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Vaccine makers liable for damages

No indemnity for
manufacturers in
Govt's vaccine
purchase deals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has refused to give in to the request of Indian companies, particularly the Serum Institute of India (SII) which had publicly sought protection against all lawsuits for vaccines in case of any report of health risk or complication following inoculation of jab against Covid-19.

The purchase order executed by the Government with the vaccine makers stipulates that the companies will have to inform the Government authorities immediately in case of reports of any health risks or complications arising from the vaccine. It reads "Company shall be liable for all adversities as per CDSCO/ Drugs and Cosmetics Act/DCGI policy/approval."

Last month, Adar Poonawalla, CEO of SII whose Covishield vaccine has been given emergency use authorisation (EUA), had said that manufacturers needed protection against all lawsuits for vaccines, especially during the pandemic. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech also has been given EUA to supply Covaxin which initially the Government had said was being kept as a "backup plan".



Medics during the launch of a first-of-its-kind Spicehealth Genome Sequencing Laboratory for all positive samples from international travellers at the airport in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

Vaccine makers need to be protected against liability for serious adverse reactions to their shots during a pandemic scenario, Poonawalla had said. The Pune-headquartered company head during a virtual panel discussion on the challenges to vaccine development last month had also shared that he planned to propose this to the Government.

This is because such issues could potentially increase fear of getting vaccinated and also works to "bankrupt" or "distract" the companies making them, according to him.

"We need to have the Government indemnify manufacturers, especially vaccine manufacturers, against all lawsuits. In fact, COVAX and other countries have already started talking about that," he said during Carnegie India's Global Technology Summit.

On Thursday too at an event, Poonawalla asserted that the lawsuit against the firms will hit the vaccine supply.

However, the Government seems to not be keen to take up their request. "Indian vaccine makers will be held liable for any complications or adverse effects that arise from the administration of their jabs. The Government has not accepted their demand that they be indemnified against mishaps," said sources in the Union Health Ministry.

"The Government can act: the US, for example, has in fact invoked a law, to say that during a pandemic — and this is especially important only during a pandemic — to indemnify vaccine manufacturers against lawsuits for severe adverse effects or any other frivolous claims which may come about. Because, that adds to the fear and also will bankrupt vaccine manufacturers or distract them if they have to just all day just fight lawsuits and explain to the media what is happening," Poonawalla had said.

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Exercise, enough sleep must
for vaccine efficacy: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Depression, stress and loneliness can weaken the body's immune system, and lower the effectiveness of certain vaccines, like those against the Covid-19, scientists have said and suggested simple interventions, including exercise and getting a good night's sleep in the 24 hours before vaccination to maximise the jab's initial effectiveness.

The researchers in their report accepted for publication in the journal Perspectives on Psychological Science noted that even though rigorous testing has shown that the Covid-19 vaccines approved for dis-

tribution in the US are highly effective at producing a robust immune response, not everyone will immediately gain their full benefit.

Environmental factors, as well as an individual's genetics and physical and mental health, can weaken the body's immune system, slowing the response to a vaccine, they said.

"In addition to the physical toll of Covid-19, the pandemic has an equally troubling mental health component, causing anxiety and depression, among many other related problems," said Annelise Madison, a researcher at the Ohio State University in the United States.

"Emotional stressors like these can affect a person's immune system, impairing their ability to ward off infections," said Madison, lead author on the paper.

The report sheds light on vaccine efficacy and how health behaviours and emotional stressors can alter the body's ability to develop an immune response.

Vaccines work by challenging the immune system. Within hours of a vaccination, there is an innate, general immune response on the cellular level as the body begins to recognise a potential biological threat.

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BKU president
recuses self from
SC's farm panel

Farmers stage a protest against Centre's farm reform laws at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After farmers' unions raised doubts over the composition of the committee by the Supreme Court, insisting that its members have been in favour of the three laws in the past, Bharatiya Kisan Union president and former MP Bhupinder Singh Mann recused himself from the SC-appointed committee saying he doesn't wish to "compromise farmers' interests".

According to sources, the SC-appointed committee members were scheduled to meet on Zoom on Thursday evening. The matter will now go back to the court for further orders.

"I am recusing myself from the committee and I will always

stand with my farmers and Punjab," Mann said in an unsigned statement tweeted by the BKU.

While staying the implementation of the three contentious farm laws until further orders, the Supreme Court appointed a four-member committee to resolve the deadlock.

The committee comprised Anil Ghanwat, president of Shetkari Sangathan, Pramod Kumar Joshi, director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute, and agriculture economist Ashok Gulati, apart from Mann.

Mann was one of the few farm union leaders to have come out in support of the Centre's new farm laws.

Continued on Page 11

Trump makes history, 1st US
Prez to be impeached twice

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump became the first president in US history to be impeached twice when 10 of his fellow Republican Congressmen joined Democrats in the House of Representatives to charge him with inciting an unprecedented insurrection at the US Capitol last week.

In a bipartisan vote, the Democratic-controlled House on Wednesday impeached Trump by 232 to 197 votes, exactly one week after pro-Trump rioters forced lawmakers to flee from the very chamber in which they cast ballots during the fourth presidential impeachment in US history.

Ten Republicans, including the House's No. 3 Republican, Liz Cheney, joined all Democrats to impeach 74-year-old Trump for "incitement of insurrection" for his actions on January 6, when he delivered a speech inciting his supporters to storm the US Capitol.

The violence temporarily halted the counting of Electoral College votes and resulted in



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi displays the signed article of impeachment against President Donald Trump in an engrossment ceremony before transmission to the Senate for trial on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday

AP

the deaths of five individuals, including a police officer.

Trump will now face a trial in the Senate, where if convicted he could face being barred from ever holding office again. The Senate is adjourned till January 19, a day before the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States.

All four Indian-American

Democratic House members — Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Pramila Jayapal — voted in favour of the impeachment.

The House went ahead with the move after Vice President Mike Pence on Tuesday refused to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office.

Continued on Page 11

Ban on sale, storage of
poultry lifted in Delhi
as test for bird flu -ve

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday directed the authorities to open the Ghazipur poultry market after all 100 samples collected from there tested negative for bird flu.

"Samples taken from poultry markets have tested negative with respect to bird flu. Have directed to open the poultry market & withdraw the orders to restrict trade & import of chicken stocks," he tweeted.

Meanwhile, municipal corporations in Delhi also withdrew the ban imposed on meat shops, meat processing units and any other places of poultry products.

North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash said the ban on sale-purchase, processing and packaging of poultry meat and products, including serving of cooked or half cooked poultry products, in restaurants and hotels has been withdrawn

with immediate effect.

"The decision was taken after a discussion with Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Giriraj Singh which was also attended by Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia," he said.

South Delhi Municipal Corporation too withdrew its order to prohibit keeping live poultry birds, sale and purchase of poultry meat at shops and in restaurants and running processing and packaging units anywhere in the jurisdiction of the civic body from immediate effect.

Mayor of East Delhi Nirmal Jain said an order has been issued to lift the ban on poultry products after samples tested negative for bird flu.

Earlier in the day, a senior official of the Delhi Animal Husbandry unit said there is no spread of bird flu among chickens in Delhi as all the 100 samples taken from Asia's largest poultry market in Ghazipur have tested negative.

Can give befitting reply to
any 'superpower': Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Striking a tough posture against China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India is always in favour of peace but its soldiers are capable of giving a befitting reply if any "superpower" hurts the country's pride. His stern remarks came against the backdrop of the ongoing face-off between India and China in eastern Ladakh.

Underlining the point that India is a peace-loving country and does not want conflict, Rajnath, however, said, "We don't want war and we are in favour of protecting everyone's security but I want to say this in clear terms that if any superpower wants to hurt our pride then our soldiers are capable of giving them a befitting reply."

Making this point, he also reiterated that India has always maintained that it wants peace and friendly ties with its neighbours.

"It always wanted peace and friendly ties with its neighbours because it's in our blood and culture," he said at the fifth



Armed Forces Veterans' Day at the Headquarters Training Command of the Indian Air Force in Bengaluru.

On the ongoing tension at the border, Rajnath said the Indian soldiers displayed exemplary courage and patience and if that can be narrated then every Indian will feel proud.

He hailed the Indian soldiers who showed extraordinary courage in "eliminating terrorists on the Pakistan soil". Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat was present on the occasion.

The Defence Minister's observations came at a time when several rounds of military and diplomatic-level talks between India and China have

so far failed to break the logjam.

The Corps Commanders of the two armies have met eight times in the last few months to find ways to disengage and de-escalate. Similarly, the diplomatic-level talks are also on but no headway was made.

At present, more than one lakh troops from both sides are facing each other at the 1,700-km long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. The Indian Army has ensured that its troops now manning the border in temperature dipping to minus 30 degrees are adequately provided with winter clothing and prefabricated heated huts to withstand the cold.

In a first in over 50 yrs,
R-Day to be celebrated
without a chief guest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There will be no chief guest this year at the Republic Day parade at the Rajpath. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was earlier supposed to be the main guest but had to withdraw later due to emergency situation created by the new strain of corona in his country.

Incidentally, it will be the first time since 1966 that the Republic Day parade will have no chief guest. As it is, the celebrations this year will be on a subdued note due to the pandemic. The parade route is shortened and will now end at the National Stadium instead of the Red Fort in previous years.

Moreover, there will be restrictions on number of spectators desirous to see the parade

at the Rajpath and not more than 25,000 people will be able to attend it. In previous years, more than one lakh people used to throng the venue besides scores of them lining on each side of the parade route.

Addressing a Press conference, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said due to the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has decided that this year there will not be any foreign head of State or Government as the chief guest for India's Republic Day event.

The last time the parade did not have a chief guest was in 1966 when Indira Gandhi was sworn in as the Prime Minister on January 24 after the demise of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on January 11.

World's oldest known cave art is 45,500 yrs old

New Delhi: Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art — a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was painted at least 45,500 years ago in Indonesia. The cave painting uncovered in South Sulawesi consists of a figurative depiction of a warty pig, a wild boar that is endemic to this Indonesian island.

The finding, published on Wednesday in the journal Science Advances, also represents some of the earliest archaeological evidence for modern humans in the region.

"The Sulawesi warty pig painting we found in the limestone cave of Leang Tedongge is now the earliest known representational work of art in the world, as far as we are aware. The cave is in a valley that is enclosed by steep limestone cliffs, and is only accessible by a narrow cave passage in the dry season, as the valley floor is completely flooded in the wet season," said Professor Adam Brumm from Griffith



University in Australia.

He noted that the isolated Bugis community living in this hidden valley claim it had never before been visited by Westerners.

The researchers noted that the Sulawesi warty pig painting, dated to at least 45,500 years ago, is part of a rock art panel located above a high ledge along the rear wall of Leang Tedongge.

"It shows a pig with a short crest of upright hairs and a pair of horn-like facial warts in

front of the eyes, a characteristic feature of adult male Sulawesi warty pigs," Brumm said.

"Painted using red ochre pigment, the pig appears to be observing a fight or social interaction between two other warty pigs," he added.

The previously oldest dated rock art 'scene' at least 43,900 years old, was a depiction of hybrid human-animal beings hunting Sulawesi warty pigs and dwarf bovids.

It was discovered by the

same research team at a nearby limestone cave site.

Basran Burhan, an Indonesian archaeologist and Griffith University PhD student, who led the survey, said that humans have hunted Sulawesi warty pigs for tens of thousands of years.

"These pigs were the most commonly portrayed animal in the ice age rock art of the island, suggesting they have long been valued both as food and a focus of creative thinking and artistic expression," Burhan added.

The team sampled the art for Uranium-series dating, a technique to determine the age of calcium carbonate materials.

"Rock art produced in limestone caves can sometimes be dated using Uranium-series analysis of calcium carbonate deposits ('cave popcorn') that form naturally on the cave wall surface used as a 'canvas' for the art," said Professor Maxime Aubert from Griffith

University.

It was this mineral deposit that, after careful removal by Aubert, yielded an age of 45,500 years, indicating that the rock art scene had been painted sometime prior to this. A second Sulawesi warty pig image, from Leang Balajajia, another cave in the region, was dated to 32,000 years ago.

The scientists have now dated multiple examples of early rock art in Sulawesi, including depictions of animals and narrative scenes that are outstanding both for the quality of their execution and rarity worldwide.

"We have found and documented many rock art images in Sulawesi that still await scientific dating," said study co-author Adhi Agus Oktaviana, a researcher from Indonesia's leading archaeological research centre ARKENAS.

We expect the early rock art of this island to yield even more significant discoveries," Oktaviana added.

PTI

CAPSULE

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY
TURNS 'SEVER'

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality turned "severe" on Thursday due to the prevailing "extremely unfavourable" conditions for dispersion of pollutants, Government agencies said.

41 WB MLAS READY TO JOIN BJP: VIJAYWARGIYA Indore: BJP general secretary Kailash Vijaywargiya claimed on Thursday that he has a list of 41 MLAs "who support" the Mamata Banerjee Government in West Bengal but are ready to join the BJP.

DEVOTEES TAKE DIP IN
GANGA ON SANKRANTI

Haridwar: Lakhs of devotees from different parts of the country took a holy dip in the Ganga at Har ki Pauri and other ghats here on Thursday on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.



Yogi launches digital directory, mobile app of Information dept

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday launched the digital directory and mobile app of the Information department in Gorakhpur. With this, all the information related to public representatives, government departments and officials will be easily accessible on mobile phones.

"In the era of technology, we also need to change accordingly. It is only because of technology that all the schemes and benefits of the state government have been made available to people during the corona pandemic," he said.

"Using technology, we can bring comprehensive reforms in every field. The Information department has taken an innovative initiative through the digital information diary and app," the CM said.

Available free of cost on Google Play Store, officials of all government departments can be easily contacted through the UPDINFO app.

Speaking on the occasion,



Additional Chief Secretary Navneet Sehgal said it's the first time that the Information department of any state has prepared its digital diary. Being manual, the information directory was not available to everyone but from now on, it will be

easily accessible through the app," Sehgal said.

The CM also unveiled a special cover of the Indian Postal department. The special cover is dedicated to the memories of Brahmatalin Mahant Avaidyanath, who was the

main priest of Gorakhnath Temple and five-time MP from Gorakhpur. "The effort of the Postal department will help in carrying forward our heritage and tradition. It will also help our future generations know about our ancestors," Yogi said.

Yogi offers khichdi at Gorakhnath temple

Lucknow (PNS): With Makar Sankranti being celebrated with fervour across the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath followed the tradition by offering the first khichdi at Gorakhnath temple in Gorakhpur on Thursday. Later, the khichdi sent by the King of Nepal is offered at Gorakshnath. Makar Sankranti is a major festival of Gorakhnath temple and lakhs of devotees from across UP, Bihar, Nepal and the country throng this place to offer khichdi to Baba Gorakshnath. This tradition of offering khichdi to Baba Gorakshnath is centuries old and is celebrated with great joy and fervour. The temple also holds a month-long khichdi Mela from Makar Sankranti in the temple premises. Makar Sankranti is considered the best period of the year in Hindu tradition for starting any auspicious event. It is also said that even Bhishma Pitamah waited for this time for his breathing his last.

Lallu asks CM Yogi to get vaccinated first

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ahead of the nationwide Covid vaccination drive set to take off on January 16, Congress again raised safety-related issue of the vaccine and state party chief Ajay Kumar Lallu asked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to take the first shot to dispel public doubt.

"I urge Yogi ji to start the vaccination drive by getting himself vaccinated first so that there is no doubt in the minds of people of the state," Lallu told media persons commenting on the vaccination drive from Saturday.

Earlier on Wednesday, Congress leader Manish Tewari had raised safety issues with one of the two vaccines approved by the Centre saying that Bharat Biotech's 'Covaxin' was licensed by the government for emergency use.

"But now the government is saying that the recipient won't be able to pick and choose the vaccine being administered. When phase 3 trials of Covaxin are not complete, it raises various concerns on its efficacy," he had said.

The former Union minister further said that the government should not roll out Covaxin till its efficacy and reliability was completely proven and phase 3 trials were over.

"The government should act in a manner whereby there is complete confidence in people. You can't use rollout as a phase 3 trial, Indians are not guinea pigs," Tewari had said.

Earlier, former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav had said that he would not get the shot as the vaccine was manufactured by the BJP. Another SP leader even said that the vaccine may make people 'impo-

tent'. Across the border in Bihar, RJD's Tej Pratap Yadav recently said that he would get the vaccination only after the Prime Minister was given the shot.

On its part, the government has been repeatedly clarifying that the vaccines were safe and people should not have any doubts on that score.

The Centre has approved two vaccines - Covishield of Oxford AstraZeneca and Covaxin of Bharat Biotech. From Saturday, a vaccination drive is set to start across the country.

In the first stage, healthcare and frontline workers will be vaccinated and later priority would be attached to people beyond 50 years of age. The under-50 year population groups with co-morbidities, numbering around 27 crore would then be administered the shots.

Retired IAS officer Arvind Sharma joins BJP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former Gujarat cadre IAS officer and a native of eastern UP, Arvind Kumar Sharma joined the BJP in presence of senior party leaders in Lucknow on Thursday.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma and state BJP chief Swatantra Deo Singh were present during a function organised at the state BJP headquarters in Lucknow.

"I am very happy to join

the BJP which is doing commendable work to uplift the economic and social status of the people of the country. My prime motto will be to serve the people," Sharma said soon after the function.

The new entrant is likely to be fielded as a candidate for the imminent Legislative Council elections and could even be accommodated in the Yogi Adityanath cabinet.

The officer, a native of Mau (eastern UP) had opted for voluntary retirement from



the IAS on Monday. Known for his proximity to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sharma served as Secretary, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Prior to that, he served as Secretary in the PMO for five years. Besides, he served in the Gujarat Chief Minister's Office while Modi was the incumbent.

Sharma joined a long list of bureaucrats joining politics. Only recently former DGP of UP, Brij Lal was elected to Rajya Sabha on a BJP ticket.



NOTICE

I have changed my name from Kumar Gaurav to Kumar Gaurav Mishra in all future purpose, Kumar Gaurav Mishra S/o Sri Surendra Kumar Mishra R/o EWS-2315, Awas Vikas No. 3 Panki, Kalyanpur Road, Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

The Date of Birth of my wife Sarita Singh is Mistakenly recorded as 3rd March 1962 in my service record no. 200960-B. But actual D.O.B. is 6th March 1962. In all other documents it is 6th March 1962. So it is right to rectify the service record. Kameshwar Singh S/o Late Sri Rajpal Singh, Village-Kamasin, Distt. Mirzapur.

NOTICE

I, MD FAIZ S/o Service No. 2891825K ex-RFN Rysat Ali, Village - Subhan Toli Post - Zamania, Dist. - Ghazipur (U.P.). Hereby declare that my name has been changed from MOHD FAIZ to MD FAIZ vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary Zamania, UP date 05-01-2021. Henceforth my name will be MD FAIZ in my father services record and for all future purposes.

NOTICE

I, Army No-JC-772692H, Sub. Harendra Pratap Singh, Vill.-Akhtiyarpur, Po-Lawa. Di.-Ghazipur, U.P., my wife name and date of birth in my army record is Kumari Gayatri and date of birth 07-01-1996 which is wrong and her right name is Smt. Gayatri Singh and date of birth 07-01-1974 which is registered in my service record.

NOTICE

I, No.14833606F Rank SEP, Name Satya Narayan S/o Sri Kanhaiya Lal, Unit Reserve Supply Depot, Lucknow hereby declared that in my Army Service Records my wife name wrongly mentioned as Shushma while correct name is Sushma Rathaur, Shushma and Sushma Rathaur are one and the same person name.

सूचना

सर्वसामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि पहले मेरा नाम Sandeep Kumar था जो अब बदलकर Sandeep Kumar Bhatnagar हो गया है। संक्षेप में मुझे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये। Sandeep Kumar Bhatnagar S/o Chandra Prakash Bhatnagar, 4/7, LIG Preetam Nagar, Allahabad.

Maya to release biography on her birthday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) will celebrate party chief Mayawati's 65th birthday on Friday as 'Jan Kalyankari Diwas' in an austere manner owing to the pandemic.

Urging workers to keep her birthday low key, Mayawati said that she would be releasing a book 'A Travelogue of My Struggle Ridden Life and BSP Movement, Vol 16' to further strengthen the self respect of cadres and the party.

The BSP, earlier, used to celebrate the occasion in a grand manner and party leaders / workers collected funds. But faced with intense criticism over the issue, the party started celebrating the day as 'Jan Kalyankari Diwas'. On her birthday-eve, Mayawati tweeted on Thursday that her birthday be celebrated in a simple manner due to the pandemic.

"The day should be celebrated as Jan Kalyankari Divas and party workers and leaders should help the poor and needy," she posted.

BSP general secretary Satish Mishra said that party leaders and workers would visit villages and hospitals to distribute sweets and fruits and that leaders have been directed to follow Covid protocol during the celebration.

There would be no assembly of party workers and the Mayawati's book would also be launched in the presence of a handful of news agency journalists.

Sankissa to be made part of Buddhist Circuit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mentioning that Sankissa village of Farrukhabad had one of the most ancient Buddhist links of the world, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the place to be developed as a Buddhist pilgrimage.

Sankissa is known as a major Buddhist pilgrimage across the world and monasteries of Sri Lanka, Japan, Myanmar, Bhutan, Tibet, Cambodia, are located in this village where devotees stay and worship Lord Buddha.

Claiming that there was immense potential for the

development of religious tourism in Farrukhabad, the CM directed officials to develop Sankissa on the lines of Kushinagar, Sarnath, Kapilvastu, and Kaushambhi.

"It is a matter of pride that Uttar Pradesh is a home to several important places related to Lord Buddha and these are being developed under the Buddhist Circuit," he said.

The CM also asked the officials to chalk out an action plan on this and draw a route map from Sarnath to Gautam Buddha Nagar adding Sankissa village.

Intending to develop all six

sites related to Lord Buddha including Sankissa, the CM wanted people from across the world to visit Sankissa, Kapilvastu, Shravasti, Kushinagar, Sarnath and Kaushambi and see the ancient stupas and know about Lord Buddha.

Yogi also said that once Sankissa was developed as a tourist place, employment opportunities would increase and system of road, power and water would be better giving a fillip to the hotel and market businesses.

Uttar Pradesh plays host to a large number of tourists from abroad every year to the Buddhist Circuit.

Harassed by rapist, victim ends life in Banda

Lucknow(PNS): Harassed by her tormentor, a rape victim ended her life by hanging herself at her home in Banda on Thursday. The accused, after coming out on bail recently, threatened the victim of serious consequences if she or her kin pursued the case in court. Surprisingly, the victim's family made several complaints to the local police but with no punitive action taken, the miscreant was emboldened and kept on accosting the girl and handing out threats. As per reports, a 17-year-old girl of Pailani area of Khatia police station area (Banda) was raped by a local youth some years back and was subsequently arrested and sent to jail. With a handicapped father at home, the young girl used to eke out a living by working in the fields to feed the family. A few months back, the accused was released on bail and soon started harassing and threatening the victim. Even as

the family tried to get her married somewhere else, the accused used to reach out to the prospective grooms; family and defamed her. The family complained to the local police urging intervention which never came. Fed up with the routine harassment, the victim committed suicide by hanging herself at her home on Thursday. The police however claimed that the girl's mother scolded her over a petty issue which led her to take the extreme step. A case was registered and investigations were on. Meanwhile, in Muzaffarnagar, a youth was arrested for sodomising a boy on Wednesday. As per a complaint filed by the 10-year-old victim's family, he was taken to a field by the accused and sodomised in Kakrauli police station area. A case was registered against the 20-year-old miscreant at the local police station, he was arrested and sent to jail on Thursday.

Youth killed by lover's kin for 'family honour'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In what appeared to be a case of honour killing, a 23-year-old youth was battered and poisoned to death by the his lover's kin in Bahraich. The police registered a case and launched a hunt for the girl's absconding family members on Wednesday.

As per reports, Neeraj Singh of Bondi area of Bahraich was having an affair with a girl living in adjoining Ranibagh Gharara locality. The girl's kin were against the liaison and had even threatened Neeraj to sever his link-up with the girl or face the consequences.

Finding no other way, the love lorn couple eloped some days back and got married in the court where the girl even recorded her statement. In the meantime, the girl's family lodged a case against Neeraj charging him of kidnapping.

The desperate family members of the girl then orchestrated a plan and contacted Neeraj asking him to return with the girl so that they could solemnise their marriage in a grand manner.

An unsuspecting Neeraj, dropped his wife three days back after which her kin shifted the girl to a relative's house.

On Monday, the girl's family called Neeraj to discuss certain issues at Ranibagh barrage and as he reached the rendezvous, they attacked him with iron rods and forcibly fed him a poisonous substance. As Neeraj's anxious brother Pankaj Singh reached the spot, the assailants fled the spot. Neeraj was rushed to district hospital where he narrated the entire sequence of events to his brother, who in turn lodged a case against the girl's family.

However on Wednesday evening, Neeraj succumbed. The local police were now making efforts to track down the killers.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No. 10/2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR RAIL PASSENGERS
It is notified for information of general public that following Special Express trains will run as per schedule given as under :-

1. Train No. 05057/05058 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar-Gorakhpur Weekly Special Train

05057 - Ex Gorakhpur- From 28.01.2021 till further advice on every Thursday.

05058 - Ex Anand Vihar T - From 27.01.2021 till further advice on every Wednesday.

Timings of 05057/05058 (Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar T-Gorakhpur)

05057 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar T				05058 Anand Vihar T-Gorakhpur			
Arvl.	Dprt.	STATION	Arvl.	Dprt.	Arvl.	Dprt.	STATION
---	20:55	Gorakhpur Jn.	07:20	---	---	---	---
21:33	21:35	Khalilabad	06:00	06:02	---	---	---
22:01	22:04	Basti	05:35	05:38	05:30	05:33	Borivali
23:15	23:20	Gonda Jn.	04:20	04:30	07:10	07:12	Vapi
02:25	02:35	Lucknow	01:55	02:05	08:32	08:37	Surat
07:35	07:43	Moradabad	20:30	20:38	10:26	10:34	Vadodara Jn.
10:06	10:08	Ghaziabad	17:43	17:45	14:30	14:30	Ratlam Jn.
10:40	---	Anand Vihar Terminus	---	17:10	18:10	18:20	Kota Jn.

Rake Composition:- Luggage-cum-Generator Car - 02, General 2nd Class - 04, Sleeper - 07, AC 3 Tier - 06, AC 2 Tier - 02 = **Total 21**

2. Train No. 05025/05026 Mau-Anand Vihar-Mau Bi-Weekly Special Train

05025 - Ex Mau - From 24.01.2021 till further advice on every Sunday & Tuesday.

05026 - Ex Anand Vihar T - From 25.01.2021 till further advice on every Monday & Friday.

Timings of 05025/05026 (Mau-Anand Vihar T-Mau)

05025 Mau-Anand Vihar T				05026 Anand Vihar T-Mau			
Arvl.	Dprt.	STATION	Arvl.	Dprt.	Arvl.	Dprt.	STATION
---	10:50	Mau Jn.	05:40	---	---	---	---
11:11	11:13	Muhammabad	04:38	04:40	---	---	---
11:50	11:55	Azamgarh	04:10	04:15	---	---	---
13:05	13:30	Shahganj Jn.	03:00	03:25	---	---	---
14:06	14:10	Akbarpur	01:33	01:35	---	---	---
15:34	15:39	Faizabad Jn.	23:48	23:50	---	---	---
18:40	19:00	Lucknow	20:50	21:10	---	---	---

20:35	20:45	Kanpur Central	19:05	19:15
00:30	00:32	Aligarh Jn.	14:58	15:00
02:23	02:25	Ghaziabad	13:52	13:54
03:00	---	Anand Vihar Terminus	---	13:25

Rake Composition:- Luggage-cum-Generator Car - 02, General 2nd Class - 04, Sleeper - 07, AC 3 Tier - 06, AC 2 Tier - 02 = **Total 21**

3. Train No. 09033/09034 Banda Terminus-Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus Super Fast Antyodaya Weekly Special Train

09033 - Ex Banda Terminus - From 17.01.2021 till further advice on every Sunday.

09034 - Ex Gorakhpur - From 19.01.2021 till further advice on every Tuesday.

Timings of 09033/09034 (Banda Terminus-Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus)

09033 Banda Terminus-Gorakhpur				09034 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus			
Arvl.	Dprt.	STATION	Arvl.	Dprt.	Arvl.	Dprt.	STATION
---	05:10	Bandra Terminus	14:25	---	---	---	---
---	---	---	---	---	13:33	13:35	Borivali
---	---	---	---	---	11:40	11:42	Vapi
---	---	---	---	---	10:17	10:22	Surat
---	---	---	---	---	08:08	08:18	Vadodara Jn.
---	---	---	---	---	04:00	04:10	Ratlam Jn.
---	---	---	---	---	00:10	00:20	Kota Jn.
---	---	---	---	---	21:18	21:20	Bharatpur Jn.
---	---	---	---	---	20:10	20:20	Achhnera Jn.
---	---	---	---	---	19:20	19:25	Mathura Jn.
---	---	---	---	---	17:05	17:15	Kasganj
---	---	---	---	---	15:13	15:18	Farrukhabad
---	---	---	---	---	12:15	12:20	Kanpur Central
---	---	---	---	---	10:00	10:15	Lucknow
---	---	---	---	---	07:10	07:30	Gonda Jn.
---	---	---	---	---	06:06	06:08	Balrampur
---	---	---	---	---	04:35	04:37	Siddharth Nagar
---	---	---	---	---	04:08	04:10	Anand Nagar
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	Gorakhpur Jn.

Rake Composition:- Luggage-cum-Generator Car - 01, LSLRD - 01, General 2nd Class - 20 = **Total 22**

Please Note: (1) These trains 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.

CPROT-99 (A) Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

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PM to launch vaccination at 11 centres

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Covid-19 vaccination drive through video-conferencing at 11 centres in Lucknow on January 16. District immunisation officer MK Singh said the prime minister would also interact with the beneficiaries at one of the centres. In Uttar Pradesh, the PM will launch the vaccine at 311 sites.

He said the vaccine vials would be sent to the cold chain points from the District Immunisation Centre on January 15. The 11 vaccine centres in Lucknow include KGMU, SGPGI, RMLIMS, Balrampur Hospital, Veerangana Avanti Bai Women Hospital, ERA's Medical College and Hospital, Sahara Hospital and Indiranagar, Mohanlalganj, Chinhat & Maal CHCs. A workshop in this

regard was also held at KGMU and attended by minister Suresh Khanna. "It is likely that there would be two-way communication at KGMU. The PM is likely to take stock of the arrangements at waiting rooms, vaccination and observation rooms. He is also likely to talk to the beneficiaries," Singh said. Of the total 61 vaccination centres in the district, the launch will take place at only 11 and the rest of the centres will receive the vaccines a day prior to the vaccination drive. Singh said that security arrangements have been made for the district vaccine store and security is in place at all the 11 centres where the vaccinations will take place on January 16.

Meanwhile, nodal officer for Covid immunisation (KGMU) Dr Nishant Verma said that in the likelihood of a virtual interaction of PM Modi with beneficiaries, they have

made arrangements in the observation room through a web camera.

At KGMU, there are 34 vaccinations sites but it has yet to be decided whether or not the launch will take place at all the sites together. "We have deployed our staff while the CMO has also provided the workforce. The list has been made, booths allotted and briefing carried out at all the 34 sites," he said. He pointed out that the common vaccination side-effects are mild headache and fever. "However, we are also prepared for the severe side-effects, though they are not common. Faculty members from the Critical Care Medicine, General Medicine & Anaesthesiology departments have been deployed booth-wise. For 2-3, booths we have a senior consultant and a resident, and every booth has a ward where monitoring and

treatment will take place," he said.

Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar on Thursday held a review meeting ahead of the vaccination drive. He said that micro-plans for the vaccination should be made in the same manner as elections.

"Arrangements for vaccination should be made at the ground floor and social distancing has to be ensured in the waiting room. Inspections should be carried out by officials to ensure CCTV and internet arrangements at the centres and officials should brief the employees a day prior to the vaccination drive about their respective duties. All the teams should reach the centres in time so that the exercise is conducted smoothly," Kumar said while addressing the officials concerned present in the meeting.

On Thursday, 116 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow while 85 patients recovered even as there are 2,203 active cases in the district.

The fresh cases included 12 each from Indiranagar & Rae Bareilly road, 11 from Talkatora and 10 from Jankipuram.

In the state, 506 persons tested positive, including 20 in Kanpur, 23 in Ghaziabad, 12 in Gautam Buddh Nagar, 22 in Varanasi and 12 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,95,142. There were 14 Covid deaths in the state, including four in Lucknow, two each in Varanasi & Lakhimpur Kheri, and one each in Meerut, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Barabanki & Sultanpur, taking the toll to 8,543. Besides, 539 persons recovered, taking the state's recovery figures to 57,6,519. There are 10,080 active cases in the state.

Suicide: A 35-year-old man ended his life at his house in Para police station area on Thursday. The deceased was identified as Lekhpal of Lakhimpur Kheri. He was staying at Buddheshwar Colony in Para and worked as a labourer. His wife Mohini told police that

Lekhpal ended his life around 8 pm on Wednesday. She said she found him hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around his neck. Lekhpal was rushed to a hospital where he was declared dead. A police team reached the hospital and sent the body for autopsy. **PNS**

Minor locked up in room for days, gang-raped

Nepalese among 4 accused land in police net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A minor girl was gang-raped after being locked in a room in Mahanagar for several days. She was not even given food or water. The girl managed to escape from the clutches of her tormentors and reached home. She did not utter a single word against the perpetrators due to fear for her life and that of her parents.

However, as she took ill and was diagnosed to be five-month pregnant during check-ups, her mother lodged a complaint. A case was registered and the four accused and they were arrested. They were identified as Upreta Kumar Rasel (57) who is a native of Nepal and employed as a peon by a school in Mahanagar, Jeetu Kashyap (38) of Mahanagar, Ajay Kumar (47) of Aliganj, and Varun Tiwari (38) of Mahanagar. There were reports that some influential persons were involved in the case, but



police denied the same. A case was registered against the accused on the charges of gang-rape, illegal detention and threatening the girl. The police also booked the accused under POCSO Act.

According to the police, Upreta knew the girl and he used to take her to different houses in the locality for household chores. After having won the trust of the girl, Upreta lured the girl with a decent salary offer and raped her for 13 months and also gave her medicines. He tricked the girl's parents and locked her in a room in Mahanagar where others forced themselves upon her.

The police said Upreta locked her in a room for 15 days and did not even give her food or water. The girl managed to escape from the room and reached her home. As she took ill, her mother consulted a doctor. "The doctor told us that the girl was 5-month pregnant. She then narrated her ordeal to us. The police did not work on the case instantly. They lodged a case on January 13," mother of the victim said. The police said Upreta was charged under Section 372 of IPC as he was found guilty of forcing the girl for prostitution or illicit intercourse or for any unlawful and immoral purpose.

Thieves make off with silver coins, ornaments from jeweller's shop

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Thieves made off with silver coins and ornaments weighing about one-and-a-half kg from a jeweller's shop in Mohanlalganj on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. The thieves unsuccessfully tried to break open the almirah to collect gold ornaments and also attempted theft in a neighbouring shop.

As per reports, Ravi Soni of Mohanlalganj closed his shop in Kankaha market area on Wednesday evening. On Thursday, another jeweller Vikas Soni reached his shop and found that someone had attempted to break the wall of his shop. Ravi also reached his shop and was shocked to find out that thieves had gained access into his shop by damaging the rear wall. As he went inside, he came to know that silver coins and ornaments kept in the drawer had been stolen.

Neighbouring shop-owners assembled at the scene and accused police laxity in patrolling. They also claimed that the jeweller called the police control room but a team

from Dial-112 reached the scene only by afternoon.

Later, a team of Mohanlalganj police also reached the spot. They said the Mohanlalganj inspector reached there at 4 pm. "The Kankaha police outpost is only a few furlongs away from the shop. Had the police been vigilant, the theft could have been prevented," they said.

In another incident in Thakurganj, thieves made off with cash and important documents from a shop on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

Reports said Manish Gulati of Chowk had closed his shop around 11 pm on Wednesday. When he reached the shop on Thursday morning, he was shocked to find a big hole in the rear wall as he lifted the shutter. "The thieves rummaged through the shop and decamped with Rs 2 lakh in cash, cheques and other documents. The DVR of the CCTV camera was also stolen," he said. The shop is located close to Thakurganj police station. Local traders accused the police of laxity in night patrolling.

Accused booked under POCSO Act nabbed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An accused booked under POCSO Act was nabbed by a police team in Hazratganj hours after a case was registered against him on Thursday. The accused was identified as Dabhu Tiwari of Sanjay Gandhi Nagar in the locality. Hazratganj inspector SB Shukla, who spearheaded the operation, said Dabhu was charged for passing lewd remarks on a girl and threatening her. He said the police found the allegations of the girl's family to be genuine and nabbed the accused. He said the girl had visited the house of a friend on new year when the accused acted fresh with her. "During investigation, the police found some eyewitnesses who endorsed the girl's claim," he said.

Meanwhile, the Hazratganj police claimed to have busted a gang that was duping people on the pretext of roping them as agents facilitating Ayushman cards. Those arrested were identified as Vijay Kumar Singh of Ballia, Rajeev Jaiswal of Kushinagar and Rajesh Pandey of Sant Kabir Nagar. Inspector

SB Shukla said the police were tipped off about the gang, members of which used to take Rs 25,000 each from the youths for appointing them as agents. Their job was to facilitate innocents applying for Ayushman cards. It was a fraudulent practice and a surveillance team worked on the case. Later, a team nabbed the accused," he said.

Meanwhile, a youth allegedly acted fresh with a minor girl in Ashiyana. Following a complaint by parents of the girl, police registered a case against the accused and nabbed him. He was identified as Amit Tiwari of sector-O in the locality. As per girl's parents, the accused was harassing the girl for a long time and they had warned him of police action on several occasions, but he did not mend his ways.

The accused passed lewd comments on the girl and also threatened her with dire consequences if she did not respond positively to her amorous advances. The girl complained to her parents after which they lodged a case and the accused was nabbed.



Thick fog cover in Lucknow on Thursday morning

Pioneer

UP Assembly budget session likely next week

Lucknow (PNS): After skipping the Winter Session of the state legislature, the Yogi government is slated to hold a brief Budget Session next month. Earlier, the opposition parties were up in arms against the BJP government for not holding the Winter Session.

Budget proposals are

expected to focus on pro-people issues as it will be the last full budget of the government before 2022 Assembly elections in the state. Budget proposal for 2021-22 fiscal was likely to be brought in mid February and a proposal has been given to the state government to table the budget in the Assembly on February 18.

Sources said all the government departments have been asked to submit their proposals immediately, so that budget preparations could start. They further said that the Budget session could be brief and on the opening day, Governor Anandiben Patel would address the joint session as it will be the first sitting in 2021.

Electronic mfg sector achieves investment target early

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The electronic manufacturing sector in the state achieved a five-year target in just three years by attracting investments of Rs 20,000 crore and generating employment to three lakh people.

Uttar Pradesh has been fast emerging as the most-favoured destination for investors and several companies from China, Taiwan and Korea were shutting shops and investing in the electronics sector in UP.

"The investment target of Rs 20,000 crore and employ-

ment to three lakh people was set by 2022. But the figure was achieved in by 2020 with 30 more MNCs agreeing to invest in the electronics sector. The ambience developed by the state government has led to development of electronics manufacturing hub in Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway." Industrial Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner (IIDC) Alok Tandon said on Thursday. An Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC), designated as TEGNA cluster, was also being set up in the NCR where foreign

The investment target of Rs 20,000 crore and employment to three lakh people was set by 2022. But the figure was achieved in by 2020 with 30 more MNCs agreeing to invest in the electronics sector

companies like Oppo, three Indian companies and four Taiwanese companies were setting up units with an

expected investment of Rs 2000 crore.

"We are receiving intents from several companies regularly as the Electronic sector is beaming with activities and prospects look rosy in the times to come," he said.

After the success of 'UP Electronics Manufacturing Policy - 2017', the Yogi government introduced 'UP Electronic Manufacturing Policy - 2020' in August 2020, which aimed at developing electronics sector across the state. The UP government has also revised the target to bring fresh investments of Rs 40,000

crore and generate 4 lakh employments in the next five years. Under the 2020 policy, three clusters- an Electronic City near Jewar Airport on Yamuna Expressway, Defense Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (DEMC) in Bundelkhand and a Medical Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Lucknow-Unnao-Kanpur zone, have been proposed to be set up. In order to attract more investors in setting up manufacturing industries in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal, various financial incentives have been envisaged in the new policy.



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ DIVISION

Welcomes you in

MAGH MELA 2021

Entry regulation plan at Prayagraj Jn. during main bathing days of Magh Mela 2021

Entry at Prayagraj Jn. Station - Only from City Side on Leader Road

Entrance will be closed from Civil Lines side at Prayagraj Jn. during main bathing days of Magh Mela as mentioned below:

S. N.	Festival's Name	Date	Days	Civil Lines side entrance closing time
1.	Makar Sankranti	14.01.2021	Thursday	From evening 6 pm of 13-01-2021 to 12 pm midnight of 15-01-2021
2.	Paush Purnima	28.01.2021	Thursday	From evening 6 pm of 27-01-2021 to 12 pm midnight of 29-01-2021
3.	Mauni Amawasya	11.02.2021	Thursday	From evening 6 pm of 09-02-2021 to 12 pm midnight of 12-02-2021
4.	Basant Panchami	16.02.2021	Tuesday	From evening 6 pm of 15-02-2021 to 12 pm midnight of 17-02-2021
5.	Maghi Purnima	27.02.2021	Saturday	From evening 6 pm of 26-02-2021 to 12 pm midnight of 28-02-2021
6.	Maha Shivratri	11.03.2021	Thursday	From evening 6 pm of 10-03-2021 to 12 pm midnight of 12-03-2021

Color Scheme of Entrance Gate, Passenger Shelter and Booking Office for direction wise Mela Special Trains at Prayagraj Jn. Station

Entry at Prayagraj Jn. Station - Only from City Side on Leader Road

Direction of Special Train	Entry Gate No.	Enclosure Colour
Towards Lucknow & Varanasi	1 RED	RED
Towards Mirzapur, Vindhyachal & Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn.	2A BLUE	BLUE
Towards Manikpur & Satna	2B YELLOW	YELLOW
Towards Fatehpur & Kanpur	3 GREEN	GREEN
Reserved Ticket Passengers of all directions.	4 WHITE	-

Important : For the convenience of passengers during Magh Mela, Ticket booking counters for reserved tickets have been opened at Triveni Road in the Sangam area. Passengers can obtain tickets from there also.

60/21 (R)  North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in  @ CPRO NCR

Economy re-opening, winters lead to rise in pollution

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

New analysis of winter air pollution (till January 11) in cities of Indo-Gangetic Plains (IGP) carried out by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) shows that clean air gains during lockdown and monsoons have been lost with the reopening of economy and hostile winter weather.

Interestingly, the analysis said that the rise in pollution had also been synchronised across the region with varying patterns. While this was expected, the analysis of real-time data from monitoring stations outside National

Capital Region (NCR) in the larger Indo-Gangetic Plains showed newer patterns in winter pollution this year. “Cities in central and eastern UP and Bihar (regions south of the NCR) also show high winter pollution, but levels are similar or lower compared to 2019. Combination of reopening of the economy and changing meteorology is responsible for high winter pollution, but this regional variation calls for a nuanced and robust pollution control strategy,” it said.

Higher PM 2.5 levels is a typical and predictable winter trend when continuous emissions from sources like vehicles, industry, construction, and episodic pollution from biomass burning get trapped due to weather changes.

“This year, the trend has set in almost two weeks earlier in the season. There is a clear difference in winter pollution pattern between IGP regions north and south of the NCR. Even though the average level of PM 2.5 for the summer and monsoons in 2020, is considerably lower than previous year due to lockdown, the levels this

winter have risen beyond the 2019 levels in almost all monitored cities in Punjab and Haryana (regions north of the NCR),” it said

Analysis was done of data recorded by six air quality monitoring stations in Patna, five in Lucknow, two in Gaya and Muzaffarpur each and one station each in the rest of cities under Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) of the CPCB.

Weather data for Amritsar, Ambala, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Patna have been sourced from the weather stations of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) located at airport in each city.

The report found that the annual average level of PM2.5 is not lower in many cities this year despite lockdown, while several bigger cities witnessed a reduction and many smaller towns and cities experienced an increase. In UP the worst performer was Agra with an increase of 9 per cent as compared to last year followed by Moradabad 5.5 per cent, while Varanasi showed improvement of 31 per cent.

IGNOU organises workshop on road safety, awareness

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The regional centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University organised a workshop on road safety and awareness on Thursday. Additional DCP (Traffic) Purnendu Singh encouraged the learners to follow traffic rules and regulations and brief them about Dial-112, which is an emergency response system of UP Police.

Deputy Commandant General, Home Guards, Ranjeet Singh spoke in detail about the initiatives taken by the department to promote road safety. He said that the learners should not drive vehicles after consuming alcohol and related products. He also asked them to always wear seat belt while driving cars and helmet while driving two-wheelers.

Regional director

Manorama Singh said IGNOU has designed a programme in first-aid with a view to increasing awareness among the masses regarding common emergencies and responses before medical assistance is available.

Assistant regional director and programme officer of NSS unit Kirti Vikram Singh said the regional centre has taken initiative to organise this awareness workshop so that the learners may get a chance to know about the different schemes run by the government to promote road safety.

State president of Uttar Pradesh Aadarsh Vyapaar Mandal Sanjay Gupta said they are taking necessary steps to make people aware of road safety and its importance. Officers from the Home Guards department gave a demonstration regarding life-saving techniques.



Khichdi being distributed near Hanuman Setu temple on the occasion of Makar Sankranti on Thursday

Pioneer

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-Tender Call Notice
 No.TD/TM/GEN-235/Vol-IV/2053 dt14.01.2021
 Name for the work: "Allotment of 10 (Ten) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore / Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP". License fee : Rs.2,76,66,870/-, Wharfage Charge : Rs.15,20,430/-, Last Date & time of Bid submission : Dt.01.02.2021, 1700 Hrs., Bid Opening Date and time : 02.02.2021, 1600 Hrs. Refer our Website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
 Sr. Asst. Traffic Manager
 PPT/PR/368/20-21, DT.14.01.2021

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
 On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Administrative Officer/Con., North Eastern Railway Gorakhpur invites the following E-works Tenders.
E-Tender No.: DyCE-CON-Br-04-2021 Closing dated 08.02.2021.
Name of work: Construction of Minor bridges, Earth work & Blanketing for formation between Sarju (Excl.) Km. 694/0 to Burhwal (Excl.) 717/8 in connection with Gonda Burhwal 3rd Running line project in Lucknow division of N.E. Railway. **Approximate Value:** ₹ 81,05,67,666.06. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 42,02,800/- (Bid security Facility available). **Cost of Tender Form:** 00. **Completion period:** 20 (Twenty) Months. **Note:** • Bid starting date- 25.01.2021 • Last date of submission of above E-Tender up to 15.00 hrs. on 08.02.2021 • Date of opening of above E-Tender 15.30 hrs. on 08.02.2021 • Detailed tender notice, eligibility, criteria, terms & conditions is available on website <https://ireps.gov.in> • In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.
Shri N.K. Singh-Dy. CE/Con/Br./GKP, 9794844263
Executive Engg./Con. CP/RO-W-219 Gonda
 About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955
"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

AKTU convocation tomorrow

Lucknow (PNS): The 18th convocation of AKTU will be held on January 16 under the chairmanship of Governor Anandiben Patel. Spokesperson Ashish Mishra said that Dr Anil Prakash Joshi, who is a well-known environmentalist, will be the chief guest on the occasion. He will be conferred honorary DSc degree.

“Minister of State for Technical Education Sandeep Singh will be the special guest. As many as 90 PhD students will be awarded degrees and a total of 65 meritorious students will be awarded gold, silver and bronze medals. Shrishti Singh, a B.Tech (Electronics and

Communication) student will be awarded the Chancellor’ Gold Medal. Ritu Verma, also a B.Tech (Electronics and Communication) student will be awarded the Kamal Rani Memorial Medal. Two students of the Center for Advanced Studies will be awarded gold medals,” Mishra said. He added that 55,181 students would be awarded degrees in various courses. Neeraj Saran Srivastava will be awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award. He received his degree in the year 2009 after completing B.Tech (Electronics and Communication) from AKGEC, Ghaziabad.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum in Auction Program of Northern Railway
 No.: 117/S/Auction Programme/Sale/2020-21 Date: 14.01.2021
 Following extra/amended dates of the auction program for the month of January 2021 will be as under:

S.No.	Depots	Existing	Extra/amended date of e-auction
1.	Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	29.01.2021	28.01.2021

 All other auction dates advised earlier will remain same. For further details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in.'
 Dy. CMM/S&P
 106/2021 For Principal Chief Materials Manager
Serving Customers with a Smile

SPECIAL TRAINS
 For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Special Trains as per the schedule given below:-

02033/02034 Kanpur Central-New Delhi-Kanpur Central				48
Special Superfast Shatabdi Express (06 days a week)				Trips
TRAIN NO. 02033	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 02034	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
—	06:00	Kanpur Central	↑	20:50
11:20	—	New Delhi	—	15:50

Days of Run : 02033 Ex Kanpur Central and 02034 Ex New Delhi (06 Days a Week- Excluding Sunday) from 01.02.2021 to 27.02.2021
Accommodation : AC Chair Car & AC Executive Chair Car.
Stoppages: Etawah Jn., Aligarh Jn. & Ghaziabad Jn. stations.

04131/04132 Prayagraj-Udhampur-Prayagraj				16
Special Superfast Express (Bi- Weekly)				Trips
TRAIN NO. 04131	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04132	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
—	16:00	Prayagraj Jn.	↑	13:00
12:45	—	Udhampur	—	15:40

Days of Run : 04131 Ex Prayagraj Jn. on every Tuesday & Saturday from 02.02.2021 to 27.02.2021 and 04132 Ex Udhampur on every Wednesday & Sunday from 03.02.2021 to 28.02.2021
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).
Stoppages: Fatehpur, Kanpur Central, Etawah Jn., Tundla Jn., Aligarh Jn., Khurja Jn., Buland Shahr, Hapur Jn., Meerut City Jn., Muzaffar Nagar, Saharanpur Jn., Ambala Cantt. Jn., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt. Jn., Pathankot Cantt. & Jammu Tawi stations.

04185/04186 Gwalior Jn.-Barauni Jn.- Gwalior Jn.				56
Special Express (Daily)				Trips
TRAIN NO. 04185	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04186	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
—	12:00	Gwalior Jn.	↑	20:35
20:35	20:45	Lucknow	10:45	10:55
12:50	—	Barauni Jn.	—	18:45

Days of Run : 04185 Ex Gwalior Jn. (Daily) from 01.02.2021 to 28.02.2021 and 04186 Ex Barauni Jn. (Daily) from 02.02.2021 to 01.03.2021
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).
Stoppages: Dabra, Datia, Jhansi, Orai, Kalpi, Pokhrayan, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Lucknow, Barabanki Jn., Burhwal Jn., Colonelganj, Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn., Maskanwa, Babhan, Basti, Khalilabad, Sahjanwa, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Bhatni Jn., Bankata, Maiwa, Siwan Jn., Duraundha Jn., Chhapra Jn., Dighwara, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Bhagwanpur, Muzaffarpur Jn., Dholi, Khudiram Bose Pusa, Samastipur Jn. & Dalsingh Sarai stations.

Integrated Helpline No. 139 **Security Helpline No. 182**

05074/05073 Tanakpur-Singrauli-Tanakpur Special Express (Tri-Weekly)				
TRAIN NO. 05074	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 05073	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
—	08:25	Tanakpur	↑	15:25
15:55	16:05	Lucknow	08:00	08:10
07:55	—	Singrauli	—	16:15

Days of Run : 05074 Ex Tanakpur on Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 03.02.2021 till further advice and 05073 Ex Singrauli on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday from 04.02.2021 till further advice
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).
Stoppages: Khatima, Majhola Pakarya, Pilibhit Jn., Izzatnagar, Bareilly City, Bareilly Jn., Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Sandila, Alamnagar, Lucknow (NR), Nigohan, Bachhrawan, Harchandpur, Rae Bareilly Jn., Lachhmanpur, Unchahar Jn., Pariawan Kalankakar Road, Garhi Manikpur, Kunda Hamamganj, Lalgalpalganj, Ram Chaura Road, Phaphamau Jn., Prayag, Prayagraj Jn., Naini Jn., Meja Road, Vindhyachal, Mirzapur, Chunar Jn., Saktesgarh, Lusa, Sonebadra, Churk & Chopan stations.

05076/05075 Tanakpur-Shaktinagar-Tanakpur Special Express (4 Days a Week)				
TRAIN NO. 05076	STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 05075	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
—	08:25	Tanakpur	↑	15:25
15:55	16:05	Lucknow	08:00	08:10
08:20	—	Shaktinagar	—	15:45

Days of Run : 05076 Ex Tanakpur on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday from 02.02.2021 till further advice and 05075 Ex Shaktinagar on Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday from 03.02.2021 till further advice
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).
Stoppages: Khatima, Majhola Pakarya, Pilibhit Jn., Izzatnagar, Bareilly City, Bareilly Jn., Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Sandila, Alamnagar, Lucknow (NR), Nigohan, Bachhrawan, Harchandpur, Rae Bareilly Jn., Lachhmanpur, Unchahar Jn., Pariawan Kalankakar Road, Garhi Manikpur, Kunda Hamamganj, Lalgalpalganj, Ram Chaura Road, Phaphamau Jn., Prayag, Prayagraj Jn., Naini Jn., Meja Road, Vindhyachal, Mirzapur, Chunar Jn., Saktesgarh, Lusa, Sonebadra, Churk, Chopan & Anpara stations.

Note: The above Special Trains will run with full reserved Accommodation

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

For any kind of information such as detailed Time -Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

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 106/2021
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SC Bar body president Dushyant Dave resigns with immediate effect

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Dushyant Dave resigned from his post with immediate effect on Thursday saying he has forfeited his right to continue. Acting SCBA Secretary Rohit Panday confirmed the development that the senior advocate has resigned with immediate effect. Dave in his brief letter stated that the tenure of the Executive Committee of SCBA has already ended and it may not be possible to hold virtual elections as per schedule “due to reservations held by some lawyers”.

“Following recent events, I feel that I have forfeited my right to continue as your Leader and so I hereby tender my Resignation from the post of the President of the SCBA with immediate effect. Our term has already come to an end.

“We sincerely decided to hold virtual election to elect a new body. Now I find it may not be possible to hold them as per the schedule declared by the Election Committee due to reservations held by some of you. I understand their position and have no quarrel with it but to me any further continuation as the President in these circumstances will be morally wrong,” the letter said. Dave also expressed his gratitude to all the members of the SCBA.

“I must place on record my deep gratitude to each of you for being part of this EC and contributing immensely during Covid 19, perhaps the greatest challenge to mankind we will ever see in our lifetime. You have done proud to this Institution, the SCBA. It was a privilege to be with you. I wish you all lots of good luck for a better future,” Dave said in his letter.

(International Relations) for three years at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Switzerland. The institution has also offered a 100% fee waiver to Ayushi for the first year of her course. "While in school, I loved public speaking and I got an opportunity to participate in the MUN organised at the chief justices' conference organised by CMS. I also got the chance to meet and interact with the chief justices, judges and heads of states because of which I got a better understanding of world affairs and diplomacy. My teachers motivated me to choose this field. I am thrilled to get admission to this prestigious institution," Ayushi said.

Office of the Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Amethi Address:- Executive Engineer .R.E.D. Gaurliganj, Amethi Short Term E-Tender Notice						
Letter NO 1021 /RED/Tender/File No 204/ Bond Clerk /2020-2021				dated: 04-01-2021		
The Executive Engineer, U.P.R.E.D.Amethi on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through E-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, C, and D as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works.						
1. Name of work as per table						
S.No	Name of Distr	Name of work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh)	Bid security (EMD) in Lakh	Cost of Bid document including All Taxes (in Rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
P.V.N. (4 th Call)						
1	Amethi	Gowardhanpur Sampark Marg se Suneel Singh ke Ghar tak interlocking karya Block Bhetua	10.73	0.22	766.00	2 Month
CSR Project (3 rd Call)						
1	Amethi	Kasturba Gandhi Awaseeya Balika Vidyalay Singhpur me Computer Lab Type (B) 6.70Mx5.54M & 4 NO. Toilet sangrahar	13.52	0.28	766.00	4 Month
2. Date of availability of Bid document's on website:- 15-01-2021 to 21-01-2021 3. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids: through e-procurement 21-01-2021 up to 12:00 Noon. 4. Date of opening of bids: through e-procurement 21-01-2021 at 03.30 PM 5. The Employer has right to issue addendum/corrigendum as per ITB clause-9 on -line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly. For further details please log on to https://etender.up.nic.in and in down load the bid document.						
UP-158830 Dt. 13.1.21 बिज्ञान बेरादा www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।			Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division- Amethi			

जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, जोन-4 गोमती नगर, लखनऊ

प०सं० 609 / एल०जे०एस० / ईई-4 / 2020-21 दिनांक 14.01.2021

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम लखनऊ में कार्यरत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु मुहरबन्द निविदायें दिनांक 27.01.2021 के सायंकाल 3.00 बजे तक निविदा बाक्स में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 27.01.2021 को 2.00 बजे तक निविदा मूल्य का नगद मुगतान कैश काउन्टर पर जमा करके प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा बाक्स से प्राप्त निविदायें उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के सम्मक्ष सायंकाल 3.30 बजे खोली जायेंगी। समयावधि के पश्चात प्राप्त निविदाओं पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में दी गई हैं, जिन्हें किसी भी कार्यदिवस में देखी व क्रय की जा सकती है। निविदा के साथ वाछित धरोहर राशि एफ०डी०आर० / सी०डी०आर० / बैंक गारंटी जो अधिशासी अभियन्ता के नाम बन्धक हो, जमा करना अनिवार्य है।

क्रम सं०	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा का मूल्य	धरोहर धनराशि
1	गोमती नगर जोन-4 के अन्तर्गत विपुल खण्ड-3 स्थित सी.डब्ल्यू.आर. हेतु 250 एम.एम. व्यास की NRV की आपूर्ति एवं NRV की फिकिसंग आदि कार्य हेतु।	300.00	6500.00

अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन-4 जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

No. S/Sale/611/E-AP/20-21 E-AUCTION PROGRAMME Date: 13.01.2021
 NOTICE NO. 10 MONTH FEBUARY 2021

It is intimated that scrap materials available in all Divisions and Depots of North Central Railway will be sold through e-auction and all organizers will conduct the auction of their area.

Scrap Items: P. Way Scrap, Scrap Rail, Cast Iron Scrap, Condemned rolling Stock, Non ferrous and Non metallic Scrap, Turning & Boring, Condemned Oil /Paints Drums, Condemned Machinery & plants, Condemned Vehicles, Condemned office equipments, Foundry Slag, Released overhead MS/GI tanks, Released ferrous scrap of train lighting fans, Released MS/GI pipe line, foundry skull, Workshop MS scrap and other MS scrap.

S.N.	Organizer of Auction	DEPOT/DIV.	E-Auction Date			Through
			Round-1	Round-2	Round-3	
1	DY.CMM/GSD/CNB	GSD/CNB	01.02.2021	10.02.2021	18.02.2021	website www.ireps.gov.in
2	Sr.DMM/NCR/AGC	AGC/DIV.	04.02.2021	11.02.2021	22.02.2021	
3	Sr.DMM/NCR/PRYJ	PRYJ/DIV.	05.02.2021	17.02.2021	24.02.2021	
4	Sr.DMM/NCR/JHS	JHS/DIV.	08.02.2021	15.02.2021	23.02.2021	
5	DY.CMM/SYS/JHS	GSD/JHS	09.02.2021	18.02.2021	25.02.2021	

Special Conditions: 1. All type of scraps will be through e-auction mode www.ireps.gov.in website. In the event of auction not being completed on the same day, auction may be continued on the next days also (Applicable only for Dy.CMM/SD/JHS). 2. The unsold lots of e-auction will also be included in next e-auction of respective depot. 3. The Intending purchaser may inspect the lot of scrap material before the auctions during working hours. 4. To purchase material above Rs. 5 Lacs, the purchaser must be registered with Sale Tax department. 5. For further details on auctions (like catalogues, last sold rates in auctions & other details), Please visit North Central Railway's website "www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in". 6. For further detail regarding e-auction Please visit "www.ireps.gov.in" website.

52/21 (SP)
 North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

Thousands take holy dip in Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Baring cold wave, thousands of devotees thronged 84-odd ghats of river Ganga on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti here on Thursday. No fear of the prevailing global coronavirus pandemic was seen on the faces of devotees. As the festival is popularly known as Khichadi in this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP), at several places including Khichadi Baba Mandir near Dashaswamedh, Khichadi was distributed among the people as 'prasad'. It is also expected that the holy city would also see rush of devotees coming here from Magh Mela in Prayag (Allahabad) on Friday.

Right from wee hours, the devotees started thronging various ghats to take a holy dip in sacred water of river Ganga. Rush was also seen at different ghats of Ramnagar and Balua ghats. The ghats like Dashaswamedh, Rajendra Prasad, Ahliyabai, Assi, Sheetla, Scindia, Nagwa, Bhainsasur,



Thousands taking a holy dip in river Ganga on the occasion of Makar Sankranti in Varanasi on Thursday



Rajghat, Narad, Kedar, Hanuman, Ravidas and Tulsi Ghat witnessed gathering of huge number of devotees. A good number of devotees also reached Panchganga Ghat. As per mythological beliefs it is said that there is confluence of five rivers including Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, Trishna and Dumrathapa.

After taking bath at various ghats, the devotees offered 'daans' to the Brahmins and poor people including beggars as it is considered important for the festival. They donated rice, pulses, teel and gur made items, potatoes, coins and others. Elaborate security arrangements were made to avoid any untoward incidents and right from the wee hours. Water Police personnel were seen active along with expert divers. In view of the rush of devotees, the local police have imposed several traffic restrictions.

(Left) After taking a holy dip in river Ganga, devotees offering 'daan' to poor people in Varanasi on Thursday



Devotees taking a holy dip at Sangam on the occasion of Makar Sankranti in Prayagraj on Thursday

Pioneer

Magh Mela starts in Prayagraj Tight security in Mela area

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Annual Magh Mela started in Prayagraj from Thursday with the first Makar Sankranti bathing across the Sangam. Despite the threat of coronavirus and severe cold, the devotees' spirit did not dampen and they took the holy dip in confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati.

A large number of devotees took a holy dip in Sangam. A huge crowd of devotees seen pouring in the Sangam area since Thursday morning. After bathing on the banks of the ghat, devotees offered alms after giving 'argh' to the Sun.

It may be pointed out here that this time after 37 years, devotees took a bath in the Sangam in Panchagrahi Yog. After 37 years, this particular yog in this festival of charity and alms, this yog is formed. Despite the thick fog in the morning, devotees in large numbers started coming. At the same time, the crowd started increasing in the Mela area as the day went on.

This time the Sangam ghat is more crowded than usual, but the number of people is less as compared to the Sankranti of previous years. Due to reduced congestion, buses continue to operate from Shastri Bridge, whereas earlier operations were stopped from here.

This time it has been made mandatory for every devotee to come to the fair to bring covid report with him/her. Keeping in mind the guidelines of prevention from corona, the arrangement for snan has been made along with social distancing at the ghats. To recall this time there will be six major bathing festivals in the fair.

According to astrology, Makar Sankranti is celebrated



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Tight security arrangements were made in and around the Mela area on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. Commandos have been deployed at the Sangam area. Along with this, SDRF teams with the teams of ATS, Rapid Action Force and PAC have also been deputed.

With 150 CCTV cameras, the mela area was observed in the eye of the police. On Wednesday, the DIG and Nodal Police Officer inspected the deployment at the Mela. Rehearsals were also held on Wednesday. After this, the force had been deployed at the duty point.

On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, more than 5,000 jawans have been deployed in Magh Mela. These included police, PAC, home guards, Rapid Action Force, and all the soldiers of the force. It also includes ATS and RAF commandos deployed at the Sangam. Drones were also

deployed here. Apart from this, BDDS (Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad) and AS (Anti Sabotage) teams have also been deployed. The mela was being monitored with 150 CCTV cameras.

Local forces were being alerted immediately after the suspects appeared on the cameras. SDRF teams were stationed at Sangam. Three flood relief companies of PAC had been deployed. The force rehearsed together on Wednesday and all were then posted at their duty point. Force was briefed about duty before rehearsal.

DIG Sarshresth Tripathi and Nodal Police Officer Ashutosh Mishra inspected the force at Magh Mela and gave directions. The two officers asked the force to be courteous to the devotees. After briefing the force, they were posted to duty point. Wherever deficiencies were found during the inspection, they were removed, added Tripathi.

16 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 16 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Thursday, increasing the total number to 21,712. The day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 374. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 22 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 18,068. As no patient has been discharged from the hospital, the number

remained at 2,955. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 21,023, leaving 315 active cases. The recovery rate is 96.82 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.72 per cent.

In the first report of the day, nine positive patients were found out of 1,697 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 5,55,200 and the results of 2,451 are awaited.

Out of them, 5,33,495 were negative while 21,705 were

positive. The total number of samples collected was 5,81,168. Earlier, a male aged 62 from Soyepur succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sunderlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU).

Besides, under the 'Mission Shakti' campaign, a total of 5,179 women / girls were mobilised at 192 places and 1,240 leaflets were distributed. A total of 1,631 women / girls were sensitised by the Anti-Romeo Squads at 167 places. As many as 240 eve teasers

were warned. Apart from this, the police arrested 21 persons under Section 151 of CrPC, while challaned under Section 188 and took action under Section 51 of Disaster Management Act against three persons.

During checking at various points, 921 vehicles were challaned and eight seized. Apart from this, ₹ 1,31,400 were realised from 148 vehicles, while ₹7,500 from 297 persons for moving on the roads without wearing masks.

Coal quality research centre to be set up at IIT-BHU

VARANASI (PNS): Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) is going to establish a research centre named as 'Coal Quality Management and Utilisation Research Centre' at the oldest Mining Engineering department in the country (came into existence as early as 1923) with the support of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between them. The centre will be first of its kind in India with Academic - Industry MoU, equipped with state-of-art facility for conducting research on clean coal technology in order to increase the quality of coal, and also cater the facility for determining the quality and grade of coal for adjoining stock holders and traders.

IIT-BHU Director Prof

Pramod Kumar Jain informed that the need for clean coal with sustainable mining and lowering of carbon footprint of mining was identified as global and national research theme. Keeping in mind this theme, this centre was envisioned.

He assured that this scientific effort and collective endeavours of IIT-BHU and NCL would enable us to realise the vision of an affordable, efficient and compact reliable clean coal supply to consumers at one place and reduction of carbon emission as per Paris Agreement at another place. He further stated that IIT-BHU will be facilitating all such efforts and complementing and supplementing both in terms of technological knowledge, training of manpower adequately for strengthening the coal industries in general and coal consumers in particular.

Prof Jain emphasised the need for accelerated clean coal which is a major source of energy in India.

The objective of the centre is academically to create knowledge and develop human resources through doctoral research, postgraduate dissertations and B.Tech projects at one hand and professionally to cater to the needs of the industry for cleaner coal availability.

The facility of this centre will be used by the students and research scholars working in the area of coal characterisation, quality improvement and grading along with biomass and bio fuels researchers.

Not only this, the centre will cater the need of coal producing and coal based industries in northern and central India in general and Purvanchal in particular. The

possible users of the centre will be coal producing companies like Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries, private coal companies, and coal based industries like National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), public and private sectors power plants etc. Besides, railways and coal traders may also avail the facilities of this centre for knowing the actual quality and grade of coal for different utilisation, evaluation and marketing purposes.

IIT-BHU through MoU with NCL has already started joint PhD programmes where laboratory facility, mine/ field data will be used to make coal mining technology and environment more technologically viable and economically feasible with environmentally friendly mining.

CBSE School Managers Assn to hold annual conference

VARANASI (PNS): To discuss about online teaching, innovation, examination, admission and problems in running the schools at present and also guidelines regarding this, the CBSE School Managers Association, Uttar Pradesh is going to hold its two-day annual conference on January 15 & 16 at Om Vilas Resort, here.

Talking to the presspersons at Sunbeam School, Varuna, here, the patron of association and president of Purvanchal School Welfare Association Deepak Madhok informed that the managers of about 500 CBSE schools are likely to attend the conference.

Secretary, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Anurag Tripathi will be chief guest of the inaugural session



Office-bearers of CBSE School Managers Association addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Wednesday

Pioneer

to be held on Friday, the state president of association Shyam Pachauri informed adding, Tripathi will throw light on the National Education Policy (NEP-2020). Tripathi will also throw light on the effect of new education policy on the teachers and students teaching and studying in the self-financed schools and schools affiliated to the CBSE, he added.

The managers to participate in the proposed conference will discuss about the online teaching, innovation, examination, admission, problems in running the schools and also guidelines regarding this, the state vice-president of the association Pushp Ranjan Agrawal informed.

The self-financed schools affiliated to the CBSE are fac-

ing new problems on daily basis and in such situation, the association is with all the management of the schools, the spokesperson of the association Murlidhar Yadav said adding, the management of self-financed schools is also in dilemma as far as the new education policy is concerned. The secretary of CBSE Tripathi has been invited to attend the inaugural session of the conference so that the situation of dilemma could be ended and the confusions regarding this could also be removed, he said further.

Dr Hariom Singh, Rahul Singh, Mukul Pandey and Jagdeep Madhok of Purvanchal School Welfare Association were also present in the press conference.

NCR GM reviews progress of EDFC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Yamuna Bridge of Dedicated Freight Corridor is targeted for commissioning by September 2021. Complete EDFC stretch falling on NCR from Dadri to Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn will be commissioned by June-2022. General Manager NCR and NER Vinay Kumar Tripathi reviewed progress of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC). This review of progress was done through video conferencing with MD DFCCIL and other officials, AGM NCR, PHODs of North Central Railway, DRM Prayagraj and other officials of Prayagraj division.

At the outset PCE NCR welcomed the GM and other officers in this review meeting which was followed by opening

address from Managing Director DFCCIL RK Jain. Jain extended thanks to the NCR for support in opening of 350 Kms EDFC section between Bhaupur- Khurja inaugurated by the PM Narendra Modi on December 29, 2020. In this coordination meeting held between DFCCIL and North Central Railway various items related to expedition completion of eastern dedicated freight corridor falling on NCR's territory were discussed and finalised. Progress of important works related to ROBs, RUBs, OHE and signalling requiring joint efforts of DFCCIL and NCR were discussed in the meeting.

Reviewing the progress, General Manager Vinay Kumar Tripathi said that RUBs constructed should be free from

water logging and proper and permanent solution for this be devised and implemented on priority. Tripathi specifically reviewed progress of important Yamuna bridge being constructed by DFCCIL near Prayagraj. MD DFCCIL apprised that of 34 total spans of this important bridge 16 are already launched and bridge shall be commissioned by September-21. Tripathi also advised DFCCIL and Railway officials to jointly identify targets and related issues for phase wise commissioning of EDFC route between Khurja Dadri and Bhaupur - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn.

He stressed that sections added in phased manner will help Railway to ease out existing route so that works related to speed raising on existing

routes can be undertaken easily. GM assured DFCCIL that all required assistance in expeditious commissioning of this important infrastructure project shall be rendered by North Central Railway.

MD DFCCIL said that with active support from North Central Railway DFCCIL is making all efforts to commission entire EDFC route falling on NCR from Dadri to Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn. well before the target of June-2022.

DRM Prayagraj Mohit Chandra said that with formal start of train operations between Bhaupur and Khurja it is important that standard and common operational procedures be followed for safe and efficient train operation on DFC network.

Effect of fog visible on running of trains

ALLAHABAD (PNS): The effect of cold and fog is now visible on the running of several trains. Operation of trains is being affected by the thick fog which has engulfed the entire region. Many trains, including Prayagraj Express reached Prayagraj in late on Thursday morning. The impact of the fog caused disturbance in the operation of most of the trains coming from New Delhi.

02418 New Delhi-Prayagraj Express came to Prayagraj about three hours late. 02428 Anand Vihar

Terminal-Rewa Special reached Prayagraj Junction about four-and-a-half hours late from its scheduled time, 02560 New Delhi-Manduadih Special reached four-and-a-half hours late and 02872 New Delhi-Islampur Special was delayed by about three-and-a-half hours. Apart from this, Purushottam Express, Brahmputra Express, Manduadih Superfast Special also came to Prayagraj Junction late. It may be pointed out here that Special trains will be run from railway stations for various routes during Magh Mela.

Among these, one can travel on unreserved ticket only. For the convenience of the pilgrims, the General Manager of NCR VK Tripathi tweeted that trains will be available from Prayagraj Junction and Naini station to go towards Meja Road, Manda Road, Vindhyachal, Mirzapur, Chunar and PDDU Junction. There will be trains from Prayagraj Junction to go to Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Junction and Naini Station to go towards Manikpur. Trains will go from Prayag Junction and Phaphamau to go towards Lucknow, Pratapgarh,

Sultanpur and Ayodhya. Trains will be moving from Prayagraj Rambagh and Jhansi station to go towards Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Mau, Ballia.

35 NEW COVID CASES: The reduced speed of corona infection spread is relieving to not only the common men but also the Health department. At the same time, the number of healthy people has decreased once again. On Wednesday night, a screening of 5562 people was conducted in the district and of them, the report of 35 people, including an ADJ, came positive in 24 hours.



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar flags off the Covid vaccines to the districts on Thursday

Pioneer

DC flags off Covid vaccines to dists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar flagged off the COVID-19 vaccine distribution work on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the government had issued strict guidelines for storing the vaccines in a foolproof manner and ensuring a smooth vaccination campaign from Saturday.

The divisional commissioner said the medical teams had been given special training and thus the distribution of the vaccines to districts had been started to ensure that the vaccination drive was carried out smoothly on Saturday.

He said the Kanpur Division had received 64,000 doses of the vaccine and they were stored in the divisional cold storage centre at Kanshiram Hospital premises. Shekhar said to ensure that the cold chain was maintained, vigilance had been stepped up to keep an eye on the storage factor.

He said the second issue of concern was the security arrangements at the storage centre. He directed the officials concerned to ensure that the cold point management system was maintained properly and with utmost care.

The DC said the vaccine was being distributed on Thursday to districts as per the

allocation made by the government. He said the vaccines had been sent and would tentatively reach the desired destinations on Thursday itself.

He said the officials of all districts would store the received vaccines properly at the district storage points and then send them to their vaccination or session centres by Friday so that the vaccination could start as per the schedule on January 16 for the first phase.

Shekhar said the vaccine was being distributed as per the government guidelines – 22,700 doses for

Kanpur City, 7,820 for Dehat has, 7,440 for Farrukhabad, 8,240 for

Kannauj, 5,700 for Auraiya and 11,970 for Etawah

He added that 440 doses had been allotted to Armed Forces health workers in Kanpur Nagar and 230 in Farrukhabad.

The DC said that CCTV cameras had been installed at all the storage centres and a set protocol was being followed for entry, exit, receipt and dispatch, security and cold point temperature maintenance.

He directed the officials concerned to ensure that the allotted vaccines reached the respective districts safely by Thursday. He said every care was being taken to ensure that the vaccines reached safely at the session points.

Jetting machines to solve choked sewer problem

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Jal Kal Vibhag General Manager Neeraj Gaur, while inaugurating the junior jetting machines on Thursday, said that these machines would solve the problem of choked sewer lines in the city.

These machines were recently purchased by the Kanpur Nagar Nigam for opening choked sewers in narrow by-lanes

Gaur said the major problem for choked sewers lines

was that the big trucks and machines were not able to enter the lanes and bylanes and as a result the manual cleaning was not very effective.

He said with a very big section of people residing in narrow lanes, the problem of choked sewers would now be attended to at the earliest.

He said some of the most common causes of sewer blockage were build-up of grease, debris, cow dung and foreign objects in the sewer.

He said often it was hindered by the tree root intrusion and thus only a big jetting machine was helpful but its limitation was that it could not reach in the lanes and by-lanes and thus it had remained a big challenge for the Kanpur Nagar Nigam. He said with the purchase of the junior jetting machines this problem would now be taken care of.

He said five small jetting machines had been purchased and they would cater to the needs of the narrow approach

roads all over the city.

He said the major sewer problems were reported from areas like Collectorganj, Naugarah, Generalganj, Moolgang, Darshanpurwa, Gandhi Nagar, Meston Road, Makhania Bazar and many such areas.

He said the new machines had been pressed into service with immediate effect.

He said this would also help eliminate the manual cleaning of sewer in narrow lane areas.

Highest Tricolour at Ramgarh Taal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath virtually took part in the unfurling of the highest Tricolour in Gorakhpur and dedicated 'I love Gorakhpur' selfie point at Ramgarh Taal banks in Gorakhpur on Wednesday.

Directors of Shudh Plus and Niine Movement Deepak Khemka and Amar Tulsian said this initiative was taken on the motivation of the chief minister. He said at umpteen places the high Tricolour mast poles were set up thus motivating the group to also do the same.

They said that the Tricolour was 75 metre high, the 10th tallest in the country. They said while on the one hand the pride would be the high flag and on the other, the 'I Love Gorakhpur' selfie point and the tourists would keep it



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took part in unfurling of the tallest Tricolour of Gorakhpur organised by Shudh Plus and Niine Movement.

Pioneer

as a memory of their visit.

They said at the base of the flag mast there were four lions back to back depicting Shakti,

Shaurya, Gaurav and Vishwas. They added that the flag also promoted women empowerment as well which was the aim

of Niine Movement.

The entire group of Niine Movement and Shudh Plus was present on the occasion.

2 city youths make PM's dream come true

KANPUR (PNS): Two city youths made the prime minister's dream of 'turning crisis into opportunity during lockdown' come true by providing employment to over 70,000 youths in 17 states of the country by setting up a B2B Fintech platform to launch Redmil Business Mall App.

At a time when most of the giant companies were retrenching their workforce, these local

youths roped in over 70,000 youths as agents of Redmil Business Mall App to earn their livelihood all over the country. In their local office situated in Eldico Club, Raipurwa, hundreds of youths (boys and girls) have been provided the job. CMD Ashish Paliwal and Director Sagar Raj Singhal said the Fintech platform was a B2B service provider mobile application

showcasing 125+ brands of over 20 regions. Anybody, after downloading the app, can become the partner of Redmil Business Mall Group and start earning from day first itself. As the app was operated through Artificial Intelligence, anybody can use it to work pan India. Within few months of its launch, over 70,000 persons have downloaded the app and become partner of Redmil

Group. All the big companies, including Reliance or banks, were partner to this app. With the downloading of the app, they collect applicant's KYC and get it approved from NPCI. After NPCI approval, the applicant was roped in as their agent who were then imparted necessary training. The company follows all the norms of Reserve Bank of India, they said.

Mayor distributes rugs to safai karmacharis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Mayor Pramila Pandey, after beating the 'dugdugi' (small drum) from Chawla Market to Bata Chauraha, distributed rugs to safai karmacharis from the office of local corporator Navin Pandit in Govind Nagar locality on Thursday. She also distributed 'Khichadi' and expressed gratitude for their contribution in carrying out the sanitation work. She also asked them to contribute for the sanitation of the locality in future also. Prominent activists present on the occasion were the corporator Navin Pandit, Prakash Vir Arya, Sunny Bhalla, Shiv Shanker Saini, Anupam Misra, Anita Dixit, Nitu Senger, Awadh Behari Awasthi, Anubhav Misra, Pappan Gupta, Harish, Samir Mandal, Dabbu Warses, Ranjit Bangali, Rajesh Bajpai, Aman Singh and Anil Jileadar.

Fake non-judicial stamp papers recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

City police have busted a gang involved in selling fake non-judicial stamp papers and notary tickets and arrested two persons on Thursday. Police have recovered fake non-judicial papers and notary tickets worth ₹ 5.50 lakh from them. On the basis of call details of their mobile phones, efforts were on to nab other gang members. Addressing mediapersons, DIG Pritinder Singh said on coming to know about the use of fake will and agreement in the city, a police team was deputed late on Wednesday night. During investigations, the team arrested two persons - Mohd Zishan of Colonelganj and Ranjit Kumar Rawat of Stainly Road, Cantonment, Prayagraj - near Sachan Chauraha and recovered fake stamp papers and notary tickets worth ₹ 5.50 lakh from them. During interrogation, accused informed that they would buy used stamp papers from Bhagalpur, Patna and Kolkata and, after erasing the written matter with the help of bleaching chemical, sell them at much higher rates. Likewise, fake notary tickets were also printed and available in the city. These stamp papers and tickets were sold in Kanpur city and Prayagraj for preparing fake registry, agreement, mukhtarnama, will, affidavit etc. Both the accused also hold the notary stamp vendor's licence, DIG said.

Mayor's appeal to keep city clean

KANPUR (PNS): Mayor Pramila Pandey took part in a campaign to apprise the masses about the Clean India Campaign, which was carried out between Chawla Market and Bata crossing in south city on Thursday. She also distributed blankets and khichdi to the safai karmacharis and said it was they who kept the city clean and thus they needed appreciation and motivation.

The mayor also appealed to the people to participate in the Clean India Campaign, saying that unless they cooperated the drive would not be successful.

Addressing the gathering, Pandey said the Clean India Campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and since its launch the nation had witnessed improved cleanliness. She said the responsibility of cleaning the city did not rest on the safai karmacharis alone and all residents had to cooperate. She said it was generally observed that once the streets were swept clean the residents threw garbage and littered. She appealed to the residents to ensure they disposed of the garbage in proper bags at the dump houses only. The organiser of the programme was corporator Naveen Pandit who said the safai karmacharis were doing a yeoman's job and thus it had been decided to distribute blankets.

DC's directive to officials

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner Vindhyachal Preeti Shukla on Wednesday while reviewing 37 points of priority of government directed the officials concerned to complete works following quality norms within deadline and maintain law

quality at her office along with the DM offices concerned. Regarding the Covid vaccination she directed the CMOs to ensure registration first and keep the records. About pending electricity dues she directed all departments to clear them. If fund was not available, send the demand to the headquarters



and order. Reviewing the construction of roads she expressed discontent over Bhadohi district but the DM apprised her that it was due to paucity of fund for which correspondence was on. Under Atmanirbhar Bharat the DC directed the DD panchayat to ensure timely construction of community toilets in the villages and hand them over to the persons concerned. Regarding the Kayakalp Yojana the BSAs were directed to cover all basic schools. The DC directed the officials to release the second and third instalments to the beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana considering the availability of fund and ensure their completion. She directed them to form a team to inspect all construction works at site and report about

concerned but clear them positively, she added. About other dues related to taxes as well as other than taxes ADMs(F&R) were directed to achieve the targets with proper strategy. During the meeting all points were discussed as per the agenda and DC directed the authorities concerned to work properly as per the spirit of the government. The meeting was also attended by IG range Piyush Srivastava, DMs, SPs, CDOs, ADMs and others.

INSPECTED: ASP (City) Sanjay Kumar he inspected the Padari police station recently. He visited the kitchen, barracks, toilet, women's helpdesk, mess, armoury, store, computer room, urinal, police station premises and inspected the records. He directed the cops to intensity patrolling in view of ensuing panchayat elections

and visit PHCs and CHCs due to Covid vaccination. He directed the cops to strengthen the beat system and take proper cognizance of disputes of the area whether petty or big. He said preventive measures should be taken without any discrimination and mafiosi should not be spared at any cost. During the inspection SHO Venkatesh Tiwari, S-I Bharat Bhushan Singh and office staff were present on the occasion.

HONOURED: Under the aegis of Utkarsh Education and Welfare Society the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was observed as 'Yuva Divas' in which meritorious students who had secured first, second and third places in their institutions in UP board examination were honoured. Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Chairman Manoj Jaiswal who was the chief guest said that it was Swami Vivekananda who had declared that youths as the might of the nation and policies should be made keeping their pivotal role in mind. He exhorted the youth to work for the nation with dedication. Honouring the students he extended his best wishes for their bright future and urged them to toil for making the nation a superpower. The programme was conducted by Krishna Kumar Singh and chaired by Dr Rajeev Agrawal, principal, GD Himani PG College. Among those who attended the programme were Nitin Awasthi, Atul Gupta and Anshumali Mishra.

Bandra Terminus-Gkp spl to run from Jan 17

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of the passengers run the 09033 Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur weekly special train from January 17 every Sunday will until further order and 09034 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus weekly special train from January 19 until further order every Tuesday and 05057 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminus weekly special from January 28 until further order every Thursday and 05058 Anand Vihar Terminus-Gorakhpur weekly special from January 27 until further order every Wednesday. All coaches in them will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in it will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

BANDRA TERMINUS-GKP SPECIAL: The 09033 Bandra Terminus- Gorakhpur weekly special will from January 17 until further order leave Bandra Terminus at every Sunday at 05.10 hrs, from Borivali at 05.33 hrs, from Vapi at 07.17 hrs, from Surat at 08.37 hrs, from Vadodara at 10.34 hrs, from Ratlam at 14.50 hrs, from Kota at 18.20 hrs, from Bharatpur at 21.50 hrs, from Achhnera at 22.50 hrs, from Mathura on second day at 00.10 hrs, from Kasganj at 02.05 hrs, from Farrukhabad at 03.30 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 07.15 hrs, from Lucknow (Northern Railway), at 09.20 hrs, from Gonda at 11.40 hrs, Balmampur at 12.23 hrs, Siddharthanagar at 13.44 hrs, Anandnagar at 14.17 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 15.40 hrs. During the return journey, the 09034 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus weekly special will from January 19 until further order leave Gorakhpur every Tuesday at

03.25 hrs, from Anandnagar at 04.10 hrs, from Siddharthanagar at 04.37 hrs, from Balmampur at 06.08 hrs, from Gonda at 07.30 hrs, Lucknow (NR) at 10.15 hrs, Kanpur Central at 12.10 hrs, Farrukhabad at 15.18 hrs, Kasganj at 17.15 hrs, Mathura at 19.25 hrs, Achhnera at 20.20 hrs, Bharatpur at 21.00 hrs, the second day from Kota at 00.20 hrs, Ratlam at 04.10 hrs, from Vadodara at 08.18 hrs, from Surat at 10.22 hrs, from Vapi at 11.42 hrs, Borivali at 13.25 hrs and reach Bandra Terminus at 14.25 hrs. A total of 22 coaches, including one each of generator-cum-luggage van and SLRD and 20 of general second class will be attached in this special train.

GKP-ANAND VIHAR TERMINUS SPL: The 05057 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminus weekly special from January 28 until further order every Thursday will depart from Gorakhpur at 20.55 hrs, from Khalilabad at 21.35 hrs, from Basti at 22.04 hrs, from Gonda at 23.20 hrs, from Lucknow (NR) on the second day at 02.35 hrs, Moradabad at 07.43 hrs, Ghaziabad at 10.08 hrs and reach Anand Vihar Terminus at 10.40 hrs. On the other hand, the 05058 Anand Vihar Terminus-Gorakhpur weekly special train will every Wednesday from January 27 until further order depart from Anand Vihar Terminus at 17.10 hrs, from Ghaziabad at 17.45 hrs, Moradabad at 20.38 hrs, from Lucknow (NR) on the second day at 02.05 hrs, Gonda at 04.30 hrs, Basti at 05.38 hrs, Khalilabad at 06.02 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 07.20 hrs. A total of 21 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, four of general second class, seven of sleeper class, six of AC third and two of AC second will be attached in the train.

Mau-Anand Vihar Terminus from Jan 24

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of the people will run the 05025 Mau-Anand Vihar Terminus bi-weekly special train from January 24 until further order every Sunday and Tuesday and 05026 Anand Vihar Terminus-Mau bi-weekly special from January 25 every Monday and Friday. All coaches in them will be of reserved category and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. The 05025 Mau-Anand Vihar Terminus bi-weekly special will from January 24 every Sunday and Tuesday leave Mau at 10.50 hrs, Muhammadabad at 11.13 hrs, am from Azamgarh at 11.55 hrs, from Shahganj at 13.30 hrs, from Akbarpur at 14.10 hrs, from Faizabad at 15.39 hrs, from Lucknow (Northern Railway) at 19.00 hrs, Kanpur Central at 20.45 hrs., the second day Aligarh at 00.32 hrs, Ghaziabad at 02.25 hrs and reach Anand Vihar Terminus at 03.00 hrs. On the other hand, the 05026 Anand Vihar Terminus-Mau bi-weekly special will from January 25 depart every Monday and Friday depart from Anand Vihar Terminus at 13.25 hrs, Ghaziabad at 13.54 hrs, from Aligarh at 15.00 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 19:15 hrs, Lucknow (NR) at 21.10 hrs, Faizabad at 23.50 hrs, Akbarpur at 01.35 hrs on second day, Shahganj at 03.25 hrs, Azamgarh at 04.15 hrs, Muhammadabad at 04.40 hrs and reach Mau at 05.40 hrs A total of 21 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, four of general second class, seven of sleeper, six

of AC third and two of AC second class will be attached in the train.

EXHIBITION: In the three divisions of North Eastern Railway (NER) — Lucknow, Varanasi and Izzatnagar, an exhibition of safety and other important critical materials approved by the Research, Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow, was organised recently. In all the materials there RDSO specification and annual requirements of railways besides their rates was displayed whose requirement was in the area of railway operations (carriage and wagon, TRD and signalling). It is noteworthy here that only one or two ISO certified agencies supplying these materials are there. The aim of the exhibition was to increase the vendor base, give impetus to the Make in India campaign, to make business simple and convenient and develop a competitive environment, CPRO PK Singh said. In the exhibition around 40 materials, including 25 KV double pole vacuum circuit breaker, light weight section insulator assembly, micro processor-based numerical integrated feeder protection module, Delta-1 type high resistive fault selective relay, panto flash over protection relay, thermoshrink jointing kit, primary digital multi flexing equipment etc were displayed. Through the exhibition the entrepreneurs launching their startup had to be attracted to manufacture these goods and supply them to the railways. It is noteworthy that in this exhibition many vendors showed their interest in the production and supply of these materials.

Ashish declared Man of the Match for all-round show

PNS ■ VARANASI

During the ongoing inter-departmental T20 cricket tournament being played at the Mini Stadium of the North Eastern Railway (NER) under the joint aegis of the Manoranjan Institute and Divisional Sports Association (DSA) the last league match was played between the Personnel and Operating departments on Wednesday. Batting first, the Personnel department team scored a total of 143 runs for four wickets in 20 overs. Arun contributed 51 runs, Randhir remained unbeaten on 49 while Amit 16. For the Operating department Govinda, Gajanan and Ashish took one wicket each. In



response, the team from the Operating department scored 147 runs for six wickets in 17.2 overs and won the match by four runs. Ashish contributed valuable 53 runs and remained unbeaten while Arvind 34 and Chandan 12 respectively. For the Personnel department, Abhishek took two wickets while Arun, Sujet, Randhir and Shobhanath one wicket each. Ashish was declared Man of the Match for his all-round

performance. Both teams have reached the semi-finals. The umpires were Pramod Rai and Anil Yadav. The semi-final will be played on January 15 and 16. Railway employees and sports lovers were present in the pavilion.

Investigation trade-off: CBI raids 14 locations, 4 of its own officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 14 locations including Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurgaon, Meerut and Kanpur on the premises of four of its own officials, including two Deputy Superintendents of Police, an Inspector and a Steno besides private persons, including advocates, on allegations of compromising the investigation of certain cases on "extraneous pecuniary considerations".

In Ghaziabad, the searches were conducted at the CBI's premier training academy. The four CBI personnel, including two DSPs were booked for allegedly receiving bribes to compromise investigation against companies accused of bank fraud. While the agency did not give out much details about the case in which its own personnel are under its probe, sources said the accused personnel are being investigated for allegedly taking huge amounts of bribe from the accused companies in bank fraud cases being probed by the CBI. The CBI officials booked by the agency are DSPs RK Rishi and RK Sangwan, Inspector Kapil Dhankad and Steno Samir Kumar Singh, they said. The searches led to an embarrassing situation for the agency as it had to even search the premises of Rishi, who is posted in the CBI Academy, Ghaziabad where the Central anti-corruption agency trains and prepares its officers for future roles in the organisation. In addition to CBI officers,

inating documents including alleged fake/forged ST certificates.

It was alleged in the first case that the accused Ramesh Chand Meena, son of Chiranjil Lal obtained job for the post of Lower Division Clerk in Employees Provident Fund Organisation on July 24, 1985 at the strength of alleged fake/forged ST certificate purportedly issued by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Hindaun, Sawai Madhopur. However, the accused was allegedly hailing from Mathura (UP). It was further alleged that he was promoted to the post of Account Officer/Enforcement Officer after his joining by using benefits of the said ST certificate, the agency said.

In the second case, it was alleged that the accused Ramesh Chand Meena, son of Govind Ram got a job with MTNL under ST quota on the basis of an alleged forged/fake certificate purportedly issued by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Deeg (Rajasthan). However, he was allegedly a native of Hathras (UP). It was further alleged that the accused joined MTNL and was appointed as Junior Telecom Officer (JTO) through departmental examination under ST Category. He retired as Senior Manager (Telephone) on July 31, 2018 from MTNL, New Delhi. It was also alleged that the accused had managed to get allotment of a DDA Flat under the benefits of ST quota in the year 1987. Investigation in both the cases is continuing, it added.



cadets from foreign countries are also trained at the state-of-the-art academy in Ghaziabad. Meanwhile, in a separate development the CBI conducted searches in an ongoing investigation of two separate cases which led to recovery of incrim-

AGRA, BRANCH ADDRESS - SHOP NO. 1, 3 TO 16, BLOCK NO 51, ANUPAM PLAZA II, SANJAY PLACE, AGRA 282 002, UTTAR PRADESH SHIKOHABAD,FIRO FRZ UP BRANCH ADDRESS - GROUND FLOOR, HOUSE NO-1144, KATRA MEERA, SHIKOHABAD, DISTRICT FIROZABAD, UTTAR PRADESH ETAWAH, BRANCH ADDRESS - GROUND & FIRST FLOOR, 166, NEW COLONY MOHALLA CHOUGURJI, KACHEHRI ROAD ETAWAH, UTTAR PRADESH, PIN 206001 BAGHPAT BRANCH - GROUND FLOOR, KHASRA NO.882 AND 885,SETH ASHA RAM JAIN MARKET, DELHI-BAGHPAT ROAD , BAGHPAT, UTTAR PRADESH MEERUT, BRANCH HOTEL CRYSTAL PALACE, G - 2/47 CIVIL LINES, BOUNDARY ROAD, MEERUT DADRI DDR UP ADDRESS - GROUND FLOOR & BASEMENT, KHASRA NO. 1421, RAILWAY ROAD, DADRI, DIST. A TEHSIL, -GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH DEOBAND BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, KHASRA NO. 5507, G.T. ROAD, TRUCK UNION CHOWK, DEOBAND, DIST.SAHARANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH SHAMLI , BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND & FIRST FLOOR, PROPERTY NO.241, OLD NO-347,1056 & WARD NO.10, DHEEMANPURA,M.S.K. ROAD,SHAMLI KHATAULI [UP] BRANCH - GROUND FLOOR, BUILDING NO. 56,WARD NO 10, GANESH PURI,G.T. ROAD , KHATAULI,DIST. MUZAFFARNAGAR,UTTAR PRADESH, PIN 251201		GORAKHPUR BRANCH ADDRESS -GORAKHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH, PLOT NO 560, MOHALLA PURDIPUR,AD CHOWK, BANK ROAD , GORAKHPUR LUCKNOW ROAD OPP NAAG KOTHI, HARDOI 241001 UTTAR PRADESH MAHARAJGANJ BRANCH ADDRESS - GROUND FLOOR, RAJIV NAGAR,COLLECTORATE ROAD, MAHARAJGANJ,UTTAR PRADESH KHALILABAD KHL UP GROUND FLOOR, HOUSE NO. 51, KHASRA NO. 356, CA & S 357 CHA, SUGAR MILL ROAD, NEAR TEACHER COLONY, KHALILABAD, UTTAR PRADESH 272175 ALAMBAGH, LUCKNOW, BRANCH ADDRESS-KHASRA NO/8262 SA, 8273, SNEH NAGAR, MAUZA KANAUSI/ INDIRA NAGAR, LUCKNOW [UP], BRANCH ADDRESS -KHASRA NO/ 567, NEAR HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LTD(HAL), FAIZABAD ROAD, INDIRA NAGAR,LUCKNOW PALIA KALAN, BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR MOHALLA AHIRAN BYE PASS ROAD PALIA KALAN DIST KHERI UTTAR PRADESH PIN 262902 FAIZABAD [UP] BRANCH ADDRESS PLOT NO 21/16 OPP CIRCUIT HOUSE CIVIL LINES CITY FAIZABAD SITAPUR BRANCH ADDRESS SN 147, FUTKARSTHAN 4 & 1, RAJ SUDHA, EYE HOSPITAL ROAD, CIVIL LINES, SITAPUR, UTTAR PRADESH BALRAMPUR BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR PLOT NO 31-32 ANAND BAGH BHAGHWATIGANJ OPP AGGARWAL BHAWAN & PWD OFFICE BALRAMPUR.		MORADABAD BRANCH ADDRESS - 8/10/6 SARAI KHALSA CIVIL LINES, NEAR HEAD POST OFFICE, MORADABAD GAJRAULA, BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, KHASRA NO. 651, BUDH BAZAR, GAJRAULA, DIST. JYOTIBA PHULE NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH, PIN 244235 RAMPUR BRANCH ADDRESS - GROUND FLOOR, SHAH PALACE RAHE MURTAZA, CIVIL LINES RAMPUR, UTTAR PRADESH PURANPUR, BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR MUNICIPAL NO 330 MOHALLA GANESH GANJ STATION ROAD PURANPUR DIST PILBHIT UTTAR PRADESH RAMPUR ROAD BIL BILA BRANCH ADDRESS KHASRA NO 273, GROUND FLOOR, BILASPUR, RAMPUR, UTTAR PRADESH, DEEN DAYAL PURAM, BAREILLY BRANCH ADDRESS UPPER GROUND FLOOR, SHOP NO. 17 & 18,PLOT NO. B, DEEN DAYAL PURAM, BAREILLY,UTTAR PRADESH BAREILLY,BRANCH ADDRESS - 146, CIVIL LINES, BAREILLY 243001 UTTAR PRADESH INDIA VARANASI , BRANCH ADDRESS -C-19/13A, M-8, GROUND & 1ST FLOOR,SHASTRI NAGAR, SIGRA,VARANASI MAGBOOL ALAM ROAD,VARANASI [UP], BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, S-8107, VARANASI TRADE CENTRE, MAGBOOL,ALAM ROAD, VARANASI UTTAR PRADESH, PIN 221002 JAUNPUR BRANCH KHASRA NO 871 AND 8712, OLD MUNICIPAL NO. 339, SARAI KAJI KADAM MIYAPUR, KUTCHERY ROAD, CIVIL LINES, JAUNPUR 222 002, UTTAR PRADESH	
THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE GOLD ORNAMENTS (HERE IN REFERRED TO AS THE ASSETS) IS TO BE AUCTIONED ON "AS IS WHERE I S" BASIS. THE GOLD ORNAMENTS ARE PLEDGED TO THE BANK BY THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS AND GUARANTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE LOAN FACILITY AVAILED AGAINST PLEDGE OF THE SAID GOLD ITEMS.					
NAME/ADDRESS/LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER/TOTAL OUTSTANDING -EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES,FEES AND DAMAGES	GOLD (ASSETS) NET WEIGHT IN GRAMS/BASE-RESERVE PRICE	NAME/ADDRESS/LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER/TOTAL OUTSTANDING -EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES,FEES AND DAMAGES	GOLD (ASSETS) NET WEIGHT IN GRAMS/BASE-RESERVE PRICE	NAME/ADDRESS/LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER/TOTAL OUTSTANDING -EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES,FEES AND DAMAGES	GOLD (ASSETS) NET WEIGHT IN GRAMS/BASE-RESERVE PRICE
NAME SHABNAM KHAN ADDRESS W O KAMIL, HUSSAIN SEEKRI CHAR HISSA NAGAR AGRA SIKRI SIKRICHAR HISSA AGRA UTTAR PRADESH 283110 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 92006003042873 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 458237 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA[UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 458237	NAME RAJNISH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA ADDRESS AXIS SECURITIES LTD BRANCH OFFICE 6 SATYAMAN POALACE 3RD FLOOR OPP INDIA/AVADH HOTEL SAPORU MARG LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 226001 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060017704909 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 119037.65 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME GORAKHPUR [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 119037.65	NAME MOHD AFSAR ADDRESS 1274.SAIFYAN.AGHWANPUR,MORADABAD MORADABAD - MORADABAD UTTAR PRADESH 244001 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060044068557 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 170431.16 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME MORADABAD [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 170431.16
NAME KUMAR ARPIT ADDRESS S/O AJAY SINGH YADAV, FLAT NO. H -3 GANPATI GALAXY APARTMENT, BHAVNA STATE SIKANDRA, AGRA UTTAR PRADESH 282007 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060040409617 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 312279.64 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 312279.64	NAME RAM ASHESH ADDRESS DIXON TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD B -14/15 PHASE-II DADRI ROAD NODA UTTAR PRADESH 201305 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060047686648 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 59255.39 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME JAUNPUR [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 59255.39	NAME DEVENDRA PRATAP SINGH ADDRESS S/O SHIV CHARAN SINGH PO - MAHESHTA MAHESHTA AMROHA DHANAURA MAHESHTA AMROHA UTTAR PRADESH 244236 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 91806008841892 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 66552 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME GAJRAULA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 66552
NAME ABDULLAH SHAHID ADDRESS 24/234, NAI BASTI KOLIYANA AGRA FORT AGRA, AGRA UTTAR PRADESH 282003 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060061867346 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 290047.49 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 290047.49	NAME RAJNISH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA ADDRESS AXIS SECURITIES LTD BRANCH OFFICE 6 SATYAMAN POALACE 3RD FLOOR OPP INDIA/AVADH HOTEL SAPORU MARG LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 226001 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060031764581 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 80409 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME GORAKHPUR [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 80409	NAME MANOJ KUMAR ADDRESS S/O RAMESH CHAND VILLAGE VASI SAHASOULI SIHALI JAGEER AMROHA SHALAJAGIR NEAR SHIV MANDIR AMROHA UTTAR PRADESH 244241 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060088523785 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 57162 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME GAJRAULA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 57162
NAME KUMAR ARPIT ADDRESS S/O AJAY SINGH YADAV, FLAT NO. H -3 GANPATI GALAXY APARTMENT, BHAVNA STATE SIKANDRA, AGRA UTTAR PRADESH 282007 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060043515384 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 254665 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 254665	NAME RAJNISH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA ADDRESS AXIS SECURITIES LTD BRANCH OFFICE 6 SATYAMAN POALACE 3RD FLOOR OPP INDIA/AVADH HOTEL SAPORU MARG LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 226001 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060014513074 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 47221 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME GORAKHPUR [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 47221	NAME FAZUL AHAD KHAN ADDRESS S/O ABDUL AHAD KHAN 38/39 SHAHABAD GET 1 POLICE STATION FAHSHIL, SADAR RAMPURNEAR RAMPUR, UTTAR PRADESH 244901 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 92006005763024 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 542579.04 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME RAMPUR [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 542579.04
NAME RAJESH SISODIA ADDRESS H NO 6 & MANU APPARTMENT TEGORE NAGAR AGRA UTTAR PRADESH 282005 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 91906000710382 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 211551 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 211551	NAME RAMANIVAS ADDRESS WARD NO 19 SHASTRI NAGAR P P P MAHARAJ GANJ, WARD NO 19 SHASTRI NAGAR P P P MAHARAJ MAHARAJGANJ UTTAR PRADESH 273303 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 916060026860949 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 106017 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME MAHARAJGANJ [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 106017	NAME JEET SINGH ADDRESS BARANI MADHOTANDA PURANPUR, PILBHITNEAR GURUDWARA PILBHIT UTTAR PRADESH 282122 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 916060055671647 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 78612 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME PURANPUR PBT UP	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 78612
NAME AZIZ AHMED ADDRESS A-18 INDERPURI NEW AGRA NEAR OF ABBU ULHA DARGAH AGRA UTTAR PRADESH 282005 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060062258589 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 183407 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 183407	NAME SAHAIBUDIN ALI ADDRESS VILL PO-KHUTHA SADAR DIST-MAHARAJGANJ MAHARAJGANJ UTTAR PRADESH 273303 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 91806009385172 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 93946 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME MAHARAJGANJ [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 93946	NAME AKASH GUPTA ADDRESS HARNAAHI POST CHANDPU R, CHANDPUR SHAHAJAHANPURPRIMARY SCHOOL SHAHAJAHANPUR UTTAR PRADESH 247123 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060024318862 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 51472.5 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME PURANPUR PBT UP	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 51472.5
NAME AZIZ AHMED ADDRESS A-18 INDERPURI NEW AGRA NEAR OF ABBU ULHA DARGAH AGRA UTTAR PRADESH 282005 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060056988584 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 179531.01 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 179531.01	NAME SUDHIR GUPTA ADDRESS S/O HARISHANKER GUPTA, 534 , BALI GRAM JAISHRI , POST BALI, JAI SRINEAR BALI INTER COLLEGE MAHARAJGANJ UTTAR PRADESH 273304 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060021095131 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 94169.2 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME MAHARAJGANJ [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 94169.2	NAME VIPIN KUMAR ADDRESS H NO 108 NARKHERA CHAKARPUR CHAKARPUR P S BAZPUR TEHSIL BAZPUR UDHAM SINGH NAGAR , BAZPUR UTTAR PRADESH 262401 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060084516022 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 112338 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME RAMPUR ROAD BIL BILUPA	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 112338
NAME SUBODH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA ADDRESS 79 GROUND FLOOR,PARASWATH PANCHATI, FATEHABAD ROAD TAUGANJ,AGRA - AGRA UTTAR PRADESH 282001 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060065590497 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 137189 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 137189	NAME MANOJ ADDRESS S/O SHREENIVAS CHOWK MAHARAJGANJ , MAHARAJGANJ UTTAR PRADESH 273303 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060044586375 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 68885 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME MAHARAJGANJ [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 68885	NAME JITENDRA JAISWAL ADDRESS 96 - - BALLIA UTTAR PRADESH 243402 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060050238887 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 348509 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME DEEN DAYAL PURAM, BAREILLY [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 348509
NAME ATUL KUMAR ADDRESS MODHA MAI ABAI AS FIBAD ASFABAD NEAR GOVIND AUTO FIROZABAD UTTAR PRADESH 283203 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060030909007 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 80948 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 80948	NAME SHRI CHAND GUPTA ADDRESS S/O RAM DULARE GUPTA, MOHALLA QUAZIPUR TELI TOLA, POST MAGHAR, MAGHAR, SANTAKABIRNAGAR, UTTARPRADESHPRIMARY SCHOOL, SANT KABIR NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH 272173 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 917060067554860 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 133532.42 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME KHALILABAD KHL UP	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 133532.42	NAME JITENDRA JAISWAL ADDRESS 96 - - BALLIA UTTAR PRADESH 243402 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 92006004986653 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 285736 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME DEEN DAYAL PURAM, BAREILLY [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 285736
NAME SANKALP SHARMA ADDRESS S/O: KRISHAN MURARI SHARMA,PEER KALYANI,AGRA, BELAN GANJ19/86 AGRA UTTAR PRADESH 282004 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060005058569 LOAN OUTSTANDING 66110 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME AGRA [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 66110	NAME DEVENDRA TRIPATHI ADDRESS C -1165 VISHESH KHAND GOMTI NAGAR NEAR CARZ SPA LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 226010 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060049690450 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 1085600 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME LUCKNOW [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 1085600	NAME PARUL SINGH ADDRESS W/O : RAHUL KUMAR SINGH, 97, NAMDARPUR CHANDAN, RAJA-KA-TAJPUR,BUNOR, UTTAR PRADESHNEAR M S ENTER COLLEGE BUNOR UTTAR PRADESH 246735 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060040501884 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 155389.79 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME DEEN DAYAL PURAM, BAREILLY [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 155389.79
NAME KAPIL DEV SINGH ADDRESS S/O SATENDRA SINGH PARASARAMPUR KUSMARA MAINPURI ELABANS U P NEAR MA SARSWATI INTER COLLAGE MAINPURI UTTAR PRADESH 260302 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 917060047751052 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 81564 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME SHIKOHABAD FIRO FRZ UP	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 81564	NAME DEVESH KUMAR SAXENA ADDRESS 35-36/2, SHIVAM CITY JANKI PURAM EXT. NR. DRONACHARYA ACADEMY, LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 228021 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060019852141 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 167203.41 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME LUCKNOW [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 167203.41	NAME VINAY SINGH ADDRESS S/O VIRENDRA SINGH AIR FORCE GATE KANJA ROAD NEAR HERMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL ALOK NAGA BAREILLY UTTAR PRADESH 243122 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060087611442 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 82679 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME DEEN DAYAL PURAM, BAREILLY [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 82679
NAME ANOOP KUMAR ADDRESS GANGAPUR MAINPURI UTTAR PRADESH 205265 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060012525649 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 55890 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME SHIKOHABAD FIRO FRZ UP	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 55890	NAME RAJKUMAR BAIYAPAYE ADDRESS S/O DURGA PRASAD BAIYAPAYE NAWADA BAHRAICH BARNAPUR BARNAPUR LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 271825 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060093844171 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 896.971 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME LUCKNOW [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 89697.51	NAME TUSHAR MAHESHWARI ADDRESS 116,MOHALLA NO 1 KHERI ROAD,TEACHERS COLONY NER ST JOSHA SCHOOL,VARANASI UTTAR PRADESH 221003 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060070135845 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 202176.74 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME VARANASI [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 202176.74
NAME DEVENDRA YADAV ADDRESS S/O RAMBEER SINGH YADAV GRAM TAKEEPURA POST MOONI ETAWAH,MOONI- ETAWAH UTTAR PRADESH 206123 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060050754855 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 184094 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME ETAWAH [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 184094	NAME MOHAMMAD SAQIB ADDRESS 104 EDEN ENCLAVE KURSI ROAD NEAR POWER HOUSE GURAMBA GURAMBA BAKSHI KA TALBA LUCK NOW NEAR POWER HOUSE LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 226026 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060050420235 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 674976.72 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME INDIRA NAGAR, LUCKNOW [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 674976.72	NAME NANDIAL RAI ADDRESS S/O: DURGA PRASAD RAJ,JOGA MUSAHIB, GHAZIPUR ,JOGAMUSAHIB32 GHAZIPUR UTTAR PRADESH 233223 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060050182548 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 351145.46 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME VARANASI [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 351145.46
NAME RAHUL TIWARI ADDRESS HNO 193 DREAM LAND COLONY STATION DOBARI CIVIL LINE ETAWAH UTTAR PRADESH 206001 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060094531539 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 106083.81 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME ETAWAH [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 106083.81	NAME SACHIN JASWANI ADDRESS HNO 97 MANAS ENCLAVE, TEH LUCKNOW DIST LUCKNOW LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 226016 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060027661229 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 668403.26 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME INDIRA NAGAR, LUCKNOW [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 668403.26	NAME JAI SINGH ADDRESS H.NO. GAYATRI NAGAR MALAHYA RAMNA PS - LANKA TEH- SADAR, VARANASI UTTAR PRADESH 221011 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 91806004938 1845 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 222741.82 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME VARANASI [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 222741.82
NAME ANKUR CHAUHAN ADDRESS - DESHRAJ,BAGHPAT BAGHPAT,BAGHPAT,BAGHPATPURANA KASBA BAGHPAT UTTAR PRADESH 250609 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060043043208 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 291543 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME BAGHPAT [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 291543	NAME ANJANI KUMAR SINGH ADDRESS C.10 SURYA VIHAR COLONY PHASE 2 NAUBASTA KALA DEVA ROAD CHINHAUT, LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 226016 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060015637087 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 170964.6 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME LUCKNOW [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 170964.6	NAME SUSHILA ADDRESS W/O RAJKUMAR JAISWAL BHAGWANDAS NAGAR COLONY SIGRA VARANASI,CHHITPURD 58 / 7-24 VARANASI UTTAR PRADESH 221010 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 9180601073178073 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 210902.3 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME VARANASI [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 210902.3
NAME MOHAMMAD MIRAN ADDRESS S/O NISAR CHATTE WALI GALI MOHALLA MUGHAL PURA, BAGHPAT UTTAR PRADESH 250609 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060042686881 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 123313 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME BAGHPAT [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 123313	NAME ABHISHEK KUMAR SRIVASTAVA ADDRESS HN 19/15 UTTAR DHAUNA TIWARI GANJ TEH LUCKNOW LUCKNOW UTTAR PRADESH 228026 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060038324182 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 139098.6 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME INDIRA NAGAR, LUCKNOW [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 139098.6	NAME PUSHPA YADAV ADDRESS W/O AJAY YADAV SH 1217 1 K HATYIA SHIVPUR VARANASI TARNA NEAR ST JOSHA SCHOOL,VARANASI UTTAR PRADESH 221003 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060070135845 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 202176.74 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME VARANASI [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 202176.74
NAME SATYAVIR S/O RAJAL ADDRESS AGGARWAL MANDI TATIRI BAGHPAT BAGHPAT UTTAR PRADESH 250601 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060093724135 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 108289 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DAMAGES) BRANCH NAME BAGHPAT [UP]	NET GRAMS/ PRICE RS 108289	NAME FARZAN AHMED ADDRESS R/O H NO -115 FIRST FLOOR INSAF NAGAR OPP PANI GAON PLACE SECTOR-10 IN			

Go, India!

As the last Test of the Australia tour gets underway today, here’s hoping that Team India will vanquish its demons



Courage and heroism are not restricted to the battlefield; there are times when these prized characteristics spill onto the cricket field too, among other unlikely arenas. Just as the valiant Indian cricket team showed with a great win in the face of adversity in Melbourne, especially coming as it did after the humiliation at Adelaide when India’s vaunted batting line-up was bowled out for a truly embarrassing 36. And though we didn’t register a win in the Sydney Test, India fought tooth and nail, battled pain and a hostile Australian bowling attack to prevent the hosts from moving up in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series that’s currently tied 1-1. “...This one is a tough one to swallow. Our bowlers were superb but...,” Australian skipper Tim Paine said after the match. By the time you read this, the Brisbane Test — the last Test of the series, an ultimate decider that will test the resilience, composure and physical fitness of the players — would have got underway. Australia need a win to regain the trophy but a draw will suffice for India to retain it for another couple of years. So what’s in store for the Indian cricket fan? Of course, time alone will deliver the result but one thing we can be confident of: That the Indian players will leave nothing to chance to win this one and, will not only perform the best their bodies and spirit allow but hopefully go beyond, into the realm of the surreal. The Indian team’s hotel may have turned into a mini hospital but the players, as well as members of the Indian diaspora, are walking with a lot of pride at their team’s showing, especially since the time the atmosphere was soured by racist chants and abuses from a section of the spectators.

The injuries to key players are a clear and present threat. The list of prominent players who are nursing their wounds comprises pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja and Hanuma Vihari. Till late on Thursday, Team India had delayed naming the playing XI and there was word that the names would be announced only in the morning, just ahead of the beginning of the Test, thus giving the injured players the maximum time to recuperate and allowing them to take the field after assessing their condition. Notably, Ajinkya Rahane has been performing consistently in his new role after skipper Virat Kohli returned to India on paternity leave to be at the side of his wife Anushka Sharma for the delivery of their first child. Rahane was pushed into a leadership position he did not necessarily want but one where he has since been conducting himself brilliantly. Most importantly, all of India’s players have dealt with the emotional deprivation of the ‘bubble’ well, steering clear of breaking it no matter what the temptations. They have battled it all in the ongoing Test series, within themselves and with the world outside: Issues with facilities, racial slurs, losing key players at crucial junctures, injury after injury, issues with bubble life for multiple months et al. Irrespective of the result, therefore, Team India can return with their heads held high. Meanwhile, Australian skipper Tim Paine urged the home fans to refrain from causing “any trouble”. Gabba has been a fortress for the Aussies where they haven’t lost a game since 1987-88.

Virushka set the bar

The star couple has politely asked the paparazzi not to take pictures of their newborn daughter



One of the most photographed couples in the country, cricketer Virat Kohli and actor Anushka Sharma have laid down the rules for the paparazzi and asked the pesky photographers, who often cross the line between the demands of “profession” and intrusion of privacy, to stay away from their newborn child. On Wednesday, in a sweetly-worded note, they urged the paparazzi to refrain from taking pictures of their baby girl. Anushka and Virat sent a note to the paparazzi fraternity in Mumbai, which read: “Hi, thank you for all the love that you have given us all these years. We are happy to celebrate this momentous occasion with you. As parents, we have a simple request to make to you. We want to protect the privacy of our child and we need your help and support.” The couple clearly established that they will ensure that the paparazzi get the content featuring both the stars but requested them to steer clear of their child. “While we will always ensure that you get all the content you need featuring us, we would request you to kindly not take or carry any content that has our child. We know that you will understand where we are coming from and we thank you for the same.” To their credit, the paps agreed to leave the child alone, in turn winning the appreciation of veteran actor Raveena Tandon who took the opportunity to thank them for respecting her wishes too when she was trying to protect her children, who were minors at the time. By reaching out to the paparazzi, Virushka, as the couple is popularly known, have shown the celebrity world how it is done because the relationship between famous people and the paparazzi has been tumultuous, to say the least. While most of the time the celebrities are fine with photographers clicking them as it increases their visibility, like every other human they, too, cherish their private moments and don’t want them splashed on the front pages of tabloids and on websites.

Fame, they say, has a price but most A-listers don’t want their children to pay the price for their parents’ celebrity status. But there are always exceptions to the rule. Like Saif Ali Khan and Shah Rukh Khan don’t have any issues with pictures of Taimur and AbRam being splashed all over the media and the internet. Even though the older children of both the actors were almost never photographed when they were growing up, both the fathers seem to have no reservation where these latest additions to the family are concerned, thanks to the changing times, one can suppose. As a result, Taimur and AbRam have become social media influencers at such a tender age, as have Aaradhya Bachchan, Misha Kapoor and Inaaya Naumi Kemmu. How these star kids will deal with the pressure of the paparazzi always following them, or maybe the lack of attention once they grow up, only time will tell. At the moment, they are obviously too young to be aware of the repeated violation of their privacy and the danger it entails to their well-being. After all, we live in a country where the five-year-old daughter of a cricketer got a rape threat just because her father was not performing well on the field. It is well that Virushka have decided to keep their private life private for the safety of their child. In fact, many celebrities around the world guard their children zealously from photographers and there have been instances where the paparazzi have been sued for crossing the line. A case in point is Hollywood actor George Clooney, who sued a pap and his publication for climbing over the walls of his villa and clicking photos of his child. Traditionally, the paparazzi are looked down upon as being a thorn in the side of celebrities. However, they alone cannot be blamed for what they do because the public has created a demand for such pictures. If people did not get voyeuristic pleasure out of the candid photos of celebrities and their families, the demand for such pics would not exist and publications would stop paying hefty sums to intrusive photographers.

Green star over Bengal

As Mamata Banerjee’s domain West Bengal is Asaduddin Owaisi’s next election stop, the State can expect explosive electioneering



PRAFULL GORADIA

Asaduddin Owaisi is a politician with blue blood, which has turned crimson by barristry, a surname imported from Arabia and the leadership of a century-old party founded by Nawab Mahmood Nawaz Khan. In 1944, Razakar leader Qasim Rizvi was selected as the party’s leader, to also become the extra military force of the Nizam of Hyderabad.

In 1957, Rizvi was exiled to Pakistan but, before departing, he handed over the Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (MIM) to his right-hand man, Janab Abdul Wahid Owaisi. His son Sultan Salahuddin took over the party in 1975, and it was inherited by his illustrious son Asaduddin. The party headquarters are based in an impressive building, called Dar-us-Salam, near the famed Charminar.

Asaduddin inherited a single Lok Sabha seat, the Hyderabad city constituency. It is to his credit that the MIM is today an all-India name. It now threatens to bite off some Assembly seats in Bengal. Owais means “little wolf” in Arabic and, therefore, he is likely to hunt voraciously. By a stroke of coincidence, he was fielded against me in a television channel’s programme. Our debate was on a communal controversy. The anchor asked for his comments first, to which I reacted that Owaisi’s views might be coloured by those prevailing in a neighbouring country. His counter-reaction was explosive.

Thus, West Bengal can expect explosive electioneering. Mamata Didi too will not let Owaisi go quietly. She must know that for Muslim voters, there are no insiders or outsiders. Languages, other than Urdu, are unimportant. The sacred thread of Islam binds them all. Muslims are *mominis*; the others, however neighbourly, are “different”. Hindu arguments do not cut ice with Muslims. The main fight between Didi and Janab will be in the eastern districts of West Bengal.

I imagine that the Hyderabad appeal will be: “Come and vote for me, because I shall do everything for you. I have no loyalty other than towards the *bandas* of Allah the Merciful, whereas my opposition has other communities too to cater to. My party will be exclusively for you while the opposing kitchen will have to cook vegetarian as well as non-vegetarian; *niraamish*’ as well as *saamish*”.

The result of their secular duality has been the Tareekhe-e-Intekhab, or the history of elections in India: Flatter the Muslim, occasionally



frighten him with a riot and then protect him, going back to flattery. In the eyes of Allah the Merciful, he may be a *momin* but in the view of the vote harvester, he is a tiger in a circus cage; the only grouse being that he is too sparingly fed to attack. Jawaharlal Nehru once said that he was a Hindu only by accident; he was a Muslim by culture and an Englishman by upbringing. He, therefore, knew how to make a Muslim tick. And tick he had to, for the Congress was dominated by the Patelites. Nehru had to build his own support base. Muslims, traumatised by Partition, were his first choice. Reputedly, they voted nearly 90 per cent whereas, in the early elections, the rest of the voters polled not more than 45 per cent. The net result was that one Muslim voter was worth two Hindus.

With the passage of time, things have changed; more Hindus go to the polling booth now. Late Syed Shahabuddin once wrote in a national daily that for his community, if there were a choice between development and identity, it would go for identity. In Nehru’s days, by electing him, the Muslim love for identity won. Although they were poor, India was a wonderful country. Lately, Hindu candidates are winning more because their community votes more. India has, therefore, become an “insecure” country.

For all these reasons, the Muslim clusters, wherever they be, are in search of new heroes; the parties of old ones appear to be folding up. One such superhero is Asaduddin, literally the

“MAMATA MUST KNOW THAT FOR MUSLIM VOTERS, THERE ARE NO INSIDERS OR OUTSIDERS. THE MAIN FIGHT BETWEEN DIDI AND JANAB WILL BE IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL.”

lion of religion. Didi’s straight reply would be that Muslims alone cannot form a Government; they are too few. They have to combine with others and only then can they win a majority. Go back to the days and years of Babu Jagjivan Ram, who ended up as the Deputy Prime Minister. Never in his political career did he publicly discuss his caste. Had he done so, he might have got a maximum of

18 per cent votes. Wherefrom would he have gathered a minimum of another 33 per cent? The same will be the problem with Owaisi. Can he form a Government in West Bengal? Therefore, why waste your vote on such a party? As soon as the election is over, he would pack his *achkan* in a suitcase and take a flight to Hyderabad, bidding goodbye to the Bengalis and promising to see them in the next election. By all means, give him a *bhand/kulhad* of tea, but don’t waste your vote. I have neither an *achkan* nor suitcase, nor any flight to catch. Therefore, vote for me. It is undeniable that the *ummah* has given some votes in Bihar to Owaisi and elected five MLAs. It remains to be seen what these MIM MLAs do in Bengal.

After, say, one or two elections, in the event of an ascending path, whether Owaisi and his party could pose a threat to the integrity of the country, has to be seen. After all, we should not forget Partition. Soon after August 1947, HS Suhrawardy, former Premier of undivided Bengal, wrote to Chaudhry Khaliquzzaman in UP that the strategy for the Muslims staying behind in India should be to gather in clusters or mega ghettos. Incidentally, Khaliquzzaman became the president of the Muslim League in Pakistan after MA Jinnah passed away. This advice might imply that if several clusters gathered together, in due course, more partitions could be engineered. The Government of India should discourage cluster formations from now on.

There is one consolation that Owaisi hails from a land of

dreamers, like Nizam Mir Osman Ali. He had Ali Yavar Jung, then Secretary (Constitutional Affairs), give the view that the Portuguese considered Marmagao to be a dead-weight and would be willing to sell it at a reasonable price. The idea of buying Goa was too attractive to be dissipated by realism. When the World War ended, the prospects of success brightened. On Hyderabad’s side, the prime mover was Sir Mirza Ismail with Sir Walter Monckton as a close second.

The parleys in Lisbon had become known in India. Once India gained Independence, it was unlikely to acquiesce for long to Portugal’s rule over Goa, just as it rejected Hyderabad’s claim to independence. Still less would it permit Hyderabad’s transit rights over land or air space. If only Hyderabad had a port like Marmagao, it would add enormously to its political and economic importance.

The meeting between the Portuguese and Hyderabad negotiators, on November 1, 1947, was attended by Portuguese Prime Minister Salazar, Sir Alexander Roger and Antonio Bastroff Silva. In bitter retrospect, the devoted Hyderabad writer Zubeida Yazdani made two points. One was about Mir Osman Ali Khan’s “megalomaniac notions” which caused him “to lose the balance of his mind”. Her other grievance was that “the Nizam depended too strongly on the Muslim League for the achievement of his goal”, an independent Muslim State in the south of India.

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

SOUND BITE

Many congratulations to the countrymen on Makar Sankranti. I wish Uttaraayan Suryadev to bring new energy in everyone’s life.

Prime Minister
Narendra Modi



With the new state of emergency starting on Friday, the rule is to stay in a home-based retreat. However, schools will remain open as usual.

Portuguese Prime Minister
Antonio Costa



I wasn’t loving myself in the way that I should from 20 to 40 — that’s 20 years. I feel so sad that I did that to myself, just not loving yourself the right way.

Actor
Rebel Wilson



I think Lyon has bowled okay. I thought in the first Test match at Adelaide, he created heaps of chances and didn’t get a hand.

Australian cricketer
Tim Paine



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Make affordable EVs

Sir — It refers to the editorial ‘Welcome, Tesla’ (January 14). Indeed, it is a positive move for the automobile industry in the country not only from the Electric Vehicle (EV) and environment perspective but also from the point of view of auto ancillary and suppliers chain.

Though it would be too early to predict Tesla’s future in India, if it remains confined to its research and development unit in Bengaluru, it may not serve the purpose we want it to for the country.

Needless to mention that cost is one of the most critical parameters for Indian buyers and before launching an India-specific product, Tesla had better conduct a thorough market research to arrive at an acceptable price point; otherwise this entire exercise will be futile. India’s commitment to environment is second to none and Indian buyers will happily accept green cars. But even after factoring in the Government’s tax incentives to set up an industry here, products have to be economically viable for Indian buyers.

Bal Govind
Noida

Resume normal services of Mumbai local trains

The Maharashtra Government should allow resumption of the Mumbai local train services for all categories of commuters without further delay. The local train services are the city’s lifeline and Mumbaikars rely on these for their daily commute.

It seems that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is least bothered about the difficulties facing the citizens while they go to to their workplaces, offices, schools and so on. Even the famous *dabbawalas* who deliver lunch-boxes to people, use local train services. We all have suffered a lot due to the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown but citizens have rendered their full cooperation to the Government in the fight against the pandemic. It is the responsibility of the State Government to take care of citizens now and take a decision in the larger public interest.

However, after its initial shutdown in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the suburban train services have been partially resumed. As of now, the suburban railway system is open only for certain categories of commuters, including those providing essential services, lawyers and women. Railway officials



claim that they have not received any directives from the State Government regarding the opening of services for general public. Any further delay in allowing the full-scale operation of suburban trains will prove counterproductive to the image of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi Government and a setback to the popularity of Thackeray.

Jubel D’ Cruz
Mumbai

COVID threat persists

Sir — It was indeed a welcome sight to see the excitement and joy of movie buffs returning to cinema halls in Kerala after many months since the theatres stopped screening movies due to the pandemic. The crowd really welcomed, celebrated and enjoyed Tamil actor Vijay’s

movie ‘Master’ which is the first to hit the silver screen after several months.

But what gives the real jitters is the way the crowd behaved at the theatres. They completely forgot COVID-related precautions and, at many places, social distancing went for a toss as fans arrived in huge numbers and had all sorts of celebration inside

and outside the cinema halls. Many persons were not even wearing masks. We must not forget that we are still fighting the contagion and there is no way to keep it at bay other than taking precautions and wearing masks. The vaccination drive has not yet started.

M Pradyu Nagarjuna
Kannur

Improve bank services

Sir — The Union Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should take note of the malpractices by banks with respect to credit card payments.

Banks are levying extraordinary interest rates on credit card payments. Many banks also don’t send credit card statements and any shortfall in payment attracts heavy penalty. The penalty imposed for over-the-limit use of credit cards should not be allowed. Instead, banks can refuse payment on reaching the limit. It is ridiculous that an over-payment of just ₹100 may attract a heavy penalty of ₹500 plus the GST.

The Centre and the RBI should bring necessary amendments to make uniform rules with respect to credit cards, including interest rate and penalties. These malpractices by the banks will eventually spoil the image of the Government and also have an adverse effect on customers’ faith in the banking system.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal
Delhi

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

There has to be some equity

The UN has failed to acknowledge the rise of atrocities against Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs. Till this selectivity exists, the world can never truly foster a culture of peace, says **KOUL JALALI**

In yet another incident of human rights violations 11 Hazara coal miners in Baluchistan province of Pakistan were abducted by terrorists and killed recently. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for this heinous act and the relatives of the miners have refused to bury them till their demands for justice are met. The Hazaras are a Persian-speaking ethnic group whose homeland is Hazarajat in Central Afghanistan. In Pakistan they live mostly in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. They are Shia Muslims and in Pakistan they are suspected of loyalty towards Iran.

These latest atrocities have again drawn the attention of the global community towards the persistent killings of Hazaras and have been condemned widely. There have been protests at many places in Pakistan. Because of their somewhat Mongolian features the Hazaras are easily identifiable and in recent years thousands of them have been murdered in Pakistan. However nobody has been ever punished for these persistent ruthless crimes.

Atrocities against the minorities in Pakistan began soon after the country came into existence in 1947 but got intensified once Islamisation started there under General Zia-ul-Haq. Initially, persecution was mostly confined to the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Christians. But later these rights violations got extended to the Shias, Ahmadiyyas, Sufis, Hazaras, Seraklis and other similar sects and groups living in different parts of Pakistan.

These persecutions assume the form of abductions, murders, mass murders, bombings, suicide bombings, forceful conversions to Islam, extrajudicial killings, threats of violence and killings on allegations of blasphemy that are mostly based on personal vendettas and religious bias. The motivating force behind atrocities against these minorities almost in all cases is faith. Whereas the Ahmadiyyas have been declared heretics long back, there is a deep religious divide between the majority Sunni population and the Shia minority.

The worst is that attacks on and desecration of places of worship of minorities have turned into recurring incidents. For instance, on December 31, 2020 a Hindu temple including the Samadhi of a religious leader in Karak District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province were set on fire by a mob led by some clerics and supporters of radical Islamist Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party (Fazal ur Rehman group). According to the police, 100 people including seven leading clerics were arrested. India lodged a strong protest against this act and sought strict action against the perpetrators of the crime.

This heinous incident draws attention to the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement arrived at between the then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan in New Delhi in April, 1950. The Partition had resulted in exchange of populations between the two countries. Under the agreement, among other matters, minority rights in both the nations were confirmed and both the States set up their minority commissions. But seeing the plight of the minorities in Pakistan, it is obvious that the minority commissions have not worked.

Rejecting the Opposition's criticism of the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Indian Parliament in December 2019, Union Home Minister Amit Shah clearly stated that the pact has failed. He said that had the spirit of the agreement been followed by Pakistan there would have been no need to bring the Bill.

In any case, the obvious fact cannot be contended that after the Partition the population of Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Christians who lived in areas which later became a part of Pakistan has dwindled drastically whereas the population of Muslims who lived in areas which later became a part of the Indian Union has grown exponentially. The reasons for this are not far to seek. While in India rights and security of the minorities have been continuously and effectively safeguarded, Pakistan has persistently contravened the provisions of the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement through consistent neglect and persecution of members of minority communities. This is despite the fact that the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement required each country to ensure that its minorities enjoyed complete equality of citizenship with others and received treatment identical to that available to other nationals of their country.

In another such incident trampling on the rights of the minorities, ignoring the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution, the Pakistani Government decided to transfer the management of the Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara to a non-Sikh body. India strongly protested and the incident has been resented all over the world. In a speech at the UN session on 'Culture of Peace' in December 2020, the First Secretary to India's Permanent Mission to the UN agreed with the fact that anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and anti-Christian acts need to be condemned but stated that UN resolutions on such important issues speak only of three Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam. He said that the august body has failed to acknowledge the rise of hatred and violence against Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs and referred to the shattering of the iconic Bamyan Buddhas by the Taliban in 2001 and the killing of 25 Sikh worshippers in a terrorist bomb attack on a Gurudwara in Kabul in March 2020. He said that in such resolutions these religions also need to be added to the list because till this selectivity exists, the world can never truly foster a culture of peace.

(The writer is a journalist, producer and director. The views expressed are personal.)

WE WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOLD SMUGGLING CASE ACCUSED, SWAPNA, HAD ATTENDED YOUR DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE. —CONGRESS LEADER PT THOMAS

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THE MARRIAGE WAS CONDUCTED IN A BIG HALL IN CLIFF HOUSE AND ONLY CLOSE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES PARTICIPATED. SWAPNA WAS NOT THERE. —KERALA CHIEF MINISTER PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Make cyberspace safe for kids

Online harassment can take a serious toll on their mental health. The words, pictures, video clips or any form of data stored on the internet stay forever, haunting the victim



ROBIN RATNAKAR DAVID

The nationwide lockdown necessitated by the pandemic forced people to work from home. Schools and colleges, too, shifted to remote and online functioning. While this protected children/teenagers from exposure to the Coronavirus, migration of classrooms to remote learning environments increased the time they spend online, both for education and entertainment purposes. Prolonged online presence during the lockdown exposed minors to unsupervised interaction with strangers and third parties. Consequently, within a few months of the lockdown in India, the Bois Locker Room scandal broke out on social media where a group of teenagers accessed photos of women and girls from social media pages. The group posted lewd comments on the photographs on an Instagram group and issued rape threats to women/girls who demanded action against them. Fortunately, Delhi Police and its Cyber Cell took action against the group under the Penal Code and Cyber laws.

Cyberbullying, cyberstalking, online impersonation, catfishing, doxing, trolling, revenge porn, sexting, grooming and sexual exploitation are some common forms of online harassment. According to a study published by Child Rights and You, 9.2 per cent of 630 adolescents surveyed in Delhi-NCR experienced cyberbullying and half of them did not report this to either their teachers, parents or guardians. Further, it found that children aged 13-18 years, who use the internet for more than three hours in a day, are more prone to risks. Online harassment can take a serious toll on their mental health. The words, pictures, video clips or any form of data stored on the internet stay forever, haunting the victim. This spreads fast and cannot be erased or forgotten.

In October 2020, the Delhi High Court (HC) while directing Google, YouTube and Facebook to remove objectionable material posted by a woman's former schoolmate without her consent, also ordered the police to use the protocols and resources available with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and other agencies to identify people sharing/viewing the offensive content in India and take action against them. The victim said that in 2012, as a 16-year-old, she was emotionally blackmailed by the accused into sending him intimate photographs. He threatened to commit suicide if she did not comply with his demands. The harassment continued until 2017 in the UK where the Magistrate Court held him guilty of stalking and physically assaulting her. The court passed orders restraining the accused from contacting the victim by any means and banned him from entering the city of Bath for two years. In late 2019, the victim found that the accused had posted her intimate pictures on various social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and so on and reported the matter to the Cyber Crime Cell in Delhi. The cyber police registered cases against the accused under Sections 67 and 67A of the Information Technology Act. The victim also sent notices to Google and social media networks, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram urging them to remove her photographs. However, the URLs/webpages were not removed. The court acknowledged that the offending images had been widely distributed and that they were being uploaded by several people other than the accused. The court ordered the police to identify the people sharing the images.

According to the UNICEF, a child goes online for the first time in his/her life every half a second. The digital world provides easier access to child sex offenders in search of prey/potential victims and also

“YOUNGER CHILDREN ARE LESS LIKELY TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO ONLINE HARASSMENT AND KNOW THAT THEY MUST SEEK HELP. THE LACK OF SUPPORT NETWORKS IN SCHOOLS AND THE INCREASE IN THE TIME SPENT ONLINE, TOO, ARE REASONS FOR THE SPIKE IN CYBER CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN DURING THE PANDEMIC”



enable them to share information about victims with perpetrators of sexual crimes. Recent surveys reveal that at least one in four adolescents have seen a morphed image or video of themselves and, a half of them have not reported it to the police.

In 2019, Facebook published that it had removed 11.6 million posts related to child nudity and sexual exploitation from its webpages and 7,54,000 from Instagram. For the first time, Facebook published figures related to self-harm and suicide revealing that it had removed 2.5 million posts related to suicide and self-harm and 8,45,000 from Instagram. Among the users of the internet, children are highly likely to be exposed to violence since they have fewer opportunities than adults to leave the house and access help, according to a report published by the WHO on June 17, 2020. Smaller children are less likely to understand that they have been subjected to online harassment and know that they must seek help. The lack of support networks in schools and the increase in the time spent online, too, are reasons for the spike in cyber crimes against children during the pandemic.

Laws: The substantive equality approach adopted by India and expressed in Article 15(3) of the Constitution empowers the State to make special provisions for children. Article 39 provides that the State shall direct its policy towards securing children and ensure that they are not abused and their childhood and youth are protected against exploitation. It further emphasises the need to provide facilities for them to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity.

The international instrument, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) prescribes a set of standards to be followed by all parties to secure the best interests of children. States are required to undertake all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral

measures to prevent inducement or coercion of a minor to engage in any unlawful sexual activity, the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual conduct and the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and material. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, is a gender-neutral law that came into force exclusively to protect children from sexual assault, harassment and pornography. The POCSO Act recognises the fact that minors are vulnerable to repeated abuse and at risk of secondary victimisation during the justice delivery process and hence, emphasised on the need for the establishment of special courts for them. Sections 13, 14 and 15 of the Act, particularly address the crime of using a minor for pornographic purposes and punishes any person who stores or possesses pornographic material in any form involving a child.

Human rights begin at birth, as envisaged in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Human and child rights are inalienable ones, which means that no State-run entity or the State itself cannot deprive children of their rights. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and the legislations that were promulgated in the member States have often been misconstrued as rights of children based on their needs. But these rights are independent in a true sense and recognise children as independent citizens with a voice.

Keeping children safe: Child rights are congruent with the obligations imposed on the State and caregivers and their accountability. Schools, parents and guardians must ensure that the online safety of children is not compromised and they don't befriend strangers online. The police, who are responsible for law enforcement must keep a watch out for offenders in cyberspaces and must strive to keep it safe for children. Schools and

caregivers must ensure that safety and security of children are of paramount importance. They must train children to report suspicious accounts. Electronic devices must be used under the supervision of a trusted adult, and the privacy settings of the devices must be checked regularly to keep minors away from online predators.

Children must be encouraged to take screenshots of any content that makes them feel uneasy and report it to the parents/authorities to take it down from the internet. They must be made aware by their parents/guardians that sharing of personal information such as location, phone numbers, date of birth and addresses must not be done. Children must be encouraged to seek help in times of distress. Parents and caregivers must assure minors that they are not alone and that the adults in their life are always available to address their worries and concerns.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a toll-free 24-hour telephonic helpline service 1098, which operates in regional languages to reach out to children in distress across India. A trained contact officer answers the calls on the helpline and forwards the message to a field partner on the ground. The field partner sends a member to the rescue of the child within an hour or two from the time they receive the call and ensures the safety of the child.

Overexposure to the internet during the pandemic had resulted in the extension of child helpline services to children using the internet to ensure their online safety and psychological well-being. Schools and caregivers must take the responsibility to make children aware about the toll-free child helpline service. Counselling facilities, too, must be made available for children who have been subjected to online harassment and bullying.

(The writer is Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Partner, Dua Associates. The views expressed are personal.)

The Govt must clean up the mess

The demonstrating farmers have inadvertently pushed the ecosystem to its limits and the condition is only deteriorating day by day



KOTA SRIRAJ

In a healthy and vibrant democracy, people participate politically not only during but between elections by means of protests and sit-ins. These demonstrations usually play a vital role in influencing public opinion and altering the Government's viewpoint, which eventually has a bearing on policymaking and its implementation.

India being the largest democracy is home to a variety of protests that take place across the nation every now and then for one reason or the other. The ongoing farmers' protest against the three contentious farm-laws is one such instance, where lakhs of cultivators have laid siege at Delhi's borders for

the last 50 days. Their determination to make their voice heard forced the Government to come to the negotiation table.

Besides, the Supreme Court, too, has stayed the new legislation and has constituted an expert committee to comprehensively examine the three laws. However, the farmers are not satisfied and are adamant on their demand for the repeal of the laws and a legal guarantee on the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

However, amid all the attempts to reach a viable solution, the environment and the health of the protesters are suffering collateral damage. Inadequate sanitation facilities to cater to the needs of the sea of protesters, are not only causing a health crisis but also compromising the well-being of the ecosystem. It is having a cascading impact on the ambient environment of the region that suddenly finds itself subjected to mounting piles of garbage and unplanned disposal of sewage.

This rapid deterioration of the local ecosystem is evident from the fact that a large number of scavenging

birds can be seen hovering and circling in the sky in search of food. The flora and fauna of the region are under extreme pressure due to the sudden rise in human population and an increase in the waste and sewage generated. The demonstrating farmers have inadvertently pushed the ecosystem to its limits and the condition is only deteriorating day-by-day.

Spurred by the worsening situation on ground zero, the Jan Swasthya Abhiyaan (JSA) conducted a study that revealed that three out of five protesters or nearly 57.7 per cent have no option except to defecate in the open. This may eventually result in an outbreak of an epidemic if the authorities don't rectify the situation soon.

In the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the situation at the protest site is alarming as social distancing and other protocols are not being followed. Even the apex court enquired from the Government regarding the steps that are being taken to prevent the area from becoming a COVID-19 hotspot. Now, the pathetic sanitary conditions in the area are adding to the

woes of the farmers and the worries of the authorities.

The protest sites at Singhu, Tikri, Shahjahanpur, Palwal and Gazipur are facing an enormous human and vehicular influx. The air quality is fast deteriorating in these areas due to the cumulative effect of vehicular exhaust, smoke from open kitchens and bonfires lit by the farmers to protect themselves from the biting cold. As the deadlock between the growers and the Government continues, respite for the environment is nowhere in sight. The survey also noted that more than 50 per cent of the respondents said that sewage water stagnation is becoming a major problem.

The plight of the farmers who have travelled long distances to participate in the protests is deplorable, to say the least. According to the farmers, over 60 of them have died during the protests including those who have committed suicide. A few others succumbed to the cold.

The condition of women at the protest site is worse. They are actually forgoing food and water for long stretches in order to avoid going to the

toilets that are poorly provisioned. Ironically, such a situation exists in a democracy where the right to protest is as sacrosanct as the freedom of speech.

At a time when our economy is facing a serious crisis due to the contagion, the ongoing protest is adding to the country's problems. According to the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) the economies of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir are bearing a daily loss of ₹3,500 crore due to the demonstrations.

Given that the stakes are so high, the Government must provide better facilities to the cultivators and create a conducive environment on the ground so that neither the protesters nor the ecosystem remain at the receiving end. It should focus not only on resolving the deadlock but must give equal weightage to finding solutions to some of the pressing sanitation and environment-related issues at the protest sites.

First and foremost, effective, clean and adequate toilet facilities must be provided to the farmers at these locations. However, the Government should

bear in mind that the toilets provided or installed for the farmers should not have a poster or picture of any political party or a particular leader. For instance, the toilets supplied by the a particular party were left unused by the farmers as they bore its advertisement. This annoyed the already miffed farmers further as they have been trying to keep all politicians out of their protest. The objective of the Government should be to keep the environment clean and not to promote a party or a leader.

Similarly, garbage collection must be stepped up and the huge amounts of stagnant sewage water must be cleared with immediate effect before it starts polluting the groundwater.

The protesters themselves can take the lead and help the Government in cleaning up the protest sites and curtailing the damage to the environment. At the end of the day, the farmers are a simple and hardworking community that is close to nature. Their dedication to the environment is second to none.

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

FOREIGN EYE



A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE

Globally, only six countries executed more people than the US last year: China, Iran, Egypt, Iraq, Somalia and North Korea. In Europe, Belarus is the only State to retain the death penalty. Russia imposed a moratorium in the 1990s. The federal execution of a woman who was mentally ill was the act of a morally bankrupt administration. *(The Guardian editorial)*

Wholesale inflation moderates to 1.22%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation moderated to 1.22 per cent in December as prices of kitchen staples onion and potato eased, as per a government data released on Thursday.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation was 1.55 per cent in November 2020, and 2.76 per cent in December 2019.

“The rate of inflation based on WPI Food Index decreased from 4.27 per cent in November 2020, to 0.92 per cent in December 2020,” as per the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

The rate of price rise on wholesale basis in the vegetables basket declined to (-) 13.2 per cent in December, as against 12.24 per cent inflation in the preceding month.

The data showed onion prices contracted by 54.69 per

cent in December, as against a decline of 7.58 per cent in November. The inflation in potato eased to 37.75 per cent in December from 115.12 per cent in November.According to the data, rate of inflation in cereals, paddy, wheat and pulses, also eased in December over the previous month. The wholesale prices of fruits were however higher in December compared to November. While inflation in food prices eased, the rate of price rise in manufactured goods rose to 4.24 per cent in December. It was 2.97 per cent in November. Manufactured products, include food products, beverages, textiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and cement.

The WPI-based inflation in fuel and power segment too increased marginally during the month under review.

It is to be noted that retail inflation too had dropped sharply to 4.59 per cent in December, mainly due to

declining food prices.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayyar, Principal Economist, ICRA Limited said WPI inflation recorded a pull-back in December 2020, driven by a disinflation in primary food items and lower inflation for primary non-food articles, even as core inflation spiked to a 24-month high of 4.2 per cent, injecting concern regarding the trajectory of the WPI going forward. “The sharp 1.5 per cent rise in the core-index in month-on-month terms, partly reflects higher commodity and metal prices, as well as a rise in pricing power, in line with the revival in global demand with the COVID-19 vaccines roll out,” she said. The surge in the core-WPI inflation has completely doused any lingering hope that the dip in the December 2020, CPI inflation would be adequate for rate easing to recommence in the upcoming policy review, she added.

Sensex, Nifty dart up to record highs; TCS stands tall amid IT selloff

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex resumed its record-setting streak on Thursday after a day's pause as gains in index major TCS offset profit-book-ing in the IT pack following strong results by Infosys and Wipro. A broad upmove in global equities and a recovering rupee further propped up the bourses, traders said.

Recovering from a shaky start, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum during the day to end at its new lifetime high of 49,584.16, up 91.84 points or 0.19 per cent.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 30.75 points or 0.21 per cent to finish at a record 14,595.60. TCS topped the Sensex gainer's chart, spurting 2.89 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, L&T, ITC, Reliance Industries, HUL and Sun Pharma.

On the other hand, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Infosys and Tech Mahindra were among the laggards, declining up to

2.63 per cent. Infosys on Wednesday posted a 16.6 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 5,197 crore for the December 2020 quarter, and increased its revenue growth guidance for FY21 to 4.5-5 per cent on the back of large project wins and strong deal pipeline. Wipro posted an about 21 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,968 crore for the December 2020 quarter, and said the demand environment is improving steadily.Domestic equities witnessed a brisk recovery from the day's low mainly led by a rebound in FMCG and pharma stocks, said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities. IT index has been the most surprising as profit-book-ing was visible in many IT stocks despite strong Q3 numbers and upbeat guidance shared by the managements, he added. “We believe underlying strength of the market remains intact and any correction in the market is likely to be bought out. Sustained recovery in key economic data for Dec'20, better-than-expected 3Q .

Rupee logs 3rd straight gains, up 11 paise against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee gained for the third straight day and closed 11 paise higher at 73.04 against the US dollar on

Thursday, supported by sustained foreign fund inflows and weak American currency. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 73.18 and hit an intra-day high of 72.97 and a low of 73.18. It finally finished at 73.04, higher by 11 paise over its last close.

Over the last three days, the rupee has added 36 paise in its valuation against the American currency.”Rupee caught another bid by logging its third green finish in last four days moving closer to monthly highs.

Modi to address Startup India International Summit on Saturday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday interact with startups and address a global summit being organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The Prarambh: Startup India International Summit is being organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on January 15-16. Prime Minister Modi will interact with startups and address the summit on January 16 at 5 PM via video conferencing, the PMO said in a statement.

The two-day summit is being organised as a follow-up of the announcement made by the prime minister at the fourth BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu in August 2018 wherein India committed to host the BIMSTEC Startup Conclave.



The summit marks the fifth anniversary of the Startup India initiative, launched by the prime minister on January 16, 2016.

With participation from over 25 countries and more than 200 global speakers, the summit will be the largest startup confluence organised by the Government of India since the launch of the Startup India initiative, the PMO said.

It will witness 24 sessions with focus on enhancing multilateral cooperation and engagement with countries from around the globe to collectively develop and strengthen the startup ecosystems, it said.

India’s automobile exports drop 18.87 pc in 2020: SIAM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile exports from India declined 18.87 per

cent in 2020, a year marked by coronavirus pandemic induced disruptions across the globe, according to the latest figures

by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Overseas shipments of vehicles in the January-

December period last year stood at 38,65,138 units as against 47,63,960 units in the same period in 2019, SIAM

said.One of the main reasons for the drop in automobile exports was the dip in shipments of passenger vehicles,

which were down 39.38 per cent last year at 4,28,098 units as compared to 7,06,159 units in 2019.

Elon Musk confirms India entry

New Delhi (PTI): Tesla CEO Elon Musk has confirmed the company's plans to enter the Indian market, within days of the electric vehicle maker registering its arm in the country.

“As promised,” Musk tweeted in response to a thread linked to a blog that analysed how India could still be a market to be developed for Tesla cars despite its high prices.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	14,550.05	14,617.80	14,471.50	14,595.60	30.75	
UPL	494.1	515	493	509.9	18.2	
BPCL	412	430	411	425	13.1	
INDUSINDBK	953	980.7	951.25	971.05	28.3	
TCS	3,155.00	3,266.50	3,120.40	3,244.35	91.4	
IOC	101.75	103.6	100.3	103.2	2.25	
GAIL	141.45	146	140.9	144	2.75	
ITC	1,358.00	1,389.70	1,356.25	1,377.00	24.5	
LT	212	216.5	211.6	214.1	2.85	
BRITANNIA	3,623.00	3,704.90	3,619.60	3,662.55	41.4	
TATAMOTORS	242.85	249.8	238.6	245.25	2.65	
RELIANCE	1,945.00	1,966.90	1,939.05	1,958.10	19.3	
HINDUNILVR	2,366.00	2,406.00	2,351.15	2,395.15	22.8	
COALINDIA	146.6	148.2	144.85	147.1	1.3	
SUNPHARMA	602.3	611.65	596.4	606.95	4.65	
EICHERMOT	2,880.00	2,906.95	2,841.00	2,890.10	21.65	
KOTAKBANK	1,892.00	1,905.00	1,871.05	1,894.25	12.45	
DREDDYD	5,304.90	5,328.00	5,265.00	5,317.60	27.6	
NESTLEIND	18,049.00	18,229.40	18,049.00	18,109.60	90.3	
HDFC	2,670.00	2,699.00	2,647.15	2,681.10	10.2	
SRIN	306.7	309.25	303.8	307.7	0.9	
HEROMOTOCO	3,265.00	3,295.00	3,238.05	3,265.60	3.8	
HDFCBANK	1,471.15	1,488.00	1,456.00	1,474.00	33.5	
DIVISLAB	3,738.40	3,740.00	3,684.00	3,726.35	7.15	
BHARTIARTL	582.7	584.8	570.05	579.3	10.6	
MARUTI	8,164.80	8,180.00	8,023.45	8,154.00	14.15	
M&M	828.9	843.85	827.35	829.4	10.6	
SREECEEM	24,802.00	24,913.85	24,475.00	24,744.05	-2.35	
ONGC	107	107.45	104.2	105.1	-0.15	
POWERGRID	205.95	207.5	203.6	204.65	-0.35	
SBILIFE	930.1	931.85	918.5	925	-1.55	
CPIA	841.7	847.55	829	839.25	-2.45	
TATASTEEL	710	714.5	697.1	707	-2.15	
BAJAJFINSV	8,814.00	8,929.95	8,675.00	8,761.00	-32.65	
ADANIEXPORTS	537.95	542.45	530.1	534.55	-2.1	
NTPC	103.7	103.85	101.7	102.05	-0.5	
ICICIBANK	550.45	558.45	550.6	553.6	-2.9	
BAFINANCE	4,902.90	4,966.80	4,834.00	4,876.00	-26.9	
HINDALCO	262.7	265.1	259.55	261.15	-1.5	
HDFCLIFE	713	718.55	702.55	707.8	-5.45	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,600.00	3,658.65	3,545.00	3,572.15	-28.75	
TITAN	1,508.00	1,517.85	1,480.05	1,489.90	-15.9	
INFY	1,340.00	1,384.00	1,318.45	1,370.50	-16.65	
ULTRACEMCO	5,645.00	5,674.00	5,554.00	5,570.05	-72.7	
WIPRO	452	466	440	453	-6	
ASHIANPAINT	2,713.00	2,736.65	2,648.00	2,667.00	-36.7	
TECHM	1,064.00	1,064.00	1,030.00	1,045.95	-14.7	
AXISBANK	678.5	687.8	674.65	676.5	-11.3	
JSWSTEEL	404.35	405.65	394	396.25	-7	
GRASIM	1,035.00	1,040.95	1,013.30	1,015.10	-18.25	
HCLTECH	1,019.00	1,049.00	1,006.60	1,010.10	-24.95	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	34,264.55	34,357.05	34,018.00	34,314.5	162.45	
ADANI GREEN	925.95	968.25	925.05	968.25	46.1	
CADILAHC	487	504.9	483	504.7	17.65	
HINDPETRO	229.5	235.4	227.7	235.3	8.15	
LUPIN	1,069.00	1,113.30	1,062.65	1,103.00	35.6	
HDFCAMC	3,259.00	3,329.45	3,245.00	3,325.00	79.1	
DABUR	536.5	552.45	535.25	548.9	12.8	
PEL	1,573.55	1,619.40	1,551.00	1,596.00	28.85	
GODREJCP	774.85	788	763.7	782.9	12.35	
INDIGO	1,640.00	1,667.95	1,622.45	1,656.60	21.8	
SIEMENS	1,621.00	1,655.10	1,608.50	1,652.00	23.45	
CONCOR	441	450.85	440.85	445.75	6.25	
BANKBARODA	753.35	779	74.7	763	10.35	
AUROPHARMA	941	968.75	928.85	958.55	11.35	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,237.40	1,253.85	1,216.65	1,252.00	14.6	
ALUMKA	3,112.00	3,125.00	3,071.00	3,124.75	33.25	
PNB	36.75	37.8	36.4	36.95	0.35	
BIOCON	46.31	46.93	458.55	46.35	3.7	
ICICIGI	1,556.10	1,564.05	1,535.70	1,558.00	9	
AMBUJACEM	265	270.5	263.15	266.4	1.5	
TORNTPHARM	2,780.00	2,800.00	2,754.05	2,781.00	14.35	
IGL	565.95	581	562.2	567.8	2.2	
PGHH	11,347.65	11,399.00	11,234.35	11,385.00	44.15	
BAJAHLDNG	3,220.00	3,237.45	3,181.00	3,210.90	9.25	
DLE	281.5	285.8	277.1	281.15	0.7	
MARICO	430.3	422.6	415.9	419	0.7	
ABBOTINDIA	15,100.00	15,198.40	14,992.10	15,019.40	17.85	
ICICIRULI	512.65	517	506.55	509.55	-0.15	
BOSCHLTD	14,839.00	15,081.80	14,734.70	14,760.10	-20.4	
PETRONET	266	270.8	262.8	264.95	-0.55	
BERGEPAINT	121.95	122.7	120.65	120.85	-0.25	
MCDOWELL-N	798.9	803	785.1	794.5	-2.1	
PIDILITIND	641.7	650.9	633.65	638.8	-2	
MOTHERSUMI	1,794.00	1,803.95	1,774.65	1,787.45	-5.65	
MOTHERSUN	168.3	170.5	166.65	166.9	-0.55	
GICRE	145.65	146.85	144	144.05	-0.6	
UBL	1,308.00	1,308.75	1,262.00	1,286.00	-5.45	
NMDC	126.1	126.65	124.55	125.55	-0.55	
ACC	1,790.00	1,805.00	1,774.00	1,782.50	-9.9	
COLPAL	1,611.30	1,613.00	1,584.00	1,591.90	-11.5	
INDUSTOWER	260.75	261	254	260.1	-2	
HAVELLS	1,015.00	1,026.00	1,000.85	1,004.00	-8.45	
ADANTRANS	449.1	455	432.95	442.85	-4	
TATACONSUM	146.51	163.3	160.65	161.5	-6.9	
OFSS	3,508.10	3,515.45	3,420.00	3,440.00	-41.55	
NAUKRI	5,269.00	5,310.10	5,192.00	5,192.00	-67.3	
SBICARD	973	973.4	951.05	961.05	-12.95	
DMART	2,939.00	2,940.00	2,875.25	2,886.00	-40.1	
HINDZINC	289	290	279	279.45	-5.95	

BSE 500



MIN	306.7	309.25	303.8	307.2
MARUTI	8170	8180.6	8025.7	8157.7
LT	1354.3	1389.55	1354.3	1376.6
EMAMILTD	480.9	492	479.45	483.4
ASIANPAINT	2704.5	2734.85	2646.5	2668.85
M&M	829	843.7	827.15	829.8
ICICIBANK	554.5	558.25	550.55	555
TECHM	1014	1047	967.5	1009
BIHSHGFN	234.3	237.25	229.5	233.05
ITEL	1070	1070	1030.6	1055.8
TATASTEEL	711	714.35	697.2	706.15
HDFCBANK	1473	1488	1456	1468.05
SUNPHARMA	600.35	611.65	596.5	607.05
MINDTREE	1770	1770	1702	1744.65
BANDHANBNK	376.1	379.55	369.5	373
TITAN	1505.5	1517.65	1480.25	1489
BPCL	412.9	429.55	411	426.2
ULTRACEMCO	5650	5665	5559.85	5581.85
DLF	281	285.8	277.1	281.55
BANKBARODA	75.6	77.85	74.75	76.15
VEDL	180.8	180.8	175.75	176.3
GAIL	141.05	146	140.3	144
SRSTRANSFN	1218.15	1244.3	1184.4	1215.6
BRITANNIA	3620	3704	3620	3663.75
RLBANK	256	258.85	253.2	254.2
DRREDDY	144.7	CANBK	142.15	143.1
ZEEL	5300	5327.2	5265.2	5309.95
NESTLEIND	229	231.4	226.25	229.35
DEVISLAB	18000	18200.65	18000	18105
LUPIN	3750	3750	3683.55	3725.15
LUPIN	1065	1113.55	1062.55	1105.7
PBN	36.75	37.8	36.4	37
BEL	135	141	134.2	139.2
UPL	492	515.25	492	509.4
PVR	1465	1473.95	1452.65	1435
PEL	1570	1619	1526.45	1596.7
HDFCLIFE	711	718	702.6	706.9
TATACHEM	546	554.3	533.75	535.75
DMART	2930	2941.55	2875	2891.75
BIOCON	462.9	469	458.75	466.75
ADANIGREEN	928	967.55	924.45	967.55
ADANIPORNT	537.5	542.35	530	534.4
POWERGRID	207	207.4	203.65	204.55
BAJAJFINSV	8795	8926.05	8675	8766
NAUKRI	5272	5308	5149.95	5179.3
ASHOKLEY	122.9	123.5	118.5	119.05
L&T&H	103.6	107.4	104	107.1
LICHSGFN	439.9	446.7	430.6	433.2
M&MFIN	190.5	194.45	188.9	193.25
IOC	102.4	103.5	100	102.15
TATAPOWER	85.85	87.1	84.95	85.95
BHEL	40.4	40.65	39.65	40.2
BAJAJ-AUTO	3618.7	3656.45	3534	3574.35
INDIANIAMRT	8198	8260	7912.1	8197.8
MRF	86550	89900	85800.1	89900
BAJAJELEC	820	858.95	730	761.35
HDFCFIRSTB	46.05	47.35	45.8	46.25
IDFCAMC	3247	3339.95	3243.75	3316.6
JUBLFOOD	2837	2865	2744.55	2755
INDIANBN	89.65	96.85	89.5	95.85
EICHERMOT	2873	2905.15	2842	2893
AUROPHARMA	941	969	928.75	959.15
MPHASIS	1667	1734.5	1618.65	1695.5
MOTHERSUMI	1665	1704.45	1657	1670.05
JINDALSTEL	300	300	291.5	293.65
JGL	569.95	581.3	562.45	566
GSPIL	212.2	216.6	211.4	212.75
ESCORTS	1356.8	1366.65	1341.35	1342.7
DIXON	14651	15200	140901	14932.75
KJTYRE	84.5	90.85	84.05	88.75
ONGC	107	107.5	104.2	105
ADANIEMT	536.9	541	528.2	532.1
HEROMOTOCO	3265	3295.55	3238	3232

Biden hopes Senate will conduct Trump’s impeachment among critical issues

Washington: Terming last week’s violence at the US Capitol a planned criminal act, President-elect Joe Biden has expressed hope that the Senate will be able to conduct the impeachment trial of Donald Trump while working on other critical issues after a House of Representatives vote made him the first American president ever to be impeached twice.

The House voted 232 to 197 on Wednesday to impeach Trump.

Ten Republican lawmakers joined the Democrats to impeach Trump for “incitement of insurrection” exactly one week after rioters stormed the US Capitol as the House certified Biden’s election victory, making him the first American president to be impeached twice.

Trump was impeached the first time in December 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress for his attempt to pressure Ukraine to investigate Biden’s family.

Biden, a Democrat, alleged

on Wednesday that the violence was carried out by political extremists and domestic terrorists, who were incited by Trump.

“This criminal attack was planned and coordinated. It was carried out by political extremists and domestic terrorists, who were incited to this violence by President Trump. It was an armed insurrection against the United States of America. And those responsible must be held accountable,” Biden said in a statement after the House of Representatives impeached Trump, a Republican.

The violence on January 6 temporarily halted the counting of Electoral College votes to certify Biden’s win in the November 3 election and resulted in the deaths of five individuals, including a police officer.

“Last week, we saw an unprecedented assault on our democracy. It was unlike anything we have witnessed in the 244-year history of our nation,” he said.

Windows and doors were destroyed. Offices ransacked. A Capitol Hill police officer was murdered. Another lost his life a few days later. Four other people died in the senseless mayhem of that day, said the next American president.

Biden said that the members of the House of Representatives exercised the power granted to them under the US Constitution and voted to impeach and hold the president accountable.

“It was a bipartisan vote cast by members who followed the Constitution and their conscience. The process continues to the Senate,” he said.

“This nation also remains in the grip of a deadly virus and a reeling economy. I hope that the Senate leadership will find a way to deal with their Constitutional responsibilities on impeachment while also working on the other urgent business of this nation,” Biden said.

“From confirmations to key posts such as Secretaries for

Homeland Security, State, Defense, Treasury, and Director of National Intelligence, to getting our vaccine program on track, and to getting our economy going again. Too many of our fellow Americans have suffered for too long over the past year to delay this urgent work,” he said.

“I have often said that there is nothing we can’t do, if we do it together. And it has never been more critical for us to stand together as a nation than right now. So we must remember who we are as Americans and what we stand for and believe. It’s time for us to be what at our best we have always been,” Biden said.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris said the storming of the Capitol Hill by supporters Trump last week marked an inflection point for America.

“Last week, of course, marked an inflection point for our country. I was horrified. As I know you all were by the attack on our Capitol, on our

nation’s Capital,” Harris said at a virtual finance event for the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Harris said the President-elect Biden called it an attack on democracy.

“It was an attack on the rule of law itself. And one of the lessons I hope that all of us take away from it is that our democracy is only as strong as our willingness to fight for it, our ideals are only as strong as our willingness to make them real,” she said hours after Trump’s impeachment.

“At that time, that meant certifying the results of this election, and to send a message, strong and clear that we will not be deterred, that our democracy will not be derailed. My hope is that the bipartisan spirit, the patriotic spirit that prevailed that night, will mark the beginning of a new era for our country,” Harris said.

She said that the American people had been through difficult moments like wars, depressions and great upheavals before. **PTI**

Capitol investigators try to sort real tips from noise

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Potential threats and leads are pouring in to law enforcement agencies nationwide after the insurrection at the US Capitol. The challenge is now figuring out what’s real and what’s just noise.

Investigators are combing through a mountain of online posts, street surveillance and other intelligence, including information that suggests mobs could try to storm the Capitol again and threats to kill some members of Congress.

Security is being tightened from coast to coast. Thousands of National Guard troops are guarding the Capitol ahead of President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration. Governors and lawmakers are stepping up protections at statehouses after an FBI bulletin this week warned of

threats to legislative sessions and other inaugural ceremonies.

A primary concern is the safety of members of Congress, particularly when they are travelling through airports, according to two U.S. Officials briefed on the matter.

The FBI and other federal authorities use their substantial resources to prepare. But smaller local police departments lack the staff to hunt down every tip.

They must rely heavily on state and federal assessments to inform their work, and that information sometimes slips through the cracks — which apparently happened last week.

A day before the deadly attack on the Capitol, the FBI sent an intelligence bulletin warning of potential violence to other agencies, including the Capitol Police.

But officials either did not receive it or ignored it — and instead prepared for a free-speech protest, not a riot. It took nearly two hours for reinforcements to arrive to help disperse the mob. Five people died, including a Capitol officer.

“There are some grammar schools that are better protected than the Capitol,” said Brian Higgins, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and the former chief of a northern New Jersey police force.

Since last week, the FBI has opened 170 case files and received more than 100,000 pieces of digital media. The threats have ranged in specificity and complexity, according to officials briefed on them, making it difficult for authorities to determine which could be credible.

UN watchdog confirms another Iranian breach of nuclear deal

Berlin: The United Nations’ atomic watchdog agency confirmed on Thursday that Iran has informed it that the country has begun installing equipment for the production of uranium metal, which would be another violation of the landmark nuclear deal with world powers.

Iran maintains its plans to conduct research and development on uranium metal production are part of its “declared aim to design an improved type of fuel,” the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency said.

Uranium metal can also be used for a nuclear bomb, however, and research on its production is specifically prohibited in the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed with world powers in 2015.

The ultimate goal of the deal is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb, something Iran insists it does not want to do. Iran now has enough enriched uranium to make a bomb, but nowhere near the amount it had before the nuclear deal was signed.

IAEA inspectors visited the Isfahan plant where Iran has said it plans to conduct the research on Jan. 10, and officials were informed by Tehran on Jan. 13 that “modification and installation of the relevant equipment for the mentioned R&D activities have been already started,” the agency said.

Iran’s ambassador to the IAEA, Kazem Gharibabadi, repeated that in a tweet on Wednesday, adding that “natural uranium will be used to produce uranium metal in the first stage.”

He told Iran’s official news agency IRNA that the move will elevate Iran to the level of “progressive nations in production of new fuels.” It was the latest in a string of violations of the JCPOA that Iran has undertaken since President Donald Trump pulled the United States unilaterally out of the deal in 2018, saying it needed to be re-negotiated.

Tehran has been using the violations to put pressure on the other signatories — Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia — to provide more incentives to Iran to offset crippling American sanctions reimposed after the U.S. Exited the deal.

President-elect Joe Biden, who was vice president when the JCPOA was negotiated, has said he hopes to return the U.S. To the deal. Britain, France and Germany said last week, however, that Iran “risks compromising” chances of diplomacy with Washington after Tehran announced another violation — that it was starting to enrich uranium to 20 per cent purity, a technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent. **AP**

13 WHO scientists arrive in Wuhan to probe Covid origins; 2 barred after testing positive

Beijing/Wuhan: Thirteen international experts of the WHO arrived in Wuhan on Thursday for the long-awaited probe into the origins of the deadly coronavirus pandemic, while two others did not board the flight from Singapore to the central Chinese city after they tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies.

“The international team of 13 scientists examining the origins of the virus that causes #COVID19 arrived in Wuhan, #China, today. The experts will begin their work immediately during the 2 weeks quarantine protocol for international travellers,” the World Health Organisation said in a tweet.

“Two scientists are still in #Singapore completing tests for #COVID19. All team members had multiple negative PCR and antibody tests for COVID-19 in their home countries prior to travelling,” it said.

“They were tested again in #Singapore and were all negative

for PCR. But two members tested positive for IgM antibodies. They are being retested for both IgM and IgG antibodies,” the WHO said.

The two experts failed to clear the screening procedures and were blocked from travelling to China, the Wall Street Journal reported. “Chinese officials involved in the screening process blocked the two delegation members from boarding their plane to the central Chinese city of Wuhan after both tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies in blood-based serology tests during transit in Singapore” the report said.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian defended the denial of permission to the two scientists saying that “relevant epidemic and control requirements and regulations will be strictly enforced”.

“We will also support and offer convenience to WHO experts’ travel to China,” he told

a media briefing replying to a question about the denial of permission to the two scientists and referred the media to competent authorities for details.

China requires passengers flying from Singapore to take a nucleic acid test and an IgM antibody test up to two days before boarding China-bound flights.

The 13 WHO experts would go through a 14-day quarantine. They are set to interview people from research institutes, hospitals and the seafood market linked to the initial outbreak.

The WHO team includes virus and other experts from the US, Australia, Germany, Japan, Britain, Russia, the Netherlands, Qatar and Vietnam. The United States and Australia have led the charge in criticising China’s handling of the initial stages of the pandemic, accusing Beijing of downplaying its severity and preventing an effective response until too late. **PTI**

12 police officials dismissed for negligence in protecting Hindu temple from vandalism in Pak

Peshawar: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government in Pakistan has dismissed 12 police officials following an enquiry report that found them guilty of “negligence” in protecting a Hindu temple in the province, which was torched by a mob led by members of a radical Islamist party.

The government also forfeited one-year service of 33 police officials in connection with the incident.

The temple in Terri village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Karak district was attacked on December 30 by the mob after members of the Hindu community received permission from local authorities to renovate its decades-old building. The mob demolished the newly constructed work alongside the old structure. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Kohat Region, Tayyab Hafeez Cheema had appointed Superintendent of Police (Investigation Wing) Zahir Shah as enquiry officer to probe the incident and submit its report within a week’s time.

Shah conducted the probe against 73 police officials and recommended to dismiss 12 of them from service on charges of negligence and irresponsibility in the discharge of their official duties.

“Keeping in view of the available record and facts on file, perusal of enquiry papers and the recommendations of the Enquiry Officers, they are found guilty of the charges. They show cowardice, negligence, and irresponsibility in the discharge of their official obligations.

They failed to protect the Hindu Temple which caused disrepute for the Police department in the eyes of the general public,” the report said. **PTI**

Vaccines and masks: Biden plan aims to break pandemic cycle

Wilmington (US): A coronavirus action plan being unveiled by President-elect Joe Biden centers on a mass vaccination campaign and closer coordination among all levels of government.

The Biden plan comes as a divided nation remains caught in the grip of the pandemic’s most dangerous wave yet. So far, more than 380,000 Americans have died.

Biden hopes his multidimensional strategy, expected to be detailed in a Thursday evening speech, will put the country on the path to recovery by the end of his first 100 days. “It’s going to be hard,” Biden said Monday after he got his second vaccine shot.

“It’s not going to be easy. But we can get it done.” A more disciplined focus on vaccination is the new and widely anticipated game-changing element, but that’s far from the whole story.

Biden is asking Americans to override their sense of pandemic fatigue and recommit to wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and avoiding indoor gatherings, particularly larger ones. **AP**

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Europe’s rights court accepts Ukraine case against Russia

Moscow: Europe’s top human rights court agreed on Thursday to look into Ukraine’s complaint against alleged human rights violations in the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula.

The Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights, or ECHR, concluded that Ukraine’s case against Russia is backed by sufficient evidence and decided to start looking into the case. It wasn’t clear when the court would deliver a verdict. Ukraine has argued in its complaint that Russia was responsible for a variety of human rights violations in the Black Sea peninsula. Russia’s 2014 annexation of Crimea hasn’t been

recognized by a vast majority of nations and drew U.S. And EU sanctions against Moscow. International human rights groups long have pointed at numerous rights abuses in Crimea, including restrictions of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and harassment of pro-Ukraine activists and members of the Crimean Tatar community.

Moscow has charged that it rightfully took over Crimea after an overwhelming majority of local residents voted to secede from Ukraine and join Russia in a referendum. It has continuously rejected accusations of human rights violations in the region. **AP**

Lawyer, others arrested by Hong Kong national security unit

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police on Thursday said they arrested 11 people on suspicion of assisting offenders who are believed to be the 12 Hong Kong activists detained at sea by mainland Chinese authorities while attempting to flee the city last year.

District councilor and lawyer Daniel Wong Kwok-tung posted on his Facebook page early Thursday that national security officers had arrived at his home. He was later taken to his office, where police conducted a search.

Wong, a member of the Democratic Party, is known for providing legal assistance to hundreds of activists arrested during antigovernment protests in 2019.

The fresh wave of arrests comes a week after 55 activists were apprehended in the largest move against Hong Kong’s democracy movement since Beijing imposed a new national security law last June to quell dissent in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The clampdown has intensified concerns that Beijing is asserting more control over the city and breaking its promise of Hong Kong maintaining separate civil rights and political systems for 50 years from the handover from Britain control in 1997.

Police said in an emailed statement that those arrested Thursday were eight men and three women aged 18 to 72. The identities of those

arrested were not revealed.

Local media reports said those arrested are suspected of helping the 12 Hong Kong activists who were detained at sea by mainland Chinese authorities while attempting to sail to Taiwan last August.

Some of the fugitives were wanted in Hong Kong for offenses related to the 2019 protests.

Last month, 10 of the activists detained at sea were sentenced to prison in Shenzhen for illegally crossing the border, with sentences ranging between seven months to three years. The two other detainees, who are minors, were handed over to Hong Kong and could face further charges in the city for absconding, authorities said. **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

VACCINE MAKERS LIABLE FOR DAMAGES

According to Poonawalla, when “frivolous” claims crop up and are blown out of proportion, it affects the confidence of not just anti-vaxxers, but the general public too. “Anyone may have a thought and skepticism then sort of sets in (that) definitely something can happen due to the vaccine ... to dispel that, the Government needs to step in (with) messaging with influencers to spread, also, the right information.” He added that this was a measure SII was “going to propose” to the Centre.

The statements had come days after an issue raised by one of the volunteers who had taken SII’s ‘Covishield’ as part of mid-to late-stage clinical trials to test the safety and immunogenicity of the Covid-19 vaccine in India. The volunteer had sent SII a notice seeking Rs 5 crore in compensation, alleging that the vaccine had caused a severe neurological issue.

SII, however, rejected these claims, adding that its reputation was being “unfairly maligned”. As a result, it had reportedly sent the volunteer a legal notice of its own.

However, experts say the liability the clause could remain the same in the case of other vaccination programmes i.e. liability for any adverse effects due to vaccine lies with the company concerned.

Notably, considering the pace with which vaccines were made in record time amid the Covid-19 pandemic, many countries have shifted liabilities to the Government. These are the US, the UK, Canada, Singapore, EU and WHO-led COVAX. They provide immunity to man-

ufacturers from lawsuits and will bear the compensation burden, as per various reports.

BKU PRESIDENT RECUSES SELF FROM SC’S FARM PANEL

He was part of a group of farmers that met Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar in December.

Earlier the BKU tweeted, “Bhupinder Singh Mann, ex-MP and national president of BKU and chairman of the All India Kisan Coordination Committee has recused himself from the four-member committee constituted by the Hon’ble Supreme Court.”

It was followed by a statement attributed to Mann that read: “I am thankful to the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India for nominating me in the four-member committee to start dialogue with kisan unions on the three laws brought in by the Central Government. As a farmer myself and a union leader, in view of the prevailing sentiments and apprehensions among the farm unions and the public in general, I am ready to sacrifice any position offered or given to me so as to not compromise the interests of Punjab and farmers of the country.”

There was a feeling among the leaders of BKU (Mann) that when the agitators had refused to appear before the committee, what was the point left in being part of the panel.

“He had to give the resignation when they (agitators) had stated they didn’t consider the panel anything. In such a scenario

what type of report the committee would have submitted to the Supreme Court,” said a leader of BKU (Mann).

SAD spokesperson Manjinder Singh Sirsa has attributed Mann’s recusal from the SC committee to his reluctance to face the opposition from farmers.

TRUMP MAKES HISTORY, 1ST US PREZ TO BE IMPEACHED TWICE

Trump will not have to quit the White House before his term ends as the Senate is out of regular session.

The House voted after several hours of impassioned debate as National Guard troops kept watch inside and outside the Capitol.

“We know that the President of the United States incited this insurrection, this armed rebellion, against our common country. He must go,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, participating in the impeachment debate.

“He is a clear and present danger to the nation that we all love,” the top Democrat said.

“I believe the President must be convicted by the Senate, a constitutional remedy that will ensure that the republic will be safe from this man who is so resolutely determined to tear down the things that we hold dear and that hold us together,” she added.

The article of impeachment stated that Trump “repeatedly issued false statements asserting that the presidential election results were fraudulent and should not be accepted”.

It says he then repeated these claims and “willfully made statements to the crowd that encouraged and foreseeably resulted in lawless action at the Capitol”, leading to the violence and loss of life.

“President Trump gravely endangered the security of the United States and its institutions of government, threatened the integrity of the democratic system, interfered with the peaceful transition of power, and imperilled a coequal branch of government.”

Reacting to the major political development, Biden expressed hope that the Senate will be able to conduct the impeachment trial of Trump while working on other critical issues.

The President-elect said that the members of the House exercised the power granted to them under the US Constitution and voted to impeach and hold the incumbent president accountable.

“It was a bipartisan vote cast by members who followed the Constitution and their conscience. The process continues to the Senate,” the Democratic Party leader said.

As the impeachment was in process in the House, Trump urged for calm as security agencies reported they had received inputs of a possible armed violence by his supporters here and across the country ahead of the inauguration of Biden.

“In light of reports of more demonstrations, I urge that there must be NO violence, NO lawbreaking and NO vandalism of any kind,” Trump said in a statement issued by the White House.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said the actions of President Trump demanded an urgent and clear

action by the Congress.

“He ought to be removed. And we have that opportunity to do so. Is there little time left? Yes. But it is never too late to do the right thing,” Hoyer said.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has not yet announced the dates for the trial. In a statement, he said a trial is unlikely before Biden becomes the president of the country.

He said in a statement that a trial could not be completed ahead of Biden’s inauguration even if it started beforehand, and he wanted Congress and the executive branch to spend the next week focused on “facilitating a safe inauguration and an orderly transfer of power.”

The Democrats need 17 Republican votes to impeach Trump in the 100-member Senate. A two-thirds majority is required to convict. Democrats don’t have a majority in the Senate and it remains unclear if enough Republicans would support the impeachment of their leader.

With Wednesday’s impeachment, Trump has become the first US President to be impeached twice.

The House on December 18, 2019 approved the articles of impeachment against Trump, charging him of pressuring Ukraine to smear Biden, using nearly USD 400 million in military aid as leverage. But the Republican-controlled Senate on February 5, 2020 acquitted him of the two charges — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Besides Trump, two other former US presidents have been impeached in the past — Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998. However, none was convicted.

EXERCISE, ENOUGH SLEEP MUST FOR VACCINE EFFICACY: EXPERTS

This frontline response by the immune system is eventually aided by the production of antibodies, which target specific pathogens.

It is the continued production of antibodies that helps to determine how effective a vaccine is at conferring long-term protection.

“In our research, we focus most heavily on the antibody response, though it is just one facet of the adaptive immune system’s response,” said Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, director of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research at The Ohio State University, and senior author on the paper.

According to the researchers, most Covid-19 vaccines already in circulation are approximately 95 per cent effective. However, psychological and behavioural factors can lengthen the amount of time it takes to develop immunity, and can shorten the duration of immunity, they said.

“The thing that excites me is that some of these factors are modifiable. It’s possible to do some simple things to maximise the vaccine’s initial effectiveness,” said Kiecolt-Glaser.

The researchers suggest that, based on prior research, one strategy is to engage in vigorous exercise and get a good night’s sleep in the 24 hours before vaccination so that the immune system is operating at peak performance.

Trend Slazer

Aahana to make her podcast debut

Actor **AAHANA KUMRA** is all set to make her podcast debut. She will narrate a story on the audio web series titled *MnM Talkies*. "I have recently started working on this podcast, which is produced and directed by Mantra," said Aahana, about the audio story called *I Hear You*, which tells the story of a detective named Priyamvada Parmar. "I am entering the voicing industry and I think Mantra is the best person to hold my hand through this. Am excited to enter the new phase of my life. This is a new chapter and I am happy to begin 2021 with this," she added.



'I have had a lot of second seasons this year. It's been interesting to revisit them and experience

how they might have changed as people. Reprising a character for a new season is like meeting an old friend — you basically know them and understand how they are wired, but they are not exactly who they were when you met them last.'

—**Rasika Dugal**

Bollywood actor **PREITY ZINTA** teased fans saying lots of exciting news was coming up in the year ahead. She asked fans to take a guess.



The Los Angeles-based actor shared a throwback photo where she poses with a cricket bat. "This is definitely the year of new beginnings. Lots of exciting and interesting news coming up. Any guess folks? Watch this space for more.... till then keep guessing aur *bolo kya?*," she captioned the image.

Reacting to her post, netizens started speculating about what new beginning the actor was referring to.

Shakira sells rights of her songs

Singer **SHAKIRA** has become the latest artiste to sell publishing rights of all her songs. The Grammy winner's catalogue includes 145 songs. Shakira's catalogue includes hits like *Hips don't lie*, *Whenever, wherever*, *She wolf and Waka waka (This time for Africa)*, and the Board of Hipgnosis Songs Fund Limited, a UK-based investment company, has acquired 100 per cent of her music publishing rights.



In the year 2020, the world has seen people shifting from offline to online for many life requirements. The year somewhat became the watershed moment for various digital platforms like Video OTT, Edutech, Pharma, Fintech etc., which saw an unexpected surge in numbers. As a country, we are brilliant at adapting to change, look at how we embraced fintech & edu-tech both so important for our survival. The adaptation which was slowly happening in 2019 got expedited due to the spread of pandemic and the followed lockdown.

The most significant need for the bottom of our social pyramid has always been '*roti, kapda aur makaan*' or succinctly put, education (read knowledge) and financial stability, even more so when pandemic was reaping havoc.

Today, learning is the fastest-changing landscape with a virtual race among various organisations to deliver knowledge and up-skilling content through latest and complex technologies. However, this approach may only work well for the metros of India with upwardly mobile TG. If we consider the TG living in tier two, three and four towns and villages, the requirement might be very different. Bharat makes up the most significant part of Indian digital users accessing the internet on mobile devices. The real issue is not the availability of high-quality content and implementation of complex/fancy tech to deliver it to TG but the ease with which the TG can consume the content on devices. To summarise, the key challenges would be:

- Increased screen time on low-end devices with battery challenges.
- Patchy internet to be able to watch videos seamlessly.
- Not truly vernacular.
- Cost of content and hence the high subscription.

NEED OF THE HOUR

What is more relevant and need to be made available to young India is a platform/medium which will make it spontaneous for people to access decent quality content (even if it is non-exclusive) effortlessly with minimal tech and underlying infrastructural requirements. It is only then, we will be able to see the next billion users using digital learning platforms to learn and get empowered to achieve their learning goals.

AUDIO IS THE ANSWER

Audio is the only way to provide all of the above without compromising the quality of learning except for a few specific subjects requiring live/visual session for better understanding. Audio will democratise the learning ecosystem from every aspect. It will allow the masses to acquire knowledge and learn the subjects of their interest without paying beyond their financial capacities

FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE

In the fast-changing landscape of education, we shall soon see audio taking over traditional and video learning to educate young India



or compulsive buying of high-end devices/data packs.

NOT SHOOTING IN THE DARK

Looking at the global trend from the biggest audio markets — US and China, audio will take over as most preferred media by masses across India.

For instance, in the US, Spotify has spent \$400mn to acquire Gimlet, Anchor and Parcast to acquire podcasting capabilities. Apple acquired Scout FM in Sep 2020. Simultaneously, in China audio platforms like Ximalaya FM, Lizhi FM (US IPO), DeDao is serving more than 500mn users. De Dao, another Chinese audio content platform, contracts high-profile experts to record podcasts teaching topics in their field. Listeners navigate a marketplace of audio courses and subscribe to the ones they believe will get them (or their children) an "edge" There are various



courses like workplace communication, investing, accent reduction, Chinese history and many more.

Last year the company had served seven million customers, and none of the content was free. Audio courses drive more than 50

per cent revenue for Ximalaya FM and QingTingFM. Screen-based learning competes with distractions like

Facebook and Netflix for users' attention. By making audio their primary learning consumption mode, people can fit courses into busy lives and easily allow for a habit.

FUTURE TRENDS IN KNOWLEDGE AND AUDIO

India is the youngest country with 850mn people below the age of 35 years. For this young population, the most significant need is education and financial security. To get better economic opportunities, people need to up-skill, but being engaged in the daily job they have limited time to learn and up-skill themselves.

For example, Uber driver or Swiggy delivery person work eight to 10 hours a day and have no time to learn and upgrade themselves. While their hands and eyes are engaged, they can leverage their ears to boost their skills by converting their non-learning time into learning time.

Audio has its merit over other mediums without imbibing the negatives of respective mediums like video and print. It provides various benefits to the user, some important ones are as follows:

- Reduces screen time without reducing learning.
- Passive listening provides for more extended content consumption throughout the day.
- Creation and consumption of content are both much easier in audio format.
- Minimal hardware and connectivity required.

YEAR 2021 WILL BE A YEAR OF AUDIO PROVIDING FOR:

Reduction in screen time: Students would not sit in front of screen for long hours to gain knowledge. Parents & teachers both have been concerned with excess screen time for their kids.

Easy access to knowledge in local languages: Users across India will be able to get easy access to the best of educators, that too in their local language.

Offline to online classes: Local and small-time educators will reach millions and teach them in their local language. Thanks to the ease of content creation with audio.

Up-skill with one click: Small courses targeted to unlocking better financial opportunity will become a trend.

User convenience and ease: People will not migrate to larger cities to gain or share knowledge, creation of content and consumption as both are much easier in audio format.

We shall soon see audio taking over traditional and video learning and will have a much larger mass appeal and usage to educate young India users this year.

(The writer Pulkat Sharma is CEO & Co-founder of Khabri.)



KUSHAN MITRA



A great drive

At the conclusion of *The Pioneer's* leg of Hyundai's 'Great India Drive,' a word of thanks to the all new Hyundai i20



This is not about our adventures in and around Bhopal visiting some tremendous historical sites at the heart of India and then discovering that Madhya Pradesh's capital has some of India's finest museums and collections of artifacts. But this is about the car we took there, the third-generation Hyundai i20 and a sort-of re-evaluation of the car. I owned a first-generation i20 and it was a superb drive but it was never asked to do what we made this little car do, driving close to 2,000 kilometres over six days, a total of nearly 36 hours of drive time.

Usually, a little hatchback like the i20 is not the ideal car for a long road trip, with luggage and for those like us trying to document the journey. Not only did the car surprise me with its spaciousness, it was more impressive in the way it tackled the roads. Now, the roads, both, those run by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the state government

in Madhya Pradesh are excellent but during one of our days exploring historical sites near Bhopal, a local friend advised us to see Gayaspur and Satdhari, the former an ancient temple carved into a hill and the latter a collection of ancient Buddhist Stupas. The problem is that the sun was setting and to get from point A to B in short order didn't mean just driving quickly, (we also visited Heliodorus' Pillar inside the town to Vidisha) but also depending on Google Maps.

Now, I love Google Maps and I sometimes wonder how on earth we managed before Brin and Page did their thing. That said, on this particular day and possibly for one of the first times, it was asked to plot a route between these three sites. And it did so not with any aplomb. It plotted a route through the narrowest alleys of Vidisha, which despite being the Chief Minister's constituency, has some really narrow passages inside town and like else-

where in small towns of India nobody follows any rules. And to make matters worse after Vidisha, for a long time we were on a love road constructed under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, which suddenly ended. One minute tarmac, next minute a path which wasn't really a road but where tractors went. It was barely in between the fields, in fact, the mustard and rice crops on either side of this path often had the odd group of plants growing between the ruts. And it was rutted and wet. It was not a path that you would want to take a small SUV-shaped vehicle let alone a hatchback. But somehow, this i20 with its dual-clutch gearbox, an automatic gearbox isn't the ideal way to go through such paths, but it made it, and not once did I hear the heartbreaking 'clank' of the

car bottoming out. Again, there was never a struggle for grip in muddy and rutted roads, other than maybe once or twice but within a second or two, the traction control kicked in and the car effortlessly lifted itself out.

I believe that 99.9 per cent of the i20's in this generation that will be sold in India over the next four-five years will never be able to do what this particular car has seen and done in the past week. And it did these in the crowded roads of Vidisha, the narrow lanes of the old city in Bhopal, the broad boulevards of the new city, the state highways with some crazy drivers and the most entitled people in India, wrong-side motorcyclists and tractor drivers, as well as in some brilliant highways. A big shout-out to NHAI for the brilliant

NH46 between Bhopal and Gwalior, which other than the bypass at Guna was one of the best highways I have driven on in India.

The i20 did all this and averaged 15.4 kilometres per litre, which with an extremely smooth dual-clutch box and the 120PS 1-litre Turbo was impressive. This engine could be a bit thirsty in the city but it was impressive because it delivered all this power, with economy and comfort. More importantly, it did so without complaining even once. I liked this car when I drove it in Delhi for the first time, but after this past week I love it now. It is in my opinion the finest mass-produced hatchback ever sold in India. Because it doesn't pretend to be something it is not with its body style and delivers everything and more. Impressive.

Strongly opinionated about my choices: Mithila



Actor Mithila Palkar says she is aware that she has the freedom to make her own choices, adding that she is strongly opinionated about the choices she makes.

These are traits that helped her relate to her character of Masha in the forthcoming film *Tribhanga: Tedhi Medhi Crazy*, says Mithila, although she doesn't think she is similar to Masha at all.

"The choices that Masha made were the ones that I would never make, but having said that I won't judge her for that because I know where she came from and why she made those choices," Mithila said.

The actor continued: "I think the one thing that binds us together is that whatever decisions we take, we are going to be judged for some of them. I feel we both are aware that we have the freedom to make a choice and are

very strongly opinionated about the choices that we make — whether or not they fit in anybody else's build or is in sync with anyone else's ideas, principles or values."

"We know that it's a choice that is going to make us happy and we've taken this call being very self-aware of what may or may not happen. I think that is the one thing that binds us together but otherwise I don't think there is anything similar. She is quite peaceful actually and a quiet person to herself. I am quite the opposite of that — (I am) loud," she added.

The film, written and directed by Renuka Shahane, also features Tanvi Azmi and Kajol. It is a family drama about three distinct women, and their unconventional life choices.

(The film releases on Netflix on January 15.)

—JANS

Bruised India face temperament test

PTI ■ BRISBANE

After denting the ego of mighty Australians with their bruised and battered bodies in a Sydney epic, Ajinkya Rahane's wounded India will take no prisoners in a 'winners take all' fourth Test, starting Friday on the liveliest of tracks in the series.

Australia need a win to regain Border-Gavaskar Trophy but a draw will be enough for India to retain it for another couple of years.

There are times when the human body responds differently to the adrenaline rush and the likes of Ravichandran Ashwin, Rishabh Pant and Hanuma Vihari have given their million fans a reason to believe in their gumption that was on display in Sydney.

Jasprit Bumrah played with an abdominal strain and didn't want to come out even though the experience was painful and Ravindra Jadeja with a broken thumb was ready to do what Malcolm Marshall did with a fractured wrist three decades back.

They battled against everybody — the racist ones in the galleries, the abusive one behind the stumps and those lethal ones with the shiny red nut that broke a few bones but could not shake the steely resolve of the Indians.

The new India that Virat Kohli so raved about is now ready to battle a whole new set of adversities at a venue where Australia hasn't lost a Test since 1988.

There won't be a Jadeja and Bumrah and on one of the most difficult tracks, it couldn't have gotten more worse for India. And insult to injury is Mayank Agarwal being hit on the forearm in the nets and Ashwin battling back spasms.

"We will take a call tomorrow. The medical team is working with all the injured players. If Bumrah is fit, he plays, if he is not fit, he doesn't play," batting coach Vikram Rathour



Indian players chat during warm-up session on the eve of fourth Test against Australia at the Gabba

BCCI/Twitter

said at the pre-match conference.

For Tim Paine, the series-decider couldn't have been played at the better venue than the bouncy Woolloongabba or Gabba for fans around the world.

"From a distance it looks like it always does," you could gauge the confidence in Paine's voice even as he gave the news of young Will Pucovski's shoulder injury ruling him out of playing eleven.

"We love playing here, and one of the main reasons is because that wicket. This is a good place to come and play, because I don't have to go and look at it, I know what is going

to be like," he said and it was like warning to Indian team that looks more like a second string A team save three senior batsmen.

But Ajinkya Rahane will still smile, Cheteshwar Pujara will be uncomplaining and trust Rohit Sharma to still go for the pull shot if Pat Cummins digs one short.

There will be no Vihari in Sydney but he has set a different bench-mark for the 'walking wounded' and expect Rishabh Pant to play another blinder in the only way he can.

The combination has all gone for a toss and Rahane would only understand that discretion is the better part of val-

our.

India might just want to use the option of playing only four bowlers instead of a regular five in order to take the game deep with their batting.

If Agarwal is available, expect him to go in at number three after Rohit and Shubman Gill with Pujara and Rahane coming a notch down.

There is an option of playing Prithvi Shaw or Wriddhiman Saha in place of Ravindra Jadeja but off-spin all-rounder Washington Sundar's name is also doing the rounds.

It's the bowling attack that India will be worried about. Navdeep Saini and Mohammed Siraj with just three Tests in

their kitty and Shardul Thakur, who bowled all of 10 balls in his debut Test two years back, do not exactly inspire confidence.

While Rathour kept cards close to his chest, it's more about trying to deny opposition psychological advantage by playing the guessing game on Bumrah when world knows that his participation is highly unlikely.

That too against a batting line-up where three of the top four batsmen respond to the name of David Warner, Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith.

The second and third batters have shown what they can do with Indian attack and Warner is not known to fail in too many innings.

TEST MATCHES AT GABBA						
Team	P	W	L	T	D	Success%
Australia	62	40	8	1	13	75.80
India	6	-	5	-	1	08.33

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS		
India	409 in 120.1 overs vs Australia	2003-04
Australia	645 in 158.6x8 overs vs England	1946-47

TOP INDIVIDUAL SCORES		
India	144 Sourav Ganguly vs Australia	2003-04
	144 Murali Vijay vs Australia	2014-15
Australia	259* Michael Clarke vs South Africa	2012-13

BEST BOWLING (INNINGS)		
India	6-104 Erapalli Prasanna vs Australia	1968-69
Australia	8-71 Shane Warne vs England	1994-95

Faisal Features

4th Test, Day 1
Live from 5:00am IST
SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

It's a very difficult task at hand and whatever the result, this Indian team under Rahane

has covered itself in glory with bare minimum resources.

"The toughness that you see has come after years of preparations. From coaching staff perspective, we keep telling them that, you can't let doubts

creeping after one bad innings (36 all out in Adelaide)," Rathour said.

In end, "No Guts, No Glory, No Stress, No Story".

There is a story to be told and Indians are scripting it.

TEAMS

Australia XI: Tim Paine (captain), David Warner, Marcus Harris, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Matthew Wade, Cameron Green, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon and Josh Hazlewood.

India (from): Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Rohit Sharma (vc), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Navdeep Saini, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, T Natarajan, Washington Sundar.

‘Overworked’ Bumrah should be given a breather during Eng series: Gambhir

New Delhi: Former opener Gautam Gambhir believes the Indian team management needs to take good care of its pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and if required, the right-arm pacer should be given a break during the upcoming home series against England.



On the road for nearly five months since this year's IPL, Bumrah has finally succumbed to the rigours of non-stop international cricket as he has been ruled out of the series-deciding fourth and final Test against Australia after suffering an abdominal strain during the preceding match in Sydney.

And Gambhir feels it would be unfair to force Bumrah to play in all the matches against England, starting February 5.

"... You got to look after him (Bumrah) as well, because he is going to be the leader of the attack for a very long time, so him being fit is very important,"

he added.

Gambhir, however, feels Bumrah will be more menacing in Indian conditions. "See again, he (Bumrah) hasn't played a Test match in India till now. Has he? He hasn't. So, I'm sure the Indian team management has looked after Jasprit Bumrah reasonably well. They have actually used him in places like England, South Africa and Australia, where he has got to be even more threatening.

"I'm not saying he is not going to be threatening in India. He is going to be even more threatening in India, where wickets can get low and slow and he can reverse the ball really well," he said.

The former cricketer-turned-politician said Bumrah is a quality and dangerous bowler, who is threat for any batsmen at any given time of a match.

Bess' fifer puts Eng in control

AFP ■ GALLE

Off-spinner Dom Bess claimed five wickets to help bowl out Sri Lanka for 135 and give England the advantage on day one of a Test that took 10 months to start on Thursday.

Bess, who returned figures of 5-30, combined with paceman Stuart Broad, who took three wickets, as Sri Lanka were all out in two sessions as the two-Test series resumed in Galle after the original tour was aborted over the coronavirus in March.

England lost their openers early but skipper Joe Root, on 66, and Jonny Bairstow, on 47, steered the tourists to 127 for two at close of play. They still trail Sri Lanka by eight runs.

The batting duo put on an unbeaten partnership of 110 after Dom Sibley, for four, and Zak Crawley, for nine, fell to Lasith Embuldeniya's left-arm spin.

Root, who successfully reviewed an lbw call in his favour after being given out by the on-field umpire on 20, reached his 50th fifty in 98 Tests. He has 17 centuries.

Bess though remained the hero of the day with his second five-wicket haul in his 11th Test as the venue witnessed its lowest first-innings score, well



below Sri Lanka's 181 against Pakistan in 2000.

Sri Lanka suffered a pre-match jolt when skipper Dimuth Karunaratne was ruled out of the first of the two Tests with a fractured thumb.

Stand-in-captain Dinesh Chandimal scored 28 and put up some resistance in a 56-run stand with Angelo Mathews, who made 27 on his return from a hamstring injury.

Broad struck twice in an

over to send back opener Lahiru Thirimanne, who had scored four, and Kusal Mendis for nought — his fourth straight duck — to spell early trouble for the hosts.

Spin was introduced in the 11th over and Bess, with his second ball, got Kusal Perera for 20 when the batsman top-edged a reverse sweep to England captain Joe Root at first slip.

Sri Lanka had slumped to 25 for three but Mathews and Chandimal stood firm till lunch.

Broad came back in the second session to break the stand as he got Mathews caught at slip and Chandimal, who survived a dropped catch by debutant Dan Lawrence before lunch on 22, departed two balls later off Jack Leach.

Mathews, whose hamstring injury kept him out of the 2-0 Test series defeat in South Africa, went past 6,000 Test runs during his knock before Bess soon ran through the middle and lower order.

In reply, the tourists slipped to 17 for two after Sibley was caught at first slip and Crawley also back in the pavilion inside nine overs.

Root and Bairstow then batted cautiously to bring up England's best partnership for all wickets at the venue.

AFP ■ LONDON

Jose Mourinho slammed Tottenham's "avoidable" mistakes and lack of killer instinct after Fulham's Ivan Cavaleiro rescued a 1-1 draw on Wednesday.

Harry Kane had put the hosts ahead in the first half at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, but Cavaleiro struck in the closing stages to leave Mourinho frustrated.

Tottenham have won just two of their last eight league matches and sit in sixth place.

A win against third bottom Fulham would have taken them into third place above Manchester City, who made it four successive league victories

Spurs held at home by Fulham

when Phil Foden earned a 1-0 win over Brighton earlier on Wednesday.

Whether Spurs — six points behind leaders Manchester United — will be regarded as title contenders for much longer must be in doubt after this sloppy display.

Once more we concede a goal that is completely avoidable. You have to keep a clean-sheet, not make mistakes. The markers are there. There wasn't even an advantage in terms of numbers," Mourinho said.

"We have lots of opportunities to kill off matches. In other

cases especially away we are winning but then don't have that ambition to get the goal and kill the game.

"There are things that are individual mistakes. We have bad results and we should avoid these results."

Cavaleiro's leveller was a suitably dramatic end to the feud between Mourinho and Fulham manager Scott Parker, triggered when Aston Villa's coronavirus outbreak meant Spurs' scheduled trip to Villa Park on Wednesday was postponed.

Instead, Tottenham's game against Fulham — originally

called off in December because of Covid cases in the Cottagers squad — was moved on Monday to help ease a potential fixture pile-up for Mourinho's team.

Parker said it was "scandalous" for his team to be forced to play at such short notice.

Mourinho hit back, saying he would only feel sorry for Fulham if they played a weakened team.

So he would have noted with interest that Fulham named a strong team with nine of the 11 that played their last Premier League game on Boxing

Day.

But it was Parker who had the last laugh and he said: "I'm very proud of this team for what we've been through. There's a lot of talk around, everyone assumes about what happened. I know what we've been through the last two weeks.

"This game was supposed to be scheduled 16 days ago — for 10 days some of these boys were locked up in their houses (self isolating). "We had players out there who had one day's training. What pleased me most was a desire and a real quality at times."

India's campaign end in Thailand

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Star India shuttler Saina Nehwal was knocked out of the Yonex Thailand Open Super 1000 event after losing the women's singles second round to Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan here on Thursday.

In a battle of attrition, Saina managed to grab the opening game but ran out of steam in the end, losing 23-21, 14-21, 16-21 in a match that clocked 68 minutes. It was Saina's fourth straight loss to the world number 12 Busanan.

In the men's singles, former world number one Kidambi Srikanth was forced to give a walkover to his eighth seeded Malaysian opponent Lee Zii Jia after pulling up his right calf muscle.

Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also bowed out of the competition after suffering a 19-21, 17-21 defeat against second seeded Indonesian com-



bination of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

Later, Satwik and his mixed doubles partner Ashwini Ponnappa went down 12-21, 17-21 to Hong Kong pairing of Chang Tak Ching and Ng Wing Yung to draw curtains on India's campaign.

Pochettino wins 1st trophy as manager

AFP ■ LENS

Neymar scored on his return to action for Paris Saint-Germain as they beat arch rivals Marseille 2-1 to win this season's Champions Trophy.

The Brazilian rolled home an 85th minute penalty to put PSG two goals ahead following Mauro Icardi's first-half opener to give new coach Mauricio Pochettino the first trophy of his reign in the French capital, and managerial career.

The Champions Trophy is the French equivalent of a Super Cup, usually contested at the start of the season by the league champions and French Cup winners.

With PSG winning both last season, Marseille had been selected as their opponents as the Ligue 1 runners-up.

Hopes were high for a feisty tussle in Lens after Marseille's

league win at PSG in September ended with five red cards and Neymar accusing Marseille centre back Alvaro Gonzalez of racism in the aftermath.

However it was a largely tame encounter in northern France, with the most noteworthy incident being substitute Neymar's goalscoring return after a month away.

The 28-year-old hadn't featured for the French champions since being stretched out with an ankle injury during a 1-0 defeat to current league leaders Lyon on December 13.

Icardi thought he had given PSG the lead with a 22nd minute

tap-in, only to have the goal ruled out for offside after Kylian Mbappe strayed past Marseille's back line to collect Leandro Paredes' defence-splitting pass.

Seven minutes later it was Mbappe's turn to have a goal chalked off when he started his run too early to connect with a long pass from his captain Marquinhos.

Icardi finally put dominant PSG ahead six minutes before the break with a goal typical of his poacher's style, first meeting Angel Di Maria's raking long ball with a close-range header that Steven Mandanda pushed onto the post.

The Argentine was quickest to follow up as

the ball dribbled back out from the goal, and he tapped in his second goal as many games since returning from injury.

He almost doubled his side's lead in first half stoppage time when he hit a left-footed strike back off the crossbar.

Neymar returned to action in the 65th minute and was immediately targeted by Gonzalez, the Argentine fouling the superstar attacker several times in what looked like a continuation of the pair's spat.

However it was Neymar who had the last laugh when he stepped up to score the decisive second goal for PSG from the penalty spot after Icardi was brought down by Marseille's substitute keeper Yohann Pele.

Dimitri Payet pulled one back for Marseille with a minute remaining but it was too little too late for Andre Villas-Boas' side.



Bremen forward Fin Bartels converted the winning spot-kick to spark

wild celebrations.

The upset means this is the first time European champions Bayern have been eliminated from a cup competition since head coach Hansi Flick took charge in November 2019.

Bayern were 2-1 up thanks to goals by Serge Gnabry and Leroy Sane, either side of a superb Bartels strike, before a last-gasp header by Kiel captain Hauke Wahl on 95 minutes took the game to extra time, then penalties.

Bayern fielded a near-full strength side with only top-scoring striker Robert Lewandowski and centre-back Jerome Boateng rested.

Ter Stegen saves Barca in shootout



AFP ■ CORDOBA

Marc-Andre ter Stegen's heroics measured Barcelona edged past Real Sociedad on penalties on Wednesday to reach the Spanish Super Cup final, without the injured Lionel Messi.

Messi was watching on as Ter Stegen did his best to fill the void in Cordoba, the goalkeeper immense both in the shoot-out and during normal time, which had finished 1-1.

Freddie de Jong's header was cancelled out by a penalty from Mikel Oyarzabal, who then missed in the shoot-out, one of two crucial saves made by Ter Stegen before 21-year-old Riqui Puig hit the winning shot.

"I wasn't down to take one but we needed one more taker and I stepped forward," said Puig.

Barca advance to meet either Real Madrid or Athletic Bilbao in the final on Sunday, when Messi is expected to be available again, although coach Ronald Koeman was cautious at full-time.

"We have to wait," he said.

Koeman's team have a mountain to climb in La Liga's title race but they are improving, now nine games unbeaten and with a trophy in their grasp.

This is the second year of the Spanish Super Cup's new format, which has four teams playing each other in a semi-final and final.



A SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE OCCASION

INDIAN ARMY STRONG AND CAPABLE

The men and women in olive green continue to prove their worth against both external and internal challenges

The Army, the land component of the Indian Armed Forces, is one of the most capable and professional armies in the world. Tasked with the defence of the homeland along the Northern, Western and Eastern borders, it is also engaged in counter-terrorist activities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the North East region of the country. The men and women in olive green have proven their worth against both external and internal challenges. Indian Army has also been deployed in providing aid to civil authorities during natural disasters.

The last year was full of challenges for India and its army. Covid-19 and China have been major threats for the global order and the scene of contestation, cooperation and confrontation has shifted to Asia. India, faced with a revisionist state in the West and a revanchist one on its Northern and Eastern frontiers is at the centre of the biggest clash of civilisations that is slow-burning its way to increased hostilities between democracies and an authoritarian leadership. Non-state actors instigated and trained by Pakistan also aim to spread terror within the country. The Indian Army forms a major potent force for India to unravel the complexities of this geo-strategic environment on its way to a strong and responsible power in the comity of nations.

Unilateral and provocative

actions by the Chinese to change the status quo by force, in more than one area on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), were responded to in a firm and non-escalatory way ensuring the sanctity of our claims in Eastern Ladakh. The Indian Army has maintained all protocols and Agreements between the two countries while the PLA escalated the situation by using unorthodox weapons and amassing large number of troops. The Indian Army, assisted by IAF, mobilised troops, including accretionary forces in a very short duration, and heavy equipment like guns, tanks as well as ammunition, rations and clothing. The Army's engineers constructed roads, accommodation shelters and bridges to assist troop deployment. In a major skirmish in Galwan, 20 brave Indian soldiers lost their lives while trying to prevent the ingress of PLA troops into our territory. The Chinese also suffered significant casualties.

On August 28-29 last year, the troops, in a precautionary deployment, pre-empted Chinese expansionist designs and occupied heights along southern bank of Pangong Tso. Braving inclement

weather, the troops continue to be deployed on these heights. Advance Winter Stocking (AWS) and winter preparations for the enhanced strength have been completed and troops are well-entrenched to counter any misadventure by Chinese forces. While the Indian Army is prepared for any eventuality, talks are also progressing to resolve the issue in an amicable manner.

With the 'Whole of Government' approach adopted against the terror ecosystem and the consistent efforts of the security forces, the situation in Jammu & Kashmir has seen progressive improvement. On one hand, high level of alertness by troops along the Line of Control (LoC) blunted Pakistan's endeavours to infiltrate terrorists into the Valley, at the same time, high tempo of kinetic operations in the hinterland ensured denial of operational space to terrorist organisations. Ceasefire Violations committed by Pakistan Army were given a befitting reply by troops causing significant casualties to Pakistan Army. Counter infiltration grid was strengthened resulting in neutralisation of a number of terrorists along the LoC. A number of



attempts to smuggle arms, ammunition and contraband were also foiled along the LoC.

Internal security situation in North Eastern States has improved considerably with a large number of surrenders of insurgent cadres. Excellent understanding and coordination with Myanmar (OP SUN-RISE) have made it difficult for Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) to set up camps there. The Army and other security forces have played a stellar role in reducing the violence levels and forced insurgents to abjure the path of violence. These positive changes have enabled the Army to reduce its footprint in counter insurgency operations.

The Indian Army facilitated a successful national response in the fight against COVID-19 by providing unprecedented assistance both in terms of men and material. A total of 113 hospitals were earmarked for treatment of 12,000 patients from within the Army resources across the country. Quarantine facilities have been extended to approximately 4,000 expats who returned to the country during lockdown. COVID-19 provided the Indian Army an opportunity to assist Friendly Foreign Countries wherein help was not only extended in terms of specialist manpower and medicines but also COVID management

techniques.

The foundation for one of the most remarkable and momentous changes in the functioning of the Armed Forces was laid last year. The era of integration of the Army, Air Force and Navy has begun and 2021 will take it forward. All three services are doctrinally and professionally on the same level plane and efforts towards streamlining of logistics, training and maintenance capabilities are moving at full pace. The Indian Army is preparing for the battlefield of the future which will involve greater transparency, short periods of intense engagements and multi-domain operations.

A slew of weapons and platforms purchases has given an impetus to modernisation within the Army which not only focus on capability but are also intent in the form of force restructuring led by a major revamp in the Army headquarters. The Indian Army is now poised to become one of the most prolific contributors to the Indian Government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. A host of proposals have been streamlined and fast-tracked to bring the Indian defence industry at par with international competition. With the promulgation of the import ban list and a 'burn-the-bridges' approach towards indigenisation, it is only a matter of a few years that the Army will fight and prevail in modern warfare entirely on the strength of indigenous weapons and equipment. Not only this, the hand-holding provided to startups and MSMEs has benefited the Army in absorbing and utilising niche and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, swarming, internet of things and 5G to fight modern wars.

The Indian Army has expanded its scope of operations and is now ready to operate across multiple domains. Apart from conventional war, operations other than war also form a major part of its ambit. In securing India's borders and protecting India's interests, the country's Army continues to be **STRONG AND CAPABLE**.

BRAHMOS: Revolutionising land warfare strategy

This highly advanced, versatile, state-of-the-art tactical weapon has strongly fortified and secured India's strategic border positions

Possessing BrahMos, the world's most formidable precision attack missile has unprecedentedly sharpened Indian Army's land warfare capability in present times. This highly advanced, versatile, state-of-the-art tactical weapon with supersonic speed, long range, deadly accuracy coupled with stealth and lethal firepower has ensured that the Army can strongly fortify and secure India's strategic border positions during volatile times when there is conflict.

The mobile land-attack BrahMos configuration, which has been a part of the Indian Army since 2007, has swiftly evolved over the years to completely decimate strategic enemy positions including underground bunkers, command and control posts, ground-based radars, communication systems, weapons storage facilities and other high value assets within a few seconds. The Land Attack Cruise Missile (LACM) has undergone a record number of successful test firings and validated its prowess to impeccably operate in distinct modes such as 'top attack' 'target discrimination' and 'deep penetration' from India's most difficult and widely-varied land terrains.

"Last year, the Indian Army



conducted successive successful test firings of supersonic BrahMos as part of capacity enhancement. And each time, the weapon incorporating enhanced and superior features performed excellently and met all mission objectives perfectly. The continuous evolution of BrahMos has made it an unbeatable system and we

THE UNIQUELY DYNAMIC BRAHMOS HAS BECOME AN INDISPENSABLE MILITARY ASSET IN THE COUNTRY'S MULTI-PRONGED WAR STRATEGY TO FIGHT INTEGRATED, HIGHLY INTENSE BATTLES OF MODERN TIMES

take extreme pride in the fact that we have delivered such an invincible capability to our Army in record time," says Dr Sudhir K Mishra, Director General BrahMos, DRDO, and CEO & MD of BrahMos Aerospace, the India-Russia defence JV producing the world-class weapon system.


The uniquely dynamic BrahMos, also developed for and deployed in the Indian Navy and Air Force, has become an indispensable military asset in the country's multi-pronged war strategy to fight integrated, highly intense battles of modern times. The weapon has proved its dexterity while being deployed over longer distances at shortest possible time.

Reinforcing its pledge towards an 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat', aimed at India's rapid defence indigenisation, BrahMos Aerospace has also made relentless efforts to steadily increase the indigenous content in the BrahMos system. The successful test firing of a new, more advanced surface-to-surface missile was conducted on September 30 last year and featured many critical indigenous technologies and components including booster and airframe which has greatly strengthened India's national security apparatus.

BrahMos Aerospace salutes the spirit of Indian Army on the 73rd Army Day!




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