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**USUAL SUSPECTS**
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Farm protest aim is to put Modi Govt on back foot

The stir in and around the national Capital, Delhi, with farmers from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh teaming up with professional agitators who were earlier sighted at last year's protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, has, predictably, attracted huge attention. Unlike the stereotype of "peasant" agitations, the protesters aren't from the most impoverished sections of society. If the analysis of economist Surjit Bhalla is right, the sight of quaint old men and feisty ladies, not to mention itinerant Nihangs, shivering in the winter rain but determined to fight for their entitlements is real but also deceptive.

Using official data, Bhalla has strengthened the impression that the movement isn't really born of economic desperation but stems from a dogged defence of existing privileges. It is a movement against reforms.

According to Bhalla, the top 2 lakh farmers of Punjab and Haryana have incomes that are among the top eight per cent, both rural and urban. More significant, the top 20,000 farmers have incomes that are in the top two per cent. Apart from the fact that agricultural income is free of income tax, wheat farmers enjoy a higher rate of return from rice farmers. Using data from the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices, he has calculated that "an average rice-farmer in India gets a return of 90 per cent over costs excluding family labour; an average wheat farmer obtains a return of 161 per cent." Furthermore, the profits are markedly different across regions. "The Punjab farmer has the lowest cost of production, approximately 75 per cent of average for wheat and 59 per cent of all-India average for paddy. The yields are also higher, with the net result that the Punjab-Haryana large farmer earns ₹1.25 lakh per year per hectare from cultivation of wheat and paddy." Additionally, the average holding of the 197,000 top farmers in Punjab and Haryana is 6.3 hectares. At "₹1.25 lakh per hectare, this translates into an annual tax-free income of ₹7.9 lakh." The largest farmers, with holdings of 12.6 hectares on an average are estimated to have agricultural income of approximately ₹15.75 lakh annually.

The ongoing agitation is an instrument to put the Modi Government on the back foot. The calculation is that if Modi steps back, it will have a knock-on effect and reduce the Government's appetite for future reforms. And, if the reforms are halted, the Modi Government will lose its momentum and, like the UPA-2, merely go through the motions for the rest of its second term

have means of securing the Minimum Support Price for wheat and rice, there is a natural attraction for the deregulation of the market and liberation from the middlemen who are the only real beneficiaries of the old APMC Act. The enacted reforms are also likely to spur investments in agro-industries, including cold storages. These investments have so far been patchy owing to laws against "hoarding"—restrictions that were put in place during the era of food shortages.

Secondly, the support extended to the agitating farmers by a galaxy of economists who had earlier been pressing on Governments to undertake the most challenging of economic reforms may seem puzzling. It confirms that the objection is less to the song than the singer. This may explain why a substantial body of the orphaned Left has rallied behind a cause that in earlier decades would have been debunked as kulak.

Finally, the ongoing agitation is an instrument to put the Modi Government on the back foot. This, again, is a natural goal of the Opposition which is yet to fully recover from the drubbing in the 2019 general election. The Opposition had begun 2020 by instigating a Muslim revolt against the Citizenship Amendment Act. This fulfilled a short-term function during the Delhi Assembly election the BJP lost miserably, but its all-India objective was stymied by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. During the lockdown, there was also an attempt to use the panic among migrant workers for partisan ends. However, this too had limited success, as was evident from the absence of any backlash during the Bihar Assembly election. The farmers' agitation in Punjab and Haryana is another roll of the dice. The calculation is that if Modi steps back, it will have a knock-on effect and reduce the Government's appetite for future reforms. And, if the reforms are halted, the Modi Government will lose its momentum and, like the UPA-2, merely go through the motions for the rest of its second term.

The extent to which the Prime Minister has become a personal target for those who seek to put the quest for political power above reforms should not be underestimated. Whereas earlier Governments had tried to manage reforms by stealth, Modi has expended his enormous political capital to accelerate the pace of change in India. Whether it is the expansion of banking services to reach the lowest layers of society, managing the introduction of GST and increasing the quantum of tax compliance through a combination of carrot and stick, the Prime Minister has pushed through reforms relentlessly. He has always believed that he has the political mandate to usher change. Nor has he been afraid of the political fracas that invariably results from change. He has confronted challenges headlong, even if it has involved local difficulties. Modi, it would seem, has repeatedly threatened the cosy world of those who are comfortable in a world where stagnation and the status quo go hand in hand.

COVID VACCINATION FROM JAN 16

Modi terms it landmark step in fight against Covid-19; rollout date chosen as festivals will be over by Jan 15

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two days after celebrating Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Magh Bihu, etc, India will kick off the much-awaited anti-coronavirus vaccination drive from January 16, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi terming the news as a "landmark step forward in fighting Covid-19".

The decision to launch the vaccination programme from next Saturday was taken hours after the Prime Minister chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials to review the Covid situation in the country and finalise vaccine rollout details.

It was felt that since people will be busy celebrating their local festivals beginning January 13, it will be difficult to rope them for the inoculation drive. January 16 was chosen to ensure everything goes smoothly, said a senior official from the Union Health Ministry.

Earlier in the day, Modi at the inaugural address of the 16th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention via video-conferencing said that "India is self-reliant in the battle against the novel coronavirus pandemic. India used to import PPE kits,

masks, ventilators, and testing kits from outside but today our nation is self-reliant. Today India is ready to save humanity with two 'Made in India' Covid-19 vaccines."

The plan to roll out the jabs comes days after two rounds of dry run across the country and approval of the two vaccines — Serum Institute of India's Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin which have been given emergency use authorisation or accelerated approval by the top drug regulator.

The Centre said that in the first phase starting from January 16, nearly 30 million healthcare and frontline workers will be inoculated, followed by those above 50 years of age and the under-50 population groups with co-morbidities.

"The rollout of Covid-19 vaccine will provide priority to the healthcare workers and the frontline workers who are estimated to be around 3 crore, followed by those above 50 years of age and the under-50 population groups with co-morbidities numbering around 27 crore," the Centre said in a release here.

The Prime Minister had chaired a meeting on Saturday to review the status of the coronavirus pandemic in the



country along with the preparedness of the States and Union Territories (UTs) for the vaccination drive. The meeting was attended by Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to PM, Health Secretary, the release added.

"After the detailed review, it was decided that in view of the forthcoming festivals including Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Magh Bihu, etc, the vaccination will start from 16th January 2021," the release said.

During the meeting, Modi was briefed about the preparedness status of the Centre in close collaboration with States and UTs for rolling out vaccine doses in near future and was also informed about the Co-Win app.

- In the first phase starting from January 16, nearly 30 million healthcare and frontline workers will be inoculated, followed by those above 50 years of age and the under-50 population groups with co-morbidities
- Co-Win is a digitised platform that will provide real-time information of vaccine stocks, storage temperature, and individualised tracking of beneficiaries of the vaccine. Over 7.9 million beneficiaries have been registered on the app
- Over 61,000 programme managers, 200,000 vaccinators, and 3,70,000 other vaccination team members have been trained so far as part of the training at the States, districts, and block levels

Of 33K fliers from UK, only 5K traced; strain cases rise to 90 in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government on Saturday said that a total of 90 persons have been detected with the new "more transmissible" UK coronavirus mutant strain. They are kept in physical isolation in health facilities. Of 33,000 UK fliers who arrived in India from November 25 to December 23 last year, the Government has been able to trace just 5,000 passengers.

Health experts say that there may be many more within the community who might be acting as super spreaders as they are yet not in the detection radar. The new cases have mostly been reported from Maharashtra — Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Nagpur, Nashik, Aurangabad, Raigad.

On Friday, Madhya Pradesh reported its first case of the new mutated strain from the UK. The patient, a 39-year-old man, had returned to Indore from the UK last month and has tested positive for the new coronavirus strain. Officials say he is asymptomatic.

A day earlier, three more people were found positive with the new UK-variant of Covid-19 in Maharashtra, taking the State's tally to 11. Officials said all the 11 cases were asymptomatic.

As of January 6, the number of people who had tested positive for the new UK variant was 73 while on December 30, six cases were found to be infected with the new variant of the virus known as "N501Y".

Delhi bans import of live birds, poultry market shut

24 crows found dead in Jasola park; Sanjay Lake, Hastsal Park, gardens closed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the bird flu scare, import of live birds has been banned in Delhi and Ghazipur poultry market will remain closed for the next ten days. Besides, the Delhi Government has shut Sanjay Lake, Hastsal Park, two other recreational gardens in Delhi after 24 crows were found dead in Jasola park and 10 ducks at Sanjay Lake.

Noting that there is no confirmed case of avian influenza in Delhi so far, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said samples have been sent to Jalandhar laboratory. He also said a 24-hour helpline has been set up for assistance.

On Friday, the Centre said bird flu has been confirmed so far in six States — Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat.

Meanwhile, at least 24 crows have been found dead at a district park in South Delhi's Jasola in the past three days and



Ducks at Sanjay Lake in New Delhi on Saturday

10 ducks have died at the famous Sanjay Lake, officials said on Saturday.

The DDA, which owns a

large number of parks in the city, said authorities are monitoring the situation closely.

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900 hens die at Maha dist farm

Aurangabad: As many as 900 hens have died at a poultry farm in Murumba village in Parbhani district of Maharashtra, a senior official said on Saturday. Their samples have been sent for investigation to identify the exact cause of the death, Parbhani district collector Deepak Mulgikar told PTI.

Over 150 crows found dead in Jammu region

Jammu: Over 150 crows were found dead in three districts of Jammu region triggering a bird flu scare and samples have been sent for testing to a wildlife lab in Punjab, officials said.

The bird deaths have been reported from Udhampur, Kathua and Rajouri districts since Thursday, they said.

Modi-led body to celebrate 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level committee, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been constituted to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in a "befitting manner".

A notification to this effect was issued on Saturday by the Ministry of Culture in which 85 members, including the PM, have been named, which will decide on the activities for a one-year-long commemoration, beginning January 23.

The committee will comprise eminent citizens, historians, experts, family members of Netaji and persons associated with the Azad Hind Fauj.

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PLA soldier in Indian custody for transgressing LAC in Pangong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army has apprehended a Chinese soldier in the areas of South of Pangong Tso (lake) in Eastern Ladakh where a stand-off between the two armies is on for the last nine months. The soldier transgressed across the LAC in India. His interrogation is on. This is the second such incident since October last year.

"During early hours of January 8, a Chinese soldier was apprehended on the Indian side of the LAC, in Ladakh, in area South of Pangong Tso lake. The People Liberation Army (PLA) soldier had transgressed across the LAC and was taken into custody by Indian troops deployed in this area," the Army said here on Saturday.

10 infants immolated at Maha hospital

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking incident, ten infants — aged between one and three months — were killed in the wee hours of Saturday, when a massive fire broke out in a Government hospital at Bhandara in eastern Maharashtra.

The fire — triggered prima facie by a short-circuit — broke out at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the District General Hospital at Bhandara around 1.30 am. Before long, fire and smoke engulfed the newborn care unit.

A nurse who was among the two nurses and one helper present at that time in the NICU raised an alarm, prompting other nurses, doctors and other hospital members to rush to the scene.

KYC needed only for cash purchase of jewellery above ₹2L: Govt

New Delhi: The department of revenue (DoR), Ministry of Finance has clarified that any purchase of gold, silver, jewellery, or precious gems and stones below ₹2 lakh does not require permanent account number (PAN) or Aadhaar of a customer as mandatory Know Your Customer (KYC) document.

Sources said the notification, issued under PML Act on December 28, 2020, is a requirement of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Dealers in Precious Metals and Precious Stones (DPMS) to carry out KYC and customer due diligence only when they conduct cash transactions above ₹10

lakh. "This is a requirement of Financial Action Task Force — the global money laundering and terrorist financing overseer which as the inter-Governmental body sets international standards aimed to prevent illegal activities on terror funding and money laundering," they added.

Indonesian jet with 62 aboard goes missing

Jakarta: A Sriwijaya Air passenger jet carrying 62 people lost contact with air traffic controllers minutes after taking off from Indonesia's capital on a domestic flight on Saturday, officials said.

Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi said Flight SJ182 was delayed for an hour before it took off at 2:36 p.m. The Boeing 737-500 disappeared from radar four minutes later, after the pilot contacted air traffic control to ascend to an altitude of 29,000 feet, he said.

The airline said in a statement the plane was on an estimated 90-minute flight from Jakarta to Pontianak, the capital of West Kalimantan province on Indonesia's Borneo island.

Democrats plan lightning Trump impeachment

Want him out now
AP ■ WASHINGTON

Warnings flashing, Democrats in Congress laid plans for swift impeachment of President Donald Trump, demanding decisive, immediate action to ensure an "unhinged" commander in chief can't add to the damage they say he's inflicted or even ignite nuclear war in his final days in office.

As the country comes to terms with the violent siege of the US Capitol by Trump supporters that left five dead, the crisis that appears to be among the final acts of his presidency is deepening like few other periods in the nation's history. With less than two weeks until he's gone, Democrats want him out — now — and he has few

defenders speaking up for him in his own Republican party. "We must take action," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared on Friday on a private conference call with Democrats. And one prominent Republican, Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, told the *Anchorage Daily News* that Trump simply "needs to get out."

The final days of Trump's presidency are spinning toward a chaotic end as he holes up at the White House, abandoned by many aides, top Republicans and Cabinet members. After refusing to concede defeat in the November election, he has now promised a smooth transfer of power when Democratic President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in on Jan. 20. But even so, he says he will not attend the inauguration — the first such

presidential snub since just after the Civil War.

In Congress, where many have watched and reeled as the president spent four years breaking norms and testing the nation's guardrails of democracy, Democrats are unwilling to take further chances with only a few days left in his term.

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TWITTER PERMANENTLY SUSPENDS TRUMP'S ACCOUNT US is not China, hits back GOP

Washington: Several Republican leaders, including popular Indian-American politician Nikki Haley, have condemned Twitter for permanently deactivating outgoing President Donald Trump's account, saying that the "US is not China".

Twitter on Friday permanently suspended Trump's account due to the "risk of further incitement of violence", days after his supporters stormed the US Capitol and caused the deaths of four civilians and a police officer.

CAPSULE

300 ULTRAS DIED IN INDIA'S ATTACK: PAK EX-DIPLOMAT

New Delhi: A former Pakistani diplomat admitted on a news television show that 300 terrorists had died in the Balakot airstrike by India on February 26, 2019. The admission by the former Pakistani diplomat Agha Hilaly who regularly takes the Pakistan Army side in TV debates, goes against the zero casualties claim made by Islamabad at that time.

AJMER DARGAH CONCERNS ABOUT RADICAL OUTFITS

Jaipur: The spiritual head of Ajmer Dargah Zainul Abedin Ali Khan on Saturday expressed concern over the rise of radical organisations which project themselves as the sole representative of Muslims in the country.

Govt issues bird flu advisory

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking serious note of cases of bird flu in other states, the state government has alerted district magistrates to ensure that poultry products from affected states did not enter the state. The advisory issued by Agriculture Production Commissioner Alok Sinha said that poultry and eggs should not be transported in open vehicles and that markets selling poultry must be closed once a week.

"A list should be made on poultry products as well as retail and wholesale markets, where instructions must be issued on cleanliness as per advisory provided by the Central government," the advisory said.

The communication also

asked officials to make list of bird sanctuaries and water bodies visited by migratory as well as wild birds. "Necessary bio-security measures be made in these places to prevent the infection spread," it said.

The advisory also said that a rapid response team must be set up to review and send reports to Directorate of Animal Husbandry by 5 pm every day.

It further instructed setting up of Control room in each district where people could inform unnatural deaths of birds. "To deal with bird flu, DMs must also ensure that adequate PPE kits and face masks are available as well as medicines. Dead birds should be sent to National Institute of High Security Animal Disease, Bhopal for testing," it added.

Govt to encourage start-ups, expedite recruitment

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to facilitate new jobs for the youth in Uttar Pradesh, the state government is encouraging setting up of new start-ups, directing UP Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC) to expedite recruitment and provide jobs to 50,000 youths annually in Group 'C' services.

An official communiqué issued on Saturday said that on the CM's directions the UPSSSC has decided to adopt a two-stage exam system on the lines of Union Public Service Commission to expedite recruitment in 2021.

Besides, Higher Education Service Commission has also been

told to speed up appointments of more than 50,000 teachers in Basic Education Council.

A government spokesman claimed that like in previous years, the CM has emphasised on the upliftment of farmers and women, employment to youths and meet the interests of the poor.

For this, Mission Employment was launched last year to provide jobs in various ways and it also aimed at connecting lakhs of youths across the state by March 2021.

Under the new plan, the UPSSSC will conduct preliminary examination for screening of candidates and short-listed candidates will take the main examination as per

departmental requirement. The UPSSSC will also start a KYC for the convenience of candidates in the new year. Once a candidate registers on the Commission website, he/she will not need to register separately for every exam.

Similarly, more than five lakh traditional craftsmen and youth will be provided vocational skill training under Recognition of Prior Learning and Short Term Training by UP Skill Development Mission.

Besides, the government was also trying to encourage youths through to set up new startups through the UP Startup Policy, 2020 and as a result the number of Start Ups have spiked seven times in the state.

UP increases man-days under MNREGS to 45 cr

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Buoyed by its pro-active initiatives during Covid times to hike man-days under MNREGS, the Yogi government has increased Labour budget under this scheme for the second time. With this the man-days have been increased to 45 crore - an all time record in terms of generation under the MNREGS.

Union Ministry of Rural Development had approved a Labour Budget of 26 crore man days for 2020-21 amounting to about Rs 8710 crore. It was subsequently revised to 35 crore man-days amounting to about Rs 11725 crore on August 25, 2020 to meet the increased demand due to large scale

immigration in the state due to Covid.

On January 8, 2021, the state achieved 32.66 crore man days by way of some economic activities and infrastructure development works having been taken under MNREGS.

Buoyed by this, the UP government has proposed a second revision as the man days generation would exceed the approval labour budget of 35 man days.

"As per the second revision proposal, the state government submitted a letter to Union Ministry of Rural Development on January 5, 2021 to approve Labour Budget of 45 crore man days amounting to approximately Rs 15,000 crore," said

Additional Chief Secretaries, Rural Development, Manoj Kumar Singh.

In another landmark, UP would be the first state to have labourers of MNREGS registered with the Labour department.

Workers having carried out a minimum of 100 days in MNREGS scheme would be registered and get benefits of 17 various government schemes including Meritorious Student Award Scheme, Nirmaan Kamgar Balika Madad Yojana, Health Facility Scheme, Kaya Vivah Yojana for them and their families.

The Labour department has set a target of 20 lakh labourers getting registered by March 31, 2021.



NOTICE

I hither to known as RAM PRAVESH son of Shri SHYAMA, residing at D-1, CIMAP Colony, Sector-7, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAM PRAVESH YADAV For future all purpose.

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि पहले मेरा नाम DEEPIKA RAI था, विवाहोपरांत अब मैंने अपना नाम बदलकर DEEPIKA THAKUR पत्नी KUMAR GAURAV रख लिया है, भविष्य में मुझे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाय।

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पहले मेरा नाम DINESH KUMAR था जो अब बदलकर DINESH KUMAR SAROJ हो गया है। भविष्य में मुझे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये। DINESH KUMAR SAROJ S/o Bholu Nath Saroj Chak Afarad Nandaut, Allahabad.

NOTICE

I Shila Singh wife of Ramji Singh R/o Sharda Nagar, P.O. Nilmatha, Lucknow- 226002 have change D.O.B. from 29.05.1973 to 07.01.1979 due to correction of D.O.B. in husband service documents of Indian Army vide Affidavit dated 06/01/2021 before Civil Court Lucknow.

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पहले मेरा नाम RAJESH KU SHUKLA था जो अब बदलकर RAJESH KUMAR SHUKLA हो गया है। भविष्य में मुझे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये। RAJESH KUMAR SHUKLA S/o RAMNARAYAN SHUKLA 717-L Chak Raghunath, Mewalal Ki Bagiya, Naini-Allahabad.

नीलामी सूचना

दिनांक 18.01.2021 अपराह्न 1:00 बजे राही होटल साकेत, निकट रवेस्टेशन, अयोध्या में निम्नप्रयोज्य लोहे की खिड़कियों, दरवाजे, फर्नीचर, उपकरणों आदि की नीलामी, सिविली रिटि की 10,000/- बैंकड्राफ्ट "गुपी0एस0 टी0डी0सी0 लिमिटेड" नामित, आई0पी0 सिंह एण्ड सन्स

NOTICE

Public Notice
It is reported to the general public that the original copy of Allotment Letter of Vinay Sinha, Resident-House No. 202, D. Jungle Salikram, Shahpur Thana, Gorakhpur-273017. LDA Allotment Letter, Cash Approx 5000/- and Kotak Mahindra Bank Debit Card has fallen on the way. If any gentleman receive the same, then inform the following address. Use of the said allotment letter will be considered invalid.
Vinay Sinha,
R/o House No. 202 D, Jungle Salikram, Shahpur Thana, Gorakhpur-273017

Government raises excise target

Liquor license fee increased by 7.5 per cent

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The state government approved a new Excise Policy for 2021-22 targeting to mop up additional revenue of Rs 6,160 crore and introducing several steps for transparency in the sale of liquor. A proposal for Excise Policy, 2021-22, was approved by the state cabinet on Friday night.

As per reliable sources, against the expected revenue Rs.28,340 crore in 2020-21, the revenue target for 2021-22 was raised to Rs.34, 500 crore.

Annual license fees of country liquor, foreign liquor retail shops and Model shops for 2021-22 has been hiked by 7.5 per cent but there has been no increase in license fee of beer shops.

"To provide good quality liquor at economic prices, UP Made Liquor (in Tetra pack and of 42.8 per cent alcohol strength only) made from Grain ENA would be sold at an MRP of Rs.85/- through country liquor shops," said Additional Chief Secretary, Excise, Sanjay Bhooseddy.

The officials said that Integrated Supply Chain Management System (ISCMS) would be implemented by computerizing various processes of the department. The system of sale of liquor in retail

shops using PoS machines shall be implemented in 2021-22. "Renewal of country liquor, foreign liquor, beer, bharg retail shops and Model Shops have been permitted for 2021-22. Due to Covid, the period between April, 2020 and June, 2020 shall be excluded in determining renewal criteria," Bhooseddy said. In the new policy all retail shops (except beer) which lift prescribed quota during July, 2020 to March, 2021 shall be eligible for renewal. The retail outlets of beer will be exempted from the requirement of previous year's equivalent lifting in third and fourth quarters of 2020-21. All Beer shops shall be eligible for renewal.

The Excise Commissioner will be authorised to create new shops equivalent to 2 per cent of the total number of shops settled in 2020-21.

Non-renewed and new shops shall be settled through e-lottery tender.

To promote wine production in UP, the drink made out of locally produced fruits shall be exempted from Excise duty for five years. Vintners shall be allowed retail sale of wine. Wine Tavern shall also be allowed in its premises.

The sale of Low Alcoholic Beverages (L.A.B) will be allowed in foreign liquor retail

shops, Model shops and Premium retail vends in addition to beer shops. Excise duty on Beer has been reduced and the shelf life of beer will be nine months. Bhooseddy said that Premium retail vends shall be permitted at airports. "Wine tasting facility and sale of drinking accessories shall be allowed at premium retail vends however FL-2D licenses for sale of imported liquor shall be discontinued. Instead, registered Customs bonds will supply imported liquor directly to wholesalers. The Custom bond warehouses located in the state will pay a permit fee of Rs.300/- per bulk litre on sale of imported liquor (BIO) to other states," he said.

To promote ease of doing business, brand registration, label approval, bar and micro-brewery licenses will have the option to be renewed up to three years instead of requiring yearly approvals. Advance storage of foreign liquor, beer and wine for the year 2021-22 will be allowed from February 15, 2021. Also, to ensure availability of liquor at the beginning of the year, rollover of residual stock on March 31, for next year has been simplified and there will be no roll over fee for carrying forward these stocks. Keeping Holi in mind, renewed country liquor retail shops

will be allowed sale of residual stock till April 7, 2021.

At present, the strength of alcohol is being measured by manual hydrometers. To promote use of technology in monitoring of production processes, the use of digital alcohol meters will be mandatory in laboratories of department and distilleries. Sugar mills and distilleries shall install mandated modern electronic devices before December 31, this year.

Sale of imported liquor and Indian made foreign liquor in scotch category, with maximum retail price of Rs.2,000/- or more, will be permissible in mono-cartons. The provision of no liquor shop within 5 km of district borders without the DM's consent of both districts will be done away with.

The power for renewal of micro-brewery licenses shall be delegated from Excise Commissioner to District Magistrate. The DM shall be authorized to amend the names of renewed shops. A license shall be issued for purchase, transport and possess stocks in excess of prescribed retail sale limit to individuals, on payment of Rs.12,000/- license fee and a security amount of Rs.51,000/- per year will have to be paid as per conditions.

Govt to distribute fortified rice through PDS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a unique initiative to ensure food security and nutritional security, the Yogi government has decided to distribute fortified rice through the public distribution system.

The fortified rice will have food and nutritional supplements with sufficient quantities of iron, zinc, vitamin A, vitamin B, Vitamin B 12, folic acid and various other micro nutrients besides having medicinal values. The CM launched a programme virtually from

Chandauli which was identified as Model District. All ration shops of Chandauli will distribute fortified rice from February and the entire state would be covered by the year end. To ensure that fortified rice became an eating habit due to its nutritional value, the government will create awareness in which peoples' representatives would also be asked to participate.

The CM directed that Nodal Officers would be appointed to ensure proper promotion of the rice and to

check black marketing.

As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), about 65 percent people in India use rice as an essential part of their food and hence distributing fortified rice could play an important role in fighting malnutrition. The rice will be distributed through cards from ration shops where the number of people taking the facility of subsidised food grains is more. Along with this, Kala Namak rice of Siddharthnagar, which is rich in zinc and iron, will also be popularised.

Three IAS officers given new posting

Lucknow (PNS): The UP government announced fresh posting for three 1996 batch IAS officers after their promotion as Principal Secretary on Saturday.

Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources, Anil Garg was promoted as Principal Secretary in the same department while Secretary, Energy, M Deoraj was posted as Principal Secretary, Energy and Secretary, Health, V Hekali Zhimomi will now be Principal Secretary in the same department.

Aiming to ensure clarity, govt passes new tenancy law

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government approved a draft ordinance to prevent dispute between house owner and tenants and cleared the "UP Regulation of Urban Premises Tenancy Ordinance, 2021" seeking to safeguard rights of both the owner and the tenant.

As per sources, under the new law, a rent agreement will be mandatory for a property to be let out. A Rent authority would be set up and any new rent agreement will have to be registered with it.

The authority will issue a unique identification number and within seven days of receiving an agreement, upload details of the tenant on its website. Details of tenants may not be shared with the authority if the duration of tenancy was less than 12 months. Under the proposed law, the owner can only hike rent of 5 per cent annually for domestic and 7 per cent for commercial prop-

erties. Default in rent payment for two months would lead to eviction of the tenant while a tribunal would have to dispose off any dispute with 2 months. The tenant and property owner would jointly decide the duration of tenancy and any renewal of the agreement. The points mentioned in the agreement would continue to be applicable on the successor of both the tenant and property owner in case of death of one or both. The new law lays down responsibilities of the property owner on increase in rent, renewal of lease, details of rent authority which will consider cases of dispute etc.

"Once this law is in place, there will be more clarity in the agreement between the tenant and property owner and therefore, there will be no scope for petty disputes. For instance, the law will make it clear whose responsibility it will be for paint-

ing, paying maintenance, water, power bills etc," said an official.

In another decision, the cabinet cleared the Industrial Development Authority PM Awas Yojana (PMAY) Implementation Policy. Under this, PMAY will now also be implemented in areas under jurisdiction of Urban Development authorities and each project would have a minimum of 250 houses with at least 35% of the land reserved for low income housing.

The cabinet decided to extend the benefits under the policy to MSMEs and start-ups investing in defence and aerospace sectors for the first time. The policy makes it imperative to use land allotted only for activities defined under the policy, failing which the allotment would stand cancelled. Any benefits like rebates and subsidies provided before cancellation of allotment will be settled against the bank guarantee.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
Tender Notice No.: 230-Elect/TRD/PRY/JE-Tender Notice/2021/456 Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer(TR-D)
Date: 07.01.2021 E-Tender Notice North Central Railway, Prayagraj

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender No.	Description of work	Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Completion Period
230-TRD-WC-832-2021	Modification and electrification of 25 Kv OHE due to POL siding inside BPCL terminal at Pankidham in Prayagraj Division.	Rs. 69,69,987.30	Rs. 1,39,400/-	06 Months

Bidding System: Single Packet Tender Closing Date & Time: 04.02.2021 & 14:00 hrs. Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on website www.ireps.gov.in 21 days prior to the date of opening of the tender. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. (3) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 31/21 (P)

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tender No. PRYJ-Sig-21-2020-21 Date: 08.01.2021
E-TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Coordination/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12,00 hrs. on 02.02.2021. The details of the Tender is as under :-

SN	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx Cost of work	Earnest Money
1a	PRYJ-Sig-021-2020-21	Replacement of Quarters, Type II-76 and Type III-24 units [Rajapur Colony and Traffic colony] at Prayagraj of N C Railway.	₹ 48,03,944/-	₹ 96,100/-

Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 0/-. Completion Period: 06 months, Date of Closing of tender: 02.02.2021.

2 Availability of tender form: Tender forms are available on www.ireps.gov.in 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender.

3 Time date & place of opening of tender: Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj on or after pre determined date at 12.30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day. 36/21 (SP)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA E-AUCTION NOTICE
Regional Business Office, Barabanki
B-10, Awas Vikas Colony, Vikas Bhawan Road, Barabanki-225001

Date & Time of E-Auction: 27.01.2021 & Time: 120 minutes from 12:00 P.M to 02:00 P.M with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each
Last Date & Time of EMD Deposit: 26.01.2021 upto 5:00 PM

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

1. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Regional Business Office, Barabanki (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 27.01.2021 for recovery of Rs. 11,03,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lac and Three Thousand only) plus legal charges as on 10.11.2020 plus future interest and charges thereon from 11.11.2020 due to the State Bank of India, Satti Bazar Branch (Secured Creditor) from Shri Pramod Kumar Rastogi S/o Shri Shiv Prasad R/o Paisar, Near Bada Nala, Azzad Nagar, Nawabganj, Barabanki (UP) (Borrower)

The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit will be as following:-
Reserve Price Rs. 7,99,000/- (Rupees Seven Lac And Ninety Nine Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 79,900/- (Rs. Seventy Nine Thousand and Nine Hundred Only)

Description of the immovable property:- Plot situated at Khasra No. 364 Min, Paisar, Nawabganj, Barabanki, Boundaries: North- 12 ft. wide earthen road, South- Plot of Sunita Rastogi, East- Plot of seller, West- 15 ft wide earthen road.

For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Regional Business Office, Barabanki (Secured Creditor) website:- <https://www.sbi.auctiontiger.net> & <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>

2. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Regional Business Office, Barabanki (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 27.01.2021 for recovery of Rs. 9,94,986.25 (Rupees Nine Lac Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Six and Twenty Five paise only) plus legal charges as on 17.11.2020 plus future interest and charges thereon from 18.11.2020 due to the State Bank of India, RS Ghat Branch (Secured Creditor) from M/s Ambika Traders, Prop: Shri Narendra Kumar Tiwari S/o Shri Kamal Kumar Tiwari R/o Vili, Ahmadpur, Ramsanahi Ghat, Barabanki (UP) (Borrower) and Smt. Nirmla Devi W/o Shri Kamal Kumar Tiwari R/o Vili, Ahmadpur, Ramsanahi Ghat, Barabanki (UP) (Guarantor)

The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit will be as following:-
Reserve Price Rs. 14,46,700/- (Rupees Fourteen Lac Forty Six Thousand And Seven Hundred Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 1,44,670/- (Rupees One Lac Forty Four Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy only)

Description of the immovable property:- Property situated at Khasra No. 365, 366 Village Ahmadpur, Pargana - Suryapur, Tehsil Ram Sanahi Ghat, Barabanki, Admeasuring- 3572 Sq.mtr. Boundaries: North-Talab, South-Kachha Rasta, East-Khasra no. 367 & others, West-Farm of Kamal Kumar.

For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Regional Business Office, Barabanki (Secured Creditor) website:- <https://www.sbi.auctiontiger.net> & <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>

Dated: 10.01.2021 Place: Barabanki Authorized Officer, State Bank of India

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD
Branch: 117/N/43, Avon Market, Kakadeo, Kanpur - 208025 Phone No. 0512-2502543

Sale notice for sale of Movable properties [See proviso Rule 6 (2)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6 (2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank), Branch: 117/N/43, Avon Market, Kakadeo, Kanpur as Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 30.01.2021, for recovery of Bank's dues from Borrowers and Guarantors to the Secured Creditor. The details are described as below:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower	Name of Guarantors	Name of Property owner/Hypothecator	Bank's Dues	Details of Property/ID No.	Reserve Price	Earnest Money	Details of the encumbrance to the Bank
1.	Smt. Pusp Lata Yadav W/o Sri Rajesh Singh Yadav & Sri Rajesh Singh Yadav S/o Sri Ram Autar	Smt. Pusp Lata Yadav W/o Sri Rajesh Singh Yadav & Sri Rajesh Singh Yadav S/o Sri Ram Autar	Smt. Pusp Lata Yadav W/o Sri Rajesh Singh Yadav	On or on 05.01.2021 Rs. 14,08,170.00 + interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses	INNOVA 2.5 G Vehicle No. : UP-79/EF-6494 CHASSIS No. : MBJ11JV4007569590 ENGINE No. : 2KU0841161 Colour Silver Metallic IDIB 0490-02	Rs. 6.00 Lacs	Rs. 0.80 Lacs	Not Known

Date & Time of submission of process Compliance form & EMD - 29.01.2021 upto 4 P.M. at Date & Time of e-auction 30.01.2021 from 11.00 AM - 2.00 P.M. with unlimited extension, with Bid incremental Amount. Rs. 10000/-

For further details and Terms & Conditions Contact: MP Singh (Auth. Officer) Mo. No. 08017007632 e-mail:-br.kakadeo@allahabadbank.in

For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: 1. www.indianbank.co.in 2. <https://www.ibapi.in> 3. <https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi>

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstccommerce.com) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPLINE No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd. please contact ibapiop@mstccommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapiin@mstccommerce.com.

For Property (Car) details and photograph of the property and auction terms and condition please visit: <https://ibapi.in> and for clarification related to this portal, please contact help line number "18001025026" and "011-41106131 Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://ibapi.in> and www.mstccommerce.com

Corporate Office: Avvai Shanmugam Salai Royalpettah, Chennai-600014
Date: 09.01.2021 Place: Kanpur Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

CM for effective prevention, Covid treatment mechanism

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday directed the officials concerned to continue with precautions in view of the coronavirus pandemic. Presiding over a high-level unlock review meeting at his official residence on Saturday, the chief minister also called for an effective prevention and treatment mechanism. In view of the new strain of coronavirus, the chief minister stressed the need of stepping up vigil. He directed the officials to ensure that people travelling from the UK and other countries, where the new strain has shown up, should be quarantined for a minimum of seven days and also be checked for infection thoroughly.

Stressing on the need of setting up of a virology centre in the state, on the lines of the National Institute of Virology (Pune), Adityanath further said that testing is crucial for containing the disease and asked the health officials to ensure that testing is done in a sustained manner.

He lauded KGMU for being the only institute in the country to have conducted 10 lakh RT-PCR tests. He issued instructions for completion of preparations regarding the vaccination. He said arrangements for effective cold chains, safe storage, and easy transportation of vaccination should be made according to the government guidelines. The CM was informed that in the first phase, the vaccination will be done in 3,000 booths of 1,500 vaccination centres across the state. For this, 1,300 cold chains have been installed.

The CM also directed the officials and departments to

Death rate dips to 1.2%

Lucknow (PNS): The Covid death rate in Lucknow has come down to 1.2 per cent, according to a senior health official. He said the death rate has dropped remarkably because patients are being treated far better than earlier. "Also, there have been less number of cases now and fewer complications. Most of the patients dying at city hospitals are from other districts as serious patients are referred to the state capital," he pointed out. The death rate had increased immensely in September and October last year and most of the patients who died were aged above 60 years and also had co-morbidities. The senior health official said that as part of preparations for the final vaccination dry run, a training programme of

the vaccinators was carried out at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan on Saturday and nodal officers from various departments to be participating in the exercise were also sensitised.

On Saturday, 106 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow while 187 patients recovered. The new patients included 11 from Rae Bareilly road, and 10 each from Aliganj, Cantt & Gomtinagar. Across the state, 646 persons tested positive, including 22 in Kanpur, 23 in Ghaziabad, 28 in Gautam Buddha Nagar, 57 in Varanasi, and 21 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,92,475. There were 12 deaths in the state, including four in Kanpur, three in Lucknow, and one each in Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Farrukhabad & Hardoi, taking the toll to 8,481.

ensure installation of fire safety mechanisms at all hospitals, nursing homes and other medical institutions of the state. He said the arrangements made in connection with fire safety in all government and private hospitals should be verified.

The CM said all the preparations should be made for organising the Mukhya Mantri Arogya Mela kick-starting from January 10. He also called for creating more awareness and providing information to masses about Ayushman Bharat Yojana and Chief Minister Jan Arogya Abhiyan and called for distribution of golden cards of these schemes to eligible beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, the CM also issued directions for a focused and proactive approach in paddy procurement. He also

said paddy purchase should be expedited at paddy purchase centre and additional resources be deployed, if need be.

He also directed the divisional commissioners and district magistrates to form a team and inspect the paddy purchase centres regularly. He reviewing the works of various departments at a high-level meeting at his residence on Saturday. Adityanath said that an animal vaccination campaign is being conducted to protect animals from hoof and mouth diseases and instructed to conduct the vaccination of animals effectively during the campaign. He said that the system of vaccination and health testing of protected bovine should be ensured by keeping the arrangements for cow shelter sites in all districts up to date.

3 kids among 5 rescued from building on fire

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Five persons trapped in a massive fire in the office of Lucknow Electric Merchants' Association in Kaiserbagh police station area on Saturday morning had an almost miraculous escape. The fire broke out in the office on the second floor of Teerath Leela Bhawan around 9:45 am on Saturday. The flames engulfed the third floor of the building, trapping five inmates, including three children. On being informed, inspector Anand Kumar Shukla and fire officer Yogendra, along with their teams, reached the scene.



The victims trapped in the fire were crying for help and complaining of breathing problems as the smoke had filled in the rooms and flames were leaping high. The teams some-

how gained access in the flat where people were trapped and rescued them. Later, the flames were doused after hectic efforts. Those rescued were identified as Jai Prakash Gupta and his family members Puja Gupta, Arti Gupta (12), Vansh Gupta (8) and Laddu Gupta (4). Police spokesman said all of the victims were finding it tough to breathe as smoke had filled in all the rooms. The victims were rushed to Civil hospital.

Meanwhile, a driver died under mysterious circumstances at his house in Chinhat on Saturday morning. He was identified as Deepu Yadav of

Malhaur in Chinhat. The police sent the body for autopsy and started further probe. As per reports, Deepu had a verbal spat with some local youths and he had lodged a complaint against them. A team had visited the scene and mediated in the brawl. Deepu was in a drunken state when the police reached the scene. The same night, Deepu was sleeping in a room all alone while his wife Suman was in another room. Around 5 am on Saturday, Deepu was found dead with one hand resting on a heater kept in the room. He was rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

Police close to nabbing shooters

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow police are close to nabbing the accused who gunned down former block pramukh Ajeet Singh in a sensational incident in Vibhuti Khand a couple of days back.

Commissioner of Police DK Thakur, who is spearheading the investigation, said the teams have got vital clues about the shooters. "Our teams are collecting clinching evidence against the shooters and conspirators," he said.

Sources privy to the investigation said that the police

EX-BLOCK PRAMUKH MURDER CASE

have taken it as a challenge and will come down heavily on the accused. "In all probability, the murder was a fallout of rivalry and political ambitions. Those named in the case had enough reason to get Ajeet eliminated as he was overseeing the 'business empire' of mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari. As Ajeet became an eyesore for his opponents trying to wipe out

their rivals in eastern UP, he was gunned down," the sources said. They added that someone spied on Ajeet who was in Lucknow after the Mau police externed him in view of his criminal past. "The police are puzzled as to why the murder plan was executed in Lucknow. They suspect that it was executed in Lucknow with an aim to make it a big issue. The police are also finding the name of persons who advised Ajeet to hide in Lucknow and who were aware of his stay in Lucknow," they said.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY			
Important Notice for the Rail Passengers			
It is notified for information of General Public that following Mela Special Express train will run as under:-			
(1) 05081/05082 Gorakhpur-Nautanwa-Gorakhpur Special Train			
Train No. 05081/05082 Gorakhpur-Nautanwa-Gorakhpur on 13-01-2021, 14-01-2021 and 15-01-2021 = 03 Trip			
05081 Gorakhpur-Nautanwa	Station	05082 Nautanwa-Gorakhpur	
Arr. Dep.		Arr. Dep.	
-- 07:00	Gorakhpur	23:15 --	
07:12 07:14	Nakha Jungle	22:55 22:57	
07:20 07:22	Maniram	22:38 22:40	
07:34 07:36	Pepeganj	22:24 22:26	
07:50 07:52	Campierganj	22:10 22:12	
08:05 08:10	Anandnagar	21:55 22:00	
08:35 08:37	Lachmipur	21:28 21:30	
09:15 --	Nautanwa	-- 21:00	
Rake Composition: SLRD-2, General Second Class-8 = Total 10 Coaches.			
(2) 05083/05084 Gorakhpur-Barahni-Gorakhpur Special Train			
Train No. 05083/05084 Gorakhpur-Barahni-Gorakhpur on 13-01-2021, 14-01-2021 and 15-01-2021 = 03 Trip			
05083 Gorakhpur-Barahni	Station	05084 Barahni-Gorakhpur	
Arr. Dep.		Arr. Dep.	
-- 11:00	Gorakhpur	20:05 --	
11:12 11:14	Nakha Jungle	19:40 19:42	
11:20 11:22	Maniram	19:28 19:30	
11:34 11:36	Pepeganj	19:06 19:08	
11:49 11:51	Campierganj	18:48 18:50	
12:15 12:20	Anandnagar	18:35 18:40	
12:32 12:34	Brijamganj	18:18 18:20	
12:43 12:45	Uska Bazar	18:07 18:09	
12:55 12:57	Siddarthnagar	17:55 17:57	
13:13 13:15	Chilhia	17:37 17:39	
13:26 13:28	Shorahartgarh	17:27 17:29	
13:40 13:42	Parsa	17:14 17:16	
14:20 --	Barahni	-- 17:00	
Rake Composition: General Second Class-8, SLRD-2 = Total 10 Coaches.			
Please Note:- (1) These train will run with full reserved accommodation. (2) It is Mandatory for the passengers to follow the guidelines issued for prevention and safety from Covid-19.			
CPRO/T-95 Chief Pass. Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur			
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955			
Never travel on roof and foot boards.			

Welder suffers electric shock in factory, dies

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A welder suffered electric shock while working at a factory in Indiranagar and died at RMLIMS on Saturday. He was identified as Shailendra Kumar (25) of Unnao. He worked at a factory in Sugamau locality under Indiranagar police station area.

As per reports, Shailendra suffered electric shock while working around 1:15 pm on Friday. His colleagues rushed him to RMLIMS where he succumbed on Saturday. The hospital staff sent a memo to the Indiranagar police. The cops reached the hospital and sent the body for autopsy.

Meanwhile, a missing plumber was found dead in Gomti Nagar Vistar police station area on Saturday. Police said Sanjay Yadav (32) of Chhota Barwara was fatally mowed down by a train. Reports said Sanjay left his house for work on Friday evening but did not return. His family waited for him through the night and just when they were mulling to lodge a missing complaint, they were informed about recovery of a body. They reached the scene and to their shock, came to that it was the body of Sanjay. Police sent the body for autopsy and started further probe.

BBAU to celebrate 25th Foundation Day today

Lucknow (PNS): BBAU will celebrate its 25th Foundation Day on Sunday on the theme 'Swadhinta se swatantrata ki oar'. The university will hold the function online. Chancellor of the university Prakash C Baratumia will be the chief guest while Vice-Chancellor Sanjay Singh will preside over the programme. Spokesperson Rachna Gangwar said the University has been steadily achieving new heights for the last 24 years. In the year 2018, under the guidance of Sanjay Singh, many new courses were started in the university and MoUs signed with institutions like NIPER (Rae Bareilly), IIT-BHU and CDRI.

नये साल में नयी उड़ान स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा और सम्मान

मुख्यमंत्री आरोग्य मेला

का

उद्घाटन

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

दिनांक : 10.01.2021 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे

स्थान : प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र, संकिसा, फर्रुखाबाद

प्रत्येक रविवार

पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक

समस्त प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों (शहरी व ग्रामीण) पर स्वास्थ्य कैंप लगाकर उपचार/स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण किया जायेगा।

“यूपी सरकार का एक ही सपना
स्वस्थ-स्वच्छ प्रदेश हो अपना”

एनीमिया मुक्त भारत

आरोग्य मेला में प्रदान की जाने वाली सुविधाएं

ओ०पी०डी० सेवाएं। टी०बी०, मलेरिया, डेंगू, दिमागी बुखार, कालाजार, फाइलेरिया एवं कुष्ठ रोग से सम्बन्धित जानकारी, आवश्यक जांच, उपचार एवं संदर्भन सुविधाएं। प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना एवं मुख्यमंत्री जन आरोग्य अभियान की जानकारी तथा पात्र लाभार्थियों को गोल्डन कार्ड वितरण। गर्भावस्था एवं प्रसवकालीन परामर्श तथा सेवाएं। पूर्ण टीकाकरण परामर्श तथा सेवाएं। बच्चों में डायरिया एवं न्यूमोनिया के रोकथाम, बचाव एवं उपचार की जानकारी एवं सुविधाएं। कुपोषित बच्चों का चिन्हीकरण एवं उनके उपचार हेतु समुचित कार्यवाही।

समस्त जानकारियों हेतु सम्पर्क करें

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Potato trader, 2 aides killed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A potato trader along with two others were murdered and their bodies were dumped in separate places of Chawni police station area of Basti late on Friday night. After inspecting the sites, SP, Hemraj Meena said that the deceased were identified as Sonu Maurya (potato grower), Raj Kumar (driver) and Mohammad Aslam (cleaner). The police could ascertain their identities based on documents and cell phones along with Rs 90,000 found on their persons.

The official said that a truck, probably used for transporting produce, was also recovered nearby and was headed towards Kanpur or Unnao after selling potatoes in Bihar. The reason behind the murder was yet to be established and a probe was underway.

Meanwhile in Mirzapur, what appeared to an honour killing, a 17-year-old girl was murdered by her parents while in Fatehpur, a man killed his daughter for having illicit relations.

In Mirzapur, the body of an unknown girl was recovered from Jamalpur area last Wednesday and subsequent autopsy revealed that she had been strangled. On Friday, her identity was ascertained as Anjali aka Pushpa of the same locality. When her parents were grilled, they revealed that the girl was having an affair with a local youth despite their objections. On the fateful day also, they stopped her from going to meet the youth and when resisted, they killed and dumped her body in the field. A case was being registered and both mother and father of the victim were

arrested. Elsewhere in Fatehpur, Chandramohan Yadav of Sangaon hamlet of Jaisinghpur reached the local police station and confessed to killing his daughter Swati. He revealed that his daughter had relations with several youths and he married her off to a groom in Kanpur last year but she continued with her affair. Her in-laws probably learnt about her link-up and hence dropped her at his house two days back refusing to take her back till she put an end to her illicit relations. Yadav revealed that he was so embarrassed with the chain of events that he and his brother Narsingh killed Swati on Friday evening. While Narsingh chose to flee the spot, Chandra Mohan surrendered before the police. Efforts were underway to nab the absconding uncle.

SGPGI CONVOCATION

Stress on need to develop rural infra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rural health infrastructure should be developed in the country and emphasis be laid on traditional knowledge of medicine, Governor Anandiben Patel said while addressing the 25th convocation of SGPGI on Saturday. "The battle against Covid-19 is still not over with a new variant of the virus having been detected. Even as the pandemic has impacted developed countries, India has been able to fare better because of the emphasis on traditional knowledge of medicine. In today's times, the respect for doctors and scientists has increased," she said.

She said that apart from Covid patients, there are others suffering from cancer and liver transplant and they also need care and treatment, which should not be overlooked.

The governor said she was inspired by the institute that many of the students fail in the first year at SGPGI because they do not understand English. "My suggestion is that books in medical should be translated into Hindi," she said.

Director of TMC (Kolkata) Mammen Chandy delivered



the convocation address. He said although the coronavirus has ravaged the world, it has also brought in a lot of innovation and adaptation. He told the students that in their pursuit for knowledge, they should not stop enjoying their journey.

Prof Gagandeep Kang from CMC (Vellore) was conferred Doctorate of Science Honoris Causa. She said she was happy to have received the

award. "Working together partnering with the best of the people, we have been able to deliver solutions to problems such as diarrhoea," she said. Both Chandy and Kang joined the convocation online.

Chief Secretary RK Tewari thanked the Minister of Medical Education Suresh Khanna for his help to the institute. Addressing the gathering, he said: "On the

Foundation Day of the institute, CM Yogi Adityanath had said why should our institute follow others. It should set the standards for the entire world. I am happy that SGPGI is being progressing well," Tewari said.

The chief secretary said that amongst the various achievements, SGPGI is developing a centre of excellence for virus and vaccine research, a

new haepatology department and gearing up for all kinds of transplants.

"In Covid times, we have worked as a team and it has been appreciated globally. Most of the patients who had lost hope everywhere would always have hope coming to SGPGI, and there have been no complaints about the professionalism of this institute," he said.

SGPGI director Prof RK Dhiman said that a total of 2,313 Covid patients have been admitted and treated at the hospital, majority of whom were elderly with serious multiple co-morbidities.

"Despite that, the overall recovery rate is above 90%. SGPGI has trained its health workers along with health workers from 52 government and private medical colleges in the state, using the ECHO platform. To date, 75 such sessions have been conducted and about 25,000 HCWs have benefited. All cases admitted in Covid ICUs in these medical colleges are discussed in the virtual rounds. Till date, 50 such sessions have been conducted. About 5,000 participants have benefitted from these sessions," he said.

Women achievers to be hailed on National Youth Day

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Feats of women achievers in various fields will be hailed on National Youth Day on January 12 to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Vivekananda.

The Secondary Education Council under Mission Shakti campaign is planning to celebrate the day by holding interactive sessions with girl students and discussing about the lives and feats of women in different fields. The Council has also planned to hold discussions on issues related to adolescence.

In one of the unique sessions, the Council plans to motivate girl students to become financially independent by interacting with

Secondary Education Council under Mission Shakti campaign is planning to celebrate the day by holding interactive sessions with girl students and discussing the lives and feats of women in different fields

successful women entrepreneurs and self-help groups. As per an official communiqué released on Saturday, videos on training for self-defence would be telecast on Doordarshan to further encourage students in empowerment. Meanwhile, Social Welfare

department has decided to sensitise women to speak up against gender discrimination and develop opinion against any social evil. The department organised seminars across the state on Tuesday where girls were told about Constitutional and legal remedies against gender discrimination. In Lucknow, Panchayati Raj department held discussions on female foeticide with villagers at Barumau gram panchayat of Chinhath block on Wednesday. The Agriculture department also held a seminar for women farmers in Mau where participants were given tips on organic farming and other issues related to improvement in agricultural produce.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल, २००३० वाराणसी
द्रासमीशान कार्यालय लखनऊ, २००००१
पो. ३०१००३, मिखापुर, वाराणसी

ई-निविदा सूचना (1) अलकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना-57-ईटीओसी(वी)/2020-21-132 के.वी. उपकेंद्र भेसपुर एवं 122 के.वी. उपकेंद्र कैंट पर 33 के.वी. के को सिंगल फेज पर 3 डल फेज में बदलने का कार्य।

खुलने की तिथि-29-01-2021 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 236/- जीएसटी सहित घरोहर राशि-₹ 2,000/- (₹ 20 हजार मात्र)। (2) अलकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना-58-ईटीओसी(वी)/2020-2021-132 के.वी. उपकेंद्र कैंट पर 132 के.वी. ट्रांसफर बस से सम्बन्धित विभिन्न अनुसंधान कार्य। खुलने की तिथि-29-01-2021, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 236/- जीएसटी सहित घरोहर राशि-₹ 2,000/- (₹ 20 हजार मात्र)। (3) अलकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना-59-ईटीओसी(वी)/2020-2021-132 के.वी. उपकेंद्र कैंट पर विभिन्न प्रकार के अनुसंधान एवं सम्बन्धित अन्य सुसुधा उपकरणों की आपूर्ति। खुलने की तिथि-29-01-2021, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 236/- जीएसटी सहित घरोहर राशि-₹ 2,000/- (₹ 20 हजार मात्र)। (4) अलकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना-60-ईटीओसी(वी)/2020-2021-132 के.वी. उपकेंद्र कैंट पर 33 के.वी. के को सिंगल फेज पर 3 डल फेज में बदलने हेतु विभिन्न सामग्री की आपूर्ति। खुलने की तिथि-29-01-2021, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 236/- जीएसटी सहित घरोहर राशि-₹ 2,000/- (₹ 20 हजार मात्र)। (5) अलकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना-61-ईटीओसी(वी)/2020-2021-132 के.वी. उपकेंद्र कैंट पर 250 वाट halonix/havells/syska make एल.ई.डी. फ्लड लाइट की फिटिंग सहित आपूर्ति। खुलने की तिथि-29-01-2021, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 236/- जीएसटी सहित घरोहर राशि-₹ 2,000/- (₹ 20 हजार मात्र)। (6) अलकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना-62-ईटीओसी(वी)/2020-2021-132 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेंद्र मंडाआडी वाराणसी पर 10 नग 33 के.वी. ट्रांसफर बस आइसोलेटर की स्थापना तथा अन्य सम्बन्धित कार्य। खुलने की तिथि-12-02-2021, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 708/- जीएसटी सहित घरोहर राशि-₹ 6,000/- (₹ 60 हजार मात्र)। (7) ई-निविदा सूचना-63-ईटीओसी(वी)/2020-2021-220 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेंद्र राजा का तालाब (उदर) पर 1 नग 160 एम. वी.ए. ट्रांसफरमर की शिफ्टिंग, इरेक्शन, सेन्ट्रीफ्यूजिंग एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित कार्य। खुलने की तिथि-12-02-2021, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 826/- जीएसटी सहित घरोहर राशि-₹ 7,000/- (₹ 70 हजार मात्र)। निविदा सम्बन्धी अन्य विवरण जैसे निविदा में संशोधन अथवा निविदा खुलने की तिथि में विस्तार होता है तो इसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल, वाराणसी। सूचना-22, दिनांक-08.01.2021, "चाट्टरहित में बिजली बचाय।"

कार्यालय नगर परिषद चित्तौड़गढ़
प्रमाणक: न.प.वि./SBM/DOOR TO DOOR/2020-21/7667-71 दिनांक: 06.01.2021

संशोधित सूचना

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक NPC / SBM / NIT / 02 / DOOR TO DOOR / 2020-21 / 7166-7170 दिनांक: 21.12.2020 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना में अग्रिमार्थक कारणों से निविदा की पूर्व निर्धारित तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किए जाते हैं।

क्र.सं.	विवरण	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथियां	संशोधित तिथियां
1.	निविदा प्रकाशन होने की तिथि	28.12.2020 प्रातः 11.00 बजे	28.12.2020 प्रातः 11.00 बजे
2.	निविदा कागजपत्र करने की तिथि	28.12.2020 से 06.01.2021 तक (सायं 4 बजे तक)	28.12.2020 से 11.01.2021 तक (सायं 4 बजे तक)
3.	घरोहर राशि/निविदा शुल्क/प्रोसेसिंग फीस एवं GST, PAN, EPF & ES Registration के भीतिक रूप से दस्तावेज जमा करने की तिथि	06.01.2021 (सायं 6 बजे तक)	11.01.2021 (सायं 6 बजे तक)
4.	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि	07.01.2021 (सायं 4 बजे)	12.01.2021 (सायं 4 बजे)
5.	वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि	तकनीकी निविदा में सफल संदर्भकों को सूचित कर दिया जाएगा	तकनीकी निविदा में सफल संदर्भकों को सूचित कर दिया जाएगा

निविदा के अन्य विवरण एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
UBN No.: DLB2021SLRC19817, DLB2021SLRC19822, DLB2021SLRC19822
राजस्थान संसाधन/सी/87/18/2020-21
अयुक्त नगर परिषद चित्तौड़गढ़

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tender No. PUNCN-PRYJ-FTP-ABS-OD-T54 Date: 07.01.2021

TENDER NOTICE (Two Packet)

By Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Project, North Central Railway Project Unit, Kanpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-Tender from reputed contractors/JV firms with adequate experience and financial capability, for the following work on Two Packet System up to 12.00 hrs. on the opening date of E-tender mentioned therein. If date of opening is declared a holiday or offer could not be opened due to Technical issue, the offers shall be opened on the next working day. The details of the Tender are as under:

Name of work	Supply, Designing, Installation, testing and commissioning of Outdoor Signalling gears in connection with Provision of EI based Automatic Signalling with MSDAC in Prayagraj-Fatehpur section of Prayagraj Division of North Central Railway.
Estimated cost of work	Approx. Cost Rs. 300467848.62 (Rupees Thirty Crores Four Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Eight hundred Forty Eight & Six Two Paise only).
Earnest Money	₹ 1652300/-
Tender form cost	NIL.
Completion Period	24 Months.
Availability of tender form	Tender forms shall be available on web site, www.irops.gov.in , 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender.
Closing Date/Time of Tender	09.02.2021 before 12:00 Hrs.
Tender Opening Date/Time	09.02.2021 at 12:00 Hrs.
Place of Opening	Through Online E-Portal www.irops.gov.in In the office of Dy. CSTE/Project/HQ/ NCRPU, HQ office, Subedarganj, Prayagraj.
Validity of Offer	60 days from date of opening.
Right of Railway to deal with tender	Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons.

Tenderers who wish to participate in tenders invited on www.irops.gov.in have to register on the website mandatorily. Please refer to website for more details. Tenderers can submit EMD only through online mode, if required. Further particulars can be obtained from Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in. 28/21 (SP)

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Faculty members, students felicitated

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Faculty members and students were felicitated for their contributions and achievements at the SGPGI convocation on Saturday. Prof UC Ghosal from Gastroenterology department was honoured with 'Prof SR Naik Award for Outstanding Research Investigator' for his contribution to the areas of research in the last five years at the institute. He has around 306 publications till now. About his research work, Prof Ghosal said that he carries out a lot of work in epidemiology as he and his students visit villages, towns to find out the disease burden in the community. "This is very important in making a decision regarding the health policies. We went to the villages of Jaunpur where we found the occurrence of chronic gastrointestinal problems. We surveyed 3,000 people in three villages of Jaunpur and came to know that around 20 per cent of them had chronic gastrointestinal problems," he said. He added that they also



Prof UC Ghosal



Dr Valiveru Chakrapani Ramya



Dr Mohammed Hafiz

the academic field although he was inclined towards clinical practice.

Dr Hafiz Mohammed from Calicut (Kerala), who won the 'Best DM and MCh Student Award' is specialising in rheumatology. He said he got interested in doing DM because when he was posted in PGI (Chandigarh), he realised that there was a lot of potential in this field. "There are a number of rheumatology patients but the doctors are too few. The Rheumatology department of SGPGI is the oldest and hence I chose to study here," he said.

Dr Mohammed Hafiz, who has joined as an assistant professor in internal medicine at Calicut Medical College, said he is planning to develop a rheumatology unit.

Dr Valiveru Chakrapani Ramya from the department of Endocrine Surgery won the 'Best DM and MCh Student Award', said she was consistent with her work. She said she was always keen on becoming a surgeon and she chose endocrine surgery.

carried out a global epidemiology study in which 33 countries across the world participated, 23 of which did not do a house-to-house study and only carried out internet surveys. "We were a part of 10 countries that did house-to-house surveys and we went to Jaunpur, Lucknow and Unnao for our research," he explained.

He said they found that functional gastrointestinal problems were less frequent in India than in many western countries. "It was not unexpected

because our diet is quite different from that in other countries and we get infections frequently due to which we know how to live with infections," he said. He added that the other research was on stomach cancer, caused by a particular bacteria. "The rate of stomach cancer is very high in China and Japan while it is low in India. In Japan, out of 100,000 people, 110-140 develop stomach cancer while the figure is only 10 in India. Although the incidences of bacterial infection are

more in India, Japan has more cancer cases. We found that the occurrence of cancer is less in India because of certain food items which we eat, including turmeric and onion which have anti-cancer properties. Also, non-vegetarian food, particularly the processed meat, promotes stomach cancer and Indians are more habituated to having vegetarian food," Prof Ghosal said.

He said he is happy to be receiving the award because Prof SR Naik, who headed the department, encouraged him in

MSME dept awarded

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Elets Technomedia, a media organisation promoting ICT for governance across Asia and Middle East, has conferred 'Elets Awards of Digital Excellence' upon the MSME Department of Uttar Pradesh.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been awarded for excellence in digital governance and services. Elets, which is celebrating its 10th year of giving away awards for good governance and innovative ideas, has conferred the Leadership Award to Additional Chief Secretary Navneet Sehgal for MSME (UP) e-service portal under the category of digital governance in a virtual ceremony. It was a part of the 10th Elets Knowledge Exchange Summit and Awards.

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar was the chief guest while former Union minister Suresh Prabhu the guest of honour. Chief executive officer of Elets Ravi Gupta appreciated that the portal not only facilitated small and micro-man-

ufacturers and businessmen in getting their issues resolved in no time, but also saved lots of time and energy. He further said: "We had received over 150 nominations from across the country and we have selected 29 nominations for 'Elets Awards for Excellence'. Uttar Pradesh has received seven awards, five for the state government and two for the smart cities."

The state government received awards for MSME (UP) e-service portal under the Digital Governance category, Lucknow Municipal Corporation Bonds under Leadership in Governance category, Jansunwai Samadhan under Digital Governance category, UPPCL-Saksham Project under Green Energy category, State Discom and Sewa Mitra Module of Integrated Sewayojan Portal under Digital Governance category. Under the category of Innovations in Smart Cities, the awards went to Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation for Integrated Command and Control Centre and Agra Smart City Ltd for Agra Lockdown Monitoring App.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Tender Notice No.: PRYJ/Br/L/2020-21/04 Dated: 05.01.2021
By Chief Engineer/Bridge/Line/North Central Railway/Prayagraj acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-TENDERS on prescribed form for the following work up to 14.30 hrs. on 18.02.2021. The details of the Tender are as under:

S No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx Cost of work (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Completion period
1	2020-06	Hiring of 01 No. multi utility motor vehicle Tata Safari, Innova or similar make in good condition for 36 Months for the use of Dy.CE/Bridge/Line/North Central Railway, Prayagraj.	₹ 12,76,151.40	₹ 25,500/-	36 Months
2	2020-07	Conduction "Continuous Scour Monitoring" of foundation of Bridge No. 30 (Yamuna) between PRYJ-NYN station of PRYJ-DDU section of Prayagraj division. Using Sonar Echo-rang technology by Airmar Echo Range S5510 smart Sensor or similar equipment on trial basis and submitting continuous monitoring data, analysis and preparation/submission of detailed Reports of continuous scour monitoring data, generating alarms/SMS alerts and validation of reports with grounds levels.	18,81,600.00	37,600/-	20 Months

Cost of Tender Form for both Tenders is: 0.00/-. Date of Opening of both tenders: 18.02.2021. Eligibility Criteria for similar work for both Tenders: Nil. Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on Website www.irops.gov.in up to 14.30 hrs. upto the due date of tender opening i.e. 18.02.2021. (2) Bids other than in the form of E Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (6) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (7) Online tender can be submitted up to 14.30 hrs. on 18.02.2021. (8) Supplier of Goods and/or services would be the subject to GST Act. and Rules as applicable from time to time. 25/21 FA

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North Central Railway, Prayagraj

Tender Notice Dated: 08.01.2021

No. CEN/84/PRYJ/2020-21-06
By Dy. CE/Const./North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works upto 14:30 hrs. on 01.02.2021. The details of the tenders are as under:-

SN	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost of work ₹	Earnest Money ₹
1	CEN/2020-09	Construction of building for 220/132 KV grid sub-station including Approach Road, Culvert, Retaining wall and other allied works at Ramwa Station in connection with Fatehpur-New 220/132 KV grid substation 220 KV transmission lines and associated works.	8.12 Cr.	556300/-

Completion Period: 12 Months Date of Opening of tender: 01.02.2021 Eligibility Criteria for similar work: Any Civil Work. Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.irops.gov.in upto 14:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 01.02.2021. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be accepted through Net-Banking or payment gateway only. 4. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 5. Joint Venture (JV)/Consortiums/MOUs shall be considered for the tender having cost more than 10 Cr. 6. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. The tenderers shall submit a certificate as given in tender document in standard format for all items without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 8. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self-attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attention shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). Only those documents which are declared explicitly by the tenderer as "documents supporting in the claim qualifying the laid down eligibility criteria". will be considered for evaluation his/her tender. In case of any wrong information submitted by the tenderer, the contract will be terminated, earnest money (E.M.D.). Performance Guarantee (PG) and Security Deposit (SD) of contract will be forfeited and agency will be banned for doing business on entire Indian Railways for five (5) years. 9. GST Act & rules issued from time to time by the Government authorities shall be applicable. 10. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 11. Tender online can be submitted up to 14:30 hrs. on 01.02.2021 and will be opened at 15:00 hrs. on same day, of tender opening date. 37/21(D)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

XEN/CSP/NR/KSF acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-tender against Tender no. CSP-KSF/06/20-21 dated 08.01.2021, Closing dated 11.02.2021: 12.00 Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only, Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractor are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money Only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, Credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Other details about tender are available on website: www.irops.gov.in

S No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty. (in cum)	Cost of tender document (in Rs.)	Date of opening	Tender value	Earnest Money	Period of Completion
1	CSP-KSF_06_20-21 dated 08.01.2021	Leading of special cement by road vehicles ex M/s Ultratech Cement Ltd. for Aditya Cement Works, Adityapuram, Shambhupura, Chhittorgarh (Rajasthan), M/s Ultratech Cement Ltd./Dhar Cement Works, Dhar, (Madhya Pradesh). to CSP/NR/Khalispur-Varanasi incl. unloading thereof at CSP/NR/KSF and stacking properly in stores at CSP/NR/Khalispur-Varanasi.	2500 MT	5000	11.02.2021 at 12:00	10233801.34	201200.00	12 month

Note: The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available in website on <https://www.irops.gov.in>. No. 74-W/CSP-KSF/06/20-21 Dated 08.01.2021 72/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SCHOOLSCAN

SCHOLARSHIP

Stephen Madan, a student of CMS, Kanpur Road Campus, has been offered admission with a scholarship of US\$ 80,000 by the prestigious University of San Francisco (USA) for pursuing higher studies. The scholarship has been offered to him for the entire study period of four years. Besides, University of Arizona and Arizona State University, Simon Fraser University and University of Manitoba (Canada), and University of Queensland (Australia) have also invited him.

DC issues showcause notices to eight engineers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Taking the matter of laxity seriously, the Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal has issued showcause notices to eight engineers of different departments and strictly directed all these departments to complete the works with quality in stipulated time period. He also warned the officers that no laxity would be tolerated at any stage. The DC had conducted an inquiry into the ongoing tourism development works in Chowk, Godowlia and

Dashashwamedh and instructed the project manager of Rajkiya Nirman Nigam to overcome all the pinpointed deficiencies and report him within 10 days but as the latter failed in submitting the report, the DC has taken the matter seriously and sought the clarification from the concerned officer.

On the other hand, the DC had instructed the departments concerned to submit their reports about the progress made in various tourism-related projects by 25th of every month but as

many officers failed to obey the instruction, he has issued showcause notices to superintending engineers (SEs) of Public Works Department (PWD), Rural Engineering Service (RES), Construction Division (Irrigation), Work Division (Irrigation), Tubewell Division, Jal Nigam and TAC of Joint Development Commissioner Office. He also warned the officers that no laxity would be tolerated and instructed the officers to ensure completion of works with quality on time.

Earlier, a workshop based

on organic farming and its certification was organised on Friday under the chairmanship of DC Deepak Agrawal.

Inaugurating the workshop, Agrawal said that to promote organic farming, the farmers should get fair prices of their organic produce and they would get the same through satisfaction of the consumers. He stressed the need for organising the farmers for organic production and getting the product certified apart from making joint efforts for marketing.



People warm themselves around bonfire on a cold day in Prayagraj

Pioneer

2nd phase of Covid vaccination dry run tomorrow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The second phase of dry run for Covid vaccination will be conducted in the district on January 11. In the first phase, dry run was held at six centres on January 5. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh said that the dry run session will run from 10 am to 5 pm. Vaccination will be rehearsed with 30 beneficiaries at each centre. The concerned nodal officers are expected to carry out physical verification at the designated places a day before the proposed schedule for the smooth conduct of the session of the allotted areas (hospitals / CHCs / PHCs) by thoroughly checking the necessary preparations at vaccination, waiting room and monitoring rooms, registration and other arrangements.

CMO has also directed the nodal officers to inform the concerned employees about their responsibilities. Nodal officers have been directed to give clear instructions to the

concerned employees to be present at their work places an hour before the scheduled time for conducting the session and ensure sufficient availabilities of Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) Kits / ANM Kits / IECs at the venue. The ANMs must compulsorily test the list of beneficiaries received through 'Covin-App' before session starts by downloading the app and if there is any problem in the download, then make sure to attend the ICCR (Integrated Covid Command Room) and feed the data. During the period, the COVID-19 guidelines should be followed. In the second phase, the dry run will be conducted in 60 sessions at a total of 30 sites, including urban and rural, in which 20 government hospitals including Community Health Centres (CHCs) of Arajline, Narpatpur, Cholapur, Puarikala, Misirpur, Pindra (Gangapur), Hathi Bazar, Durgakund, Shivpur, Primary Health Centre (PHC) Baragaon, Urban Primary

Health Centre (UPHC) Manduadih, SVM Hospital Bhelupur, LBS Hospital Ramnagar, District Women's Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) Hospital, IMS BHU 1, IMS BHU 2, IMS BHU 3 (Trauma Centre), BLW Railway Hospital and Military Hospital Cantt and 10 private hospitals including IMA Varanasi, Heritage Hospital Lanka, Heritage Medical College 1, Heritage Medical College 2, Apex Hospital, Galaxy Hospital, Oriana Hospital, Ashirwad, RK Mission Hospital and Shubham Hospital (Maqbool Alam Road) have been selected.

District Immunisation Officer Dr VS Rai said that in the first phase only COVID-19 vaccine will be administered to the health workers of government and privately run hospitals. Feeding of information related to all these health workers is being done on the portal. A total of 17,500 health workers have been fed on the portal so far. He said that a

rehearsal is being done to deliver the dummy vaccines, in which the same will first come to the police custody from the regional vaccine stores at DDU Hospital Pandeypur and District Vaccine Store Chowkaghat. After that, under the supervision of Dr Manmohan of PHC Chowkaghat, a dummy vaccine was delivered by departmental vehicles to the District Women's Hospital, LBS Hospital Ramnagar, Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur and CHC Durgakund on Friday and Deendayal Upadhyay Hospital, PHCs Harahua, Baragaon, Pindra, Chiragaon and CHC Cholapur on Saturday. The same will be delivered to PHCs Kashi Vidyapeeth, Sewapuri and CHC Arajline on Sunday. All these cold chain points (CCPs) from hospitals and health centres are being transported by dummy vaccine departmental vehicles from 7:30 am to 9 pm at the session sites, he informed.

52 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 52 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Saturday, increasing the total number to 21,600. The day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 369. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 49 and 46 of them have been recovered from home isolation while three from the hospitals, increasing

the number to 17,874 and 2,938 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 20,812, leaving 419 active cases. The recovery rate is 96.35 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.70 per cent.

In the first report of the day, 48 positive patients were found out of 2,589 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 5,43,110 and the results of 3,151 are

awaited. Out of them, 5,21,514 were negative, while 21,596 were positive. The total number of samples collected was 5,69,392.

With the addition of three new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,660 including 183 red zones. Three green zones have been converted into the red zones again. There are 2,477 green zones.

Meanwhile, mass / group

corona antigen tests continued and all the 190 tests were found negative at SSPG Hospital Kabirchaura apart from 36 at CHC Shivpur, 45 at Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur, 195 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar and 135 at SSH BHU.

Along with this, samples of 63 from SSPG, 23 from Vivekanand, 170 from LBS Hospital and 126 from SSH BHU have been sent for RTPCR investigation.

PMSMA Day observed at health centres

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritve Abhiyan (PMSMA) Day was celebrated enthusiastically at all primary and community health centres (PHCs / CHCs) and sub-centres of rural and urban areas including District Women's Hospital, Kabirchaura and Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital Ramnagar here on Saturday. This safe motherhood campaign day is observed on the 9th of every month to reduce maternal and child mortality, better health care of the pregnant, prenatal checkup and to provide them proper treatment on time.

On the occasion, all the pre-natal, blood, urine, blood pressure, diabetes, syphilis, hemoglobin and other tests apart from ultra sound facilities were provided free of cost to the pregnant women at the health centres and the doctors also gave advice for family planning. On this occasion, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh inspected the Urban Community Health Centre (UCHC) at Chowkaghat. He said that after the investigation, women with high risk pregnancy (HRP) were identified and referred to the higher level units and they were given free medicines. Dr Shweta Mishra, Dr Smita Tandon, Dr Sarika Singh, Dr Bani, Dr Madhulika and others were present.

On this day, antenatal check-up (ANC) of 210 women was conducted at the CHC Arajline, in which 39 women were identified for HRP, while there were 13 HRP cases out of 150 at CHC Baragaon, 29 out



Woman being examined under PMSMA at Chowkaghat in Varanasi on Saturday

of 180 at PHC Chiragaon, 14 out of 160 at CHC Cholapur, 19 out of 157 women at PHC Harahua, 13 out of 128 at PHC Kashi Vidyapeeth, 25 out of 146 at PHC Pindra, PHC and 38 out of 166 at PHC Sewapuri apart from six out of 23 women at LBS hospital and 30 out of 190 at Women's Hospital.

ACMO Dr Rajesh Prasad said that on this day all the women identified mainly for HRP were provided special medical counseling and they were also advised to eat healthy and balanced food. With this, micro-refreshments were arranged for all the pregnant women. He informed that under this scheme, radiologists have also been added under Public Private Partnership, who provided free ultrasound facility to the pregnant at their centres.

DEMONSTRATION: Miffed with the termination of their service without prior information, the lab technicians and lab assistants of the Health department, appointed on the ad-hoc basis, staged a demonstration at district headquarter here on Saturday and submitted a memorandum to the district administration

demanding the District Magistrate to direct the competent authority to inquire into matter and restore their service.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the Health department had made appointment of lab technicians and lab assistants on the contractual basis under Rashtriya Swasthya Mission Yojana to conduct the test of coronavirus.

But the Chief Medical Officer had terminated their service on January 1 last suddenly without any prior information, the lab technicians and lab assistants appointed on ad-hoc basis, blamed the lab technicians and lab assistants. They said that they provided their service since August last without caring of their lives, and they were not paid their stipends from October last.

They submitted a memorandum to the district administration urging the District Magistrate to consider the matter seriously and with sympathy and also direct the competent authority to conduct an inquiry into matter so as they could get justice. They also urged the District Magistrate to restore their service. Among those who joined the demon-

stration included Ravindra Kumar Patel, Ruchika Singh, Puja Sarkar, Abhishek Gautam and Deepa.

TWO HELD FOR CHEATING OLD MAN: In a shocking news, two brothers transferred an approximately ₹3.5 lakh from the account of an old-aged man of their neighbour by cheating. The cops at cyber crime arrested both.

The victim Mahaveer Babunandan Jaiswar lives at Khuthan village, under the Cholapur police station. He had lodged complaint with the office of cyber crime on October 19, 2020 that the criminals had transferred ₹3.41 lakh from his account between January 31 and August 31, 2020.

During the investigation, the name of two brothers Ashwani and Aniket came to fore who live in the neighbour of victim.

The cops at cyber crime took both into their custody. During interrogation, Ashwani informed, he and his brother helped the victim to get his money deposited in the account by going to the bank and during this, knew the details about his bank account and transaction and also saved in his Paytm account. Whenever the victim deposited the amount in his account, he transferred the money in his account, the incharge of cyber crime Rahul Shukla informed the presspersons on Saturday adding, the criminals took the phone of victim in the name of calling someone and knew OTP by cheating the victim and transferred the money in his account.

Culprits will not be spared in Badaun rape and murder case: Maurya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said in a case of rape and murder at a shrine in Badaun that the culprits who committed such acts will not be spared. The Yogi government will not spare people who commit such non-human acts. The government will try to punish such criminals harshly. Because of this, the case will be heard in the fast track court. Deputy CM said this to reporters after the inauguration of the Musical Fountain at Chandrasekhar Azad Park.

Keshav said on the incident of firing in Lucknow apart from the Badaun incident that the opposition has no issue left. It is not appropriate to do politics on such incidents. If any incident happens in the state then it is a matter of concern for the government. The state government is constantly taking action against mafias, this will continue to happen.

Earlier, the Deputy CM

was welcomed by the office-bearers of the BJP city unit at Prayagraj Airport. He also held the Janata Darbar in the Circuit House. Hearing the problems of the people here and ordering officers concerned that the problem be resolved at the earliest.

YOGANANDA'S EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY PRESENTED: In continuation of a series of presentations on Indian Educational Thinkers and their Educational Philosophy, Patanjali Rishikul presented another jewel of India, Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda and his educational philosophy: Education for Life, on Saturday.

The programme was streamed live through video conferencing on the Zoom platform. Members of the Board of Management of Patanjali Group of Schools, Dr Krishna Gupta, Ravindra Gupta, Rekha Baid Gupta and Yashovardhan graced the occasion with their benign presence. Principals of sister

schools, Sushmita Kanungo, Alpna Dey, Vibha Srivastava and all staff members were present and participated in the programme.

The programme started with an invocation of the Lord and was followed by the welcome address by Principal, Patanjali Rishikul, Nityanand Singh. He highlighted that education is not confined to intellectual development only but it also aims at developing the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of a child.

To make a man happy and to show the real path of life, Yogananda envisioned a balanced education. His educational philosophy is both idealistic as well as pragmatic with sound educational aims, methods and strategies of education for complete development of man. It holds its relevance in today's era also.

The educational philosophy and pedagogical methods of Paramahansa Yogananda were presented through a shad-

ow act. This presentation was followed by a skit depicting the meeting of Sri Sri Yogananda with Mahatma Gandhi and also his conversation with Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore. It rendered an insight of his appreciation and universal acceptance of different philosophies. Principals of sister schools congratulated the teachers for the beautiful presentation and assured that they would carry forward these philosophies in the teaching-learning process.

In her address, the honorary secretary of Patanjali Group of Schools, Prof Krishna Gupta lauded the efforts of the Rishikul teachers. She insisted on the fact that the aim of education lies in attaining divine knowledge and self-realisation. She further stated that by imbibing the Philosophy of this great thinker like Sri Sri Yogananda, one can achieve the spiritual dimension in one's personality.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Indrani Datta.

NCR GM reviews safety measures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

North Central and North Eastern Railway, General Manager Vinay Kumar Tripathi reviewed position of safety, freight loading, revenue, expenditure control, key infrastructure projects, HR management and efficiency enhancement measures over NCR through video conferencing with AGM, PHODs of NCR and DRMs of Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra divisions.

For safety at level crossings, North Central Railway so far in 2020-21 has eliminated 35 level crossings; seven level crossings have been interlocked and 35 RUBs and three ROBhs have been constructed. For safe operation during fog, more than 2000 fog safe devices are

provided at different crew lobbies and divisions confirmed that fog-safe device is being provided on all trains over NCR. In the current financial year eight safety drives have been conducted for railway staff as well as public to create awareness on safety. As many as 64 NCR owned coaches are provided with fire and smoke detectors for very early detection of fire and smoke cases in passenger coaches. GM instructed that proper system of checking of these items during maintenance must be put in place.

In 2020-21 NCR has maintained punctuality of 91.39 per cent registering improvement of more than 60 per cent over last year. Reviewing punctuality, GM instructed that all data

capturing should be automatic and advised for provision of data logger at balance locations on priority.

On the loading and revenue fronts, NCR has improved upon originating freight loading and freight revenue there-of over last year. Sundry earning and earning from scrap sale in current financial year so far, are ₹ 29.18 crore and ₹169.41 crore respectively. General Manager specifically instructed that scrap sale target of 210 crore must be achieved and instructed all concerned to make concentrated efforts. Tripathi instructed that besides maximising revenue, focused attention shall have to be given for expenditure control and asked for critical analysis of each area to achieve economy

in operation and maintenance of Railways.

Key infrastructure works related to doubling, gauge conversion, construction of flyovers, electrification etc. were also reviewed. GM advised that all mobility and capacity enhancement works must be completed as per stipulated target. Implementation of Human resource management system (HRMS) was also reviewed. Out of total 64,668 employees of NCR 60,362 are already registered on HRMS and e-passes using this online application has already been issued to more than 8,500 employees. GM VK Tripathi advised that all modules of HRMS must be made functional on priority for serving as well as retired employees.

4 criminals nabbed after encounter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Karchhana police in the trans-Yamuna segment along with the Crime Branch team arrested four dreaded criminals after an encounter. Two of them sustained bullet injuries while the other two had to surrender seeing them surrounded by the police force on Friday night.

According to the SP (trans-Yamuna) Saurav Dixit, the criminals had gathered there with a plan to perform a loot at the Bank of Baroda Sadhukuti branch of the area. They were surrounded by the police near a school in Chanaini village. To escape from the scene the criminals opened fire, and the police had to retaliate. In this process two criminals Imran Shekh and Ziaul Shekh sustained injuries, while two others Afroz Shekh and Tafazzul Shekh were arrested. They all belong to Jharkhand. One of their associates, however, managed to escape. This gang was wanted in connection with a loot at a jewellery shop in Karchhana Kotwali area.

The police recovered from

their possession gas cutter, gas cylinder, crude bombs, rod, pistols, cartridges and other equipment. This was the fourth encounter in Prayagraj during the past 36 hours. The officials said that in view of the forthcoming Panchayat election, the police have become extra cautious.

NEGATIVE RTPCR REPORT MUST FOR ENRTY IN MAGH MELA: Individuals visiting the annual Magh Mela area of Prayagraj would be allowed entry only if they would have a negative RTPCR report within five days of entering Prayagraj district.

This was stated by the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh in the programmes and instructions submitted by him before the court hearing the PIL relating to COVID-19.

While taking the submission and programme of Chief Secretary on record, a division bench comprising Justice Siddhartha Varma and Justice Ajit Kumar observed, 'After having gone through the instructions, we are not convinced, at all, that the steps which are being taken by the state, would be sufficient to stop the infection if it came

through someone who entered inside Prayagraj with it.'

However, while fixing January 12 as the next date of hearing of this PIL, the court directed the state government that by the next date, it may come up with foolproof methods by which it intended to control the spread of the infection. 'They may keep in mind that such congregations during the month of Magh are very large in number and if even one infected person sneaks inside the city he can create havoc,' the court added.

The court further directed the state government to place before it a definite date and intended programme before the court as to when and how the vaccination for the elimination of COVID-19 would be done in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The court passed this order when upon a question being put to state counsel as to when the vaccination programme for elimination of COVID-19 would be started in the country, he requested for time to take instructions.

Besides, the court also directed the Chief Secretary to inform the court by means of an affidavit as to how and in

what manner such places of worship which had been constructed over the public land had to be removed. The court passed these directives on January 7.

ANTI-ENCROACHMENT TEAM ATTACKED: Anti-encroachment team of the Prayagraj Development Authority was attacked on Saturday afternoon in down town Civil Lines area during its operation against unauthorised shops raised by the side of the road on parking space. The police immediately came into action and resorted to cane charge. About half-a-dozen persons have been detained by the police. The shopkeepers pulled down their shutters and reached Civil Lines police station to lodge protest, and started a dharna there. The officials, however, said that when the team reached Civil Lines with JCB machines, and started removing encroachment from the parking space, some shopkeepers attacked the PDA team with stones, and tried to snatch the carbine of the security personnel causing injury to them. Then the police came into action to bring the situation under control



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar holding a meeting on Ganga Barrage Inner Ring Road at the camp office

Pioneer

DC holds meeting on Ganga Barrage Inner Ring Road

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar while addressing a meeting on Ganga Barrage Inner Ring Road at the Commissionerate on Saturday said this will be a big relief for fast connectivity and also give a link route. He said effort need to be made to give momentum to the whole project. He said project was handed over to the UPSIDA to prepare a DPR but due to frequent transfers of the authorities the project could

not proceed any further.

He said the project was put up in the year 2018 and the official approval was given in June 2018. He said every effort will now be made to ensure that this project was given full momentum. He said once this was ready the traffic of the city will become facile and run on high speed. He said it would also add links to the route making it the first choice of travellers and those who move on inter-city routes.

Shekhar was informed that instead of DPR a RFC was pre-

pared at that point of time and thus efforts were on to ensure that the feedback was taken from the department concerned. The DC directed the officials to ensure they took input in the next three days by contacting the three departments - PWD, KESCo and Irrigation department. He said a special committee had been set up which comprised the department heads along with Neeraj Srivastava and all the alignment concerned be done in the next seven days to remove all the present hurdles.

He said it was a big project but certainly it was very important. He said the coordination will be ensured and financing will be done by the government. He said the work which had been pending since 2018 will be taken up on a war footing so that the project was ready on time.

Prominent who took part in the meeting were District Magistrate, City, Alok Tiwari, ADM Finance, Chief Engineer, KESCo, EE of PWD various other officials of associated departments.

'Vivad se Vishwas yojana' extended till January 31

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Principal Chief Income Tax Commissioner, UP, Uttarakhand, Pritam Singh while addressing the presspersons informed that the scheme 'Vivad se Vishwas yojana' had been extended till January 31. He only between 20 and 25 per cent tax payers have been associated in this scheme and thus efforts will be made to widen the tax net even further.

He said however the flip side was that despite the COVID-19 pandemic taxes to the tune of ₹ 12,000 crore has been achieved which was certainly not a mean achievement. He said the UP and Uttarakhand region as on date had been successful in collecting 40 per cent tax. He said this year a target of ₹ 30,000 crore had been given and out of this around ₹ 12,000 crore had already been achieved. He said it was quite encouraging that advance tax was being recovered even before the end of the trimester.

Singh further informed that the tax ratio of western UP and Uttarakhand was nearly the same and informed that if the TDS target was achieved the total tax will be achieved by 50 per cent. He said from the time the Faceless Assessment had been started till date there had been no complaint.

INSPECTION: The Chief Engineer, Kanpur, Shesh Kumar Baghel, carried out an inspection with the team of the 3311 kva power substation Tikra and said that the bill should be exact, and said that line losses should be reduced by 15 per cent and ensure that villagers were given power supply round-the-clock and there should be no compromise of facilities and safety. Others present on the occasion were Prabhat Anand, Anil Ahuja, RK Awasthi, Mahesh Chandra Pandey, Anurag Kashyap, Virendra Kumar and many more.

Directive to close illegal trade of building material

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

KDA Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh has directed to close the illegal trade of building material in New Maurang Mandi on Hamirpur Road. He directed the KDA Secretary and Mining Officer to jointly carry out the demarcation of entire Mandi area within a week. At the same time, he also directed to initiate stern penal action against illegal operation of building material trade without the permission of the Mining department. During inspection of the New Maurang Mandi on Friday, he found the illegal operation of Maurang trade on the land from highway to the Maurang Mandi. It may be recalled that on January 4, traders of Binagwa Maurang Mandi had staged dharna for indefinite period at the KDA compound in protest against the illegal trade of building material being carried out there. The agitation was withdrawn after KDA VC had assured them to resolve their



KDA Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh hearing the problems of building material traders in New Maurang Mandi.

Pioneer

problems by holding an on-the-spot inspection. In this context, he carried out the inspection of New Maurang Mandi and

resolved the problems of building material traders on Friday. KDA Secretary SP Singh, Additional Secretary Dr

Gudakesh Sharma, Executive Engineer Atul Misra and Mining Officer were present during the inspection.

Blood donation camp held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The acting Director of Dr Virendra Swarup Institute for Computer Studies, Saket Nagar, Dr Arpit Awasthi while addressing the blood donation camp held on its premises on Saturday said January was the month to hold blood donation camps and thus VSICS has also decided to organise one. He said there was a myth among masses that blood donation led to medical problems. He said thus there was a need to spread awareness among the masses that blood donation was healthy and saved precious lives.

He said the fact was that majority of people never knew the health benefits of blood donation and said it reduced risk of cancer and a hereditary disorder in which iron salts were deposited in the tissues, leading to liver damage, diabetes mellitus, and bronze discoloration of the skin. He said it helped in reducing the risk of



Students of VSIPS donating blood during blood donation camp.

Pioneer

damage to liver and pancreas and donating blood helped in improving cardiovascular health and reducing obesity.

Dr Awasthi said every day blood transfusions takes place that saves lives of many people all over the world and donating blood was good for the health of donors as well as those who needed it. He advised that it was important that blood donation took place

in a hospital, a clinic or a blood bank, in the presence of medical experts.

He said it was important to know that human blood cannot be manufactured, people were the only source of it and that was why it was important to donate blood and help those who needed it. He said it was also possible to store ones own blood for future needs but in a good blood bank. He added

that after donating blood, the body worked to replenish the blood loss and this stimulated the production of new blood cells which in turn, helped in maintaining good health. Prominent who donated blood were Dr Aparna Shukla, Nikita Srivastava, Shivani Singh, Tanya Sachan, Aditi Bajpai, Priya Tripathi, Akriti Sharma and several others. Total 32 units of blood were donated.

No case of bird flu reported in Kanpur div

KANPUR (PNS): The Kanpur Zoological Garden Senior Veterinarian, Dr RK Singh, while addressing a workshop on bird flu in the zoo claimed that there had been no case of bird flu reported in Kanpur division. He however said that vigilance had been stepped up to prevent it and its spread as well. He said there was a furore after the death of 10 red jungle fowls but it had nothing to do with Bird Flu. He said people if find any bird flu symptoms should immediately inform the health officials of the city. He said with proper care and remaining vigilant this can be averted. He said the disease was transmitted to humans through contact with infected bird faeces, nasal secretions, or secretions from the mouth or eyes. He said consuming properly cooked poultry or eggs from infected birds doesn't transmit the bird flu but eggs should be hard boiled especially the yolk should be fully cooked. He added that the bird flu was a viral infection that spreads among birds and can also affect humans and other animals.

Dr Singh said the virus was deadly to birds and can easily affect humans and other animals that come in contact with a carrier, although it isn't known to spread via human-to-human contact. He said the symptoms of bird flu were respiratory difficulties such as shortness of breath, fever, headaches, muscle ache, running nose, sore throat while some people may experience nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea as well. He said it was usually treated using antiviral medications such as oseltamivir (Tamiflu) or zanamivir (Relenza), which can help reduce the severity of the infection, prevent complications and improve the chances of survival. He said usually the viral infection was spread by close contact with infected birds such as touching infected birds, touching droppings or beddings, killing or preparing infected poultry for cooking, etc.

Blind murder case worked out

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Police worked out the blind murder case of a girl whose body was found on January 5 in Jamalpur village under Jamalpur police station. Giving details about the case at Police Lines ASP (Operation) Mahesh Singh Atri stated that on January 5 the body of the girl was found in the field of Radheshyam in Jamalpur village under Jamalpur police station. It was identified as the body of 17-year-old daughter of a resident of Jamalpur under Jamalpur police station. He said that as the body had mark of injuries so a case was registered under Sections 302/201 of IPC and investigation was being done by SO Vijay Shankar Saroj. According to the police investigation indicated towards involvement of parents of the victim so the police went in that direction for collecting substantial evidences. During interrogation her parents confessed that they had committed the murder. As per the confession, the activities of the girl were causing disrepute to the family and she refused to mend her ways. On January 2 the girl returned home late at night and when they objected to it and they had an altercation after they strangled her to death and dumped her body in the field. After arresting both the accused the police recovered the scarf which was used to strangle her. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail. Meanwhile an accused under the Gangster Act was arrested by Padari police. As per the reports, a case had been registered at the police station on November 10 against the accused in which it was stated she was a member of a gang involved in illegal liquor trade. After the case

was registered the accused was at large. On being tipped off by an informer the police raided the residence of the accused, Savita Devi, a resident of village Gopalpur under Padari police station and nabbed her. After completing the formalities the police sent the accused to jail.

DIRECTIVE: UP Minister of State for Tourism (independent charge) Neelkanth Tiwari has directed the administration to submit a plan for beautification of all important places in Vindhya area. While reviewing Vindhya Corridor works at a meeting in Vindhychal, the minister was apprised by the DM that out of 92 properties registry of 66 had been done and the process for the rest was in progress. The minister directed to intensify the work regarding the dismantling of acquired properties. PWD was directed to plant saplings on the dividers from Shastri bridge to Aurai. He made it clear that for there would be no paucity of fund for Vindhya Corridor work and people of the area would get employment. Prior to the review meeting the minister inspected the Vindhya Corridor area and the works going on there. The meeting was attended by UP Minister of State for Energy Rama Shankar Singh Patel, MLA (City) Ratnakar Mishra and administrative officers.



Temporary addl stoppage for trains at Patna Saheb stn

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of passengers will temporarily provide additional stoppage to 02333/02334 Howrah-Prayagraj Rambag-Howrah and 03121/03122 Kolkata-Ghaziipur City-Kolkata special trains at Patna Saheb station from January 12 to 26. Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. The 02333 Howrah-Prayagraj Rambag special train will from January 12 to 26 arrive at Patna Saheb station at 03:34 hrs and will leave at 03:36 hrs. The 02334 Prayagraj Rambag-Howrah special train will from January 12 to 26 arrive at Patna Saheb station at 23:08 hrs and depart at 23:10 hrs. The 03121 Kolkata-Ghaziipur City special train will from January 12 to 26 arrive at Patna Saheb Station at 04:21 hrs and leave at 04:23 hrs. The 03122 Ghaziipur City-Kolkata special train will from January 12 to 26 arrive at Patna Saheb station at 20:26 hrs and leave at 20:28 hrs.

ONE CAUGHT: The Railway Protection Force, North Eastern Railway (NER), makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. In the same sequence, RPF post, Kaptanganj, and Crime Intelligence Branch (CIB), Bhatni, caught one person along with 21 illegal e-tickets from a shop in Ramkola. Action was taken under the Railway Act and a case was registered in this connection. Likewise the RPF post, Gorakhpur, caught one person with one illegal Tatkal e-ticket from Gorakhpur Jn Railway reservation centre. Action was taken under the Railway Act and a case was registered in this connection. Likewise a woman passenger who was recently travelling on train no 02334 from Rambag to Howrah suddenly fell ill after which the RPF and Government Railway Police got her down at the Gyanpur railway station and got her admitted at the health centre in Gopiganj by sending

her there on an ambulance. In the same sequence, the RPF post, Gorakhpur, while patrolling at Gorakhpur railway station found two girls aged 15 and 10 years respectively in unclaimed condition on platform Nos 2 and 9. After questioning, both the girls were handed over to the Childline, Gorakhpur. The RPF post, Gonda, during patrolling at platform no. 1 of Gonda railway station found a 14-year-old boy in unclaimed condition. After questioning, the boy was handed over to Childline, Gonda. The RPF post, Ballia, during patrolling at platform No 01 found a 12-year-old boy in an unclaimed condition. After questioning the boy was handed over to Childline, Ballia. On the other hand, the RPF post, Basti and Crime Intelligence Branch, Gorakhpur in collaboration with the local police took action against two ticket touts for illegally using software under the Railway Act and registered a case against them.

NTPC Vindhychal honoured

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The NTPC Limited-Vindhychal for outstanding achievements in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) management in the field of thermal power sector has been honoured by Apex India Foundation with 'Gold Award' at CSR Excellence Award 2019. The Apex India Foundation organised the virtual award ceremony of Apex India CSR Excellence Award 2019 at New Delhi recently during which human rights activist Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, national president, Laghu Udyog Bharati, Baldevbhai Prajapati, and other guests were present. The NTPC-Vindhychal under CSR is prominently working on financial support for Project Udaan in the field of education, film-based education system, campaign for empowerment of girls, distribution of desks and benches in schools etc. Along with organising medical camps, distribution of nutritious food among pregnant women and malnourished children,



employment-oriented training for empowerment of women, digital literacy, linking to social security schemes, financial support for the establishment of integrated water supply plant by nagar nigam besides for construction of community kitchen building, installation of hand pumps and water ATMs, awareness about cleanliness, operation of Sulabh toilets, organising sports training camps and other competitions, Divyangjans and distribution of tricycles have been done. Besides providing support for

relief from Covid-19 pandemic distribution of face masks etc is also being done. More than three lakh people have benefited from all such social works. In future too the project will continue works related to the all-round development of the society. The NTPC-Vindhychal management and employees associated with the above works are happy after receiving the 'Gold Award' from the Apex India Foundation. The NTPC Vindhychal is always ready to provide a new direction to the society under its CSR policy.

Vishal steals the show

PNS ■ VARANASI

During the T20 Inter-departmental Cricket Tournament going on under the joint aegis of the Manoranjan Institute and Divisional Sports Association (DSA) at the Mini Stadium of Varanasi Division, North Eastern Railway (NER), a match between Mechanical and Personnel departments was played on Friday. Bating first, the Mechanical department lost all wickets and scored 133 runs in 20 overs. Vishal contributed 40 runs and Pradeep 21 while 43 were additional runs. For Personnel department Arun took two wickets while Abhishek, Makhlanlal, Rahul and Randhir one wicket each. In response the Personnel department was all out for 112 runs. Sunil contributed 21 runs, Sujeet 16, Amit 14 and Randhir 12. For Mechanical department Mukesh and Rishabh took three wickets each and Jawahar two. In the tough competition the Mechanical department team won the match by 22 runs. The match umpires were Rakesh Gupta and Anil Yadav. Vishal was awarded the Man of the Match Award for his brilliant batting by Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Paul. On the occasion a large number of railway employees and sports lovers were present in the pavilion.

Seminar organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Chairman of Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Manoj Jaiswal has appealed to its staff and citizens to come forward to improve city's ranking in the cleanliness survey. During a one day seminar organised on solid waste management and ODF on Friday, the chairman directed the palika staff, especially those concerned with sanitation, that the target should be to ensure that the city was ranked among the 100. In the year 2020 the city had secured 198th position, he said. He asked the staff to ensure sanitation on roads, streets, drains public urinals and community toilets too. EO Om Prakash threw light over norms for the survey this year and told the staff to work as per the new standards and for city's prestige. The seminar which was conducted by Sanjay Singh.

YOUTH DIES: A youth died when a tractor overturned recently. Pradeep Bind (25), a resident of Deori Kala village under Madihan police station was on the way on his tractor when he lost his control over it near Hasara village and it overturned and he was seriously injured. He was taken to a hospital where he was declared as brought dead. Madihan police took the body in custody to complete the legal formalities.

'World closely watching India's Covid jab plan'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the country's power has increased during the Coronavirus period and the world is "not only waiting for Indian vaccines but is also watching how India runs the world's biggest vaccination programme."

Addressing the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention via video conferencing, the Prime Minister said the campaign to empower the poorest of the poor with modern technology is going on in India today, it is discussed in every corner of the world.

The convention is a flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs, and provides a platform to engage and connect with overseas Indians.

"India today is using technology more and more to end corruption. Lakhs of crores of rupees, which earlier used to reach the wrong hands due to all the deficiencies, are now reaching directly into the bank account of the beneficiary.

You must have seen, the new institutions that India has developed, have also been praised by global organizations at this time of Corona. The campaign to empower the poorest of the poor with modern technology is going on in India today, it is discussed in every corner of the world, at every level", he said.

Recognising the contribution of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Modi said they have strengthened their identities in other countries but all have remained connected with the motherland.

"Today we have been connected with internet from various corners of the world but



our minds are always connected with 'Maa Bharti'. In the past years, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have strengthened their identity in other countries," he said.

"The past year has been a year of great challenges for all of us. But amidst these challenges, the manner in which our Indian Diaspora has spread around the world, has performed its duty, it is also a matter of pride for India. This is our tradition, this is the rites of this soil. From this place, the trust of fellow Indian origin is being strengthened for social and political leadership all over the world", Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the Chief Guest of our event, the new President of Suriname, Chandrika Prasad Santokhi ji, is "himself a shining example of this service "performed by NRIs.

He said that India had taken lead during the pandemic period and is now being watched for the coming massive plan of vaccination in the country.

"Being the pharmacy of the world, India has supplied important medicines to all those in need in the past and is also doing so now. The world is not only waiting for Indian vaccines but is also watching how India runs the world's biggest vaccination programme", Modi said.

Acknowledging India's contribution in global wealth and counter-terrorism measures, Modi said that the world

drew courage from our actions during the testing times.

"When India stood in the face of terrorism, the world too got the courage to face this challenge. Today, India is using technology to end corruption. Money worth lakhs and crores are directly being credited to accounts of beneficiaries... People said that India will break and democracy is impossible in the country but the truth is that India stands together with a strong and vibrant democracy today," Modi said.

Commenting on our country's prowess in developing indigenous vaccines to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, he hailed India's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives to "save humanity".

"India used to import PPE kits, masks, ventilators and testing kits from abroad but today our nation is self-reliant. Today, India is ready to save humanity with two 'Made in India' Covid-19 vaccines," the Prime Minister said at the convention.

Modi said that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention would be a "great opportunity to interact with our vibrant diaspora".

"Today, India is ready to save humanity with two 'Made in India' Covid-19 vaccines. India has done this earlier and it is doing it now as well," he said while speaking at the 16th chapter of the Convention.

The last one was held at Varanasi.

Cong to hit streets across country from Jan 15 to show solidarity with farmers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the eight round of talks between the Centre and protesting farmers over the controversial farm laws failed, the Congress has announced to hit the streets across the country from January 15 onwards to express its solidarity with the farmers. Congress delegations in every State and Union Territory will also gherao the Raj Bhawan and protest demanding the repeal of the farm laws and mark the day as Kisan Adhikar Divas.

The party's decision to take to the streets comes after the farmer unions and central ministers talks ended in yet another stalemate on Friday. Congress's protest will coincide with the next round of talks between the Centre and the agitating farmers next Saturday.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday instructed party general secretaries and leaders to discuss future strategy on the farmer protests following which AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal held a virtual meeting with party colleagues to discuss the ongoing farmers' protest that has also witnessed the death of at least 60 farmers in the past month.

Party leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who too participated in the meeting and agreed that though the agitating farmers have been keeping away from politicians it would be good to stand in soli-



Continuing his attacks on the Centre on the issue, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi questioned the intentions of the Government. Rahul alleged that the government was working as per a planned strategy to deliberately stretch talks with protesting farmer unions.

"Neyat saaf nahi hai jinki, tareekh pe tareekh dena strategy hai unki! (Those who don't have a clear motive, fix new dates every time as per a strategy)," Rahul Gandhi tweeted in Hindi.

Making the announcement of nation wide protest, AICC chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala said the Congress is duty-bound to stand with the farmers of the country and thus it has been decided that the party will observe January 15 as Kisan Adhikar Divas.

Surjewala said that the Narendra Modi government is "trying to frustrate and tire out the agitating farmers as part of a conspiratorial plan by giving representatives of farmer unions a new date for discussions after every round of talks... over 60 farmers have lost their lives so far during the

protest and the Prime Minister has not uttered a single word of sympathy and solidarity... Narendra Modi is directly responsible for these deaths."

In the State capitals, local party leaders will conduct rallies that will culminate with a gherao of the Raj Bhawan demanding repeal of the three farm laws.

The party's key frontal organisation, the Indian Youth Congress (IYC), has also launched a nationwide program - Ek Muthi Mitti Shaheedo Ke Naam - "to pay tribute to the martyrdom" of the over 60 farmers who have so far lost their lives during the protests. IYC members across the country will organise a series of rallies and demonstrations to highlight the "injustice that the three farm laws will inflict upon crores of Indian farmers," said IYC national president Srinivas B.V.

The grand old party volunteers will also "visit villages of the martyred farmers and collect a fistful of soil as a show of solidarity with the farmers."

Congress, along with several other Opposition parties, has opposed the three farm laws when they were passed by Parliament during the monsoon session.

Ever since the Congress has maintained that the only way for the government to end the impasse with the agitating farmers is to withdraw the three legislations.

Cold conditions persist in north India; Kashmir receives fresh snowfall

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There was no let-up in cold weather conditions in north India on Saturday with fresh snowfall in parts of Kashmir affecting flight operations.

A thick layer of fog enveloped parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Heavy rainfall was observed at isolated places in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Kashmir.

In Delhi, the minimum temperature was recorded at 10.8 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal.

The minimum temperature in the city has remained above normal since January 3 as a result of cloud cover under the influence of successive western disturbances.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, had recorded a minimum temperature of 9.6 degrees Celsius on Friday and 14.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the highest in January in four years, the IMD said.

The cloud cover over the national capital has prevented a steep decline in the minimum temperature so far, an IMD

official said.

Some other parts of Kashmir received four inches of snowfall in the morning, affecting flight operations at the airport in Srinagar, even as the minimum temperature dropped across the valley.

However, air traffic to and fro Kashmir was restored in the afternoon after several flights were cancelled in the morning due to fresh snowfall.

The valley had received snowfall for four consecutive days earlier in the week, dropping everything in white.

In south Kashmir, Kulgam recorded five inches of snow, Anantnag three, Shopian three and Pulwama four. Bandipora, in the north, received two inches of snow and central Kashmir's Budgam and Ganderbal districts recorded three inches each.

There were no reports of snowfall at the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir, and Pahalgam tourist resort in the south.

Some other areas in the valley received rainfall.

In Himchal Pradesh, Keylong and Kalpa shivered at sub-zero temperature.

The tribal Lahaul and Spiti's administrative centre Keylong were the coldest place in the state at minus 9 degrees Celsius, Shimla Met centre director Manmohan Singh said.

IAF Chief visits Vijaynagar advanced landing ground in easternmost part of Arunachal Pradesh

New Delhi: Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadrauria visited the Vijaynagar advanced landing ground (ALG) in the easternmost part of Arunachal Pradesh earlier this week, according to an official statement on Saturday.

The trip to Vijaynagar ALG on Thursday was part of his three-day visit to the Eastern

Air Command. During this trip, he reviewed the operational preparedness of the IAF units deployed in various locations under this command.

"On 07 Jan 21, CAS visited Vijaynagar ALG in the easternmost part of Arunachal Pradesh," the IAF said on Twitter.

PTI

Govt mulls law to mitigate cruelty to animals

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to minimise cruelty to animals, the Centre on Saturday notified the draft rules for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animal Husbandry Practices and Procedures) Rules, 2020 pertaining to dehorning, castration, nose-roping, and branding to prohibit inhumane animal husbandry procedures and cruel methods used to euthanise animals.

The draft rules prepared by the Ministry of Animal Husbandry mandate using anaesthetics prior to castration, replacing archaic and painful practices such as hot branding with radio frequency identification, breeding hornless cattle instead of dehorning or disbudding, and applying behavioural principles of animal handling and restraining - such as the use of face halters, blindfolds, treats (like molasses, groundnut cake, or green grass), and verbal and physical cues like calmly talking to and gently stroking animals instead of roughly throwing them to the ground and tying their legs with ropes. The ministry has sought comments/suggestions for the draft rules in the 60 days.

Experts pointed to the use of hot irons, knives, or wires for dehorning animals, physical and chemical methods for castration, hot iron branding for identification, and piercing of cattle septum by using iron rods, which caused tremendous pain to the animals.

Under the draft rules, the inserting more than one rope through nose; use of unnatural, abrasive or sharp materials such as nylon, plastic and others for nose roping; elastration (banding the body part using rubber rings; on scrotum for castration and on tail for docking) in adult cattle; induced cryptorchidism (to prevent descent of testi-



cles) and minor veterinary services carried out without the supervision and direction of a registered veterinary practitioner will be prohibited and considered as cruel activities.

The rules also require that euthanasia be carried out only under the supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner. As per the rules, dehorning and disbudding of an animal shall be done in blind folded and humanely handled before and during the procedure. "Administration of sedatives, analgesics and local anaesthesia should be provided to animals under recommendation and supervision of a registered veterinarian," the rules said. Branding of an animal shall be done through alternative identification methods such as ear-tagging, tattooing, freeze branding (cold branding) and use of radio frequency identification devices shall be preferred for identification of an animal.

Hot branding shall only be carried on dead tissues such as hoof in the case of horses or horn in the case of cattle. The depth of branding shall not exceed the 3/4 the thickness of the dead tissue of horn or hoof.

While nose-roping of an animal shall be done through use of face halter, blind folding, including offering treats such as molasses, groundnut

cake and green grass, as well as verbal and physical cues such as calmly talking to and gently stroking, shall be performed for ease of handling and restraining of animal at the time of nose piercing to divert the attention of animal. "Sedative and pre-emptive analgesics shall be given before piercing the nasal septum; a sterile instrument for piercing the nasal septum shall be used under the recommendation and supervision of a registered veterinarian," it said.

The rules prescribe euthanasia - "a good death" - for situations in which it's cruel to keep an animal alive, as mandated by the PCA Act, 1960, or in which a massive number of animals are to be killed for the purpose of disease control, as mandated by The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009, and they call for animals to be unconscious without enduring pain or suffering prior to the cessation of vital signs. Current crude methods include injecting chemicals that painfully stop the functioning of the heart and lungs while animals are still conscious, suffocating them to death in plastic bags, and burying or burning them alive, as was reportedly done in a few states during the recent avian flu outbreak.

Ex-Gujarat CM Solanki passes away at 93

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR



Former Union Minister and four-term Gujarat Chief Minister Madhavsinh Solanki passed away on Saturday at the age of 93. He was also the External Affairs Minister in the PV Narasimha Rao government.

Several noted leaders consoled the death of the nonagenarian Congressman including President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"In the demise of Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, the nation has lost an unmatched leader. He will be long remembered as much for his role in shaping modern Gujarat as for his inimitable warmth, charm, and love for literature. My condolences to his family and well-wishers," said the President in his condolence message.

Modi said, "Shri Madhavsinh Solanki Ji was a formidable leader, playing a key role in Gujarat politics for decades. He will be remembered for his rich service to society. Saddened by his demise. Spoke to his son, Bharat Solanki Ji and expressed condolences. Om Shanti."

The Prime Minister added, "Beyond politics, Shri Madhavsinh Solanki Ji enjoyed reading and was passionate about culture. Whenever I would meet him or speak to

him, we would discuss books and he would tell me about a new book he recently read. I will always cherish the interactions we had."

Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, too, expressed sadness at Solanki's death. "He will be remembered for his contribution in strengthening the Congress ideology & promoting social justice. Heartfelt condolences to his family & friends," said the leaders.

Solanki is credited to bring the 'Mid-day Meal' initiative which is still benefitting the students in schools across the country. He also started the girl child nurturing scheme 'Kanya Kelavani' in Gujarat. Solanki served as the state's CM for four terms between 1976 and 1990 and was the longest-serving Chief Minister of the state before Narendra Modi. He is also remembered for cobbling together the KHAM (Kshatriya, Harijan or Dalit, Adivasi, Muslim) social coalition to gain electoral upper hand in Gujarat in the 1980s.

The late politician's son, Bharat Solanki, is a former Gujarat Congress chief and former Union Minister.

Legitimacy of legislators, lawmaking bodies critical for effective functioning of Parl democracy: Naidu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PANAJI

Vice President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairman M.Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday asserted that the legitimacy of legislators and lawmaking bodies is critical for effective functioning of parliamentary democracy backed by the much-needed trust and confidence of the people.

Noting that legislatures are the instruments of according legitimacy for the decisions of both the executive and the judiciary, he raised the prospect of the very legitimacy of legislatures coming into question if they are dysfunctional and lawmakers do not enjoy the respect of the people they represent.

Speaking to the present and former legislators of Goa on the occasion of the 'Legislators Day' in Panaji,

Naidu urged the law makers to ensure the legitimacy of the law making bodies through ideal behavior and effective functioning both within and outside the Houses. He suggested to the lawmakers to do so by equipping them with six attributes that would make a significant difference.

"It is the functioning of legislatures and law making bodies that can either make or mar any democracy," said the Vice President.

Goa Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and Members of the Goa Legislative Assembly were among the dignitaries who attended the event.

Naidu further observed; "Any legislator has the option of either supporting the Government or opposing it. Informed opposition to the

government's proposals in fact does a certain good but opposing for the sake of doing it does harm."

The Vice President complimented the people and successive governments of Goa for the emergence of the State as the most developed in the country with the highest Per Capita Income in the country and the best human development indicators since its liberation from the colonial rule 60 years back after a long drawn struggle.

However, referring to Goa having had as many as 30 governments during the 57 years since the first elections in 1963, Naidu said that it is a huge number by any reckoning and it is difficult to justify such a political flux which results in negative perception.

Pilot axed for remarks against Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

GoAir on Saturday terminated its senior pilot from services over his derogatory remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Twitter. The GoAir pilot had posted some tweets against PM Modi on January 7 that had led to an uproar on social media.

In a statement, GoAir said it has "zero tolerance policy and it is mandatory for all GoAir

employees to comply with the company's employment rules, regulations and policies, including social media behaviour.

"The airline does not associate itself with personal views expressed by any individual or an employee. GoAir has terminated the services of the captain with immediate effect," the statement added.

Meanwhile, the terminated GoAir pilot tendered his apol-

ogy on Twitter. "I apologise for my tweets about the prime minister and other offensive tweets, which may have hurt sentiments of anyone associated. I convey that GoAir is not associated with any of my tweets directly or indirectly as they were personal views. I take full responsibility for my actions and would like to apologise for my mistakes and willingly accept the consequences," the pilot said.

Microplastics now reaching into human wombs too: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Health hazardous plastic is now reaching into the human wombs too! In a first-of-its-kind but disturbing study, researchers have found presence of microplastics - tiny plastic particles smaller than 5 millimetres but bigger than 1 micron - inside human placentas, posing a potential risk to fetal health and development.

The study published in the recent journal 'Environmental International' said these plastic pieces were recognised as polypropylene,



a plastic commonly used in food containers and packaging.

While the other pieces were harder to identify, they appeared to be plastic bits

from "man-made coatings, paints, adhesives, plasters, finger paints, polymers and cosmetics and personal care products," according to the study titled 'Plasticenta: First evidence of microplastics in human placenta'.

The researchers said that microplastics present inside human placentas could potentially affect fetal health and development, disrupt immunity mechanisms in babies, though they are yet to investigate further to prove this assumption.

The microplastics probably entered the women's bod-

ies through ingestion and inhalation, and then translocated to the placentas, the researchers said as they found a total of 12 microplastic fragments in four of the six placentas.

The effects of microplastics in the human body on health are still largely unknown, but the researchers said it was "a matter of great concern" due to the critical role the placenta plays in fetal development. "Microplastics were found in all placental portions: maternal, fetal and amniochorial membranes," researchers said cautioning

that the hazardous item carry with them substances which acting as endocrine disruptors could cause long-term effects on human health.

Lead author Antonio Ragusa, director of obstetrics and gynecology at the San Giovanni Calibita Fatebenefratelli hospital in Rome, said it's likely that microplastics would be present in the babies themselves, although further research would need to confirm this.

While all of the babies were healthy at birth, Ragusa said that the microplastics in the placenta had the potential

to "alter several cellular regulating pathways ... such as immunity mechanisms.

"Due to the crucial role of placenta in supporting the foetus development and in acting as an interface between the latter and the external environment, the presence of exogenous and potentially harmful (plastic) particles is a matter of great concern.

"Possible consequences on pregnancy outcomes and foetus are the transgenerational effects of plasticizer on metabolism and reproduction.

"Further studies need to be performed to assess if the

presence of MPs in the human placenta may trigger immune responses or may lead to the release of toxic contaminants, resulting harmful for pregnancy," warned the researchers.

Various reports have pointed out that the plastic waste generated worldwide is expected to triple to 155-265 million metric tonnes per year by 2060. Owing to their size, microplastics are extremely difficult to remove from the environment and are easily consumed by animals and humans, thus need to reduce their usage.

900 hens die at poultry farm in Maha's Parbhani

Aurangabad: As many as 900 hens have died at a poultry farm in Murumba village in Parbhani district of Maharashtra, a senior official said on Saturday.

Their samples have been sent for investigation to identify the exact cause of the death, Parbhani district collector Deepak Mulgikar told PTI.

"900 hens have died in two consecutive days in Murumba village in the Marathwada region. We have

taken the samples of the deceased birds for investigation," he said.

He said the poultry farm where the death of birds was reported is run by a Self Help Group (SHG).

"This poultry farm has some 8,000 birds. 900 birds have died over two days. No death of birds was reported in the last 24 hours," he said.

Prima facie, the death of hens could be related to nutrition, the collector said, adding that the test results are awaited.

Maharashtra has so far not reported any cases of bird flu or avian influenza.

On January 8, the Centre said that bird flu has been confirmed so far in six states—Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat.

In 2006, H5N1 virus outbreak was reported in Nandurbar and Dhule districts in north Maharashtra, which had affected thousands of birds. **PTI**

150 crows' death in 3 districts of Jammu triggers bird flu scare

Jammu: Over 150 crows were found dead in three districts of Jammu region triggering a bird flu scare and samples have been sent for testing to a wildlife lab in Punjab, officials said on Friday.

The bird deaths have been reported from Udhampur, Kathua and Rajouri districts since Thursday, they said.

Teams of wildlife and animal husbandry departments visited the spot, collected samples and burnt the carcasses, they said. The samples have been sent to the wildlife laboratory in Punjab's Jalandhar for testing, they said.

The Centre on Friday said bird flu has been confirmed so far in Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat, and asked these six states to contain the disease as per the action plan. As a precautionary measure, the administration has imposed a ban on import of live birds and unprocessed poultry meat for any purpose into the Union Territory till January 14. **PTI**

10 infants killed in Maha hospital fire, CM orders high-level probe

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking incident, ten infants — aged between one and three months — were killed in the wee hours of Saturday, when a massive fire broke out in a Government hospital at Bhandara in eastern Maharashtra.

The fire — triggered prima facie by a short-circuit — broke out at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the District General Hospital at Bhandara at around 1.30 am.

Before long, fire and smoke engulfed the new born care unit. A nurse who was among the two nurses and one helper present at that time in the NICU raised an alarm, prompting other nurses, doctors and other hospital members to rush to the scene.

Of the 17 trapped infants, seven were rescued, while the remaining ten children died on the spot. "There were 17 infants at the NICU at the time of the incident. Of them, seven were rescued and have been admitted to another. We have no plans to shift them to another hospital as yet," District Civil Surgeon Dr Pramod Khandate said.

"Most infants died due to suffocation. While one male child suffered fatal burn injuries, the two others had minor burn injuries. The rest of the children had inhaled a lot of smoke," Khandate said.

As the rescue operations, the patients from the ICU, Dialysis Wing and Labour Ward were shifted to safety.

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said that while seven infants died due to suffocation, three children succumbed to burns. He also announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of the infants killed in the fire.

Meanwhile, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray spoke to

Tope and health authorities, took stock of the situation and ordered a high-level inquiry into the incident. He said that the inquiry would fix the responsibility for those responsible for the incident.

"We are going through the Covid-19 pandemic situation. While fighting the Coronavirus, the health administration and team of hospitals should not ignore safety and security issues," Uddhav said.

The Chief Minister said that to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future, fire and electrical audits should be carried out at all hospitals. "I have directed the officials to ascertain if such audits have been done at all the hospitals in the state," he said. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Vijay Wadetiwar charged that the NICU where the mishap took place was inaugurated in 2016 (when the BJP-led government was ruling the state) without requisite fire safety clearance. "We will find out why that was done," he said.

Describing the incident as "unfortunate," Wadetiwar said: "We have asked the National Fire Safety College and Visveswaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, to send teams to look into the circumstances leading to the mishap within 15 days. We will not spare anyone found responsible for the incident."

Wadetiwar said that the state government would also try to find out as to why a proposal to install fire equipment remained unimplemented since May last year.

In a related development, President Ram Nath Kovind led the nation in mourning the shocking death of 10 infants. "I am deeply saddened by the untimely death of infants in a fire accident in Bhandara, Maharashtra. My heartfelt condolences to the

families who lost their children in this heart-wrenching event," he said.

Describing the Bhandara incident as "heart-wrenching," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: "Heart-wrenching tragedy in Bhandara, Maharashtra, where we have lost precious young lives. My thoughts are with all the bereaved families. I hope the injured recover as early as possible."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said: "The fire accident in Bhandara district hospital, Maharashtra is very unfortunate. I am pained beyond words. My thoughts and condolences are with bereaved families. May God give them the strength to bear this irreparable loss."

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said: "The unfortunate incident of fire at Bhandara District General Hospital in Maharashtra is extremely tragic."

"My condolences to the families of the children who lost their lives. I appeal to Maha Govt to provide every possible assistance to the families of the injured & deceased," Gandhi tweeted.

"Extremely saddened to know about the most tragic incident of fire at Bhandara Civil Hospital. Convey my deepest condolences to the families of the innocent children who lost their lives," Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari said.

Former chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnis said: "The incident that took place at the Bhandara hospital is heart-wrenching. We are with those families whose children were killed in the mishap. My appeal to the state government is for a speedy inquiry into the incident and bringing to the culprits to book at the quickest possible time."

IIT-Jammu replaces pherans with gown for convocation

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu on Saturday hogged the headlines after the authorities were directed to change the proposed dress code for its maiden convocation ceremony at the last minute. Initially, the prestigious institute had decided to replace the traditional convocation robes with 'Pherans' and 'Pakols', the traditional Kashmiri attire.



Ironically, ahead of the convocation ceremony when certain quarters questioned the theme of the dress code, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Dr Jitendra Singh intervened in the matter to avoid adverse publicity during the special event.

In a late night tweet on Friday Dr Jitendra Singh tweeted, "Important! Sensitivities with regard to dress proposed for #IIT #Jammu #Convocation ceremony were conveyed to higher authorities. I've just now received a call from Director IIT Jammu, Prof Gaur clarifying that it will only be conventional Convocation Gown, No other attire & No cap."

On Saturday after the event was over former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah further escalated the matter by arguing those opposed to the idea of wearing a 'pheran' during the convoca-

tion ceremony.

"Can't even tolerate a pheran and this government wants Kashmiris to believe that it's looking out for our sentiments & feelings. PMO intervened to have the dress code changed & that too just days after the PM addressed a function in Srinagar wearing a pheran", Omar Abdullah tweeted.

As the war of words continued in the social media, senior authorities at IIT Jammu went in to damage control exercise and posted a brief statement on its official twitter handle claiming "IIT Jammu designed the convocation robe for its maiden convocation incorporating regional art and culture in collaboration with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan". The statement further read as, "the Convocation robe was fabricated by a self help group from a nearby village.

The Convocation robe is a cloak crafted with Ghatta Patti work to beautifully blend the crafts from UT. The Angvastram represents the cultural heritage of the country in sync with other IIT's. This was the only attire for the convocation". Meanwhile, during the convocation ceremony the first batch of 79 students from Mechanical, Electrical and Computer Science Engineering were conferred B Tech degrees.

"Out of a total of 79 passing out students, the ceremony hosted 38 students and their parents on campus while the other students received their certificates in a live Convocation stream arranged by the institute. Dr Arogyaswami J Paulraj-Professor Emeritus from Stanford University and Gurcharan Das, who is a celebrated author and columnist were the Chief guests on the occasion. **PNS**

CBI books Hyderabad-based Coastal Projects Ltd for ₹4,736 crore bank fraud

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Hyderabad-based Coastal Projects Ltd. and others including its Chairman and Managing Director and unknown public servants on a complaint from State Bank of India (lead bank of the consortium) for causing an alleged loss of Rs 4736.57 crore to the banks. The CBI on Saturday conducted searches at the residential and official premises of the accused entities and individuals at Hyderabad and Vijayawada which led to recovery of several incriminating documents and other material evidence. "It was alleged that the accused in connivance with unknown public servants and others defrauded the consortium of Banks. The account became NPA on 25.01.2017 with retrospective effect from 28.10.2013 and reported as fraud on 20.02.2020," the CBI said in a statement. It was further alleged that the borrower company, during the period 2013-18, had indulged in falsification/fabrication of books of accounts, manipulations of books of the financials to show unrealizable bank guarantee amounts as realizable investments, falsified details of promoters' contribution, converted receivables from related parties to investments to siphon off the banks funds, cheating the SBI and other consortium member banks, it said. **PNS**

23 Indian sailors stuck in China on way back home

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a big relief, 23 Indian sailors on board ship MV Jag Anand, stranded off China since July last year, were allowed to set sail for a port in Japan on Saturday evening.

Announcing this, National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) General Secretary Abdulgani Y. Serang said here in the evening: "The 23 of the ship MV Jag Anand have lifted anchor, and cleared to sail and reach Chiba Port, Japan by Jan. 14. The crew change will take place there and after completing the Covid-19 formalities, they will start on their return journey to India". Serang said that 23 member-crew of ship MV Jag Anand along with their counterparts on another ship, MV Anastasia, had been stranded off the China anchorage since over six months now.

Serang said that he was optimistic that the crew of MV Anastasia would be accorded similar clearances soon as their anxious families in India await their return.

After having been at sea for more than 18 months, the sea-

farers on both ships had found themselves in a 'floating prison', caught as they were unwittingly in a political war between China and Australia. So much so that many of the seafarers had taken ill and they needed urgent medical attention.

Serang's confirmation about 23 stranded Indian sailors on board ship MV Jag Anand having set sail for Japan came hours after Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Mansukh Mandaviya said: "Ship MV Jag Anand, having 23 Indian crews, stuck in China, is set to sail towards Chiba, Japan to carry out crew change, will reach India on January 14".

Earlier in the evening, Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, who had been rooting for the rescue and evacuation of 39 sailors stranded in China since July, expressed happiness over the news that Ship MV Jag Anand, with 23 Indian sailors on its board, would reach India on January 14. Reacting to a statement about the impending return of 23 hitherto-stranded sailors to India on January 14, Priyanka said: "I had been raising this issue with @MEAIndia

and for it to now reach a conclusion gives me immense happiness and satisfaction".

"I was in constant touch with some of our seafarers on board and they were really worried, this news will thrill them. This is great news! Thank you @MEAIndia @DrSjaishankar ji and @mansukhmandaviya ji," Priyanka tweeted.

It may be recalled that Priyanka had on December 31 written to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar ji, requesting him to intervene in prioritizing the rescue and evacuation of 39 of our sailors stranded since July in China.

Following the Sena MP's request, the Ministry of External Affairs has taken up the matter China's Vice Foreign Minister and sought Beijing's assistance for evacuation of the stranded sailors.

"It was heartening to note that GoI has taken cognizance of the matter and Indian Ambassador has personally taken up this issue with China's Vice Foreign Minister. The MEA has also conveyed to the Chinese that assistance should be provided in an urgent, practical and

time-bound manner given the humanitarian situation developing on board these ships," Priyanka had said in a statement issued on January 3.

The two ships -MV Anastasia and the Indian bulk carrier Jag Anand—were denied permission by the Chinese authorities to offload their cargo nor did they allow other sailors to be sent in so as to relieve the crew.

According to Priyanka, Anastasia was docked at China's Bohai Sea and Jag Anand anchored at the Chinese port of Jingtang. "It has been widely reported that on board, the merchant ship the Anastasia, four crew members are on suicide watch. Many of the crew members have developed skin infections due to contaminated water supply. There is no medical help," Priyanka said.

"The families of the sailors, many of whom are based in Maharashtra, have been running from pillar to post with no help in sight. Hence I had appealed to GoI through our Hon. Minister to ensure that we give this issue the importance it deserved," the Sena MP had said.

Lotus to bloom in Bengal, says Nadda

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

BJP national president JP Nadda and Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday made similar refrains to express their disapproval of the powers that be in Bengal but at different forums.

While Nadda re-appeared at a saffron rally in Bengal's rice bowl, Burdwan holding a triumphant road show a la the one held by Amit Shah at Bolpur, the Governor met the Home Minister in New Delhi reportedly asking him to save the State from a politicised bureaucracy and criminalised political society by ensuring a blemish-free elections.

Picking up from where Shah left at Bolpur-Shantiniketan last month Nadda --- who returned a month after his convoy was attacked by alleged Trinamool Congress goons at Diamond Harbour --- launched a scathing attack on the Mamata Banerjee Government saying how scams, nepotism and criminalization of politics had made the ruling Trinamool Congress so unpopular that people had decided to reject her this time round. Bengal goes to polls in a few months from now in which the BJP will win by a thumping majority, he said.

"There is no stopping of the lotus from blooming in Bengal because the people have made up their minds to reject Mamata Banerjee because you have tortured them too much,"

Nadda said, "Bengal which was earlier known for its cultural excellence, philosophy, nationalism ... today tops the list of human and animal trafficking. The farmers here do not get the price for their crops and crime against women is on the rise"

The huge rally had the entire stretch of the Grand Trunk Road blocked from where the rally started and ended.

Attacking the TMC for brutally suppressing opposition voice Nadda said "our workers are being murdered, every voice of dissent is gagged ... but the TMC should remember that the more you suppress the BJP the more it's the will expand its base in Bengal... no amount of torture will stop the BJP from moving forward."

Earlier Nadda went to nearby temple town of Katwa and also visited local farmers launching the party programme called "Ek Muthi Chaal (a fistful of rice) in an apparent aim to blunt the opposition's anti-farmer allegation against his party.

After taking lunch at a farmer's residence he said responding to a question on why the central government was failing to address the farmer's movement in Delhi that "our Government is approaching the issue with an open and positive mind ... the talks are on with the farmers and I hope a solution will soon be arrived at."

Referring to the Ek Muthi Chaal programme he said that it would entail collecting a fistful of rice from the houses of thousands of farmers.

"This will unite the farmers against the anti-farmer policy of the State Government," he said adding the rice thus col-

lected will then be cooked in a common place and would be shared by the people.

His address at "Kishok Surokha Gram Sabha" (farmers' security meeting at village) in Jagadanandpur marked the beginning of 40,000 such meetings throughout the State. There are 71.23 lakh farmer families in the State, 96 per cent of them small and marginal.

Back in New Delhi the Governor too spoke in similar tone making a demand for holding a violence-free elections.

"There was extreme violence during the 2018 panchayat elections and the 2019 general elections, which is not desirable for a State which was once known for its cultural supremacy and political awareness ... there must not be any violence in the 2021 elections," he said refusing however to dwell on what transpired between him and the Home Minister.

Disapproving of the way the police administration had been politicized in Bengal the Governor said "the police must be de-politicized and they must serve the people ... I had already warned the DGP about this."

Saying that confidence must be instilled among the common voters so that they can come out to vote, the Governor earlier said that if need be central forces should be brought in early and in greater numbers for area domination.

Pak should hold Lakhvi accountable for Mumbai attack: US

Washington: The US on Saturday said that it is "encouraged" by the conviction of Lashkar-e-Taiba operations commander Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi in a terror financing case in Pakistan, but Islamabad should further hold him accountable for his involvement in terror attacks, including the 2008 Mumbai carnage.

Mumbai attack mastermind Lakhvi was sentenced to 5 years in jail on Friday by a Pakistani anti-terrorism court in a terror financing case, amidst mounting international pressure on Islamabad to bring to justice terrorists roaming free in the country. Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore Judge Ejaz Ahmad Buttar sen-

tenced UN proscribed terrorist Lakhvi to five years of rigorous imprisonment each on three counts with a fine of PKR 100,000 (approximately USD 620) each on three counts. His punishment will run concurrently. Reacting to the court judgement, the South and Central Asia Bureau of the US State Department tweeted, "We are encouraged by the recent conviction of Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi."

"However, his crimes go far beyond financing terrorism. Pakistan should further hold him accountable for his involvement in terrorist attacks, including the Mumbai attacks," India on Friday said the timing of these actions clearly suggests the intention of

conveying a sense of compliance ahead of APJG (Asia Pacific Joint Group) meet and the next FATF (Financial Action Task Force) plenary meet in February 2021.

Lakhvi, who was on bail since 2015 in the Mumbai attack case, was arrested by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab province on last Saturday.

He was designated as a global terrorist by the UN in December 2008 for being associated with LeT and al-Qaeda and for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf or in support of" both the entities. The global

terror financing watchdog FATF is instrumental in pushing Pakistan to take measures against terrorists roaming freely in Pakistan and using its territory to carry out attacks in India and elsewhere.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force placed Pakistan on the Grey List in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later on due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The LeT, led by Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people, including six Americans. **PTI**

Assembly polls: BJP to go it alone in Kerala?

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

With Union Home Minister Amit Shah calling off his scheduled visit to Chennai on January 14, people in Tamil Nadu lost an important chance to know which way political realignment was progressing in the State in the run up to the upcoming Assembly election. What makes Amit Shah cancelling his Chennai visit distinct is the discernible change in the attitude of the BJP cadre towards the AIADMK.

"It is time for the BJP to dump the AIADMK and align with like minded parties. The DMK and the AIADMK had exploited the good will enjoyed by the BJP and dumped them afterwards," said Ranganathan, proprietor of a leading publishing house in Chennai. He said the Dravidian parties are infamous for their use and throw

away strategies. "If the BJP leaders are yet to understand this strategy, its their fate," he said.

Shah was to be the chief guest of the anniversary of Tughlaq, a popular Tamil socio-political weekly launched by late "Cho" Ramaswamy, the State's leading cultural icon. Anniversary meetings of Tughlaq were an indication of which way the political wind is blowing in the State.

When Shah came to Chennai in the month of November 2020, he was accorded a reception befitting that of a head of a State. Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy, his deputy O Panneerselvam and members of the council of ministers were in attendance at the airport to welcome and see off Shah which surprised even BJP leaders.

During a Government function, the Chief Minister and his deputy declared that the

AIADMK's electoral alliance with the BJP would continue for the assembly election. Both of them waxed eloquently on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Shah. But the home minister confined his speech to appreciate the good works done by the AIADMK Government during the last ten years.

Since then, lot of things have happened in the State. K P Munusami, MP and senior AIADMK leader declared that the BJP would never be part of the AIADMK led government and described the Hindutwa outfit a non-Dravidian party which was not welcome in Tamil Nadu.

The meeting Shah had with the district level office bearers of the BJP during his Chennai trip saw party office bearers expressing their unhappiness over the alliance with the AIADMK. "Chief Minister

Palaniswamy told his Muslim audience that the AIADMK was the guardian angels of the minorities and they need not be worried over his party's alliance with the BJP. What does this show?" asked Arjun Sampath, president, Hindu Makkal Katchi, an outfit with considerable presence among the State's Hindu community. He said the BJP leaders should take the initiative to go it alone in the assembly elections. "There are many small outfits in Tamil Nadu which can act as force multipliers for the BJP," said Sampath.

But N Muthuraman, co-founder, Swarajya, says that the BJP should align with the AIADMK. "The saffron party is yet to establish a network in Tamil Nadu. Now that Rajinikanth has declared his intention to keep away from active politics, Tamil Nadu BJP finds itself without any alliance partners," said Muthuraman.

Militants, robbers may have joined farmers' stir: BJP MLA

PTI ■ KOTA

BJP's Kota MLA Madan Dilawar on Saturday triggered a controversy, suggesting that militants and robbers wanting to destroy the coun-

try may have joined the farmers' agitation against the Centre's farm laws at the Delhi borders.

The MLA further alleged that the "so-called" farmers are not worried about the

country, "enjoying picnic" and "luxuries" besides relishing delicacies. In a video statement released here, he suggested that the agitators are "conspiring" to spread bird flu by consuming chicken at the protest

sites. The ruling Congress in the state reacted sharply to the remarks by the Kota's Ramganjmandi MLA, terming his statement as "shameful", which reflects the BJP's ideology.

Trump one of most incompetent US Presidents: Biden

Joe said Trump had clearly demonstrated and exceeded 'even my worst notions' about him

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President-elect Joe Biden has said President Donald Trump was the "most incompetent" president in US history. Sidestepping the questions related to impeachment or removal from office in the remaining 12 days, Biden said that quickest way Trump could be removed is his inauguration on January 20.

"I have been saying for now well over a year he (Trump) is not fit to serve," Biden said. "He is one of the most incompetent presidents in the history of the United States of America and so the idea that I think he shouldn't be out of office yesterday is not the issue."

"The question is what happens with 14 days left to go or 13 days left to go and I think that what 81 million people stood up and said it is time for him to go and the United States Senate voted 93-6 to confirm that we should be sworn in. We were duly elected, so I think it is important we get on with the business of getting him



President-elect Joe Biden speaks during an event at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del. on Friday

out of office," Biden told reporters in Wilmington in Delaware.

"The quickest way that that will happen is us being sworn in on the 20th. What action happens before or after that is a judgment for the Congress to make, but that is what I am looking forward to, him leaving office," the President-elect said.

Biden said Trump had clearly demonstrated and exceeded "even my worst notions" about him.

"He has been an embarrassment to the country, embarrassed us around the world, not worthy, not worthy to hold that office," Biden said. "If we were six months out, we should be moving everything to get him out of office,

impeaching him again, trying to invoke the 25th Amendment whatever it took to get him out of office. But I am focused now on us taking control as President and Vice-President on the 20th and to get our agenda moving as quickly as we can," Biden said.

Asked about Trump not attending the inauguration, Biden said this was one of the few things that the two had ever agreed on.

"It's a good thing him not showing up," Biden told reporters. The President-elect, however, said outgoing Vice President Mike Pence was welcome to attend the inauguration on January 20.

"I think it is important that as much as we can stick to what have been historical precedents of how and the circumstance in which an administration changes should be maintained and so if Mike -- if the vice president is welcome to, I would be honoured to have him there and to move forward in the transition," Biden said.

Twitter permanently suspends Donald Trump's account

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has been permanently suspended from Twitter due to the "risk of further incitement of violence", the social media giant has announced, days after his supporters stormed the US Capitol and caused the deaths of four civilians and a police officer.

The unprecedented move by the California-based social media platform comes after Trump tweeted that he would not attend the inauguration of his successor Joe Biden on January 20.

"After close review of recent Tweets from the @realDonaldTrump account and the context around them -- specifically how they are being received and interpreted on and off Twitter -- we have permanently suspended the account due to the risk of further incitement of violence," Twitter said in a statement on Friday.

US is not China, say Republicans condemning Twitter

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Several Republican leaders, including popular Indian-American politician Nikki Haley, have condemned Twitter for permanently deactivating outgoing President Donald Trump's account, saying that the "US is not China".

Twitter on Friday permanently suspended Trump's account due to the "risk of further incitement of violence", days after his supporters stormed the US Capitol and caused the deaths of four civilians and a police officer.

"Silencing people, not to mention the President of the US, is what happens in China not our country," tweeted Haley on Friday.

"Unbelievable," said the former US Ambassador to the UN who during a closed-door meeting of the Republican

No surprise: Trump left many clues he wouldn't go quietly

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump left plenty of clues he'd try to burn the place down on his way out the door.

The clues spread over a lifetime of refusing to acknowledge defeat.

They spanned a presidency marked by raw, angry rhetoric, puffed-up conspiracy theories and a kind of fellowship with "patriots" drawn from the seething ranks of right-wing extremists. The clues piled on at light speed when Trump lost the election and wouldn't admit it.

The culmination of all that came Wednesday when Trump supporters, exhorted by the president to go to the Capitol and "fight like hell" against a "stolen" election, overran and occupied the building in an explosive confrontation that left a Capitol Police officer and four others dead.

Joe: Will introduce immigration Bill 'immediately' after taking office

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Washington: US President-elect Joe Biden has said he will introduce an immigration legislation "immediately" after taking office, reversing the Trump administration's policies. Biden will take the oath of office on January 20.

"I will introduce an immigration bill immediately and have it sent to the appropriate committees to begin movement," he told reporters in Wilmington, Delaware on Friday.

Biden was responding to a question on what his administration would do first after his inauguration on January 20. He had also previously promised an immigration overhaul within 100 days of taking office.

Reversing the Trump administration's "cruel" immigration policies was Biden's one of the key election promises. PTI

Deadly siege focuses attention on Capitol Police

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The police were badly outnumbered. Only a few dozen guarded the West front of the U.S. Capitol when they were rushed by thousands of pro-Trump demonstrators bent on breaking into the building.

Armed with metal pipes, pepper spray and other weapons, the mob pushed past the thin police line, and one protester hurled a fire extinguisher at an officer, according to video widely circulated on YouTube.

"They're getting into the Capitol tonight! They're getting in," the man filming shouts in delight.

They breached the line moments later, and rioters soon broke into the building, taking over the House and Senate chambers and running wild in Statuary Hall and other hallowed symbols of democracy.

'He's on his own': Some Republicans begin to flee from Trump

AP ■ NEW YORK

President Donald Trump's steadfast grip on Republicans in Washington is beginning to crumble, leaving him more politically isolated than at any other point in his turbulent administration.

After riling up a crowd that later staged a violent siege of the U.S. Capitol, Trump appears to have lost some of his strongest allies, including South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham. Two Cabinet members and at least a half dozen aides have resigned. A handful of congressional Republicans are openly considering whether to join a renewed push for impeachment.

One GOP senator who has split with Trump in the past called on him to resign and questioned whether she would stay in the party. "I want him out," Sen. Lisa

Murkowski of Alaska told The Anchorage Daily News. "He has caused enough damage."

The insurrection on the heels of a bruising election loss in Georgia accomplished what other low points in Trump's presidency did not: force Republicans to fundamentally reassess their relationship with a leader who has long abandoned tradition and decorum. The result could reshape the party, threatening the influence that Trump craves while creating a divide between those in Washington and activists in swaths of the country where the president is especially popular.

"At this point, I won't defend him anymore," said Ari Fleischer, a former White House press secretary for George W. Bush and a GOP strategist who voted for Trump. "I won't defend him for stirring the pot that incited the mob. He's on his own."

Pak PM meets families of slain miners after Shia Hazaras end week-long protest, bury bodies

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday met the families of 11 coal miners killed in a brutal attack by the Islamic State terrorists in the restive Balochistan province, hours after the minority Shia Hazara community members ended their week-long protest and buried the bodies.

The miners from the Shia Hazara community were shot dead after being abducted by the Islamic State terrorists on Sunday last in Mach area of the restive province.

Following the incident, their relatives and hundreds of other members of the com-

munity sat on a protest along with the coffins having victims' bodies in the Western Bypass area of provincial capital Quetta amid harsh cold weather, insisting that they will bury the dead only when the prime minister personally visits them to assure protection.

However, Khan on Friday stirred a controversy by saying that he would not be blackmailed and visit only if the dead were buried.

Khan's remarks invited sharp criticism from across the country, prompting a flurry of official activities to convince the families to perform the burial rites and end the controversy caused by the callous statement.

Pak's anti-terrorism court asks police to arrest JeM chief by January 18

PTI ■ LAHORE

UN designated global terrorist Masood Azhar, chief of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), should be arrested by January 18 in connection with a terror financing case, an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has asked the Punjab Police, a court official said on Saturday.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Gujranwala issued an arrest warrant against Azhar in the terror financing case instituted by the CTD in the previous hearing on Thursday.

"ATC Gujranwala judge Natasha Naseem Supra during the case hearing on Friday directed the CTD to arrest JeM chief Masood Azhar by January 18 and present him in the court. In case of failure (to arrest him), the court may begin proceedings to declare him a proclaimed offender," a court official told PTI on Saturday.

Azhar is facing charges of terror financing and selling jihadi literature.

Following the Palwama terror attack in February 2019, Pakistan's Punjab police had launched a crackdown on terrorism financing and arrested six militants of the JeM in Gujranwala, some 130 kms from Lahore. Azhar is facing the trial in this case.

Following the immense international pressure after the Pulwama attack, the Pakistan government arrested over 100 members of the banned militant outfits including the JeM chief's son and brother.

The government also took control of the JeM, Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) and Falahai Insiyat Foundation (EIF) properties including seminaries and mosques across the country.

The JeM had claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF soldiers were killed.

Pakistan's Punjab government claimed to have taken over the administrative control of the JeM headquarters -- comprising Madrassatul Sabir and Jama-e-Masjid



Subhanallah -- in Bahawalpur. In May 2019, the United Nations designated Azhar as a "global terrorist" after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist the Pakistan-based JeM chief, a decade after New Delhi approached the world body for the first time on the issue.

The UN committee listed Azhar on May 1, 2019 as being associated with al-Qaeda for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of, or in support of", "supplying, selling or transferring arms and related material to", "recruiting for", "otherwise supporting acts or activities of", and "other acts or activities indicating association with" the JeM.

Azhar is a fugitive released by India in exchange of passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane IC-814 in 1999. After his release, Azhar formed the JeM and scripted many terror attacks in India.

On February 26, 2019, India launched air strikes on JeM's biggest training camp in Pakistan's Balakot.

Paris-based global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is instrumental in pushing Pakistan to take measures against terrorists roaming freely in Pakistan and using its territory to carry out attacks in India and elsewhere.

The FATF placed Pakistan on the Grey List in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later on due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Indonesia jet carrying 62 goes missing on domestic flight

AP ■ JAKARTA

A Sriwijaya Air passenger jet carrying 62 people lost contact with air traffic controllers on Saturday, minutes after taking off from Indonesia's capital on a domestic flight, officials said.

Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi said Flight SJ182 was delayed for an hour before it took off at 2:36 pm (local time). The plane disappeared from radar four minutes later, after the pilot contacted air traffic control to ascend to an altitude of 29,000 feet (8,839 meters), he said.

The airline said in a statement that the plane was on an estimated 90-minute flight from Jakarta to Pontianak, the capital of West Kalimantan province on Indonesia's Borneo island. There were 56 passengers and six crew members on board.

Sumadi said a dozen vessels, including four warships, were deployed in a search and rescue operation centered between Lancang island and



People wait for news on their relatives who are on board of Sriwijaya Air passenger jet that lost contact with air traffic controllers after take off, at Soepadjo International Airport in Pontianak, West Kalimantan, Indonesia, on Saturday

Laki island, part of the Thousand Islands chain just north of Jakarta.

Local media reports said fishermen spotted metal objects believed to be parts of a plane on Saturday afternoon in the Thousand Islands.

Television footage showed relatives and friends of people aboard the plane weeping,

praying and hugging each other as they waited at airports in Jakarta and Pontianak.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation, with more than 260 million people, has been plagued by transportation accidents on land, sea and air because of overcrowding on ferries, aging infrastructure and poorly enforced safety standards.

Indian-American Sabrina Singh named Kamala Harris' Dy Press Secretary

Washington: Indian-American Sabrina Singh would serve as Deputy Press Secretary to the Vice President in the White House, according to an announcement made by the Biden-Harris Transition.

Singh was Press Secretary to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on the Biden-Harris campaign. Prior to her role on the campaign, she served as senior spokesperson for Mike Bloomberg's presidential campaign and National Press Secretary for Cory Booker's presidential campaign.

She previously served as deputy communications director for the Democratic National Committee, spokesperson for American Bridge's Trump War Room and Regional Communications Director on Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. Singh has also worked at SKDKnickerbocker, served as Communications

Director for Representative Jan Schakowsky and worked at various Democratic committees, said the Biden-Harris Transition as it announced additional members of the Vice President's Office. PTI

British Indian Min Alok Sharma given sole charge of UN climate summit

PTI ■ LONDON

Alok Sharma, one of the Indian-origin ministers in UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Cabinet, has relinquished his role as Business Secretary in a mini-reshuffle to take sole charge as President of COP26 -- the United Nations climate summit scheduled for Glasgow, Scotland, in November.

The Agra-born minister, who was until now in charge of dual roles, will focus entirely on what has been dubbed as the largest summit the UK has ever hosted, bringing together representatives from nearly 200 countries, including India.

Downing Street said on Friday that Johnson had asked Sharma to take on the new charge to drive forward coordinated global action to tackle climate change to meet the high ambitions for the summit.

"The biggest challenge of our time is climate change and we need to work together to deliver a cleaner, greener world and build back better for present and future generations,"

said Sharma.

"Through the UK's Presidency of COP26 we have a unique opportunity, working with friends and partners around the world, to deliver on this goal. Given the vital importance of tackling climate change I am delighted to have been asked by the Prime Minister to dedicate all my energies to this urgent task," he said.

The COP26 President will be based in the UK Cabinet Office, continuing as a full member of Cabinet, and will chair the Climate Action Implementation Committee to coordinate government action towards net zero by 2050 in the run up to the November summit.

"A successful summit in November will be critical if we want to meet the objectives set out by the Paris Agreement and reduce global emissions. The UK has set a high bar, with our recent commitment to reduce emissions by at least 68 per cent by 2030, but we also need other countries to do their bit," Downing Street said.

Queen, husband get Covid-19 vaccine in UK

PTI ■ LONDON

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have received Covid-19 vaccinations, Buckingham Palace said on Saturday. A royal source said the vaccinations were administered on Saturday by a household doctor at Windsor Castle.

The source added the Queen decided to let it be known she had the vaccination to prevent further speculation. The Queen, 94, and Prince Philip, 99, are among around 1.5 million people in the UK to have had at least one dose of a Covid vaccine so far.

North Korea threatens to build more nukes, cites US hostility

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to expand his nuclear arsenal as he disclosed a list of high-tech weapons systems under development, saying the fate of relations with the United States depends on whether it abandons its hostile policy, state media reported on Saturday.

Kim's comments during a key meeting of the ruling party this week were seen as applying pressure on the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden, who has called Kim a "thug" and has criticised his summits with President Donald Trump.

The Korean Central News Agency quoted Kim as saying the "key to establishing new relations between (North Korea) and the United States is whether the United States withdraws its hostile policy."

Kim said he won't use his nuclear arsenal unless "hostile forces" intend to use their nuclear weapons against North Korea first.

He also suggested he is open to dialogue if Washington is too, but stressed North Korea must further strengthen its military and nuclear capability to cope with intensifying US hostility.

He again called the US his country's "main enemy,"

"Whoever takes office in the US, its basic nature and hostile policy will never change," he said.

Biden, who will take office on January 20, is unlikely to hold direct meetings with Kim unless the North Korean leader takes significant denuclearisation steps.

Cheong Seong-Chang, a fellow at the Wilson Centre's Asia Programme, said Kim's speech showed he has no interests in denuclearisation talks with Biden if he insists that working-level negotiations must sort out contentious issues first.

Kim didn't cite any specific provocative US actions.

North Korea has previously called regular US military drills with South Korea and the American military presence in South Korea as proof of hostility. In particular, the North views the US-South Korean drills as an invasion rehearsal, though the allies have repeatedly denied that.

The North Korean leader listed sophisticated weapons systems that he said were under development. They include a multi-warhead missile, underwater-launched nuclear missiles, solid-fuelled long-range missiles and spy satellites.

He said North Korea must also advance the precision attack capability on targets in the

15,000 kilometre (9,320 mile)-striking range, an apparent reference to the US mainland, and develop technology to manufacture smaller nuclear warheads to be mounted on long-range missiles more easily.

"Nothing would be more foolish and dangerous than not strengthening our might tirelessly and having an easy-going attitude at a time when we clearly see the enemy's state-of-the-art weapons are being increased more than ever," Kim said.

"The reality is that we can achieve peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula when we constantly build up our national defence and suppress US military threats," he said.

It's unclear if North Korea is capable of developing such systems. It's one of the world's most cloistered countries, and estimates on the exact status of its nuclear and missile programmes vary widely. In 2018, the South Korean government said North Korea was estimated to have up to 60 nuclear weapons.

"What they want to tell the US is we're developing the new strategic weapons that you can see as the most intimidating. Do you want to come to the negotiating table?" Choi Kang, vice president of Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said. "While Kim leaves the door open for talks, he's still sending

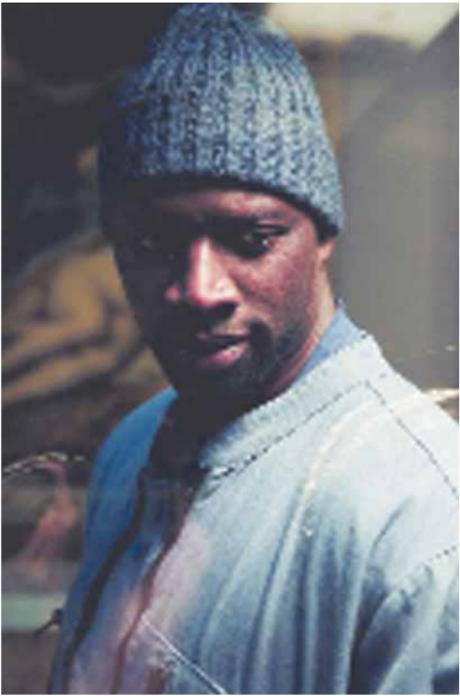
a message to Biden that he's not an easy (dialogue) partner."

The ruling party congress convened for the first time in five years. KCNA said Kim spoke for nine hours during his review of party projects

from Tuesday to Thursday. The congress is the Workers Party's top decision-making body, and it is being held as Kim faces what appears to be the toughest moment of his nine-year rule due to blows to his already-fragile economy -- pandemic-related border closings that have sharply reduced the North's external trade, a spate of natural disasters last summer and US-led sanctions.

HOME THEATRE

A great watch in the New Year



attention until he stops at a necklace — a queen's necklace with an interesting story behind it. That is when one sits up to see the drama unfold in the next five episodes (part 1) of the two-part series.

What keeps one attention and interest here is not just the lead played by Omar Sy but the way events progress. One may think that the series would follow a predictable pattern when there is a twist and the viewer is left awed by how well writers George Kay and François Uzan have played with the story.

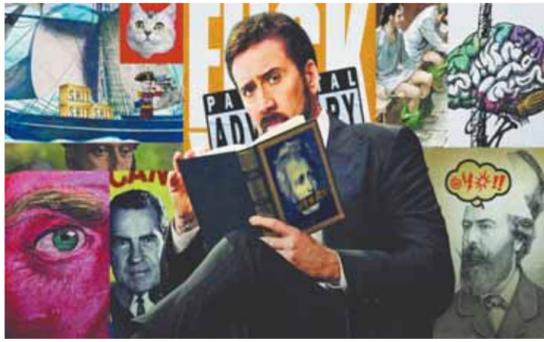
One, of course, should give Sy full credit of the way he manages to change his demeanour — from a gentleman one minute to a man with a failed marriage to a suave man who can pass himself off as a millionaire. All this he does with a smile that is endearing and makes one fall in love with his character.

While the actors do their part in bringing this thriller-drama to life, it is the story that keeps one engrossed — it is fast-paced, well-played out and leaves one awestruck as the story progresses.

The only problem is that it is in two part and the next will only be released later in the year. Not good for a crime-thriller that leaves one at a high point only to end.

The upside is that the New Year has begun on a good note with more to follow. — Shalini Saksena

Take it in a lighthearted tone



HISTORY OF SWEAR WORDS

Netflix
Presenter: Nicholas Cage
Rated: 6/10

For those who have wanted to know how certain words came to be swear words, *History of Swear Words* is a miniseries that is right up their alley. Presented by Nicholas Cage, the profanities that he starts off with sets the six-part series that takes us through the journey of words like f**k, d**n, p**y, s**t, d**k and bitch.

Each 20-minute episode takes us on a journey that begins with how the word originated, a bit of folklore around it, for example, F**k — Fornication Under Consent of the King — was considered illegal unless sanctioned by the king. While they may not have originated in Christianised Anglo-Saxon England but it is interesting to know how the word through the centuries has evolved only to be used in the modern world to denote a plethora of emotions — rage, confusion, excitement and not to forget sex.

Or take the word bitch which finds its origins in bice — a female dog only to be used as a word to degrade women to only find that it represents solidarity and strength in today's world — depending upon how and who is using this word.

The episode that gives us the history of the word s**t is just as interesting. The etymology of s**t — Ship High In Transit — to how it became a vulgar word to use now, sometimes, being used in a positive manner is informative to say the least.

Besides Cage who gives us a little history of these different words, there is a lexicographer, a few comedians and actors who talk about what these swear words mean to them and how they have been used over the years and their evolution.

Watch it if you use profanities at the drop of a hat and want to know how they came to be used. Makes for an interesting party conversation for sure. If swear words offend you, stay away. — Shalini Saksena



Fun and engaging to watch

DREAM HOME MAKEOVER

Netflix
Presenter: Shea and Syd
Rated: 7/10

COVID-19 may have put many of our home makeovers on the sidelines but it doesn't hurt if, in the meantime, one watches how this couple manages to turn around the client's space into a thing of beauty — something that each one of us would like to have in our homes as well. Season 2 is on similar lines as part one where one gets to see how the couple juggle work-life and spend time with their young daughters.

From transforming high-end homes to redoing a master bath to a kitchen to converting a cabin home into a dream space for a family of three.

Dream Home Makeover definitely gives one an idea how one can transform one's own home. A change here and white paint, giving the floor a break for the rest of the house and how to ensure that Bohemian works with a straight modern-day look and come together to give a beautiful place where one can relax — all this and much more is what this series has to offer this time round. — Shalini Saksena

Plan your day

With the New Year bringing in new hopes H&M, Hennes & Mauritz AB, is elated to announce the launch of its 50th store in India. The newest H&M store opened in Bhubaneswar today. With a wide range of collection to choose from one's Sunday is sorted. Go on a shopping spree. H&M opened its first store in 2015 and in a little over 5 years has expanded their retail footprint considerably. In November 2020, the brand opened its 49th store in Lucknow and today operates stores across 25 cities that include all the leading metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore as well as other key cities such as Dehradun, Kochi, Bhopal, Jalandhar, Pune, Amritsar, Indore, Coimbatore, Mohali, Mysore, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Raipur.

"We are excited and thrilled to open our 50th store in the country! The journey so far has been exciting and memorable. We wanted to celebrate the 5-year milestone by celebrating the customers who made it possible! The newest endeavor to strive for a seamless shopping experience was the launch of our digital loyalty program in October last year. We look forward to bringing the best global fashion to more parts of India and welcoming more and more customers to all our stores," said Amit Kothari, Head, Marketing and Communications, H&M India.

LUPIN
Netflix
*ing: Omar Sy, Vincent Londez, Ludvine Sagnier, Clotilde Hesme, Nicole Garcia
Rated: 6.5/10

Directed by Marcela Said, Ludovic Bernard and Louis Leterrier, *Lupin* is inspired by the adventures of Arsène Lupin, a fictional gentleman thief and master of disguises created in 1905, created by Maurice Leblanc. A janitor who is working at the Lourve would really not catch one's

Anita bhabhi is back

After a hiatus, Gori Mem is back on *Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain*. MUSBA HASHMI chats up NEHHA PENDSE, who is all set to play the new Anita, about the challenges role has to offer and the excitement that comes with playing this character

Draped in bright sarees and always dressed to the nines, Anita is one of the most loved characters on TV. However, with Saumya Tandon bidding adieu to the show and the character, it came as a big disappointment to the audience to not be able to see Gori Mem on screen for quite a while.

However, the wait is finally over now with Nehha Pendse all set to replace Saumya Tandon as Anita Mishra in & TV's *Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain*.

"I am extremely excited to play Anita. The expectations are very high and I hope I live up to the expectations of the audience," Pendse says.

With that being said, there is always some kind of pressure on actors when they replace someone, especially for an already established character and the same is with Pendse.

"There is a lot of pressure of course, especially because here is an artist who is loved for playing a character and then you are taking away that image from the audience mind and trying to give your side to it. That is always a scary scenario for any artist. But the beauty in this case is that Saumya had already stepped away from playing Anita *bhabhi* because of her personal reasons. Also this is probably happening for the first time that the audience is eagerly waiting to see the new Anita.

Hence, here it will not come as a shock to the audience as it does when someone gets replaced overnight. The audience will not feel cheated, since they are already expecting someone to come and fill that void. It is more like a welcome and that is what I think is working in my favour," Pendse says.

She tells you that there is no such challenge that the role has to offer since she is somewhat similar to the character. "If I was to play Angoori *bhabhi*, it would have been definitely challenging for me because I would have had to work upon my accent and body language. On the other hand, Anita is just how I am in real life. There is no added layer to the personality. So I believe it will come easy to me," Pendse, who hasn't started shooting yet, tells you.

Not only Anita, but even Pendse is back on TV after a short hiatus. And to choose the right role to make a comeback needed a lot of thoughts. "Every actor looks for the best of the opportunities around. One always pick the best of the project that has been offered to him. I did have some apprehensions as to check the right project and I had a few other offers as well which were knocking my door, but *Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain* looked like the best opportunity to me. To add to it, I also went with my gut feeling," she says.

Not that the gut feeling is the only priority for Pendse, just like any other actor, the director, producer and the show matters as much for her as well.

"There is always a checklist. If I talk about this show, first, the producers are



known to me, second, they are the ones who are known for this genre. So, I am working with people who have been there and done that. Third, it is an iconic show. Fourth, it is an iconic character and the last, but not the least the show has been running for five years now and is still going strong, so it definitely has something good to offer. This show is the one which is ticking off all my check boxes," Pendse, who started working on TV with Captain House in 1995, explains.

However, the project happened by chance and it was like acting chose her. "I was a very shy girl. My mother enrolled me into personality development classes when I was 10. That's where, Ekta Kapoor saw me because she was looking for young kids and back then, child actors were not that easily

available. So, one has to raid all these personality development centres to get the potential child artist. That's how I came in her vision and she offered me the role. My mother was extremely supportive and she made me take up the opportunity," she tells you.

In all these years of her career, there is a lot that Pendse has learnt and also there are a few regrets as well. "I started young and I am the kind of artist who just got work. I never asked for it. I am not even a trained actor per se. I learnt the job on the go. At times, I do feel bad about it and realise that I should have taken some professional training so that my understanding of the craft and the job opportunities that I am getting would have been much wiser," she says.

'Playing Jassi has been a benchmark'

SONALI NIKAM makes a comeback after two years to play Mary in &TV's *Yeshu*. She speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her role, what attracted her to this project and how she got into acting

■ You were away for two years, what kept you busy?

After *Ek Vivah Aisa Bhi*, I took a break to focus on my health. I did receive a couple of offers during this period but they didn't quite make the cut. But I recently did a cameo in ZEE TV's *Qurban Hua* as a second lead.

■ What is your role in *Yeshu*?

The character of Mary, *Yeshu's* mother, is a significant one. She will guide and nurture her son to his life purpose. Often described as a gentle mother and a peaceful dove in a hymn, Mary is a brave woman who has immense faith and a strong belief in God. Throughout her life, she is seen holding on to the truth and believes in living by example. Right from her childhood till the time she becomes a mother, Mary is seen cherishing every moment and fulfilling all expectations of not only a mother but also a wife

■ What made you say yes to the role?

The reason why I said yes is because this story has never been told on TV. We have only heard of this role but nobody has ever played it. I consider it a blessing that I got an opportunity to play Mary. To be chosen to portray this role is a big moment for me. It is completely different from the roles I have played till now. There are many dimensions to her character. She is a dutiful daughter to her parents, a companion and friend to her cousin, a loyal and loving wife to Joseph, a guiding force to her son *Yeshu*. The role comes with responsibility as well.

■ What is the story of *Yeshu*?

The story is not only the most iconic story of good versus evil, but it also captures the beautiful relationship between *Yeshu* and his support and guide, his mother. This role is a reward and a big responsibility. I am eagerly looking forward to it.

■ How did you come on board this project?

I got the role after giving auditions. I got a call from the makers; they had seen my previous work and felt that I would fit the character of *Yeshu's* mother. They called me for the auditions and recorded the same since it happened during the lockdown. I gave two-three auditions and gave a

The reason why I said yes is because this story has never been told on TV. We have only heard of this role but nobody has ever played it. I consider it a blessing that I got an opportunity to play Mary. To be chosen to portray this role is a big moment for me



mock shoot. After that all the things were finalised after discussions.

■ How tough is it to play Mary?

I had to prepare for the character. We got a lot of briefings from our creative and research team. We have the support of the channel and the makers as well. Due to their help we came to know so many things about *Yeshu's* life and how people behaved during that time. This helped me a lot to

prepare for Mary's character. I used to meditate earlier as well, but I started spending more time and focused on it. This character is sweet, soft

and sombre. The more I am calm inside, the more it will translate into my acting.

■ What made *Jassi* so popular?

There were two reasons. One, was the story itself. Second, of course was the character of *Jassi* herself in *Aadhe Adhoore*. It is not very often we get to see a role like hers. We don't discuss things that have been shown in the series. This is probably the reason why people loved to watch it. I am grateful and blessed that I have been getting a chance to do such varied roles.

■ How did you get into acting?

After graduation, I was still trying to decide what to pursue when I got a call to do an ad from a family friend. When I went there and saw what the industry was all about, I wanted to work here. I was not the kind to work 9 am to 5 pm and sit in front of the computer. I was looking at the work that would give me a chance to express myself creatively. Acting gave me that outlet.

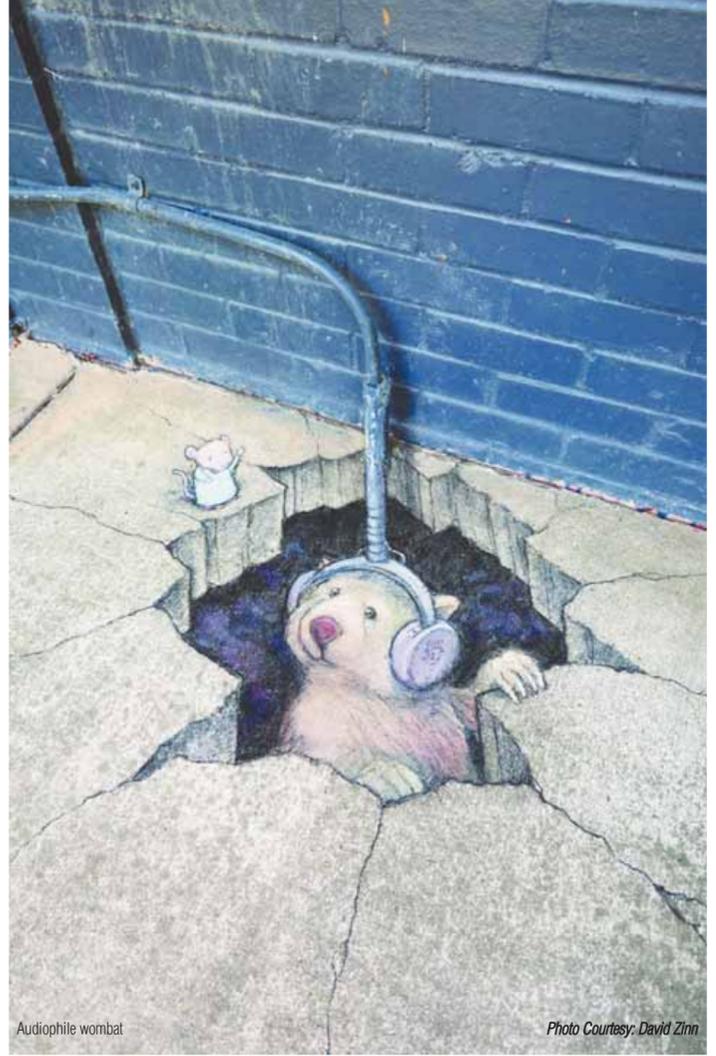
■ Is there a role that left its mark on you?

I would say *Jassi* has been a benchmark for me — professionally as well as personally. There were so many questions that I had from life, after doing this show, it made me realise that there is no right or wrong in life; it all depends on one's perception and situation one finds himself in. We are nobody to judge anybody. I learnt a lot from that role. Also people started recognising me as a good actor.



OF ART WITH NO FUTURE

DAVID ZINN, a 51-year-old USA-based artist is changing the way how chalk is perceived. He speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about what made him take to street art, why he uses chalk and loves working with it even though it has no future, among other things



What comes to your mind when you hear the word chalk? Is it classrooms and blackboards? Most probably yes. But have you ever wondered that a piece of chalk can do so much more than just teaching and give birth to a life-like creativity?

It must be hard to believe for many, but a 51-year-old USA-based artist is taking the internet by storm through his creative arts beautifying the cracks on the streets of not only his hometown Michigan, but globally.

David Zinn's social media handle is anything but normal, you ask why? Because of the colourful and thought-provoking artworks that are a sureshot dose of good creativity.

"For the first half of my adult life, I used freelance commercial assignments to avoid the intimidation of trying to create art that exists only to be art. The functional necessity and specific deadlines of commercial art circumvent the indecision I felt when trying to paint from the heart. That job gradually became more computerised, and soon I was working long hours alone at a home computer indoors when the weather outside was warm and pleasant. I started making art on the street as an excuse to spend time outdoors, but I discovered that my anxieties of creating art were eased when the art being made was temporary, childish and anonymous," Zinn tells you.

He adds: "Also, getting my hands dirty with chalk dust was more gratifying to my inner child than making art on a computer."

No matter how easy it may sound to draw with a chalk, there is always a trick that help produce fantastic 3-D pieces and not just amateur drawings.

"I am using two tricks when I draw on the street with chalk, and the first and simplest is just including the colour black. Most children's chalk is sold in pale colours for use on light-coloured pavement and even children eventually lose interest in creating art that is only barely visible against its background. Using vine charcoal in addition to chalk allows for more detail, more contrast, and, crucial to any 3-D illusion, more shadows. Shadows do a surprising amount of work in 3-D street paintings," he explains.

The second trick, he says, is anamorphosis, and there are many artists who can both execute and explain that trick better. "By definition, an anamorphic artwork is deliberately distorted in such a way that the image will look 'right' only when seen from one specific point of view, for example through a camera placed at an oblique angle or reflected in a curved mirror. The more extreme the angle, the more distortion is required. My creatures require very little distortion because they're comparatively small, but the parts farthest from the camera are still larger and taller than the parts that are closest. Thanks to the effects of perspective, all those parts appear to be equal in size when photographed at an angle, and that's what makes the creature look like it's three-dimensional instead of flat on the ground," Zinn explains.

While there are many advanced tools to make 3-D art, one of the main reasons why Zinn goes what you can call the traditional way is the portability of the tool. "There are practical reasons to use chalk, such as the portability of the tools; in a pinch, one stick of charcoal behind one's ear is sufficient, whereas painting with acrylics requires paint tubes, brushes, palettes, water, and much more.

I AM COMFORTABLE WITH THE INEVITABLE DESTRUCTION OF MY ART AFTER IT IS FINISHED. I'M ONLY FRUSTRATED BY DRAWINGS THAT NEVER GET FINISHED, BECAUSE THE INTERRUPTED CREATURE LIVES IMPATIENTLY INSIDE MY HEAD UNTIL I FIND ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SET IT FREE

Furthermore, creating permanent public art typically requires either hard-sought permission from the property owner or light-footed lawbreaking. Chalk art is easier to create on a whim, knowing that any objections can be resolved by a brief rainstorm or a spilled cup of water. More importantly, ephemeral art is free of the most distracting question artists have to consider: what will I do with this when it is finished? Creating art is a joy, but preserving art, shipping art, selling art, and even storing art are all dull necessities. I can't speak for others, but I find it easiest to create art that has no future and therefore no consequences; there's no need to focus on anything other than whatever creative whim will make me happiest in that moment," he says.

Not to mention that nothing comes easy be it travelling to space or cooking a meal and the same is with what Zinn does. "The most persistent challenge is the capriciousness of the weather. Many aspects of the outdoors are not chalk-friendly and a perfect day can suddenly become windy or rainy, especially where I live. Even unexpected clear skies can be a nemesis, because direct sunlight creates shadows that can cut across a 3-D artwork and defy the attempted illusion," he tells you.

However, Zinn doesn't have much to complain with the inevitable destruction of his art after it is finished. "I am fully comfortable with the inevitable destruction of my art after it is finished. I'm only frustrated by drawings that never get finished, because the interrupted creature lives impatiently inside my head until I find another opportunity to set it free," Zinn, who spends an hour or two on each artwork, tells you. He recalls an art which he completed in a matter of just six-and-a-half minute. "I once hopped off a train during the employees' seven-minute cig-

arette stop and had finished an artwork six-and-a-half minutes later," he tells you.

Till date, Zinn has created temporary and permanent artworks in 30 cities in the US, Canada, Europe (Germany, France, Netherlands) and Asia (Taiwan). "I have made an average of 100 installations per year for the last eight or nine years and I have been drawing on the street for about 15 years, so I've probably made more than a thousand artworks by now. Luckily, the ones I created in my own neighborhood have all washed away in the rain; otherwise, I would have no more opportunities nearby," he asserts.

There is some kind of thought, he says, that goes behind an art. "Each artwork begins with pareidolia — the human habit of perceiving meaningful images in random arrangements of shapes and lines. Streets are covered with marks and textures, and as soon as a pair of specks have revealed themselves as potential eyes or a drain grate as a mouth, I add my own additional lines and shapes until the artwork starts to look more like what it wants to be. Choices have to be made along the way, but the most successful images come together without much thought," Zinn tells you.

Zinn has a piece of advice for those who want to take-up this field. "The tools for chalk street art are inexpensive to buy or can be made by hand, they're small and sturdy enough to carry on a whim, and using them requires no elaborate training or cleanup. Chalk's childish reputation makes it a familiar and accessible art-making tool even for people who don't think of themselves as serious artists. Finally, because the results are temporary, there is no need to feel anxious and intimidated about the value of what you create," he tells you.

Bollywood's superwoman

MUSBA HASHMI chats up GEETA TANDON, a successful stunt woman, who decided to walk off from an abusive marriage and live a better life, about her journey, an accident that left her bedridden for six months and how she proves that nothing is a man's job

Remember all those menacing stunts that Nila did in Robot 2.0? Did that make you skip a heartbeat and left you wondering how is it possible? Or for that matter other action sequences in Bollywood films where you wonder how those petite women manage to do such life-threatening stunts? Well, meet Geeta Tandon, the Bollywood's stunt woman, who has been a part of the industry for about 14 years now, for whom leaping from a skyscraper, or driving a burning car or even putting herself on fire is nothing but a piece of cake.

Ask Tandon, how she ended up in the field and she is quick to answer the field chose her. It was only after walking off a bad and abusive marriage, that she decided to take up each and every work that shall come her way in order to stand on her feet.

"I never got a chance to pick and choose things in life. Whatever came my way, I took that up. It all started when things went extremely bad in my married life. After many years of going through the torture, one day I decided to leave my in-laws place and start a new life. Being a mother of two, it was indeed a difficult step to take, but it was very well needed," Tandon tells you.

Until 2007, Tandon did all kinds of work, from working as a

house help to giving people massages and to dancing at weddings, but she never lost hope.

"I wanted to make a name for myself. Anyone can earn and live a life, but I wanted to live a life where I was being respected. I wanted to spend a meaningful life. Even when I started working, things didn't go as planned. I had to shift places multiple times. My husband would come and shout. He used to call me names and said everything he could. It was a routine. Gradually, I became thick-skinned and learnt to give it back to him, even at the cost of having to shift places again," she says.

It was only after getting a chance to work as a stunt woman in Bollywood that Tandon's life changed once and for all.

"In 2007, I had started going to shooting to perform folk dance. But somehow, I was not satisfied with my work and was on a lookout for something better. One day, I met a person who asked me if I would be interested in performing stunts. That very moment, I knew that it was the field I was looking for. I immediately nodded and started working from the next day," she tells you.

Tandon's first day on the sets was difficult, with having zero knowledge of performing stunts, she learnt on the job and so well that now she is one of the



renowned stunt women in the industry.

However, things didn't go as smooth in Tandon's life. Just when her career was about to take off, she met with an accident on sets which left her bedridden. "In 2009, I suffered a spine injury during a stunt. Back then, I was a newcomer and didn't know much about how it works. Before any stunt, the action department has to check for the safety of the stunt person. But I didn't have much knowledge about it and hence the accident happened," she says.

It was a scene, where Tandon had to suffer a bullet and fall down from a one-floor building. "During that fall, an iron fence came between the ground and my back. I suffered major injuries of spine from that blow and life went off track for six months," she recalls.

It was then, she says, when she started losing hope. She started questioning God about what next and how many difficulties are still waiting for her on the way. "That time, I was living hand to mouth and no work meant no food. Somehow, I gathered courage and started taking therapies. I began to stand and walk without any support. Once I was back on my feet, I started calling people for work. In return, I had to hear that they won't take a risk by signing me for the job. I had to convince people

that I was doing fine and is ready to take the responsibility. Soon after, I started getting work again, but on a slow pace," she tells you.

On how she manages to do such difficult stunts, flawlessly, she says, that it is all about fighting your fears. "Even I feel afraid whenever I am about to perform a stunt. Anyone who says that he isn't afraid is probably lying. It is all about fighting your fear and prove you can do it. If you have decided to do something, nothing is too difficult," she says.

Tandon recalls a time where she had to do the same stunt 100 times in a day.

"It was for Robot 2.0 and the action director wanted it to get as smooth as possible. Hence, I ended up performing the same stunt 100 times and in the exact same way. But that helped, when I was called on the sets for the shoot, I managed to do it in one go," she narrates.

She tells you that there is nothing called a man's job. "There were some people who doubted my capability of performing stunts. Some even gave me weird stares. Many said: 'Agar nahi ho payega to woh ladka hai na, usey bula lenge'. But I never took their words seriously, I just shut them up with my actions. I showed them how well I can do it. Not that this happens only in this industry, it hap-

pens everywhere. One just has to learn to brave all these stares and taunts," Tandon says. She adds that she prefers to perform stunts without retakes because that way there is less danger.

"I always try to give the best of the shot so that there isn't a need of a retake. I recently gave a fire shot where I suffered minor burns on my face. But I still completed that shot and then laid down. If I would have had stopped then and there, I would have had to do it again all the way and it would have been a problem for me. Hence, I try not to do retakes and stay calm and patient in such situations," Tandon, who till date have performed hundreds of stunts in serials, films and ads, mentions.

Her favourite stunt, however, is chasing cars. "I enjoy chasing cars, that is one of my favourite," she says.

For what Tandon does, apart from a strong-willed heart, one also needs just as strong body and to maintain that exercise is the key. "I exercise for about two-three hours a day, depending upon my schedule. As for the diet, I eat normal ghar ka khana. It does the trick for me," she says.

There are many upcoming projects in Tandon's kitty. "I have got my hands full. There are some projects that I am working on and will share details soon," she says.

AUS BUILD BIG LEAD

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Cheteshwar Pujara's singular lack of intent pushed an injury-ravaged India into a deep hole as Australia tightened the noose with a substantial 197-run lead on a forgettable Saturday for the visitors in the third Test here.

Pujara's slowest Test half-century, a painstaking 50 off 176 balls, was soon followed by India being bowled out for 244 on the third day with the other batsmen feeling tremendous pressure of a dormant scoreboard.

A first-innings lead of 94 runs provided by the bowlers and some good fielding did help Australia's cause.

By stumps, Steve Smith (29 batting) and Marnus Labuschagne (47 batting) gave an exhibition of how to bat on slow tracks with Australia reaching 103/2.

Labuschagne, in particular, showed how to bat positively on a dead track hitting six boundaries in 67 balls.

As Shane Warne pointed out during commentary, it would be very difficult to chase any score in excess of 250 with variable bounce and the odd balls keeping low.

Pat Cummins (4/29 in 21.4 overs) was brilliant on an unresponsive track with some effective short-pitched bowling and got good support from Josh Hazlewood (2/43 in 21 overs) and Mitchell Starc (1/61 in 19 overs), having set up a leg-side trap.

To make matters worse for India, there were run-outs and two batsmen — Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja — were hit on the left elbow and left thumb respectively.

While both might come into



Marnus Labuschagne, left, and Steve Smith walk from the field at the close of play

3rd Test, Day 4
Live from 4:30am IST
SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

Hazlewood and Starc continuously attacked the batsmen — first with a leg-side field and short-ball strategy and then on the corridor of uncertainty.

Pujara doesn't play the pull or hook shot well and he wasn't allowed room to either cut or drive.

"I don't think it was the right approach (by Pujara), I think he needed to be a bit more proactive with his scoring rate because I felt it was putting too much pressure on his batting partners," former Australian captain Ricky Ponting wrote on twitter.

While he never tried to rotate the strike, the likes of Ajinkya Rahane (22 off 70 balls) and Rishabh Pant (36 off 67 balls) felt the urge to break the shackles in the absence of any such intention from the other end.

"It may have looked like a flat pitch but it wasn't easy to score runs," Pujara told host broadcasters Channel 7 during post match snap interview.

The defensive approach also resulted in three run-outs including the one of Hanuma Vihari (4 off 38 balls), who fell short while going for a quick but non-existent single.

It was then left to Ravindra Jadeja (28), who had to throw his bat around to bring the lead down to less than 100 runs, but that is of little comfort considering that India would now have to bat fourth to save the match.

A total of 84 runs from 34 overs in the first session, with lack of

intent especially from Pujara, didn't help India's cause and Rahane's dismissal was purely due to the scoreboard pressure.

The Indian captain failed to get a move-on initially on a slow track where bounce became variable as the session progressed.

He did hit a cover drive and then tried to take on Nathan Lyon by lofting him for a six over long on.

However, Cummins bowled one where he got extra bounce in his off-cutter, cramping Rahane for room and he was played on. The duo added 32 runs in 22.3 overs and it didn't help the team in any way.

Had KL Rahul been fit, there could have been a case of Vihari getting dropped as he didn't show in any way that he was in control during his half an hour stay at the crease.

Pant got into the groove quickly but a nasty blow on the forearm did affect his shot-making and the result was a caught behind off Hazlewood, after a 53-run stand in a little over 20 overs.

Pujara, at the other end, was bowled short initially with three men on the leg side and then on the off-side with his cover drive dried up.

Even the drive wide off mid-on didn't fetch him boundaries. In the first 100 balls, he didn't have a single boundary.

Finally, after completing his slowest ever half century in Test cricket, Cummins got one to rear up from short of length and it was that one good ball every batsman gets when he is not scoring runs.

From 195 for four, suddenly it was 210 for eight and there was only Jadeja left to score a few runs.

Jadeja out of 4th Test



PTI ■ SYDNEY

Depleted India's injury woes worsened on Saturday with senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja sustaining a left thumb dislocation and fracture which is likely to rule him out of the final Test in Brisbane, starting January 15.

However, there is some good news for India as wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant's elbow injury is not serious and he will probably be available when India bat to save the Test match.

Both players underwent scans after being hit by short balls from Australian pacers on third day of the Test match.

"Ravindra Jadeja has suffered a dislocation and fracture on his left thumb. It will be very difficult for him to wear those gloves and bat," a senior BCCI source told PTI on Saturday.

"In any case, he will be out of action for at least two to three weeks which rules him out of the final Test. Pant will be able to bat as his injury isn't that serious."

The visitors' first jolt came when Pant sustained an elbow injury after being hit by a Pat Cummins delivery.

Reserve wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha replaced Pant as

per a recent amendment in the ICC playing conditions.

"Rishabh Pant was hit on the left elbow while batting in the second session on Saturday. He has been taken for scans," the BCCI had earlier stated in a release.

Pant, who looked good during his 36 off 67 balls on the third day of the match, was hit while trying to pull a short ball from Cummins.

He was in pain immediately and after on-field treatment that included strapping a bandage, he was back in action but lost the flow due to hindered movement as Josh Hazlewood had him caught behind.

If that was not enough, the Australian fast bowlers inflicted further pain on the Indians with Jadeja suffering a nasty blow to his left thumb. He is unlikely to bowl in the Australian second innings after being taken for scans to ascertain the damage to his bowling hand.

Jadeja's 28-run knock allowed India to limit Australia's first-innings lead to less than 100 but towards the end, a short ball from Mitchell Starc hit him on the gloves and he needed immediate medical attention.

"Ravindra Jadeja suffered a blow to his left thumb while batting. He has been taken for scans," the visiting team's board stated in another media release after the injury.

Jadeja was in pain and once the team was back on the field for the second innings, his left thumb looked pretty swollen and the physio applied taping on it. He threw a few balls but then it was decided that it won't be possible for him to continue.

India had lost Ishant Sharma (before series started), Mohammed Shami (forearm), Umesh Yadav (calf muscle) and KL Rahul (wrist) to various injuries. Virat Kohli is on a paternity leave

Bumrah, Siraj racially abused, BCCI lodge complaint



Mohammed Siraj celebrates after dismissing Will Pucovski

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The BCCI on Saturday lodged a formal complaint with ICC match referee David Boon about two of their players Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj being abused by a drunk spectator, a Cricket Board source told PTI.

Incidentally, the Monkeygate episode also took place during the Sydney Test when Andrew Symonds claimed Harbhajan Singh called him a monkey multiple times. But the Indian off-spinner was cleared after a hearing on the matter.

It is learnt that a long discussion was held between the senior players of the visiting contingent, including captain Ajinkya Rahane, the umpires and security officers at the end of the day's play.

The abuses were directed at the Indian duo while they were fielding during the Australian second innings.

Australia tightened the noose around India with a substantial 197-run lead on a forgettable Saturday for the visitors in the third Test.

By the close of play, Steve Smith (29 batting) and Marnus Labuschagne (47 batting) gave an exhibition of how to bat on slow tracks with Australia reaching 103 for two.

According to BCCI sources, Siraj was allegedly referred to as a "monkey" by a drunk spectator in one of stands at the Sydney Cricket Ground, reliving the infamous Monkeygate episode of the

Indian team's tour of Australia in 2007-08.

While both might come into

Pujara scared to play shot: Border

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Cheteshwar Pujara was "scared to play shot" and just looked to survive rather than taking the fight to the Australians, former skipper Allan Border said on Saturday, slamming the Indian's batting tactics on day three of the third Test.

Pujara's slowest Test half-century, a painstaking 50 off 176 balls handed Australia control of the match in which they now have overall lead of 197 runs.

"He (Pujara) is almost scared to play a shot, isn't he? He is playing to survive rather than looking to score," Allan Border told foxsports.Com.Au.

"He's not had quite the same impact this series in that he's taken so long to score his runs, it's like he's stagnated at the crease and it has had a bit of a ripple effect through the Indian batting. They can't seem to get on top of Australia's bowling."

Pujara, who had amassed 521 runs during India's historic 2-1 Test series win in Australia in 2018-19, failed to rotate strike and it created pressure on the likes of Ajinkya Rahane (22 off 70 balls) and Rishabh Pant (36 off 67 balls).

Pat Cummins (4/29) returned with a four-wicket haul on an unresponsive track and was well-supported by Josh Hazlewood (2/43) and Mitchell Starc (1/61) as Australia dismissed India for 244 on day 3.

"Credit where credit is due, the bowling has been very good and Australia haven't allowed them to get away," Border said.

"That's half the battle as well, the guy's been hard to get out but if the scoreboard is not moving, eventu-



Cheteshwar Pujara fends at a ball

ally you get your rewards."

Former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting too was critical of Pujara's approach and asked him to "be a bit more proactive with his scoring rate because I felt it was putting too much pressure on his batting partners."

Former Australian all-rounder Tom Moody, however, believes the onus was on skipper Rahane and Hanuma Vihari to keep the scoreboard ticking as Pujara was just playing his natural game.

"I don't think Pujara at all is the culprit in this case, generally in his career he has played his brand of cricket and it would be unfair for the team to be asking him to be playing something which is totally out of his

Pujara slow batting putting pressure on others: Ponting

PIANS ■ SYDNEY

Cheteshwar Pujara's slow batting is putting too much pressure on the other India batsmen, former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting said on Saturday while asking the India No. 3 to change his approach.

"I don't think it was the right approach, I think he needed to be a bit more proactive with his scoring rate because I felt it was putting too much pressure on his batting partner," Ponting tweeted on Saturday.

Pujara, who won the man of the series award in Australia back in 2018-19, scored 50 off 176 balls at a strike rate of 28.41 in the first innings at the Sydney Cricket

natural style," Moody told ESPNcricinfo.

"I will put it down to Rahane and Vihari, who came in and scored 4 off 38 balls. To me, both these players need to get the game moving, understanding the role that Pujara has done not only in this series but every other series that he has played Test cricket for India."

Moody said India would never win this Test by trying to wear down the hosts.

"It's got to be an understanding in a team environment, that look for us to compete and build on the momentum that we had in Melbourne... We got to be aggressive," he said.

"We got to take on the

Ground on Saturday as the Australia bowlers kept a very tight and disciplined line.

He was caught behind off the bowling of Australia pace bowler Pat Cummins as the sixth wicket to fall.

Pujara has been dismissed by Cummins four out of the five times in this series. Nathan Lyon has picked him once, in the first innings of the first Test.

The right-handed India batsman, who notched three centuries on the last tour including a 193 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, has managed to aggregate just 113 in five innings so far at an average of 22.6. This was his first half-century of this series.

Australians and ensure that we are positive in our intent, whether it is just running between wickets, or whatever it might be, there needs to be a clear game plan.

"... The occupation of the crease was not the right game plan, if that's what they were trying to do, is just to put the Australians on the field for as long as possible and wear them down because I didn't see that way India going to win this Test match."

India will have to bat out of their skin to save the Test with Australia ending day 3 with a 197-run lead.

Marnus Labuschagne (47) and Steve Smith (29) were at the crease with Australia at 103 for 2 when the stumps were drawn on Saturday.

Couldn't have done anything better than what I was doing: Pujara



PTI ■ Sydney

"I couldn't have done anything better than what I was doing," senior batsman Cheteshwar Pujara said, putting up a stout defence of his ultra-defensive batting that came in for heavy criticism on the third day of the third Test against Australia, here.

Pujara said it was some brilliant bowling by the Australians which forced him to crawl to his slowest ever Test half-century.

Pujara scored 50 off 176 balls as his slow batting helped Australia gain complete control of the third Test with an overall lead of 197 runs.

"I was batting well and got a good ball. I just have to accept it. I couldn't have done anything better than what I was doing. I feel I just have to bat the way, I know," Pujara said during the day-end media conference.

According to Pujara, his nemesis Patrick Cummins bowled the "ball of the series" about which he couldn't do anything.

"He bowls unplayable deliveries. I felt that was the best ball of this series. I don't think I could have done anything about that ball which kicked from back of length, I had to play that ball as there was extra bounce. When it's not your day, the margin of error is very little," he explained.

He also didn't pay much credence to theories that a finger injury sustained during nets at the MCG was the reason for not being able to play freely.

"Not really, I think. I don't think it put any trouble as far as my batting is concerned. It's not easy and I am not hundred percent (fit). I won't say I am completely normal. This was something that was expected and I can manage this little bit of pain. It's an important game so I can't miss out," Pujara said.

Asked why he didn't bring out the hook or pull shot when Australian bowlers employed the three-man leg side trap, Pujara effectively dodged the question.

"They bowled good line and lengths. They had fair idea of this pitch. I think we should give credit to the way they bowled. They didn't give too many loose balls," he said.

In fact he felt that difference in this Test match has been the relative inexperience of the bowling attack.

"If you look at our fast bowling line-up, they are slightly inexperienced but they are improving day by day, they will get better. It's a good opportunity for them to learn and I am sure we have good bunch of fast bowlers who can learn from best and get better as they play more games," he said.

He termed Rishabh Pant's dismissal as the turning point of the Indian innings.

"If you look at the way our innings was progressing, we were in trouble only when Rishabh got out. Till then we were in a comfortable position. We were 180 for 4, and we were doing well. Things turned around when Rishabh got out and then I got out. We didn't score many after that. Losing Rishabh was a turnaround.

Going to make as hard as possible for Pujara: Cummins

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia entered the four-match Test series against India determined to make it "as hard as possible" for Cheteshwar Pujara to score, the home team's pace spearhead Pat Cummins said after his terrific display in the third Test on Saturday.

Pujara has been criticised for his ultra-defensive approach in the series so far and instead of propping up his team's response to Australia's first innings total of 338 all out, his painstakingly slow 50 off 176 balls on the third day of the third Test here derailed India's momentum.

"Today I got a bit of assistance from the pitch. But he (Pujara) is someone you know you are going to have to bowl a lot at," Cummins said during the virtual post-day press conference.

The world's number one bowler returned fine figures of 4/29 and dismissed Pujara, who had been a thorn in Australia's flesh during the 2018-19 series, for the fourth time in the ongoing rubber.

"We got our head around



that this series, for him to score runs, we are going to make it as hard as possible, and whether he bats for 200-300 balls, we would just try and bowl good ball after good ball, challenge both sides of his bat, and fortunately, so far

it has worked."

Cummins was asked about Pujara's slow scoring rate and the pressure it puts on other batsmen.

"It's one of those things. You know he (Pujara) is going to hang around. As long as you are controlling the scoreboard. At one stage he had been out there for 200 balls or 150 balls and I looked up there thinking they are still 200 away from our first-innings total.

"So, that fell a long way away and if we continue bowling well, you're not overly bothered." "I think having Greeny (Chris Green) in there as a bowling option as well helps so we're not having those big 20-over days," he said.

After posting 338 in their first innings, Australia bowled out the visitors for 244 to take a substantial 94-run lead.

By stumps on the third day, the hosts had extended the lead to 197 runs by reaching 103 for two.

According to Cummins, his team is in a great position but he expects India to bounce back.

"I think, at the start of the day, I was kind of hoping that we

wouldn't end the day still having to bowl, so to be having 200 lead with eight wickets in hand on a wicket that is deteriorating pretty quickly, great result," the 27-year-old added.

"I think they are a good side, I am sure they are going to bounce back but in terms of getting the bowlers back out there for another day, they have now bowled for three days in a row, those kinds of things do add up," he added.

Cummins said the hosts would look to take the lead beyond 300 runs at least.

"The big thing is to keep that lead get up over 300-odd and hopefully the wicket keeps deteriorating and make that a really tough total to score on day four and five," he added.

For India, both Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja were sent for scans after taking nasty blows while batting. Asked if that gives Australia a mental edge, Cummins said, "We would wait and see, who knows. Don't know whether Jadeja is going to come out and bowl, Rishabh being straight away replaced with (Wriddhiman) Saha, so we will see."

India's domestic season finally gets underway



PTI ■ MUMBAI

India will witness its first major cricket tournament in the country since the COVID-19 disruption when the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy begins the much-delayed domestic season from Sunday, presenting a platform for the hopefuls to impress before IPL auctions.

The presence of seasoned campaigners such as Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina and Ishant Sharma will add sheen to the tournament but one of the biggest talking points in the lead-up has

been S Sreesanth's comeback to top-flight cricket after serving a ban for his alleged involvement in the 2013 IPL corruption scandal.

Sreesanth, 37, will turn out for Kerala in the national T20 championship from January 10-31.

But the focus, mostly, will be on domestic uncapped players with the IPL auctions scheduled in February. The tournament also assumes significance as it is an opportunity for the new senior selection committee to draw up a wider pool of players for the

T20 World Cup, which will be played in India later this year.

No cricketing activity had happened since mid-March last year and after meticulous planning, the BCCI decided to conduct the tournament at six different venues with as many bio bubbles.

The teams have been divided into six groups — five Elite and one Plate and the league stage matches will be played at Mumbai, Vadodara, Indore, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru with the knockouts scheduled in Ahmedabad.

The lead-up had its share of controversies with many players lodging a complaint after being served poor quality food in a posh South Mumbai hotel. Then, staff members of a hotel in Chennai, where players of three Plate Group teams were staying, were found COVID-19 positive.

LIVERPOOL SCHOOL VILLA BOYS

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

They were given pre-match odds of 90-1 by some British bookmakers.

Some of them were dropped off at the stadium ahead of the game by their mothers and fathers.

A bunch of new jerseys needed to be printed before kickoff on Friday, adding rarely seen squad numbers up to 76 for the teenagers who, at late notice, were about to play for Aston Villa against the superstars of English football in the FA Cup.

Imagine the widespread disbelief, then, when Villa's kids defied grim predictions by reaching half-time of the supposed third-round mismatch at 1-1 against the best team in the country, a lineup containing the likes of Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Jordan Henderson.

As expected, Liverpool pulled clear in the second half, but there was little to really celebrate from the 4-1 win at an empty Villa Park.

Villa was plunged into the desperate situation following a coronavirus outbreak in the first-team squad that led to the closure of the club's training ground this week.

Ten senior players, it was revealed early Friday, contracted the coronavirus along with four staff and there was only one solution: Villa had to field members of its under-18 and under-23 teams for the game against Liverpool.



Mohamed Salah, left, challenges for the ball with Aston Villa's Dominic Rean during the FA Cup

Having taken - and passed - tests for COVID-19 to show they were fine to play, seven players from the under-23s and four from the under-18s lined up against a stronger-

than-expected Liverpool lineup, boosted by some pre-match words of encouragement by Villa's best player.

"Good luck tonight boys, no pressure whatsoever," tweeted Jack Grealish, the Villa captain and England international. "Go out there and enjoy yourselves."

And they did, even though Mane gave Liverpool

the lead with a header in the fourth minute - a goal that was expected to open the floodgates for the visitors.

Instead, Villa's kids battled gamely and, after riding their luck at times, equalized against all the odds when Louie Barry - a 17-year-old striker recently returned to his boyhood club after a spell at Barcelona's famed La Masia academy - ran in behind Liverpool's defense to slot home a composed finish in the 41st.

So anxious was Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp that he sent on Thiago Alcantara, a Champions League winner with Bayern Munich last year, for the start of the second half and the midfielder's range of passing prompted an improvement.

The sucker-punch for Villa came from Liverpool scoring three goals in a five-minute span from the 60th, through Georinio Wijnaldum, Mane and Salah.

Villa's players, to their huge credit, didn't concede again and wore looks of pride at the final whistle.

In the other third-round match on Friday, Wolverhampton beat fellow Premier League team Crystal Palace 1-0 thanks to Adama Traore's powerful struck shot in the 35th.

Gladbach comeback haunt Bayern

AP ■ BERLIN

Bayern Munich's defensive frailties finally took their toll as Borussia Mönchengladbach came from two goals down to beat the Bundesliga leader 3-2.

Jonas Hofmann scored twice and Florian Neuhaus provided the bow as Gladbach dealt Bayern just its second defeat in 15 games on Friday.

Bayern conceded first in each of its previous eight league games but recovered to lose none.

Coach Hansi Flick was determined for his team to make a good start and Bayern was given an opening early on when Neuhaus was penalized through VAR for handball in the penalty area.

Robert Lewandowski duly converted the penalty in the 20th minute, consequently also ending Bayern's habit of conceding the first goal.

Leon Goretzka then won the ball in midfield, played a one-two with Leroy Sané, and doubled Bayern's lead in the 26th.

But the defending champions' issues hadn't gone away, as Hofmann showed when he beat the visitors' offside trap to score after a brilliant through ball from Lars Stindl.

Stindl won the ball from Joshua Kimmich to set up Hofmann just before halftime. The goal was initially flagged offside, but a VAR review showed Hofmann was behind Niklas Süle when Stindl played him through. Hofmann had plenty of time to pick his spot and he stayed cool before slotting the ball inside the left post.

Süle was again at fault when Gladbach got its third goal in the 49th, when his wayward pass was intercepted by Hofmann, who played a one-two with Breel Embolo before laying the ball off for Neuhaus, who let fly inside the top-right corner.



East Bengal add to BFC misery

PTI ■ MARGAO

Matti Steinmann's first-half strike proved to be the difference as SC East Bengal beat Bengaluru FC 1-0 to record their second win of the Indian Super League here on Saturday.

The Kolkata team is now unbeaten in their last five games, while BFC's misery continued with their fourth consecutive defeat this season.

Erik Paartalu returned to the Bengaluru starting XI after serving his one-match suspension as Naushad Moosa made four changes in his first game as interim coach. While Udanta Singh was also in the first XI, Moosa handed first start to the defenders Parag Srivas and Ajith Kumar.

SCEB made just one change with Jacques Maghoma replacing Aaron Amadi-Holloway. Skipper Daniel Fox made the line-up after his red card against FC Goa was earlier overturned.

Bengaluru had early chances in the game but struggled to get the goals. First, it was Sunil Chhetri, whose lob-shot over the rival defense was easily dealt with by Debjit Majumder.

Cleiton Silva soon had a chance to put his side ahead in the 15th minute. But the Brazilian failed to direct his header at the goal after Juan Antonio González had pushed Parag Srivas' long throw-in in the box.

Steinmann put SCEB in



the lead in the 20th minute with a fine outside-foot finish. Ankit Mukherjee's cross was not dealt with cleanly by Ajith and Juanao and it found Narayan Das on the left. Narayan then played a low cross to Steinmann who scored his third of the season.

SCEB were in total control of the game at this point and made Bengaluru chase shadows. The Kolkata side created a couple of chances before the half-hour mark and nearly extended their lead.

Ankit sent in a perfect cross into the box, but Narayan's diving finish diverted it wide. Minutes later, another chance went begging for SCEB, as Harmanpreet Singh couldn't get to the end of Ankit's through pass.

Bengaluru put up a much-improved performance in the second half. Chhetri played a one-two with Kristian Opseth and on entering the box tried his luck with a powerful strike but his effort was saved by Debjit.

Ilicic masterclass inspires Atalanta

AP ■ ITALY

Josip Ilicic appears to be back to his best after inspiring Atalanta to a 4-1 win at Benevento in Serie A on Saturday.

Ilicic scored Atalanta's opener, hit the post and had a hand in another two goals — for Rafael Tolói and Duván Zapata — after Marco Sau's equalizer. Luis Muriel netted a spectacular fourth for Atalanta.

Personal problems caused Ilicic to miss several months last year.

Atalanta moved into fourth spot. It is six points behind league leader AC Milan, which hosts relega-

tion-threatened Torino later. Genoa was also playing against Bologna later.

Benevento remained 10th.

Atalanta has made a great start to 2021, having scored eight goals in its two matches and conceded just one.

Ilicic put on a masterclass at Benevento and he set up a couple of chances before opening the scoring in the 30th minute. The Slovenia midfielder gathered the ball on the right and cut inside, dribbling past three defenders before firing into the bottom near corner.

Atalanta was dominating and Ilicic almost doubled his tally shortly before halftime



Rafael Tolói, left, celebrates with teammate Robin Gosens after scoring goal

but he sent a free kick crashing off the left post.

Benevento leveled five minutes after the break as halftime substitute Christian Pastina, who was making his Serie A debut, lifted a ball over the top for Saut to slide in at the back post.

Atalanta all but secured the win with two quickfire goals provided by Ilićić. In the 69th, Ilićić burst into the box following a quick one-two and although his effort was parried by Lorenzo Montipò, Tolói turned in the rebound. Two minutes later, a counter-attack down the right saw Ilićić cross in for Zapata to volley into the bottom left corner.

COVID VACCINATION FROM JAN 16

There will be no compromise of existing healthcare services, especially national programmes and primary health care; no compromise on scientific and regulatory norms, other SOPs. Technology will be used for an orderly and smooth implementation of the rollout, as per the plan chalked out by the Government.

The Prime Minister was also apprised about the Co-WIN Vaccine Delivery Management System which will provide real-time information of vaccine stocks, their storage temperature, and individualised tracking of beneficiaries of the Covid-19 vaccine.

This platform will assist the programme managers across all levels through automated session allocation for pre-registered beneficiaries, their verification and for generating a digital certificate upon successful completion of the vaccine schedule. More than 79 lakh beneficiaries have been already registered on the platform.

OF 33K FLIERS FROM UK, ONLY 5K TRACED; STRAIN CASES RISE TO 90 IN INDIA

The presence of the new UK variant has already been reported by several countries including Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, Italy, Sweden, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Japan, Lebanon and Singapore. The variant is the result of multiple

mutations in the spike protein of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, as well as mutations in other genomic regions of the RNA virus.

Preliminary analysis suggests that it is more transmissible than previously circulating variants. COG-UK identified one of these mutations as "N501Y", in an area of the spike protein that binds to a key protein in the human cell, the ACE2 receptor. This was an indication that the alterations may, theoretically, result in the virus becoming more infectious. "Efforts are underway to confirm whether or not any of these mutations are contributing to increased transmission," the experts said.

MODI-LED BODY TO CELEBRATE 125TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF NETAJI SUBHAS

The committee will guide the commemoration activities in Delhi, Kolkata and other places associated with Netaji and the Azad Hind Fauj, both in India as well as overseas. Other members of the committee include Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Smriti Irani, Prakash Javadekar, Jitendra Singh, Prahlad Singh Patel and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Minister of State for Environment Babul Supriyo and Minister of State for Women and Child Development Debasree Chaudhuri are also among the members. Former Prime Ministers HD Deve Gowda and Manmohan Singh have also been named as the members of the committee

which also has Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha Hariwansh and former Lok Sabha Speakers Manohar Joshi, Shivraj Patil, Meira Kumar and Sumitra Mahajan.

Besides, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar and Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla as well as the Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Odisha, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya have also been included in the committee. Veteran journalist Kanchan Gupta and noted musician AR Rehman are also members of the Committee headed by the PM.

The committee will approve policies, plans, programmes and supervise and guide the commemoration of the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji including preparatory activities. The members will also decide on the broad dates for the detailed programme of celebration. The recommendations of the committee will be considered by the Centre for implementation, subject to extant rules, instructions and practices.

DELHI BANS IMPORT OF LIVE BIRDS, POULTRY MARKET SHUT

"The samples of ducks found dead have been taken by the veterinary department authorities to ascertain if the cause of death was bird flu or not," a senior DDA official said.

On the death of crows, the DDA has informed the Delhi Government's forest department, he said.

"We are monitoring the situation very closely as DDA owns a large number of

public parks many of which have water bodies," the official said. Asked what steps the DDA authorities might take in view of the situation, he said all parks are open as of now.

"However, at places like Hauz Khas, which has a large lake, where a lot of birds flock to, security personnel are cautioning them to avoid visiting given the bird flu scare," the official said.

Other DDA parks include Coronation Park in Burari, Japanese Park in Rohini and various biodiversity parks.

At least 35 crows have died in the national capital in the last few days and the samples have been sent to labs for testing, the officials had said on Friday. An official of the animal husbandry unit had said around 50 birds, mostly crows, had died over the last three to four days in these three areas.

"We received information about the death of crows in Dwarka, Mayur Vihar Phase 3 and Hastals village in west Delhi. However, it is yet to be ascertained if bird flu infection is the reason," Dr Rakesh Singh from the department had said.

In the last few days, there have been several cases of bird flu across various parts of the country, which is a cause of worry. Cases of bird flu have been registered in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

"No confirmed case of bird flu has been registered in Delhi until now. We have collected around 104 samples until now, which have been sent to Jalandhar for testing and examination in a laboratory," the CM said at a press conference.

He said Delhi is taking several steps to control the spread of bird flu as a precautionary measure. "Upon receiving the

results day after tomorrow, the Delhi Government will take all decisions and measures based on the results. The import of live birds is being completely banned from today onwards. Second, the Ghazipur poultry market in Delhi will remain shut for the next 10 days," Kejriwal added.

DEMOCRATS PLAN LIGHTNING TRUMP IMPEACHMENT

The mayhem that erupted Wednesday at the Capitol stunned the world and threatened the traditional peaceful transfer of power.

Pelosi said she had spoken to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley "to discuss available precautions for preventing an unstable president from initiating military hostilities or accessing the launch codes" for nuclear war. She said Milley assured her longstanding safeguards are in place.

The president has sole authority to order the launch of a nuclear weapon, but a military commander could refuse the order if it were determined to be illegal. Trump has not publicly made such threats, but officials warn of grave danger if the president is left unchecked.

"This unhinged president could not be more dangerous," Pelosi said of the current situation.

Biden, meanwhile, said he is focused on his job as he prepares to take office. Asked about impeachment, he said, "That's a decision for the Congress to make."

The Democrats are considering lightning-quick action. A draft of their Articles of Impeachment accuses Trump of abuse

FROM PAGE 1



'Ranning with this squad was fun'

■ What you did in SquadRann sounds fun and interesting. How did the idea come up?

The idea was amazing and we got associated because we had done some work with OML before. It is a brand that is as crazy as we are. When you have William Lawson, OML and

SquadRann together – it becomes a great partnership. To have no rules and be yourself is awesome. For a skateboarder to play cricket and actually take a run while skateboarding is something that would come organically to him or a BMX biker to hit the ball with his bike is organic to him though people would think otherwise.

■ How many ways did you try to play cricket? How was the whole experience?

We played cricket in as many ways as possible. In fact, the game is played in different ways across the country – from indoor cricket to book cricket to gully cricket to runs only on the legside or off side. This is a game that one can alter according to the situation or the ground or the resources you have. For us it was crazy; we had frisbee, basketball, bowling ball where the player hit the pins with a shot to archery. Then I used several different things to bat with – a baseball bat, a tennis racquet, a GoPro and even a tava. We even bowled with a football and the field kicked it the same into the wickets to get the player out. These were some of the things, one would do if you didn't have a bat of a cricket ball.

If I had gone into the Army, I would have been the sixth generation to do so. My family was worried for me because even after I had cleared all the exams, I would not have been joining the forces. I felt I could do something with adventure and travel and express myself creatively outside of the Army

We had so much blast. There was an adrenal rush doing all these things.

■ Was your family disappointed when you didn't join the forces?

If I had gone into the Army, I would have been the sixth generation to do so.

My family was worried for me because even after I had cleared all the exams, I was not going to join because I felt I could do something with adventure and travel and express myself creatively outside of the Army. This way, my family has had different experiences in life and are proud of me. They would have been disappointed if I had not cleared the exam. I told them if things didn't pan out in a year, I would join the Army. They were apprehensive and worried but never disappointed.

■ You were last seen in Mismatched. How did you come on board for the series?

The makers called me and offered me a role of Professor who thinks out-of-the-box and has no rules. This is my personality. I saw the character had a way of doing things differently and this attracted me to the role. To encourage the students but also push them into the right direction. I thought the character would be fun to do and it was. Akarsh (Khurana), the director told me I was his only choice and when I met him, the vibe was so good. His confidence in me made me say yes.

■ What was your role in Forbidden Love?

The series was directed by Mahesh Majreka sir. Me and Mahesh sir had been trying to do something for a long time. I liked his work and followed what he was doing while growing up. We became friends. When he told me about this project, love is not always straightforward or simple. A lot of things happen – jealousy, different emotions, insecurity and passion. He was directing and acting in it. Raima (Sen) was part of it and I thought it would be great to be part of it. My role is special, for those who have not seen, it comes alive since there is a twist.

■ What next?

In this present pandemic we must concentrate on building mental strength and spend quality time with the family and keep yourself afloat work, with imagination and with creativity. Roadies in on air and Splitsville is going to be shot soon. Trying to work on an online show. There are things that I am here in London. There are some brands for whom I have to work. Just trying to live a wholesome and healthy life in this present situation.

Talktime

RANNVIJAY SINGHA

He is known for the MTV Roadies show and was last seen playing Siddharth Sinha in Mismatched. The VJ turned actor speaks with Shalini Saksena about his upcoming projects and what SquadRann is all about

COLOUR OF THE YEAR



The Pantone Color of the year 2021 pairs two unique and individualistic colours, Ultimate Grey and Illuminating Yellow, symbolising our newfound understanding of our interdependence as a global community. Practical and rock solid but at the same time warming and optimistic, the union is one of strength and positivity. It encapsulates deeper feelings of thoughtfulness with the promise of something sunny and friendly, aptly representing the somber yet hopeful mood of all of us as we step into 2021.

Illuminating with Ultimate Grey is a bold combination, and can easily be brought into the interiors with upholstery and home accessories like rugs and cushions, infusing vitality and liveliness. A grey textured interior finish, with yellow pop accents as colored door and windows, crockery, furniture, and wall art convey a warm and welcoming message. For a more dramatic interior, the yellow can be used as wall and floor finishes, highlighted by grey furnishings, further layered with indoor planters, rich jewel tones and other tonal colors.

With non-essential travelling picking up pace, SUNDAY PIONEER tells you why one can plan a trip to Dubai with a new travel kit in place

Make the best of 2021

Dubai Shopping Festival (Till 30 January, 2021)

Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) is back for its 26th edition, with over six weeks of family fun and entertainment, live concerts, unique markets, art installations and stage shows plus super sales, unmissable promotions and chances to win life-changing prizes across the city. Perfect for those that want to enjoy retail therapy and exciting events as well as the wonderfully mild weather, a visit to Dubai during DSF will make for a fantastic start to the year.

Gastronomy — Dubai Food Festival (February 2021)

Catering to the 200+ nationalities that call Dubai home, Dubai is a truly cosmopolitan destination where nationalities mingle to sample dishes from across the world. New restaurants opening up include Brasserie Boulud, Michelin-starred chef Daniel Boulud's first restaurant in the region, Burj Al Arab's SAL which will offer up Iberian-inspired dishes, and Taiko Dubai, home to contemporary Far Eastern cuisine.

For foodies, Dubai Food Festival (DFF), a city-wide culinary extravaganza that takes place each February, is well worth a visit. DFF sees restaurants set up on the beach, welcomes celebrity chefs for master classes, invites the public to taste signature dishes at the city's top restaurants and more, all in the name of food.

Art Dubai (March 17 to March 20, 2021)

The 14th edition of Art Dubai will celebrate its unique positioning as the most international art fair, bringing together diverse communities from around the world. Presenting the largest selection of galleries from across the MENASA region, as well as championing the finest artistic output across the Global South, the fair's agenda will include art and social activations taking place on the beach, the Creek, and outdoor settings across Dubai, while the fair layout and access timings will be adapted with necessary health and safety rules in place.

Ramadan (April 12 to May 11, 2021, tentative, dependent on the sighting of the moon)

Ramadan is the holiest month of the year for Muslims around the world; a time for reflection and increased devotion. Time honoured traditions, Islamic culture and hospitality are at their peak during the month making it a truly special time to visit. The quieter pace of the day when Muslims observe the daily fast invokes a spirit of calm and introspection – but after sunset, the city comes to life with plenty of

shopping, arts and cultural events taking place throughout the month. Visitors can learn more about Ramadan by visiting the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding (SMCCU) located in the Al Fahidi District Historical Neighbourhood or by joining a special tour of Jumeirah Mosque. Experiencing Iftar, the evening meal with which Muslims end their fast, is also a must.

Expo 2020 (October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022)

Expo 2020 Dubai will be a once-in-a-lifetime global celebration, opening up a world of wonder, excitement and hope for millions of visitors from around the world. Taking place for six months, it will offer something for everyone, irrespective of age, nationality or interest.

Through the theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future' Expo 2020 Dubai provides a platform to encourage creativity, innovation and collaboration across three subthemes: Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability. The theme reflects the history of Dubai, historically called Al Wasl, or 'the connection' as Dubai has long played an important role in connecting east and west, north and south. Expo 2020 Dubai's vision is to build on Dubai's role as a cross-continental gateway and deliver a World Expo that advances the potential of human collaboration, while inspiring visitors to create a positive, long-term impact for people around the world.

Expo 2020 Dubai will feature the best in entertainment, technology, cuisine and culture, from every corner of the globe, for an unforgettable six months.

Museum of the Future (Opening date TBC, 2021)

Set to become one of the most iconic landmarks in the world, the Museum of the Future explores the future of science, technology and innovation. Designed by Shaun Killa, it is already one of the world's most complex buildings – in the shape of a torus, with the round shape representing the earth and the sky, while the empty space in the middle representing the unknown. The 30,000 sqm, seven-storey column-less marvel stands at 77m high, with 1,024 Arabic calligraphy panels on the facade. The Museum will be a place like no other, a home of tolerance, inviting varied cultural, philosophical, social, and spiritual outlooks. It will bring together inventors, designers and researchers, presenting a range of technologies, becoming an incubator for ideas and designs, a driver for innovation, and a global destination for inventors and entrepreneurs.

'Comedy and anchoring happened by chance'

MUSBA HASHMI chats up actor-host-comedian PARITOSH TRIPATHI about how he came on board for Ludo, whether he imagined playing Manohar Jain and why he doesn't believe in glorifying his struggle

■ How did you come onboard for Ludo?

Anurag *dada* (Basu) offered me the role. Even I was shocked and so I messaged him asking why did he offer the role without even auditioning me. To which he answered, you were giving auditions only in the previous show (Super Dancer 3, where he was a host and Anurag Basu was a judge). To add to this, in that show for about two years, I joked around and said when will I get an offer for a movie. I told *dada*, that I want to spend more time with him. May be he understood it the other way and when *Ludo* happened he found a suitable role for me.

■ Did you ever imagine yourself playing Manohar Jain since you are obviously different from the character?

I am from theatre and trained for playing different types of characters. Comedy and anchoring happened with me by chance. I came to Mumbai to do films and serious roles always excited me. Then I got *Crime Patrol* and I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it. To answer your question, this is *dada's* vision and if he thinks I can do it, then who I am to question it. Manohar is a very real character and my approach towards it was to not make him look bad or cheap. He is right at his place, he is like a *bechara*. Also, the credit goes to *dada* who made me play Manohar so naturally.

■ A lesson that you took back home from the sets of Ludo.

Every day was a learning experience. There is so much that I took back home from the sets, be it life lessons or some great memories. I even got a lot of compliments from the other actors on sets including Rajkumar Rao. I shared an extremely sweet moment with Pankaj Tripathi. It was last year on the occasion of Holi that we were shooting the hospital scene from the film. Pankaj *bhaiyya* told me that once they call it a day we will have dinner together. His shoot got finished early and I was still shooting. After the pack-up, while I was going to my van, somebody told me that Pankaj *bhaiyya* was still waiting for me. It was for about two-three hours, I was touched by that act of his.

■ In a recent interview, you mentioned you don't believe in glorifying your struggle. Why is that so?

Whenever we see a person from a small town, the first thought that crosses our mind is: 'Aye *haye*, *bechara*'. If we talk about reality shows, if a person has an excellent struggle story that doesn't make him an excellent performer. It is about one's talent and not what his story or struggle is. If I belong to a well-to-do family and if I have the talent in me, there is no need to make up false struggle stories. *Main kya karu main gareeb paison se bhi nahin tha aur gyaan se bhi nahin*. People like me for my talent and not for my story. It's a brainchild of TV, to glorify the back stories of the contestants. Whatever struggle I have been through, it was by choice. Coming to Mumbai was my choice and deciding to earn a living for myself was my choice as well. I won't tell a *bechari wali* story just to be in the limelight, that is not me.

■ What does success mean to you?

Success is when people start listening to your words. Whatever you say, is appreciated and well-understood by audience, is what I call success. Having an expensive car and a big bungalow is not success for me.

■ You are an actor, host, poet and a comedian too. What does it take to do it all?

One of my friend used to say: 'Tu *fridge* bhi *theek* kar leta hoga'. Because I don several hats. But all of this comes under acting only, so it is not a rocket science. Acting is my passion and *likhna mere zinda rehne ka saboot hai*. Also, I got a lot of projects because I can write as well.

Wedding 2.0

With every unlock we are seeing green shoots of recovery and strongly believe that this will lead to resurgence in 2021.

With safety restrictions in place couples will continue to opt for smaller and intimate weddings and choose to have smaller functions like *mehendi*, *haldi* and *sangeet* at home. Hygiene and sanitisation stations will be seen as a must-have at every corner of the venue possibly with some added elements like customised masks and sanitisers. Another noticeable change with shrunken guest lists will be exotic short haul destination weddings at an increased price per pax finding its place as a part of the consideration deck of to-be-weds, with hills or palaces emerging as most preferred options. Consumers will use this as an opportunity to get away from the hustle bustle of city life and bond with their inner circle to make their D-Day memorable.

— Sandeep Lodha, CEO, OYO's Weddingz.in

For a new travel kit

As our quest for vaccine for COVID -19 virus is on, we all have adapted to the new normal life. Non-essential travel is picking up with Government, airlines and tour operators easing their travel policies. Overall with the entire travel and tourism industry slowly getting back to normal, one has to get used to the new normal of travelling. Keeping a few rules in mind and availing added protection and essentials offered by brands like Nova Eyewear can help ensure a safe stay and safe commute. Here are essentials, which one must carry while travelling in the post COVID world:

Face Masks: Face Masks are now the new style statement for the fashionistas. The style has evolved from the basic N95/3 ply masks to quirky designer masks which would match each and every outfit. Customised masks are gaining a new popularity. You can now keep yourself safe by pairing your favourite denims with a super cool denim mask while you are holidaying at your favourite beach destination.

Anti-Fog cloth: Here is a much needed solution for spectacle wearers during the on-going pandemic who are facing difficulty in clear vision when pairing glasses with masks for protection, which could often lead to fogging of lenses. Anti-Fog Cloth helps to keep glasses fog-free for long hours with every use. This easy to carry cloth works with two simple steps of steaming up the lenses by exhaling air and then wiping it for 10 seconds with the special anti-fog cloth for keeping the glasses fog-free. This highly cool and easy product from Nova Eyewear can be your best friend while you are travelling.

Safety goggles: A vacation is incomplete without your lovely pair of shades but now a new struggle has evolved i.e. fogging. When paired with your mask the glasses get fogged making your vision blur. It is best to go for Safety Goggles, which gives you complete eye cover and comes with anti-fog coating.

Disinfectant spray and sanitiser: Sanitisation is the most important ritual in our daily lives. A hand and disinfectant spray can not only keep the virus at bay but also ensures hygiene in all circumstances. Don't forget to choose a good hand sanitiser.



NEW YEAR VIBES CONTINUE



I don't expect much from this year. I hope to forge ahead, keep taking action and see what I can make of the situation as it stands. The key is to be flexible, and let go of expectations. I only want to be full of hope for 2021 and try to make the best of it!

— Shefali Jarjwala, Actor



My expectations from this year is that life should be back to what it was before the pandemic. When people should meet by hugging each other, when people should sit and talk, people should share food and coffee with each other. And that six-feet physical distance criteria that has come should be removed as that has created not just physical distance but also a distance in our hearts. People are now more scared of leaving their houses. Hence, just hope we again get back to the old routine of living carefree that's my only expectation from this year. I'm expecting people to be more kind towards others and more aware towards our planet.

— Balraj, Standup comedian and Host



With a few releases geared up for this year, I can't wait to share my new sounds and music with the world. Live, on-ground performances are also starting up slowly and I'm hoping for us musicians to be back on stage, performing for the audience. Digital concerts will continue and they've been an exciting medium as well. I'm also hoping for the new year to be kinder to all of us.

— Rasika Shekar, Flautist and Singer

the pioneer agenda

Life is tough; and if you have the ability to laugh at it, you have the ability to enjoy it
— Salma Hayek



Gita: a stable connection
Bhagavad Gita is a spiritual text appreciated alike from East to West, from Einstein to Gandhi

2



4

The fine art of living well
It calls for identifying and perfecting the inlaid infirmities, & develop interpersonal relationship skills

With companies and organisations becoming more accepting of building greater gender balanced workforces, the issue of safety and equality has either been assumed to be a *de-facto* outcome of diversity, or has been dealt with diversity and inclusion policies and laws on prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace, say ROOP SEN & UMA CHATTERJEE



WALKING THE FINE LINE



When Ramesh Subramaniam joined a multinational bank after graduating from one of the top management colleges of India, he expected a stint that would offer him opportunities for professional learning and growth. He grew up in a small town in Tamil Nadu and had studied in state run public schools and colleges where, he felt, the quality of teaching and competition was limited. He believed that it was by sheer dedication, grit and hard work that he had excelled in his academic career and was determined to carry it into his professional life. Three months into his joining the company, he was called by the Human Resource Manager who informed him that a couple of his women colleagues had complained about his behaviour towards them and reported that he is patronising and sexist in his attitudes towards women. It was an atypical sexual harassment complaint where the complainants did not accuse him of making any direct or indirect sexual proposition or lewd behaviours, the complainants believed that he considers women as unequal to him, inferior intellectually and in capability, and therefore the harassment was gendered in nature.

"It is not uncommon to find even senior managers in large companies in India to be patriarchal in their attitudes" says Sarala Tiwari (name changed upon request), an HR professional who has more than 25 years of experience in Indian and multinational companies. "I have seen how divorced women experience insidious stigma in one of the largest Indian companies whose main business is of tobacco. In our smaller cities or town units, where the employees are mostly local and has a lesser cosmopolitan culture, gender norms in the office are the reflection of the social culture of the community. So, if the prevailing norm at home is for women to be homemakers first and professionals next, or that women to be at the receiving end of male aggression, the same tend to get reflected at work in different ways, and which would get normalised and not get reported. The conflicts arise when people from more conservative communities get into cosmopolitan offices, and there can be a culture clash," explains Sarala.

The value of gender diversity in the workplace gained recognition and acceptance only in the 80s and 90s, with more women joining the formal and informal workforce, breaking patriarchal barriers that relegated women to domestic work, mothering and unpaid caregiving labour. The year 2000 saw women make up 39.49% of the global workforce which declined marginally to 38.85% over 19 years, according to a World Bank study of 2019. And even then, women continue to be a severe minority in the Boards and management positions indicating patriarchal power dynamics of more men being in power than women within the corporate sector. So, while Ramesh's case may seem like an

aberration or an isolated case, sexism is much more prevailing in modern organisations that we care to admit, except that Ramesh's expression of it may have been more unsophisticated, raw and honest.

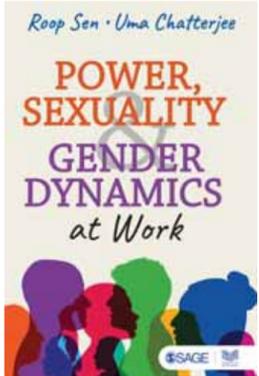
THE CASE FOR A COMMON GENDER ETIQUETTE

With companies and organisations becoming more accepting of building greater gender balanced workforces and more recently even committing to be accepting of sexual minorities in the workforce, the issue of safety and equality has either been assumed to be a *de-facto* outcome of diversity, or has been dealt with diversity and inclusion policies and laws on prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace. The former proclaims commitment to equal rights and opportunities to minorities and non discrimination and the latter announces zero tolerance to transgression and violence wherein one uses power to indignity, abuse and exploit another person sexually. Both the instruments aim to build clarity on what is desirable and what is not or what will be promoted and what will be punished.

For example, most diversity policies suggest targets or processes to ensure diversity in recruitments and promotions. Sexual harassment policies define behaviours that will be seen as transgressive in nature — such as sexual propositions in exchange of professional favours or sharing sexually explicit verbal, non verbal, written or image content that are unwarranted. What these policies and laws struggle to work with are issues of intent, tonality, meaning making, assumptions or differential boundaries of safety and dignity.

"My boss keeps insisting that I should not travel in a taxi if I get late at work and either hire a private vehicle or ask my husband to come and pick me up," says Shalini Agnihotri, a young marketing professional who lives in Noida and whose office is in Gurgaon. "I understand his intent may be that of concern but he would never say this to any of my male colleagues. What he does not realise that such benign sexism triggers envy or endorses 'benevolent sexism'. And I don't know how to tell him that I detest his suggesting to ask my husband to 'collect me from work' — which I find infantilising," adds Shalini. Other women colleagues in the team do not share this experience because most of them live in Gurgaon and do not have to travel long distances.

"It gets uncomfortable when our boss tries to be one of us, and the way he tries to do it is even more weird," says Suman Banerjee, a 24 year old man who works in one of the largest global tech-firms, and is based in Calcutta. "He tries to minimise any hierarchy between the ranks, and therefore instead of sitting in his office, he stills with us, his team in our workspace, which is great. He gets offended if the rest of us goes for a cigarette break and don't include him. So, we started including him into



WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH THE INCLUSION OF SEXUAL MINORITIES, ORGANISATIONS MUST ACCEPT AND EXPECT THEIR WORKFORCE TO EXPERIENCE STRUGGLES OF GUILT, SHAME, FEAR AND PREJUDICE BECAUSE PEOPLE ACROSS CULTURES HAVE GROWN UP (AND CONTINUE TO) IN HOMOPHOBIC CULTURES

our *sutta*-breaks (cigarette-breaks). It started getting weird when he started sharing sexual humour with us or telling us about his sexual exploits. He is a little younger to my father and it makes me feel very uncomfortable that he wants to bond with us through locker-room talk. Many of my colleagues actually don't mind it and even encourage and join him, but with my social orientation, it does not fit," says Suman.

Often, organisations, which believe in values of meritocracy, argue that gender should not have any bearing on one's professional identity, and that a professional ought to be gender neutral. Neutrality is believed to be the way to dissolve the tensions that may arise from gender and sexual diversity. However, our senses of safety, dignity, transgression and humiliation are a function of gender and sexual dynamics between two or more persons and the system. Shalini's context is coded in the way it is because she is a woman, because women in NCR are much more vulnerable to sexual violence than men going by reported crime statistics. It would be impossible to read a situation where Shalini would not be seen 'gender neutrally'. In Suman's case, the situation would have dramatically different implications if the manager tried to bond with women subordinates in the same way.

To deal with the complexities of dealing with the grey of gender dynamics at work, one wishes for a book of common etiquettes with clear list of do's and don'ts. The most common approach to dealing with vulnerability to transgressions and violations, globally, or perhaps more so in the Western countries, is through enforcement of boundaries. Boundaries can help in creating safety and by making boundaries explicit, the vulnerability to transgressions can be lessened. For example, in order to eliminate prejudice against women and sexual minorities in recruitment, in Western countries or multinationals headquartered in Europe and the US, interviews are prohibited from asking personal questions regarding marital status, domestic arrangements, pregnancy plans or children. Similarly, the sexual harassment laws in India and most other countries, too, focus on prohibiting behaviours that can be transgressive, abusive and exploitative. However, the effective of this boundaries in making workplaces safer, more inclusive or dynamics is suspect.

The issue of gender based violations can stem from innocent transgression, as one might believe to be Ramesh's case, where his attitudes are a product of socialisation, or it may be a produce of wilful prejudice wherein a person or persons would be exploiting power to assert patriarchal entitlements. When it comes to dealing with the inclusion of sexual minorities, organisations must accept and expect their workforce to experience struggles of guilt, shame, fear and prejudice because people across

cultures have grown up (and continue to) in homophobic cultures. So, to believe that a progressive policy and organisational stance will eliminate everyone to internalise those values and re-orient one's worldview and values is naive at best.

STUDYING GENDER ETIQUETTE

What may be more useful than chasing myths of uniform behaviours in organisations to neutralise the spill of diverse socialisations that people grow up with from their families, communities and societies is to study gender etiquette of organisations to understand underlying commonly held beliefs and values, notions of dignity and safety, equality and distinctiveness of genders. Seymour Parker, an American anthropologist, writes, "The ritual of gender etiquette is an institutionalised social performance whose smallest constituents, or symbols, serve as vehicles for the transmission of socially normative meanings of gender". According to him, the need to go along with traditional gender manners is linked with a need for clear gender-role boundaries.

By hypothesis, therefore, every organisation will have its own gender etiquette at play which may be a product of the socialisations of its people on gender, sexuality and gender dynamics that they have received from their society, communities and families. It will get reflected not only in roles, behaviours and attitudes amongst the members of the organisation, it will get reflected in the hierarchy of values, ideas of fairness, notion of boundaries and dignity and the markers of competence and leadership. For an organisation to harness its potential of diversity, it requires an empathetic and curious approach to understand the system's configuration on gender dynamics, rather than a by-the-book corrective or punitive approach.

The baseline to measure organisations cannot be restricted to the hardware — the physical and the tangibles of separate bathrooms, diversity policies, maternity and paternity leaves and creches alone. The baseline needs to include the intangibles — people's attitudes and beliefs on gender, their valuing of virtues that may be associated with masculinity and femininity, and how these translate into organisational culture, practices and unconscious behaviours. Etiquette of a system is not something that can be imposed through policy, neither can organisations' expectations from its people be linear, simplistic, restricted to do's and don'ts on behaviours. Gender etiquette as a system should perhaps, be a commitment to engaging with questions on how the system values masculine and feminine principles in its management and governance.

Roop Sen and Uma Chatterjee recently published Power, Sexuality, Gender Dynamics at Work with SAGE Publications India



THE MARVEL OF THE *BHAGAVAD GITA* IS ITS TRULY BEAUTIFUL REVELATION OF LIFE'S WISDOM WHICH ENABLES PHILOSOPHY TO BLOSSOM INTO RELIGION
— HERMANN HESSE



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Of the year that was...

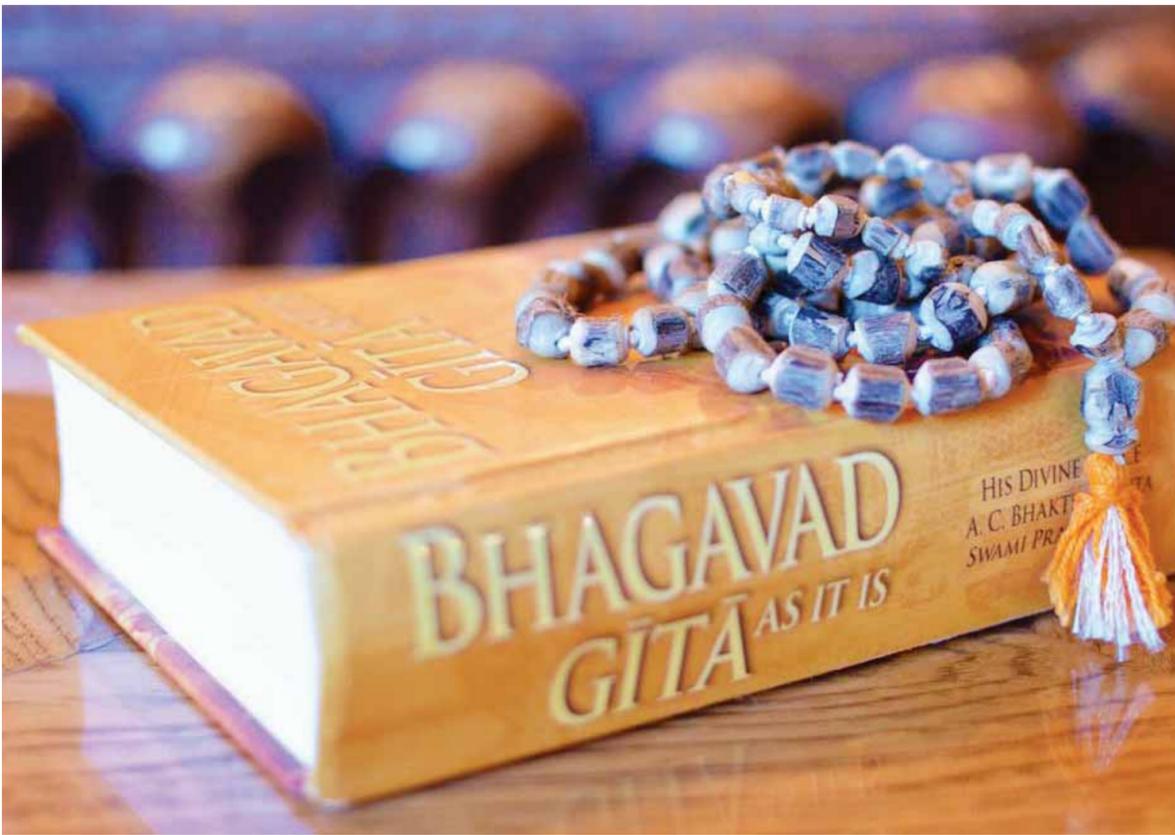


By any measure the year that passed by was the worst for the entire humanity in the past 75 years, if not more. The tiniest of the organisms, which according to one estimate, weighs one millionth of a trillionth gram, whatever that signifies, brought the globe to a grinding halt. And proved one thing beyond doubt, that all our advances in science and technology are no match for nature's supremacy. But that is not the point. What is intended here is to view in retrospect what happened and how we handled it, so that we can look forward to decades or may be a century or even more to come. All that happened was nothing short a nightmare we all would like to forget, if of course, we can. We missed many things. The children missed school, the workers lost jobs, economies faced recession, the youth missed joy of living, the old forgot peace, democracies lost freedom — the list is unending. In one sentence the entire humanity missed life. Was there a way out? Not easy to answer. Could it have been handled better? No idea. However, if we look back objectively, we can well conclude that while the vast multitude was pained by the disarray that the pandemic wrought, there were certain sections of the ruling elite world over who found a chance to usurp absolute power in the name of pandemic. The result obviously was as Lord Acton had said — absolute power corrupts absolutely. Barring a few notable exceptions, the ruling elite of the whole world behaved in almost the same way — brazen display of state power. Taking this into account we can then say that but for this attitude, the pandemic could have been handled better. So, that one critical attribute that was found missing was the Reassuring Leadership. There were some Heads of the State who brushed aside the whole threat as a gimmick while there were others who cried wolf so loud and frequently that more people died of fear rather than the disease itself. The call of the hour was a leadership that would have given confidence in the people by assuring them that we undertake to protect, leave all your woes to us. And this was not just the case for the leadership of the nations. Leadership of organisations also left their people to fend for themselves in the times of distress. What was missing in the response was the famous assurance that Lord Krishna gave to Arjuna in chapter 9 verse 22 of *Gita* — *Yogakshema Wahamyam*. A simple interpretation is that “for those whose minds are always absorbed in me, I provide what they lack and preserve what they possess”. And this could have been done. Does a mother ever think of deserting her new born helpless child who is entirely dependent on her. The burden of maintaining the people lies with the leadership. It was not the people who were found wanting in faith. It was the leadership that was found wanting on creating confidence. States world over relied on the headless, heartless bureaucracy that behaved calculatedly and callously. It is time to revisit Weber's approach to examine whether the neutrality and objectivity of the system he proposed, and which is so much in vogue, is actually useful in times of distress. Empathy, after all is what crisis situations like this call for. Faith is something that depends on the action of the leadership more than anything else.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

GITA: A STABLE CONNECTION

Bhagavad Gita is a spiritual text appreciated alike in East and West. Let us benefit from the nuggets of wisdom and share with others, writes RADHANATH SWAMI



to be happy in this world is similar to a weary, desert traveler trying to satisfy himself with a drop of water. It is not going to be sufficient. It seems we have reached a dead end. Do we have a solution? Yes. *Bhagavad Gita* provides us the solution. It does not leave us empty handed.

Bhagavad Gita (2.13) states that “we are spirit souls and we pass through youth, adulthood, old age and death”. We are not just the physical body that we see with our fleshy eyes. Our gross physical body is like hardware, the subtle body consisting of mind, intelligence and ego is like software and we the soul is like a user. During sleep, our physical body is inactive, the subtle body is active in the form of dreams. In the dream, mind is the screen, the seer is the soul. We are a spiritual being covered by material body and mind. We are basing our happiness completely on the connections with our material body, mind and the matter around us. We are relating to others considering them as products of matter ignorant of the spirit. This is the reason for our lack of peace and happiness. Unlike matter, spirit is eternal, changeless and endless. Only the spiritual platform we can acquire everlasting happiness that is our inherent longing. Therefore the solution is to re-establish our lost spiritual connection.

We as spiritual souls are part and parcel of the Supreme Divine God who is all attractive and all Merciful. The lost spiritual connection with God can be established by the process of Yoga. The first step in Yoga is to make ourselves aware of the reality of the temporary world, our true self, our lost relationship with God and the science of reviving that relationship. This can be achieved by regularly reading spiritual literature like *The Gita* and association with other practitioners. The second step is to practice the process of meditation, worship and devotion to God (*BG* 9.34). This step helps us in reviving our spiritual connection. This stable spiritual connection gives us focus, motivation in our worldly duties and fulfilment in life amidst the turbulent and unstable, ever changing world around. 5000 years ago *Bhagavad Gita* was first spoken by Lord Krishna to His warrior-friend Arjuna at Kurukshetra. *Bhagavad Gita* is a spiritual text appreciated alike from East to West, from Einstein to Gandhi. Let us take benefit of the nuggets of wisdom of *Gita* and share it with the world that is in dire need of this wisdom.

The writer is a spiritual guru at the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

We live in an age of gadgets and networks. They have become an integral part of our routine — from communication to socialisation, recovering health to earning wealth. A slight disconnection can prove to be a disaster at times — an aircraft disconnected from the control tower, a patient disconnected from a life support system. A weak, flaky connection during our work or recreation can cause a great irritation, stealing away our peace of mind. We need a stable and strong network connection on our Smartphone, PC to work with a calm and focused mind.

On the same line, we need a strong, stable and satisfying connection at our heart. Every one of us wants to truly love someone and wants to be truly loved by someone. It is a constitutional nature of every one of us irrespective of what we are in the worldly terms — rich, poor, literate,

illiterate, white, black etc. We need a strong connection with someone where we can invest our true love and wherein we can receive true love. Because of lack of such a connection, we lack peace in this world. And we lack happiness in our lives. *Bhagavad Gita* (2.66) corroborates this — “One who lacks a stable connection, his/her intelligence is confused and emotions are scattered. Such a person lacks peace and consequently happiness”.

Our lives are ridden with anxiety, stress, anger, insecurity etc. Our advancement in the last few centuries considerably solved some problems. But it was not able to address this issue. The major health problems changed from physiological in the past to psychological in the present. According to Cigna Health Insurance, 89% of Indians are afflicted by stress. There is one suicide attempt every 3 seconds. But if we take a look into our lives, we do try to connect with others at different levels in different ways.

THE LOST SPIRITUAL CONNECTION WITH GOD CAN BE ESTABLISHED BY THE PROCESS OF YOGA. THE FIRST STEP IN YOGA IS TO MAKE OURSELVES AWARE OF THE REALITY OF THE TEMPORARY WORLD, OUR TRUE SELF AND OUR LOST RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Where are we going wrong? *Bhagavad Gita* guides us to the root cause.

If we look in the world around, we find that things in the world are not permanent. They have a beginning and an end. Everything in this world is withered by the harsh winds of time. The buildings we construct, the wealth we accumulate, the gadgets we purchase and even our bodies too. *Bhagavad Gita* (5.22) explains — “A wise person does not take delight in external happiness. It has a beginning and end. Hence it is a source of misery”. We are basing our happiness on the ever-changing and temporary things of this world alone. Our objects of pleasure in this world are temporary therefore we are tormented with fear, anxiety and insecurity. From Bezos to a beggar on the street, everyone goes through this experience. No one is exempt. As a result the net happiness we get in this world is very minute. We need an everlasting and ever increasing happiness. Trying

AI for good work-life balance

Finding the perfect work-life balance is a flighting dream for many, say ASHWANI UPADHYAY, KOMAL KHANDELWAL & JAYANTHI IYENGAR. An edited excerpt

Technology has an impact on our personal and professional lives. AI makes it easier and faster to work and leaves us free time to unclog our minds. It is necessary to keep a balance in the use of technology for both personal and professional life. These days, when people are forced to work from home the boundary between personal and professional life, it is important to use AI to help employees find free time for strategic work and to pursue their interests. One of the biggest challenges with digitization is that work and home life are blurring. Checking e-mails and watching television with the family has become a reality. Attending business calls during a movie is again common.

Finding the perfect work-life balance is a flighting dream for many. A lot of people are witnessing the impact of extended work on health in the form of lifestyle diseases such as blood pressure and diabetes. A lot of professionals suffer from stress-related disorders such as anxiety and depression. Incorporating wellness into an everyday routine is now being facilitated by AI-based applications. AI is now a means to leverage a good work-life balance. Let us look at how AI can help restore work-life balance.

Enhancing productivity: Companies like Google are enabling the integration of e-mail, video conferencing, document collaboration, instant messaging and so much more. These tools can easily fix and coordinate schedules. AI-based tools are being used to fix meetings and complete work on the go for workers as well as supervisors.

Making work easy: A lot of AI-based apps make work easy with the automation of a lot of menial and repetitive tasks. Automatic reminder apps can remind when the meeting is coming up. These



tools even remind people to take medicines, walk and take a break.

Technology ropes in flexibility: AI incorporates flexibility at work. With AI and other tools, employees can now work remotely. Tools such as Google Hangouts and Zoom facilitate online and virtual meetings. Physically attending a meeting is not needed now, resulting in savings in travel time and cost. Technology helps in saving time for attaining work-life balance.

Transparent: AI-based systems create

seamless and transparent communications between teams.

Wellness apps: Employees use wellness apps to manage their health and well-being. Technology acts as a tool to attain good work-life balance. The use of AI can lead to meaningful networking, productivity and focus (Mathur, 2019).

An excerpt from *AI Revolution in HRM: The New Scorecard* by Ashwani Upadhyay, Komal Khandelwal and Jayanthi Iyengar, published by SAGE Publications India

God is very generous

God loves all good souls, and He is very keen to reward them and thus encourage them in life, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We have to understand the Cosmic Design. On top is God — the Omnipotent, the Omnipresent and the Omniscient. He has all the good qualities in full. (*Bhagavad Gita* (10.41) It is impossible to imagine an entity, which is Him, but He is very much a reality, as experienced by millions of devotees of God, past and present. Then, come gods and goddesses. These are special souls, who are there to oversee the functioning of the material world. They do so under the superintendence of God. (9.10) They implement the *Karmaphala* principle, which is: what you sow you reap. They reward and punish based on this principle. They have limited powers and work within the limitations placed on them by their Master — God.

Then, come we souls. The Cosmic Design requires us to be supervised by gods and goddesses. Wise souls establish a relationship with God. This way they become special. They do so by doing spiritual acts like chanting God's names like “Rama”, have “darshan” of God in His deity forms, etc. God takes notice of such acts, because He is omnipresent, and He rewards all such acts. The duty of punishing erring souls is generally left to the divine authorities. God seldom intervenes such as when He punished Ravana.

God loves good souls, and He is very keen to reward them and thus encourage them. These good souls are: those who have taken shelter of God (18.62); are “*dharmaparayana*”, i.e. follower of dharma; are “*kalyan-kr*”, i.e. doer of welfare acts. (6.40); and are mostly in the mode of goodness (14.11), in this order. As God is omnipresent, He notices such souls. How does God reward them?



Now I come to the details of God's favours to the four types of persons named earlier. My favourite is when God reveals Himself, i.e. when devotees become aware of His presence. These are very special moments for them. My next favourite is God's using them as His “*nimitta*” (instrument) for various purposes like conveying His instructions to others. Then, God helps in tackling “*prarabda*” (fate); only He can do so. I wouldn't be what I am today if God had not intervened countless times on my behalf. God shows such persons direction, which is all important, and He instructs them regularly. Obviously, He alerts/warns also, which saves them from getting into trouble. Surely, He protects them from bad people/bad influence. He also helps out in getting over the influence of tamoguna-the mode of darkness.

The Lord maintains such persons; He provides all the needed resources. It is no wonder that they are blessed

with peace and bliss, and can sleep peacefully. I can go on because God's bounties are endless. Where do I get energies of all kinds like “*atmabala*”? God is my support and He forgives also when I inevitably make mistakes. These bounties are given in proportion to the efforts made, i.e. one must be deserving.

All of the above may sound dream-like; they are. God is personally involved to judge what such deserve. What is their attitude towards Him? Is it the mood of taking shelter? Are they doing enough to deserve what they seek? Is the quality of their acts high class or they are just doing spiritual acts for the sake of doing them? Yes, God is very strict just as He is very generous. Summarising, I will be very honest; I cannot do without God now or ever, having become a beneficiary of his favours.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

Abortive bid to attack American democracy

The menace of the “Radical Democrats!” That’s what US President Donald Trump contended in a rally a few days back in order to spark a storm of protest by GOP supporters and voters in order to substantiate his claim over the notion of fake voters. Trump has been insisting on the voter fraud in his umpteen narratives in the aftermath of around one-fifty lawsuits being rendered useless and termed fiction-infested by the lower courts and twice through the seminal decisions of the US Supreme Court, surprisingly by the judges appointed by President Trump himself. Thus, the way the US Capitol Hill was attacked and violated on January 6, it comes as no surprise that the finger is being pointed at the intent and stature of President Trump. The elections in the state of Georgia to decide about the senators from the state will have a long-winding impact on the manner in which the Joe Biden team performs and scuttles the diatribe of the GOP in the days to come.

The vitiation of the grandiose Capitol Hill, a symbol of American power, pelf and larger hyper puissance, sheds meaningful light on what the American cornucopia is going through in the contemporary context in these vitriolic times. There was a kind of electoral siege which was imposed on the Congressmen and women who were besieged in the heady portals of the Capitol Hill. An extraordinary emergency call has emanated from the Pentagon officials to President Trump to desist from involving military in the elections in the homeland, a first in the entire electoral history of the United States of America.

The extraordinary scene unfolded as police personnel were outnumbered by the maskless protesters who breached security and entered the Capitol building, where members of the Congress were going through the process of counting and certifying the Electoral College votes. “It was one of many shocking moments that played out on television screens across the world as the seat of the world’s greatest democracy came under assault from hundreds of protesters angered by Trump’s loss to his Democratic opponent Joe Biden in the November presidential election,” it was reported.

Capitol is the symbol of American democracy in whose context a French political scientist has gone on to contend famously that bipartisanship ought to be the order

of the day in the body politic of US democracy. He stated that the contours and the ideal functioning of the grid of American democracy is such that the mortar and the liquid concrete in a building construction are enmeshed together and grounded in order to prepare a workable and smoothed out paste of creation and establishment in the quintessential American tradition of democracy, constitution, rule of law and unanarchic order of the day.

Still, one can gauge the nature of the dystopian pandemonium, going by the pictures as they beamed to the global audience as pro-Trump protesters stormed the Capitol building, Mt Sinai and the citadel on the high ground. It, at the onset, appears as another cantankerous catastrophe and political mess on the lines of September 11 attacks. It is a bad omen. The Capitol Hill is akin to the Statue of Liberty and the White House and all these historically proud and imposing landmarks along with the star-studded walkways in LA have always been associated with the awe and respect of the hoi polloi all across the panoply of nations and the larger international system. The siege is a fervent reminder of the nature of crass political debate which the nations have sunk into but on the flip side of it, there’s nothing wrong with the nationalistic and patriotic fervour of the American denizens and not much ought to be read out of it in connection to the much tommorrowed “American Decline”. Still, the raucous rabidity of the political discourse and now the unfolding protests and the attendant siege pinpoint towards an unstable and shaky future for the American politics.

An Indian national daily reported that, “The trigger for these protest was a speech given by Trump, who asked his supporters to ‘fight’ to stop the ‘steal’ of the election and march on the Capitol where a ceremony is being held to certify the Electoral College votes that will formalise President-elect Joe Biden’s victory. The scenes that Americans are accustomed to watching in distant lands, played out in their own backyard as the protesters pushed through police barricades and broke windows. The violence also included gunshots fired in the Capitol, which led to the death of a woman.”

Thus the American democratic tradition has taken a severe beating with the onslaught on the Capitol Hill which is associated with the



In this Jan. 6, 2021, file photo, supporters of President Donald Trump climb the west wall of the US Capitol in Washington

debates, intense rigmarole of lobbying and the green lighted lamps in the chambers of the US Congress. Do we need to complacently reconcile with the dictum that, “Violence is as American as a cherry pie”. Such a sloganeering and maxims might be more attuned to and at home with the Black Rights movement but not with the stellar and unbesmirched role model of American electoral and political culture.

Still, it might be a futile exercise to ascribe and juxtapose the Capitol Hill with the anti-slavery movement and the racist violence and the Black

Rights movement of the red summer of 1919 immediately in the aftermath of World War I. The violence on the American street and largely reflect in the American Classic, “Ragtime”, does shed light on the theme of American protest movements but the rage encountered in the seat of the larger than life American seat of power and posterity is unparalleled in the narrative of the American history. Black Rights movements had a palpable justifiability and a staple raison d’être associated with them which these raucous crowds do not espouse. The violence

and negative political rhetoric associated with MAGA (Make America Great Again) needs to be corrected if the American zeitgeist is not to lose its “currency and sheen” in the larger global firmament. Places such as Tulsa, Oklahoma and Mississippi need not be relegated to the backburner as being associated with turmoil and vicious political vacillation but incidents which honed America into becoming what bit has turned out to be. Incidents such as those at Capitol Hill must be read as reflecting the larger decay but lest it not be forgotten that there are seismic

Sudans, horrific Haities and astute Azerbaijan’s struggling for their sanity in the nether regions of the larger international system. American democracy is not a tinder box that can be destroyed by a single violent incident, but it definitely renders a blow to the ideal of American liberty and freedom fief which is something the proud American nation has always stood for.

(The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, IIPA, New Delhi)

American democracy is not a tinder box that can be destroyed by a single violent incident of Capitol siege by Trump supporters, but the attack definitely renders a blow to the ideal of American liberty and freedom fief which is something the proud American nation has always stood for



MANAN DWIVEDI

PERSPECTIVE

Jack Ma missing: Role of opaque Chinese state

Jack Ma or Ma Yun, a famous Chinese billionaire and the co-founder of Alibaba Group, is considered one of the top tech tycoons of Asia today. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Jack’s current net worth is estimated at \$63.1 billion. However, the investigation by the Chinese Government triggered a sharp fall in Alibaba’s shares, by a quarter since its peak period. This all has literally wiped off \$10 billion from his asset value.

Jack suddenly came in the red book of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its leadership when he criticised the country’s regulatory system in October 2020. He referred to the Chinese regulatory system having a “pawnshop mentality” and his company AliPay is not suitable for such regressive tactics. He also blamed the current regulatory structure for stifling innovation in the country.

Jack openly claimed that China’s banking regulatory system is nothing more than an “old people’s club”. Coincidentally, Jack’s public criticism came days before his company Ant Group was about to launch one of the world’s biggest IPOs worth \$37 billion in Shanghai and Hong Kong. And after all these big plans, Jack has been missing since November 2020. People and his fans were surprised when he did not appear in his popular TV talent show named “Africa’s Business Heroes”. This show is made to offer an opportunity to win an award of \$1.5 million by budding African entrepreneurs. In fact, the origin of the

show goes back to the year 2017 when Jack was touring African continent as a Special Adviser to UNCTAD Secretary General Mukhisa and saw the potential of entrepreneurs. In the year 2018, he announced the establishment of the Africa Netpreneur Prize Initiative (ANPI) with an initial grant of \$10 million to identify and award 100 Africa’s Business Heroes over the next 10 years. And the first Africa Business Heroes competition took place in Accra, the capital city of Ghana, in November 2019. And the recent one when Jack did not appear was only the second one that took place in November 2020. It’s no wonder that the Chinese authorities were not able to come to terms with the power, influence and popularity that Jack Ma enjoyed much beyond the Chinese borders.

Jack’s sudden disappearance has fuelled speculation across the world. It is feared that he could have been arrested or kept under house arrest if he has not been “missing”. The successive Chinese administrations have a long record of keeping such big personalities under “supervision”, which may mean Jack Ma is in an undisclosed jail. Thus, the Hong Kong-based *The Asia Times* has quoted Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece *People’s Daily* and stated that Jack Ma is embracing supervision. Already China’s official media outlets have started a vitriolic campaign against the business tycoon. As per the reports appearing in the *People’s Daily*,



it is assumed that Jack’s very questioning of the Chinese system is not appreciated by the CPC bosses. In a November edition of the *People’s Daily*, it has been said that Jack could not have elevated his Alibaba to a global conglomerate without the support from the Government. The *People’s Daily* said in one of its posts: “Ma Yun is savvy but without the support of national policies, Alibaba will not be able to become a trillion-business empire”. Therefore, it is well understood that Jack Ma is expected to toe the red lines earmarked by Beijing and its subsidiaries.

Of course, business and trade are activities performed within the four walls of the society. And state being the most powerful entity of any society will always have a major role in making and remaking of business enterprises. Perhaps, Jack Ma was trying to break the CPC stronghold on business houses.

The authoritarian Chinese state is up against its own homegrown billionaire. But the moot point is why China is afraid of an individual who has throughout been there in the country? Is he capable of usurping the mighty Communist Party of China (CPC) or the state run by its leaders? Has he gone to such an extent that he could simply derail China’s financial system? There could be many more such questions which

may create a ripple of unease among the power brokers of Beijing for years. China is afraid of Jack Ma because he has amassed lots of wealth and through wealth he has become very powerful. That is why he has been able to question the existing systems in China. Of course, he is not capable of overthrowing the Communist state or the CPC, because these two are all powerful and they are omnipotent. Jack Ma’s extent of power is not sufficient enough to derail or destabilise the current financial structure in China. Still, the Chinese leaders are taking all precautionary measures so as to counter or simply stop Jack from moving beyond the party and the state.

Jack Ma’s current fate will soon become as an epic tale for the international community. But for China and its leaders, it’s business as usual. These Communists are practising such regressive policies for decades now, whether it comes to capitalists, journalists, doctors, academics or even Nobel Peace laureates such as Liu Xiaobo who suffered till the last day of his life in 2017. This demonstrates how Xi Jinping and his team are marshalling all their efforts to re-establish the supremacy of the CPC and extending its clout outside China’s national frontiers. And in this process of power grab and display, many like Jack Ma might be sacrificed. After centuries of isolation and weakness, China is undoubtedly reclaiming its power and position. And to advance its goal, it is exploiting the country’s formidable economic clout to expand its geopolitical influence and maintain its iron grip on the domestic development around the country.

Finally, we need to be clear that what China is doing to Jack Ma is nothing but to have a complete control over both his assets and economic prowess. The party bosses fear that such trade czars might overthrow them and may change the power calculus in higher echelons of the country. They don’t want a corporate giant to either question or pose a challenge to their status quo at any cost.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

Why China is afraid of an individual? Is he capable of usurping the mighty Communist Party of China (CPC)? The party bosses fear that such trade czars might overthrow them and may change the power calculus in higher echelons of the country. They don’t want a corporate giant to either question or pose a challenge to their status quo at any cost



MAKHAN SAIKIA



IF WE DON'T CHANGE, WE
DON'T GROW. IF WE
DON'T GROW, WE AREN'T
REALLY LIVING
— GAIL SHEEHY

**YOUR
YEAR
AHEAD**

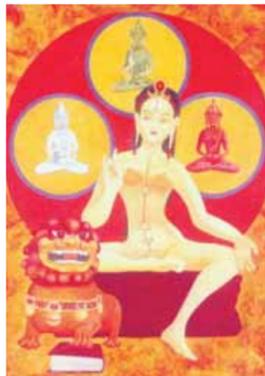
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

The entire week you will feel hyperactive. You will be motivated and inspired to do your best. You are likely to be creative and will experience an enthusiasm to restore and gather all your strength. With this, you need to be adaptable as that will help you to balance the energy levels. Avoid unhealthy food. Career-wise, a reunion of the old colleagues or friends is indicated and this will make you happy. You need to create a positive feeling among those with whom you share your ideas. Contracts, paperwork and collaborations will keep you busy this week. You are likely to receive an award or an acknowledgement of your hard work done earlier. In the matter of emotions, you will experience happiness. Singles, will get the proposals of love/ marriage.

Lucky number 5
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you will find the ups and downs in your health. Tension and worry will impact your health. Guard yourself against seasonal flu and cold and cough. Meditation, yoga and spiritual inclinations are the best way to tranquil your temperament. Career looks promising as new and exciting opportunities will be knocking at the door. You will experience the creativity and spark within you and you will be in a position to decide the best for you. Those in business may plan to expand their reach. Money may come from more than one source. On the relationship front, there is greater scope for self-assertion. An awakening has occurred and now you are likely to realise the need to live your life differently, for you and your loved ones.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

An abundance of energy, passion and enthusiasm will keep you charged as you move forward while combating setbacks that may come your way. This week you are in perfect health. Protect your privacy and guard yourself of sharp instruments as a minor injury, cut, or pain is indicated. Prepare yourself for a big change in career. There may be a sudden hike, which may surprise you. Unforeseen direction may lead you to reach out to a high official, which may prove very fruitful. It is advisable to invest more time in your thoughts and actions. Be optimistic. You need to go deep into your soul and look for fears, psychic blocks and personality disturbances that restrict you in a relationship. Don't allow the intervention of a third party in love, it may prove harmful.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Health will be good. This week, everything will come together, and you are in the right place, doing the right thing. You are likely to achieve what you have wished for. The week holds new beginnings that naturally emerge out of the accomplished cycle. To balance your energies, avoid rich food and oversleep. Things may not be so satisfactory at work. Your senior may feel that you are not putting your 100 per cent effort into a project or task. Your honest nature may fetch you a suspension or some kind of displeasure. Avoid any kind of investment or a new deal in business/property. On the love front, you may be possessive. Those who are committed may face conflict and difficult phase. However, a balanced approach will work in your favour.

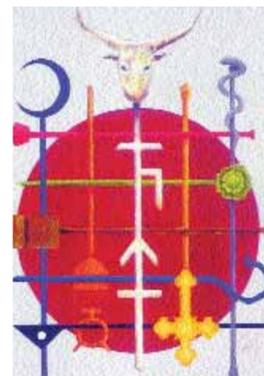
Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week a minor surgery is indicated. Be cautious of sharp instruments and drive your vehicle carefully. You will be active and sharp-minded. This is a good time to focus on the studies and make the best use of your capabilities. A good physical and mental health will boost your confidence and pave the way for success. In career, you need to be in control of the situation. If you slip, there are chances that you may miss the promotion. You are hardworking and determined. Increase your efficiency to attain success. In the matter of relationship, you may become possessive. This may have adverse consequences. Don't neglect the emotional needs of your partner. Avoid harsh and unpleasant words as the situation might put you in arguments.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week your health will be good. You will be basking in glory. The family atmosphere will be peaceful and harmonious. A visit to a beautiful, scenic place is likely, this will highlight your fun side and will encourage you. You will clearly understand what is beneficial for you and can direct your energies more constructively. In terms of career, your opponents may be more creative than you. You will experience mental stress on some career issues. The positive thing is that you are moving towards a brighter phase. On the love front, there could be romance in the air, but you are not prepared. Professional matters will become your priority and this might create some worry on the family front. You need to balance both your life with determination and focused approach.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Taupe
Lucky day Sunday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you will enjoy good health and richness in relationships. The generations of the family may get together. The youngsters are like to have high morale on receiving a gift in form ancestral property, it could be money or invaluable advice. On the career front, your great insight and mental clarity will generate good results. This is a good time to act and achieve your target goals. Be alert as new opportunities will knock at the door and you are likely to get promoted. This is the time to draw upon your creativity and mental ability for making money. In the love life, relationships will blossom and may be turned into marriage. You feel at ease with your partner, and take many important decisions in regards to your family.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Pastel Blue
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you need to pay attention to your health. The theory of 'As you sow, so shall you reap', will be the focus of your health. You will reflect a colourful persona. This charm in your personality will enhance your confidence. Your personality may make someone jealous. Be careful, as a little negligence may make a big hole in your pocket. Career-wise, you need to co-ordinate your long term career objectives with your domestic environment. If life feels like a struggle, remember that perseverance will pay off. Do not attempt to fast track your career else it will take its toll. On the relationship front, you are likely to face issues due to fear and anxiety. There is a need for intense connections in your life with a partner who shares the same emotional wavelength.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You will experience grief and discontentment this week. Prevention is better than cure; therefore, a strict diet and regular medical check-ups are very important. Stay away from indulgences like alcohol and any other addiction. On the career front, you are quick-witted and observant in your work. Due to your upfront and honest nature, your career path will not be smooth and may cause tension. You will have to rely on your practical sensibilities to argue your case with unlike-minded people. A female counterpart will play an important role in your career and would help you move forward with ease. On the emotional front, you need to pay attention to your dreams and intuition. Look for areas in your life that require greater wisdom.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Your views in terms of health are conventional and practical and that will pay you rich dividends. You will not think twice before spending money to stay healthy. You are more inclined towards natural ingredients, herbs and experiencing the spiritual path. On the career front, clear communication will bring changes in your career. Domestic travel on account of the job is likely. Your initiative blends with your people skills, so explore and see where it takes you. Your finances will improve considerably and you may plan a deal in property. On the romantic front, this week you are very lovable. Online love messages will revive your energy and passion. Singles may find a suitable partner or marriage proposals.

Lucky number 26
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Don't ignore your health problems due to workload. Health is wealth. You are in a state of confusion, try not to get carried away by a materialistic lifestyle. If you want to attain good health, then spiritualism and slow pace of work are the only solutions. Your stubborn and rash attitude in making important decisions will cost you. Career-wise, you are on the right track. A new job, salary hike or promotion is indicated. To take a big decision, don't be hesitant about seeking advice. A senior female may come as a helping hand in your professional growth. Financially you will be sound. Hard work is the key to success. You will taste success on the romantic front. Emotional contentment is likely. Singles will meet their dream partner. Married couples will enjoy perfect harmony.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you will find yourself surrounded by positive energy. Have self-respect and love for yourself. You will be extra careful with your diet, exercise and work schedule. Your spouse's help will prove beneficial in maintaining good health. On the work front, opportunities may unexpectedly come your way. Posting to a place or a designation which you dislike is indicated. Unexpected targets will leave you exhausted. You are likely to feel frustrated and disappointed. Making money through work from home, writing or artistic pursuits are on the cards. Love life will be smooth. You have a powerful first impression and that amiable personality that charms everyone around you. You will be filled with positive energy and are capable to conquer your partner's heart.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Wednesday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

The fine art of living well

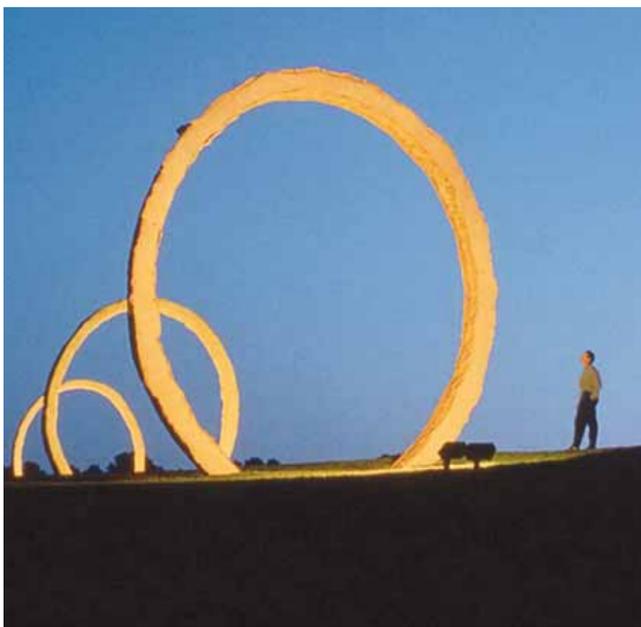
If you wish to enjoy a game you are playing, in the first place, you need to be conversant with rules driving it, and the art of playing. Second, you need to learn from an experienced coach, the techniques necessary to play the game proficiently. Third, you need to team up well with the co-players, but for which, it will not be possible to make it a success. And finally, you need to be on full mental alert so as to visualise in advance, the challenges likely to be posed by opponents. It is only with such a holistic approach that you can emerge a winner.

The usual run of human life too, is something like a game play. The difference being that in a sporting event the number of players is limited, but in course of life-play, you are to contend with umpteen numbers of competing fellow travellers. That makes the life-play even more complex and challenging, particularly when each individual is born unique. All reflect varying mental dispensation, often playing spoil-sport with others. What makes the game plan even more complex is that human mind, which drives a being, happens to be a trickster by itself. For, the indwelling sense of duality becomes subject to self-

invited conflicting thoughts. Mind again, remains susceptible to tempting glare and glitters of the illusionary seeming world. What compounds the problem even more is that invariably we are all born with a preconditioned mind not allowing much of scope to explore beyond self-defined parameters, and so often truth eludes us.

Life, however, has to keep marching ahead. So, the question now is: What is the way out of this impasse so as to prove an achiever in the sport of life? The answer lies in learning the 'Art of Living' holistically. That calls for identifying and then perfecting the inlaid infirmities, acknowledging and honing inlaid potential, and develop inter-personal relationship skills necessary to team up well with the world around. Also, you need to be on full mental alert to smartly deal with the callings of varying dynamics of emerging times.

You like it or not, but you have to learn anyway, whether consciously or when forced by circumstances. When you learn consciously, life becomes easy. Otherwise, when pulled down by circumstances, there are two ways people usually respond. Some get too much



unnerved, begin to sulk, get into guilt syndrome, lose confidence, begin to doubt their capacity, and life becomes cumbersome. Others, draw lesson out of their failings, reinvent themselves, and finally make it to their dream destination. But all said and done, even if you get over your failure, you prove to be a late starter, because you are already left behind in the run of time.

Evidently, the better course is to consciously get into the learning process well in time. For that, you need to have a Guru, who first shows your mirror-image; he leads you to overcome your frailties, and then optimise your potential. In this respect Astrology too can prove a great help, as it could dispassionately figure out the basic fabric of your making.

Here is a case in point of someone who has not been able to settle down in life despite having moved into his forties. He wished to know: Why lady-luck has been eluding him? He was told that the root of his problem lied in his habit tendencies. Let us now look at astrological pointers to his personality framework.

The Sun conjunct limiting Saturn speaks of indwelling sense of negativity that makes him begin looking at any-

thing with an element of doubt. Also, there exists seed of fear and insecurity that made him a habitual escapist. Mind signifying Moon sandwiched between Neptune and Ketu, occupies the sign Sagittarius, pointing out a wavering mind not allowing him to take decision in time. He, thus, often misses opportunities. Second, he is tactless and un-diplomatic. He would impulsively make ill-timed and indiscreet statements often offending those around. Third, Mercury placed adverse to Rahu and Ketu does not let him remain focused to his task for long. Consequently, he is not able to pursue any task in hand to its logical end and leave midway through.

On top of all is his volatile emotionality, coming as it may with combust Venus, read together with Jupiter placed adverse to Moon. Late though, but circumstances have forced him to come for a learning lesson to me, following which he will be able to come out with his best soon.

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