The Union Ministry of Rural Development has cleared the proposal of over 6,000 kms of rural road network proposed by the Uttar Pradesh government under PMGSY-III. Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development, Manoj Kumar said on Tuesday that the government had submitted the proposal under PMGSY-III, Batch-I (2020-21), which received clearance from the Union Ministry of Rural Development after a go-ahead from the Empowered Committee in its meeting on October 19, 2020, following compliance by the state on its observations. He said that under the project, a total of 6352.97-km rural road network has been approved with a total budget of Rs 4225.27 crore, out of which Rs 2534.81 crore is Centre's and Rs 1690.46 is state's share. He said that fruit-bearing and other suitable trees on both sides of the roads would be planted by the state government using MGNREGA and other Central government schemes.

Singh said that earlier under PMGSY-1, the state government had constructed 49315.91 kms of rural roads with an expenditure of Rs 12,946.24 crore and under PMGSY-2, it constructed 7,508.67 kms of roads with an expenditure of Rs 3952.85 crore. The current approval is the biggest both in terms of road length and budget approved. The nodal department for implementation of the project will be State Rural Roads Development Agency (SRRDA) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would be signed between SRRDA, Technology Provider and NRIDA for the roads sanctioned. An ex post facto approval of the gram sabha will be obtained and shared with NRIDA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to general public that Regency Hospital Ltd. Kanpur is going to destroy all old documents of admitted patients till 31.12.2015. If some body feels interested to have information pertaining to his admitted patients can contact the undersigned within 7 days of this publication after which hospital shall not be responsible for furnishing any information for the above period.

Chief Medical Superintendent
Regency Hospital LTD.
A-2, Sarvodaya Nagar, Kanpur

Deputy CM asks PWD, UPSBC officials to expedite construction work

Lucknow (PNS): Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Tuesday directed the officials of Public Works Department (PWD) and Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation (UPSBC) to take up a special month-long drive to expedite the ongoing construction work on highways and other roads.

In a meeting with PWD and UPSBC officials on Tuesday, Maurya said the drive would be carried out between January 15 and February 15 and senior officers would make on-spot inspections of the ongoing projects and ensure that the work is completed in time and the entire budget is utilised. He also asked for special emphasis on construction of roads in the rural areas.

Maurya said plans should be also finalised for upcoming projects and that the NOCs for petrol pumps be sanctioned in time.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya presents a bouquet to Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly speaker Hriday Narayan Dikshit on Tuesday Pioneer

Maurya, who holds the charge of PWD ministry, directed the officials to fix the responsibility of the employees not taking their work seriously so that stern action could be taken against them. He also asked them to clear the payment of contractors after completion of due process. He advised them to form a think tank after selecting five senior retired personnel of the department and take their help in completing the projects in time and, at the same time, maintain the quality of work.

CM to interact with farmers at Kisan Kalyan Mission

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch Kisan Kalyan Mission and and interact with the farmers at Dadupur village of Lucknow on Wednesday.

The farmers' outreach programmes is being launched in the backdrop of ongoing farmers stir on Delhi's borders. The Mission's three-week agenda include broader theme of doubling rural income and cover all 400-plus Assembly segments in 75 districts.

There are an estimated 2.3 crore farmers' households in UP, of which more than 2.1 crore or 90 per cent were small and marginal farmers with fragmented land holdings and subsisting on low farm income.

During the Mission, the CM would call upon progressive farmers to help their fraternity in achieving maximum yield and get best prices of their produce. Yogi would discuss steps taken by his government in UP and the Modi government at the Centre.

A total of 825 development blocks would be covered during the Mission while 350 blocks will be taken up in the first phase. Progressive farmers would share their success stories with the rest of the farmers at fairs and seminars that would be held locally.

For this, the Agriculture department will select 100 progressive farmers as role models for local farmers from every district. They will also be honoured and given a platform to present their views in programmes to be held in 350 blocks from January 6.

Farmers Producing Organisation (FPO) functionaries set up at block level will also be invited to the event. Besides giving certificates, approved farm machinery and seeding equipment will also be distributed to the farmers.

The entire campaign will be monitored closely and Agriculture department will create a micro site of Kisan Kalyan and all information will be posted on the portal. District wise information will also be collected on how many farmers interacted during the campaign. Mobile and WhatsApp numbers of concerned farmers would also be collected and a database will be maintained.

A committee has been set up at the government level led by Agricultural Production Commissioner (APC) to conduct the campaign.

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NOTICE

I, PRIYANSH VIKRAM SINGH E -2109, Rajajipuram, Lucknow, Lost My Original Marks Statement of Secondary & Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2017 & 2019 Roll No.5118954 & 5711015 Issued By CBSE Have Been Actually lost.

NOTICE

Inform that the actual name of my brother SHANTANU YADAV date of birth 23/03/2001 is wrongly mentioned by name as SHANTANU SINGH in my Army service Records is correctable. Army no. 15456166N NK/PHARM LOVELESH SINGH R/o Rani colony Awas Vikash Aboonagar TEH. & Distt. Fatehpur (up)

NOTICE

Notice

Notice is herby given that a sale deed dated 10/07/2012 excuted by Lallan S/O Baldew in favour of Indu Devi W/O Rajendra Singh regarding the sale deed of Plot no. 172 area 1360 Sq. fit or 126.5 Sq. m situated Mauza- Katariyan, Pargana- Ralhupur, Tehsil and Distt- Chandauli duly registerd with sub registerar office Chandauli Distt- Chandauli in book no. 1 vol no-3883 on pages 163/182 as documented no- 6243 dated 10/07/2012 has been lost away. If any person have any information or objection regarding this sale deed please inform on mob. No. 9415872247 and Contact at address given below within 15 days Shailendra pratap singh Advocate Civil Court Chandauli, Near, Civil Bar Association building Chandauli Diss- Chandauli.

Modi, Yogi wish Kalyan on his birthday

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath presenting a book to former CM Kalyan Singh on his birthday in Lucknow on Tuesday Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh celebrated his 88th birthday in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called on at Singh's residence and wished him for a long and healthy life. Prime Minister Narendra Modi too spoke to Kalyan Singh wishing him on his birthday.

Later in a tweet, Modi posted that Singh's life has been devoted to public service and empowering the poor.

The former Governor of Rajasthan , Kalyan Singh has been staying at the residence of his grandson and UP minister Sandeep Singh.

Resisting rape bid by father's colleague costs girl her life

Lucknow (PNS): Resisting a rape attempt allegedly by her father's colleague proved fatal for a girl who was strangled to death by the accused. The sensational incident took place in Muzaffarnagar and the accused was arrested, police said on Tuesday.

The body of the 16-year-old girl was found in her house when her parents returned from work, New Mandi police station incharge Yogesh Sharma said on Tuesday. Govind Kumar, who worked with the girl's father in a paper mill, was arrested, the officer said. The accused told the police that when he came to the house, the girl was all alone. He strangled the girl to death when she resisted the attempt to rape. Her body was hanged in the house to make it look like a case of suicide, according to the police. A murder case was registered in this connection.

In another incident in Kaushambi, a class XII girl student was arrested along with her lover after she was found to have orchestrated the killing of her father for opposing their affair, police said on Tuesday. Reports said a body was found in Sihorwa village of Akil police station area on December 28 in Kaushambi district. The victim was identified as Tabrez Ahmed, who resided in the same locality. His family members lodged a case against unidentified persons on the charges of murder. The SOG was also engaged in addition to the local police to work out the case. During probe, it surfaced that Tabrez's minor daughter was in love with a man, identified as Rehan, and that the couple might have killed Tabrez for opposing their affair. He had also stopped the girl from going to school.

The cops laid a trap and detained Rehan and he confessed to have killed Tabrez after hatching a conspiracy with the girl. The police said that Tabrez was busy getting his old house repaired in his village and he could not come to his house at night for the last few days and would stay overnight in a neighbour's house. On the fateful night, Rehan reached there and found Tabrez sleeping, and he attacked him with an axe before fleeing the scene.

Meanwhile, in Bareilly, two minor girls belonging to the Scheduled Caste community, were kidnapped in Faridpur area, police said on Tuesday. Faridpur CO Alok Agrahari said that a case of kidnapping of two girls was registered at the police station. After the girls were rescued, one of them alleged that she was raped. She will undergo a medical check-up and after her statement is recorded in the court, rape section will be added.

The girl's father said that she studies in class IX while his niece in class I. They had gone to relieve themselves in a toilet outside the house on Sunday night. Faizal, who is a resident of Bisalpur road in Faridpur, intercepted both the girls. He then forcibly bundled them in a car with the help of his friends. However, the girl's sister-in-law, who had come outside for some work, saw that and raised an alarm. The girl's brother chased the accused but the car disappeared in no time. He called his uncle, who also lives in Faridpur. OIn receiving information, the police stopped the car near Dharampur culvert and rescued both the girls. Faizal and his aides were nabbed

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण
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संख्या : 41/ई-निविदा/मु0अ0/2020-21 दिनांक : 05.01.2021

ई-निविदा सूचना

लखनऊ विकास क्षेत्र में निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण या अन्य विकास प्राधिकरणों में पंजीकृत अथवा आवास एवं विकास परिषद में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्य से संबंधित विस्तृत निविदा-नोटिस तथा ड्राफ्ट निविदा-प्रपत्र लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट **"http://www.ldaonline.in"** पर देखा जा सकता है, जिसमें धरोहर धनराशि, निविदा डालने की तिथि, श्रेणी, कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि एवं ई-निविदा लागत तथा अन्य नियम व शर्तों का उल्लेख है। कार्य से सम्बन्धित ई-निविदा-प्रपत्र वेबसाइट **"http://etender.up.nic.in"** पर उपलब्ध होंगे तथा ई-निविदित करने होंगे।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत (रू. लाख)	अभियंत्रण जोन/मोबाइल नम्बर	ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि
1.	बसंत कुंज योजना स्थित कैटिल कालोनी में अवशेष नालियों एवं पुलियों का निर्माण कार्य।	144.81	जोन-7 7055262277	02/02/2021
2.	पंचशील योजना गोमती नगर में सी०सी०टी०वी० कैमरे स्थापित करने का कार्य।	51.34	वि./यां. 9918001052	21/01/2021
3.	विभिन्न नजूल हैरिटेज जोन पार्क्स की विद्युतीय व्यवस्था के अन्तर्गत प्रकाश एवं फाउण्डेन इत्यादि के अनुरक्षण व संचालन हेतु इले०/प्लम्बर एवं हैल्पर्स की आपूर्ति का कार्य।	35.26	वि./यां. 9918001052	21/01/2021
4.	बसंत कुंज योजना के सेक्टर-आई में सीवर लाइन डालने का कार्य। (पार्ट-1)	38.61	जोन-7 7055262277	21/01/2021
5.	सी०जी० सिटी योजना के उत्तरी भाग में भूखण्ड सं० डी-10 व डी-8 के मध्य मिसिंग लिंक सड़क का निर्माण कार्य।	14.49	जोन-1 9918001644	21/01/2021
6.	गोमती नगर विस्तार योजना सेक्टर-1 से 6 तक संचालित ट्यूबवैलों से शुद्ध क्लोरीनयुक्त जलापूर्ति हेतु सोडियम हाइपो-क्लोराइड की आपूर्ति का कार्य।	10.43	वि./यां. 9918001052	21/01/2021
7.	गणतंत्र दिवस 2021 के शुभ अवसर पर दिनांक 25 व 26 जनवरी, 2021 को विभिन्न कार्यालय, चौराहों, मूर्ति स्थलों, भवनों एवं पार्क्स की अस्थायी प्रकाश सज्जा तथा देश भक्ति गीतों के प्रसारण का कार्य।	9.99	वि./यां. 9918001052	13/01/2021
8.	गणतंत्र दिवस 2021 के परिसमाप्ति समारोह (बीटिंग द रिट्रीट) दिनांक 29.01.2021 के अवसर पर रिजर्व पुलिस लाईन्स में महामहिम श्री राज्यपाल व मा० मुख्यमंत्री जी हेतु 02 अदद वी०वी०आई०पी० स्विस काटेज एवं अस्थाई प्रकाश सज्जा व विद्युतीय व्यवस्था का कार्य।	5.50	वि./यां. 9918001052	13/01/2021
9.	लखनऊ शहर के हैदरगंज तिराहे से चरक चौराहे के मध्य निर्माणाधीन चरक फ्लाई ओवर के निर्माण में बाधक विद्युत/प्रकाश पोल को विस्थापित किये जाने के सम्बन्ध में।	4.37	वि./यां. 9918001052	18/01/2021

ई-निविदाओं के सम्बन्ध में कोई बदलाव अथवा अतिरिक्त सूचना मात्र उपरोक्त दोनों वेबसाईट्स पर ही उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी, अतः इच्छुक निविदादाता नियमित रूप से उक्त दोनों वेबसाईट्स देखते रहें।

उपरोक्त **क्रमांक-7 एवं 8 पर** अंकित कार्यों हेतु सामान्य निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिनके निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट "http://www.ldaonline.in" से डाउनलोड किये जा सकेंगे।

मुख्य अभियन्ता

Barred from examination, Dalit girl ends life

Lucknow (PNS): Depressed at being barred from taking her examination for not paying fee, a Dalit schoolgirl hanged herself in a room of her home in Baberu area of Banda early on Monday morning. No suicide note written by the Intermediate student was however found on the site.

Deceased Sanjana's family told the police that the girl took the extreme step after the school authorities did not allow her to sit for a half-yearly examination on December 21 as the family could not pay her fees since April last year. She was also sent back home from the4 school on Saturday.

After Sanjana's father Anant Kumar filed a complaint, the police initiated an inquiry and was scanning through her cell phone records. In his complaint, Anant Kumar held the school manager responsible for his daughter's untimely death.

During preliminary inquiry, the cops checked the school's attendance register and found the girl had taken the exam on December 21 but was found absent in the last two exams held on December 23 and 26. Additional SP Mahendra Pratap Chauhan said, that 30 students did not pay fees and yet they were allowed to take the half-yearly examinations. "We are looking into all angles before initiating action," he said. Meanwhile in Shahjahanpur, a youth attempted suicide by jumping before a train and was badly injured. He was later rushed to Government Medical College in a critical condition and was under treatment

SP (City) Sanjay Kumar said that Harsh Vardhan (26) Hathoda village of Roja police station area used to eke out a living by driving a school van. "On Monday, he was found in an injured state on the rail tracks behind Hathoda stadium. On noticing his mutilated body on the tracks, a goods train engine driver informed the Railway control room who then intimated the police," he said Emergency Medical Officer of Government Medical College, Dr. Mohammad Meraj told news persons that the victim was cut into two halves but all vital organs including liver and kidney were functional. He has been administered three units of blood and he was operated upon but he continued to be critical.

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Grocer's son shot in full public view

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A grocer's son was shot dead in full public view in Thakurganj police station area on Tuesday afternoon. The victim, identified as Vipin Vishwakarma of Madhavpur Colony in Lalabagh locality, along with his friend Sooraj Rawat, had gone to see a land for purchase near Kanak City area when he was attacked. A profusely bleeding Vipin was rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where he was declared brought dead.

The family of the victim lodged a case of murder against two persons, Sushil Yadav and his kin Rishu Yadav, both of Madhavpur Colony in Lalabagh. In their complaint, they said Sushil, Rishu and two unidentified miscreants reached the scene and picked up a fight with Vipin and Sooraj. "The miscreants abused Vipin and threatened him. On being confronted, Sushil whipped out a pistol and shot Vipin twice. Rishu then started waving a pistol in the air to intimidate locals who were converging on the scene, and all of them fled the scene," the family stated in the FIR. In an e-byte, the ADCP (West) said the police had registered a case and efforts were on to track down the accused. He did not explain the motive for murder. However, sources said Vipin and his family had a dispute with Sushil Yadav over a land for a long time. Both had clashed a couple of days back and the issue had reached the police station, but the cops did not take any preventive action. The sources said since Vipin was more vocal on the issue than others, he was the prime target of his opponents. "Sushil Yadav shot two times and both the bullets ripped Vipin's head," they said. Vipin was a class XII student in a local school. People assembled at the Trauma Centre and some of them were even baying for the blood of the accused. Huge police force was deployed in the locality to prevent caste clashes. A police spokesman said teams have been formed to crack the case.

Woman strangled to death over dowry demand

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman was strangled to death allegedly by her husband and in-laws for dowry in Jankipuram police station area on Tuesday. The victim was identified as Meena Khatoon (30) of Rudauli in Ayodhya district. The woman got married to Irshad Husain of Jankipuram five years back.

Her father, Mohammed Raees of Ayodhya, alleged that Meena was being harassed for dowry ever since she got married. "Irshad and his parents used to torture Meena over demands of a car, a bike and Rs 2 lakh in cash. They used to beat her off and on and she had complained to us on several occasions in the past. On Tuesday, I was informed about Meena's death. I reached Lucknow and found out that she had marks of strangulation round her neck. They hanged her with a rope to make it look like a case of suicide," Raees alleged. A case was registered and further probe was underway.

In another case, a 20 year-old boy, Satyam Bajpai, was found hanging at his house in Tikait Rai Labour Colony in Bazaarkhala police station area on Tuesday morning. Police said Satyam committed suicide but failed to explain why. The body was sent for autopsy and further investigation was underway. Satyam was found hanging from the ceiling around 9:15 am on Tuesday. The incident came to light when his family woke up on Tuesday morning. He was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Meanwhile, a youth was found dead at his house in Malihabad on Tuesday. Reports said Himesh Trivedi (23) of Kushbhari village had gone to his old house in the village on Monday night but did not come back. After waiting for him till noon, the family reached the house and found the door bolted from inside. They climbed the wall of the house and entered a room. They told police that Himesh was found lying dead under a bed. They claimed that the deceased had injury marks on his body. The family lodged a case against Satyanarayan, Ram Awadh, Jugal and a woman.

ARRESTED

Two drug peddlers were arrested by a team of police in Chinhat on Tuesday. The team recovered 500 grams of smack worth around Rs 50 lakh, the police claimed. The accused were identified as Mohammed Mohsin Qureshi of Bazaarkhala and his aide Nazruddin of Itaunja. The police said Mohsin is a habitual offender.

इंडियन बैंक
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
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(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
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Appendix-IV Under [RULE - 8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under 13 (12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest [Enforcement] ,Rules , 2002 , the Authorised Officer issued a demand notice on the date against the borrower as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property / ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank **(e-ALLAHABAD BANK)** for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned herein below.
The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name of Account	Name of Borrower/Mortgager (owner of the Property)	Description of the Charged/Mortgaged Property	Date of Demand Notice, Possession Notice & Amount outstanding
1.	Smt. Mamta Devi & Mr. Purushottam Das Agarwal Branch: Konch	Smt. Mamta Devi W/o Mr. Purushottam Das Agarwal	Land and Building consisting of Property (Land & Building) situated at Subhash Nagar, Konch, House No. 02 **Area:** 86.73 Sq. Mtr. **Boundaries: East:** House of Smt. Sandhya Paharia **West:** Godown deovrat Pahariya & Godown Dwarikadhis Mandir **North:** Godown Dwarikadhis Mandir **South:** Rasta or Path	13.03.2020 02.01.2021 Rs. 13,00,135.00 (on the date of demand notice + int. charges & others exp.)

Place: Konch, Date : 05.01.2021
Authorised Officer Indian Bank

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Esstt/Pre-Primary/Furniture/405/2020/3810 Date:05.01.2021
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed 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,
SSA,Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog /CF/3709/20

Govt increases stipend of medical interns

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As a new year gift to students doing internships after completion of MBBS and BDS, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered an increase in their stipend by Rs 4,500 per month with immediate effect.

The long-pending demand was met by the chief minister who has decided to increase the stipend from Rs 7,500 to Rs 12,000. The stipend has been increased after 10 years and the information was shared on Twitter by the CM office on Tuesday.

The students doing internships after completion of MBBS or BDS from state medical colleges, institutes, universities will now get Rs 12,000 as internship allowance per month instead of the current amount of Rs 7,500.

"The students had been demanding an increase in the internship for many years. They had even threatened to launch an agitation. On the directive of the chief minister, the government has decided to increase the stipend," a senior government official said.

Minister inaugurates modern Burn Care facility at KGMU

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Urban Development Minister Suresh Khanna inaugurated the state-of-the-art Burn Care facility at KGMU on Tuesday. KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri was also present on the occasion. The minister also flagged off four ALS ambulances for the Trauma Centre and handed over appointment letters to 16 dependents of KGMU employees who died in service.

Head of the Plastic Surgery department Dr Brijesh Mishra said the admissions would begin from Wednesday. It is a 35-bed ward with separate reception and emergency areas where the burn patients will be received and shifted to the wards or the ICU. There are 27 beds in the general ward and eight in the ICU.

"The facility has an ICU with a ventilator and a dialysis unit. It also has occupational therapy and physiotherapy units while a skin bank will come up soon," Dr Mishra said. The Women and Child Welfare department of the government had given a grant of Rs 9.19 crore while the Central government had given Rs 2.07 crore under National Programme for Burn Management. He said when they were nearing completion of the unit, National Thermal Power Corporation approached them for an MoU with a grant of Rs 11 crore for the upgradation of infrastructure. A total of Rs 11 crore have gone into the project as of now and this comes under the Plastic Surgery department of KGMU.

Emphasis on need for entrepreneurial studies at early stage

Lucknow (PNS): There is a need for entrepreneurial studies at an early stage in Lucknow University's Commerce department so that students become job-providers and not job-seekers in future. Additional Chief Secretary, MSME and Export Promotion and Information, Navneet Sehgal expressed these views in his virtual address in a programme organised by the Centre of Excellence, department of Commerce.

LU has organised a two-week online faculty development programme on entrepreneurial research. The inaugural function was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Rai.

Sehgal spoke on the impact of entrepreneurship on GDP, employment and on making the youth self-reliant. "Students may also be made aware of government schemes to encourage them to take up entrepreneurship," he said. He also appreciated Rai's idea of having an entrepreneurship cell at the university. Sehgal said that the number of MSMEs in UP is the highest in the country and that there exists a lot of potential in the state. Rai laid emphasis on the importance of entrepreneurship and capacity creation for entrepreneurship. He said that the university is in the process of opening an entrepreneurship cell and collaboration from the state agencies may be sought.

उन्नत किसान
आत्मनिर्भर प्रदेश

कृषि एवं कृषि आधारित गतिविधियों के विकास से किसानों की आय दोगुना करने के
मा. प्रधानमंत्री जी के संकल्प की सिद्धि हेतु

किसान कल्याण मिशन
6–21 जनवरी, 2021

प्रदेश के 825
विकास खण्डों में किसान कल्याण मिशन
के माध्यम से जागरूकता महाभियान

का
शुभारंभ
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मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

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- किसान मेला एवं कृषि प्रदर्शनी का आयोजन
- प्रगतिशील किसानों का रोल मॉडल के रूप में सम्मान
- किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड का वितरण
- पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि योजना के लाभ हेतु शिविर
- प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना एवं संशोधित मौसम आधारित फसल बीमा योजना के लिए जागरूकता
- एम.एस.पी. पर उपज बिक्री हेतु जागरूकता
- कृषि रक्षा रसायनों का वितरण
- पराली प्रबंधन के विषय में जागरूकता
- जैविक खेती तथा प्राकृतिक कृषि पद्धति के विषय में जागरूकता
- कृषि उत्पादन संगठन (एफ.पी.ओ.) को स्वीकृत फार्म मशीनरी बैंक तथा बीज विधायन संयंत्र की स्वीकृति पत्र/चेक वितरण
- सोलर पम्प डिमॉन्सट्रेशन
- इंटीग्रेटेड फार्मिंग सिस्टम का प्रचार-प्रसार
- मुख्यमंत्री कृषक उपहार योजना के अन्तर्गत ट्रैक्टर सहित अन्य उपकरणों का वितरण
- मुख्यमंत्री कृषक दुर्घटना बीमा योजना, मुख्यमंत्री खेत खलिहान अग्नि दुर्घटना बीमा योजना एवं मुख्यमंत्री कृषक छात्रवृत्ति योजना के लाभार्थियों को अनुदान वितरण
- गन्ने की खेती, नयी तकनीक, नयी प्रजाति, अन्तर फसलीय प्रणाली तथा ड्रिप इरिगेशन प्रणाली का प्रचार-प्रसार
- स्प्रिंकलर/ड्रिप सिंचाई प्रणाली का डिमॉन्सट्रेशन
- खाद्य प्रसंस्करण इकाइयों के लिए अनुदान/ब्याज अनुदान के स्वीकृति पत्र का वितरण
- दुधारु पशुओं के नस्ल सुधार हेतु राष्ट्रीय कृत्रिम गर्भाधान कार्यक्रम के प्रति जागरूकता
- बैकयार्ड सुअर पालन, अण्डा उत्पादन, बॉयलर पालन एवं पशुधन बीमा योजना संबंधी स्वीकृति पत्र/सहायता राशि का वितरण
- पशुओं का खुरपका-मुंहपका टीकाकरण
- पशुओं की ईअर टैगिंग के प्रति जागरूकता
- गो-आश्रय स्थलों में पराली को चारे के रूप में प्रेषित करने तथा निराश्रित गो-आश्रय स्थलों की गायों को परिवारों द्वारा अपनी देखरेख में लाने की योजना का प्रचार-प्रसार
- कृषि व्यवसाय आधारित स्वयं सहायता समूह के उत्पादों की प्रदर्शनी
- मनरेगा से जुड़े कृषि कार्यों का प्रचार-प्रसार
- भूमि संरक्षण, वर्मी कम्पोस्ट, कैटल शेड, मत्स्य तालाब व औद्यानीकरण कार्यक्रमों के प्रति जागरूकता
- लघु सिंचाई, मत्स्य, रेशम, नेडा, वन विभाग, बाल विकास एवं पुष्टाहार विभाग के कार्यकलापों का डिस्प्ले
- 'मिशन शक्ति' अभियान के अन्तर्गत महिला कृषकों की सहभागिता

विगत 3.5 वर्षों में उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों के कल्याण में उठाये गए महत्वपूर्ण कदम

• पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि योजनान्तर्गत 27 हजार 101 करोड़ रु. की राशि हस्तान्तरित। • 36 हजार करोड़ रु. से 86 लाख लघु एवं सीमांत किसानों का ऋण मोचन • गन्ना किसानों को 1.15 लाख करोड़ रु. गन्ना मूल्य का रिकॉर्ड भुगतान • न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य के अन्तर्गत खाद्यान्न की रिकॉर्ड सरकारी खरीद कर किसानों को 60 हजार करोड़ रु. से अधिक का भुगतान • रमाला चीनी मिल सहित 20 चीनी मिलों का विस्तारीकरण एवं आधुनिकीकरण

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति
सूर्य प्रताप शाही
मंत्री, कृषि, कृषि शिक्षा एवं कृषि अनुसंधान, उत्तर प्रदेश
लाखन सिंह राजपूत
राज्यमंत्री, कृषि, कृषि शिक्षा एवं कृषि अनुसंधान, उत्तर प्रदेश
व अन्य गणमान्य महानुभाव

दिनांक : 6 जनवरी, 2021 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे | स्थान : ग्राम-दादूपुर, विकास खण्ड-सरोजनी नगर, लखनऊ

किसान हेल्पलाइन नम्बर : 1800-180-1551
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Materials Management Department

PUBLIC NOTICE No. 01/2021

Sale of Locomotives "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway proposes to sell Broad Gauge Locomotives through e-auction in working condition on **"As Is Where Is Basis"**.

Details of Diesel Loco-motives on Sale: The E-Auction of these Locomotives is expected to be held in the month of **February, 2021** or **March, 2021**. These Locomotives are available at Tughlakabad, Ludhiana and Lucknow Sheds of Northern Railway. The Locomotives are stabled in the Locomotive Sheds and are to be disposed in the present same condition. For physical appreciation of the bidders, a site visit is also being organized on **02.02.2021** at **11:00 hrs.** at Tughlakabad Diesel Locomotive Shed. Attention of the interested Bidders is also invited to participate in the E-Auction. Interested Bidders may register at www.ireps.gov.in after obtaining the Class-III Digital Signature for participation and submission of bids in E-Auction. You may please also log on at www.nr.indianrailway.gov.in for relevant details of these Locomotives.

A brief details of these Locos are given in the table below:

S No.	Locomotive Type	Quantity (in Nos.)	Location	Age of Loco (Years)
1	WDM 3A	31	Tughlakabad, Ludhiana & Lucknow	30 to 36
2	WDP I	16	Tughlakabad	24
3	WDP 3A	04	Tughlakabad	15 to 20

Contact address: Office of the Chief Materials Manager/Sales, Northern Railway, Headquarter Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001. Contact No.: 9717630752

(Rajesh Kumar)
Chief Materials Manager/Sale

25/2021

Serving Customers with a Smile

कार्यालय उपनिदेशक (वि0/यॉ0)
राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, उ0प्र0
किसान मण्डी भवन, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ

पत्रांक–वि0/यां0(325)/2020–852 दिनांक–05.01.2021

ई–निविदा सूचना

निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु वित्तीय रूप से सुदृढ़ मण्डी परिषद में विद्युत कार्यों हेतु पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से Two Bid System i.e. (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) के माध्यम से निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। दिनांक 30.01.2021 को अपरान्ह 01.30 बजे से Technical Bid ई–टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से एवं दिनॉक : 01.02.2021 को अपरान्ह 01.30 बजे से Financial Bid ई–टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से आनलाइन कार्यालय उप निदेशक (वि0/यां0) राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, लखनऊ में खोली जायेगी। उक्त ई–निविदायें (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) एवं निविदा सम्बन्धित समस्त आवश्यक प्रपत्र दिनांक 29.01.2021 को अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर ऑन लाइन भरकर अपलोड की जा सकती है।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा मूल्य जी.एस.टी. सहित (रु. में)	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	श्रेणी
1	नवीन मण्डी स्थल लखीमपुर एल.ई.डी. लाइट की आपूर्ति/स्थापना आदि का कार्य। Tender ID-2021RKUMP-543577	590.00	5.57	0.60	3 माह	ब
2	नवीन मण्डी स्थल मैगलगंज नीलामी चबूतरा में आन्तरिक विद्युतीकरण का कार्य। Tender ID-2021RKUMP-543578	120.00	3.58	0.40	3 माह	स
3	नवीन उपमण्डी स्थल लहरपुर विभिन्न भवनों में आन्तरिक विद्युतीकरण का कार्य। Tender ID-2021RKUMP-543582	120.00	2.07	0.21	3 माह	स
4	मण्डी समिति हरगाँव के अन्तर्गत हाटपैठ शेरपुर, कटका एवं कटियारा में सोलर प्लाण्ट–2.0KV, 04 नग सोलर लाईट व 01 एच0पी0 सबमर्सिबल मोटर पम्प की आपूर्ति/स्थापना आदि का कार्य Tender ID-2021RKUMP-543583	590.00	11.50	1.15	3 माह	ब
5	मण्डी समिति लखनऊ के अन्तर्गत हाटपैठ मझोरिया में सोलर प्लाण्ट–2.0KV, 04 नग सोलर लाईट व 01 एच.पी. सबमर्सिबल मोटर पम्प की आपूर्ति/स्थापना आदि का कार्य। Tender ID-2021RKUMP-543584	120.00	3.80	0.38	3 माह	स
6	मण्डी समिति मिश्रिख के अन्तर्गत हाटपैठ कुचलई में सोलर प्लाण्ट–2.0KV 04 नग सोलर लाईट व 01 एच.पी. सबमर्सिबल मोटर पम्प की आपूर्ति/स्थापना आदि का कार्य। Tender ID-2021RKUMP-543585	120.00	3.80	0.38	3 माह	स
7	मण्डी समिति मैगलगंज के अन्तर्गत हाटपैठ खंजन नगर में सोलर प्लाण्ट-2.0KV 04 नग सोलर लाईट व 01 एच.पी. सबमर्सिबल मोटर पम्प की आपूर्ति/स्थापना आदि का कार्य। Tender ID-2021RKUMP-543587	120.00	3.80	0.38	3 माह	स
8	मण्डी समिति पुरवा के अन्तर्गत हाटपैठ असोहा एवं गढ़ेवा में सोलर प्लाण्ट-2.0KV 04 नग सोलर लाईट व 01 एच.पी. सबमर्सिबल मोटर पम्प की आपूर्ति/स्थापना आदि का कार्य। Tender ID-2021RKUMP-543589	590.00	7.60	0.77	3 माह	ब

नियम व शर्ते :– 1. ई–निविदा डाक्यूमेन्ट (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक 29.01.2021 अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक उपलब्ध रहेगा। 2. ई–निविदा के मूल्य का भुगतान RTGS / NEFT के माध्यम से उपनिदेशक (वि0/यॉ0) राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, लखनऊ के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक खाता सं0–30396156486 (IFS Code - SBIN 0050643) में जमाकर बैंक से प्राप्त UTR No. की प्राप्ति जमा करना अनिवार्य है। 3. धरोहर धनराशि का भुगतान RTGS / NEFT के माध्यम से उपनिदेशक (वि0/यॉ0) राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, लखनऊ के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक खाता सं0 – 30396156861 (IFS Code - SBIN 0050643) में जमाकर बैंक से प्राप्त UTR No. की प्राप्ति जमा करना अनिवार्य है। 4. निविदादाताओं द्वारा दी गयी ई–निविदा की दरें 90 दिन तक मान्य होगी। 5. रू0 100.00 का स्टाम्प पेपर जो ट्रेजरी कार्यालय से जारी हुआ हो के साथ रू0 1.00 का रेवेन्यू टिकट लगाकर जमा करना अनिवार्य है। 6. जी0एस0टी0 एवं आयकर (टी0डी0एस0) की कटौती नियमानुसार ठेकेदार के देयको से की जायेगी। 7. ई–निविदादाता बार काउन्सिल का सदस्य नहीं होना चाहिए ऐसे निविदादाता को निविदा डालने की अनुमति नहीं होगी जिनके सगे सम्बन्धी (प्रथम ब्लड रिलेटेड), मण्डी परिषद में कार्यरत होगा। 8. बेबसाइट www.etender. up.nic.in से डाउनलोड किये गये फार्म में किसी भी तरह की भिन्नता की स्थिति में कार्यालय में अनुरक्षित निविदा फार्म की मूल प्रति ही मान्य होगी। 9. एक या समस्त ई–निविदायें बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार उप निदेशक (वि0/यां0), राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, लखनऊ को होगा। 10. ऐसे राजपत्रित अभियन्ता/अधिकारी, जिनको राज्य सरकार अथवा केन्द्र सरकार की सेवा से सेवा निवृत्त हुए दो वर्ष से कम अवधि हुई हो, को ई–निविदा डालने का अधिकार नहीं होगा। 11. फर्म के सुपरवाइजर/कर्मचारी द्वारा मण्डी परिषद के किसी भी मशीन एवं उपकरण को क्षतिग्रस्त करने की स्थित में क्षति की प्रतिपूर्ति फर्म के देयक से अथवा जमानत धनराशि से कटौती करके की जायेगी। 12. नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (NGT) के निर्देशों के क्रम में कान्स्ट्रक्शन एवं डिमोलेशन रुल्स 2016 के अनुरुप समस्त मानको का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित किया जायेगा। 13. फर्म को विद्युत सुरक्षा नियमों का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा तथा फर्म के किसी भी कर्मचारी के दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होने पर फर्म को ही पूर्ण उत्तरदायित्व का वहन करना होगा। 14. ई–निविदा आमंत्रण तिथि को यदि सार्वजनिक अवकाश घोषित होता है तो निविदाएं अगले कार्य दिवस मे खोली जायेगी। 15. जी0एस0टी0 विभाग द्वारा नियमानुसार अलग से देय होगी। 16. निविदादाताओ को टी–4, टी–5, टी–6, ई निविदा के साथ अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है।

उप निदेशक (वि0/यां0)

NHRC notice to UP govt on collapse of crematorium room

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking suo motu cognisance of the death of 24 persons and injury to 30 others in a roof collapse at a crematorium in Murad Nagar Municipality in Ghaziabad, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) served notice to the UP government on Tuesday.

The Commission issued notices to UP Chief Secretary and DGP calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.

"The report must contain review of all the crematoriums, burial grounds and other such buildings, which are used by the public for community activities in state and maintained by local administrative authorities. The authorities concerned must ensure proper maintenance of such places to avoid any untoward incidents in future posing danger to human lives," the NHRC notice said.

The Commission said that it had also noted, as reported in the media, that an FIR was registered and some financial assistance was also announced by the state government. It asked the UP government, through its senior officers, about the present status of probe into the case as well as the condition of the injured.

The Commission also observed that apparently, the contractor and department concerned acted in a negligent manner leading to violation of the right to life of the victims. "The incident is required to be investigated thoroughly so that the guilty could be adequately punished as per the provisions of the law." the NHRC felt..

As per media reports, a rain shelter was constructed recently by a private contractor engaged by Muradnagar Municipality. tragedy took place when about 60 people were attending a cremation. Some labourers, who were working at a Rapid Metro site nearby and locals rushed to the rescue of the victims. Police personnel and members of NDRF also rushed to the spot and rescued the victims. Twenty four deaths were confirmed, while many injured were admitted in the hospitals.

Family attacked, house set on fire over conversion to Hinduism

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Communal tension prevailed in Rae Bareli after some miscreants attacked a family and torched their house months after their conversion to Hinduism. Police, along with a fire brigade team, doused the flames in time and saved those trapped inside.

The victims filed a complaint and named five accused for their involvement in the attack. Two of them were later apprehended. The case was reported from Ataganj Ratason village in Salon area of Rae Bareli. The victim was identified as Devprakash Patel, son of Mohammed Hasan, who had converted to Hinduism along with his family nearly a year ago. Prior to embracing Hinduism, Patel was known as Mohammed Anwar.

Narrating the incident to mediapersons, Devprakash said he was going to build a temple on his land next to his house which angered local leaders and others. He also blamed two village pradhans — Ali Ahmed, and Akbar Tahir — for the attack on his house. He alleged that the village pradhans, along with their men, set his house on fire and tried to burn him as well as his three children alive for converting to Hinduism.

According to Patel, the pradhans and several other influential people in the village were not happy with conversion. "When we were resting in the house on Sunday afternoon, the accused shut the door and set our house on fire. On being informed, the police and fire brigade team reached the scene and rescued all of us. Ali Ahmed, Akbar Tahir, Imtiaz and others used to threaten us but we did not take it seriously," Devprakash said.

After the incident, leaders of Hindu Yuva Vahini also reached the spot. Meanwhile, the police ensured that peace was maintained and arrested two of the accused. Huge police force is camping in the area to prevent communal clashes.

Asset restructuring module for MSMEs discussed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Chapter of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) organised a virtual conference on 'Asset restructuring module for MSMEs' on Tuesday in collaboration with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The objective was to create a platform where MSMEs can get themselves educated about the versatile scheme of asset restructuring module launched by SIDBI and get the maximum benefit out of it.

General manager Rajiv Kumar briefed about the role of SIDBI. He said SIDBI acts as a principal financial institution for promotion, financing and development of the MSME sector as well as for coordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities with a mission to facilitate and strengthen credit flow to MSMEs and address both financial and developmental gaps in the MSME ecosystem.

He also said that SIDBI has emerged as a single window for meeting the financial and developmental needs of the MSME sector. Co-chairman, UP Chapter of PHDCCI, Satish Srivastava said that MSMEs have been accepted as the engine of economic growth and for promoting equitable development. "The labour intensity of the MSME sector is much higher than that of the large enterprises. The MSMEs constitute over 90% of total enterprises in most of the economies and are credited with generating the highest rates of employment growth and account for a major share of industrial production and exports," he said.

The webinar was attended by more than 100 participants comprising leading MSMEs, entrepreneurs, start-ups, bankers, non-banking financial institutions and other stakeholders working in this area.

'Environmental factors impact coronavirus spread'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Environmental factors impact the spread of coronavirus in any region, according to the research findings of Narendra Kumar, who is an associate professor at the department of Environment, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU).

He and his team have published a research paper in the international journal in which coronavirus, the effects of environmental factors on its infection have been studied in detail.

BBAU spokesperson said that in this research paper, the role of environmental agents in spreading this epidemic globally has been described in detail. "Environmental factors like regional climate, temperature, humidity, wind speed, its direction and water quality, and also gender, blood group, population density are factors that affect the spread of virus. In environmental factors, the effect of humidity and average temperature has been found in many regions of the world. It is often observed that usually during cold weather when the temperature is low and relative humidity is high, the corona virus aerosol or particulate matter whose diameter is less than 5 micrometers will stick with them and move from one place to another. In the same tropical regions, when there is high temperature and high humidity during the rainy season, transfer of the virus is possible. If these two regions are compared, this virus can live longer in a temperate climate," she said.

"According to some scientists, coronavirus can survive for many hours on solid surfaces like aluminium, metal, glasses, plastic etc. That's why the risk of infection from such surfaces is high, so sanitisation of hospitals where the infected person is being treated is very important. A blood group with the severity of infection has the highest number of infections seen in the 'A' blood group, and the lowest infection in the 'O' blood group. Coronavirus is the most dangerous for those who smoke. Men are at a higher risk than women, regardless of their age," according to the research.

'Thaila bank' inaugurated

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia inaugurated 'Thaila Bank' of Nagar Nigam near vegetable market in Aishbagh to curb the use of polythene. The bags can be purchased close to all the vegetables markets in the city. She said that the aim was to curb the use of single-use plastic.

"This is an alternative to polythene and the sale of cloth bags can be promoted through this. People have often been asking me that they could not find an alternative to the use of plastic. This is an alternative which we are providing to them. These bags will be available at the closest vegetable markets at affordable prices and the same have been made by self-help groups," she said.

She appealed to people to use these bags instead of polythene. Additional municipal commissioner Archana Dwivedi said that the use of these bags would help keep the city clean. Meanwhile, Nagar Nigam held the first Lok Mangal Diwas after lockdown and people approached the officials concerned with the problems.

Farmers paid ₹10,000 cr in paddy purchase

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Various government agencies in Uttar Pradesh have so far purchased paddy from 10 lakh farmers under Minimum Support Price and paid over Rs 10,000 crore to them through direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme. The state government had set a target of procuring 55 lakh MT of paddy from farmers during the current Kharif procurement season. Food department sources said that procurement was likely to exceed the target. Till January 4, the agencies procured 53 lakh MT from and the payments were made within 72 hours of the purchase.

The UP government had announced a Paddy Procurement policy in April last year for 2019-20 and approved a procurement rate of Rs 1,868 per quintal for common variety and Rs 1,888 per quintal for grade 'A' variety. An additional sum of Rs 20 per quintal would be paid to farmers for winnowing of paddy. While in 2018-19, over 48.25 lakh tonnes of paddy was purchased, the target for 2019-20 season has been fixed at 50 lakh tonnes. Last fiscal, paddy price was Rs 1,750 per quintal for common variety and Rs 1,770 per quintal for grade 'A' variety. Besides, an additional Rs 20 per quintal was given for winnowing. Paddy procurement commenced in October 1 and is likely to continue till February 28, this year.

CM Yogi directs officials to identify hazardous buildings

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to identify old buildings across the state that might collapse posing threat to human lives. "All such buildings including government primary and secondary schools and hospitals should be identified immediately and be replaced with new ones. The safety of citizens is of paramount importance for the government and no stone will be left unturned to ensure it," Yogi said while directing officials to carry out a state-wide survey at district level.

With regards to the schools, the CM said that until new schools were built, Basic Education department has to make sure that classes were conducted in rented buildings with adequate rooms. "Similarly, hospitals should also be replaced by new buildings if the existing buildings are in dilapidated conditions or pose threat to human life," he said. Divisional commissioners and districts magistrates were asked to conduct an on-the-spot survey of dilapidated buildings and a technical committee headed by respective DM would take the work forward.

Govt to hold exam on 'gau vigyan' on Feb 25

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday announced a national-level voluntary online exam on 'gau vigyan' (cow science) to be held on February 25, in a bid to generate interest among students and the general public about the indigenous cow and its benefits.

Announcing the first-ever exam of this kind, Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) Chairman Vallabhbhai Kathiria said this exam will be held annually.

Students of primary, secondary and college levels and general public can take part in the 'Kamdhenu Gau-Vigyan Prachar-Prasar Examination' without any fee.

"For raising mass awareness about the indigenous cows among young students and other citizens, the RKA decided to conduct a national exam on cow science," he told reporters.

The Aayog has prepared a study material on cow science.

The exam will infuse the curiosity into all Indians about cows and make them aware of the unexplored potential and business opportunities a cow can offer, even after it stops giving milk, he added. Further, Kathiria said there will be objective-type questions, and the syllabus will be recommended on the website of the RKA. The exam results will be declared immediately and certificates will be given to all. Meritorious candidates will be given prizes and certificates, he added.

The RKA chief also mentioned that it has received good response from varisities for setting up a chair and research centres on cow and related issues. The RKA, which comes under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, was set up by the Centre in February 2019, and is aimed at "conservation, protection and development of cows and their progeny".

Kamdhenu Aayog claims ayurveda treatment cured 800 Covid-19 patients

New Delhi: Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) Chairman Vallabhbhai Kathiria on Tuesday claimed that 800 Covid-19 patients have been cured through 'panchgavya and ayurveda' treatment in a clinical trial conducted in four cities across the country. Kathiria said the clinical trials were conducted on 200 patients each in Rajkot and Baroda (Gujarat), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Kalyan (Maharashtra) between June and October 2020 in partnership with state governments and some NGOs. The treatment entailed doses of 'panchgavya' granules (mixture of cow urine, cow dung, milk, ghee and curd), herb 'Sanjeevani booti' and herbal concoction 'khada', he said. ***PNS***

Highway patrol vehicles CCTV network monitoring lab inaugurated in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir Police has further strengthened its highway patrol grid with the induction of CCTV fitted Highway patrol vehicles.

Director General of J&K Police Dilbag Singh on Tuesday inaugurated Highway Patrol Vehicles CCTV network monitoring lab and reviewed functioning of modern nakas and other naka points in the Jammu Zone. On the occasion, DGP also directed that the Highway Patrol and Naka Grid be further augmented with the bullet-proof bunker vehicles and Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) on the highways so that no time is lost in reacting to situations befittingly.

Jawans of the Jammu and Kashmir police have played a crucial role in preventing terrorist strikes by timely detecting their infiltration from across the International border and tracking them while they were proceeding towards the Kashmir valley in mobile bunkers.

DGP said that these Highway Patrol Vehicles will be very helpful in surveillance and speedy response to incidents. He said that these vehicles will be complementing the Naka Network already established on the Highway grid. A total number of 33 such vehicles have been deployed across Jammu division to keep a track on the movement of vehicles along the highway. In Jammu Samba Kathua range 14 vehicles have been deployed, 9 in Doda Kishtwar Ramban range, 4 in Udhampur Reasi range and 6 in Rajouri Poonch range. These Highway patrol vehicles are equipped with two cameras, one each at front and rear of the vehicle, the vehicle is equipped with Network Video Recorder (NVR), two-way audio transmission device, a touch screen and an alert button.

These patrol vehicles will provide live streaming from the incident site. It will make live tracking of the vehicles along the route possible. The vehicles can be monitored from PCR Jammu and district PCRs.

The DGP was briefed by IGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh and SSP PCR Kulbir Singh about the working and various modern functions of the Highway patrol vehicles deployed at 33 places across Jammu Zone.

A live demonstration of the working of these Highway Patrol vehicles was given and senior officers interacted with the personnel on duty with these vehicles at different locations. Speaking on the occasion, the DGP congratulated and appreciated the efforts of Jammu Zone senior officers for working towards further modernization. He said that communicating/directing the personnel on these vehicles on a real-time basis from Police Control Rooms is going to be very useful in prevention and checking of crimes on the highways. He directed the officers that all personnel working on these vehicles should be given training for handling the surveillance gadgets fitted on the vehicles and for proper communication skills for optimum results.

NC delegation meets Lt Governor, highlights attempts of 'horse-trading' of DDC members

PTI ■ JAMMU

An eight-member National Conference delegation on Tuesday met Lt Governor Manoj Sinha here and drew his attention to alleged attempts being made to mutilate the mandate of the people by encouraging horse-trading of the recently elected DDC members, the party said.

The NC stressed the crucial need of ensuring neutrality and impartiality of the administration in establishment of District Development Councils and said this is imperative for respecting the mandate and upholding people's faith in the grass-roots level democratic institutions which hold promise for transforming rural landscape in Jammu & Kashmir.

The delegation was by led by party's Jammu provincial president Devender Singh Rana and included former ministers Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Surjeet Singh Slathia, Syed Mushtaq Ahmed Shah Bukhari and former legislators Javed Rana, S Tarlochan Singh Wazir, Rattan Lal Gupta and Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, the party said in a statement here.

"During their meeting with the Lt governor at Raj Bhavan, the delegation drew his attention to the attempts being made to mutilate the mandate of the people by encouraging horse-trading of the recently elected Councillors which is not good for democracy," it said.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) comprising of seven mainstream parties, including the NC and the PDP, swept the DDC polls by winning 110 seats and accused the BJP and Apni Party of forcing elected DDC members to shift their loyalties to control the post of DDC chairman.

Vaccination dry run raises eyebrows

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

All the hectic preparations and arrangements made to ensure dry run of COVID-19 vaccination a grand success in the district have been overshadowed by the controversies when four dummy vaccine boxes were supplied from Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) to the Government Women's Hospital, Kabirchaura here on Tuesday on a bicycle. The act of the Health department has raised the eyebrows of many as there are a lot of debates going on across the world over the preservation of vaccines to maintain their effectiveness.

When the dummy vaccine boxes carried on a bicycle reached Women's Hospital, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh was also present there. When the CMO knew the matter, he not only took the concerned medical incharge to the task but also sought a written reply from him. Apart from this, the dry run was done successfully at all the six identified locations and this process began at 10 am at all the places including three each are in rural and urban areas. They were Community Health Centre (CHC) Hathi of Sevapuri block, CHC Misirpur of Kashi Vidyapeeth block and Primary Health Centre (PHC) of Pindra block in rural areas, while District Women's Hospital Kabirchaura, CHC Shivpur and Heritage Hospital (a private hospital) in the urban areas.

As per the plan, as many as 25 identified persons at each centre were symbolically given vaccines after taking out dummy vaccines from the cold storages, following COVID-19 guidelines. The real time monitoring of the vaccine was also done. All the vaccination teams reached the sites 45 minutes before time. Dummy vaccines, syringes, Adverse Event Followed Immunisation (AEFI) kits and other logistics were ensured to reach the session on time. Appropriate arrangements were also made for the AEFI management to address the adverse conditions and effects of vaccination. Everything in the dry run was the same as what is actually going to happen in the vaccination campaign. Two sessions were conducted at each site for the dry run. There were three rooms for each session, with the waiting (first), vaccination (second) and monitoring room (third) where under doctor's supervision one stayed for 30 minutes after vaccination).

Dummy vaccines being carried to Women's Hospital on bicycle in Varanasi on Tuesday Pioneer

Yogi govt to take more strict action against mafia: Nandi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta `Nandi' said that under Operation Nestanabud, the Yogi government will take more strict action against the mafia in the new year. The mafia survivors will not be spared.

Cabinet Minister Nandi said that this year the government will take more strict action against the remaining mafias and history-sheeters. He further said that the goal of Operation Nestanabud is to apply to criminals and mafia who have illegally grabbed the lands of the people or have done illegal construction work.

Earlier, Nandi on Monday inaugurated several development works carried out in his constituency from MLA fund. After the inaugural work in the presence of Mayor Abhilasha Gupta, Nandi went to the residence of the Booth president, sector coordinators. He also met their family members and found out the problem.

Minister Nandi had done the work of beautification of the temple park at Badshahi Mandi at a cost of ₹ 5.30 lakh, interlocking at Mahaviran Gali at Mutthiganj at a cost of ₹3 lakh. After releasing these works, along with meeting the booth presidents, he went to the residence of all the traders.

BJP city unit vice-president Anil Kesarwani Jhaller, Mandal president Kishori Lal Jaiswal, Manoj Gupta, Sumit Vaishya, Pankaj Gupta, Kamal Kumar Kesarwani, Anup Agarwal, Kunwar Kesarwani, etc. were present on the occasion.

31 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 31 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Tuesday, increasing the total number to 21,418. There was no casualty reported during the day and the number remained at 365. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 50 and 45 of them have been recovered from home isolation while five from the hospitals, increasing the number to 17,702 and 2,931 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 20,633, leaving 420 active cases. The recovery rate is 96.33 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.70 per cent.

In the first report of the day, 16 positive patients were found out of 1,857 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 5,30,925 and the results of 2,552 are awaited. Out of them, 5,09,522 were negative, while 21,403 were positive. The total number of samples collected was 5,57,681. Earlier, a male aged 76 from Lallapura succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of one new red zone, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,653 including 184 red zones. Three green zones have been converted into the red zones again. There are 2,469 green zones with five new ones.

Meanwhile, mass / group corona antigen tests continued and all the 165 tests were found negative at SSPG Hospital Kabirchaura apart from 125 at District Women's Hospital, 41at CHC Shivpur, 55 at Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur, 152 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar and 140 at SSH BHU.

Apart from this, all the 57 tests at Varanasi Junction (Cantt) railway station and 41 at Manduadih were also found negative. Along with this, samples of 101 from SSPG, 50 from Women's Hospital, 20 from Vivekanand, 96 from LBS Hospital and 73 from SSH-BHU have been sent for RTPCR investigation.

Unauthorised market demolished

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A four-storeyed unauthorised market, owned by a hardcore criminal Ganesh Yadav in Jhusi was razed to ground on Tuesday. The shopowners in the market were given enough of time to shift goods to a safe place before the Prayagraj Development Authority JCB machines came into action.

Last month the PDA had pulled down the unauthorised buildings of Ganesh Yadav and his brother in Jhusi area itself. Later the officials came to know about the Ganesh Market on the main road in Jhusi by the side of Nyay Nagar gate.

On Tuesday the PDA team reached Jhusi police station in the morning backed by heavy police and PAC force. After completing formalities the team moved towards Nyay Nagar and reached Ganesh Market where the shopowners were asked to remove their goods within a couple of hours. Some shopkeepers tried to oppose the PDA action, but they had to step back seeing heavy police deployment.

Some shopowners gathered information regarding this move of the PDA on Monday itself, so they removed their stocks from the shops on Monday night itself.

In the afternoon hours, the bulldozers started pulling down the four-storeyed market, and within hours the whole building turned into rubble.

The PDA has so far targeted Atique Ahmed, his relatives, dozens of his criminal associates, Vijay Mishra, Dilip Mishra, Ram Lochan Yadav, Ganesh Yadav and his brother besides many other criminals under `Operation Clean Up'.

Foggy conditions affect normal life

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Dense foggy and weather conditions during the day have affected the normal life badly here on Tuesday, slowing down the speed of trains and road transportation apart from delaying the arrivals of several flights. However, baring such changed weather conditions, good number of people were seen enjoying boating at the internationally famous ghats and offering grains to the Siberian birds without worrying about the reports of outbreak of bird flu in parts of the country.

The changes in weather conditions were expected when the minimum temperature during the last few days has increased from around six to 13 degree Celsius apart from continuous snowfall and declining temperature in northern states.

The day also saw a brief spell of rain. Heavy weather conditions affected flight services badly. According to information received from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur, several flights including UL-3612, AI-406 (both from Delhi), SG-704, SG-250 (both from Mumbai), G8-4076 from Ahmedabad and SG-971 from Ahmedabad arrived here late.

Heavy weather and foggy conditions grip Varanasi on Tuesday Pioneer

34 new Covid cases in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of corona infections has been reduced to 40 within two days. The decreasing rate of infection is relieving. On Monday night, the Covid report of 34 people, including Dr Sarita Bajaj, head of the Department of Medicine, and Dermatologist Dr AK Bajaj at MLN Medical College tested positive. About 61 people beat the infection at the same time. During the treatment, a Covid infected also died.

According to CMO Dr Prabhakar Rai, on Monday, samples of 6,220 people were collected for the Covid test in the district.

In 24 hours, 34 people have reported positive. Ten people were discharged from Covid hospitals. At the same time home isolation of 51 people was completed. In this way, a total of 61 people became free from corona infection.

He said that one of the infected died during treatment. So far, 379 people have died due to Covid infection.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, Dr Sarita Bajaj and Dr AK Bajaj along with Dufferin Hospital radiologist Dr Sunil Kesarwani's Covid report have come positive.

At the same time, a CRPF constable, along with a guard of the railway and a teacher of Convent School in Teliarganj are also included in the list of corona infected, added Dr Sahai.

Governor highlights role of teachers in personality development of children

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Governor Anandiben Patel, while addressing the Anganwadi training programme on 'maternal education and childcare' at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Tuesday, highlighted the role of teachers in personality development of children. 'Anganwadi workers are fortunate to be mothers and teachers as they give birth to children and then show them the right way of life,' she said, adding that there is a greater need for women in the field of education.

'About 60 per cent in the field of education and 100 per cent in Anganwadi are women. There is a chain of women right from the village to the top in the Child Development Women's Welfare Department. Mothers give care of the children for three years at home after keeping them for nine months in the womb,' she said, adding that women have to be knowledgeable and skilled since adolescence as the haemoglobin of all the teenagers should be checked and maintained properly.

She further said that the women should know how to eat and what to eat during pregnancy and how to keep a happy mind at home because mother's state of mind, environment, food etc has an effect on the foetus.

She also cited many examples. 'Children of the 21st century are very powerful and sensitive,' she said, appealing to the mothers to avoid giving mobile and fried food to the children as it may have wrong affect. Anandiben called upon all the departments to work in coordination for child development and women welfare in view to create an ideal society and help the country grow with happiness and prosperity.

UP Minister Swati Singh, departmental officials, Anganwadi workers and office-bearers of Vidya Bharati were also present.

PICTURES OF CRPF JAWANS ON STAMPS: Postage stamps will now show the photographs of the youths protecting the country. On the initiative of the Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav, the Department of Posts has taken the initiative to publish the photographs of CRPF jawans on the postal stamps under 'My Stamp' scheme. The faces of more than a hundred CRPF personnel posted in Varanasi will now be glorified on the postage stamps. The photos of these jawans have been published on 'My Stamp' postage stamps at head post office, Visheshwargaj here on Tuesday.

In the same sequence, Varanasi Western Division Superintendent of Posts, Ram Ram Milan and Assistant Director Shambhu Rai presented "My Stamp' to the CRPF 95th battalion Commandant Narendra Pal Singh.

Yadav said that under certain rules, personalised stamps can be issued on any living person in the scheme. A photo can be put in a sheet with a total of 12 postage stamps. Such postage stamps of ₹5 can be sent anywhere across the country.

For this, one has to fill a form at the concerned post office and submit one's photo, identity card and ₹300 with it. It also has the facility of photo on webcam. This facility is available in Varanasi head post office located at Visheshwarganj.

He further said that seeing the importance of the city as a religious and tourist destination, the Department of Posts has released 'Ghats of Varanasi' themed stamp sheet with the pictures of the ghats and Ganga Aarti apart from personalised postage stamps. Shambhu Rai said that apart from this, postage stamps can be issued through 'My Stamp' on the theme of various zodiac signs, flowers, Taj Mahal, Happy Birthday, marriage anniversary and retirement.

75 automatic self-cleaning toilets to be built

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

People would be able to use these toilets by inserting coins. The walls and toilet seats would be made of steel and the water tap would be powered by sensors. The administration will spend ₹ 4 crore on the construction of these toilets.

After jumping to 20th rank in all-India Swachh Bharat rankings, Prayagraj would soon get the facility of smart public toilets too. The administration would build 75 automatic self-cleaning toilets under the Smart City projects.

People would be able to use these toilets by inserting coins. The walls and toilet seats would be made of steel and the water tap would be powered by sensors. The administration will spend ₹4 crore on the construction of these toilets.

After Prayagraj Municipal Corporation (PMC) floated a tender for construction of these toilets, it received technical bids from six agencies. The technical bids have been opened and after opening the financial bids, an agency will be selected which has quoted the lowest rate. The construction of these toilets would commence once the agency is finalised by the authorities.

These automatic self-cleaning toilets would be set up in three stages in an area-based development project. The agency has to construct 25 toilets at each stage. Despite having a self-cleaning mechanism, the selected agency will hire a sanitation worker for every five toilets and a supervisor for every 10. A manager will be appointed to supervise the hired staff.

'A regular public toilet requires an average of seven litre of water per person. However, these toilets will require about one-third less of the requirement i.e. two-and-a-half litre of water.

These toilets will be made eco-friendly and will function only when the user puts a coin in the slot,' said PMC's environment engineer Uttam Verma.

KAUSHAMBI JAIL INMATES LAUDED: Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' appreciated the Kaushambi district jail inmates for stitching covers to protect cows from the harsh cold during the ongoing winter season. Now the traditional method of cooking 'chapatis' by the inmates for jail staff and fellow inmates has become popular among jail authorities of other central and district jails of Uttar Pradesh.

Inmates of Kaushambi district jail have designed a traditional furnace to cook the chapatis in an attempt to maintain its real taste. The inmates also use a special burner, tawa, and pieces of red bricks to protect chapatis from excessive heat and also help them from burning.

Jail Superintendent (Kaushambi district jail) BS Mukund informed the newspersons that a group of 50 inmates prepare around 16,000 chapatis in lunch and dinner daily for around 800 people including jail staff and inmates. He added, inmates have designed a traditional Bhatti to maintain the taste of chapatis and it's a completely homely method to cook chapatis.

Mukund also claimed, 'We neither buy flour (atta) packets from outside nor we have chapati makers.' The inmates lodged at the district jail themselves grind the high yield variety of flour and collectively work in the process of chapati making.

Coming to know about the chapati preparations by the inmates of Kaushambi district jail, authorities of other district jail approached their Kaushambi counterparts to share the making process.

ROAD MISHAP: A speeding truck crushed a student to death on Rewa highway on Tuesday at 3 pm.

A resident of Molai ka pur under the Jasra block of the trans-Yamuna area Manoj Kumar Yadav, aged around 16, was going to attend his coaching classes in Gohania. When he reached Kanti on Rewa highway, a truck coming from Rewa side crushed him to death.

The boy died on the spot, while the truck driver sped away.

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar makes a sudden visit at Department of Transfusion Medicine, GSVM Medical College on Tuesday Pioneer

DC reviews arrangements for dry run of vaccination

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar, made a surprise visit of the GSVM Medical College on Tuesday and reviewed the arrangements for the dry run of the vaccination. He was accompanied by Additional Director Health, Principal Medical College, CMO and HoD of Medicine Department, who is also the Nodal Officer for vaccination for medical college. He directed all the officials to ensure all necessary arrangements were made well in advance for smooth and hassle free vaccination campaign under their personal supervision and monitoring.

He said as per the directions of the state government, in the first phase of vaccination all the health workers including doctors, nurses and paramedics will be vaccinated. He added that for this around 20,000 health workers had been identified in Kanpur. He said the data feeding of around 18,500 had been completed and the remaining will be completed in the next two days.

He said for the first phase of vaccination, 100 centres had been identified including GSVM Medical College (10 centres), all District Hospitals, all CHCs, PHCs, some private hospitals and nursing homes.

He said at every centre there will be five-member medical team for carrying out vaccination successfully. He said thus in total 500 member medical team was being kept ready for the first phase of vaccination. He added that every centre will handle 100 persons per day for the first phase.

The DC said that one photo ID card and message on the registered mobile phone was made mandatory for getting the vaccination. He said similarly in the second phase all the frontline workers like police force, administration staff and officials and others who were directly and indirectly related to handling Covid will be vaccinated. He said the number identified as on date for Kanpur was around 50,000. He said all the details were being compiled.

Shekhar informed that in the third phase people above age of 50 years will be vaccinated. He said for this the number identified in Kanpur was around 5 lakh. He added that for the third phase around 250 vaccination sites or centres had been identified and necessary advance preparations were being carried out. He said every vaccination centre had three sections and the first section was for identification and verification of the beneficiaries. He said the second section was 'Vaccination Room' and the Data Entry Room. He said the data of every vaccinated person will be entered online in the App made for this campaign. He said the third section will be post vaccination waiting hall where in the vaccinated person will be kept under observation for 30 minutes after the vaccination. He said necessary arrangements of emergency life saving medicines (kit) and doctors will be deployed in the post vaccination waiting hall for handling the post vaccination emergency or reactions if any in any of the identified person. He added that arrangements of emergency ambulance and referral hospitals had also been made for each vaccination centre.

DM visits urban primary health centre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari visited the Urban Primary Health Centre at Gwaltoli under the National Urban Health Mission on Tuesday where the dry run of vaccination for COVID-19 was being held. He took a detailed feedback of the preparations carried out and directed that there should be no compromise on any front. He then visited the waiting area, vaccination centre, holding area and the inspecting area and expressed satisfaction over the working there. He was accompanied by police and other district officials.

SAMADHAN DIWAS: The DM while chairing the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas at Bilhaur on Tuesday expressed concern over the delay in attending to the complaints which came up in Samadhan Diwas. He said the onus rested on the officials concerned to ensure that all the complaints which came up for hearing in this Samadhan Diwas were attended to timely and without any compromise on its quality completion.

He said the objective of the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas was to ensure that the directives of the government were implemented in the right earnest and if found that there were certain hurdles then it should be removed at the earliest and settled in a stipulated time-frame. He said it was a matter of concern that most of the cases which came up in the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas were either put into cold storage or were completed in a slip shod manner leaving the complainant with bitter experience and it then reflected upon the working of the government.

CSA University V-C advises students to remain focused on research work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Vice-Chancellor of the Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Prof DR Singh, while addressing the inaugural session of the varsity said research and development in agriculture was a crucial requirement for meeting future challenges. He advised students to remain more focused on research work for the improvement of grain yield for the teeming millions of the country. He said one key condition for the rejuvenation of Indian agriculture was significant increase in crop yields and the onus rested on farm scientists.

He said as far as the point about focused research against resource-thinning proliferation was concerned, there was need to keep in mind that extension services were more important in agriculture. He said increasing of agriculture products was of importance so that research and development developed production growth. He said agriculture provided new and improved findings regarding inputs and production methods hence R&D efficiency increases and led to potential creation in increasing of agriculture products and reduced pressure on natural resources.

Prof Singh said agriculture occupied a strategic position in the economic development of India and realising its importance, the country was in the process of modernising its agriculture, which, in turn, depended largely upon the application of improved practices based on science and technology. He added that to achieve a high standard of agriculture production, a country had to have strong research and extension systems. He said the infrastructure for research and extension were being strengthened in India and as a result, an unprecedented breakthrough in agricultural technology was taking place not only in developed but also in many developing countries. He said despite the availability of highly productive and remunerative technology, a wide gap existed between what scientists had achieved on experimental farms and research stations and what average farmers obtained on their fields. He underlined the need for transferring improved farm practices for better crop yield. Others present on the occasion were Dr Khalil Khan, Dr HG Prakash, Dr Ved Ratna, Dr Dharamraj Singh, Dr YK Singh, Dr Sanjeev Sachan and many more.

SEMINAR ON HOW TO MAKE KANPUR SELF-RELIANT' HELD: The State Minister for Higher Education, Nilima Katiyar while addressing the seminar on 'How to make Kanpur self-reliant' organised by the Lions Club of Kanpur Mangalam and Alliance Club Mandal 180 on Tuesday said exactly on the pattern of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' NGOs and various social bodies had to join hands to make Kanpur self-reliant and once again make it the Manchester of the East. She said to make the city bigger and more important part of economy combined efforts need to be put in that were efficient, competitive and resilient, and self-sustaining. She said NGOs furthered the political or social goals of their members improving the natural environment, encouraging the observance of human rights, improving the welfare of the disadvantaged, or representing a corporate agenda and their goals covered a wide range of issues. She said NGO activities included environmental, social, advocacy and human rights work. She said they can work to promote social or political change on a broad scale or very locally. She said NGOs played a critical part in developing society, improving communities, and promoting citizen participation. Katiyar said NGOs often enjoy exceptional access to knowledgeable people and information in their area of expertise. She said it meant that they can make information accessible to the public and explain how it might affect them. She said besides NGOs created a channel for individuals to be represented and heard on a wider scale. She said NGOs can adapt quicker and respond to everchanging societal needs more rapidly than governmental organisations. She added that it can be instrumental in ensuring transparency and accountability due to their access to information.

37 more test positive in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said 37 more people tested positive of coronavirus infection in Kanpur Nagar during the past 24 hours.

With this, the tally of confirmed coronavirus infections detected in the city reached 32,434 on Tuesday evening.

The CMO said 14 COVID-19 patients were discharged. He said no COVID-19 death was reported in the city during the past 24 hours.

Dr Mishra said 408 active cases were undergoing treatment in the city at present. He said 3816 samples were taken in the city on Tuesday for testing.

KDA to develop greenery on vacant land

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority is all set to develop greenery on the vacant land in its different housing projects aimed at reducing the air pollution. Plantation would be carried out in the space left for the greenbelt and divider. Zonal Engineers have been assigned the job for developing the greenery. Executive Engineer Ashu Mittal said 'there are plans to develop greenery and carry out beautification work on the vacant land available in different housing projects of KDA. These are Shatbadi Nagar, Signature Greens City, Jawaharpuram Scheme, Mahabalipuram, Sankarapur, Jahnvi-Bhagirathi, Ramganga Enclave, Kidwai Nagar residency scheme, Alaknanda, Highway City and Highway City Extension'. He said as the Horticulture department of KDA was unable to oversee the maintenance of different housing projects in the city, zonal engineers had been assigned the job of developing greenery on the vacant land in their respective projects. KDA was also preparing design of the theme park to be set up on 32 acre land in Ganga Barrage where large number of saplings would be planted. Apart from developing a lush green park, hoardings giving information about the Ganga would also be installed there. Besides, a botanical garden and city forest in Maqsoodabad would also be developed, he added.

Fire breaks out in medical store

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Medicines and furniture worth lakhs of rupees were gutted into fire which broke out in a medical store in Vishnupuri Colony, under the Nawabganj police station on Tuesday morning. Electric short circuit was stated to be the cause of incident. Team of Colonelganj Fire Station rushed the spot and took around two hours to extinguish the fire. Binu Khan of Nawabganj owns his shop under the name of United Medical Store near Ram Chandra Chauraha of Vishnupuri Colony. On Tuesday morning, around 7 am, seeing the thick smoke coming out of the shop, local residents informed Binu Khan and Fire Brigade about the incident. Fire tender reached the spot after around 20 minutes and was pressed into service. After getting the shutter open, firemen began to extinguish the fire. Meanwhile, the power supply in the locality remained suspended. Station Head Officer Rama Kant Pachauri suspected the electric short circuit for the incident. Entire goods and furniture were gutted. Exact amount of loss could not be ascertained. On receipt of complaint, further investigations would be made, he said.

KILLED : A GRP constable was fatally knocked down by a speeding dumper in Vasant Vihar locality, under the Naubasta police station on Tuesday afternoon. He had arrived Kanpur from Lucknow on bike for verification of an accused.

NER first in grievance redressal

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Targeting customer satisfaction, Indian Railways is providing better travel facilities to them. Full care is taken to avoid any inconvenience to passengers in stations or trains. If there is any kind of inconvenience to them at the station or during their journey, then the railway administration is ready round the clock for its disposal. Complaints received through Rail Madad app, Help Line Number -139, Security Helpline-182, SMS and web are being disposed of immediately. From January 1 to 4 the complaints received on the North Eastern Railway (NER) were disposed of very quickly and it stood first among all zonal railways in grievance redressal. A total of 110 complaints were received on NER from January 1 to 4 and two were already pending. Of them 111 complaints were disposed of in an average disposal time of only 23 minutes, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. Thus 99.11 per cent of complaints were disposed of.

These complaints were related parcels, air conditioning in trains, theft, overcharging, behaviour of employees, medical assistance, cleanliness and lighting in trains and punctuality. Usually through RailMadad app cleanliness in trains, arrangement for water, air conditioning, light, fan, charging point, entry of unauthorised persons in reserved coaches, parcels, catering, medical aid, refund, goods /parcels, over charging, corruption and employee behavior are received. In order to dispose them of in the shortest possible time, the complaint cell and control room monitors the complaints entire time.

With immediate disposal of complaints the goal of passenger satisfaction is achieved.

TEENAGED BOY HANDED OVER TO CHILDLINE

The Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER), makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. Reports said that in train no 01016 a 14-year-old boy was found in unclaimed condition by the escort party of RPF, Gonda, on January 3. After questioning, the boy was handed over to Childline, Gonda by RPF Gonda. On the other hand, on January 2 in train no 03019, the escort party of RPF, Lucknow, found a 17-year-old boy who had run away from his house. After interrogation, the boy was handed over to the Ehsaas Childline, Lucknow by Railway Protection Force post, Lucknow. Likewise on January 3 the Railway Protection Force workshop and Crime Intelligence Branch, Izzatagar, arrested two persons along with solar plates and batteries. Taking action against the two under the Railway Property Act a case was registered in this connection. Similarly on January 2 the RPF, Crime Intelligence Branch, Headquarters, Gorakhpur, arrested two persons with various railway material of Engineering, Mechanical and Signal Departments from a scrap dealer's shop. Taking action against them under the Railway Property Act a case was registered in this connection. On the other hand, on January 1 the RPF Crime Intelligence Branch, Izzatnagar, from an under construction house recovered an electric generator was recovered of the railway which was being used illegally. Taking action under the Railway Property Act a case was registered against one person in this connection. On January 1 Railway Protection Force post, Deoria, one person was caught along with 17 illegal e-tickets. Action was taken under the Railway Act and a case was registered in this connection. On January 1 one passenger who was travelling in train no 01062 had left a bag which was handed over to the commuter concerned by the RPF Maintenance Team, Prayagraj Rambagh.

Four trucks seized

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUN

Kalpi sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Jayendra Kumar seized four trucks for illegal mining and overloading. Kumar said that following information about the movement of overloaded trucks through Kalpi tehsil they had launched a midnight operation on Monday. It aimed at checking illegal mining and overloading, he said. Meanwhile four overloaded trucks were seized on Kadaura-Harchandpur road in Kalpi tehsil and handed over to the Kadaura police station for further action in this connection. SDM also inspected the cow sheds situated in Gudha Khas, Shepura, Mangraul and Bairai villages. On the occasion he also directed the authorities concerned to take proper care of cows during winter.

Women's Helpdesk inaugurated

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUN

Women's Helpdesk were inaugurated at many police stations in the district on Monday. MP from Jalaun Bhanu Pratap Verma inaugurated the Women's Helpdesk at Kuthond police station along with Joint Magistrate Gulab Singh and Circle Officer (CO) Vijay Anand. MP Bhanu Pratap Verma thanked the Yogi Government for taking care of women. Meanwhile at Ata police station it was inaugurated by Jila Panchayat chairperson Suman Niranjan along with CO RP Singh. She said women are an important part of society and now they will not find difficulty in taking help from police and in lodging complaints their at police stations. The Women's Helpdesk at Kadaura police station was inaugurated by MLA from Kalpi Narendra Jadaun along with CO Vijay Anand. On the other hand, the women's help desk at Ait police station was inaugurated by MLA from Orai-Jalaun Gauri Shankar Verma.

MLA Gauri Shankar Verma along with CO after the inauguration of Women's Helpdesk at Ait police station in Orai, Jalaun Pioneer

Wheat, rice stolen

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

A gang of unidentified thieves took away 77 sacks of wheat and three sacks of rice from Khajuri village under the Khajni police station on Sunday night. The police was informed about the theft in the morning which was investigating the matter. According to information received here, 77 sacks of wheat and three sacks of rice in the Khajuri village of Khajni police station were taken away by the thieves in a vehicle in two rounds. The theft came to light in the morning when the driver reached there and on seeing less number of sacks there obtained information from the owner about their unloading. Meawnhile the theft from the pick-up has been captured in the footage of the closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera. Meanwhile Circle Officer (CO) Khajni Yogendra Krishna Narayan said that a case of theft has been registered in this connection and police was investigating the matter.

Meanwhile another report said that Sandeep, a resident of Parasia village under the Gulariha police station, has accused some people of abducting him and beating him when he demanded the borrowed money back. He has lodged a complaint with the police in this connection on Monday. In it he alleged that a youth belonging to Bangai village had borrowed a sum of ₹20,000 from him. He claimed that he was called at the Kanchanpur intersection under the Pipraich police station on Sunday evening for being given the given the borrowed money on mobile phone. He alleged that on reaching there, the youth and his associates made him and his friend Dheeraj Gupta sit on the motorcycle and forcibly took them to a garden. There both of them were thrashed badly and later let off. Sandeep has lodged a complaint with the police against three persons in this connection. Meanwhile Station House Officer (SHO) of Gulriha Ravi Rai said that a complaint had been received in this connection and the matter was being investigated.

Shashi Bhushan shines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the joint aegis of the Manoranjan Institute and Divisional Sports Association (DSA) during the inter-departmental T20 cricket tournament going on at the mini stadium of Varanasi Division, North Eastern Railway (NER) on the third day a match was played between the Electrical and the Stores Departments. Batting first, the Electrical department was dismissed for 94 runs. Shashi contributed 35 runs and Anuj 22. On behalf of the Stores department Rustam Ali took a hat-trick and Pramod took two wickets. In reply the team of the Stores department got out on the score of 80 runs and lost the match by 14 runs. Raje contributed 18 runs and Lal Babu 15. Qamar Ali took three wickets and Ramesh took. The Man of the Match Award was given to Shashi Bhushan.

Sewing machines given

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Under the guidance of Shashi Duhan, chairperson of Kalyani Mahila Samiti under Block B area of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) while self-employment gave two women belonging to the rural areas were given sewing machines. The committee had earlier through a sewing training programme at Gondwali panchayat trained local women. After the training sewing machines were given to two young women who were interested in self-employment. In the meantime by giving a sewing machine to a skilled Divgang woman, the committee has inspired her to lead a self-supporting life. It may be pointed out here that the Kalyani Mahila Samiti has been doing many works for the empowerment of women and skill development in the nearby areas.

Central Vista Centre's misplaced priority: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday described the Central Vista redevelopment project as a case of "misplaced priority by a whimsical autocrat".

The grand old party has been arguing against the ₹13,450 crore central redevelopment project during a pandemic and economic recession.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted: "The ₹13,450 CR Central Vista Project is not a legalistic issue but a case of 'misplaced priorities' of a 'whimsical autocrat' seeking to etch his name in the annals of history with cement & mortar. Ironical that In times of Corona pandemic & economic recession, Delhi has ₹14,000 cr for Central Vista & ₹8,000 CR for buying aircrafts for PM".

"But the same BJP Govt imposes cuts of ₹37,530 CR in allowances of 113 Lakh Armed Forces & Central Govt Employees & Pensioners.PM must not forget that he has imposed cuts of ₹11,000 CR on 15 lakh Soldiers & 26 lakh Military Pensioners. And the same BJP Govt at Centre has no time to provide 'heated tents and equipment' to our soldiers braving brazen Chinese incursions in Ladakh," Surjewala added.

Deputy Leader of Congress in Rajya Sabha, Anand Sharma also tweeted that he was "saddened" by the Supreme Court's go-ahead to the project

Deputy Leader of Congress in Rajya Sabha, Anand Sharma also tweeted that he was "saddened" by the Supreme Court's go-ahead to the project.

In a series of tweets, Sharma said it is time to "reflect" on the State of the republic. "Saddened by Supreme court endorsement of Government 's misplaced priorities during Pandemic and clearing the Central vista project- a unnecessary and colossal waste of public money," Sharma said.

"We are living in strange times. No relief for the migrant labour, no Justice for India's farmers fighting for their rights in bitter cold. Pouring rain, tear gas and braving lathis. As we approach 'Ganatantra Diwas' need to reflect on state of Republic," he added.

Congress floor leader in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury didn't directly comment on the Supreme Court ruling but focussed on "values to bolster democracy".

"An Atma Nirbhar Parliament isn't made just by brick and mortar. It is made by the spirit of questioning, discussing and debating inside the House. It is built by promoting Constitutional values that bolsters democracy," he said.

The Congress' parliamentary leaders along with other key Opposition leaders had boycotted the Bhoomi poojan ceremony by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Puri hails SC nod, says Govt always sensitive about green concerns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court judgement giving a go-ahead to the Central Vista redevelopment project, and asserted that the Government has always been sensitive to environmental concerns.

"Delhi is on course to becoming a World Class capital city and in the first step by the time nation completes 75 years of its Independence in 2022 a new Parliament building will be ready reflecting the aspirations of new India," Puri tweeted.

"We welcome the Judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court giving the go ahead for the ambitious Central Vista Project. Central Govt has always been sensitive to environmental concerns & will continue to adhere to the highest standards during the period of construction," Puri said.

The Minister also stated that the Speaker's office had communicated to Secretary-Urban Development on July 13, 2012 highlighting the inadequacies of the existing Parliament building and an urgent need for construction of a new one. Congress was in power then. "Sadly, few Congressmen feign collective amnesia today," he said.

"In 2012, when his party was in power, Jairam Ramesh had said "We badly need a new Parliament building. This one simply isn't functional & is outdated", Puri tweeted.

Meanwhile, after the supreme court verdict, the Central Public Works Department, which is executing the government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project, will soon start the construction work once it gets permission from the Heritage Conservation Committee.

"The CPWD will approach the committee and seek permission before the start of construction work of new Parliament building. Other formalities will also be followed by concerned agencies," an official in the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said. Another official said that the outlook of the new building will be similar to the existing one that is why there should be no problem in getting permission from the Heritage Conservation Committee

The redevelopment project of the Central Vista — the nation's power corridor — envisages a new triangular Parliament building, a common central secretariat and revamping of the three-km-long Rajpath, from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

According to the Government's latest proposal for the redevelopment of the Central Vista, the Prime Minister's new residential complex will have 10 four-storey buildings with a maximum height of 12 metres.

The CPWD has revised the estimated cost from ₹11,794 crore to ₹13,450 crore.

The new Parliament building will have the capacity to seat 888 Lok Sabha MPs while the Rajya Sabha will have 384 seats for the members. The government has identified around four locations — in Gole Market, K G Marg, near Africa Avenue and near Talkatora Stadium — in central Delhi for the temporary shifting of offices of various ministries.

Over 70 new UK Covid variant cases in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of cases of highly infectious new Covid variant found in the UK has crossed the 70 mark in India till Tuesday, DBT Secretary Renu Swarup said even as the Union Health Ministry has put the number at 58.

Talking to reporters here at a press conference, Swarup said that till date 71 cases of the new UK variant have been reported in the country. However she did not give much detail about the cases.

On the other hand, a statement from the Ministry said that a total of 58 people have tested positive for the new UK variant of SARS-CoV-2 in India so far. The new coronavirus variant found in the UK is said to be 70 per cent more infectious than the first one.

Till Monday, a total of 38 people were found infected with the new strain of the virus in the country. Among them, 11 people have tested positive with the new strain at CSIR's Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), and eight samples tested at NCDC, both in Delhi.

Dr VK Paul, member of the Niti Aayog said that in terms of the new UK variant of SARS-CoV-2, "we have not seen emergence of any untoward clusters in the country as of now which is reassuring."

Later, Swarup also gave details on the various vaccines that are being developed in the country. "The mutations in the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 don't substantially affect the antibody accessibility as assessed by computer modelling.

She said that all Indian vaccines being developed against the coronavirus will have to be stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius as the logistics have been worked out while considering temperature as a factor.

Swarup said Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin and Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield have robustly undergone immunoassay lab tests.

"(For) all our vaccines, we are looking at right now…..(we) are targeting 2-8 degree because our logistics are worked out on that basis and we are working on that," Swarup said.

She said the DNA vaccine candidate being developed by Zydus Cadila, and the Biological E's mRNA vaccine work at storage temperatures of 2-8 degrees Celsius.

"Unlike the Pfizer and Moderna which requires a minus 70 degree Celsius (cold) chain, this (the Biological E's vaccine candidate) is basically at the 2-8 degree Celsius," Swarup said.

The Zydus Cadila candidate has been granted approval to conduct the phase-3 trial while the Biological E candidate is in its phase-1 clinical trial stage.

Swarup said Dr Reddy's Laboratories has partnered with Russia's Gamaleya Institute and a vaccine is being developed for India targeting storage at 2-8 degrees Celsius.

"They (Dr Reddy's Laboratories) have started phase 2/3 trials in the country. They have completed the first part of the phase 2 trial on 1,000 subjects and they are now looking at interim data which is to be analysed.

"They also have large global trials, like the Astrazeneca and that data is also being looked at. What they are targeting is for India to try and see how it could be at 2-8 degrees," Swarup said.

Global leaders laud India's leadership in scientific innovation, combating Covid pandemic

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Global leaders have lauded India's leadership in scientific innovation and decisive action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, as the country gets set to begin the world's largest vaccination drive against the novel coronavirus.

The Drug Controller General of India on Sunday approved the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute and indigenously developed Covaxin of Bharat Biotech, for restricted emergency use in the country, paving the way for a massive inoculation drive.

"It's great to see India's leadership in scientific innovation and vaccine manufacturing capability as the world works to end the COVID-19 pandemic," Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said in a tweet on Monday, tagging the Prime Minister's Office.

Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus tweeted that India "continues to take decisive action & demonstrate its resolve to end #COVID19 pandemic".

"As the world's largest vaccine producer, it's well placed to do so. If we #ACTogether, we can ensure effective & safe vaccines are used to protect the most vulnerable everywhere," Ghebreyesus said and tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his tweet.

A day after India's drug regulator approved two vaccines for restricted emergency use, Prime Minister Modi said the world's biggest inoculation drive against coronavirus was set to begin in the country.

Praising the scientists and technicians for the ''Made in India" vaccines, he said the country was proud of them.

MP officials apprise EC of action taken against 3 IPS officers, others

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Madhya Pradesh Government on Tuesday apprised the Election Commission (EC) of the action initiated against three IPS officers and others whose alleged role in the use of black money during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls came to the fore after the I-T Department raided former chief minister Kamal Nath's close aides.

Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains informed that the State Economic Offence Wing has registered a PE (preliminary enquiry) in the matter. He also sought two weeks' time to apprise the Election Commission (EC) of further action in the matter. Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Rajesh Kumar Rajora was also present at the meeting. In December, the EC had decided to call top officials of the Madhya Pradesh government to apprise it of its orders to lodge "criminal action" against the three IPS officers and others.

The poll body also asked the Union home secretary to initiate "appropriate departmental action" against the IPS officers and asked the Madhya Pradesh chief secretary to undertake a "similar action" against a state police service officer. Election Commission sources identified the three IPS officers as Sushovan Banerjee, Sanjay Mane, V Madhu Kumar and state police service officer as Arun Mishra.

The EC had said it was recommending action after it "deliberated" upon a report sent to it by the CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) intimating it about the Income Tax Department's "search operations in Madhya Pradesh and its findings of extensive use of unaccounted cash during the 2019 general elections".

An EC statement had said the CBDT report informed the commission about certain entities and individuals who were engaged in "unauthorised and unaccounted cash contributions to individuals on behalf of a certain political party, which was reported to be corroborated during searches against persons by the tax department". While the EC did not name the party, it has been widely reported that the CBDT report referred to the Congress.

50% newborns in TN miss out on mom's milk in the very first hour: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite having a well-structured primary healthcare infrastructure and an impressive institutional delivery rate, at least half of the total infants ie one in two babies born in Tamil Nadu do not get the much-needed mother's milk within an hour of their birth, according to a report released here recently online.

"It is puzzling that in a State where 99 per cent of deliveries are institutional, both public and private, initiation of breastfeeding within an hour of birth is only at 54.7 per cent. There is other disturbing data, such as that 34 per cent of births are by caesarean section.

"This is well above the WHO threshold of 15 per cent as well as the rate recorded in other states," said former Union Health Secretary Keshwav Desiraju while commenting on the observation made in report titled "Spotlight on infant feeding in Tamil Nadu 2020 –tracking policies and programmes in support of women and children to adopt optimal feeding practices: from conception to 2 years or beyond."

The first ever report of assessment of policy and programmes in the State prepared by the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNi) and its State Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (SBTi) team was released by J Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary to the TN Government recently.

As per the report, TN scored 64 out of 100 in the first assessment of the 10 parameters of policy/programmes on breastfeeding and infant and young children feeding practices.

Tamil Nadu is not doing well particularly in breastfeeding, implementation of the Infant Milk Substitutes Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003, and on Infant Feeding during disasters, said the report.

Commenting on the report's observation, Dr. Radhakrishnan said, "…Tamil Nadu is doing fairly well in most of the indicators and that with focused attention on those areas where we have some gaps, we can certainly bridge them to improve the status of IYCF practices in the State".

The report attributed dismal breastfeeding rate to barriers such as women's perceptions of 'not enough milk', breast conditions like sore nipples, engorgement and mastitis leading to use of infant formula, which is unnecessary. All these common reasons for women to give up breastfeeding can be overcome with proper counselling and skilled support to the women and family in the State which has a large number of women work force, it suggested.

Dr Arun Gupta from BPNi pointed out that optimal feeding includes early breastfeeding within one hour of birth, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and continued breastfeeding for two years or beyond along with adequate and appropriate complementary feeding after six months.

According to health experts, breastfeeding prevents diarrhoea, pneumonia in children and provides long-term benefits against non-communicable diseases. It also reduces risk of breast and ovarian cancer in the mothers and protects them from diabetes.

SC spells out green conditions for Govt to refurbish Central Vista project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to consider issuing directions to ensure adequate use of anti-smog guns and make setting up of smog towers a "mandatory requirement" during construction of development projects involving Government buildings, townships or other major private projects.

The apex court said that time has come to advance the intent behind improving air quality a mandatory feature for modern buildings and more particularly during the phase of construction of major projects in the cities most affected by air pollution.

The top court said this in its 2:1 majority verdict by which it paved way for the ambitious Central Vista Project, covering a three-km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate in Lutyens" Delhi.

"We deem it fit to call upon the respondent MoHUA (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) to consider issuing appropriate general directions so as to ensure that adequate use of smog guns during the construction of development projects and setting up smog towers is made a mandatory requirement, particularly involving government buildings, townships or other major private projects," said Justice A M Khanwilkar, writing the 432-page majority judgement for himself and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari.

NIA files supplementary chargesheet in Hizbul narcotic terror case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency on Tuesday filed a supplementary chargesheet in the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) narco terror case before the NIA Special Court, Mohali, Punjab against alleged narco-terrorists Jaswant Singh of Gurdaspur and Gursant Singh of Tarn Taran, Punjab.

Both the accused persons were charged for criminal conspiracy, impersonation, using forged documents as genuine and destruction of evidence under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

The accused persons were involved in collection, distribution and selling of heroin smuggled from Pakistan as also in collection and channelization of proceeds generated for furthering the activities of the banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen.

"Accused Gursant Singh was one of the important members of the terrorist gang and as a close associate of prime accused Iqbal Singh alias Shera was responsible for safe movement of heroin and proceeds to various places/unknown persons," the NIA said in a statement.

Investigation has also brought out that he has purchased many immovable properties and luxury cars to be used as hide outs and for transportation of drugs and proceeds, it said.

Earlier, a chargesheet was filed on October 20 last year against ten accused persons including arrested Hilal Ahmed Shergojri of Pulwama, Bikram Singh of Amritsar (arrested), Maninder Singh (arrested), Ranjit Singh (arrested), Gagandeep Singh (arrested), Iqbal Singh, all from Amritsar (absconding), Ranjit Singh (arrested) and Jaswant Singh (arrested), both from Gurdaspur, Zafar Hussain Bhat of Anantnag, presently in Pakistan (absconding) and Riyaz Ahmed Naikoo of Pulwama (killed).

They charged various IPC sections and provisions of UA (P) A and NDPS Act besides the Indian Passports Act.

This case arose out of Police Station Sadar, Amritsar Case No. 135 dated April 25, 2020 pertaining to arrest of one Hilal Ahmed Shergojri and recovery of Rs 29 lakh from his possession, by Punjab Police.

1991 disappearance-cum-murder of Jr engineer Multani

Place on record chargesheet filed in fresh FIR against ex-Punjab DGP: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Punjab Government to place on record the charge sheet filed in the fresh FIR lodged against former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in the 1991 disappearance and murder of a junior engineer Balwant Singh Multani.

The top court had already granted anticipatory bail to Saini.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah also asked the trial court to postpone its scheduled hearing of January 22 as the top court is hearing this matter.

The bench is hearing Saini's plea seeking to quash the fresh FIR lodged in the case in May 2020.

"Gopal Subramanium, senior counsel, for the State seeks time to place the charge sheet and additional documents on the record. Let him do within two weeks. Counsel for the petitioner submits that matter be listed in the month of February, 2021. List in the second week of February, 2021", the bench said.

Gold smuggling: NIA files chargesheet against 30 accused

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kochi unit of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday submitted the first part of the charge sheet in the gold smuggling scam that rocked the Kerala Government.

The chargesheet which runs into hundreds of pages lists 30 persons including Swapna Suresh, Sarith as accused. Sandeep Nair, who was arrested along woth Swapna and Sarith has turned approver in the sensational case. The NIA was expected to file the chargesheet with the special court hearing the case within 180 days of the first arrest. Radhakrishna Pillai, the investigation officer, handed over the first part of the chargesheet before the deadline. Though the contents in the chargesheet are yet to be released, sources in the NIA said that the accused had been slapped with section 16, 17 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act which would make it difficult for the accused to come put on bail in the near future.

Though there are 30 persons listed as accused in the gold smuggling scam, the NIA could arrest only 21 persons till now. Out of this, seven persons are in judicial custody while 12 managed to get bail. Some of the persons who have been identified as accused by the NIA are absconding. Though Fazal Fareed, a Dubai based smuggler who is the master brain behind the entire scam have been caught by the UAE Police, Indian law enforcing agencies are yet to get him extradited to India.The NIA officials remained tight-lipped when asked whether M Sivsankar, the former principal secretary of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has been included as an accused in the case. The gold smuggling scam burst out when a diplomatic consignment meant to the UAE Consulate in Thiruvananthapuram evoked suspicion in the minds of the custom officials who held back the baggage for further inspection in the last week of June 2020. This resulted in a plethora of telephone calls from the Chief Minister's Office to the Customs Department at Thiruvananthapuram airport arousing suspicion about the involvement of persons in higher places in the case. Following the cracking of the gold smuggling scam, names of the Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly P Sreeramakrishnan, Kerala's Minister for Higher Education KT Jaleel, Tourism Minister Kadakampalli Surendran and C M Raveendran, additional private secretary to the Chief Minister too started figuring in the scam. The NIA which took up the case in July 2020 following the demand made by Pinarayi Vijayan to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for investigation by a central agency, was joined by Enforcement Directorate and CBI.

SOURCES SAID THAT THE ACCUSED HAD BEEN SLAPPED WITH SECTION 16, 17 AND 18 OF THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES PREVENTION ACT WHICH WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE ACCUSED TO COME PUT ON BAIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE

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PAPER WITH PASSION

SC nod to makeover

Top court greenlights Govt's Central Vista project with caveats but will it be another symbolic ritual?

Finally, India@75, the hashtag and slogan that's being touted as the Narendra Modi Government's crowning glory in perpetuating a new idea of nationhood, is a reality. For, its symbolic representation — a new Parliament building and a redone Central Vista — has received the Supreme Court's nod. Of course, the top court, while clearing the redevelopment initiative and settling questions regarding changed land use and environment compliance raised in a clutch of pleas, has put in several riders to avoid any runaway ambitions or creativity. It has clarified that the Government will need the clearance of the Heritage Committee before beginning the project. But the fact that a dissenting judge in the three-member Bench expressed concerns about the Government's lack of public consultation doesn't quite assuage anxieties over the tampering with what is considered Delhi's cultural landmark and iconic identity. The Bench has even made smog towers mandatory as part of the construction process to keep pollution in check. And the Central Vista revamp is massive as it envisages a new triangular Parliament building with a seating capacity for 900 to 1,200 MPs and synergised administrative blocks, to be completed by August 2022. On its part, the Government has been arguing for a makeover of this part of Lutyens' Delhi for its functionality and efficiency, claiming that it would create spaces for a more streamlined operation of Ministry offices and free up more citizen-friendly spaces. But the purpose is entirely political, an attempt at rewriting history and concretising a political legacy. It is the Modi regime's attempt to overwrite our Colonial past and redesign an institution as wholly Indian, as representative of its people and epoch-making simply because no Government had thought of this before. Proponents of this line of thought cite examples of democracies overturning Colonial legacies, be it the Capitol building in the US or Australia's current Parliament building in Canberra, which opened in 1988 and became a source of Australian pride. They argue that as the world's most populous democracy, there needs to be a new sense of ownership about our institutions. Does that mean that we are doing away with all Colonial-era markers and rituals, or simply making a point to show the transformative intent of a *naya* Bharat? In short, it is a power statement that overlays the Modi regime as a change-making moment in history which is, in fact, an expensive indulgence of political egoism than the Spartan commitment to our Constitution.

Yet, tradition has been sitting easily with modernity in Delhi, where each successive ruler lives through relics and monuments that have never overshadowed each other. Delhiites themselves have never denied heritage its place — Rajput, Islamic, European or Colonial — and made it a part of their living history, one where Lutyens' Delhi is a key chapter. There is no question of outdoing the elegance and classicism of design — the green pavilions, perches, cupolas and the islands are the only democratic spaces where citizens can move and roam around freely, catching the afternoon sun in the middle of winter and the gentle breeze of a summer evening. The cluster of offices would undoubtedly change the skyline as we know it and their ramped-up security would rob us of an indulgent spread in the heart of the city. Shouldn't the Government be wiser to leave a legacy of policy and governance instead of seeking a place-based identity? And shouldn't the Government be more concerned about upholding the dignity and respect for as well as independence of institutions in its pursuit of legacy? Prime Minister Narendra Modi doesn't quite like the "Lutyens' world" and the power structures and codes embedded in it. "I am a representative of the non-elite world. For me, everything is about the people of India," he had said earlier. But in the name of breaking elitism, one cannot justify point-scoring as a historical imperative. Or even the political economy it will generate — the project is expected to run into multi-crore tenders. There are fruits of preservation; they serve as reminders of what was and, as a reference point, help us learn lessons. There are no gains of demolition, forcibly reconstructing the past to suit our narrow ends. Given the secrecy around the makeover project, one hopes that the least the Government can do is to keep it transparent, consultative, reasonable and synchronise its character with the aspiration of Delhiites to be the citizens of a world heritage city. The city's application, which was submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in 2013, lists Lutyens' Bungalow Zone along with Shahjahanabad (old Delhi) as the rationale for seeking the tag. That sure will have a longer legacy than proving a point for the BJP's election manifesto in 2024.

Finding democracy

The United States will find it hard to sell democracy if its leaders can't fix their own

There are exactly two weeks to go before Joseph Biden is sworn in as the 46th President of the United States (US) on the steps of the US Capitol in Washington DC. His predecessor Donald Trump is, however, not giving up and recent revelations about a phone call that he made to the Secretary of State in the US State of Georgia is as bizarre as it is frightening. In a recording made available to the US media outlets, Trump is heard asking the Georgia officials to "find" 11,780 votes so that he can overturn Biden's narrow win in that State. American constitutional and legal experts believe that Trump's phone call was inherently illegal and could land him in trouble once his presidency ends. The 45th President of the US, ironically the man who is trying to thwart democracy itself, sounds increasingly desperate when he proclaims that he would "fight like hell" to hold on to the presidency; the fact that all the 10 living former Defence Secretaries recently wrote in an Op-Ed that "the time for questioning the results has passed", notwithstanding. But as if matters were not bad enough, a whole host of US lawmakers and the Congress and Senate — many of whom owe their political careers to Trump — have said that they will try to delay the certification of the results. This despite the fact that Biden not only won enough US States to win the convoluted Electoral College, he also won a plurality of votes.

The 2020 US Election had the highest turnout in history and while Trump is right in claiming that he polled more votes than any incumbent US President in history, it was more a function of the higher turnout and an increased population. Biden won the popular vote by over seven million, having a margin of 4.4 per cent over Trump. Trump's attempts to overturn this election are a little different from the protesters' who cried "Not My President" when Trump won in 2016. Sowing the seeds of doubt on the electoral process, just like sore losers do in India when they blame the electronic voting machines, is the worst possible thing to do to build confidence in democracy. The US elections prove that it is a deeply divided country and Biden and his Vice-President Kamala Harris have a tough task uniting a country that talks in terms of 'Blue' States and 'Red' States. If the world is to look up to the US and not China, the 46th President has to be less divisive and become the Uniter-In-Chief.

Jumping ship

Politicians of other hues joining the BJP begs the question if its ideology will be obscured. But, as history shows, there's no reason for such doubt

PRAFULL **GORADIA**

Apprehensions have been expressed that the BJP's ideology will get mixed up, if not downright vitiated, by the entry of politicians brought up in alien thought processes. The probability of such confusion is very low for the simple reason that most of the new members joining the BJP happen to be Hindus. There would, therefore, be no contradiction between their own private lives and what should be projected in their public life and political expression. In contrast, if a person like me were to join, say, the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) at the age of 50, for a year or two, I would not know whether I am coming or going; it would be somewhat traumatic.

I have been brought up in the belief of karma and, in the RSP, I would need to switch over and start having faith in a Permanent Revolution as preached by Leon Trotsky, Vladimir Lenin's favourite number two until he lived. This favourite leader wanted to go on with the revolution until he had converted the whole world to communism. If I read the *Das Kapital*, the Bible of Marxism, I would come across the foundational tenet: From each according to his ability, to each according to his need. These words are simple but the message behind them could take an average politician some exercise in mental digestion.

A similar challenge had faced BR Ambedkar who had resolved that he would not like to die a Hindu. In that case, the question arose, which religion should he and his many followers convert to? Babasaheb adopted the thinking method of *reductio ad absurdum*. First, he took up Christianity and rejected it because it was of a foreign origin; it would, therefore, have a denationalising effect on his followers. Moreover, by having more Christians, Ambedkar felt that they would add to supporters of the British rulers. Islam also had a foreign origin; more Muslims could mean greater support to the creation of Pakistan. Thus reasoning, his eventual choice fell on Buddhism.

For politicians, joining the BJP is like coming home; what they should have politically believed in, and are now believing in. If they are committed to secularism, they can continue down that path. The question of Church and State being separate or otherwise does not arise in the case of the Temple. Virtually every temple can follow its own ritual of worship; how can it then influence the Government? In any case, Hinduism has never had a habit or tradition of dabbling in politics. State governance was the exclusive function of the ruler. But the fact is that since the early sun rose in the mists of time, the Indic ethos has been Hindu (or call it *Sanatan* or *Vedic*). That came through in the reasoning of Ambedkar as discussed above.

Traditionally, in the West, especially in America, the common folk identified all Indians as Hindus and then enquired whether one was a Hindu Muslim or Hindu Christian or Hindu Hindu! To them, the sound of the word "India" first rang the bell of the American Red Indian. Some Nehruvians might have been embarrassed but, most of the time, the identity of India has been Hindu. The birth of Pakistan intensified this trend.

The Hindu Mahasabha was founded in 1915, incidentally after the Muslim League was created by Lord Curzon in Dacca (now Dhaka) in 1906 after inducing Nawab Salimullah of Dacca with a loan of £1,00,000. The Bharatiya Jana Sangh came into being under the leadership of Syama Prasad Mookerjee in 1951. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) helped him with some full-time workers. In 1977, to fight the general elections immediately after the end of the Emergency, the Jana Sangh — like several other parties — merged with a new combine called the Janata Party. In 1980, the Jana Sanghis left this party to form the Bharatiya Jana Sangh; to start with, its manifesto was based around Gandhian Socialism.

The centre point of the party's ideology is "nation above all else". It is the anti-thesis of the supranationalist communism. The Islamic supremacy of the *ummah* above the nation is similarly disapproved. Care as much as possible but even socialism is not favoured as it contradicts the faith in karma as the decisive influence in life. The Hindu view of life sees a contradiction between liberty and equality; the latter causes levelling down of liberty to achieve it. How can one control anyone's better karma? Welfare for all, yes, but forced equality, no.

> IDEOLOGY IS ESSENTIALLY A WESTERN PHENOMENON, JUST AS POLITICAL SCIENCE IS A EUROPEAN PREOCCUPATION. INDIA IS IN SHARP CONTRAST

Imperialism and the exploitation of other countries are wrong. It is equivalent to robbery. Collective unity of one's own people in order to dominate others is wrong. Instead, the Hindu blessings are with those who strive to actualise themselves and, thus, bring out the best in themselves. Killing of animals and birds is not desirable and the Jains, in particular, are sensitive to the destruction of even vegetation that is grown below the ground. The worship of the peepal tree is symbolic of the Hindu respect for ecology. Most of the ills that one sees are the result of centuries of rule by others over Hindustan.

There is not a great deal of political or ideological literature. Nevertheless, Veer Savarkar first defined Hindutva or Hinduness in a single volume. It is valuable for those who wish to study the theoretical aspects of the ideology. After that, there is a volume called *The Saffron Book* and, it is reported, a book called *The Grammar of Hindudom* is under publication. It is noteworthy that it is the only ideology which is Asia's own, unlike all other political theories which are foreign or rather European.

Ideology is essentially a Western phenomenon, just as political science is a European preoccupation. In sharp contrast, we in India have so far to our credit only two theses on this subject: One, the famous *Arthashastra* written more than 2,500 years ago; and the second, published only two years ago, titled *Krishna Rajya*. Hindu India had only one history book, *Rajatarangini*, by Kashmiri scholar Kalhana, which again was many centuries ago.

On the other hand, the European political parties are guided by their ideologies, which are many; beginning with communism on the extreme Left, to what is understood as fascism on the extreme Right. Take Britain, for example; only recently, Jeremy Corbyn was an extreme socialist. Earlier, there was Aneurin Bevan, who incidentally designed and implemented Britain's famous National Health Service. Harold Wilson, who was the Prime Minister, had the reputation of being a Leftist. Comparatively, Clement Attlee was a middle-of-the-road politician while his contemporary Hugh Gaitskell was looked upon as a liberal. Yet, all these men belonged to the Labour Party.

On the Conservative Party side, Sir Anthony Eden was a Rightist and went to war against Egypt in 1956 over the Suez Canal. Yet earlier, there was Enoch Powell who declared that "rivers of blood will flow in England as a result of immigration". Later, Margaret Thatcher was a Right-winger and anti-socialist. Even fascism, considered Right extremism, did not spare British politics. Sir Oswald Mosley, a son-in-law of Lord Curzon, openly admitted to being a fascist. Despite all these differences in ideology, leaders — even eminent ones — occasionally did change their parties. Winston Churchill, who was looked upon as a dire conservative, had for a few years crossed over to the Liberal Party.

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

SOUNDBITE

We will have to adopt the BJP model but with slight change. We need to accommodate Hindutva philosophy also. We will form 10-member committees at all booths.

JD(S) leader
HD Kumaraswamy

It is the triumph of justice. I commend England's action because WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is a journalist and he deserves a chance. We will give him protection.

Mexican President
Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

Reality shows can be a great starting point. It was a great experience for me as well. Having said that, I did have to establish my solo career on my own. I think it's a great stepping stone.

Singer
Neha Bhasin

India...their greatest strength over the last couple of series has been their (bowling's) discipline; they have been so disciplined. Ashwin is bowling very well.

Australia coach
Justin Langer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jab safety concerns

Sir — The approval for emergency use of COVID-19 vaccines has been given only on the basis of safety data which have not yet been made public. Any doubts regarding the safety and efficacy of the vaccines will adversely affect the proposed large-scale vaccination programme.

Such doubts regarding the lack of transparency and reasoning in the approval process have raised many eyebrows. The minutes of the meeting of the Subject Expert Committee are also not in the public domain. In such a situation, people are apprehensive because of the hurry and opacity in rolling out the vaccine when data from the phase III trials are perhaps no more than a few weeks away.

In other countries, top political leaders, including the US President-elect and the Vice President-elect, have taken the jab in public to inspire confidence among people. Similarly, our Prime Minister should also instill confidence among the people by taking the dose of the Covaxin in its approved trial mode.

Shovanlal Chakraborty
Kolkata

It's time to abolish Legislative Councils

The State Legislative Councils or Vidhan Parishads should be abolished as they are just white elephants and nothing more than a rehabilitation centre for politicians and their favourites. The Vidhan Parishads (Upper Houses) have turned out to be a huge burden on the exchequer and become a refuge for the politicians who lose in the elections.

The practice of horse-trading is common in the States having bicameral legislature. The Vidhan Parishads were gradually abolished by many States after Independence. The existence of a State Legislative Council has proved to be politically controversial and a number of States, that have had their Upper House dissolved, have subsequently requested for its re-establishment. As of now, only six out of 28 States have a State Legislative Council. There is rampant misuse of the Vidhan Parishads for political and personal favours in States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka. Moreover, the State Legislative Council plays no role in the passage of the money Bills.

Similar demands have also been raised in Britain for abolishing the House of Lords; yet the Upper House

of Indian Parliament, the Rajya Sabha, must be retained as it still serves some fruitful purpose. However, stringent rules regarding the attendance of members, their medical fitness and against the misuse of money and power should be enforced. Our democracy cannot let the Rajya Sabha become a club of billionaires and celebrities. Those who have lost elections to the Lok Sabha or Assemblies must not be allowed to become members of the Rajya Sabha for the next six years.

Madhu Agarwal
Delhi

Need to be cautious

Sir — It is heartening to know that all the players involved in the restaurant episode have tested negative for COVID-19. The Indian cricket team has been under scrutiny of the Australian media ever since a video surfaced of five Indian players dining inside a Melbourne restaurant on Friday.

Team India is already facing many problems with injuries to its bowlers like Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav, who have been declared unfit to play the rest of the Test series.

Virat Kohli, who was on paternity leave after the Melbourne Test, is also not available for the remainder of the series. There is already a lot of hue and cry regarding the fourth Test and quarantine rules have been imposed in Brisbane. Already, much of the sporting activity has been lost to the pandemic. Hence, it is the responsibility of all the players to act more responsibly and not breach the bio-secure bubble.

V Nagendra Kumar
Hyderabad

Let the birds live

Sir — It is really heart-wrenching to see the pictures and videos of hundreds of birds lying dead on the roads and pavements of Rome, Italy. The deaths occurred due to firework displays on New Year's eve.

Animal rights groups have called it a massacre. Many are of the opinion that the birds died after getting knocked against one another or they hit the electric lines and windows out of fear.

Not only in Rome but even in India and elsewhere, we see animals and birds panicking and running haphazardly during such displays of firework.

The birds are an integral part of the food chain and food web and their mass destruction will disrupt the balance of nature. Once disturbed, this balance is hard to restore.

Animal rights organisations and Governments across the globe must take urgent measures to prevent such incidents in future and should create more awareness among citizens.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Stock markets in for a rough ride

The new year is full of hope. Investors expect this sentiment to be mirrored on the bourses but they might end up being disappointed

HIMA BINDU **KOTA**

The year 2020 was one of lost lives, livelihoods, businesses and shattered economies. However, the new year has brought the hope that the march of the virus would be contained through mass inoculation and result in the global economy recovering from the onslaught of the contagion. Usually, fiscal recovery is led by a revival in the stock markets and the bourses show improvement much before the actual economic upturn. This is because stock prices are forward-looking and investors buy scrip based on their expectations of the future and not on past data or present information. So what do the bourses have in store for us this year?

Both the benchmark indices, Nifty 50 and the BSE Sensex, started the year with a bang, ending on record highs with Nifty 50 ending above the 14,000 mark and the BSE Sensex above the 48,800 levels. The sentiment was boosted by the expectation of economic revival. So, will the markets continue to rise further? Since the pandemic broke out in India at the end of March 2020, the Nifty 50 rose to double its level from 7,500 to above 14,000 as on January 1. In the US, the NASDAQ Composite index, too, rose from the 7,000 range in March 2020 to almost touch the 13,000 mark on the last day of the year. Nikkei 225, the benchmark index of Japan too, showed the same trend and gained 66 per cent to reach the 27,444 mark at the end of the year. This worldwide phenomenon of continuous stock market rise during the most difficult times in living memory shows that the bourses have already incorporated and priced in the news of positive results of the COVID-19 vaccination and earnings revival.

A trendline typically confirms the direction of the market by connecting the troughs and the peaks. An upward trend connects all the troughs and creates a support line. The strength of this upward trend and the support line is tested by the numerous times it is able to stop a price breach. Historically, looking at the last 10 years, there has been an overall primary uptrend in the Nifty 50 from the level of 2,700 in 2009 to 12,000 in January 2020, with minor secondary downturns in 2010-2011 and 2015-2016. After a steep drop in March 2020, Nifty 50 started another uptrend which lasted the entire year. At the current levels of above 14,000, the sentiment still remains bullish and there is a strong possibility of the markets moving past 14,500 in the near future. However, the upward trend during the last year shows that all the positive news about economic revival have already been reflected in the prices. On the downturn, Nifty may find support levels in the range of 11,000-13,000.

Options are considered information channels for the markets, which eventually result in stock price changes. As options markets are the preferred trading markets for informed investors, volume and open interest play an important role as predictive tools to forecast the movement of the underlying stocks as they can develop an early earning mechanism for any market crisis. They also represent the strength and potential of price change of the underlying asset. Therefore, an important indicator to consider is the put-call options volume ratio.

This contrarian-sentiment investment measure is one of the most important tools to predict the market's direction by tracking the daily and weekly volume of puts and calls in the stock market and gauging the sentiments of the investors. Puts are generally bought as an insurance against a market decline, whereas calls are bought as a directional bet for bullish markets. So when put volume increases, expectation of the market decline increases and when call volume increases, expectation of market uptrend increases. The put-call ratio for the options in Nifty with various expiry dates from January to February this year is increasing steadily, from 1.17 for Nifty options expiring on January 7 to two for Nifty options expiring on February 4. This shows that the put options volume is steadily increasing, showing a possibility of a short-term downtrend.

The new year is full of expectation of positivity and hope. Investors expect this sentiment to be reflected in the stock markets but they have to understand that bourses are leading indicators and last year's rally has already incorporated the economic revival. The uptrend may continue till the 14,000-15,000 levels. However, these levels have a psychological barrier and we may see a market correction soon. Support levels can come in the range of 11,000-13,000. The new year may not see just an uptrend but would also witness some profit booking. Any downtrend due to profit booking could be an opportunity for people to invest for the long-term. This year could also see increased earnings as most of the companies were able to reduce their operating costs last year during the pandemic. This may help them to increase their earnings this year. A revival of earnings would go a long way in improving stock market returns. Overall, there is hope for economic revival this year. However, since the information has already been reflected in the stocks last year, this year the markets may see a bumpy ride.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

THESE JUMBO COMMITTEES SERVE NO PURPOSE. 32 VPS, 57 GS, 104 SECRETARIES. NONE WILL HAVE ANY AUTHORITY WHICH MEANS NO ACCOUNTABILITY.
—CONGRESS MP
KARTI CHIDAMBARAM

MANY HARD-WORKING PEOPLE HAVE MADE IT TO THE COMMITTEE. THOSE (WHO) BECAME MPs BECAUSE OF THEIR FATHER DON'T UNDERSTAND.
—CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY IN TN
K MAHENDRAN

Much ado about NPAs

There might be a delay, some re-scheduling or loan restructuring may be required but eventually the bank will get its money back with interest. There is no need to panic

SUBHASH **PANDEY**

As we step into the new decade, the woes of the last decade seem to have spilled over into the new one, especially where the beleaguered banking sector is concerned. According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) estimates, the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs) of banks may increase from 8.5 per cent in March 2020 to 12.5 per cent by March this year. For public sector banks (PSBs), the deterioration is estimated to be more problematic and the GNPAs could be anywhere between 11.3 to 15.2 per cent under the "baseline scenario." Some Cassandras warn that the situation could be worse. Their relentless scaremongering could potentially hurt economic revival that requires a major increase in bank lending.

In December 2020, scheduled commercial banks had total outstanding deposits of ₹145,91,773 crore while their outstanding loans and advances added up to only ₹105,04,536 crore. A bank's primary function is to lend against deposits and earn enough to make profits after servicing deposits. Data show that banks have enough money to lend more and they must be helped to give more loans. However, a lot of good borrowers are out of the banking net. Banks no doubt face certain risks especially in the prevailing situation due to the pandemic but there is no need to panic. But first, we need to answer the question, what is an NPA? For a bank, an NPA is the amount of loan or an advance for which repayment of any due instalment of principal or due amount of interest is not cleared within 90 days of the "due date." Interestingly, for agricultural loans it is "within two crop seasons for short duration crops" or within "one crop season for long duration crops."

If default of payment continues beyond one year of the due date, the NPA is called "Substandard Assets." If a NPA default continues beyond two years of the due date the NPA is called "Doubtful Assets." If auditors find that the NPA is due to an incurable default, they classify it as "Loss Assets." Does anyone expect a business to always make a profit? The answer is an emphatic "no." Because this is an unrealistic expectation and every business will face a loss or just about break even, many times in its years of existence. This is because how a company makes its money depends a lot on external factors. Likewise, lending is also a business and a bank always runs the risk of a loan or a part of it or the interest not coming in. A bank hoping to lend money only to safe borrowers will not run for long because 100 per cent safe borrowers generally don't need to take loans or are disinclined to do so.

Past efforts for resolution of Stressed Assets seemed to be showing results because, after reaching a peak of 11.5 per cent at the end of March 2018, the GNPAs of scheduled commercial banks came down to 8.5 per cent by the end of March 2020. So the first thing to note before resorting to scaremongering is that more than 90 per cent of bank loans and advances are being serviced with a delay of 90 days at the most. It does not mean that the remaining bank loans where debt servicing is delayed beyond 90 days are a dead loss for banks because they have enough securities to cover most of these balance loans suffering from problems in debt servicing.

As a pandemic relief measure, all borrowers whose loan accounts were classified as standard as on February 29, 2020, were allowed a moratorium till August 31. This was done to ensure that this period was not counted in the 90 days' default period and was not classified as an NPA account.

> INDIAN BANKS ARE NOT LENDING ENOUGH AND THEY ARE BEING FAR TOO RISK-AVERSE. BANKS NEED TO USE MODERN DIGITAL TOOLS TO IMPROVE LOAN SURVEILLANCE AND LEND MORE BY USING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE CREDIT PRODUCT DESIGN, PRE-SANCTION APPRAISAL AND POST-SANCTION OVERSIGHT ON END USE

The Supreme Court had in September 2020 directed that no bank account should be declared an NPA until the disposal of pleas seeking an extension of the moratorium period. The final verdict on this is expected soon.

What perhaps escapes attention is that the concerns regarding NPAs or bad loans in popular parlance are exaggerated due to the conservative approach of the RBI. Banks are told to classify loans as performing or non-performing only on the basis of timely repayments of loans and interest, even when there is no erosion in the availability and value of the security or net worth of the borrower/guarantor.

The 90 days' default rule to tag a loan account as an NPA is a rough and ready, easy to implement, blunt regulatory tool. It indicates an income impairment of the borrower or liquidity risk but certainly not solvency risk. The "income impaired" borrower may or may not be "asset impaired." Therefore, if we create a new subclass of NPAs based on the 90-day rule, with an assessment of solvency risk, then it should be possible to refine capital adequacy norms and evolve a differential capital adequacy requirement for NPAs where underlying securities are not materially impaired. Betting on the banking sector's NPA level once the loan moratorium is lifted amounts to betting on the extent of the pandemic's impact on economic growth and on the incomes of borrowers. Such betting is not economics or mathematics but politics.

If the banks have enough security behind the loan they have given out (house, vehicle, gold, shares, bonds and so on) and the borrowers are not all crooks, the loans will be serviced. There might be some delay, some re-scheduling or loan restructuring required, but eventually the bank will get its money back, with interest. There is no need to press the panic button. Heavens will not fall merely because some loans, interest or equated monthly instalments (EMIs) are not paid within 90 days of the due date.

The Government and the RBI have to take some steps to see that the loans and advances of good borrowers are properly restructured and the debt recovery process becomes efficient in terms of time and value recovered. Banks need to raise additional capital to meet regulatory requirements, depending upon what kind of NPAs emerge. Banks also need liquidity support to service the deposits during the period the borrowers face liquidity problems but have sufficient assets to cover their loan liability.

Every code and every rule book has enabling clauses to deal with exceptional situations. Rules of normal times don't apply in abnormal times. The pandemic is the time to invoke these exceptional powers to fine-tune the regulatory policy on recognition of a bad loan and the level of additional capital needed by banks to cover definite loss from irrecoverable loans due to the lack and erosion of underlying securities.

The impact of the contagion on the economy is temporary and low inflation has softened what would have otherwise been a harder blow. Assessments and perceptions about population segment-wise distribution of pain may vary according to commentators but it is abundantly clear that at an aggregate level, the nation will recover from the crisis fast enough. A high recovery and low fatality rate, fast resumption of economic activity in several sectors, both formal and informal, as evidenced by several high frequency indicators, are very good signs. Hence, loan servicing will happen albeit with some delay.

By and large, Indian banks are pretty conservative and most of the loans are heavily secured, backed by good valuable securities. The problem comes in enforcing the security because the legal system does not allow it so easily. What we need is a system of vigilance and diligence on the assets mortgaged for the loans and advances. The genuineness and continued existence of assets must be watched and digital tools can be deployed for this.

There is no harm in giving borrowers providing adequate security an extended moratorium. But what we need is a system that will protect the banks' securities during the moratorium period so that these are not diluted or alienated or encumbered further. We require a robust system of oversight on these securities. This is particularly so for small borrowers below ₹2 crore who have been helped by the Government based on the Rajiv Mehrishi Committee report.

In India, the credit-to-GDP ratio is just 50 per cent. Many good borrowers like households and businesses depend on informal channels of finance. Indian banks are not lending enough and they are being far too risk-averse. Banks need to use modern digital tools to improve loan surveillance and lend more by using digital technologies to improve credit product design, pre-sanction appraisal and post-sanction oversight on end use. This will help boost the economy of the country in the long run.

(The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The views expressed are personal.)

Time to give a modern touch to an ancient skill

As a first step, professional institutes like the ITIs, polytechnics, NIFT and NID can start imparting training in *khadi* and handloom clusters

MONIKA S **GARG**

The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government's decision to include a *khadi* fashion show in UP Day celebrations is recognition of the sector's role in inclusive development and its employment potential. *Khadi* and handloom fabrics are as integral to our cultural heritage as *zari* is to a trousseau. The *Rigveda*, the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* expound upon the art of spinning and weaving. Woven cloth, bone needles and spindles were found in Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. Block-printed fabrics, mainly of Gujarati origin, discovered in Egyptian tombs, exhibit the demand of Indian cotton textiles abroad and their export since the 19th century B.C. This tradition of excellence has been preserved by generations of skilled artisans and weavers. Today, the *khadi*-handloom sector employs over four million weavers and allied production workers. The textile sector is the second-largest employer after agriculture in India. However, the 2010 Handloom Census revealed that the number of weavers was declining at a rate of seven per cent per annum, the count of handlooms was dwindling and a weaver earned a meagre ₹3,400 per month as against the all India average of ₹4,500 per month for any other worker. With the next generation being sceptical and disinterested in the craft, the Indian handloom industry is on the verge of becoming extinct.

The need of the hour is to segregate the sector into subsectors and work on the strengths of each. India occupies an enviable place in the world as 85 per cent of the global handloom production occurs in the country. Other handloom producing nations like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Indonesia manufacture a very limited range of products, which is mainly for domestic use. India has the capability to meet the demand for handmade products across the globe due to its demographic advantage and cultural heritage. We need to align our rich legacy with the demands of the modern era by incorporating latest designs. A *Benarasi* or *Chanderi* weaver can earn more if s/he contemporises the sari and diversifies into exportable accessories like stoles, scarves, ties, belts, bags and so on. This product development calls for a strong collaboration between weavers and designers. Another crucial dimension in the value chain is marketing, that needs to be understood, appreciated and exploited. Premium handloom products like the *Patan Patola*, *Baluchari*, *Jamdani*, *Ikat* and *Kani* need to be projected as niche products. With their unique designs and distinct weaving techniques, they should be targeted only at the affluent so that weavers get high returns.

However, this strategy is intended only for highly skilled weavers with whom designers associate. They constitute only 20 per cent of the handloom weavers who produce 80 per cent of the high-value items. The remaining 80 per cent of the weavers would need to be dealt with differently.

Handloom textiles face a serious threat in the marketplace when powerloom cloth is clandestinely sold as handloom. As a layman cannot distinguish a powerloom product from handloom, the Handloom Mark is a guarantee to the buyer that the product is genuinely handwoven. However, there is a need to generate awareness among the people about the Handloom Mark. Something as simple as a one-line commercial during the daily soaps on television could be instrumental in enlightening the target group. Plus, only products carrying the Handloom Mark should be exhibited at Government-sponsored exhibitions in India and abroad. Apart from raising awareness, this would also ensure that only genuine handloom weavers derive benefit from the sales at such expos and Government schemes.

However, we must not lose sight of the fact that the sector provides direct and indirect employment to over four million people, all of whom cannot be trained immediately to make intricate, high-end products. They are the durrie makers, the *gamchha* and towel manufacturers. They need Government support of a different kind. Apart from reservation of articles for production only on handlooms, they need subsidised yarn and credit. Credit is available to the sector at six per cent interest rate. If implemented in earnest, this can provide the much-needed working capital to spinners and weavers, apart from helping them in putting up facilities for dyeing, processing and finishing of handspun and handwoven fabric. The Hank Yarn Obligation makes it mandatory for spinning mills to produce certain percentage of their yarn in the hank form required for handlooms. The need is to strengthen the implementation machinery and ensure effective enforcement in the field so that every producer who manufactures yarn for powerloom or mill consumption, packs at least 30 per cent of that in hank form.

If small units in the sector have to take up spinning and weaving on a commercial scale, this would require modification of the workstations. They should be ergonomically designed to produce more and better quality threads and fabrics at a faster pace. They should be modular, easy to assemble and transport. A solar powered spinning wheel is the need of the hour. A semi-automatic loom could be a good solution wherein the motive power is provided by the weaver manually and various other motions are synchronised to obtain better speed and productivity. These could also be coupled with an automatic take-up and let-off mechanism. Technological innovations can create new possibilities for design development and the production process. There is a strong need for focused incentive schemes towards *khadi* and handloom research.

For both couture and mass producers, there is a need to generate a sense of pride with the occupation. Hand spinning as well as weaving needs to be treated as a modern profession. As a first step, professional institutes like Industrial Training Institutes, polytechnics, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and the National Institute of Design (NID) can start imparting training in *khadi* and handloom clusters. A NIFT or NID certificate will instill a sense of pride apart from upgrading skills of weavers and spinners. Acquiring these standardised, employable and marketable skills will earn them due recognition in the job market and society. In a world increasingly inclined towards standardisation and mass production, *khadi* and handloom provide a refreshing change because of their uniqueness, flexibility and versatility. The sector represents the country's traditional craft that has been patronised and promoted since times immemorial. We must never forget that the sector has been sustained by transferring skills from one generation to another and it is crucial to keep Gen Next in the profession.

(The writer is Additional Chief Secretary, UP Government. The views expressed are personal.)

Sensex, Nifty scale fresh peaks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex defied gravity for the 10th straight session to close at a fresh lifetime high on Tuesday as robust buying in financial and IT stocks offset lacklustre global cues.

Persistent foreign fund inflows supported the benchmarks, though a weakening rupee capped the gains, traders said. Despite opening on a negative note, the 30-share BSE index pared all losses and staged a smart recovery to end 260.98 points or 0.54 per cent higher at 48,437.78. It touched an all-time high of 48,486.24 during the day.

The Sensex has closed at record highs for seven sessions on the trot. The broader NSE Nifty rose 66.60 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at a new peak of 14,199.50. It scaled a record intra-day high of 14,215.60.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 6.31 per cent, followed by HDFC, IndusInd Bank, TCS, Asian Paints, HCL Tech, Titan and ICICI Bank.

On the other hand, ONGC, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, M&M and Reliance Industries were among the laggards, tumbling up to 2.06 per cent.

"Domestic equities saw a brisk recovery from today's low mainly led by sharp rebound in banking and IT stocks.

Continued improvement in COVID-19 recovery rates along with likely commencement of vaccination drive shortly and sustained improvement in key economic data defied weak global markets.

"IT stocks witnessed strong buying ahead of TCS' 3Q FY21 numbers...Key economic data for Dec'20 have been quite encouraging, which along with likely commencement in vaccination drive in India have bolstered investors' confidence. Hence, domestic equities are likely to remain in buy on dips mode," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Rupee skids 15 paise to 73.17 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 15 paise to settle at 73.17 against the US dollar on Tuesday, in tandem with most Asian currencies as fresh lockdowns in Europe and rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East sapped risk appetite.

However, unabated foreign fund inflows and weakness of the American currency in the overseas market restricted the rupee's fall, forex dealers said.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened flat at 73.02 against the greenback. It swung between a low of 73.27 and a high of 73.02 during the session.

HDFC Ltd shares gain nearly 3 pc

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of mortgage firm HDFC Ltd on Tuesday gained nearly 3 per cent after the company said its disbursement in the individual loan category grew 26 per cent during the third quarter ended December 2020.

The stock jumped 2.78 per cent to close at Rs 2,651.15 on the BSE. During the day, it gained 3 per cent to Rs 2,658.55 -- its record high.

At the NSE, it climbed 2.84 per cent to close at Rs 2,651.85.In volume terms, 2.40 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 58.70 lakh units at the NSE during the day.

Approval of Covid vaccine lends strength to optimism on health, eco fronts: FinMin report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Approval of the long-awaited Covid-19 vaccine provides strength to the optimism on health and economic fronts, the Finance Ministry said in its monthly economic report.

"The effective management of COVID-19 spread despite the festive season and onset of the winter season, combined with sustained improvement in high-frequency indicators and V-shaped recovery along with easing of lockdown restrictions distinguish Indian economy as one riding against the COVID-wave," the report said.

The new year, it said, has dawned with the approval of the long-awaited COVID-19 vaccine and initiation of vaccination drives in various countries.

"This gives strength to the optimism on both health and economic fronts despite continuing surge in global cases and the potential challenge of a mutant strain," the Monthly Economic Review for December said.

India, the report said, "has been successful in bending the COVID-curve till now, with reducing weekly/daily infections, rising recovery rate (now at around 95 per cent) and one of the world's lowest case fatality rates".

The downside risk, however, remains due to the spread of the UK variant and fatigue from social distancing guidelines, it said, adding the emphasis on continued observation of 'COVID appropriate' behaviour with the due exercise of caution and surveillance needs to be sustained.

Sharing improvement in some of the high-frequency data, the report said the sustained spurt in commercial and industrial activity was further corroborated by continued growth in PMI manufacturing, power demand, persistent improvement in E-way bills generated and highway toll collection rising above pre-COVID levels.

Monthly GST collections attained their record levels in December.

The gross GST revenue collected in December 2020 was Rs 1,15,174 crore, the highest since the introduction of Goods and Services Tax from July 1, 2017.

The liquidity situation remains comfortable as the accumulation of dollars along with the growth of currency in circulation are enhancing liquidity in the banking system despite the average daily net absorptions by the RBI rose in December compared to the preceding month, the report said.

The credit growth improved sharply as reflected in strong non-food credit rise and overall credit growth, thanks to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), which continues to support robust credit disbursements to MSMEs, with Rs 2.05 lakh crore sanctioned to 80.93 lakh borrowers under ECLGS 1.0.

Amendment in Raj Senior Sanctioned Journalist Samman Yojana 2020

Jaipur: The State Government has issued a separate notification amending the Rajasthan Senior Sanctioned Journalist Samman Yojana 2020, Rajasthan Journalist and Literary Welfare Fund Rules 2001 and Rajasthan State Sanctioned Journalist Medical Facilitation Scheme 2005.

Commissioner, Information and Public Relations Shri Mahendra Soni informed that after these amendments, Rajasthan Senior Sanctioning Journalist Samman Yojana (Amendment) 2020, Rajasthan Journalist and Sahitya Kalyan Kosh (Amendment) Rules 2020 and Rajasthan State Sanctioned and Paid Non-Approved Journalist Medical Facilitation Scheme (Modification) will be 2020. He said that the above amendment rules will come into force with immediate effect.

Realty firms may witness margin shrink by 4-6% due to steel price rise

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Surge in prices of steel productsThat are used in the construction sector has an adverse impact on the real estate companies as these entities are now not in a position to pass the additional cost on their buyers and may witness shirking of margin by 4-6 per cent, realtors said on Tuesday.

The steel prices have increased at a time when demand for property is slowly getting back on the track with the government measures and low interest-rate regime, they said.

Price of construction steel or TMT bars had recently touched Rs 45,000 a tonne in some markets, which was at least 30-40 per cent higher than the rate in the pre-COVID period. "The steel price rise is hurting the real estate companies as the property prices are under pressure. The additional cost will result in a shrink of gross margin by 5-6 per cent," Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company CEO Ketan Sengupta told PTI.

Real estate industry body Credai Bengal president Nandu Belani said the spurt in steel prices will reduce the margin by 4-5 per cent, which is quite high for the sector. Presently, only the residential sector has seen a revival of demand, while the commercial and industrial segment is still reeling under pressure, and the high cost will discourage builders to delay the launch of new projects, the officials said.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	14,075.15	14,215.60	14,048.15	14,199.50	66.6
AXISBANK	618	667.9	618	664.15	39.45
HDFC	2,589.00	2,659.45	2,572.40	2,654.95	76.45
INDUSINDBK	891.7	927.35	883	921.8	23.95
HDFCLIFE	691.1	715	690.25	713.5	17.65
WIPRO	394.1	409.8	393.5	405.5	9.1
TCS	3,039.60	3,114.25	3,039.60	3,090.65	51.2
ASIANPAINT	2,753.70	2,804.60	2,732.00	2,796.35	42.65
TITAN	1,545.00	1,576.85	1,541.50	1,574.00	23.1
GAIL	127.15	129.75	125.75	129.6	1.6
HCLTECH	967.2	995.8	967.2	992.5	12.1
NESTLEIND	18,343.50	18,620.00	18,278.05	18,598.10	220.15
HINDUNILVR	2,405.00	2,456.95	2,405.00	2,454.00	27.5
ICICIBANK	526.65	539.95	523	536.65	4.95
TATAMOTORS	187.1	193.9	185.05	193	1.7
HEROMOTOCO	3,052.00	3,074.35	3,031.00	3,068.00	24.15
HDFCBANK	1,419.20	1,430.75	1,409.00	1,425.85	9.85
EICHERMOT	2,630.00	2,685.00	2,616.00	2,668.05	12.35
DRREDDY	5,240.00	5,337.00	5,226.95	5,284.65	12.4
ULTRACEMCO	5,336.00	5,372.90	5,245.05	5,336.00	8.8
BRITANNIA	3,549.00	3,563.95	3,540.00	3,558.45	5.55
INFY	1,282.00	1,299.00	1,275.05	1,290.35	2.1
SBIN	278.05	282.45	277	281.4	0.35
TECHM	1,002.50	1,007.95	991.3	1,002.55	0.6
ADANIPORTS	498.9	504.5	492	498.75	-0.15
SUNPHARMA	608.45	608.7	600	602.95	-1.45
POWERGRID	189.5	189.5	186.2	188	-0.45
KOTAKBANK	1,959.50	1,964.40	1,935.00	1,960.15	-5.4
GRASIM	955	971.95	946.95	960.5	-3.95
UPL	469	472.5	466.35	471	-2.15
SHREECEM	24,199.00	24,199.00	23,701.05	23,922.00	-112.2
CIPLA	832.25	843.75	825.3	827.75	-4.5
MARUTI	7,660.00	7,673.00	7,586.00	7,657.20	-45.1
LT	1,307.00	1,313.00	1,295.05	1,306.50	-8.1
DIVISLAB	3,858.25	3,880.50	3,804.05	3,837.00	-25.25
BHARTIARTL	514	516.9	511.1	513.55	-3.55
SBILIFE	906.45	919.9	899	905	-6.4
BAJAJFINSV	8,900.05	8,920.00	8,736.95	8,833.50	-65.25
ITC	212.45	213.25	210.6	211.75	-1.65
IOC	93	93.25	91.8	93.05	-0.8
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,500.25	3,505.00	3,475.00	3,490.20	-32.25
BPCL	394.7	394.75	389	391.45	-3.9
RELIANCE	1,969.00	1,983.60	1,956.00	1,965.00	-25.85
M&M	748	748	730	739	-10.1
NTPC	98.4	98.4	97	97.65	-1.4
COALINDIA	136.75	136.75	134.4	135.15	-2.1
BAJFINANCE	5,218.00	5,224.20	5,062.50	5,133.00	-83.2
TATASTEEL	687	693.85	675.1	681	-12
HINDALCO	251.1	252.75	247	249.8	-4.5
JSWSTEEL	400	401	391.6	395.55	-7.55
ONGC	96.5	96.5	94.35	95.05	-1.9

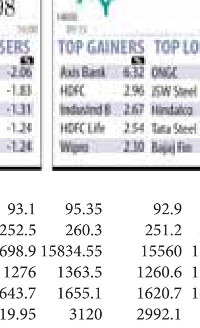
NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	33,219.80	33,895.90	32,986.15	33,818.75	537.1
NAUKRI	4,880.00	5,549.25	4,815.20	5,532.00	699.35
LTI	3,845.00	4,198.90	3,803.00	4,150.00	304.65
INDUSTOWER	240	264.8	239.2	254	12.6
HINDZINC	244.4	259	243.15	256.1	12.05
DMART	2,890.00	3,064.00	2,810.10	3,012.15	113.7
MUTHOOTFIN	1,252.00	1,298.00	1,240.00	1,292.15	48
SBICARD	890	918	883.95	916.1	27.85
HDFCAMC	3,000.00	3,120.00	2,987.95	3,116.00	90.35
IGL	511.75	529.7	508.2	518.5	11.8
BERGEPAINT	776.8	798.7	771.15	796	17.5
ICICIGI	1,549.00	1,592.00	1,531.90	1,582.95	33.5
OFSS	3,372.00	3,469.00	3,355.50	3,440.00	69.45
HAVELLS	921.5	938.85	911.6	935	16.2
PETRONET	252	260.25	251	256.75	4.3
COLPAL	1,566.10	1,602.50	1,564.00	1,598.55	22.45
LUPIN	1,024.95	1,047.50	1,016.05	1,041.30	14.35
MOTHERSUMI	163.15	169.4	162	167.7	2.15
AUROPHARMA	966	996.85	961	978	12.25
BANDHANBNK	394	403.9	390.4	401.8	4.8
SIEMENS	1,590.75	1,620.00	1,585.00	1,617.50	19.05
MARICO	416.45	422.6	410.9	422	4.85
PGHH	11,000.00	11,125.00	10,965.00	11,104.95	106.75
ADANIGREEN	1,070.20	1,106.90	1,065.00	1,092.10	9.85
PIDILITIND	1,799.95	1,806.90	1,757.00	1,799.55	14.6
ICICIPRULI	505.5	515	503.3	508	4.1
TATACONSUM	604	614.3	601.1	608.65	4.65
TORNTPHARM	2,790.00	2,822.95	2,778.65	2,816.00	21.35
AMBUJACEM	252	256.65	250.45	254.8	1.9
ALKEM	2,940.00	3,030.90	2,931.00	2,983.40	16.2
BOSCHLTD	13,250.00	13,506.60	13,124.45	13,400.10	65.8
GODREJCP	758.1	763.75	747.3	761.25	3.15
ACC	1,639.95	1,655.25	1,629.25	1,646.00	4.6
CONCOR	413.8	416.95	408.2	414.95	1.15
PFC	118	119.45	116.5	118.75	0.2
HINDPETRO	222	223.5	220.4	223.1	0.35
PNB	35	35.7	34.7	35.55	0
CADILAHC	484	489.5	480.25	485.95	-0.45
UBL	1,188.00	1,193.00	1,175.00	1,183.00	-1.65
BIOCON	471.5	471.75	460.85	466.1	-0.9
ABBOTINDIA	15,668.00	15,839.90	15,551.90	15,610.00	-58.05
GICRE	140.8	142.9	140.55	141.2	-0.65
MCDOWELL-N	582	585.5	575.5	581.5	-2.85
BANKBARODA	65.2	66.25	64.8	65.45	-0.35
ADANITRANS	441	443.9	436	438.55	-2.65
DABUR	542	542.4	535.5	539	-4.35
BAJAJHLDNG	3,142.25	3,142.25	3,050.00	3,110.00	-32.6
NMDC	122.35	122.4	119.45	120.95	-1.45
DLF	241.95	246.95	239.5	240.6	-3.7
INDIGO	1,732.00	1,733.95	1,702.50	1,716.00	-28.95
PEL	1,466.00	1,467.00	1,430.00	1,442.00	-35.4

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
DIVISLAB	3864.8	3880.2	3805.8	3840.85
IDEA	11.83	12.11	11.58	11.91
AXISBANK	619.8	667.5	618.25	664.3
BAJFINANCE	5220	5224.95	5062.2	5121
TATAMOTORS	187	193.95	185.05	193.25
RELIANCE	1972.05	1984	1956	1966
RBLBANK	237.3	251.8	236.35	250.7
HDFC	2592.7	2658.55	2571.75	2651.15
TCS	3044.1	3112.75	3040	3092.3
INFY	1287	1299	1274.4	1293.5
TATASTEEL	686	693.6	675.15	680.7
DLF	239.65	246.85	239.25	241.7
IBULHSGFIN	219	221.7	215.7	219.25
HDFCBANK	1416.15	1430	1408.75	1426.2
WIPRO	395.5	409.6	393.5	406.15
INDUSINDBK	892	927	883.3	921.6
TATAPOWER	77.6	82.2	77.6	81.15
ICICIBANK	527.35	539.95	522.8	537.05
ALKYLAMINE	4577	5248	4472	5140.55
APOLLOTYRE	186.1	188.45	184.3	186.85
PNB	35	35.7	34.5	35.55
SBIN	278.7	282.4	277.1	281.75
CANBK	125	136.65	125	135.35
NAUKRI	4851	5545	4817.1	5500.8
SAIL	79	80.35	77.5	77.95
ITC	212	213.25	210.6	211.5
SUZLON	7.21	7.56	6.84	7.56
BHEL	40.1	40.65	39.5	40.1
RVNL	24	28.35	24	27.45
BEL	130	133.25	128.9	131.45
HCLTECH	977	995.35	970	991.25
ZEEL	216.45	223	215	222.3
SBICARD	885.05	917.9	884	914.75
HDFCLIFE	692.65	715	690.4	713.5
AUROPHARMA	962	996.65	960.9	978.6
KOTAKBANK	1961	1964.15	1935	1959.95
BHARTIARTL	512	516.8	510.8	513.9
IRCTC	1440	1463	1430	1456.8
LTI	3810	4197.95	3802.7	4134.1
FEDERALBNK	70	72.5	69.15	72.3
TRIDENT	13.7	15.44	13.5	15.44
HINDUNILVR	2400	2456	2400	2450
JUBLFOOD	2740	2836.5	2740	2775.9
BANDHANBNK	396	403.8	390.4	402
JUSTDIAL	658	754	652.05	733.7
LICHSGFIN	377.5	399.05	377.5	394.45
APOLLOHOSP	2390	2515	2386.25	2509.15
ASIANPAINT	2744.15	2802.95	2732.2	2793.25
AMBUJACEM	252.7	256.65	250.6	254.15
LT	1313.7	1313.7	1296.8	1305.95
SUNPHARMA	610	610	600	603.15
BAJAJFINSV	8905	8919.9	8740.75	8820.6
INDUSTOWER	237.6	264.7	237.6	254.05
ONGC	96	96.3	94.35	94.95
DRREDDY	5261	5336.1	5229.15	5287.15
BANKBARODA	64.8	66.2	64.75	65.6
HAL	872	941	866	921.15
CIPLA	832	843.5	825	827.2
ASHOKLEY	103.35	105.1	102.45	104.75
VEDL	167.7	170.4	166.8	169
DMART	2882	3062.85	2808.1	2995.55
EICHERMOT	2620.2	2685	2615	2672.7
MARUTI	7690	7690	7590	7651.3
HEROMOTOCO	3047	3073	3031.1	3067.3
IOC	93.2	93.2	91.8	93
GAIL	127.5	129.7	125.6	129.35
MOTHERSUMI	162.15	169.4	162.15	168.2
IGL	509	529.6	509	519.35
M&MFIN	172	186.95	172	184.95
L&TFH	96.6	102.65	96.25	102.05
DEEPAKNI	1033	1053.75	1004	1013.65
ADANIENT	492	501.35	489.3	494.45
JINDALSTEL	286.5	287.9	282.1	284.6
JSWSTEEL	400	401	391.75	395.1
COALINDIA	136.25	136.65	134.4	135.2
NBCC	30.9	32.95	30.75	32.65
BSOFT	250.1	275	248.15	268.05
INOXLEISUR	303	319.5	295	314.95
BRITANNIA	3546	3562	3540	3553.9
MUTHOOTFIN	1246	1297	1242.7	1291.95
MRF	77777	79250	77677.3	79027.25
BIOCON	466.75	471.2	453	467.7
LUPIN	1028.9	1047.45	1016.4	1040.15
M&M	750	750	729.95	739.3
PVR	1395	1429.2	1370.7	1417.1
MGL	1090	1130	1085	1096.85
SRTRANSFIN	1065.1	1118	1059.6	1114.9
TATAELXSI	1887	1970	1884.5	1957.65
HINDALCO	252.5	252.6	247.05	250.2
MAHSEAMLES	320	321.7	318.6	320
TECHM	1002	1008	992.25	1004.1
ESCORTS	1303.2	1320	1297	1313.35
IDFCFIRSTB	38.45	39.95	37.95	39.7
PEL	1452.1	1463.7	1430.4	1442.15
ADANIPORTS	501	504.5	492.55	499.5
NTPC	98.7	98.7	96.95	97.65
MINDTREE	1690	1724.95	1675.15	1714.55
HINDZINC	244	258.95	230.8	254.3
NCC	62.15	64.5	61.85	63.1
PFC	117.25	119.4	116.55	118.6
TITAN	1550	1576	1539.85	1568.75
CHOLAFIN	432.65	438.9	430	437.25
SBILIFE	910.1	919.45	899.25	905.65
INDIAMART	7066	7289.45	7000	7193.45
POLYCAB	1058	1157	1050.95	1144.4
ULTRACEMCO	5320.3	5367.35	5248	5342.7
STAR	940	979.55	920.1	971.55
NESTLEIND	18356	18615.95	18284.15	18571.6

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
TATACONSUM	605.75	614.4	601.55	609.55
MANAPPURAM	171.7	174.1	169.65	173.7
DIXON	13742	14500	13364.7	14024.8
HAVELLS	912	938.6	912	935.9
BAJAJ-AUTO	3521.75	3521.75	3474.15	3494.3
EXIDEIND	192.55	197	192.05	196
ICICIPRULI	506	514.9	503.45	507.4
NMDC	122	122.35	119.55	120.95
COLPAL	1576	1601.9	1564.4	1597.8
CUMMINSIND	607.9	624.25	603.4	617.1
GLENMARK	515.25	520.05	510	517.55
BPCL	397	397	388.95	391.8
HINDPETRO*	218.1	223.3	218.1	223.1
NATIONALUM	47	47.5	46	46.25
INDIGO	1748.4	1748.4	1703.75	1713.25
CENTURYTEX	415.2	430.35	410.4	426.8
NHPC	25.15	25.5	24.5	24.55
SUNTV	488	500.6	487.35	491.95
MFSL	689	705.95	679.7	701.05
BHARATFORG	541.15	558.3	538.8	556.5
AMARAJABAT	965.45	989.3	957.55	984.75

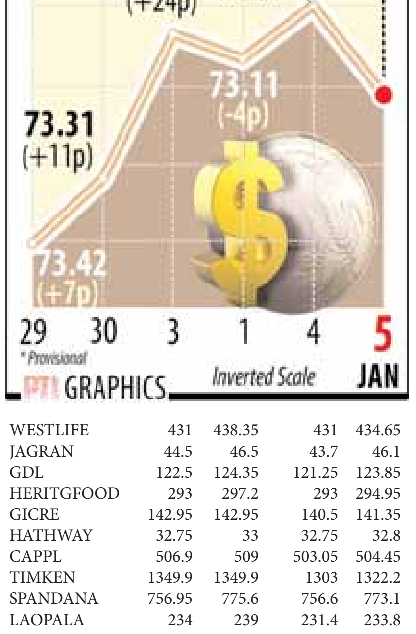


Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
SPICEJET	93.1	95.35	92.9	93.85
PETRONET	252.5	260.3	251.2	256.45
ABBOTINDIA	15698.9	15834.55	15560	15622.4
AARTIIND	1276	1363.5	1260.6	1337.05
ACC	1643.7	1655.1	1620.7	1644.75
HDFCAMC	3019.95	3120	2992.1	3094.3
GMRINFRA	26.6	27.4	26.55	27.2
BATAINDIA	1595	1614.6	1580.4	1608.05
JKCEMENT	1950.05	2110	1950.05	2092.5
RELAXO	837.4	912.35	837.4	890.85
IDFC	36.9	38.3	36.6	37.95
SOUTHBANK	9.36	9.52	9.21	9.33
HSCL	45.2	46.95	44.35	46.05
DABUR	540.25	542.2	535.55	538.75
PHILIPCARB	176.1	181	176.1	178.5
JBCHEPHARM	1034	1060	1016.2	1050.15
MRPL	35.9	40.5	35.6	39.5
ADANIPOWER	49.1	50.3	49.1	49.8
STLTECH	195	198.5	190.4	196.75
HFCL	26.9	27.65	26.5	27.1
COFORGE	2846	2903	2812.4	2886.05
GRASIM	961.8	971	947.4	961.05
JINDALSAW	77.9	82.6	76.8	81.45
DELTACORP	159	159.85	156.3	157.65
UPL	472.15	472.6	466.5	470.9
GRAPHITE	313	316.5	306.1	312.55
ICICIGI	1540.15	1591.15	1534.2	1581.45
GREAVESCOT	95.45	100.7	93.65	99.35
CADILAHC	487.75	489.6	481	485.75
SPARC	203.95	209.8	201.1	203.45
LAURUSLABS	359.1	365	352	359.25
RAJESHEXPO	480	487.7	479	484.75
BOSCHLTD	13300	13502	13146.15	13422.35
LTTS	2450.25	2550	2400	2505.9
MPHASIS	1545	1609.15	1528	1584.3
AFFLE	3903.3	4041	3895.4	4003.6
IDBI	31.95	32.2	31	31.75
SRF	5722.95	5722.95	5595.55	5696.5
CHAMBLFERT	233	245.7	232.35	240.25
INDIACEM	176	179.5	172.35	175.4
CONCOR	412.9	417	408.8	415.3
MARICO	419	422.45	411	419.85
TATAMTRDVR	77.2	78.65	75.55	78.05
HEG	946.6	957	940.05	948.95
PERSISTENT	1519.7	1573.4	1515.25	1553.45
THYROCARE	933	987	930	980.3
GMDCLTD	59.1	61.95	58.05	61.25
PIDILITIND	1797	1806.45	1758.05	1798.85
SWSOLAR	271.8	283.45	267.75	275.4
CYIENT	522	553.2	519.65	548.25
PAGEIND	27847.5	28736	27847.5	28599.1
HUDCO	40.95	44	40.5	42.85
PCJEWELLER	25.55	27.25	25.5	26.55
TATACHEM	487.75	490.35	483.6	486.9
CANFINHOME	485	499.3	482.55	483.65
BEML	1000	1002	985	992.65
GUJGAS	380.1	390.9	380.1	389.4
VOLTAS	847	853.15	830.6	838
NAM-INDIA	306.1	313.8	305.75	311.5
ABCAPITAL	87.1	90.7	87.1	89.65
APLLTD	1069	1095	1060.85	1091.35
AUBANK	884	890	870.8	884.2
CUB	179.1	183.45	175.35	182.6
ASTRAZEN	4657.3	4660	4501.25	4566.95
TAKE	53.5	58.3	53.5	56.55
NOCIL	160.2	162.5	156.2	157.6
TVSMOTOR	494.5	496.45	488.05	491.7
JKPAPER	121.95	129.3	119.05	128.6
WOCKPHARMA	515	536.9	514.9	526.45
VENKYS	1696	1696	1650	1659.15
FRETAIL	75.8	78.5	75.8	77.4

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
BLISSGVS	201.5	202.15	198	200.9
LEMONTREE	42.1	44.55	42.1	44.25
TORNTPOWER	315.5	321.75	315.5	320.7
JSL	83.75	90	81.8	89.05
AAVAS	1880	2112.55	1877.5	2022.9
GALAXYSURF	2105	2214.95	2080	2196.4
FLUOROCHEM	598.25	639.9	580.25	630.5
BERGEPAINT	777	798.35	771.45	790.7
RAIN	146	147.75	141.65	145.8
IBREALEST	79.15	81.05	77.6	78.75
GODREJPROP	1401	1428.45	1401	1406
BALKRISIND	1680	1688	1644.85	1681.85
RALLIS	281.45	291.6	279.5	290.95
PFIZER	5210	5280	5177	5205.15
JUBILANT	870.2	894.4	864.1	876.25
GODFRYPHLP	994.95	995.75	979.25	980.7
SYNGENE	634	635.55	621.3	630.95
ADANIGREEN	1066	1106.95	1064.15	1096.55
DISHTV	13	13	12.81	12.87
HINDCOPPER	61.55	63.3	60.05	61.75
TORNTPHARM	2809	2822.9	2785.1	2809.75
INFIBEAM	84.7	86.5	84.7	85.6
CASTROLIND	122.5	124.95	122.5	124.35
MMTC	30	30.85	29	30.2
RECLTD	136.95	139.75	135.65	139.05
GODREJCP	762.9	763.1	748.55	759.8
IEX	226	228.45	220	220.45
OIL	113	114.95	110	111.95
SUMICHEM	330.4	333	321.05	322.7
WELCORP	132.05	135	128.3	133.3
KAJARIACER	698	722.8	698	709.2
IRCON	87	90.5	87	90.2
ADANIGAS	375.4	376.35	371	373.45
GNFC	225.2	232.9	225.2	228.5
GRANULES	359.8	360	349.95	357.05
CEATLTD	1133	1158.85	1126.55	1154.35
SIEMENS	1604.95	1621.3	1588.35	1615.1
RCF	55.1	55.4	54.5	54.9
BANKINDIA	50.2	50.65	49.55	50.55
UNIONBANK	32	32.15	31.8	32.05
ENDURANCE	1435	1436.4	1369.9	1416.9
POWERGRID	189.5	189.5	186.35	188
UBL	1186.95	1192.7	1174.6	1182.5
COROMANDEL	817.9	828.05	812.35	821.7
SFL	1840.5	2104.85	1840.5	1881.4
MOIL	149.3	156	148	149.3
FSL	99.3	103.5	99.15	100.55
VBL	943.5	977.9	943.5	966
INTELLECT	319.9	331.2	313	329.4
ATUL	6420	6738.95	6401.2	6587.6
PIIND	2256.5	2267.95	2244.45	2252.05
ALKEM	2967.65	3030	2937.9	2985.15
MINDACORP	93	96.2	89	94.95
STARCEMENT	103	106.95	102.15	106.7
KNRCON	337.2	352.9	335.1	338.65
KEC	371.25	381	371.25	379.05
VIPIND	368.9	386.35	365.25	384.75
SHREECEM	24189.95	24189.95	23727.8	23894
BIRLACORPN	725.3	742	725.3	731.75
ABB	1227.15	1303.45	1227.15	1293.7
COCHINSHIP	385	392.75	382.5	386.6
BOMDYEING	76.8	78.55	76.55	76.8
BDL	339.7	355.55	338.7	345.25
ADANITRANS	436.1	443.9	436.1	437.45
ENGINERSIN	78	79.3	77.55	77.9
RAMCOCEM	796	805	789.6	793.45
AVANTI	519.85	522	508.3	519.35
SUNTECK	348	359	348	355.75
OFSS	3380.1	3466.8	3353.95	3448.15
BALMLAWRIE	126.1	131.2	126.1	129
KPITTECH	141.6	146.75	140.8	144
GSFC	82.1	83.75	81.35	83
ASHOKA	91.4	93.75	90.75	93.25
SWANENERGY	134.4	135.15	131.05	132.7
CREDITACC	740.05	772.05	718.9	768.2
DEEPAKFERT	156.3	162	156.3	159.8
KRBL	243.35	253.75	243.35	246.25
LALPATHLAB	2425	2425	2361.65	2387.25
ISEC	421	462.7	421	460
NAVINFLUOR	2650	2678	2614.8	2619.7
BAJAJCON	228.2	231.5	225.45	230
IPCALAB	2162.2	2180.25	2150.7	2173
SCI	90.25	90.7	89.1	89.5
INDHOTEL	126.4	127.1	122.85	123.3
RADICO	454	466.35	454	464.35
MEGH	81.7	87.25	81.05	86.35
DCBBANK	122.7	126	120	124.7
CGCL	315	315.8	310.3	312.1
EQUITAS	67.1	69.3	66.8	68.5
ZYDUSWELL	2154	2154.9	2094	2112.2
JSLHISAR	147	154	145.3	152.75
BLUESTARCO	800.55	827.05	799.25	817.7
SONATSOFTW	398.7	411.9	393.5	406.8
J&KBANK	24.35	24.55	23.65	24.25
PRSMJOHNSN	86.9	95	86.6	93.5
AMBER	2370	2402.5	2370	2395.3
JKTYRE	76.9	77.6	75.7	77.25
MCX	1780	1797.85	1747.4	1767.15
RAYMOND	347.65	352.95	340.95	348.25
TASTYBIT	11500	11890	11430.05	11699.5
KTKBANK	58.75	60.9	58	60.45
VINATIORGA	1215	1228	1213.65	1220.25
VAIBHAVGBL	2644.55	2895.95	2590	2813.05
OBEROIRLTY	590	600.9	580	586.1
CROMPTON	370	379.7	370	376.55
JTEKTINDIA	97.65	99.5	94.45	95.4
HAWKINCOOK	6188	6188	6005	6044.4
FINCABLES	350	369.15	350	362.4
TATACOMM	1103.55	1120	1083.95	1116.2

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
TRENT	675.05	679.45	672.15	674.6
TV18BRDCST	30.95	31.15	30.8	30.9
ECLERX	871	931	864.55	906.7
FCONSUMER	8.3	8.55	8.3	8.43
SUPREMEIND	1690	1755.65	1690	1747.85
ARVINDFASN	154.5	165.1	153.6	163.65
CSBBANK	222.15	228.7	220.25	225.2
WHIRLPOOL	2619.9	2628.35	2541	2596.5
GSPL	219	222.75	215.9	217.05
CHENNPETRO	107.5	111.5	107	110.05
HONAUT	38300	38300	36489	37327.35
RITES	276	279.9	273.45	278.25
ASTRAL	1770	1793.7	1761.7	1775.65
JAMNAAUTO	59.05	62.25	59.05	61.5
NBVENTURES	61.9	63.55	61.9	62.6
UJJIVAN	279	281.65	276.8	279
IIFL	116.85	116.85	109.8	114.4
METROPOLIS	2030.95	2106.15	2026	2100.9
SJVN	25.4	26.2	25.3	25.75
JYOTHYLAB	147.7	150.7	145.4	149.75
TATAMETALI	628.85	645	628.85	642.25
CARERATING	524	533.85	519	528.85
ABFRL	165.4	167.4	163.7	167
BAYERCROP	5551.05	5613.85	5490	5510.4
GRINDWELL	693.4	765.95	693.4	757.3
UJJIVANSFB	39.55	39.9	38.75	39.8
BALRAMCHIN	170	170.8	163.7	169.3
FORTIS	157	159.65	154.05	156.8
SIS	418.2	425	406.6	418.6
SOBHA	406.5	421.35	399.05	417.45
GMM	3755	3780	3710	3767.15
IFCI	9.32	9.55	9.24	9.37
FORCEMOT	1387	1409	1370	1386.7
DALBHARAT	1133.2	1136.1	1111	1115.55
MIDHANI	201.7	204.85	199.15	202.5
JAICORPLTD	94	95.7	93.25	94.45
CENTRALBK	14.16	14.16	13.85	14.09
BASF	1615	1663.15	1610.05	1652.75
NATCOPHARM	960.05	970	960.05	966.7
GET&D	134.4	136.15	131	132.8
NLCINDIA	55.95	56.75	55.2	56.3
KANSAINER	628.9	634	618.3	625.65
CARBORUNIV	405.65	414.1	405	409.3
QUESS	530	540.15	514.2	524.7
PHOENIXLTD	785	785	746	764.4
IOB	11.3	11.5	11.09	11.35
APLAPOLLO	891	891	870	875.95
HIMATSEIDE	145	152.05	140.1	149.8
EMAMILTD	423	428.55	423	426.95
GEPIL	291.95	292.95	285.4	287.8
PRESTIGE	272	280.5	268.3	275.35
JSWENERGY	68.45	68.45	67.1	67.4
TIMETECHNO	50.5	53.2	50.5	52.25
MOTILALOFS	614.45	617.1	605	611.2
BBTC	1280	1312.05	1280	1297.7
INDIANB	88.5	88.5	87.15	87.75
SYMPHONY	1016	1045	1016	1036.1
GESHIP	272.75	283.8	271.5	281.4
WELSPUNIND	71.3	73.45	70	72.75
KEI	477	477	465.5	466.6
REPCOHOME	240	244.2	239.15	242
SCHNEIDER	88.6	91.1	88	88.95
DCAL	137.05	142	137.05	140.25
PTC	58.7	61.4	58.7	60.35
EDELWEISS	70.5	71.55	69.2	70.8
SHK	124.5	124.95	122.8	123.8
GUJALKALI	346.8	354.15	346	346.75
VMART	2480.9	2489.35	2441.3	2465.1
INDOCO	313.1	321.55	310	319.55
TNPL	129	134.7	126.4	132.5
EIDPARRY	339.6	347.1	338.2	345.1
SANOFI	8264.55	8318.85	8172	8200.25
ADVENZYMES	334.3	334.3	325.1	326.05
IRB	114.5	117.7	114.4	114.85
AEGISLOG	256	264.65	252	257.2
IFBIND	1200	1220	1189.35	1205.95
ERIS	593.95	600	568.6	591.5
VRLLOG	202	207.3	202	205.5
VARROC	401.9	401.9	386	397.65
TATAINVEST	1005	1039.5	1005	1021.8
ITI	127.7	128.85	127.2	127.75
TIINDIA	807	844.3	805.45	818.6
CESC	619.2	632.95	617.35	630
PARAGMILK	111.35	113.75	111.35	113.2
CENTURYPLY	236.05	245.9	235	241.7
BRIGADE	247.9	258	247.9	256.85
JMFINANCIL	85.6	87.4	85.6	86.85
ZENSARTECH	240.25	241.75	235	238.3
BAJAJHLDNG	3050	3137.55	3050	3112.7
POWERINDIA	1324.55	1327.6	1286.95	1299.9
KALPATPOWR	320.5	320.8	317.1	317.6
ITDC	327	336.3	325.9	330.15
AKZOINDIA	2492.4	2508	2461.15	2471.05
UFLEX	384.65	388.9	379.75	384.45
BAJAJELEC	617.9	625	609.45	621.35
PGHH	11049	11132.55	10961	11112.1
HEIDELBERG	230.25	234.35	227.45	230
DHANUKA	775	790	774	785.15
PNBHOUSING	369	373.4	366.2	370.95
TATACOFFEE	108.5	108.65	106.7	107.85
SUNDRMFAST	532.85	560	532.85	555.5
JCHAC	2778	2829	2749.95	2810.65
AJANTPHARM	1655	1681.5	1643	1670.3
ALLCARGO	131.4	134.4	131.4	133.65
GHCL	212	214.6	207.1	212.85
VGUARD	189.5	195.5	189.5	194.8
DBCORP	83.5	86.15	82.9	84.45
ORIENTREF	247.35	247.7	239.2	240.2
ORIENTCEM	81.05	90.1	81.05	88.95

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
GLAXO	1601.2	1614	1586.3	1593.1
SOMANYCERA	320	341.75	320	340.5
PNCINFRA	180.55	185.95	178.45	185.15
WABAG	208.85	211.75	207.5	208.85
FINEORG	2502.15	2553.55	2502.15	2535.75
LAXMIMACH	4644	4803.25	4644	4796.95
SHOPERSTOP	202	205.55	201.4	204.55
ASTERDM	165	174.45	165	169.55
CCL	268	271.15	266	266.55
GODREJIND	425.65	425.65	421.5	422.8
NILKAMAL	1560	1596.7	1510	1537
GRSE	197.2	199.9	195.5	196.2
TTKPRESTIG	6190.1	6325.6	6190	6252.7
TCIEXP	949.15	966.5	926.95	962.4
SUDARSCHEM	479.3	488	478.5	485.15
FINOLEXIND	640.35	655	640.35	653.6
INDOSTAR	324.75	340.05	324.75	337.4
JKLAKSHMI	345.7	345.7	339.7	341.8
DCMSHRIRAM	395	397.9	388	392.75
GODREJAGRO	538.95	542.35	532	540.55
CRISIL	1938	1941.5	1924.6	1933.85
ORIENTELEC	229	242.4	227	241.5
REDINGTON	133.5	134.05	130.4	131.1
CHOLAHLDNG	587.65	593.45	568	591.2
KPRMILL	904	904	865	875.05
FDC	334	334.3	330.2	333.95
PGHL	7000	7010.6	6924.75	6984.9
LINDEINDIA	982	988.35	976.75	980.75
GILLETTE	5765.6	5956.8	5721.25	5915.5
GPPL	95.2	97.05	94.4	94.9
MASFIN	923.05	936	915	930.75
MAHINDCIE	177	178.45	170.35	172.65
LUXIND	1643.45	1666	1638.25	1655.3
UCOBANK	13.35	13.35	12.93	13.05
SKFINDIA	1740	1753	1712.95	1750.6
SHANKARA	348.3	352.95	346.8	349.3



Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
WESTLIFE	431	438.35	431	434.65
JAGRAN	44.5	46.5	43.7	46.1
GDL	122.5	124.35	121.25	123.85
HERITGFOOD	293	297.2	293	294.95
GICRE	142.95	142.95	140.5	141.35
HATHWAY	32.75	33	32.75	32.8
CAPPL	506.9	509	503.05	504.45
TIMKEN	1349.9	1349.9	1303	1322.2
SPANDANA	756.95	775.6	756.6	773.1
LAOPALA	234	239	231.4	233.8
CERA	3457.4	3590.05	3457.4	3549
NIACL	128.4	129.7	127.8	128.15
EIHOTEL	95	95.5	93.55	95.35
MAHABANK	13.7	13.7	13.43	13.51
THERMAX	918.35	960	915.8	956
3MINDIA	21150	21899	21059.1	21703.35
NESCO	557	562.3	548.5	552.55
VSTIND	3711.45	3730	3685	3720.6
AIAENG	2040	2048.5	1982	2002.5
DBL	399.95	399.95	390.55	391.95
MAHLOG	406	426	406	423
SCHAEFFLER	4600	4660.9	4588.1	4604.85
SUPRAJIT	199.1	202.55	198.15	200
BLUEDART	4049	4049	4005.25	4036.85
GULFOILLUB	769.95	769.95	724.35	728.5
MINDAIND	402.5	411	400.05	408.05
EPL	259.1	259.2	255	257.45
WABCOINDIA	5526.1	5625	5526.1	5599.6
TEAMLEASE	2702.5	2785.35	2689.1	2762.95
TVSSRICHAK	1909.8	1916.2	1877	1899.05
SOLARINDS	1094.55	1125	1094.55	1118.65
GARFIBRES	2322.75	2345	2290.05	2312.35
NAVNETEDUL	82	85.6	82	84.75
MHRIL	210	212.7	209.9	212.4
IIFLWAM	1052.05	1072.45	1043	1059.25
MAHSCOOTER	3750	3833.45	3750	3769.3
NH	447	451.2	442.3	449.75
ESABINDIA	1890	1905.7	1864.05	1868.35
SHRIRAMCIT	1056.05	1077.25	1056.05	1067.85
TVTODAY	227.9	227.9	223.3	224.35
VTL	1076.75	1082.35	1071.05	1077.8
OMAXE	82	82.05	80.35	81.3
KSB	655.6	655.6	646.4	649.4
TCNSBRANDS	442.35	445.4	438.35	441.4
RATNAMANI	1604.2	1633.1	1604.2	1618.05
MAHLIFE	365	371.9	360.3	369.2

Trump: Will fight like hell to hold on to presidency

Dalton (US): With mounting desperation, Donald Trump has declared he would "fight like hell" to hold on to the presidency and appealed to Republican lawmakers to reverse his election loss to Joe Biden when they convene this week to confirm the Electoral College vote.

Electoral voters won by President-elect Biden are "not gonna take this White House!" he shouted as supporters cheered at an outdoor rally in Georgia on Monday night.

Trump's announced purpose for the trip was to boost Republican Senate candidates in Tuesday's runoff election, but he spent much of his speech complaining bitterly about his election loss — which he insists he won "by a lot."

Earlier, in Washington, he pressed Republican lawmakers to formally object Wednesday at a joint session of Congress that is to confirm Biden's victory in the Electoral College, itself a confirmation of Biden's nationwide victory November 3.

Though he got nothing but cheers Monday night, Trump's attempt to overturn the presi-

dential election i s splitting the Republican Party.

Some GOP lawmakers backing him are rushing ahead, despite an outpouring of condemnation from current and former party officials warning the effort is undermining Americans faith in democracy.

All 10 living former defense secretaries wrote in an op-ed that "the time for questioning the results has passed."

Its unclear the extent to which GOP leaders in Congress will be able to control Wednesdays joint session, which could drag into the night, though the challenges to the election are all but certain to fail. Trump himself is whipping up crowds for a Wednesday rally near the White House.

Vice President Mike Pence, who is under pressure to tip the results for Trump, will be closely watched as he presides in a ceremonial role over Wednesdays joint session.

"I promise you this: On Wednesday, well have our day in Congress," Pence said while himself campaigning in Georgia ahead of Tuesdays runoff elections that will determine control of the Senate.

Trump said in Georgia: "I hope that our great vice president comes through for us. Hes a great guy. Of course, if he doesnt come through, I wont like him quite as much." He added, "No, Mike is a great guy."

One of the Georgia Republicans in Tuesday's runoff — Sen. Kelly Loeffler, who faces Democrat Raphael Warnock — told the crowd she will join senators formally objecting to Bidens win. The other Republican seeking reelection, David Perdue, who is running against Democrat Jon Ossoff, will not be eligible to vote. ***AP***

Pence torn between Trump, Constitution

Washington: He has been President Donald Trump's most loyal soldier, dutifully backing the unpredictable leader through one chaotic situation after another.

Now Vice President Mike Pence finds himself in the most precarious position of his tenure as he prepares to preside over Wednesday's congressional tally of Electoral College votes, the last front in Trump's futile attempts to overturn President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the November election.

Seated on the House of Representatives' rostrum, Pence will bear witness to the formalisation of Trump's — and his own — election defeat, as tellers from the House and Senate record states' electoral votes.

At the end of the count, it will be his job to announce who has won the majority of votes for both president and vice president.

But Pence, whose proscribed role is largely pro forma, is under intense pressure from the president and legions of supporters who want the vice president to use the moment to overturn the will of the voters in a handful of critical battleground states.

"I hope Mike Pence comes through for us, I have to tell you," Trump said at a rally Monday night in Georgia for candidates in two Senate runoff elections.

"Of course, if he doesn't come through, I won't like him quite as much," Trump added, drawing laughs. He said Pence was "going to have a lot to say about it. And you know one thing with him, you're going to get straight shots. He's going to call it straight."

Pence has spent hours huddling with the president, staff and the Senate parliamentarian. His office declined to discuss his plans heading into Wednesday's count. But people close to the vice president stressed his respect for institutions and said they expect him to act in accordance with the law and hew to the Constitution.

"I think he will approach this as a constitutionalist, basically, and say, 'What's my role in the Constitution as president of the Senate?" said David McIntosh, president of the conservative Club for Growth and a Pence friend. ***AP***

Xi asks military to step-up training, combat readiness

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping has asked the military to strengthen training to hone its combat skills and remain on high alert as the new revised defence law expanding the powers of the armed forces came into force from this year.

The 67-year-old leader, who also heads the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) besides the Central Military Commission (CMC) -- the overall high command of the two million strong military -- signed the commission's first order for 2021, which listed priorities in the training of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the People's Armed Police Force (PLAF), official media here reported on Tuesday.

The order instructed the armed forces to stick to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as their guiding principle and uphold Xi Jinping Thought on Strengthening the Military as well as military strategies in the new era.

It said the CCP will enhance its guidance over the military's training, urging the armed forces to focus on improving their combat readiness and continuing to reform their training system, state-run China Daily reported.

The first such order was issued in January 2018, when Xi addressed a massive training and commencement ceremony at a shooting range in northern China.

According to the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post, Xi said the PLA must be ready to "act at any second" as the armed forces kicked off the year's military training and exercises on Monday.

"(The PLA must) increase the integration of new equipment, new forces and new combat realms into training and combat systems," the report said, quoting the Chinese president. ***PTI***

Will redouble efforts to save Iran nuclear deal: EU

Brussels: The European Union says it will redouble its efforts to save the Iran nuclear agreement despite what it calls Tehran's "important breach" of commitments made in the 2015 deal by starting to enrich uranium to new levels.

EU spokesman Peter Stano said that Iran's actions "will have serious implications when it comes to nuclear nonproliferation."

Stano said it was in everyone's interest to rescue the deal and said the 27-nation bloc "will strengthen" its attempts to make sure all adhere to the commitments made in the landmark deal.

Iran began enriching uranium Monday to levels unseen since its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The decision appeared aimed at increasing Tehran's leverage

in the waning days in office for US President Donald Trump, whose unilateral withdrawal from the atomic accord in 2018 began a series of escalating incidents.

Increasing enrichment at its underground Fordo facility puts Tehran a technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the action was "fully reversible" if other partners in the deal fully complied too, without elaborating. Iran informed the International Atomic Energy Agency of its plans to increase enrichment to 20% last week. ***AP***

Qatar ruler lands in Saudi for summit to end blockade

Al-Ula (Saudi Arabia): Qatar's ruling emir arrived in Saudi Arabia and was greeted with an embrace by the kingdom's crown prince on Tuesday, following an announcement that the kingdom would end its yearslong embargo on the tiny Gulf Arab state.

The decision to open borders was the first major step toward ending the diplomatic crisis that has deeply divided US defense partners, frayed societal ties and torn apart a traditionally clubby alliance of Arab states. The arrival of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to the kingdom's ancient desert city of Al-Ula was broadcast live on Saudi TV. He was seen descending from his plane and being greeted with a hug by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The emir is in Al-Ula for an annual summit of Gulf Arab leaders that is expected to produce a détente between Qatar

Journalists watch a large display screen as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, center left, chairs the 41st Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting in Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia on Tuesday AP

and four Arab states that have boycotted the country and cut transport and diplomatic links with it since mid-2017 over Doha's support for Islamist groups and warm ties with Iran.

The diplomatic breakthrough comes after a final push by the outgoing Trump administration and fellow Gulf state Kuwait to mediate an end to the crisis. It wasn't until late Monday that the major step to ending the spat was announced. ***AP***

Former head of China state asset firm gets death sentence

Beijing: The former head of state-owned China Huarong Asset Management Co Ltd was sentenced to death on Tuesday for bribe taking in one of the harshest punishments for economic crimes in recent years.

Lai Xiaomin, 58, was also found guilty by the Second Intermediate People's Court of Tianjin of lesser charges including corruption and bigamy. Life sentences and suspended death sentences commuted to life after two years are frequently handed down in corruption cases, but death sentences without the chance of reprieve have become rare in recent years. Such sentences are automatically appealed to China's highest court.

Lai was placed under investigation by the ruling Communist Party's corruption watchdog in 2018 and expelled from the party later the same year. In its ruling, the Tianjin court cited the "especially enormous" size of the bribes Lai accepted, saying they exceeded 600 million yuan ($93 million) in one instance. In total, it said Lai collected or sought to collect 1.79 billion yuan ($260 million) over a decade in exchange for abusing his position to make investments, offer construction contracts, help with promotions and provide other favours. ***AP***

Pak SC orders reconstruction of vandalised Hindu temple

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the Evacuee Property Trust Board (EPTB) to start reconstruction of a century-old Hindu temple that was vandalised and set on fire by a mob in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province last week, saying the attack has caused "international embarrassment" to the country.

The apex court, which took notice of the attack and ordered the local authorities to appear before the court on January 5, also directed the board to submit in court details of all functional and non-functional temples and gurdwaras across Pakistan, Dawn newspaper reported.

The attack on the temple in Terri village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Karak district on Wednesday by members of radical Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party (Fazal ur Rehman group) drew strong condemnation from human rights activists and the minority Hindu community leaders.

During the hearing on Tuesday, a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed also directed the EPTB to clear encroachments from temples across the country and take action against officials involved in the encroachments. ***PTI***

Putin, Angela Merkel discuss possible joint vaccine production

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed the possibility of jointly producing coronavirus vaccines in a phone call, the Kremlin said on Tuesday. "Issues of cooperation in combating the coronavirus pandemic were discussed with an emphasis on the possible prospects for joint production of vaccines," the Kremlin said in a statement.

The Kremlin added that an agreement was reached to "continue contacts on the issue" between the two countries' health ministries and specialised agencies. The two leaders also discussed the settlement of the conflict between Kiev and pro-Russian separatist forces in eastern Ukraine, that has largely remained at a standstill since peace accords were signed in 2015.

Both Russia and Germany have recently started mass vaccination drives at home to curb the spread of the coronavirus and avoid reimposing nationwide lockdowns. ***AFP***

FROM PAGE 1

UNDER 'STRAIN', BORIS CANCELS R-DAY VISIT

Last month, Johnson had written to Modi to formally accept his invitation to visit India as Chief Guest at the Republic Day Parade, which was to mark his first major bilateral visit since taking office in 2019 and the first since Britain's formal exit from the European Union (EU) at the end of the Brexit transition period on December 31, 2020.

"I am absolutely delighted to be visiting India next year at the start of an exciting year for Global Britain, and look forward to delivering the quantum leap in our bilateral relationship that Prime Minister Modi and I have pledged to achieve," Johnson said at the time.

"As a key player in the Indo-Pacific region, India is an increasingly indispensable partner for the United Kingdom as we work to boost jobs and growth, confront shared threats to our security and protect our planet," he said.

It followed Modi's invitation to Johnson in a phone call in November 2020, ahead of UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab's precursor tour of India to lay the groundwork for the prime ministerial level talks. Healthcare was among the key sectors of focus during Raab's visit and cooperation in the field of coronavirus vaccines was to also be among the priorities for Johnson's visit.

"As the 'pharmacy of the world' India supplies more than 50 per cent of the world's vaccines, with over a billion doses of the UK's Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine being manufactured at India's Serum Institute in Pune," Downing Street had said when confirming the Johnson's planned India visit.

"Our countries have cooperated closely throughout the coronavirus outbreak to maintain the flow of medical goods for our citizens. The UK has received 11 million face masks and 3 million packets of paracetamol from India during the pandemic, and we continue to work together to keep vital supply chains open," it said.

Trade and investment, defence and security and climate change were among the other priority areas identified on both sides. The coronavirus infection has been raging in the UK for some time owing to a large extent to a new mutant of the virus, which has been found to be more infectious.

England has entered a new lockdown similar to the one in March, with orders to work from home and schools, pubs and restaurants closed. According to the latest data, in England alone, the number of Covid-19 patients in hospitals has increased by nearly a third in the last week, to almost 27,000. That number is 40 per cent higher than the first peak of the pandemic in April.

On December 29, more than 80,000 people tested positive for Covid across the UK - a new record - and the number of deaths is up by 20 per cent over the last week.

FIRST COVID SHOT BY JAN 13 LIKELY

"Then the system electronically allows session allocation...the beneficiary has been vaccinated this will also be digitally captured and he will be given this information digitally when he has to come for the next dose. They will also get an acknowledgement, a unique health ID would also be generated," he said.

Bhushan said Co-WIN will have a provision that one can create a unique health ID and "you can keep the acknowledgement in a digi locker which is free or on your phone".

"In case of an adverse event, to ensure its real time reporting there is a provision in Co-WIN vaccine delivery management system," he said.

Bhushan further said that Co-WIN has the facility of automated session allocation, Aadhaar authentication to prevent malpractice, creation of Unique Health ID for willing beneficiaries, reporting and tracking of adverse events following immunisation, if any, SMSes in 12 languages to guide beneficiaries and vaccinators, QR code-based vaccination certificate issued after all doses, DigiLocker integrated for data retrieval and storing QRcode-based certificate, 24x7 Helpline including IT professionals.

The Health Secretary also refuted reports that the Union government has banned the export of any one of the Covid-19 vaccines.

"When I say Union Government, it means there are three Ministries --- Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with the Ministry of Commerce and Directorate General of Foreign Trade -- which can initiate, in a hypothetical scenario, such an action."

"But none of them has taken any such action. Therefore, our request to our media friends would be that we should be on guard when such misinformation is sought to be spread," Bhushan said.

SII, BHARAT BIOTECH VOW SYNERGY FOR COVID SHOTS' SMOOTH ROLLOUT IN INDIA

The joint statement follows a tweet by Poonawala on Tuesday afternoon: "I would like to clarify two matters; as there is confusion in the public domain, exports of vaccines are permitted to all countries and a joint public statement clearing up any recent miscommunication with regards to Bharat Biotech will be made."

Taking strong exception to Poonawala's Monday's jibe that except three all other vaccines were like water, Dr Ella had lashed out at him as well as his detractors criticising the fast-track granting of EUA to his vaccine Covaxin.

However, the Progressive Medicos and Scientists Forum, a national association of doctors and scientists, was not impressed. The Forum said it suspects that clearance granted to the vaccines by the DCGI shows that profit and political gains have taken precedence over science.

In a statement, the group said, "India was quick to criticise China and Russia for emergency approvals without efficacy data but failed to exercise diligence when its turn arrived."

SC CLEARS CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT IN 2:1 VERDICT

The majority 425-page judgement of Justice Khanwilkar dealt with several aspects and objections raised in as many as 10 petitions including the one filed by Rajeev Suri.

"We are equally compelled to wonder if we can jump to put a full stop on the execution of policy matters in the first instance without a demonstration of irreparable loss or urgent necessity, or if we can guide the Government on moral or ethical matters without any legal basis. In light of the settled law, we should be loath to venture into these areas," the majority verdict said.

"We need to say this because in the recent past, the route of public/social interest litigation is being increasingly invoked to call upon the court to examine pure concerns of policy and sorts of generalised grievances against the system. No doubt, the courts are repositories of immense public trust and the fact that some public interest actions have generated commendable results is noteworthy, but it is equally important to realise that courts operate within the boundaries defined by the Constitution. We cannot be called upon to govern," Justice Khanwilkar and Justice Maheshwari said.

While Justice Sanjiv Khanna -- who delivered a dissenting verdict -- said the change in land use and environmental clearances given to the project were "bad in law". Justice Khanna, wrote a dissenting 179-page judgement on aspects relating to public participation in the decision-making process and on alleged failure on the part of the authorities in taking prior approval of the HCC for the project.

"Since I have reservations with the opinion expressed by my esteemed brother AM Khanwilkar on the aspects of public participation on the interpretation of the statutory provisions, failure to take prior approval of the Heritage Conservation Committee and the order passed by the Expert Appraisal Committee, I have penned down a separate dissenting judgment," Justice Khanna said. He concurred however with the majority verdict on the aspects of "notice inviting bid, award of consultancy and the order of the Urban Arts Commission, as a standalone and independent order". Justice Khanna, however, agreed with the majority on the aspect of notice inviting bid for the project, award of the contract and order of urban commission.

The Central Vista revamp, announced in September 2019 envisages a new triangular Parliament building, with a seating capacity for 900 to 1,200 MPs, that is to be constructed by August, 2022 when the country will be celebrating its 75th Independence Day. The common Central Secretariat is likely to be built by 2024 under the project.

A number of petitions challenged the construction of Central Vista project in the Lutyen's zone, alleging certain violations, including change in land use and environmental compliances.

The petitioners, including activist Rajeev Suri, have challenged various permissions given to the project by the authorities, including the nod for change of land use. They have questioned the project over environmental clearance granted to the project and the historical value of the existing building.

Another petitioner, Lt Col (retd) Anuj Srivastava, challenged the public hearings held to raise objections to the exercise, arguing that they were a mere formality devoid of any meaningful consequence.

CHINA TRIED TO CHANGE STATUS QUO IN LADAKH

"Braving inclement weather, the Indian troops continue to be deployed on these heights. Advance Winter Stocking (AWS) and winter preparations for the enhanced strength has been completed and troops are well entrenched to counter any misadventure by Chinese forces," the review said.

While the Indian Army is prepared for any eventuality, talks are also progressing to resolve the issue in an amicable manner, it said.

It was in an apparent reference to the groundwork now for the ninth round of Corps Commander level talks in the coming days. The last round was held on November 6.

Incidentally, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh last week said talks between the two sides for disengagement and de-escalation have not given positive results.

The review also said the IAF's heavy-lift planes altered the dynamics of "force posturing" in the Ladakh sector "by mobilising huge quantum of war-waging machinery along with battle-ready troops in quick time-frames".

The Indian Army swiftly moved and occupied a series of key heights to prevent the PLA from grabbing Indian territory on the southern bank in a stealthy midnight move on August 29.

The Indian Army now controls ridge-line positions on the southern bank of Pangong Tso that allow it to completely dominate the sector and keep an eye on Chinese military activity. The Indian Army has also taken control of key heights overlooking the PLA's deployments on the Finger 4 ridgeline on the northern bank of Pangong Tso where rival soldiers are deployed barely a few hundred metres from each other.

At present, more than one lakh troops from both the sides are facing each other at the nearly 1,700 km long LAC in Ladakh sector. Given the situation, the Indian security establishment has enhanced its capabilities all along the 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the east to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat earlier this week reviewed the operational preparedness during his two-day visit to forward air bases and army on the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.

NOW, SPORTS MINISTER QUITS MAMATA GOVT

Sources said he however would not quit as an MLA because "I was elected by the people and I cannot betray them … so I will continue to work for them till my entire term." Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who immediately accepted Shukla's resignation ruled out any "misunderstanding," in the party saying "he quit because he wants to work for sports particularly his cricket …

There is nothing wrong in it if he wants to do so. We wish him success."

His resignation comes within a fortnight of his senior colleague Suvendu Adhikary quitting the Ministry and party to join the saffron outfit. While Suvendu's father Sisir Adhikary a veteran MP and former Union Minister and second brother Dibyendu also an MP were still in the TMC, his youngest brother Soumendu a municipal chairman joined the BJP.

Shukla's resignation came on a day when another senior Minister Rajiv Banerjee skipped the Cabinet meeting for the second consecutive time on Tuesday.

Banerjee who has openly spoken against nepotism in the party where "undeserving people even of questionable conduct get priced positions just because they excel in the art of sycophancy," did not attend Tuesday's Cabinet meeting despite being asked to do so by senior leaders like Sougato Roy. The triumvirate of Banerjee, Shukla and Dalmiya come from the same Howrah district though inside sources in the party said they were not acting in mutual connivance.

Welcoming Shukla's resignation State BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said, "Shukla is a good human being and also a known cricket personality. We will welcome him if he wants to join the BJP. But for that he will have to adopt our ideology and shun the ideological fallacy that the TMC represents."

EXPECTATIONS 2021

Consumer behaviour is evolving with increasing preference for personalised, round-the-clock and customised content that ed-tech platforms offer for the child's sustainable growth. YOGESH MAKKAR lists the predictions and expectations from the sector in the New Year

The year 2020 has been a significant year for the education sector. Though every industry across the globe has undergone a substantial transformation due to COVID-19, the way it has disrupted education and benefitted ed-tech makes it worth to call 2020 a watershed year for the education sector.

To start with, the year saw an increased focus of education fraternity and governments on e-learning and the recognition that technology integration is vital to make education easily accessible, affordable, and personalised. Additionally, 2020 has been remarkable for ed-tech as it continues to disrupt the way education is delivered and consumed. There has been a significant increase in online courses, e-learning platforms, upskilling programs, and video conferencing tools.

Consumer behaviour is evolving with increasing preference for personalised, round-the-clock, and customised content that ed-tech platforms offer for the child's sustainable growth. As we enter a new year, let us dig deep into significant education system changes so far and expectations from 2021.

COVID-19 impact on education industry

E-learning is easily accessible, flexible, time-saving, convenient, and the best way to educate the masses. The benefits of e-learning, its potential, and its approach are known to everyone now as both seekers and providers switched to the safe confines of e-learning during the sudden outbreak of a pandemic. Instead of buckling under the uncertainty of the pandemic's impact, the educational fraternity created a new space on the back of this unprecedented situation.According to NASSCOM, e-learning companies have benefitted immensely, and the industry is expected to reach $3.5 bn by 2022. This is a significant rise from the earlier expected range of $2.8- $3.2 bn.

Emerging ed-tech a boon for learners and educators

In 2021, the ed-tech entrepreneurs' primary expectations revolve around improving the accessibility to education - covering a large number of masses from remote areas and promoting digital versions of textbooks that are cheaper to purchase. As e-learning can deliver education even to the outlying areas, it can help overcome challenges related to accessibility to education. Additionally, the ability to tailor technology as per individual needs is revolutionary for those with disabilities.

Further, the lack of teacher supervision during home tests is an issue of concern for parents and educators. However, ed-tech can efficiently handle this challenge by helping teachers analyse data on how digital textbooks are consumed and enhance the teaching and learning methodology accordingly. Some apps let teachers conduct quizzes and generate immediate results, allowing them to monitor every student effectively and evaluate their progress.

Tech trends in education industry

With the incorporation of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality in the education system, the traditional classroom learning experience has undergone a tremendous change. It makes learning an immersive experience and incredibly useful to explain complex subjects; for example, it helps students view enhanced versions of the objects on their tablets, unlike hands on experiments in the lab. AR and VR are making unexpected changes in the education system by helping students experience something while reading about it. It will be interesting to see the advancements it infuses in 2021.

Further, gamification technology's adoption will gain popularity because of its unique and innovative concepts like incentive-based learning, likes, level advancement badge, etc. It will enhance the learner experience and drive user engagement by designing a more customised offering.

Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Cloud-Based Learning are other significant trends ruling the education industry. Every learner has a different learning capacity, rate, interest, and tactics for grabbing information. The ed-tech industry is continuously and rapidly adapting to the learner's evolving behavior by analysing, understanding, and developing custom content and tests using big data and artificial intelligence. They will play a more prominent role in the future and help ed-tech form strategic associations with educational institutions. Additionally, cloud technology allows access to resources stored in a virtual environment, anytime and anywhere, from various forms of web-enabled devices. To offer enhanced access to learning resources, more and more ed-tech companies will incorporate cloud technology.

Summing up

The trends mentioned above will together help the education industry deliver the most relevant content and resources. Further, as more people stay glued to e-learning, 2021 is expected to be a year of exponential growth for the ed-tech industry.

The writer is Founder and Director, Kapdec

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results.
— John Dewey

SRMJEEE registration begins

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, (earlier known as SRM University) begins the online registration process for its BTech entrance exam, SRMJEEE (SRM Joint Engineering Entrance Examination). Qualifying in SRMJEEE provides entry to all the campuses of SRMISTlocated at Kattankulathur (Main Campus), Vadapalani, Ramapuram, and Delhi-NCR; SRM University, Andhra Pradesh; SRM University, Sonepat — Haryana and SRM University, Sikkim. For further details visit *www.srmist.edu.in.*

Admissions to BTech programme is only through the common entrance exam, SRMJEEE 2021, which is scheduled to be held in the second week of April, 2021 in 127 Indian cities and five countries (Dubai, Doha, Muscat, Bahrain, and Kuwait). Last year, there was an overwhelming 1.52 lakhs of candidates who participated to gain entry to India's No.1 multi-stream university.

Entrance examination date and joint counselling dates will be announced in due course as per AICTE, UGC and Government notifications.

Candidates applying should have secured a minimum aggregate of 50 percent in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry/Biology for all campuses except for SRM University,Andhra Pradesh which requires the minimum aggregate of 60 per cent in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics in Class 12 or other equivalent qualifying examinations. The admission would be based on SRMJEEE rank, subject to the eligibility criteria.

Indians and non-resident Indians can apply for SRMJEEE 2021. NRI candidates who qualify in SRMJEEE 2021 and thosewho also go through regular counselling will be treated as domestic applicants for all the four years. NRI candidates appearing for SRMJEEE 2021 can switch to direct admission under International Category in case of being unable to secure the desired course in the joint counselling by paying International fee. NRI candidates also have the option of directly applying under the International Admission Category to get admission to any program without taking SRMJEEE 2021 by paying the international tuition and other fees.

SRMIST has an enviable track record of 8500+ job offers with a top salary of ₹41.6 LPA, the highest pay by any university for the graduating batch 2019-20. Around 625+ Top-notch companies, including Microsoft, Amazon, IBM, CISCO, Siemens, PayPal, Accenture, Capgemini, Hewlett Packard, TCS, Infosys, Cognizant, Wipro, ABB, L&T, Ford, TVS, Schneider, Renault Nissan, Cerner, GT Strategies, Ford, Bioclinica, and Zifo among many others, visit SRMIST every year to recruit our students.

The university offers a wide range of scholarships to the tune of ₹35 crores making studying in the university affordable to all. To apply and for more details, kindly visit *www.srmist.edu.in.*

Be a true leader

Modern leaders not only instruct but also listen, collaborate, encourage growth and help the team members, says NISHA PARIKH

It's no rocket science to figure out that behind every successful venture, there is an extraordinary group of leaders. But you don't become a leader within a day. Great leaders come from varied walks of life. They seldom follow any specific predetermined path to attain leadership. While some are 'born leaders', the rest of them overcome obstacles and failures all along the way to become one. Leadership skills are intrinsic qualities that are hugely tough to cultivate and requires a struggle to develop.

Gone are the days where the boss gives instructions and expects his subordinates to follow them blindly. Modern leaders not only instruct but also listen, collaborate, encourage growth, and help the team members. These leaders work tirelessly each passing day to scale, empower, and uphold the prestige of their organisations. During a crisis, leaders remain at the forefront while directing their organisations to overcome the crisis. They take the responsibility and ownership of the organisation and do what is best for their organisations. They commence everything by changing their attitudes and building strength.

The significance of leadership in organisational development is simply unparalleled. Below listed are some of the fundamental ways through which leaders can support and uphold their organisations-

Leaders create leaders: Many people believe that leaders need followers. But the truth is that real leaders create more leaders and not followers. Modern leaders no more measure their influence by the number of followers they have. In stable times, aligning the organisation around the vision of a single leader seems focused and convenient. Everything can be controlled by a single hand in the right direction, right speed, and at the right time. But in difficult times, the ability to adapt becomes predominant. The ability to change is limited to an organisation of followers. Led by a single leader, the team might find difficulty in adapting to new customer needs, new technologies, economic environments, competitions etc. On the contrary, leaders who create more leaders can quickly adapt to the change. In this way, the workload gets reduced on the leader. Increased productivity, growth, and confidence is built assuring the well-being and growth of the organisation.

Visionary leadership: Leaders inspire and encourage team members in visionary leadership to achieve crucial yet rewarding goals and objectives. These leaders empower their teams so profoundly that employees figure out themselves the way to accomplish their unified goals. If a team is committed, they can accomplish incredible work. But if the team isn't heading in the right direction towards organisational success, they will be viable. Without setting the objectives or involving them in the process, no team can succeed. Furthermore, leaders must assist individuals to associate their vision of the organisation and work according to the objectives of the team.

Leaders listen, defend and help: The most important skill a leader has to master is listening. It signals the foundation of good relationships with employees as it clearly articulates that leaders truly care for them. The quality of listening determines leaders' quality of influence. Although it sounds easy, listening is a tough skill to master. Another significant skill is standing up for team members whenever they need help. By defending people, a long-term commitment, trust, credibility, and loyalty can be established that further boost the confidence levels of the team members.

Teamwork: Exceptional teamwork is the sole aspect that hugely contributes to an organisation's success. Leaders begin by forming a team of skilled people who perform the task like a pro. The second step that leaders ought to do is to make their expectations known. Assuming that each team member knows what exactly needs to be done is wrong. The most important step the leader should do is to encourage teamwork.

The writer is VP — HR & Marketing, Telebu

Future is bright

AI will be the catalyst that will drive growth cycle for the semiconductor sector. PVG MENON tells you how one can make a career in the field

Given today's rapid technological innovation, the semiconductor industry can look forward to growth. The semiconductor industry has been a pioneer in digitisation since its inception, offering digital services and pursuing new digital business models. Today, other industries, notably automotive, have clearly outpaced the semiconductor industry in terms of digitisation. That's ironic, given that automakers' own success in digitisation has been largely supported by the products made by the semiconductor industry. Now, artificial intelligence will likely be the catalyst that will drive another decade-long growth cycle for the semiconductor sector.

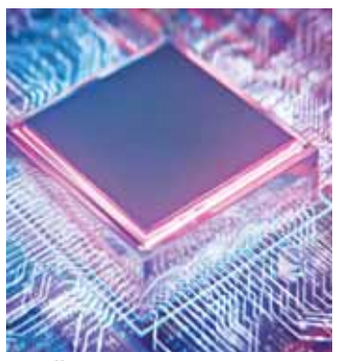
Many employers prefer that semiconductor processors have an associate's degree in a field such as microelectronics. These programmes are usually offered at community colleges. Students should take science and engineering courses, such as chemistry, physics, and classes in electronic circuits. ESSCI have developed many Qualification Packs in the field of Embedded System, IoT , VLSI Design & Verification Engg which can help the candidate in gaining the appropriate knowledge required as per industry demand.

There is an emerging trend of employers preferring semiconductor processors to have a bachelor's degree in engineering or a physical science because of the increasing complexity of the manufacturing plants.

New semiconductor processors need on-the-job training from one month to one year. During this training, a processor learns how to operate equipment and test new chips. Manufacturing microchips is a complex process, and it takes months of supervised work to become fully proficient. Because the technology used in manufacturing microchips is always evolving, processors must continue to be trained on new techniques and methods throughout their careers

While there are a number of career opportunities throughout the semiconductor industry, here are a few types of positions that we typically recruit for within the industry.

Field Service Engineer: As a Field Service Engineer, you will be responsible for quality machine installation and maintenance service of complex electro-mechanical systems; analytical troubleshooting of technical problems to component level; and performing complete installation, maintenance services, and technical reporting.



Equipment Technician: In this role, you will perform electrical and mechanical troubleshooting and preventative maintenance on semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

Test Technician: Test Technicians are responsible for mechanical and/or electrical testing of materials, devices, and products as well as test fixturing and general test equipment maintenance.

The writer is CEO, ESSCI

Accolades for Widhya

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra University's e-Hub incubated e-Learning start-up Widhya, is now a part of the fastest growing startup and innovation ecosystem in India, T-Hub. Widhya is an e-learning platform for students to get industrial experience without having to work at a company.

Widhya partners with various organisations, takes projects from them and puts it out for its learners to solve. What is interesting is that, this isn't traditional video-based approach that has been adopted by a large number of the e-learning players. Widhya is India's first real gamified platform for e-learning.

"We are happy that a start-up incubated by us at Mahindra University is winning accolades and is now being mentored and fast-tracked by T-Hub. We at Mahindra E-hub help students bring out proof of concept, mentor the students and showcase their strengths and opportunities to industry experts, mentors and investors. We work closely with startups to bring them to a critical mass at the beta phase with testing and trials, so that they can take off with ease once they get to the stage of formal launch. We are glad that in a short time, we've been able to help many startups and each success story motivates us to go far", says Dr. Yajulu Medury, Vice Chancellor, Mahindra University.

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham signs Mou with Esri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, ranked the fourth Best Overall University in India in NIRF 2020, has inked an MoU with Esri India, the market leader in Geospatial Information Systems, to establish a Centre of Geospatial Excellence on Spatial Analysis and Modeling with dedicated facilities for research, development and testing.

The Centre would promote development of specific skills and technical knowhow among academicians, students and the industry around geospatial technologies and latest toolkits like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and geospatial Big Data Analytics. It would conduct certificate and diploma courses, training programs and workshops, particularly around geospatial technology application areas to strengthen multi-hazard risk reduction and community resilience.

Talking about the MoU, Dr Maneesha Sudheer, Dean of International Programs and UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development and Innovation, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, said: "This partnership aims to enhance research and capacity development in Geoinformatics, Spatial Analytics, and Modelling. The collaborative initiatives will work towards sustainable development to address quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), sustainable communities (SDG 11), and climate action (SDG 13) by engaging faculty, bachelors, masters, and PhD students. They will help enhance the existing curriculum and educational material, as well as develop new educational approaches for effective teaching and learning of sustainability initiatives using spatial geoinformatics."

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Esstt/Pre-Primary/Furniture/406/2020/3809 Date:05.01.2021

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed 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, 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/3712/20

The future of education is global, dynamic and in-sync with space and time triggered by unpredictable rapid changes that happen without interruption and notice, says DR YP KOSTA

Anticipate and adapt

Given our present situation, the future of education isn't as dramatic nor so dark to predict. However, before we dive into the future, it is imperative to revisit how education has evolved over time.

Even before the transition into the industrial revolution, education has always been delivered within closed quarters. Initially, due to the lack of access to formalised schooling and higher education institutions, patriarchs transferred all knowledge and skills to their kin, while values and culture were delivered by religious figure heads.

To this effect, the family-sir-name evolved, attributed to the kind of work a family or a community did for a living. Thus, a social routine — a belief, culture, and value; was established.

Next came the Industrial Revolution — the age of mechanisation; involving machines, processes and men, advocating to work in a controlled environment, in a controlled way determined by the factory-settings. Industry reset the status quo as it demanded a fresh new outlook and skill-perspectives.

Industrial needs was the brainchild and revolutionised the concept of schools. With each key advancements toggling the reset button - from mass manufacturing to automation to the present data-revolution. Each of them have changed the way education is consumed and assimilated.

Integration of digital tech is just one amongst the many weaves that constitute the future-education-package. The future-education is global, dynamic and in-sync with space and time, involving complex predictability, triggered by unpredictable rapid changes that happen without interruption and notice.

Future-education-continuum will need to account for anticipation and adaptability implemented at scale with speed. Incorporating these two attributes is really going to be the corporate-view on education. For example, educational institutions which could anticipate and predict volatility due to COVID19 and implement a digital first transformation strategy are leading in terms of threat mitigation due to the following social distancing and lockdown measures.

We predict the present model of classroom style engagement and knowledge delivery will reset to the performing-theatre-stage-model configuration, powerfully networked and synced digitally with data and holographic projections wherein video led community interactions to enable seamless training, skilling, exposure and learning experiences.

Universities will integrate and link with industries, research institutes and digital platforms to offer courses and programmes in a phased flexible graduation timeline that happens through credit accumulation

Futuristically speaking, student and teachers' age-bar may vanish as there has been a huge impetus on lifelong learning. Teaching will continue to extend beyond classrooms and institutions globally. A complex combination of students and teachers belonging to multiple specialities at multiple levels jointly affect education delivery standards.

As the delivery of education is portioned, in terms of knowledge, skills, and behavioural-experiences, and the fact that not all can be best taught by an individual teacher nor within the premises of a fixed located classroom; the students will need to be exposed to a wide ranging mentor network to fulfil the total education-competency requirements. Thus teaching methodology is distributed and so are institutions, universities and teachers.

Heavy investments are now being considered to accelerate virtual classrooms aided by AR and VR tech which fulfils these needs. There is also a huge scope of developing AI assisted teaching assistants which will aid faculty to deliver educational content more effectively, thereby augmenting teaching methodology.

Social scientists and tech entrepreneurs also need to be roped-in so as to bring-in bilateral thinking, self and team management, and techno and economic-managerial concepts amongst learners and to sensitise them to the unique needs of the education sector and simulating genuine faculty-student relationships which are at the core of advancing an individuals learning outcomes.

Most universities will implement technological solutions to be deeply linked, networked and in sync to offer a more robust future and industry ready student, which considering current circumstances and uncertainty is required more than ever.

Universities will integrate and link with industries, research institutions and digital platforms to offer courses and programmes — offering in a phased wise flexible graduation timelines that happen through credit accumulation. Universities, industries and research institutions will jointly design and offer courses and programs and share human and other resources (labs, equipment and infra) to enable delivery.

The writer is Vice-chancellor, Marwadi University

'Schools will look and act differently'

Learning is set to become personalised on the dimension of speed of understanding, interest in different subjects and language of instruction, says SUMEET MEHTA

Sumeet Mehta
CEO & Co-founder, LEAD School

What is the future of edtech sector in India?

There are certain truths that won't likely change for the next 10-20 years. Core education will continue to be offered in schools but schools will look and act very different. There will be far greater permeation of systems and technology to make schools run effectively. Till about 12 years of age, mediated learning (learning assisted by a trusted adult) will continue thus teachers will continue to play an important role till high school but they will need to be enabled by technology. Going forward, learning will become more and more personalised. This personalisation will happen on the dimension of speed of understanding, interest in different subjects and language of instruction.

How do you see the new academic year for students?

The new academic year will signal return to normalcy in terms of timelines. Schools in North and CBSE schools can go back to beginning their academic year in April 2021 whereas schools in West and South can start academic year in June. But when schools re-open, there might be still some parents who are hesitant to send their children to school. Schools should implement hybrid systems that enable both in-school and at-home learning, both in-class and online learning.

What is something that schools should do/ can be done when schools reopen post covid?

Before opening, there has to be a massive confidence building and awareness building drive among parents and the wider community. Schools should put in place measures for student safety, student well-being and hybrid learning. These should be communicated to parents via a dialogue. Parents should be given a choice and those who choose to keep their students at home, should have an option for at-home learning while understanding the limitations of this choice.

What can be done to curb the anxieties of the parents of class 10th students who will be writing their board exams?

The way our education system is currently structured, Class X still plays a disproportionate role on a child's future. Thus it is necessary that over the next three months schools and parents enable children to focus, practice and enable closer teacher assistance where there are gaps

What does the future look like with regard to NEP?

It is very important that we revive the development and growth agenda in education as soon as possible. India has to not only bring back all the students who have suffered massive learning losses in 2020, it also has to ensure it stays focused on improving the quality of learning outcomes in its schools. It will be easy to get busy with survival but true leadership would be to aim high, and bring back students to a new, better normal and not regress to 5 year old levels of poor access and poor outcomes.

What were some of the edtech trends observed in 2020?

Schools woke up to the reality that they are sitting ducks to any disruptive, unforeseen situation because they have been stuck with an age-old technology - paper. Parents woke up to realise that they had been paying for day-care when they thought they were paying for education. Online supplemental has rushed in to fill the value gap. Tuitions were always prevalent in India from the neighbourhood tutor. Online learning as replacements for tuitions, as replacements for physical or centre-based test prep has taken off like a rocket.

MINDIT

Smartphones and various educational apps have bought an unprecedented change in people's lives with what not! A smartphone has a world of its own. The flexibility and affordability of EdTech (Education Technology) affects not only the future of the child, but also the future of the country. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the education system due to the closure of schools and other educational institutions. Lockdown and these critical times have brought a lot of obstacles in the way of students' learning.

On the other hand, this pandemic has given the EdTech industry a fancy opportunity. As people get locked into their homes, online learning applications and home-based technologies work as solutions to all these problems.

The advent of educational applications has made passive recipients of knowledge more active and involved students by providing access to audio, video lessons, images and even virtual fieldtrip. Applications enable students to solve mathematical equations, understand science in an interesting way, easily learn and retain historical information, and acquire knowledge that enriches their knowledge.

They have become omnipresent in classrooms, resulting in learning, test scores as well as attendance improvements. Allen Digital Classroom offers application-based learning and has found tremendous appeal among students by providing study material in a clear, concise and easy-to-understand format.

It provides several high quality video lessons that can be paused and repeated as many times as desired. Also, students can take advantage of it by taking lectures anywhere and anytime of the day and also take the module if necessary. The need for technology has always found a place in education, educational applications have defined all the disadvantages and it has grown to the status it holds today.

Enhanced parent-teacher communication: Learning technologies are instigated in several schools these days. This technology also allows the teachers to teach from their homes and further chat the improvement of the student with their parents. Teachers can appear to the queries of the parents anytime and anywhere through and make knowledgeable decisions concerning the child's growth.

Accessibility of online resources: Online learning technology enables students to gain access to a large library of resources, including books, PDFs, exam papers, and more. These resources help students in their learning process.

Promotes remote learning: Online learning has prearranged the advantage of flexibility in the time and place to study. There is a convenience of using the study materials and resources at all times with the students. This further delivers independence to the students to study at their own pace.

Cost-effective: E-learning technology is more affordable. With access to all students, regardless of their financial and economic background, e-learning tools are available to them at low cost and provide them with quality education.

Live streaming of lectures: Online learning applications enable students to participate in live streaming lectures by teachers and professionals. Students can enjoy real-time doubt resolution through the use of advanced technology. It provides a live experience of fine and quality learning in the comfort of their home. Technology is everywhere. It involves our lives, making it easy and hassle-free. It has created a more comfortable environment than watching on a white board or a single screen where millions of children have been brought under traditional theological educational programs giving them unique opportunities.

The writer is Keshav Maheshwari, Whole-time executive, Allen Career Institute

The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) has consistently worked towardsince 2009, in partnering with Citi has been offering **scholarships to the young promising students who seek advanced training in the field of Hindustani music**. This year, scholarships are being offered for vocal — khayal/dhrupad and percussions — tabla/pakhawaj. The entries are limited to the age group of 18 to 35 years.

Eligibility: Candidate's bio-data will be considered as his/her application for this scholarship. There is NO separate form to be filled. **Age limit:** For khayal/percussions - 18 to 30 years of age (as off 1st March 2021). For dhrupad — 18 to 35 years of age (as on March 1, 2021)

Candidates who are beneficiaries of other scholarship/grant in the field of music during April 2021 to March 2022, are not eligible to apply. Candidates who are full-time /part-time working professionals at any company cannot apply. Professional musicians including those with A'grade from All India Radio are not eligible to apply

How to apply: In order to apply, candidates must send in their application (bio-data on music education) via an email to *ncpascholarships@gmail.com*. Applications received in hard copies through courier will not be accepted. Only the applications received on email id mentioned above will be considered.

Application deadline: It is January 15, 2021.

The National University of Ireland Galway invites applications for the UG merit awards for the academic session 2021/2022.

An undergraduate degree programme in any subject field offered by the university.

Eligibility: You must be a Non-EU candidate, Must have received an offer to study at NUI Galway commencing September 2021 will be considered for these awards.

Supporting documents: Pre-qualification degree; Copies of academic transcripts and award; Certificates of English language proficiency; A statement; A copy of passport.

Admission requirements: Entry requirements may vary from course to course. Please go through this page to get more information in this regard.

Language requirement: The minimum level of English language ability acceptable for entry to a full UG or PG is IELTS and TOEFL.

How to apply: Candidates will be required to submit a personal statement (MS Word, 500 words max) covering: Your interest in studying in NUI Galway; How you foresee your relationship with NUI Galway developing in the future. How you will promote links with NUI Galway, both during your scholarship tenure and as alumni.

Application deadline: It is March 31, 2021.

TRANSLATION (ENGLISH TO HINDI) AT FLIP RETAIL
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6671824
Deadline: January 14, 2021

VIDEO EDITING AT 7FRAMES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6671828
Deadline: January 14, 2021

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT VAYUZ TECHNOLOGIES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6671830
Deadline: January 14, 2021

ONLINE TEACHING (ADVANCED JAVASCRIPT) AT CODINGZEN
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6671831
Deadline: January 14, 2021

CONTENT WRITING (MEDICINE AND NURSING) AT AUGMENT SYSTEMS
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹16,667 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6671833
Deadline: January 14, 2021

BUSINESS DEV (SALES) AT VIBES
Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6671838
Deadline: January 14, 2021

HR EXECUTIVE AT BUSIBUD
Location: Chandigarh, Jaipur
Stipend: ₹20,000-₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6671836
Deadline: January 14, 2021

STUDY ABROAD

Take the start-up visa route

Students completing a degree programme can remain in the UK to look for work and or start a business

At Newcastle University, we offer many opportunities to international students during their studies and for three years after they graduate, whether they want to remain in the UK, return home or emigrate elsewhere.

We welcome the announcement that The Graduate Route is set to launch in 2021. This new scheme will offer an opportunity for students completing a degree programme to remain in the UK to look for work and/or start a business.

The Graduate Route will open in the summer of 2021 to students who have successfully completed a programme at degree level or above. Applicants must in in the UK with tier 4 or student route leave at the time of application.

Successful applicants at degree level will be granted two years leave to remain in the UK. Applicants who have completed a PhD will be granted three years to remain in the UK.

A pre-requisite of the start-up visa route is that the individual's new business must be innovative, viable and scalable with clear plans for profitable growth.

Ravneet Kaur, graduated in 2013 with an International Marketing M.Sc. and co-founded tech start-up Equiwatt with CEO Johnson Fernandes in 2016 after being endorsed by START UP for her Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa.

She and Johnson had previously been accepted onto the Start Up Founderships programme in 2015 to allow them to develop themselves and the business. "As an international student, founderships is one of the greatest things that happened to us. It was a crash course in how to be an entrepreneur and it helped us to connect with regional stakeholders as well as challenging us," Kaur said.

INBRIEF

NON-ROUTINE MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD

Unicus Olympiads, first Online Summer Olympiad Exam, has recently unveiled Non-routine Mathematics Olympiad (UNRMO)for the students of classes 3 to 10. This new Olympiad has been designed to test the students' fundamentals and make them accustomed with non-routine questions in the mathematics examination. The Level 1of the Olympiad is absolutely free of cost for all and has gained quite a momentum in students since its launch.

Non-Routine mathematics examination enables students to expand their thinking ability, creativity, logical reasoning, analytical skills among others. Solving non-routine mathematics questions require students to figure out the concept to be used in a given problem and requires them to attempt the question as per the understanding of the concept. There's no standard way to solve such questions. Students, when they consistently grapple with these challenging problems, they acquire essential problem-solving skills and the confidence to tackle the questions asked.

The Olympiad is a two-level Olympiad Exam and the exams happen in winters.

FREE FUNDAMENTAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAMMES

One of the most common barriers in pursuing upskill programmes is cost. Even after having an option of education loan, people are afraid if they wouldn't be able to pay back the amount. Theefore, Careerera has announced the launch of free fundamental certification programmes which are open to Indian and foreign students.

This series of two-eight hours, depending on the program's duration, will cover key concepts introduced by industry experts. The organisation has a track record of training thousands of professionals successfully via classroom and online training.

It's mission is to be the most preferred destination for quality education in the virtual campus and to demonstrate extraordinary commitment to every individual that it serves. It's programs are the most recognised programmes in the world with 100 per cent placement opportunities. You can begin with your enrollment procedure by submitting the application online.

IP VARSITY OPENS ONLINE REGISTRATION

As a final opportunity to non-admitted candidates of CETs & National Level Tests based programmes, the university has opened online registration for special offline counselling to fill up vacant seats in various programmes. Last date of online registration for the purpose is January 6, 2021.

The offline counselling will be held programme-wise at the university campus from January 7, 2021 onwards on the basis of registered data of willing candidates.

Willing candidates are advised to go through the detailed notification in this regard uploaded on the counselling website *www.ipu.admissions.nic.in* and register online accordingly to avail another chance of admissions.

Rohit to replace Mayank in XI

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The Indian team management is weighing its options for the third pacer's slot with Shardul Thakur and Navdeep Saini in contention but Rohit Sharma is certain to replace Mayank Agarwal at the top of the order against Australia in the third Test starting here on Thursday.

While Agarwal's axing was only a matter of time after seven failures in last eight Test innings, the choice for the third pacer's slot has got a bit tricky with divergent opinions emerging on who could fit the role best in absence of an injured Umesh Yadav.

A few days back, Mumbai seamer and useful lower-order batsman Shardul Thakur was considered a favourite but it is learnt that there are some senior players, who feel that Saini, India's fastest bowler by a distance, could be used to unsettle the wobbly Australian batting line-up with his raw pace.

The Indian team had a net session at the overcast Sydney Cricket Ground on the day and all eyes were on Rohit Sharma, who looked pretty comfortable against both pace and spin.

The decision on the third pacer has been primarily delayed because on Tuesday, the SCG centre strip was covered due to overcast conditions.

On Wednesday, a look at the strip and the conditions will probably help them make a decisive choice.

If the conditions are overcast and there is bit more moisture on the strip, then Thakur is expected to be preferred.

If the track is on the flatter side, Saini, with his pace and ability to reverse the old ball, could prove to be a handful against a batting order that is struggling to put up even 200 runs on the board.

If Saini plays, it will be his debut in the longest format while for Thakur, it would be like a debut as he couldn't even finish his first over when it was officially his debut two years back.

There is a third angle to the pacer's debate and that is Thangarasu Natarajan, who has had a meteoric rise in the past four months and is ready to be handed the red cherry in whites as his tweet after Monday's photo-shoot suggested.

Natarajan has 20 first-class games to his credit and his last longer format appearance was in January, 2020 against Railways on a rank-turner at the Chepauk where Railways were all-out for 76 and 90 largely due to the exploits of spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and R Sai Kishore.

Natarajan bowled a total of 11 overs in that game with three wickets. Whether Natarajan is ready for the arduous bump and grind of Test cricket is the biggest question.

India Expected Squad (from 12 in batting order): Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur/Navdeep Saini.

VVS EXPECTS CENTURY FROM RO

The Australian wickets suit Rohit Sharma's batting style and if he can see off the pacers with the new ball, the Indian vice-captain can conjure a big century in the Sydney Test, reckons former India batsman VVS Laxman.

An injury during the IPL forced Rohit to miss a major part of the Australia tour, where India lost the ODI series, won the T20 assignment and the Test series is locked at 1-1.

"The Indian cricket team will be very pleased to have Rohit Sharma back, especially when Virat is not there. You want more experience in the Indian dressing room, because now is the perfect opportunity for us to go 2-1 in Sydney and then probably win 3-1," Laxman said on *Star Sports'* show *Cricket Connected.*

"Rohit Sharma himself would like to showcase his talent, because I always feel that his style of batting and talent is very suited for the Australian wicket.

"So, if he gets his eye in, if he sees through the new ball, I'm sure that a big hundred is on the cards as far as Rohit's batting is concerned," he added.

Warner, Pucovski will play in Sydney: Langer

PTI ■ SYDNEY

A 'warrior' that he is, David Warner has done everything to be ready and is likely to compete in the third Test against India, Australia head coach Justin Langer said on Tuesday and assured that lack of four-day cricket for the opener in the last few months is not a concern.

Langer also announced that young batsman Will Pucovski will make his Test debut on Thursday.

Both Warner and Pukovski, who was primed for Test debut in Adelaide, missed the first two Tests of the series due to a groin injury and concussion-related issues respectively.

"Very hopeful that David will be ready to go (for the third Test), he is a bit of a warrior, isn't he? I have said this since day one that he is doing everything possible to be ready," Langer said at a virtual media conference.

"He is moving pretty well. He is very determined to play. He loves the competition and he loves playing Test cricket. We will get some final eyes on him at training this afternoon and we will make a discussion on that. But I would say, he (Warner) is looking very likely to play the Test match," he added.

Langer also announced that 22-year-old Pucovski, who was hit on the head during the warm up game against India A, has been cleared to play.

"He has been cleared by all the medicos. He has been cleared and that will be very heartening for him and for his family and everyone involved in it," Langer said.

Langer sought to allay concerns that Warner hasn't played four-day cricket for about 12 months, saying the immense experience that is behind the opener will help him jump into traditional format without any fuss.

"He has played a lot of white-ball cricket recently, a bit like Steve Smith. *Davey* hasn't played any four-day cricket for about 12 months but he is a master of the game. He has played a lot of cricket, his experience will help him, no doubt about that," said Langer.

The coach said they will keep Warner in the slips to help him save energy though he may feel some discomfort while fielding.

"He is going to play with pain though and it is not so much in the muscle but in the tendon area. Like (a) lot of cricketers, who play through different levels of pain, he is willing to take that on and hopefully won't hamper him too much," he added.

Warner had himself last Saturday said he was "highly doubtful" about attaining full fitness ahead of the third Test, though he would possibly do respond to a desperate selection and team management's call.

However, Langer assured that if the Australians felt that there was any risk of re-injuring Warner, then they would have certainly not rushed his return.

"He has had a good rehab, as I said he might be little restricted in the field, he might get that area little-bit fatigued, because he hasn't played Test cricket for a while but we wouldn't take that risk if we thought he would re-injure himself," said Langer.

Rahul out with sprained left wrist

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India batsman K L Rahul was on Tuesday ruled out of the remaining two Tests against Australia after sustaining a wrist injury during training in Melbourne, the BCCI said.

Rahul had not played any match of the ongoing series in which the third Test starts on Thursday.

"KL Rahul sprained his left wrist while batting in the nets at the MCG during Team India's practice session on Saturday," the BCCI said in a statement.

"The wicketkeeper-batsman will not be available for the remaining two Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as he will need about three weeks time to recover completely and regain full strength," it added.

It has been learnt that the stylish right-hander suffered a sprain while facing one of the three throwdown specialists at the nets and had to call off his training session.

For the time being, he will not be able to add to his 36 Test matches although Virat Kohli, before the start of the Test series, had stated that they were looking at Rahul as a middle-order batsman.

Rahul had accompanied the squad to Sydney and on Tuesday left for India.

He will head to the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for rehabilitation.

The injury also puts him in doubt for the four-match home Test series against England, which begins February 5.

Williamson's 238 gives NZ big lead

AFP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

2nd Test. Day 4
Live from 3:30am IST
FANCODE APP

Kane Williamson underscored his ranking as the world's premier batsman with a masterful double century on a landmark on Tuesday as New Zealand took control of the second Test against Pakistan.

In between the showers at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, Williamson was in classic form, batting for nine hours 33 minutes for his 238 and leading New Zealand to an imposing 659/6 declared to lead Pakistan by 362.

At stumps, the tourists were already in trouble at one down for eight, with Kyle Jamieson adding to his five-wicket haul in the first innings by removing Shan Masood for a duck.

Should New Zealand win the Test it will confirm their ranking as the number one side in the world for the first time - to go with Williamson's promotion as the number one batsman - and keep alive their chance of making the World Test Championship final.

It was a relentless performance from Williamson who became only the second New Zealander after Brendon McCullum to score four double centuries.

He should have been out for 177 on the first ball after the first of two rain stoppages, but as has happened several times in the Test the chance was put down - this time by Azhar Ali, who earlier in the day had dropped Henry Nicholls short of his century.

Williamson and Nicholls had rebuilt the innings after New Zealand were reduced to 71/3 on Monday's second day.

By the time Nicholls was dismissed early in the afternoon session for 157, the pair had put on 369, the third-best all-time partnership for New Zealand and a record for the fourth wicket.

Along the way his record innings Williamson followed Ross Taylor and Stephen Fleming to become only the third New Zealander to pass 7,000 runs.

The end came for Williamson three overs before tea when he skied a short ball from Faheem Ashraf and was caught in the deep by Masood. In four innings from three Tests in the past month Williamson has scored 251, 129, 21 and 238.

Nicholls, dropped on 92 and 133, was hampered by a calf strain which left him hobbling between the wickets.

But he was still able to attack, with boundaries producing 48 of his 68 runs on day three, before he top-edged a short ball from Mohammad Abbas and was caught at deep fine leg.

Daryl Mitchell clobbered 102 off 112 balls with Williamson delaying the declaration until the all-rounder posted his first century.

Saini's extra pace makes him better choice at SCG: Nehra

New Delhi: Former India pacer Ashish Nehra believes that Navdeep Saini should be the "first choice" for the third fast bowler's slot in the upcoming third Test against Australia because of his extra pace and ability to extract disconcerting bounce.

While Shardul Thakur and T Natarajan are also in contention, the former left-arm pacer feels the selection of Saini for the Sydney Test, starting Thursday, is a no-brainer if one goes by pure cricketing logic.

"If you look at squad composition, Saini was first choice and Shardul and Natarajan both came in as replacements for Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav," Nehra said on Tuesday.

"So if Saini was ahead of them during initial Test squad selection, I don't see any reason why he would slip down in the pecking order. You selected him first, so obviously you believed he was better than other two. Isn't it," Nehra, known for his plain speaking, said.

He gave his points as to why Saini would be better suited for Sydney.

"Navdeep's biggest asset are bounce and extra pace. This is a Test match. How does Natarajan normally gets his wickets? When people are trying to hit him. Also, you haven't tested Natarajan by playing him for India A like you did with Siraj, who has risen through the ranks," said Nehra.

"Similarly, Navdeep has also come up the ranks having been on multiple red ball tours of India A. In Test matches, batsmen normally don't get out. You have to get them out. That's the difference."

The white-ball games that were held in Sydney indicated that the deck was a flat one and express pace comes in handy on such surfaces.

"On Sydney pitch, you will require a bit more pace and Navdeep has that. There shouldn't be any debate as such. Sydney pitches what I saw during white ball games, it was very flat.

"So when kookaburra seam will flatten out after some time, you will, require that extra pace that Navdeep has and also he can get a bit of reverse swing," said one of his India's finest exponents of swing bowling.

The other factor is the current Australian team's inability to play short-pitched bowling.

"Also this Australian team is susceptible to short-pitched bowling. Navdeep can be used better as he bowls a mean bouncer compared to a Natarajan or Shardul." "His average speed is around 140 but out of the three, Navdeep is best suited to play the Sydney Test match." **PTI**

Proteas complete series sweep

AFP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Dean Elgar with Man of the match and Man of the series trophy **AP**

Dimuth Karunaratne's century could not prevent South Africa from completing a 2-0 series win on the third day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

South Africa won by 10 wickets after Sri Lanka were bowled out for 211 in their second innings. Set to make 67 runs to win, the hosts sealed their victory half an hour after lunch.

Karunaratne, the Sri Lankan captain, made 103 after starting the day on 91. His dismissal started a collapse in which Sri Lanka lost their last six wickets for 35 runs. Lungi Ngidi took 4/44 and fellow fast bowler Lutho Sipamla ripped through the tail to take 3/40.

Karunaratne and Niroshan Dickwella started brightly after Sri Lanka resumed on 150/4. Karunatne went to a 123-ball century with two successive off-side boundaries off Anrich Nortje but an attempted pull off the same bowler looped off a top edge to backward square leg.

Ngidi followed up with the wicket of Dickwella in the next over when a leading edge carried to mid-off and there was minimal resistance from the rest of the batting.

Aiden Markram batted aggressively at the start of the final innings but escaped when he edged a loose drive against Vishwa Fernando with his score on 14 in the last over before lunch. Kusal Mendis dived forward from second slip and appeared to take a good catch but a television review showed he had taken the ball on the bounce.

Markram finished on 36 not out while Dean Elgar followed up his 127 in the first innings with 31 not out. Player of the Series Elgar made 253 runs in the series and was only dismissed twice.

It was South Africa's first Test series win since they defeated Pakistan 3-0 in South Africa in 2018/19. A surprise 2-0 home defeat against Sri Lanka in the same series started a sequence of three successive series losses.

Sri Lanka were hit hard by injuries in South Africa. Four players were injured during the first Test and could not play in Johannesburg, while leading fast bowler Suranga Lakmal and opening batsman Oshada Fernando were unable to play in either match because of injuries.

Captain Quinton de Kock hailed South Africa's first series win in almost two years and praised a young bowling line-up who kept Sri Lanka under pressure for most of the two matches.

Saina unhappy with BWF curbs

PTI ■ BANGKOK

India's Saina Nehwal on Tuesday lashed out at Badminton World Federation for denying the athletes, among other things, access to trainers and physios ahead of the upcoming tournaments in Thailand and urged BWF to address the issues at the earliest.

In a series of tweets, Olympic Bronze-medallist Saina expressed her displeasure at the restrictions imposed by BWF as part of its Covid-19 protocols for the bio-security bubble.

"The physios and trainers cannot meet us during the entire tour after all (al) of us have tested negative? *@bwfmedia @bwf_ac.* 4 weeks of this how is it possible to maintain ourselves. We want to play the tournament in good condition. Please sort this *@bwfmedia*," Saina tweeted.

With March being the cut-off date for Tokyo Olympics qualification, Saina is worried that the lack of proper training might have an impact on her performance.

The former world number one said she tried contacting the BWF, but to no avail.

"Practice only for an hour

Saina Nehwal @NSaina · 3h
The physios and trainers cannot meet us during the entire tour after all of us have tested negative ? @bwfmedia @bwf_ac 4 weeks of this how is it possible to maintain ourselves . We want to play the tournament in good condition. Please sort this @bwfmedia .
Show this thread

Saina Nehwal @NSaina · 3h
No Time for warm ups / taping / cool downs / stretches..we are talking about the best players in the world competing isn't it ? We've spent a lot of money getting the physios and trainers along with us . If they can't help us then why was this not told before ? @bwfmedia

Saina Nehwal @NSaina · 3h
Tried contacting @bwfmedia but no reply .. so had to do this ..

everyday for the entire team? Gym timings the same ... Considering March being the important Olympic qualification period this is not good enough to be in good shape."

An Indian contingent is currently in the Thai capital to take part in the BWF World Tour Finals and two Super 1000 events.

In another tweet, Saina wrote, "No Time for warm ups / taping / cool downs / stretches..We are talking about the best players in the world competing isn't it?

"We've spent a lot of money getting the physios and trainers along with us. If they can't help us then why was this not told before?"

Ings' stunner down Liverpool

AFP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Jurgen Klopp admitted Liverpool are suffering a "rusty moment" after a 1-0 defeat at Southampton extended the defending champions' winless run in the Premier League to three games.

Danny Ings's stunning second-minute goal earned three points which moved Southampton into sixth and led to Saints manager Ralph Hasenhuttl breaking into tears of joy on the final whistle.

Liverpool remain top of the table on goal difference over Manchester United, but have now played a game more than the Red Devils, who they face in their next league game at Anfield on January 17.

"That's a rusty moment we have to admit it," said Klopp, whose side last failed to win in three straight Premier League games back in May 2018.

A first league defeat in three months may hasten Liverpool's search for a centre-back in the January transfer window.

Without the injured Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Joel Matip, Klopp started two of his first-choice midfielders from their title-winning campaign, Fabinho and Jordan Henderson, together at the heart of his defence.

Southampton had not scored in their last three games to temper their hopes of a push for European football, but took just two minutes to break the deadlock in style through former Liverpool striker Ings.

Trent Alexander-Arnold did not deal with James Ward-Prowse's angled free-kick into the box and Ings perfectly hooked his shot over Alisson Becker into the far corner.

Southampton had key absentees themselves with goalkeeper Alex McCarthy missing due to a positive test for coronavirus, while Oriol Romeu, Jannik Vestergaard and Che Adams were out injured.

Fraser Forster was making his first Saints appearance since May 2019, but the former England international was rarely tested to earn his clean sheet.

The visitors could easily have found themselves 2-0 down before the break when Southampton substitute Nathan Tella was inches away from his first senior goal.

If Klopp's men were too passive in the first-half, they started the second-half with the intensity they have made their trademark in recent seasons as Southampton were pinned inside their own half.

Sadio Mane was the visitors' biggest threat on his return to St Mary's as Jack Stephens made a last-ditch challenge to block his route to goal before Kyle Walker-Peters was lucky to escape without conceding a penalty for obstructing another burst from the Senegalese into the box.

Thiago Alcantara was making just his second Liverpool start since a much-anticipated move from Bayern Munich, but even the Spaniard's range of passing could not cut through Southampton's determined defence.

"I started believing we can do it in the 92nd minute, not earlier," said Hasenhuttl. "They are so strong in front you always believe something can happen. We had to have a perfect game-plan today and luck. Without luck against such a team you cannot win."