

OPINION 8
IN THE FOOTSTEPS
OF DONALD TRUMP**WORLD 11**
AP SOURCE: BIDEN TO DROP TRUMP'S
MILITARY TRANSGENDER BAN**SPORT 14**
CHELSEA SACK
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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2021; PAGES 16 ₹3

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China's bid to open new front in Sikkim foiled

Minor clash at Naku La on Jan 20, confirms Indian Army, but China claims no scuffle took place

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

When India and China were preparing for talks last week to defuse tension at the border in Ladakh, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops tried to breach the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Sikkim leading to a minor face-off when Indian Army intercepted the Chinese. Soldiers from both armies were injured. The situation was brought under control following the intervention of local commanders.

China on Monday, however, denied that such an incident ever took place. The Indian Army, on the other hand, confirmed the incident and said, "We have received several queries regarding a face-off between Indian Army and PLA troops in the Sikkim sector. It is clarified that there was a minor face-off at the Naku La area of North Sikkim on

January 20 and the same was resolved by local commanders as per established protocols. Media is requested to refrain from overplaying or exaggerating reports which are factually incorrect."

Sources said the injuries were insignificant and minor in nature and roughly about 20 PLA soldiers and four Indians were injured in the melee. The fracas took place when the Chinese patrol tried to enter Indian territory, they added. The Naku La is located at a height of more than 13,000 feet. The latest stand-off took place at a time when the Corps Commanders of the two armies were getting ready for the talks on Sunday. The talks lasted more than 16 hours at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point in Eastern Ladakh. However, there was no tangible breakthrough in the parleys.

The joint statement



released here on Monday said the two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on disengagement along the LAC. The two sides agreed that the ninth round of meeting was positive, practical and constructive, which further enhanced mutual trust and understanding. The two sides agreed to push for an early disengagement of the frontline troops.

Talking about the latest face-off, an official said, such an

incident had also taken place last year on May 9 at Naku La when tension was building up at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Mountain pass is known as La in the Tibetan language. Even then, the troops from both sides exchanged blows after jostling each other. The intervention of local commanders prevented the situation from escalating.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zhao Lijian told a daily briefing in Beijing on

Monday that he had "no information to offer" on the reports of clashes.

He also said the Chinese troops are committed to maintaining peace at the border and urged India to meet China halfway and refrain from any unilateral actions that may exacerbate the border situation. The Chinese army mouth-piece *The Global Times* termed the incident as fake news and said there is no record of this incident in the Chinese PLA front line patrol logs.

In recent days, the focus of the military's top leaders on both sides has been on the ninth round of Corps Commander-level talks, not a new border clash, and the two sides have not been involved in such clashes mentioned by the Indian media, it said.

There have been minor frictions between the frontline forces of the two countries, but if there had been friction

involving casualties, it is impossible for them not to be recorded in the Chinese patrol logs.

As regards the Corps Commander-level dialogue, the Indian delegation was headed by 14 Corps chief Lt General PK Menon while Major General Liu Lin led the Chinese team.

The statement said the two countries also agreed to follow the important consensus of their state leaders, maintain the good momentum of dialogue and negotiation, and hold the 10th round of the Corps Commander-level meeting at an early date to jointly advance de-escalation.

The two sides agreed to continue their effective efforts in ensuring the restraint of the frontline troops, stabilise and control the situation along the LAC in the Western Sector of the China-India border, and jointly maintain peace and tranquility.

India honours Galwan hero martyr Col Santosh Babu with Mahavir Chakra award

Veer Chakra to be conferred on 5 martyred soldiers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Colonel B Santosh Babu, who along with 19 other Army personnel, was martyred in a brawl with the Chinese troops in the Galwan valley last year, will be awarded the Mahavir Chakra posthumously on the occasion of Republic Day this year. This medal is the second highest wartime gallantry medal.

Veer Chakra, the third highest wartime gallantry

medal, was conferred on five other soldiers. All these soldiers had died with Babu, the commanding officer of the 16 Bihar Regiment, in the bloody clashes on June 15 in Eastern Ladakh.

The Chinese used nailed batons and iron rods to attack the Indian Army team. More than 35 Chinese soldiers were also killed in the free for all. However, China is yet to announce the number of casualties on its side.

The Veer Chakra awardees include Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren, Havaladar K Palani, Havaladar Tejinder Singh, Naik Deepak Singh and Naik Gurtej Singh.

Kisan to march on Parliament on Feb 1

Two lakh tractors to participate in kisan tractor rally on Republic Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Sanyukt Kisan Morcha on Monday announced that they will march towards Parliament from different locations on February 1 when the annual Union Budget is scheduled to be presented.

"We will march towards Parliament on foot from different locations on the Budget day on February 1. As far as tomorrow's tractor rally is concerned, it will give the Government an idea of our strength and they will know the agitation is not just limited to Haryana or Punjab but it is an agitation of the whole country," said Darshan Pal of the Krantikari Kisan Union.

"The farmers who have come for the tractor parade will not go back now and will join the protest. The agitation will continue till our demands met. Our stand remains the same," Pal told a press conference, sharing the farmers' plans to intensify the protest.

The farmers' unions also claimed that around two lakh tractors are expected to participate in their tractor rally on the Republic Day in Delhi.



Tractors lined up on the National Highway 44 (GT Road) to participate in farmers' tractor rally as part of their ongoing agitation against farm reform laws near Singhu border in Sonipat district on Monday

PTI

The rally is planned to be moved into the city from the Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders.

Protesting farmer unions

Pawar: Farmers will destroy farm laws

Mumbai: The Centre may pass any law undermining the Constitution and on the back of its majority, but once the common man and farmers rise, they will not keep quiet until the new farm acts and the ruling party are destroyed, NCP president Sharad Pawar said on Monday.

opposing the three contentious farm laws said their parade will not enter central Delhi and it will start only after the official Republic Day parade concludes.

"It will be big event in the Indian democracy. We will celebrate Republic Day in its true sense tomorrow. The way the political leaders have played with the Constitution by constantly introducing amendments that kept violating human rights...we will continue to demand that they be rectified. It is the same Constitution in which they have introduced these three laws, which have created a problem not just for the farm-

ers but also for the entire population of the country, against which this protest has been happening for two months now.

The agitation will continue until the government repeals these laws," Balbir Singh Rajewal of Bharatiya Kisan Union said.

To maintain vigil, around 6,000 security personnel have been deployed by the Delhi police. Facial recognition system of Delhi Police has also been set up at vantage points for suspect identification.

A five-layer security cover comprising border pickets, inner, middle and outer security has been deployed.

UP govt approves new data policy

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to impart training and jobs to the educated youth of the state, the Uttar Pradesh government has brought the new Uttar Pradesh Data Policy 2021 which will felicitate the setting up of data parks in the state.

The government has also approved a bill for setting up of a sports university in UP.

These decisions were taken in the cabinet meeting held on Monday.

A government spokesman said that the new data policy would encourage an investment of over ₹ 2,000 crore besides providing employment to the educated youth of the state.

"Three new data parks will be set up under the policy," the spokesman said.

The data parks are likely to come up in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal.

This policy will remain applicable in the state for the next five years.

The spokesman said at present the government data was being stored outside India and this policy would help in its indigenous storage.

The state cabinet also

UP budget session from Feb 16

Lucknow (PNS): The budget session of Uttar Pradesh legislature will commence from February 16. The state cabinet, on Monday, approved the schedule for the Budget session. However, the date of tabling the budget is yet to be confirmed.

On the opening day, Governor Anandiben Patel will address the joint sitting of both the Houses as it will be the sitting of the year. This will be the fifth and the last budget of the Yogi Adityanath government which stormed to power in March 2017. UP will go to polls in February 2022 and the government will table a vote on account for 2022-23 in February next year.

approved the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project. This will include 39 dams whose rehabilitation will be ensured for the next 10 years. The total cost of the project would be ₹ 1,249 crore. Around 70 per cent of the cost would be borne by the World Bank and the rest by the state government.

The state cabinet also approved amendments in the Uttar Pradesh Urban Schemes under which development authorities and corporations are authorised to collect taxes. The chief minister has been authorised to take decisions in case of any discrepancy. The taxes, in the form of develop-

ment fees, will depend upon the category of the city.

In another decision, the government has decided to adopt Beria Ghat Mela in Hardoi district because of its historical importance.

The cabinet also decided to include the vice chancellor of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, Lucknow in the selection panel to select faculty in medical colleges of Deoria, Etah, Fatehpur, Ghazipur, Hardoi, Mirzapur, Pratapgarh, Siddharthnagar and Jaunpur.

The cabinet also approved the Uttar Pradesh State Sports University Bill, 2021 for setting up of a sports university in UP.

Opp plans to force repeal of farm laws in Budget Session

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties are likely to meet on Thursday to strategise plans to corner the Government in the Budget Session and force it to repeal the farm laws. Sources said leaders of various political parties, including the erstwhile NDA partner SAD, have got in touch to make a joint effort to repeal the three laws in the forthcoming Budget Session beginning on January 29.

The main aim of the Opposition parties is to force the Government to repeal the law as it cannot be suspended

since the laws came into force with the President of India's assent.

Sources in the Congress and a couple of political parties confirmed that the Parliamentary floor leaders will meet to deliberate upon a strategy for the session on Thursday. A bigger convention of Opposition parties may also take place thereafter.

The SAD walked out of NDA in protest against the farm laws and its Lok Sabha MP Harsimrat Kaur resigned from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Council of Ministers.

Continued on Page 11

Punish rumour-mongers, fear has hit vaccination: Centre to States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Putting the blame on "misinformation" for sluggish vaccination drive that started on January 16, the Centre has asked the States to take penal action against those engaged in rumour-mongering.

In a communication to Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla also emphasised that the National Regulatory Authority in the country has found that the two vaccines — Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, and Covaxin, developed and manufactured by the Bharat Biotech Limited — were safe and immunogenic.



The Central Government, in close collaboration with the State Governments and UT administrations, has launched the inoculation drive of Covid-19 vaccination from January 16 across the country with the two vaccines.

"I would like to strongly emphasise that the National

Regulatory Authority in the country has found both the vaccines safe and immunogenic. However, it has been reported that unfounded and misleading rumours are circulating on social and other media, creating doubt about the safety and efficacy of these vaccines.

"Such kind of rumour mongering, particularly by vested interests, can create unwarranted doubts among people at large, and there is, therefore, a need to check all such kinds of unfounded scare mongering relating to the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccines," the communication said.

Continued on Page 11

Govt OK's Green Tax on older vehicles to push their phase out

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is all set to impose "Green Tax" on older vehicles in an effort to reduce pollution by phasing out unfit and polluting vehicles.

While commercial vehicles older than eight years could be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of fitness certificate at the rate of 10 to 25 per cent of road tax, personal vehicles may be charged Green Tax at the time of renewal of Registration Certification after 15 years. The proposal approved by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will

now go to the States for consultation before it is notified.

Hybrids, electric vehicles, and those using cleaner fuels like CNG, ethanol, LPG will be exempted from green tax. Similarly, vehicles used in farming, such as tractor, harvester, tiller too will be exempted. Public transport vehicles will be charged lower green tax, and higher green tax (50% of Road Tax) will be slapped on vehicles registered in highly polluted cities.

"Revenue collected from the Green Tax will be kept in a separate account and used for tackling pollution, and for States to set up state-of-art facilities for emission moni-

toring" added the official.

Explaining the benefit of the Green Tax, an official in the Transport Ministry said this could dissuade people from using vehicles which damage the environment and motivate them to switch to newer, less polluting vehicles. "Green tax will reduce the pollution level, and make the polluter pay for pollution," added the official.

Gadkari has also approved the policy of deregistration and scrapping of vehicles owned by Government department and PSU which are older than 15 years. It is to be notified and will come into effect from April 1, 2022.

The Pioneer

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Press and offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 on account of Republic Day. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

CAPSULE

PASWAN NAMED FOR PADMA BHUSHAN

New Delhi: The former Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution late Ram Vilas Paswan was on Monday honoured with prestigious Padma Bhushan.

NEW-GEN AKASH MISSILE LAUNCHED SUCCESSFULLY

Balalore: India on Monday successfully test-fired the new-generation Akash missile from an integrated test range off the Odisha coast, an official statement said. The surface-to-air missile was launched from Chandipur ITR in the afternoon, it said.

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed officials to conduct special cleanliness drive across the state on Republic Day stressing that sanitation works should be carried out on a large scale in every village and town.

CM Yogi for special cleanliness drive across state

Reviewing the works of various departments at a high-level meeting at his official residence in Lucknow on Monday,

Yogi also stressed on the smooth operation of night shelters and effective arrangement for bonfire in view of the

cold wave. The CM said that arrangements should be made to light up bonfires at all major public

places in urban and rural areas and blankets should be distributed to the needy and destitute. Yogi said that quality

should be maintained in all construction works and they should be completed within stipulated time. In the meeting,

the Chief Minister was informed that construction work of Purvanchal Expressway was going on at a

fast pace. The CM also said that uninterrupted succession should be recorded while conducting the Varasat campaign as per time schedule and instructed officers to regularly review the ongoing campaign.

CM hails Noida as pride of UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Terming Noida as the pride of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that projects like Jewar international airport and Film City would enhance employment opportunities and encourage manufacturing and exports.

"This will help Noida in gaining new identity and realise the potential of infinite investment," Yogi said while virtually inaugurating several projects at 'Noida Haat' from Lucknow on Monday. The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone and dedicated a total of 66 projects worth Rs 700 crore including Biodiversity Park. Under the ODOP scheme, tool kits and monetary aid through revolving funds (RF), Community Investment Funds (CIF) and Cash Credit Limit (CCL) were provided to Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Yogi appreciated the hard work put in by the local public representatives and officials which helped in accelerating development. He reiterated that strict law and order across the state was the government's top priority.

"My government has fulfilled the 40-year old demand of the Police Commissionerate system in the state. The new system in Lucknow and Noida proved to be successful," he said. The CM also dedicated to the public four police stations in Noida, as well as various strategies under 'Safe City Project'. He hailed the efforts of all police officers and personnel for working extensively amidst the pandemic.

"UP is the first state to introduce provision of door-step delivery by Police Response Vehicles (PRV) during the pandemic. The system was later adopted by other states," he said.

Mentioning the return of about 40 lakh migrant workers to the state, Yogi said that with the cooperation of all, most of them were now employed in their own area of residence.

The CM also released 'Noida Theme Song' on the occasion of 'UP Divas' sung by Kailash Kher the lyrics of which term Noida as the 'pride' of UP. Industrial Development minister Satish Mahana appreciated the CM's initiative of celebrating the achievements and heritage of Uttar Pradesh by observing 'UP Divas'. He said that under Yogi's leadership, UP has presented a successful model of development for the entire country and changed the perspective of the state. The CM was scheduled to visit Noida on Monday but could not do so due to inclement weather. Later, he attended the programme virtually and apologised for not being able to visit in person.



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Committed to providing better health care to people: CM Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the present state government was committed to providing better health care facilities to the people of the state and in view of this the medical services were being strengthened continuously by the government. He said that the state government was successfully fighting the war against coronavirus due to which the pandemic was under control in the state.

The chief minister made these observations during a high-level review meeting on unlock of the lockdown at his official residence in the state capital on Monday. He also said that the COVID-19 vaccination campaign which was underway across the country was for a final assault on the novel coronavirus. Pointing out that in the first phase of the vaccination campaign in Uttar Pradesh, the health workers were being vaccinated, the chief minister directed the officials to complete all preparations for the vaccination to be carried out on January 28 and 29 in time and adhere to the guidelines and instructions issued by the Government of India.

The chief minister said there was a significant decline in coronavirus infection but its threat had yet not passed and so it was necessary to be vigilant at every level.

He also stressed on maintaining effective precautions and control from COVID-19.

The CM directed the officials to ensure adequate availability of essential medicines and backup of oxygen and maintain medical equipment in all Covid hospitals. Citing the importance of medical tests in breaking the chain of coronavirus infection, the chief minister asked the officials concerned to continue testing of Covid samples at full capacity and keep the contact tracing and surveillance systems effective.

The chief minister also said that the Integrated Command and Control Centre should function smoothly in districts and that through them activities at the district level for the control of coronavirus infection should be regularly reviewed.

He said all the district magistrates and chief medical officers should meet every day in the Covid hospitals in the morning and at the Integrated Command and Control Centres in the evening to determine the next strategy. He also instructed the officials to ensure that awareness campaigns were continued to make people aware of preventive measures to keep themselves safe from COVID-19 through various publicity tools and public address systems.



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Covid positivity rate comes down to 1.7%

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Covid positivity rate in Lucknow has come down to 1.7 per cent this month while the overall positivity rate of the district has also declined to 4.8 per cent. A senior health official said that January had started with a Covid positivity rate of 3 per cent and there were days when it was even lower. "On January 22, the positivity rate was 0.5 per cent," he pointed out.

The official said that it was possible because of effective contact tracing carried out in the district. "We tried to test the maximum number of contacts of Covid patients. We also visited the work-places of patients for the purpose," he said. He added that effective surveillance of patients in home isolation was also carried out.

"We took the help of police because we those in home isolation were reportedly going to markets and other crowded areas and spreading the virus. We were strict with them and called them two to three times a day just to ensure that they remained confined to their homes," the official said.

"Even though the number of fresh cases has come down considerably, we are still collecting 6,000 to 7,000 samples per day," he said.

On Monday, only 45 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow while 110 patients recovered. The death toll has reached 1,168 while there are 1,486 active cases in the district. The fresh cases included five each from Chowk, Sushant Golf City & Ashiyana, and four each from Rae Bareilly road and Hazratganj.

In the state, 220 persons tested Covid positive, including 22 in Kanpur, three in Ghaziabad, seven in Gautam Buddha Nagar, nine in Varanasi and 10 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,98,907. There were seven deaths in the state, including three in Lucknow, two in

Ghazipur, and one each in Moradabad & Balrampur, taking the toll to 8,624. Besides, 456 patients recovered, taking the recovery figures to 5,83,470. There are 6,813 active cases in the state. Additional CMO MK Singh said the containment activities will continue even though the cases are coming down. "Contact tracing, testing and surveillance helped in reducing the number of cases in the district," he said.

Lucknow's first Covid case was reported in March and it was followed by a continuous surge and the number of per-day cases went up to 1,100 in September. It was the peak after which there was a curve in the graph.

Singh pointed out that January 25 was the last date for police and LMC personnel to register for vaccinations. He said 90 per cent of the health workers will be vaccinated on January 28, 29 and February 4 and there will be a mop-up session on February 5. As regards the second phase of frontline staff, he said that instructions from the state government are still awaited.

Head of SGPGI's Microbiology department Dr Ujjwala Ghosh said that with the number of cases coming down, they are planning to de-pool the coronavirus samples coming from the state. "We have already started de-pooling of the samples coming from the hospital itself, and we plan to do the same for the samples coming from other parts of the state. We will then be able to identify a sample which has a low viral load," she said.

Head of KGMU's Microbiology department Dr Amita Jain said they will be following the same strategy. "The number of Covid cases may have decreased, but we are still following the same strategy of pooling samples. For symptomatic cases, we have been carrying out separate tests for a long time," she said.

Youth shot at by friend

Lucknow (PNS): A youth shot at his friend over some issue near a prominent school in Gomtinagar late Sunday night. The victim sustained injuries in his waist and he was admitted to a hospital. Police raided the house of the accused, who is a contractor, and nabbed him. As the arrest took time, the process to present him before a court was also delayed. Reports said that the victim, identified as Ankur of Vinit Khand, reached a food joint near a school and after a while, Dhananjay also joined him. After a brief interaction, Dhananjay allegedly whipped out a pistol and shot at Ankur before fleeing the scene. A team of police reached the

place and the victim was rushed to RMLIMS.

Meanwhile, a youth was accused of luring a minor girl into running away from her house in Chinhat. Police registered a case of kidnapping against the accused, identified as Manish Dwivedi of Kanshiram Colony in Chinhat. The police also recovered the girl and booked the accused under POCSO Act. Reports said Manish lured the girl into running away from her house a couple of days back. After his name figured in the case, parents of the girl lodged a case and the police started investigation. The police recovered the girl and arrested the accused.



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गणतंत्र दिवस

26 जनवरी, 2021




हम विश्व के सर्वश्रेष्ठ गणतंत्र बनें, माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी के इसी सपने को साकार करने के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार राष्ट्र गौरव के प्रति हर क्षण समर्पित है। अंत्योदय और समानता के आदर्शों को सर्वोपरि रखते हुये प्रदेश के हर वर्ग का विकास हो। हर नागरिक आत्मनिर्भर बने एवं प्रदेश के विकास में भागीदार हो। इसी कामना के साथ अपने गणतंत्र को सशक्त बनाने के लिए आइये, हम सब मिलकर तिरंगे की शान बढ़ाएं।

गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

-योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

- प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के तहत **40 लाख** से अधिक घरों की खीकृति/निर्माण
- 27 हजार **101 करोड़ रु.** किसानों को हस्तांतरित
- **1.28 करोड़** घरों को निःशुल्क विद्युत कनेक्शन
- **4 लाख** सरकारी नौकरी
- गेहूँ, गन्ना, चीनी, आलू, दुग्ध, आम एवं आंवला उत्पादन में प्रथम स्थान
- **1.35 लाख** विद्यालयों में ऑपरेशन कायाकल्प के अंतर्गत बुनियादी सुविधाओं का विकास

- पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि के अंतर्गत
- स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के अंतर्गत **2.61 करोड़** शौचालयों का निर्माण
- उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत **1.47 करोड़** गैस कनेक्शन निःशुल्क वितरित
- किसानों को विभिन्न योजनाओं में **2.53 लाख करोड़ रु.** का भुगतान
- **5 एक्सप्रेस-वे** का निर्माण
- **29** एयरपोर्ट का विकास

IG Vijay Bhushan sets record, chosen for 7th Prez medal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Creating a record of sorts by bagging his fifth President's Medal for Gallantry in 2020, Inspector General (Police Recruitment and Promotional Board) Vijay Bhushan further stretched his tally by being feted with Presidents' Medal for Distinguished Services for a second time on the eve of Republic Day. .

This is the highest number of Presidents' medals ever to be won by any officer of Indian Police Services (IPS) in the country. Bhushan's name figured



in a list along with eight other officers from UP who have been feted with Presidents' Medal this year. As per the list issued by Ministry of Union Home Affairs on Monday, other than Bhushan who was chosen for resident's Medal for

Distinguished Services, the other recipient in this category include ADGs Asim Arun, Raj Kumar, Ravi Joseph, IGs - Kavindra Pratap Singh, Satyendra Kumar and Piyush Srivastava and 72 other UP Police personnel.

On the other hand, ADG Law and Order, Prashant Kumar, SP Abhishek Singh, Deputy SP Brijesh Kumar Singh, Inspector Sanjeev Kumar, sub-inspectors- Sunil Kumar, Vinay Kumar Sharma, Head constable Rakam Singh and Amit Kumar Teotia were chosen for Presidents' Medal for Gallantry to be conferred on R-Day.

BJP leader shot dead

Lucknow (PNS): Former gram pradhan and Bharatiya Janata Party leader was murdered and his body was recovered in Amethi on Monday. As per reports, NJP leader Jageshwar Verma of Ramai hamlet of Mohanganj went missing on Sunday evening. However, on Monday morning his body riddled with bullets was recovered near a canal in Mukul hamlet. A case was registered and investigations were on.

Elsewhere in Bareilly, a 45-year-old man was tied to a tree with barbed wires and set on fire over an old enmity in the Sheeshgarh area. The charred body of Dharampal was found late on Saturday night and an

FIR against two persons was filed on Sunday evening.

The victim's brother Bishanlal, said that Dharampal had gone to sleep on Saturday night and went missing a few hours later. His charred body was recovered about 800 metres from the house tied to a tree with barbed wire. The victim's daughter blamed two of her neighbours for the murder.

SSP Bareilly, Rohit Singh Sajwan said: "Dharampal's kin were yet to lodge a written complaint. A note left by the deceased was also unclear. Two suspects, who are neighbours and named in the note, have been detained and were quizzed."

Akhilesh, Maya urge PM to repeal 3 farm laws

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to repeal the three agriculture laws passed by Parliament in September last year. "The Bharatiya Janata Party has a golden opportunity as the nation celebrates the Republic Day on Tuesday and the prime minister should accept the demands of the agitating farmers and repeal the three agriculture laws and bring fresh legislation. The Modi government should bring new law to ensure legal guarantee of minimum support price to the farmers that also guarantees doubling the income of the farmers," the SP chief said in Farrukhabad on Monday.

Targeting the prime minister, the SP chief said, "The BJP had promised to double the income of farmers and the farmers are demanding the same from the government and instead of addressing their concerns, the government has let loose repression against them and they are being prevented from reaching Delhi... even the petrol pumps have been directed to not sell diesel to the farmers for tractors." He said the time was not

far when the farmers would topple the Modi government.

Yadav alleged that the farmers in Uttar Pradesh were not getting the minimum support price (MSP) for the paddy crop. "How can you expect that the BJP-led UP government will give justice to the farmers as the chief minister has failed to ensure payment of the MSP to farmers in his home district Gorakhpur," he said.

Accusing the UP government of being incompetent, Yadav said, "What can you expect from the Yogi Adityanath government except repression of farmers and all other sections of society who are dissatisfied with the present government."

Yadav alleged that the SP leaders were being framed in fake cases. He said even when cases had been withdrawn against the BJP leaders, senior SP leader Mohammad Azam Khan was in jail. He claimed that the SP would form the next government in UP in 2022.

On tie-up with other political parties for the 2022 UP assembly elections, the SP chief said his party would not enter into alliance with big political parties but was open to electoral alliance with small political parties. He said Mahan Dal

led by Sanjay Chauhan and the Rashtriya Lok Dal were with the Samajwadi Party.

Meanwhile, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Monday urged the Central government to roll back the contentious Farm laws and cautioned that no new tradition be started on Republic Day.

Tweeting in Hindi on Monday, Mayawati posted: "BSP is again requesting the Centre that out of all the demands of protesting farmers, the three Farm laws should be repealed so that no new tradition be started on Republic Day, and as per the suspicion of Delhi Police any wrong and untoward incident may happen." Earlier, the BSP chief posted that the talks between protesting farmers and the Union government had once again failed which was a matter of extreme concern.

On Sunday, the Delhi Police allowed agitating farmers to take out a tractor parade on Republic Day with certain riders. After the Republic Day parade at Rajpath concludes, farmers would be allowed to drive their tractors at designated routes in Delhi. The tractor parade has been allowed only at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders in Delhi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum in Auction Program of Northern Railway

No.: 117/S/Auction Programme/Sale/2020-21

Date: 25.01.2021

Following extra/amended dates of the auction program for the month of January 2021 will be as under:

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

All other auction dates advised earlier will remain same. For futher details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in.** (Perhlad Singh)
Dy. CMM/S&P

190/2021

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

Serving Customers with a Smile

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82CrPC)

WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that Shivangi Singh S/o Sh Ghanshyam Singh R/o Gram - Nafarpur, PO- Khazari, Tehsil- Sasra, Block- Chilkahar, Police Station- Chitbadgaon, Distt- Balla Uttar Pradesh. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case no V111/25/DZU/2019, u/s 8(c), 22(c), and 29 of NDPS Act, 1985 of Narcotics Control Bureau Delhi Zonal Unit and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Shivangi Singh S/o Sh Ghanshyam Singh Rio Gram,- Nafarpur, POKhazari, Tehsil - Sasra. Block- Chilkahar, Police Station - Chitbadgaon, Distt- Ballia Uttar Pradesh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Shivangi Singh S/o Sh. Ghanshyam Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Shivangi Singh Sic) Sh. Ghanshyam Singh Rio Gram,- Nafarpur, PO - Khazari, Tehsil- Sasra, Block- Chilkahar, Police Station- Chitbadgaon, Distt - Balsa Uttar Pradesh, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on the day of 09.03.2021

By order

Sh. Ajay Kumar Jain

Dated 25 01 2021

Spl Judge NDPS Act

Seal

Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Office of the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Headquarter Office, Subedarganj, Prayagraj

NOTICE NO :- PDW-02/2021

Principal Chief Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of President of India Invites applications on the prescribed performa from manufacturer of the reputed brand of the PDW (Packaged Drinking Water) for short listing for use/service/ sale in departmental and licensee catering units & MPS units of the North Central jurisdiction. Shortlisting will be done in two categories:-

S.N.	Category	Financial Criteria
1	Category 'A-1': - for sales at all categories of Railway stations.	Annual turnover of Rs. 20 Crores or more from the sale of the specific brand during last two completed financial years.
2	Category 'A': - for sales at 'A' and Lower categories of Railway stations only.	Annual turnover of Rs. 2 Crores or more from the sale of specific brand during last two completed financial years.

Shortlisted brand will be supplied in Catering Units only in case of non-availability of Rail Neer brand PDW bottles. Application form can be obtained from the office of Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Headquarter, North Central Railway, Chambal Parisar, Subedarganj, Prayagraj on any working day between **10.00 to 18.00 hrs. upto 24.02.2021** on payment of Rs. 5900/- (Rs 5000+18% GST) for the above item. The application form and other terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website **www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in** by going through Tender & Notice of the portal.

Place date and Time for submission of application: The application can be submitted at Principal Chief Commercial Manager Office, Headquarter, Chambal Parisar, Subedarganj, Prayagraj on any working day between **10.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs. upto 24.02.2021** and upto **15.00 hrs. on 25.02.2021**. It is also clarified that this is not a tender notice but application for short- listing of brands of above mentioned PDW brands. The applications will be opened on **25.02.2021 at 15.30 hrs.**

North central railways

@CPRO NCR

89/21(A)

NOTICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

No. RMSA/NSQF/EOI/1363/2020/1897

Date: 25/01/2021

This is an invitation to submit an Expression of interest party(s)/ firm(s) for implementation of Vocational Education under National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) in Government and Provincialised secondary schools across Assam through e-procurement system of Govt. of Assam i.e. <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

Detailed document may be seen at <https://assamtenders.gov.in> for eligibility, scope of work, Eol terms and conditions etc. The Eol document can be purchased by registering at <https://assamtenders.gov.in> from 26/01/2021 to 15/02/2021, 14:00 hours and making payment of non-refundable Eol processing fee of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of DD/Banker cheque in favour of Mission Director, RMSA, Assam payable at Guwahati. The Eol is to be submitted online through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Assam i.e. <https://assamtenders.gov.in> only on or before 15/02/2021, 14:00 hours.

Scope of Work:

Implementation of Vocational Education services in secondary schools under NSQF in the following trades:

1.IT/ITS. 2. Agriculture. 3.Healthcare. 4.Beauty & Wellness. 5.Electronics & Hardware.6.Automotive.7.Tourism & Hospitality. 8.Retail.9. Private Security.

Details of Eol:

1.Rs.16.80 lakh as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) have to submit in favour of Mission Director, RMSA, Assam payable at Guwahati. 2.The Eol can be downloaded from the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>. 3.The proposal has to be submitted as described in the Eol.4.Submission start date : 27/01/2021, 12.00 Noon.5.Last date/time for submission : 15/02/2021, 2.00 P.M. 6.Date of opening of Eol : 15/02/2021, 3.00 P.M.

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

Sd/-Executive Director,

Samagra Shiksha, Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanvog /CF/4111/20



Vidhan Bhawan decked up on the eve of Republic Day

Pioneer

Be tough on criminals, compassionate to justice-seekers: CM tells police

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed police officials and personnel to take stern action against criminals and be friendly towards those approaching them for justice. He was reviewing the overall law and order situation in the state in Lucknow on Monday.

Hailing the men in uniform for outstanding management of Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, NRI Diwas or in tackling Corona pandemic, Yogi said that their efforts had changed public opin-

ion about the uniformed force and also helped the government to take corrective measures in this direction. The CM asked the police officials and personnel to continue the friendly approach with citizens but harshly deal with crimes and criminals to ensure a safe society for everyone. "The government is committed to ensuring the safety of every citizen and law and order always remains on the top priorities of my government. Any apathy or negli-

gence by law enforcing agencies will not be tolerated," he asserted.

The CM further said, "Despite the absence of adequate sources, the manner in which police men and officers worked towards controlling the spread of Corona infection was appreciated by everyone. During lockdown, when most services were suspended, PRVs of Dial-112 did a wonderful job of supplying essentials to people in need."

North Eastern Railway

E-Tender Notice

Opened E-tender based on Two Packet System (Technical & Financial Bid) (Tender Notice No. M/C&W/15/2020-21 Dt. 22.01.2021) are invited by Divisional Rail Manager/ Mech./C&W/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and on behalf of President of India for following work:-

Description of works : Out sourcing of comprehensive Housekeeping & Mechanized Cleaning at Deoria Sadar (DEOS) Station including platforms, yard, tracks, office buildings, reservation office, concourse area, circulating area, waiting halls, Drains cleaning, Garbage disposal and Rag picking etc. for the period of four years. **Approx. Value :** Rs. 3,72,63,578.25, **Cost of Tender Forms :** Rs. 10,000/-, **Completion period from the date of commencement of work :** 04 Years, **Validity of Offer :** 180 days. **Date and time of closing of E-tender :** 18.02.2021 at 14.30 Hrs. **Date and time of opening of E-tender :** 18.02.2021 at 15.00 Hrs. • Tenderers may submit their offers online up to 18.02.2021 at 14.30 hrs. • Please go to the website **www.ireps.gov.in** to see the complete details and upload the tender.

CPRO/Mech.-88 Sr. DME/C&W/BSB

About any Passenger AGENCY complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955

Do not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, बिहार 400 के०पी० उपकेंद्र-10 खण्ड, उ०प्र० पार द्वांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, सरोजनी नगर, लखनऊ ई-निविदा सूचना अनुमति फर्म / ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निम्नलिखित निविदाएं दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में मूल्य/दर वेबसाइट **www.etender.up.nic.in** पर ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग के खुलने की तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व 17:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जाती है। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त जानकारी, नियम व अहंकारी शर्तें, निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित है, जो वेबसाइट **www.etender.up.nic.in** से डाउनलोड कर अवलोकित /अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम व द्वितीय भाग वेबसाइट **www.etender.up.nic.in** पर ही अपलोड किया जा सकेगा । निविदा से सम्बंधित कोई भी प्रपत्र, मौखिक रूप से कार्यालय में स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा। अयोध्याश्रमकर्ता को बिना कोई कारण बतिये किसी अथवा सभी निविदाओं को अस्वीकार / विमाजित / निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। विस्तृत जानकारी, अन्य किसी प्रकार के संशोधन एवं तिथि विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में निविदा अपलोड करने के दिनांक / समय तक कृपया वेबसाइट **www.etender.up.nic.in** पर लॉग ऑन करें। **निविदा सं० 10 के खुलने की तिथि 24.02.2021 निर्धारित की जाती है - (1) ई-निविदा संख्या-10 /2020-21: विद्युत 400 के०पी० उपकेंद्र-सरोजनी नगर के सिंचनार्थ क्षतिग्रस्त पावर केबिल के स्थान पर नये पावर केबिल को बिछाने, विभिन्न प्रकार की स्लैब सामग्री को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान तक ले जाने एवं केन्द्रीय मण्डार गृह की घास कटाई का कार्य एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित कार्य, निविदा प्रपत्र अनुसूच। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत 400 के०पी० उपकेंद्र खण्ड उ०प्र० पार द्वांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि०, सरोजनी नगर, लखनऊ** पत्रांक-89 दिनांक- 25.01.2021 "संरक्षित में विजली बचाय"

Ayodhya mosque may be named after Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah

Ayodhya: The proposed mosque in Ayodhya that is set to be built following the Supreme Court verdict in the Babri Masjid case may be named after Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah, the warrior of the 1857 mutiny against the British.

The Indo Islamic Cultural Foundation, the trust constituted by the Sunni Waqf Board to oversee the construction of the mosque, is seriously considering to name it after Shah, who was known as the 'Lighthouse of Rebellion' in the Awadh region, Trust Secretary Athar Hussain said

After the Trust was formed, there have been discussions on whether the mosque should be named after Mughal emperor Babar or some other name be given. The Babri mosque was named after Babar.

To make the Ayodhya mosque project a symbol of communal brotherhood and patriotism, the Trust has decided to dedicate the project to Shah, who represented these values and was also a true follower of Islam, accord-

ing to Trust sources. Hussain said, "The Trust is thinking very seriously over the proposal of dedicating our Ayodhya Mosque project to the great freedom fighter Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah. We have got suggestions regarding the same from different platforms. It is a good suggestion. We will officially announce it after deliberations". Shah was martyred on 5 June, 1858. British officers like George Bruce Malleon and Thomas Seaton have made a mention of his courage, valour and organisational capabilities.

Malleon has repeatedly mentioned Shah in the History of Indian Mutiny, a book on the Indian revolt of 1857. During the freedom struggle, Shah had launched revolts in the Awadh region. He made the local mosque, Masjid Sarai, located in Chowk area of Faizabad his headquarters. As he liberated Faizabad and larger part of Awadh region, he used the premises of this mosque to hold meetings with rebel leaders.

CITYBRIEFS



VOTERS' DAY

Bank of Baroda celebrated National Voters' Day at its zonal office in Lucknow with fervour and enthusiasm. All the staff members gathered to take voters' pledge, as advised by the Election Commission of India. The programme was chaired by deputy zonal head of the bank Baldev Raj Dhimani. He highlighted the importance of voting and apprised the staff members of their right to vote without any discrimination of class, caste, religion or gender. Zonal HR head Girish Kumar administered the pledge to all the staff members of the zonal office.

CAREER TALK SERIES

ITIians Anshika Verma and Vaibhav Chandra spoke addressed the students in the career talk series, organised by LPS director Harshit Singh. Anshika and Vaibhav gave some important tips to the students regarding preparations for the JEE. They said it is important for the students to practise numerical questions daily, memorise rules and ensure focused studies.

Police training college instructor booked for abetting suicide of woman SI

Bulandshahr: An instructor at a police training college was booked on Monday for alleged abetment of suicide of a woman sub-inspector here, officials said. Sub-inspector Arzoo Pawar, posted at Anoopshahar police station, was found hanging in her rented accomodation on January 1 in an apparent case of suicide.

The deceased woman's brother Manish lodged a complaint more than three weeks after the death accusing Umesh Sharma, a physical training instructor at Moradabad Police Training College, for abetting and forcing his sister to commit suicide.

On hearing about Arzoo's suicide, her mother has been suffering from palpitations due to which the family could not inform the police about the case, Manish claimed.

Bulandshahr Senior Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar Singh on Monday said a case has been registered against Sharma under IPC Sections 306 (abetment of suicide) and 384 (punishment for extortion). In the complaint, it is stated that on December 29, Arzoo revealed that Sharma had invited her home to his ancestral village in Bulandshahr where he apparently had physical relations with her after mixing an intoxicating substance in the tea served to her. He also made a video of the act. After the incident, Sharma started blackmailing Arzoo and continued to harass her. When Arzoo told Sharma about her impending marriage, Sharma forced Arzoo to cancel it and not talk to the groom.

Five UP students feted in different categories

Lucknow (PNS): Five students brought laurels to Uttar Pradesh by receiving the Prime Minister's National Children Award in various disciplines.

The awardees include Vyom Ahuja of Lucknow, Kunwar Divyanshu of Barabanki, Mohammad Shadab of Aligarh, Mohammed Rafe of Prayagraj and Chirag Bansali of Gautam Buddha Nagar. Students from UP won the most number of awards as compared to their counterparts from other states. While giving away the awards, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi also dished out the success mantra to the students.

Eleven-year-old Vyom Ahuja of Lucknow won the award for art and culture, Mohammad Rafe of Prayagraj for sports, Kunwar Divyansh Singh of Barabanki for bravery, Mohammad Shadab of Aligarh for education and Chirag Bansali of Gautam Buddha Nagar for innovation. In his virtual conversation with the awardees, the Prime Minister asked them to work hard in their lives and not to lose humility after achieving success.

यू० पी० प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि०
(विस्तार परियोजनाओं का समर्थन)
कार्यालय: महाप्रबन्धक जोन-7, यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि०, लखनऊ
बार्ली हट, मोनोमी बिल्डिंग, मोनोमी नगर, बलराम
E-Mail: gm_7@upprojects.org, gm_7/uppecl@gmail.com

ISO 9001 : 2015

पत्रांक: 176 / पी०पी०एल० / महाप्रबन्धन-7 / ई-टेंडर

दिनांक: 23.01.2021

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा जनपद मऊ में घाघरा नदी के ग्राम धर्मपुर, विष्णुपुर (विन्टोलिया) के निकट ड्रेजिंग एवं चैनलाइजेशन कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना-13/UPPCL/GM-7/E-

TENDER/2020-21 दिनांक **29.12.2020 (2021 UPPRC 545150.1)** आमंत्रित की गयी थी, जिसकी टेन्डिनकल बिड दिनांक 23.01.2021 को खोली गयी। उक्त निविदा में एक निविदादाता द्वारा ही प्रतिभाग किया गया। एकल निविदा होने के कारण उक्त निविदा पुनः आमंत्रित की जा रही है। उक्त निविदा वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in** के पोर्टल पर दिनांक 27.01.2021 से दिनांक 02.02.2021 तक डाउनलोड /अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 02.02.2021 को अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक सबमिट /जमा किया जा सकता है तथा टेक्निकल बिड उसी दिन अपराह्न 2:00 बजे से अयोध्याश्रम की उपरोक्त कार्यालय में खोली जानी प्रस्तावित है। निविदा से सम्बंधित अन्य विवरण एवं शर्तें इत्यादि कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट **www.upprojects.org** पर देखी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक जोन-7

यू०पी०पी०सी०एल०, लखनऊ

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III

SECTOR-VII, R.K. PURAM, NEW DELHI-110022

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

N.I.T. NO.37(2020-21) SW-III

S. No.	Description	Amount Put to Tender, Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in E-Procurement Solution)	Last date/Time of receipt of Tender Through E-Procurement Solution
1	Interconnection of 1500 mm dia water main with feeder line of A-2 UGR by 500 mm dia water main using trenchless technology under EE(SW)-III, AC-43	Rs. 27,01,151/- Rs. 500/-	21-01-2021 Tender I.D.No. 2021_DJB_199032_1	05.02.2021 At 2:00 P.M.
2	Replacement of old/damaged/ silted up sewerline behind Ravi Das Mandir & nearby area at village Haуз Rani under SW-III, AC-43	Rs. 25,19,361/- Rs. 500/-	21-01-2021 Tender I.D.No. 2021_DJB_199032_2	05.02.2021 At 2:00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

ISSUED BY P.R.Q. (WATER)

Advtr. No. J.S.V. 338 (2020-21)

Sd/-
(Naveen Kumar Khare)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Notice No.: PAD-01/2021

Notice

Date: 20.01.2021

Office of the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, N.C.Ry, Headquarter Office, Chambal Parisar, Subedarganj, Prayagraj

Principal Chief Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of President of India invites applications for shortlisting of Company/Firm etc. for supply of PAD products in static Catering units & MPS units on the prescribed proforma from reputed Company/Firm etc. of the renowned brand of the following products for use/service/sale in licensee as well as departmental units of the North Central Railway jurisdiction:-

S.N.	Name of the Products	S.N.	Name of the Products
1.	Aerated Drinks in sealed bottles and Cans	12.	Pickle in Blister Pack/Sachet
2.	Fruit Juice in Tetra Pack/Sealed bottles & Cans	13.	Sugar in Sachet
3.	Fruit Drinks in Tetra Pack/Sealed bottles & Cans	14.	Dairy Creamer in Sachet
4.	Biscuits	15.	Ice Cream
5.	Markkeens	16.	Frozen Dessert
6.	Chips	17.	Confectioneries (Including Chocolates)
7.	Cakes	18.	Packed Bakery Products
8.	Tea Bulk Pack in packets & tea bags	19.	Baby Food: Powdered Milk for Infants
9.	Coffee powder bulk pack in packets & sachets	20.	Baby Food: Cereal Mix
10.	Tomato ketchup-Butter/Sachets	21.	Flavoured Milk
11.	Butter in Foil/Blister Pack (8-10 Gms)		

Application form can be obtained from the office of Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Headquarter, North Central Railway, Chambal Parisar, Subedarganj, Prayagraj on any working day between **10:00 to 18:00 hrs.** upto 22.02.2021 on payment of Rs. 5900/- (Rs. 5000+18% GST) separately for each of the above items. The application form and other terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website **www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in** by going through Tender & Notice of the portal.

Place Date and Time for Submission of Application: The application can be submitted at Principal Chief Commercial Manager Office, Headquarter, Chambal Parisar, Subedarganj, Prayagraj on any working day between 10:00 to 18:00 hrs. upto 22.02.2021 and upto 15:00 hrs. on 23.02.2021. **The applications will be opened on 23.02.2021 at 15:30 hrs.** It is also clarified that this is not a tender notice but application for shortlisting of Firm/Company etc. and brand for supply of above mentioned products.

88/21 (P)

North central railway

www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

@CPRONCR

Man held for sexually exploiting, duping woman

Lucknow (PNS): A man was accused of sexually exploiting a woman on the pretext of facilitating her a job and then duping her of Rs 12 lakh in Gomti Nagar Vistar police station area. The accused, identified as Randheer Pandey of Garhi Kanaura locality in Alambagh, was arrested after hectic efforts. As per reports,

Randheer came in contact with the woman three years back through a common friend. He later came close to the woman and won her trust. However, as Randheer had an evil design in his mind, he boasted of his links with senior government officials and offered a job to the woman as a computer operator in UP

Agricultural Development Institute.

Randheer took Rs 12 lakh from her as favour money. He also sexually exploited the woman. Hopeful of getting a job, the woman did not go against Randheer. However, she repeatedly asked Randheer to give her an appointment letter, and the latter gave her a

fake training letter. It was revealed when she reached the UP Agricultural Development Office. She demanded an explanation from Randheer but he sought to side-step her questions. He also abused and threatened her. The woman alleged that Randheer had unnatural sex with her on a number of occasions.

UP first to have emergency airstrips on 3 expressways

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh achieved the distinction of being the first state in India to have three airstrips for landing of Indian Air Force fighter planes during emergency situations on its Expressways.

Work on a 3,300 metres airstrip on Purvanchal Expressway near Kurebhar (Sultanpur) has been completed and the IAF was likely to test the airstrip by landing different fighter planes and carriers in February or March.

Additional Chief Secretary and chief executive officer of Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), Awaneesh Awasthi said that work on the airstrip has been completed and it would be tested and used by the IAF sometime in late February or early March.

With this, Purvanchal Expressway will become the third airstrip laid on Expressways after the Agra-Noida Yamuna Expressway (near Mathura) and Lucknow-Agra Expressway (near Unnao).

The Agra and Hindon air bases would be greatly benefitted with the construction of these three emergency airstrips on Expressways in case of a hostile engagement with China or Pakistan.

Smart card, digital kiosk facility at SGPGIMS library

Lucknow (PNS): Director of SGPGIMS Prof. RK Dhiman inaugurated and launched the facility of smart card and digital kiosk system in the central library. The chief librarian presented a smart card to the director and demonstrated the operation of the digital kiosk. A senior doctor said that a new facility of drop box has also been made available.



NOTICE

I have changed my name from Sabeen Zeeshan to Sabin Alam in all future purpose, Sabin Alam W/o Zeeshan Alam R/o 201-B Defense Colony Jajmau Kanpur

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Zeeshan Sikandar to Zeeshan Alam in all future purpose, Zeeshan Alam S/o Sri Sikandar Alam R/o 201-B Defense Colony Jajmau Kanpur

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पहले मेरा नाम Manish Kumar Dandona था जो अब बदलकर Manish Dandona हो गया है। भविष्य में मुझे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये। Manish Dandona S/o Swadesh Kumar Dandona 102, HIG, Pritam Nagar, Sulem Sarai, Allahabad.

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पहले मेरी पुत्री का नाम Ashna K Dandona था जो अब बदलकर Ashna Dandona हो गया है। भविष्य में मेरी पुत्री को Ashna Dandona के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये। Manish Dandona S/o Swadesh Kumar Dandona 102, HIG, Pritam Nagar, Sulem Sarai, Allahabad.

NOTICE

"I, Aparna Gautam, Wife of Rajat Kaushik and resident of House No. 178, Sector-15, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad-201012 have changed my name from Aparna Gautam to Aparna Rajat Kaushik vide Affidavit dated january 01,2021 sworn before Notary Mahavir Sharma, Auraiya Uttar Pradesh. Henceforth, I shall be known as Aparna Rajat Kaushik for all purposes."

<div>   कानपुर विकास प्राधिकरण  </div>										
गणतन्त्र दिवस के पावन पर्व पर										
प्राधिकरण की जोन-3 के अन्तर्गत न्यू ट्रान्सपोर्टनगर योजना फेस 1, 2 व 3 में ट्रान्सपोर्ट व्यवसायियों को व्यवसायिक भूखण्ड प्राप्त करने का स्वर्णिम अवसर										
प्रस्तावित भूखण्ड पत्रकी भाऊसिंह क्षेत्र में स्थित है। ट्रान्सपोर्ट व्यवसायी भूखण्ड प्राप्त करने हेतु रु. 1000.00+5% नगद भुगतान कर पंजीकरण पुरस्का 11.01.2021 से एच.डी.एफ.सी. बैंक, कानपुर नगर की समस्त शाखाओं से प्राप्त कर एवं पंजीकरण फार्म, पंजीकरण धनराशि के बैंक ड्राफ्ट के साथ संलग्न कर दिनांक 11-02-2021 तक एच.डी.एफ.सी. बैंक, कानपुर नगर की समस्त शाखाओं में जमा कर सकते हैं।										
क्र. सं.	भूखण्डों का प्रकार (बीटर में)	क्षेत्रफल (वर्ग मी.)	जोन 1 में भूखण्डों की संख्या	फेस 2 में उपलब्ध भूखण्डों की संख्या	फेस 3 में उपलब्ध भूखण्डों की संख्या	कुल उपलब्ध भूखण्डों की संख्या	दर (वर्गमी. में)	अनुमानित मूल्य	पंजीकरण धनराशि	
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	30x60	1800.00	---	22	---	22	27,300.00	4,91,40,000.00	49,14,000.00	
2.	20x50	1000.00	29	29	25	83	27,300.00	2,73,00,000.00	27,30,000.00	
3.	15x30	450.00	41	29	5	75	27,300.00	1,22,85,000.00	12,28,500.00	
4.	10x25	250.00	65	23	---	88	27,300.00	68,25,000.00	6,82,500.00	
5.	10x20	200.00	6	12	---	18	27,300.00	54,60,000.00	5,46,000.00	
6.	6x15	90.00	3	2	---	5	27,300.00	24,57,000.00	2,45,700.00	
		कुल योग	144	117	30	291				

नियम व शर्तें :- (1) उक्त भूखण्ड का आवंटन जल्दी के माध्यम से किया जाएगा। (2) प्रत्येक आवेदक को एक ही भूखण्ड आवंटित किया जाएगा। (3) आवेदक को पंजीकृत ट्रान्सपोर्ट व्यवसायी होना अनिवार्य है। आवेदक को अपने ट्रान्सपोर्ट व्यवसायी व्यवसाय की प्रमाणिकता के साथ हेतु विस्त 3 वर्ष के अवकाश/डी.एच.डी. विलगी की यदि आवंटन पत्र के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। (4) आवेदक को पूर्व का आर.टी.ओ. अधिसूच में “बैंकिंग बाह्य बैंक एड 2007” के तहत परिप्रेक्ष्य होना अनिवार्य है, परिप्रेक्ष्य का साथ आवंटन पत्र के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। प्रत्येक सॉलिटर्ड वर्ग को एक ही भूखण्ड आवंटित किया जाएगा। (5) आवंटन के उपरान्त 10 प्रतिशत पंजीकरण धनराशि को समायोजित करते हुए कुल कीमत 1/4 धनराशि आवंटन पत्र निहित होने से एक माह के अन्दर जमा करना होगा, शेष 3/4 धनराशि 12 प्रतिशत बिलियन सहित 3 वर्ष की 6 प्रमाणी किराओं में भुगतान करना होगा। किराओं का समय से भुगतान न किये जाने पर 3 प्रतिशत राइट ब्याज अतिरिक्त देय होगा। (6) आवंटि को विलम्ब हेतु भेजी गयी सूचना के अनुराध यदि आवंटि निवन्धन नहीं करता है तो रु. 2,00 प्रति वर्गमी. की दर से चौकीदारी मुक्त प्रतिमाह देय होगा। (7) भूखण्ड का 90 दिन के अन्दर सम्पूर्ण भुगतान किये जाने पर अवशेष 90 प्रतिशत धनराशि पर 5 प्रतिशत की छूट प्रदान की जाएगी। (8) भूखण्ड कानन होने की दशा में भूखण्ड का 10 प्रतिशत अतिरिक्त बाज देय होगा। (9) निवन्धन से पूर्व कुल मूल्य का 12 प्रतिशत प्रीलेन्ड मुकद देय होगा। (10) भूखण्ड का कब्जा निवन्धन के उपरान्त ही दिया जाएगा। (11) किसी भी विचार की दशा में कोई भी वैकल्पिक भूखण्ड नहीं दिया जाएगा और जमा धनराशि बिना किसी कटौती एवं बिना किसी ब्याज के वापस कर दी जाएगी। (12) ट्रान्सपोर्ट व्यवसायी को भूखण्ड आवंटन के उपरान्त अपना ट्रान्सपोर्ट व्यवसाय एक वर्ष के अन्दर आवंटित भूखण्ड पर अनिवार्य रूप से स्थानान्तरित करना होगा। (13) उपरोक्त सम्पत्तियों के आवंटन की स्वीकृति/अस्वीकृति के सम्बन्ध में उपाध्यक्ष, कानपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, कानपुर का निर्णय अन्तिम एवं बाध्यकारी होगा और चिसे किसी भी न्यायालय में चुनौती नहीं दी जा सकेगी। (14) शेष नियम व शर्तें पंजीकरण विवरण पुरस्का के अनुराध व्यव्वात रहेगी।

कै. के. सिंह
संयुक्त सचिव

डॉ. गुडाकेश शर्मा
अपर सचिव

राकेश कुमार सिंह
उपाध्यक्ष

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कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी, श्रावस्ती

पत्रांक—मु0चि0अ0 / विज्ञापन / 20—21 / 14376

दिनांक—25.01.2021

गणतन्त्र दिवस 2021 की पूर्व संध्या पर

हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं के साथ जननी शिशु सुरक्षा योजना के अन्तर्गत प्राप्त होने वाली निःशुल्क सुविधाएं प्रेस-विज्ञप्ति

- सभी गर्भवती मातायें, आशा बहू के माध्यम से अथवा सीधे महिला स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्त्री से अपना पंजीकरण अवश्य करायें।
- टी0टी0 के टीके लगवायें तथा खाने के लिये आयरन फोलिक एसिड की गोलियां अवश्य ही प्राप्त करें।
- हीमोग्लोबीन तथा ब्लड प्रेशर अवश्य जांच करायें।
- समय—2 पर प्रसव पूर्व जांच कराकर उचित सलाह चिकित्सक /स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्त्री से ही प्राप्त करें।
- प्रसव, निकटतम सरकारी अस्पताल/स्वास्थ्य उपकेन्द्र पर ही करायें, इसके लिये प्रत्येक गांव में कार्यरत आशा बहू से सहयोग प्राप्त करें।
- प्रसव के तुरन्त बाद नवजात शिशु को स्तनपान जरूर करायें।
- प्रसव उपरान्त पोस्ट नेटल जांच स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्त्री से अवश्य ही करायें।
- सभी गर्भवती महिलाओं को चिन्हित स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों/उपकेन्द्रों पर 102 एम्बुलेंस वाहन से निःशुल्क आवागमन की सुविधा, भोजन, दवा तथा अन्य जांच की सुविधा उपलब्ध है एवं उनके खाते में बैंक पासबुक की छायाप्रति जमा करने पर रु0 1400 /— स्थानान्तरण की सुविधा उपलब्ध है।

डॉ0 ए0 पी0 भार्गव
मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी
श्रावस्ती



टी0 के0 शिबू IAS
जिलाधिकारी
श्रावस्ती

लोक आयुक्त तथा उप लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश



कुप्रशासन **प्रदेश की भ्रष्टाचार/कुप्रशासन मुक्त** **भ्रष्टाचार**

बनाने हेतु जनता से अपील

मंत्रियों, विधायकों व अन्य लोकसेवकों के विरुद्ध भ्रष्टाचार, पद के दुरुपयोग व कुप्रशासन के सम्बन्ध में प्राप्त होने वाले परिवादों (अभिकथन/शिकायत) को ग्रहण करके लोक आयुक्त तथा उप लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश के द्वारा उसका निराकरण कराते हुए उत्तरदायी मंत्रियों, विधायकों और लोकसेवकों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही हेतु संसुधियों ससन प्राधिकारी (मुख्यमंत्री / मुख्य सचिव) को प्रेषित की जाती है और वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन माननीय श्री राज्यपाल को प्रस्तुत किया जाता है।

अधिकारिता

उत्तर प्रदेश शासन के समस्त विभाग, सरकारी कम्पनियों, सहायक सरकारी कम्पनियाँ, निगम, सोसाइटीज व परिषदें (जो अधिसूचित की गई हैं) से संबंधित परिवादों (अभिकथन / शिकायत) के मामलों तथा सेवानिवृत्त देयकों के भुगतान, मूलक आश्रित सेवायोजन, विकास प्राधिकरण एवं आवास विकास परिषद, निराश्रित एवं वृद्ध महिलाओं के पेंशन, अनुसूचित जाति व जनजातियों के आरक्षण (सेवा) संबंधी मामले।

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य के समस्त अधिकारीगण (धारा—22 में वर्णित न्यायाधीश / न्यायिक अधिकारी, महालेखाकार आदि को छोड़कर) एवं कर्मचारियों के साथ—साथ मंत्रीगण (मुख्यमंत्री को छोड़कर), विधायक, विधान परिषद सदस्य, महापौर महापालिका, अध्यक्ष, नगर पालिका परिषद, नगर पंचायतों तथा अध्यक्ष, जिला पंचायत (ग्राम प्रधान को छोड़कर) भी सम्मिलित हैं के विरुद्ध परिवाद (अभिकथन / शिकायत)। शासकीय लोक सेवकों के सेवानिवृत्त / सेवाकाल में मृत्यु से संबंधित देयकों के प्रकरण से संबंधित परिवाद जो कि शिकायत की श्रेणी में आते हैं प्रस्तुत किये जा सकते हैं।

अभिकथन/शिकायत की प्रक्रिया

प्रदेश के लोक आयुक्त तथा उप लोक आयुक्त को अभिकथन तथा शिकायत सम्बन्धी परिवाद निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर तीन प्रति्यों में (व्यथासंभव राजभाषा हिन्दी में) टंकित करारकर धारा—9(2) के अनुसार नोटरी शपथ पत्र एवं धारा—9(3) के अनुसार परिवाद, शपथ पत्र, संलग्नक/अनुलग्नक का सत्यापन परिवादी स्वयं के द्वारा निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार करके एवं अभिकथन रूपी परिवादों में रु 2,000 /— प्रतिमृति निर्धारित लेखा शीर्षक “8443 सिविल निक्षेप—00—103 प्रतिमृति निक्षेप—00—00” के अन्तर्गत भारतीय स्टेट बैंक अथवा कोषागार में धालान के माध्यम से जमा करके मूलप्रति सहित प्रस्तुत किया जा सकता है। साथ ही यह भी स्पष्ट किया जाता है कि यदि प्राप्त परिवाद निष्ठा / सेवाकाल में मृत्यु से संबंधित देयकों के परिवादियों पर माननीय लोक आयुक्त द्वारा रु 50,000 /— तक की धनराशि का हर्जाना लगाया जा सकता है एवं प्रतिमृति की धनराशि जब्त की जा सकती है।

नोट— राज्य सरकार द्वारा ई—पेमेंट से भुगतान किये जाने के कारण, परिवादी अपना राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक का बचत खाता संख्या, बैंक व शाखा का नाम, जिला एवं आई0एफ0एस0सी0 कोड के साथ—साथ पासबुक की स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रति, परिवाद दाखिल करते समय प्रतिमृति की धनराशि के मूल धालान के साथ उपलब्ध करायेगे तभी उनको प्रतिमृति की धनराशि वापस किया जाना सम्भव होगा। परिवादी को अपना पूरा नाम, पता, मोबाइल नम्बर / ई—मेल के साथ अंकित करना चाहिए।

वर्तमान पता—टी0सी0—46 / बी—1 विमृति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ—226010 अथवा
पोस्ट बाक्स नम्बर—172, जी0पी0ओ0, लखनऊ, **फैक्स नं0 —** (0522) 2306647
फोन नं0 — (0522) 2728660, 2306717, 2728865, 2306088, 2306160 (पी0पी0 एक्स), 2306412
Web site — www.lokayukta.up.nic.in, E-mail :- lokayukta@hotmail.com

—सचिव, लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ—

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद मुबारकपुर, आजमगढ़।

26 जनवरी 2021 गणतन्त्र दिवस के पावन अवसर पर समस्त नगरवासियों का नगर पालिका परिषद मुबारकपुर हार्दिक अभिनन्दन एवं स्वागत करती है तथा समस्त आम जनता से निम्न अपेक्षा करती है।

- नगर आपका का है इसे स्वच्छ रखने में नगर पालिका का सहयोग करे।
- स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2021 मे नगर पालिका परिषद मुबारकपुर को प्रथम स्थान दिलाने के सहयोग करे।
- नगर पूर्णरूप से ओ0डी०एफ० घोषित हो गया है खुले में शौच एवं पेशाब न करे।
- शासन द्वारा पूर्ण रूप से प्लाटिक, थर्माकोल आदि को प्रतिबन्धित कर दिया गया है इसका उपयोग न करें।
- नगर का वातावरण शुद्ध बनाने में अधिक से अधिक वृक्षारोपण करे ताकि मुबारकपुर स्वच्छ एवं स्वस्थ हो।
- सार्वजनिक गली, रास्ते, मैदान, पोखरी, नाला / नाली आदि पर अवैध अतिक्रमण न करे।
- जन्म एवं मृत्यु निर्धारित अवधि 21 दिवस के अन्दर अवश्य दर्ज कराये।
- जल ही जीवन है इसे अनावश्यक न बहने दें।
- सार्वजनिक सम्पत्ति की रक्षा करे इससे नुकसान होने से बचाये।
- गृहकर, जलमूल्य एवं अन्य कर का भुगतान समय से करें।
- प्रकाश बिन्दुओ को न तोड़े, दिन में एल0ई0डी0 जलती पायी, जाय तो पालिका प्रशासन को अवगत कराये।
- सार्वजनिक गली, स्थान आदि में अपने भवन निर्माण की सामग्री, मलबा आदि को रखकर अतिक्रमण न करे।
- बिना पालिका की स्वीकृति के भवन निर्माण न करे।
- कूड़ा प्रतिदिन रात्रि में कूड़े वाले स्थान पर डाल दे तथा पालिका द्वारा कूड़ा उठवाने के बाद कूड़ा सड़क पर न फेंके।
- मांस, मछली, बकरा गोश्त, मुर्गा, को आदि खुला न बेचे।

अधिशासी अधिकारी

नगर पालिका परिषद मुबारकपुर

आजमगढ़।

अध्यक्ष

नगर पालिका परिषद मुबारकपुर

आजमगढ़।

पत्रांक 15 / न0पा0प0मु0 वर्ष 2020—21 / दिनांक 22 जनवरी 2021

26 जनवरी 2021 गणतन्त्र दिवस के पर्व पर नगर पंचायत बिलरियागंज आजमगढ़ नगरवासियों का हार्दिक स्वागत एवं अभिनन्दन करती है तथा नगरवासियों से निम्न अपेक्षाएँ करती है।

वृक्ष धरा का भूषण है। करता दूर प्रदूषण है।।

मन में यह संकल्प जगाये। प्लास्टिक कभी प्रयोग में लायें।।

स्वच्छता अपनाये। बीमारी दूर भगाये।।

वैश्विक महामारी कोविड–19 कोरोना वायरस संक्रमण से नागरिकों को बचाव व जागरुक किये जाने हेतु नगर पंचायत बिलरियागंज आजमगढ के नगरवासियों से अपील है कि–

- घर में रहे, सुरक्षा के लिए मास्क पहने तथा सेनिटाईजर का इस्तेमाल करें, हाथों को बार—बार एवं साफ पानी से 20 सेकेंड तक अच्छी तरह से धोएं।
- बेवजह अपनी आँखें, नाक या मुँह न छुए, दरवाजे के हेण्डल आदि को न छुए, खाँसी, बुखार के लक्षण व सांस लेने में तकलीफ हो तो नजदीकी स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र तुरन्त जाएं।
- प्लास्टिक/थर्माकोल का प्रयोग पूर्णतया प्रतिबन्धित है। इस का उपयोग करता हुआ पाये जाने पर वैधानिक कार्यवाही एवं अर्थदण्ड का प्राविधान है।
- जन्म—मृत्यु का पंजीकरण 21 दिन के अन्दर अवश्य करायें।
- गृहकर, व्यवसाय कर एवं जलमूल्य की अदायगी समय से करें।
- पर्यावरण को स्वच्छ बनाये रखने हेतु वृक्ष लगाये एवं नगर पंचायत का सहयोग करें।
- नं0 पं0 बिलरियागंज आजमगढ़ को आ0डी0एफ0 घोषित कर दिया गया है। खुले में शौच करना एवं गंदगी फैलाना एक सामाजिक अपराध है। खुले में शौच करने पर नियमानुसार वैधानिक कार्यवाही एवं अर्थदण्ड लगाया जायेगा।
- जल ही जीवन है इसे अनावश्यक न बहाये।
- सार्वजनिक पोखरी, तालाब, मैदान सड़क नाला / नाली के उपर अवैध अतिक्रमण न करें।
- प्रकाश बिन्दु को न तोड़ें, दिन में बल्ब आदि जलता पाया जाने पर नगर पंचायत को सूचित करें।
- नगर पंचायत द्वारा कूड़ा उठाने के उपरान्त सड़क पर कूड़ा न डाले। नगर को स्वच्छ बनाय रखने में सहयोग करें।
- सूखा कूड़ा एंव गीला कूड़ा अलग—अलग डस्टबीन में डाले।
- कोई ऐसा कृत्य न करें, जिससे पर्यावरण प्रदूषित हो तथा जनमानस को हानि हो।

(**मु० रफीउल्लाह आजमी**) (**सुरेश कुमार**) (**विरेन्द्र प्रसाद विश्वकर्मा**)
लिपिक/नोडल अधिकारी अधिशासी अधिकारी अध्यक्ष
नगर पंचायत बिलरियागंज नगर पंचायत बिलरियागंज नगर पंचायत बिलरियागंज
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सदस्यगण : 1. तारा देवी 2. प्रमोद कुमार 3. धनश्याम मोदनवाल 4. नासरीन बानों 5 मो० साद 6. रेहाना बानों 7. जयप्रकाश यादव 8. तबरेज अहमद 9. मो० तारिक 10. मो0 आसिफ 11. ज्ञानती देवी 12. सुशील गुप्ता 13. ममता गुप्ता 14. दयाशंकर यादव
पत्रांक—मेमो / न०पं0बि0 / 2020—21 दिनांक 22 जनवरी 2021

Tight security on Republic Day eve

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Elaborate security arrangements have been made at different sensitive places on the eve of Republic Day here on Monday. In view of ongoing agitation of farmers in Delhi and their proposed procession of tractors, the district administration has already imposed restrictions on the movement of tractors on the roads on Tuesday and in this direction, all the police stations have already been instructed to keep watch on movement of tractors and political parties. A day ago, several Sardar Sena activities were detained when they were trying to go to the PM's parliamentary office. However, despite all the restrictions, Samajwadi Party (SP) workers have decided to take out procession in support of farmers while on the eve of Republic Day, Congress took out a procession.

Meanwhile, on the eve of the day, several government buildings, stations and others have glittered with attractive lighting arrangements. Like previous years Varanasi Junction (Cantt) and other railway stations apart from NER DRM office at Lahartara have also been decorated with



NER DRM Office glittering with attractive lighting on eve of Republic Day in Varanasi on Monday

Pioneer

attractive lighting arrangements. Besides, at all the railway stations including Varanasi Junction and Manduadih, security arrangements have been tightened. Security forces have also intensified their activities to keep watch on trouble makers at all the sensitive places, internationally famous ghats and some important temples apart from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur and bus depots at Cantt and other places.

Besides, all the arrangements have been completed for the functions on this national day. Though due to COVID-19 guidelines, no big programmes would be organised at the universities and colleges, however, all the formalities would be done to hoist the flags there. At Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), colourful cultural programme will be held on the day at its stadium where General Manager (GM) Anjali Goyal will hoist the flag at 9 am and

then RPF, Civil Defence, St John's Brigde, Bharat Scouts and Guides personnel and volunteers will present a parade. In Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Registrar Dr Neeraj Tripathi will hoist the tricolour at Central Office at 9.30 am, while the main programme will be held at Amphi-theatre. Besides, all the preparations have been made to organise programmes at various district and police offices as per the COVID-19 guidelines.

Revolutionary changes seen in poll process: MLA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Emphasising on conducting awareness programmes through street plays and cultural events in every town and village, MLA Saurabh Srivastava said that there has been tremendous improvement in the election process in the last one and a half decades in the country, which is a revolutionary change in our democracy as booth capturing has been stopped. 'Awareness among the voters is important for strengthening democracy and a strong government will come only when people celebrate the polling day as a festival,' he said while addressing the National Voters' Day programme here on Monday. He also appealed to all to fill Form-6 online if their names are not in the voter lists.

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal appealed to all to set a new

record of voting per cent in the forthcoming assembly election in UP in 2022. Giving special emphasis on the sanctity, impartiality and transparency of elections, in spite of diversity among the people, he said that earlier it was seen during polling day, in the name of security, the people avoided going to the polling booths and preferred to enjoy it as a holiday staying at homes but gradually the Election Commission (EC) has transformed the voting day into a celebration, making a radical change in this environment.

On the occasion, voter photo identity cards were also distributed among the young voters including eight females, 16 males, two Divyangs and six third gender voters by the MLA and DC. The participants also took a pledge which was administered by the DC. Earlier, Saurabh Srivastava

and Deepak Agrawal duly inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp. On the occasion, students of various schools presented cultural programmes and street play to send emotional message to the people to use their franchise.

Meanwhile, at the Central Office in Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Rector Prof VK Shukla administered the oath to the senior professors, officers and employees present there. Prominent among those who took oath on the occasion were Registrar Dr Neeraj Tripathi, Dr Sanjay Kumar, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Manoj Kumar Gupta and Dr Vichitrasen Gupta. The programme was conducted by Murtuza Alam, Section Officer (General Administration), while Dr Sanjay Kumar, Joint Registrar (GAD) proposed the vote of thanks.

Earlier, inaugurating the

voter awareness campaign among the differently abled people under the aegis of National Service Scheme (NSS) in BHU on eve of the day, Registrar Dr Neeraj Tripathi said 'it is the duty of the conscious citizen to enrich any nation and take it on the path of progress.' Prof Mrityunjay Mishra said that the opinion of every citizen is important and it is only with one vote that a government is formed which gives direction to the development of the nation. Dheeraj Patel, instructor of Help the Blind Foundation, Chennai, gave information about the research in the field of computers for the study and teaching of visually impaired students. NSS coordinator Dr Bala Lakshindra presided over the function. Satya Prakash Malviya welcomed the guests, while Mushkan Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

1.75 lakh girls open accounts in POs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav has informed that Sukanya Samridhi accounts of about 1.75 lakh girls have been opened in various post offices of this region so far apart from making 190 Sukanya Samridhi villages. Addressing a function on National Girl Child Day here on Sunday, he said the scheme is playing an important role as the girls are the future of the nation and they need to be strengthened financially and socially for their bright future. According to him, to make this day special, the Postal depart-

ment honoured the girls by organising post offices in various schools and rural areas in view to help them open their accounts.

Senior Superintendent (Post Office), Varanasi Eastern Division, Sumit Kumar Gaat said that Sukanya Samridhi account can be opened in any post office for girls upto the age of 10 by depositing minimum of ₹ 250 and they can deposit minimum ₹ 1,000 and maximum of ₹ 1.5 lakh in a financial year. Superintendent (Post Office), Varanasi Western Division, Ram Milan said that the girls can withdraw 50 per cent of their deposits after 18 years and the entire amount on

completion of 21 years. Assistant Director Shambhu Rai said that the interest rate in this scheme is 7.6 per cent and there is also a provision for income tax exemption in deposits.

Meanwhile, the Health department has organised public awareness rallies at two communities and six primary health centres (CHCs/PHCs) in the district apart from holding seminars. Besides, as usual Mukhyamantri Arogya Swasthya Melas were also organised in all 52 urban and rural PHCs in the district, in which doctors gave advice to the patients apart from providing them free testing and med-

icines.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh inaugurated Arogya Mela at PHC Baragaon. He has instructed the health officers to ensure making of golden cards of cent percent beneficiaries. He also asked the officers to ensure the benefits of Kanya Sumangala Yojana to all eligible beneficiaries. A total of 2,899 people were examined at these fairs, including 954 males, 1,536 females and 409 children. Apart from this, 1,412 persons were tested at Covid help desks, in which antigen tests were done on 508 persons and all of them were found negative.

Eight new Covid cases in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as eight new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Monday, increasing the total number to 21,858. No casualty has been reported during the day and the death toll remained at 375. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 10 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 18,416. As no patient has been discharged from any of the hospitals, the number remained at 2,965. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 21,381, leaving 102 active cases. The recovery rate is 97.81 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.71 per cent.

In the first report of the day, six positive patients were

found out of 2,095 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 5,82,538 and the results of 4,084 are awaited. Out of them, 5,60,682 were negative, while 21,856 were positive. The total number of samples collected was 6,09,376. Meanwhile, mass / group corona antigen tests continued and all the 105 tests were found negative at SSPG Hospital Kabirchaura apart from 16 at CHC Shiwpur, 35 at Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur, 205 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar and 97 at SSH BHU.

Along with this, samples of 100 from SSPG, 200 from LBS Hospital, 10 from Vivekanand Hospital and 97 from SSH BHU have been sent for RTPCR investigation.

Samvidhan march taken out

VARANASI (PNS): On the eve of Republic Day, the Congressmen on Monday took out the Samvidhan march from Bharat Mata Mandir in Sagra to the statue of Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel in Maldahia, here and pledged to honour the Indian Constitution and work to protect it.

As per their earlier decision, the leaders and workers of the Congress Party gathered at Bharat Mata Mandir and expressed their faith in the Indian Constitution. They read out the preamble of the Constitution. They pledged to honour the Constitution and also work to protect it. Each and every citizen of India should pay respect to our Constitution.

Thereafter, they took out the Samvidhan march that culminated at the statue of Sardar

Patel. During the march, the Congressmen were carrying booklets of the Constitution and also holding national flags. They were also carrying portraits of the great personalities of the country. The march ended with garlanding the statue of Bharat Ratna Sardar Patel and recital of national anthem. Prominent among those who joined the march included Ajay Rai, Rajeshwar Patel, Vijay Shankar Pandey, Durga Prasad Gupta and Shailendra Singh.

Earlier, the party held a meeting at Rameela Ground in Harahua market on Sunday last to discuss strengthening the party organisation in view of the forthcoming Panchayat election. The party ex-MLA Ajay Rai emphasised on strengthening the party organisation as a strong organisation can give a strong government.

Azad bridge develops crack

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Chandrasekhar Azad bridge is built on the river Ganga in Phaphamau of Prayagraj. Through this, it goes to other places including Lucknow, Faizabad, Ayodhya and Pratapgarh. Thousands of vehicles travel on it every day. This bridge has developed a crack posing danger to the commuters and vehicles as well. The crack has increased these days. There is also panic among people about this. However, the departmental officers of the Public Works Department are talking about fixing it soon.

There has been a rift in the joint of Chandrasekhar Azad Setu Bridge on the Ganga of Phaphamau for about a month. Commuters said that nowadays the cracks have increased more than before. People are afraid of this because of the possibility of untoward incidents. Thousands of vehicles move daily on the Chandra Shekhar Azad Setu Bridge, built on the Ganga river of Phaphamau.

It is worth mentioning that the Public Works Department officials and public representa-

tives also pass through this path, but nobody noticed the problem. Gaurav Agarwal, a social worker from Phaphamau, said that the cracks in the joint of Chandrashekhar Azad Setu were apprise to the higher officials of the Public Works Department but the problem could not be solved till date. Here the people of Phaphamau are already grappling with the problem of jam and trouble due to the damaged bridge.

Public Works Department Executive Engineer AK Singh said that the crack in the joint of Chandrashekhar Azad bridge will be rectified without delay.

HC DIRECTIVE TO DGP: The Allahabad High Court said that even though the corona vaccine has been introduced, it will take time to reach all the people. Therefore, there should not be any laxity in the rule of wearing masks for the next three months. The court has directed the DGP to ensure 100 per cent wearing of masks in the state.

The court has prohibited the opening of vending zones

and night markets in educational institutions and residential areas. Also, the police stations have been directed to remove the seized vehicles standing on the road.

A bench comprising Justice Siddharth Verma and Justice Ajit Kumar, which is monitoring the corona infection prevention measures and the traffic system in Prayagraj, has directed DM and SSP Prayagraj to increase the surveillance of commuting and stay at Magh fair. The court has said that after removing illegal construction on the municipal land by the PDA, it should be ensured that no encroachment occurs again.

The court said that the vaccinations will take time, so the laxity is not to be taken. The court has sought an affidavit of the zonal officer for providing Wi-Fi and wearing masks in the post corona ward of SRN Hospital. It is said that the corona patients are not wearing masks during treatment after recovery.

The court has asked to have an oxygen machine in the ambulance so that the corona

patient does not have trouble leaving the house when he is cured.

The court said that the Central Government informed about vaccination phase 1 and phase 2 that in the first phase, the vaccine will be given to the front line health worker and people above 50 years in the second phase, but did not tell when the second phase will start. A better affidavit should be filed with the plan information.

The PDA told the court that under-ground parking of six commercial institutions had been restored. Under-ground parking has also been restored in eight nursing homes and other institutions. The court directed Chandan Sharma and Shubham Dwivedi court commissioner to inspect it and submit the report. It is said that there should be no parking in front of such establishments, vehicles should be parked in the parking lot. The court asked the state government to give police protection to PDA officers while removing encroachments. The petition will be heard on February 5.

22 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A total of 22 new cases of COVID-19 were detected in the Prayagraj district in the last 24 hours on Sunday night. About 23 people beat corona. No patient died of corona infection for the third consecutive day.

According to CMO Dr Prabhakar Rai, on Sunday night, a corona testing of 6,247 people was conducted in the district. The number of infected persons was 22, providing relief to the Health department and city residents. Of the 23

people who beat corona, six patients were discharged from various Covid hospitals. 17 people completed home isolation.

CMO said that the number of active patients of Covid is continuously decreasing in the district. This figure now comes to 312. At the same time, the maximum 28 infected patients are admitted to L3 SRN Hospital. 15 patients are being treated at Kalindipuram Covid Care Center, 20 at Beli and 14 patients at United Medcity. So far 21,282 people have been cured by lining in home isolation in the district.

OJHA BAGS POLICE MEDAL: Pradyumna Kumar Ojha, Inspector Railway Protection Force has been selected for the coveted Indian Police Medal. He will be conferred with the prestigious Indian Police Medal by the President of India on the occasion of 72nd Republic Day, 2021 for his outstanding and commendable work.

Pradyumna Kumar Ojha, currently posted as Inspector at RPF post Kanpur under the Prayagraj Division of the NCR has been actively involved in

notable works in the field of safety of passengers and safeguarding Railways' property during current challenging time due to COVID-19. Ojha, who joined the Railway Protection Force as a Sub Inspector in the year 1998, has been promoted to the rank of Inspector in the year 2007 and has worked as an Inspector at RPF Post Prayagraj Jn., Mathura Jn. and Aligarh Jn. Shri Ojha has also received the DG Insignia medal from Director General of Railway Protection Force in the year 2010.

CORE GM greets railwaymen on R-Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

General Manager Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) YP Singh greeted railwaymen on the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day of India and said, 'I convey my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all the officers and staff of the CORE and their families. As we all know that on 26th January 1950 India adopted its Constitution and thus emerged as a republic on the world map. On this occasion we pay our tribute to the great patriots, martyrs and leaders of our freedom struggle.

Our organisation is dedicated for electrification on Railways and has played an important role in the overall growth and economic development of the country by providing the most energy efficient, pollution-free and speedy mode of transport. During the current financial year, we have been given a challenging task

of electrification of 4056 RKM. As you all are aware that electrification work was adversely affected during the first few months of this financial year due to Covid lockdown. Despite this, satisfactory progress has been made so far. This year special attention is being paid to electrification of left over missing links and last mile connectivity sections of important rail routes. With the electrification of Katni-Satna section, the smooth running of electric trains has been possible from Patna to Mumbai via Prayagraj. Similarly with the electrification of Kanakpura-Jaipur route, it has been possible to operate trains from Delhi to Jaipur and from Prayagraj to Jaipur on electric traction. With the electrification of Jabalpur-Nainpur-Gondia section all south bound trains will start running through Gondiya in place of Jabalpur-Itarsi resulting in reduction of travel distance of Southern India by 270 Km which in turn will result in huge savings in cost

and time.

We have used Covid pandemic as an opportunity and have improved our performance with fullest potential and efficiency. Highest ever mast erection and highest ever wiring shots in one day were achieved during this period. CORE has been pioneer in adopting innovative technologies in railway electrification. For the first time in the history of Indian Railways, Chennai project started use of cylindrical foundation for RE work. 86264 mandays were created by CORE for facilitating employment to migrant labour near-by their home district during the pandemic.

In the current year 2020-21, 25 TSS and 73 SP/SSP were commissioned. Similarly, at 69 stations and 29 level crossing gates, the signalling modification work to suit RE was done and 35 new block instruments were replaced. Above achievements show the tremendous potential and commitment of our officers and

staff.

Engineering department has made important contribution by constructing 49 TSS, 47 depot, 22 tower car shed, 19 FOB, three ROB and 492 staff quarter during the current financial year.

Use of e-office has been started in CORE which will result in paperless working as well as early disposal of work. With the use of e-tender/e-reverse auction and electronic tender committee, entire procedural work from tendering to issue of work order is being done electronically. Use of online indent has been started and User Depot Module has also been implemented. With these digitisation efforts, a considerable monetary saving has been achieved. Using HRMS, e-privilege passes are now being issued electronically. An integrated facilitation center has been established on the ground floor of the CORE office catering to requirement of HRMS, UMID and e-Privilege Pass/PTO.

IFFCO Phulpur in service of the nation

ALLAHABAD : Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited. (IFFCO) is pioneer in fertiliser manufacturing not only in India but also in the world and has five plants in India engaged in manufacturing of urea and phosphatic fertilisers. IFFCO contributes about 27% phosphatic and 20% nitrogenous fertilisers demand in India,

Today, IFFCO is a multinational company with its global presence in Senegal, Oman, Dubai and Jordan. Apart from its core fertiliser business IFFCO has diversified into general insurance, rural mobile telephony, commodity trading, agrochemicals & agri-input rural retail, e-commerce, food processing, organics and nutrients for urban gardening also.

All these achievements have been possible due to the able and dynamic leadership of its visionary Managing Director Dr US Awasthi.

We at IFFCO are always committed to our farmers in providing them with innovative, effective, affordable and environment-friendly crop solutions. In this attempt, IFFCO has already taken a giant step by introducing the most revolutionary nanotechnology based products, which may be a game changer in the



nutrient management of soil the correct usage of nano urea will reduce the requirement of conventional urea and deliver perfect nutrition to the plant in an environmentally sustainable manner with higher nutrient use efficiency and crop yields.

IFFCO's entry into food processing and organic food segments will benefit the farmers by providing them access to markets with better realisation for their agri-produce. IFFCO is confident that these efforts will also contribute towards realising PM's vision of doubling farmer's income by 2022.

As COVID-19 continues to challenge food security all over the world, IFFCO has taken steps to ensure its plants remain

fully operational during this period following all measures and precautions to take care of COVID-19 pandemic like use of sanitisers, soaps, masks and social distancing. Besides this IFFCO has distributed food packets, mask and sanitisers to migrant labourers and poor in nearby areas.

IFFCO Phulpur Unit produced the highest ever production of 19.66 lakh MT of urea with alltime lowest energy consumption in the last financial year 2019-20. During the current financial year 2020-21, in spite of COVID-19 pandemic, Phulpur plant is operational following the guidelines of Government with meticulous planning and unit has produced around 14.88 lakh MT urea till date.

Since its inception in 1981, IFFCO's Phuiapur Unit has produced more than 448 lakh MT of urea fertiliser.

We are committed towards environment protection and sustainable growth and apart from maintaining our emissions well within the norms stipulated by various agencies, we are maintaining a wide green belt around our premises. Tree plantation is a regular feature at Phulpur Unit. IFFCO Phulpur Unit has installed solar power plant with capacity of 1385 KWp which has substan-

tial impact on reduction in CO2 emission into atmosphere. Total solar power generation during the period April-December 2020 is 13.511 Lakh KWh Unit which is equivalent to reduction of 945.7 tonne of CO2 emission.

IFFCO Phulpur Unit besides producing urea is engaged in services of the farming community through Cooperative Rural Development Trust (CORDET) in which it has established Motilal Nehru Farmer's Training Institute which is organising training courses to farmers in the areas of improved farming practices. Agricultural extension programmes e.g. balance fertilisation programme, soil testing & seed treatment campaigns are also organised and farmers are encouraged to learn and implement the new farming technologies to improve their productivity and socio economic status.

CORDET also produces Bio-fertilisers in liquid forms which are sold all over the country.

In pursuance to give benefit to local farmers, CORDET is buying Neem seeds from nearby farmers and produce Neem oil for production of neem coating urea by IFFCO.

CVO: No trace of bird flu in Kanpur as apprehended

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Veterinary Officer Dr RRP Mishra, on Monday, said that as on date 500 poultry samples had been sent for testing out of which 450 were negative and there was no trace of any bird flu as apprehended.

He said 66 more samples had been taken and if their reports were negative, the ban on the sale of poultry and poultry products

would be lifted and the Kanpur Zoological Gardens would be thrown open to the public.

The chief veterinary officer said all the reports sent by the Indian Animal Research Institute clearly stated that there was no trace of bird flu virus as was being apprehended after a few birds were found dead in Kanpur zoo and its surrounding areas.

He said all the poultry

products which were tested were cleared.

He said quite a number of samples had been sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal and their reports were awaited for giving a green signal for human consumption of poultry products.

The chief veterinary officer said NIHSAD had detected two strains of influenza viruses so far and they were a sub-type of avian influenza

found in poultry and wild animals, mainly in crows in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. He added this strain posed a low risk to people and was highly lethal to wild birds and poultry.

He said the second strain was found in ducks in Kerala and migratory birds in Himachal Pradesh. He said this was a highly infectious strain and caused severe respiratory disease in birds.

Madhu Yadav assumes role of DM for a day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

On the occasion of National Girl Child Day, Class XII topper of Shivaji Inter College, Madhu Yadav, was made the district magistrate for one day on Monday.

She heard the grievances of people at the DM office and issued necessary instructions.

Raju of Kewadia village in Ghatampur informed the 'DM' that he lives in a rented house and was often harassed by the former gram pradhan and beaten up by his henchmen but the local police were not taking any action against the accused.

On this, 'DM' Madhu immediately asked the OSD to connect her with the station officer. On failing to contact him, she talked to the circle officer of Ghatampur and apprised him of the problems of Raju. The CO assured her to look into the matter soon. The 'DM' asked the CO to inform her about the action taken in the case.

Monika Puri of Swaroop Nagar informed the 'DM' that her six-bigha land was sold by someone else. The 'DM' assured her of action in the matter.

Thereafter, the 'DM' proceeded to attend the National Voters' Day programme with



One-day DM Madhu Yadav hearing the problems of people at DM office on Monday.

Pioneer

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari organised at the Atal Behari Vajpayee auditorium of Kanpur Development Authority (KDA).

There, the 'DM' asked Arshima, another student who was made the SDM (Sadar) for one day, to conduct probes in three issues and submit her report soon.

She also heard the problem of Nisha who met the SDM (Sadar) for getting an affidavit signed by her and assured her of action in the matter.

Thereafter, she inspected

the office and issued orders for proper sanitation and upkeep of records.

Speaking on the occasion, 'DM' Madhu Yadav highlighted the importance of voters, saying they were the persons who ruled over the country. She asked them to exercise their franchise and elect deserving candidates.

District Magistrate Alok Tiwari said all the BLOs discharged their duties like front-line workers and congratulated them. He administered the oath to all and conveyed his

greetings for the National Voters Day.

On this occasion, the one-day 'DM' Madhu Yadav presented the voter ID cards to students Akshat Gupta, Tarun Mishra, Drishti Gupta and Shakshi Shukla for becoming first time voters.

They all promised to exercise their franchise in the forthcoming elections.

Madhu Yadav also felicitated the BLOs of different development blocks and winners of different competitions of students on this occasion.

BHU V-C lauds NSI technologies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Banaras Hindu University Vice Chancellor Dr Rakesh Bhatnagar, while visiting the National Sugar Institute on Monday, complimented it for various achievements and expressed hope that it would commercialise the technology which will be of immense utility to the rural areas near the sugar factories.

A 1970 pass out from the NSI from where he pursued his PhD, Dr Bhatnagar extended an invitation to NSI Director Prof Narendra Mohan to work out possibilities of working on some mutual areas of interest like development of yeast strains for enhancing fermentation efficiency during production of ethanol and enzymes for production of invert sugar syrup.

Dr Bhatnagar visited the research laboratories in biochemistry, organic chemistry,



The BHU V-C, Dr Rakesh Bhatnagar, visiting the NSI laboratory along with Director, Prof Narendra Mohan on Monday

Pioneer

agricultural chemistry and sugar technology divisions and evinced keen interest in the technologies developed recently by the NSI, particularly, for production of dietary fibre, alkyl eulinates and graphene oxide from bagasse.

The technologies devel-

oped by the institute for producing value-added jaggery, fortified sugar and bakery products using liquid jaggery and dietary fibre were remarkable and were fit for establishing startups or small or medium units, he said.

"The students passing out

from various courses can become entrepreneurs thus becoming job creators rather than job seekers, he added.

Prof Mohan apprised the BHU vice chancellor of the technology developed by the NSI for production of biogas from press mud, a waste produced in the sugar industry that could be used for heating purposes. He said by purifying and compressing it further, the same could be converted into bio-methane which could be used as automotive fuel.

He also presented a model of a mini biogas plant which can work upon press mud alone or on a mixture of kitchen waste and press mud or even by using agriculture waste. He said a small plant processing 200 kg of such waste could produce about 5 kg of biogas which may suffice cooking needs of 10 houses thus saving equivalent amount of LPG.

15 more test positive in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said 15 more people tested positive of coronavirus infection in Kanpur Nagar during the past 24 hours.

With this, the tally of confirmed coronavirus infections detected in the city reached 32,781 on Monday evening.

The CMO said no COVID-19 death was reported in the city during the past 24 hours.

Dr Mishra said 151 active cases were undergoing treatment in the city at present. He said 3203 samples were taken in the city on Monday for testing.

10 lover couples, hotel mgr held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Collectorganj police caught 10 couples from a hotel in Cooperganj who were provided rooms without any ID.

Along with the 10 youths, the police also arrested the hotel manager and initiated penal action against them.

Station House Officer Rajesh Pathak said on a tip-off that a hotel of Cooperganj was providing rooms to couples in love on hourly charges without checking their IDs, he along with a special force raided the spot and examined the visitors' register of the hotel and caught 10 couples from different rooms as they were allowed entry without any ID.

The arrested youths were identified as Pradeep Kumar of Jarauli, Barra; Mohd Ahmad of Babupurwa; Amit Verma of Shastri Nagar; Mridul Kumar of Parmat; Rafat of Awass Vikas Colony, Kalyanpur; Numan Ansari of Iftkharabad; Laxmi Kant of Mandhana; Dharmendra of Agra; Shobh of Begumpurwa and Farzan of Gwaltoli.

They were booked under section 31 (breach of public peace) of the Indian Penal Code.

Besides, an FIR was registered against hotel manager Mayank Kumar of Juh.

A report under the Sarai Act against the hotel was also being sent to the district administration, the SHO said.

Teenager killed by kin

KANPUR (PNS): A teenage boy abducted from Jyoti village in Sheoli police station area of Kanpur Dehat was strangled to death by his brother-in-law who is an army man, and the latter's three friends.

The body was dumped in the Ramganga canal in Sadh police station area.

As the father of the deceased boy had beaten up his son-in-law three months ago, the latter killed the boy to avenge his insult.

Police arrested the accused and were making efforts to recover the body.

According to reports, 17-year-old Lucky Singh, son of a farmer Dinesh Singh, of Jyoti village went out of the house in the night on January 16 and did not return. Dinesh Singh lodged a report about the mysterious disappearance of his son.

During investigation, police suspected the role of Dinesh Singh's son-in-law Sumit Singh of Naubasta (Kanpur) in the disappearance of Lucky and on being grilled, he confessed his crime.

Sumit told the police that on January 16 night, he called Lucky on the phone and took him in a car. On the way, he, with the help of his friends Ashok, Shivam and Golu of Bharu village in Vidhnu, strangled Lucky to death and dumped the body in Ramganga canal near Gopalpur village in Sadh police station area.

Sumit told the police that he had come here on leave four months back. He said after an argument with his wife Nidhi, when he was beaten up by his father-in-law and brother-in-law, he decided to kill Lucky Singh and did not join duty and finally killed the teenager with the help of his friends.

National Voters' Day observed

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

National Voters' Day was observed throughout the district on Monday during which



brief programmes were held at all the government offices. A brief function was held at the

district mines office where Mines Officer PK Singh and other employees pledged to exercise their franchise as citizens of the country and abide by the Constitution.

MAN INJURED: A man was seriously injured when he was hit by an unidentified truck near Kanakaraay village under Kachhawaan police station on Monday. On getting information about the matter the area police reached the spot and took the victim to the Kachhawaan community health centre (CHC) from where he was referred to the trauma centre in Varanasi. The injured was later identified as Devendra Dubey a resident of Kachhawaan Deeh under the Kachhawaan police station in the district.

Youth killed in road accident

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A youth died in a road mishap in an area under the Adalhaat police station on Monday. As per the reports, Pradyumn Vishwakarma (24), son of Ramasary Vishwakarma, a resident of Sikiya village under Adalhaat police station was going on on his motorcycle on Varanasi-Narainpur Road when he was hit by a truck near Chhota Mirzapur village. As a result the youth died on the spot. On getting information about the accident the police reached the spot and took the body for completing the necessary legal formalities.

FOUNDATION DAY: The foundation day of Uttar Pradesh was celebrated in the district on Sunday. The main function was organised at a school in district headquarters. The district exhibited its achievements through the

stalls and those who achieved laurels in different fields related with development and showed the path of self-reliance to others were awarded. Addressing the programme Uttar Pradesh

Minister of State for Energy Rama Shankar Singh Patel, who was the chief guest on the occasion, praised Chief Development Officer (CDO) Avinash Singh who convened the such a successful function in which schemes of all departments could be exhibited. He said that no doubt it was a programme in the real sense to celebrate the foundation day of the state. On the occasion



he said though there were so many achievements of the government the condition of law and order, roads besides action taken against the criminals etc were spoke about its people-oriented works. Besides during the lockdown period meals were provided to the needy and jobs to migrant labourers, he said and added that the district had got a medical college and a central school. On the occasion cheque of ₹4.57 crore was released as loan to the SHGs under NRLM scheme. Under the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana tool kits were distributed among the artisans. Cheques worth ₹25 lakh were given to five beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Srijan Karyakram and Mukhya Mantri Gramodyog Rojgar Yojana. Besides, awards as well as appreciation letters were given to those who had done remarkable works under different schemes. The keys were handed over to SHGs to run community toilets. Earlier the function started in presence of the MLAs Ratnakar Mishra and Rahul Kol, vice-chairman of SC and ST Commission, Maniram Kol, Divisional Commissioner, Vindhyachal, Yogeshwar Ram Mishra and Inspector General (IG) Piyush Srivastava who lit the ceremonial lamp jointly along with the chief guest. The function was conducted by Divyang Kalyan Adhikari Divya Shukla while vote of thanks was proposed by the CDO Avinash Singh, who was the convener of the event.

Rally to make people aware about traffic rules

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

In order to make aware the people about traffic rules a women's motorcycle rally was taken out on Sunday. Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Kumar Singh flagged off the rally at Patel Chowk which was led by Station Officer (SO) Seema Singh Mahila Thana. During the rally the participants interacted with people and made an appeal to refrain from rash driving. Seema Singh said that life was precious. Throughout the way the participants gave tips for safe driving. The rally culminated at Police Lines.

PROJECT MILAN PRO-



SP Ajay Kumar Singh flagging off the rally

Pioneer

GRAMME: Under 'Project Milan' programme the Parivar Paramarsh Kendra reunited five couples on Sunday. The meeting of Parivar Paramarsh Kendra held at Police Lines and five couples who were living

separately due to some misunderstanding agreed to live together. Among those who made the meeting successful were head constable Shashibala Yadav and constables Seeta Devi, Namrata and Kavita.

Conference on opencast mining tech ends

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The two-day-long International Conference on Opencast Mining Technology and Sustainability 'ICOMS' held at NCL concluded recently. During it reputed mining professionals, technical experts, educationists, scientists, researchers and students from the country and abroad presented 85 research papers on production, productivity, safety, innovation, automation, coal gasification,



artificial intelligence, digitization of processes, mining work with long-term environmental balance, health of workers, recycling of waste from the mine, effect of work-related stress on mental health, impact of changes in environment-related and other laws on coal mining, benefits of surface miner and other modern technologies besides many other important topics. Director (Technical/ Operations), NCL, Dr Anindya Sinha, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said 'ICOMS' is a celebration of knowledge for NCL where experts from all over the world give important suggestions through their papers in areas like mining technology, automation, innovation, solar energy, coal gasification and diversification in other areas, socio-economic impact of mining industry which are implemented in NCL in a planned manner. Sinha expressed commitment of the NCL to lay special emphasis on research and development (R&D) in coordination with industry and technical educational institutions and expressed confidence that all suggestions given during the conference will be implemented after an extensive discussion. During the programme Director (Technical/ Project & Planning) of NCL, SS Sinha, former General Managers of NCL, heads of department of headquarters, regional GM, IIT (BHU)'s Prof Piyush Rai and his team, officers and employees from various areas of NCL were present. On the

occasion SS Sinha appreciated NCL's Women Brigade, Young Brigade and team of IIT (BHU) for their significant contribution in the successful conduct of ICOMS-2020. Expressing happiness over the successful organisation of the conference, Sinha said many practical and implementable solutions have been received for the day-to-day problems in the coal industry, which will surely be implemented in the near future. Professor Piyush Rai of IIT (BHU) said 'ICOMS' has proved to be an excellent example in the field of promoting R&D in coordination with industry and educational institutions and together we are doing a remarkable work in the field of environmental mining. At the exhibition organised during the conference around 20 start-up companies affiliated with NCL-IIT BHU Incubation Centre gave information to visitors on the latest technologies and innovations related to mining sector, multidisciplinary topics like clean energy, automation, agricultural products, pearls, mushrooms and organic farming. About 50 companies made people aware of their products and services in the exhibition. Besides IIT (BHU) also played an important role of knowledge partner in organising the conference.

CONCLUDES: At the headquarters of NCL, the closing ceremony of 'Quality Awareness Fortnight 2020-21' was held recently. While addressing as the chief guest NCL CMD Prabhat Kumar Sinha said timely supply of high-quality coal to all consumers and their satisfaction is our objective, policy and duty. In this direction NCL is continuously strengthening its infrastructure to despatch coal using environment-friendly transportation method, he said. NCL Director (Personnel) Bimlendu Kumar, Director (Technical/Operations) Dr Anindya Sinha, Director (Finance) Ram Narayan Dubey, Director (Technical / Project & Planning) SS Sinha, JCC member from BMS, PK Singh, and CMOAI general secretary Sarvesh Singh were present as distinguished guest. Besides heads of department, regional GM and other officers and employees of the headquarters were also present. Director (Finance), Quality Council of India, HB Chawla, was also present besides representatives of major consumers of NCL.

Literary festival at DPS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Delhi Public School in Sarvodaya Nagar organised a junior inter-school competition, a two-day festival packed with storytelling, object talk, Ad Mad show, elocution, declamation and much more.

The idea behind this literary festival was to expose the children to the wonderful world of books, stories, vocabulary and learning. The event had a fabulous line-up of out of the box literary competitions to give the right exposure to the children.

DPS head mistress Pratibha Shukla lit the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the event and this was followed by an aesthetic dance performance by the students of Class V.

The event commenced with a journey of the school, thereby giving the message that the school was dedicated

towards building the 21st century skills in children, including communication, collaboration, creative and critical thinking and above all confidence.

Welcoming the judges and students, Shukla said that an event of this dimension cannot happen overnight and the wheels start rolling months in advance. She expressed gratitude to the panel of judges comprising Sneha Gupta, Geetanjali Arora and Santoshi Mishra, all renowned personalities from the literary world, for their contribution to the society by their work.

Students from reputed schools participated in the inter-school competition. They participated in various literary competitions.

Storytelling is an effective tool for learning and development in kids as it creates empathy in them, helps with the

development of the brain and lays the groundwork for the development of social communication and interpersonal skills. Keeping this in mind, a storytelling competition 'Once Upon A Time' was conducted for the students of classes 1 and 2, thereby developing confidence and self-esteem in the children and introducing them to public speaking by giving them an option of speaking about an object they are interested in.

'Talk Masters', an object talk competition, was held in English for the pre-nursery, nursery and prep children. The little ones described their favourite objects innovatively and creatively, thus boosting their confidence, oratory skills and their memory.

Students of classes 1 and 2 also participated in the elocution competition, 'Eloquence'. Declamation competition

was organised for the students of classes 3 to 5. It was a great learning experience for the students as it invited them to speak on a given topic without hesitation, repetition or deviation. The students were judged on the basis of knowledge about the topic, vocabulary, fluency and confidence.

The Ad Mad competition was the perfect platform to showcase that one has the knack to advertise and win hearts. In order to provide a platform where a child can showcase his/her creativity and also boost his/her confidence the Ad Mad competition 'Radvertising' was presented. The students of classes 3 to 5 showcased their talents and their acting skills. The judges boosted the morale of the children.

The vote of thank was proposed by DPS Director Rachna Mohotra.

Happy new R-Day!

Being celebrated in the midst of a raging pandemic, this year's parade will register many firsts

The Republic Day is all about pomp, show and gaiety. Primarily, it showcases India's military might and features its tanks, missiles, torpedoes, submarines, fighter jets and, of course, its men. The event related to the nation's prowess is accentuated by tableaux displaying the rich cultural heritage, diversity, its values, principles, the Government's initiatives and schemes, milestones achieved and the road ahead. However, the 72nd Republic Day, which is being celebrated in the midst of a raging pandemic, will not be the same. It will be a low-key affair marked by several firsts and many first-time misses. First and foremost, there will be no chief guest, making it the first R-Day parade in over 50 years without the presence of the most



important guest; thus making it a bit insipid. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had been invited as the chief guest but he had to cancel his visit in the backdrop of the outbreak of a new COVID strain at home. Before this, India didn't have a chief guest for the R-Day parade in 1952, 1953 and in 1966. Second, due to COVID restrictions the route of the parade, which begins at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, has been cut short and it will this year conclude at the National Stadium (India Gate) instead of the Red Fort as every year. The soldiers marching down Rajpath would wear masks, as will the spectators. Further, there will be no gravity-defying stunts by the motor-cycle-borne men and the size of the marching contingents has been reduced from the regular 144 to 96. The veterans' parade has also been cancelled this year due to the pandemic. All this has been done to ensure that the social distancing protocol is adhered to. Even the number of spectators has been brought down to 25,000 from 1.25 lakh last year.

The tableau of the Union Territory of Ladakh will participate in the parade for the first time, featuring the Indian Astronomical Observatory, located at Hanle near Leh, one of the world's highest sites for optical, infrared and gamma-ray telescopes. Among the other firsts will be the participation of the country's first woman fighter pilot, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, and a flypast with the newly-inducted Rafale jets that will be part of different formations during the flypast. In yet another first, at least 122 soldiers of the Bangladesh Armed Forces will take part in the R-Day parade. Reportedly, this is only the third time since Independence that a foreign military contingent has been invited to be part of the national parade. The upgraded Schilika weapon system will showcase India's strength in the parade, led by the only woman contingent commander from the Army. In another first, Uttar Pradesh's tableau will showcase a replica of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. It will also display the culture and tradition related to the ancient temple town. On the other hand, the Republic Day — which is celebrated with patriotism and fervour — will be marred by the farmers' tractor rally on restricted routes inside the Capital.

PICTALK



A worker pastes a sticker on a carpet ahead of the Republic Day parade in New Delhi

Not a one-day wonder

Srishti becoming the Uttarakhand CM for a day is symbolic but let's learn to respect women all other days, too

Days after Kamala Harris assumed charge as the United States Vice-President with many firsts to her credit — the first woman, first coloured person and the first Asian-American to reach that office — 20-year-old Haridwar student Srishti Goswami has become probably the first Indian to take over the chief ministerial reins of any State, albeit for only a day, without winning any election or without being a member of any legislature. Following an initiative by the Uttarakhand State Child Rights Commission, as January 24 is celebrated as the National Girl Child Day since 2008, Srishti held meetings with the State's top bureaucrats and asked the officials to take steps for checking the migration of youth, especially from the rural areas, and expressed concern over the growing instances of drug peddling in the State. She also instructed the officials to clamp a ban on the sale of tobacco products within a 500m radius from educational institutes. Talking about the inevitable comparisons with Anil Kapoor-starrer *Nayak*, a confident-looking Srishti, whose father is a shopkeeper, said: "He (Anil Kapoor) was a reel-life *nayak*. Here, I became a real-life *nayak*, and I wish to continue on this path by entering politics at some stage."

Of course, the development is largely symbolic and seemingly aimed at wooing the State's women voters. It reminds one of seeking the blessings of very young girls to mark the single day of *kanya puja* towards the end of Navratras. But why stop the deifying at only one day? What's really needed is that we, as a people, treat the fair gender fairly and as an absolute equal. The skewed gender ratio needs to be balanced and improved. Women must be empowered by educating them, not exposing them to discrimination and harassment and trusting them with responsibilities. Give them what they deserve rather than giving them something in charity. There are varied ways to empower women other than symbolically making them the Chief Minister. Though it was done in a noble spirit, the trustees are not authorised to be the owners of a trust. People's representatives had better work for what they are chosen for rather than making attention-grabbing short-sighted moves. Gimmicks don't work anymore. Only performance counts.

In the footsteps of Donald Trump

Under him, America abdicated its role as the beacon of democratic norms. Trumpism may be on the wane there but it is alive and flourishing in India



DEEPAK SINHA

Former United States President Donald Trump's blatant disregard for all norms of civilised behaviour, his overt racism combined with an outsized ego and the propensity to lie — 21 per day during his term as per *The Washington Post* — are well known. Yet, despite this, or the 400,000 pandemic deaths directly attributable to his lack of leadership, or his futile and rather ludicrous attempts to overturn the election results, he still continues to enjoy the support of approximately 34 per cent of the population as per the latest Gallup Poll.

This is indeed intriguing, and while much of it can be attributed to racism, bigotry and illiteracy, it was his sophisticated use of the media, especially social media, that was probably the game-changer. Unfortunately, while his brash and uncouth ways may have made him a laughing stock internationally, it also made for a very dangerous and unstable world, in which America had abdicated its role as the beacon of democratic norms and human decency. Worse, he became the poster boy for a cohort of other tinpot dictators and autocrats globally, suddenly free to do as they pleased, with little fear of retribution.

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it," said Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's Minister for Propaganda. However, he did add a caveat: "The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie and thus, by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State." It's something every autocrat and dictator instinctively understands.

While swatting flies with a sledgehammer has its advantages, there are those who have understood and utilised the concept of "Zohnerism" to their benefit. The term, coined by journalist James Glassman, refers to "the use of true facts to lead a scientifically and mathematically ignorant public to a false conclusion".



It is derived from the experiment conducted in 1997 by Nathan Zohner, a 14-year-old student, who gathered petitions to ban "DHMO", or Dihydrogen Monoxide, as the basis of his science project, titled "How Gullible Are We?" The experiment involved calling for a cohort of other tinpot dictators and autocrats globally, suddenly free to do as they pleased, with little fear of retribution.

Trump used this phenomenon to good effect. While established media outlets may not have fully played along, the conservative and extreme Right-wing media outlets, like *Fox News* and *One America News Network*, did broadcast his lies and conspiracy theories with telling effect. The digital social media platforms too, such as Facebook and Twitter, were no less complicit in spreading his message of hate till they finally banned him for inciting violence.

After what we have witnessed during his presidency, it would be fair to say that the American democracy, despite



YET, HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL. AFTER ALL, WE HAVE JUST WITNESSED A YOUNG UNTESTED INDIAN CRICKET TEAM RISE LIKE A PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES OF ITS WORST DEFEAT. WE TOO SHOULD SHUN FEAR AND DO THE RIGHT THING; THE REST WILL FOLLOW.

its deep roots stretching back 244 years, has survived a direct assault on its very foundation by Trump and his acolytes by a hair's breadth. Thanks, in no small measure, to the strength of its democratic institutions and the upstanding character of the people who run these. An outstanding example, but not the only one, being that of former Vice-President Mike Pence, who did not let his unswerving support and loyalty to President Trump get in the way of doing the right thing, despite intense pressure to subvert the constitutional process. The other institution that deserves accolades, surviving with its dignity and reputation intact, was the judiciary. Trump had expected that having appointed a total of 200 Federal Judges with lifetime tenures, including two to the Supreme Court, they would remain beholden to him and act in a manner to support his agenda. He was, therefore, understandably shocked and disappointed when nearly all of his 60-plus challenges to the election results were summarily rejected by the courts, including two by the Supreme Court.

While Trumpism may be on the decline in America, it is alive and flourishing here in India. Make no mistake, the current dispensation — while

more circumspect and less colourful — has been just as damaging for our democracy. Our secular traditions are in tatters, empathetic behaviour forgotten and democratic institutions have all but crumbled, lacking even a shred of credibility. A vast majority of our media have become willing handmaidens of the Government. The military is being incrementally politicised and even our final bulwark, the judiciary, especially the apex court, is perceived to be functioning in tandem with the Government. Worst of all, we have no Opposition leadership worth the name, debilitated by the cancer of dynastic ambition.

Yet, hope springs eternal. After all, we have just witnessed a young untested Indian cricket team rise like a phoenix from the ashes of its worst defeat. Despite being deprived of its charismatic leader, another stepped up from the shadows, doing the impossible and leading the team to victory. Similarly, we too should shun fear and do the right thing; the rest will follow.

(The writer is a military veteran, who is a consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BJP'S POLL GIMMICK IN WEST BENGAL

Sir — The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is playing dirty politics in West Bengal. The party and its leaders are trying to gain sympathy of voters by portaying that they are the only ones who really respect the great Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his ideology. The visit of the BJP leaders to West Bengal on the 125th birth anniversary of Bose on January 23 was only a political stunt with an eye on the forthcoming Assembly elections. The BJP is reminded of such great leaders only at the time of elections.

The ruling party leaders are trying to fool the people but the voters of West Bengal are wise enough not to fall into their trap. The people have realised that the BJP leaders can go up to any extent just for the sake of winning the elections. The State can even be plunged into widespread violence for the sake of politics. The BJP will gain votes by creating a law and order situation. It is high time that the BJP concentrated on the real issues confronting the State and its people rather than showing off its bogus image. West Bengal is grappling with poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and several other problems besides COVID. Both the Centre and the State Government must focus on the real issues troubling the people and not on poll gimmicks.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

FARMERS HAVE NO OPTION

Sir — India is all set to witness a majestic march past at the Rajpath and a mammoth tractor rally by the farmers in Delhi on the Republic Day. The farmers' rally will attract wide attention. The farmers have reiterated that repeal of the laws is the only acceptable proposition for withdrawal of the agitation. In fact, the offer of the Government to put the laws on hold for 18 months itself is illogical as the Supreme Court has already stayed their implementation until further orders. However, the court can withdraw the stay soon, and the laws will come into force immediately. Faced with such vagueness, farmers fear

Congress faces Hobson's choice



This refers to the editorial 'Missing cohesion' (January 25). Now it's clear that the tenure of the Congress party's interim president Sonia Gandhi will be longer than that of its last full-time president. The fervid desire of Sonia Gandhi to see her son Rahul, a reluctant politician, at the helm of affairs of the grand old party — and the idea to build the party as an alternative to the mighty Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) at the national level is nothing but a joke.

Now, instead of working upon the electoral challenges of the Assembly polls over the next five months, the rank and file of the Congress will be mulling over the direction the party should take in its leadership choices. For a section of the party's workers, the fear of past factionalism in the party makes the Gandhi family an effective glue to bind various factions together and maintain overall discipline.

Even if that comes at the cost of the party being accused of being captive to dynastic politics, the lack of alternative leadership still makes Rahul Gandhi a formidable choice. However, its inability to find an adept leadership is not only pushing the party into irrelevance but also causing a huge void in the Opposition space — giving a free run to the ruling BJP Government at the Centre.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

that a decision to retreat after accepting the offer could prove costly for them eventually.

An argument advanced against giving legal status to the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is that it would put a heavy burden on the national exchequer. It runs counter to the repeated assertions that farmers are free to sell their produce anywhere in the country. Here, wouldn't the envisioned higher prices for agricultural produce in the market — being 'opened up' now — reduce the dependence on the MSP and lessen the burden on the Budget? Farmers have deciphered the intentions and the arguments.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

TAKE THE JAB FOR HERD IMMUNITY

Sir — In 2020, all the countries including India faced an unprecedented challenge in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. In some countries like the UK and the US, Coronavirus is still rearing its ugly head and hospitals are looking like war

zones. It will take some more time for all the countries to recover from the unwelcome guest's impact. At this juncture, the decision to supply millions of COVID-19 vaccines free of cost from India to multiple countries like Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Myanmar, Seychelles, Mauritius, Brazil, Morocco and so on is really laudable. The UK, Dominica, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are some other countries interested in COVID-19 vaccines from India as these vaccines are safe and cost-effective without compromising on safety standards.

India is clearly upstaging China in the COVID vaccines' supply. India is planning to vaccinate its 300 million people, almost the population of the US. Indians should dismiss all their apprehensions in taking vaccine jabs. We must come forward to make the inoculation drive successful.

V Nagendra Kumar | Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The LDF Government recommending a CBI inquiry against me is a clear case of political vendetta. I and my party colleagues are not afraid of the inquiry.



Former Kerala Chief Minister —Omman Chandy

One of the benefits of being 65 is that I'm eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. I got my first dose this week, and I feel great. Thanks to the scientists and all others.

Microsoft founder —Bill Gates

I know people love me. I get to know about it through social media. Sometimes I feel that the love of the audience is like a fixed deposit with me and I have to pay them back with interest.



Bollywood actor —Pankaj Tripathi

The best England players will want to play as many games as possible against India, in India. Pick them! Then they go to IPL and earn everything they deserve.

Former England cricketer — Kevin Pietersen

There is a defect in the DNA of Mamata Banerjee, and she hails from a demoness culture. No demon can love Lord Ram. Banerjee is a dishonest and evil person.

Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA —Suresh Singh



FIRST COLUMN

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE

The Congress is at a 'historic low.' It will sit in Opposition again if CWC polls are not held soon



KALYANI SHANKAR

Will the Gandhi family continue to control the over 136-year-old Congress Party? Will it shrink further? This are the questions bothering not just Congress leaders but also millions of party workers and supporters. The party is in the grip of a serious leadership crisis that is symptomatic of a larger malaise. Now it has reached a stage where some senior Congress leaders are questioning the dynasty openly. For instance, last August, 23 Congress leaders, including the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, his deputy Anand Sharma and some former Congress Chief Ministers, had written a letter to interim party chief Sonia Gandhi demanding a "full time" leadership, dissolution of power to State units and revamping the Congress Working Committee (CWC) in line with the party's constitution. Though Sonia managed to douse the fire then, the dissent continues, as was confirmed in last week's CWC meeting, where there was a public spat between the 'old guard' and the Gandhis. The leaders realise that just Modi-bashing or the past glory of the party are not enough to get the Congress back in power. Added to that, are concerns over talented leaders leaving the party for greener pastures. For instance, a young leader like Jyotiraditya Scindia, who was close to Congress scion Rahul Gandhi, left the party to join the BJP.

If the Congress is serious about revival, it has to introspect. With the dynasts unable to get the party back to power for two consecutive terms, the family and consequently the party, has become weak. As for the leadership crisis, Sonia has had her innings. Rahul has failed twice and the Priyanka Gandhi Vadra magic has not worked in Uttar Pradesh. Above all, the Gandhis want to continue in power, so there's no possibility of fresh blood leading the grand old party.



So, in order to cure the sickness in the Congress, one has to diagnose the root cause first. While the AK Antony Committee was set up in 2014 for this purpose, the findings of the report were never even discussed in the party. After its loss in 2019, the party didn't even bother to go through the motions of setting up a committee. Then, there is the lack of a smooth generational change in the organisation. While Sonia was able to install her son as the party chief and induct her daughter as general secretary, she could not check the party's erosion or build trust in the apprehensive old guard. When Rahul took complete charge between 2013 and 2019, his evident discomfort with the seniors and the latter's animosity against 'Team Rahul' was very evident. This must change.

Plus, the party must go back to grassroots politics and prepare the cadre, which will work during the elections. This is vital as the Congress has lost contact with the people. Also, there is a need for decentralisation of authority in order to empower State and district-level leaders and give up Delhi-centric functioning. The party must also develop second-rung leaders. There was a time when the States had strong Chief Ministers, and the presidents of various Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) wielded power. In such a situation, if the party lost in a region, then accountability could be fixed. That is not the case anymore. Also, in a coalition era, the Congress needs to redefine itself and befriend regional parties. The Gandhis need to change the way they have run the Congress in the last decade or so. They need to create a new narrative to attract voters and redefine the party's ideology. If the Gandhis do not wake up now, the party will deteriorate further. As Azad said, the party is at a "historic low." It will continue to sit in the Opposition for the next 50 years if elections to the CWC and key organisational posts are not held. The Congress must wake up and smell the coffee.

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

Fraternity must to preserve Indian unity

Kinship not only acts as the binding element between unity and equality, it gives birth to new rights which facilitate the constitutional goal of an egalitarian society



ROBIN DAVID

The Indian Constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950 and the Constituent Assembly first met on December 9, 1946 to draft it in the Constitution Hall, now known as the Central Hall of the Parliament. The Constituent Assembly firmly resolved to mould the dreams and aspirations of Indians after the freedom struggle.

Historical background: Since the beginning, the Constitution makers were transparent and knew their purpose and direction. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru while moving the Objectives Resolution in the Constituent Assembly said: "Laws are made of words but this Resolution is something higher than the law." He urged the members of the Assembly to treat the Objectives Resolution as a declaration, an undertaking and a pledge to achieve what they promised the people of India and the yet unborn citizens: A Constitution to call their own.

The Objective Resolution declared India as an independent, sovereign, republic. Pandit Nehru said: "India is bound to be sovereign, it is bound to be independent, and it is bound to be a republic." Clearly, the Constituent Assembly's intention was to end the monarchical system. The debates and deliberations in the House led to the Objective Resolution taking the form of the Preamble of the Constitution. However, the 'Mountbatten plan' divided India into two new dominions on June 3, 1947, causing political changes to the Constituent Assembly. Thus, the Resolution needed amendment to factor in the changed political context.

On August 29, 1947, the Constituent Assembly formed the Drafting Committee, of which BR Ambedkar was the convener. The Drafting Committee rendered meaning and form to the Preamble and incorporated other matters in the body of the Constitution. It took two years, 11 months and 17 days to complete the historic task of drafting the Constitution of India.

Preamble: Ambedkar's new preamble defined the essential features of the Indian State and its socio-political objectives. While drafting the Constitution, the makers imagined an egalitarian society built on the values and the spirit embodied in the Resolution. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, a member of the Constituent Assembly, said: "The Preamble is the most precious part of the Constitution. It is the soul of the Constitution. It is the key to the Constitution. It is a jewel set in the Constitution. It is a proper yardstick with which one can measure the worth of the Constitution."

The trinity of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity:

The egalitarian society the founding fathers envisioned, rests on four pillars established in the Preamble: The pillars of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. However, the word 'Fraternity' is mentioned in the Constitution only once. Also "Fraternity" and has not occupied much space in judicial discourse by the Supreme Court compared to Justice, Liberty and Equality. The French Revolution inspired the Drafting Committee to adopt the trinitarian concept of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity preceded by Justice. The French were the first to raise the slogan, "Liberty! Equality! Fraternity!" against oppression by the State, to demand political participation and to promote brotherhood. Of the three revolutionary slogans, *fraternité*, called for unity and solidarity, to be bound as citizens of one nation. In his concluding remarks on November 25, 1949, Ambedkar said: "We must make our political democracy a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. What does social democracy mean? It means a way of life which recognises liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life."

Ambedkar asserted that the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are to be treated as



FRATERNITY MUST BE SEEN IN THE LAWS AND ENACTMENTS BY PARLIAMENT AND THE LEGISLATURE. FRATERNITY MUST PERCOLATE INTO PEOPLE'S LIVES TO UPHOLD A SENSE OF BROTHERHOOD THAT THE CONSTITUTION MAKERS ENVISIONED FOR INDIA. THE IDEALS OF LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY ARE COEXISTENT, INTERDEPENDENT AND INSEPARABLE

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



a trinity and not as separate and mutually exclusive items. They must be seen as enforcing elements that cannot be divorced from each other. He said: "They form a union of trinity in the sense that to divorce one from the other is to defeat the very purpose of democracy. Liberty cannot be divorced from equality, equality cannot be divorced from liberty. Nor can liberty and equality be divorced from fraternity. Without equality, liberty would produce the supremacy of the few over the many. Equality without liberty would kill individual initiative. Without fraternity, liberty would produce the supremacy of the few over the many. Equality without liberty would kill individual initiative. Without fraternity, liberty and equality could not become a natural course of things. It would require a constable to enforce them."

Ambedkar pointed to the existing social and economic inequality in Indian society and the significance of the ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity to eliminate those inequalities. On October 17, 1949, Acharya Kripalani applauded the inclusion of Fraternity in the Preamble. "Again I come to the great doctrine of fraternity, which is allied with democracy. It means that we are sons of the same God, as the religious would say, but as the mystic would say, that there is one life pulsating through us all, or as the *Holy Bible* says, 'We are one of another'. There can be no fraternity without this."

Courts on fraternity: The Bombay High Court in the Indian National Mines Overmen vs Western Coalfields Limited case, challenging the compulsory deduction of ₹50 from the salary/wages of its employees for transfer to the Prime

Minister's National Relief Fund cited the explanation given by Ambedkar on Fraternity. The court said that "fraternity means a sense of common brotherhood of all Indians. In a country like ours with disruptive forces of regionalism, communalism and linguism, it is necessary to emphasise and re-emphasise that the unity and integrity of India can be preserved only by a spirit of brotherhood. India has one common citizenship and every citizen should feel that s/he is Indian first, irrespective of other basis. In this view, any measure at bringing about equality should be welcome." The court relied on 'Fraternity' in the Preamble and Ambedkar's speech on obligations imposed under the Fundamental Duties chapter, which do not otherwise have any legal sanction.

In the Prathvi Raj Chauhan vs Union of India case, addressing the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, Justice Ravindra Bhat of the Supreme Court said that fraternity holds a crucial place in the scheme of our nation's consciousness and polity. However, he said that "Fraternity" is one of the lesser explored areas in the Constitutional discourse of the judiciary. The court observed that, "The Fraternity assured by the Preamble is not a declaration of a ritual handshake or cordiality between communities that are diverse and have occupied different spaces: It is far more."

While evaluating the constitutional validity of the appointment of local tribals as special police officers in Maoist-hit regions of Chhattisgarh in the Nandini Sundar vs State of Chhattisgarh case, the apex court stressed on the importance of fraternity. It said, "Our Constitution posits that unless we secure ... conditions of

social, economic and political justice for all who live in India, we would not have achieved human dignity for our citizens, nor would we be able to promote fraternity among groups of them. Policies that run counter to that essential truth destroy national unity and integrity." The court said that the Constitution casts a positive obligation on the State to take necessary steps to protect the fundamental rights of all citizens. The State is obliged to secure conditions where dignity of its citizens is protected to enable all to live in conditions of fraternity. Fraternity not only acts as the binding element between unity and equality, it gives birth to new rights which facilitate the constitutional goal of an egalitarian society. The right to live with dignity and respect, free from oppression and untouchability. The fundamental rights granted in the Constitution are structured on the principles liberty, equality, and fraternity. These ideals are inscribed in the Constitution's Preamble. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, which is contemporaneous with the Indian Constitution, recognises inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. This is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

Thus, the Constitutional value of 'Fraternity' must be palpably seen in the actions of the State and Constitutional functionaries. Fraternity must be seen in the laws and enactments by Parliament and the Legislature. Fraternity must percolate into people's lives to uphold a sense of brotherhood that the Constitution makers envisioned for India. The ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are coexistent, interdependent and inseparable.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

TESLA HAS TAKEN A MISGUIDED APPROACH TO DEVELOPING FULLY AUTONOMOUS CARS AND ITS FULL SELF-DRIVING SYSTEM WILL FAIL.

—WAYMO CEO JOHN KRAFCIK



TO MY SURPRISE, TESLA HAS BETTER ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE AS COMPARED TO WAYMO (MONEY)

—TESLA CEO ELON MUSK

Heal sick healthcare sector with booster shot in Budget

If the Govt truly seeks to involve private capital, the Union Budget must relax unrealistic price restrictions and nix outdated rules

Now when the Union Budget 2021-22 is around the corner, in the midst of one of the worst public health emergencies faced by humanity in recent memory, it is high time for the healthcare industry to articulate its concerns and expectations. Only a well-formulated and balanced annual financial statement with adequate allocation and focus on all critical segments, as well as on secondary aspects, can prepare the country to improve its health services and meet the challenges of inoculating such a large population as ours.

Need to address poor spending on healthcare: There is an urgent need to raise the allocation on health as a proportion



GURPREET SANDHU

The writer is president, Council of Healthcare and Pharma, and founder Reva Pharma. The views expressed are personal.

tion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The gap is so large and the population so underserved that this would have to be done for several years in succession to alleviate the situation.

The forthcoming financial statement should focus on significantly higher allocations for Research & Development (R&D) in biotechnology, epidemiology and pharmaceuticals including vaccines and in building healthcare infrastructure. The ongoing pandemic reiterates the need for increased public spending on healthcare which is still in the range of 1.3 per cent of the GDP, far lower than what has been stated and promised.

More allocation must for infrastructure and skill development: It is another key area that the Government should prioritise. India has less than a bed and a doctor per 1,000 population, far lower than the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) standards. We need to invest in setting up an increased number of medical colleges with requisite infrastructure while giving due importance to key departments which play a significant role in preventing infections in hospital environments, apart from the operating rooms and Intensive Care Units (ICUs). There is also a pressing need to contain the problem of antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance for getting the desired



improvement in overall outcomes. If the Centre truly seeks to involve private capital it must relax unrealistic price restrictions and do away with outdated rules. One initiative that can be taken is to ask the medical and pharmaceutical companies to direct their Corporate Social

Responsibility funds for development of healthcare infrastructure and capacity building.

Expansion of digital healthcare must be the focus of the Union Budget: The country needs connected healthcare — a digital ecosystem where real-time data from top Government and private hospitals and diagnostic centres flows into a data centre that tracks, monitors and predicts changes in disease patterns, so that timely action can be initiated to obviate the expensive follow-on treatment. In this context, the National Digital Health Mission is a step in the right direction. It needs to be strengthened and investments are required to be made to create the infrastruc-

ture and capacity for collecting and analysing data.

Need to expand the ambit of medical insurance: The annual financial statement 2021 also needs to ensure that medical insurance is extended as much as possible to drive the idea of universal healthcare in the country. Treatments like dental procedures, mental healthcare and homecare for the sick need to be included as part of health insurance policies.

Therefore, the Union Budget must be a well-thought out document from the healthcare sector's perspective and the allocation of 1.6 per cent of the GDP in the previous Budget must be improved under all circumstances.

FOREIGN EYE



CAUSES AND FAILED ALLIES

Celebrity activism is a misnomer in Pakistan. *Me Too* exposed sexual coercion by media moguls who controlled women's careers and revealed how power of the perpetrator are drivers of sex crimes. Moreover, it is only possible to get justice for the offence in the formal workplace. The exclusion of students and informal workers from protection is a travesty. (Dawn editorial)

Centre denies TMC claim of ‘wrong’ Bose portrait



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday refuted the claim that the portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose unveiled by President Ram Nath Kovind in ‘Rashtrapati Bhawan’ was “fake” and that of Bengali actor Prosenjit Chatterjee, who had played the role of Bose in a film.

This is yet another controversy over which BJP and TMC have clashed with each other as the latter charged the former with showing disrespect to ‘Netaji’.

Terming the debate as “fake”, the Central Government clarified that the portrait of Netaji in ‘Rashtrapati Bhavan’ is based on an original photo of the freedom fighter. “Shows how the entire debate is fake and based on poor research,” the Government said.

President Kovind on January 23 unveiled a portrait of Bose at the Rashtrapati Bhavan to mark the beginning of celebrations to commemo-

rate the freedom fighter’s 125th birth anniversary.

TMC MP Mahua Moitra, however, claimed on Twitter that there was a mix-up and that the portrait unveiled by the President was not of Netaji but of actor Prosenjit.

Actor Prosenjit played Bose in a 2019 Bengali film Gumnaami, which deals with the freedom fighter’s death mystery.

The ‘Gumnaami Baba’, who lived in an out-house of ‘Ram-Bhawan’ at Faizabad, UP, since 1983, died in 1985, without anyone, outside his close followers, ever seeing him.

It is claimed by some that he was Netaji himself living in anonymity. After his death, bundles of The Pioneer daily, besides other things, were also reportedly recovered from his mysterious dwelling.

The TMC MP not only attacked the Central government over the alleged faux pas but also had a dig at the President. The TMC MP tweeted, “After donating ₹5

lakh to the Ram temple the President honours Netaji by unveiling a portrait of Prosenjit, the actor who played him in biopic. God Save India (because this government certainly can’t),” Moitra said.

According to an official statement, the portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was unveiled at the ‘Rashtrapati Bhavan’ to mark the beginning of year-long celebrations to commemorate his 125th birth anniversary.

The Government has decided to observe January 23 as ‘Parakram Divas’ to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bose, who was born on this day in 1897.

BJP sources said the photo was provided by Netaji’s family to famous Padma Shri award-winning artist Paresh Maity, who painted the portrait. “The photo does not resemble Prosenjit at all. It is an unnecessary controversy,” the sources said.

Chandra Kumar Bose, Netaji’s grand-nephew and a member of the BJP, also posted on the micro-blogging site that the portrait was based on the leader’s original photograph.

In fact, Prosenjit also himself tweeted to put the controversy to rest: “Would like to congratulate Paresh Maity for the wonderful piece of art in remembrance of our National hero Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. As an Actor, I’m elated that people thought, that the painting resembles my character in Gumnaami.”

TMC MP Moitra has since deleted her tweet.

Govt dedicated to farmers’ welfare despite misapprehensions: Prez



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday paid tributes to farmers saying every Indian is grateful to them for ensuring food security in our vast and populous country, and gave the assurance that the Government is devoted to farmers’ welfare.

“Every Indian salutes our farmers, who have made our vast and populous country self-reliant in food-grains and dairy products. Despite adversities of nature, numerous other challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic, our farmers sustained the agricultural production,” he said in his address on the eve of the 72nd Republic Day.

“A grateful nation is fully committed to the welfare of our farmers. Just as our hardworking farmers ensure food security for the country, the brave soldiers of the armed forces ensure security of our national boundaries amid severest conditions,” Kovind said.

The comments by the President come against the backdrop of the ongoing agitation by farmers against three new farm laws.

The President said the path to reforms in the initial stages may cause misapprehensions, but the government is devoted to farmers’ welfare.

“Economic reforms have continued apace and have been supplemented by long-pending reforms in the areas of labour and agriculture through legislation. The path to reform at the initial stages may cause misapprehensions.

However, it is beyond doubt that the government remains singularly devoted to farmers’ welfare,” he said.

Kovind said the country’s farmers, soldiers and scientists deserve special appreciation and the entire nation is grateful to them.

“From space to the farms, from educational institutions to hospitals, the community of scientists has enriched our life and work. Our scientists have been working day and night for decoding the Coronavirus and they have succeeded in developing the vaccine in record time. With this accomplishment, our scientists have added a glorious chapter of contribution to the well-being of humanity.

Successful conduct of polls during pandemic extraordinary feat of our democracy: Kovind

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday termed the successful conduct of elections during pandemic an extraordinary achievement of our democracy and said that the right to vote must be respected, noting that people around the world have struggled a lot to earn this right.

Addressing through virtual mode an event to celebrate the 11th National Voters’ Day, Kovind said even in America, one of the leading democracies in the world, people had to undertake decades of struggle to get this right. In Britain, women got the right to vote after a long fight, he said.

The condition was similar in India before Independence. But after India earned its freedom, anyone of 21 years of age and above were allowed to vote which was later reduced to

18, he said. “We should always respect the valuable right to vote. The right to vote is not a simple right. People around the world have struggled a lot for this. Since Independence, our Constitution has given equal voting rights to all citizens without any discrimination on the basis of merit, religion, race, caste,” Kovind said.

For his part, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad defended the Electronic Voting Machine, describing it as an instrument designed to empower the ordinary Indian. “We can have difference of opinion on the use of electronic voting machine. But can we deny that the EVM is an instrument which has given power to nearly all the political formations of India in different parts, in varying degree,” he asked. Opposition leaders including Jairam Ramesh of Congress and Derek O’Brien of the Trinamool

Congress were present when Prasad made these remarks.

Some parties have on multiple occasions questioned the reliability of the EVMs. The Election Commission has all along maintained that the machines are tamper-proof. Prasad also launched the e-EPIC programme and distributed e-EPICs and Elector Photo Identity Cards to five new voters. Three publications were also launched by Prasad.

The electronic version of the voters’ photo identity card can be stored on mobile phones and downloaded on personal computers.

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said that the mock trials for remote voting facility for electors would begin soon. A research project on remote voting using cutting-edge technology has already begun, he revealed.

Modi’s silence on Chinese intrusion lifts enemy’s spirits: Rahul



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating that his alleged silence over the Chinese encroachment in the country’s border, was increasing the enemy’s spirits.

Taking to Twitter, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi stated that China is expanding its occupation into the Indian territory, while the Prime Minister has not said the word ‘China’ for months. Slamming PM Modi, the Congress leader said, “Mr 56-inch,” who had promised to never compromise the border security, could start by saying the word ‘China’.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also attacked the Prime Minister, stating that his alleged silence over the Chinese encroachment in the country’s border, was increasing the enemy’s spirits. He called on the government to come to clear the situation along the border and to take the nation in confidence.

Historical mistake corrected on Dec 6, 1992: Javadekar on Ram temple

New Delhi: Foreign invaders chose Ram temple for demolition because they knew that the soul of India resides there, said Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Sunday.

Speaking at a felicitation event for donors of Shri Ram Janam Bhoomi Mandir Nidhi Samarpan Abhiyan in Delhi, the Union Minister said that a “historical mistake” was corrected on December 6, 1992, with the demolition of Babri Mosque in Ayodhya.

When foreign invaders like Babur came to India, why did they choose the Ram temple for demolition because they knew that the soul of the country resides in Ram temple.

Modi lauds children’s role in raising awareness about handwashing during Covid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday lauded the contribution of children in raising awareness about handwashing during the Covid-19 pandemic, and said that a programme tastes success if they become part of it. In an interaction with the ‘Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar’ awardees via video conferencing, Modi praised the winners and said they should never stop working and stay humble all the time.

Thirty-two children have been chosen for the Pradhan Mantri Bal Puraskar this year for displaying valour, exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments in various fields, including arts, culture, archery and swimming.

Modi asked them to work for the country, urging them to think of what they can do as the nation approaches the 75th year of its Independence. The Prime Minister also asked them to read biographies and said it will keep inspiring them. Union Minister Smriti Irani also inter-

acted with the children.

Jyoti Kumari, 16, cycled to her native place Darbhanga district in Bihar from Gurgaon in Haryana covering around 1,200 km with her father on the rear carrier amid the nationwide lockdown in May last year. She has been awarded for her bravery. “During the COVID-19 lockdown, she traversed 1,200 kms from Sikandarpur in Haryana to Darbhanga in Bihar to reach home,” the citation issued for her by the Women and Child Development Ministry said.

207 get police bravery medals, 89 President’s police medals for excellent services

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CRPF Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Mohan Lal who “chased and fired” at an explosives-laden car that rammed into a force bus in Pulwama killing him and 39 troops onboard in 2019 has been decorated with the highest police medal for gallantry on the eve of the Republic Day on Monday. A total of 207 police bravery medals were declared by the Government apart from 89 President’s police medals for distinguished service and 650 police medals for meritorious service, as per a list published by the Union Home Ministry.

Only two police personnel have been decorated with the top category President’s Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) this time, CRPF’s Lal and late Jharkhand Police ASI Banua Oraon. As many as 205 personnel have been decorated with the second-highest police medal for gallantry or the PMG. 50-year-old ASI Lal was the picket commander of the CRPF road opening party deployed on February 14, 2019 at milestone number 272 near the BSNL Tower in Lethpora, Pulwama on the Jammu-Srinagar highway when the dastardly terror attack was carried out by the Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist outfit.

The attack car was being driven by suicide bomber Adil Ahmed Dar with about 200 kgs of explosives inside. The CRPF said Lal, after passing of few vehicles of the cavalcade, noticed this car “running alongside the convoy and trying to enter between the convoy vehicles.” The brave official “signalled and chased the car to stop but could not match its speed.” “Ultimately, finding no other option, he fired towards the suspicious car to stop but the car rammed into a nearby running CRPF bus and a huge blast took place,” the force said. The massive blast killed a total of 40 CRPF personnel, 39

on the bus and Lal, it said.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the lead force for anti-Naxal operations and counter-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir, also led the gallantry medals tally with a total 69 medals (1 PPMG and 68 PMG) followed by 52 earned by the JK Police, 20 by the Border Security Force, 17 by the Delhi Police and 13 by Maharashtra Police and others. Two personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force, tasked to guard the Line of Actual Control with China, have also been given the police medal for gallantry.

Deputy Commandant Rajesh Kumar Luthra has been decorated for displaying courage and presence of mind to defuse a faceoff with Chinese troops at Ladakh in July, 2019 while another officer of the border guarding force, Assistant Commandant Anurag Kumar Singh, has been given a gallantry medal for the second time for undertaking a counter-terrorist operation in Jammu and Kashmir in 2017.

The other recipients from ITBP include Inspector General (IG) Deepam Seth, awarded the meritorious service medal, and Deputy IG (veterinary) Sudhakar Natarajan who has been bestowed the distinguished service medal. Seth, a 1995-batch Indian Police Service officer of Uttarakhand cadre, is heading the ITBP northwest frontier formation based in Ladakh since mid-2019.

Delhi Police officer Mahesh Bhardwaj, deputed as Senior Superintendent of Police in the CBI to probe extrajudicial killings in Manipur, has been awarded the President’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service on the occasion of Republic Day. Bhardwaj, who joined Delhi Police as Assistant Commissioner in the year 1993, has worked extensively with United Nations Police,

Andaman Nicobar and Mizoram police, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). In February, 2018, he was deputed in the CBI on the direction of Supreme Court to associate with the investigation of alleged extra judicial killings and human rights violations by security forces in Manipur.

BSF’s Assistant Commandant Gajender Singh, ASI Braj Kishore Yadav, Constables Amresh Kumar and Abhijit Nandy were awarded gallantry awards posthumously. Gallantry awards were given to DIG Surjeet Singh Guleria, DIG Hari Lal and Assistant Commandants Raman Gupta and Prateek Vashishth. Medals for distinguished service were awarded to DIGs Umesh Kumar Nayal, Surjit Singh, Dharmendra Pareek, Ajit Kumar Tete and Ranveer Singh Shaktawat.

Officers and personnel of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been awarded with the prestigious ‘Police Medal for Meritorious Service’ on the occasion of Republic Day-2021. The Police Medal for Meritorious Service is awarded to the personnel of Central police and security organization who have completed a minimum service of 18 years. The medal is awarded to personnel for their commendable work whether operational or administrative. Love Kumar, Second-in-Command, Surendra Kumar, Assistant Commandant, Inspector Ramakant Singh and Assistant Sub-Inspector Moenuddin Khan have been awarded with the ‘Police Medal for Meritorious Service’ in recognition to their outstanding services. So far 10 NDRF Officers/personnel have been awarded with President’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service and 74 personnel with Police Medal for Meritorious Service, said NDRF in statement.

Sasikala to be released from prison on Jan 27: Dhinakaran

Chennai: Expelled AIADMK leader VK Sasikala, serving a jail term in Bengaluru in a corruption case and presently under treatment for coronavirus, will be released from prison on Wednesday “according to all our expectations,” her nephew T T V Dhinakaran said on Monday.

With the former aide of late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha recuperating in a Bengaluru hospital, her discharge from the medical facility will be made known later, he said in a tweet.

“According all our expectations... Chinnamma (Sasikala) will be released (from prison) day after tomorrow, 27-01-2021,” Dhinakaran said.

Independent legislator Dhinakaran, Sasikala’s nephew and founder of Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) said his aunt was recuperating from coronavirus and that her discharge from the hospital will be made known later after consulting doctors. PTI

Navy Commander’s daughter among 5 Bal Shakti award winners from Maharashtra

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Kaamya Karthikeyan, the teenaged daughter of Indian Navy Commander S Karthikeyan and Lavanya, is among the five children from Maharashtra chosen for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar (PMRBS-P)-2021 on the occasion of Republic Day.

She is the only girl among five children from Maharashtra who have bagged the PMRBS-P-2021 honour for their excellence in different fields. The other award winners are: Shreenabh Muojesh Agrawal, Kameshwar Jagannath Waghmare, Archit Rahul Pani and Sonit Sisolekar. Thirteen-year-old Kaamya is studying in Class VIII of the Navy Children School here. She is awarded for her unprecedented feats in mountaineering and this is the highest award for citizens below 18 years.

Maha Guv has time for Kangana but not for farmers, says Pawar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari found himself at the receiving end of farmers’ protests in Mumbai on Monday, as NCP chief Sharad Pawar charged that the Governor “has time to meet Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut but not our farmers” and the agitating farmers tore down copies of memorandum addressed Koshiyari demanding the repeal of three controversial farm laws in protest against his

failure to meet them.

Anger erupted among the agitating farmers gathered at the historic Azad maidan when they heard from Pawar about the unavailability of the Governor for a meeting with their leaders. During his address to the farmers, Pawar disclosed that Koshiyari had left for Goa without bothering to meet them and charged that the latter had neither “moral responsibility” or “decency” to live up as a person holding the gubernatorial office.

Mincing no words in his attack against the Governor, Pawar told the famers’ gathering:

“While I appreciate you for your mammoth show of strength against the powers-that-be who are out to destroy your lives, the Governor whom you are scheduled to meet after this rally has gone away to Goa. Maharashtra has not had such a Governor as the current one in its history. He has time to meet Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut but has no time to meet our farmers”.

Netaji insulted, I was teased: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Two days after the Victoria Memorial incident when Mamata Banerjee refused to deliver a speech after being allegedly “teased” with Jai Shri Ram slogans by BJP supporters the Bengal Chief Minister on Monday attacked the saffron leadership for not only insulting her but also Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in whose remembrance the grand event was organized by the Union Government. The programme was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Lashing out at the BJP Banerjee said “Netaji stood for communal unity ... he belonged to everyone ... but

what BJP supporters did in a bid to tease me in front of the Prime Minister has not only insulted me but also Netaji and Bengal.”

Terming the BJP as Bharat Jalao Party (Burn India Party) Banerjee said that the BJP has been continuously insulting the icons of Bengal, Netaji being the “latest addition to the list.” She had earlier flayed the BJP national president JP Nadra for insulting Rabindranath Tagore by wrongly quoting his place of birth and the saffron workers for vandalizing the statue of 19th century reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar during a 2019 political rally of Home Minister Amit Shah.

“Will you invite me to your house for a dinner and then slap me and turn me out ... this is what they did ... They shouted slogans --- which had no relation with Netaji’s anniversary --- only to tease me... I was insulted in front of the Prime Minister of the country... I was invited to that programme ... This is their culture ... but this cannot be the culture of Bengal or our country,” Banerjee said adding she would have not objected had the slogans been raised hailing Netaji.

Major controversy was sparked after Banerjee publicly chased BJP supporters, -- and threatened them with dire consequences --- who

raised Jai Shri Ram slogans when her convoy passed their areas during 2019 general elections.

Attacking the turncoats who were quitting the Trinamool Congress to join the BJP, Banerjee said “these people are leaving the party because they know that they will not get ticket from TMC... I want more such people to quit the party early so that our work becomes easier.”

About a dozen TMC ministers, legislators and other functionaries like Suvendu Adhikari, Laxmi Ratan Shukla, Rajiv Banerjee, Sunil Mandal, and others have either quit the Cabinet or the party in the past one

month. The “betrayers,” would never be welcomed back, she said.

The BJP soon hit back at the Chief Minister saying she always failed to appreciate in her urgency to play vote bank politics that Lord Rama had always been an essential part of Indian culture.

“She is known for her earlier reactions to Lord Rama’s name ... His name is taken whenever there is a festive occasion ... January 23 was a festive occasion when we were celebrating Netaji ... but she had to appease a section of people for vote bank politics and so this controversy was created ... she could have ignored this,” BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya said.



Late singer Balasubramanian, Japan’s ex-PM Shinzo Abe among Padma Vibhushan awardees

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday awarded Padma Vibhushan awards to seven eminent persons including late singer SP Balasubramanian and Japan’s former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and noted archaeologist B.B.Lal who headed excavation of Ayodhya. Others are famous doctor BM Hegde, spiritual leader Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, artist Sudarshan Sahoo and US based scientist late Narinder Singh Kapany.

10 persons were awarded

Padma Bhushan including late Chief Ministers of Gujarat and Assam Keshubhai Patel and Tarun Gogoi and former Union Minister late Ram Vilas Paswan. Former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and Nripendra Misra, former Principal Secretary of Prime Minister. Other who got Padma Bhushan are Tarlochan Singh, former Chairman of Minorities Commission, spiritual leader Late Kalbe Sadiq, noted singer K.S. Chitra, Chandrasekhar Kambara, writer from Karnataka and industrialist RD Shroff.

102 persons are awarded Padma Shri. “This year the President has approved conferment of 119 Padma Awards including 1 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per list below. The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri Awards. 29 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 16 Posthumous awardees and 1 transgender awardee,” said Government in a statement.

House sending Trump impeachment to Senate, GOP opposes trial

Washington: As the House prepares to bring the impeachment charge against Donald Trump to the Senate for trial, a growing number of Republican senators say they are opposed to the proceeding, dimming the chances that former president will be convicted on the charge that he incited a siege of the US Capitol.

House Democrats will carry the sole impeachment charge of “incitement of insurrection” across the Capitol late Monday evening, a rare and ceremonial walk to the Senate by the prosecutors who will argue their case. They are hoping that strong Republican denunciations of Trump after the Jan. 6 riot will translate into a conviction and a separate vote to bar Trump from holding office again.

But instead, GOP passions appear to have cooled since the insurrection. Now that Trump’s presidency is over, Republican senators who will serve as jurors in the trial are rallying to his legal defense, as they did during his first impeachment trial last year.

“I think the trial is stupid, I think it’s counterproductive,” said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.. He said that “the first chance I get to vote to end this trial, I’ll

do it” because he believes it would be bad for the country and further inflame partisan divisions.

Trump is the first former president to face impeachment trial, and it will test his grip on the Republican Party as well as the legacy of his tenure, which came to a close as a mob of loyal supporters heeded his rally cry by storming the

Capitol and trying to overturn Joe Biden’s election.

The proceedings will also force Democrats, who have a full sweep of party control of the White House and Congress, to balance their promise to hold the former president accountable while also rushing to deliver on Biden’s priorities. **AP**

Lawmakers threatened ahead of impeachment trial

Washington: Federal law enforcement officials are examining a number of threats aimed at members of Congress as the second trial of former President Donald Trump nears, including ominous chatter about killing legislators or attacking them outside of the U.S. Capitol, a U.S. Official told The Associated Press.

The threats, and concerns that armed protesters could return to sack the Capitol anew, have prompted the U.S. Capitol Police and other federal law enforcement to insist thousands of National Guard troops remain in

Washington as the Senate moves forward with plans for Trump’s trial, the official said.

The shocking insurrection at the Capitol by a pro-Trump mob prompted federal officials to rethink security in and around its landmarks, resulting in an unprecedented lockdown for Biden’s inauguration.

Though the event went off without any problems and armed protests around the country did not materialize, the threats to lawmakers ahead of Trump’s trial exemplified the continued potential for danger. **AP**

AP source: Biden to drop Trump’s military transgender ban

Washington: President Joe Biden is set to issue an executive order to reverse a Pentagon policy that largely bars transgender individuals from joining the military, dumping a ban ordered by President Donald Trump in a tweet during his first year in office, a person briefed on the decision tells The Associated Press.

Biden has been widely expected to overturn the Trump policy in his early days in office.

The White House could announce the move as early as Monday, according to the person briefed on the decision who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the order.

The move to reverse the policy has the support of Biden’s newly confirmed defense secretary, retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, who spoke of the need to overturn it during his Senate confirmation hearing last week.

“I support the president’s plan or plan to overturn the ban,” Austin said. “If you’re fit and you’re qualified to serve and you can maintain the standards, you should be allowed to serve.”

The decision comes as Biden plans to turn his attention to equity issues that he believes continue to shadow nearly all aspects of American life. Ahead of his inauguration, Biden’s transition team circulated a memo from Ron Klain, now the White House chief of staff, that sketched out Biden’s plan to use his first full week as president “to advance equity and support communities of color and other underserved communities.”

The move to overturn the transgender ban is also the latest example of Biden using executive authority in his first days as president to dismantle Trump’s legacy. **AP**

Biden to sign executive orders to promote ‘Made in America’ products

Washington:US President Joe Biden will sign a series of executive orders on Monday to promote “Made in America” products and strengthen supply chains, senior officials said, asserting that the new administration remains committed to working with partners and allies to modernise international trade rules.

Prominent among the executive orders include a strict enforcement of procuring products made inside the country by federal agencies. This is very significant given that contracting alone accounts for nearly USD 600 billion in federal spending.

Biden is taking action to reset the US government’s longstanding approach to domestic preferences to create an approach that will remain durable for years to come and grow quality, union jobs, according to a senior administration official.

It is long overdue that the US government utilises the full force of current domestic preferences to support America’s workers and businesses, strengthening the economy, workers, and communities across the country, the official said.

The President’s Executive Order establishes the goals and standards necessary to use federal purchasing, and other forms of federal assistance with domestic preference requirements, as

a way to proactively invest in American industry so it can continue to lead in the global marketplace, the White House said.

For the executive order, Made in America refers to domestic preferences related to federal procurement, federal grants, and other forms of federal assistance. Buy American and Buy America refers to the specific statutes that go by those names, it said.

The executive order to be signed by Biden at the White House, directs agencies to close current loopholes in how domestic content is measured and increase domestic content requirements and appoints a new senior leader in the Executive Office of the President in charge of the government’s Made in America policy approach.

This order creates a central review of agency waivers of ‘Buy American’ requirements, fulfilling the president’s commitment to crack down on unnecessary waivers. It also directs the General Services Administration to publish relevant waivers on a publicly available website.

President will continue to be a strong advocate for the Jones Act and its mandate that only US-flag vessels carry cargo between US ports, which supports American production and America’s workers. **PTI**

EU weighs response to Navalny arrest, protest crackdown

Brussels: European Union foreign Ministers on Monday debated the 27-nation bloc’s response to the arrest of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and a weekend police crackdown that saw thousands taken into custody during protests in support of President Vladimir Putin’s most well-known critic.

“This wave of detention is something that worries us a lot, as well as the detention of Mr Navalny,” EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said as he arrived to chair the ministerial meeting in Brussels. More than 3,500 people were reportedly taken into custody during the nationwide protests. **AP**

Disinformation being used to interfere in internal affairs of countries: India

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India has called on technology companies to ensure transparency and a check on misinformation on their platforms, cautioning that there is a growing tendency of foreign interference in the internal affairs of other countries through disinformation campaigns.

Addressing the Arria-formula meeting on media freedom in Belarus organised by the Estonian Permanent Mission on Friday, India’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador K. Nagaraj Naidu said that the information revolution has both benefited and weakened media systems.

“Today, the global economy of

disinformation rests on the complex interaction between data sets, algorithms and information infrastructure built by technology companies. These algorithms govern not just what information is available to different populations, but also to whom, and with what frequency,” Naidu said.

“As such, tech companies have the obligation to make sure that the platforms they have deployed are transparent and their users are not misinformed,” he said.

Sounding a note of caution, Naidu said there is also a “growing tendency of foreign interference in the internal affairs of other countries through use of disinformation campaigns to advance ulterior political agendas.”

Pakistani dissident Baloch activist buried amid tight security

Islamabad: The body of Karima Baloch, a 37-year-old Pakistani dissident from the ethnic Baloch community and a prominent women’s rights activist, who died in mysterious circumstances while in exile in Canada, was brought home and buried in her village in the restive Balochistan province amid tight security, officials said on Monday.

Karima, who was highly critical of Pakistan’s security agencies and campaigned extensively against disappearances and human rights violations in the troubled Balochistan province, was found dead in Toronto downtown waterfront on December 22.

Officials said that her immediate family was present at the funeral on Sunday in the Tump village of the Keach area of the restive province.

Security was tight due to the fear

of protests by the Baloch nationalists who cherished her as their leader. Her supporters claimed on social media that the village was virtually sealed off so that people from other areas could not attend the funeral.

In some videos, people are seen requesting security forces to allow them to attend the funeral prayers.

Security sources said that the mobile phone services were suspended in the area to avoid any untoward incidents as militants often use it to carry out acts of sabotage.

Toronto police have not treated her death as suspicious though there were allegations by her supporters that she was killed.

Her family members are not sure what happened. According to police in Toronto, her body was found near Lake Ontario, but no further details were given. **PTI**

World media to cover tractor rally

YouTube channels from UK, USA, Canada on Delhi borders for coverage

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Besides Indian media, a large number of foreign media has also lined up to cover the “kisan parade” on January 26 in the national Capital. A large number of YouTube channels from the UK, the USA, and Canada are present to cover the tractor rally. Farmers’ protests have drawn attention from across the world and foreign media has been highlighting the protests which entered its 61st day on Monday.

According to ground reports, a large number of international media, both print and TV, has assembled at three protest sites — Tikri Border, Ghazipur Border and

Singhu Border — in the national Capital to cover the tractor rally. This is for the first time since Independence the farmers will march in a unique kisan parade with National Flags. As thousands of farmers have started marching towards Delhi borders to participate in the tractor rally on Republic Day, agriculture organisations have decided to hold similar parades at State and district headquarters across the country.

Foreign media, including BBC, Al Jazeera, Washington Post, the New York Times, Toronto Star, Reuters, the Province, Hamilton Spectator, CNN, CBC 24, Bloomberg, the Guardian and the Sun, were concentrated only on the Singhu Border till date. Now they have set up their crew at Ghazipur and Tikri borders. Farmers’ leaders have reported to have approached a large number of YouTube channels based in Canada,

the USA, and the UK to cover their events.

Foreign media is covering farmers’ protests in a prominent way. Farmers’ protests are making headlines across the world. Recently, a Pakistani singer Jawad Ahmed released an anthem inspired by the protests and dedicated to the farmers in India. Titled Kisana, the song which was released in December 2020, has been viewed thousands of times on YouTube. Several reaction videos on the song have also been released. The lyrics of the song say, “*teri sohni dharti maa, tu jag da palan har, hun tu jeeba hai*” (This beautiful Earth belongs to you, you are the patron of this Earth, rise and live), which roughly translates to peasants need to rise and that they are the providers of the world.

Last month, a group of seven American lawmakers had written to then US

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to raise farmers’ issue with his Indian counterpart. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was the first foreign leader who supported the farmers’ cause and he raised the issue on several occasions despite India’s warning. Australian parliamentarians Rob Mitchell and Russell Wortley have joined several world leaders to urge the Indian Government to show “restraint and compassion” to protesting farmers.

Earlier this month, as many as 100 Britain MPs, across party lines, have urged Prime Minister Boris Johnson to take up the issue of the ongoing farmers’ protest in India with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a letter, the MPs have asked Johnson to press for a “speedy resolution of the current deadlock and the democratic human right of citizens to peacefully protest”.

Farmers could have chosen any other day instead of Jan 26: Tomar

New Delhi: Ahead of the tractor rally, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Monday termed the Government’s proposal to suspend new farm laws for 1-1.5 years as the “best offer” and hoped that the protesting farmers’ unions will soon reconsider it and convey their decision. The Minister also said that the agitating farmers could have chosen some other day instead of January 26 for the tractor rally.

The talks between the government and 41 protesting farm unions have remained inconclusive even after 11 rounds of discussions.

During the 10th round of talks, the government had climbed down and offered a proposal to keep the new laws in abeyance for 1-1.5 years, but it was rejected by the unions.

Army helicopter crash in J&K, one pilot dies

Jammu: Indian Army’s Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv made a forced landing after it developed a technical snag in Lakhampur area of Kathua district late Monday evening. Two pilots received injuries.

One of the two seriously injured pilots succumbed to his injuries in the Military Base Hospital in Pathankot late Monday evening while the condition of the other pilot continues to be critical.

Official sources said the other is struggling for life on the ventilator support. Meanwhile, district authorities in Kathua who rushed to the spot confirmed, the Army helicopter made a forced landing around 7.10-7.15 p.m inside an Army camp in Lakhampur.

The district authorities said, “The helicopter was on a routine reconnaissance sortie when it abruptly developed a technical snag and made a forced landing inside an army area in Lakhampur”.

The injured pilots were rushed to the military base hospital in Pathankot. Local media reports claimed eyewitness reports suggested soon after the helicopter took off it crash landed inside the Army camp due to some technical snag. The Army authorities are expected to announce a formal inquiry to ascertain the exact reason behind the forced landing. **PNS**

No fresh Covid case in Andamans

Port Blair: Andaman and Nicobar Islands did not record a single fresh Covid-19 case in the last 24 hours, a health department official said on Monday. The coronavirus tally in the union territory remained at 4,993, while a total of 62 people have died so far due to the contagion, he said. One more person was cured of the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries in the archipelago to 4,908.



A security person stands guard near the Taj Mahal on the eve of Republic Day, in Agra on Monday

PTI

Bengal poll: Left Front, Cong clinch deal for 77 seats

PNS ■ KOLKATA

After failing to clinch a seat-sharing deal in earlier rounds of talks the Left Front and Congress on Monday arrived at an understanding over 77 seats, senior Left leader Biman Bose and his Congress counterpart Pradip Bhattacharya said.

“We have an understanding on 77 seats for the coming Assembly elections and will hold talks on the remaining 217 seats on January 28,” the Left leaders said adding by February 2 the seat-

sharing talks would be over.

The Left had won about 7.5 percent vote share while the Congress little more than 5 percent in the 2019 general elections. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of India sources said that 1000 companies of central forces would be sent to Bengal for a peaceful conduct of elections. In 2019 parliamentary polls 700 companies of CPF were deployed.

According to sources the ECI which had a full bench visit of Bengal last week may announces elections in the first half of February.

Security beefed up ahead of Republic Day in J&K

IAANS ■ JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Security in Jammu and Kashmir was beefed up on Monday to ensure that the 72nd Republic Day functions pass off peacefully a day later in the union territory.

Although authorities maintain that security scenario is more relaxed in J&K in comparison to previous years, a multi-layered security was put in place, especially in the twin capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu, for the celebrations on Tuesday. Random frisking of passengers and private vehicles, mobile security bunkers, makeshift checkpoints, CCTV surveillance, snif-

fer dogs, deployment of sharpshooters atop high-rise buildings in close vicinity of the main parade venues in Jammu and Srinagar were among the arrangements made. All entry and exit points to Srinagar were sealed and movement into the city allowed only after thorough checking of vehicles and frisking of occupants.

“Drone surveillance was also mounted to ensure foolproof security arrangements,” a senior police officer said.

The main Republic Day function would be held at Maulana Azad stadium in Jammu, where Lt Governor Manoj Sinha will unfurl the tri-

colour and take salute at the parade. The national flag would also be hoisted at all 10 district headquarters, where the district Development Commissioners concerned would take the salute.

Directives have been issued to all senior and middle-level officials to ensure their attendance at the Republic Day function at their places of posting. As the Kashmir Valley is reeling under extreme cold wave these days, not many commuters and vehicles were seen on the main roads in Srinagar. Markets also closed earlier than scheduled as shopkeepers avoided getting caught in any security-sensitive situation.

FROM PAGE 1

PUNISH RUMOUR-MONGERS, FEAR HAS HIT VACCINATION: CENTRE TO STATES

Urging the States and UTs to put in place an appropriate mechanism to check the spread of such ill-informed rumours, Bhalla asked the chief secretaries to direct all the State authorities to take necessary measures to counter the spread of all such kind of “false information” about Covid-19 vaccines as well as promptly disseminate factual messages.

“Further, penal action may be taken against the person/s or organisation/s who is/are found to have indulged in such activities, under the relevant provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860,” he said.

OPP PLANS TO FORCE REPEAL OF FARM LAWS IN BUDGET SESSION

“We are in touch with leaders of other political parties. Our party chief (Sonia Gandhi) has already mandated us to force the government to repeal the laws and continue expressing solidarity with the farmers of the country. We will also try to work a joint front with other parties to take on the Government,” said a Congress MP of Rajya Sabha.

The Opposition parties have so far maintained a distance from the protest to preserve its apolitical character. A senior Opposition

leader said parties will have to keep this balance intact. At the same time, we can’t be seen not doing anything, he said. A joint delegation of Opposition parties has already met President Ram Nath Kovind on the issue.

Left parties issued a joint statement on the issue signed by CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D Raja, CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, All India Forward Bloc general secretary Debabrata Biswas and Revolutionary Socialist Party general secretary Manoj Bhattacharya urging the Government to stop being “obstinate” and called the Government proposal to suspend the laws for 18 months “a farce”.

“Already the government has conveyed its willingness to suspend these laws for 18 months. Acts that are legislated by Parliament, signed by the President of India and notified by the Gazette are law of the land. They cannot be suspended. Unless they are repealed, they are enforceable,” the statement said. It is only reasonable for the Government to hold discussions with farmers and other stakeholders, including State governments, before bringing in fresh bills, Left parties said. The Left parties also applauded the determination, unity and grit of lakhs of farmers who are camping on Delhi borders braving the extreme cold.

“The protest movements are gaining in strength, day by day. We hail their patriotic resolve to hold a ‘tractor parade’ on Republic Day, in defence of our Secular, Democratic Constitution and the repeal of these laws,” said Yechury.

DOCYARD
DR (COL) R RANGA RAO

Chairman,Paras Cancer Centre

PARAS HEALTHCARE



Lung cancer in never-smokers



Most of us tend to believe that not smoking a cigarette will insure us against lung cancer. Unfortunately, this is not true. A growing number of non-smokers in India are reporting lung cancer today. What's worse is the fact that the disease in non-smokers shows more subtle symptoms that are often difficult to diagnose initially. Non-smokers also tend to write off the possibility of contracting this disease as they believe they do not run its risk.

While it is true that smoking tobacco is the most significant risk factor for lung cancer, not all people who get the disease have smoked. The American Cancer Society estimates that around 20 per cent of people who die from lung cancer in the US every year have never consumed tobacco in any form. While we do not have any such consolidated estimates for India, Oncologists are reporting a clear trend of rising disease incidence among non-smokers.

Interestingly, it has been observed that lung cancers in smokers and non-smokers are different on genetic and molecular levels. In fact, a bulk of the non-smokers who report lung cancer are women. A number of factors can trigger lung cancer in non-smokers; these include exposure to carcinogens in some form or certain gene changes. Non-smoking lung cancer patients are also found to be relatively younger.

It has been observed that lung cancer in smokers and non-smokers is different on genetic and molecular levels. In fact, a bulk of non-smokers who report lung cancer are women. Gene changes or exposure to carcinogens can trigger lung cancer in non-smokers

Lung cancers in smoking and non-smoking individuals not only get triggered differently but also tend to develop differently. Lung adenocarcinomas which are a type of non-small cell lung cancer are the most common type of cancers found in non-smoking people. Most commonly, adenocarcinomas tend to grow in the outer regions of the lungs unlike small cell cancers and squamous cell cancers which grow near the airways.

While most lung cancers are treated in a similar way, Oncologists are now developing a deeper understanding of the genetic differences and triggers of different types of cancers. Patients with genetic cancer triggers such as EGFR mutation and ALK (anaplastic lymphoma kinase) gene rearrangements respond better to a different line of treatment than chemotherapy. Most commonly, these gene mutations are responsible for triggering cancers in non-smokers.

Never ignore these symptoms: As mentioned above lung cancers in non-smokers are often different as compare to the disease type in smokers. This is why sometimes, the disease manifests differently in these two sub categories of patients. People who do not smoke may present with more subtle symptoms such as shortness of breath, fatigue, pain in the back along with cough. Sometimes, these symptoms may initially be taken for any other condition, delaying the disease diagnosis and treatment.

Whether you smoke or not, it is important not to take any aberration in the respiratory health lightly. Always report to the doctor if you experience the following symptoms:

- A cough that lasts more than 2 weeks
- Shortness of breath
- Chronic fatigue or malaise accompanied by respiratory distress
- Experiencing pain while breathing
- Recurrent chest infections.

WARMFOODS

CHERRY: If one wants to go for both health and taste, then cherry is here to their rescue. They are high in antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds, which may reduce chronic disease risk and promote overall health. It can also help relieve exercise-induced muscle pain, damage, and inflammation.

Increasing your intake of nutrient-dense fruits like cherries is a tasty way to protect your heart. Many studies show that diets rich in fruits are associated with a reduced risk of heart disease.

Due to their potent anti-inflammatory effects, cherries may reduce symptoms of arthritis and gout, a type of arthritis caused by a buildup of uric acid that can lead to extreme swelling, inflammation and pain in your joints. That's not all. Cherries contain melatonin, a substance that helps regulate your sleep-wake cycle.

And last but not the least, cherries are also good for your skin. So if you want to have that glowing skin, just grab a bowl of cherries.



LISTEN TO ORAL CALL

Dental health is not considered as significant as mental health, in fact it is not a primary concern at all for many. DR TANVI PARKAR tells you why maintaining dental hygiene is just as important as overall hygiene



The stress and anxiety related to the infection coupled with the mental fatigue of calibrating oneself to the new normal, has made people realise the importance of mental wellness. To add to these, news of celebrities breathing their last owing to mental illness, has put this issue in the limelight. As we browse along the myriad of discourses on wellbeing, we quickly can realise that dental health is not considered as significant as mental health, in fact dental health is not a primary concern at all.

Oral cavity is one of the most important parts of our bodies that dentists dedicate five years of their lives learning. The fact that they spend most of their curricular time (even more by post-graduates), on such a small part of the body, itself, makes it so significant. Sadly, this seems to be a trivial subject for many. Maybe they feel that dentists shall only talk about brushing twice a day which is covered by a toothpaste as it is, so what's more to it? The relevance of dental health and why it should be a part of workplace wellbeing programme is what is discussed in the article.

Some of the significant aspects of oral cavity and dental health are as follows:

Functions of oral cavity: The oral cavity and its components have various functions like chewing food, enabling us to pronounce words, and giving shape and form to the face.

Oral manifestations of sys-

temic diseases: A lot of systemic diseases have oral manifestations. These include diabetes, certain infections, gastrointestinal problems as well as nutritional deficiencies.

Entry to the digestive system: The oral cavity is the portal to the digestive system. It is here that food is tasted and enjoyed, masticated with the teeth and mixed with saliva to form a bolus — an ingestible and digestible form of food that enters the oesophagus. It is also in the mouth that the food is mixed with digestive enzymes from the saliva for easy digestion.

Workplace grooming and halitosis: We are supposed to meet a lot of people for work related matters. These could be bosses, co-workers, clients, and other people. It is expected that we are well groomed and follow etiquettes during our meetings. One of the important aspects of this is oral hygiene. It is not necessary that we must go for a celebrity level smile design, however, it is pertinent that we do not show the food that's stuck in our teeth while we are talking or smiling. Halitosis or bad breath is also one of the concerns and a huge turn off while interacting socially.

Significance of oral health in COVID-19 situation:

Nasopharynx and oropharynx: The oral cavity is an entrance to the respiratory tract and maintaining good oral hygiene can prevent COVID-19 infection.

Saliva and oral mucosa: The oral mucosa and salivary glands are lined with ACE2 (angiotensin con-

verting enzyme 2) receptors, which are used by SARS-CoV-2 virus to enter epithelial cells. In addition, SARS-CoV RNA can be detected in saliva before lung lesions appear. This may explain the presence of asymptomatic infections. Thus, the potential infectivity of saliva alone must not be ignored.

Xerostomia and dysgeusia: The inflammation caused by the viral infection leads to reduced salivary secretions and dry mouth.

Alteration in the quantity and composition of saliva also leads to loss or altered taste.

Mask mouth: Wearing mask for prolonged duration results in decreased salivation or dry mouth that results in cavities, gum disease and sour breath.

Loss of teeth in long haulers: A phenomenon where idiopathic bone loss and falling out of teeth have been reported by few people who have been experiencing COVID-19 symptoms for a very long time. Although a thorough research and more evidence is required to substantiate this phenomenon, it is speculated that the infection caused inflammation that could attack the gums and mouth, which might be able to trigger tooth loss.

As we can observe from the above, oral care plays a vital role in the overall health or a person. This has become crucial in the pandemic times. Dental treatments are currently not covered in most insurance programmes in the country. Ergo, oral health needs to be an important aspect of workplace wellness since education, awareness and early detection are key to good outcomes. As the famous saying goes, "Dentistry is not expensive, neglect is!", we must ensure that we always maintain good oral hygiene. In conclusion, we must provide equal attention to dental health as we provide to mental health in the workplace.

The writer is Health Risk Management Consultant, Anviti Insurance Brokers

LET THE SKIN DO THE TALKING

Following a proper skincare routine is important. DR AJAY RANA shares tips that will help you get healthy and glowing skin



Almost one month into the New Year, it is high time to make a routine for your skin and make sure you follow it. Morning is the best time to start taking care of your skin. Your skin is fresh from a goodnight's sleep and you should make sure to prepare it up before you begin your day. Everyday our face faces a lot of dust, sun rays, UV rays, pollution. Hence, having a proper skincare routine in the morning is of utmost importance.

Here are a few tips to make your skin glowing this year:

Cleanse with water: Cleansing your face with water is the first and the foremost step for the glowing skin. Our face needs the right amount of water so that all the dryness from the night is removed.

Use a toner: The next big step is to use a toner. Toning your face is very important. A good toner helps to remove any remaining bits of oil and dirt left behind by a cleanser. It also shrinks the pores. Toners prevent the skin from producing excess oil.

Serum: After you are done using a toner, get ready to use a serum. The serum is specifically made to handle all your skin problems. Take a few drops of the serum and warm it up by rubbing it in between your palms. Apply the serum on the skin, starting from the nose, and work your way outwards. Leave it on for two-three minutes to absorb into the skin.

Always remove your makeup: It is very important to remove the makeup, no matter where you are, before you go to bed, or if you have been wearing it for a very long time. It is important that you give time to your skin to breathe. Use a good water makeup cleanser, and remove all the layers.

Skincare routines are incomplete without the use of a moisturiser: Moisturise your skin with a dermatologist-recommended moisturiser as often as you can based on your skin type.

Clean the makeup brushes regularly: It is important to clean your makeup brushes to avoid a buildup of makeup residue and bacteria. Use a shampoo and conditioner to clean your brushes, as you do with your hair. Cleaning brushes helps to smooth and even apply makeup every time.

Apply sunscreen: Don't forget to use sunscreen before you head out. Wear a good sunscreen with SPF of 40 or higher and try to avoid the sun as much as possible.

Lip moisturiser: Using a lip moisturiser would be a good idea. During the winter season, our lips tend to get really dry, because of which we sometimes develop the habit of licking our lips. This can lead to dermatitis around the mouth. In order to avoid this, even using a basic moisturizer like Vaseline would help.

Take multivitamins and antioxidants: Not getting enough sun causes a dip in your Vitamin D levels, so adding Vitamin C and D to the supplements, in addition to omega fatty acid supplements. Avoid taking sugar and alcohol.

The writer is Dermatologist, Aesthetic Physician and the Founder-Director of ILAMED

DadiKaKehna

Motion sickness or infections can result in nausea. While it is not painful, it is definitely uncomfortable. ROSHANI DEVI shares remedies that can help relieve it



Nausea can happen because of several reasons. If one has taken pills on an empty stomach, motion sickness and infections are the most common triggers for nausea.

Here are a few tips that can help.

While eating ginger is synonymous to catching cold, there is lot more that this herb can do. Experts believe that compounds in ginger may work in a similar way to anti-nausea medication. In fact, several studies agree that ginger is effective at reducing nausea in various situations.

Control your breathing. Taking slow, deep breaths can also help reduce nausea.

Certain spices like fennel powder, cinnamon and cumin extract also helps reducing nausea.

Fennel powder may reduce menstrual symptoms, including nausea, and help women experience shorter periods. Cinnamon may reduce the severity of nausea that women experience during menstruation. Cumin extract may help improve symptoms such as abdominal pain, nausea, constipation and diarrhea in individuals suffering from IBS.



Making good choices is key

SWAMI MUKUNDANANDA tells you how behavioural momentum helps you change your life for the better

Life presents us with an array of choices. We select our thoughts, priorities, emotions, and behaviours. Regardless of how good or bad we may presently be, we can always choose to make our future better. Regrettably, we also have the option of choosing to make our future worse.

Nowadays, there is no dearth of advertisements promising you an annual income of two crores, if you simply spend two hours daily on the internet; a weight loss of twenty kilos by wearing a special belt; and perfection in meditation if you take initiation in a particular mantra. Surprisingly, people are willing to get duped into believing these alluring marketing lines.

The problem is that

our human nature wants quick fixes-excellence without toil, and perfection without practice. But life mastery and enlightenment are not cheap bargains. They are achieved through sacrifice, dedication, and perseverance.

The good news is that the level of difficulty does not remain the same throughout the journey. In fact, every incremental step becomes easier than the previous one. Social scientists have discovered a concept called behavioural momentum.

We are familiar with the momentum of solid objects. You may have had the experience of pushing someone's car. When the engine does not turn on with the ignition switch, passengers get out of the car and



begin pushing it. Initially, your every muscle gets exerted to overcome the vehicle's static inertia. But slowly, the movement begins and then keeps picking speed. When the driver sees the car has gathered enough momentum, she releases the clutch, to engage the engine with a jerk and kick start it.

This is an illustration of the momentum of physical objects.

Interestingly, the same phenomenon applies to human behaviour as well. As you strive to improve yourself, the velocity of your self-transformation keeps speeding up. The reason is that any learned behaviour becomes easier with every repetition, until it finally becomes a habit.

Slowly, the choices, which we keep repeating, grow onto us and become a part of us. That is why it is said: "First we make choices and then the choices make us." Now, if our choices are harmful, the momentum will build up in the wrong direction and work to our detriment. But if we keep repeating good choices, the impetus will develop in the beneficial direction and will work to our advantage.

This explains why the most difficult part of any behavioural modification is the initial phase. It is when our brain is breaking the neural pathways of old habits and establishing circuitry for new ones. Once the behavioural momentum builds up, we reach the auto mode and enjoy the ride, because progress in life has almost reached the automatic level.

In his latest book, *7 Divine Laws to Awaken Your Best Self*, he discusses the most important divine laws of life. What are these laws? How can our life be enriched by their knowledge and application? This joyous journey is accomplished through the seven chapters of the book.

The writer is global spiritual leader, best selling author and Vedic scholar

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL

Trend
Slazer

I know people
love me: Pankaj

PANKAJ TRIPATHI surprises you by saying he doesn't quite understand what it means to be a star. However, he gets to know that people love him through social media reactions.

"Nothing has changed. I don't have an idea if I am a star and I don't know what it's like to be a star. I don't have an idea about stardom. I used to work with honesty and I am doing it with sincerity till now," Pankaj said.

"I know people love me. I get to know about it through social media. Sometimes I feel that the love of the audience is like a fixed deposit with me and I have to give them back with interest. So, the responsibility and trust increases," he added.



'I still remember meeting this kid (Varun Dhawan) in Goa! Long hair, big dreams in his eyes and a swag that was waiting to explode on celluloid! A few years later he was my Assistant on MNIK! (My Name Is Khan). When he faced the camera for me for the first time, I developed an immediately protective feeling of love and care for him... And that feeling today came alive in abundance as I saw him walk with his loved one around the holy fire of trust and commitment...'

Actor and yoga enthusiastic SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRA suggested the right yoga to bust stress, and improve core strength and flexibility of the hip joints and legs.



"For almost a year now, in some or the other way, we've all been in rough waters. For me, the best way to beat the stress is to occasionally draw out the 'boat' pose or the *Naukasana*. It can row you out of many issues that your body maybe undergoing. #MondayMotivation," she said.

I miss dressing
up: Kim

American reality TV star KIM KARDASHIAN strikes a stylish pose in a new snapshot she has posted on social media, though she says she misses dressing up.

In the picture she posted in the early hours of Monday, according to India time, Kim is seen stepping out of her car. Colour-coordinated with the all-black power wheels, Kim is dressed in all-black, too. She wears a front-open black leather jacket that falls way below her knees, with a black leather off-shoulder short dress that has a cross embroidered on the torso.

The 40-year-old celebrity adds to her minimalist no-makeup look with the caption she writes on the picture: "I miss dressing up."



WE, THE PEOPLE

The Republic Day march makes for a visual treat. But is that still relevant and important? Experts speak. By CHAHAK MITTAL

Magnificent marches by the regiments of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Police and Paramilitary forces, display of the Indian Defence prowess, latest missiles, aircrafts, weapon systems, colourful tableaux showcasing the beauty of different states of India — the Republic Day parade in Delhi has always been a visual treat. But beyond appearances, what does the idea of celebrating this day holds out for people besides inconveniencing a large part of the populace in the capital? Does it still have some importance among the citizens of India or is it merely a public holiday for them? We might find the tricolour at a roadside vendor's shop or children selling them at traffic signals only to be trampled upon later.

We speak to experts from various fields to know how the idea of Republic Day has changed over the years and what it means now.



Devdutt Pattanaik, Author and Illustrator:

It is a modern-day ritual designed to construct the idea of a nation-state. Just as the flag is a modern-day symbol and

standing up while singing National Anthem is a ritual. Through rituals and symbols were constructed ideas that create organisa-

tions such as tribe and nation. They help bind people together, grant pride and identity to a people. These are not a

natural phenomenon but cultural myths, i.e. people's truths. It is what humans do to establish a community.



Harish Iyer, Gay Rights Activist:

The idea of republic is basically an oath to the Constitution, which strives to see all of us as equals. The truth is that we are distinct and com-

pletely different from one another. We all define equality in the ways we perceive it. The idea of equality

too is different for everybody. Hence, this Republic Day, it's time to remember that equality is the key for a society to perform well and excel. It might be

different for various sections of the society, including the marginalised one. After the historic verdict by the Supreme Court, decriminalising Section 377, a lot changed and I think now, the LGBTQIA+ community is very much a part of the Republic.



Dr Bhuvan Lall, Author:

As a biographer of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, over the years, I have observed that the respect he gained from ordinary Indians, most of whom were born post-1947, is incredible. This Republic Day, we need to remember that people like him and our Armed Forces in difficult terrains and inhospitable weather conditions, continuously defending and standing up for the biggest democracy in the world. Jai Hind!



As India witnesses more and more game developers going mainstream, along with a thrust on creating a new gaming ecosystem in the country, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) has taken up the cudgels to find and nurture talent in the field of gaming.

Driven by smartphones, the online gaming industry in India is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 40 per cent to \$2.8 billion by 2022, up from \$1.1 billion in 2019, according to a Deloitte India report that came out last week.

India is one of the top five mobile gaming markets in the world, with a 13 per cent share of global game sessions. The online gaming industry in India is expected to add 40 million online gamers during the 2020-22 period.

According to Jodie Azhar, winner of the 2016 BAFTA Breakthrough Initiative and currently games director at Teazelcat Games, the biggest challenge is to make right connections with the people who can help you get your games onto various online platforms where people can buy it, and help you market it to the audience that will be interested in your games.

"I think that's where organisations like BAFTA can really help because they have such a wide network, both in the video games industry as well as film and TV. It is really interesting to see the merging industries and making those connections, to help you develop games and get it in front of people who want to play it," Azhar said.

The applications for 'BAFTA Breakthrough India', supported by Netflix, are currently open and the entry window has been extended to February 8.

As part of the initiative, a jury of the British and Indian industry experts will select five talents from across India to take part in the year-long mentoring and guidance programme.

Talent search

BAFTA set to push Indians to create world-class games

"Game developers from India should apply right now as it is a brilliant initiative. People who have worked on AAA games, who have worked on independent projects, they all have a wealth of knowledge and by being part of BAFTA through this initiative, you get access to that knowledge," she elaborated. AAA (or Triple-A) video games are to the gaming world what blockbusters are for the film industry. Just like blockbusters, they usually involve huge teams working for months to years to make a finished product, employed by a big studio.

seeing more virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) games, like *Pokemon go*, where you leave your house and move around.

"But we still see people who want to play games sitting on their sofa sets, just to find a kind of escape from their everyday lives. What we're seeing is different types of games, dictated by the kind of hardware that's available and popular with consumers," she said.

The games professionals chosen by the 'Breakthrough' initiative will receive one-to-one mentoring, global networking opportunities, free access to BAFTA events and screenings

for 12 months, and full voting BAFTA membership.

The chosen talent will also connect with and learn from some of the best in the British and Indian creative industries, share their expertise with peers around the world, gain access to opportunities beyond geographical borders, and be promoted as BAFTA Breakthrough artists globally.

Charu Desodt, games producer and 2014 Breakthrough Brit said, "Being named a BAFTA Breakthrough in 2014 was a career highlight for me. People recognise the BAFTA name and, in turn, it makes people pay more attention to you and your artistic vision."

The BAFTA Breakthrough initiative has been running in the UK since 2013, China since 2019 and launched in the US and India in 2020, supporting over 160 emerging talents to date.

-IANS

'Theatres are safe'

Actor SHARAD KELKAR questions that if people are partying big time, why are they hesitant to return to cinema halls?

Actor Sharad Kelkar is surprised that the audience is still hesitant to return to the cinema theatres, although other areas of the hospitality and entertainment industry have started to open up, post-COVID lockdown.

"People have started going to pubs, coffee shops, restaurants, weddings and even to places like Goa on vacation. People are partying big time, so I don't know why they are not going to the theatres," Sharad said.

"Theatres are much safer, and also there is 50 per cent occupancy. Theaters are regularly cleaned and sanitised. This is one of the biggest industries we have, and it is dependent upon the audience. So I'd request everyone that if you can party, you can also go to the theatre," he added.

Quizzed about how the pandemic and lockdown have affected him, the actor said: "I am known as a workaholic in my friend circle. I am active and love to run around all the time. This pandemic taught me patience. Sitting at home doing nothing was a new experience for me for the first time in the last 18 years that I started working. Not going out to work and not meeting people was initially a little depressing but ultimately I understood that in life you need to be a little patient!"

Sharad, who impressed all playing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Ajay Devgn's blockbuster film *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior* last year, reveals he had rejected historical roles for almost 15 years of his acting career.

"I have been getting offers for historical shows right from my initial years when I started doing TV, due to my voice, height and physical structure. But I was always afraid of doing it. There was a fear



of having to wear a lot of costumes, which I thought would be tedious. So I almost avoided historical roles for 15 years," he said.

About *Tanhaji* and his role in the film, he said: "I never knew a historical film would give me so much appreciation and establishment in the industry. So, I proved myself wrong!"

On the work front, Sharad turns narrator for the forthcoming animated series, *The Legend Of Hanuman*. He will also feature in the Ajay Devgn-starrer *Bhuj: The Pride Of India* and the forthcoming web series *The Family Man 2*.

-IANS

England whitewash Lanka

Babar hopes to counter tough Proteas at home

AFP ■ GALLE

Dom Sibley and Jos Buttler anchored a run chase after a jittery start as England beat Sri Lanka by six wickets on Monday in the second Test to sweep the series 2-0.

Sibley and Buttler put on an unbeaten 75-run stand as England, who were struggling at 89/4, got to their target of 164 in an extended final session on the fourth day in Galle.

The result gave England a second successive Test whitewash in Sri Lanka after winning all three matches in the island nation in 2018.

England were given a deadline to finish in the day after spinners Jack Leach and Dom Bess skittled out Sri Lanka for 126 in their second innings.

Left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya claimed three wickets that gave Sri Lanka hope and helped him to his Test-best match figures of 10-200.

Debutant spinner Ramesh Mendis got the key wicket of skipper Joe Root, who scored 11 after his 186 in England's first innings total of 344, to add to the scare given to the tourists. Embuldeniya took Zak Crawley for 13 and then ended Jonny Bairstow's stay after a quickfire 29, putting England's nerves on edge, but Sibley calmly moved to his third Test half-century.

Leach and Sibley took four wickets each to set up England's win.

The hosts started their second innings early in the day with a lead of 37 but it all came to an end in the afternoon session.

Number 10 Embuldeniya top-scored with 40, after taking



Joe Root holds winners' trophy after England beat Sri Lanka in 2nd Test

seven wickets with his left-arm spin to end England's first innings on 344. He was the only batsman to score more than 20 as Sri Lanka collapsed from 29 for one in their second innings.

Embuldeniya put up some resistance with a ninth-wicket stand of 48 with Suranga Lakmal, who made 11 not out, before Root took the final two wickets with his off-spin.

Leach's left-arm spin got Kusal Perera trapped lbw for 14, and off-spinner Bess sent back Oshada Fernando for three in the first session. First-

innings centurion Angelo Mathews was then bowled by Bess for five and Chandimal fell to Leach, with James Anderson taking a superb running catch. Earlier Dilruwan Perera trapped overnight batsman Leach lbw for one on just the 11th ball of the day after England resumed on 339 for nine in Galle.

Leach took a single and number 11 Anderson hit a boundary off Embuldeniya, who returned career-best figures of 7-137 in just his ninth Test, to add five runs to the overnight score. Riding on Root's 228,

We'll carry confidence from SL win against 'world's best' India: Root

AFP ■ GALLE

Skipper Joe Root on Monday said England will take confidence from their 2-0 Test sweep in Sri Lanka to challenge world No 1 India on their own patch.

Root, who led by example with match-winning knocks of 228 and 186 in the first and second match respectively, said the team looks in good shape ahead of the four-Test series in India that starts in Chennai on February 5.

"We've got four very important games against arguably the best team in the world in their own conditions," Root said. "We'll have to play right at the top of our game to win out there but we couldn't be in a better place to go and challenge them." The England team face a period of quarantine upon entry to India ahead of the series, but Root said the measures had not fazed the squad.

"We're gonna have seven or eight days with no cricket, six days in quarantine and then three very important days of prep ahead of the series," he said. "But what we have got is a huge amount of confidence coming out of these two games."

'DEFINITELY PROGRESS' England have won five straight Tests away from home

England won the opening Test of the resumed series, which started last March but was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

as they got past hosts South Africa in the final three matches of a four-match series to triumph 3-1 in January last year.

"Definitely progress. As I mentioned before this game, we have in the past struggled in away conditions," said Root.

"For us to be able to turn that round, find ways of consistently taking 20 wickets is really impressive. We have just got to stay hungry and keep looking to get better."

England though will be without Jonny Bairstow for the opening two India Tests as part of the team's rest and rotate policy for its players during the coronavirus pandemic. Buttler, who scored 55 and an unbeaten 46 in the second match, will return home after the first Test.

Root said the team, which will be boosted by the return of Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer, will have to keep up with player rotation in these uncertain times.

"We always want our best players there as often as possible, because of the world we're in right now it's not feasible and we have to manage that the best we can," said Root.

"But he's still got an opportunity to affect the series and sure he'll be desperate to keep up the good form."

England now head to India for a four-Test series starting February 5 in Chennai. The first two Tests will be played to empty stadiums.

AP ■ KARACHI

Babar Azam will make his Test captaincy debut on Tuesday against a tough South Africa team that is touring Pakistan for the first time in more than 13 years.

Azam has recovered from a thumb injury that kept him out of the two-Test series in New Zealand, which Pakistan lost 2-0.

"I missed the series against New Zealand, but it's a proud moment for me that I am doing my captaincy debut in my own country," Azam said on Monday. "South Africa is a good team. You can't take them lightly, but conditions suit us more because most of us have played here."

South Africa last toured Pakistan in 2007 because the country was forced to organize its "home" Test series in the United Arab Emirates following a terrorist attack on a bus carrying the Sri Lanka team in Lahore in 2009.

The second Test will be played in Rawalpindi from February 4, followed by the three-match Twenty20 series in Lahore from February 11-14.

Pakistan is out of the race to qualify for the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June while South Africa has only a mathematical chance to make it with India, New Zealand, Australia and England among the top contenders.

Azam is well aware of Pakistan's poor Test record against South Africa, winning only four of 26 against the Proteas. One of Pakistan's 15 losses came at the National Stadium — the venue for the



first Test — when South Africa toured in 2007.

"We should not think about past, we should focus on what's ahead of us," Azam said. "It's a fact that we don't have a good record against them, but we have prepared well and we hope to give our best against them this time."

Pakistan has included six uncapped players in a 17-man squad. Opening batsman Imran Butt and left-arm spinner Nauman Ali could make their Test debuts on Tuesday.

Azam also said Pakistan might go with an additional spinner along with Yasir Shah.

"We have practiced here for a week now and the wicket looks a bit slow," Azam said.

Only South Africa coach Mark Boucher has previously played red-ball cricket in Pakistan, while the experienced Faf du Plessis has twice toured Pakistan over the last four years but played only in the T20 format.

"I'm sure this Pakistan team is going to be tough," South Africa captain Quinton de Kock said when the team arrived. "I think our biggest challenge is the conditions that we could face, the unknowing of the things that we have to deal with."

Boucher said he expected the wicket in Karachi to help spinners and it might tempt him to include an extra spinner along with first choice left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj.

"It's (the wicket) definitely going to turn," Boucher said. "The conditions are going to be proper subcontinent conditions where I don't think there's a lot of assistance for seamers."

"We've definitely come in with the mindset that if you want to win a series away from home, you've got to make a couple of brave calls at the end, (and) the selectors and the team are going with that mindset into the game."

ATM restore 7 point lead



AFP ■ MADRID

Luis Suarez scored a brilliant team goal as Atletico Madrid came from behind to beat Valencia 3-1 on Sunday and move seven points clear at the top of La Liga.

After Real Madrid thrashed Alaves on Saturday, Barca had earlier followed suit with a scrappy victory over Elche.

But Atletico were under-terred in the capital, as their considerable advantage was restored again, with a game in hand.

"We don't get carried away or think too far ahead, we think about getting better," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone.

Suarez finished off a flowing move that had started almost on Atletico's goal-line before substitute Angel Correa capped another slick string of passes to end Valencia's resistance.



The visitors had taken an early lead in stunning fashion, Uros Racic curling into the top corner from 35 yards but Joao Felix equalised and Atletico came back, in a way that has begun to feel expected.

Felix was replaced by Correa after an hour by Simeone after assisting Suarez and scoring a goal for himself that should send a message to his coach, who has handed

ed the 21-year-old a spell on the bench in recent weeks.

"It's not written that footballers have to play 90 minutes," said Simeone. "Joao scored a goal, made an assist, he came off and on came Correa, who scored a goal and was close to another. The competition is healthy."

Someone knows the pressure will mount as the La Liga trophy comes more into view, yet his team are showing an assuredness now that is offering little encouragement for Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Final chance for domestic players to impress in Mushtaq knock-outs

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

It will be the last chance for the domestic players to impress before the all-important IPL auction when the knock-outs of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy begin here on Tuesday.

While Karnataka will go all out looking to retain the title, the seven other teams which have made it to the quarter-finals, will be itching to make an impact and get their names inscribed on the trophy.

The event marked the resumption of the much-delayed 2020-21 domestic season in the country.

A mighty Punjab team stands between Karnataka and their title defence as the two teams will square-off in the first quarter-final, which is expected to be an even battle.

Punjab made it to the knock-outs from Elite Group A after winning all their five games in the league stage, while Karnataka also scraped to the final eight, despite being second on the points table in Group A, having lost one game.

The match could be touted as battle of openers as Punjab possesses the young

Prabhsimran Singh, who is in good form, with 277 runs, while Karnataka will bank on the stylish southpaw Devdutt Padikkal, who has 207 runs from five games.

Both the sides have an equally strong middle-order. However, Punjab could have a slight edge in their pace attack with Sidharth Kaul (10 wickets) and Sandeep Sharma in their arsenal.

Sharma in particular is lethal in the shortest format of the game. But Karnataka have the likes of Abhimanyu Mithun and Prasidh Krishna, who can be equally dangerous.

Even the contest is somewhat equal among the spinners as Punjab has Mayank Markande while Karnataka will bank on the lead spin duo of experienced J Suchith and Shreyas Gopal.

In the second quarter-final, for Tamil Nadu, who were runners-up last season, attacking opener N Jagadeesan, who is the leading run-getter in the tournament so far with 315 runs and skipper Dinesh Karthik, will again be the key players in their clash against Himachal Pradesh, who came through from Elite

Group C.

The TN bowling unit did a superb job for skipper Karthik though it was without ace spinner R Ashwin, yorker specialist T Natarajan and all-rounder Washington Sundar who were away on national duty in Australia.

Leg-spinner M Ashwin and left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore were quite a handful but it was Baba Aparajith, who was the surprise packet, taking the new ball and enjoying a great degree of success too.

The trio will have a crucial role to play in the knockouts if TN has to go all the way as would the pacers — Sandeep Warrier, M Mohammed and Aswin Crist.

In the third quarter-final too, it could be tough for Baroda to overcome the challenge of Haryana, without the services of the Pandya brothers — Hardik and Krunal.

While Hardik did not play the tournament as he was practicing for the white-ball series against England, Krunal had to leave the tournament mid-way following his father's demise.

Haryana have been in splendid form and it is their spinners

— India player Yuzvendra Chahal, Jayant Yadav and Rahul Tewatia, who will give them an upper hand against Baroda.

But Baroda led by Kedar Devdhar, who has amassed 226 runs in five games, can spring a surprise. And for that to happen, left-arm inform pacer Lukman Meriwala (11 wickets) and Atit Sheth (8 wickets) hold the key against a vulnerable Haryana top-order.

In the fourth quarter-final, Rajasthan, who qualified from Group D, will be the run-away favourites against Bihar, who have qualified from the Plate Group.

The Mushtaq knock-outs, will also be the first time that matches will be played at the refurbished Sardar Patel Motera Stadium. It will be interesting to see how the pitch behaves with the two Tests between India and England to follow at the venue.

Line Ups: Quarter-final 1: January 26: At 12 noon: Punjab vs Karnataka. Quarter-final 2: January 26: At 7 PM: Tamil Nadu vs Himachal Pradesh. Quarter-final 3: January 27: At 12 noon: Haryana vs Baroda. Quarter-final 4: January 27: At 7 PM: Rajasthan vs Bihar.

Chelsea sack Lampard

AFP ■ LONDON

Chelsea sacked manager Frank Lampard on Monday after 18 months in charge, with former Paris Saint-Germain boss Thomas Tuchel reportedly set to replace him at Stamford Bridge.

Sunday's 3-1 FA Cup fourth-round win against Championship side Luton was not enough to save Lampard, whose team have slumped to ninth place in the Premier League.

Chelsea said it had been a

"very difficult decision" to part ways with the 42-year-old, who replaced Maurizio Sarri in July 2019.

"We are grateful to Frank for what he has achieved in his time as head coach of the club," Chelsea said in a statement.

"However, recent results and performances have not met the club's expectations, leaving the club mid-table without any clear path to sustained improve-

ment"

The club's Russian owner Roman Abramovich said: "This was a very difficult decision for the club, not least because I have an excellent personal relationship with Frank and I have the utmost respect for him."

"He is a man of great integrity and has the highest of work ethics. However, under current circumstances we believe it is best to change managers."

Former PSG boss Tuchel, who was abruptly sacked by the French champions in December, is in line to take over, reports said.

Chelsea are struggling in ninth place in the Premier League table, 11 points behind leaders Manchester United.

They have lost five of their past eight Premier League matches after a good start to the season.

B'desh complete WI clean sweep

AP ■ CHATTOGRAM

Bangladesh completed a clean Sweep of the West Indies by securing a 120-run victory on Monday in the third and final ODI.

Skipper Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah all hit half-centuries to help Bangladesh post 297-6 after West Indies captain Jason Mohammed won the toss and decided to bowl first.

The West Indies, however, were bowled out for 177 in 44.2 overs, with Bangladesh's bowlers denying them any significant partnerships.

Tamim scored 64 from 80 balls at the top of the order to establish the innings while Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah paced the innings



toward the end. All three scored 64. Shakib hit a patient 51, his first half century since returning to cricket following a suspension imposed by the ICC for his failure to report corrupt approaches. Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman denied West Indies a fluent start in its pursuit of a stiff chase. He broke through with the wicket of Kjoern Ottley before removing Sunil Ambris (13) for the third time in a row in the

series. Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan and Saifuddin then ripped through the middle order, reducing the visitors to 93-5. Rovman Powell counter-attacked and hit 47 off 49 balls with two fours and two sixes to be the team's top-scorer. Saifuddin returned 3-51 while fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman and Hasan claimed two wickets each. The two teams will now play a two-match Test series, starting on February 3.

Sudha chosen for Padma Shri

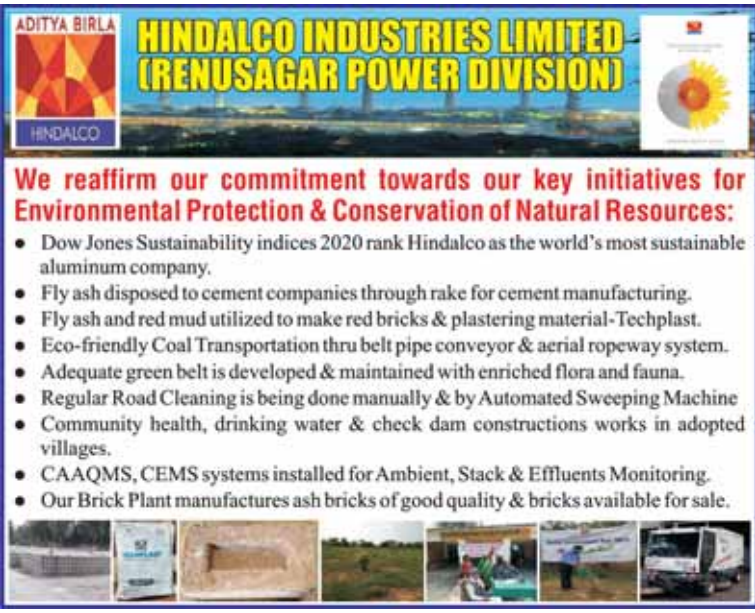
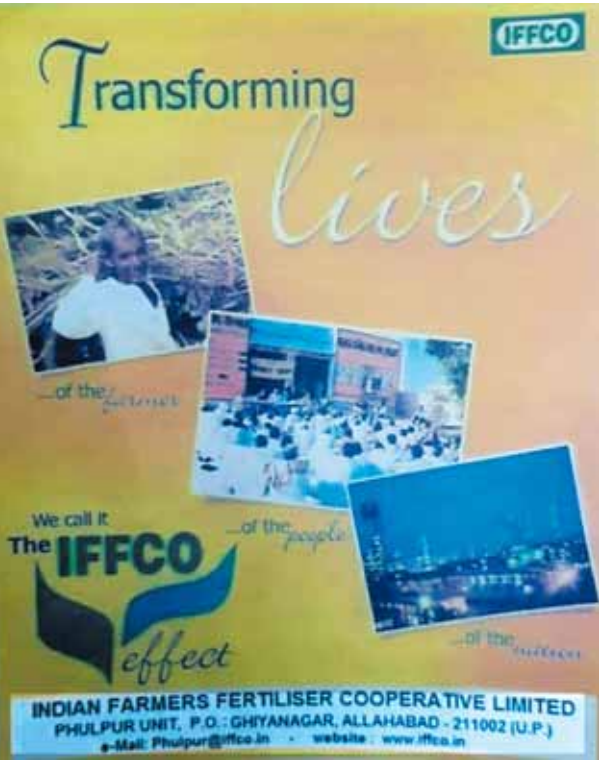
PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Sudha Singh, also referred to as the 'Rae Bareilly Express', has been chosen for Padma Shri award for her outstanding contribution in track events and bringing laurels to the country.

Currently preparing at a camp in Bengaluru, Sudha has taken the award as a power tonic, which will motivate her to finish her career on a high. "I'm 32, and Tokyo Olympics will perhaps be my last Olympic. This award has boosted my confidence to a next level. I will now put everything I have to qualify for Tokyo in Delhi Marathon and carry on to win a medal in Japan," she said while talking to this reporter over phone. A national record holder in 3000m steeplechase, Sudha is an Asian champion in the dis-



cipline and has won two gold and four silver medals. Her top performance came in 2010 Asian Games, held at Guangzhou, China, where she bagged the yellow metal. She is the recipient of many other prestigious awards. She was conferred with Arjuna Award in 2012 and Laxman Award in 2014. She also recieved Yash Bharti Award in 2015.



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चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र का एक महत्वपूर्ण विश्वविद्यालय है। पिछले 50 वर्षों में विश्वविद्यालय परिवार के समस्त सदस्यों ने अपनी गहन निष्ठा, मेहनत और भविष्य दृष्टि संवारने का अथक प्रयास किया है। पौराणिक काल से ही महत्वपूर्ण यह क्षेत्र देश की आजादी के आंदोलन में भी अपनी महती भूमिका के कारण विख्यात रहा है। विश्वविद्यालय आधारभूत सुविधाओं की दृष्टि से प्रदेश और देश में अपना विशिष्ट स्थान रखता है। विद्यार्थियों को वर्तमान वैश्विक युग की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार गुणवत्ता युक्त उच्च शिक्षा देने में प्रयत्नशील है। उच्च शिक्षा का जन-जन तक पहुँचाने के दायित्व का निर्वहन विश्वविद्यालय अपने सीमित संसाधनों में पूरी ईमानदारी व लगन से कर रहा है। यह विश्वविद्यालय लगभग 222 एकड़ भू-क्षेत्र में विकसित है, जिसमें पृथक-पृथक विभागीय शैक्षणिक भवन, नवीनतम उत्कृष्ट उपकरणों से समृद्ध प्रयोगशालाएँ, आधुनिक सुविधाओं से युक्त पुस्तकालय, भव्य प्रेक्षागृह, विशाल प्रशासनिक भवन, सामुदायिक केन्द्र, चिकित्सालय, कम्प्यूटर केन्द्र, वातानुकूलित बृहस्पति सभागार, मूल्यांकन केन्द्र, आठ छात्रावास, अभियांत्रिकी व विद्युत विभाग के पृथक-पृथक भवन, डाकखाना, बैंक, रेलवे आरक्षण केन्द्र, क्रीडा भवन, कुश्ती स्टेडियम, विशेष रूप से विकसित किये गये विविध खेल मैदान तथा कोर्ट, तपोवन एवं साहित्य कुटीर आदि वांछित सुविधाएँ हैं।

उपलब्धियाँ

1. अनेक वर्षों से लम्बित नैक मूल्यांकन सम्पन्न एवं सम्मानजनक ग्रेड।
2. विश्वविद्यालय के समस्त प्रवेश ऑनलाइन सुनिश्चित एवं प्रक्रियाओं का सरलीकरण।
3. परीक्षाओं का समयबद्ध संचालन एवं शुचितापूर्ण संचरण, एवं सुव्यवस्थित तथा सुगठित शैति से दीक्षांत समारोह का आयोजन।
4. शैक्षणिक विभागों में रिक्त आचार्य एवं सहायक आचार्य के पदों पर नियुक्त की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण हो चुकी है।
5. परिसर को रैमिंग-मुक्त प्रदूषण-मुक्त तथा धूम्रपान-मुक्त बनाना, जैविक खाद निर्माण द्वारा कृषि निस्तरण योजना का क्रियान्वयन।
6. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सी.बी.सी.एस. के माध्यम से शिक्षण प्रारम्भ एवं शैक्षणिक विभागों के शोध व अध्ययन हेतु कतिपय विदेशी संस्थानों तथा भारत के अन्य अनुसंधान केन्द्रों के साथ अनुबन्ध।
7. प्रशासनिक, अकादमिक, वित्तीय तथा विद्यार्थी प्रक्रियाओं का क्रमबद्ध सरलीकरण।
8. शैक्षणिक विभागों में अध्ययन, अध्यापन एवं अनुसंधान पर विशेष ध्यान।
9. अकादमिक गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चयन हेतु प्रकोष्ठ का पुनर्गठन एवं नियमित क्रियाशीलता को प्रोत्साहन।
10. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में छात्र/छात्राओं के सर्वांगीण विकास हेतु स्पर्कमैके संस्था के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में शास्त्रीय/लोकसंगीत के आयोजन तथा साहित्यिक सांस्कृतिक परिषद की पहल पर महापुरुषों की जयन्ती के अकादमिक एवं सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम।
11. पीएच.डी प्रवेश परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण छात्रों का प्री-पीएच.डी कोर्सवर्क में प्रवेश तथा अहं छात्रों का शोध पंजीकरण।
12. विभिन्न प्रशासनिक तथा अकादमिक समितियों का पारदर्शी पुनर्गठन।
13. सम्बद्धता के सभी लम्बित प्रकरणों पर त्वरित निर्णय।
14. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में चालीस वर्षों जल संग्रहण संयंत्र स्थापति किये गये एवं अनुसंधान के क्षेत्र में 40 दिनदयाल उपाध्याय शोधपीठ।
15. शैक्षणिक विभागों में पाठ्य समिति तथा शोध उपाधि समिति की बैठक का आयोजन।
16. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सौर ऊर्जा सन्चरण द्वारा 1260 किलोवाट विद्युत का उत्पादन।
17. स्वामी विवेकानन्द की 12 फीट की धातु की मूर्ति का लोकार्पण।
18. विश्वविद्यालय में छात्रों की समस्याओं के निस्तारण हेतु Online Grievance Redressal System की शुरुआत।
19. सहारनपुर राज्य विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना के लिए 100 करोड़ रुपये जारी किये।

Study Programmes on the Campus

State Funded Courses :- Genetics & Plant Breeding (Ag. Batany) Botany, Chemistry, Economics-(MA, M.Phil & Ph.D.), Education (M.Ed., M.Phil, Ph.D.), English (MA, M.Phil, Ph.D.), Hindi, History, Horticulture, Mathematics, Microbiology, B.Sc. Food Microbiology, Safety & Quality Control, Psychology, Sanskrit, Statistics, Urdu, Zoology (Toxicology), Foreign Languages (Russian, German, French), B.Tech., Geography (PG), Physical Education (BP.Ed, MP.Ed, Yoga), Political Science

Self Finance Courses :- Institute of Business Studies (MBA, BBA, BBA (HA), B.Com, (Hon's), M.Com, MBA (Hospital Administration), MCA, Biotechnology, Home Science (Human Development Food Nutrition), Food Science & Technology (Plant Protection, Entomology, & Plant Pathology), Seed Science & Technology, BJMC, MJMC, M.Phil (MJMC), Fine Art, Law (BA-LLB, LL.M), Environmental Science, Geography (PG Diploma in GIS), Library Science (B.Lib, M.Lib), Sociology (MSW), Master of Public Administration (MPA), Diploma in Psychological Counselling, Vedic Math, Applied Microbiology, Medical Microbiology, Bioinformatics, Polymer Science, & Chemical Technology, M.Sc (Bio-Chemistry), B.Sc. Chemistry (Hon's).

धीरेन्द्र कुमार कुलसचिव
सुशील कुमार गुप्ता वित्त अधिकारी
प्रो. वाई. विमला प्रतिकुलपति
प्रो० एन. के. तनेजा कुलपति

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार



The pride of our nation
Corona warriors, Sanitation workers,
Soldiers and Farmers!

This Republic Day,
we salute the four pillars of our nation

Wish you a very Happy Republic Day

