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BIGGEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE: PANT
14 SPORT

SII, Biotech release jab dos & don'ts

Covid-19 vaccine makers' factsheets to help recipients understand shots' risks & benefits

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Three days after the launch of the nationwide vaccination drive and reports of several adverse events following immunisation (AEFI), Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech, makers of anti-Covid vaccine Covishield and Covaxin respectively, released a set of "Dos and don'ts aiming to help a recipient understand the risks and benefits of their vaccine."

Interestingly, soon after the approval of their vaccine by the DCGI early January, both firms had questioned the efficacy of each other's jabs.

The Bharat Biotech factsheet said that "it is advisable not to take the vaccine if a person has allergies, fever or bleeding disorder or is on a blood thinner. It also said that pregnant and breastfeeding women should also avoid taking Covaxin."

Those who are immune-compromised or are on medicine that affects immune system, and those who have received another Covid-19 vaccine should also not get the Bharat Biotech's medicine, said the company whose vaccine is being refused by a section of doctors like the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) of RML hospital in Delhi and Karnataka to name a few. They have preferred Covishield over Covaxin.

Private practitioners like Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director (Institute of Blood Disorder and Bone Marrow Transplant) Fortis Hospital, Gurugram, too, minced no words as he doubted the efficacy of the Covaxin.

He also felt that the two companies should have released the factsheets prior to the mega vaccination drive so that people were not only aware of the health impacts of the vaccines but also whether or not they are eligible for it.

The Hyderabad-based biotechnology firm also said that the DCGI has authorised the restricted use of its vaccine under clinical trial mode.

"Individuals, who are prioritised under the public health programme of the Ministry of Health and Family welfare, will be covered under this endeavour. Informing the individuals about the offer for vaccination with Covaxin will rest with the respective Government programme officials. Those offered Covaxin at pre-specified booths will have the options to receive or reject administration of the vaccine," the factsheet stated.

The company document further described the ingredients in the Covaxin. It contains 64g of whole-virion inactivated SARS-CoV-2 antigen (Strain: NIV-2020-770), and the other inactive ingredients such as aluminum hydroxide gel (250 µg), TLR 7/8 against (imidazoquinolinone) 15 µg, 2-phenoxyethanol 2.5 mg, and phosphate buffer saline up to 0.5 ml.

"The vaccine thus has been developed by using inactivated/killed virus along with the aforementioned chemicals," it said, adding that Covaxin is administered as an injection into the deltoid muscle of the upper arm. It is a two-dose series given four weeks apart.

Not keen to be left behind in the race, within minutes the SII too released its factsheet, stating that people who are severely allergic to any ingredient of Covishield are advised not to take it. "Pregnant and lactating mothers should mention it to the healthcare provider before getting the jab. Also, do not forget to take the second dose!"

The SII said that one should not get the Covishield vaccine if the person had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine which has "L-Histidine, L-Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, Magnesium chloride hexahydrate, Polysorbate 80, Ethanol, Sucrose, Sodium chloride, Disodium edetate dihydrate (EDTA), water for injection," as its ingredients.

About the possible adverse effect of the vaccine, the SII said that "some of the very common side effects of the vaccines are tenderness, pain, warmth, redness, itching, swelling or bruising where the injection is given, generally feeling unwell, chills or feeling feverish, headache or joint aches."

However, if you feel dizzy, lack of appetite, abdominal pain, enlarged lymph nodes, excessive sweating, itchy skin or rash, then you should contact the doctor as these are not very common symptoms, the release said.

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A health worker receives a Covid-19 vaccine at a Government Hospital in Mumbai on Tuesday AP

Adverse events here lowest in world, Govt allays fears

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports of vaccine hesitancy among doctors and health workers, the Government on Tuesday tried to allay their fears saying that the concerns about adverse effects and serious problems, as of now, seem to be unfounded, negligible and insignificant and that the adverse events following immunisation reported "were fairly low, in fact lowest so far in the world in the first three days."

It also urged healthcare workers not to hesitate to get the Covid-19 vaccine as "it was their societal responsibility to get inoculated."

Both the vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — are safe and a lot of effort has gone into making them, NITI Aayog member (health) Dr VK Paul said as he lamented that "It is saddening that healthcare workers, especially doctors and nurses, are declining to take it."

"We are not fulfilling our societal responsibility if a vaccine assigned to us is not being taken. The whole world is clamouring for a vaccine. I request you to please accept the jab. Vaccine hesitancy should extinguish because Covid-19 inoculation is taking us towards the elimination of this calamity," Paul said and disclosed that he himself has taken a jab of Covaxin.

"We are very fortunate that we are running this vaccination drive at a time when the pandemic looks like to be in a controlled situation. So in this period, by taking the jabs, we have to create a wall of vaccine-induced immunity and be ready for any kind of eventuality in future," he said.

Continued on Page 11

Withdraw unfair policy, Ministry orders WhatsApp

Govt seeks details of services provided by WhatsApp in India, categories of data collected and consents sought

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of a meeting of a Parliamentary panel on Information technology on Thursday to discuss safety and security of users on social media, the Government on Tuesday asked WhatsApp to withdraw the recent changes in the privacy policy of the messaging app, saying unilateral changes are unfair and unacceptable.

In a strongly-worded letter to WhatsApp CEO Will Cathcart, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said India is home to the largest user base of WhatsApp globally and is one the biggest markets for its services.

The proposed changes to the WhatsApp Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, without giving users an option to opt-out, "raise grave concerns regarding the implications for the choice and autonomy of Indian citizens," it said.

The Ministry asked WhatsApp to withdraw the proposed changes and reconsider its approach to information privacy, freedom of choice and data security.

WhatsApp had on January 16 delayed the introduction of the new privacy policy after user backlash over sharing of user data and information with the parent company, Facebook.

Stating that Indians should be properly respected, the Ministry said, "Any unilateral changes to the WhatsApp Terms of Service and Privacy would not be fair and acceptable."

With over 400 million users in India, the changes will have a disproportionate impact on the country's citizens, the letter said.

It asked WhatsApp to provide details of the services provided by it in India, categories of data collected and permissions and consents sought.

Also, WhatsApp has been asked to explain if it conducts profiling of Indian users on the basis of their usage, as well as explain difference between the privacy policy in India and other countries.

WhatsApp has also been asked to provide policy on data and information security, privacy and encryption.

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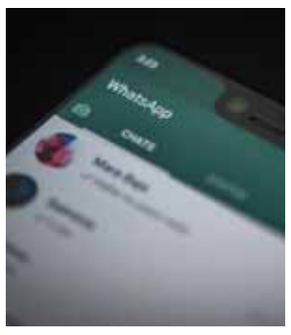

Recruitment transparent, merit based: CM Yogi

436 teachers given appointment letters

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reiterating that the recruitment system in his government was transparent and merit-based, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Tuesday, distributed online appointment letters to 436 candidates selected for the posts of assistant teachers/associates and lecturers in the arts department of the secondary schools.

"In UP, the selection criterion is only based on merit and in the last three years and 10 months, the dream of government jobs of 3.75 lakh youths have been realised. All the appointments are a proof of honesty, transparency and confidentiality and not a single selection can be questioned and doubted," the chief minister said while speaking at a virtual function here on Tuesday.

In a programme held at the official residence of the chief minister, six newly selected candidates received their appointment letters from Yogi Adityanath while the remaining youth, connected to the programme through virtual medium, received the appointment letters from the local people's representatives.

Congratulating the newly elected candidates, the chief minister said that this success had enhanced the self-confidence of the youths and had also given a glimpse of the golden future of the state.

"The services of a teacher are not just for six or eight hours... a teacher is a teacher throughout his/her life. The foundation of the future of India will be laid by these teachers in their classrooms," Yogi Adityanath said.

He said all teachers should be informed about all the subjects rather than their subjects and they should understand the government's public welfare policies and benefit the people of the society as much as possible," he added. The chief minister interacted with the newly appointed teachers of Ayodhya, Varanasi, Chitrakoot and Maharajganj districts.

The chief minister said that by March 19, when the government would be completing four years of its term, the dream of government jobs of four lakh youths would have been fulfilled.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma praised the efforts of the chief minister in the uplift of the standards of the education system. "Today, all information, including new affiliations, transfers and results have gone online and the digital system has played an important role in education during the COVID-19 pandemic," Sharma said.

Govt declares Bose birth anniversary as 'Parakram Diwas'

New Delhi: Ahead of the Bengal polls, the Centre on Tuesday announced to celebrate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday on January 23 as "Parakram Diwas" (Valour Day) every year with Prime Minister Narendra Modi all set to attend the first day of programme in Kolkata on Bose's 125th birth anniversary. He will also inaugurate an exhibition on the grounds of the National Library to mark the occasion in the State.

However, the decision was slammed by the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress which termed it as poll gimmicks while evoking a mixed response from Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew CK Bose, who is also a BJP leader.

TMC leader Saugata Roy said that the declaration to celebrate the day as "Parakram Diwas" has been made with an eye on upcoming West Bengal Assembly polls. *PNS*

IAF team to go in for S-400 training, ignores US threat

India brushes aside sanctions warning by US

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Brushing aside the US threat to impose sanctions, the first batch of IAF personnel will shortly leave for Moscow for training to operate S-400 air defence systems. India and Russia had inked a deal in 2018 worth over ₹45,000 crore for five defence systems. The first S-400 will arrive in India by this year end and the remaining four systems will be inducted by 2023.

China has already inducted six S-400 air defence systems and India needs it urgently to bolster its capabilities to secure its air space. The S-400 can detect an incoming hostile aircraft or missile from a distance of more than 500 km and shoot it down.

Giving details of the Indian team's departure to Moscow, Russian ambassador Nikolay Kudashev on Tuesday here described it as a "remarkable occasion" that will usher in "a new stage in our strategic partnership." More than 100 personnel, including officers and airmen, will leave for Russia by the end of this month for the training.

"S-400 supplies initiative is one of the flagship projects in the Russian-Indian military and military-technical cooperation, which historically constitutes the main pillar of the special and privileged strategic partnership between our two friendly countries," the envoy said while hosting the Indian team at an event.

Continued on Page 11

14 migrants, baby girl sleeping by roadside mowed down by truck

Surat: Fourteen migrant labourers and a year-old-girl from Rajasthan who were sleeping by the roadside in Gujarat's Surat district were among 15 dead after a dumper truck ran over them on Tuesday, police said.

Those killed include eight women and a migrant worker from Madhya Pradesh, police said. While 12 of them died on the spot, three died during treatment at a hospital, police added. Except for the 19-year-old worker from Madhya Pradesh, all the other deceased were from villages in Banswara district in south Rajasthan, police said. Tragedy took place near Kosamba village, around 60 km from Surat.

The truck driver, who apparently lost control over the vehicle after hitting a sugarcane laden tractor, has been booked under sections of the IPC and Motor Vehicles Act, police said.

CAPSULE

BBC APOLOGISES FOR 'INCOMPLETE' INDIA MAP

London: The BBC apologised for any offence caused and rectified what it termed as the mistaken use of an inaccurate map of India, which had the boundaries of J&K entirely missing, triggering a formal letter of complaint by Labour Party MP Virendra Sharma.

SAJAD LONE'S PARTY QUITS GUPKAR ALLIANCE

Srinagar: People's Conference chairperson Sajad Lone announced his party's exit from People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, saying some constituents of PAGD had fielded proxy candidates in district development council elections.

SUBSIDY ON FOOD SERVED IN PARL ENDS

New Delhi: Food served in Parliament canteens for MPs and others will become costlier as a subsidy given for it has been stopped, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said.

Young India take Gabba by storm

Team India retain Border-Gavaskar trophy, win series 2-1

Brisbane: A fearless India, driven by its courageous youngsters, pulled of an exhilarating three-wicket win over Australia in the fourth Test to claim the series 2-1 and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy on Tuesday.

Resuming at four for none on the final day, India overhauled the target with 18 balls to spare in a match that went down to the wire.

Rishabh Pant led the chase with his aggressive yet mature unbeaten 89 while Shubman Gill scored 91. Cheteshwar Pujara enduring many a painful blows on his body in his dogged 56-run knock that he raised with a 211-ball vigil. Australia had won the pink-ball Adelaide Test while India struck back with victory in Melbourne. Third Test in Sydney had ended in a draw. India had won a historic Test series Down Under two years back and now the team is cherishing back-to-back series victory.

Detailed report on P14

Team India players pose with the winning trophy after defeating Australia by three wickets on the final day of the fourth cricket test match at the Gabba, Brisbane, Australia, on Tuesday PTI

Biden to take up reins today amid sky-high expectations

US Administration transition stands out for acrimony

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States, while Kamala Harris will take oath as the first woman Vice President on Wednesday, in the midst of growing concerns over the safety of the historic inauguration following the recent violent attack on the Capitol Hill by pro-Trump supporters.

Evoking some of the nation's loftiest reforms helped Biden unseat President Donald Trump but left him with towering promises to keep. And he will be trying to deliver against the backdrop of searing national division and a pandemic that has killed nearly 400,000 Americans and upended the economy.

This year, however, the transition stands out for its acrimony. The process usually starts straight after the election, but it started weeks late after President Donald Trump refused to accept the result of the November 3 election won by Biden, a Democrat. Trump has said he will not attend the inauguration. Trump, a Republican, will vacate the White House hours before the inauguration and is expected to travel to his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida.

Chief Justice John Roberts will administer the oath of office to Biden just after the clock strikes 12 (local time) at the West Front of the Capitol — the traditional location — under the unprecedented security umbrella of more than 25,000 National Guards, who have transformed the capital into a garrison city, mainly because of the threat of violent protest by Trump's supporters.

Continued on Page 11

Miniature artist L Eswar Rao shows his creation on US President-elect Joe Biden in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday PTI

Singapore co to set up Greenfield data centre campus in Noida

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a big boost to the development of information technology (IT) industry in Uttar Pradesh, the Singapore based ST Telemedia Global Data Centres (STT GDC) India has proposed to develop a Greenfield Data Centre Campus in Noida.

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said here on Tuesday that in consonance with the Union government's programme to promote growth of digital economy, the Uttar Pradesh government was taking various initiatives to attract investment in the data centre development and operations sector, which had become a crucial necessity for big enterprises in different sectors.

In a meeting with Additional Chief Secretary (Industrial Development) Alok Kumar, STT GDC India representative said that in the first phase the company proposed to develop the data centre campus with critical IT capacity of 18 MW with an estimated investment of Rs 600 crore.

It is expected to create 30-40 direct and around 550 indirect and induced employment avenues.

Kumar said on Tuesday that the proposed campus was suitably located within easy access of the industrial hub and the national capital with seamless international connectivity. He said that there was significant presence of industry and IT majors in and around Noida, which would aid in quickly evolving the region as a major data centre hub in north India. He said in view of the web-based and digitally driven economy gaining prominence, the UP government was preparing a new data centre policy with the objective of creating state-of-the-art data and IT ecosystem to meet the requirements of industry, enterprises and citizens. A land parcel of around three acres has already been identified by the investor in Noida to set up the data centre campus, which would be scalable to 36 MW IT load data centre capacity in the second phase with an additional investment of Rs 500 crore, excluding the land cost.

After the completion of the second phase, the total estimated investment would be around Rs 1,100 crore with approximately 80 direct job opportunities and around 1,000 indirect and induced employment avenues.

The proposed data centre campus is aimed at providing services to major cloud players, hyperscalers (an operator of a data centre that offers scalable cloud computing services) and large enterprise clients.

A data centre is a facility that centralises the shared IT activities and equipment of an organisation for the purpose of storing, processing and disseminating information and applications. Formerly known as Tata Communications Data Centres Pvt. Ltd., the STT Global Data Centres India is a majority owned subsidiary of ST Telemedia Global Data Centres of Singapore. The STT GDC India operates 16 data centres across eight cities in India with an IT load capacity of over 110 MW whereas the parent holding company – ST Telemedia-Singapore — operates a portfolio of over 112 data centres across nations directly or indirectly.

10-year-old kidnapped in Kasganj, ₹40-lakh ransom demanded

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Kasganj was rocked by the sensational kidnapping of a 10-year-old boy and the kidnappers demanding Rs 40 lakh as ransom for the safe release of the victim.

The local police registered a case in this regard and were making all efforts to trace out the kidnappers and safely release the boy from their clutches.

The sleuths of the Special Task Force (STF) have been directed to assist the local police in tracking the kidnappers through electronic surveillance and rescuing the boy.

Reports said that Lokesh, hailing from Pithampur hamlet of Sidhpur locality, went outside to play with his friends on Monday afternoon.

His father Kishenvir said that when his son did not return home, he went out to enquire about Lokesh's whereabouts but failed to get any clue from his friends.

Later in the night, Kishenvir received a call on his mobile phone in which the caller claimed that his son was in their custody and that if he wanted to get him released safely he should arrange Rs 40 lakh as ransom.

Kishenvir said that he immediately informed the local police about the kidnapping and sought their help to get his son rescued safely.

Superintendent of Police in Kasganj, Manoj Kumar Sonkar, said that four teams had been formed and they were working round-the-clock to trace out the kidnappers and rescue the boy safely from their clutches.

Meanwhile in Mahoba, the police registered a case against three persons in connection with the alleged rape and killing of a Dalit girl, whose body was found hanging from a tree on Sunday.

"The 18-year-old had left home to buy vegetables on Sunday afternoon but did not return. Later, her family members found her body hanging from a tree in the Belatal area," Circle Officer Rampravesh Rai said.

The victim's mother filed a complaint and an FIR was registered against three men for allegedly raping and killing the Dalit teenager.

Kulpahad police station incharge Ravindra Tiwari said the FIR was registered against Rohit, Bhupendra and Tarun on charges of rape and murder and under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The matter is being investigated but no arrest has been made so far. The post-mortem report is awaited.

The deceased's aunt told the police that the girl was being harassed by a man in their locality, who was making phone calls to her for the last one month.

Expedite construction of houses under PMAY (Urban): CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued directive to expedite the construction of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) and said that for the implementation of the scheme, utilisation certificate of the funds received from the Centre should be sent to the Government of India in time so that the next instalment could be received in time.

The chief minister has also asked officials to ensure that all the works of the scheme are in accordance with the prescribed standards and guidelines.

The chief minister on Tuesday reviewed the works of various departments at a high-level meeting at Lok Bhawan.

He said that besides providing better employment opportunities to the migrant and resident workers, the state government was also committed to their social security.

While giving instructions to make effective arrangements for social security of the migrant and resident workers, he said that a presentation of the proposed action should be made at the earliest.

The chief minister directed officials to provide benefits of Ayushman Bharat Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan to migrant and resident workers.

"The last quarter of the current financial year has started and in view of this the top officials of all the departments connected with revenue collection should review the revenue receipts and ensure achievement of the targets. A strategy should be chalked out to get more revenue under GST (goods and services tax)," he said.

The chief minister directed the Stamps and Registration department to prepare an action plan for maximum revenue generation.

He said that details of such immovable properties in the state should be compiled which have not been registered yet.

He said special attention should be paid to the proceedings of the registry of such property.

"This will enable more revenue collection by the department," the chief minister underlined.

CM to launch GI exhibition today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will virtually launch the Geographical Indications (GI) exhibition in Varanasi, one of the biggest exhibitions of Atmanirbhar Bharat, on Wednesday.

Being organised in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the exhibition will have stalls of 50 GI products from 16 districts at Deendayal Handicrafts Complex .

The exhibition will hold seminars and training programmes by experts which will focus on improving the technical skills of craftsmen. They will also be given free tool kits in collaboration with the Government of India.

The exhibition will display both GI products from the state along with the products involved in the process of having GI products.

There will be stalls from Varanasi, Bhadohi, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Azamgarh, Bulandshahr, Farrukhabad, Firozabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Kannauj, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Saharanpur and Siddharthnagar. At Least 28 unique GI products will also be displayed, seven of which are from Varanasi. Through this, the government will also provide physical and virtual platforms for buyers and sellers to communicate.

Under the technical upgradation training programme for GI products, 240 craftsmen will be trained. Also, 600 will get soft skill training and 270 craftsmen will be imparted new technology training. A total of 2,000 craftsmen will be given advanced tool kits during the programme.

Products like terracotta of Gorakhpur, brocade and sari of Varanasi, black pottery of Azamgarh, handmade carpet of Bhadohi, perfume of Kannauj , metal craft of Moradabad, pottery of Khurja and Kala Namak rice of Siddharthnagar are some of the unique products of UP which have been given GI tag.

"Through this exhibition, which will run till January 24, celebrated as UP Divas, the Yogi government is aiming to give a new boost to brand UP which will further pave the way for Uttar Pradesh's overall development and growth," the government spokesman said.

All 12 candidates set to be elected unopposed

Lucknow (PNS): All the 12 official candidates of Bharatiya Janata Party and Samajwadi Party are set to get elected unopposed in the biennial elections to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council on January 21. On Tuesday, the nomination of independent candidate Mahesh Chandra Sharma was rejected during scrutiny of the papers. Sharma of Kanpur had filed his papers on the last day of filing of nomination on Monday but it did not have proposers and fee receipt as per the norms. Now all the 12 candidates would be declared elected unopposed on January 21. The 10 BJP candidates are Dinesh Sharma, BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh, Laxman Acharya, AK Sharma, Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Gopal Narain Shukla, Salil Bishnoi, Ashwini Tyagi, Dr Dharamveer Prajapati and Surendra Choudhury.

Products from UP getting good response abroad

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The products from Uttar Pradesh are getting good response from abroad as the state has got a large number of export orders for goods like rice, medicines, carpets, silk, fertilisers, sugar, toys and fish products.

According to the latest data released by the Central government, Uttar Pradesh has outpaced many states including Telangana, Kerala, Punjab, West Bengal, in terms of exports during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Uttar Pradesh has been successful in maintaining the fifth position in the country in terms of exports. UP has come out with a new export policy under which the government is also working to increase the number of exporters," a government spokesman said in a statement issued here on Tuesday. There are more than 10,000 exporters in the state.

During the pandemic, in just eight months from April to November 2020, goods (including milk, flour, sugar, artificial flowers, rice, silk, etc.) worth Rs 72,508 crore were exported from UP, which is almost double than the exports of the previous year. Out of this, the export of food grains was around Rs 1054.20 crore.

The state's exports have been steadily increasing since 2017-18. Products worth Rs 1,14,042.72 crore and Rs 83,999.92 crore were exported in 2018-19 and 2019-20, respectively.

Uttar Pradesh has also started working towards developing the Make in UP brand. For this, preparations are underway to develop each district as an export hub. Soon Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be taking a decision in this regard.

Law student held for offensive posts against PM, CM

Lucknow (PNS): The Gorakhpur police have arrested a 24-year-old first year law student for allegedly uploading offensive posts against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on social media.

The accused, Arun Yadav, had allegedly morphed the faces of Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath in a video and then uploaded it on Facebook.

The Gorakhpur University has suspended Arun Yadav and formed a disciplinary committee to look into the matter.

The police spokesman said that they came to know about the post two days ago and on inquiry found that the video was uploaded on the Facebook account of Arun Yadav.

"We found that the accused had morphed the faces of the two leaders in an objectionable manner. He was arrested from a village in Chauri Chaura area," the police spokesman said. Yadav has been booked under Indian Penal Code sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 469 (forgery for purpose of harming reputation).

Station House Officer of Cantonment police station Anil Upadhyay said the accused had also been booked under the Information Technology Act.

Meanwhile, Gorakhpur University's public relation officer Mahendra Kumar Singh said that the university had taken a serious note of the incident and suspended Yadav for violating the Gorakhpur University's Act and Ordinance. "The university has prohibited Arun Yadav's entry into the campus and has formed a disciplinary committee to inquire into the matter. The committee attempted to contact Arun and made a call on his cell phone but it was found switched off. The committee has written a letter to Arun Yadav to give his side of the story," an official of the university said.

Power engineers, employees to work boycott on Feb 3

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Power engineers across the country along with 1.5 million power employees will go for token work boycott and hold protest meetings on February 3 against the privatisation policies of the Central government, the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) announced here on Tuesday.

AIPEF Chairman Shailendra Dubey, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stated that the power engineers and employees were grieved over the Central government's move for the privatisation of the power sector through Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and Standard Bidding Document for total privatisation of distribution of electricity.

He said the privatisation policy was slowly destroying the public sector across the country while giving huge benefits to selected corporate houses.

"Privatisation and targeted benefits to chosen corporates is the root cause of power employees' agitation," he said.

The AIPEF expressed solidarity with the struggling organisations of peasants who are also demanding withdrawal of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

The AIPEF demanded the withdrawal process of the privatisation of power sector in states and Union Territories. The other demands are scrapping of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and Standard Bidding Document for total privatisation of distribution of electricity and reintegration of all power utilities in states with function components of generation, transmission, and distribution.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Siddique Mohd Zeeshan Asrar Ahmed S/o Asrar Ahmad Siddiqui, Daulatpur Post Mehnagar District Azamgar. Have Changed my name to Mohd Zeeshan Siddique.

NOTICE

I am a Faisal son late Imamuddin resident - 11/125 Souter ganj Gwaltoli Kanpur Nagar, I have changed my name from Faisal to Mohd Faisal, in future I should be known as Mohd Faisal.

नीलामी सूचना

दिनांक 28.01.2021, पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे कार्यालय आयुक्त सीमाशुल्क (निवारक), पंचम एवम एकादश तल, केन्द्रीय भवन, अलीगंज, लखनऊ निष्प्रयोज्य वाहन :– यू0पी0 32 बी0जी0 0169 (क्वालिस) नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु0 5,000/– नगद आई0पी0 सिंह एण्ड सन्स

NOTICE

I, Savitri Devi, wife of Late Shri MOHAN CHANDRA JOSHI, resident of 418 Hata Ramdas Bagiya Sadar Bazar Lucknow-226002 hereby declares that the correct spelling of my name is SAVITRI DEVI instead of Savatri Devi.and my name should be read as Savitri Devi in all documents where Savatri devi is written

NOTICE

I, Army No.- 6488911 P Hav Jaipati Pal S/o Late Yamuna Ram, Vill & Post-Tiary, Zamaniya, Ghazipur (UP) an apply for correction of my son name which is wrongly written as Sushanta Kumar in my service record of army. His correct name is Sushanta Kumar Pal.

NOTICE

I Hari Sharan Res. Flat no. 106, House No. 169, Kailash Nagar, Tiwaripur Bagiya, Kanpur. My Name Hari Sharan marked in my High School Marksheet & My name Hari Sharan Gupta marked in Aadhar Card, Pan Card & all documents of department. In future me known as Hari Sharan Gupta for all purpose.

NOTICE

I MUZZAMMIL KHAN s/o ABDUL QAIYYUM KHAN holder of indian passport No.R8108878 resident of lauhar dakshin, bahlolpur, sultanpur,uttar pradesh,india has changed my name from MUZZAMMIL KHAN to SOHRAB KHAN as SOHRAB(given name) and KHAN(surname) hereinafter in all my dealings and documents,I will be known by name of SOHRAB KHAN.

आवश्यकता

आवश्यकता है
मदरसा अनवारुल उलूम
हटिया बहादुरगंज प्रयागराज
(उच्च आलिया) में

प्रधनाचार्य का एक पद रिक्त है। प्रधानाचार्य हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता फाजिल एवं कामिल (फारसी) की उपाधि, मुन्शी/मौलवी या उच्चतर कक्षाओं का न्यूनतम पाँच वर्ष का शैक्षिक अनुभव अथवा दीनियात अरबी/फारसी में 50 प्रतिशत अंकों सहित एम.ए. तथा उपरोक्तानुसार पाँच वर्षो का शैक्षिक अनुभव अथवा फाजिल/एम0ए0 तथा दीनियात/अरबी/फारसी परम्परागत प्राच्य विषय में दुकतूरा सहित उपरोक्तानुसार तीन वर्षो का शैक्षणिक अनुभव। वेतनमान 47600–151100 लेविल–8 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 30 वर्ष। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र समस्त शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रबन्धक मदरसा के पदनाम से मदरसा उपरोक्त पर भेजें।

प्रबन्धक
मदरसा अनारुल उलूम
हटिया बहादुरगंज, प्रयागराज

DEPARTMENT OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY UTTAR PRADESH, PRAYAGRAJ

NOTICE

On behalf of Honorable Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Director of Printing and Stationery U.P. Prayagraj has published Custom Bid on GeM Portal for the purchase of Maplitho Paper 80 GSM as below for the use of Government Presses from the paper manufacturers and their Authorized dealers.

S. No.	Description	Qty. in M.T.	GeM Bid No./Date	Bid End Date/Time	Bid Opening Date/Time
1	80 GSM Maplitho Paper made form virgin wood pulp only (Reel/Flat)	40 M.T.	GeM/2021/B/960074 07.01.2021	28.01.2021 15:00	28.01.2021 15:30

UP- 159050 Date 18.01.2021 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।
Director, Printing and Stationery, Uttar Pradesh Prayagraj

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. 21/03 DT. 15.01.2021

On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railways, Prayagraj, (An ISO 9001 : 2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
30202601A	HIGH TENSILE TIGHT LOCK CENTRE BUFFER COUPLER	30 Nos.	10.02.2021

Note- (1) The complete information of above E-Procurement Tenders are available on IREPS website i.e. **http://www.ireps.gov.in. (2)** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders, For this purpose, Venders are required to get themselves registered with IRPES website along with class III digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT ACt-2000. **(3)** Rates entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other Financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vender shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. **69/21 (SP)**

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

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Date: 15.01.2021 E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), Prayagraj, North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites **E-Tenders** in prescribed forms, from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work up to **15:00** Hrs of Date of opening of tender:-

SN	E-Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Tender System	Tender Value	Period of work
1	NCR-M-PRYJ-PCH-23-20	Provision of 10 Nos. Rolling in & Rolling Out Porta Cabin Hur at various stations over PRYJ division.	Single packet system	₹ 3041105.70	06 months

E.M.D.: As per railway board letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dated 30.12.2020 **Cost of E-tender Form:** Free. **Date of publishing on IREPS website:** 22.01.2021 **Date of opening of tender:** 15.02.2021 **Similar work definition for minimum Eligibility Criteria:** NA. **Note: 1.** The complete information along with tender booklet of above E-Tenders will be available/uploaded since Date of publishing on IREPS website and shall be remained on Website **www.ireps.gov.in** up to **15:00** hrs. on the due date of tender opening. **2.** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. **3.** Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. **4.** Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. **5.** This tender notice have also been uploaded on **www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 6.** E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. **7. EMD shall be as per railway board letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dated 30.12.2020 8.** In case of any difficulty hepldesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **9.** Online E-Tender can be submitted up to **15:00** hrs. on the due date of tender opening. **70/21(D)**

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

ANGEL BROKING LIMITED.

Regd. Off: G-1, Akruti Trade Centre, MIDC, Road No. 7, Andheri(E), Mumbai-93. SEBI Registration No (Stock Broker): INZ000161534

PUBLIC NOTICE

Trade Name	AP Name	BSE Reg No.	NSE Reg No.	MCX Reg No.	NCDEX Reg No.	MCX sx	Regd Address Of Ap
PRAMOD KUMAR	PRAMOD KUMAR	AP010612 01108406	AP0397 245011	MCX/AP/ 130815			1 Vikas Bhawan Road Near Triloki Cold Stor Gayatri Nagar Obari Nawabganj Near Triloki Cold Stor Barabanki-225003,Uttar Pradesh
VIKAS DUBEY	VIKAS DUBEY		AP0397 169181	MCX/AP/ 114091			Hno 159 Kathari 1 Sahsepur Saharpatti Teh Aurai Dist Sant Ravidas Nagar Near Aurai Chauraha Bhadohi-221306,Uttar Pradesh
LAKSHMAN KUMAR	LAKSHMAN KUMAR	AP010612 01104250	AP0397 232761	MCX/AP/ 127280			Sahulara Sahulara Near Inayat Nagar Faizabad-224164,Uttar Pradesh
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH	VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH	AP010612 01106974	AP0397 240351	MCX/AP/ 129353			Kot Saray Faizabad Faizabad Kot Saray Faizabad-224001,Uttar Pradesh
NEELAM GUPTA	NEELAM GUPTA	AP010612 0121109	AP0397 88911	MCX/AP/ 36828			5-232 Nitganja Bazaar Nitganja Bazaar Farrukhabad-209625,Uttar Pradesh
ANAND TRIPATHI	ANAND TRIPATHI		AP0397 250671	MCX/AP/ 132938			L.I.G Second 549 Vikash Nagar Colony Gorakhpur Near Chura Mill Gorakhpur-273007,Uttar Pradesh
RAGHAV AWASTHI	RAGHAV AWASTHI		AP0397 278171	MCX/AP/ 138614			541-Ht/182 N Hazzi Tola Nr Sbi Campwell Road Tiraha Lucknow SBI Campwell Road Tiraha Lucknow-226003,Uttar Pradesh
ANSH INVESTMENTS	YOGESH KUMAR TIWARI	AP010612 0138341	AP0397 54041	MCX/AP/ 2120	85903	4007	House No 3/34, Viram Khand, Gomti Nagar, Near Patrakar Puram Chauraha, Lucknow-226010,Uttar Pradesh
SAMIR MISHRA	SAMIR MISHRA		AP0397 256731	MCX/AP/ 135153			Kasba Khas Kasba Khas Kasba Khasmau Jamal Mirja Pur Mau Mau-275105,Uttar Pradesh
MOHAMMAD MOIN	MOHAMMAD MOIN		AP0397 215741	MCX/AP/ 123505			190 Moh Bhoore Khan Near Noori Presspilibhit Pilibhit Near Noori Press Pilibhit-262001,Uttar Pradesh
SANDEEP GOSWAMI	SANDEEP GOSWAMI	AP010612 0167709	AP0397 157771	MCX/AP/ 111573	114895		Pakadiya Naugawan Pilibhituttar Pradesh-262001 Near- Primery School Pilibhit-262001,Uttar Pradesh
NAND LAL MAURYA	NANDLAL MAURYA		AP0397 243241	MCX/AP/ 132317			S/O Radhey Shyam Maurya Ward No-6 Shivrampur Saripur Bhadohi Sant Ravidas Nagar-221314,Uttar Pradesh

This is to inform/confirm that we have discontinued our Business Relations with the above mentioned Authorized Persons. Clients and General Public are warned against Dealing in with them in his/their capacity as our Authorized Persons and we hereby confirm that we will not be liable in any manner for any consequence of such dealings/deals. Clients are requested to contact our centralized desk **022-3355 1111/4218/5454 or email us to support@angelbroking.com.**

Date : 20.01.2021
Place : Uttar Pradesh

For ANGEL BROKING LTD
Sd/-
Authorised Signatory

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Vaccination at 35 centres on Jan 22

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Covid vaccination will be carried out at 35 centres consisting of 85 session sites on January 22. District immunisation officer MK Singh said the 12 centres where the drive was carried out on January 16 will be among the vaccination centres while the remaining centres are being finalised.

District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash has called for a meeting with all the six members of teams which will be functioning at the vaccination centres on January 22.

The 12 hospitals where the vaccination drive was held on January 16 included KGMU, TS Mishra Hospital, SGPGI, RMLIMS, Balrampur Hospital, Veerangana Avanti Bai Women Hospital, ERA's Medical College & Hospital, Sahara Hospital and Chinhat, Maal, Indiranagar and Mohanlalganj CHCs.

Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar said though the coronavirus graph of Lucknow is on the decline, it is difficult to predict when it will be completely wiped off.

He said that the efforts to identify, isolate and monitor patients in home isolation are on even now and will be continued until the virus is finished. He added that the samples taken during contact surveillance is the most the critical part of this exercise.

On Tuesday, 73 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow while 169 patients recovered. The state capital's death toll is 1,157 deaths while there are 1,947 active cases.

The fresh cases included nine from Indiranagar, seven from Gomtinagar, six from Chowk, and five each from Ashiyana & Rae Bareli road.

In the state, 376 persons tested positive, including 16 in Kanpur, 13 in Ghaziabad, 10 in Gautam Buddh Nagar, 16 from Varanasi & 15 from Meerut, taking UP's case tally to 5,97,238. There were four deaths in the state — one each in Lucknow, Muzaffarnagar, Ghazipur and Sitapur.

Besides, 789 patients recovered, taking the recovered figures to 5,80,482. There are 8,172 active cases in the state.

Meanwhile, two high-flow nasal oxygen apparatuses were inaugurated at Balrampur Hospital by mayor Sanyukta Bhatia on Tuesday. Giving details of the usefulness of the equipment, hospital director Rajeev Lochan said: "Every patient at the hospital can be a Covid patient because we give admission to everyone, and then we test them for coronavirus. If the patients turn out to be positive, we transfer them to another hospital or the Covid facility. But in between, it takes almost two days and for that period, the patients are in our hospital. If their condition becomes serious, this machine will be beneficial for them."

Lochan said it could be beneficial for other patients suffering from respiratory problems. He said they received these machines under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity of a government bank. Lochan said that till now, they were managing by putting the patients on oxygen supply.

"This apparatus needs oxygen supply at the rate of 60 litres per minute, and we have made arrangements for this oxygen flow too," he said.

Meanwhile, president of People's Health Organisation Centre Ishwar Gilada said that with Bharat Biotech issuing an advisory that Covaxin should not be used in cases of allergy, fever, poor immunity, pregnancy and lactation period and for those taking blood thinners. "If we apply this criteria, over 75% people will be ineligible. This is because allergy could mean mild and moderate. Blood thinners include aspirin and lipid-lowering agents or medicines for certain heart ailments," he said.

A senior doctor said if people are asked to fill consent forms for vaccination, it could pose a problem. "It means explaining the entire thing to the beneficiaries which could make them apprehensive. It may also increase the time period for getting vaccinated. Most people would then prefer to opt out," he added.

Tandav row: Another case lodged

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two days after a case was registered against the makers of web series Tandav at Hazratganj police station, three persons, including president of Hanumant Dharmarth Sewa Sansthan, lodged another complaint at Ghazipur police station. In the complaint, Sansthan president Swami Brahmesh ji Maharaj, Ritesh Dwivedi (jeev sewak) and head of Savarkar Sena Daksh Joshi stated that the makers of the web series hurt the sentiments of people of a religious sect, insulted women and lampooned the post of prime minister by their comments.

They alleged that the makers used filthy language stoking animosity between different groups of people. They said the makers of the web series should be booked for hurting the religious sentiments of people. Earlier on Sunday, an FIR was registered against the director, writer, producer and others associated to 'Tandav' at Hazratganj police station and a team was despatched to Mumbai on Monday for carrying out a probe.

Man held for sister's murder

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pradeep, who was arrested on Tuesday, had alleged that Salman and Khursheed of the same village killed his sister (Rekha) over money dispute

In the Rekha Awasthi murder case, police arrested her brother Pradeep, who had lodged a case against two villagers on the fateful day. Pradeep had alleged that Salman and Khursheed of the same village killed Rekha over money dispute. Pradeep had told the police that he got Rs 84 lakh after selling a land in Gudamba and he had given the same to Salman and Khursheed for investment.

However, the police could not find any transaction and details of the sale of land. The police also did not find any transaction in the bank account details of Pradeep after he changed his statement and said he a cheque to the accused.

In the autopsy report, it surfaced that Rekha was killed on January 16 night. The most puzzling thing for the police was how Rekha, who was visually challenged, reached the mango grove where she was found dead. After the initial reports confirmed Pradeep's involvement in the crime, the police started grilling him.

Pradeep owned his crime and disclosed that he used to look after Rekha. He said she would abuse him for not preparing food. On January 16 night, Pradeep asked Rekha to clean the utensils but she refused and started abusing him. Enraged over it, Pradeep took Rekha to the mango grove and attacked her with a sharp-edged weapon. He later hid the blood-stained weapon under a heap of leaves and fled the scene. He later alleged the role of Salman and Khursheed with whom he had an enmity.

Man loses ₹25,000 in cyber fraud

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A sum of Rs 25,000 was fraudulently withdrawn from the bank account of a man in Saadatganj on Tuesday. Bahaar Alam of Noorbadi in Saadatganj said he got a message regarding deduction of Rs 5,000 from his bank account on January 11. When he went to the bank to inquire about it, he was told that Rs 20,000 more were withdrawn two times from his bank account through an ATM. He later lodged a case in this connection. Alam said he had his ATM card with him when the money was withdrawn from his account. A case was registered in this connection.

Meanwhile, two drug-n-rob accused were nabbed by a police team on Tuesday. They were identified as Firoz Khan and Gulfam, both of Hapur district. Police recovered 70 grams of psychotropic substances from their possession. They owned their crime and disclosed that they used to offer eatables or soft drinks laced with drugs to people and then rob them of cash and other belongings.

Varsity attracting foreign students

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University is attracting a large number of foreign students who are joining various courses under several schemes of ICCR. Director of International Collaboration and International Student Advisor, Lucknow University, RP Singh from the English department said that they are working on the university's vision and their efforts would be to attract more and more students.

He said that 59 international students have already joined LU since November last year and four more are slated to join within the next fortnight.

"These 59 students are from various African countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Laos, Afghanistan, Taiwan etc. The four which are scheduled to arrive include three from African countries and one from Thailand," he said. He added that they have given admission to 80 students, but it depends on clearance from respective embassies.

Citing the reasons why these students are opting for Lucknow University, Singh said: "Our grading has increased and we have a good ranking amongst higher education institutes. Besides, the research work, culture and Lucknow city attract the students. The quality of education, facilities which we are providing and the initiatives of the vice-chancellor also help," he said. He added that the foreign students have joined the departments of English, Commerce, Management, Botany, Physics, Chemistry, Public Administration and Law.

He pointed out said they have recently established Centre of International Affairs. "We will have several programmes and add-on courses for students. We will also survey their requirements and then do some post-doc courses for them, We will also publish an international journal with these students," he said. Singh said they have big plans for the foreign students. "We will be starting a cross-cultural dialogue. We will let them share their culture and we will also share our culture to create what is called cultural diplomacy. When we talk about global scenario, youths from different parts of the world should come together and talk about environment and other concerns," he said.

LU signs MoU with IATO

Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow University and Indian Association of Tour Operators signed an MoU at the Institute of Tourism Studies on Tuesday. The MoU was signed by LU Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Rai and chairman of Indian Association Tour Operators (IATO), Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Chapter, Prateek Hira.

On the occasion, the LU vice-chancellor said that through this MoU, the university aims at bridging the gap between the industry and academia and create better opportunities for students.

"The MoU is for a duration of three years. Institute of Tourism Studies and IATO will assist each other in creating a closure interaction between the industry and academia. Student of the institute will also get opportunities of employment and training," he said. Coordinator of Institute of Tourism Studies Anupama Srivastava said IATO will contribute in designing of course structure, conducting research and special training programme for the institute.

Hira said IATO will benefit as the faculty of the institute will assist in conducting training programme for IATO members from time to time.

Dead myna leads to bird flu scare

Lucknow (PNS): A myna, which was found dead in Gomtinagar, led to bird flu scare on Tuesday as huge crowd assembled at the scene and police had to reach the place to handle the situation.

However, Animal Husbandry director RP Singh said it was a single bird which died accidentally. "Autopsy was conducted and the report showed that the bird died due to an accident. It probably collided with a vehicle," he said. He added that it was an unnecessary panic as bird flu scare can be real only when several birds die for days together. He said the bird flu concerns are confined to Pilibhit, Muzaffarnagar and Kanpur. "There have been no mass mortalities but proper containment activities are being underway. Culling was done in Pilibhit where six poultry birds were found dead," he said.

रजिस्ट्री सं0 डी.एस. 33004 / 99 REGD. No. D.L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.–डी.एल.–अ.–04012021–224168
CG-DL-E-04012021-224168

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II–खण्ड 3–उप–खण्ड (ii)
PART II-Section 3–Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 4211] नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, दिसम्बर 31, 2020 / पौष 10, 1942
No.4211] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020/PAUSHA 10-1942

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 31st December, 2020

S.O.4800(E). - Whereas by the notification of the Govt. of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Department of Road Transport & Highways number 2258 (E) dated 07.07.2020 Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (I) of Section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Govt. declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/Two-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation from Km. 450-000 to Km. 486-775 on National Highway No.-76E (Tikri to Mirzapur) in the District of Mirzapur in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Dainik Jagran" and "Pioneer" both dated 23-07-2020 under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act.

And whereas abjections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the central Govt;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the central Govt, hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose Under the sub-section -3 of section 3G of national high sing act 1956 it in being published in daily news paper.

And further, in pursuance of Sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the central Govt. hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Govt, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the National Highway No. 76E in the stretch of land from Km. 450.000 to Km. 486.775 (Tikri to Mirzapur) in the district of MIRZAPUR in the State of UTTER PRADESH
State : UTTAR PRADESH

State : UTTAR PRADESH District: MIRZAPUR

Sr. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectre	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Taluk : Sadar				
	Village : Akorhi				
1	347	Private	Agriculture	0.0105	Katile Singh S/o Sheetala Prasad 347/1 Min.
2	347	Private	Agriculture	0.0035	Virendra Singh S/o Fatehbahadur Singh 347/1 Min.
3	347	Private	Agriculture	0.0035	Bharat Bahadur Singh S/o Fatehbahadur Singh 347/1 Min.
4	347	Private	Agriculture	0.0035	Rambahadur Singh S/o Fatehbahadur Singh 347/1 Min.
5	347	Private	Agriculture	0.00525	Dharmendra Kumar S/o Jauharja Singh 347/1 Min.
6	347	Private	Agriculture	0.00525	Virendra Pratap Singh S/o Jauharaja Singh 347/1 Min.
7	347	Private	Agriculture	0.00525	Ravindra Kumar S/o Jauharaja Singh 347/1 Min.
8	347	Private	Agriculture	0.00175	Ram Singh S/o Nagendra Bahadur Singh 347/1 Min.
9	347	Private	Agriculture	0.00175	Shyam Singh S/o Nagendra Bahadur Singh 347/1 Min.
10	347	Private	Agriculture	0.00175	Ghanshyam Singh S/o Nagendra Bahadur Singh 347/1 Min.
11	347	Private	Agriculture	0.021	Giraja Singh S/o Devadhari Singh 347/1 Min.
	Village : Shivpur				
12	115	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.075	Siddharth Shankar S/o Ganesh Prasad 115/1
13	116	Private	Agriculture	0.00127	Ramlakhan S/o Ragho 116
14	116	Private	Agriculture	0.00127	Basanti Devi W/o Vijayi 116
15	116	Private	Agriculture	0.00126	Shobha Devi W/o Rajendra 116
16	187	Private	Agriculture	0.00717	Uma Devi W/o Ramaji, 187
17	187	Private	Agriculture	0.00143	Krishnamohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 187
18	187	Private	Agriculture	0.00143	Vishwamohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 187
19	187	Private	Agriculture	0.00143	Trilokmohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 187
20	187	Private	Agriculture	0.00143	Ratanmohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 187
21	187	Private	Agriculture	0.00143	Nandmohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 187
22	187	Private	Agriculture	0.00717	Sampatti Devi W/o Gulabchand 188/1
23	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.02143	Ravindra Narayan S/o Shyamlal 188/1
24	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.02143	Dharmendra Narayan S/o Shyamlal 188/1
25	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.00857	Prakash S/o Aditya Narayan 188/1
26	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.00857	Gyan S/o Aditya Narayan 188/1
27	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.00856	Shailesh Kumar S/o Ambeshwari Prasad 188/1
28	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.00407	Premnarayan S/o Vishnu Prasad 188/1
29	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.00407	Vijay Narayan S/o Vishnu Prasad 188/1
30	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.00225	Akash Chandra Pandey S/o Lakshminarayan Pandey 188/1
31	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.00225	Amaresh Chandra Pandey S/o Lakshminarayan Pandey188/1
32	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.00225	Dinesh Chandra Pandey S/o Lakshminarayan Pandey 188/1
33	188	Private	Agriculture / Non-Agriculture	0.00225	Aasha Devi S/o Lakshminarayan Pandey 188/1
34	190	Private	Agriculture	0.00214	Siddharth Shankar S/o Ganesh Prasad 190
35	191	Private	Agriculture	0.0006	Vijay Kumar S/o Madhav Prasad 191
36	191	Private	Agriculture	0.0006	Krishna Kumar S/o Madhav Prasad 191
37	191	Private	Agriculture	0.0006	Ashok Kumar S/o Madhav Prasad 191
38	191	Private	Agriculture	0.0002	Shashi Khatri S/o Rajkumar Khatri 191
39	191	Private	Agriculture	0.0002	Neeraj Khatri S/o Rajkumar Khatri 191
40	191	Private	Agriculture	0.0002	Pankaj Khatri S/o Rajkumar Khatri 191
41	192	Private	Agriculture	0.026	Krishna Kumar S/o Madhav Prasad 192
42	193	Private	Agriculture	0.0006	Siddharth Shankar S/o Ganesh Prasad 193
43	193	Private	Agriculture	0.0006	Premprakash S/o Shivdulare 193
44	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Jokhuram S/oO Baba 217
45	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Prabhu S/o Late Shayma 217
46	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Chhotu Aka Raju S/o Late Shyama 217
47	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Dukkhi S/o Munnilal 217
48	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Umashankar S/o Ramdev 217
49	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Premlal S/o Ramdev 217
50	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Nandu S/o Fullu 217
51	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Lakshiman S/o Fullu 217
52	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Lallo Devi W/o Shyama 217
53	217	Private	Agriculture	0.00153	Dhanraji W/o Khulloo Aka Fullu 217
54	218	Private	Agriculture	0.01807	Uma Devi W/o Ramaji 218Min
55	218	Private	Agriculture	0.00361	Krishnamohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 218Min
56	218	Private	Agriculture	0.00361	Vishwamohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 218Min
57	218	Private	Agriculture	0.00361	Trilokmohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 218Min
58	218	Private	Agriculture	0.00361	Ratanmohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 218Min
59	218	Private	Agriculture	0.00361	Nandmohan S/o Manmohan Mishra 218Min
60	218	Private	Agriculture	0.01807	Sampatti Devi W/o Gulabchand 218Min
61	223	Private	Agriculture	0.00275	Rupai S/o Kallu 223
62	223	Private	Agriculture	0.00275	Vijai S/o Kallu 223
63	224	Private	Agriculture	0.0171	Shivshankar Singh S/o Sheetla Singh 224/2
64	225	Private	Agriculture	0.01355	Chintamani S/o Kashinath 225
65	225	Private	Agriculture	0.01355	Madho Prasad S/o Kashinath 225
66	225	Private	Agriculture	0.00339	Divakar Aka Sewakar S/o Krishnakant 225
67	225	Private	Agriculture	0.00339	Suraj S/o Krishnakant 225
68	225	Private	Agriculture	0.00339	Chandra Prakash S/o Krishnakant 225
69	225	Private	Agriculture	0.00339	Pankaj S/o Krishnakant 225
70	225	Private	Agriculture	0.01354	Jitendra Kumar S/o Baijnath 225
71	226	Private	Agriculture	0.00995	Chintamani S/o Kashinath 226/2
72	226	Private	Agriculture	0.00995	Madho Prasad S/o Kashinath 226/2
73	226	Private	Agriculture	0.00249	Divakar Aka Sewakar S/o Krishnakant 226/2
74	226	Private	Agriculture	0.00249	Suraj S/o Krishnakant 226/2
75	226	Private	Agriculture	0.00249	Chandra Prakash S/o Krishnakant 226/2
76	226	Private	Agriculture	0.00249	Pankaj S/o Krishnakant 226/2
77	226	Private	Agriculture	0.00994	Jitendra Kumar S/o Baijnath 226/2
78	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00136	Fulchandra S/o Nannan 370
79	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00136	Shriram S/o Nannan 370
80	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00048	Rajkumar S/o dayaram 370
81	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00048	Rajbali S/o Dayaram 370
82	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00048	Rukmina Devi S/o Dayaram 370
83	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00136	Lalchandra S/o Nannan 370
84	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00136	Ramdhani S/o Nannan 370
85	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00321	Hiralal S/o Matar 370
86	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00321	Budulli S/o Matar 370
87	370	Private	Agriculture	0.0032	Lalchandra S/o Gedai 370
88	370	Private	Agriculture	0.0032	Ramchandar S/o Gedai 370
89	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00319	Mu. Gangadei W/o Gedai 370
90	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00096	Shivram S/o Jhunaku 370
91	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00096	Basantlal S/o Jhunaku 370
92	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00096	Santalal S/o Jhunaku 370
93	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00096	Nandlal S/o Jhunaku 370
94	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00095	Vanshlal S/o Jhunaku 370
95	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00026	Rakesh S/o Bhagwan 370
96	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00026	Rajesh S/o Bhagwan 370
97	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00026	Munnalal S/o Rajmani 370
98	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00026	Suryaprakash S/o Rajmani 370
99	370	Private	Agriculture	0.00025	Saroj Devi S/o Rajmani 370
100	377	Private	Agriculture	0.00527	Kartavya Mishra S/o Dayashankar 377/1
101	377	Private	Agriculture	0.00527	Pravin Mishra S/o Dayashankar 377/1
102	377	Private	Agriculture	0.00527	Geeta Devi W/o Dayashankar 377/1
103	377	Private	Agriculture	0.0079	Premshankar S/o Kamala Bhnadari 377/1
104	377	Private	Agriculture	0.0079	Manishankar S/o Kamala Bhnadari 377/1
105	377	Private	Agriculture	0.00527	Chintamani S/o Kashinath 377/2
106	377	Private	Agriculture	0.00118	Divakar Aka Sewakar S/o Krushnakant 377/2
107	377	Private	Agriculture	0.00118	Suraj S/o Krishnakant 377/2
108	377	Private	Agriculture	0.00118	Chandra Prakash S/o Krishnakant 377/2
109	377	Private	Agriculture	0.00118	Pankaj S/o Krishnakant 377/2
110	377	Private	Agriculture	0.0058	Jitendra Kumar S/o Baijnath 377/2
111	378	Private	Agriculture	0.0379	Shrimati Chandravati Devi W/o Bhagwan Das 378
112	379	Private	Agriculture	0.0459	Panchchu S/o Naghai 379
113	390	Government	Barren	0.0061	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh 390
114	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00229	Bihari Lal S/o Shyamlal 400
115	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00229	Lalmani S/o Shyamlal 400
116	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00229	Hiralal S/o Shyamlal 400
117	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00229	Baba lal S/o Shyamlal 400
118	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00688	Makkhan S/o Ramlal 400
119	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00688	Sohan S/o Ramlal 400
120	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00688	Mu. Chamela Devi W/o Late Ramlal 400
121	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00229	Prakash S/o Panna 400
122	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00229	Shyamchandra Minor age14 S/o Pannalal C/o Vimala Devi 400
123	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00229	Vimala Devi W/O Panna 400
124	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00076	Chandragupta S/o Motilal 400
125	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00076	Vijay Gupt Minor, Age 17 yrs, S/o Motilala Geeta Devi 400
126	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00076	Geeta Devi W/o Late Motilal 400
127	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00076	Jagadish S/o Lalaji 400
128	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00076	Rajendra S/o Lalaji 400
129	400	Private	Agriculture	0.00076	Janti Devi W/o Lalaji 40
130	401	Private	Agriculture	0.0168	Shivkumari Aka Shivkunwar W/o Late Kailashpati 401
131	402	Private	Agriculture	0.01125	Jitendra Kumar S/o Satyanarayan 402
132	402	Private	Agriculture	0.01125	Rajendra Kumar S/o Satyanarayan 402
133	402	Private	Agriculture	0.0075	Gautam Kumar S/o Nandalal 402
134	402	Private	Agriculture	0.0075	Anupam S/o Nandlal 402
135	402	Private	Agriculture	0.0075	Kevala Devi W/o Nandalal 402
136	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00223	Makkhan S/o Ramlal 404/1
137	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00223	Sohan S/o Ramlal 404/1
138	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00223	Chamela Devi W/o Ramlal 404/1
139	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00282	Prakash, Minor,Age 16 yrs.S/o Pannalal C/o Vimala Devi 404/1
140	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00282	Shyamchandra Minor,age 14 S/o Pannalal C/o Vimala Devi 404/1
141	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00283	Vimala Devi W/o Panna 404/1
142	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00283	Girajashankar S/o Kishun lal Aka Visun 404/1
143	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00283	Rampa Devi W/o Kishun lal Aka Visun 404/1
144	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00136	Bihari Lal S/o Shyamlal 404/1
145	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00023	Jagadish S/o Lalaji 404/1
146	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00023	Rajendra S/o Lalaji 404/1
147	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00023	Janti Devi W/o Lalaji 404/1
148	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00136	Lalmani S/o Shyamlal 404/1
149	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00136	Hiralal S/o Shyamlal 404/1
150	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00136	Baba lal S/o Shyamlal 404/1
151	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00023	Chandragupta S/o Motilal 404/1
152	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00023	Vijay Gupt Minor, Age 17 yrs. S/o Motilala C/o Geeta Devi 404/1
153	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00023	Geeta Devi W/o Late Motilal 404/1
154	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00919	Chhotai S/o Bhagwat 404/1
155	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00919	Lalai S/o Bhairo 404/1
156	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00919	Bahadur Aka Radheshyam S/o Dangar 404/2
157	404	Private	Agriculture	0.00919	Ganesh S/o Dangar 404/2
158	404	Private	Agriculture	0.0091	Munesh S/o Dangar 404/2
159	519	Private	Agriculture	0.01346	Bahadur Aka Radheshyam S/o Dangar 519/1
160	519	Private	Agriculture	0.01347	Ganesh S/o Dangar 519/1
161	519	Private	Agriculture	0.01347	Munesh, S/o Dangar 519/1
162	520	Private	Agriculture	0.0153	Bahadur Aka Radheshyam S/o Munnar 520
163	520	Private	Agriculture	0.0153	Ganesh S/o Munnar 520
164	523	Private	Agriculture	0.00663	Ganesh S/o Dangar 523
165	523	Private	Agriculture	0.00663	Bahadur Aka Radheshyam S/O Dangar 523
166	523	Private	Agriculture	0.00663	Munesh, S/o Dangar 523
167	524	Private	Agriculture	0.0042	Kevala Prasad S/o Shrinath 524Min.
168	524	Private	Agriculture	0.0042	Taulan Prasad S/o Shrinath 524Min.
169	524	Private	Agriculture	0.0042	Avadhanarayan S/o Shrinath 524Min.
170	524	Private	Agriculture	0.0042	Amareshchandra S/o Shrinath 524Min.
171	524	Private	Agriculture	0.0042	Shivasagar S/o Shrinath 524Min.
172	524	Private	Agriculture	0.0042	Mangari Devi W/o Shrinath 524Min.
173	525	Private	Agriculture	0.004	Avadhesh Kumar S/o Lakshman Prasad 525
174	526	Common	Agriculture/Government Road	0.0074	Prakash Chandra S/o Aditya Narayan 526/1
175	526	Common	Agriculture/Government Road	0.0074	Gyancandra S/o Aditya Narayan 526/1
176	526	Common	Agriculture/Government Road	0.0037	Deepchandra S/o Ravindra Narayan 526/1
177	526	Common	Agriculture/Government Road	0.0037	Abhimanyu S/o Ravindra Narayan 526/1
178	526	Common	Agriculture/Government Road	0.0037	Vishwambhar S/o Ravindra Narayan 526/1
179	526	Common	Agriculture/Government Road	10.0037	Sarvajeet S/o Ravindra Narayan 526/1
180	526	Common	Agriculture/Government Road	0.0148	Dharmendra Narayan S/o Shyamlal 526/1
181	527	Private	Agriculture	0.00254	Prakash Chandra S/o Aditya Narayan 527/1
182	527	Private	Agriculture	0.00254	Gyancandra S/o Aditya Narayan 527/1
183	527	Private	Agriculture	0.00128	Deepchandra S/o Ravindra Narayan
184	527	Private	Agriculture	0.00128	Abhimanyu S/o Ravindra Narayan 527/1
185	527	Private	Agriculture	0.00128	Vishwambhar S/o Ravindra Narayan 527/1
186	527	Private	Agriculture	0.00128	Sarvajeet S/o Ravindra Narayan 527/1
187	527	Private	Agriculture	0.0051	Dharmendra Narayan S/o Shyamlal 527/1
188	560	Private	Agriculture	0.00765	Baijnath S/o Chhotai 560Min.
189	560	Private	Agriculture	0.00191	Premprakash S/o Virju 560Min.
190	560	Private	Agriculture	0.00191	Omprakash Slo Virju 560Min.
191	560	Private	Agriculture	0.00191	Raviprakash S/o Virju 560Min.
192	560	Private	Agriculture	0.00191	Heeravati W/o Virju 560Min.
193	562	Private	Agriculture	0.005	Prakash Chandra S/o Aditya Narayan 562/1
194	562	Private	Agriculture	0.005	Gyanchandra S/o Aditya Narayan 562/1
195	562	Private	Agriculture	0.0025	Deepchandra S/o Ravindra Narayan 562/1

शेष पेज 5 पर

Govt creating 'tandav' over web series: Akhilesh

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav Tuesday accused the government of creating a big fuss over Amazon Prime's political saga "Tandav", which he called a "minor" web series.

His statement came in the wake of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry seeking an explanation from the OTT platform over the series, and at least three FIRs being filed with different police stations in Uttar Pradesh against the makers and the artistes of the show. "What is Tandav?" Yadav told reporters here to a question over the controversy. "It is a minor series. And you are creating a 'tandav' (a dance form associated with Hindu god Lord Shiva) over it."

Yadav also said OTT platforms gained popularity during the lockdown period, and asked as to when an Indian platform will be created that can rival Amazon. "You talked about swadeshi andolan and let a foreign platform loot millions of rupees. Tell me when will there be a homemade platform that can rival Amazon," Yadav said, confessing he does not have an Amazon subscription and he has not watched the series. "Tandav", a nine-episode political thriller starring Saif Ali Khan, Dimple Kapadia and Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub, started streaming last week and is neck deep in trouble with loud calls for its ban and an FIR against its makers in Lucknow. At the centre of the row is a scene with Zeeshan, in the role of college student Shiva, playing the Hindu god Mahadev in a theatre production.

The cast and the crew of "Tandav" had to "unconditionally" apologise in a bid to quell the controversy surrounding the show. On Tuesday, they agreed to implement changes to address concerns raised over the series. Yadav also attacked the BJP over the ongoing protests against the farm laws, alleging the leaders of the party have nothing to do with agriculture but they just want to control the market linked with it and make profit.

"We are associated with farming, the BJP is not," he claimed. He said January 26 is a good day for the government to accept the demands of farmers who want the three new agri laws repealed and a legal guarantee on the Minimum Support Price (MSP). "There can't be a bigger display of love for the country and respect for the constitution. The BJP has got an opportunity to (exhibit) their patriotism and love for this country," he said. On the National Investigation Agency (NIA) serving notices to some farmer union leaders, he said they have been issued as farmers are agitating against the laws. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister was speaking at an event to welcome young-achievers and leaders into the party fold. He said declining employment opportunities, "privatisation of education and politicisation of educational institutions" are the burning issues the youth of the country faces. He also claimed the stringent National Security Act was being invoked against youths who speak their mind and alleged nothing of this sort is taking place anywhere else in the world. He also alleged CM Yogi Adityanath and his deputy were withdrawing cases lodged against them.

The state today tops parameters such as crime against women, fake encounters, communal violence and hooch tragedy deaths among others, he alleged. ***PTI***

Bengali Club to remember Netaji on birth anniversary

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bengali Club and Youngmen's Association, and Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan will jointly commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Bengali Club auditorium on January 23.

Bengali Club president Arun Banerjee said that Netaji had visited the club on November 20, 1938, and he was felicitated by its members at that time. "The stage which Netaji had glorified with his presence will be decorated with 125 earthen lamps to mark the occasion," he said.

General secretary, Bengali Club, Shanker Bhowmick said anyone can visit the club on the occasion pay tributes to Netaji.

Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan secretary, Sandip Bose said that a cultural programme will also be organised to mark the occasion. Sammelan's president Enakshi Sinha will speak on the life and works of Netaji.

State: UTTAR PRADESH District : MIRZAPUR

Sr. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	area in Hectre	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Taluk : Sadar				
	Village : Shivpur				
196	562	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.0025	Abhimanyu S/o Ravindra Narayan 562/1
197	562	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.0025	Vishwambhar S/o Ravindra Narayan 562/1
198	562	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.0025	Sarvajeet S/o Ravindra Narayan 562/1
199	562	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.01	Dharmendra Narayan S/o Shyam Lal 562/1
200	563	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.0336	Avadhesh Kumar S/o Lakshman Prasad 563/2
201	564	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.0199	Avadhesh Kumar S/o Lakshman Prasad 564/1
202	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00149	Shivram S/o Ramprasad 599/2
203	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00149	Vijay Kumar S/o Ram Prasad 599/2
204	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00074	Divakar Aka Sewakar S/o Krishnakant 599/2
205	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00074	Suraj S/o Krishnakant 599/2
206	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00074	Chandraprakash S/o Krishnakant 599/2
207	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00074	Pankaj S/o Krishnakant 599/2
208	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00149	Jitendra Kumar S/o Baijnath 599/2
209	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00238	Ramgarib S/o Ramlakhan 599/2
210	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00149	Chintamani S/o Kashinath 599/2
211	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00149	Madho Prasad S/o Kashinath 599/2
212	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00183	Kevala Prasad S/o Shrinath 599/3
213	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00183	Taulan Prasad S/o Shrinath 599/3
214	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00183	Avadhanarayan S/o Shrinath 599/3
215	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00183	Amareshchandra S/o Shrinath 599/3
216	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00183	Shivsagar S/o Shrinath 599/3
217	599	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00183	Mangari Devi W/o Shrinath 599/3
218	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.004	Ramaji Aka Kallu S/o Radheshyam 600
219	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.003	Balram S/o Salikram 600
220	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.006	Kanhaiyalal Aka Doctor S/o Ramprasad 600
221	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.001	Anjani S/o Krishna Kumar 600
222	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.001	Arvind S/o Krishna Kumar 600
223	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.001	Anup S/o Krishna Kumar 600
224	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.001	Anuruddh S/o Krishna Kumar 600
225	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.001	Chanda W/o Krishna Kumar 600
226	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.003	Deepchandra S/o Late Bholanath 600
227	600	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.003	Munnar Devi W/o Late Bholanath 600
228	601	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.0183	Shanti Devi W/o Prabhunarayan (Rajesh kumar, Amrit lal, Raju, Sandeep, Satish, Subhash S/o Prabhunarayan) 601 Min.
229	602	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.0122	Sanjay Yadav S/o Omkarnath Yadav 602
230	602	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00051	Nishant S/o Narendra Nath 602
231	602	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00051	Nitish S/o Narendra Nath 602
232	602	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00051	Mu. Sudha W/o Narendra Nath 602
233	602	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00053	Himanshu S/o Nageshwar Nath 602
234	602	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00076	Dheerendra Gupta S/o Heeralal 602
235	602	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00076	Rajaram S/o Chelaram 602
236	602	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00076	Subhash Chandra S/o Chelaram 602
237	602	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00076	Aneesh S/o Raish 602
238	603	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.0204	Sanjay Yadav S/o Omkarnath Yadav 603
239	603	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00085	Nishant S/o Narendra Nath 603
240	603	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00085	Nitish S/o Narendra Nath 603
241	603	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00085	Mu. Sudha W/o Narendra Nath 603
242	603	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00255	Himashu S/o Nageshwar Nath 603
243	603	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00128	Dheerendra Gupta S/o Heeralal 603
244	603	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00128	Rajaram S/o Chelaram 603
245	603	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00127	Subhash Chandra S/o Chelaram 603
246	603	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00127	Aneesh S/o Raish 603
247	604	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.0122	Sanjay Yadav S/o Omkarnath Yadav 604
248	604	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00051	Nishant S/o Narendra Nath 604
249	604	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00051	Nitish S/o Narendra Nath 604
250	604	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00051	Mu. Sudha W/o Narendra Nath 604
251	604	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00053	Himashu S/o Nageshwar Nath 604
252	604	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00076	Dheerendra Gupta S/o Heeralal 604
253	604	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00076	Rajaram S/o Chelaram 604
254	604	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00076	Subhash Chandra S/o Chelaram 604
255	604	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00076	Aneesh S/o Raish 604
256	606	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.05407	Sanjay Yadav S/o Omkarnath Yadav 606/1
257	606	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00225	Nishant S/o Narendra Nath 606/1
258	606	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00225	Nitish S/o Narendra Nath 606/1
259	606	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00225	Mu. Sudha W/o Narendra Nath 606/1
260	606	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00676	Himashu S/o Nageshwar Nath 606/1
261	606	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00338	Dheerendra Gupta S/o Heeralal 606/1
262	606	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00338	Rajaram S/o Chelaram 606/1
263	606	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00338	Subhash Chandra S/o Chelaram 606/1
264	606	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00338	Aneesh S/o Raish 606/1
265	607	Private	AGRICULTURE/NON AGRICULTURE	0.0217	Bhanupratap S/o Lukshman 607/1
266	608	Private	Temple	0.0137	Mandir ShriramJanaki Virajman/ Prabandhak Pujari Babakrishna das 608
267	609	Government	RASTA	0.026	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh 609
268	611	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00187	Nagendar Giri S/o Dwarka 611
269	611	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00187	Shivsaran Giri S/o Rajendra Giri 611
270	611	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00186	Shankarsaran Giri S/o Rajendra Giri 611
271	611	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00186	Shailjasaran Giri S/o Rajendra Giri 611
272	611	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00186	Shashankshesher Giri S/o Rajendra Giri 1611 Rajeshwari Devi W/o
273	611	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00187	Rajendra Giri 611
274	611	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00187	Nishant Goswami S/o Shudhanshu Bhushan Goswami 611
275	611	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00187	Rohit Goswami S/o Shudhanshu Bhushan Goswami 611
276	611	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00187	Shanti Goswami S/o Shudhanshu Bhushan Goswami 611
277	612	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00139	Nagendar Giri S/o Dwarka 612Min.
278	612	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00139	Shivsaran Giri S/o Rajendra Giri 612 Min.
279	612	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00139	Shankarsaran Giri S/o Rajendra Giri 612 Min.
280	612	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00139	Shailjasaran Giri S/o Rajendra Giri 612 Min.
281	612	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00139	Shashanksheshar Giri S/o Rajendra Giri 612 Min.
282	612	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00139	Rajeshwari Devi W/o Rajendra Giri 612 Min.
283	612	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00139	Nishant Goswami S/o Shudhanshu Bhushan Goswami 612 Min.
284	612	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00139	Rohit Goswami S/o Shudhanshu Bhushan Goswami 612 Min.
285	612	Private	AGRICULTURE	0.00138	Shanti Goswami S/o Shudhanshu Bhushan Goswami 612 Min.
			TOTAL	1.41253	

[F.No 1164/3D]
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

RERA Act favourable to both builders and buyers: Rajiv Kumar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

RERA Act has proved favourable to both builders and buyers, and the major impact of RERA is that the broken trust between the buyers and builders in the state is coming back.

This was stated by chairman of UP Real Estate Regulatory Authority Rajiv Kumar in his keynote address at a virtual conference on 'Impact of RERA on real estate market in Uttar Pradesh', organised by UP Chapter of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) on Tuesday in collaboration with UP RERA. The key objective of the session was to discuss the challenges, hurdles faced by the stakeholders working in this sector and their expectations, suggestions to UP RERA and deliberations upon the vast opportunities lying unexplored in this rapidly expanding sector. Kumar said UP RERA's quick redressal of the several disputes, complaints from buyers, more than 50% sale of real estate in UP (in the last quarter of 2019) was from Noida and Greater Noida region and with these results, the state is going to witness even more rapid growth in the next couple of years.

Kumar said that the state, with excellent connectivity via Yamuna Expressway, Agra-Lucknow Expressway and now the proposed Bundelkhand and Ganga Expressways, proposed Noida International Airport, metro trains and rapid rail transport between Delhi and Meerut, already enjoys a great infrastructure and with the special focus of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath towards strengthening it even more, this sector is bound to witness exponential growth in a couple of years.

He said that during his government serving tenure, he has worked actively in the industries and infrastructure sector of the state and UP has huge demand and tremendous scope left to be exploited from this area in terms of enhancing employment and generating state's revenue from it.

Kumar said that the major strength of UP in terms of infrastructure development and other developmental activities is aspirational development of the state and the real estate sector of the state plays a very significant role.

He pointed out that UP's real estate sector contributes 7% to India's total GDP, but given the demand and strength in this sector, there lies a huge scope of doubling this contribution to nearly 14 per cent in the coming time. He added that with more than 250 industries directly related to it, this sector has seen a multiplier effect in growth of late.

He also discussed many benefits given to the buyers and builders after the introduction of RERA Act in the state and after the formal formation and implementation of UP RERA as a governing body. He also made a special mention, suggestion to those promoters and builders whose projects are nearing completion and are facing some liquidity issues.

Kumar said all these promoters, builders can have a joint cooperative agreement done between buyer associations and promoter associations in order to have an easy redresssal of the liquidity issues.

Chairman of the UP Chapter of PHDCCI Lalit Khaitan said that housing is a basic human requirement of any civilised society. "With the growth of urbanisation, cities have been expanding alarmingly in the last few decades, which have resulted in haphazard growth of urban areas as well as acute housing shortage. Owning a home is a keystone of wealth, both financial affluence, and emotional security is currently a top of the mind notion. While it has been a common desire, it has taken a back seat in the world of choices of being adventurous and spending extravagance. Living in an unprecedented time of Covid-19 pandemic, there is a growing acceptance that home-ownership brings stability and security for family," he said.

CITYBRIEFS

IEO-2021 KICKS OFF

The 3-day International Environment Olympiad (IEO-2021), organised by City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus II, was formally inaugurated on Tuesday evening by Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma amidst a colourful educational-cultural programme held online. Addressing the participants and guests on the occasion, Sharma expressed happiness that CMS organised this olympiad on an important subject which will prove to be crucial in making India a developed nation. Students from many countries are participating in the IEO-2021 online.

CAREER TALK SERIES

Heather Wallick

Lucknow Public School director Harshit Singh launched the season-1 of 'Career Talk Series', in which about 300 students from classes IX to XII interacted with Heather Wallick, former assistant director of admissions at Harvard Law School in a webinar on 'How to prepare for top global universities'. The students got an opportunity to know how to take admission to foreign universities for better career prospects.

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Bank of India
BOI
Zonal Office:
Bank of India, 1, VibhutiKhand,
Gomti Nagar, Star House, Lucknow

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENTS REQUIRED

Applications are invited from suitable firms/companies for engagement as Corporate Business Correspondents with Branches of Bank of India, Lucknow Zone, purely on contract basis for implementation of its Financial Inclusion Plan. The prescribed form eligibility norms and terms of engagement will be available with our Zonal Office Lucknow Zone duly filled in applications supported by necessary copies of certificates must be submitted to the Zonal Office by **28.01.2021** for any query contact on 0522-2721547.

Dy. Zonal Manager, Lucknow Zone

OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD KANPUR
64, Subhas Chandra Bose Marg, Cantt Kanpur - 208004

Expression of Interest are invited for installation and operation of Ultrasound Machine. Pathology services and Establishing Physiotherapy Centre in Cantt General Hospital, Kanpur latest by 04-02-2021.

For Clarification, if any, please contact

Office of the Cantonment Board Kanpur. B.No. 64. Subhash Chandra Bose Marg, Cantt. Kanpur - 208004.

Ph.: 0512-2381285

(A.K. Dwivedi)
CEO, Kanpur Cantt

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम) (ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company)
कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक, जोन-7, गोमती बैराज बॉया तट, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-226010
दूरभाष : 0522-2308945, 2308947, 2308978, 2308911, 2308242 (फैक्स)
E-mail: uppcl.ho@gmail.com, gm_7@upprojects.org, Website: www.upprojects.org
ISO 9001:2015

पत्रांक: 103/पी०सी०एल०/महाप्र०जोन-7/ई-टेण्डर दिनांक: 15.01.2021

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना

जनपद बलिया में गंगा नदी के बाएं तट पर स्थित दुबे छपरा ग्राम में हो रहे कटाव से सुरक्षा हेतु ड्रेजिंग एवं चैनलाइजेशन कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना- 34/UPPCL/GM-7/E-TENDER/2020-21 दिनांक 15.01.2021 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गई है। यह निविदा वेबसाइट https://www.etender.up.nic.in के पोर्टल पर दिनांक 22.01.2021 से दिनांक 30.01.2021 तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 30.01.2021 को अपरान्ह 1:00 बजे तक सबमिट/जमा किया जा सकता है। टेक्निकल बिड उसी दिन अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे से अधोहस्ताक्षरी के उपरोक्त कार्यालय में खोली जानी प्रस्तावित है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण एवं शर्ते इत्यादि कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर देखी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक, जोन–7

KANPUR PLASTIPACK LTD
CIN: L25209UP1971PLC003444
Regd. Office-D-19-20, Panki Industrial Area, Kanpur-208 022
TEL : +91 (0512) 2691 113-6 ;
FAX : +91(0512) 2691117
Email: secretary@kanplas.com
Web: www.kanplas.com

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, the 10th day of February, 2021** at 12:00 Noon at the registered office of the Company at D-19-20, Panki Industrial Area, Kanpur-208022 to, inter-alia, consider, approve and take on record Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 31st December, 2020.

Note: Video Conferencing facility will be available at the Meeting. Director(s) may opt to participate in the Meeting through Video Conferencing.

For Kanpur Plastipack Limited
Sd/-
(Ankur Srivastava)
Company Secretary

Place: Kanpur
Date: 19.01.2021

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड निविदा सूचना इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य सम्पादन हेतु अनुभवी, दक्ष एवं जी0एस0टी0 में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ई– निविदाये आमन्त्रित की जाती है जिसका विस्तृत विवरण टेन्डर बेवसाईट www.etender.up.in पर उपलब्ध है। टी– 134/2020–21 विद्युत 220 के0वी0 उपसंस्थान खण्ड पनकी पर इसुन मेंक बसबार प्रोटेक्शन पैनल स्थापित कर टेस्टिंग एंव कमीशनिंग का कार्य। टी– 135/2020–21 विद्युत 220 के0वी0 उपसंस्थान खण्ड पनकी पर 33 के0वी0 फीडर/बस का वार्षिक अनुरक्षण का कार्य। टी– 136/2020–21 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 400 के0वी0 आगरा – उन्नाव लाईन पर 400 के0वी0 डिस्क ईन्सुलेटर स्ट्रिंग को नये पालीमर स्ट्रिंग मे बदलने आदि का कार्य। टी– 137/2020–21 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 पनकी–उन्नाव डी0सी0 लाईन एंव लिलो 220 के0वी आर0पी0एच0 व बिठूर पर डिस्क ईन्सूलेटर स्ट्रिंग को नये पालीमर स्ट्रिंग मे बदलने आदि का कार्य। टी– 138/2020–21 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 बिल्हार पर लाईटिग का कार्य । टी– 139/2020–21 विद्युत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र पनकी कानपुर के उपयोग हेतु एक अदद डीजल चलित वाहन, चालक सहित 09 महीने के लिए संविदा पर रखने का कार्य टी– 140/2020–21 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र दादानगर पर टेन्शन फिटिंग, टर्मिनल कनेक्टर एवं पी0जी0 क्लैम्प की आपूर्ति । टी– 141/2020 विद्युत 220 के0वी0 उपसंस्थान खण्ड पनकी के अन्तर्गत 1x660 पनकी से 400 के0वी0 उपसंस्थान पनकी तक निर्माणधीन 400 के0वी0 डी0 सी0 लाइन पर डेटा ट्रांसमिशन एंव प्रोटेक्शन हेतु ओ0पी0जी0डब्लू की आपूर्ति एंव सम्बन्धित कार्य टी– 142/2020 विद्युत 220 के0वी0 उपसंस्थान खण्ड पनकी पर 132 के0वी0 पनकी–आरमापुर लाइन की पेट्रोलिंग आदि का कार्य । टी– 143/2020 विद्युत विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 400 के0वी0 उन्नाव–आगरा लाईन की पेट्रोलिंग एंव वार्षिक अनुरक्षण का कार्य । टी–144/2020–21 विद्युत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र पनकी के अधीनस्थ उपखण्ड अधिकारी प्रथम पनकी के उपयोग हेतु एक अदद डीजल चलित वाहन (जीप) चालक सहित 12 महीने के लिए संविदा पर रखने का कार्य । टी–145/2020 विद्युत 220 के0वी0 उपसंस्थान खण्ड पनकी पर मंकी रिपेलेन्ट मशीन की आपूर्ति । टी– 146/2020 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 पनकी–रनिया–जैनपुर लाईनो के क्षतिग्रस्त टावरों पर टावर लेग की फाउन्डेशन की रिपेयरिंग एंव टावरो की कोपिंग की ऊचाई बढ़ाने का कार्य ई0 टी–134 से टी–137 दिनांक 17.02.2021 एवं ई०टी–138 से टी–141 दिनांक 19. 02.2021 एवं ई०टी–142 से टी–146 दिनांक 22.02.2021 को खोली जायेगी अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल प्रथम पनकी, कानपुर विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल–प्रथम उ0 प्र0 पावर ट्रॉसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि0 पत्रांक 82 दिनांक 19.1.21 राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये उपभोक्ता सेवा हेतु सम्पर्क करें– www-uppcl-org

Fresh vegetables exported to UAE

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Now the fresh consignment of green peas and famous white brinjal of the Ramnagar region of the district has been exported directly from Lal Bahadur Shastri International (LBSI) Airport, Babatpur to Sharjah (UAE) when it was flagged off by Chairman of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, M Angamuthu and Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, APEDA Chairman said that there is an initiative to continuously export farmers' produce in Varanasi and other adjoining districts and this will lead to better cultivation as well as increase in income of farmers. 'After the export of Langada and Dusshehari varieties of mango, green chillies and rice, now the green vegetables are also being exported to national and international markets from here,' he said, adding that in the coming days this entire Varanasi region is being made a major hub for agricultural exports and food processing.

APEDA Chairman and DC at LBSI Airport prior to flag off of consignment of vegetables to UAE in Varanasi on Tuesday

The DC said 'there is a lot of potential in the field of agriculture in the entire Purvanchal (eastern UP) including Varanasi and in the coming time, Varanasi will be made the potential hub in the field of exports.' He specifically emphasised that in the past, there was a rare transportation of goods going from here to abroad but within a month and a half, this problem has been resolved with the efforts of the officials at the inter-departmental level and today the consignment of peas and brinjals from LBSI Airport has left for the first time on a foreign trip.

According to him, in future, agricultural products will also be sent directly to countries of South Asia including Bangladesh by ships via Varanasi.

He gave emphasis that with this, where our exports are increasing, we are getting fair and high prices of our produce in the international markets because people are getting quality insurance due to big stores. He assured that concerted and effective efforts are being made towards the achievement of the Prime Minister's goal and determination that the income of farmers would be doubled.

'To provide good value to the farmers, their produce is being exported abroad through APEDA and in the coming years, huge quantities of vegetables and mangoes will be exported abroad,' he said, expressing hope that the city would be made a very big hub of exports in the coming time so that the produce of the farmers of Purvanchal and other surrounding areas can be exported abroad.

26 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A total of 26 new cases of COVID-19 were detected in the Prayagraj district in the last 24 hours. About 17 people beat Corona. No patient died of corona infection on the same day.

According to CMO Dr Prabhakar Rai, on Monday night, a corona testing of 6,833 people was conducted in the district. The number of infected persons was 26, providing relief to the Health department and city residents. Of the 17 people who beat corona, 10 patients were discharged from various Covid hospitals. Seven people completed home isolation. The total number of patients who completed their home isolation with seven new has reached out to 21,182.

CMO said that the number of active patients of Covid is continuously decreasing in the district. This figure now comes to 356. At the same time, the maximum 28 infected patients are admitted to L3 SRN Hospital. About 15 patients are being treated at Kalindipuram Covid Care Centre, 20 at Beli and 14 patients at United Medicity.

82 VENDORS FOUND INFECTED: About 82 vendors were found corona infected at the Magh Mela, situated on the sands of Sangam. These infected also included some boatmen sailing at the Sangam. All have been admitted to COVID-19 Level-1 Hospital at Kalindipuram. However, so far in the antigen test of 1,800 people, reports of saints and Kalpavasis from outside have been found negative.

Kalpavas will begin from Paush Purnima, the second largest bathing of Magh Mela. Earlier, as congestion increases, a comprehensive strategy is being created to prevent corona infection. Apart from Sectorwise COVID-19 centres, mobile teams are making efforts all day to conduct tests on the saints and Kalpavis. On Tuesday, in addition to mobile teams, 1,300 saints-Kalpavasis were tested at open Covid-testing centres in every sector.

According to the data, a total of 18,000 people have been tested through antigen within a month. In it, antigen test reports of 82 people have been found positive. Vendors and boatmen working in the fair area have been found infected. All the infected have been admitted to Level-1 Hospital in Kalindipuram. Apart from this, district-wise details of Kalpavasis across the state are being prepared through the organisations that organise camps at Magh Mela.

So far, the list of 13,943 Kalpavasis has been uploaded on the portal. Information of the Kalpasis included in this list is being sent to the administration of the respective districts, so that their antigen test can be done there. For this, the help of cultural, religious institutions and pilgrims of Prayagwal Sabha listed in Prayagraj Mela Authority is being taken.

Antigen testing conducted so far at Magh Mela has found 82 infected. Among them are vendors and boatmen. Testing so far has not found infection in Kalpavasis or saints. Testing rates are constantly being increased. Earlier, where 600 to 800 people were being examined every day, now 1200 to 1300 people are being tested said Dr Rishi Sahai, Nodal Officer for COVID-19 at Magh Mela.

Pilgrims urged not to feed migratory birds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In view of the bird flu outbreak, the Forest department of Prayagraj has appealed to the pilgrims at the Magh Mela to refrain from feeding the migratory birds that flock to the Sangam area.

The Indian Skimmer, locally known as Siberian bird, is one the main centres of attraction at Sangam. Pilgrims feed them sev (a snack). These birds can often be seen sitting on the palm of visitors and eating sev. So popular is this snack among the Siberian birds that they can be seen hovering on the boats and the banks of Ganga and Yamuna, and fighting among themselves to consume it. Even though there is no report of bird flu getting transmitted from birds to humans, Divisional Forest Officer YP Shukla said that the Magh Mela visitors should avoid feeding the birds.

The official informed that three dedicated teams with members who are experts in analysing bird behaviour, are constantly patrolling the mela area through boats and on foot in order to keep a check on the health of the birds residing here.

'If a bird is active and is swimming and feeding itself along with its fellow birds, we know that it is healthy. But if a bird is seen sitting at one place for a long time, and is sluggish in movement, we keep a close vigil on that particular bird,' said the DFO.

In an effort to protect migratory birds the Forest department has deployed nine teams throughout the district to keep a watch on them. The department has also decided to launch a special campaign to protect these birds in areas like Phaphamau, Shringverpur, Daraganj and Sangam. Through this campaign, it aims to make the locals aware of the need to protect these feathery visitors, and ensure strict surveillance in the areas.

As part of this surveillance which started from November 15 and will last till the end of February, the nine teams are patrolling the terrestrial areas on foot and the waterbodies by boats. The teams strive to not only protect the migratory birds, but their nesting sites as well.

12 new Covid cases in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 12 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Tuesday, increasing the total number to 21,786. The day saw one more death, increasing the toll to 375. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 38 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 18,290. As no patient has been discharged from any of the hospitals, the number remained at 2,959. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 21,249, leaving 162 active cases. The recovery rate is 97.53 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.72 per cent.

In the first report of the day, eight positive patients were found out of 1,967 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 5,66,607 and the results of 2,797 are awaited. Out of them, 5,44,825 were negative while 21,782 were positive. The total number of samples collected was 5,93,247. Earlier, with the addition of five red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,555 with 225 red zones. Two green zones have been converted into the red zones again. There are 2,330 green zones with eight new ones. Meanwhile, mass / group corona antigen tests continued and one out of 275 tests was detected positive at SSPG Hospital Kabirchaura, while all 42 tests at CHC Shivpur were found negative apart from 65 at Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur, 280 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar and 135 at SSH BHU. Along with this, samples of 96 from SSPG, 226 from LBS Hospital Ramnagar, 14 from Vivekanand Hospital and 35 from SSH BHU have been sent for RTPCR investigation.

DM gets additional charge of NCZCC director

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In compliance of a letter issued from the Governor House Uttar Pradesh, the District Magistrate Bhanu Chandra Goswami on Monday night took over the additional charge of the Director, North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Prayagraj. The three-year term of Indrajit Singh Grover as the NCZCC director had expired in December 2020, but on the basis of the recommendation of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, he had been continuing.

Grover was not present to hand over the charge to the District Magistrate, but Goswami assumed the charge and asked a magistrate to look into the NCZCC matters on a regular basis.

Grover was associated with the Education department of NDMC, and being an artist he had applied for the post of director NCZCC, and was appointed for three years.

He completed his three-year term in December, and the post of NCZCC director was advertised for fresh appointment. In the meantime the Ministry of Culture sent a recommendation letter to the Governor House for extending the term of Grover for two years, and on the basis of that recommendation letter Indrajit Singh Grover continued on that post.

On Monday, in the late evening hours, the District Magistrate Prayagraj Bhanu Chandra Goswami received a communiqué from the Governor House for taking over the additional charge of the NCZCC director with immediate effect. Goswami reached NCZCC around 8 pm and assumed the charge in the absence of Grover.

2nd autologous stem cell transplant at BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Department of Pediatrics, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) has successfully carried out the second autologous stem cell transplantation within a span of one year. The first transplant was carried out last year in February. Due to corona pandemic and the strict lockdown for few months, further transplants could not be carried out. However, with reopening of the OPD services of Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH), second transplant was planned and carried out successfully recently. This is an important milestone for this division especially because it has been carried out in the background of the corona pandemic.

The patient, a nine-year-old boy, was suffering from refractory Hodgkin's lymphoma (a type of cancer of the lymph nodes). He was given high dose chemotherapy to kill the remaining cancer cells. His stem cells were harvested in the Blood Bank of SSH. The child tolerated the whole procedure well and was discharged home in good condition after 40 days of hospital stay.

The second successful transplant has opened the way for treatment of children with several hematological and oncological diseases which include leukemia (blood cancer), aplastic anemia and thalassemia etc. The successful outcome in this case was due to the combined efforts of the team comprising Prof Vineeta Gupta, Dr Priyanka Agrawal, Dr Vidya Kumari Saurabh and other junior residents of Pediatric Hematology Oncology and Prof Sandip Kumar, Dr SK Singh and Dr Dinesh K Singh from the Blood Bank, SSH. Prof SK Mathur, Medical Superintendent (MS), SSH provided the logistic support. 'We plan to carry out more such transplants at the BMT-SRC Facility under the guidance of IMS Director Prof BR Mittal,' Prof Mathur said.

Earlier, a five-day virtual online training programme began from Monday under the joint aegis of Blood Bank, SSH BHU and Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society. Technicians from all the blood banks of UP are participating in this training programme. The programme was inaugurated by IMS BHU Director Prof BR Mittal. MS SSH Prof SK Mathur and Joint Director of AIDS Control Society Dr Geeta Agrawal gave information about the ongoing programmes for blood bank strengthening while Dr Tulika Chandra, incharge of Transfusion Medicine, KGMU, spoke about the donor reaction and its management while Prof Sandeep Kumar of SSH about blood serology and Dr Dinesh Singh threw light on ABO and RH blood group. In this programme, NSS BHU Coordinator Bala Lakhendra, Ashutosh Kumar Singh and Rajni Gupta informed about blood donation camp.

Volunteers of Bhoole Bhatke Shivir reuniting lost ones with their families

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Sitting in a corner of the 'Bhoole Bhatke Shivir', the eyes of the family members of 62-year-old Mangal Patel are constantly glued towards the entrance and scan the people every few minutes.

Patel, a resident of Madhya Pradesh had arrived in Prayagraj on January 2 to attend a 'mundan' ceremony at Sangam and was missing. His family members and the volunteers of Bhoole Bhatke Shivir have been looking for him since the last few days.

The volunteers, this time, have also shared Patel's details on the WhatsApp group, Bharat Sewa Dal, connecting the volunteers of Bhoole Bhatke Shivir across the country and are eagerly awaiting any leads.

Umesh Tiwari, organiser of Bhoole Bhatke Shivir and head of Bharat Seva Dal informed the newspersons that we have reunited 85 people, including 75 adults and 10 children, in the past four days since the beginning of Magh Mela. The family members of Mangal Patel are also staying at Bhule Bhatke camp in the Mela area, resting their hopes on the volunteers and hoping some of them might bring him along to the shivir someday. Tiwari, meanwhile, said that the volunteers manning the Bhoole Bhatke Shivir are now using technology re-unite the lost ones with their families.

He said many active volunteers from other states like MP, Bihar, Haryana, West Bengal and Delhi, who could not come this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are connected with us in a group formed on a popular messaging app to find the missing persons. Our volunteers keep sharing and updating the details of missing persons in the group on frequent intervals. Devotees and pilgrims from across the country come to the Magh Mela and camp here on the banks of the Ganga. We have been able to reunite missing people from Sasaram, Pratapgarh, Jaunpur, Satna, Sidhi, Reewa, Katiyar with their families, Tiwari added. Volunteers also maintain manual records, and share the details of missing persons on social media sites and popular messaging app to find and reunite them with their families. IG (Prayagraj zone) KP Singh said the volunteers of Bhoole Bhatke Shivir are offering a helping hand to police authorities to reunite missing people with their families. As the 57-day annual religious event gets started on the banks of the Ganga, the volunteers of Bhoole Bhatke Shivir have been serving mankind with the help of Mela police.

GANGSTER ACT IMPOSED: Gangster Act has been imposed on corporator Vinod Sonkar and five others in connection with a murderous attack on the Water Works General Manager Harish Chandra Valmiki last month. Six persons had raided the residence of Valmiki last month and had made an attempt on his life. After the incident the investigation had been handed over to the CO-I, who found Vinod Sonkar, Anoop Srivastava, Tufail Ahmad, Guddu Vishwakarma, Ajay Hela and one more guilty for this attempt on GM's life. The department had also lodged an FIR against the above six under different sections of the IPC and the SC/ST Act.

All the six culprits had been arrested and were sent to jail, On Monday night on the recommendation of the police officials, Gangster Act has been imposed on all the six.

After the imposition of Gangster Act the officials are searching desperately for the properties owned by the above six to confiscate the same. This action of the administration will certainly cause more worries for the Vinod Sonkar gang.

LOOTED: In the neighbouring district of Pratapgarh, the incidents of loot and theft have escalated manifold these days. Despite dacoity and robbery incidents, along with murders, the criminals are still committing crimes under the patronage of police.

In the latest incident on Tuesday, near the Kotia Canal Pulia under the Aspur Devsara police station, the bike borne miscreants looted a bag containing money as well as courier company goods from a delivery man at pistol point and ran towards Raja Bazaar. The police blocked and checked but failed to arrest the the robbers.

Vijay Prakash Tiwari, a resident of Tilkichha village in Jaunpur district, works as a delivery man parcel supply in eCan Courier Company. At around 4 pm on Tuesday, he reached the canal bridge after delivering the parcel to several people in Kotia village of Aspur Devsara area, when two bike-borne criminals from behind stopped him at pistol point. Then, threatening to shoot, along with more than Rs 12,000 cash, they also looted the bag of courier company and ran towards Raja Bazar. The bag contained the parcels of many people. When Vijay Prakash informed the incident at dial No 112, the police reached there and attempted to catch the robbers by blockade but they could not be found.

In the grocery store located at Dariapur Power House in Raniganj area, the thieves broke into at night and took away 32 pieces of oil, ghee and other items worth thousands of rupees. On discovering the theft in the morning, the shopkeeper informed it to the police staton. The police arrived, but failed to find any clue. Omar Vaishya opened a grocery shop near Dariyapur Power House. SO Manoj Kumar Tiwari said that a complaint had been received regarding the theft at a grocery shop.

Double murder case worked out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Police claimed to have worked out the sensational double murder case and arrested five miscreants in this connection while one criminal is yet to be nabbed. The police also recovered two motorcycles used in the crime and Aadhar card, helmet and jacket of deceased.

Producing the arrested criminals before the media at Police Lines here on Tuesday, the DIG/SSP Amit Pathak informed, the family members of one deceased Shubham Keshari had on January 5 last lodged a complaint at Kotwali police station about his missing. In the complaint, the family members had stated that Shubham had left the house with his bike along with his friend Ravi Pandey on December 22, 2020 and not returned till date.

In the meantime, the bodies of two youths had been found at a deserted place in Chata Pahadi under the Ahraura police station of Mirzapur district. The bodies of both youths were burnt badly and identified as Shubham and Ravi, the missing complaint of whom had been lodged at Kotwali police station in Varanasi. This alerted the Varanasi police which started an investigation into the matter.

Police work out double murder case in Varanasi on Tuesday Pioneer

During the interrogation, the police had come to know that a deceased Shubham was a history-sheeter and he had murdered a trader Mohan Nigam in 2017. The police had also come to know that the brother in-law of Mohan, Sunil had decided to take revenge the murder of his close relative and thus, he had given a contract of killing Shubham to Neeraj Pandey and Parvez and also given ₹ 5 lakh to each. It was said that Neeraj was familiar to Shubham.

As per plan, Neeraj invited Shubham at a residential building of which he was caretaker before the arrest, in Ramakant Nagar Colony under the Chetganj police station at night on December 22, 2020. Neeraj had also lured of offering a girl to Shubham. When Shubham along with his friend Ravi Pandey reached the building, Neeraj was already present with Dilshad, Dilsher, Guddu and Kalim there. They offered liquor to Shubham and when he had got in an inebriated state, they killed him by strangulating with the help of rope. Since, Ravi had seen them killing Shubham, so they had also killed him too in the same way, Pathak informed adding, after killing both, they kept the bodies in two sacks and dumped at a deserted area in Chata Pahadi under the Ahraura police station in Mirzapur district by a commercial vehicle. Ravi and other criminals again reached this place on January 5 last and set both bodies afire in a bid to hide the identification of deceased, Pathak informed.

On Tuesday early morning, the Kotwali police SHO Pramod Kumar Pandey got tip-off about the presence of Sunil Nigam at Lohatia and acting on information, the cops nabbed him.

He confessed his involvement in the crime and on the basis of information provided by him, the cops also arrested Neeraj Pandey, Dilsher and Guddu from the building where the heinous crime had been committed. But one criminal Kalim is yet to be nabbed, Pathak informed adding, the two-wheeler of Shubham, his Adhar card, helmet, jacket of Ravi and another bike used in the crime were recovered from the possessions of the criminals. The arrested criminals were sent to jail, the DIG/SSP added.

Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar visited on-site to perform quality check at Mahaveer Yojana, Panki on Tuesday Pioneer

DC inspects progress, quality of PMAY houses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar, while inspecting the progress of the construction of housing units under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) at Mahaveer Yojana in Panki, expressed concern over the poor quality of plastering and the floor concrete mix quality.

He also expressed displeasure over the finishing of the construction work.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is one of the important flagship projects of the Government of India and the Uttar Pradesh government.

The divisional commissioner directed the Kanpur Development Authority vice chairman to get the plastering of three randomly selected houses checked at each location by the experts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and send the report to the commissionerate within 30 days.

He was informed that the Kanpur Development Authority had been given a target to construct 10,067 houses at five different sites under the PMAY and 5,040 houses were under construction at Mahaveer Nagar Extension, 4,560 at Bhagirathi, Janvi, Sakarpur and 576 at Ram Ganga Enclave.

He said as on date, out of the 5,040 housing units at Mahaveer Nagar Extension, 576 houses had been completed and were ready for being handed over to the allottees and the remaining houses would be completed by October 2021 and their possession would be handed over to the beneficiaries by November, 2021.

He said each house had one bed room, a small living area, a toilet, a bathroom and a kitchen and its total cost was around ₹ 5.20 lakh per house. He said out of the total cost of the house, the Centre's share was ₹ 1.50 lakh, UP government share was ₹ 1 lakh, beneficiary share was ₹ 2 lakh and the overhead cost was ₹ 70,000 which was to be borne by the Kanpur Development Authority.

Shekhar said this housing scheme also had roof top rain harvesting features and the construction complied with the Green Building norms as approved by the Government of India.

He said the third party quality check was being done by RITES (hired by KDA) and intermittently the Government of India was sending independent teams to check the quality.

He added that with the help of the government, the KDA was also bringing out a plan for easy loaning of the projects by banks and HDFC Bank was being roped in for giving loans to the beneficiaries.

He directed the KDA chief engineer to submit a monthly project plan for the next ten months so that all pending works were completed in time and physical possession was given to the allottees by November 2021 as scheduled.

He, however, added that the tiles, granite, modular kitchen, fittings, wiring and switches used were of good quality. The DC was accompanied by KDA VC and officials of several other departments.

Canara Bank GM reviews business

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A business review meeting of all the bank branches working under Canara Bank was held at its regional office on Monday.

General Manager of the regional office of the bank, Debanand Sahu, presided over the meeting. Rajnish Sonekar was also present in the meeting along with other bank officials including Premraj Bhhoi, Laxmi Narain Saral, VK Singh and several others.

Sonekar, while addressing the gathering, advised the staff to provide the best customer service so that the business targets would be achieved.

He then spoke on business targets like KASA deposit, loan, retail loan especially vehicle loan and house loans and how to achieve the targets.

Canara Bank Regional Office, General Manager, Debanand Sahu and Rajnish Sonekar, take part in business promotion meeting Pioneer

He also discussed social security plans like PMSBY, PMAY, Atal Pension targets and emphasised on the need to achieve the given targets.

He directed the branches to provide ATM debit cards to their customers to promote digital transactions.

NSI discusses alternative ZLD technologies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

National Sugar Institute Director Prof Narendra Mohan, while addressing a webinar on 'Alternative technologies for achieving zero level discharge' at the institute called upon the industry to work jointly with institutes to develop technologies which apart from ensuring zero liquid discharge may result in obtaining some value-added products.

He said the effluents, known as spent wash in molasses based distilleries, could be potential source for obtaining many value-added products like potash, magnesium sulphate and good quality water.

Prof Mohan said the NSI had to look beyond the existing technologies of bio-composting and incineration to achieve zero liquid discharge and the spent wash could be dry sprayed to get potash rich powder or may adopt other feasible technologies for recovering potash from spent wash.

The NSI director said India relied on imports to fulfil its entire consumption of potash, bringing in more than 4 million tonnes every year, and thus recovery of potash from distillery spent wash could go a long way in meeting the country's requirements and saving foreign exchange. He said this step could make the country self-dependent and self-reliant in the future.

Around 200 delegates from the sugar industry participated in the webinar.

Innovative technologies were also discussed which besides ensuring zero liquid discharge to meet the Central Pollution Control Board norms, may yield value-added products, thus converting waste to resource.

During the webinar, a presentation on a novel spray drying system using waste gases from boiler for heating purposes was given by Raj Process Equipment and Systems Pvt Ltd, Pune, to get potash rich powder which has multiple applications as fertiliser and fuel.

The second presentation was on 'Recovery of FCO grade potash, animal feed and pure water from spent wash to achieve ZLD'. It was given by CSMCRI & Chem Process P Ltd., Ahmedabad.

As the conventional technologies of bio-composting and incineration have limitations, the NSI has been looking for indigenous technologies which can increase the revenue base of the distilleries besides ensuring necessary environmental compliance with respect to ZLD. They also detailed a technology for converting ash from incineration boiler for recovering potash and utilising the residual ash for brick making. The vote of thanks was proposes by Anup Kumar Kanaujia.

SYMPOSIUM: Inspector General of Police Mohit Agarwal, while speaking in a symposium on women's safety and social responsibility organised at Kanpur Vidya Mandir Mahila Mahavidyalaya auditorium on Tuesday, said there was need to make girl students aware of their self-respect.

Expressing concern, he said the rising crime incidents against women also needed to be checked by initiating stern penal action against the guilty.

Speaking as chief guest at the event, Agarwal said women required to be promoted by inculcating the traditional and ethical values through education in them.

He stressed on enhancing the awareness of girl students.

Earlier, the organisers felicitated the guests, including IG Mohit Agarwal, Superintendent of Police (West) Anil Kumar and noted obstetrician Dr Kiran Pandey.

No sample has tested +ve for bird flu: CVO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Veterinary Officer Dr RP Mishra, on Tuesday, said that out of the total samples collected from all over the city and sent for testing, not even a single had tested positive for bird flu.

He said one sample was initially found positive but it turned out to be negative when sent to the Indian Veterinary Hospital and Research Institute for further test.

He said another sample of 30 fowls had been sent for testing and if the test was confirmatory then only the next lot of samples would be forwarded.

He said the next lot of samples of the birds would be sent after 15 days to Bareilly.

The chief veterinary officer expressed the hope that the chickens would not be affected by the bird flu virus as apprehended.

He said in winters birds often dropped dead from trees after exposure to cold. He, however, added that no risk was being taken and the tests were being carried out strictly all over the city.

He said the bird flu virus had the ability to survive for extended periods of time. He said the infected birds continued to release the virus in faeces and saliva for as long as 10 days and touching the contaminated surfaces could spread the infection.

He said the current drive was focused at poultry farmers, travellers visiting affected areas or those exposed to the infected birds.

He said the Health department had issued warning to non-vegetarians to ensure they did not eat undercooked poultry

Dr Mishra said different types of bird flu could cause different symptoms. He said in most cases, treatment with antiviral medication such as oseltamivir (Tamiflu) or zanamivir (Relenza) could help reduce the severity of the disease.

Study devotedly to achieve goals: Mahana to students

KANPUR (PNS): Uttar Pradesh's Industrial Development Minister Satish Mahana while inaugurating the newly installed lift at Kanpur Vidya Mandir on Tuesday, advised students to study devotedly to achieve their goals. He said academic goals were educational targets that students set for themselves to help them forward their overall educational progress. Mahana said the goals served as leading indicators of student success as they enabled the student to establish a roadmap of small and large benchmarks that would guide them on their path to intellectual growth and career pursuit.

He said academic goals helped in giving the students a clear picture of what they want to achieve in life and allowed them to determine what steps they need to take to reach there.

He added that setting the right academic goals was not always easy. He it was the duty of the troika — students, parents, and teachers — to use tools to improve the chances of achieving academic success. Mahana said students who set academic goals not only benefited from the products of the goals themselves but also from the habits they developed as they learnt and grew. "Students who begin to develop special traits in school and continue to allow them to flourish throughout their lives are more likely to experience positive life outcomes," he added. The minister said that students had the opportunity to improve the perception if needed. He said academic goals were important because they gave the student direction and purpose. He said students should think of their academic goals as roadmaps for success. He appealed to the students to identify their short and long term goals. Those present on the occasion included principal Mridula Shukla, DC Gupta, Anupama Kumari and ex-principal Mamta Khare besides several others.

Appeal to follow traffic rules

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Traffic Safety Month to be observed till February 17 was kicked off by MLA City Ratnakar Mishra on Monday. Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest the MLA Ratnakar Mishra made an appeal to people to follow traffic rules and avoid fine. He said violation of traffic rules was causing so many accidents and an innocent in several cases had to bear the brunt due to th fault of others. Addressing the programme, SP Ajay Kumar Singh, who was the guest of honour on the occasion, said that driving rashly or in a drunken state was dangerous not only for the driver but for others too. The function concluded with a traffic awareness rally which was taken out from Patel Chowk, Bharuhna, to Police Lines. Displaying placards and banners with slogans related to awareness regarding traffic rules the participants during the rally made the commuters aware that following the traffic rules was the need of the hour because most of the accidents took place due to their violation. The programme started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp jointly by the MLA and the SP. Among those who graced the programme were RTO OP Singh, ARTO Vivek Shukla, SHO Dehat Kotwali Vijay Kumar Chaurasia, traffic incharge Amarjeet Singh Chauhan and others.

Digital app developed for diary, calendar

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

In the current phase of digitization the Bureau of Outreach and Communication of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has developed the first fully digital app for diary and calendar-2021. There are many specialties in this digital diary and calendar. Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said the app version of this diary and calendar is available on https://www.goicalendar.gov.in. Besides, on Android mobile or IOS platform it can be accessed under the name 'GoI Calendar.' Currently it is available in Hindi, English and 11 other Indian languages. It has updated information on various schemes, events and publications of the Government of India. Apart from it also has a detailed description of official holidays and major dates. It also contains inspiring messages from important people of the country. This diary also has the facility to take digital notes which will be stored with security and privacy provisions. It also has the facility for setting up reminder for meetings, important functions and events. In the coming days, it will be presented in a new form for the use of visually-impaired Digyangjans which will be an important step towards fulfilling the Prime Minister's goal of Accessible India/Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan.

ONE CAUGHT: 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 Kathgodam, caught one person along with two illegal e-tickets. Action was under the Railway Act and a case was registered in this connection. Besides the RPF, Basti, caught one person from a shop in Khalilabad along with 63 other illegal e-tickets. Action was taken under Railway Act and a case was registered in this regard. On the other hand, the RPF Kasganj caught three persons with 63 illegal e-tickets from a shop in Dariyavganj. Action was taken under the Railway Act and a case was registered in this regard.

Road safety pledge administered

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

At NTPC's Rihand station the National Road Safety Month started on Monday in the administrative building complex with a road safety pledge. On the occasion Executive Director (Rihand) Balaji Iyengar, who was the chief guest, administered the pledge to the officers and employees of the station present there on main five points of Road Safety Pledge. Iyengar administered the pledge to those present to respect road safety rules and indicators and adhere to them, use of helmets and seat belts, always driving vehicles within the prescribed speed limit, not using mobile phones while driving and not to drive a vehicle in a drunken state. During the National Road Safety Month to be observed up to February 17 in various competitions to be organised under the aegis of the Department of Safety, project personnel, associate institutes, contractual workers and their families were requested to participate. Prominent among those present during the programme were General Manager (O&M) N Reddy, GM (Operation) AK Chattopadhyay, GM (Maintenance) S Krishna, GM (FM) M Ramesh, GM (TS) AK Papaneja, GM (MTP) KC Tripathi, Additional General Manager (Security) Kameshwar Prasad, AGM (Human Resources) SVD Ravi Kumar, as well as heads of departments and other officers and employees. The programme was conducted by Manager (Security) Mukesh Kumar.

DM's directive to officials

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

To run the micro, small and medium industries under the provisions of simplification the meeting of district-level committee was held at collectorate on Monday which was presided over by District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar. Addressing it the DM directed the officers concerned to provide all facilities to industries as per provisions without any discrimination. He said that as per the spirit of the government entrepreneurs should be promoted and provided a congenial atmosphere. For creating a favourable situation for the industries hurdles should be removed, he added. The DM was apprised by the deputy commissioner, industries, that there were two pending applications for establishing industries for which most of the approvals had been given within 72 hours as per the provisions but the NOC from some departments was under process. The meeting was attended by all the members and concluded with the direction of the DM to pave the way to set up the industry without inordinate delay.

DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar holding the meeting at the collectorate on Monday Pioneer

MEETING: At a meeting held recently in connection with a drive to be launched to contact each and every Hindu family for the construction of Ram Remple at Ayodhya, praant pracharak of Kashi province of RSS Ramesh said we were lucky that we were seeing its construction. He said it will be a real respect to those who had sacrificed their lives for it if we could go to each Hindu to associate them with the temple. About donation during the contact drive he said the amount of collection was not the objective but involving all Hindus in any way was the main aim. He said we should not bother about heavy donations because such donors were approaching the Trust on their own initiative and our target should be to contact more and more people for collecting token contributions.

CDO spells out priorities

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUN

Newly-joined CDO Abhay Kumar Srivastava spelt out his priorities at a press conference recently. He said that the district had more than 500 cow sheds at village level and monitoring them at the same time was a difficult task. Stressing that maintenance of cow sheds was his topmost priority, he said they had an organised structure of BDOs at the block level which monitors them. He said that he was trying implement many government projects properly and added that the needy should get the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Shauchalaya Nirman Yojana etc. He said welfare of the needy was among his top priorities. While taking about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan he said green dustbins (for dry garbage) and blue dustbins (or wet garbage) were already being used in all the four nagar palikas and six nagar panchayats in the district. He said he was a 1986 batch PDS (Provincial Development Services) officer and was earlier posted as CDO in Chandauli.

CDO Abhay Kumar Srivastava

Operating dept team lift trophy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The final match of the inter-departmental T20 cricket tournament of North East Railway (NER)'s Varanasi division under the joint aegis of the Manoranjan Institute and Divisional Sports Association was played at the Railway Stadium on Monday. Batting first, the Commercial department team scored 125 runs for six wickets in 20 overs, with Amit Raj contributing 25, Durgesh 21, Laxman 19 and Kapil 14. Govinda, Ram Pravesh and Gajanan took one wicket each. In reply, the team of the Operating department in 15.3 overs made 127 runs for two wickets and won the match by eight runs and the trophy. Anurag contributed 46 run and Ashish who remained unbeaten 41. For Commercial department Vishnu Meena and Ankur took one wicket each. For superb performance throughout the tournament Vijay Kumar of Engineering department was given the best batsman award, Vishnu Meena of Commercial department the best bowler and Ashish Singh of Operating department the Man of the Tournament award by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vijay Kumar Panjiyar. The match umpires were Kalam Ali and Pramod Rai. In his address, DRM VK Panjiar congratulated all the participating teams, winners and runners up teams for their outstanding performance and motivated them to continue to organise such events in future too. Divisional Sports Officer and Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Sameer Pal proposed the vote of thanks to all colleagues.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Gabba forever!

The 2020-21 Australian tour will remain etched in the memory of Indian cricket fans as long as they live

One month ago, editorials across newspapers were bemoaning the state of Indian cricket. An almost full-strength Indian cricket team was bowled out for 36 runs in Adelaide and, despite drawing the white-ball matches three-all, many feared the worst in the forthcoming Tests. After all, India's talismanic batsman and captain Virat Kohli was headed home to be with his wife for the birth of their first child. Injuries had begun to take their toll even before the first match and, given Australia's strict two-week quarantine rules, flying in replacements at a moment's notice was actually impossible. Foreign commentators, always quick to slam India, predicted a whitewash. Yet, somehow in an incredible show of resilience and extraordinary leadership and batsmanship by stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane, India won the second Test at Melbourne, the best possible gift they could have given Indian cricket fans heading into the start of the new year after what had been a truly woeful 2020 for almost everyone. In and of itself, that was a great story of redemption, coming back from Indian cricket's worst moment in contemporary history to win handsomely. Many compared that moment to the heroics of VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid at the Eden Gardens two decades ago. But that was a simple redemption story; this play needed a third act. An act that began with the first match of the new year in Sydney, where a brave Indian second-innings rearguard performance prevented the hosts from winning the Test.

But the play ended in Australia's fortress of the Gabba in Brisbane, a ground where the home team had not lost in over three decades. And India playing essentially their second XI, giving a part-timer Washington Sundar — who had not played a first-class match in three years — his first cap and boasting a bowling line-up with just five caps among them. On top of that, a young batting line-up was facing an experienced Australian pace battery and a spin bowler playing his hundredth Test. India's heroics at Melbourne and Sydney were commendable, but most Indian cricket fans thought that a draw at the Gabba would be a great result. The last Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series will remain etched in the minds and memory of the cricket aficionados as the ultimate decider that tested the resilience, composure and physical fitness of the players. The young and largely inexperienced Indian team battled it all in this Test series, within themselves and with the world outside: Issues with facilities, racial slurs, losing key players at crucial junctures, injury after injury, issues with bubble life for multiple months *et al*. However, the actions of one of India's former heroes, Rahul Dravid, in shaping this new Indian team under his tutelage as the coach of India's 'A' team must not be dismissed. There was a sense of resilience in this team that 'The Wall' himself would have been proud of. Not only did Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur play the most unexpectedly pleasant seventh-wicket partnership, keeping India in the game in the first innings, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, the senior man whose body faced blow after blow, and finally Rishabh Pant, the Delhi boy whose abilities have been openly questioned and in whose perseverance in the team many allegations of favouritism have been thrown at India's management, a young India found its new cricketing heroes. This is more than a redemption story, this is more than a coming-of-age story; this is an epic, a story for the ages. The Indian cricket team's grit and determination, particularly by a group of inexperienced young men is a story for the ages. When India won the 2011 World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium, they got an open-top bus ride through Mumbai and while COVID-19 protocols might mean that this team cannot get one, make no mistake, they truly deserve it.

Remove Chinese hamlet

The Govt, Opposition trade barbs over reports of a village having come up in a disputed area of Arunachal Pradesh

Even as India and China are locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over eight months, and both the countries have held several rounds of military and diplomatic dialogue in order to resolve the standoff but without making any significant headway, reports have emerged that China has built a village comprising 120 houses five km inside the disputed territory in Arunachal Pradesh. The provocative development, which ostensibly pertains to November last year, was detected by satellite images taken by Planet Labs. This is the same area where the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had detained five locals last year. The village is on the banks of the Tsari Chu river in the Upper Subansiri district and China has all along disputed India's ownership claim over the area. It is feared that China wants to maintain pressure on India by opening several fronts along the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control (LAC), stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. The development has understandably rung alarm bells in India's security establishment and the Opposition has also rolled up its sleeves to take on the Government. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi trained his guns on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of national security after the development was reported. "Remember his promise — '*Mai desh jhukne nahi dunga*'," Rahul wrote on Twitter. Randeep Surjewala, another Congress leader, also slammed the Prime Minister, asking: "…Where is the '56-inch chest'?" Returning the fire, BJP president JP Nadda said that the scion, his party and family had repeatedly lied on the issue of China: "When will Rahul Gandhi, his dynasty and the Congress stop lying on China? Can he deny that thousands of km, including the one in Arunachal Pradesh he is referring to, was gifted by none other than Nehru to the Chinese? Time and again, why does Congress surrender to China?" The BJP chief added: "Does Rahul Gandhi have any intention to cancel the Congress party's MoU with China and their Communist Party? Does he intend to return the Chinese largesse to trusts controlled by his family? Or will their policies and practices continue to be dictated by Chinese money and MoU?"

For its part, the Government has "taken note of the construction" along the border and ramped up its infrastructure development projects. The Indian security establishment maintains that the coming up of this village is in violation of several agreements between the countries. The pacts clearly say both countries to "safeguard due interests of their settled population in the border areas" and "strictly respect and observe the LAC". This piece of land was apparently under Chinese occupation since 1965 but, as disputed territory, no country should change the *status quo* as per international law. "If this is true, it is clear that the Chinese have altered the *status quo* by converting a disputed area into a permanent settlement of Chinese nationals. What does the Government have to say about these startling facts?" Congress leader P Chidambaram said. If the Government's claim that it is Indian territory is correct, it should unequivocally take up the matter with Beijing and get the settlement removed. Earlier on June 15-16, 2020, Indian and Chinese troops had clashed on the Galwan valley ridges at a height of nearly 14,000 ft; at least 76 Indian soldiers were reportedly injured in addition to the 20 dead. Indian intercepts also revealed that the Chinese side suffered 43 casualties.

Indefensibility of amorality

Though only three US Presidents have been tainted with the blot, Donald Trump is the only one who has faced two impeachments

BHOPINDER **SINGH**

Impeachment is essentially symbolic, but the sort of sticky symbolism with a moral dimension that stands the test of time. History books that transcend time and lives bear the impeached person's name with an unflattering asterisk of transgression. Only three Presidents of the United States (US), out of the 45 that preceded Joe Biden, were tainted with this blot, with Donald Trump going down in posterity as the unique one, with two impeachments! The Constitution of the US describes acts that are deemed "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours" to be impeachment-worthy. Beyond the legality of formal conviction in a classic justice sense, impeachment is tantamount to abuse of public and constitutional trust, with possible intersection of legal criminality, subsequently. But the man whom the usually reserved Dalai Lama suggested had a "lack of moral principle", i.e. Trump, remains brazen and unrepentant.

Others like Richard Nixon, who had faced a near-certain prospect of getting impeached, had resigned from office just before impeachment. The other two impeached US Presidents, Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton, had in hindsight considerably less deleterious and violative portents to democracy as compared to the ingloriousness of Trump's acts. Andrew Johnson, arguably a racist himself who had succeeded the colossus of democracy, Abraham Lincoln, was impeached for a technicality of violating the Tenure of Office Act when he removed a federal appointee without consulting the Senate. History reflects that impeachment as more of a partisan act that seized upon an unacceptable presidential action but perhaps not warranting the burden of impeachment. Similarly, Bill Clinton had perjured himself by lying to the investigators about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, as also encouraging the White House staff to toe the said line. The undeniable dereliction and misconduct was perhaps still short of breaching the high rails of "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours". The fine difference was illustrated by a rival Republican Senator, Susan Collins, who agreed that Clinton had conducted himself disgracefully, but perhaps short of a crime, when she still voted against the impeachment by stating: "In voting to acquit the President, I do so with grave misgivings for I do not mean in any way to exonerate this man." Bill Clinton was visibly, and admittedly, embarrassed and repentant.

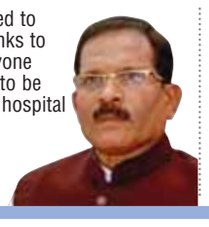
Trump was, on the other hand, first impeached for the abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. He had allegedly pushed Ukraine to snoop into the commercial affairs of his ultimate nemesis, Joe Biden, and therefore enlisted a foreign power in corrupting the democratic elections. Trump had also withheld military funds from the Ukrainians in order to coerce them to do so. But Trump's misdemeanours had continued with his denialist approach by further ordering the Executive Branch to not comply with the Congressional subpoenas for the trailing documents and testimonies. However, unlike the bipartisan expressions that surrounded the Clinton or Nixon build-up, Trump had managed to polarise and divide the nation into extremities that ensured that, barring one Republican Senator, all had acquiesced blindly to Trump. The second Trump impeachment was unprecedented in its seriousness of accusative import, "incitement for insurrection". The self-interest of Republicans, which was in play to defend Trump during the first impeachment on partisan lines, was equally visible in the second impeachment, with 10 Republican Senators disassociating themselves from supporting Trump, owing to worse consequences in repeating their partisan decision. The Joint Chief of Staff had issued an internal memo that sought to remind the uniformed fraternity of their sole fidelity to the Constitution and alluded to the potential disruption of the Biden inauguration as "against the law" — further suggesting the graveness of the unconstitutionality that Trump was accused of.

The weight of the 10 Republicans who bolted out of the Trump bandwagon is much more than its arithmetical significance, as it is about the assertion of bipartisan courage, democratic values and basic common sense. In many ways, this internal dissenting note has allowed the Republicans of absolve and permanently cleanse themselves of Trumpism, post-January 20, 2021. While the impeachment process was rushed through the last days of Trump's presidency, its necessity is contextualised to the public healing of the shame of "coup" and offering a restorative opportunity and agenda for bipartisan politics hereinafter. The singular Republican who had yielded to the dictates of his personal conscience in voting against Trump's first impeachment, Mitt Romney, noted evocatively in Trump's second "coming" that there must be "meaningful consequences" when a President incites an attack against the Congress and, more importantly, against all known tenets of democracy.

Opinions now abound that the new President, Biden, need not federally prosecute Trump and sustain the divisive and inflammatory 'Donald Trump show' to linger, irate passions and sustain dangerous rumours. Trump's descent into indefensible infamy and notoriety that had toyed with reckless ideas like attacking Iran before elections, imposing quasi-martial law or actually triggering social unrest by insisting upon his allegations of "fraudulent elections", "can't play in the hands of these people", "elections that were stolen" and suchlike, has already brought the US to the unthinkable brink of anarchy and civil war. The isolation of Trump among his own party leaders and ostensible loyalists has shifted gears from private murmurs behind closed doors to open calls for introspection within. The triggers for the much-needed course correction have not been the legality, but the loss of morality, surrounding Trump's indefensibility. In a shifting sign of times, Republican leader Mitch McConnell had freed Republican Senators from toeing any party line and, instead, urged them to "vote with their conscience"; the subliminal writing on the wall for Trump is unmistakable. Indeed, Trump will be expected to continue his slanderous rants, unsubstantiated falsehoods and desperation to retain the centre-stage but the loss of moral high ground for the Republican Party, going forward, will drop Trump from the only political anchorage that sustains his relevance. It is not the electoral triumphs, unchallenged dominance or legality in the court, but the diminishment of morality as captured in this symbolic impeachment that ended a destructive streak and individual.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

SOUNDBITE



I have finally managed to see the daylight, thanks to blessings from everyone and God. I am likely to be discharged from the hospital in four to five days.

MoS Defence
Shripad Naik

The EU has planned to start raising and allocating in the next few months the main part of the $906 billion recovery fund to bail out the bloc's economies hit by COVID.

EU commissioner (economy)
Paolo Gentiloni

The characters that are my favourite are not liked by people much. I am not saying that the audience is wrong. It's just that my likes and dislikes are different.

Actor
Nawazuddin Siddiqui

I am terribly sorry because it is not nice to say goodbye to the coach. It's my decision and I take responsibility for this decision.

Polish FA president
Zbigniew Boniek

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BJP's poll gimmick

Sir — The decision of the Central Government to observe the birthday of Neta*ji* Subhas Chandra Bose that falls on January 23 as "Parakram Diwas" from now on is a political stunt with an eye on the forthcoming West Bengal Assembly elections.

It is a move to appease voters in West Bengal. Neta*ji* is our real hero who fought for the freedom of the nation and floated the Azad Hind Fauj to fight for India's independence. The Governments latest move reeks of dirty politics as the BJP or the NDA Government did not have time to remember Neta*ji* during the last six years. But the people of Bengal are wise enough to not fall into such traps and vote judiciously on the basis of the work done and schemes floated by the Government.

We, as responsible citizens, must rise to the occasion and show the door to such politicians and parties. The BJP must stop fooling and misguiding people and should concentrate on real issues like unemployment, malnutrition, poverty, illiteracy, health and so on.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Pride justifiable, but don't go overboard

This refers to the editorial '*Diaspora power*' (January 19). It is heartening that President-elect Joe Biden has appointed as many as 20 Indian-Americans in the US Administration, with 17 of them at various positions in the White House — 13 out of 20 also happen to be women. Leading the charge is, of course, Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris. But from finance and management to health, law to Press relations, foreign policy to national security, those who trace their roots to India have found space.

This is indeed a reflection of how well the Indian-Americans have done in that country. It also reflects their talent and acumen and, more importantly, none of these appointments have raised any eyebrows. But even as India takes justifiable pride in the achievements of these individuals, it is important to remember that all those who are in the new administration are American citizens. Their first loyalty is to the US Constitution and American national interests as defined by the President who has appointed them. Yes, their presence will enhance understanding of India in the administration and is symbolic of close ties. But these individuals have their own varied social and political influences and worldviews. India would do well to cultivate them, as it would cultivate any US official at high levels, but respect their identity beyond their Indian roots. India must look forward to further strengthen ties with America and keep the relationship dynamic and in the best interests of both the nations. The world is keenly watching.

N Sadhasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Audience verdict is final

Sir — It refers to the editorial '*OTT Tandav*' (January 19). It seems that such controversies serve the interests of both the film makers and political parties as these give the much-needed publicity to a web series and also help the political parties in polarising society. The films, as well as serials, are called the mirror of society, reflecting exactly what's happening. The flip side is that moviemaking is a professional line where the *raison d'etre* happens to be the business alone.

The fact that every movie or serial has to undergo scrutiny as per the guidelines laid down by the Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry before release notwithstanding, one or the other controversy keeps raising its ugly head every now and then. It is really disappointing and shows that such controversies are politically motivated. We, as audiences, should use our wisdom to judge what is offensive and what is not.

Azhar A Khan
Rampur

Respect the Tricolour

Sir — It is very unfortunate that every year after the Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations, hundreds of flags are strewn on pavements and streets and people keep stomping on them. We must remember that the national flag is our pride and we must respect the symbol of democracy, freedom and brotherhood.

Similarly, we must respect our national anthem and national song. It is often seen that even when the national anthem is being played on radio or television, many people don't stand up to pay respect. They are busy talking on their mobile phones or chatting with their friends. The Independence Day and Republic Day represent the true spirit of independent India and mark the patriotic fervour of all Indians who celebrate these events with great enthusiasm. By disrespecting our national symbols like the Tricolour, we inadvertently disrespect our freedom fighters, our Constitution and our nation.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Unite for the sake of the nation

It is high time the Opp stood united and formed a strategy to keep the Govt on its toes in the Budget Session

KALYANI **SHANKAR**

The forthcoming Budget Session of Parliament is likely to be a boisterous one, with a lot of controversial issues expected to be raised by the Opposition. Although Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi has stated that the Narendra Modi Government is ready to face all the issues, the Opposition is sharpening its knives. This Parliament session is important as it is the first one of the year. Though it is being held amid the COVID-19 pandemic, all protocols will be in place to protect the members. The Parliament session will commence on January 29 and conclude by April 8, with a recess of 20 days between February 15 and March 8. President Ram Nath Kovind will address the customary joint session on January 29. This will be followed by the placing of the Economic Survey the next day and on February 1, the Union Budget will be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. It will be her third consecutive one. Budget making in the middle of a raging pandemic is a difficult process and breaking the age-old tradition the Finance Ministry will not print the Union Budget for 2021 and will go paperless. All eyes are on the Government as the Budget would shed light on how the Centre allocates the funds to different sectors. Almost all the pillars of the economy are affected and it is going to be a challenge to balance revenue and expenditure. Sitharaman has promised to build a "stronger economy" and stated that the Budget will be an unprecedented one, as never before in living memory has a Government faced a situation "where tax collections are struggling to keep up with the budgeted number" and "the demand for goods and services is sluggish."

The Opposition has enough ammunition to attack the Government with, including the COVID vaccination drive, the ongoing farmers' agitation, the struggling economy, China's aggressive postures, price rise, the job loss scenario, the continuation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) agitation, the plan to construct a new Parliament building, allegedly at a budget of ₹20,000 crore and so on. A senior Congress leader claims that though the political parties stayed away from the farmers' agitation but in Parliament, they will be vocal about their support to the growers. The Opposition plans to question the Government on employment generation, reverse migration, the border impasse with China and Indo-Pakistan relations, the Government's handling of the pandemic and the vaccination drive that was kicked off on January 16. Plus, weak States would seek more financial assistance to deal with the pandemic and the Health Ministry and other important sectors need more allocation of funds. The Finance Minister has said: "The Budget would take note of all the inputs received from the health sector to take this forward."

The Government is also getting ready with some key legislation like the Personal Data Protection Bill, pending Bills from last year, including the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill and the Dam Safety Bill.

However, the big question is whether the highly divided Opposition will be effective in cornering the Government in Parliament? There is no leader tall enough to unite them, although Congress chief Sonia Gandhi tries to hold a meeting before the Parliament session each year. However, the Congress is undergoing a crisis with a section of leaders questioning the Gandhi family. The party has bought time with the promise of an AICC session in early 2021. According to senior Congress leader Anand Sharma, there will be floor coordination. There are speculations that the non-BJP, non-Congress Opposition might unite under Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar.

Though the BJP is close to getting a majority in the Rajya Sabha, the strategy is to divide the Opposition to get even controversial legislations passed. That was how the NDA Government managed to get legislation like the triple *talaq*, the CAA, repeal of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, passed. The Opposition should change its strategy of walkouts, rushing to the Well of the House and so on and instead focus on participating in debates and raising issues so that the Government is forced to answer questions. The lawmakers should fulfil their duty of scrutinising the Budget and keep the Government on its toes. The way a responsible Opposition would function is to use the Question Hour, Calling Attention Motions and debate on the President's address to hold the Government accountable. On its part, the Government, too, should take the Opposition into confidence. Sadly for the nation, both believe in confrontation. With elections to five States on the horizon, all the parties will play to the gallery. It is a matter of concern that the country lacks a strong and vigilant Opposition because a vibrant democracy needs one. The Opposition parties should show a united face in Parliament. When the late Rajiv Gandhi won 403 seats in 1984, the Opposition with a dozen vocal leaders, highlighted the Bofors Scam successfully, which led to his ouster. So it is not the numbers that matter but the strategy to deal with the Government that is important. It is high time the Opposition stood united and formed a strategy to keep the Government on its toes.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

YOU MAY WIN MANY ELECTIONS BUT I VOW FROM THIS HOLY LAND OF NANDIGRAM THAT I WILL NEVER ALLOW THE BJP TO ENTER BENGAL.
—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE

I TAKE A VOW TODAY THAT IF I CANNOT DEFEAT HER (MAMATA) IN NANDIGRAM BY A MARGIN OF HALF A LAKH VOTES, I WILL QUIT POLITICS.
—BJP LEADER
SUVENDU ADHIKARI

A tricky situation

Islam does not allow conversions for the sake of marriage. One has to convert out of love for the religion and not for any other reason. But still forced conversions take place in India and Pak

BISWAJEET **BANERJEE** LUBNA **NAQVI**

Forced conversions are not new in the subcontinent. Reports regularly pour in from India as well as Pakistan about illegal conversions of women/girls through force, deceit or other methods which are in contravention of the law of the land. The issue was highlighted after the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government brought a legislation termed the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, that is meant to stop forceful conversion of women/girls from other religions to Islam, which the Right-wing sympathisers call the "Love Jihad Act." Around the same time in Pakistan, a report claimed that about 1,000 women/girls are converted to Islam every year in the country.

It is the minority community which faces the brunt of an interfaith marriage, when it goes wrong. In India, Muslims who are in a minority, account for 15 per cent of the population while minority Hindus make up 1.60 per cent of the total population of Pakistan. Likewise, the Christian population comprises of 1.59 per cent of the total population of the Islamic Republic. Both the countries are facing the problem of conversion of non-Muslim women/girls. Sometimes this change of faith is coerced and many a time it is by mutual consent. But in both the cases sparks fly, creating a law and order problem.

Human Rights activist and advocate in Pakistan's Supreme Court, M Shoaib Ashraf says: "There is no law to stop forced conversion in our country. But it is also true that Islam does not allow conversions for the sake of marriage. This is considered exploitation of the faith. One has to convert out of the love for the religion and not for any other reason."

However, the Indian Constitution upholds that the right to marry is a component of the right to life which comes under Article 21. It states: "No person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law."

Delivering a historic judgment in the Hadiya and Shefin Jahan case, Justice DY Chandrachud of the Supreme Court of India said: "The choice of a partner whether within or outside marriage lies within the exclusive domain of each individual. Intimacies of marriage lie within a core zone of privacy, which is inviolable. The absolute right of an individual to choose a life partner is not in the least affected by matters of faith. The Constitution guarantees to each individual the right to freely practise, profess and propagate religion. Choices of faith and belief as indeed choices in matters of marriage lie within an area where individual autonomy is supreme.

"They form the essence of personal liberty under the Constitution. Matters of belief and faith, including whether to believe, are at the core of constitutional liberty. The Constitution exists for believers as well as for agnostics…Matters of dress and of food, of ideas and ideologies, of love and partnership are within the central aspects of identity….Society has no role to play in determining our choice of partners."

The courts in both the countries are working effectively to protect the rights of citizens when it comes to forced conversions. Recently, while hearing a case pertaining to a 14-year-old girl who had converted, the Lahore High Court gave a judgment that religion is a matter of heart and conviction and the court cannot adjudicate on such matters.

> DESPITE THE JUDICIARY PROTECTING THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE AND PRIVACY OF A PERSON, THE ISSUE OF INTERFAITH MARRIAGE HAS BEEN USED BY POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS IN BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN TO FURTHER THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS. THIS SITUATION EMERGES AS A BLOT ON A CIVILISED SOCIETY AND SHOULD END AS IT OFTEN LEADS TO VIOLENCE AND RELIGIOUS CLASHES

While delivering the verdict the court said: "What one believes in his or her heart is not a judicial matter." These decisions hold good when an interfaith marriage carries the purity and virtue which the institution of marriage espouses. However, incidents of forced conversions are galore and sometimes they take a political hue.

On August 21, the Meerut police recovered the bodies of Priya and her daughter Kashish. They were allegedly killed by Shamshad. Priya, a divorcee, befriended Shamshad on a social networking site where he impersonated himself as Amit Gurjar — a Hindu. When Priya came to know about the truth she protested. In another case the Budaun police arrested Asif who posed as a Hindu man called Rajkumar and befriended Neha. A year later he allegedly killed her when she came to know of the truth.

But then, there are cases of true love where a person converts to another religion freely or wants to marry out of their own community/religion of their own free will. For instance, take the case of Muskan (Pinki) who married Rashid in Dehradun in July 2020. They duly informed the Superintendent of Police as required under the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018. But both Rashid and Muskan were arrested under the new law when they paid a visit to Moradabad in UP. Muskan was pregnant at that time and later she alleged that she lost her baby because of police atrocity.

In the last two months, as many as 86 people have been named in 16 First Information Reports (FIRs) since the notification of the new Ordinance in the State. Out of these, 79 are Muslims, who have been slapped with charges of enticing a woman/girl and forcing her to convert to Islam. In one case 26 people, including five women, were booked in Etah for allegedly converting a 21-year-old woman by force. In Mau, 16 people have been named in an FIR whereas in Sitapur, 14 were booked in another such incident.

However, in Pakistan there is no law to stop forced conversions. "In the absence of legislation explicitly banning and criminalising forced conversion from minority religions to Islam, the affected families (mainly Hindus, Sikhs and Christians) have to use other laws, including those against kidnapping, forced marriage, child marriage and rape of minors to penalise the offender," says Tahira Abdullah, a social activist.

Ashraf says that in the absence of a law in Pakistan, if the victim claims she has converted on her own, there is little that can be done to prove her wrong. "We cannot determine what is behind the consent. If a girl from a poor family converts to marry a man from a rich background, there is no way to know whether she has converted out of love or if she has been lured. But this should also in a way be considered an unlawful thing as some form of coercion has always been used," he says.

Jibran Nasir, advocate and lead campaigner at Never Forget Pakistan and trustee Elaj Trust, says: "Young girls are kidnapped and converted and video messages are circulated in which the girl says that she is happy after being converted. We argue in court that girls do not necessarily scream or shout, for us to known that it is a forced conversion. Forced conversion is a crime whether one who is coerced openly admits it or not."

The coerced conversion, especially of young Hindu and Christian girls in Sindh and Punjab province in Pakistan, continues unabated in absence of explicit laws criminalising it. According to data provided by the Centre for Social Justice, Pakistan between 2013 and 2020 the highest number of cases of alleged forced conversions were in Punjab (52 per cent) followed by Sindh (44 per cent). "A clause on forced conversion, inserted into a draft law by Hindu legislators, was actually removed before enactment in Sindh province and it has repeatedly failed enactment in the national Parliament, despite clear directives from the Supreme Court of Pakistan)," says Abdullah.

Ashraf seconds her claims saying that the term forced conversion is very vague in Pakistan. "It denotes some form of force being used — whether verbal, physical or psychological like threats to family. When the same person is brought to court and they say they have converted of their own will, there is not much the court can do about it," he says.

In Pakistan on the insistence of the family, the court can send the person to some safe place so as to give them some time and space to review their decision. The courts have no criteria to determine if force was used except if the person tells the judges that there was no coercion. Experts opine that the courts can only give decisions based on legal provisions and not beyond.

Despite the judiciary protecting the institution of marriage and privacy of a person, the issue of interfaith marriage has been used by political parties and organisations in both India and Pakistan to further their personal interests. This situation emerges as a blot on a civilised society and should end as it often leads to violence and religious clashes.

(Banerjee is Executive Director, (News), The Pioneer, Lucknow, India while Lubna is Freelance Journalist and Human Right activist, based in Karachi. The views expressed are personal).

Reopen schools for younger children soon

By cutting off or limiting access to education, the pandemic has worsened existing inequalities and hampered the economic growth of poor families

SURESH **KUMAR**

Nearly 10 months after the nationwide lockdown began, India is now in the process of reopening its schools, albeit, in a phased manner, with all COVID protocols in place. However, most States that have decided to reopen schools are only allowing grade 10 and 12 students to attend classes. The younger children are still confined to their homes and online classes will continue till it is deemed fit to open all schools fully, from nursery to grade 12.

It is a sad fact that many children from vulnerable communities in India depend on schools for one square meal a day. The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme was the reason many went to school. The closure of schools hit underprivileged children the most, because not only were they hungry, they did not have a smartphone, laptop or internet connection to continue their education online, unlike their privileged counterparts.

According to a study by Oxfam India, as many as 80 per cent of Indian students were unable to access online schooling during the lockdown and many might not even return to classrooms when they eventually reopen for everyone.

Many of these children were the first in their family to attend school and get an education. Their parents and grandparents never got a chance to do so because of various socio-economic reasons. By cutting off or limiting access to education, the pandemic has effectively worsened existing inequalities and hampered the economic growth of low-income families. In a country where over half the population is below the age of 25, lack of access to education is a deterrent which will prevent children from becoming contributing and productive members of society.

Government data suggest that despite having 600 million internet users, only 20 per cent know how to leverage the same. If one glances through the latest National Family Health Survey (NHFS), over 60 per cent women in 12 States and Union Territories have never used the internet, which begs the question: How will their children study online? The absence of digital literacy programmes in the country is a glaring gap, which came to the forefront once the schools shut down and education went online. According to a Telecom Regulatory Authority of India survey, Bihar — a State where child trafficking for sex and cheap labour is rampant — has the lowest number of internet subscribers in the country with just 32 people in every 100 having access to it.

Yes, the lockdown was announced to curb the spread of a highly contagious virus. But even as India began to "unlock" in phases, schools continued to remain shut. Earlier, daily wage earners, who were working in the informal sector, with no social security went to work knowing that their children were safe at school. Now, because of the pandemic, their children accompany them to work sites. They are picking up the trade. They are struggling like their parents and their chance to build a different life is being snatched away from them. In addition to this, their parents no longer have steady jobs. Hence, they are struggling to make ends meet, are no longer being paid and are having to resort to borrowing funds from moneylenders, friends and other family members.

Several organisations which are working against child labour have reported that moneylenders are charging alarmingly high interest rates. They also report that several people are having to borrow money for their daily needs such as food and water. A lot of these people are extremely poor and are suffering from some form of debt bondage. They are mostly Dalits, who have spent the majority of their lives in servitude and salvery.

They often borrow money but are unable to pay the same back and, therefore, have to "work off" the debts. Often this means that their child is also put to work. Take the example of 12-year-old Rahul from Gaya, Bihar, who has been completely deprived of any learning opportunity in his village since the pandemic began. As a result of the same, he has fallen into the trap of child trafficking. Before the pandemic began, his father, under duress, gave consent to a trafficker, because of which Rahul was employed in a bangle factory in Jaipur. He was lucky enough to have been rescued (in Jaipur) before being taken to the factory. He and 29 other minors from the same district were rescued from a luxury bus that was engaged in transporting children all the way from Gaya to Jaipur. All the 30-odd students were enrolled in different schools and were regular with their classes before the lockdown was imposed. Now they remain unoccupied, bored and vulnerable to predatory traffickers.

The United Nations' policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on the world's education system points to the fact that the closure of schools and other learning spaces has impacted up to 99 per cent of students in low and middle-income countries. It warns that the effects on child labour and trafficking could be enormous. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), 152 million minors worldwide are involved in child labour, of which 73 million are involved in slavery, bonded labour, dangerous work and sexual exploitation. It is feared that in poorer countries, many children will completely lose their connection to education and will not return to school at all, as they have to contribute to their family income. They have started believing that their family can no longer afford to educate them and most of the time this is true. India has the highest number of child labourers. According to the Census 2011, there are 10.13 million child workers. The ILO's 2016 data indicates that there are 23.8 million child labourers in India. Schools and programmes for children, such as protection centres or youth clubs, are also currently failing in their function as early warning systems. The pandemic has effectively hidden from sight occurrences of domestic violence in families as well as attempts by local child traffickers or moneylenders to recruit children as workers. The focus must now be to ensure the safety of students and teachers. All stakeholders must put in place protocols for reopening of schools even for the younger children. There has to be an extensive assessment on the learning loss and a well thought out plan to bridge the gap and schemes to retain students. The Government will also have to arrange for funds required to equip both schools and students in rural India to continue their learning journey.

(The writer is Executive Director, Center DIRECT, Human Liberty Network. The views expressed are personal.)

CENTRE'S CALL AHEAD OF BENGAL POLLS

Bose's birth anniversary declared 'Parakram Diwas'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Bengal polls, the Centre on Tuesday announced to celebrate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birthday on January 23 as 'Parakram Diwas' (Valour Day) every year with Prime Minister Narendra Modi all set to attend the first day of programme in Kolkata on Bose's 125th birth anniversary. He will also inaugurate an exhibition on the grounds of the National Library to mark the occasion in the state.

However, the decision was slammed by the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress which termed it as poll gimmicks while evoking a mixed response from Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew CK Bose, who is also a BJP leader.

TMC leader Saugata Roy said that the declaration to celebrate the day as 'Parakram Diwas' has been made with an eye on upcoming West Bengal Assembly polls. He said that there shouldn't be politics in Netaji's name.

Roy added that if the Prime Minister wanted to do it, he could have done it six months ago. "Why on the eve of Netaji's birthday and just before the Assembly Elections in the Atate?"

He added that TMC is not happy with the Government's decision. "We are not satisfied with the Government's decision to celebrate Netaji's birthday as 'Parakram Diwas'. It should be 'Deshprem Diwas'. We believe Netaji deserves much better. We will observe this day on our own with Mamata Banerjee leading a procession in the State," said Roy.

Earlier, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting the Modi Government to declare the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as a national holiday.

Naren Chatterjee, state secretary of the Forward Bloc, the party formed by Netaji in 1939, said, "Instead of 'Parakram Diwas', the day should be celebrated as 'Desh Prem Diwas'. The demand to observe January 23 as 'Patriotism Day' was made by the Left Front when it was in power".

CK Bose, a BJP leader and Netaji's grandnephew said that "Netaji was India's liberator. We welcome the announcement but people have been celebrating January 23rd as 'Deshprem Diwas'. It would've been more appropriate, had the government announced it as Deshprem Diwas. But we're happy about the announcement."

Earlier in the day, Union minister Prahlad Singh Patel had at a press conference announced the Government's decision and said that in this regard a notification has also been issued.

"The Government has decided to observe January 23 as 'Parakram Diwas' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose," Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the first 'Parakram Diwas' programme in Kolkata on January 23 on Bose's 125th birth anniversary and inaugurate an exhibition on the grounds of National Library to mark the occasion, Patel said.

Patel said PM Modi will also felicitate prominent members of the Indian National Army formed by Bose and their family members in Kolkata on Saturday.

He said 200 Patua artistes from West Bengal will make a painting on a 400-metre-long canvas depicting Bose's life.

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will participate in a programme in Cuttack, Odisha, where Bose was born while another programme will be held in Haripura village in Gujarat's Surat district where Bose was elected as president of the Indian National Congress in 1938.

The culture ministry is also considering building a memorial in the honour of around 26,000 martyred members of the INA, Patel said adding that a 85-member high-level committee helmed by PM Modi has been formed to plan year-round programmes to mark the 125th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter.

Rahul raps PM on national security

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of national security after reports that China has built a village in Arunachal Pradesh. He also alleged that India doesn't have a clear strategy like China to assert its dominance in the world and unless India sends out a clear message, Beijing won't stay quiet.

"Remember his (PM) promise — Mai desh jhukne nahi dunga (Will not let the country bow)," Rahul said. Congress leaders P Chidambaram, Randeep Surjewala and Manish Tewari also attacked the Prime Minister on the matter.

Recalling the two recent incidents in Doklam and Ladakh where Indian and Chinese soldiers clashed, he said China will make the most out of India's shortcomings and the day will come soon when we will suffer damages.

During a Press conference Rahul launched a blistering attack at the Modi government over the reported discovery of Chinese settlements in Arunachal Pradesh.

"China has a clear strategic vision of shaping the world which India doesn't have. India does this and that but doesn't work strategically. China has tested twice. Once in Doklam and other in Ladakh."

"If India doesn't give a clear message to them and make clear military, economic geopolitical strategy, China won't stay quiet but will make the most out of it. The day it will happen, we will suffer damages," added the Congress leader.

Rahul Gandhi had repeatedly attacked the ruling BJP Government in the Centre on issues of China's intrusion in Indian Territory, its stands on the farm laws, and the Centre's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Earlier in the day, the Gandhi scion also tweeted a news report alleging China has established a village in Indian territory, with the caption "Remember his promise-'I will not let the country bow'".

"Modiji where is that 56-inch chest," Surjewala tweeted. Chidambaram had demanded answers from the government on the issue, alleging that BJP MP Tapir Gao has claimed that China has built a 100-house village in the "disputed area" deep into Arunachal Pradesh. He said if the allegation made out by the BJP MP is true, will the government again give a clean chit to China or will blame the previous Governments for it.

Cong gave away land to China, ignored farmers' interest: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attacked the Modi-Government on the Chinese border incursions and the unresolved farmers agitation, BJP top leaders on Tuesday hit-back saying Congress gave away thousands km land to China and that "dynasty-ruled party" ignored farmers interests and indulged in "double-speak".

Political temperatures increased as BJP's own MP from Arunachal Pradesh Tapir Gao said that Chinese had constructed a village on the Indian side in Arunachal Pradesh.

BJP President J P Nadda and Union Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar took turns separately to attack Rahul and the Congress after the latter took jibe at the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the reports of Chinese construction of village in Arunachal Pradesh and questioned him on the issues of national security.

"Now that Mr Rahul Gandhi has returned from his monthly vacation, I would like to ask him some questions. I hope he will answer them in his today's Press Conference," tweeted the BJP President.

"When will Rahul Gandhi, his dynasty and Congress stop lying on China? Can he deny that thousands of kms, including the one in Arunachal Pradesh he is referring to was gifted by none other than Pandit Nehru to the Chinese? Time and again, why does Congress surrender to China?" Nadda tweeted.

He accused Rahul of "provoking and misleading" farmers and alleged double standards.

"Why did farmers remain poor for decades under Congress governments? Does he feel sympathy for farmers only in opposition?" he asked.

"Why is he spreading lies ?", Nadda sought to ask.

Nadda accused Congress and the 'dynasty' striking an MOU with the Chinese Communist Party and receiving money in a fund controlled by the Gandhi family.

He accused Congress party of demoralising the country on all issues be it related to border, national security or fighting Coronavirus pandemic.

"Rahul Gandhi spared no opportunity to demotivate the nation in the spirited fight against COVID-19. Today when India has one of the lowest cases and our scientists have come up with a vaccine, why hasn't he congratulated the scientists and lauded 130 crore Indians even once?", BJP head asked.

End of subsidy in Parl canteens

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agreeing to the long term demand, Parliament has decided to end the subsidy in the canteens which may save annually around ₹8 crore.

Briefing the media on Tuesday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that Lok Sabha Secretariat which was bearing the cost of subsidy has decided to stop the practice of subsidised price of food items in the canteens and the canteens will be run by ITDC in place of Northern Railway.

Talking to reporters about preparations for the next Parliament session, beginning January 29, Birla said Question Hour and Zero Hours will be in this session. Members of Parliament will be requested to undergo the COVID-19 test before the start of the Budget session.

While Rajya Sabha will sit from 9 am to 2 pm, Lok Sabha will function in the second half from 4-8 pm. The Question Hour will be allowed during the session for an already fixed time of one hour.

He said all arrangements have also been made for RTPCR COVID-19 tests of MPs near their residence. In Parliament premises, the RTPCR tests will be conducted on January 27-28, while arrangements have also been made for these tests of families and staff members of MPs. Birla said the vaccination drive policy finalised by the Centre and states will apply to parliamentarians as well.

Rahul brings booklet to highlight loopholes in agriculture laws

Accuses Modi of monopolising farm sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of monopolising the agriculture sector as he renewed his attack against the Centre over the contentious farm laws. He also released a booklet to highlight the pitfalls of the legislation enacted in September last year.

"There is a tragedy unfolding today in the country, Govt wants to ignore the issue and misinform the country," Rahul said while addressing a press conference after the release. "I am not going to speak about farmers alone as it is only part of the tragedy. It is important for youngsters. This is not about present but about your future," he added.

"Today, every industry is under a monopoly of three to five people.Be it airport, telecom or power. Modi Government wants to give the agriculture sector as well to those four to five industrialists," he added.

The Congress leader also said that the new farm reforms are designed to destroy India's agriculture sector. "The biggest business in this country is agriculture. Sixty per cent of our people are engaged in agriculture and in terms of value, agriculture is by far the biggest hit. Now we are seeing is that the last bastion which was protected from monopoly is now being overrun. Three new laws have been passed. They are designed to destroy agriculture by destroying the mandi, Essential Commodities Act, and by making sure that no Indian farmer can go to court to protect himself," he added.

"We were a preeminent economy, now we are a laughing stock," Rahul Gandhi also said.

Farmers are agitating against the farm laws for over 50 days now and the government has held nine round of talks so far. However, it has failed to bring any resolution to the matter. The farmers are adamant on the demand to repeal the laws which the government has refused and is firm on their offer to amend the legislation.

In the last meeting, the Centre had suggested that the unions constitute their own informal group to prepare a concrete proposal on the three farm laws for further discussion at their next meeting.

SC seeks to know steps taken for cleaning Yamuna water

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a report from a committee, set up by the NGT, on its recommendations for improving the water quality of the Yamuna river and the extent to which the authorities have implemented them.

The National Green Tribunal, on July 26, 2018, had constituted the monitoring committee comprising its former expert member B S Sajwan and former Delhi chief secretary Shailaja Chandra on the cleaning of the Yamuna and had directed it to submit an action plan in this regard.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde took note of the submission of amicus curiae and senior advocate Meenakshi Arora that the NGT-appointed panel has been monitoring the cleaning of Yamuna water.

In the proceedings conducted through video conferencing, the bench, also comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and Vineet Saran, asked the committee to submit its report on recommendations made by it for improving the quality of water of Yamuna and the extent to which they have been implemented.

Earlier, the top court had taken suo motu cognizance of contamination of rivers by effluent in the country and had decided to take up the pollution of Yamuna river first.

While taking cognisance of contamination of rivers, the top court had said that the pollution-free water is a fundamental right which a welfare state is "bound to ensure".

It had asked Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to submit a report identifying municipalities along the Yamuna which have not installed total treatment plants for sewage.

NFR bribery case: CBI seizes ₹2.04 cr more

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has recovered an additional ₹2.04 crore during further searches conducted in the bribery case related to senior officers of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR).

It was found during further searches at the premises of a private firm located at Kailash Colony here that certain items were removed and concealed at other places in Delhi. Earlier, ₹2.39 crore in cash was recovered during searches.

On Tuesday, searches were also conducted in Sikkim and Kanpur. During earlier searches at 26 locations, including at Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Tripura and West Bengal, a total amount of ₹2.39 crore was recovered. This includes an alleged bribe of Rs 1 crore, which exchanged hands and is stated to be one of the biggest bribe money trapped, the CBI had said.

Besides this, there were recoveries of jewellery and documents related to property from the locations of accused. So far, ₹4.43 crore have been recovered.

The CBI has registered a case against a Chief Administrative Officer of NFR, Mahendra Singh Chauhan and others under relevant sections of IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act.

India to provide Covid jabs to friendly countries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following request from several countries for its two vaccines—Covishield and Covaxin, India is all set to provide the jabs under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles, to begin with from Wednesday.

It will also send shipments to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius as well on receipt of necessary regulatory clearances.

However, India said that it will be ensured that domestic manufacturers will have adequate stocks to meet domestic requirements while supplying abroad.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is deeply honoured to be a "long-trusted" partner in meeting the healthcare needs of the global community and that supplies of the vaccines to several countries will commence on Wednesday, and more will follow in the days ahead.

India is one of the world's biggest drugmakers, and an increasing number of countries have already approached it for procuring the coronavirus vaccines.

The Ministry of External Affairs said India will supply Covid-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner keeping in view the domestic requirements.

In a statement, the MEA said India has received several requests for the supply of Indian-manufactured vaccines from neighbouring and key partner countries.

"In response to these requests, and in keeping with India's stated commitment to use India's vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all of humanity fight the Covid pandemic, supplies under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles will begin from January 20," it said.

"In respect of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius, we are awaiting their confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances," it added.

"India fulfils commitment to give vaccines to humanity. Supplies to our neighbours will start on 20th January. The Pharmacy of the World will deliver to overcome the COVID challenge," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Twitter.

Meanwhile, Union Health Ministry officials said that the total number of persons found positive with UK strain of Covid-19 is 141 while daily new Covid cases have touched a new low with 10,064 cases adding up to the national tally in the last 24 hours after seven months. India's total active caseload has dropped to 2 lakh (2,00,528), said the official.

Centre rushes team to Lakshadweep to contain Covid virus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Union Territory of Lakshadweep reporting its first ever case of Covid-19 on Tuesday, the Union Health Ministry has rushed a team of medical experts to contain the situation there. The index case is a traveler who had come to Lakshadweep from Kochi in Kerala on 4th January 2021 by a ship. "The traveler had reported to hospital with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and was tested positive. Initially 31 primary contacts of the patient have been traced and quarantined of which 14 have now been found to be positive and have been isolated.

"56 contacts of positive cases detected so far have also been traced and quarantined. The UT Administration has initiated disinfection procedures and intensive risk-communication activity has been operationalised," said the Ministry.

NGT directs Telangana PCB to recover ₹1.55 cr from pharma firms for causing pollution

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Telangana Pollution Control Board (PCB) to recover Rs 1.55 crore penalty from pharmaceutical companies for causing pollution in the state.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel asked the state PCB to recover the assessed compensation and take coercive measures for default in payment, including closure till compliance is made.

The NGT passed the order after a committee recommended to impose environmental compensation for one year for all pharma formulation industries and six months to Shri Kartikeya Pharma which is engaged in Ayurvedic Ashwagandha extraction, as the pollution load is less.

"In view of the fact that the industrial area in question is a polluted area and the industries in question are 'red category' industries, strict vigilance is required to be maintained for upholding the environmental norms," the bench said.

The green panel asked Telangana state pollution control board to enforce the principle of 'Polluter Pays' in respect of the units which have been found to be violating the environmental norms.

The tribunal's direction came on a plea filed by advocate Sravan Kumar alleging pollution caused by the pharmaceutical companies at TSIIC SEZ in Jadcherla of Mahabubnagar district.

According to the plea these pharma companies are not complying with the pollution laws.

The plea claimed that the companies are not properly maintaining the Effluent Treatment Systems and sought setting aside of approvals granted to them for violating causing severe pollution.

Climate change may change rainfall patterns in southern India, intensify floods: Study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Future climate change will cause an uneven shifting of the tropical rain belt — a narrow band of heavy precipitation near the Earth's equator — leading to increased flooding in parts of India, a new study warns.

The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, examined computer simulations from 27 state-of-the-art climate models, and measured the tropical rain belt's response to a future scenario in which greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise through the end of the current century.

According to the research, a northward shift of the tropical rain belt over the eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean could result in "intensified flooding in southern India," and may impact global biodiversity and food security by 2100.

The scientists, including those from the University of California (UC) Irvine in the US, said this "sweeping shift" of the rain belt was disguised in previous studies that provided a global average

of the influence of climate change.

However, they said climate change caused the atmosphere to heat up by different amounts over Asia.

'Members of SC-appointed panel on farm laws neutral'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the Supreme Court-appointed panel on farm laws will not let their personal views on these Acts come in the way of their deliberations with various stakeholders, key committee member Anil Ghanwat said on Tuesday, while asserting that they are not on the side of any party or the Government.

After their first meeting here, Ghanwat said the first round of consultations with farmers and other stakeholders has been scheduled for Thursday.

The Supreme Court had set up the four-member panel on January 11, but one of them, Bhupinder Singh Mann, recused himself later after questions were raised by the agitating farmer unions about the views expressed by all members in the past in support of the contentious laws, against which thousands are protesting on Delhi borders for almost two months now.

Separately, nine rounds of talks have taken place between the government and agitating unions without any concrete resolution. Ghanwat, who is the president of the Shetkari Sanghatana, said the panel will hold its first round of talks with farmers and other stakeholders on January 21.

"The biggest challenge for panel is to convince agitating farmers to come and speak with us. We will try our best," he said.

Ghanwat further said the committee will seek views of farmers and all other stakeholders on the new farm laws, besides the central and state governments.

"Panel members will keep their personal views on farm laws aside while preparing report to be submitted to the Supreme Court," he said.

Biden Admin will engage the world 'as it is', not 'as it was': Blinken

Washington: Underlining America's "growing rivalry" with China and Russia, US Secretary of State-designate Antony Blinken on Tuesday said the Biden administration will engage the world "as it is" and not "as it was", indicating that the diplomacy of the next president would be driven by ground realities.

Blinken, a close confidant of President-elect Joe Biden, in his prepared testimony to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations ahead of his confirmation hearing also did not rule out a military intervention overseas if the lives of Americans were at stake.

"Working across government and with partners around the world, we will revitalise American diplomacy to take on the most pressing challenges of our time. We'll show up again, day-in, day-out whenever and wherever the safety and well-being of Americans is at stake," said Blinken, a foreign policy expert.

"We'll engage the world not as it was, but as it is. A world of rising nationalism, receding democracy, growing rivalry with China, Russia, and other authoritarian states, mounting threats to a stable and open international system, and a technological revolution that is reshaping every aspect of our lives, especially in cyberspace," said 58-year-old Blinken, who if confirmed by the Senate, will succeed Mike Pompeo as the next Secretary of State.

Blinken is expected to be confirmed by the Senate soon after Biden is sworn in as the president on January 20.

On Tuesday, a day before the inauguration, Senate committees are also holding confirmation hearings of Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin, Homeland Security Secretary Alenjandro N Mayorkas and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines. In his prepared testimony, Blinken said, "For all that has changed, some things remain constant. American leadership still matters."

"The reality is that the world doesn't organise itself. When we're not engaged, when we don't lead, then one of two things happen: either some other country tries to take our place, but probably not in a way that advances our interests or values. Or no one does, and then you get chaos. Either way, that does not serve the American people," he said. ***PTI***

Biden nominee says intel won't be politicised

Washington: President-elect Joe Biden's pick for national intelligence director is planning to tell Senate lawmakers that intelligence and national security issues will not be politicised under her watch. Avril Haines faces a confirmation hearing on Tuesday before the Senate intelligence committee.

Haines will also tell lawmakers that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence must not shy away from "speaking truth to power" even if inconvenient or difficult. That's according to excerpts of her prepared remarks released ahead of the hearing.

Haines served in the Obama administration as deputy director of the CIA and deputy national security adviser.

If confirmed, Haines would be tasked with restoring stability to an intelligence community that has been repeatedly denigrated by President Donald Trump. She would also be the first woman to hold the position. ***AP***

It's not going to be easy, says Kamala Harris on challenges facing America

Washington: Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has acknowledged the challenges that lie ahead for Joe Biden when he will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States on Wednesday, saying "it is not going to be easy."

Biden enters the White House on January 20 with the top challenge to lift the country from the devastation of a raging pandemic that has killed more than 398,000 Americans and thrown millions into economic distress.

"We're going into Wednesday knowing that we're ready to do the work, and we've got a lot of work to do. It's not going to be easy," Harris told reporters at Martha's Table in Anacostia here on Monday, observing the National Day of Service.

Every year on the third Monday in January, Americans honour the slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., who in the 1950s and 1960s organised non-violent protests for Black equality and voting rights.

The holiday traditionally features people commemorating King's work by participating in community service projects. However, both the pandemic and warnings of violence in cities across the country following the January 6 insurrection by pro-Trump supporters in the US Capitol affected the events this year.

"As we have discussed, Joe has outlined our plan for vaccinations, our plan for recovery, and in particular relief for working people, for families. And there is a lot to do.

"Some of them say that ours are ambitious goals, but we do believe with hard work and with the cooperation and collaboration of the members of the United States Congress that we can get it done," Harris said in response to a question. ***PTI***

Violent attempt at US Capitol to 'overturn' election shocking, incendiary: Independent UN experts

United Nations: Describing the attack on the Capitol as a shocking and incendiary attempt to "overturn" results of a free and fair election, a group of independent UN rights experts has expressed hope that the US democracy will emerge stronger from this crisis with renewed commitment to peaceful pluralism and rule of law.

Twenty-three Special Rapporteurs and members of Working Groups have recently signed a statement in which they strongly condemned the US Capitol attack and the incitement to violence and hatred online and offline, calling for accountability.

They said the "violent attempt to overturn the results of a free and fair election at the US Capitol on January 6 was a shocking and incendiary event".

The group affirmed and expressed their "solidarity with the American people who stand for democracy, equality and the rule of law at this critical moment". ***PTI***

Inaugural event to celebrate resiliency of Black Americans

Detroit (US): The resiliency, culture and heroism of Black Americans and the African diaspora will be the central theme of a virtual event that will celebrate the nation's diversity on the eve of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris is slated to speak at Tuesday's event, "We Are One," which will also honour the historic nature of her being the first Black and South Asian woman to become US vice president.

Black voters nationwide helped deliver Biden's presidency, overwhelmingly supporting him from the start of his White House bid. Black-led organising work across the nation galvanised voters of colour and contributed to historic turnout in key battleground states.

Tony Allen, CEO of the inaugural committee, said the programming will "honour acts of resilience, heroism, and commitment to unity" from Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities "as the coalitions that make up our nation come together to celebrate a new chapter in our history." ***AP***

Biden picks transgender woman as assistant health secy

Washington: President-elect Joe Biden has tapped Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine to be his assistant secretary of health, leaving her poised to become the first openly transgender federal official to be confirmed by the US Senate.

A pediatrician and former Pennsylvania physician general, Levine was appointed to her current post by Democratic Gov Tom Wolf in 2017, making her one of the few transgender people serving in elected or appointed positions nationwide.

She won past confirmation by the Republican-majority Pennsylvania Senate and has emerged as the public face of the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic. ***AP***

Not the right time to lift restrictions on int'l travel: Incoming WH Press Secretary

Washington: The incoming Biden Administration on Monday opposed the move of the outgoing President Donald Trump to lift travel restrictions on Europe and Brazil arguing that this is not the right time to do so in the midst of worsening of the coronavirus pandemic.

"With the pandemic worsening, and more contagious variants emerging around the world, this is not the time to be lifting restrictions on international travel," incoming White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in a tweet soon after Trump issued an executive order to lift travel restrictions on European and Brazil.

In an executive order, Trump said he is removing the restrictions applicable to the European Union, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Brazil, while leaving in place the restrictions applicable to China and Iran.

A decision in this regard, he said, is being taken after the January 12 directive of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requiring proof of a negative COVID-19 test or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 for all air passengers arriving from a foreign country to the United States.

However, the incoming Biden Administration indicated that it will enforce a strong travel restriction.

"On the advice of our medical team, the Administration does not intend to lift these restrictions on 1/26. In fact, we plan to strengthen public health measures around international travel in order to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19," Psaki said in another tweet. ***PTI***

Panel: China, WHO should have acted quicker to stop pandemic

Geneva: A panel of experts commissioned by the World Health Organisation has criticised China and other countries for not moving to stem the initial outbreak of the coronavirus earlier and questioned whether the UN health agency should have labelled it a pandemic sooner.

In a report issued on Monday, the panel led by former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said there were "lost opportunities to apply basic public health measures at the earliest opportunity" and that Chinese authorities could have applied their efforts "more forcefully" in January shortly after the coronavirus began sickening clusters of people.

"The reality is that only a minority of countries took full advantage of the information available to them to respond to the evidence of an emerging pandemic," the panel said.

The experts also wondered why WHO did not declare a global public health emergency sooner. ***AP***

Earthquake injures three in Argentina; tremor also felt in Chile

Buenos Aires (Argentina): A 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck in northwestern Argentina near the border with central Chile, injuring at least three people, authorities said on Tuesday.

Two children and an adult were hospitalised in San Juan province in Argentina after the quake hit just before midnight Monday, provincial Gov. Sergio Uñac said. The shaking caused the collapse of a house, damage to roads and some other buildings in several cities, as well power and water cuts, he said.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the epicenter was 27.6 kilometers (17 miles) southwest of the Argentine town of Porcito and struck at a depth of 14 kilometers (nearly nine miles).

The quake was followed by a magnitude 5.0 aftershock about 15 minutes later and then at least five more strong aftershocks in the next hour ranging from magnitude 5.3 to 4.8, the USGS said. Strong shaking was felt in Chile's capital, Santiago. Chilean officials said there were no immediate reports of damage. ***AP***

Libya's rivals meet in Egyptian resort over constitution

Cairo: Libyan officials from rival administrations on Tuesday began talks in an Egyptian Red Sea resort about constitutional arrangements for presidential and parliamentary elections later this year, the United Nations said.

According to the U.N. Acting envoy for Libya, Stephanie Williams, failure to find an arrangement will have "negative repercussions on the other tracks, including the security and economic situation."

She urged the gathering via videocall to wrap up their discussions within a two-month deadline agreed to in November in Tunisia. That agreement also called for presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on December 24, 2021.

Oil-rich Libya sunk into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that overthrew and later killed dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

The North African country is today divided into two rival administrations, each backed by an array of militias and foreign powers. ***AP***

Kremlin brushes off Western calls to release Navalny

Moscow: The Kremlin on Tuesday brushed off calls from US and European officials to release opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was arrested after returned to Russia from Germany following treatment for nerve agent poisoning, calling the situation with Navalny "an absolutely internal matter."

Statements have come from around the globe condemning the arrest and calling for the immediate release of Navalny, who blames his poisoning on President Vladimir Putin's government.

They add to the existing tensions between Russia and the West, with some EU countries suggesting the imposition of additional sanctions against Moscow.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday that "we can't and are not going to take these statements into account."

"We are talking about a fact of non-compliance with the Russian law by a citizen of Russia. This is an absolutely internal matter and we will not allow anyone to interfere in it and do not intend to listen to such statements," Peskov told reporters. ***AP***

12 slain, dumped on road in rural dispute in southern Mexico

Mexico City: Authorities in Gulf coast state of Veracruz said on Monday that 12 men were killed and their bodies dumped on a roadside in what may have been a dispute between cattle ranchers. The killings occurred in the rural town of La Choapas, near the border with the neighbouring state of Tabasco.

Veracruz Gov Cuitláhuac Garcia wrote in a statement that "initial investigations suggest a division between ranchers and helpers from La Choapas and Uxpanapa."

He added that "abuses and threats between them led to this unfortunate outcome." The region is south of the crime-ridden city of Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz. ***AP***

Hindu temple given protection in Pakistan

Peshawar: Policemen were deployed on Tuesday to protect a Hindu temple in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, days after a leader of the minority community demanded protection for the place of worship fearing an attack by some mischievous elements who wanted to occupy its land.

The move comes after officials of the District Evacuee Property Trust Committee and District Revenue in a meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Abbotabad, on Tuesday held that Havelian temple in Abbottabad district is a historic religious structure and needs protection. On the recommendations of the officials in the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Mughees Sanaullah directed deployment of police personnel at the temple site for its protection.

On Sunday, Hindu community leader Haroon Sarab Dayal said the temple in Havelian city is an old structure and now the land mafia is out to destroy this heritage.

"A handful of mischievous elements wanted to occupy the temple land in Havelian city to spread anarchy in the country," he said. The officials also held that the lease owner of the temple could neither demolish nor make any alterations in it or use the structure for any commercial purpose.

The officials informed the meeting that as per District Revenue Record, the temple existed at the land which was leased out to one Sardar Ramzan in 2013. Before that, the building was also used by other people for different purposes.

In December, a temple in Terri village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district was attacked by a mob after members of the Hindu community received permission from local authorities to renovate its decades-old building. ***PTI***

FROM PAGE 1

SII, BIOTECH RELEASE JAB DOS & DON'TS

The vaccine maker also said that the vaccine recipient should also tell the healthcare provider about all the medical conditions before getting the Covishield vaccine including, "if you have ever had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) after any drug, food, any vaccine or any ingredients of Covishield vaccine".

The recipients should also mention to the healthcare provider, if they have fever, if they have a bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner and also if they are immuno-compromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system, it added.

Also, when you get your dose, please discuss with your healthcare provider regarding the option of your vaccination record on a digital platform, if available. The second dose is essential which should be administered between 4 to 6 weeks after the first dose.

ADVERSE EVENTS HERE LOWEST IN WORLD

"Data show that we are in a comfortable situation and we would like to reassure you that the two Covid-19 vaccines are safe. Of total vaccinated, 0.18 per cent were adverse events following immunisation, while 0.002 per cent had to be hospitalised which is fairly low," said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan at a press conference here.

"These are fairly low, in fact lowest so far as we know in the world in the first three days," Bhushan assured in the backdrop of a section of health workers from across the country questioning the efficacy of the vaccines.

Latest updated data shows that overall, India has vaccinated 6.31 lakh healthcare workers since the commencement of the drive on January 16. No case of severe or serious AEFI reported in any State today," the Ministry said in a statement.

He said that in a span of 24 hours, 2,23,669 people were vaccinated for Covid-19 across 3,930 sessions taking the cumulative total of people vaccinated to 4,54,049 (across 7,860 sessions conducted so far) in the country, he said.

"The important point here is that if we look at the first week figures then the US conducted vaccinations of 5,56,208 people so that number will already cross by day 3. In the UK, in the first seven days 1,37,897 were vaccinated, 516 people were vaccinated in France in the first week and in Russia 52,000 people were vaccinated in the first week. So these are the comparative figures for you and we have just started so we will pick up speed," he said.

About whether a person is liable for compensation in case of an adverse event, Bhushan said, "The vaccine (Covaxin) which has been given emergency use authorisation under clinical trial mode is accompanied by three documents. One is the factsheet which is read out and explained to beneficiaries, second is a consent form... And the third is an adverse event reporting form where the recipient has to report the adverse event for the first seven days.

"There, it is clearly mentioned that if there is a causal relationship between immunisation and the adverse event whether it is severe or serious the hospitalisation costs would be borne by the authorities. That is the position as it exists now," he said.

Bhushan said nine States, including Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, are among the better performing States and Union Territories with over 70 per cent coverage.

WITHDRAW UNFAIR POLICY, MINISTRY ORDERS ...

It has also been asked to detail data sharing with other apps and if it captures information about other apps running on the mobile phones of the user.

The Parliamentary standing committee on IT has summoned Facebook and Twitter officials 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 to the committee.

IAF TEAM TO GO IN FOR S-400 TRAINING

He said, "Currently Russia and India are deeply involved in joint development and production of military equipment, components and spare parts as well as technologies sharing, improving after-sales service system. We have developed an advanced legal base for this purpose."

India and Russia had firmed up the deal for five S-400 Triumf regiments despite objections from the US and the threat of sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Incidentally, the US has imposed sanctions against Turkey for striking deal for S-400s with Russia.

In a farewell address early this month, outgoing US Ambassador Kenneth Juster declined to comment on whether the US would proceed with CAATSA sanctions against India over the S-400 purchase, but said India should consider the impact of such purchases that constrain "technology transfers" and other defence cooperation between India and the US.

On the ongoing defence cooperation, Kudashev said along with the S-400, the two sides successfully moving towards implementation of AK-203 rifle contract, 200 Ka-226T utility helicopters supplies among others.

He also said the two countries are looking forward to an early implementation of the spare parts joint production agreement besides strengthening maritime cooperation, including in the Indian Ocean."

As regards the S-400 deal, he said it was within the framework of "just and equal relations based on the international law and the UN Charter.

The Russian envoy last month had said Russia's ongoing deals with India for military hardware, including S-400 air defence systems, were "advancing well" despite the threat of potential US sanctions.

Clarifying India's stand on the deal, the External Affairs Ministry earlier this month had said it was part of India's independent foreign policy that guides defence acquisitions in line with national security interests.

"India and the US have a comprehensive global strategic partnership. India has a special and privileged strategic partnership with Russia," Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

India has always pursued an independent foreign policy. This also applies to our defence acquisitions and supplies which are guided by our national security interests," he added.

BIDEN TO TAKE UP REINS TODAY ...

Biden, 78, will take the oath on his 127-year-old family Bible, which will be held by his wife, Jill Biden.

Biden, who will be the oldest President in American history, will deliver his first presidential address to the country after taking oath shortly after noon. The historic speech, with the theme of unity and healing, is being prepared by his Indian-American speech writer Vinay Reddy.

Harris, 56, will make history as the first female, first Black and first South Asian American Vice President when she will be sworn in by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina member of the Supreme Court. Sotomayor administered the oath to Biden as vice president in 2013.

She will be sworn in on two Bibles — one that belonged to a close family friend named Regina Shelton and another that belonged to Thurgood Marshall, the country's first African American Supreme Court justice.

The scaled down inauguration is expected to begin around 11 am. With an invocation by Leo Jeremiah O'Donovan, a Jesuit priest who is a close friend of the Biden family. Andrea Hall, the first African American female firefighter to become captain of the Fire Rescue Department in South Fulton, Georgia, will recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Singer-dancer Lady Gaga will sing the national anthem and Amanda Gorman, who became the country's first Youth Poet Laureate in 2017, will read a poem she has written for the occasion called "The Hill We Climb." She would be followed by a performance by actress-singer Jennifer Lopez.

Silvester Beaman, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Wilmington, Delaware, will deliver a benediction. After the swearing-in ceremony, Biden and Harris will attend a traditional Pass in Review with members of the military on the East Front of the Capitol, signifying the peaceful transfer of power to a new commander-in-chief.

Biden, Harris and their spouses will visit Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, where they will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

After the wreath ceremony, they will head to the White House, where they will get a presidential escort. That will kick off the virtual "Parade Across America," featuring performances from all 56 states and territories.

EPS shuts door on Sasikala's return, calls on Modi, Shah

Tamil Nadu CM says no chance of her returning to ADMK, invites PM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami, who is also the co-coordinator of the AIADMK, said in New Delhi on Tuesday that there was no possibility of VK Sasikala, the jailed aide to late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, returning to the party.

The TN Chief Minister met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday. During his meeting with the Prime Minister, Palaniswami extended the former an invitation to visit the State for inaugurating a slew of projects there.

Ruling out Sasikala's inclusion in the AIADMK-led front, Palaniswami said, "There is no chance… She is not with the party now. I can say that ... 100 per cent…there is no chance of Sasikala returning to AIADMK." The fact that he shut the door of Sasikala after his meeting with Modi and Shah is significant.

Sasikala is serving a four-year-jail term in Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Jail in connection with the disproportionate asset case in which she was an accused along with late Jayalalithaa, and two others. All the accused were sentenced to four-year rigorous imprisonment by a special court in Bengaluru which was upheld by the Supreme Court.

Sasikala's prison term is coming to an end on January 26 and she would be released on January 27, said her lawyer S Pandian. Sasikala was elected General Secretary of the AIADMK by its general council on December 29, 2016. Edappadi and O Panneerselvam convened a General Council meeting of the AIADMK in August 2017 and abolished the post of general secretary.

Palaniswamy said on Tuesday that Sasikala entered the party only after the demise of Jayalalithaa, but he was silent about the December 29, 2016 general council meeting held at Chennai (which was attended by him also) that unanimously elected Sasikala as General Secretary.

Hints of a patch-up between the AIADMK and Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhakam floated by TTV Dhinakaran (Sasikala's nephew) are in the air. Former AIADMK Minister Gokula Indira had staged a demonstration against Udhayanidhi Stalin, the heir apparent in the DMK, for his derogatory speech against Palaniswamy and Sasikala. A number of current MLAs owe their position to the Chinnamma (as Sasikala is addressed even by Palaniswamy).

It is necessary to learn a few psychological interview tricks before one attempts to land their dream job, says VIKRAM WADHAWAN

Whether you realise it or not, psychology impacts every aspect of your life. It doesn't matter if you have ever taken a psychology course or if you have preexisting supreme knowledge and information about this topic. What's necessary is that you learn to use a few psychological interview tricks before you attempt to land your dream job. After all, you only get one chance to make a good first impression.

Make sure time is on your side

If the hiring manager offers you some flexibility in choosing an interview time, be sure you choose it wisely. Psychological reasons, says, it's wisest to look for an interview slot between 10 and 10:30 am on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. As your interviewer will be in a better head space to pay attention to your answers. Also, he/she will be more likely to be in a decent mood, which will make it convenient to build a rapport.

Avoid excessive smiling

There's no need to scowl at your interviewer — but you'll also want to avoid keeping a giant grin across your face And it's not that you're mean, it's purely psychological. A person that smiles too often is believed to be less serious and also too much smiling can look fake. Moreover, studies have also discovered that excessive smiling is not a good way to impress your interviewer and for certain professions, smiling too much can undermine your success in a job interview.

Address your interviewer by name

"Remember that a person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language," wrote Dale Carnegie in his book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

The recruiter will instantly warm up to you once you will address them by their name. Subsequently, the interviewer probably has more interest in what you are saying. Moreover, Carnegie suggests using interviewer's name a few times in an interview where appropriate, especially when you're saying goodbye can make a lasting impression.

Mirror your recruiter's body language

Let's face it; your interviewer is going to base a major part of their decision on whether or not they like your personality. Therefore, it's suggested to mimic the recruiter's mannerisms as by reflecting their behaviour, the similarities establish a bond. This approach puts the interviewer at ease, promoting trust and likeability.

For example, note the interviewer's communication style (whether formal or casual), and try to adapt the same. If they lean forward, likewise adjust your posture. Furthermore, echoing their voice tone and pitch is another great psychological trick that you can employ in your next job interview

Confidence is the key

Act confident, even if you don't feel confident. This is because recruiters don't only take your professionalism and experience into account, but also your confidence level. When you come off as authentic, passionate, confident, comfortable, and enthusiastic, recruiters are more likely to hire you and it increases your chances of getting selected.

Colour check is necessary

Did you know that colors portray certain traits? Base your color choice on the image you wish to project as the color of your clothes has a big impact on how other people see you. For example, if you're wearing a blue or a brown suit, it means that you're a serious candidate and grey signifies you're logical, focused, and analytical. However, keep the point in consideration to not wear a lot of orange because it's sometimes viewed as unprofessional.

Don't forget to make eye contact

Don't be bashful — when you first meet your interviewer or your interviewer comes to greet you, look them in the eye. Moreover, it's also wise to make eye contact off and on throughout the entire interview.

In a study conducted at Northeastern University, researchers asked participants to watch videos of strangers talking to each other for the first time and then rate how knowledgeable each person seemed. Results showed that the people who consistently made eye contact while speaking were considered more intelligent than those who didn't make eye contact.

Demonstrate reflective listening

Reflective listening means to repeat back your interviewer's statement or question in your own words, while you are answering. Studies have shown that reflective listening can increase your chances of getting hired, as it does not make you look and sound interested and intelligent, but it also shows you have good listening skills.

Don't interrupt

Interrupting someone elicits negative feelings. Never interrupt your recruiter, even when you think that your thoughts align with him/her and it shows that you're on the same page. Interruption can seem to be rude and also depicts a lack of listening skills.

It would be witty to consider the above-mentioned checks before landing for an interview. No interview is good or bad, successful or failed, but an experience in itself to understand the value of communication.

The writer is Founder & CEO, Vasitum

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The philosophic aim of education must be to get each one out of his isolated class and into the one humanity. Prudence and responsibility are not middle-class virtues but human virtues.

— Paul Goodman

EXPERTSAY

The Indian IT and IT-enabled Services (IT & ITeS) sector has witnessed a complete turnaround and an unprecedented boost in the wake of COVID-19. Furthermore, the year 2021 promises to be a huge year for the sector fuelled by the growing need and adoption of digital technologies across the board. Given, the current business scenario, we expect a strong push towards policies promoting IT innovation by pushing business-critical and bold policy interventions to propel digital adoption across multiple industries. 'Digital-first' and 'Data-centric', should be the key focus areas for the Government in our view as we push for Digital innovation as an important building block for India's future growth.

— Deepak Mittal, CEO & Co-founder, To The New

The previous year proved to be a gamechanger for the education industry by drastically replacing traditional classrooms with online teaching methods. This along with the introduction of National Education Policy 2020 made a strong foundation for the following year. We expect the 2021 Union Budget to be open to creating an Edtech ecosystem with greater access to the internet and robust data protection. By allowing innovation in the sector and improving the basic digital infrastructure of the country, the Government can ensure that our education system is immune to any pandemic in the future. Our education system needs a perfect combination of digitisation and traditional classroom learning; the budget must elevate startups in the EdTech sector which reciprocate the same beliefs.

— Dr Sunita Gandhi, Founder — Global Classroom Pvt ltd & Global Education Training institute

The biggest challenge the healthcare sector/industry is facing currently is the shortage of skilled medical workforce. Our country needs more MBBS, MS and MD medical post-graduates and well-equipped hospitals and colleges. The Government should allot funds for medical education in rural areas. The health facilities should be improved in rural areas with qualified doctors and better equipment. The special allowances should also be provided to the doctors and their paramedical staff. The health scheme for children should be launched by the Government that should especially focus on the paramedical courses. New courses should be started in the existing Government colleges. There needs to be a system where we can focus on skilling and upgrading medical workforce skills in the needed geographies. In order to achieve this, major reforms are needed.

— Gaurav Tyagi, Founder — Career Xpert

As the country recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic, it is hoped that the budget 2021-22 kick-starts the economy while boosting expenditure on education and healthcare infrastructure. In this regard, the Government could plan to forego fiscal restraints and increase capital expenditure in these particular sectors. There should be transparency and accountability in every rupee spent on education and ensure equitable distribution of funds. It is expected that the budget should look at boosting private investments and give a fillip to avenues of employment generation. The focus should be on upgrading the basic infrastructure and digitalisation of educational institutions, measures to encourage student retention, and comprehensive teacher training programmes to remain updated with global learning standards.

— Rustom Kerawalla, Chairman, Ampersand Group

Follow the 3Ls

The career mantra of learn, leverage and lead will help professionals in all sectors to stand out of the clutter, says VINAY SOLANKI

The year 2020 will be remembered for many events from economic slowdown to President Trump's defeat and from stock market crash to rumour of Kim Jong (North Korea leader) being dead. But one that leaves the mark in minds and impacted everyone is COVID-19, which has changed the way we work, live, communicate or think. Many technology professionals and enthusiasts lost their jobs during this pandemic and technology start-ups shut shop due to limited cash flows. 2020 college graduates faced difficulty to kick start their career and those graduating in 2021 are confused or stressed.

Not everything is gloomy though as COVID had few positive impacts such as corporates adopting work from home, professionals learning new skills and most important driving digital transformation adoption by 3x times for most of the businesses, governments and consumers across the globe.

A career mantra we recommend and which is applicable for any professional any time and more so for 2021 is 3L — Learn, Leverage and Lead to build "T-shape" profile.

Learn: 2020 taught us that we need to learn to adapt lifelong and not get in our comfort zones. Technology professionals should continue to re-skill or up skill themselves in the latest technologies and trends. Cloud architects and developers can learn new cloud platforms, mobile app developers can ensure to know a few competing languages or frameworks (ex: React, Android, Angular or Flutter) and so on. While I advise to build a deep expertise in one or two areas, at times it is good to have few breadths in other relevant technologies or functional domains. Someone with T-shape skill profile can always move to adjacent domains or expertise if their existing area becomes irrelevant or too competitive. Example would be embedded software programmer while having strength in C, Python or NodeJS should also build some understanding of hardware architecture, PCB designing, design optimisation and probably soft skills to build stronger EQ (Emotional Quotient).

Leverage: Technology professionals at times ignore power of building wider and stronger network but in situationsahead of us it becomes important to not only have technology skills but people skills and relationship building attitude. Finding the right job or career path can be easier if you learn how to leverage your network. If you know how to give back to your network you will always find someone referring you for an excellent job or position. One can build network within their organisation, online on LinkedIn, participating in communities, attending focus groups or simply following people. Mentor who can guide you closely can also play a critical role in your career decisions.

Lead: Technology professionals with experience of 8+ years usually find it boring or stagnating if they continue to work in the same area or domain for long. Some opt for management programs in order to move up the career chain and others shift domain or skills.

I strongly advise that in addition to building technology skills to focus on functional and soft skills. Take initiatives at your work place by teaching, building focus groups or simply ideating on the project at hand and show you can drive a project, a team or open to take more responsibilities. Future is unpredictable hence it is critical you build leadership skills to differentiate in a hyper competitive environment.

The economic growth moves in cycles so there will be uptime and again downward trends hence it's key to use the time you have in 2021 to follow my 3L strategy and strive to have a "T-shape" career or skill profile.

The writer is Head — Digital Solutions at Napino

KISS of fortune

The KISS is the world's largest residential tribal university, home to thirty thousand indigenous students who are provided nutrition, holistic formal & vocational education from KG to PG absolutely free of cost. It was established in 1992-93 by renowned educationist & social activist Prof Dr Achyuta Samanta. Further it is the embodiment of empowerment of the marginalised, underprivileged group of students who have become change agents for their communities by providing emancipation from acute poverty through education.

Swapna, is a small girl following the trail of light & life from the distant horizon of darkness. She is nature's child, yet teary eyed facing the vicissitudes of life. Her beloved parents who have shown her the light of the day are no longer in this world leaving her alone to live a life without an identity. Yes, she is Swapna Kujur, the daughter of Sunil and Sia Kujur from the remote Bansikar village of Sundergarh district, belonging to the Oraon tribal community. She had lost both of her parents in early childhood & grew up without parental love & affection.

After the death of her parents, all the three siblings along with Swapna came to the streets with the old grandmother accompanying them. Of course the old & helpless lady could hardly support her granddaughters. Even two squares of meals were out of reach and they suffered from pangs of hunger & acute poverty. She had to go to the forest to gather fire wood to arrange for food. The struggles increased day by day. Swapna became a road construction worker to survive, when she had not understood even the meaning of life. The siblings did not have a roof on their heads. Even the children had no clothes to cover their naked bodies. Such is the condition of dire poverty. Mother nature could no longer tolerate their plight. A good Samaritan of the village gave them shelter in his house, when they were clutching to the last straw for their survival. Memories of late parents surged in & they cried.

But amongst all these troubles, Swapna nurtured a beautiful dream in her heart. She wanted to study. But it was a day dream for her as the village had no roads or schools nearby. At this juncture, her fate took a turn for the better and a determined Swapna could reach KISS, accompanied by a villager who was trying to get her own daughter admitted to KISS. Before this, Swapna had only heard about the institute. Her long cherished dream had begun to take shape & she was admitted to class - I in 2010.

Her ecstasy knew no bounds as she entered the hallowed portals of KISS, the temple of learning for many disadvantaged children like her. She enjoyed first full meal & was lost in a peaceful sleep at KISS on a mattress in the hostel building.

Days have passed by. Swapna is now in Class VIII &. She could find her long lost parents amidst the teachers of KISS. Happy productive days are here for Swapna. Gone are the days, when she did not find a single piece of cloth to cover her body & took refuge under the open sky in the jungles. KISS has given a new lease of life to her & she is enjoying every moment of her new found experience. Yet she is unhappy with the continuing poverty stricken life of her siblings.

She feels the comfort of nature's lap in KISS. She is aware, had it not been for KISS, she would not have been anywhere. She is indebted to the father like figure of Prof Samanta, who has protected so many marginalised, poor children like her from the jaws of acute poverty & hunger. It is Prof Samanta who has understood the meaning of hunger in its true sense & has been providing free education, food, shelter & clothing to thousands of poor & little children like her.

Because of KISS, Swapna is growing in the path of progress. She is getting opportunity to develop her culture and craft. Now she is the change agent for her community & is in the path of realising her long cherished dreams.

Results out for CS programme

The result of Company Secretaries Foundation Programme examination held in 149 centres across the nation including one overseas centre at Dubai on December 26 and December 27, 2020 has been declared on January 18, 2021 at 11:00 am at New Delhi and released to all the Regional and Chapter Offices of the Institute throughout the country for information of all concerned.

In addition to making available the result along with subject wise break-up of marks on the institute's website — *www.icsi.edu* the ICSI has extended the facility of downloading of e-Result-cum-Marks Statement by the candidates. In December, 2020 session, 70.22 per cent of candidates passed the Foundation Programme examination.

Balaji B G from Bengaluru Centre secured All India first rank; Priya Jain from Jabalpur centre and Aparna Mukesh Agrawal from Bhayander centre jointly secured All India second rank; and Nikita Jain from Bhubaneswar centre and Chiraag Agarwal from Kolkata (North) centre jointly secured All India third rank in the examination.

The next examination will be held on June 5 and 6, 2021.

National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries

The two day National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries culminated in Udaipur on 16 January, 2021 with invaluably intriguing technical sessions.

The first session of the day on Enhancing Quality & Governance encompassed a discussion on an assemblage of Secretarial Standards, Secretarial Audit, Auditing Standards, UDIN, ECSIN, Peer Review, Code of Conduct and Ethics.

The second session on Embracing Winning Strategies dealt in details with the Art of Advocacy, Opinion writing, Mega Firms, Networking and Multi-Disciplinary Partnerships giving an insight of the dynamism and challenges of the practice side.

Sharing his experience as a Practising Company Secretary and as the President of the Institute, CS Ashish Garg, President, The ICSI, said, "While the Institute has taken the responsibility of promoting a culture of good governance in all spheres in the country; on the other, it is the members i.e. the Company Secretaries and the Governance Professionals who are entrusted with the responsibility of dispensing off their duties with greater enthusiasm and transparency."

New appointments

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India has elected CS Nagendra D Rao, as President and CS Devendra V Deshpande, as Vice-President of for the year 2021 w.e.f. January 19, 2021.

A fellow member of The ICSI, CS Nagendra D Rao is a Designated Partner and Founder of CS Nagendra D Rao and Associates, LLP, a firm of Practising Company Secretaries in Bengaluru. He was elected to the Central Council of the ICSI for the term 2019-2022 and served as Vice-President of The ICSI for the year 2020 before being elected as President for 2021.

A fellow member of the ICSI, CS Devendra V Deshpande was elected to the Central Council of the ICSI for the term 2019 — 2022. He is a Nominee Director at ICSI IIP.

COVID-19 pandemic affected all of us especially those who embarked on the journey of entrepreneurship. DR MALINI SABA lists traits that will make one equipped to take life challenges head-on

Be a pioneer in your field

Entrepreneurship means willing to take risks, organise and live your dream in an ever evolving and competitive global market. Entrepreneurs are those who desire to innovate, produce, lead and pioneer in their own field, but 2020 was the year that imparted some valuable lessons to everyone all across the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic hurled innumerable challenges for entrepreneurs especially for those who just embarked on the journey of entrepreneurship. But as the worst is behind us, we know the success mantra of all entrepreneurs in this pandemic was the up-gradation of skills. And entrepreneurship is all about upgrading your skills over time. In 2021, to wade through the tough terrain of life we all should inculcate entrepreneurial skills in students. So here are specific traits of entrepreneurs that will make one equipped to take life challenges head-on.

Traffic Communication Skills

One of the most prominent skills for being entrepreneurs is terrific communication skills. That plays a catalytic role not only in the success of entrepreneurs but also all paves the way for the success of each one of us in almost every walk of life. Pandemic is a golden time for students to learn various skills that helps them to shape their future. A good communicator will emerge victorious in almost all walks of life.

Upgrading Skills

Learning is a never ending process for students which helps them to upgrade themselves for creating their better version in their desired field. One success sutra uncovered by this pandemic is that how quickly acclimatise yourself in consonance with any situation determined your success. During the pandemic when a formidable existential crisis was posed by the pandemic the success of entrepreneurs and ventures was determined on the premise of how quickly they pivoted to new businesses.

Thus entrepreneurs reoriented their business model and strategies. Thus willingness to upgrade and acclimatise to any situation befallen on you determines your success. Thus this trait should be inculcated by us in 2021. These entrepreneurial skills will let students stride on path of success.

Entrepreneurship is the profession associated with taking risks. The risk-taking ability will not create rags to riches story only for the entrepreneurs but can be a gamechanger in our personal lives

Crisis Management Skills

It's not easy to tackle any crisis but your role to manage the situation is define your skills or mind-set towards it. For students the most important skill set that leads to the sparkling success of any entrepreneur is his acumen for crisis management. Standing firm in the face of crisis, wading through the crisis and emerging victorious are few traits associated with entrepreneurs. But this skill holds immense value in our lives when we should be ready to grapple with any untoward incident and emerge victoriously. So, it would be apt to say we all should strive to inculcate this entrepreneurial trait in 2021 when 2020 shows us that we have to hold strong in the face of crisis and any extenuating circumstances.

Optimal Use of resources

Resources are mostly limited in nature whether its natural or man-made, so students need to always keep in mind to use resources potentiality. Another important entrepreneurial skill that leads to success is their ability to optimally use all the resources. And that is the quality that if transpired into our personal lives will also make our personal and professional lives hassle-free and smooth. This trait can not only give entrepreneurs marvellous success but can also bring huge success for you.

Ability to Take Risks

Entrepreneurship is the profession associated with taking risks and making the maximum out of any opportunity. But this risk-taking ability will not create rags to riches story only for the entrepreneurs rather this can be a game changer for all of us even in our personal lives. The 2021 will be all about risk-taking abilities and entrepreneurial skill will come to rescue in your personal life too.

Thus 2020 brought lessons for us that it's not only for students or entrepreneurs to enhance their skills but it's equally important to learn entrepreneurial skills to sail through all the extenuating circumstances of life.

The writer is founder-chairman, Saba Group and Anannke Foundation

'Let's build self-reliant & digital India'

The biggest priority for start-ups in 2021 will be to build business models that are efficient, agile and sustainable, says RAHUL GARG

Rahul Garg
Founder-CEO , Moglix

The 2021 marks the beginning of not only a new decade but also a new normal. This new normal will pose new challenges to old processes and old ways that old businesses have thus far followed. The growing strength of start-ups and new ventures will become the foundation of a new self-reliant and digital India. Start-ups with new processes and new technologies are defining the new normal.

The biggest priority for start-ups in 2021 will be to build business models that are efficient, agile, and sustainable. It will be critical for start-ups to start searching for the right combination of processes, technology, and people in 2021 to provide new and better ways around such challenges. To achieve this, they will need to be modular. Start-ups will have to integrate people, processes, and technology into a single model that allows each of these elements to be repeatedly dismantled, designed, and deployed to adapt to disruptions.

Businesses have been using processes that were deemed right until some time ago. These processes have low technology penetration, offline collaboration platforms, and disjoint workflows that necessitate people's onsite presence and increase exposure to health risks. The pandemic has created new benchmarks. Old businesses now need to test and validate their existing processes against first principles. They need to introspect on how an economy of 1.3 billion people can continue to produce goods and services, have access to stable income streams, and get recognised for creating value in the face of adversity. Innovation focused start-ups can enable legacy businesses to explore new processes.

Start-ups will first come about using new processes that provide new ways where none previously existed and better alternatives than the existing ones. They will enter the fray as product and process innovation providers that create balance sheet impact for old businesses. Those that will be agile will be the first to roll out new products and processes in the market will earn the tag of belonging to a select group of businesses that truly innovate. A lot of this innovation will involve digitalisation and technology integration in diverse capacities, as is evidenced by the shift from offline to online processes through the pandemic.

The new decade will bring disruptions characterised by high volume, velocity, and variety of change. Fiscal policy interventions from governments, advisories from consulting companies, and businesses' initiatives will have to be a step ahead of such unseen changes and build deterrence capabilities well in advance. Institutions will have to move towards a new normal of collecting, analysing, and interpreting data for decision making, getting higher predictability about the future, and staying ahead of the curve. Startups born from technology innovations in emerging technologies like big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cloud computing will enable businesses, Governments, and social enterprises to achieve unprecedented levels of proactive institutional behavior.

New techniques that demonstrate tangible value for customers, and protect the lives and livelihoods of people, will sustain, attract talent, and get support from investors and Government to grow into new businesses of tomorrow. 2021 will, in a way, set the preconditions for start-ups to take off towards building a self-reliant and digital India.

MINDIT

The changes in India's education sector, some forced — some welcome, in this year will continue to impact the sector for many years to come. First and foremost, the pandemic forced the schools and colleges to shift to online learning almost overnight. Online learning introduced many new paradigms in education like virtual classrooms, learning anytime, personalised learning at one's own pace and speed, remote examinations and admissions and many others.

The education sector continues to reel under the impact of the pandemic induced changes and some roll-over effect in terms of delayed exams and sessions etc. will likely be experienced for the next few years.

The second significant change that will have far-reaching effects on Indian education is the announcement of the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) after a gap of almost 34 years. The NEP is a futuristic policy document which envisions more paradigm shifts in education as we know it. There is a strong emphasis on digitizing higher education and open learning systems to boost the GER.

The NEP 2020 aims to increase public investment in education from 4.4% of India's GDP to 6% and improve education for nearly 300 million students. Towards this, the policy sets out comprehensive reforms that will affect every student, from the play schoolers to ambitious master's degree pursuers considering a PhD. The activities could go from ability improvement and inventive financing to empowering research yield.

Another critical reform will be the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) setting, which will work as a single body for all higher education, barring medical and legal education. It will replace all other remaining regulatory bodies like the UGC or the AICTE. Creating a National Educational Technology Forum, an autonomous body, will also encourage the use of technology in college education.

Hence, much can be expected from the sector, and the sector itself has much to look forward to from 2021 onwards. Together, in the backdrop of these significant impact events, Indian education can look to the following soon:

Learn anytime learning and at any place: It will be easier for the students to learn and upgrade their skills. Students will be able to learn new courses from international universities. The modern learners will be able to consume, evaluate, and integrate continually changing data.

Flexible paths and more choice of subjects: Students will have various courses and subjects to choose from. The HECI is expected to set up a solitary all-encompassing umbrella body for all advanced education streams, barring clinical and legal training. Vocational or skill-based learning will also be included. The new system is expected to provide flexibility.

Project-based and experiential learning: Accurate assessment is the process of uncovering, understanding and figuring out what a learner does and does not understand, and moving forward from there. Project-based and experiential learnings may well become the norm then.

Mobile learning and self-directed learning could form the core of formal education models: Regardless of whether through versatile learning applications or 1:1 mixed learning or customised learning calculations, or self-coordinated learning, the fate of learning is without a doubt portable, individual, and self-coordinated.

Many believe that if the new policy is implemented sincerely with a careful designing of syllabi and curricula, it can transform India into a self-reliant knowledge superpower. The 2021 educationists should hook on to thinking about students as individuals and inspire students to learn.

The writer is Ashwani Awasthi, Managing Director- RICS School of Built Environment

The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for its Computer Science Excellence Scholarship. The scholarships will be awarded in recognition of academic excellence to overseas students starting an undergraduate degree September 2021 in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Sheffield.

Award: Up to £2000

Eligibility: Attain A level grades of A*A*A (or above), or equivalent, including an A* in Mathematics.

Make the University of Sheffield your first (firm) choice in the UCAS application process for 2021 entry.

Apply to study a full-time undergraduate programme in the Department of Computer Science.

Be classed as an international student for tuition fee purposes.

Be taking all prerequisite subjects for your selected degree

The university will offer the scholarship in the form of a cash bursary at the start of your course should you be eligible.

How to apply: The scholarship amount is depended on your academic achievement please email the Undergraduate Admissions Team: ug-compsci@sheffield.ac.uk.

For full details and terms please visit - *https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/engineering/study/scholarships-international-excellence*

Application deadline: The last date to apply is June 2021.

The Monash University, Melbourne, Australia invites applications for up to 25 Engineering International Undergraduate Excellence studentships to students willing to enlist in a bachelor engineering programme.

Eligibility: You can apply for this high achiever prize if you are an international student who is currently in year 12 (or equivalent), or completed year 12 (or equivalent) in the previous year and have not undertaken any other tertiary study. The candidates must have a full offer or a conditional offer on meeting English requirements.

Supporting documents: Applicants must prepare to submit a transcript, a statement, a copy of educational certificates and other required at the time of application. Check all required documents needed. Email your documents as a single PDF to *sebs.csu.documents@monash.edu*.

Admission requirements: Applicants must have achieved a minimum equivalent ATAR score of 95.00 to take enrolment in an engineering course at Monash.

Language requirement: Before you apply to Monash, you must meet the minimum English language requirements.

How to apply: Applications are not necessary, when you submit a course application at the Monash University you will automatically eligible for the grant program.

Application deadline: Apply now.

CONTENT WRITING AT COGNITIO EDUVENTURES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6833388
Deadline: January 27, 2021

MARKETING AT NAIR INNOVATIONS
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6833396
Deadline: January 28, 2021

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AT BUILD WITH INNOVATION
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6833401
Deadline: January 27, 2021

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT JAIN AVIATION INTERNATIONAL
Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6833435
Deadline: January 23, 2021

OPERATIONS AT AFFINITY WEB MEDIA
Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month
Link - internshala.com/i/6833440
Deadline - 27th January 2021

FRESHER JOBS

CREATIVES DEV MANAGER AT DEEPTHOUGHT EDUTECH VENTURES
Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹3-5 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/6833448
Deadline: February 7, 2021
Skill(s): Creative Writing, Copywriting

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE AT GLOBAL SUN
Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹3.5-₹4.3 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/6833452
Deadline: January 27, 2021
Skill(s): English (Spoken & Written)

STUDY ABROAD

'Many benefits of studying MBBS abroad'

Fee hike, bond sign and increase in NEET cut-off has made students apply to foreign colleges, says VP BENIWAL

Many students have opted for MBBS abroad. Many medical colleges in India have increased their fee this year. Also some State medical colleges and institutes have levied the filling of bonds.

Haryana has increased its fee from ₹4 lakh to ₹10 lakh per year with the conditions to sign a bond. The students can pay this amount by taking the loans and the Government would repay the instalments of the loan. According to the bond, a student on completing MBBS will have to serve at the public health centres in rural areas. If the persons quits to work under the said conditions, the bond repayments shall not be borne by the Government.

Fee hike in Southern States like Kerala has also been reported this year. Where the fee was around ₹5-₹6 lakh till last year for private medical colleges, this year it has hiked to ₹12-₹13 lakh per year. Such high fee is creating financial burden on parents.

Also, the NEET cut off for Government medical colleges has hiked. Hence the students scoring close to 600 have also not got the medical colleges of their choice in India. Such students were left with options to choose either a private medical college if they could afford or opt for MBBS abroad where the latter seems to be a wise decision. Where such students could not secure their medical seat in India, these students are offered scholarships with premium Government universities abroad.

With these changes students tend to get attracted towards MBBS abroad. Some have even cracked the opportunity this year while other are hopeful to apply after NEET 2021.

The writer is Director, Jagvimal Consultants

IN BRIEF

THE LITTLE SINGHAM HITS A MILLION DOWNLOADS

The Little Singham: Kids Early Learning App launched last year by Creative Galileo has hit a million downloads in just six months with an average rating of 4.70. Creative Galileo is an e-learning app that weaves together the best of education and entertainment to create personalised, integrated learning experiences for young minds.

This educational app is a paradigm shift from traditional teaching practices and targets children from three to eight years to teach them about colours, numbers, shapes, phonics, etc. Delivered via extremely engaging storylines of Little Singham and his friends, Babli, Lattu, Hawaldar Karate, and many others, this app helps to inculcate friendship, kindness, helpfulness, and morality in kids.

Talking about the app, founder Prerna Jhunjhunwala, said: "Traditionally, education and fun were supposed to be two things that are the complete opposite of each other, but we believe that when the children are having fun, then they are more interested in learning. Our carefully curated content brings together the best of education and entertainment. This is a holistic kid's app that meets the end to end needs of parents and children."

COVISHIELD VACCINE DRIVE AT SIMS HOSPITALS

The SIMS Hospitals (SRM Institutes for Medical Science), Vadapalani, one of the leading multi specialty hospitals in Chennai, joins India's biggest vaccination drive against COVID 19 with Covishield vaccine, beginning today.

Inaugurated by Dr J Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, the Covishield vaccine will be provided free of cost to about 1500 healthcare workers as well as frontline workers of SIMS Hospital, in this phase-I of vaccination drive. Using their Government identity cards, health workers can register to avail the free vaccine.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Radhakrishnan said: "Building trust and confidence to motivate people to get vaccinated against COVID 19 is very important. I got the immunisation vaccine administered to emphasise the vaccine's safety and efficacy. I am elated that those who have already got vaccinated are responding well to the vaccination too."

13TH ED LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

We are in the middle of the most challenging years for Indian education sector. The Ed Leadership Roundtable Conference acts as a medium to initiate critical conversations, those that define the future of education.

The 13th edition of Ed Leadership Conference, organised by GETI, is going to be held from January 21 — January 24, 2021. The chief guests of the event are Anurag Tripathi, senior bureaucrat of 1998 batch officer of IRPS and Secretary of Central Board of Secondary Education since May 2017 and Dr. Dinesh Sharma, the Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

The first ever Ed Leadership International Roundtable happened in the year 2008 and ever since, 12 more have taken place where attendees are given a participation certificate, followed by Innovation-in-Process Fellowships and International Education Innovator Awards.

The virtual conference is free for all the attendees and can be booked online *(https://www.edleader.in/register.aspx)*.

WONDER DOWN INDIA

India does winning talk, pull off historic Test series win Down Under

PTI ■ BRISBANE

They say heroes are ordinary people doing extraordinary stuff. If one wanted to see a Live demonstration of it, Gabba was the place to be where Australia's cricketing pride and invincibility was torn to shreds by a bunch of Indian rookies who didn't seem to care for either history or reputations.

A target of 328 lay in front of them and with all the broken bones and bruised bodies in the dressing room, it would have been perfectly understandable to chase a draw to retain that coveted Border-Gavaskar trophy.

But they wanted more and that's precisely what they walked away with.

So what if their regular captain was on paternity leave? So what if their pace spearhead and premier all-rounder were out injured? So what if the crowd in Sydney had caused some mental scars with their racist chants?

So what? Asked a lot which had seen adversity of a more intense kind in their personal lives. They knew all about it and on the field, they showed how to stand up to it.

On Tuesday, a minefield of talent called Rishabh Pant (89 not out off 138 balls) channelled his inner *Mad Max* to scare the daylights out of the Australians with his breathtaking strokeplay. He couldn't care less for the history that the home team had not lost at 'Fortress Gabba' in the past 32 years.

He was out to change it.

Coach Ravi Shastri knew how momentous it was. He would know, he was part of the ride and he made no bones about it.

"It is the toughest tour ever. Nothing surpasses this. After 36 all out, this is unreal," Shastri said, admitting that at the end of it all, he had tears in his eyes.

If Shastri's intense declaration reflected his flamboyance, stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane's reticence shone through in his response.

"I looked good because everyone contributed," he said.

The highlights package of Pant's battle with Nathan Lyon can be enjoyed repeatedly in times to come as he demolished the 100-Test man in company of debutant Washington Sundar (22), who hooked the world's best fast bowler, Pat Cummins, for a six.

No one moved from their seats as Pant cut, drove, and paddle-swept to make a statement to his detractors while gifting India one of their finest overseas wins during the dying moments of the final session with an off-driven boundary.

While Shubman Gill (91 off 146 balls) announced his arrival on the global stage, Cheteshwar Pujara (56 off 211 balls) surpassed all the pain barriers en route his slowest Test fifty that held the game in balance for Pant to launch a final assault.

The Australian team wouldn't feel too good about not being able to win a Test match with an opposition that was finding it difficult to field a fit first XI a day prior to the Test match.

Add to it, the visitors were also left quite hurt by the racial slurs directed at the likes of Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah by the crowd during the Sydney Test.

The series will be remembered for ages and the impact that Ajinkya Rahane's team had on the cricketing fraternity and the fans in general will be written in golden words when a fresh history of Test cricket after 2000 is written.

In terms of relevance, a series win without Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah not being available at various points, is zillion times more significant than the 2-1 win in 2018-19 when the opposition didn't have Steve Smith and David Warner in its ranks.

First time, people celebrated draws, became empathetic to players with limited abilities and believed in their team.

The stands were near-about empty at the Gabba thanks to the Covid-19 crowd restrictions but make no mistake that Test cricket seemed well and truly alive and kicking.

With its beautiful ebbs and flows, the fifth day was witness to three separate schools of batsmanship, so very dissimilar to each other.

Gill, who is now going to be the "Real Deal", was free-flowing in his stroke-making with his "beside the line of the ball" technique as he rode the bounce to hammer home the advantage and briefly make India favourites to win the battle.

The two sixes off Mitchell Starc — a slash over backward point and a thump over deep mid-wicket — will be the ones for the keeps.

The disdain while thrashing the Australian bowlers would have made even Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli proud.

India have now got Kohli's heir apparent and the 21-year-old is here to stay for the longest time.

Pujara, on the other hand, saw the Australian try out the menacing short ball tactic. He took a few on the helmet, a few more on the chest and other parts and a painful one on the knuckles but remained unfazed.

Gill and Pujara showed that there are multiple ways to skin a cat.

If Pujara was ready to duck, sway and cop body blows off Josh Hazlewood and Cummins, showing the art of survival, Gill, on his first tour of Australia, was ready to be the intimidator by bringing the pull shot out of his repertoire.

The duo, during its 114-run stand, showed that very contrasting styles can co-exist without conflict even as fans of both genres argue who has the more appropriate approach for the format.

Even Pant with his cavalier ways would have added his two cents to the debate on various styles.

But for the uninitiated, the three distinct schools can be suitably de-constructed — Pujara's was more of investing in an LIC policy with safe returns while Gill's approach, with his collars-up, was akin to mutual funds and Pant would most likely play his game in high-stakes stock market where winner takes it all but at times at a heavy price.

While the final day performance is sure to hold a special place but the story of this match won't be complete without a more than honourable mention of what Shardul Thakur and Washington Sundar did on the third morning and afternoon.

Had that partnership not been there, it wouldn't have been as easy for India as it seemed in the end. Thakur and Washington gave hope of a fight, Pujara, Gill and Pant, with their performances, honoured that fight.

Coach Ravi Shastri was once panned for his "best travelling Indian team" comment but after January 19, very few would disagree that this is the "toughest Indian team on road".

We are all overjoyed at the success of the Indian Cricket Team in Australia. Their remarkable energy and passion was visible throughout. So was their stellar intent, remarkable grit and determination. Congratulations to the team! Best wishes for your future endeavours.
—PM NARENDRA MODI

A historic cricketing triumph scripted in Australia!
Congratulations to India's talented young cricket team for winning the hard-fought test series. The team showed exceptional skills and resilience. The nation is proud of their achievement.
—PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND

EVERY SESSION WE DISCOVERED A NEW HERO.
Every time we got hit, we stayed put & stood taller. We pushed boundaries of belief to play fearless but not careless cricket. Injuries & uncertainties were countered with poise & confidence. One of the greatest series wins!
Congrats India.
—SACHIN TENDULKAR

WHAT A WIN!!! Yessssss. To everyone who doubted us after Adelaide, stand up and take notice. Exemplary performance but the grit and determination was the standout for us the whole way. Well done to all the boys and the management. Enjoy this historic feat lads. Cheers *@BCCI*
—VIRAT KOHLI

Khushi ke maare pagal. This is the new India. *Ghar mein ghuskar maarta hai.* From what happened in Adelaide to this, these young guys have given us a joy of a lifetime. There have been World Cup wins but this is special. And yes,there is a reason Pant is extra special .
—VIRENDER SEHWAG

Well done captain @ajinkyarahane88 this this biggest series win I feel.. Without many big names you guys have showed the way how it's done congratulations @BCCI
—HARBHAJAN SINGH

Test cricket's heart is beating strongly! That was an extraordinary win *@BCCI* & a fantastic series to watch. Aussies not lost at The Gabba since 1988. Wow
—STUART BROAD

What a Test match! The depth of Indian Cricket is scary. *@RishabhPant17* , sweet number 17. Well played young man. *#testcricket* at its very best
—AB DE VILLIERS

Only issue with India beating Australia in such an INCREDIBLE manner, is that the Test was played in Brisbane. A city that doesn't deserve an event so good! Rolling on the floor laughing. Pant — the boy who turned into a man today in Australia, in cricketing terms!
—KEVIN PIETERSON

The Greatest Test series win of all time ... Well done *#India* you have just shown the way for England to get back those Ashes back later in the year ...
—MICHAEL VAUGHAN

Remarkable. Injuries galore, absent players, & beating Australia at their fortress at the Gabba. This has been the most remarkable test series victory I've watched in my experience. India's depth of talent, heart and character must forever lift an entire nation. Congratulations.
—IAN BISHOP

Congrats to the Indian cricket team *@BCCI* That's one of the best series wins I can ever remember on Aust soil & to do it after being bowled out for 36, plus a depleted squad- shows tremendous character, resilience, courage & belief. Just fantastic *@RaviShastriOfc @ajinkyarahane88.*
—SHANE WARNE

Speechless !!! Fortress Gabba has been breached !! What a great great game of Test match cricket . I still have goosebumps . Complete team effort . *Jab hausle ho Buland toh har mushkil lage aasaan* ! *#TeamIndia Flag of India #Merabharatmahaan*
—MITHALI RAJ

One of the greatest test series wins ever. Congrats India and well played Australia, what a series *#INDvsAUS.*
—GOOGLE CEO SUNDAR PICHAI

Biggest moment of my life: Pant

PTI ■ BRISBANE

After playing a key role in India's breathtaking and successful run chase in the series-deciding fourth Test against Australia, Rishabh Pant on Tuesday called the historic win as the "biggest moment" of his life.

"This is one of the biggest moments of my life now, and I'm happy that all the support staff and all my teammates supported me even when I wasn't playing," Pant said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

India did not play Pant in either the preceding ODI or the T20 series. But the young wicketkeeper-batsman made an impression in the Test series, playing a combative 97-run knock in the second innings in Sydney and again here on Tuesday.

"It's been a dream series. The team management always backs me and tells me, you are a match-winner and you have to go win the match for the team. I keep thinking every day that I want to win matches for India, and I did it today," Pant said.

India skipper Ajinkya Rahane initially struggled to find words but gathered himself to praise his courageous teammates.

"It means a lot to us. I don't know how to describe this, but our boys showed a lot of character and determination after the Adelaide Test," Rahane, who led India in the absence of Virat Kohli, said.

"I'm really proud of each individual."

Australia captain Tim Paine graciously admitted that they were outplayed by the Indians.

"We were here to win the series, but we have just been outplayed by a disciplined and tough Indian side who fully deserve the series win. We have to look back over a lot of things, and we'll go through it as a group.

"We have been outplayed by a better side this series," he said.

'Never ever underestimate India'

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Outplayed by an inexperienced and injury-plagued India, a shocked Australia head coach Justin Langer on Tuesday said one massive lesson that he has learnt from the setback is to "never ever, ever underestimate" the "really tough" players from that country.

A visibly shaken Langer lauded India for the lion-hearted effort to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2-1 despite playing with a second-string side, especially after being decimated inside three days in the series-opener in Adelaide. That loss included India's lowest-ever Test score of 36 in the second innings.

"It was an incredible Test series and in the end there is always a winner or a loser. Today Test cricket is the winner. It's gonna hurt us big time. India deserved full credit. They have been outstanding but we have learnt lessons from it," Langer told *Channel 7*.

"First, you can never take anything for granted, second never ever, ever underestimate the Indians. There are 1.5 billions Indians and if you play in that first eleven you got to be really tough, don't you?"

Langer said the fightback after the Adelaide debacle was nothing short of remarkable especially after injury-forced ouster of big players like Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja.

India found new stars such as Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur and Mohammed Siraj among others who surprised the Aussies with their never-say-die spirit.

"I can't compliment India enough. They haven't gone away after that first Test match which we won in three days, bowled them out for 30 odd. For them to fight back like they did is amazing, credit to them. The big lesson for us is that you can't take anything for granted. India never got away," he said.

HISTORY MAKERS

Know Your Heroes: A few good men and a story of a lifetime

An amalgamation of fascinating life stories that scripted one of the most memorable moments in the history of Indian cricket.

The men who humbled Australia in their own backyard, defying odds and naysayers, are not the ones staring from the billboards in manic metro cities but shy, quiet and unassuming characters from the suburbs and the hinterlands.

These are strong character artists of an author-backed film rather than mega stars with bulging biceps of 200-crore potboilers.

Pioneer Sport presents back stories of the magnificent bunch which gave Indian cricket 'a win to remember' for ages to come.

RISHABH PANT

Rourkee has always been known for its finest engineering college, now an IIT

but this is also the hometown of Rishabh Pant, son of school owner parents. There was a time that on occasions a young Pant, accompanied by his mother would reach Delhi in wee hours of morning on weekends to attend training at the famed Sonnet Club and before the crack of dawn rest at the Gurdwara before heading to the ground. He played an IPL game days after his father Rajendra's sudden demise.

MOHAMMED SIRAJ

Son of an auto-rickshaw driver from Hyderabad's Lancer. He lost his father during the tour but decided to stay for the team and miss the last rites. He got a maiden five for in his debut series and was all choked up while dedicating the feat to the memory of his father. The youngster handled racist abuse from Australian fans with the same resolve.

NAVDEEP SAINI

Son of a bus driver from Karnal, he used to play tennis ball matches for ₹1000. Delhi first-class player Sumit Narwal brought him for the Ranji Trophy nets where then captain Gautam Gambhir picked him for tournament-proper. It was met with stiff resistance from none other than Bishan Singh Bedi who protested that a player outside Delhi domicile was being picked. This led to Gambhir putting his foot down and he never misses an opportunity to remind the detractors what Saini seemed capable of even at that time.

SHUBMAN GILL

The heir apparent of Virat Kohli was born in a Punjab village called Fazilka to an affluent farmer family. His grandfather had prepared a pitch in the farming field for his dearest grandson before his father decided to shift to Mohali so that his son's cricketing ambitions got wings. He was a member of the India U-19 World Cup team. Recently, on his Instagram account, he had voiced his support for ongoing farmers' protest.

CHETESHWAR PUJARA

The man from Rajkot is not very expressive but has dealt with adversity because of a strong mental make-up largely due to his coach and father Arvind Pujara. He lost his mother while playing junior cricket but never wavered from his goal despite the tragedy. Those hits on the body and knuckles in Brisbane on Tuesday will be the medals he would like to wear all his life.

SHARDUL THAKUR

He comes from Palghar and as a 13-year-old had hit six sixes for his school Vivekananda International Borivali in a Harris Shield Match. Who is the most celebrated alumni of Vivekananda International? India's white ball legend Rohit Sharma. Both Shardul and Rohit have had the same childhood coach — Dinesh Lad, whose son Siddhesh also plays for Mumbai.

WASHINGTON SUNDAR

The name Washington was his father's tribute to his own mentor PD Washington, who had funded his studies and kits when he was young and faced financial hardships. A month after PD Washington's death, his own son was born and he named him Washington Sundar.

He was a opening batsman back in 2016 during U-19 days. But his talent as an off-break bowler came to fore when Rahul Dravid and Paras Mhambrey told him to focus on his bowling in order to make the next grade. But batting remains his first love and India now has a ready replacement of Ravichandran Ashwin as and when required.

T NATARAJAN

From the remote village of Chinnappampatti in Tamil Nadu, the son of a daily wage labourer at one point in time couldn't buy bowling spikes. And then IPL riches came along but he never forgot his roots.

He has built a cricket academy in his native place and helps talented but needy cricketers. His child was born during the IPL but he will now get to see him for the first time in next few days and live to tell a tale.

AJINKYA RAHANE (CAPTAIN)

The everyday man on that Mumbai local train travelling from Mulund to Azad and Cross Maidan. Rahane is someone who had a black belt in karate as a teenager, and honed his skills under former India batsman Praveen Amre.

Did you know that Rahane's first ever first-class match was in Pakistan and not India? It was in Karachi where Quaid-e-Azam champions Karachi Urbans met Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai.

With inputs from PTI