



# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



LET'S BREAK  
PATRIARCHY:  
KAJAL  
13 VIVACITY

## China builds village in Arunachal

Satellite images show village of 120 homes 5 km inside Indian territory

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing talks to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, China has added fuel to fire by building a village inside the disputed territory in Arunachal Pradesh. India says it has taken note of the construction along the border there and has ramped up its infrastructure development projects.

The latest development has rung alarm bells in the security establishment in India. It is apprehended that China wants to maintain the pressure on India by opening several fronts along the 4,000-km LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

The fresh construction detected by satellite images by Planet Labs shows that China has built a new village of about 120 homes. The village is about five km inside the Indian ter-



Pic courtesy: Twitter

ritory. China has all along disputed the claim, sources said here on Monday.

Giving details about the new construction, they said the

village is on the banks of Tsari Chu river in the Upper Subansiri district. Incidentally, the Chinese troops in 1959 had fired on an Indian post there.

"We have seen recent reports of China undertaking construction work along the border area with India. China has undertaken such con-

struction activity in the past several years," the MEA said, adding, "The Government remains committed to the objective of creating infrastructure along the border areas for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens, including in Arunachal Pradesh."

The latest satellite images pertain to November last year. The image dated a little more than a year before that — August 26, 2019 — does not show any construction activity. So, the village was set up last year. This was the same area where the Chinese army last year detained five locals.

The stand-offs now in Ladakh are due to the Chinese alarmed over rapid infrastructure development all along the LAC by India on its own side. However, sources said India has not built any roads or infrastructure development close to the new Chinese village.

They also said the maps of the Surveyor General of India

earmark that the new construction for the Chinese village is in the Indian zone.

Reports said the new village is a Chinese military post and it was first detected by satellites, including Google Earth, about ten years back. The new pictures of November clearly indicate the post is vastly upgraded, thereby posing a challenge to the Indian security forces.

The Indian security establishment maintains that the coming up of this village is a violation of several agreements between the two countries. The pacts clearly say both countries to "safeguard due interests of their settled populations in the border areas" and decree that pending an ultimate settlement of the boundary question, the two sides should strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control and work together to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

## SC leaves it to cops to take call on tractor rally



Farmers during their ongoing protest against new farm laws at Singhu Border in New Delhi on Monday

**'Delhi Police has all the power to decide on march on Republic Day'**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court told the Centre on Monday that the proposed tractor rally on the Republic Day by farmers protesting against the new farm laws is a "law and order" matter and the Delhi Police is the first authority to decide who should be allowed to enter the national Capital.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde, while hearing the Centre's application seeking an injunction against the proposed tractor or trolley march or any other kind of protest which seeks to disrupt the gathering and celebrations on January 26, said that the Delhi Police has all the authority to deal with the matter.

"Does the SC say as to what are the powers of police and how they will exercise them? We are not going to tell you

what to do," said the bench, also comprising Justices LN Rao and Vineet Saran.

The SC told Attorney General KK Venugopal that it will take up the matter for hearing on January 20.

"The question of entering into Delhi is a law and order matter and will be determined by the police," the bench said, adding, "Mr Attorney General, we are adjourning the matter and you have all the authority to deal with this matter."

Continued on Page 11

## Unions: Farmers have constitutional right to take out tractor rally

New Delhi: Protesting union leaders on Monday said farmers have a constitutional right to take out their tractor rally peacefully and asserted that thousands of people will participate in the proposed event on January 26. The reaction came after the SC said the Delhi Police is the first authority to decide the entry of protesting farmers into Delhi.

## Day after jab, man dies in UP; vaccine did not cause death, says Govt

Dip in vaccination turnout in Delhi, only 8 get shots at AIIMS on Mon

PNS/AGENCY ■ MORADABAD/ LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

After a 46-year-old health worker died in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad district a day after receiving the coronavirus vaccination, the family blamed his death on vaccination on Monday. However, the autopsy report attributing the death to "cardio-pulmonary disease", officials said on Monday.

Meanwhile, nearly 3,600

healthcare workers received the Covid-19 vaccine shots in Delhi on Monday, a further dip in the figures compared to that on opening day of the immunisation drive, with sources saying just eight medical staff got the jabs at AIIMS.

The family of Mahipal, who was working as ward boy in State-run Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital in Moradabad, said he was not suffering from any ailment other than fever and cough, and blamed his death on vaccination. However, the UP Government said the man died due to septicemic shock and cardiac arrest and the death was not related to the Covid-19 vaccination.

Continued on Page 11

## Mamata to take on Suvendu on his home turf

**Adhikari: I'll defeat her by 50K votes in Nandigram or I will quit politics for ever**

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ NANDIGRAM/KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has once again looked up to Nandigram for a slice of political luck and as an apparent strategy to blunt the impact of the defection of her erstwhile spearhead, Suvendu Adhikari, a powerful mass leader of the region.

Mamata on Monday told a huge rally at the "ground zero" of what they call Trinamool's "farm revolution" that she was more than eager to contest from the place as this was a lucky ground for her.

"I will fight from



Nandigram... Rather I will fight both from Nandigram and Bhawanipore... My soul has told me that this place is lucky for me... it is a holy place... and that I should fight from Nandigram... I have always started my campaign for the Assembly polls from this place," Mamata said once again attacking the "turncoats" who

quit the TMC before elections and vowing once again not to let the BJP capture Bengal.

"You may win many elections, you may become all powerful, you may be the Prime Minister of India and you may rule the world but I vow from this holy land of Nandigram that I will never allow the BJP to enter Bengal,"

Mamata said, adding how some people were quitting the party as "all these years they have earned huge black money which they want to save."

Mamata's sharp attack received an equally high-decibel reply from Adhikari, who led a road-show down SP Mukherjee Road, past Banerjee's Kalighat residence. He at once took up the challenge welcoming the TMC supremo at Nandigram and pre-declared the result: a "hands down" defeat for the Chief Minister.

"I welcome her to Nandigram... which catapulted her to power and which she remembered after five years... Let her contest from Nandigram and if I am fielded by my party there I take a vow today that if I cannot defeat her by a margin of half-a-lakh votes then I will quit politics," Adhikari said.

Continued on Page 11



Balloons, flowers, sanitisers and smiling faces welcomed Class 10 and 12 students in schools in the national Capital on Monday as they returned to campuses after over 10 months. The students who were elated to be able to attend the first offline class of the academic session wore masks and queued up outside schools maintaining social distance. (In photo) Students come out of school after attending their first class after over 10 months

## CAPSULE

### RAFALE TO FEATURE IN REPUBLIC DAY PARADE

New Delhi: The newly inducted Rafale fighter aircraft will feature in India's Republic Day parade on January 26 and culminate the flypast by carrying out the 'Vertical Charlie' formation — the aircraft flies at low altitude, pulls up vertically and conducts rolls before stabilising at higher altitude — the Indian Air Force said on Monday.

### 3 KILLED IN J&K IN DEC WERE MILITANTS: IGP

Srinagar: The three youths killed in a gunfight with security forces in Lavaypora last month were involved in militancy, Inspector General of Police-Kashmir Vijay Kumar said on Monday and added that police will soon convince their parents of it with concrete evidence.

## Tandav makers apologise unconditionally

Reaction comes after I&B Ministry notice and FIR against web series for hurting religious sentiments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

The makers of the Amazon Prime Video series Tandav on Monday apologised unconditionally after complaints that one of its episodes had hurt "Hindu sentiments".

The apology came after a case was registered against the makers of the web series in Lucknow and the Information and Union Broadcasting Ministry sought the view of the Amazon Prime on a flood of grievances against the series.



The statement from the cast and crew of Tandav said, "We have been closely monitoring viewer reactions to the web series Tandav and today during a discussion, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed us regarding a large number of

grievances and petitions received on various facets of the web series with serious concerns and apprehensions regarding its content hurting the sentiments of the people. "Tandav is a work of fiction and any resemblance to acts and persons and events is pure-

ly coincidental. The cast and crew did not have any intention to offend the sentiments of any individual, caste, community, race, religion or religious beliefs or insult or outrage any institution, political party or person, living or dead.

"The cast and crew of Tandav take cognisance of the concerns expressed by the people and unconditionally apologise if it has unintentionally hurt anybody's sentiments," the statement said.

A complaint filed by an

Uttar Pradesh policeman said that 17 minutes into the first episode, "people dressed up in a very bad manner to represent Hindu gods and goddesses... shown to speak in a very uncalculated for language... that hurts religious sentiments".

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

## House panel summons FB, Twitter officials over citizens' rights

The parliamentary standing committee on Information Technology (IT) has summoned officials of Facebook and Twitter on January 21 in connection with the prevention of misuse of social media.

The panel would discuss measures of safeguarding citizens' rights and ways to prevent misuse of social media in the light of the evidence presented to it by the committee. "Evidence of representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and to hear the views of the representatives of Facebook and Twitter on the subject 'safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms, including special emphasis on women security in the digital space," according to Lok Sabha Secretariat notice.

This would be the agenda of the committee's next meeting. The sitting will be held from 4 pm onwards on January 21, it said.

The 31-member parliamentary standing committee on IT is headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

Continued on Page 11

## Don't join WhatsApp if not accepting new policy, says Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday said accepting the new privacy policy of social messaging app WhatsApp was a "voluntary" thing and one can choose not to use or join that platform if one did not agree with its terms and conditions. "It is a private app. Don't join it. It is a voluntary thing, don't accept it. Use some other app," Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva said.

## 105 tigers die in 2020, 60% in protected zones

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

After dropping to 95 in 2019, the number of tiger deaths breached 100-figure mark again in 2020. At least 60 per cent of these deaths have taken place in the protected zones for big cats in the country, as per the data from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

The tiger mortality, which stood at 101, 110 and 121 in the three consecutive years before 2019, is now 105 deaths. Analysis of the data shows that last year every month more than 5 tigers were killed except in March when the number was at 4.

The reason for the mortality varies from natural deaths, human-animal conflict, includ-

ing electrocution, and poaching. Developmental pressure has been already taking its toll on their habitats.

India is home to about 70 per cent of the global tiger population. Today, India has 50 reserves having 2,967 tigers.

Of the 105 deaths in 2020, one has been categorised as seizure and another poaching. As per the NTCA, the country's nodal body working on welfare and protection of tigers, in seizures, a big cat is presumed dead on the basis of the body parts seized by authorities.

In 103 cases, the exact cause of the deaths is yet to be verified and investigation details are awaited.

Madhya Pradesh topped the list of mortalities with 26 tigers followed by Maharashtra



17. Kerala reported 10 deaths, closely trailed by Karnataka with 9 mortalities. It is the sixth year in a row that Madhya Pradesh has topped the list of States with the highest number of tiger deaths in the country. Month-wise, April proved to be lethal for the tigers when

the highest number of mortalities was reported with the country losing 15 tigers during the period.

At least 60 per cent tigers died inside the tiger reserves, suggesting territorial infighting among the predators for space. Though the data available from

the NTCA does not specify the cause of death in 103 cases, experts feel that it may be due to poisoning and electrocution due to man-animal conflicts.

Forty per cent of the total mortalities were reported from outside the tiger habitats, which the wildlife experts have termed as a cause of worry. They said that this indicates that either the big cats were in search of food or were forced to move out in the fringes of the reserves due to the loss of their territories to the younger ones. This leaves them vulnerable, the experts said.

The total cases of tiger deaths in four years (2015-2018) are 418 which means on an average eight tigers died every month for the past four years.

# 10 BJP candidates file papers for Council polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ten candidates of the Bharatiya Janata Party filed their nomination papers for the biennial polls to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council on Monday.

They included Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma and former IAS officer Arvind Kumar Sharma.

All the 10 BJP candidates filed two sets of nominations before the returning officer.

Besides them, an independent candidate, Mahesh Chandra Sharma, also filed his nomination for the coming Council elections, Returning Officer BB Dubey said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his senior ministers were present during the filing of nominations.

Those who filed their nominations include BJP state unit president Swatantra Dev Singh, Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Govind Narayan Shukla, Salil Bishnoi, Ashwani Tyagi, Dharamveer Prajapati and Surendra Chaudhary.

If the nomination papers of the 13th candidate, Mahesh Chandra Sharma, are found in order, then polling will be held on January 28, otherwise the 12 candidates will be declared



## Yogi to distribute appointment letters to teachers today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be distributing posting and appointment letters to UP Public Service Commission selected lecturers/assistant teachers (LT Grade) of government secondary schools on Tuesday.

The chief minister, in a token gesture, will be handing over the appointment letters to some of the newly-appointed

lecturers/assistant teachers.

On this occasion, he will also address the candidates and will also communicate with a few successful candidates from five districts.

Giving this information here on Monday, a government spokesman said that 436 selected lecturers/assistant teachers were being posted in government secondary schools. "This programme is yet another step forward in the

state government's Mission Rozgar. By providing government jobs to 436 youths, the present state government is moving towards the goal of employing four lakh youths in state services in four years," the spokesman said. The spokesman further said that instructions had been given to ensure compliance with COVID-19 protocol at the time of delivery of appointment letters.

elected unopposed on January 21.

The polling is scheduled to take place on January 28 and the counting will be taken up an hour after the completion of the polls.

Monday was the last day for filing of nominations for the 12 Legislative Council seats, which will fall vacant on January 30.

The scrutiny of papers will be held on January 19 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations is January 21.

The BJP has said it will win 10 out of the 12 seats.

In the 403-member UP Legislative Assembly, the BJP has 310 MLAs, SP 49, BSP 18, Apna Dal (Sonelal) nine, Congress seven and SBSP four. There are three Independent MLAs while the RLD and the Nishad Party have one MLA each. Of the 12 MLCs whose tenure is expiring, six are from the Samajwadi Party. They are Ramesh Yadav, Ahmed Hasan, Ashu Malik, Sahab Singh Saini, Ramjatan Rajbhar and Virendra Singh. The tenure of BSP's Pradeep Jatav and Dharamveer Ashok is also coming to an end. Naseemuddin Siddiqui, who defected to Congress from the Bahujan Samaj Party, is also retiring.

# Jaggery Festival to be organised in Lucknow

**Lucknow (PNS):** Famous for its culture, tradition, monuments, and delicious foods, including Dussehri mangoes, now Lucknow will be holding Jaggery Festival (Gur Mahotsav) for the first time and it is expected to attract travellers from across the country.

The Jaggery Festival was scheduled to be held last year but was put off due to the coronavirus pandemic and it would now be held this year.

However, the date of the event is still

not finalised.

The Sugar Industry and Sugarcane Development department has started gearing up for this mega event.

Recently, in a meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (Sugarcane Development) Sanjay Bhoosreddy, the format and purpose of the Gur Mahotsav was discussed in detail.

Officials said the Gur Mahotsav would showcase the branding of jaggery and its related products.

"Progressive sugarcane farmers from every corner of the state will be invited and it is expected that many specialist producers of the agriculture and food processing sector will also visit the festival and share their knowledge," an official said. The mahotsav will have stalls of jaggery chocolates, sweets, candies, and kheer. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Sugarcane Research Institute have jointly prepared chocolate and other prod-

ucts from jaggery in different flavours. This event, which will be held in Lucknow, will not only benefit Ayodhya and towns adjacent to it but will also promote sugarcane farmers of Awadh, Purvanchal and Lucknow.

The One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme is an ambitious plan of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Gur is the ODOP of Muzaffarnagar and Ayodhya, and a Gur Festival has already been organised in Muzaffarnagar.

ucts from jaggery in different flavours.

This event, which will be held in Lucknow, will not only benefit Ayodhya and towns adjacent to it but will also promote sugarcane farmers of Awadh, Purvanchal and Lucknow.

The One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme is an ambitious plan of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Gur is the ODOP of Muzaffarnagar and Ayodhya, and a Gur Festival has already been organised in Muzaffarnagar.

# Girl found murdered in Barabanki, rape suspected

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a suspected case of rape and murder, the body of a 22-year-old Dalit girl was found in a mustard field in Barabanki, police said on Monday.



**NOTICE**

I, Sanjay Kumar Pal, S/o Late Krishna Lal, R/o B-82, A-W.H.O. Colony, Tyagi Vihar, Sharda Nagar, Lucknow have changed my son's name from Sunny Kumar Pal to Saunjany Kumar for all future purposes.

**NOTICE**

I, Sanjay Kumar Pal, S/o Late Krishna Lal, R/o B-82, A-W.H.O. Colony, Tyagi Vihar, Sharda Nagar, Lucknow have changed my daughter's name from Soniya Kumari Pal to Saumya Kumari Pal for all future purposes.

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from TNUZ AGARWAL TO TANUJ AGARWAL for all future purposes. Tanuj Agarwal S/o Ramesh Chandra Agarwal 47/65 Swadeshi Bazaar General Ganj Kanpur.

**सूचना**

मेरा आर्मी नंबर 3999502 F, LHAU GULZARI LAL S/o MANGAL DASS मुनिंद 17 योगेश्वर, जन्म रुद्र कश्यप सुविधा जाता है कि मेरी पोलिसो बांड PLI POL No. - APS-248360-L जोकि GULZARI LAL S/O MANGAL DASS के नाम से है वास्तव में खो गया है इसका उपयोग अश्लेष माना जाएगा GULGARI LAL R/o Kotla Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir-181131

**NOTICE**

For your kind attention/information my original development authority Allotment Letter registration no.2318666/22/07/2002 and property ID-47481 lost on 09/01/2021 Saguna Devi W/o Umesh Kumar Add- D-53, Sector-G, Kanpur road, Lucknow

She was strangled to death and there were traces of blood around the woman's private part. The kin suspect that she was raped and then killed.

Reports said that the victim, Sonam (name changed) had gone out of the house to attend to the call of nature in the Thana Kothi area on Sunday, but when she did not return home, the family began searching, and the found her body lying in a village in the Jaitpur police station area late Sunday evening.

As soon as the incident was reported, the police officers rushed to the spot. The girl belongs to a poor family.

Superintendent of Police Yamuna Prasad, who reached the spot, formed five teams to expose the incident.

Meanwhile, local Samajwadi Party MLA Gaurav Rawat, who reached the spot soon after learning about the incident, blamed police negligence for the rape and murder. He demanded justice and compensation for the victim's family.

In a case of suicide in Mahoba, the body of a 18-year-old Dalit girl was found hanging from a tree, police said on Monday.

However, the woman's family alleged that she was being harassed by a youth in their locality and her body was hanged from a tree in the mountain at some distance

from the Chhamhi Devi temple in a suspicious situation.

Preeti (18) left home on Saturday afternoon to buy vegetables but did not return. Later, her family members found her body hanging from a tree in Belatal area on Sunday, said Circle Officer Rampravesh Rai. He said prima facie, it appeared to be a case of suicide.

Meanwhile, in a bizarre incident in Sonbhadra, a 50-year-old woman was attacked with a sharp-edged weapon. According to reports, one Virendra Maurya, hailing from Baganwa hamlet under the Pannus Ganj police station area, suspected that he was facing a lot of problems because of the witchcraft of a local woman, identified as Tetari Devi.

As a cause for his troubles, Maurya had been angry with the woman for the past year.

To get rid of her, Maurya, on Sunday, stabbed the woman with a sharp-edged weapon following which she was rushed to hospital but the doctor pronounced her dead.

The police have arrested the killer and are trying to recover the weapon used in the murder.

Maurya revealed that he suspected that Tetari Devi had let loose ghosts and witchcraft on him. They had heated arguments over the issue which ended with the killing of the woman.

# Govt appoints 8 UPPCL directors

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday appointed eight directors in UP Power Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries.

Amrendra Singh Kushwaha has been appointed as director, State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC), Ranjan Kumar Srivastava as director and AK Srivastava as director distribution, all in UPPCL.

Brij Mohan Sharma has been appointed as director technical at Dakshin Vidyut Vitran Nigam Agra, Rakesh Kumar Rana as director technical at Paschimanchal Vitran Nigam at Meerut, SK Baghel as director administration at Purvanchal Vitran Nigam, Varanasi. Pradeep Kakkad as director administration at Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam, Lucknow and Sanjay Srivastav as director technical at Kanpur Electric Supply Company.

# Akhilesh reiterates his offer to Shivpal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi party president Akhilesh Yadav has reiterated his offer for his estranged uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav that the SP will not field its candidate in Jaswantnagar assembly constituency in Etawah district.

Shivpal Yadav heading the Pragatishheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) is presently the MLA from Jaswantnagar.

"The SP will not enter into alliance with any party for 2022 UP assembly elections and consider electoral tie-up only with small political parties. The offer to my uncle Shivpal Yadav is still open and the SP will not field its candidate in Jaswantnagar assembly seat and he will also be accommodated in the ministry if the SP is voted to power in 2022," Akhilesh Yadav said in Shrivasti on Monday.

The SP is running training camps across the state and Akhilesh Yadav is presently visiting eastern UP districts.

Akhilesh Yadav repeated his charge against the Yogi Adityanath government, saying that the government is not only ignoring but working against the interests of the farmers and youth.

"The BJP is fond of conducting its organisational activities like enrolling members for the party through missed calls. The BJP should share the mobile number where the farmers failing to get the minimum support price for the paddy crop can call and seek redressal of their grievances," Yadav said.

The SP chief also questioned the Yogi Adityanath government's stand on providing free COVID-19 vaccine to the common people and particularly the poor.

On the ongoing construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the SP chief said his party respected Lord Ram and also Parshuram, the incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

**Indian Overseas Bank**

**Possession Notice**

Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the Indian Overseas Bank using the powers conferred on him under Section 13(12) according to the Rule 8 (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Security Interest had notified the following borrower and guarantor by issuing demand notice for the amount and interest mentioned in front of their name to repay the amount and interest mentioned in front of their name within 60 days.

Since, the borrower failed to repay the amount henceforth, the borrower / guarantor and common public are notified that the undersigned has possessed the following described mortgaged property under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Act, 2002. The borrower / guarantor and common public are henceforth specially cautioned not to deal with these properties and if anybody deals with these properties then he will be liable to the amount mentioned in front of following account of Indian Overseas Bank.

Sl. no.	Name of the Borrowers / Mortgagors/ Guarantors with address	Dues Claimed in Demand Notice	Details of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Notice
1.	1.Sri. Bhubneshwar Kumar Yadav s/o Ramdavan Yadav (Borrower) House No. Naya Makan, Ward No.8, Civil Lines Maharajganj.	Rs.2,05,316.88.00 + Intt due from 11-05-2020 Date of Demand Notice 12.05.2020	All that part and parcel of Residential Land and Building at arazi No. 1137 at Village chauraha Maupakar, Lohia Nagar, ward No. 14. NPP, Maharajganj admeasuring 0.032 Hectare in the name of Mrs. Nandini Yadav W/o Bhubneshwar Yadav. Bounded as North - Kachha Rasta, South - House of Sri Bhola, East - House of Sri Ram Naresh, West - House of Chhangur.	14-01-2021

**Date: 19.01.2021**  
**Place : Maharajganj**

**Sd/-**  
**Authorised Officer,**  
**Indian Overseas Bank**

**Bank of Baroda**

**Possession Notice**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

**Branch : ROSARB, Kanpur**

Sl. No.	Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date
1.	<b>Borrower : M/s Rajat Bulk Carriers, Proprietor: Shri Rajesh Kumar Lal S/o Late Shiv Murat Lal &amp; Smt. Usha Srivastava W/o Shri Rajesh Kumar Lal and Shri Rajat Srivastava S/o Shri Rajesh Kumar Lal, All above R/o: 14/45, Panki Power House Colony, Kanpur and also at Plot No. 46, Block-F, Scheme No. 40, Panki, Kanpur. Demand Notice Date:31-07-2020 • Date of Constructive Possession : 13.01.2021</b> <b>Property : Land &amp; Building situated at Plot No. 46, Block-F, Scheme No. 40, Panki, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Shri Rajesh Kumar Lal S/o Late Shiv Murat Lal &amp; Smt. Usha Srivastava W/o Shri Rajesh Kumar Lal and Shri Rajat Srivastava S/o Shri Rajesh Kumar Lal. Area : 297.652 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : Plot No. 37, South : 12.192 Mtr. Road, East : Plot No. 47, West : Plot No. 45</b> <b>O/S/Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 70,57,031.90 + Intt. +Others Charges</b>
2.	<b>Borrower : Shri Rajneesh Kumar Awasthi S/o Shri K.N. Awasthi &amp; Smt. Rama Awasthi W/o Shri Rajneesh Kumar Awasthi, R/o : Mohalla Ashok Nagar, Ward No. 8, (Near Shree Bholeshwar Bal Mandir) Akbarpur, Kanpur Dehat. Guarantor : Shri Ramesh Kumar S/o Shri Ram Shanker, Address : Suchna Vibhag, Nabipur, Mati, Kanpur Dehat</b> <b>Demand Notice Date : 01-08-2019 • Date of Constructive Possession : 15.01.2021</b> <b>Property : Land &amp; Building situated at Mohalla Ashok Nagar, Ward No. 8, (Near Shree Bholeshwar Bal Mandir) Tehsil-Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat in the name of Smt. Rama Awasthi W/o Shri Rajneesh Kumar Awasthi. Area : 60.48 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : 12 Ft. Wide Rasta, South : House of Shri Raj Kumar S/o Shri Daya Prakash, East : House of Shri Ramesh Kaushal, West : House of Mr. Dulla.</b> <b>O/S/Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 2,10,196.74 + Intt. +Others Charges</b>

**Date : 19-01-2021** **Place : Kanpur / Kanpur Dehat** **Authorised Officer**

# Don't let the guard down: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that while the vaccination against the novel coronavirus was underway, one should not let the guard down against COVID-19 and directed the authorities concerned to ensure that the vaccination programme was carried out on Thursday and Friday as per the guidelines and sequence spelt out by the Government of India.

He also directed officials to ensure that all preparations for the second phase of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign were in place as per scheduled timelines. The chief minister was on Monday reviewing the COVID-19 unlock at a high level meeting at Lok Bhawan in the state capital. He said that COVID-19 vaccination work was to be undertaken twice a week, on Thursday and Friday.

In the first phase of the vaccination drive, all health workers were to be administered the vaccine dose in the next three weeks, he said. From February 15, the second dose of the vaccine is to be administered to all those who got the first shot in the first phase of the vaccination programme. The chief minister underlined that Covid tests had played a key role in containing the spread of the novel coronavirus and asked officials to ensure that surveillance and contact tracing was carried out effectively. He said that at least 1.50 lakh Covid tests should be done every day.

The chief minister said that

## Vaccination drive on Jan 22, 28, 29

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Covid-19 vaccination drive for the remaining health workers of Lucknow will be carried out on January 22, 28 and 29. District immunisation officer MK Singh said they would prepare a micro-plan regarding the session sites and finalised soon," he said. He said that earlier the guidelines were for the vaccinations to be carried out on Mondays and Fridays. "For the vaccinations to be completed in three days, the drive will have to be carried out on January 22, 28 and 29. The number of health workers to be vaccinated on these three days also has to be decided," he said.

On the day of launch on January 16, as many as 838 out of the 51,000 health workers had been given vaccine jabs in the first phase. He pointed out that Covid cases have almost come down to naught in Gomtinagar and Indiranagar which were cluster areas earlier. "What has worked is the herd immunity which devel-

adequate arrangements for antigen tests must be ensured at Arogya Mela.

He said that information regarding Ayushman Bharat Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan should be provided during Arogya Mela and

ops in people against a particular disease, and it helped in bringing down the number of infections. Also, testing is still being carried out, as also contact tracing," he said.

Singh said they are still carrying out testing at the airports and bus stations in the same manner as earlier. "Nearly 130 rapid response teams are engaged in surveillance and contact tracing," he said.

Nodal officer for Covid immunisation at KGMU Dr Nishant Verma, while talking about monitoring of health workers who had been vaccinated on January 16, said they would not be called but they are our own staff and they can call us at any time if they face any problems," he said.

He pointed out on most of the occasions, severe adverse reactions manifest within half-an-hour of vaccination.

"However, monitoring is needed as this is a new vaccine and a live viral vaccine, therefore, we have given a contact number to the beneficiaries of vaccination, so that they can

report their problems, if any," he said. What if any problem erupts ten days after getting the vaccine shot, he said: "If something of that sort happens, it will have to be investigated first."

Incharge of ICU (1), SGPGI, Dr Zia Hashim said that with the number of Covid patients decreasing, the ICU is being cleaned. "The process has started at our ICU and will continue for two to three days. Normally, the ICUs are cleaned every 2-3 months but pandemic delayed this work," he said.

At the Central Command Hospital, the vaccination drive was kicked off by Commandant Maj Gen Ramesh Kaushik. A total of 1,500 health workers have to be given the shots. Maj Gen Kaushik received the first jab.

He later encouraged other health workers to take the vaccine and laid emphasis on its safety and efficacy. He said all the health workers had an additional role to play as ambassadors promoting the largest vaccination drive in the world. oxygen with backup, all essential medicines, medical equipment should be ensured at Covid hospitals.

He said that necessary arrangements for fire safety should also be ensured in all government and private hospi-

A total of 200 health workers were vaccinated and no adverse effects were reported.

Meanwhile, 81 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow on Monday while 118 patients recovered. City's death toll stands at 1,156 while there are 2,045 active cases in the district.

A senior official at the CMO office said that the fresh cases included seven each from Rae Bareilly road, Alambagh & Madaon, nine from Chowk, and six each from Indiranagar, Gomtinagar and Chinhat.

In the state, 379 persons tested positive, including seven each in Kanpur & Gautam Buddh Nagar, six in Ghaziabad, 13 in Varanasi and 15 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,96,904.

There were four deaths in the state, including two in Lucknow, and one each in Prayagraj & Muzaffarnagar, taking the toll to 8,580. Besides, 622 patients recovered, taking the recovery figures to 5,79,693 while there are 8,631 active cases in the state.

The chief minister directed officials to ensure smooth and effective operation of '102' and '108' ambulance services and said that the needy people should get ambulance service within the time fixed for the service.

# 2 coaches of Shaheed Express go off track



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two coaches of Shaheed Express derailed minutes after departing from Charbagh railway station on Monday morning, triggering panic among passengers. No casualty was reported in the incident but some passengers reportedly sustained minor injuries. Senior officials took a serious note of the incident and sought a report.

The derailment occurred around 8 am when the train was moving at a speed of about 8 kmph, as per railway officials. A general coach and an AC coach went off the track all of a sudden. A rescue team instantly reached the scene and the damaged coaches were dragged to platform number 7.

The passengers aboard were sent to their destinations by another train. The Shaheed Express departed for its destination around 10 am.

The mishap stalled rail traffic for over two hours. CPRO, New Delhi, said the traffic was cleared quickly and the track was available for arrival and departure of trains. The railway administration sent the train driver and assistant driver for a medical check-up. In the initial investigation conducted by the railways, it surfaced that the wheel of the train suffered a fracture and oil leaked onto the tracks. The track also was broken as the coaches dragged on it after derailment. However, the officials denied the possibility of sabotage. The passengers who

were sent to their destination by another train created a scene, alleging that they were made to sit in unreserved coaches though they had tickets for reserved class travel. There were reports that they refused to accept snacks and refreshments offered to them by the railway officials. However, the officials refused to comment on the issue.

Several trains were stopped on different platforms after the derailment. Two trains were stopped on platform numbers 3 & 7 while a train reaching Lucknow was stopped at Amausi. Also, some of the trains were stopped at Unnao, Malihabad and Dilkusha stations. Sources said eight trains had a delayed departure due to the mishap.

# Fraudster lands in police net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of Indiranagar police on Monday claimed to have arrested a fraudster who had duped several people to the tune of crores and was absconding for a long time. He was wanted by the police of several states and the Madhya Pradesh police had announced a cash reward of Rs 10,000 on his arrest in view of his criminal activities.

The accused was identified as Ejaz Ahmad, a resident of Gudamba and native of Azamgarh. Inspector Ajay Prakash Tripathi said they recovered two passports with different names, a fake letterhead in which he had prefixed doctor to his name, two fake death certificates, several documents, fake job letters, a desktop computer, a laptop and an arm licence.

The inspector said Ejaz aka Qamar Ejaz had duped several gullible people on the pretext of facilitating jobs to them and was absconding for a long time.

Meanwhile, three accused were arrested for stealing new mobile phones sold by an online shopping company in Sarojinagar. A manhunt was also launched for his aide.

As per reports, an official of the agency facilitating delivery of mobile phones to its customers, Sujet Kumar of Haridwar had lodged a complaint against two employees Sonu Gautam of Para and

Hemant Sharam of Unnao, alleging that they stole new mobile phones which were meant to be delivered to customers. The fraud surfaced during inventory counting on January 11. The company set up an internal inquiry and CCTV footage was checked. Sonu, Hemant and security guards Anil Yadav and Dilip Kumar of Rae Bareilly were put under scanner. The matter was handed over to police and a team thoroughly interrogated Sonu and Hemant. Anil went into a hiding but the police detained Dilip and interrogated him. The accused owned their crime and the police recovered the stolen mobile phones. They also confessed to have stolen several mobile phones in the past.

In another case, thieves made off with cash and ornaments from a house in Talkatora police station area Saturday. The incident came to light on Sunday and a case was registered later.

As per reports, Amit Verma of Badshah Kheda locality, along with his family, had gone to Banthra to see his parents-in-law on Saturday afternoon. When he returned home on Sunday, he found his house burgled. "The thieves had made off with ornaments and cash after breaking open the almirah. They entered the house by dismantling a grill laid over the open space in the courtyard," he said.

# Brothers under police scanner day after woman found murdered

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the murder of a 45-year-old woman, Rekha Awasthi, the needle of suspicion turned towards her brothers — Pradeep and Ashu — after the police did not find any transaction of money.

Pradeep had lodged a case against brother duo Salman and Khursheed, alleging that they killed Rekha over money dispute. He had claimed that he had given Rs 84 lakh to the brother duo after selling his land in Gudamba.

The police went to a bank to check details of the bank accounts of Salman and Khursheed but did not find any transaction. The police also checked the bank account details of Pradeep and his brother Ashu but did not find any detail of Rs 84 lakh.

They said Pradeep and his brother were misleading the police. "They may be framing Salman and Khursheed due to some old enmity," officers privy to the investigation said. The police said they were close to working out the case.

The woman was murdered and her body dumped in a mango grove in Gosainganj police station area on Sunday. Her brother Pradeep had named Salman and Khursheed in the case.

## निष्पक्ष एवं पारदर्शी भर्ती प्रक्रिया

### के अन्तर्गत उत्तर प्रदेश लोक सेवा आयोग से राजकीय माध्यमिक विद्यालयों के लिए

# 436 नवचयनित प्रवक्ताओं एवं सहायक अध्यापकों का ऑनलाइन पदस्थापन एवं नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण समारोह

(द्वितीय चरण)

मुख्य अतिथि

## योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

विशिष्ट अतिथि

## डॉ. दिनेश शर्मा

उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

गरिमानयी उपस्थिति

## गुलाब देवी

राज्यमंत्री, माध्यमिक शिक्षा, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 19 जनवरी, 2021 | समय : अपराह्न 4:00 बजे

स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

## माध्यमिक शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

कार्यक्रम का लाइव प्रसारण DD Uttar Pradesh व Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh वृद्ध एवं UPGovtOfficial CMOUTtarpradesh CMOOfficeUP सोशल मीडिया ऐप/डब्ल्यू के माध्यम से देख सकते हैं।

### बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा

Bank of Baroda

### Possession Notice

For Immovable Property

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to the following borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the dates as mentioned below. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda, for an amount, add interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower Date of Demand/Possession Notice	Description of Immovable Property	Outstanding Amount(Rs.)
<b>BRANCH: ROSARB</b>			
1.	<b>Borrower:-</b> M/s Raj Traders Address- Vill Intgaon, Post Milkipur, District Faizabad. Through its proprietor Late Umashankar Dubey S/o Ramakant Dubey. (1) Kusum Dubey W/o Late Umashankar Dubey. (2) Bipin Dubey S/o Late Umashankar Dubey. (3) Raj Dubey S/o Late Umashankar Dubey. (4) Sapna Devi D/o Late Umashankar Dubey, All 1,2,3 and 4 are (as legal heir of deceased proprietor Umashankar Dubey S/o Ramakant Dubey).Address of 1,2,3 and 4 :- Vill Intgaon, Post Milkipur, District Faizabad. <b>Guarantor:-</b> (1) Ramakant Dubey S/o Chandni Dutt Dubey. (2) Krishna Kumar Mishra S/o Raghunath Mishra. Address of 1 and 2:- Vill Intgaon, Post Milkipur, District Faizabad. <b>Date of Demand Notice: 02.09.2008</b> <b>Date of Possession Notice: 18.01.2021</b>	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable Mortgage of plot no. 290 situated in Mauja Milkipur, Pargana Paschimrath, Tahsil Milkipur, District Faizabad in the name of Ramakant Dubey S/o Chandni Dutt Dubey Total Area: 0.089 hectare. <b>Bounded as under: East:</b> Agri Land of Bhavani Bheekh, <b>West:</b> Chak Road then after Agri Land in name of Primary School, <b>North:</b> Chak Road then after Bagh of Avdhesh Pratap Singh, <b>South:</b> Agri Land of Harish Chandra Etc.	2,65,678/- plus interest and charges thereon w.e.f. 31.07.2008

Date: 19.01.2021, Place: Faizabad Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

# Police interrogate another doc in Ajit murder case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Expediting the probe into the murder case of former block pramukh Ajit Singh in Vibhuti Khand police area on January 6, police interrogated a doctor named AK Singh on Monday. A spokesman of the media cell of Commissioner of Police DK Thakur confirmed that Dr Singh was summoned and interrogated. He was accused of giving medical treatment to one of the shooters who had peppered Ajit Singh with bullets on the fateful day. Earlier, the police had also interrogated a city-based doctor in this connection. The spokesman said that the police would take a call on the course of action once the interrogation was completed.

The doctor in question was accused of not informing the police and providing medical treatment to a shooter who had suffered firearm injuries after Ajit's aide Mohar Singh returned fire. The accused were helped in flee the scene by their accomplices.



Some of the shooters dropped their bikes at Kamta bus stand while the injured shooter was brought to a flat in Gombi Nagar and administered first-aid by a doctor, who was interrogated earlier. The flat reportedly belongs to a mafia-turned-politician of eastern UP. The injured shooter was then shifted to a nursing home in Sultanpur for further treatment. The prime shooter, Kanhaiya Vishwakarma aka Giridhari, was arrested in New Delhi in a dramatic way and channeled under Arms Act for possessing a pistol of prohibited bore. His arrest stalled the Lucknow police bid to interrogate him. The Lucknow police

are planning to bring Giridhari on a transit remand after seeking Delhi court's permission.

## POLICE THRASH MENTALLY UNSTABLE MAN

A video showing a policeman beating a mentally unstable man and bundling him in their jeep in Vikas Nagar went viral on social media, forcing senior officers to look into the matter. A spokesman of the media cell of CP said the man was creating nuisance near Gulachin temple in Vikas Nagar and was shifted from the place. He said some people made a video and shared it on social media on Monday.

To save their skin, the police claimed that the man used to smear CCTV cameras with cowdung and dirt and would also harass women. The police said that the cops handling the situation used mild force and the man was let off later. Contrary to police claims, the video showed that the cops were kicking the man ruthlessly.

# KMCLU student to be awarded by CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University (KMCLU) student Ankit Maurya will be given away state-level 'Vivekananda Youth Award' by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Spokesperson of the university said Ankit Maurya, who is a BEd (I) student, will be given away the state's highest youth honour, 'Vivekananda Youth Award', for outstanding work in the fields of community organisation, active citizenship, education & educational excellence, and social work. He will be honoured by the chief minister on the occasion of UP Diwas on January 24.

"Ankit Maurya has been involved in various NSS activities like plantation, voter awareness, blood donation, environment & health awareness, water conservation, Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, Digital India, yoga, sanitation, human rights and special awareness camps in rural areas. He has done significant work for sensitising and empowering the school dropouts, and elimination of child labour. Apart from this, he is also presently providing free education to the children of migrant labourers," the spokesperson said. She said Ankit believes that social work should help others in such a way that the beneficiaries can be able to help others in return.

# Schools open with single 5-hour shift



Students taking pre-board exams at St Francis' College in Lucknow on Monday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Several schools in the city re-opened classes IX to XII with a single shift of five hours on Monday. President of Unaided Private Schools' Association Anil Agarwal said many schools, including those having multiple branches, started with a single session. He said only a few schools had started the single session earlier because others were

having pre-board exams.

Till now, schools had been running in two shifts of three hours each, with classes X & XII in the morning shift and classes IX & XI in the afternoon. The schools provided students a break of 20 minutes. "The students are not bringing heavy lunches but only light refreshments. In our school, the lunch session was held in the presence of teachers. The students remained confined to the

classes and no one was allowed to go out," he said. He pointed out that no student of private schools tested positive for Covid since their re-opening after lockdown.

DIOS Mukesh Singh said that single sessions started at government schools. Asked if any student tested Covid positive after the schools re-opening post lockdown, he said there has not been a single case so far.

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रीसमिशन लिमिटेड, कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा सूचना, ई-निविदा संख्या टी-03 / वि०पारे०खण्ड-द्वि०(का०) / 2020-21, 220 के०बी० उपकेन्द्र साद पर दैनिक साफ-साफाई का कार्य। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या-टी-04 / वि०पारे०खण्ड-द्वि०(का०) / 2020-21, 220के०बी० उपकेन्द्र साद पर उपकेन्द्र अनुसूचना का कार्य। अल्पकालीन-ई-निविदा संख्या-टी-05 / वि०पारे०खण्ड-द्वि०(का०) / 2020-21, 220के०बी० उपकेन्द्र नौबस्ता पर उपकेन्द्र अनुसूचना का कार्य। उपरोक्त विषय में विस्तृत विवरण साईट पर उपलब्ध है, सभी सक्षम आपूर्ति कार्यदायी संस्थाएँ तदनुसार निविदा में भाग ले सकती हैं। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल द्वितीय कानपुर। पत्रांक-76 / वि०प्रे०ख०द्वि०(का०) / टी०-1, दिनांक - 18.01.2021, "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"**

# 'Research needed to address reasons to develop start-ups'

Lucknow (PNS): The department of Commerce, Lucknow University, should take up research projects to find out reasons which need to be addressed to develop start-ups in several UP districts because such projects will help the government improve their policy perspective.

These views were expressed by Additional Chief Secretary (Industrial Development and IT & Electronics) Alok Kumar, who was the chief guest at the valedictory session of the faculty development programme, organised by Lucknow University on Monday.

He further said that the UP government is working intensively for developing and establishing the eco-system for growth of start-ups in the state. To give a boost to MSMEs, after Covid, the government has tried to ease the implementation of laws governing the MSMEs," he said. He stressed on the importance of policy-

makers, academicians and industry to come together for the success of any development project. The department of Commerce organised a two-week faculty development programme online from January 5 to 18. The was entrepreneurial research. LU Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Rai was the patron of the programme. The FDP was attended by 65 participants from across the country.

Sixteen resource persons from prominent academic institutions and from the field of entrepreneurship, such as IEDUP, ICAI, AMU, BHU, DU, SRMU, Jaipuria College and Lucknow University, contributed to the programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Additional Chief Secretary (MSME, Khadi and Village Industries) Navneet Sehgal on January 5. The FDP witnessed discussions on research methodology like sampling techniques, SPSS, E-content, plagiarism, cluster analysis etc.

# 2 held for raising inflammatory slogans

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Meerut police arrested two men from Bulandshahr after a video showing them raising inflammatory slogans against a community went viral, reports confirmed on Monday. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has distanced itself from the two men and said they do not belong to the outfit. Last week, a video went viral on social media in which the two men could be seen

making highly objectionable remarks against the Muslim community during a motorcycle rally to collect funds for the Ram temple. The rally, which took place in Shikarpur area of Bulandshahr district on Wednesday, was organised by the VHP. The two men shouted abusive slogans in the middle of the road, recorded their act on camera and shared it on social media.

The police took cognisance of the matter and filed an

FIR the next day under sections 153-A (promoting enmity between groups on the grounds of religion, race, etc.), 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of the Indian Penal Code.

According to reports, the two men, Ritik and Shivam, are from Bulandshahr. They were arrested and further investigations are on to extract whether

the inflammatory slogans made by them was part of a bigger conspiracy to fuel communal tension in the area.

Meanwhile in Bareilly, a 28-year-old man and his cousin were killed and two others were injured in a road accident, the police said on Monday. The incident took place on Richha-Jahanabad road. The deceased were identified as Asif Khan, who was an imam of a mosque, and Javed (20).

Javed and one Iqbal were returning home with Asif after picking him up from the railway station when their motorcycle was hit by another.

As the two motorcycles fell on the road, a speeding truck ran over Asif and Javed, killing them on the spot, Assistant Superintendent of Police Rohit Singh Sajivan said. Iqbal and the driver of the other motorcycle, Shakir, were seriously injured in the incident and were rushed to the hospital.

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रीसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा सूचना, ई-निविदा संख्या टी-03 / वि०पारे०खण्ड-द्वि०(का०) / 2020-21, 220 के०बी० उपकेन्द्र साद पर दैनिक साफ-साफाई का कार्य। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या-टी-04 / वि०पारे०खण्ड-द्वि०(का०) / 2020-21, 220के०बी० उपकेन्द्र साद पर उपकेन्द्र अनुसूचना का कार्य। अल्पकालीन-ई-निविदा संख्या-टी-05 / वि०पारे०खण्ड-द्वि०(का०) / 2020-21, 220के०बी० उपकेन्द्र नौबस्ता पर उपकेन्द्र अनुसूचना का कार्य। उपरोक्त विषय में विस्तृत विवरण साईट पर उपलब्ध है, सभी सक्षम आपूर्ति कार्यदायी संस्थाएँ तदनुसार निविदा में भाग ले सकती हैं। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल द्वितीय कानपुर। पत्रांक-76 / वि०प्रे०ख०द्वि०(का०) / टी०-1, दिनांक - 18.01.2021, "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"**

## Re-Notice for Request for Proposal

No: RMSA/TL99/1307/2020/112 Dated: 18-01-2021

In inviting a reference to RFP No: RMSA/ATL/1304/2020/76 Dated: 17/12/2020, Samagra Shiksha (RMSA&SSA) Assam re-invites proposal affixing court fee stamp of minimum value Rs 8,25/- containing (a) Qualification expression, (b) Technical Proposal, (c) Commercial Proposal in separate file/folder from reputed Organizations for the supply of equipment and gadget of Tinkering Lab and training to students and teachers to implement Tinkering Lab in 99 Government/Provincialised High and Higher Secondary Schools in Assam.

Detailed RFP may be seen at "https://assamtenders.gov.in/" for eligibility, scope of work, terms and conditions etc. The tender document can be downloaded from "https://assamtenders.gov.in/" up to 27/01/2021 and making payment of non-refundable Tender Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five thousand) only.

RFP are to be uploaded on the prescribed tender form along with (a) bid security or earnest money deposit (EMD) for an amount of Rs. 20,00,000/- (Rupees twenty lakhs) only, valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission, in the form of Demand Draft in favor of Mission Director, RMSA, Assam, Guwahati payable at Guwahati. The RFP will be received upto 1:30 pm on 27/01/2021 and will be opened on same day at 2:30 pm at the Office of the Mission Director, SS (RMSA & SSA), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam.

Samagra Shiksha (RMSA), Assam reserves the right to amend or cancel the RFP without assigning any notice or reason thereof. Moreover, in case of non-availability of sufficient bidder (or less than three bidder), authority has to right to take decision without prior notice.

Sd/-Executive Director, Samagra Shiksha (RMSA & SSA), Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanayog /CF/3963/20

# Terrorists desperate to disturb communal harmony: J&K DGP

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the Republic Day celebrations in Jammu & Kashmir, Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh on Monday claimed there are inputs that the terrorists are keen to carry out some mischief as they are desperate to disturb communal harmony, peace and order in the region.

Chairing a high level security review meeting of the senior officers of Police, Army,

BSF, CRPF and Intelligence agencies here in the police headquarters the DGP said that the year 2021 will have its own challenges as new strategies have been adopted by Pakistan with new terror operatives emerging on ground which need to be countered.

Last week, a tunnel was detected along the International border in the Samba sector by the BSF jawans. The security agencies are still investigating whether the same was recently used to

push armed infiltrators inside the Indian territory or not. On the occasion DGP also directed that the deployments for republic day may be beefed up and the QRTs, escorts, guards will have to be alert.

He directed that all arrangements be made so that 26th January celebrations are held peacefully. He said that there are inputs that the terrorists are keen to carry out some mischief as they are desperate to disturb communal harmony, peace and order. He directed

the officers to take care of vulnerable persons and places to thwart the nefarious designs of enemies. He said that well coordinated surveillance systems must be ensured to undo nefarious plans of the enemies.

The high level security review meeting was attended by COS 16 Corps Major General Sharad Kapoor, IGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh, IGP CRPF Jammu P. S. Rampise, DIG Udhampur Reasi Range Sujit Kumar, DIG Doda Kistwar Ramban Range Abdul

Jabbar, DIG BSF Jammu S. K. Singh, SSP Jammu Shreedhar Patil, SSP CIV PHQ Rajesh Bali, SSP CID CI Jammu Tahir Rohat Bhat, SSP CID SB Jammu Rajib Baskotra and other senior officers.

Meanwhile, in Srinagar Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar said that the three youth killed in Waypura gunfight were involved in militancy and that the police will soon present 'concrete evidence' to their parents.

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रीसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा सूचना, ई-निविदा संख्या टी-03 / वि०पारे०खण्ड-द्वि०(का०) / 2020-21, 220 के०बी० उपकेन्द्र साद पर दैनिक साफ-साफाई का कार्य। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या-टी-04 / वि०पारे०खण्ड-द्वि०(का०) / 2020-21, 220के०बी० उपकेन्द्र साद पर उपकेन्द्र अनुसूचना का कार्य। अल्पकालीन-ई-निविदा संख्या-टी-05 / वि०पारे०खण्ड-द्वि०(का०) / 2020-21, 220के०बी० उपकेन्द्र नौबस्ता पर उपकेन्द्र अनुसूचना का कार्य। उपरोक्त विषय में विस्तृत विवरण साईट पर उपलब्ध है, सभी सक्षम आपूर्ति कार्यदायी संस्थाएँ तदनुसार निविदा में भाग ले सकती हैं। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल द्वितीय कानपुर। पत्रांक-76 / वि०प्रे०ख०द्वि०(का०) / टी०-1, दिनांक - 18.01.2021, "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"**

## E TENDER NOTICE YEAR 2020-2021

**Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd. GANDHINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Multi Storied Building, B-Block, First Floor, Sector-11, Gandhinagar** Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd., is inviting tenders for the work given below. Bids are invited for the e-tendering rates from the reputable agencies.

Tender No.	Name of Work	Tender Fee	E.M.D.
GSCDL-ICT-02-2020/21	Selection of system integrator for implementation of ICC components ( Adaptive traffic controlling system, Traffic Enforcement system, General surveillance) and Geographical Information system in extended area of Gandhinagar municipal corporation	25000/-	60,00,000/-

The tender form can be filled online by downloading from website: [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com) from Dt.19/01/2021 to Dt.23/02/2021 up to 17.00 hours. Pre Bid Meeting will be Scheduled on date Dt.03/02/2021

Any documents for the necessary support of tender bid must be scanned in the electronic format and submitted online on [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com). The technical bids and the amount of tender fees and the Demand Draft of EMD shall be submitted in hard copy in name of CEO, Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd. upto Dt.01/03/2021 by registered post or speed post till 17.00 hours. Only those offers will be opened.

Online Technical Bid Opening Dt. 02/03/2021 at 11.00 hrs.

Place:- Gandhinagar Date:- 19/01/2021 Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, Gandhinagar and Chairman Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd. No/INF/VPN/2021/G/1774

# K'taka's anti-cow slaughter law comes into effect

Bengaluru: The anti-cow slaughter ordinance came into effect in Karnataka on Monday, with provisions of up to seven years in jail and (or) a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh for those 'illegally' involved in cow slaughtering, smuggling or selling of beef in the State.

"All provisions of the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Ordinance, 2020 to come into force from January 18," the Karnataka government has said in an order.

The new amended law bans transportation of cattle within Karnataka or to other states. The transportation is allowed only with due permission from the competent authority and against the payment of fee, if the purpose is to use cattle only for the agricul-

tural or animal husbandry activities. The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, which envisages a ban on all forms of cattle slaughter and stringent punishment for offenders, is a revised version of a Bill that was passed in 2010 when the BJP was in power.

Subsequently in 2013, Congress came to power and the BJP's 2010 contentious Bill was shelved. The Congress had reverted to the less stringent Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Preservation of Animals Act, 1964, which allows cow slaughter with certain restrictions.

While the 1964 law banned the killing of "any cow or calf of she-buffalo", it allowed the slaughter of bullock, buffalo-male or female if it was certi-

fied by a competent authority to be above the age of 12 years or incapacitated for breeding or deemed sick.

Due to lack of majority in the Upper House, the ruling BJP was unable to move this Bill there and decided to take an Ordinance route and promulgated the Ordinance on December 28.

After the state Cabinet passed it, the Ordinance was sent for the approval of the Governor Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala. The Ordinance was formally approved on January 5 and it is coming into effect in the state from Monday onwards. According to the order, three to seven years imprisonment and a fine starting from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh can be imposed under this law and subsequent repeat

offences can invite fines up to Rs 10 lakh. The amended Act states that the slaughter of cows and calves are not allowed while the slaughter of buffaloes above 13 years is allowed.

The Act however is ambiguous on the part of consumption of beef, as it does not specify or prohibit the consumption of beef. The Act states that slaughtering of buffalo above the age of 13 years, cattle that suffer from incurable disease, and for experimental or research purposes is allowed. Karnataka Law Minister JC Madhuswamy said: "When slaughter of buffalo above 13 years is allowed, how can we close down Cattle slaughter house in the state or be complete ban on beef ban?" IANS

# AEFI Committee meeting held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

An important meeting of the Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) Committee was held at Covid Command Centre, Sagra, here on Sunday in which it was informed that during the COVID-19 vaccination on the first day, only one case in the district was reported adverse effects at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) Government Hospital where a 50-year-old woman sanitation worker showed some adverse symptoms. In the review of the said case, it was found that she had no any serious illness history but after vaccination she felt cold. However, she became normal when she was monitored under the supervision of doctors in the Observation Room for half-an-hour and now she is fine in her follow up report and she is also doing her daily work and duty as usual.

The committee concluded that such adverse effect that is seen in anyone after the vaccination is due to mild chills and anxiety. Apart from this, no other case of adverse effects was found in the entire district. Vaccination has been successfully and completely secured throughout the district. In AEFI Committee meeting,



AEFI Committee meeting being held in Varanasi on Sunday

Pioneer

District Immunisation Officer Dr VS Rai, District Surveillance Officer Dr SS Kannaujia, Additional Chief Medical Officer Dr Sanjay Rai, Dr Pramod Kumar, Dr Anjan Srivastava, Dr Sarika Rai, Dr Gulrej Ahmed, Dr Karthikeya Singh, Dr Jai Sheelan, Dr Rashid Akhtar, Mukesh Pathak, Rakesh Singh and other members participated.

**SELECTED:** Uday Pratap Singh, the wrestling coach of the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), has been selected as the

trainer of the Indian Railways' team participating in the two-day 65th Senior National Men's Freestyle Wrestling Championship to be held in Noida from January 23. Earlier, under the leadership of Uday Pratap, the Indian team received the Silver Medal in the Freestyle Men's Junior World Championship held in Brazil in 2015 and after winning seven medals in the 2016 Free Style Men's Junior Wrestling Championship held in the Philippines, the Indian team

won the Team Championship. He has a distinction of being the winner and received a bronze medal in the 2017 Freestyle Men's Junior Wrestling Championship held in Finland. He is currently training players of Indian Railways in New Delhi. In this training camp, Arjun Yadav, Sachin Giri and Gopal Yadav of BLW are also undergoing training in which Gopal Yadav has been selected in the 92 kg weight category in the Indian Railways wrestling team.

# 39 new Covid cases in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Once again the number of the corona patients swelled and a total of 39 new cases of the deadly virus were reported in the last 24 hours on Sunday. The number of corona patients had reduced to below 30 but on Sunday night the cases rose again.

Earlier on July 8, 15 patients were found infected. Nearly three times of the infected people became infection free. One corona infected also died of infection.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, on Sunday, a Covid test of 4,232 people was conducted in the district. 10 people were discharged from various Covid hospitals. At the same time 21 people completed home isolation. So far, the number of healthy people in home isolation has crossed to 21,175.

He informed that the number of active patients of Covid has now come to 367 in the district. A total of 28,938 people have been infected. About 385 people have died due to corona infection. He informed that testing and screening work is being done in Magh Mela area at a rapid pace.

**COVID TEST FOR SAINTS, KALPAVASI TO BE CONDUCTED IN EVERY DISTRICT:** Testing of corona infection of saints and kalpavasi who come for chanting, austerity and meditation in Magh Mela will now be conducted in every district. For this, the list of Kalpavasis is being made available to the administration of every district through the portal prepared by the fair



Brigadier Sundeeep Bhandari, Commandant, Military Hospital and other officers showing certificates after receiving Covid vaccine in Prayagraj

Pioneer

administration. So that, after conducting their test in the respective districts, Kalpavasi should enter Magh Mela only after taking report.

With the arrival of saints and Kalpavasi from different areas to the Mela area, efforts have been started to prevent corona infection. As congestion increases, a comprehensive strategy is being created to prevent corona infection. For this, Kalpavasis are being marked in every district of UP. Districtwise details of the Kalpavasi across the state have been prepared through the institutions organising camps in Magh Mela.

It has been sent to the administration of every district,

so that their antigen test is done there and then they are sent to Kalpwas in Magh Mela. For this, the help of cultural, religious institutions and pilgrims of Prayagwal Sabha listed in Prayagraj Mela Authority is being taken. A list of Kalpavasis is being prepared by the organisations from the operators of the camps to be set up at the Sangam and it is being uploaded on the portal. Also, information about such listed Kalpavasis is being sent to the concerned districts, so that wherever they are, they can be tested for antigen.

In Magh Mela area, more than seven hundred people were tested for COVID-19 on Sunday. Between 600 and 800

tests are being done daily. According to Dr Rishi Sahai, the COVID-19 Nodal incharge of Magh Mela, more than 14,000 saints and Kalpavasis have been tested so far. Door-to-door survey has been intensified.

Data of Kalpavasi visiting Magh Mela is being uploaded on the portal. For this, help is being sought from the camping organisations. Through this campaign, the list of Kalpavasi coming from any part of the state or country is being marked and their list is being sent to the respective districts, so that their test can be done in their district, Dr Rishi Sahai, Nodal Officer COVID-19 Magh Mela said.

# 14 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 14 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Monday, increasing the total number to 21,774. As no casualty has been reported during the day, the death toll remained at 374. The follow-up negative reports included 49 and 45 of them have been recovered from home isolation while four from the hospitals, increasing the

number to 18,252 and 2,959 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 21,211, leaving 189 active cases. The recovery rate is 97.41 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.71 per cent.

In the first report of the day, nine positive patients were found out of 1,366 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 5,64,393 and the results of 2,606 are

awaited. Out of them, 5,42,624 were negative while 21,769 were positive. The total number of samples collected was 5,90,276. Earlier, with the addition of one red zone, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,688 with 204 red zones.

Three green zones have been converted into the red zones again. There are 2,484 green zones with five new ones. Meanwhile, mass / group

corona antigen tests continued and all the 75 tests were found negative at SSPG Hospital Kabirchaura apart from 20 at CHC Shivpur, 40 at Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur, 80 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar and 85 at SSH BHU. Along with this, samples of 100 from SSPG, 100 from LBS Hospital Ramnagar, 48 from Vivekanand Hospital and 99 from SSH BHU have been sent for RTPCR investigation.

# Arogya Melas held at 52 health centres

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Mukhyamantri (Chief Minister) Arogya Swasthya Melas (health fairs) were organised in all 52 urban and rural primary health centres in the district here on Sunday, in which health advice was given to the people by expert doctors apart from facilitating them of free screening and medicine distribution. The fair was inaugurated by the MLA Awadhesh Singh by cutting the lace at the Baragaon PHC. On this occasion, the MLA said that due to COVID-19, the health fair series was postponed from March but

now it has started once again. He said that the government is running many public welfare schemes and programmes for the poor.

With the initiative of the Chief Minister, he informed that a scheme has been chalked out to provide free health benefits to people of every section through the Arogya Melas near home on holidays (Sundays). The aim is to get treatment of the poor close to their residences so that they can save their time and travel expenses. On the occasion, officiating Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr AK Maurya was also present. He inspected all the

arrangements and also gave necessary instructions to all the health staff.

A total of 2,675 health check-ups were conducted at the fairs, including 830 men, 1479 women and 366 children. During this time, 1,281 persons were screened at the Covid help desk, with 507 individuals underwent corona tests with antigen kits, with 11 individuals found positive. Apart from this, 170 patients were treated for respiratory, 55 for liver problems, 209 abdominal diseases, 202 diabetes, 409 skin related patients, 7 TB potential patients, 62 anemic (anemia), 169 hypertension,

210 prenatal examination of women and 1270 patients of other diseases.

Apart from this, three patients were identified for general surgeries while 13 patients for eye, eight for ENT, five for obes and gynec and 10 patients for other surgeries. A total of six malnourished children were identified at the fairs, while 53 patients were referred. Golden cards of 53 beneficiaries were also prepared by putting stalls of Ayushman Bharat Yojana in these health fairs. As many as 117 medical officers and 758 paramedical staff worked in the fairs.

# Exhibition of GI products inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A week-long state-level exhibition of handcraft and handloom products being made in different districts of UP, which have already registered under geographical identification (GI) or are in the process of registration was inaugurated at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Hastakala Sankul, popularly known as Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC), Lalpur here on Monday. It will continue to remain open till January 24 in which the products of various districts of the state are being displayed and sold. Apart from this, a technical session was also organised during the same and the same will also be held on Tuesday and Wednesday in which there will be a discussion on the topic of procedures of GI



registration, design development, packaging and marketing. The main objective of the same is to make the GI products available in the country and abroad. During this time, virtual interaction of producers and manufacturers with buyers

from different parts of the country and abroad was also made so that the latter can see and order the major GI products and help the former get the markets. The handicrafts and handloom products produced by the districts are also being

displayed so that the local people can also be able to come to this exhibition and buy such items. The exhibition is being organised under the joint aegis of Uttar Pradesh Export Promotion Council, Lucknow and FITCCI.

# More vegetables to be sent to UAE

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In the series of efforts being made to develop Varanasi a hub of agricultural exports, new works are being fostered by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. In this sequence, taking the support of various departments and exporting organisations and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) of APEDA and allied organisa-

tions like central and state governments, shipments of fresh vegetables by Air India, SpiceJet, IndiGo service providers will be sent to Sharjah (UAE) on Tuesday at 10 am after making customs and quarantine clearance. Cold rooms like facilities have been developed at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport (LBSIA), Babatpur here.

The shipments will be dispatched by APEDA chairman, Dr M Angamuthu, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal and District

Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma and they would also inspect the facilities available at the airport in the presence of other officials of central and state government and associate institutions.

Assistant General Manager (AGM) of APEDA CB Singh said that two FPOs of Varanasi has proposed to export 10 quintals of green peas, brinjal etc in this export consignment and this will also link to Oman, Qatar and other East Asian countries. Export consignments are being sent with the

support of FPOs and Phal Shagbhazi Niriyatak Sangh from Baragaon and Arajline development blocks and this model of exports will also be adopted in other landlocked states, said Singh, informing that now all the necessary export related facilities have been made available at the airport itself, which is a very important achievement for Purvanchal (eastern UP) region and now direct exports will benefit the farmers of UP and Bihar to increase their income.

# Water released into Ganga from Narora dam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The first bathing festival of Prayagraj Magh Mela 2021, Makar Sankranti has already been completed. Now preparations for the second bathing festival has begun. In the meantime, water was released in the Ganga for the convenience of devotees so that they do not have any trouble while having a dip.

However, sudden increase in water in the Ganga has created a crisis for many organisations. Due to the increase in water, there has been erosion towards sector 4. On the other hand, the land of many organisations has been flooded. Now those organisations will be set up only when water recedes. However, the dirt on the ghats has been cleared due to increasing water.

Before the bathing festival of Makar Sankranti, the Ganga water was not clean, then the saints and seers across the Sangam had expressed their displeasure. The matter remained in the headlines in the newspaper for several days. Thereafter, the administration became active and ordered to release water from Narora but it was late by then. More than 5,000 cusecs of water was released from Narora Dam on the day of Makar Sankranti. It took two days for that water to reach Prayagraj.

On Sunday afternoon, when water reached the Ganga river, Prayagraj, there was chaos. The Magh Mela area was flooded towards sectors five and four. Many organisations were given land here, but now they are having difficulty in setting up camps due to water inundated here. It has

also flooded the land of Prayagwal Sabha. Apart from this, many electric poles have also come into the water. Also, the Old GT and Gangoli Shivala Pantoon bridge on the Ganga is also under threat.

However, the mela administration is waiting for the water to decrease in the Ganga, if the water does not recede then the pillars and organisations will be removed from that area.

**NIGHTINGALE GALLERY:** A Nightingale Gallery at Military Hospital Allahabad was conceptualised and prepared by Brig Sundeeep Bhandari VSM, Commandant Military Hospital Allahabad to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, founder of Modern Nursing, and 2020 being International Year of Nurse. Brig Bhandari was

assisted in this work by Col KO Suja, Principal Matron, Lt Col Sushma Thomas, Deputy Principal Matron, and Lt Col Jeeva George, Family Matron.

Year 2020 was quite challenging for all the front line health care workers owing to Covid pandemic. Nurses in Armed Forces also contributed immensely in this battle against Covid risking their lives. This gallery has been created to acknowledge the relentless efforts by the nursing officers of Military Hospital Allahabad during Covid.

This Nightingale Gallery has been divided into four parts— History and Stalwarts; Training and Military Nursing Today; Achievements and Awards; and Nursing in Covid period. This gallery will motivate the young nursing officers to dedicate themselves fully towards service of mankind.

# Allottees stage dharna at Omax City office

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Office-bearers of the Omax Water Front Hightech Township Residents Association and other allottees staged a dharna at the Civil Lines office of Omax City as a protest against inordinate delay in construction work. This township was first planned by Sahara, but later it was taken over by the Omax in the begin-

ning of the 21st century, but owing to technical problems the township could not come up and those who had deposited hard earned lakhs of rupees are still waiting for possession.

This township was planned on the other side of the Ganga and the construction work began with much fanfare, but the High Court issued an order that no building will come up in flood

affected areas 500 metres away from the highest water approach mark.

Reacting to the dharna, the Director of Omax City Manoj Tiwari said that he was ready for talks and a compromise with the allottees and the Association. He further said that the Allahabad High Court in an interim order on a Ganga Pollution PIL on April 28, 2011 had suspended the construction work till fur-

ther orders. Now the matter is pending before a larger bench and the Residents Association is also a party in this case. The Association had also approached the Consumer Forum and the case is pending before it in Delhi, still he is ready for talks, the director added.

The association, however, said that their wait is endless, and they want possession at any cost.

# Mishra takes over as PCE, NCR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Sanjay Kumar Mishra took over as Principal Chief Engineer, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on Monday. He belongs to 1986 batch of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) and has more than 30 years of experience in development and maintenance of Railway Infrastructure.

Mishra has earlier worked in South Central Railway, Secunderabad and North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur in various important capacities as Senior Divisional Engineer, Deputy Chief Engineer, Chief Engineer in Open Line and Construction Organisation. He has completed many important construction projects of doubling and gauge conversion

including construction of important bridges on Ghaghra, Rapti and Ganga rivers. Prior to joining as PCE NCR Sanjay Kumar Mishra was working as CPD (Station Development) on North Eastern Railway.

SK Mishra took over charge of the post of PCE NCR from Sharad Mehta who has been working as PCE NCR since March 26, 2019 and after completing successful tenure joined as Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) on North Central Railway itself. Officers and staff of North Central Railway conveyed their best wishes to Mishra and Mehta for their new and important assignments on North Central Railway.

**POWER TO BE DISCONNECTED IF BILL NOT PAID FOR 3 MONTHS:** The connection of those electricity consumers of Prayagraj who have not deposited electricity

bill for three months, will be disconnected with the defaulters of those having arrears of electricity bill ₹ 10,000 or more. For this, a list of those defaulters who have failed in paying of their dues is being prepared from October to December. The connection of such defaulters will be disconnected after January 20.

High officials of Purvanchal Viduyt Vitran Nigam Limited have been continuously pushing for increasing revenue collection. It is also being reviewed online every other day, but the progress is not as expected. So now the electricity department has decided to disconnect the connections of those who do not pay electricity bills for three months. On this, whether one thousand is outstanding or two thousand, the supply will be cut if there is an arrear of just three months. Till now the

Electricity department has been disconnecting connections of defaulters having dues over 10,000 or more. Departmental officials believe that this will increase revenue collection. Also, the number of defaulters will be less.

Electricity connections of consumers with smart meter, is cut only at the dues of two months. It is switched on only after full payment is made after online power cut. There is also no need to cut the cable.

Chief Engineer OP Yadav said that consumers should pay the electricity bill every month. The surcharge increases rapidly due to arrears, due to which the amount of arrears increases. Now the line will be disconnected if there is an outstanding electricity bill for three months. Reconnection will be done only when 100% of arrears are paid, he added.



Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar carried out a surprise inspection again of the Jal Kal Vibhag on Monday.

Pioneer

## DC inspects Jal Kal, finds 42 pc staff absent without permission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar made a surprise inspection of the Jal Kal Vibhag on Monday only to find that around 42 per cent of the staff was absent sans any prior sanction.

He directed general manager to stop the salaries of the absent staff and issue show cause notices to them and send their replies to the commissioner by January 22, 2021 positively.

He also directed the general manager to set up a Quick Response Team (QRT) which

should be available round-the-clock with necessary equipment to handle issues immediately. The DC asked the GM to submit a plan for this in the next three days.

He said the surprise inspections were as per the directive of the government to ensure timely presence of all the government employees and officials.

He said the government was also eager to ensure that the problems raised by the people were resolved in time with no compromise on quality. The DC was irked over the failure of the Jal Kal Vibhag staff and officials to follow the

COVID-19 protocol. He said mask were being overlooked and sanitiser and thermal guns were totally absent. He warned the GM for the negligence and asked him to send videos and pictures to the commissioner to ensure this was being followed.

The DC then inspected the control room set up for taking online and telephonic complaints and problems of the common man. He randomly chose a few complaints and cross-checked the quality of disposal by directly speaking to the complainant on their mobile phones. A few complaints were disposed of satisfactorily but a few of them were not as per the norms.

The DC directed the GM to make a system to daily review the disposal quality and pendency of complaints and to ensure their timely and qualitative disposal.

He was irked to find that complaints of damaged pipeline, leakage and road damage were increasing day by day. He said the cause of concern was the apathy of the staff and officials in taking preventive and precautionary measures to avoid accidents and delays.

## NSI's international hostel inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

National Sugar Institute Director Prof Narendra Mohan, while inaugurating the newly-constructed international hostel on Monday, said the requirement of an exclusive hostel for foreign students and visiting faculty was long felt.

The new hostel has the most modern facilities with special focus on hygiene, COVID-19 protocol and aesthetically decorated ambience for the foreign students who come to pursue the courses in this globally recognised institute.

Prof Mohan said the existing hostels were quite old and their rooms did not have attached toilet facilities and other required infrastructure as expected in an international hostel. He added that the NSI had provided very good facilities in its Kanpur hostel.

The NSI director said the hostel shall have uninterrupted power supply and was equipped with free Wi-Fi facility. He said with this hostel, it would be possible for the institute not only to attract students



The Director NSI, Prof Narendra Mohan, along with Nigerian students of the institute at the newly constructed International Hostel on Monday

Pioneer

of other countries but also to conduct more short duration programmes for executives of the sugar industry.

Prof Mohan said apart from this a world class training centre having seating capacity for 200 delegates was also nearing completion and it would enable the NSI to conduct customised training programmes as per requirement of the sugar industry.

It may be mentioned here

that with the commencement of offline classes and joining of four Nigerian students, the newly-constructed student hostel-cum-guest house was thrown open in a simple ceremony presided over by Prof Mohan.

The new hostel, which has been constructed in a span of two years at a cost of Rs 550 lakh, has 25 rooms besides fully furnished kitchen, dining, recreation and common room.

Prof Mohan said in addition to this six rooms had also been provided for the visiting faculty and other staff.

He said four students from Nigeria had already arrived for taking up studies in regular courses in sugar technology, sugar engineering, quality control & environment science and in industrial instrumentation and process automation, while eight others would join on January 22, 2021.

He said these eight Nigerian nationals were from National Sugar Development Council, Nigeria and would undertake training under the customised training programme and after finishing their studies shall work as faculty in the Nigerian Sugar Institute which was being established with assistance from the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur.

Many sugar producing countries like Egypt, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Indonesia are in touch with the NSI and the institute expects more students and trainees from these countries once the COVID-19 situation eases out.

## Woman killed as bus falls into canal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A woman was killed and eight others were injured when a private bus fell into the Jhinjhak Jaria canal in Mangalpur police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Monday morning. The youths of the village climbed over the bus and rescued many passengers.

The deceased woman was identified as Asma Begum of Dibiyaapur. On coming to know about the incident, the local police were alerted and the cops reached the spot with a crane.

**AUTO-LIFTER HELD:** The Nawabganj police arrested an auto-lifter near KESCO trisection early Monday morning. He was identified as Raj Kumar alias Pranjal Yadav, son of Late Devsharan Yadav and resident of 2A/36, Chaubepur Mariyani. The police recovered a stolen Mahendra Centro



Private bus overturned in a canal on Monday morning.

Pioneer

motorcycle from his possession. Police team was led by Sub-Inspector Brijmohan Lal Mishra.

**AFI SEMINAR, EXAM FROM JAN 21 TO 24:** The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) will conduct district level technical officials' online seminar-cum-examination from January 21 to 24. Dr Devesh from the Athletics Kanpur said the objective of this examination was to educate and create awareness about competition and technical rules among all the stakeholders who were interested in athletics and offi-

ciating at the grassroots level. For this, online classes would be conducted from January 21 to 23. This examination would be held country-wide simultaneously. Details of the examination and link are available on the AFI website indianathletics.in.

ciating at the grassroots level. For this, online classes would be conducted from January 21 to 23. This examination would be held country-wide simultaneously. Details of the examination and link are available on the AFI website indianathletics.in.

## Traffic police to check mishaps in foggy conditions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

With the state government expressing concern over the sudden increase in fatal road accidents due to foggy conditions and directing district magistrates and district police chiefs to work out ways to reduce mishaps especially at times when the visibility was poor, the Kanpur Nagar administration has drawn an elaborate plan to enforce preventive measures in the accident prone areas.

Circle Officer Anil Kumar said with road accident deaths increasing every day, the UP government had directed the district and police officials to devise ways to reduce and prevent accidents especially in dense fog.

He said driving a four-wheeler in foggy nights could be dangerous for both new and experienced drivers.

He said fog reduced visibility significantly, so it was critical that drivers stayed focused on the road in order to stay safe.

He said the check-posts on roads would check if a four-wheeler's radio was turned down and the driver was not chatting on mobile phone while driving in dense fog.

He said as per the campaign, there shall be special monitoring of vehicles moving on roads with speed. He said even driving at normal speeds in fog could be very dangerous.

The CO said the car drivers would be apprised to park their cars on sidewalks and put on parking lights and wait for the fog to clear.

He advised drivers to avoid using high-beam headlight in fog as fog consisted of tiny water droplets that spread and reflected light. He said in foggy condition, the driver should turn on the low beam headlight to allow other drivers to see the vehicle.

He said a special drive would be launched to check the back lights, fog lights, reflectors at the back of the vehicles to prevent any accident in fog.

He said the Kanpur traffic police had decided to impose fine on those indulging in drunken driving and not adhering to the traffic rules.

## Will strengthen Cong base in Kanpur, says Mansuri

KANPUR (PNS): Newly-appointed Congress City president Naushad Alam Mansuri said on Monday that the change of guard was an effort to reinvigorate the party organisation.

Addressing press persons on Monday, Mansuri said strengthening the party base in the city was his priority and this could be done with the active support of the people who were strongly associated with the Congress for decades.

He said the Congress was in fact an ideology which focused on the principles of the country especially to maintain the secular fabric of the nation.

He said the Congress had always believed in secularism and thus his effort would be to strengthen the party on secularism and ensure that the party members were given opportunity to express their views so that they all worked together to strengthen the hands of the party president.

Mansuri has replaced Har Prakash Agnihotri who had held the office of the Congress city president for several years at a stretch. Mansuri said the ideology of the Congress was equality and secularism and he would ensure that each person linked to the Congress had an identity of his or her own and the opinions and contributions in various ways benefited the party. Shailendra Dixit has been appointed the Congress south city president. A grand induction ceremony of the office-bearers was held at Tilak Hall on Sunday in which prominent Congressmen took part. They included SD Mishra, ex-MP Raja Ram Pal, MLA Sohail Ansari, Kuldip Singh, Vijay Martolia and Nisar Ahmed.

## DM inspects ongoing works

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar inspected the under construction medical college at Piparadaand on Sunday and warned the working agency to improve the quality or else remain prepared to face the music. During the inspection of the ongoing works there the DM was miffed when a part of

engineer was asked to change it. Expressing his dissatisfaction over the quality of construction of building the DM warned to improve it and made it crystal clear that if it was not done so by the next inspection an FIR will be lodged in this connection along with disciplinary action. During the inspection the DM was accompanied by CDO Avinash Singh and engi-

recover a kidnapped girl recently. As per the reports received here, a man had lodged an FIR against one person on January 11 alleging that he had enticed his daughter away. Taking the matter seriously, Station Officer (SO) Vijay Kumar Saroj constituted a team in this connection. On being tipped off about the presence of the accused at Jalalpur Tiraha, the police raided the place and recovered the girl. Meanwhile following a first information report (FIR) lodged against six persons by Rajkumar Vishwakarma, a resident of Bathua under Katra Kotwali police station, for allegedly damaging his wall and assaulting him over the issue of road in Lonhati Khurd village, the Dehat Kotwali arrested the accused on Sunday.

**LIQUOR SEIZED:** During a drive launched on the initiative of District Excise Officer Neeraj Dwivedi to control the illegal liquor trade a team of tehsil administration raided a locality at Rajgarh recently. The team comprising sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Roshni Yadav, CO (Operation) Prabhakar Rai, excise inspector of the area and police force destroyed the breweries there. The team seized 50 litres of liquor and 5,000 kg of 'lahan' (a raw material) and registered a case against three persons. However, no arrest had been made in this connection so far, last reports received here said.



DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar inspecting the under construction medical college

wall collapsed and the brick broke into two pieces. He directed the AE of UP RNN to improve the quality or else face action. The DM inspected the first, second and third floors of the building and directed the EE PWD to collect the material for the test in the PWD laboratory and report to him without delay. When the DM asked about the deadline for the completion of the building the engineer said that it was March 21. The DM directed to expedite the work so that the classes could start in July. During the inspection the aluminium of the window was found of inferior quality so the

neers of PWD and RES. **BODY FOUND:** The body of an unidentified 25-year-old youth was found near a brick kiln in Rupaudha village under Adalahaat police station. After taking the body into their custody the police completed the legal formalities. Meanwhile another report said that Rajendra Singh (52), son of late Mahadeo Singh, a resident of Sumatiya village, was run over by a train on Sunday. On getting information the Jigna police reached the spot and took the body into custody for completing the legal formalities. **GIRL RECOVERED:** The Jamalpur police succeeding in

## Gwalior-Barauni daily spl from Feb 1

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of public will run 04185 Gwalior-Barauni daily special train from February 1 to 28 and 04186 Barauni-Gwalior daily special from February 2 to March 1. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. The 04185 Gwalior-Barauni daily special train will from February 1 to 28 depart from Gwalior daily at 12.00 hrs, from Dabra at 12.38 hrs, from Datia at 13.06 hrs, from Jhansi at 14.00 hrs, from Orai at 15.40 hrs, from Kalpi at 16.12 hrs, from Pokhrayan at 16.32 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 18.50 hrs, from Lucknow at 20.45 hrs, from Barabanki at 21.30 hrs, from Burhwal at 21.56 hrs, from Colonelganj at 22.26 hrs, from Gonda at 23.10 hrs, from Mankapur at 23.34 hrs, from Maskanwa at 23.50 hrs, the second day from Basti at 00.37 hrs, from Khalilabad at 01.01 hrs, from Gorakhpur at 02.10 hrs, from Deoria Sadar at 03.25 hrs, from Bhatni at 03.55 hrs, from Bankata at 04.22 hrs, from Mairwa at 04.33 hrs, from

Siwan at 05.00 hrs, from Duraundha at 05.17 hrs, from Chhapra at 06.30 hrs, from Dighwara at 07.28 hrs, from Sonpur at 08.05 hrs, from Hajipur at 08.20 hrs, from Bhagwanpur at 08.41 hrs, from Muzaffarpur at 09.25 hrs, from Dholi at 09.48 hrs, from Khudiram Bose Pusa at 10.10 hrs, from Samastipur at 10.55 hrs, Dalsingh Sarai at 11:19 hrs and reach Barauni at 12.50 hrs.

On the other hand, during the return journey the 04186 Barauni-Gwalior daily special train will from February 2 to March 1 depart from Barauni at 18.45 hrs, from Dalsingh Sarai at 19.14 hrs, Samastipur at 19:45 hrs, Khudiram Bose Pusa at 20.00 hrs, Dholi at 20.14 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 21:35 hrs, Bhagwanpur at 22.06 hrs, from Hajipur at 22.40 hrs, from Sonapur at 22.52 hrs, from Dighwara at 23.13 hrs, from Chhapra on second day at 00.40 hrs, from Siwan at 01.45 hrs, from Mairwa at 02.03 hrs, from Bhatni at 02.49 hrs, from Deoria Sadar at 03.15 hrs, from Gorakhpur at 04.45 hrs, from Sahajanwa at 05.19 hrs, from Khalilabad at 05.40 hrs, from Basti at 06.10 hrs, Babhanan at 06.37 hrs, Maskanwa at 06.55 hrs, Mankapur at 07.10 hrs, Gonda at 08.07 hrs,

Colonelganj at 08.33 hrs, Burhwal at 09.04 hrs, Barabanki at 09.45 hrs, Lucknow at 10:55 hrs, Unnao at 12.03 hrs, Kanpur Central at 12.50 hrs, Pokhrayan at 14.02 hrs, Kalpi at 14.40 hrs, Orai at 15.30 hrs, Jhansi at 18.15 hrs, Datia at 18.39 hrs, Dabra at 19.13 hrs and reach Gwalior at 10.35 hrs. A total of 21 coaches, two of SLRD, five of general second class, 10 of sleeper class, three of air-conditioned third class and one of AC second class will be attached in it.

**GIRL FOUND:** The Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER), makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. In the same sequence the RPF post, Gorakhpur, during patrolling on platform no. 07 of Gorakhpur railway station found a 13-year-old girl in an unclaimed condition. After questioning, the girl was handed over to Child Line, Gorakhpur. Besides on information received from the Divisional Safety Control Room, Varanasi, from train No 02553 a girl aged six years was recovered by the RPF escort party, Gorakhpur, and was handed over to Child Line, Gorakhpur, recently.

## Four ambulances flagged off

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a mini-ratna company of India, under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is continuously working towards strengthening health facilities in the surrounding areas.

In this sequence the NCL under the 'Sab Swasth' (All Healthy) campaign recently handed over four ambulances for strengthening the emergency medical system in Sidhi-Singrauli district. At NCL headquarters MP Sidhi-Singrauli Riti Pathak flagged off four ambulances. NCL CMD Prabhakar Kumar Sinha, MP Sidhi-Singrauli Riti



Pathak, Singrauli MLA Ram Lallu Vaish, Devsar MLA Subhash Verma and Executive Directors of NCL were present on the occasion. With the help of these ambulances, health facilities will be improved in the district. Under the 'Sab Swasth' campaign of NCL in the surrounding areas by organising camps medical examination of rural people is done. The NCL in the current financial year under CSR in a budget of about ₹118 crore is working on a public welfare campaigns like 'Gaojodo' (link villages), 'Sab Saakshar' (all literate), 'Sab Swasth' (all healthy), 'Swachh Jal' (clean water) etc.

## CEPC meeting discusses many issues

PNS ■ VARANASI

The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) convened a meeting of committee members under the presidency of its Chairman Siddh Nath Singh recently in order to discuss and formulate the policy on functioning/running of Bhadohi Carpet Expo Mart. COA members Umesh Kumar Gupta, Abdul Rub, Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Mohd Wasif Ansari, Husain Jafar Husaini and Sanjay Kumar Gupta besides Executive Director, CEPC, Sanjay Kumar, attended the meeting. On the occasion Siddh Nath Singh said Carpet Expo Mart at Bhadohi is a green mart with solar power having 94 permanent shops of approximately 130 square metre for display of handmade carpets and other floor coverings. The mart also has an 8,000 square metre exhibition area/hall, he said and added that it was centrally air-

conditioned with all facilities of international standard i.e. well-furnished conference hall, provision of five restaurants, eight lifts, Wi-Fi, CCTV, Central Public Address System, sufficient parking space etc. He said the Council had already shifted its regional office in the mart w.e.f. December 14, 2020, and BIDA has already allotted space near mart for the construction of five-star hotel of international level. After the meeting Siddh Nath Singh said Council received very encouraging response from the members. He said Council is in the process to make the mart fully functional and will allot at least 60 per cent shops to carpet exporters and for the rest other products like handicrafts, sarees etc also may be given an opportunity. He said that Council will organise at least two-three international exhibitions in a year and five-seven domestic exhibitions of handmade carpets and other

floor coverings and other products like — garments, leather and jute products, handicrafts, products from north east, Moradabad brass etc.

On the occasion Singh expressed the hope that with the support of the members the exports of Indian handmade carpets will be doubled in the next two years which will provide gainful employment to artisans and open new avenues for all the stakeholders.

Among those present during the meeting were AICMA vice-president Tanvir Hussain, its honorary secretary, Aslam Mahboob, its honorary joint secretary, Raj Kumar Bothra, its treasurer, JP Gupta, former COA member of CEPC, Bharat Lal Maurya, besides prominent member exporters, Piyyush Baranwal, Sobha Nath Gupta, Intiaz Ahmad, Pankaj Baranwal, Saurav Jaiswal, Anil Keshari, Divya Baranwal, Kunwar Shamim Ansari and Atique Khan.

10TH ROUND OF TALKS TOMORROW
Agri Min bats for farm reforms, defends laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, on Monday said that the previous Governments could not introduce these reforms because of pressure tactics.



but the government has made it clear that the MSP will continue. Procurement on MSP has also been increased. Pulses-oilseeds have also been included in the MSP. These laws were expected earlier but the previous government could not implement because of pressure. It was the Modi government that took a bold step and brought these laws passed in Parliament...

"These reforms will go a long way in elevating the living standard of farmers. Whenever any reform is introduced, impediments are bound to come in the way," Tomar said. The tenth round of talks between the Centre and 41 protesting farmers' unions is scheduled for Wednesday at 12 noon at Vigyan Bhawan in the heart of the national Capital. Separately, a Supreme Court-appointed panel to resolve the crisis is also scheduled to hold its first meeting on Tuesday. The previous rounds of talks between the Government and farmers have failed to reach any concrete results, as protesting unions have stuck to their main demand for repealing the new laws, but the Government has refused to do so.

"Misinformation is being spread across the country that MSP (minimum support price) is being discontinued

The statement is being seen as a reiteration of the government's stand that it was only willing to discuss the laws

Avian influenza confirmed in 14 States, says Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday said that avian influenza has been confirmed in 14 States across the country so far. Of them, avian influenza has been confirmed in five states in poultry birds while in nine States it is confirmed in crow/migratory and wild birds.

"Further, avian influenza has been confirmed in samples of the dead heron from Tis Hazari, and in crow from Red Fort, Delhi and advisory in this regard has been issued to Delhi for taking necessary action," it said.

According to the ministry of animal husbandry, culling and sanitization operations have been completed in the epicenters of Latur district in Village Kendrewadi, Ahmedpur, Village Sukani, and Village Tondar (Vajrawadi) in Udgir taluk and village Kurdwadi in Ausa taluk.

Further, in Madhya Pradesh (Districts of Harda and Mandasaur) and Chhattisgarh (District Balod), rapid response teams have been deployed for the culling of poultry birds around one km radius of epicenters of the outbreak in poultry.

Culling operation of poultry is continuing in the epicenters of Haryana (District Panchkula).

"In Maharashtra, rapid response teams has been deployed and culling of poultry birds is underway in all the affected epicenters," it said.

According to the CRISIL's analysis that rated 87 poultry companies comprising nearly 30 per cent of the industry's revenue, the bird flu has chopped around 30 per cent off broiler chicken volume, bringing down daily chicken demand in the country from 100 lakh kg in December 2020 to an estimated 70 lakh kg in January 2021.

Apart from this, the rating agency added that wholesale prices of broiler chicken have crashed 20-30 per cent from Rs 105-110 per kg in December to Rs 80 per kg. Following this, the overall revenue could decline 30-40 per cent in January 2021 due to a fall in realizations and volume.

It noted that as wholesale prices usually correct sharply following such outbreaks, the fall in prices tends to be temporary.

Bank of Baroda Possession Notice For Immovable Property. Includes details of borrower M/s Bharat Rice Mill, address in Sahaarpur, and possession date of 13.01.2021.

Cold wave warning extended till January 22 in north India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

North India will continue to reel under the grip of an intense cold wave for a few more days. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday extended the cold wave warning in north India till January 22.



Vehicles ply in New Delhi in thick fog. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

According to the IMD, change in wind direction from easterly to westerly/north westerly is likely to bring down minimum temperature by 2 to 4 degree Celsius during the next three days and after that rise by 2-4 degree Celsius over the northwest India.

RK Jenamani, the senior scientist, IMD, said that the warning for the cold wave in North India has been extended till January 22. Earlier, the IMD had issued a cold wave warning for January 13-15 and then extended it till January 18. A few days back, the weather bureau had issued a cold wave warning for 13-15 January and then extended it till 18 January. A cold day is when the minimum temperature is less than 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius below normal.

begin lifting from Tuesday over northern plains in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. This will lead to hotter days and colder nights. "A fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect Western Himalayan Region from 22nd January. Under the influence of its interaction with low level easterlies from 23rd January; scattered to widespread rain/snow likely over Western Himalayan Region during 22nd-24th January," the IMD said in a tweet.

January, 2021," the IMD said. In Rajasthan, the night temperatures dipped to near-zero, and Pilani recorded a temperature of 0.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Churu, which witnessed a temperature of 1.9 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, dense fog could be witnessed in parts of Uttar Pradesh as major cities such as Agra, Kanpur and Jhansi recorded below six degrees Celsius temperatures, significantly below season's normal. Moderate fog is expected over isolated places in the state over Tuesday and Wednesday. In Punjab and Haryana too, the temperatures remained below normal levels. Bathinda recorded 3.4 degrees Celsius, while Gurdaspur and Faridkot witnessed 7 and 5.5 degrees Celsius respectively. Chandigarh recorded a low temperature of 8.3 degrees Celsius.

"Under the influence of lower level wind reversal from easterly to westerly/northwesterly, Cold Wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over East Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi during 18th-20th and West Uttar Pradesh and north Rajasthan during 19th-21st

580 adverse events after Covid immunisation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Out of total of 3,81,305 beneficiaries, who have so far been vaccinated for coronavirus since the rollout of the anti-Covid jab drive on Sunday, at least 580 adverse events following immunization (AEFI) and seven hospitalizations have so far been reported in the country. The Union Health Ministry said that seven were hospitalised but none of them was serious.

UP (who was vaccinated on Sunday and died next day is not related to vaccination as per the post mortem report. Death was caused due to cardiopulmonary disease.

Similarly, he said that the second death which was of a male (43), a resident of Bellary, Karnataka was vaccinated on Saturday and died Monday. "The cause of death is anterior wall infarction with Cardiopulmonary failure. The post mortem is being conducted," he said.

The Government however hasn't given any details about the adverse reactions happened for which particular vaccine.

On Monday, till 5 pm, 1,48,266 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 25 states and Union territories, taking the total tall of the vaccinated people to 3,81,305. On the first day ie Saturday around 2 lakh people were inoculated, said Agnani.

Of the 1,48,266 beneficiaries who were administered the vaccine on Monday, 8,656 were from Bihar, 1,822 from Assam, 36,888 from Karnataka, 7,070 from Kerala, 6,665 from Madhya Pradesh, 7,328 from Tamil Nadu, 10,352 from Telangana, 11,588 from West Bengal and 311 were from Delhi.

Need to invest in health, funding to WHO: Minister

New Delhi (PNS): COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the need to invest in health, and the call for sustainable funding to the World Health Organisation (WHO) so that the global body can fully respond to public health needs, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said on Monday.

He pointed out that any proposed increase in budget needs to also consider the global economic impact of the disease. The Minister, who chaired the 148th session of WHO Executive Board through video conference, said the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by COVID-19 as the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Stressing the need to ensure fair and equitable distribution of coronavirus vaccines, Dr Harshvardhan said the pandemic has presented an opportunity whereby "health" has been placed on the global agenda of Governments, partners and donors. He thanked the medical professionals, scientists and researchers as well as other essential workers around the world who continue working under difficult and challenging circumstances to deal with the pandemic.

नगर विकास सहकारी बैंक लि., हर्दोई. नीलामी स्थल: पंजीकृत कार्यालय-162, रेलवे गंज, हर्दोई-241001, फोन: 05852-235110. नीलामी तिथि-05.03.2021. नीलामी/बिक्री सूचना. समय-अपराह्न 3.00 बजे. वित्तीय परिसम्पत्तियों के प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्निर्माण और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के अन्तर्गत बैंक के प्रभारधीन अचल परिसम्पत्ति की बिक्री...

## Diaspora power

First the United Kingdom, now in the United States. Members of the Indian diaspora are rising to power



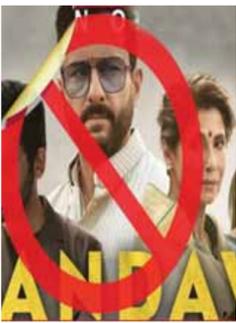
It is said about the Indian diaspora in the Western world, whether they are first-generation immigrants or third or even fourth-generation immigrants, that they have a humongous amount of influence compared to the size of the 'Indian' community in those countries. In Kamala Harris, a half-Jamaican, half-Tamilian woman, a person of partial Indian ethnicity (Harris identifies as 'Black' despite being raised by her Tamilian mother) is rising to one of the most powerful offices in the United States (US) and many openly predict that this role is an audition for a potential run as President very soon. Harris also speaks fluent Sanskrit and Tamil and is believed to be a distant cousin of India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar.

Along with Harris, we are now informed that over 20 Indian-origin members of the Biden-Harris Administration will start their jobs on January 20, and in doing so this administration has come a long way from the lily-white Trump Administration and even the Obama Administration where actor Kalpen Modi (stage name 'Kal Penn') was the most notable American of Indian origin. Harris however, is not the first Indian in a major office of state in a western nation, that would be the Indian-origin ministers in Boris Johnson's Cabinet, Chancellor Rishi Sunak and Home Secretary Priti Patel. While we in India should feel proud of the achievements of our brethren on foreign shores, many of whom have overcome institutional racism to rise to the top, we must not forget a couple of things. While many of these people might be proud of their Indian heritage, none of them owe anything to the country of their origin. Indeed, if any of them come from lower down the social ladder in India, they might even have an antithetical view and might be hostile towards India.

In fact, it is very likely that Indian-origin politicians and bureaucrats in power in the West, might use that power to put a squeeze on Indian policymaking, indeed some like US Representative Pramila Jayapal have tried doing just that. That said, global realpolitik and the western world's need to position India as a bulwark against China might make all this posturing a moot point. The Quad alliance between Australia, Japan, the US and India is a reality that will not go away. But, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's miscalculation in supporting US President Donald Trump during his 2019 visit to Houston and Trump's visit to India last year, might have potential after-effects for Indian policymakers going forward. And while celebrating the success of Indians in the US we must not forget a few realities that we tend to ignore. Many Indians tend to "ghettoise" when they go to the West, something clearly visible in cities like San Jose, California and Edison, New Jersey, it would be remiss of us in India to ignore this fact. It is also true that a vast majority of Indians in the western world are not just upper caste immigrants but also extremely insular. Indeed social caste mobility in India is easier than in communities who have immigrated to the West as their social outlook is stuck in the past while India has progressed.

## OTT Tandav

Though the saffron brigade might be trying to derive mileage, but OTT content does need to be cleaned up



The ongoing controversy over Amazon Prime's new web series 'Tandav' is not something new to the country and similar contentious debates took place at the time of the release of movies like the Deepika Padukone-starrer *Padmaavat* and Amir Khan's *PK*. The political drama, in which Saif Ali Khan, Dimple Kapadia and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub have played lead roles was released on the Over-the-Top (OTT) media platform on January 15. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders have taken umbrage at a scene in which Ayyub performs a play as Lord Shiva. With Maharashtra BJP MLA Ram Kadam filing a police complaint at Mumbai's Ghatkopar Police Station and seeking the boycott of the series, it becomes amply clear that the row is politically-motivated and the saffron brigade will leave no stone unturned to derive maximum mileage out of the issue. Particularly in view of the forthcoming West Bengal elections, as the saffron party portray's itself as the "protector" of the faith. That Kadam is refusing to budge from his demand of a boycott of the series despite the cast and crew issuing an "unconditional" apology on Monday evening, clarifying that they did not intend to offend religious beliefs or sentiments, is a clear indication of this. They also referred to parts of a disclaimer that is an industry standard and said 'Tandav' was a "work of fiction" and that "any resemblance to acts and persons and events is purely coincidental." Kadam has now gone one step ahead and asked all Hindus to shun Amazon's shopping site and content platform. So obviously he is spoiling for a fight. Fortunately, an online series rules out the possibility of aggressive Hindu fringe elements threatening the audience and burning movie theatres.

Another BJP leader Manoj Kotak, the MP from Mumbai North-East, wrote to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) expressing strong objections to the web series. He too, demanded an immediate ban on the streaming of the show. With the BJP being in power at the Centre, the I&B Ministry has reportedly sought a response from Amazon Prime officials. The Government recently brought OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Disney+ Hotstar, besides other online news and current affairs content, under the ambit of the I&B Ministry, giving it powers to regulate policies and rules for the digital space. The advocates of free speech have always underscored that the right to freedom of speech and expression cannot be curtailed and the Indian Constitution guarantees it. Though one agrees with this sentiment, and the fact that the right to expression is sacrosanct, it doesn't give anyone a licence to hurt the religious sentiments of any community by insulting their gods and goddess or by portraying them in a bad light. But that said, one cannot but help wonder how is it that "Hindu sentiments" were never as fragile as they are today. Has not India always been a country that has been proud of its tolerant nature and the fact that we follow the Gandhians principles of "ahimsa." Are we now a nation that is deeply divided and intolerance towards even an imagined slight is the new normal? How then, are we any different from those who waged a war against *Charlie Hebdo*? Needless to say, the controversy surrounding 'Tandav' and the slight, real or imagined, has provided more fodder to fringe elements who thrive on disturbing communal harmony and targeting minorities. As a result of this, two FIRs have been registered against the makers of the show, one in Mumbai and the other in Lucknow. Reportedly, the charges include promoting enmity between different religious groups, race, destruction, damage or defilement of a place of worship or an object held sacred. Things are definitely going to be tough for the makers of 'Tandav'. But one wonders why the upholders of Indian culture and values don't raise a hue and cry over the kind of content that we see on the OTT platform, which is saturated with violence, nudity, abuses, derogatory gestures and remarks. It would be wonderful to clean up the content overall, instead of just focusing on religion.

# Good to focus on skill

The NEP is more in tune with national priorities and contemporary realities. It pays attention to areas that had been neglected for long



A SURYA PRAKASH

After decades of intransigence, the Union Government and policymakers in the education sector have come up with a National Education Policy (NEP) which is more in tune with national priorities and contemporary realities. This is so because the new policy pays special attention to three very important areas that have been neglected for long — holistic and multidisciplinary education, vocational education and impartation of skills and equalisation of opportunity for digital education.

The Centre has drafted education policies in the past. However, like many things which were thought of earlier, these plans have fallen by the wayside for the lack of foresight, funds and commitment. Eventually they just ended up as a string of shibboleths — high sounding but vacuous prose — just meant for the printer contracted by the Government to make a killing!

But, this time it is different because it seeks to diagnose and confront the real problems that we face in the field of education, be it early childhood care and learning, curriculum and pedagogy in schools, language education, holistic and integrated learning, vocational education and promotion of Indian languages, art and culture. It is difficult in a single column to cover all aspects of this policy, so better limit the attention to just a few aspects like holistic, multidisciplinary and vocational education.

The NEP talks about the multidisciplinary approach of universities like Takshashila and Nalanda where good education meant good knowledge of 64 "kalaas" or arts which included singing, painting, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, engineering and vocational subjects such as carpentry, cloth-making and soft skills such as communication and debating. In other words, it was holistic knowledge — complete, comprehensive education that gave an individual more than rudimentary understanding of various disciplines of learning and equipped him/her for life's challenges. The NEP says: "The very idea that all branches of creative human endeavour, including mathematics, science, vocational subjects, professional subjects and soft skills should be considered arts has distinctly Indian origins." Therefore, this ancient understanding of education "must be brought back to Indian education, as it is exactly the kind of education that will be required for the 21st century."



This statement of intent in the NEP, if implemented with utmost commitment, will revolutionise higher education in the country, which fell into the rut of clearly separating the arts and the sciences for decades as if these disciplines were enemies of one another. This policy was pursued with such ferocity that even students who acquired Masters' and Ph.D degrees felt a sense of incompleteness to their education and understanding of the world, and consequently lost out to their peers in the western world who were blessed with holistic education.

It is indeed sad that our politicians, bureaucrats and educationists persisted with such a policy that segmented knowledge, put students into a strait jacket and virtually prohibited them from venturing into areas outside their syllabus. All those responsible for this short-sighted policy must be identified and asked why they subjected millions of Indian students to such mindless compartmentalisation.

The second issue is vocational training. Since Independence, Indians were told that blue-collar jobs like running a lathe machine or being a fitter or turner in a factory; operating a bulldozer or heavy earth-moving equipment; carpentry, plumbing, basic electrical work and so on were meant for the less educated or those who passed out of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). Good middle

“THE CENTRE HAS DRAFTED EDUCATION POLICIES IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, LIKE MANY THINGS WHICH WERE THOUGHT OF EARLIER, THESE PLANS HAVE FALLEN BY THE WAYSIDE FOR THE LACK OF FORESIGHT, FUNDS AND COMMITMENT”

class boys would go to college, acquire their degrees (with very little skills) and become "boxwallahs" or private sector executives or teachers. The less fortunate among them would become Government clerks, whereas the smarter ones would take civil service exams and become babus. Further, "safe" Government jobs became the ultimate dream for the youth. The system did not ignite the entrepreneurial instincts of students or challenge

them to explore new avenues. Thus, persons with passable language skills and a smattering of English were the smart guys with good incomes, whereas the ones with real skills — the lathe operators, the electricians and so on, who ran our industries and the manufacturing sector, who kept the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rising — belonged to a lower grade, the working class.

This anomaly persisted for decades because the Indian middle class declared that a degree certificate was a must to enter its precincts and to be in its marriage market. This could have been easily set right by awarding degrees after three-year training at an ITI to those passing out. Finally, the new NEP recognises this lacuna and seeks to remedy it.

It is indeed a shame that this convoluted middle class habit of honouring skill-less education was allowed to persist for over 70 years after Independence.

This has cost us dearly, because the 12th Five-Year Plan estimated that only five per cent of the Indian workforce in the age group of 19-24 years received formal vocational education, whereas it was 52 per cent in the US, 75 per cent in Germany and 96 per cent in South Korea. That means the most advanced nations have a high percentage of youth with vocational education, something that the Indian middle class and policymakers scoffed

at. This happened because vocational education was focused largely on grade eighth dropouts or students in class 11 and 12 who opted for vocational training.

As a result "vocational education is perceived to be inferior to mainstream education and is meant largely for students who are unable to cope with the latter", says the NEP. It also seeks to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with vocational education.

So, now, the plan is that 50 per cent of students through school and higher education should have vocational education by 2025. It will also be possible for students with vocational skills to get Bachelor's degrees. Alternately, students in undergraduate courses can join four-year multidisciplinary programmes and walk out with worthwhile skills apart from their degrees. In short, the apartheid created by the education system separating the skilled and qualified certificate holders from the unskilled but "packaged degreewallahs" will come to an end. The day we see the skilled workers getting their due, India will take a big leap forward.

We must now keep the pressure on the Government and policymakers to see that the NEP is implemented with utmost honesty and diligence.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. The views expressed are personal).

## SOUNDBITE

Today, India is taking major decisions with confidence. It is not only doing things bigger but also better.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

To protect the lives and health of the people I will get the situation back to normal as soon as possible. What is important is to provide necessary medical services.



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga

Apart from nepotism and the movie mafia, the most awful thing about being an actor is night shifts. When the Sun rises you go to sleep.



Actor Kangana Ranaut

The boy has become a man on this tour. Siraj, leader of the attack in his first Test series and he has led from the front.



Former cricketer Virender Sehwag

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SC leaves Govt in a tizzy

Sir — It is sad that the Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any order on the farmers' proposed tractor rally which seeks to disrupt Republic Day (R-Day) celebrations on January 26 in the Capital. The apex court Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) said that the proposed tractor rally by the farmers protesting on the borders comes under the category of "law and order" and Delhi Police is the first authority to decide who should be allowed to enter the Capital and it was not the job of the Supreme Court. CJI Bobde's order came as a great setback to the Centre. Now, the chances of violence on R-Day have increased manifold as the police might deal with the farmers in a high-handed manner which will in turn instigate the cultivators to retaliate with force.

Further, if any rally or protest by the farmers disrupts the R-Day parade, it will be an embarrassment to the country as it is associated with the nation's pride. With this the Centre and the Delhi Police are in fix as they have no clue what to do now.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
Mumbai

### Inoculation is a turning point in the COVID war

The nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive launched on January 16 has put the country in immunisation mode and marked a turning point in the fight against the pandemic. It was, literally and figuratively, a shot in the arm. In this pandemic time the vaccines are the best thing to happen to us. Vaccines are lifesavers and constitute an effective pharmacological intervention for providing immunity against the Coronavirus that has caused a global health emergency. They will result in great gains in public health as time goes by.

It is true that vaccination is yet to pick up pace in many parts of the country. While the plan is to inoculate 100 people in each centre daily it may not always be possible to reach the set target. With time, the picture will become less hazy. People should have confidence in the vaccines. They must shed their inhibitions and turn up at the vaccination sessions. Apart from logistics and practicalities, people need to have trust in the safety and effectiveness of vaccines and realise the importance of immunisation to make the drive a success. It is important to allay fears and uncertainties. In this context, dissemination of information assumes



added importance.

The country's top political executives should consider taking the job to inspire confidence, as was done by Joe Biden and many other world leaders. The Government must also consider leaving the choice of the vaccine to the recipients. It should give the country's impoverished citizens the vaccine for free.

**G David Milton**  
Tamil Nadu

### Mamata's tactical move

Sir — With Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announcing that she will contest the Bengal Assembly election from Nandigram, politics in the State has taken an interesting turn. Now, the fight for the BJP is definitely not a cakewalk and the party will have to devise its strategy accordingly. The announcement is significant as Nandigram is the constituency of her former right hand man Suwendu Adhikari, who crossed over to the BJP last month. Only the future will tell whether the announcement will help "Didi" and stop the defections from her party to the BJP. She has also supported the ongoing farmers' agitation which

has been continuing for over 50 days in Delhi-NCR. In 2007, as many as 14 people were killed in clashes in Nandigram between protesting farmers and the police. In the subsequent election, the TMC crafted the "Ma, Maati, Manushi" campaign and registered a landslide victory.

**Yash Pal Ralhan**  
Jalandhar

### Why hurt feelings?

Sir — Taking cognisance of complaints that Hindu gods and goddesses have been ridiculed in the web series 'Tandav', the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting sought an explanation from the online streaming platform Amazon Prime Video. In the end the series has proved to be one more case of controversial cinema.

It is quite clear that such shows are produced only to create controversies and get the eyeballs. It seems that the makers of the web series have deliberately mocked Hindu gods and deities. The show clearly reveals a lackadaisical attempt at portraying India's diverse polity.

India is the land of peace, harmony and tolerance. Nobody has the right to hurt the sentiments of a religious community just for the sake of entertainment. So, it is in the interest of everyone that such films should be outrightly banned.

**Krishnan Ramani**  
Coimbatore

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

**Leading from the front**

During the Coronavirus pandemic the SCR showed the country how to turn an adversity into an opportunity



RAM ACHARYA

The COVID-19 pandemic may have severely impacted the Indian economy but the South Central Railway (SCR) rose to the occasion by running scores of Shramik Special trains for ferrying thousands of migrant labourers out of Hyderabad to cities and towns in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Odisha. Sensing the growing and urgent nationwide clamour for immigrant labourers to be allowed to head home by train — as opposed to them being forced to trek kilometres (km) on foot, with many of the workers dying in the process — the SCR was first off the mark. It took the initiative of helping out the hungry, impoverished and tired workers who had reached a breaking point. The SCR began an immigrant labour special train from Lingampally near Hyderabad to Hatia in Jharkhand as early as May 1, 2020, followed by 242 special trains from its stations located in Telangana, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to various stations in North and North-West India. During the next two months, the SCR transported over 3,13,500 passengers and reportedly at the peak of the operations, 43 Shramik Specials were rolled out in a short span of 12 hours.

In the midst of the raging Coronavirus pandemic, the SCR created a safe environment for the labourers who were heading back to their hometowns and villages. The SCR ensured social distancing, repeated sanitising of all trains, use of hand sanitisers by all, contactless thermal scanning and ticket checking through cameras by the ticket checking staff. Plus, the employees deputed at stations wore Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) suits, gloves and facial shields, in order to ensure that they and the passengers remained safe from the virus. They also made sure that the passengers wore masks and followed other COVID protocols. If they had not done so, the consequences for the people returning home and the towns and villages would have been disastrous. Special arrangements for food at specified intervals were made for originating trains as well as those that were passing through, with the support of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). As though the COVID-19 contagion was not enough of a crisis for the nation to deal with, disaster struck on May 5 when a major gas leak was reported at Vizag. Consequently, the movement of all trains, including the Shramik Specials had to be halted through the city, and they had to be diverted on alternative routes after a short delay.

However, the shutting down of passenger trains was an opportunity for the SCR to run more of freight and special parcel trains, allowing it to earn revenue when general economic activity was on the decline, nationwide. Weekly special parcel trains were run from the New Kacheguda goods shed near Hyderabad to New Guwahati, carrying fish, dry fish, eggs, lemon, oil, ghee and so on. The COVID-19 outbreak offered the Railways an opportunity to capture new freight, too and it began loading industrial salt from the Kakinada Sea Ports Limited; rice from Nagireddipalli; pulses from Kadapa; onions from Nagarjol; dry chillies from Reddypalem and last but not the least turmeric from Nizamabad, all destined for Bangladesh.

The all-India rail traffic having been reduced to less than half of its peak levels enabled the SCR to carry out a major overhaul of the iconic bridge over the mighty Godavari River. Built in 1977, the bridge was in need of repair and a major overhaul, but it was almost impossible to shut it down for extended periods on such a busy route. Due to the pandemic, the repair work was undertaken after a gap of almost 43 years, including track renewal over the entire length of the three-km-long bridge, by ensuring a 36-hour complete shutdown of traffic. Track replacement work was carried out with the aid of Plasser Quick Relaying System (QRS) machines after carrying out deep screening work over all the six spans, while the road traffic continued on the lower deck. Similarly, scissors crossovers that had been laid way back in 1970 in Kazipet with wooden sleepers, could now be replaced with Pre-Stressed Concrete (PSC) sleepers, thanks to the possibility of shutting down traffic for 72 hours, which was unthinkable before the pandemic hit the country. Similarly, the Vijayawada yard, a major facility for the North-South and East Coast freight movement had wooden sleepers on its north and south end turnouts. These were replaced with PSC ones during the lockdown period. In all, 8,257 km of track was patrolled on foot and the sidings were completed. Thanks to the steep decline in passenger traffic, 44 km of track between Akola and Akot of the vital North-South link of Akola-Khandwa was converted from metre to broad gauge and 149 km of existing single-line track was doubled.

With five major hospitals and 44 health units spread over its network, the SCR could play a key role in providing critically needed facilities such as quarantine centres, in which 1,017 beds were set up in a short span of three weeks. The SCR's premier and oldest workshop belonging to the era of the Nizam State Railways also rose to the occasion by building automatic hand sanitiser dispensers, foot-operated taps and water coolers. These were located at public places such as canteens and main gates, keeping the SCR staff and the passengers safe and earning the SCR tonnes of goodwill. During the pandemic the SCR showed the country how to turn any adversity into an opportunity.

(The writer is former member, Railway Board. The views expressed are personal.)

**BRINGING KARNATAKA'S MARATHI-SPEAKING AND CULTURAL REGION INTO MAHARASHTRA WILL BE A TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS MARTYRED IN THE BORDER WAR.**  
 —MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER  
**UDDHAV THACKERAY**

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



**REGIONALISM AND TALK OF LINGUISTICS ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY. I CONDEMN THIS.**  
 —KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER  
**BS YEDIYURAPPA**

**India must stand its ground**

All objections raised by the USTR on the DST levied by India on foreign tech firms are baseless. The Govt must not yield to the pressure tactics of the US administration by withdrawing the tax



UTTAM GUPTA

In its findings on the Section 301 probe conducted under the US Trade Act, 1974, the US Trade Representative (USTR) has *inter alia* concluded that India's digital services taxes (DST) or the so-called equalisation levy (EL) at the rate of two per cent, unfairly targets US companies. The USTR raised three aspects that, it alleges, are inconsistent with global tax principles: First, the levy on US companies has extra-territorial application; second, DST is a tax on the firm's revenue, not its income; and third, it subjects US companies to double taxation.

The above findings could lead to the US imposing duties on Indian goods; restrictions on import of goods and services; restrictions/denial on issuance of service sector authorisations; asking India for compensatory trade benefits and taking binding commitments from New Delhi to phase out the levy.

The stance taken by the US Administration is untenable and totally unjustified. At the outset, let us take a close look at the DST and the reason why India had to introduce it.

The operations of multinational corporations (MNCs) are transnational, with entities located in several countries involving a high-level of interdependence and cross-border flow of goods and services between them, as also direct supplies to retailers and consumers. For firms such as Google, Facebook and Amazon, who do business in digital mode, physical boundaries get blurred. They structure their investment arms through a maze of subsidiaries held outside India in low-tax jurisdictions such as Singapore, Mauritius and Ireland among others.

These technology giants invoice Indian customers through these offshore entities despite having significant revenue, users or paying customers in the country, even as their Indian entity is crafted more like a service company or commission agent to the parent company located abroad. This helps them in booking an overwhelming share of revenues in the parent company (registered in a tax haven) while a very small portion of service/commission revenue and income is reported in the entity registered in India.

In short, these firms make money from their operations in India but don't pay taxes to the Government. On the other hand, India-based e-commerce operators are subject to taxes in the country for revenue generated from the Indian market.

To address this anomaly, in 2016, the Narendra Modi Government introduced EL with an intent to tax Business to Business (B2B) and e-commerce/digital transactions. This tax is levied at six per cent on the payment made by a resident firm to foreign e-commerce companies for online advertisements run on the latter's platform. While making a payment, the resident firm has to deduct tax from the consideration payable and deposit it to the department.

Through an amendment to the Finance Act, 2020, the scope of EL was extended to all sales, gross receipts or turnover of non-residents not having a Permanent Establishment (PE is a fixed place of business normally located in the territory of the source country), who is providing the online sale of goods or provision of services or both to a person residing in India or a non-resident in specific circumstances, such as the sale of advertisement targeted to the Indian market or sale of data collected from it. This levy is at two per cent on the sum received or receivable by an e-commerce oper-

IT IS IRONICAL THAT DIGITAL GIANTS FIRST USE A DISINGENUOUS ARCHITECTURE TO SHOW REVENUE GENERATED FROM INDIAN OPERATIONS AS HAPPENING IN FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS AND THEN, CLAIM THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO TAX THEIR PROFITS. BUT, THEY AND THE US ADMINISTRATION CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MAKING PROFIT FROM THEIR OPERATIONS ON INDIAN SOIL. HENCE, THEY ARE LIABLE TO TAX HERE



ator and is payable directly to the Central Government on a quarterly basis.

Though the USTR has objected to the two per cent DST, it is silent on the six per cent EL on online advertising revenue. All the aforementioned objections raised by it are untenable. At the outset, the levy does not discriminate against any US company as it applies equally to all non-resident e-commerce operators, irrespective of their country of residence. Just because out of the 119 companies likely to be taxed, 72 per cent happen to be American, does not mean that the latter alone have been targeted.

Second, contrary to what is claimed by the USTR, the levy is applied only on sales occurring in the territory of India through digital means. Consequently, the charge that it has extra-territorial application is baseless.

It is ironical that the digital giants first use a disingenuous architecture to show revenue generated from Indian operations as happening in foreign jurisdictions and then, claim that the Indian Government has no right to tax their profits. But, they and the US administration can't get away from the fact that they are making profit from their operations on Indian soil. Hence, they are liable to tax here. In the normal course, for a foreign firm having a PE from where it conducts transactions — including sales made in India — and maintains accounts, receipts, expenditure, profit and so on for local operations, the tax department has a smooth sail. But technological giants don't have a PE on Indian soil. To overcome this hurdle, in 2018, a committee set up by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had mooted the concept of digital permanent establishment (DPE). The Income-Tax Act pro-

vides for levy of tax on the profit attributed to the Indian operations of such offshore enterprises in the country. The committee proposed tax at the rate of 30-40 per cent, depending on the user base and revenues (only firms with a user base over 2,00,000 would be considered).

As a follow up, in the Finance Act 2018, the Government proposed that "such offshore firms should be taxed in India if they have a market presence above a threshold to be defined in terms of their customer base and revenue." But this needs an amendment to India's tax treaties with all its trade and investment partners. Till that is done (a time-consuming process) the Government has levied tax on the amount received or receivable by an e-commerce operator.

This brings us to the third charge levied by the USTR: "The DST taxes a company's revenue, not its income." Ideally, the profits (or income) made by the foreign entity from its operations in India should be taxed. However, in view of the digital giants not having a PE here and the concept of DPE yet to get incorporated in tax treaties with India's trade and investment partners or till such time an agreement at the international level which is acceptable to all is reached, a levy on the revenue is the only logical way forward. However, efforts are already being made under the aegis of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to arrive at a so-called base erosion profit shifting (BEPS) framework agreement. The OECD had released a draft report on "taxing digital companies" on October 9, 2019, however, progress got stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As for the accusation of US companies being subject to double taxation, it

is for them to sort out with the country where it is incorporated (or country of residence). Merely because they pay tax in the country of residence resulting in double taxation, it can't be a valid basis for denying tax to a jurisdiction where it is legitimately due (India). Even so, several countries of residence happen to be low or nil tax jurisdictions or they provide set-off for taxes paid by MNCs in the country of operation, effectively ensuring nil tax.

India's right to collect tax is also in sync with the stance taken by the OECD under the BEPS framework agreement. It states: "Profits of MNCs should be available for taxation in the country where their customers are, irrespective of any physical presence in that market, and that a formula should be evolved for such taxation."

To conclude, all objections raised by the USTR on the two per cent DST levied by the Indian Government on foreign technology companies are baseless and unsubstantiated. India must not yield to the pressure tactics of the US administration by withdrawing the tax.

At the same time, India should work for early finalisation of the BEPS framework agreement at the OECD. It should evolve a consensus on acceptance of the DPE concept and also get ready with a criteria for treating a foreign company as a DPE. The criteria should give appropriate weight to three crucial parameters i.e. the number of users, paying customers or annual revenue. The tax rate on such companies — treated as DPE — should be equal to the rate applicable to domestic companies to ensure fair play and non-discrimination.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

**Lady Luck has been very kind to Biden**

Joe's years in office will be enlivened by a Republican civil war, quite likely ending in a permanent split of the American Right



GWYNNE DYER

US President-elect Joe Biden is thrice-blessed. Not only did he win the Democratic nomination and then the presidential election but as a result of the events of January 6 — when supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump attacked Capitol Hill — he takes office when the Republican Opposition is in utter disarray and likely to stay that way for a long time. None of that was foreordained, or even very likely.

Just days ago the media and the pundits had declared this candidacy dead. Biden marvelled almost exactly a year ago after winning the

South Carolina primary election by a landslide. It had been dead, too, until African-American voters in South Carolina gave him their overwhelming support.

It was the first primary he had won, and it put him back in the race. Two days later Biden won 10 out of 14 States on "Super Tuesday" and practically wrapped the nomination up. But if South Carolina had scheduled its primary even a few days later, he would have gone into "Super Tuesday" as a loser and probably been written off.

So he got lucky once but it was a bad year for a Democrat to be running for the presidency. Donald Trump was mocked and loathed by the rest of the world and by almost exactly half the US population but Trump's "base" didn't care and the US economy was in excellent shape.

The US media were doing their best to make the presidential race look exciting, because that's what they were going to have to talk and write about through most of 2020. But the fact is that incumbent US

presidents running for re-election when the economy is good almost always win.

Biden's second stroke of luck came just 10 days before he won the South Carolina primary, when the first case of COVID-19 showed up in America. By March it was running wild, but Trump, aware that his re-election depended on a booming economy, avoiding taking any public health measures that would slow it down. Other populist leaders did the same. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been a week or two late on every pandemic-related decision and Britain's per capita COVID death toll is even worse than America's. President Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil downplayed the COVID threat, as did Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Hungary and their people paid a high price, too. But none of them were running for re-election in 2020.

Trump's refusal to back anti-COVID measures like using masks, social distancing and a countrywide lockdown were driven more by



electoral concerns than ideology: Stall the economy and he could lose the election. But of course mass death will also stall the economy in the end, so he couldn't win. He ended up with a crashed economy, 4,00,000 COVID deaths and a lost election, too.

And then, incredibly, he gave Biden another gift: The assault on the Capitol Hill by his followers two weeks ago. In fact, Trump had wanted to join the thousands of hardcore followers who assembled

at Capitol Hill and had told aides in the days leading up to the rally that he planned to accompany them to demonstrate his ire at Congress as it moved to certify Biden's November election victory. But the Secret Service kept warning him that agents could not guarantee his safety if he went ahead. Trump relented and instead hunkered down at the White House to watch television images of the mob rioting he is accused of triggering.

Before that attack on Capitol

Hill, Biden was facing a grim time in office, with at least 70 per cent of Republican voters and a majority of Representatives seduced by Trump's "big lie" that he really won the election by a landslide and that the Democrats had somehow "stolen" it. It was Adolf Hitler, not Joseph Goebbels, who gave the technique that name, but it still works.

"In the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility," Hitler wrote in 'Mein Kampf (My Struggle)': "Because...in the primitive simplicity of their minds (the great masses) more readily fall victim to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods."

"It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and

waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation."

That is what Biden faced only two weeks ago: A nightmare time in office with the "big lie" rampant and Trump its proud purveyor. And then suddenly Trump, in his manic determination to hold onto power, sent his mob off to try a foredoomed coup in the "Temple of Democracy", as American commentators call it. End of game. Trump is discredited even with a modest but significant proportion of his own base and a growing number of Republican office-holders are in rebellion against the party's subservience to the "Tangerine Tyrant." Biden's years in office will be enlivened by a vicious Republican civil war, quite likely ending in a permanent split of the American Right. This will give Lucky Joe time to do some useful work.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work'. The views expressed are personal.)

# Sensex slumps for second day as bears tighten grip

## HDFC Bank shines after Q3 show

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks wilted under selling pressure for the second consecutive session on Monday as investors stayed on the back foot amid lacklustre global cues.

A sharp drop in the rupee further sapped risk appetite, though gains in market heavyweights RIL and HDFC Bank cushioned the fall.

After a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 470.40 points or 0.96 per cent lower at 48,564.27.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tumbled 152.40 points or 1.06 per cent to 14,281.30.

ONGC was the top loser in the Sensex pack, slumping 4.59 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, PowerGrid, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, SBI and NTPC.

Only four index stocks closed in the green — Reliance Industries, Titan, HDFC Bank and ITC, climbing up to 2.37 per cent.

HDFC Bank spurred 1.15 per cent after the country's largest private sector lender on



Monday reported a 14.36 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to ₹8,760 crore for the December quarter, driven by a surge in core income.

Global markets retreated as rising Covid-19 cases clouded optimism over economic recovery, even as Chinese shares rose after positive GDP data.

"Domestic equities witnessed pullback for second consecutive day as weak global cues continued to weigh on investors' sentiments...While underlying strength of markets remains intact considering rebound in key economic data,

sustained growth in corporate earnings in 3Q FY21 with upbeat managements' commentaries and commencement of vaccination process.

"Additionally, favourable monetary policies of global central bankers, weak dollar and large fiscal stimulus in the US are expected to ensure sustained FPIs flow in domestic equities. However, for the week market is expected to be volatile ahead of some crucial global events. Further, as Union Budget is just two weeks away, rotational trading might be visible in the market," said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities.

# WITHDRAWAL OF MONEY FROM PMC BANK

## Exceptions can be carved out for emergencies of depositors: HC to RBI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said that according to the Supreme Court's decision on withdrawal of money by depositors of scam-hit PMC bank for exigencies, exceptions can be carved out for urgent medical and educational requirements.

A Bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh asked the depositors, whose needs have been highlighted before the court in a PIL, to once again approach the RBI-appointed administrator of PMC bank giving details of

their financial needs along for medical or educational reasons within three weeks.

The Bench asked the administrator to look into the applications by the depositors and take a decision within a further period of two weeks and communicate the same to the court before the next date of hearing on February 26.

During the hearing, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) told the court that the apex court asked it to consider the educational and medical requirements of depositors as per directives issued by the top bank.

RBI said its directives only

provide for considering medical emergencies and not educational emergencies which everyone would have.

The Bench, however, said the apex court has clearly mentioned both medical and educational emergencies and it was going to go by that.

The court was hearing an application by consumer rights activist Bejon Kumar Misra seeking directions to the RBI to consider other needs of PMC Bank depositors such as education, weddings and dire financial position, not just serious medical emergencies as being done at present.

# Finance Ministry releases weekly instalment of ₹6K cr to States to meet GST compensation shortfall

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Monday released the 12th instalment of ₹6,000 crore to States to meet the GST compensation shortfall, taking the total amount released so far under this window to ₹72,000 crore.

The Centre had set up a special borrowing window in October 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of ₹1.10 lakh crore in revenue arising on account of implementation of

GST. The ministry in a statement said it has released the 12th weekly instalment of ₹6,000 crore to the states to meet the GST compensation shortfall. Out of this, an amount of ₹5,516.60 crore has been released to 23 States and ₹483.40 crore has been released to the 3 Union Territories (UT) with Legislative Assembly (Delhi, J&K & Puducherry), who are members of the GST Council. **PTI**

# Nirmala holds pre-Budget meeting with State FMs

New Delhi: As part of pre-Budget deliberations, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday held a meeting with State Finance Ministers who suggested steps to revive growth and boost revenue collection against the backdrop of Covid-19 crisis.

The Finance Ministry in a statement said the meeting was held through video conference and was attended by Chief Ministers, deputy Chief Ministers, Finance Ministers, Ministers and senior officers from the States and Union Territories and the Union Government.

Sitharaman highlighted the importance of this meeting as a sign of cooperative federalism and indicated the manner in

which the Union Government was strongly supportive of States/Union Territories (with Legislature) fight against the pandemic.

Most participants thanked the Union Finance Minister for financially supporting their States/Union Territories during the worst months of pandemic, by enhancing borrowing limits and providing back to back loans to States, the statement said. The participants also gave numerous suggestions to the Union Finance Minister for inclusion in the Budget Speech, it said.

According to sources, state ministers expressed their suggestions on growth, investment, resource requirement and fiscal policy. **PTI**

# Forex intervention by RBI to touch \$93 bn by March: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to spend at least \$20 billion more to support the rupee and increase the forex kitty through the remainder of the financial year, taking its overall forex intervention to \$93 billion, according to a report.

The report by the Wall Street brokerage Bank of America Securities also expects

the central bank to raise banks' HTM (held-to-maturity) limits of excess government securities by 2 per cent of their books to fund the fiscal deficit if high forex intervention limits its open market operations (OMOs).

So far this fiscal, the central bank's forex intervention has touched USD 73.7 billion, according to the assessment by Bank of America Securities India economists Indranil Sen

Gupta and Aastha Gudwani.

They also feel the RBI to intervene with USD 45 billion in 2021-22 if the current account deficit (CAD) remains 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). After eight years, the RBI under the current Governor Shaktikanta Das has been building up the foreign exchange (forex) reserves, which as of January 15 stood at USD 586.1 billion, a lifetime high.

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	14453.30	14459.15	14222.80	14281.30	-152.4
UPL	529.95	568	534	555	32.45
RELIANCE	1949.10	1997.00	1923.35	1972.80	35.35
TITAN	1467.00	1509.00	1460.00	1498.00	20.75
HDFCBANK	1469.90	1502.85	1467.00	1480.00	13.35
ITC	218.4	222	214.6	218.05	0.2
EICHERMOT	2853.15	2912.70	2815.00	2860.00	2.7
ASIANPAINT	2592.00	2619.85	2555.40	2584.25	-6.65
BRITANNIA	3609.05	3665.00	3575.00	3597.30	-11.75
BAJAJ-AUTO	3552.00	3618.05	3505.00	3565.00	-15.3
TCS	3250.00	3267.75	3187.40	3215.00	-18.35
GAIL	140.8	142	134.6	137.05	-1.45
HCLTECH	1000.00	1004.95	976.9	978.1	-11.7
HINDUNIVLR	2374.50	2374.50	2320.65	2323.00	-28.15
KOTAKBANK	1870.50	1872.25	1838.85	1841.10	-22.8
NESTLEIND	1749.95	1807.40	1756.75	1759.95	-23.06
TECHM	998	1013.80	991.95	994.15	-13.15
HEROMOTOCO	3200.00	3217.55	3082.25	3155.00	-48
ULTRACEMCO	5440.00	5461.80	5326.45	5362.00	-90.25
HDFCLIFE	703	709.3	689	692.4	-12.45
SBI	899	907.2	883.2	892.9	-17.35
L1	1345.20	1353.85	1326.15	1327.75	-26.4
BPCL	414	416.9	402	406.25	-8.35
WIPRO	441	445	429.1	429.1	-9.45
ICICIBANK	544.5	548.4	538.9	540.45	-12.55
DIVISLAB	3640.00	3659.00	3551.00	3559.35	-85.45
M&M	817.9	820.8	797.15	800.05	-19.9
HDFC	2645.95	2647.40	2550.00	2569.40	-63.35
INFY	1338.00	1340.00	1306.00	1311.00	-33.95
SHRECEM	24400.00	24400.00	23600.00	23700.00	-733.8
BHARTIARTL	602.65	603	584	584.5	-18.15
CPIA	822	826.65	796.2	798.9	-24.8
DREDDY	5231.00	5237.95	5035.00	5046.90	-165.9
NTPC	100.45	100.9	96.8	97.25	-3.2
MARUTI	8011.00	8023.95	7745.00	7768.40	-256.35
ADANIPOWER	531	532.3	508.8	511.1	-16.85
BAJAJFINSV	8636.10	8636.10	8273.70	8350.95	-285.15
AXISBANK	674.45	675	651.15	652	-22.85
IOC	101.55	101.85	97.5	97.65	-3.65
COALINDIA	143.3	143.9	136.6	136.05	-5.2
GRASIM	1023.00	1029.55	990.85	994.85	-38.2
SBN	303.5	308.65	292.2	292.45	-11.4
BAFINANCE	4870.00	4880.00	4686.00	4699.00	-184.6
POWERGRID	201.25	202	194.55	194.95	-8.05
SUNPHARMA	604.1	607.35	578.45	579.95	-24.35
INDUSINDBK	959	960	924	926	-39.9
JSWSTEEL	393.5	394	375.5	375.45	-16.75
HINDALCO	252.3	254.25	240.6	242.5	-10.85
ONGC	101.4	101.85	96.05	96.4	-5
TATASTEEL	708	707.75	695.5	695	-40.9
TATAMOTORS	261.65	262.45	241.15	244.5	-15.8

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	33,748.80	33,763.75	32,870.05	33,159.65	-621.3
ICICIPRULI	499.7	513.15	497.95	506	6.3
ADANIGREEN	945	980	920.1	955.85	8.2
HINDPETRO	228.7	234	223	230.35	1.75
SBCARD	957	964.95	920	940	4.55
GODREJCP	779.9	793.8	768.15	779	-1.1
SIEMENS	1,625.00	1,651.05	1,587.70	1,617.85	-5.4
BAJAJHLING	3,207.90	3,207.90	3,120.05	3,185.95	-15.1
PGHIL	11,300.00	11,426.40	11,235.40	11,300.00	-70.55
HAVELLS	975.3	978.8	969	975	-6.35
DABUR	541.2	548.05	533.2	535.8	-4.95
BERGPAINT	772.4	784.05	764.15	768.55	-8.95
PIDILITIND	1,741.00	1,756.90	1,714.65	1,723.65	-23.3
MCDOWELLN	629.35	637.75	614.4	623.65	-8.4
COLPAL	1,565.00	1,569.30	1,529.30	1,539.25	-22.95
UBL	1,293.00	1,293.00	1,253.00	1,275.00	-20.15
DLF	271	282.6	268.8	275.1	-4.35
INDUSTOWER	26.8	26.21	24.14	28	-4.2
ABROTINDIA	15,074.00	15,074.00	14,730.00	14,700.00	-246.05
MARICO	416.9	418.4	405	411	-6.85
BOCHLTD	14,760.00	14,760.00	14,413.00	14,520.00	-245.25
ICICI	1,545.00	1,551.50	1,511.00	1,524.95	-25.9
PNB	36	36.55	35.1	35.3	-0.65
GICRE	140.55	141.95	136.9	139.3	-2.75
BIOCON	456	459.35	440.5	447.4	-9.65
HDFCAMC	3,244.00	3,290.90	3,157.45	3,175.00	-69.4
INDIGO	1,627.00	1,627.00	1,570.40	1,594.70	-36.35
ACC	1,738.00	1,746.35	1,670.25	1,701.30	-38.8
ALKEM	3,080.00	3,114.70	2,988.70	3,035.30	-69.4
CONCOR	432.8	434.55	421.2	423.05	-9.75
HINDZINC	277.4	277.6	267.3	268	-6.2
IGL	550.65	555.9	532	534.5	-13.4
NAUKRI	5,040.00	5,059.95	4,857.05	4,880.00	-133.6
AUROPHARMA	933.8	979	900.5	910.35	-25.65
OFSS	3,390.00	3,390.00	3,254.10	3,285.00	-94.6
MUTHOOTFIN	1,203.50	1,203.50	1,160.20	1,167.35	-35.65
TORNTHPHARM	2,705.00	2,705.00	2,595.55	2,630.00	-81.7
MOTHERSUNI	162.4	162.45	155.5	157.5	-5
AMBUJACEM	24.1	24.55	24	23.95	-8.15
PEL	1,638.95	1,649.70	1,555.65	1,573.90	-51.25
LUPIN	1,090.00	1,090.00	1,030.00	1,057.95	-35.2
CADILAHC	485	497.8	467.35	472	-15.8
TATACONSUM	601.5	601.5	581	582.8	-19.6
BANDHANBANK	367.6	368.95	354	356	-12.55
PFC	122.1	122.1	116.3	117	-4.4
DMART	2,800.00	2,829.90	2,715.00	2,715.00	-105.95
BANKBARODA	75.45	77.1	72.05	72.1	-3.05
NMDC	122.05	122.4	115.45	115.6	-6.15
ADANITRANS	433.4	434.70	397.15	405.8	-27.05
LIT	4,289.95	4,292.00	3,968.60	4,008.55	-279.3
PETRONET	259.7	259.7	241.55	242.45	-17.25

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	M&M
ADANIGREEN	954	978	920.55	953.45	819.9
TATAMOTORS	262.4	262.4	241.15	245.65	820.2
RELIANCE	1940	1996.6	1922.65	1983.5	797.6
IDEA	13.62	13.62	12.6	13	808.2
HDFCBANK	1472.8	1503	1467.95	1483.2	820.8

AHEAD OF BIDEN'S INAUGURATION

# US capital converted into garrison city



National Guard walk outside the US Capitol early Monday morning

Washington: Ahead of the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on Wednesday, the American capital has been virtually turned into a garrison city, amidst multiple reports of threats and more armed violence by pro-Trump supporters to disrupt the events.

In the aftermath of last week's Capitol riots, Washington DC is preparing for the scaled down inauguration of the 46th US President with extreme security measures - closing roads, erecting barbed wire fences and deploying more than 25,000 National Guards along with thousands of local police personnel and those from other security agencies.

The area in and around Capitol Hill, a large part of Pennsylvania Avenue and the White House has been made

out of bounds for the general public with eight-foot high iron barricades being erected.

US Marshals are deploying 4,000 officers to Washington DC. Major parts of the majestic National Mall, which during the inauguration is usually thronged by thousands of people, have been closed off.

The entire city is on high-alert as authorities are receiving multiple reports of violent threats from various groups at the level of the incident that happened on January 6 -- when hundreds of supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump stormed Capitol Hill, disrupting the constitutional process of certification of electoral college votes.

The unprecedented violence forced hundreds of lawmakers to take shelter at safe locations within the iconic building amidst vandalism by

the mob. At least five people, including a police officer, died in the incident.

Despite the heightened security concerns, Biden plans to go ahead with the inauguration ceremony in its traditional location.

In addition to converting downtown Washington D.C. into a fortress, security in and around 50 State Capitols has also been put on high alert to ensure a peaceful transition of power.

"I think this will be an inauguration unlike any other. It was already destined to be, given Covid concerns and some of the limited seating and public access. But having our fellow Americans storm the Capitol in an attempt to overthrow the government certainly warrants heightened security," Mayor of Washington DC, Muriel Bowser, told NBC News. **PTI**

# Harris prepares for central role in Biden's WH

Washington: Kamala Harris will make history on Wednesday when she becomes the nation's first female vice president — and the first Black woman and the first woman of South Asian descent to hold that office.

But that's only where her boundary-breaking role begins. With the confluence of crises confronting Joe Biden's administration — and an evenly divided Senate in which she would deliver the tie-breaking vote — Harris is shaping up to be a central player in addressing everything from the coronavirus pandemic to criminal justice reform.

Symone Sanders, Harris' chief spokeswoman, said that while the vice president-elect's portfolio hasn't been fully defined yet, she has a hand in all aspects of Biden's agenda. "There are pieces that



Biden may specifically ask her to champion, but outside of that she is at the table for everything, involved in everything, and giving input and feedback and being a supportive partner to him on all pieces," she said.

People working closely with Harris on the transition resist the idea of siloing her into any specific issue early on, because the sheer number of challenges the Biden administration faces means it will be "all hands on deck" during their early months. **PTI**

# Kremlin critic to be kept in custody for 30 days: Lawyer

Moscow: A judge on Monday ordered Alexei Navalny to be remanded in custody for 30 days, the Russian opposition leader's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said on Twitter.

The ruling concluded an hours-long court hearing set up at a police precinct where the politician was held since his arrest at a Moscow airport Sunday.

Navalny flew to Russia from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering from nerve agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. He was detained at passport control at Sheremetyevo airport after flying in Sunday evening from Berlin, where he was treated following the poisoning in August.

Navalny's arrest prompted a wave of criticism from US and European officials, adding to existing tension between Russia and West.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas noted that Navalny had returned of his own volition and said "it is completely

incomprehensible that he was detained by Russian authorities immediately after his arrival." "Russia is bound by its own constitution and by international commitments to the principle of the rule of law and the protection of civil rights," Maas added.

"These principles must of course also be applied to Alexei Navalny. He should be released immediately."

The politician's allies said Monday he was being held at a police precinct outside Moscow and has been refused access to his lawyer.

The court hearing into whether Navalny should remain in custody was hastily set up at the precinct itself, and the politician's lawyers said they were notified minutes before.

"It is impossible what is happening over here," Navalny said in video from the improvised court room, posted on his page in the messaging app Telegram. "It is lawlessness of the

highest degree."

Calls for Navalny's immediate release have come from European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and top officials of other EU nations.

US President-elect Joe Biden's pick for national security adviser called on Russian authorities to free Navalny.

"Mr Navalny should be immediately released, and the perpetrators of the outrageous attack on his life must be held accountable," Sullivan tweeted.

The outgoing US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, said the US "strongly condemns" the decision to arrest Navalny.

Nevertheless, the judge ordered that Navalny be remanded in custody until Feb 15, Yarmysh said on Twitter. Navalny's lawyer Vadim Kobzev told the Interfax news agency that the defense plans to appeal the ruling. **AP**

# Uganda cops surround offices of Bobi Wine's Opposition party

Kampala: The opposition party of Ugandan presidential challenger Bobi Wine said on Monday that police have prevented top officials from going to their headquarters in the capital, Kampala, as they prepare to launch a legal challenge to Wine's house arrest.

Police swooped in at dawn at the offices of Wine's National Unity Platform, diverted traffic, and stopped people from entering, party spokesman Joel Ssenyonyi, told The Associated

Press.

Wine, whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, was the main opposition challenger in presidential elections last week that electoral authorities say long-time leader Yoweri Museveni won with 58 per cent of the vote.

Wine, who took 34 per cent of the vote, has rejected the official outcome as fraudulent and insists he will use all legal means to protest the "cooked-up" results. **AP**

Wine's party has said it has video evidence of the military stuffing ballot boxes, casting ballots for people and chasing voters away from polling stations.

Opposition lawmaker Medard Ssegogona, an attorney for Wine, said he feared police would seize any vital information related to the elections that was kept at the party's headquarters. Museveni has dismissed the claims of vote-rigging. **AP**

# 12 workers trapped week ago in China mine blast are alive

Beijing: Chinese state media say 12 out of 22 workers trapped for a week by an explosion in a gold mine are alive, as hundreds of rescuers seek to bring them to safety. The Xinhua News Agency said on Monday a note passed through a rescue shaft Sunday night reported the fate of the other 10 remains unknown.

The note said 4 of the workers were injured and that the condition of others was deteriorating because of a lack of fresh air and an influx of water. **AP**

# Around the Globe

**Bangui:** Central African Republic's constitutional court on Monday upheld President Faustin Archange Touadera re-election, raising the spectre of more violence days after rebels attempted to overtake the capital.

**Kathmandu:** Nepal has detected its first case of the new coronavirus variant that was found in the UK last month, the Ministry of Health and Population said on Monday.

**Istanbul:** Germany's foreign minister is scheduled to meet his Turkish counterpart in the Turkish capital, following a tumultuous year in Turkish-European relations.

**Moscow:** Moscow is ready for a quick deal with the incoming administration of US President-elect Joe Biden to extend the last remaining arms control pact, which expires in just over two weeks, Russia's top diplomat said Monday. Months of talks between Russia and President Donald Trump's administration on the possible extension of the New START treaty have failed to narrow their differences. The pact is set to expire on Feb. 5.

**London:** Trucks owned by British shellfish firms descended Monday on Parliament in London to protest the Brexit-related red tape they claim is suffocating their businesses.

# Dramatic drop in Saudi executions after laws changed in 2020

Dubai: Saudi Arabia, for years one of the world's most prolific executioners, dramatically reduced the number of people put to death last year, following changes halting executions for non-violent drug-related crimes, according to the government's tally and independent observers.

The Saudi government's Human Rights Commission said Monday it documented 27 executions in 2020.

That's compared to an all-time high of 184 executions the year before as documented by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. The change represents an 85 per cent reduction in the number of people put to death last year. Compared to 2019.

"The sharp decrease was brought about in part by a moratorium on death penalties for drug-related offenses," the

Saudi rights commission said.

When asked by The Associated Press, the commission said the new law ordering a stop to such executions came into effect sometime last year. The new directive for judges does not appear to have been published publicly and it was not immediately clear whether the law was changed by royal decree, as is typically the case.

The AP previously reported that Saudi Arabia last year also ordered an end to the death penalty for crimes committed by minors and ordered judges to end the controversial practice of public flogging, replacing it with jail time, fines or community service.

The force behind these changes is 34-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has the backing of his father, King Salman. **AP**

# Not right to vaccinate young before old: WHO

Geneva: The World Health Organisation chief on Monday lambasted drugmakers' profits and vaccine inequalities, saying it's "not right" that younger, healthier adults in wealthy countries get vaccinated against COVID-19 before older people or health care workers in poorer countries and charging that most vaccine makers have targeted locations where "profits are highest."

Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus kicked off WHO's week-long executive board meeting — virtually from its headquarters in Geneva — by lamenting that one poor country received a mere 25 vaccine doses while over 39 million doses have been administered in nearly 50 richer nations.

"Just 25 doses have been given in one lowest income country — not 25 million, not 25,000 — just 25. I need to be blunt: The world is on the

brink of a catastrophic moral failure," Tedros said. He did not specify the country, but a WHO spokeswoman identified it as Guinea. "It's right that all Governments want to prioritize vaccinating their own health workers and older people first," he said. "But it's not right that younger, healthier adults in rich countries are vaccinated before health workers and older people in poorer countries," he added. **AP**

## FROM PAGE 1

### SC LEAVES IT TO COPS TO TAKE CALL ON TRACTOR RALLY

The Centre, in an application filed through Delhi Police, has said that any proposed march or protest which seeks to disrupt and disturb the Republic Day celebrations will cause an "embarrassment to the nation".

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, the bench said who should be allowed to enter Delhi and who should not be allowed has to be dealt with by the police as the court is not the "first authority".

The bench told Venugopal that the apex court is seized of the issue of farm laws and "we have not said anything on police powers". The apex court then asked, "Are farmers unions appearing today?"

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave said he was representing some farmer unions in the matter.

Advocate A P Singh, representing one of the farmers' body, told the bench about the affidavit filed by them requesting the top court to remove the remaining three members of the court-appointed committee to resolve the issue of farm laws and select people who can do the job "on the basis of mutual harmony".

"We will hear everyone on that day (next date of hearing)," the bench said, adding, "We will hear you in the same combination of bench".

On January 12, the top court had stayed the implementation of the contentious new farm laws till further orders and constituted the four-member committee to make recommendations to resolve the impasse over them between the Centre and farmers' unions protesting at Delhi borders.

The members of the court-appointed committee were -- Bhopinder Singh Mann, National President of Bhartiya Kisan Union, All India Kisan Coordination Committee; Parmod Kumar Joshi, Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute; Ashok Gulati, agricultural economist and former chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, and Anil Ghanwat, President of Shetkari Sanghatana.

Later, Mann had recused himself from the court-appointed committee.

The top court had on January 12 said it would hear the pleas against the farm laws after eight weeks when the committee would

give its suggestions to resolve the impasse after talking to the protesters and the government.

Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, are protesting at various border points of Delhi for over a month now against the three laws -- the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act.

Enacted in September 2020, the government has presented these laws as major farm reforms aimed at increasing farmers' income, but the protesting farmers have raised concerns that these legislations would weaken the minimum support price (MSP) and "mandi" (wholesale market) systems and leave them at the mercy of big corporations.

The government has maintained that these apprehensions are misplaced and has ruled out a repeal of the laws. **PTI**

### HOUSE PANEL SUMMONS FB, TWITTER OFFICIALS OVER CITIZENS' RIGHTS

The panel had earlier too summoned representatives of these social platforms in the backdrop of allegations that they were showing partiality towards a set of political leaders in reference to "hate comments".

The Congress and the BJP leaders had a verbal clash on the issue when the controversy broke out subsequent to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi quoting a foreign daily that social media gave more space to BJP and RSS leaders. The BJP had then alleged that comments of its leaders were often deleted in social media.

### MAMATA TO TAKE ON SUVENDU ON HIS HOME TURF

Attacking the BJP Government for taking in such corrupt people into its fold, Mamata said, "They are threatening the corrupt leaders from other party with jail and forcing them to join them before the elections ... is it as though that if you are in other party you are a thief and as soon as you join the BJP you are clean ... as if BJP is a washing machine."

With more and more number of corrupt people joining its ranks the BJP had become "washing machine Bha Ja Pa (read Bhartiya

Janata Party) ...but people have understood everything and they will teach you a lesson this time," she added.

Nandigram is also the home turf of Mamata's erstwhile spearhead, Suwendu Adhikari a powerful mass leader and a former Minister who quit the TMC and joined the BJP last month. Adhikari, the local MLA is also the son of Sisir Adhikari a veteran Congress and later TMC leader and a former Union Minister and a sitting MP.

Suwendu's younger brother Dibyendu who too is an MP and his another brother a municipal chairman afford the Adhikari house at Contai in East Midnapore the status of 10 Downing Street, people say.

Mamata's sharp attack received an equally high-decibel reply from Suwendu who led a triumphant roadshow down SP Mukherjee Road, past Mamata's Kalighat residence. He at once took up the challenge welcoming the TMC supremo at Nandigram and pre-declared the result: a "hands down" defeat for the Chief Minister.

"I welcome her to Nandigram... which catapulted her to power and which she remembered after five years... Let her contest from Nandigram and if I am fielded by my party from there I take a vow today that if I cannot defeat her by a margin of half-a-lakh votes then I will quit politics," Suwendu said.

Alleging that Mamata only remembers Nandigram before elections, and accusing her of giving repeated extensions to an IPS officer involved in the Nandigram firing, Suwendu said "she (Mamata) is playing with the sentiments of the people of Nandigram... but this time such a tactic will not work and her party will be democratically dumped into the Bay of Bengal."

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh who accompanied Suwendu in the rally said Mamata was so afraid of a defeat at her home turf that she is escaping to Nandigram but there too she will face a humiliating defeat.

### DAY AFTER JAB, MAN DIES IN UP; VACCINE DID NOT CAUSE DEATH, SAYS GOVT

"An adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) committee probed the death of the man in Moradabad. The cause of death was septicemic shock and cardiac arrest and has nothing to do with the vaccination," the State's Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad told reporters in Lucknow.

He said some persons were spreading false news regarding the vaccine and vaccinations, and people should not trust them.

"The two vaccines (Covishield and Covaxin) used in the country are safe," Prasad added.

A total of 20,076 healthcare workers got their first jobs in UP on Saturday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a country-wide vaccination drive against the pandemic.

After Mahipal died on Sunday night, Moradabad District Magistrate Rakesh Singh said a high-level medical inquiry would be held.

"The case of Mahipal is exceptional and a high-level medical inquiry will be ordered," he said while asserting that the vaccines are fully safe and no major side effects have been reported among others vaccinated.

Chief Medical Officer Milind Chandra Garg said the cause of death was a cardiac problem.

"Deceased Mahipal's heart was found enlarged and it had blood clots, according to the postmortem report," he said.

The report of the postmortem, conducted by three doctors, stated that the death was caused by "cardio-pulmonary disease" and there was "no relation with corona vaccine", the CMO said.

He said some employees were suffering from fever after taking the shots. "They were facing general problems but not like Mahipal," he said.

Mahipal's son Vishal said his father called him to the hospital as he was having breathing difficulty.

"My father was suffering from cough, but after vaccination he had a fever and felt a heaviness in breathing. On Sunday, he was admitted in the Government hospital where he expired at night," he said.

Mahipal's family members claimed that he never had any cardiac problem and was "quite healthy except for the fever and cough". "My father did not suffer from corona even when he performed his duty properly during the pandemic," his son said.

Under the nationwide mega vaccination drive launched on Saturday, a total of 4,319 (53 per cent) health workers against a target of 8,117 were administered the vaccines at 81 centres across the city.

# Media trial can affect Sushant case probe: HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant verdict on a bunch of PILs cases relating to the Sushant Singh Rajput death cases, the Bombay High Court on Monday told the media houses "not to step out of their boundaries too and thereby enter the grey area beyond the proverbial Lakshman Rekha".

Taking a strong exception to the questionable manner in which the media depicted the deceased and accused and in the process created an atmosphere of "prejudice for both", and tried to influence the investigations, a HC division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G. S. Kulkarni directed the media "to exercise restraint and refrain from printing/displaying any news item and/or initiating any discussion/debate/interview of the nature".

In his ruling on a bunch of public interest litigations filed by a group of IPS officers and activists vis-a-vis the case relating to the high-voltage coverage on the circumstances leading to the death of act Sushant in June 2020, the HC indirectly pulled up the media houses from holding "trials" and trying to influence the ongoing investigations.

Among other things, the petitioners had sought the court's intervention to frame guidelines to regulate the electronic media for reporting ongoing criminal investigations while safeguarding media freedom.

The HC bench prefaced its directive to the press and elec-

tronic media with the following observation: "The measures we would thus propose to remedy the ills that have so long remained unchecked for the lack of strict enforcement of the regulatory control mechanism, in whatever manner it is available on paper, as well as lack of proper understanding of the law of contempt of court and the procedures governing the criminal justice system, are intended to safeguard the dignity of an individual and his liberty - the basic philosophy of our Constitution".

"We would do so, conscious of our own limitations of not crossing the boundaries, while urging the media houses, not to step out of their boundaries too and thereby enter the grey area beyond the proverbial 'Lakshman Rekha', the HC bench said.

Among the directives that the HC bench gave to the media --- while reporting on the death by suicide to refrain from depicting the deceased as one having a weak character or intruding in any manner on the privacy of the deceased.

The Court asked the media to refrain prejudicing an ongoing inquiry/investigation by among other things: referring to the character of the accused/victim and creating an atmosphere of prejudice for both, holding interviews with the victim, the witnesses and/or any of their family members and displaying it on screen and analyzing versions of witnesses, whose evidence could be vital at the stage of trial.



Shocking Truth

The post mortem report of a 46-year-old Government hospital employee in Moradabad, who died on Sunday evening, 24 hours after receiving a Covid vaccine shot, has found that the immediate cause of death was 'cardiogenic shock/septicemic shock' due to 'cardiopulmonary disease'



DOCYARD

DR DEEPAK DEWAN

MD, DM (Nephrology),  
Director Renal  
Sciences  
REGENCY SUPERSPECIALITY  
HOSPITAL



Drink water,  
flush toxins



When you have Diabetes, it's pivotal to take care of your kidneys as they perform an important job of filtering waste and removing it from your blood, maintaining water balance, taking care of bone health, synthesis of vitamin D & erythropoietin a substance which maintains level of hemoglobin. But Diabetes can damage the kidneys and can result in progressive loss of its function. This becomes the leading cause of kidney failure globally. People with advance kidney failure need either dialysis or a kidney transplant. However, one can slow down the progression of kidney damage and keep it from getting worse by making certain modifications in their lifestyle, diet and being vigilant towards their health, besides seeking consultation from a Nephrologist.

Also, care during winters is especially essential for Diabetes patients. As the days shorten, we experience less of the sun, which can be a real mental challenge. The lack of sunlight means increased levels of stress and tiredness. Excess winters stresses and strains the body. This stress often releases hormones such as adrenalin and cortisol. These survival hormones cause the liver to release more glucose for energy, which can result in higher-than-normal blood sugar levels.

**Diabetes can damage the kidneys and can result in progressive loss of its function. This becomes the leading cause of kidney failure globally. However, one can slow down the progression of kidney damage by making certain modifications in their lifestyle, diet and being vigilant towards their health**

Similarly, the cold weather can predispose to clotting as the blood become thicker in this season, coupled with diminished physical activity in winter months. Such conditions can pose serious threats to the lives of Diabetic patients, who also tend to have increased blood pressure.

Besides the temperature and weather conditions, blood sugar depends upon hydration, exercise, and the food you eat, but hydration is probably the single most important element to help us stay healthy outdoors. People suffering from Diabetes are prone to dehydration, which can become dangerous if left unchecked because it can lead to Diabetic ketoacidosis. At the same time, dehydration can cause confusion, which may make a person unaware of low blood sugar. Therefore it's essential for Diabetes patients to remain well hydrated in winters and should test their blood sugar more frequently.

Taking care of kidneys

Control your blood pressure. High BP is more likely to cause kidney damage. It becomes essential to keep a check on BP for cardiovascular and renal health. If BP increases, it can potentially lead to kidney damage. Keeping recommended cholesterol levels is also essential for patients with Hypertension.

Good diet. Avoid eating junk foods. They contain lot of salt as preservative. And salt intake is directly related to Hypertension. Your diet shouldn't have too much sugar as it produces an excess of toxins in your body. A diet based on fruits, vegetables, cereals, grains, and a high amount of fiber is the best way to take care of these vital organs.

Keep yourself well hydrated. Adequate hydration helps our kidneys dissolve and eliminate toxins and waste products from our body. Literally speaking our kidneys and other organs might dry out if we don't drink enough water. This means that they'll re-absorb or will be able to filter less toxins which will then accumulate in the body.

WARMFOODS

**JAGGERY:** Also known as gur, jaggery makes for the best companion for winters. It is not only better than white sugar, but it also offers several health benefits.

It prevents constipation by aiding digestion. It activates the digestive enzymes in our body, thus helps in proper digestion of food. That's why many people prefer eating jaggery after a meal.

It acts as a detox, as it helps cleanse the liver by flushing out nasty toxins from the body.

Jaggery is also loaded with antioxidants and minerals like zinc and selenium, which help prevent free-radicals;

responsible for early ageing. It helps boost resistance against infections, hence building stronger immunity.

Eating a piece of jaggery daily can help women combat PMS symptoms including mood swings, menstrual cramps and abdominal pain.

First, keep yourself hydrated. Drink plenty of water. It will help clear out the mucus and promote nasal drainage thereby relieving the pain caused by cold.

Second, try warm compress. Moisten a washcloth with warm water and apply it to your face a few times a



DOUBLE  
ATTACK

We are still fighting the COVID-19 when news of Bird Flu threw a curve ball yet again. DR MAHENDRA DADKE lists things one should keep in mind

As we enter the New Year with the hope of things returning to normal in the days to come, our country might need to brace itself for yet another virus attack.

Currently, the country with more than one billion population is facing a double whammy with coronavirus and avian flu looming large. The Covid-19 pandemic has already brought our lives to a screeching halt in the past eleven months and to add to this, bird flu or avian flu has knocked on the doors yet again.

With the country going through a tough time facing two major diseases at the same time, people are bombarded with so much information that they can't seem contemplate the difference between the diseases.

To address the dilemma, let us figure out the differences between the two:

**What Is Avian Flu?**  
Bird flu or Avian influenza is caused by the H5N1 influenza virus, which occasionally infects humans. These viruses are found worldwide among wild aquatic birds and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.

According to the WHO, avian flu is not normally known to infect humans, however, sporadic human infections have occurred in the past. Since the first case of human infection in 1997, nearly 60 per cent of the people who have been infected with H5N1 have been killed.

**What Is COVID-19?**  
COVID-19 is caused by a

newly discovered coronavirus that affects the respiratory system and brings about many illnesses, including the common cold and flu. The disease is likely to take a severe turn in elderly and people with co-morbidities. Most people infected with COVID-19 virus experience mild to moderate respiratory illness, and may recover soon, says the WHO.

Both bird flu and COVID-19 being flu-like illnesses present with overlapping features and it can be difficult to differentiate between the two.

According to experts, the two illnesses present with symptoms including fever, cough, cold, body ache and breathlessness. In addition, patients with bird flu are likely to develop encephalopathy (damage to the brain) and confusion. Covid-19 patients on the other hand, often present with diarrhoea and loss of sense of smell and taste.

While avian influenza rarely spreads from one human to another, Covid-19, on the contrary is highly contagious and spreads rapidly between human. The Coronavirus has a low mortality rate — around 1-3 per cent globally which is the opposite of avian flu that has a high mortality rate.

Today, people are having a lot of questions or doubts about consuming meat during this bird flu epidemic and also what precautions needs to be taken. People should not panic and tackle this situation calmly. The most commonly consumed poultry products are chicken, eggs or ducks in India.

ACCORDING TO THE UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION IF THE MEAT IS COOKED PROPERLY THEN IT WOULD BE SAFE TO CONSUME IT. HOWEVER, ONE NEEDS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE COOKING TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 70 DEGREE CELSIUS AND DURING THIS PROCESS NO PART OF THE MEAT SHOULD BE LEFT UNCOOKED, HALF COOKED OR RAW

According to the UN food and agriculture organisation if the meat is cooked properly then it would be safe to consume it. The precautions one must take is throughout the cooking process of chicken or any meat one needs to make sure that the boiling temperature or cooking temperature is above 70 degree Celsius and during this cooking process no part of the meat should be left uncooked, half cooked or raw. Any poultry product cooked above 70 degree Celsius would be safe and non-infected to consume.

People who have habit of eating raw eggs or raw meat especially raw eggs should be strictly avoided. Also poultry workers should wear protective gear while working in the farm or touching any infected animal.

If you see any kind of symptoms or infection in your body immediately consult a doctor. Till date we have not found any case of a patient who have cooked the meat properly and has been infected with the bird flu therefore, no need to panic.

Coronavirus is still an active outbreak and with the onset of avian flu, it's all the more important to take steps to reduce both your chance of contracting it and spread of disease if you do fall ill. Therefore, do not forget to practice social distancing, wear a mask where necessary, and wash your hands frequently with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. Also, seek timely medical care if you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing.

The writer is Consultant Physician, Jupiter Hospital, Pune

PLATE FULL OF HEALTH



Unlike popular belief, hemp does not have psychotropic effects. In fact, its seed has many healthy benefits, says ROHIT SHAH

According to Grand View Research's Market Analysis Report of Industrial Hemp 2020-2027, the global industrial hemp market size is expected to register a revenue-based CAGR of 15.8 per cent over the forecast period, a sharp rise from USD 4.71 billion in 2019.

The expanding market of industrial hemp is driven by the growing demand for hemp oil and fibres in food and beverage, automotive, construction, textile industries and personal care. Additionally, low prices of crop encourage farmers to diversify their crop options, subsequently, increasing the number of producers. Further, increasing awareness regarding the dietary advantages of its oil, coupled with the growing demand from the personal care and cosmetics industries is expected to drive the market growth.

Unlike popular belief, hemp does not have psychotropic effects on the human body. In fact, its seed has many healthy benefits and is actually 33 per cent protein. The small, brown seeds are rich in fibre, protein, and healthful fatty acids, including omega-6 and omega-3s. Their antioxidant properties may reduce symptoms of numerous ailments in addition to improving the health of the heart. The nutritional power and hardness of hemp seed could significantly address the global protein needs and starvation problems.

Raw hemp seeds are one of the richest sources of complete protein as it is packed with 33-37 per cent pure digestible protein. Only algae such as marine phytoplankton, AFA blue-green algae and spirulina exceed hemp in protein. Additionally, 47 per cent of a hemp seed is composed of good fats, a vital composition of omega-3 and omega-6. Here are a few benefits of hemp seeds:

**May control the risk of heart disease**  
Hemp seeds contain good amounts of the amino acid arginine, which produces nitric oxide in the body. It is a gas molecule that makes blood vessels relax and dilate, which leads to controlled blood pressure and a reduced risk of heart disease. According to Pub Med, increased arginine intake coupled with decreased levels of C-reactive protein (CRP) and high levels of CRP is linked to heart disease in the majority of people.

**Helpful in skin disorders**  
A balance of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids in the human body are significant to the immune system and hemp seeds are a good source of these fatty acids with about a 3:1 ratio of omega-6 to omega-3. Hemp seed oil relieves people from dry skin, itchiness, inflammation and thus, reduces the need for skin medication.

**A source of plant based protein**  
Plants often lack the amino acid lysine which is why complete protein sources are rare in the plant kingdom. Hemp seeds are considered a complete protein source as they provide all the essential amino acids and contain high levels of arginine and glutamic acid.

**Helps control stress and anxiety**  
Cannabidiol or CBD is considered a cannabinoid which is leaf extract of the cannabis plant. CBD is known to have benefits on stress, seizure disorders, anxiety and pain relief.

The writer is Director, Hemp Horizon

DadiKaKehna

Headaches are common, more so if you don't prefer to cover your head during the chilly winters.

ROSHANI DEVI shares remedies that can help relieve the pain



The cold breeze is sure to give many a headache if they don't prefer to cover their head with a scarf or cap.

As painful as it can be, it is just as annoying. Here are a few remedies that can help clear up a head cold.

First, keep yourself hydrated. Drink plenty of water. It will help clear out the mucus and promote nasal drainage thereby relieving the pain caused by cold.

Second, try warm compress. Moisten a washcloth with warm water and apply it to your face a few times a

day. This will help relieve the pain.

Third, try a decongestant. Over-the-counter decongestants can help decrease swelling and congestion by opening up your nasal passages and decreasing the pain and pressure.

Fourth, take help of hot water bag. Place a hot water bag on your chest or back for five-10 minutes. The heat will help relieve the pain caused by cold.

Fifth, take steam. Cover your face with a towel and inhale the steam for about 10-15 minutes. Steam can help release the mucus and hence, eliminate the pain.



Say no to flaky skin

Following a good skin care routine, especially a nightlong moisturisation one is a must, says DR SUSHRUTHA CK

With a drop in the humidity and temperature, our skin tends to get dry, and if it is not moisturised, then it can lead to flaky skin. Following a good skin care routine, especially a nightlong moisturisation routine and using products infused with natural ingredients like Cocoa Butter and Wheat Germ Oil can be beneficial in achieving nourished and hydrated skin during the winters.

Additionally, for cracked lips, one can look for a lip balm with the goodness of herbs like Sweet Indrajao, and Carrot Seed Oil, as these ingredients help protect and nourish chapped lips.

Below are a few tips for good skin care:  
**Moisturise at bedtime:** Moisturisers and winter skin care regimen go hand in hand. As much as moistur-

ising skin right after a shower is necessary, moisturising before going to bed can help in waking up to healthy and rejuvenated skin. When looking for a moisturiser, opt for one with ingredients such as Cocoa Butter and Wheat Germ Oil. Cocoa Butter is known to retain skin's moisture and nourish it as well as making it supple, while Wheat Germ Oil, a rich source of Vitamin E, helps protect skin from drying.

**Protect your lips:** Winters and harsh cold winds can leave our lips dry and chapped and hiding them under our masks can do more harm than we know. For smooth and supple lips, it is essential to use a good lip balm. The best way to choose the right lip balm is to look for one infused with goodness of herbs and oils like Sweet

Indrajao, Carrot Seed Oil, or Cocoa Butter, and Sal Butter. These ingredients are known to intensely moisturise lips to keep them soft and supple.

**Remind yourself to stay hydrated:** Keeping yourself hydrated is important during winter too. Drinking eight-12 glasses of water every day can help nourish and hydrate your skin as well.

**Include seasonal fruit in your diet:** Veggies and fruit found during the season not only taste good but also contain ingredients that suit the body's need during that time of the year. Additionally, consuming food rich in Omega 3, Vitamin A, C, and E can be useful in having moisturised and healthy skin.

The writer is Ayurveda Expert, Research & Development, The Himalaya Drug Company

INBRIEF

In India, *chai* is not just a hot beverage, it's an emotion, slowly picking pace with the developing tastes of India! With the upcoming winter chill, VAHDAM India, the digitally native consumer brand shipping India's finest teas and superfoods to over 104 countries has launched Instant Tea Chai Premixes.

With a massive shift to wellness and immunity boosting products across the globe, Vahdam has upgraded the daily chai routine by infusing these ready-to-drink premixes with the goodness of healing spices and superfoods like Turmeric, Matcha, Ashwagandha, Ginger, and blending it with real black tea and sugarless whole milk powder.

A one-of-a-kind chai premix, these contain only 35 calories per serving and are sweetened by less than two grams of organic cane sugar per serving with Stevia.

"Convenience is the key for the modern consumer today. Celebrating India's love for tea and addressing the need for daily doses of immunity, we have forayed into the market of instant tea chai premixes," said Bala Sarda, Founder, VAHDAM India.

**Turmeric Ginger for energy:** A cup of wellness with turmeric and ginger for immunity, fatigue and improved digestion.

**Ashwagandha Cinnamon for rejuvenation:** An earthy cup with ayurvedic adaptogenic *ashwagandha* and cinnamon for stress reduction, better sleep and powerful antibacterial benefits.

**Matcha Lemongrass for focus:** A cup fortified with the superfood benefits for mindfulness, powerful antioxidant benefits and improved overall health.

Trend Slazer

Let's break patriarchy: Kajal

Actor **KAJAL AGGARWAL** treated fans to a candid question-answer session on social media.

The actor who got married recently was asked if she would continue acting. Kajal replied saying it is time to break such notions of patriarchy.

"Will you continue to do films? Please don't stop doing films," a user asked on her question-answer session on Instagram Stories.

"Of course, I will! Let's break patriarchy, high time?" said she.

A fan asked her about her resolution for 2021.

"Balance between home and work. Advancement in every aspect of life," she said.



**'Desmond Tutu once said: When the missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land. They said, 'let us pray.' We close our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land. Likewise, when social networking came, they had the WhatsApp and Facebook and we had the freedom. They said it's free. We close our eyes. When we opened them, we had WhatsApp and Facebook and they had our freedom. When anything is free, your freedom is the price.'**

—Juhi Chawla

**AKSHAY OBEROI** agrees that the acting profession is difficult and can knock down people multiple times.

Talking about the industry being a brutal place, as it defines an actor on the basis of hits and misses, Akshay said, "It is brutal but that is the industry world over. It's not just Bollywood. In any cinematic industry, this is the way it works. It is an art made for commerce. So, if your part is not done well you don't have any takers."



Justin welcomes his second child

Singer-actor **JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE** and his wife, actress **Jessica Biel**, welcomed their second child in 2020. Timberlake has finally confirmed the news now. They have named their second child, a son, Phineas.

The singer opened up about being a father of two during a virtual appearance on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

"He's awesome and so cute. Nobody's sleeping," Timberlake joked, adding, "But we're thrilled and couldn't be happier. Very grateful."

The couple, who got married in 2012, welcomed their first child, son Silas, in April 2015.

Timberlake shared that she was among the few "outside of the immediate family" who knew about Biel's pregnancy.



The pandemic has changed Indians' outlook on health as 70 per cent Indians says they will prioritise dietary and lifestyle changes in 2021 to manage both emotional and physical health, according to a survey.

It added that 60 per cent Indians say that they will de-prioritise going to a gym. For 73 per cent Indians, taste reigns supreme in their decision to buy food products and poor taste of health products is an obstacle to making the right dietary choices, said the finding by Habbit.

A majority of Indians — 71 per cent, felt that their health is worse off today than pre COVID-19 due to broken eating and fitness habits. There are a number of reasons cited as barriers to better health. These are lack of time, poor taste of healthy products, and confusing technical details of healthy products exaggerated by the inability to make a choice among the various options. 72 per cent of survey respondents cite lack of time

Changing attitudes

A survey reveals that 70 per cent Indians prioritise dietary changes over going to the gym

while 66 per cent cite the poor taste of healthy items to be their biggest obstacle.

The survey respondents (100 per cent) correctly identified the difference between healthy and junk foods indicating high awareness about the ill effects of unhealthy options. However, a bulk — 73 per cent, highlighted that they would still consume unhealthy options since they are tasty, convenient and part of their daily lifestyle. Taste, thus reigns supreme in the decision to buy food and a majority still prefers tasty foods that also have nutritional benefits over healthy foods.

As per the survey, 70 per cent respondents show a higher incli-



nation than before towards improving their health through dietary changes, whereas nearly one in four, 26 per cent would also like to make meditation a higher priority. 65 per cent indicate their increased reliance on medical and nutritional experts to help achieve their goals. More than 60 per cent of Indians have a reduced priority than earlier towards traditional gyms and fitness centres, owing to social distancing and avoidance of communal areas in COVID-19, and would prefer to exercise at home or do alternate physical activities like running, cycling or aerobics.

"The survey highlights that the myth that diet is secondary to exercise in the health journey, is beginning to crumble, with respondents realising the importance of nutrition and prioritising changes in diet over exercise to achieve better physical and mental health. This is the new normal," said Dhruv Bhusan, Co-founder & CEO, Habbit. He added, "As the pandem-

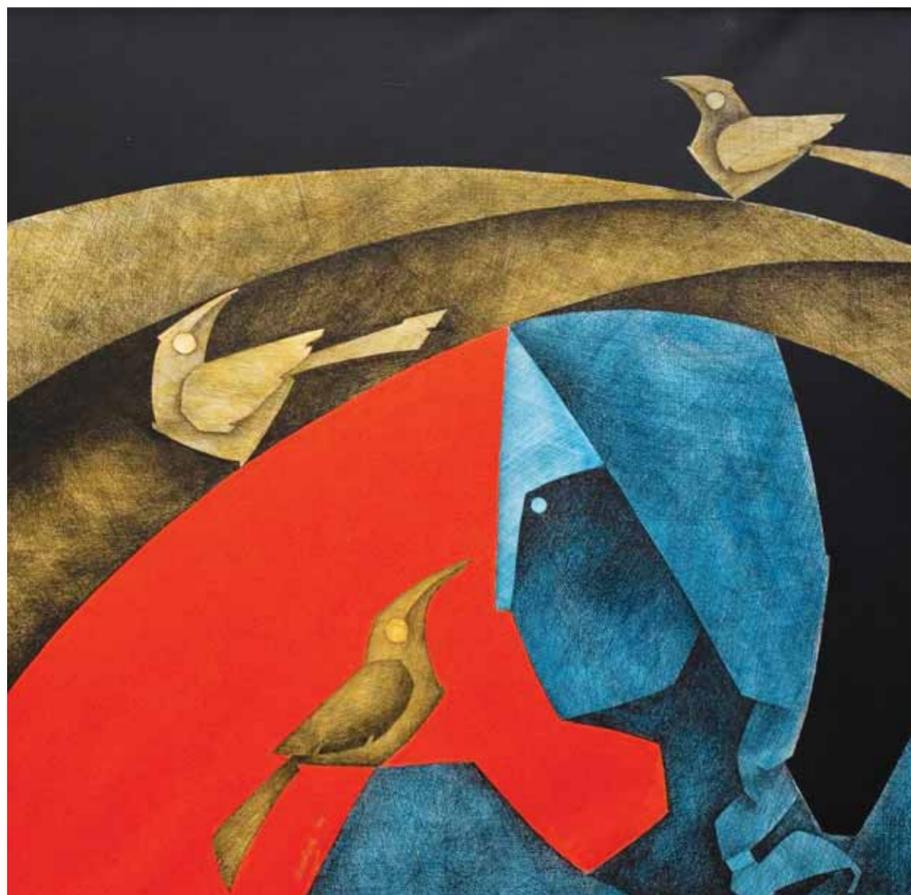
ic continues to shift consumer habits towards being more health-conscious, there is an opportunity for food and nutrition companies to win on taste and fuel healthier lifestyles."

"Good nutrition is vital to a healthy life and is one of the most singularly important factors in overall health. The food we eat literally becomes who we are, and influences our physical, mental and even emotional well-being. Complemented with physical activity, it helps to maintain discipline of the body as well as the mind. If the body feels good, the mind will feel good. The pandemic has brought the importance of this balance to the centre," says nutritionist and wellness coach Avni Kaul.

The online survey was conducted in the last quarter of 2020 with 2,428 adults across metros in India. All respondents are in the age group of 22-56 years and have an annual household income of more than ₹ 10 lakh. —IANS

Time and the connoisseur

Art, for **VIRENDER KUMAR**, was about an expressive vision and depth. With his passing, India lost a passionate art patron and collector, says **UMA NAIR**



Last month, Delhi lost one of its finest collectors and gallery directors in the world of art — Virender Kumar of the prestigious Kumar Gallery. For almost 60 years, Virender had been collecting everything from miniatures to antiquity and specialised in contemporary Indian art, especially the Progressives as well as Bengal School Masters.

Among his prodigious collections, he was one of the main patrons of great Indian artists like the Progressives as well as Gopal Ghose and Sohan Qadri. In fact, it is commonly said that he would pay sums of money to them each month for a work of art. With galleries in New York and Delhi, his knowledge of both antiquities and contemporary art was likened to being a collector with an epicurean eye. In the 1990s, most of Francis Newton Souza's solo shows in Delhi were held at the Kumar Gallery. In fact, when Tyeb Mehta moved to Delhi from London, it was Virender who gave him a small place to stay in exchange for a work of art every month.

Over the years, the artist with whom he became closest was Francis Newton Souza. In the 1990s, Souza would come and stay at Yatri Niwas for a month and Kumar Gallery would keep his suite replenished with canvasses, paints and paper. Souza preferred to come to Delhi during winter. Two important Souza retrospectives were held in 1999 and 2000. Yet another seminal retrospective was that of Gopal Ghose in 2015. The Sunder Nagar Gallery is a quaint and cute space for an art show but some of the shows were held at Sainik Farms in the Kumar estate. Yet another historic showing was Krishen Khanna's solo as well as a historic solo of Prodosh Das Gupta. Most of the Kumar Gallery buyers were the expat population from the embassies in Delhi.

Then Kumar Gallery would open the year with an epic celebration series consisting of the gallery series and a number of emerging artists. Among these, one of Virender's greatest discoveries was Ashok Bhowmick an artist of rare mettle who creates stunning figurative with



the cross hatching method. Bhowmick's solo shows at Kumar Gallery were some of the finest you could ever glimpse in terms of composition, depth of vision and expression.

Virender had a deep interest in Buddhism, Jainism as well as the ancient sacred texts of India. As an individual, he was deeply spiritual as well as practical and knew his art. If there was one person who Souza trusted it was Virender Kumar. The Kumar Gallery shows always justified the dynamic nature of the art they reflected. The very visuals of each of their shows would denote imperial majesty, laden with a certain ingenuity and depth of compositional clarity in the range of mediums and expression. One of the finest abstract collections in the country could be seen unveiled in chapters during their celebration shows each year. Art for Virender Kumar was about an expressive vision and depth. In his passing away, India loses a collector and patron of the art world who had a passionate desire to collect the best.



As the nation gears up to celebrate its 72nd Republic Day, discovery+ is all set to launch the show — *Mission Frontline*. Featuring actor-producer Rana Daggubati, the show highlights the life of Border Security Force, our frontline heroes, fighting at the border to keep the country safe.

In the special episode, Rana Daggubati will experience firsthand, the difficult life of a BSF Jawan and live with the border men at the Murar Post, Jaisalmer. The Jaisalmer base camp has one of the richest histories as it is home to rich martial traditions and a witness to numerous battles. Providing an intimate glimpse into the lives of border men who put themselves at risk every day, this special documentary is bound to evoke a deep

The unsung heroes

Featuring actor-producer **RANA DAGGUBATI**, *Mission Frontline* highlights the life of Border Security Force and the extreme training its cadre goes through

sense of appreciation for these unsung heroes.

The audience will get to see Rana in a never-seen-before avatar, performing tasks just like a Jawan, including physical training routines like learning to salute; running drill with weapons and backpack; fireman's lift and hurdle jump. Rana will also be trained to use weapons, firing live rounds, patrolling on Camel, taking part in a simulated mission

to track down and neutralise infiltrators and traveling on sand scooters among many other grueling tasks.

Talking about his experience, Rana said, "India's Border Security Force — or the country's first line of defense has no holidays, no breaks and no breathers. If it isn't for those brave-hearts always on their toes, our nation stands at risk. I feel grateful to have been able to meet, live and

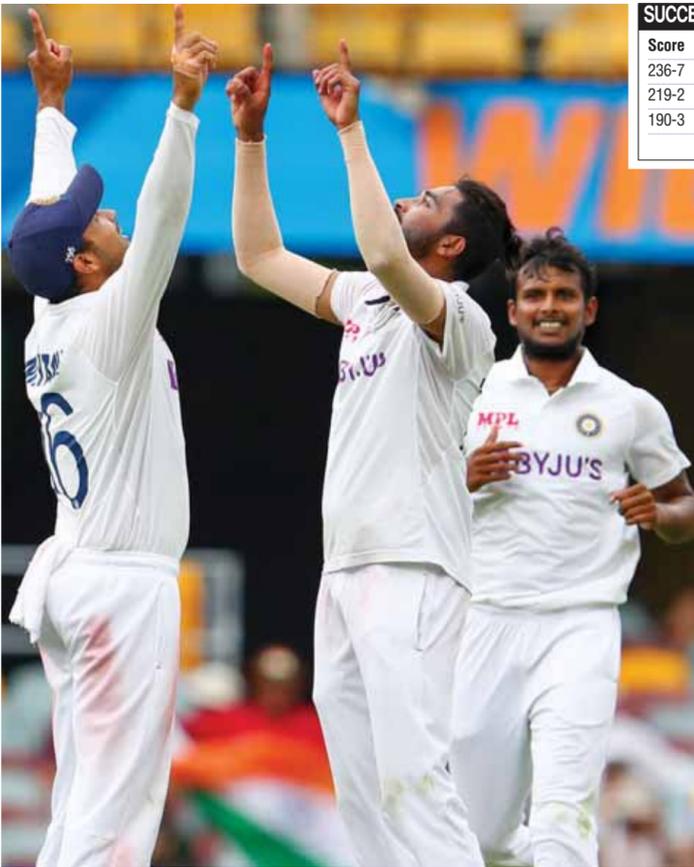
train with them. As a civilian and countryman, this experience gave me perspective on what goes into guarding our frontiers, 24/7. These Jawans are our lifeline, our guarantee to sovereignty, and the true heroes." He added, "Going by what I experienced in Jaisalmer, the show is a tribute to those Jawans' grit and spirit, with the intention to drive home some inspiration and gratitude for our defense forces, whose service we often take for granted."

Issac John, Direct-to-Consumer Head, APAC — Discovery, said, "With exclusive access to the Indo-Pak border, the show gives the viewers a chance to know more about the lives of Jawans and the extreme training they go through."

(The show will premiere on discovery+ from January 21.)

# Cracking series finale in store

India need 324 more runs on final day to secure historic win at Gabba



Mohammed Siraj celebrates with teammate Mayank Agarwal after taking his maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket

## SUCCESSFUL RUN-CHASE AT GABBA

Score	Team	Opponent	Season
236-7	Australia	West Indies	1951-52
219-2	Australia	West Indies	1975-76
190-3	Australia	England	1982-83

Faisal Features

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

for no loss with Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill at the crease.

The highest target chased at Brisbane is 236 and that was seven decades ago which is an indicator why this Australian ground can be equated with Fort Knox. The home team hasn't lost a game here since 1988.

Thakur's dream Test match also got better with figures of 4/61 and a match haul of seven wickets. The most poignant moment was his apparent joy when he took the catch to help Siraj pip him to the coveted five-for landmark.

As Siraj showed that scuffed red kookaburra acknowledging the 957 people in the stands on the first working day of the week, the most generous applause came from his partner in crime, who walked a foot behind him clapping with gusto.

It was the kind of day that Test aficionados wait eagerly — ebbs and flows keeping everyone on the edge of their seats.

The possibility of rain adds to the excitement and the changing weather did affect the contours of Australia skipper Tim Paine's facial expressions which exhibited relief and despair in equal measures.

Among the two captains, Paine is supposed to be the enforcer but this Indian team hasn't stopped surprising its detractors with a spirit, which has made this series one of the

## Drawn series will be worse than 2018-19 loss: Ponting

PTI ■ BRISBANE

et.Com.Au.

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting feels a drawn Test series against a severely depleted India will be a worse result for the hosts than the loss they suffered at home in the Border Gavaskar Trophy two years ago.

The injury-ravaged Indian team has shown great resilience and grit throughout the current tour of Australia. In the ongoing fourth and final Test, the tourists are without their premier fast bowlers, skipper Virat Kohli and a few specialist batsmen. "I think a drawn series will be worse than the loss a couple of years ago," Ponting told *crick-*

et. "That's the way I look at it, considering how hard India have found it going through 20 players in a series, (Australia) having (David) Warner back for the last couple of games, (Steve) Smith back for all them that they didn't have last time around."

"A draw would not only feel like a loss to them but be a worse result than last series," he added.

The series is locked 1-1 at the moment. India need 324 runs with all 10 wickets in hand on the final day to pull off a historic win at the Gabba, while a draw will also see them retain the trophy.

finest played in recent times. If Weather Gods don't decide to play the boss, there will be an official winner but certainly not a "loser".

This is the first Indian team which has earned well-wishers in exponential numbers for soldiering on manfully without any complaints.

A bowling attack with less than four-Test experience (if Thakur's debut is discounted)

got 20 wickets without being over-expensive.

Yes, a Mohammed Shami or Jasprit Bumrah's experience would have been invaluable but their absence showed that in terms of temperament, India's next batch of pacers are game-ready.

Yes, they would make mistakes but their predecessors also made plenty on their way to glory.

## Cracks on Gabba strip will play on batsman's mind: Siraj

PTI ■ BRISBANE

It would be Steve Smith's wicket, there was extra bounce from the area where I thought I will get it. He is the best batsman in the world and it gave me a lot of confidence, also the wicket of Labuschagne, it boosted my confidence."

The 26-year-old Hyderabad pacer thanked skipper Ajinkya Rahane for his constant support and encouragement.

"Also the kind of opportunities that the youngsters got, whether it is Natarajan or Washington, all have grabbed them, every one has performed."

"I will especially thank Ajinkya Rahane for trusting the youngsters and showing confidence in me, he was talking me all the time and it gave me a lot of confidence."

Having lost his father during the ongoing tour and being unable to go back for his last rites, Siraj had a difficult last two months but in the end, the hard work has reaped dividends.

"My dad had wished that his son would play and the entire world would watch him. I hope he could have been there to watch this day. This is because of his blessings that I have got a five-wicket haul in Tests. I am speechless and can't express my feelings in words."

"It was a tough situation, dad's demise. I got strength after talking to mom and my focus was to realise dad's dream," he said.

When he was asked if he would be required in pursuit of the total, he replied: "If I get opportunity, then I will bat."

"... But naturally our aim is to win this series, especially after so many injuries, despite which our team fought hard in the first innings," he said.

The short ball to get rid of Steve Smith was his favourite among the 13 wickets in the series, along with the dismissal of Marnus Labuschagne.

"In the whole series, I feel

ish to this India tour. A win or draw will help India retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, while a win is imperative for Australia.

Rain has already had a big say in the fourth Test, with the entire third session of day two being washed out and play being called off early on day four as well.

As per *The Weather Channel*, there is a possibility of heavy rain in Brisbane on Tuesday. There could be scattered thunderstorms, with a 50% chance of rain.

There are more worrying signs for Australia, who would be keen to get a full day's play, as *AccuWeather* has also predicted the possibility of thunderstorms in Brisbane on Tuesday.

## Rain, thunderstorm in weather forecast for Day 5

AFP ■ BRISBANE



ond innings late in the third session on Monday, we're left with promises to be an exciting fin-

ish to this India tour. A win or draw will help India retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, while a win is imperative for Australia.

Rain has already had a big say in the fourth Test, with the entire third session of day two being washed out and play being called off early on day four as well.

As per *The Weather*

ish to this India tour. A win or draw will help India retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, while a win is imperative for Australia.

Rain has already had a big say in the fourth Test, with the entire third session of day two being washed out and play being called off early on day four as well.

As per *The Weather*

## Smith believes Oz are nicely placed

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Australian batsman Steve Smith reckons that with the Gabba track starting to play a few tricks, staying patient would be imperative for his team's bowlers when they defend an imposing 328 against a determined India on the last day of the fourth and final Test here.

India were 4/0 before the final session of the play was suspended early due to rain on the fourth day.

"I think the game is in a nice place for us. I think the wicket has started to play a few tricks today, couple of balls shot up," Smith said at the virtual post-day press conference.

"So, tomorrow it is just going to be about bowling (in) good areas and letting the natural variation of the day five wicket sort of do its work and hopefully we can hold on to all the chances," he added.

The rain factor is also going to be a crucial one on the final day but Smith would rather focus on controllables.



"Who knows? That is a tough question."

He said the Australian bowlers should remain patient and not go searching for too much. "The Indian players have obviously batted well. Obviously in Sydney, it was 130 (overs) or something, obviously it is a different wicket to that. But for us it is just being patient, not searching too much, bowling good areas and just letting it happen," the prolific batsman stressed.

"I think the more you sort of go searching for on these kind of tracks, then you prob-

## 'Starc will be good to go'

**Brisbane:** Leading pacer Mitchell Starc on Monday gave Australia an injury scare after he grabbed his hamstring but batting mainstay Steve Smith remained hopeful that he would pull through a decisive final day in the fourth Test against India here.

Starc looked uncomfortable during his only over of India's second innings, but Smith expressed optimism that the 30-year-old would be good to go on Tuesday.

"I'm sure he'll get assessed by the medical staff and one thing I know about Mitchell is he's tough and he's played through some injuries before and got the job done, so he will be hopefully good to go tomorrow," said Smith. PTI

ably don't get the reward. So, it is just about hitting good areas consistently and letting the natural variation of the wicket take its course," he reiterated.

## Eng go 1-0 up with 7-wicket win

AP ■ GALLE

Jonny Bairstow and Dan Lawrence held their nerve in a 62-run unbroken stand to guide England to a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Monday on the fifth and final morning of the series-opening Test. England ensured it didn't have any more hiccups in erasing the remaining 36 required on the last day after Sri Lanka had set up a tricky 74-run target on a turning wicket.

England had slumped to 14-3 late on the fourth evening, included a crucial run-out of its captain Joe Root for just 1, before Bairstow and Lawrence combined to usher the tourists to 76-3.

Bairstow remained unbeaten on 35 off 65 balls and Lawrence, who hit a gritty half century in the first innings of debut, finished 21 not out.

Sri Lanka had the chance of a breakthrough after England resumed on 38-3. Bairstow may have been out by Dilruwan Perera's off-spin in the third over, but stand-in captain Dinesh



Chandimal didn't go for the television referral.

Bairstow eventually sealed the victory with a boundary when he swept Perera to square leg.

"To come with little prep and play in the manner we have, has been really impressive," Root said after receiving his man-of-the-match award.

The England captain praised the effort of his two spinners — Dom Bess and Jack

Leach — who snared 14 wickets between them, each bagging a five-wicket haul.

"Brilliant effort, particularly with the little cricket they've played recently," Root said.

"Series like these are always tough but without the prep it's testament to their characters."

The second Test of the two-match series will also be played at Galle, starting Friday. England swept the series 3-0 when it last toured Sri Lanka in 2018.

## Inter beat Juventus to spice up Scudetto race



AFP ■ MILAN

Inter Milan defeated champions Juventus 2-0 to move level on points with Serie A leaders AC Milan on Sunday, boosting their hopes of a first league title since 2010.

Arturo Vidal got his head to a Nicolò Barella cross in the 12th minute for his first league goal for Inter Milan against his former club.

Barella added the second seven minutes after the break as

Inter claimed a first victory over Juventus since September 2016, ending a series of seven matches without a win.

"It was a bad defeat, we didn't expect it, we couldn't have put in a worse performance than this," said Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo after his second league defeat this season.

"Our attitude was wrong, right from the start. We were too passive, fearful, we only thought about the defensive phase."

Inter are equal on 40 points with local rivals Milan, who travel to Cagliari, with Juventus seven points behind the top two in fifth.

"To win against a team like Juve you have to touch perfection," said Inter coach Antonio Conte after his first win in four meetings against the club he led to the first three of their current run of nine consecutive league titles.

"I'm happy for the lads because these are games that give you self-esteem and make you understand that we're on the right path."

## Stones' brace fuels Man City win



AP ■ MANCHESTER

John Stones scored his first Premier League goals for Manchester City in a 4-0 victory over Crystal Palace to help his team leap up to second in the Premier League.

The defender netted twice and Ilkay Gundogan and Raheem Sterling also scored fine goals as City claimed a fifth successive win by overpowering a Palace side missing Wilfried Zaha at the Etihad Stadium.

City moved above Liverpool after the champions drew 0-0 with Manchester United, which has played a game more than its

neighbor.

The opening goal came after some De Bruyne brilliance in the 26th minute. The Belgian brilliantly controlled a cross-field pass from Sterling on the left and instinctively curled a cross into the area with the outside of his right boot.

Stones, in his fifth season at City, read it perfectly and rose to head home his first of the night. He temporarily forgot the new protocols regarding goal celebrations as he ran off toward the corner flag and accepted a hug from Ruben Dias and Gabriel Jesus.

De Bruyne showed more

restraint as he fist-bumped Kyle Walker in recognition of what was his 100th assist for City.

The second goal arrived 11 minutes into second half. It was all Gundogan's own work as he won the ball from Andros Townsend and then curled a shot into the top corner from the edge of the area.

This time there was a comic element to the celebrations as Gundogan accepted congratulatory hugs from his teammates only for Ferdinand to come along and remind of the need to keep their distance. After that, fist-bumps seemed to suffice.

De Bruyne fired another shot narrowly wide before City got its third in the 68th. Guaita did well to keep out a firm header from Dias but the ball rebounded to Stones, who lashed it back into the net almost instinctively.

Sterling, making up for the frustration of a missed penalty in midweek, wrapped up a fine night's work for City when he curled home a free kick from the edge of the area in the 88th.

Palace is 13th in the 20-team standings.

## Messi sees red in Barca's defeat

AFP ■ SEVILLE

Lionel Messi was sent off for the first time playing for Barcelona as Athletic Bilbao stunned the Catalans to win the Spanish Super Cup on Sunday, a dramatic final finishing 3-2 after extra-time.

Moments before Bilbao's momentous triumph was confirmed, Messi threw an arm at Asier Villalibre, who had earlier scored a 90th-minute equaliser in normal time to deny Barca victory.

Antoine Griezmann's double looked to have sealed the trophy but Villalibre intervened before Inaki Williams' fabulous strike three minutes into extra time proved decisive.

Messi shook off a thigh problem to start in Seville and was required to play all 120 minutes as Barcelona attempted to take the game to penalties.

Instead, the 33-year-old lost his temper at the end of a combative contest, reacting to a late challenge from Villalibre by swiping his hands across the back of his opponent.

It meant a first ever red

card for Messi in 753 appearances for Barcelona, to go with his two reds for Argentina in 2005 and 2019.

"After so many years in football, Leo knows perfectly well when he is fit to play," said Barca coach Ronald Koeman.

"We talked and he said he was in a good place to start. He has survived the game, given the maximum, nothing more."

Messi's anger will take some of the limelight away from Bilbao, who had already denied the competition a Clasico final by beating Real Madrid in the semi on Thursday and now have completed the set.

It means a title and the perfect start for Marcelino Garcia Toral, who only took over as coach less than two weeks ago.

But there was praise too for his predecessor Gaizka Garitano, who oversaw this team reaching the Copa del Rey final last season, which earned qualification in the first place.

"This is for Gaizka Garitano and his coaching staff as well who brought us here," said Williams.

## Olympics will be proof of victory over virus: Japan PM

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga vowed on Monday to get the pandemic under control and hold the already postponed Olympics this summer with ample coronavirus protection.

In a speech opening a new Parliament session, Suga said his Government would revise laws to make anti-virus measures enforceable with penalties and compensation.

Early in the pandemic, Japan was able to keep its virus caseload manageable with non-binding requests for businesses

to close or operate with social distancing and for people to stay home.

But recent weeks have seen several highs in new cases per day, in part blamed on eased attitudes toward the anti-virus measures, and doubts are growing as more contagious variants spread while people wait for vaccines and the Olympics draw closer.

Suga said his Government aimed to start vaccinations as early as late February.

"In order to restore sense of safety, I will get the coronavirus pandemic, which has raged worldwide and is now severely affecting Japan, under control as

soon as possible," Suga said. "I will stand at the frontline of the battle while I get the people's cooperation."

Suga pledged to achieve the Olympics as "a proof of human victory against the coronavirus."

"We will have full anti-infection measures in place and proceed with preparation with a determination to achieve the Games that can deliver hope and courage throughout the world," he said.

Recent media polls show about 80% of the Japanese public think the Olympics will not or should not happen.