

**OPINION 6**  
WHY TRUMPISM  
PREVALES

**WORLD 8**  
PROTESTERS BURN PART OF  
GUATEMALA'S CONGRESS BUILDING

**SPORT 12**  
ROHIT READY TO  
BAT ANYWHERE

DEHRADUN, MONDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2020; PAGES 12-12

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10 VIVACITY

# Central teams rushed to contain Covid

High-level teams to help UP, Punjab, HP manage high infection loads, curb fatalities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Covid-19 pandemic continues unabated across the country, the Centre has rushed high-level teams to three States — Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab — to help them manage high infection loads and curb fatalities.

Earlier the Union Government had sent the high level teams to Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Manipur and Chhattisgarh.

The Union Health Ministry official said the high-level teams to UP, Punjab and HP aims to support them in Covid-19 response and management. These States have been either reporting a rise in the number of active cases — those who are hospitalised or are in home isolation under medical supervision, or demonstrating a rise in the daily new cases of coronavirus infections.

These three-member teams will visit the districts reporting a high number of Covid cases and support the State efforts towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures and efficient clinical management of the positive cases. The Central teams shall also guide in effectively managing the challenges related to timely diagnosis and follow up, the official said.

Acting tough in a bid to break the chain of infection, the UP Government, which initially restricted 100 people at marriage function inside of 200 in Noida and Ghaziabad districts brought the entire States under the marriage guest capping. The violators will face tough



action, the authorities said, adding that the decision has been taken due to a spike in the number of coronavirus cases.

Night curfews and Section 144 have returned in States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and others. The Ashok Gehlot Government in Rajasthan has imposed night curfew in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Bikaner, Udaipur, Ajmer, Alwar and Bhilwara. According to news agencies, nobody except those providing essential and emergency services will be allowed to come out from 8 pm to 6 am in few cities in Rajasthan. The fine for not wearing a face mask has been increased from Rs 200 to Rs 500.

In Delhi, the fine for not wearing face masks has been increased from Rs 500 to Rs 2,000. Besides, consumption of tobacco, spitting in public places, violation of quarantine rules, and not maintaining social distancing will also attract a fine of the same amount. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority had reverted to the earlier cap on the number of guests in the wake of a spurt in coronavirus cases in the city.

**PM likely to hold meet with CMs to review coronavirus situation tomorrow**

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold virtual meetings with Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories on Tuesday to review the Covid-19 situation and discuss vaccine distribution strategy, sources said.

The PM, till now, has held several virtual meetings with States over the coronavirus situation. While the national daily Covid-19 case count has remained below 50,000 for some time, several urban centres have witnessed a surge, resulting in enforcement of several measures, including curfews in some cities.

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 91,37,812

DEATHS: 1,33,731

RECOVERED:

85,59,630

ACTIVE: 4,42,391

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	17,80,208	46,623	16,51,064
Karnataka	8,73,046	11,654	8,36,505
Andhra Pradesh	8,62,213	6,938	8,41,026
Tamil Nadu	7,69,995	11,586	7,43,838
Kerala	5,62,896	2,023	4,88,437
Delhi	5,29,863	8,391	4,81,260
Uttar Pradesh	5,26,780	7,524	4,93,228
West Bengal	4,56,361	7,976	4,19,403
Odisha	3,13,961	1,678	3,03,897
Telangana	2,63,526	1,426	2,49,157
Rajasthan	2,43,936	2,146	2,16,579
Bihar	2,30,632	1,216	2,23,615
Chhattisgarh	2,21,688	2,713	1,98,316
Haryana	2,17,300	2,163	1,92,533
Assam	2,11,513	973	2,07,219
Gujarat	1,97,412	3,846	1,78,886

## Desi Covaxin at least 60% effective, to pass WHO norm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's coronavirus vaccine Icadant, Covaxin, will be at least 60 per cent effective, said vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech on Sunday based on the trial data of the vaccine candidate. The company said while it aimed to achieve at least 60 per cent efficacy, it could actually be more. "Chances of the vaccine being less than 50 per cent effective are remote, as suggested by our trial results so far," it said.

According to the World Health Organization, clear demonstration of efficacy (on

a population basis) ideally with 50 per cent point estimate should be a minimum criterion for any coronavirus vaccine candidate. It had also said that the efficacy can be assessed against disease, severe disease, and/or shedding.

The company, which is conducting the trials in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research, said on Tuesday that it had begun the third phase trials of the vaccine with 26,000 participants from across 22 sites in the country. Meanwhile, the Government may grant Pune's Serum Institute of India (SII) with the emergency use authorisation of

Oxford and AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine if the British-Swedish pharmaceutical company got such approval from the UK Government.

## MODERNA VACCINE TO COST GOVTS \$25-\$37

Berlin: Governments seeking to purchase Moderna's potential Covid-19 vaccine may have to shell out \$25 and \$37 per dose, depending on the size of the order, the company's CEO Stéphane Bancel told German weekly 'Welt am Sonntag' (WamS).

## Focus on climate change, India exceeding Paris target: Modi

World can progress faster with greater support of technology, finance to developing nations: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the world leaders to keep the focus on climate change and asserted that India is exceeding the target of the Paris agreement. He also said the entire world can progress faster if there is greater support of technology and finance to developing nations.

Addressing the G20 side event on "Safeguarding the Planet", Modi said India is not only meeting its Paris Agreement targets but also exceeding them.

Saudi Arabia, which assumed the G20 presidency this year, is the host of the virtual summit that is bringing

of degraded land by the year 2030 and encourage a circular economy.

"Today, we are focused on saving our citizens and economies from the effects of the global pandemic. Equally important is to keep our focus on fighting climate change. Climate change must be fought not in silos but in an integrated, comprehensive, and holistic way. Inspired by our traditional ethos of living in harmony with the environment, and the commitment of my Government, India has adopted low-carbon and climate-resilient development practices."

"I am glad to share that India is not only meeting our Paris Agreement targets, but also exceeding them. India has taken concrete action in many areas. We have made LED lights popular. This saves 38 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year."

Modi said India's focus is on saving citizens and the economy from pandemic while keeping the pace of fighting climate change. He informed the G20 leaders that India's aim is to restore 26 million hectares

## Border tunnel used by fidayeen detected

20-25 feet, 160-metre-long terror tunnel found in Regal area of Samba sector

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Exposing Pakistan's complicity in aiding and abetting terrorism, a joint team of Border Security Force (BSF) and Jammu & Kashmir police on Sunday detected a 20-25 feet deep and 160-metre-long cross border tunnel, along the International border in Regal area of Samba sector.

The tunnel was used by the four member fidayeen squad (members of a suicide squad) of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) to infiltrate inside the Indian territory before they were neutralised at Ban Toll Plaza near Nagrota on November 19.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, NS Jamwal who visited the tunnel site told reporters, "In a coordinated operation a joint team of BSF and Jammu & Kashmir police managed to timely detect this cross border tunnel used by the JeM group to crawl inside the



Indian territory". He said the tunnel was approximately 160-metre-long and 20-25 feet deep.

"The exit of the tunnel was in thick bushes, carefully concealed and meticulously covered with soil and wild growth. The mouth of the tunnel is strengthened and reinforced by the sand bags with markings of Karachi, Pakistan," he added.

Referring to the detection of tunnel IG, BSF said it appears it is a freshly dug tunnel and appears to be used for the first time. He said it appears that proper engineering effort has gone in making the tunnel which shows the hand of the establishment.

The nearest Pakistan BOPs are — Chak Bhura, Rajab Sahid

and Asif Sahid.

Director General of Police, Dilligah Singh, who was also present on the spot, told reporters the items used by the tunnel diggers to cover it up all carry the markings of items made in Pakistan. "Earlier, the seizures made from the encounter site at Ban Toll Plaza also clearly indicated Pak hand in pushing these groups to execute their sinister design of disrupting DDC polls in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

He said JeM terrorists were tasked by their Pakistan based handlers to disrupt the district development council polls beginning November 28 in Jammu & Kashmir. To execute their sinister plot the JeM group was launched inside the Indian territory along with the huge consignment of arms and ammunition which included 11 AK rifles, 29 grenades, RDX explosives, etc.

## Firms trying to cash in on Covid fear with crafty ads

Companies claim fabric anti-Covid, sweets can fight virus: Advertising Standards Council

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

At the time of the coronavirus pandemic, several firms are promoting false and misleading advertisements to apparently capitalise on this situation of crisis by exploiting the fear of the virus in general public, according to the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

A clothing company in its advertisement claimed its fabric came with health guard that is 99.94 per cent effective against the coronavirus. A sweet confectionery claimed its sweets could combat Covid-19 and



improve the immune system. Similarly, a grocery chain said it would refund full grocery bill if their customer tested positive for Covid-19 within 24 hours of shopping at their store. The ASCI has found these advertisements to be misleading and told the advertisers either to modify such claims or withdraw their advertisements.

According to the ASCI, at the time when the second wave of coronavirus pandemic started spreading across India,

many advertisers leveraged consumers' fears and insecurities to lure them to make product purchases through their misleading advertisements.

A clothing company claimed that their fabric kills 99 per cent of the Covid-19 virus with HEIQ ViroBlock Swiss Technology 2. The advertiser claimed that "HEIQ Viroblock NP03 is an intelligent Swiss textile technology that is added to the fabric during the final stage of the textile manufacturing process. This has been tested by HEIQ with the very reputed Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunology, Melbourne."

They also claimed that wearing of their antiviral shirt will give protection to the consumer since viruses that come in contact on the fabric including Covid-19 will be killed and will not be able to reach the body of the consumer thus protecting him.

Delhi's poor air quality to deteriorate further  
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

There appears to be no respite for Delhiites from poor air quality as on Sunday the national Capital's air quality remained 'poor' and Government agencies said it is likely to deteriorate further due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

The city's 24-hour average AQI was 274 on Sunday. It was 251 on Saturday, 296 on Friday, 283 on Thursday and 211 on Wednesday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good'; 51 and 100 'satisfactory'; 101 and 200 'moderate'; 201 and 300 'poor'; 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The Central Government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said Delhi-NCR's air quality is likely to deteriorate to the 'very poor' category on Monday due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

Guv tests positive for Covid-19  
PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand governor Baby Rani Maurya has tested positive for Covid-19. She tweeted on Sunday that the result of her Covid test had come out positive.



She further stated that she is asymptomatic and not experiencing any problem. Under the supervision of doctors, she has isolated herself. She has requested all those who come in close contact with her during the past few days to observe alertness and get checked.

## Capital's min temp drops to 6.9; coldest Nov since 2003

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The minimum temperature of the national Capital dropped to 6.9 degrees Celsius on Sunday, the lowest in the month of November since 2003, as a cold wave swept parts of the city. Delhi had recorded a minimum of 7.5 degrees Celsius on Friday, the lowest in the month in 14 years, according to the India Meteorological Department.

"The Safdarjung Observatory which provides representative data for the city, recorded a minimum of 6.9 degrees Celsius. It is Delhi's lowest minimum temperature in the month since November 2003, when the city recorded a minimum of 6.1 degrees Celsius," said Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre.

The mercury dropped to 6.1 degrees Celsius at the Palm weather station, he said. For the



A man sits near a bonfire on a cold morning amid tazy weather condition in New Delhi on Sunday

plains, the IMD declares a cold wave when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than normal for two consecutive days.

"However, for small areas such as Delhi, a cold wave can be declared if the criteria is fulfilled even for a day," Srivastava said. Delhi had recorded the

lowest minimum temperature of 11.5 degrees Celsius last year, 10.5 degrees Celsius in 2018 and 7.6 degrees Celsius in 2017 in the month of November.

The all-time record for the lowest minimum temperature in November is 3.9 degrees Celsius recorded on November 28, 1938.

## CAPSULE

**BHARTI SINGH, HUBBY IN CUSTODY TILL DEC 4**

Mumbai: A Mumbai court on Sunday remanded comedian Bharti Singh and husband Harsh Limbachia, arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau following seizure of drugs from their house here, to judicial custody till December 4. The court will hear their bail pleas on Monday. The NCB arrested Singh on Saturday and her husband early Sunday morning following seizure of ganja.

## MARKETS

SENSEX 43,882.25 (+282.28)  
NIFTY 12,859.00 (+87.36)  
GOLD 82,264.00 (+288.00)  
SILVER 82,264.00 (+758.00)

## WEATHER

MAX 23.6°C  
MIN 7.5°C  
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# Delhi Govt sprinkles 70L litres of water at 13 pollution hotspots

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Over 70 lakh litres of water was sprinkled at 13 pollution hotspots in the past 36 days by the Delhi Government to hold down dust as a measure to improve the deteriorating air quality in the city, officials said on Sunday.

The drive began on October 17 following an order from the Delhi government to check the dust pollution in the national capital, they said.

According to the fire department, about two lakh litres of water is being sprinkled every day by its personnel at 13 places declared as pollution hotspots by the Delhi government.

The places are Jahangirpuri, Narela, Ashok Vihar, Vivek Vihar, Dwarka, Mundka, Rehla, and Okhla, Bawana, Anand Vihar, Punjabi Bagh and R K Puram.

A total of 15 fire tenders have been pressed into service to sprinkle water at the identified hotspots and around 45 fire personnel have been deployed for the task, said Atul

Garg, director of Delhi Fire Service.

"On an average, two lakh litres of water is sprinkled every day. It has been an ongoing drive ever since the directions were issued from the Delhi government. The exercise began on October 17 and since then our personnel have sprinkled more than 70 lakh litres of water across 13 identified hotspots to curb dust pollution," he said.

The exercise is being carried out for nearly two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening every day, Garg said. Pollution levels breached the emergency threshold twice this month in the national capital as a grey apocalyptic smog enveloped the city for days, blotting out the sun and smudging landmarks from view.

According to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), the air quality is considered in the "severe plus" or "emergency" category if PM2.5 and PM10 levels persist above 300 g/m3 and 500 g/m3 for more than 48 hours.

Delhi witnessed six 'severe' air days on the trot from November 4 to November 9. It had recorded seven 'severe' air days in November last year.

Pollution levels on Diwali this year and the day after were the maximum in the last four years.

The Delhi government had on November 5 banned the sale and use of all kinds of firecrackers in the city till November 30.

The National Green Tribunal had also imposed a total ban on sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Region from November 9 midnight to November 30 midnight, saying "celebration by crackers is for happiness and not to celebrate deaths and diseases".

It may recalled that Delhi government had launched a massive anti-air pollution campaign titled - Yuddh Pradushan Ke Viruddh. A green war room has also been set up at the Delhi Secretariat to monitor steps being taken to bring down pollution levels in the city this season.

# 23 anti-smog guns installed at construction sites

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Public Works Department (PWD) of the Delhi Government has installed 23 anti-smog guns at key intersections and construction sites across the city to improve the national capital's air quality.

Delhi's Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that to reduce dust pollution the PWD has installed anti-smog guns at the key locations and construction sites across the city to reduce pollution in Delhi. "PWD officials have been instructed to sprinkle water on the trees, roads and at the construction sites across Delhi to combat dust pollution," he said.

The PWD has also deployed water tankers to sprinkle water to contain dust pollution, he added.

"According to the report given to me by PWD, 23 anti-smog guns have been installed at different areas of Delhi and



150 tankers have been deployed for sprinkling water. I have also instructed the PWD officials to increase the number of tankers further so that all the key roads of Delhi can be covered. If necessary we will install more anti-smog guns as well at the key intersections of Delhi," the minister said.

The major 13 places Okhla Phase-II, Dwarka, Ashok Vihar,

Bawana, Narela, Mundka, Punjabi Bagh, Wazirpur, Rohini, Vivek Vihar, Anand Vihar, RK Puram, and Jahangirpuri — all classified as hot spots by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and Central Pollution Control Board last year based on high particulate matter concentration.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had launched the 'Yuddh, Pradushan Ke Viruddh' campaign. Under the campaign, various initiatives have been started to combat several internal sources of pollution in Delhi, and on-ground actions have been taken. The 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign was launched from 21st October to 15th November to combat the vehicular pollution in Delhi, under which the people of Delhi are contributing to fight pollution by switching their vehicles off on the traffic signals.

The government has also sprayed the bio-decomposer solution, developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, on 2000 acres of land across Delhi. This solution converted the stubble into manure so that the burning of stubble can be prevented.

We are also receiving complaints of garbage burning from various locations on the app. I want to tell the people of Delhi to keep updating such instances and complaints on the app to make us aware of them and take action to douse the fire," Rai had said.

# ASI arrested in ₹2-crore extortion case

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested its own Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) in an extortion case of ₹2 crore from a businessman in South Delhi's Hauz Khas area. Police said that ASI Rajbir Singh, who was posted with the South West zone police control room (PCR) unit was also the kingpin behind the extortion from the businessmen. Police have also initiated the process to take away the 'Police Medal for Meritorious Service' conferred to him in 2019.

"Delhi Police has a zero tolerance policy towards police personnel indulging in unwarranted activities. They should place in the force for personnel like ASI Rajbir Singh, who is



allegedly found involved in a serious criminal case. He will have to go through the legal process. Delhi Police is examining the possibility of withdrawal of medals conferred upon him. He has been suspended and proceedings for his dismissal are being contemplated. This is a strong message

for everyone to be careful and not to indulge in undesirable activities," said Anil Mittal, Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), Delhi Police.

The ASI Rajbir Singh was presently posted in South West Zone of Police Control Room (PCR) of Delhi Police and is now in judicial custody. Police said that four other accused in the case were earlier arrested.

According to a senior police official, an first informant reported him registered at Hauz Khas police station in June 2020, his father received a call where the caller introduced himself as a gangster and asked him to pay ₹2 crore. "Kala also threatened to kill

the complainant and his entire family if they failed to comply with his demands. During investigation, it was revealed that the SIM card and the mobile phone used to make the extortion call was allegedly snatched on June 27 from a person named Ram Murthy in Rohtak, Haryana," said the senior police official.

"However, the snatched mobile phone was not used to make the call. Instead, its SIM card was used in another mobile phone to make the extortion call. That handset was procured from a man named Sawan by a person named Mukesh, both residents of Pankaj Garden, Goyla Dairy area in the case," he said.

"Thereafter, Mukesh gave

that handset to Parmod alias Kala, a resident of Bhajar district in Haryana, who made the extortion call from Bhiwadi in Rajasthan. Three accused -- Mukesh, Sawan and Sunny alias shooter -- were then arrested by the police," said the police official.

"During enquiry, it came to light that Parmod was using three mobile phones. The numbers were analysed and it was revealed that ASI Rajbir Singh was in continuous touch with Parmod. Singh also knew the complainant and provided information about the him to Parmod. He had also met Parmod on several occasions," said the official.

"The complainant had gotten suspicious about Singh's role in the case after the ASI

called him and tried to talk to him about the extortion call on July 14. Parmod was later arrested and on sustained interrogation, he disclosed that Singh had provided the mobile number of the complainant to him and also told him to make the extortion call," he said.

"ASI Rajbir Singh had also told him to fire at the car of the complainant's son, if the extortion money was not paid. The ASI has emerged as the mastermind of this entire extortion case. Based on technical analysis and interrogation of the accused, Singh was arrested on Friday and sent to judicial custody," said Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district.

Further investigation is underway.

# World noticing positive changes in Delhi: CM

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said the world is noticing the positive changes happening in Delhi and credited the people for the national capital's feat at the 62nd position in the list of the world's best cities.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said Delhi was the only Indian city in the list and has improved its rank from the previous 81st spot.

"Such a good news for all Dilliwalas. All dilli wala have worked so hard in the last six years to make it happen. The world is noticing the positive changes happening in Delhi," Kejriwal said in a tweet.

The deputy chief minister in his tweet congratulated

As capital features among world's best cities

ulated Delhiites and the chief minister for his leadership.

"Congratulations to all the proud people of Delhi and @ArvindKejriwal for the leadership. Our beloved Delhi is ranked 62 in World's Best cities. The only Indian city in the list. There is significant improvement from the past ranking i.e. 81," he tweeted. The global ranking of 100 cities with over a million population was released by Vancouver headquarterd Resonance Consultancy Ltd.

# Two held for snatching gold chains from ex-DGP wife

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have arrested two men, allegedly snatching gold chains from a woman journalist and wife of former Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya in Southeast Delhi.

The accused have been identified as Akshay Meena, 23, and Gufran (26), both residents of Tughlakabad while Vishwanath Das (32), a resident of Garhi Village, East of Kailash who is also receiver of stolen item was also arrested.

According to R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, on Friday, information was received regarding snatching of a gold chain from a woman journalist at Amar Colony.

"Police rushed to the spot near Moolchand metro station and met the complainant, a journalist in an English newspaper. She was walking to

Moolchand Metro Station from her house. Around 1.50 PM, she reached near the metro station. Two persons on a bike came there and snatched her gold chain having diamond pendant," said the DCP.

"During investigation, police analysed the CCTV footage of the area and identified the motorcycle which was found registered in the name of Gufran. Thereafter, police conducted raids at Tughlakabad and nabbed both the snatchers," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, they confessed their involvement in the offence. Gufran was riding the motorcycle and Ranjan was pillion rider who snatched the chain from the journalist. They also confessed that almost ten days ago, they had also snatched a chain from a woman at Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar which was recovered from Gufran's house," said the DCP.

"During verification, it was

found that the snatching took place at Lajpat Nagar area on November 11. In that case, the gold chain was snatched from the wife of a former Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya. They disclosed that the chain snatched from Moolchand metro station was sent to Das. On their instance, Das was also apprehended and the chain kept the pendant of the chain with him," said the DCP.

"He got the gold chain melted from one Tapan Vishwas, a resident of Chandni Chowk. After melting it, he was trying to sell but could not be succeeded so far. The melted gold and pendant have been recovered from his house," the DCP said.

# Delhi recorded 103 fresh dengue cases last week

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national capital has reported 103 fresh cases of Dengue last week, taking the number of people infected with dengue to 1004 this year. Six new cases of malaria and five cases of chikungunya were also reported in Delhi last week taking the total number to 316 and 114 respectively.

According to the latest report released by all three Municipal Corporation, mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 20627654 households and 82668 legal notices have been issued this year. The dengue breeding checkers have checked 19883179 houses and also issued challans to 10241 numbers of office and residential premises.

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water while those of malaria mosquito thrive even in dirty water. Doctors have advised people to



take precautions and ensure that there is no breeding of mosquito larvae around them. They have urged people to wear full-sleeved clothes and use mosquito nets.

Market associations across Delhi came forward in support of the campaign started by the Delhi Government. To escalate the impact of the anti-dengue campaign, the Delhi Government has sought participation from the Resident Welfare Association (RWAs) of Delhi to contain the vector borne diseases in the National Capital. This year, the Delhi government has also launched a telephonic helpline - 01123300012 and WhatsApp helpline - 8595920530 to assist the general public with dengue.

# 2 held for forging Covid test reports in Gurugram

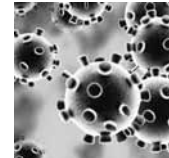
STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Chief Minister flying squad has arrested two people for allegedly making forged Covid-19 test reports to people in Sainiknagar village Sector 30 in Gurugram on Saturday night.

The accused have been identified as Anirban Ray, a resident of Kolkata and Parimal Roy, a resident of Murshidabad. The duo were currently residing in rented accommodation in the village.

According to the police, the accused have prepared reports to about one thousand people, on the basis of which many infected people have also gone abroad.

The team of Chief Minister Flying Squad headed by DSP Inspectri Yadav and District Inspector Harish Budhiraja were informed that a corona



examination is being done at the 'Medikart Pathology Lab & Medical Tourism' in Sainiknagar village with the permission of the District Health Department.

After a specific inputs about the culprits the team raided the spot late Saturday night and arrested two people," the DSP said.

During interrogation, the accused disclosed that they have tied up with the 'DYNEX Diagnostic and Path Lab located in Kirti Nagar, Delhi. They

used to prepare fake reports on their letterhead.

The duo didn't seek permission from the District Health Department to conduct Covid-19 tests and work in Gurugram.

Yadav said that they had been doing this for nearly a year. They had released reports in the past two months and used to charge Rs 1,400 to 3,000 per test.

There was no specific criterion for deciding negative or positive. Just as per the symptoms of the patients, reports were prepared. Samples taken were destroyed, police said.

On the complaint of CM flying squad team, a case has been registered against the culprits at Sector-40 police station under the section of the IPC.

Further probe is in progress and efforts are being made to trace the other persons involved in the nexus, police added.

# Free RT-PCR tests at large-scale using mobile vans

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In continuing with consistent endeavours of Delhi Government to provide relief at this difficult time, Raghuvar Chaddha, MLA from Rajinder Nagar on Sunday commenced free RT-PCR testing at large-scale using mobile vans across his Assembly constituency.

The first round of this extensive drive was done through a Covid-19 Mobile Testing Van at Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar through a special mobile van, dedicated exclusively for Covid-19 testing. The residents of and around Old Rajinder Nagar availed the facilities free of cost.

"Increased RT-PCR testing is an effective way of knowing just how much COVID-19 has spread in Delhi. We do not want to be a mere statistic, but take proactive and effective

steps to contain the further spread of this dreadful pandemic. I urge citizens to please get tested as when they exhibit the slightest of symptoms. That can go a long way in saving many lives and containing the spread," Chaddha said.

"More than 170 people, including the AAP MLA, Raghuvar Chaddha, got their RT-PCR tests done at the COVID-19 mobile testing van at Old Rajinder Nagar. At the mobile van, a person is required to only share their name, phone number and address to register for the test. Within 24 hours the result of the Test will be sent to your mobile phone" said Chaddha.

With a view to encourage more and more people to get themselves tested at the Mobile Testing Van, and as a confidence building measure, Chaddha himself got tested there and then at the mobile van.

Chaddha also distributed masks to several people along the Bada Bazar Marg street and demonstrated how to properly wear a mask, urging citizens to continue to get tested should there be any symptoms at all, and wear their masks properly.

"It is imperative that people wear their masks properly. By that, we mean wearing it over your noses. I have observed several people wearing their masks incorrectly. We cannot afford to be mask-complacent even for a minute," Chaddha said.

The Delhi government has increased the fine for not wearing a mask in a public place to INR 2,000, from the earlier INR 500. "The increase in this amount is for the benefit and betterment of the citizens. This is not a form of government revenue. It is supposed to act as a deterrent," Chaddha said.



# RT-PCR tests exceed rapid antigen testing in Delhi for 1st time: Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The number of RT-PCR tests in Delhi has exceeded the number of rapid antigen tests. According to Government officials 3.7 lakh people have been surveyed as part of to contain the spread of coronavirus in the National Capital.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Home Affairs, "This was for the first time when the number of RT-PCR tests in Delhi have exceeded the rapid antigen tests." The number of real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests in the city surpassed the number of rapid antigen tests on Friday.

It is important to mention here that amid the spurt in coronavirus cases in Delhi, Union home minister Amit Shah took the lead in ramping up medical infrastructure and

formulating a new strategy to combat the Covid-19 surge in the national capital.

A total of 250 ventilators have been delivered to the DRDO hospital and are being installed.

The house-to-house survey, as directed by Shah, has started in Delhi and till Friday, 7,70,729 people have been surveyed.

AIIMS has also started the process for recruitment of additional 207 Junior Resident doctors, the spokesperson said.

The actions come in the wake of 12 decisions taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Shah on November 15 after Delhi saw fresh spike in Covid-19 cases.

The spurt in coronavirus cases in Delhi has been witnessed since October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark on November 11.



# Kumbh Mela 2021 will be grand, divine: CM

**Decisions on its form will be taken at the time considering Covid-19 situation**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Kumbh Mela will be held in its divine and grand form at Haridwar in 2021. The government will also pay attention to the tradition of the Kumbh Mela and cultural aspects, said the chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. The CM said this while attending a meeting with office bearers of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad (ABAP) regarding the preparations for the 2021 Kumbh Mela.



which will be taken according to the prevailing situation. The efforts of the State government will be aimed at ensuring that the devotees do not face any inconvenience. The Kumbh Mela works are being reviewed periodically and departmental secretaries have been directed to monitor consistently to ensure that the works under progress are completed soon. Seeking information about the progress of works from the Kumbh Mela officer, the CM directed that the permanent works should be completed before the Kumbh

starts. The senior officials of the administration should be informed in case any issue is faced. He directed the focus be laid on maintaining cleanliness, removing encroachments and facilitating parking sites. All necessary arrangements should be made keeping Covid-19 in mind, stressed Rawat.

Urban Development minister Madan Kaushik said that all possible effort will be made to resolve issues of the Akhad. Well planned arrangements will be made to ensure the devotees face no problem during the Kumbh Mela, he said.

**Ganga won't be escape channel at Har Ki Paudi: Rawat**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said that the Ganga will not remain an escape channel at Har Ki Paudi in Haridwar. A new government order will be issued soon to ensure status of a river to the Ganga at Har Ki Paudi, he said. Rawat said that for quite some time, the Ganga Sabha and general public have been demanding that the status of Ganga at Har Ki Paudi should not be an escape channel. Stating that this area is a symbol of faith, the CM said that the government has taken its decision considering public sentiments.

The ABAP head Mahant Narendra Giri said that the body will fully cooperate with the state government for the successful organisation of the Kumbh Mela. Stressing on the timely completion of works for a divine and grand Kumbh Mela, he assured full cooperation for whatever decision the government takes regarding the form of the Kumbh Mela considering Covid-19.

**Nine deaths, 466 fresh cases reported on Sunday**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The number of novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) patients in Uttarakhand mounted to 71,256 on Sunday with the state health department reporting 466 fresh cases of the disease. The department also reported deaths of nine patients of Covid-19 on the day which increased the death toll to 1155 in the state. The authorities discharged 251 patients from different hospitals on the day following their recovery from the disease. A total of 65102 patients have so far recovered from the disease and the recovery percentage is at 91.36 per cent.

was reported dead at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh, Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital Dehradun and HNB Base hospital, Srinagar.

The authorities reported 181 fresh cases of the disease from Dehradun, 65 from Pauri, 53 from Haridwar, 40 from Nainital, 38 from Pithoragarh, 23 from Udhampur Singh Nagar, 16 from Chamoli, 15 from Uttarkashi, 14 Tehri, several from Champawat, five each from Almora and Bageshwar and four from Rudrapur.

Uttarakhand now has 4868 active patients of the disease. Dehradun district with 1254 active cases is at top of table while with 490 active cases Pauri is now on second position. Nainital has 421, Haridwar 399, Tehri 287, Chamoli 284, Udhampur Singh Nagar 252, Pithoragarh 247, Almora 197, Uttarkashi 150, Rudrapur 145 and Bageshwar 135 active cases of the disease. With 107 active cases of Covid-19, Champawat is at the bottom of the table.

**Decrease in number of Covid-19 tests**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Even as a surge in the number of cases of novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) is being reported in the state the decrease in the number of tests has made things worse.

The number of weekly tests which were about 85000 a month ago has now reduced to about 64000. The data released by the Social Development for Communities Foundation (SDCF) reflects that a total of 64278 tests were conducted in the week ending on November 21. As compared to this, 85110 tests were conducted from October 13 to 19 in the state. The founder of SDCF, Anoop Nautiyal said that the government needs to put renewed focus to increase tests. He said that the infection rate is steadily climbing up which is not a good sign.

**IMA angry on allowing surgery to Ayurveda docs**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Taking strong exception to the Union government's decision to allow the post graduate students of Indian medicines like Ayurveda to formally practice general surgery including Ortho and dentistry, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has said that the move would corrupt modern medical education. The Uttarakhand chapter of the IMA has demanded that the government should reconsider the decision. The general secretary of the IMA Uttarakhand, Dr D D Chaudhury told the Pioneer that the government should have taken IMA into confidence before taking the decision. "Many questions need to be answered. Who would give anaesthesia to the patients who would be operated



upon by the doctors of Ayurveda? Would it be a pure or mixed system of medicine? The Supreme Court in one of its decision had stated that allopathic doctors cannot give Ayurveda medicines. The reverse of it should also be true" Dr Chaudhury said.

In a recent order, the regulatory Ayurveda study and practice in the country, the Central Council of Indian Medicines (CCIM) has allowed post graduate degree holders of Ayurveda to perform a variety of surgical procedures. The corruption and

**Lt Gen (Retd) Badhani, others join Congress**

**BJP cheated ex servicemen on OROP. Pritam Singh**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a programme organised at Rajpur Bhawan on Sunday, Lieutenant General (Retd) M C Badhani formally joined the Congress party. The highly decorated officer said that impressed with the policies of Congress party and leadership of Sena Gandhi and Raju Gandhi he is joining the party. Speaking on the occasion, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh said that Congress is a democratic party which respects all religious sects and castes and the party has also acted as a social reformer. He said that the BJP has done nothing but speaking lies during the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections. The corruption and



prices are on rise in the BJP ruled states. In reference to the ongoing discussion in the party on return of rebels, the PCC president said that the interests of Congressmen who stood with the party in hard times would be protected. He claimed that the party would get strengthened in the state by

inclusion of Lt Gen Badhani and his supporters. Launching an attack on the Narendra Modi led Union government, the PCC president said that the NDA government has deceived the ex servicemen on the 'One Rank one pension (OROP)'. Rajneesh Juyal and others also joined the party along with Lt Gen Badhani.

party which had accepted the long standing demand of ex servicemen on OROP and implemented it. Singh said that the ex servicemen of the country are feeling cheated by the BJP on the issue of OROP. Rajneesh Juyal and others also joined the party along with Lt Gen Badhani.

**Young filmmaker receives appreciation for Zindagi**



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The recently released short film Zindagi written and directed by Vikas Raj Saxena is being appreciated for its content. The movie portrays an individual's dilemma once he feels stuck in his life. Zindagi has been adapted from the upcoming short-story collec-

tion- Love In Modern Times.

The dialogues of movie have been written by Dayal where script editing has been done by Shubham Saini. The movie stars Anil and Aman Ali, the background score had been composed by Aman whereas the music has been provided by Shivang Biswa Daddich.

**Nayar Valley Adventure Sports fest concludes**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The four day Nayar Valley Adventure Sports festival 2020 concluded on Sunday. In the national level paragliding competition, Chirag Singh, Ranjit Singh and Amit Thakur secured first, second and third position respectively. They received cash prizes of Rs 50,000, Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively. In the women's category the only participant Alisha of Arunachal Pradesh was also awarded. She received a cash prize of Rs 21,000.

In angling competition Satpal from Himachal Pradesh won the first prize after catch-

ing a fish weighing 13 pounds. The second and third positions were bagged by Ahmed Ali of Dehradun and Tagbeer Singh Maan of Punjab respectively. In the national level paragliding competition, Chirag Singh, Ranjit Singh and Amit Thakur secured first, second and third position respectively. They received cash prizes of Rs 50,000, Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively. In the women's category the only participant Alisha of Arunachal Pradesh was also awarded. She received a cash prize of Rs 21,000.

In mountain biking, participants from Nepal secured all positions in male and female category. Ashish Sherpa, Ramesh Bharti and Akash Sherpa bagged the first, second and third positions respectively.

ly. They were awarded with cash prizes of Rs 50,000, Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively. In the women's category Usha and Anisha secured first and second positions respectively. They were awarded with Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively.

The Pauri district magistrate, Dhiraaj Singh Gahriyal said, "The festival was inaugurated by the chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat who envisaged that this festival should be organised every year. An event like this will give an impetus to tourism in Pauri district. It will also generate employment opportunities for locals."

**Online property tax submission reaches about 50% in MCD**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Due to the conditions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) has started to receive about 50 per cent of property tax online which was hardly ten per cent in the last financial year.

Moreover, the corporation has collected property tax of about Rs 12 crore since April as per the officials. Informing about the increase in property tax collection, the corporation's superintendent Poonam Rawat said that the tax collection was slow for some time but it is now back on track. The property tax payments through online mode have increased in MCD this year which mostly includes residential property taxpayers



and those who live outside the city, say, Rawat. However, he informed that the non-residential taxpayers mostly prefer to deposit property tax physically in the MCD campus as their tax amount is mostly high.

In the question of whether the corporation will organise any property tax camps in any wards, Rawat said that MCD recently organised a one-day property tax camp and will organise in other areas too if there are requests from the councillors. So far, the corporation has collected Rs 12 crore about half of this amount was collected online and if necessary in future, MCD might organise camps but it does not seem necessary at present, added Rawat.

**Green revolution is no glory of Pantnagar**



VIR SINGH

What I have been experiencing for nearly half-a-century at Pantnagar, first as a student and later as a faculty member of the university, is that the Green Revolution is consistently a Pantnagar University's song of glory. On the occasion of an important event at Pantnagar what is heard by an audience is: Pantnagar is the harbinger of Green Revolution. A single name that is most respectable since the day India's first agricultural university came into existence is that of Norman

Borlaug. Borlaug's statement "Pantnagar is the harbinger of Green Revolution", is invariably heard from a speaker, often from the chief guest, at a function. "Nobel Laureate Dr Norman E Borlaug has envisaged Pantnagar University as a harbinger of Green Revolution in India" - this is the sentence which is invariably read in every report of the university. As if there is nothing more about Pantnagar than what Borlaug said! As if we have to be complacent with what the Nobel laureate said about us. With the Green Revolution in its fold, Pantnagar saved the country from dying of hunger! If you don't trust us, trust Borlaug, the god of Pantnagar. Let us put our back. For, Borlaug is the ultimate truth for us.

When Borlaug died on September 12, 2009, Pantnagar did take no time to rechristen its Crop Research Centre (the experimental site where seeds of Green Revolution were bred) as Dr Norman E Borlaug Crop

Research Centre. An agriculture-based civilisation has no ideal of its own larger than Borlaug's size!

Now let us see into the biological-ecological reality of agriculture: all cultures involving plants or any other organism are organic cultures. Everything the plants depend upon for existence, growth and reproduction is inorganic (CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, minerals). Plants (barring the heterotrophic and insectivorous ones) do not depend on anything organic in nature. They convert the inorganic into organic through photosynthesis and serve as a lively "bridge" between the inorganic cosmos and organic biosphere. In other words, the plants are the natural architects of organic cultures. The chemical farming or the so called Green Revolution agriculture has introduced "alien" factors in the organic system. In the Green Revolution, the new seeds produced by applying genetic principles, or the so called HYVs, are regarded as



the key to high productivity. This is perhaps the greatest fallacy sown by the Green Revolution. The whole story of the Green Revolution, in fact, is woven round these non-traditional seeds and high productivity is the only goal.

Productivity, going by ecological principles, is an attribute of ecosystem functioning. The key to agricultural production, therefore, lies in an ecosystem - and here it is the soil, the largest ecosystem on the land of the earth. Varieties of the seeds plant breeders develop may still carry more potential to exploit natural resources (soil being the critical one) and translate the same into higher productivity. But this emanates from the health of the soil. Thus, the greater the productive potential of a variety the more intensive the exploitation of the soil.

The Green Revolution does not regard soil as a living system, but just a physical stratum supporting the crop plants. In a bid to recuperate the soil damage by HYVs, use of external inputs (NPK and mined fertilizers) came to the fore as the key strategic cultivation process involving HYVs. To protect crop mono-

war against each other.

One of the claims often made by the Green Revolutionists carries a Taliban tone - had there been no Green Revolution, we would have perished! Dear Green Revolutionaries, we are not continuing to be alive because of your miracle seeds, but because our soil, despite all kinds of poisoning done by your deadly inputs, is still alive. Moreover, we are Indians, and we have been surviving, flourishing, and creating history of our glory for millennia and millennia because we cultivate ethos of worshipping our soil - The Bhartiya Mitti. The story of the Green Revolution in India is just about 50 years old and India's traditional culture is nourishing Indian civilisation for thousands of years.

Should the Green Revolution continue to be Pantnagar's song of glory in the times when it has totally failed and has left behind the trails of air, soil and water pollution, greenhouse gases, and health problems? Should Pantnagar continue to regard the Green Revolution as its most pristine legacy? No, not at all. An ill-fated agriculture designed around the Green Revolution can only lead to an ill-fated environment, an ill-fated society, an ill-fated future. It is now Pantnagar University's ethical responsibility to evolve, design and manage the agricultural systems that are ecologically sound, environmentally healthy and socioeconomically sustainable. This new pathway of food production has to be evolved based on the principles of agro-ecology: living soil, biodiversity (agrobiodiversity) and cyclic flow of nutrients. Agriculture in an environmentally stressed world cannot afford to be climate-neutral. Agroecological processes are essentially climate-healing. Our sustainable future is rooted into sustainable agricultural systems and such systems have to be nourished through ecological cultivation practices.

What is Pantnagar's agenda of transforming the conventional agriculture into the agriculture most appropriate in our contemporary times? India is desperately looking for it.

(The author is a former professor of Environmental Science in GB Pantnagar University of Agriculture and Technology)

# Parl panel seeks laws to foil bio-terrorism



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing apprehension that viruses like novel coronavirus which has currently emerged as pandemic, infecting a large population across the globe, can be used as biological weapons against enemy nations, a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, in its report "The Outbreak of Pandemic COVID-19 And its Management", underlined the need of bio-security to prevent the world community from any activity signalling bio-terrorism.

The chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee, Ram Gopal Yadav, submitted the report to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday.

The committee's attention has been drawn to the fact that

novel coronavirus like viruses infecting large populations across the globe and emerging as pandemics, can be used as biological weapons against enemy nations.

Bio-security, therefore, is a critical area of concern, the report said.

In its reply, the Department of Health and Family submitted that a holistic approach is needed for ensuring bio-security against biological weapons, that inter-alia include approach for deterrence, prevention, protection and response against biological weapons, engagement with agencies and active participation in ongoing international treaties and strengthening bio-safety and bio-security platforms in India.

The panel also pitched for instituting robust bio-repositories for high-risk emerging/re-emerging infectious pathogens, strengthening disease surveillance including at animal-human interface, training and capacity building for management

## India may grant Serum Institute emergency use authorisation for Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India may grant Pune's Serum Institute of India (SII) with the emergency use authorisation of Oxford and AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine if the British-Swedish pharmaceutical company gets such an approval from the UK Government, a top official from the Centre's vaccine expert group has indicated.

"We expect emergency authorisation for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to be sought in the UK. If so, it will give an opportunity for the Indian regulator also," Dr Vinod Paul who is a member (Health) of the Niti Aayog said to a news agency here.

The Oxford vaccine is already in its third and final phase of clinical trials in India, and if all things go as planned, the COVID-19 vaccine may be ready for distribution by

January or February 2021.

An emergency authorisation of the coronavirus vaccine would ensure its proper administration based on the priority list, starting with frontline workers, senior citizens, people with comorbidities and so on, he explained.

Earlier this week, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine produced a strong immune response in older adults, raising hopes that it can protect the age groups most at risk from the virus.

The most likely candidate to get licensure in India would be the Oxford-Serum Institute vaccine, with Phase 3 data likely to be available by late January or early February 2021. The first batch of COVID-19 vaccine doses would be available by March-April, 2021, he said.

Being the largest manufacturer of vaccines in the

world, India was in a good place with respect to access to vaccines, he said.

Vaccine maker SII's CEO Adar Poonawalla on Thursday had said the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine should be available for healthcare workers and elderly people by around February 2021 and by April for the general public.

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a review meeting on Covid-19 vaccination. Countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Qatar, Bhutan, Switzerland, Bahrain, Australia and South Korea have shown keen interest in partnering for the development of Indian vaccines and use thereof, according to the PMO.

Modi also reviewed the aspects of emergency use authorisation and for manufacturing and procurement of the vaccine.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Out of a total of 1,197 candidates with criminal antecedents who contested the recently-held Bihar Assembly elections, 467 were fielded by recognised national and State parties while remaining 730 were either fielded by registered but unrecognised parties or had contested the polls as independents.

According to the Election Commission, a total of 3733 candidates including 371 women were in the fray in the three-phase elections. During the polls, 156 cases were registered against "organisers" of rallies and meetings of various leaders and candidates violating COVID-19 norms. In 2015 out of 3,450 candidates 1,038 (30%) had declared criminal antecedents. There has also been a rise in the number of candidates with serious criminal records, with 91 per cent declaring such cases this year,

as compared to 796 (23%) candidates in 2015.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has the maximum candidates with criminal cases registered against them followed by the BJP. It said, "Out of 56 RJD candidates, 36, which is 64 per cent, candidates have criminal cases against them, followed by the BJP with 29 out of 46 candidates which is 63 per cent."

Cases were registered against organisers as they had sought permission to hold rallies or meetings in which following health guidelines was mandatory, explained an official. Ahead of the three phase elections, the poll panel had made it clear that violation of COVID-19 guidelines during election period would be deemed as a violation of section 144 of the CrPc.

The section of the Criminal Procedure Code allows local authorities to issue orders with 90 days to address urgent cases of apprehended danger or nuisance. Certain sections of the National Disaster Management Act and the Epidemic Act were also used.

The local authorities also relied on section 188 of the Indian Penal Code to deal with cases of violation of health guidelines. It deals with disobedience to follow orders issued by an authorised public servant. Bihar assembly elections were the first full-fledged polls to be held amid coronavirus. Over 4 crore of the total over 7 crore voters exercised their franchise.

Following a Supreme Court direction in February this year, the Election Commission had in March asked political parties to certify why they chose candidates with criminal history to contest elections.

Assembly elections in Bihar were the first full-fledged polls where such candidates were made public by parties.

## Jal Shakti Ministry adopts five novel technologies to overcome drinking water crisis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As it gears up to meet its target of providing functional household tap connection to every rural home by 2024 in the country, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry has recommended five innovative technologies to help States/UTs to deliver drinking water services of adequate quantity and prescribed quality to rural communities.

These are Grundfos AQuire, a solar energy based water treatment plant based on ultra filtration, Janajal Water on Wheel, an IoT based electric vehicle based on GPS location



to enable delivery of safe water to the doorstep of households. Presto Online Chlorinator, a non-electricity dependent online chlorinator for disinfection of water for removal of bacterial contamination.

The two others are Johkasou technology - an inbuilt packaged black (sewage) and grey water (Kitchen and bath water) treatment system having advanced anaerobic configuration that can

be installed underground and PBTec, a site assembled decentralised sewage treatment system using fixed filter media, said an official from the Ministry.

He said these technologies would now be listed in the innovation portal of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry. "These technologies have been appraised at different levels before consideration and recommendation by a high-scientific level technical panel of the Ministry," said the official. He added that more technologies will be included in case they pass certain criteria specified by the panel.

## Film on Covid pandemic wins this year's tve Global Sustainability Film Awards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coronavirus Pandemic: Making Safer Emergency Hospitals, a film by UK-based CineFuture Ltd on how to build safe air-conditioned spaces into emergency hospitals has won this year's tve Global Sustainability Film Awards in the nominated category along with My Octopus Teacher Directed by Pippa Ehrlich and James Reece.

The tve Global Sustainability Film Awards 2020(tve GSFA), in partnership with Difficult Dialogues, has announced the winners of its eight competitive and two non-competitive categories. The online awards presentation was complemented by four thought-provoking Difficult Dialogues panel discussions on crucial themes related to global sustainability as well as the finale of the Daring Debates debate competition aimed at engaging the youth from across the world in sustainability-related ideation.

The tve GSFA which is in its ninth year and rewards films both on their creativity as well as on the sustainability impact, had received over a hundred film submissions from 17 countries. A diverse and eminent international jury panel drawn from the fields of sustainability and filmmaking adjudicated on the entries. The first came up with three or four shortlisted films for each category and then announced the final winners.

The winners in the competitive Award categories are: Documentary Impact (Joint Winners): Once You Know(Pulp Films)and Our Planet: Our Business(WWF-UK); Doing Business Differently: Helping People Put the Planet First(BBC Studios)and Transforming Society: BREEF and Role Preserve & Protect Nature(The Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation); Campaigning: 10 Myths about Deforestation showcases the collaboration of the United Nations and the Environment; A Failure of the Imagination(The Progress Film Company)

Innovations: Turning the Tide(Stramash Films); Solutions News Story: The Man who grew his own Amazon Rainforest(BBC, People Fixing the World); Young Filmmaker: Traces(Sebastian Pins)

Nick Nuttall, Chair of the jury for the tve GSFA 2020 said, "The Award category sponsors this year were United Living, Global Healthcare, Azad Ayub Ltd and Foundation BNP Paribas (who sponsored the Youth Day), and the Eco Partner was EcoRight Bags.

but this year was even tougher with the quality, range of issues and creativity even higher in 2020. I hope as many people as possible will watch and share these amazing films and inspire others to step up, while being motivated to step up action towards a better world and fire-up to submit their own extraordinary films in 2021."

The inspiring five-day online event presented by Difficult Dialogue in partnership with the tve GSFA was focused on Global Sustainability, a key theme that crucially affects the entire planet. It was well attended by sustainability experts, activists, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, youth leaders and individuals concerned about sustainability.

The agenda was to highlight the current environmental crisis and suggest solutions. The Daring Debates sessions need to take today to ensure a better and more sustainable future. This was done through dialogues, debates and films, with about two hours of environmental sustainability content each day.

Commenting at the conclusion of the Awards Week, Surina Narula, MBE, Founder of Difficult Dialogues and the tve GSFA said, "The last week has been a roller coaster ride showing the collaboration of shortlisted and winning films and incisive discussions on developing a more sustainable world including difficult dialogues with businesses because of the dilemma of profit over sustainability. The five-day event over five days gave us more time to provide a better experience for filmmakers and the visibility to showcase our youth ambassadors and their work."

The five-day event concluded with the announcement of the winners of Daring Debates which featured the college finalists from India, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Africa, the USA and Sri Lanka who debated the topic of Global Sustainability Profitable for Business? At the end of a keenly contested finale, Gloria Oziohu Alonge from University of Lagos, Nigeria, Africa was declared as the winner for the motion while Aditya Dhar from Harvard University, USA won against the motion.

The Award category sponsors this year were United Living, Global Healthcare, Azad Ayub Ltd and Foundation BNP Paribas (who sponsored the Youth Day), and the Eco Partner was EcoRight Bags.

## Cong is on its lowest in last 72 years: Azad

GHULAM NABI AZAD INTERVIEW



Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, on Sunday, said that "Congress is on its lowest in the last 72 years". During an interview with ANI, Azad said that there is no rebellion in Congress party.

Ghulam Nabi Azad said that "Congress is on its lowest in the last 72 years. Congress does not have even the post of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha during the last two terms. But Congress won 9 seats in Lok Sabha in the last election even as we were not expecting such a positive result."

Office bearers should understand their responsibility. Till the time, office bearers are appointed, they won't be able to do anything. But if all office bearers are elect-

ed, then they will understand their responsibility. Right now, anyone gets any post in the party," he added.

He further said that "Polls aren't won by 5-star culture. The problem with leaders today is if they get a party ticket, they first look for a 5-star hotel. If they won't go if there's a rough road. Till the time 5-star culture is given up, one can't win elections."

On being asked about recent losses, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said "We all were worried about losses, especially about Bihar and by-polls results. I don't blame the leadership for the loss. Our people have lost the connection on the ground. One should be in love with their party."

"Till the time, we change our way of functioning at every level, things won't change. Leadership needs to give a program to party workers and hold elections for posts. One should be so much inspired by the party that leadership asks for in your absence," Ghulam Nabi

Azad said during the interview. To giving a clean chit to Gandhis due to COVID-19 pandemic as they can't do much right now. There's no change in our demands. They've agreed to most of our demands. Our leadership should have had elections if they want to become a national alternative and revive the party," said Azad.

Our party's structure has collapsed," he said, adding that "We need to rebuild our structure, and then if any leader is elected in that structure, it will work. But saying that just by changing the leader, we'll win Bihar, UP, MP etc. is wrong. That will happen once we change the system," he added. He said that "our party or other, the culture of sycophancy has become the main reason for the party's death as well as the downfall of leaders. We should stay away from this culture at all levels. Politics is a team game. Shamsunnessa Khan who joined politics for enjoyment and money," he said.

## Over 2.6 cr families provided piped drinking water under Jal Jeevan Mission, says Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the last one-and-half years since the start of the Government's Jal Jeevan Mission, more than 2.6 crore families have been provided piped drinking water in their homes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

He said that under the scheme, "the life of our mothers and sisters has become easier due to easy water access at the comfort of their homes and added that it has led to a reduction of many diseases like cholera, typhoid, enteric fever, and diarrhoea caused by 'dirty water'."

"During the last one and half years from the start of Jal Jeevan Mission more than 2



crore 60 lakh families have been provided piped drinking water connection to their homes including lakhs of families in Uttar Pradesh as well," PM Modi said after laying the foundation stone of rural drinking water supply projects in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts of Vindhyaachal region of Uttar Pradesh via video conference.

The projects will provide household tap water connections in all rural households of 2,995 villages and will benefit about 42 lakh population of these districts.

During the event, the

Prime Minister also interacted with Village Water and Sanitation Committee. Union Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were present on the occasion.

"In spite of having several rivers, these regions were the most thirsty and drought-affected and forced many people to migrate. Now, water scarcity and irrigation issues will be resolved by these projects and it signifies rapid development," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also commended the Uttar Pradesh government for providing responsive governance during the time of pandemic and keeping the pace of reforms going.

## India to launch deep sea mission in 3-4 months: MoES official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



India will soon launch an ambitious 'Deep Ocean Mission' that envisages exploration of minerals, energy and marine diversity of the under-water world, a vast part of which still remains unexplored, a top official of the Ministry of Earth Sciences said.

The ministry's secretary, M Rajeevan, said required approvals are being obtained for the "futuristic and game-changing" mission and it is likely to be launched in the next 3-4 months.

The mission, which is expected to cost over ₹4,000 crore, will give a boost to efforts to explore India's vast Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf, another senior official of the MoES said. Rajeevan said the mission

will also involve developing technologies for different deep ocean initiatives.

The multi-disciplinary work will be piloted by the MoES and other government departments like the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will be stakeholders in this mission, Rajeevan added.

Some of the technologies involved will be developed by organisations such as the ISRO and DRDO.

"One of the main aspects of the mission will be design, development and demonstration of human submersibles," the MoES official said. Another aspect is exploring the possibility of deep sea min-

ing and developing necessary technologies, the official added.

The official said the move strategically significant as it will enhance India's presence in the Indian Ocean where other players like China, Korea and Japan are active.

Last week, China live-streamed footage of its new manned submersible parked at the bottom of the Mariana Trench.

This was part of its mission into the deepest underwater valley on the planet. India has been earmarked nearly 1.5 lakh square kilometres of area in the central Indian Ocean for exploration.

In September 2016, India signed a 15-year contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exploration of Poly-Metallic Sulphides (PMS) in the Indian Ocean.

## I'll never join BJP, says TMC MP Roy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Even as speculation went high about future course of action of a number of Trinamool Congress leaders who had been speaking on rebellious note, senior Trinamool MP Saugato Roy on Sunday made his stand clear saying he would never join the saffron outfit.

Referring to a comment made by Barrackpore BJP MP Arjun Singh also a former TMC leader who joined the saffron party just before the 2019 general elections, Roy said he discounted "statements made by 'third class' and bahubali politicians."

Singh had earlier said that "even Saugato Roy would join the BJP in days to come." He said that BJP along with five other MPs was going to join BJP. He said that it was "nothing but a part of BJP's

campaign. It is BJP IT Cell Head Amit Malviya's technique to spread a lot of fake news."

The TMC is already going through an internal crisis with senior mass leader and powerful minister Suwendu Adhikari making statements challenging the leadership. Meanwhile, TMC leader and state minister Suwendu Adhikari's leaving his party is an open question as on various occasions like in Nandigram and Midnapore he has been identified holding public meetings without the party's symbol, flag or banner.

There were words doing the rounds in the State politics that all the TMC leaders who were being investigated in some scam or the other were likely to join the party out of compulsion. Both Adhikari and Roy were being investigated in Narada pay-off scam.

## BJP targets Didi's nephew after TMC salvo

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Soon the name of the "Bhaipo" (nephew) would become public when his newspapers would carry his names following CBI investigations. This was what Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Sunday said following a diatribe by Trinamool leader Kunal Ghosh who attacked the BJP leadership for maligning TMC leaders by using innuendo.

With the BJP mounting a broadside on Trinamool Congress' "nephew" (read Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee) for usurping the party affairs forcing all the "self-respecting" leaders to quit the outfit, the TMC on Sunday launched a counterattack asking the saffron leadership to step down and stop making innuendo.

In a scathing attack on the BJP leadership for "acting like cowards" TMC leader Kunal

Ghosh on Sunday said "if the BJP leaders have the courage they should directly take the name of the said nephew and stop making innuendos ... they are behaving like cowards. ... Take the name specific and then see the consequences." The immediate response of Ghosh's remark was a previous statement by BJP's observer for Bengal Kallash Vijayabargiya who referred to the "nephew" saying how the Trinamool Congress had been usurped by the said person.

Vijayabargiya told an audience at Ramnagar in East Midnapore that "TMC does not belong to Mamata Banerjee, neither it belongs to Mukul Roy or Suwendu Adhikari who made the party but it has gone into the hands of the 'nephew' who calls the shots and who makes decisions today compelling all the self-respecting leaders to quit the party ... a number of these leaders are preparing to

leave the party and soon the Trinamool will be half-empty."

Subhendu Adhikari a powerful State Minister and the Chief Minister's Nandigram spearhead with massive mass following had recently been in the news for his rebellious ways letting the critics to say that he was on the verge of joining the BJP.

Adhikari and Chief Minister's nephew Abhishek Banerjee had not been on good terms ever since junior Banerjee, --- an MP from Diamond Harbour --- replaced the former as the party's youth wing chief.

Referring to Vijayabargiya's statement Ghosh said "It has become a habit of the BJP leadership to malign the image of opposition leaders but that trick will not work in Bengal as they will be rejected by the people."

Bhaipo is ... there is no need to take his name as such," Ghosh said adding "in any case the name of the Bhaipo would soon be published by the newspapers after the CBI will take actions against him."

He further said that there were some people who are recognized by their pseudo names "like everyone knows as to who Didi is ... similarly everyone knows who the Bhaipo is ... hence the people will easily understand who Vijayabargiya is referring to and we are only interested in making the people understand about things."

Meanwhile, in a related development Pradesh Congress leadership is likely to submit reports to Rahul Gandhi with whom the PCC will hold a virtual meeting on November 27. "In the meeting the PCC is likely to submit reports on organizational affairs including the prospect of its alliance with the Left Front, sources said.

## Yogi to promote eco-tourism in Sonbhadra, Mirzapur

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh tourism department has decided to develop Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Chandauli and adjoining areas as eco-tourism destinations.

A tourist bungalow will be constructed in an area of five acres in Sonbhadra and activities like water sports, rock climbing, trekking, etc., have also been started there to promote eco-tourism and provide adventure sports options to the tourists.

Kirtimansa Srivastava, tourism officer of the Mirzapur division, said, "We hope to initiate the construction of the tourist bungalow in the next six months and the district magistrate of Sonbhadra already held a discussion on the detailed action plan with the members of the Tourism Welfare Association. Bio toilets will also be constructed at various tourist spots."

Besides this, Rs 281.37 lakh has also been sanctioned for the Way Finding Facility Solution (WFFS).

Under this, signboards having details of the tourist spot are being set up at various tourist spots and destinations and till date, works of Rs 25 lakh has also been completed. Tour operators have also been engaged to promote film tourism, he added.

"Beautification work is being carried out at the tourist spots like Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Salkhan Fossil Park, Vijaygarh Fort, Agartala Fort and Mukul Waterfall so that they can register a prominent presence on the tourist map of the country", Srivastava said. In September, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had announced to convert the airstrip in Sonbhadra into an airport. **IANS**

## Tripura refugee resettlement protests: Death toll rises to 2

**Agartala:** With firefighter Biswajit Debbarma succumbing to his injuries on Sunday, the death toll in the Tripura violence rose to two, and the number of injured reached 35.

The agitation and indefinite shutdown continued for the seventh day in northern Tripura's Kanchanpur subdivision where people are opposing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Tripura government's decision to rehabilitate thousands of Reang or "Bru" tribal refugees.

The Reang tribal refugees sheltered in seven relief camps in two northern Tripura sub-divisions had fled to adjoining Mizoram 23 years ago, following ethnic strife in the state.

Northern Tripura Deputy Inspector General of Police, Lahmunga Darlong, told IANS on Sunday that one firefighter had died on late Saturday night at the Govind Ballabh Pant Medical college and hospital (GBPMCH) in Agartala.

Earlier, the police said 45-year-old Srikanta Das from Tripura was shot dead

and 35 others injured, including security and fire service personnel, besides, agitators were also critically injured on Saturday when police opened fire at the violent mob which had attacked the security forces at Panisagar in North Tripura district.

North Tripura District Magistrate and Collector Nagesh Kumar said the violent mob damaged three government and police vehicles, including a motorbike. He told the media that a huge contingent of security forces, including Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Tripura state Rifle troopers, led by senior police officials were mobilised at Panisagar and Kanchanpur sub-divisions in the North Tripura district to deal with the situation.

The injured persons were admitted to various government hospitals, including GBPMCH.

Tripura government spokesmen and Law and Education Minister, Ratan Lal Nath, said the state government would provide Rs five lakh compensation to the family of the deceased Srikanta Das.

"A magisterial inquiry has been ordered into the police firing. If the agitators want talks with Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Debbarma, they are free to do so. The Tripura government's doors for dialogue are always open," Nath told IANS on Sunday.

The minister said the state government with the help of the Central government had earlier announced that 35,000 Reang tribal or "Bru" refugees, who fled from Mizoram to Tripura, would be rehabilitated in the state's eight districts and not only in North Tripura district.

Tripura police tweeted, saying, "The unfortunate incident at North Tripura was a law and order issue, but several videos are being circulated on social media giving a wrong impression of the situation, which is a punishable legal offence."

"Even after facing violent attacks, the police personnel maintained restraint and sensitivity in controlling law and order and used proportionate forces for self-defence in the Panisagar incident on Saturday," **IANS**

## Covid-19 test now mandatory before entering Aligarh

**Aligarh:** The Health Department team will be deployed on all the borders of the district from today due to the rising Corona cases in other States including Delhi. People will have to go for corona test before entering Aligarh and will be sent to the hospital if found infected. Instructions have been given to keep an eye especially on those coming from Delhi-Haryana. People will have to go to corona test before entering Aligarh. The district administration has been deployed at Gabbhana and Tappal Border. Arrangements are being made for corona test for the people coming to the district through trains at station itself.

## Cows worshipped on 'Gopashtami' in Agra, Mathura

IANS ■ AGRA

Cows were worshipped and offered various types of delicacies to celebrate Gopashtami in Uttar Pradesh's Agra and Mathura districts in a series of programmes held by voluntary organisations.

Recognising the valuable contribution of cow-wealth, the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government has launched a number of schemes to support the rural economy. Cow-dung manure was being produced at more than 1,000 centres in the state and more than five lakh cows have been provided shelter at the state government-run centres. The district administrations have tagged nearly a crore cows for identification in the state, according to an Animal Husbandry Department official.

In Agra, the Girraj Sewa Mandal organised a special programme to feed and worship scores of cows at the Balkeshwar Gaushtala. The devotees prayed to the cows (Gaumata) to free India from the scourge of Covid-19 pandemic.

"Friends of Vrindavan" Convenor, Jagan Nath Poddar, said Mathura district was declared "Gau Kshetra" by the former Divisional Commissioner Pradip Bhatnagar but no follow-up action was taken.

The 'Cow-Economics' is now being recognised as a pragmatic model of rural development and a number of schemes are being implemented in the district having more than 100 Gaushtalas. Barsana's Gaushtala run by patron saint Ramesh Baba is the biggest cowshed with more than

50,000 cows.

In Radha Kund, 60-year-old German woman Padamshri Sudevi, runs a Gaushtala with more than 1,600 injured and sick cows.

Sudevi wants farmers to augment their incomes by keeping a few cows.

"The government should buy back the cow dung to make it attractive for farmers to keep cows," she said.

The pastoral culture of the Braj Mandal is closely related to cow-keeping. "On Gopashtami, a festival being celebrated today, Sri Krishna was initiated into cattle grazing as a Gouva."

"All over the Braj area, cows are worshipped and offered food today acknowledging their contribution to the agrarian economy," said River Activist Dr. Panchsheel Sharma.

## Rajasthan Foundation's Global Pravasi Deepotsav organised at Bikaner House

**Jaipur:** A colorful Rajasthani cultural evening was organised along with the Global Pravasi Deepotsav programme on Saturday at Bikaner House Complex in Bikaner House, New Delhi. The cultural evening and Global Deepotsav program was broadcast live on Zoom Online, and on YouTube platform, where expatriate Rajasthanis from all over the world simultaneously lit a lamp and demonstrated their emotional engagement with the land of Rajasthan.

The Global Deepotsav program started with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's message to the migrant Rajasthanis. In his message to the migrant Rajasthanis, Mr. Gehlot said that such programs will inspire future generations of migrant Rajasthanis to join their soil of Rajasthan. He said that this commendable step of Rajasthan Foundation will inspire the migrant Rajasthanis living in



every corner of the world to contribute in all aspects of development in Rajasthan in the coming days. Chief Minister Shri Gehlot said that the efforts of the Government of Rajasthan in the management of the Corona global epidemic have been greatly appreciated in the country and world, the cooperation of the country and institutions of diaspora Rajasthanis in this step of the government is appreciated. The state government is organising the Diaspora all over the world for the Global Deepotsav, said that we hope that the sup-

port of the Diaspora Rajasthanis will continue to get rich in all the programs run by the Rajasthan Government in the public interest.

Commissioner of Rajasthan Foundation, Mr. Dhiraj Shrivastava said that programs like Global Pravasi Deepotsav are a meaningful step towards connecting the expatriate Rajasthanis settled in the world to their motherland and paring special programmes in various social concerns programs run by the government. He said that the cooperation of migrant

Rajasthani doctors settled around the world has been very important in dealing with the corona epidemic and other migrant Rajasthani institutions have heavily collaborated in dealing with this epidemic. He said that right now, organizations of 18 diaspora Rajasthanis from around 52 countries are continuously collaborating with the Rajasthan Government. On this occasion, Shri Dheeraj thanked Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot as well as Industries Minister Shri Parsadi Lal Meena and Minister of State for Tourism Shri Govind Singh Datasara for their support in the campaign to reconnect the migrants to Rajasthan and said that through such programs All the migrant Rajasthanis will feel the cultural sensations of their soil to the depths.

A colorful cultural program has been organized on this occasion at Bikaner House, New Delhi.

## Avalanche warning issued for higher reaches in J&K

**Srinagar:** Following the adverse weather forecast in J&K on Monday and Tuesday, authorities on Sunday issued avalanche warning for higher reaches in the Kashmir division. An official of the Disaster Management Department said medium danger avalanche warning will remain in force during the next few days in Kupwara district while low danger avalanche warning will remain in force in Baramulla, Anantnag, Gulgam, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts. People are advised to avoid unnecessary movement outside their homes till the warning remains in force," the official said. Avalanches in higher reaches of J&K have become a big threat for people, especially the security forces manning the Line of Control (LoC). **IANS**



Youngsters spend evening at beach, during sunset in Mumbai on Sunday

PTI

## UP re-imposes 100-guest limit at weddings, functions

**Lucknow:** In view of the surge in Covid cases, the Yogi Adityanath Government has decided to re-impose the restrict 100 guests at weddings and other social functions.

The state government, on October 15, had allowed 200 guests at weddings with proper safety protocols. But with Covid cases rising again after the recent festive season, the state government keen to check the resurgence of cases.

According to the government spokesman, the Chief Minister, on Saturday night, asked all district magistrates to ensure restriction of 100 guests at weddings. The state home department will be issuing a formal order in this regard on Sunday.

The district magistrates of Gautam Buddha Nagar have already issued orders in this regard.

The state government has already started doing random tests on the UP-Delhi border after Delhi reported a mass rise in the Covid curve. **IANS**

## Karnataka colleges to be shut if Covid cases spike: Minister

**Dharwad (Karnataka):** Degree colleges, which reopened after a gap of 17 months across Karnataka, would be closed if Covid cases rise again, said state Health Minister K. Sudhakar on Sunday.

"Though degree, engineering and polytechnic colleges reopened for final year students after remaining shut for over eight months, we may close them again if Covid cases increase in the state, as safety of students and teachers is more important than offline classes," Sudhakar told reporters here in the state's northwest region.

The response of students to the reopening of colleges has also been tepid last week, as besides negative Covid test results, the state government has also been sending letters to parents consent letter from parents was mandatory for attending classes with face mask.

"As students were not getting test reports in time and many parents have been wary of sending their wards for offline classes, the attendance was 15-20 per cent in most of the colleges in five days last week," Sudhakar recalled.

Though Covid cases have been declining across the southern state over the last three weeks and recoveries have been outnumbering positive cases, the state's tally at 8,71,342 till Friday is the second largest after Maharashtra across the country, with 24,714 active cases and 1,64,618 deaths till date.

"As we have to protect the students and shape their academic future, colleges have been conducting online classes since August to ensure continuity in their studies," said Sudhakar. According to the state health department, tests across cities and towns showed that only 130 students were infected while majority of them were virus free.

"If more students test positive, we may have to shut colleges and continue with online classes. We will assess the situation and decide in a week," said the minister, who is medical doctor by profession.

The state government decided to reopen pre-university course (PUC) and medical colleges from December 1 if Covid cases further decline in

the state. "One reason for most students testing negative is due to more natural immunity they have at their age though some of them can be vulnerable," asserted Sudhakar.

On the reopening of schools, which have also remained shut since March due to the Covid-induced lockdown and its extension, the minister said the issue would be discussed with Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa at a meeting in Bengaluru on Monday.

State education minister S. Suresh Kumar, health experts and officials will discuss when schools could be reopened, as their safety was paramount. As consent of parents was more important, they will also be consulted through schools where their wards study," said Sudhakar.

Wearing of mask, thermal screening and maintaining physical distancing will be mandatory to contain the virus spread, all the schools have to gear up to the new normal to ensure the safety of students and teachers. **IANS**

## BOLLYWOOD DRUG MAFIA NEXUS CASE

## Comedian Bharti, husband Harsh sent to judicial custody till December 4

IN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Special Court here on Sunday remanded television comedian Bharti Singh and her husband Harsh Limbachiya in judicial custody till December 4 in connection with the drugs seizure and consumption case filed against them by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

While Bharti was arrested on Saturday evening, Harsh was placed under arrest by the NCB in the early hours of Sunday.

Their arrests came after the NCB seized 86.5 grams of Cannabis during a search conducted at their residences at Andheri's Lokhandwala Complex and Versova in north-west Mumbai.

Bharti and Harsh, both of whom have been booked by the NCB for various offences under the provisions of NDPS Act 1986, were on Sunday produced before a special court, which sent them to judicial custody for 13 days.

During their questioning by the NCB, Bharti and her husband reportedly confessed to having consumed cannabis (ganja). The drug consumption is in addition to the charge of possessing banned drugs that they had earlier admitted.

The raid on the homes of Bharti and her husband Harsh and their subsequent arrest came after their names figured in the custodial interrogation of a 21-year-old

drug trafficker whom the NCB officials had arrested earlier the day on Saturday. During the raid conducted at a location in Khar Danda area, the investigators seized various drugs including 15 blots of LSD (commercial quality), ganja (40 gm) and Nitrazepam (psychotropic medicines).

Bharti and Harsh are being investigated in connection with the Bollywood drug mafia case registered by the NCB in the wake of the alleged suicide of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Sushant, it may be recalled, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his closed room of his duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai on June 14.

Earlier, on November 9, the NCB had raided the residence of Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal on November 9, and his live-in friend Gabriella Demetriades' questioning and the subsequent arrest of his Australian friend Australian friend Paul Bartel was on Friday arrested by the NCB in the much-discussed Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case.

Rampal and Gabriella were questioned later. The NCB had earlier in the month arrested a South African national Agisilaos Demetriades --- the brother of Rampal's live-in partner Gabriella Demetriades from Lonavla near Pune.

Agisilaos is alleged to be a part of a larger drug syndicate operating in Bollywood, which is being investigated after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Earlier on November 8, the NCB officials had carried out searches at film producer Firoz A. Nadiadwala's residence along with the Mumbai Police.

Cross Road at Juhu Vile Parle Development (JVPD) Scheme in north-west Mumbai and seized a total of 717.1 gm of various drugs and arrested five persons, including Firoz A. Nadiadwala's wife Shabana Saeed.

Nearly twenty persons --- including Sushant's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Shovik --- have so far been arrested in connection with a case registered by the NCB on August 28, two days after it registered a case suo moto.

As part of the investigations, the NCB had earlier questioned Bollywood's prominent actresses Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shradha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh.



## The vaccine challenge

We need public-private partnerships to meet targets as our existing immunisation drives are quite under-served



Since 2020 has been "a lost year", engulfed as it has been by the pandemic, many are looking forward to 2021 as "the year of the vaccine." And when it comes to India, a year would still fall short of inoculating its people. As Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of the Serum Institute of India, which is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer and will be rolling out the Oxford vaccine, predicted that it could take till 2024 to secure all Indians. If containing the virus is level 1 of the challenge, vaccinating people against it is level 2 indeed. The toughest, of course, would be devising the logistics of the supply chain, ensuring the safety of the vials, avoidance of wastage and lining up trained health workers to administer the vaccine and monitor its effects on the recipients. In fact, given India's population, there has to be a multi-phased, general election-like drill and efficiency, all of which cost money and resources. Poonawalla himself estimated a Government spend of ₹80,000 crore in one year. Of course, though we have not yet had an adult immunisation programme, the Government will be riding piggyback on the existing immunisation network for women and children, one of the world's largest. But we have to reckon with some cold facts considering that our Universal Immunisation Programme is yet to achieve 100 per cent success and is still struggling to meet targets despite years of investment and efforts. An IndiaSpend survey of September 2019 shows that 47 per cent of India's poorest children are not fully immunised, 17 per cent more than the richest ones, leaving them prone to preventable diseases that compound the burden of healthcare costs for their families. Although Government immunisation programmes have been carried out for 30 years, the coverage rate has been growing at a snail's pace. According to the Health Ministry's own findings, India's vaccination coverage increased from 35 per cent in 1992-93 to 62 per cent in 2015-16. Only 16 districts in India have a coverage of over 90 per cent. Currently our immunisation shield targets 26.7 million newborns and 29 million pregnant women every year, which works to around 390 million doses of vaccines. Needless to say the pandemic has slowed down the pace and efficacy of drives this year. Assuming we can tap into this network immediately, we will still need to supplement its strength and capacities to administer 400-500 million doses by the first two quarters of 2021. Also, a two-shot vaccination drive would mean double the effort. Much has already been said about the challenges of a contiguous cold chain infrastructure that includes moving contained, sanitised and temperature-controlled vaccine consignments under tropical conditions and ensuring last mile equity. The first vaccines announced by Pfizer and Moderna require sub-zero conditions; they must be thawed from -70 degrees celsius and injected within five days. Or else, the whole consignment could go bad. Such delicacy of maintenance and administering doses require a sophisticated and expensive infrastructure that India and even other developing countries would find difficult to harness at short notice. We would have to look at a vaccine that can be stored and transported in liquid form (anything between two and eight degrees celsius) instead of the frozen kind. Besides, no vaccine has a 100 per cent efficacy or can claim a lifetime guarantee—a shot could have to be repeated if antibody levels drop before the predicted periodicity. Some nations would then have to wait for a more conventional vaccine that brews batches of protein or inactivated viral particles in living cells, has the same effect as that of the pharma majors, and can be delivered through existing health care networks. We need to prepare allied items like syringes and glass vials and since glass breaks at sub-zero temperatures required of the announced vaccines, it needs to be a toughened and fortified kind. Even these need to be tested for the vaccine's stability and subjected to laboratory approvals. These need to be started right away if we want a good stock ready to seal the vaccines. We may be privileged to produce and supply the bulk of the world's vaccines but can we deliver it to every Indian in the hinterland and protect communities even as managing cities themselves may pose a challenge?

There are no dilemmas really. Nations rich in resources and with an evolved health infrastructure will be deploying the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines before ours. And though the World Health Organisation's Covax project intends to raise \$18 billion to buy stocks for poorer countries, the trickle-down effect would be delayed, creating a new kind of healthcare hierarchy. Asia, Africa and South America, even with emergent economies, would need an all-new template in the health sector. There are huge recurring costs involved with vaccines made in one part of the world required to be transported to another. And given their fragile and unstable nature, they would mostly be airlifted. Analytics firm McKinsey has estimated that over 10 billion doses would be traded globally. Planes, trucks, warehouses and health centres will have to be outfitted with freezers. The last implies an uninterrupted electricity supply. How many villages and district towns in India can afford continuous power supply? Even with back-ups and generators, how many health centres can sustain the added costs? The Government immediately needs to involve the private sector in developing the delivery and distribution infrastructure in right earnest. It can use Digital India programmes to map the supply chain requirements, track the response modules and effectively manage and deploy resources. The pandemic has taught us how health is the real wealth of a nation. Even if we tame COVID-19, it won't be the last. We have to reconfigure health and human resource as a major driver of the economy going forward.

## Time for football

Can the revamped Indian Super League take on the might of cricket?



We must give credit where it is due. The Indian Super League (ISL) tournament has made a mark on our football scene thanks to the professionalisation of the sport in India. The merger with the older I-League has proceeded to a certain degree and while some are still upset at how that took place, the emergence of a predominant professional league should help the country emerge as a football power-house in the future. It is a crying shame that India is still far behind the curve when it comes to football globally, and qualifying for the top tournaments remains a pipe dream in the world's most popular team sport. As it is, no Indian player has made it to the first team in any major global league. The grassroots of the sport in India have remained weak for decades, confined to being part of the local club culture. Tournaments like the ISL should be able to make a difference over here by making football a lucrative career for young players and sharpening their talent with some foreign expertise. Currently, other than cricket, and possibly kabaddi to a limited extent, youth have few options for careers in sport unlike in Europe and North America. That said, India has been remarkably successful in creating one of the most popular and successful sports leagues outside these regions.

With traditional Kolkata powerhouses East Bengal and Mohun Bagan now part of the ISL, it might be easier for tournament organisers to appeal to a wider audience. However, they have to be wary of competition from international leagues which happen around the same time. Besides, without passionate and cheering spectators, will the atmosphere remain the same? Some could argue that since football had a limited audience in India anyway, a lack of audience will not make a difference to the players. But with few spectators and a limited television audience, can the ISL compete for eyeballs, particularly as global sports recover from the pandemic? That is an open question. When it started out, ISL was watched by a record audience, the first week notching up a viewership of 170 million. Hopefully, the numbers go up given the closed door nature of the games.

# Why Trumpism prevails

The liberal Left cannot disregard the role it played in the rise of Trump. Ignoring ordinary voters would be a catalyst for another populist surge



JANET DALEY

There was only one possible reflection on that extraordinary broadcast from the Trump bunker. How did this ludicrous, dangerously ignorant man ever become president of the United States? That is not a rhetorical question. We need to know how and why this was possible, not only for the sake of America's political future but for ours, too.

Before the whole hideous chapter is written off as a historical aberration, it is important to understand the sense in which it was not surprising at all. There was, in fact, a kind of inevitability about it: a vacancy that was waiting to be filled by some demagogic figure who would offer what mainstream politics was refusing to provide. And make no mistake, the policies—and even the attitudes—that he embodied addressed directly the frustrations of a huge proportion of the population, as evidenced by the first election victory and the remarkably narrow result of the second.

Yes, somebody was needed to carry out this task but why did it have to be a man like this? An obnoxious "ignoramus" who appeared to know nothing about the Constitution—even though every American school child learns to recite its basic provisions like a catechism?

The answer is quite simple. If you make certain views unappealing only to the intellectuals will be prepared to express them. A due lies in that infamously damaging remark made by Hillary Clinton during the 2016 campaign in which she described Trump supporters as "a basket of deplorables."

The essence of democratic freedom is argument and open debate. You enter the game on the assumption that this is a principled contest, not a mud fight. So you do not just castigate and condemn your opponents, treating their views as beneath contempt. Which is not to say that you must be gentle or even courteous: I fully understand the view that some political opinions are so maligned that they must be met with anger and hostility. But how much more effective to attack the "deplorable" programme with devastating accuracy, to rip the position to shreds with rigorous criticism, to disprove its claims and undermine belief in its effectiveness?

Of course, there is one obvious



MANY POLICIES OF TRUMP – AND THE COMPLAINTS THAT HE MADE ON BEHALF OF THE 'FORGOTTEN MAN' – WERE SOUND AND CONVINCING. PARTICULARLY CONVINCING TO A VAST ARMY OF DISPOSSESSED VICTIMS OF THE POST-INDUSTRIAL APOCALYPSE WHICH HAD DECIMATED BLUE COLLAR AMERICA

reason why Mrs Clinton in 2016, or the Biden campaign in 2020, or the liberal media both times, could not easily do this. Because many of the policies which Trump advocated – and the complaints that he made on behalf of the "forgotten man", ironically a phrase associated with the presidency of the greatest Left-liberal of them all, Franklin Roosevelt – were sound and convincing. Particularly convincing to a vast army of dispossessed victims of the post-industrial apocalypse which had decimated blue collar America.

These are the people who believed themselves to be not just "forgotten" but despised. To fail to see this was the unforgivable error not only of the Democrats and their camp followers in the media but of most of the Republican Party too.

It may be difficult for the British, with their ingrained class guilt, to understand how this could have happened so easily: how such blithe indifference to the concerns of communities that were built on old industries like mining and steel production could be written off by Democrat politicians who would once have seen such places as their natural base. Hillary Clinton did not even bother to campaign in the rust belt – presumably because she knew that her feminist message about glass ceilings was unlikely to beguile women who were more worried about putting food on the table. Joe Biden did campaign frenetically in those

places but without many substantive policy proposals to counter the protectionist solution that Trump had offered.

We are seeing a remarkably similar tendency here but the Islamisation of the Labour party with its new metropolitan obsessions is, at least, an ongoing ideological battle. The abandonment of working class voters became a point of huge interest once again with the breaching of the northern Red Wall by the Tories in the last general election. Class disadvantage is still very much a live electoral issue in Britain. To become a part of the educated middle class is to enter immediately – with one jump – into the privileged elite which accepts noblesse oblige as a historic duty.

But American political culture is very different. There is almost no sense of inherited responsibility to those who are poor or victimised by economic change – especially if they are White. The American credo is that you should strive to succeed in whatever circumstances you find yourself: that is why you (or your forebears) came to the country.

Almost everybody started poor. If you do not succeed, by accepting yourself with whatever skills or personal characteristics are necessary or by moving across the country to somewhere with better opportunities, then that is largely your own fault. Self-determination is not optional: it is a moral

obligation. What follows from this? That poverty or failure are not to be passively accepted and treated with patronising compassion – which is why most Americans will vote against democratic socialism.

It is important to realise that even most of the American poor feel this way. What they want is what Trump promised them – "jobs, jobs, jobs", not welfare dependency. So dismissing their anger and failing to offer solutions which restore their dignity and self-worth is an inexcusable betrayal, not just of them but of the American dream – the national spirit, the whole point of the country's existence as a refuge for those who want to make something of themselves.

That is what Trump stood for. To the surprise of the liberal establishment, huge numbers of Black and Latino voters were attracted to this message because, like most Americans, they did not want to see themselves as permanent victims or losers. What they wanted was a chance to succeed.

Over the coming months, senior Republicans and Democrats are going to have to find a way to talk to the Trump constituency without insulting them. If they don't, then it will just be a matter of time before another ranting populist lures them away. And the next one might be less obviously absurd.

(Courtesy: The Daily Telegraph)

## SOUNDBITE

India is trying to reduce its carbon footprint by 30-35 per cent. We need to increase natural gas usage by four times in our need for energy.

Prime Minister  
— Narendra Modi

What's the reason that the Modi Government has failed to take action against the liquor mafia despite so many deaths? Who is responsible?

Congress leader  
— Priyanka Gandhi

I can't tell you how excited I am to be playing with my son Charlie in our first official tournament together. It's been great watching him progress as a junior golfer.

Ace golfer  
— Tiger Woods

Don't worry about Virat. He is up for every single game he is playing. Maybe he will be extra motivated. I am sure he will be ready to go.

Australian cricketer  
— Marcus Stoinis

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Pak's new play

Sir — The Nagrota encounter possibly helped us avert a major disaster in Jammu and Kashmir and justified the renewed diplomatic offensive against Pakistan. The encounter comes days after the Pakistan Government and its military said that they had prepared a dossier on India-sponsored terrorist activities on their soil. The document was seen as a feeble attempt at throwing back at India some of the charges like terror financing that Pakistan faces in the international arena. Intelligence officials say that Pakistan has stepped up its anti-Kashmir narrative following the election of Joe Biden as future US President, hoping to play on his past stance of restoring civil liberties in the Union Territory. Our neighbour has simultaneously increased infiltration attempts.

Senior Government officials said communication equipment found on the terrorists showed that they had been in touch with handlers in Pakistan before the encounter in Nagrota and carried a large cache of weapons and ammunition. This attempt at internationalising the Kashmir issue won't hold water. Besides,

### Indo-US ties must be mutually supportive

Be it a courtesy gesture or not, the phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President-elect Joe Biden enabled both the leaders to assure each other of cooperation. The latter may be self-effacing and sport a solemn expression but Modi should try to establish a close rapport with him, forgetting his endorsement of US President Donald Trump for re-election at the "Howdy Modi" mega event at Houston.

Despite its preference for Donald Trump as a sort of natural global ally, India's ruling dispensation has no option but to come to terms with the reality of the Biden Administration and what it entails. The reiteration of commitment to further strengthening Indo-US relations and cooperation in dealing with a range of issues signals a policy continuity. Possibly we can now hope for restoration of the H-1B regime in its entirety, lifting of visa and work permit restrictions and a fair trade deal. Biden's read-out following the phone call mentioned "strengthening democracy at home and abroad." Its omission in Modi's tweet and the MEA's read-out for whatever reason did go unnoticed. Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris do not see eye to eye with the Modi Government on the abrogation of Article 370, the curtailment of civil liberties in Jammu and Kashmir, the discriminatory Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the punitive action



against NGOs and so on. New Delhi can assess their views against the touchstone of "justice", "equality" and "freedom." India can walk tall on the global stage and feel at ease with the incoming Biden Administration by demonstrating that it respects human rights and shuns discrimination against minorities. There is scope for workarounds. The Biden Administration is likely to reshape the US role in world affairs in order to regain its lost pre-eminence. When it comes to its role vis-a-vis India, we should engage on equal terms and tackle global challenges in a spirit of multilateralism.

David Milton  
Marunthancode

### Free Stan Swamy

Sir — The arrest of the 83-year-old priest Stan Swamy, who is suffering from Parkinson's disease, has caused a stir among many people in India. The vet-

eran tribal rights activist has worked for over 50 years in Jharkhand, fighting for the Adivasis on land, forest and labour rights. The charges against this ailing social worker aim to discredit intellectuals, legal pro-

fessionals and social activists who raise their voices for the rights of the poorest of the poor. He should be released at the earliest, come what may.

The National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled has recently written to the National Human Rights Commission seeking its intervention to provide "reasonable accommodation" to Swamy, who has been in detention in Nagpur Central Jail. It is shameful that an ailing elderly man, who needs a straw to drink because of his debilitating condition, is being denied basic help and forced to seek help from the court just to be able to nourish himself. In the meantime, he is suffering from severe dehydration physically and the worst kind of humiliation mentally. This is inhuman, cruel and stinks of political vendetta. The State and its law and order agencies never liked him because he has been consistent in questioning the non-implementation of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. He must be freed before he loses his life in jail.

Jubel D'Cruz  
Mumbai

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

## FIRST COLUMN

## Incomprehensible digital world

Information technology wizards often coin new words and their jargon is confusing. Much of these await handling in a statesman-like manner



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

We are living in the age of digitisation and now the pandemic has made it much more universal and in a much lesser span of time than would have been otherwise possible. The multiplication of online platforms and transactions of almost every variety has almost divided the world community into categories depending upon their facility with this process and medium. The "traditional" mom-and-pop set-ups, dealing with maintenance and services, have been speedily eliminated in favour of the do-it-yourself (DIY) culture and by online instructional videos. There would be nothing to grudge that if two things were ensured. First, the basic infrastructure for online communication and when needed. Second, credible skills at the responding digital end to diagnose the problem and articulate it in comprehensible terms. Both of these clearly need far more attention than currently seems to be the case. This is not to find fault but to emphasise an essential pre-condition for digital maintenance services. The proposition of both infrastructure and skill take time to reach a level of maturity, making them amenable for use. If it is sought to be artificially expedited, the casualties are several. Among the first is the breakdown of systems and interruption in work. The second is loss of opportunity which would have a domino effect on critical aspects of growth and the livelihood of the people.

This concern needs to be a universal one and must be catered to right from the planning stage itself. There is no magic wand to see one through, skipping the preceding processes. The facts of life being what they are, investing in bridging these gaps is not lucrative enough to draw investment. Business by its nature tends to skirt around unprofitable activities to focus on revenue-rich modules.

The Government itself seems to be surrounded by so many pressing concerns that it tends to operate in a fire-fighting mode. The result is all-round confusion, errors in data entry and misreading of categories by semi-literate staff who do not fully grasp the fallout of errors. Carelessness often compounds matters. The inefficiency is further aggravated by a progressively increasing punitive protocol with which default is met. So results of technological default can easily be interpreted as conscious acts and punitive action follows.

In a pandemic situation (which came in weeks before the crisis got recognised as one) in India, the sheer speed with which "policy" and "vision" measures are being put in place is breathtaking. Almost everything, from education to maritime vision, seems to have been fashioned and the rollout has begun. This is only matched by the dip in the number of copies each newspaper is printing and how much of the dialogue is almost confined to those with access to the internet and a screen.

Logic is often known to be subservient to desire and the Indian genius for finding arguments for what one wishes to do is universally known to be strong. But some day all this will change. Some day the pandemic will be a thing of the past. Some day, it is likely, the fate of internet non-users and those at the receiving end of economic growth would have reached a point of equilibrium. The lesser fortunate would have been, metaphorically, wiped out or relegated to a state of destitution. Of the surviving ones, a percentage of the successful would be firmly in the driving seat, growing bigger, richer and more powerful.

There is a distinct possibility that even in that situation, good sense may prevail. Whether that will be so or not, only time will tell. Oligarchies do sometimes have a wider side in certain cases. That, at this point of time, is essentially a matter of speculation. In all this, the process of digitisation would have been a strong potent force. In effect, it would mean the requirement to make non-linear thinking as important as linear reasoning in education. Even global approaches would have to go hand-in-hand with local ones. Our preparation for the future demands recognition of such a reality. Effectively, mindsets need to be tuned to look at the big picture and not temporary gains. It would require a conscious and systematic approach to decision-making. It may not be just survival of the fittest in simple Darwinian terms but a lot of self-dependence would need to be ingrained.

For the present, one could begin this much-needed journey by making the language used in ushering in and spreading the digitisation mission comprehensible. Unfortunately, the jargon which information technology specialists use even in explaining the working of their gadgets is not in a format of normal communication. Information technology wizards often coin new words and their jargon often confuses. Much of these await handling in a statesman-like manner.

(The writer is an internationally-acclaimed management consultant)

LOVE JIHAD HAS COME TO BE REALISED AS A MENACE IN ALL STATES IN INDIA, NOT JUST AMONG HINDUS BUT AMONG ALL NON-MUSLIMS, TOO.

—UNION MINISTER GIRIRAJ SINGH

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



FAMILY MEMBERS OF MANY BJP LEADERS HAVE PERFORMED INTER-RELIGION MARRIAGES. WILL THESE MARRIAGES TOO COME UNDER LOVE JIHAD?

—CHHATTISGARH CHIEF MINISTER BHUPESH BAGHEL

## Focus on primary care

Though national policies are often preceded by commitments of political parties in their manifestos, it is for the first time that health infrastructure has become a poll agenda



SURAVI SHARMA

In spite of the pressing needs of a huge population, healthcare in India has never been an electoral mobiliser unlike in older democracies, such as the UK and the US. Only three National Health Policies (1983, 2002 and 2017) have been promulgated by respective Governments in the last 70 years. Though national policies and promises are often preceded by commitments of political parties in their manifestos, it is for the first time that health infrastructure has now become a top election agenda. This is all due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Our country should be moving towards a healthcare system that places a high priority on keeping people healthy and out of hospitals. And the primary care doctor should be playing the leading role in this transformation. This, in turn, will lead to a reduced financial burden, diminishing the high costs of emergency rooms and tertiary care centres. Good primary care improves patient outcomes too, yet we have ignored these fundamentals to our detriment. This blind spot is the biggest flaw in our current healthcare system.

Democracy is a system of governance for the people, by the people and of the people. Primary healthcare, similarly defined, is healthcare provided to all, especially the most marginalised, with their participation and for their needs. If the primary healthcare system of a country is not functioning well, it is symptomatic of problems in its democracy itself. Primary healthcare is a public good and in a democracy, public good is publicly funded. The right to health is subsumed under the right to life in the Constitution. Yet, India figures at the very bottom of the global health systems' rankings. We have the dubious distinction of having the maximum number of tuberculosis and leprosy patients and the highest maternal and infant mortality rates.

With a focus on primary care, our health system should move away from procedures/hospital-based care, in which primary care physicians (PCPs) have been devalued. Such systems depict PCPs as paper-pushers in a world of specialists.

The Bhoré Committee set up in 1946 published a landmark report recognising PCPs as the "family physician", who would be a key player in India's healthcare system. The report also emphasised the need to recognise the field of Family Medicine as a separate speciality with a post-graduate residency programme in post-graduate medical institutes. Our medical education system, too, needs to encourage medical students to view primary care as a route to creating a more effective healthcare system.

The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, an organisation working to improve healthcare in the US, says that in order to produce more primary care doctors, who are willing to practise in disadvantaged and underserved areas, medical schools need to change the way they select students. It is seen in India, too, that students, who have strong ties to their community, want to form long-term relationships and commitment to public service, and hence are more likely to choose primary care (if such training is made available in the country) as a profession, than other students. One of the reasons our country or even the US is facing a shortage of PCPs is because the brightest medical students are often told or made to believe that they're too smart not to specialise, and that attitude is reinforced throughout their medical training. What is special about Japan in the context of successful healthcare services is that it man-

**“A DEMOCRATIC HEALTHCARE SYSTEM SHOULD HAVE FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN COMMUNITIES THAT ARE EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THEIR NEEDS AND PROVIDE PREVENTIVE AND CURATIVE CARE. THEY SHOULD BE STAFFED BY A SKILLED TEAM OF PROVIDERS WHO ARE EMPATHETIC TO THE PEOPLE AND THEIR CULTURE AND TREAT THEM WITH DIGNITY.”**



aged to contain the clout of specialists in its healthcare system and accorded a prominent voice to PCPs in its decision-making process.

In the early days of Japan's modern medicine history, hospitals catered to only an affluent few and the Government limited their funding, restricting them to functions like training of medical students and isolation of infectious cases. Reciprocal connections between doctors in private clinics and hospitals were forbidden, thwarting possibilities of a nexus between the two groups. However, a sturdy lobby of clinic-based PCPs evolved, which tipped the balance in favour of primary healthcare. The Japanese social health insurance was implemented in 1927 and the medical association, that was dominated by PCPs, played the main role in negotiating the fee schedule.

Primary healthcare renewal demands major investments in system transformation and infrastructure (appropriate premises and staffing, information management systems and tools and facilitation to support the coordination of care and the improvement of quality).

Sadly, in India until 2018, only one per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was spent on healthcare and since 2019 this has increased to 3.6 per cent. This is much lower than many non-democratic/poorer nations and is ahead of only five countries, namely Burundi, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan and Cambodia. Such low spending, as we know, leads to a perverted pattern of healthcare as our health system is meant to cater to a population of over a billion human beings.

Poor investment in the primary healthcare system naturally under-equip it. Hence, we lack supplies and drugs for

comprehensive primary care. For example, of the 709 public health centres (PHCs) surveyed in 2009 by the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, about 24 per cent did not have electricity and 63 per cent did not have piped water supply. At the same time, PHCs are expected to deliver centrally-designed, targeted, vertical programmes, alienating them further from communities. As a result, even those families that can access PHCs continue to look elsewhere for their critical healthcare needs.

There is empirical evidence that public spending on primary healthcare is the most effective, efficient and equitable approach to improve the health of populations. Higher public spending has always shown decreased mortality and morbidity of the poor. An analysis by the Centre for Economic and International Studies examined the relative efficiency of public and private healthcare spending in 163 countries and reported that the former consistently leads to lower infant mortality rates and the latter, to higher.

India has a large network of PHCs and each is meant to serve a population of 25,000. In poorer States, such as Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, one PHC covers 45,000, 49,000 and 76,000 people respectively. In Rajasthan, the population is often so dispersed (especially in hilly areas in the south and in the desert in the west) that a family may need to travel 10-20 km to reach the nearest PHC. This means that when a person is sick, she may have to wait for hours or days to receive a healthcare facility.

A few countries in South America with limited resources have managed to design and scale up people-friendly health systems to cover large populations for

delivering primary care. Family clinics in Brazil and polyclinics and nurses offices in Cuba are examples of systems with nationwide coverage. Cuba has one of the most effective primary healthcare systems in the world, whose centerpiece is the community-based polyclinic, each of which serves a catchment area, hosting between 30,000 and 60,000 people. The neighbourhood-based family doctor and nurse offices further extend care closer to the communities. One such office is for 1,000-2,000 people. Prevention is the cornerstone of these services, complemented by community analysis and treatment. An important requirement of primary healthcare is active participation of the masses — akin to citizen participation in a democracy. Such systems are likely to be more responsive to public needs. In the States of West Bengal and Kerala, in which primary healthcare is co-managed by panchayats, health outcomes are better than in most other States at similar levels of economic development.

Government healthcare centres even in cities are yet to be able to provide treatment to the sick with dignity. Patients struggling for life sharing beds, children along with parents lying on the floor in hospital wards and women delivering babies in hospital corridors are an everyday sight in Government hospitals in cities. A democratic healthcare system should have facilities located within communities that are equipped to deal with their needs and provide preventive and curative care. They should be staffed by a skilled team of providers, who are empathetic to the people and their culture and treat them with dignity.

(The writer is an author and a doctor by profession)

## Raising the spectre of the 'Deep State'

The oft-used term means a very different thing in countries like Pak. But when Donald Trump uses it for the US, he does it as a ploy to deflect attention from his failures



NAADEEM PARACHA

A friend, settled in the US, recently quipped that never has he heard so many Pakistanis (in the US) use the word "Deep State" as much as they have been doing since the recently-concluded US presidential elections. The polls were won by the Democratic Party nominee John Biden. My friend clarified that the mentioned term was being used mostly by those Pakistani-Americans who actually voted for President Donald Trump.

Even though exit polls published by *The New York Times* show that a majority of Asians had cast their vote for Biden (63 per cent), up to 31 per cent of them voted for Trump. According to my friend, a majority of these included Pakistanis who believed Trump was good for the cur-

rent coalition Government in Pakistan being led by Prime Minister Imran Khan's Centre-Right PML.

The Opposition parties in Pakistan have increasingly insisted that certain State institutions installed Khan "through an engineered election" in 2018 and were using him as a "puppet". Pakistan has had a history of State institutions influencing political outcomes, sometimes through direct interventions and sometimes by influencing the results of elections.

This is why my friend was sounding sarcastic, because he added that not once did he hear the term "Deep State" from American-Pakistanis (who voted for Trump) during discussions on the current political arrangement in Pakistan. The term "Deep State", now being aired so frequently by Trump supporters, was proliferated by the defeated President himself, who is accusing the "American Deep State" of engineering his electoral defeat.

So far Trump has provided no evidence whatsoever of this and is largely sounding like an archetypal conspiracy theorist. The difference between the US and Pakistan in this context is the fact that there is now

enough evidence in the latter country to build a substantiated history of the State's overt involvement in influencing political matters outside of its constitutional obligations. So what really is a "Deep State"?

The scholar Matthew Wills says that the term is a translation of the Turkish phrase, *derin devlet*. Author and academic Rinat Gingersh says that "Deep State" generally refers to a kind of a parallel system of Government in which unofficial or clandestine network of military officers and important roles in implementing State policy. According to Gingersh, the idea of a "Deep State" can be traced to the twilight years of the Ottoman Empire.

Gingersh writes that clandestine forces were recruited from paramilitary and criminal elements by the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), the party that ousted the Ottomans in 1923. Across much of the 20th century, opponents of the CUP claimed that the party had established a clandestine network of military officers and their civilian allies who, for decades, suppressed anyone thought to pose a threat to the secular order established in Turkey by Mustafa

Kemal Atatürk. Dexter Filkins, in a March 2012 article for *The New Yorker*, writes that the former Prime Minister of Turkey (now President), Recep Erdogan, was extremely nervous when he was first elected as Prime Minister in 2003 because he believed that since he was a candidate of an (albeit "moderate") Islamic party, Turkey's "Deep State" would never allow him to rule.

But no such thing happened. His party has continued to win elections since the early 2000s and the only coup attempt that his Government faced in 2016, according to Erdogan's own admission, was mounted by a faction of the military influenced by a clandestine Islamic group.

There is nothing secretive about how, after 1923, the Turkish military continued to directly and indirectly interfere in Turkish politics, and the country's judiciary and bureaucracy were committed to secure Kemal's secular Turkish republic. For this reason, military-backed candidates and constitutional courts were used. But there were no hidden agendas, as such, even though men such as Erdogan believed that shadowy forces were at work and would topple him.

Interestingly, all talk of "Deep State" vanished from his rhetoric once he consolidated his power.

So what does this imply? In many countries, certain powerful State institutions do interfere in politics. But in Turkey, it is not, it's being done rather unabashedly. It was always justified as a "necessary step taken to curtail political chaos", but now the interfering State institutions use social and electronic media to generate support for their actions in this regard. Again, there is nothing clandestine about all this. There has always been "a State within a State" in most modern nation-States.

Recently, the Pakistani Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif used the phrase "State above the State". This is probably because he knows that the knowledge of Pakistan having a State within a State is now common, and he would be saying nothing new. So he wanted to point towards a much deeper malaise. According to his narrative, the State within the State, which is not quite hidden anymore, is now facing a challenge from within.

But what about the US? Does it have a "Deep State" that, as Trump believes, helped Biden hijack the

election? In the January 27 edition of the *Business Insider*, the American academic Rebecca Gordon writes that the idea of a sinister "Deep State" in the US, popularised by Trump across his presidency, is somewhat different from the notion of a "Deep State" in other countries. According to Gordon, "rather than referring to a parallel system of Government operating outside official channels, for Trump the 'Deep State' is the Government".

For Trump, any State or Government institution, which stalls any of his orders, is working for a "Deep State". To him, elements within America's domestic and international Intelligence agencies, such as the FBI and the CIA, were also working for the "Deep State". In November 2019, the former Deputy Director of the CIA, John McLaughlin, was amused about Trump's constant usage of the phrase. In a radio interview McLaughlin said, "There is no 'Deep State'. What people think of as 'Deep State' is just the American civil service, social security, the people who fix the roads, health and human services".

In his 2016 book, *The Deep State*, the American author and a former

Republican US Congressional aide, Mike Lofgren, wrote that the "Deep State" was not some secret, conspiratorial cabal. It is a "State within a State" that is hiding in plain sight, and its operators mainly act in the light of day.

As I argued earlier, there is really nothing clandestine about what is understood as "Deep State". Its actions are in the open because it wants to impose the fact that it will secure its interests in a political arrangement. Governments negotiate a space for themselves with the State as long as that space is not overtly violated by State institutions in an unconstitutional manner.

If and when it is, the Government has constitutional tools to push the State back as much as it can, or just give in and get on the same page just to survive. This is common in most countries. But what if the Government starts to see its own elements in league with the so-called "Deep State", as Trump saw it? I'm afraid this is then nothing more than either a delusion, or simply a cynical ploy to blame something sinister, intangible and largely imaginary, for one's own failures. (Courtesy: Dawn)

# Trump's legal team cried vote fraud, but courts found none

**Philadelphia:** As they frantically searched for ways to salvage President Donald Trump's failed reelection bid, his campaign pursued a dizzying game of legal hopscotch across six states that centered on the biggest prize of all: Pennsylvania.

The strategy may have played well in front of television cameras and on talk radio.

But it has proved a disaster in court, where judges uniformly rejected their claims of vote fraud and found the campaign's legal work amateurish.

In a ruling late Saturday, US District Judge Matthew Brann — a Republican and Federalist Society member in central Pennsylvania — compared the campaign's legal arguments to "Frankenstein's Monster," concluding that Trump's team offered only "speculative accusations," not proof of rampant corruption.

Now, as the legal doors close on Trump's attempts to have courts do what voters would not do on Election Day and deliver him a second term, his efforts in Pennsylvania



show how far he is willing to push baseless theories of widespread vote fraud.

It was led by Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer, who descended on the state the Saturday after the November 3 election as the count dragged on and the president played golf.

Summoning reporters to a scruffy, far-flung corner of Philadelphia on November 7, he held forth at a site that would soon become legendary: Four Seasons Total Landscaping.

The 11:30 a.m. News conference was doomed from the start.

At 11:26 a.m., news outlets had started calling the presidential contest for Democrat Joe Biden.

The race was over.

Just heating up was Trump's plan to subvert the election through litigation and howls of fraud — the same tactic he had used to stave off losses in the business world. And it would soon spread far beyond Pennsylvania.

"Some of the ballots looked suspicious," Giuliani, 76, said of the vote count in Philadelphia as he stood behind a chain link fence next to a security guard.

He alleged the city as being run by a "deceitful Democratic machine."

"Those mail-in ballots could have been written the day before, by the Democratic Party," he said. "The Democrats are rejecting his leadership and everything the Republican leader is doing now is bad for the democracy of the US."

"I think he has definitely set back the democratic norm here in the United States. He's been doing that for four years, and that's ramped up since the

"It is a sideshow, but it's a harmful sideshow," Levitt said.

It's a toxic sideshow. The continuing baseless, evidence-free claims of alternative facts are actually having an effect on a substantial number of Americans. They are creating the conditions for elections not to work in the future.

## Joe Biden's Chief of Staff: Everything Trump doing now is bad for American democracy

**Washington:** President-elect Joe Biden's Chief of Staff

Ronald Klain on Sunday launched a scathing attack on President Donald Trump, saying American voters have rejected his leadership and everything the Republican leader is doing now is bad for the democracy of the US.

"I think he has definitely set back the democratic norm here in the United States. He's been doing that for four years, and that's ramped up since the

Not a single court has agreed with the strength of the case, but the did not stop Trump's team from firing off nearly two dozen legal challenges to Biden's victory in Pennsylvania, including an early morning suit on Election Day filed by a once-impeached lawyer.

election," Klain told ABC News in an interview. "The voters rejected his leadership. A record number of Americans rejected the Trump presidency. And, since then, Donald Trump's been rejecting democracy. He has been launching baseless claims of voter fraud, baseless litigation."

He's been doing that for four years, and that's ramped up since the election. Klain told ABC News in an interview. "The voters rejected his leadership. A record number of Americans rejected the Trump presidency. And, since then, Donald Trump's been rejecting democracy. He has been launching baseless claims of voter fraud, baseless litigation."

## Trump campaign files for recount of votes in Georgia

**Washington:** The Trump Campaign has filed a petition for recount of votes in Georgia, days after US President-elect Joe Biden wrested the Republican stronghold by a little over 12,000 votes.

Democrat Biden became the first Democrat to have won the key battleground state since 1992 after a hand recount of nearly five million votes, that lasted for several days.

Georgia hadn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Bill Clinton in 1992. In case of a recount, election officials in Georgia will have to re-scan the five million hand-recounted and audited legal ballots.

"We are focused on ensuring that every aspect of Georgia State Law and the US Constitution are followed so that every legal vote is counted. President Trump and his cam-

aign continue to insist on an honest recount in Georgia, which has to include signature matching and other vital safeguards," the Trump campaign said in a late-night statement on Saturday.

"Without signature matching, this recount would be a sham and again allow for illegal votes to be counted. If there is no signature matching, this would be as phony as the initial vote count and recount," said the statement issued by the legal team of the campaign.

"Let's stop giving the people false results. There must be a time when we stop counting illegal ballots. Hopefully it is coming soon," said the campaign, a day after Georgia Secretary of State, who is also from the same Republican Party, officially certified the election results which was narrowly won by Biden.

## Pompeo touts Iran policy in Gulf amid of Biden presidency

**Dubai:** US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday defended his tour of Gulf Arab states and the Trump administration's continued efforts to squeeze Iran, even as a new US administration led by Joe Biden prepares to enter the White House in January.

Although Pompeo has not taken questions from US-based reporters traveling with him over the past 10 days, he sat down with the Saudi-owned broadcaster Al-Arabiya in Dubai for brief televised remarks on Sunday. "Our policy doesn't change. Our duty doesn't change. My responsibilities don't change," he said. "I still have an obligation — every hour, every minute — to defend the American people and to keep approval of \$65,000 to pay for meals for themselves, but cut funding for coronavirus patients and human rights agencies."

AP

## Xi calls on G20 to push for full, effective implementation of Paris Agreement

**Beijing:** Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Sunday that the G-20 countries should take the lead in tackling climate change, following the guidance of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and push for the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

With US President-elect Joe Biden's promise to rejoin the Paris Agreement after he takes over power early next year, its implementation is expected to get a big boost to efforts to tackle climate change and other environmental challenges to protect the planet.

The US and China are the top two polluters of the world. Addressing the Leaders' Side Event on Safeguarding the Planet of the G-20 Riyadh Summit via video link, Xi said, "G-20 should continue to take

the lead in tackling climate change."

"We need to follow the guidance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and push for the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement," he said.

He reaffirmed China's commitment to striving to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

Xi said China supports the shift to low-carbon energy in the post-Covid era to achieve the goal of Sustainable Energy for All. China has put in place the world's biggest clean energy system, and has led the world in the output and sales of new energy vehicles for five years running, he said.

China will pursue clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient

use of energy and accelerate the growth of new energy and green industries to promote greener economic and social development in all respects, he said. He called on the G-20 countries to protect the ecosystem with a respect for Nature, and said China supports deepening G20 cooperation in reducing land degradation, conserving coral reefs, and cleaning up plastic from the ocean.

Xi welcomed participation to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in the Chinese city of Kunming in May 2021.

He hoped that the meeting will set goals and take actions to ensure the protection of biodiversity in the year ahead.

## Protesters burn part of Guatemala's Congress building

**Guatemala City:** Hundreds of protesters broke into Guatemala's Congress and burned part of the building Saturday amid growing demonstrations against President Alejandro Giammattei and the legislature for approving a budget that cut educational and health spending.

The protest came as about 7,000 people were demonstrating in front of the National Palace in Guatemala City against the budget, which protesters say was negotiated and passed by legislators in secret while the Central American country was distracted by the fallout of back-to-back hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Video on social media showed flames shooting out a window in the legislative building. According to media reports, the protesters used tear gas at protesters and there



An official photo of former Congress President Eduardo Meyer is thrown out from the Congress building after protesters set a part of the building on fire in Guatemala City on Saturday

were people injured. "Anyone who is proven to have participated in the criminal acts will be punished with the full force of the law," he wrote that he defended people's

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Saturday. "Anyone who is proven to have participated in the criminal acts will be punished with the full force of the law," he wrote that he defended people's

right to protest, "but neither can we allow people to vandalize public or private property." The president said he had been meeting with various groups to present changes to the controversial budget.

Discontent had been building over the 2021 budget on social media and clashes erupted during demonstrations on Friday. Guatemalans were angered because lawmakers approved \$65,000 to pay for meals for themselves, but cut funding for coronavirus patients and human rights agencies.

Vice President Guillermo Castillo has offered to resign, telling Giammattei that both men should resign their positions "for the good of the country." He also suggested vetoing the approved budget, firing government officials and attempting more outreach to business sectors around the country.

## Erdogan says Turkey's place is in Europe before EU summit

**Ankara:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday that Turkey sees itself as a part of Europe, but he called on the European Union to "keep your promises" on issues such as the country's membership bid and refugees.

He spoke before an EU summit due to be held next month.

In recent weeks, EU members have raised the prospect of sanctions against Turkey over its gas exploration missions in the eastern Mediterranean.

"We always see ourselves as part of Europe," Erdogan said in a virtual speech to ruling party members. "We chose to favour Europe as long as they don't force us to look elsewhere."

He added: "Keep your promises to our country, from full membership to the issue of refugees. Let's establish a closer and efficient cooperation together."

Turkey applied for membership in the bloc in 1987 and four years ago signed a deal with the EU to manage the flow of migrants to Europe.

However, claims of democratic backsliding have seen its application effectively suspended while both sides have accused the other of not properly implementing the refugee agreement. Ankara has dispatched research and drill ships to waters claimed by EU members Greece and Cyprus, sparking a military escalation over the summer. AP

## Polls open in Burkina Faso for election marred by violence

**Ouagadougou:** Voters went to the polls in Burkina Faso on Sunday for presidential and legislative elections that have been marred by ongoing extremist violence in this landlocked West African nation.

President Roch Marc Christian Kabore has promised to secure the country and is vying for another victory in the first round, and then form a coalition behind the strongest candidate for round two.

On Saturday, opposition candidates accused the ruling



Burkina Faso Opposition candidate Eddie Kombloigo casts his ballot in the presidential and legislative elections in Ouagadougou on Sunday

party of fraud, including bribing people. The parties also accused The National Independent Electoral Commission of making

## More mass testing in China after 3 new cases

**AP ■ BEIJING**

Authorities are conducting mass testing and shutting down schools after China reported three new domestically transmitted cases in the past 24 hours — two in province Inner Mongolia and one in Shanghai.

The city of Manzhouli, in Inner Mongolia, will start testing all its residents for COVID-19 on Sunday, a day after the two cases were discovered.

The city has suspended classes and shut public venues, telling residents to not gather for dinner banquets.

## Pak Opp alliance holds anti-govt rally despite ban on gathering in Peshawar

**PTI ■ PESHAWAR**

Pakistan's newly-formed Alliance of 11 Opposition parties on Sunday held its massive anti-government rally in Peshawar despite a ban imposed by the city administration owing to a spike in COVID-19 cases and security threats, with top coalition leaders predicting that the Imran Khan Government will "have to go home by January."

The fourth power show by the Pakistan Democracy Movement (PDM) was held despite the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government's warning that it may lodge cases against the PDM leaders

if a spike in Covid-19 cases was witnessed in the province after the rally. The alliance earlier held three massive back-to-back gatherings in Gujranwala, Karachi and Quetta.

Addressing the gathering, Pakistan People's Party leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari vowed that January 15 will be the inauguration of Government's "last month in power" and the people will decide how Pakistan will be governed.

"They will go home in January. Time is near when you, the people, would hold this selected Government and its selectors responsible for current crises..." he said.

**पंचायतीराज निदेशालय, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून**

संख्या : 1587 / पा-2 / लेज / विप्र / 2020-21 दिनांक 21 नवम्बर, 2020

**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण**

निदेशालय पंचायतीराज, सहस्त्रधारा रोड, देहरादून द्वारा Helpdesk Services हेतु आवश्यक Hardware Equipments के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा दिनांक 23 नवम्बर, 2020 से वेबसाइट <https://www.ukenders.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध होगी।

भविष्य में इस निविदा से सम्बन्धित कोई भी विवरण / शुद्धिगत मात्र उक्त वेबसाइट पर ही प्रसारित किया जायेगा।

**निदेशक, पंचायतीराज**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a boy **Mohd. Suhel S/o Mohd. Zuber, R/o H.No. 3815, Gali kunhar wall, Shahganj, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi** has been missing since 10.11.2020 from his house. In this regard, **DD No. 62A dated 10.11.2020** has been registered at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing boy is as under: **Name:** Mohd. Suhel, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 20 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Thin, **Identification:** Mentally Weak, **Wearing:** Black and white colour track pant, sky blue colour t-shirt and dark brown colour slippers.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/Kamla Market, Delhi.

E-mail: [shc@cbci.gov.in](mailto:shc@cbci.gov.in)  
Ph: 011-24386838, 24386841  
Fax: 011-24356639  
DP/4793/CD/2020

**SHO**  
P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi.  
Ph. No. 011-23230623, 23233743

## Azerbaijanis who fled war look to return home, if it exists

**Baku:** As Azerbaijan regains control of land it lost to Armenian forces a quarter-century ago, civilians who fled the fighting decades ago wonder if they can go back home now and if there's still a home to go back to.

An estimated 600,000 Azerbaijanis were displaced in the 1990s war that left the Nagorno-Karabakh region under the control of ethnic Armenian separatists and large adjacent territories in Armenia's hands.

During six weeks of renewed fighting this fall that ended Nov. 10, Azerbaijan took back parts of Nagorno-Karabakh itself and sizeable swathes of the outlying areas.

More territory is being returned as part of the cease-fire agreement that stopped the latest fighting. But as Azerbaijan forces discovered when the first war in Nagorno-Karabakh was turned over on Friday much of the recovered land is uninhabitable. The city of Aghdam, where 50,000 people

once lived, is now a shattered ruin.

Adil Sharifov, 62, who left his hometown in 1992 during the first war and lives in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, knows the similar devastation if he returns to the city of Jabrayil, which he longs to do.

Jabrayil is one of the outlying areas regained by Azerbaijani troops before the recent fighting ended. Soon after it was taken, one of Sharifov's cousins went there and told him the city was destroyed, including the large house with an orchard where Sharifov's family once lived.

Nonetheless, "the day when I return there will be the greatest happiness for me," he said. For years, he said, his family had followed reports about Jabrayil on the internet. They knew the destruction was terrible, but Sharifov's late mother retained a desperate hope that their house had been spared and held on to the keys.

"I will build an even better house," he vowed.

Ulviya Jumejaya, 50, can go back to better, though not ideal circumstances in her native Shusha, a city that has been under the tight offensive of the six-week war.

Her younger brother, Nasimi, took part in the battle and phoned to tell her the apartment their family fled in 1992 was intact though mostly stripped of the family's possessions.

"According to him, it is clear that Armenians lived there after us, and then they took everything away. But our large mirror in the hallway, which we loved to look at as children, remains," Jumejaya said, adding: "Maybe my grandchildren will look in this mirror."

"We all have houses in Baku, but everyone considered them to be not permanent, because all these years we lived in the hope that we would return to Shusha," she said.

## Israel strikes Hamas sites in Gaza Strip after rocket attack

**Jerusalem:** Israeli aircraft on Sunday struck multiple sites in the Gaza Strip in response to a rocket fired earlier from the Palestinian territory, Israel's military said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

While several militant groups operate out of the Palestinian enclave, Israel holds Gaza's Hamas rulers responsible for all rocket fire out of the territory and usually strikes Hamas targets in response.

The Israeli military said in a statement that fighter jets and attack helicopters hit two rocket ammunition manufacturing sites, underground infrastructure and a Hamas naval forces training compound.

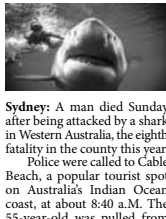
Late Saturday, Palestinian militants in Gaza fired a rocket toward Israel, setting off air-raid sirens in the southern Israeli city of Ashdod, the Israeli military said.



Israel's police said the rocket caused damage to a structure in the Ashkelon area, roughly 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of Gaza, but there were no injuries. Israeli media said the rocket struck a factory, causing damage.

Israel and Hamas, an Islamic militant group that seeks Israel's destruction, are bitter enemies who have fought three wars and numerous skirmishes since Hamas seized power in Gaza in 2007.

## Man dies in shark attack in Western Australia



**Sydney:** A man died Sunday after being attacked by a shark in Western Australia, the eighth fatality in the country this year. Police were called to Cable Beach, a popular tourist spot on Australia's Indian Ocean coast, at about 8:40 a.m. The 55-year-old was pulled from the water with serious injuries and treated by police before paramedics arrived. He died at the scene, police said.

Park rangers immediately closed the beach. The man was the eighth to die in a shark attack in Australia this year, the highest toll since 1929 when nine died. The introduction of shark nets at popular beaches in the 1930s led to a significant fall in fatal attacks.



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## Trend Blazer

### 'Not hopeful about OTT future in India'

**NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI** feels OTTs are getting cramped in India and herd mentality is seeping in. The actor says everyone wants to do something on the digital platform, not for the art but just for the sake of business.

"Frankly speaking, OTT used to be a platform for content that was different from the typical Bollywood form, and had a distinctive character. I am not talking about social content, but content for the audience who want something apart from the regular Bollywood," he said. "At the moment, *bharmar ho raha hai* (there is an overload). We have a tendency of herd mentality. With that, there will be a decline and there is no doubt about it," he added.



**'There is a reason why Kareena (Kapoor) is so popular and so successful over such a long period of time. Unless you are hardworking and committed to your craft, you cannot sustain your success. You can achieve it but cannot sustain it for this long. This has been a big learning experience for me.'**

—Sumeet Vyas

Actor **TAAPSEE PANNU** has been training hard for her forthcoming sports drama, *Rashmi Rocket*. She gave her fans a glimpse of her training routine for the film on Instagram.



Taapsee posted three pictures from her training sessions. In the images, she is seen wearing a black tank top paired with white shorts. She is seen hopping in one picture, skipping in another and running in the third one.

"Hop... Skip... Run... Repeat! #RashmiRocket... P.S: Those marks aren't brutal assault on me but technically only on my muscles. #BattleScars," she wrote.

### Bieber curious about India's COVID scene

**JUSTIN BIEBER** is curious about the COVID situation in India, and whether people are wearing masks. Recently, Bieber held a live session on Instagram, and was joined by Indian Tik Tok star Riyaz Ali. Among other things, they discussed India's situation during the pandemic.



Bieber, who joined in from home in the US, asked Riyaz, "What's COVID looking like over there?" Riyaz replied, "COVID is still going on like crazy." To this, Bieber admitted, "Yes, it is pretty crazy." Bieber recently released his song *Monster* with Shawn Mendes.

Ever since cinemas reopened in parts of India as part of the unlock process, a few new releases — including Hollywood films — have hit the big screen. Trade experts say regular Hollywood popcorn flicks will not help bring the crowds back to theatres, nor will small Bollywood releases. A star-studded pan-India film would do the trick, with good marketing.

The Diwali weekend saw the release of *Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari*, starring Manoj Bajpayee, Diljit Dosanjh and Fatima Sana Shaikh. The film was the first new Bollywood release following the opening of cinemas after the COVID-19 lockdown. Although the film received a lot of support from the film fraternity, it could not excite the audience much. According to a trade source, the comedy film could not even rake in a crore at the box office since its release on November 15. Among other new releases was the Maissie Williams-starrer, *The New Mutants*. The horror-thriller superhero film released in India on October 30. It was followed by the Robert De Niro-starrer comedy drama, *The War*

## What would do the trick?

Theatres have reopened but trade looks for one star-studded, pan-Indian film to change fortunes

With *Grandpa*, which had a theatrical release on November 13, Hollywood film *Trolls World Tour*, with voices of stars like Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Rachel Bloom, Ozzy Osbourne, Kunal Nayyar, James Corden, Ron Funches, Kelly Clarkson, Anderson Paak, and Sam Rockwell, hit the screens on November 19.

Trade analyst Girish Johar said all these films performed "below the mark." The audience have not come to the theatres either due to the scare factor or maybe they didn't find the content lucrative enough to take the risk. Hollywood films too haven't done well," Johar said.

Talking about *Trolls World Tour* and *The War With Grandpa*, Johar said, "I doubt people will go for these films. They are typical Hollywood popcorn flicks. Maybe people in metro cities



would have gone over the weekend, but the COVID cases are rising in Mumbai and Delhi, and the audience are aware of that. They are being cautious. I doubt they would take a risk for these films."

Kunal Sawhney, Senior Vice President, Operations, Carnival

Cinemas, shared that *Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari* has done better than the Hollywood films. "We have seen a small growth in footfalls. It started with youngsters, now families are coming in. The number is still low, but we are seeing a gradual increase. Once the content is there, people will

come back," he said. While Bollywood films are yet to be announced, more new Hollywood movies will be playing at theatres in the country. The Katie Holmes-starrer romantic drama, *The Secret: Dare To Dream*, has been scheduled for a release on November 27. Steven Spielberg's Amblin Partners and Reliance Entertainment's *Come Play* is set to hit theatres on November 27 as well. Hollywood star Gerard Butler will be seen in *Greenland*, which is set for a December 4 release.

Sawhney added, "There has to be good content with good marketing where people are aware that this movie is releasing on this date. Only then will the crowds be back." He is hoping star-studded Bollywood film like *83* and *Sooryavanshi* can probably make people get out of the comfort of their homes and

watch the films on the big screen. Not just Bollywood, even the more hyped Hollywood releases have stayed away. Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* might have opened internationally, but the film is yet to confirm an India release date. On the other hand, the other major film that has been lined up — Daniel Craig's final James Bond act in *No Time To Die* — has been pushed worldwide to 2021.

"Other than Bollywood, once *Tenet* opens, we should get more crowd. We have queries for the US," said Sawhney. Nolan's *Tenet* is also special for Hollywood buffs here because the spy thriller has an India connect. The film, starring Robert Pattinson and John David Washington, also features Dimple Kapadia. Not just that, it was shot in India apart from the US, the UK, Denmark, Estonia, Italy and Norway.

"I think mentally everyone is waiting for January only. I hope we have an upsurge in activities by then," said Johar, who feels that though the footfalls have been low, "one pan-India film would change everything."

## A MUSICAL TREAT

The Hindi version of the film *Trolls World Tour* features singer NEETI MOHAN lending her voice to the lead character. She shares that translation is more than just words, it's about maintaining their intent, style, tone and context. By AYUSHI SHARMA



from one language to another, while maintaining its intent, style, tone and context. A good translation will evoke the same emotions in the target language as it does in the source language. We have to make sure that our tone is suiting the character, the energy level is jumpy, so we have to match that as well. And if the character is in a romantic state, then we have to match that kind of vibe too. These are some of the challenges we usually face. However, I feel the challenges were fun because I love to deliver the vocals as per the visual requirements.

**■ You sang three songs for the film, each quite different from each other. How did you strike a balance between them and the genres?**

Yes, I sang three different songs, one of which was the title track, all the themes quite different from each other. But I have always loved singing in various genres. This wasn't the first time that I did it. I have done it before, so it comes naturally to me. I believe that if you feel the lyrics and the melody, you can easily mould in any genre.

**■ You said that your character Poppy sends across the message that every girl is a queen and a 'go-getter'. Could you give us a deep insight into the character?**

Yes, Poppy sends across the message that every girl is a queen. Poppy is a free-spirited soul who is a 'go-getter'. The character inspires its audience to a great extent, which is why getting the chance to be 'Poppy Mohan' was one of the best things of all time if you ask me. With music being such an integral part of the narrative, a film like this ranks among my most-favorite. I feel that poppy is someone who wants to change the world and is very positive about it. She is an icon of music. She wants to tell every child and every girl that you can make it happen. She conveys a message that you are not alone. I feel like I am myself so much similar to Poppy.

**■ How do you think music tours will see a change now that the pandemic and social distancing norms are here to stay...**

Yes, pandemic has changed the face of live concerts, weddings and parties or any gatherings. It is going to be here for a while unless and until we find the cure. That's going to take a lot of time, so yes, we have resorted to virtual concerts as of now. I haven't performed a live gig in front of the audience as of now but I have been doing Insta Lives and some virtual gigs... I think because of social media, it's quite helpful to stay in touch with fans, connect to a larger audience who can watch your work online. Social media is a great way for individuals and communities to stay connected even while physically separated. For now, it's safe that way.

### 'OTT can be enjoyed anywhere'

Actor Iqbal Khan says OTT platforms create space for stories and experimentation. While content creators should be responsible, self-censorship should not limit storytelling. Iqbal, who was last seen in the web series *Crackdown*, is currently shooting an forthcoming series in the scenic hill town.

"OTT has taken stories to mobiles and laptops, and can be enjoyed anywhere and everywhere."

**'The initial success of OTT prompted me to go for more. I believe that in a short period of time OTT platforms have been able to blur the boundaries of language and geography'**

I believe that over a period of time synergies will work out between these platforms. Content can be customised for the platforms. As the authorities are mulling self-censorship on OTT platforms, cognisance will be taken of the nature of content being released by responsible content creators. I believe that such censorship would not come at the cost of creative freedom.

"The initial success of OTT prompted me to go for more. I believe that in a short period of time OTT platforms have been able to blur the boundaries of language and geography. Now, good content in any language can be viewed and enjoyed in any part of the world. There are so many stories being told online that good actors can explore much more compared to television or films. However, I always choose a project based on content, irrespective of the exhibition platform or the language," Iqbal mentioned.

—JANS

While the year has trolled each one of us in style, saving the best for the last, the animated musical comedy *Trolls World Tour* takes over the theatres. The film features singer Neeti Mohan lending her voice to the lead character — Poppy. With Anna Kendrick regaling the audience in the English version of the film, Neeti lends us all away with three songs in the Hindi version of it: *Koi Geet Gaao, Iss Pal Ko Jo Trolls Toh Kareenge Fun*. Excerpts:

**■ What fascinated you to say yes to the film?**

Singing for animated films, for characters which are trying to tell a story and spread positivity fascinates me the most, especially when it's musical character. That was the main reason why I said yes to the project.

**■ How was your dubbing experience? Was it challenging to translate songs and dialogues to another language?**

Of course, yes! It was definitely challenging. When you are trying to translate something from English to Hindi or any other language for that matter, you don't want to lose out on the poetry or the real essence of it. That's why we wanted to make sure that it sounds amazing and the

**'MY CHARACTER POPPY SENDS ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT EVERY GIRL IS A QUEEN. SHE IS A FREE-SPIRITED SOUL WHO IS A 'GO GETTER'. SHE INSPIRES THE AUDIENCE TO A GREAT EXTENT, WHICH IS WHY GETTING THE CHANCE TO BE HER WAS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS'**



meaning stays the same. We did our best to not lose the meaning of the lyrics in translation. Translation is more than just the words, it's about context, tone and aim. It's the process of adapting a particular text

## WEBBED



### AFTER WE COLLIDED

Tessa fell hard and fast for Hardin but after a betrayal tears them apart, she must decide whether to move on — or trust him with a second chance. The film releases on December 1 on Netflix.



### BHAAG BEANIE BHAAG

Facing disapproving parents, a knotty love life and her own inner critic, an aspiring comic ditches her cushy but unsatisfying life to pursue stand-up. Starring Swara Bhasker, Dolly Singh and Ravi Patel, season 1 releases on December 4 on Netflix.



### TORBAAZ

At an Afghanistan refugee camp, an ex-Army doctor seeks to bring children joy through cricket — and soon realises that the stakes go beyond the sport. Starring Sanjay Dutt, Nargis Fakhri and Rahul Dev, the film releases on December 11 on Netflix.





# Rohit ready to bat anywhere



Rohit Sharma chats with Virat Kohli during India nets session PTI/File Picture

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He has enjoyed and revelled in his role as a Test opener but Rohit Sharma is ready to be flexible about his batting position in the eagerly-anticipated Test series against Australia as per the demands of the team management.

The senior batsman is expected to play a big role alongside Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara when skip-

per Virat Kohli returns to India after the opening Test for the birth of his first child.

"I will tell you the same thing that I have told everyone all this while. I will be happy to bat wherever the team wants me to but I don't know if they would change my role as an opener," Rohit told PTI.

He believes that the team management will have figured out his role in the batting order by the time he would reach Australia after completing the strength and conditioning work at an National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

"I am sure the guys already in Australia must have figured out what are options when Virat leaves and who are the guys who will open the innings," Rohit said.

"Once I reach there, I will probably have a clearer idea of what's going to happen. I will be okay to bat wherever they want," added the dashing batsman, who has a 46-plus average in 32 Tests.

One of the finest players of the hook and pull shots, the Mumbaier believes that the bounce on Australian tracks is sometimes, not as big a factor as it is made out to be.

"We talk about bounce but except for Perth, over the past few years, the other grounds (Adelaide, MCG, SCG), I don't think have that much bounce.

## Rohit, Ishant need to leave for Aus in 3-4 days: Shastri

**SYDNEY:** India head coach Ravi Shastri has expressed his apprehensions about senior players Rohit Sharma and Ishant Sharma's participation in the upcoming Test series if they don't reach Australia in the next few days.

Both Rohit (left hamstring) and Ishant (side strain) are at the NCA undergoing rehabilitation, but the BCCI is yet to announce when the duo would reach Australia.

Considering the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement, it is clear that they would miss the first warm-up game against Australia 'A' at Drummoyne Oval from December 6-8, if they don't depart by Monday.

"He (Rohit) was never going to play the white-ball series, they were just looking to see how long he needed the rest, because you can't afford to be resting for too long," Shastri told ABC Sport. "If you need to play in the Test series or any red-ball cricket, you've got to be on the flight in the next three or four days. If you aren't, then it's going to be difficult."

"Nowadays, especially while opening the batting, I will have to think about not play-

# Was disappointed with Oz snub: SKY

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Anguished beyond words after being overlooked for the tour of Australia, Suryakumar Yadav found comfort in a pep talk with Rohit Sharma.

Soon after his conversation with Mumbai Indians' inspirational captain, Suryakumar's mind was suddenly wired for distraction, and his bat ready to do some more talking.

"That time in the gym Rohit was sitting besides me and he just looked at me, and I said, 'obviously, I am a bit disappointed', because he could see that I was expecting some good news," Suryakumar told PTI.

"Later on he was like 'I just believed you have been doing a great job for the team right now, and instead of thinking about that (non-selection), you just do the same things what you have been since day one in this IPL."

"...and when the time is right, your opportunity will come, may be today or tomorrow but it will come, you just got to believe in yourself," Surya recalled.

The non-selection, despite his prolific run in domestic cricket and the IPL, extended Suryakumar's wait for an India cap.

He said that "those words" from Rohit helped him come out of the disappointment.

"I really felt good because I knew how I was feeling at that time and even he could see it in my eyes clearly. I think to come out of that was a big boost for me," he said.

The 30-year-old Mumbai batsman conceded that the team selection for the Australian tour was at the back of his mind.

"I was a bit disappointed, but he did try a few things to distract himself from the thought."

"During this tournament actually I was a bit disappointed. I knew the team was going to come out, and the same day I tried myself to keep busy, just try and avoid getting that thought — there is a squad selection tonight."

"So I thought I'll just focus on my process and my things properly and instead of thinking about the call up, I will try and keep myself busy, I can go to the gym or maybe spend time with my teammates."

"But yes, at the back of the mind, there was a thought that the team is coming out tonight," he admitted.

And when he saw that his name did not feature in the list, Suryakumar was hurt.

"I sat in a room and started thinking, why my name is not there, but after looking at the squad there were lot of players who got lot of runs and well even they have been playing consistently, doing well for India, doing well in IPL."

"Then I thought instead of thinking about that, I'll just try and keep scoring runs, do my job, what's in my hand, and then wait for the opportunity, whenever it comes, grab with both hands," he said.

When he saw that his name did not feature in the list, Suryakumar was hurt.

"I sat in a room and started thinking, why my name is not there, but after looking at the squad there were lot of players who got lot of runs and well even they have been playing consistently, doing well for India, doing well in IPL."

## Toss-up between Mayank & Gill for opening spot

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The Indian team management will think over the ideal opening combination for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, with a toss-up between Mayank Agarwal and Shubman Gill for the second opener's slot on the cards.

The visiting Indian team has been training for over a week now and while the primary aim is to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, winning the white ball games will certainly increase their confidence.

For skipper Virat Kohli, the key will be to get the combination right in the 50-over games, which are currently low priority going into the next one year with a World Test Championship final spot and the T20 World Cup on their minds.

The last ODI series that India played in New Zealand was a nightmare for the *Men In Blue* who lost 0-3.

Agarwal played all three games in New Zealand with not much success but that would count for little as it happened eight months back.

With Shubman also in the mix, it will be a call that coach Ravi Shastri and Kohli will have to take considering the SCG pitch and the Australian attack.

There was not much difference in terms of form between Gill and Agarwal in the recently-held IPL. The KKR opener scored 440 runs while KXIP's Agarwal had 418 runs in his kitty.

At least, nine players select themselves in the first XI for the ODIs.

The in-form Shikhar Dhawan, skipper Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, wicketkeeper-batsman KL Rahul (another opening option), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah are automatic picks.

While Mohammed Shami may start in the first ODI with India's current fastest bowler Navdeep Saini for company, there is a chance that Shardul Thakur may get a look-in in the Indian team management decides to rest one among Shami and Jasprit Bumrah looking at their workload.

## Ind-Oz series fate lies on selection choices: Chappell

**SYDNEY:** The legendary Ian Chappell believes that Virat Kohli's departure after the first India-Aus Test next month will leave a 'big hole' in the visiting line-up, creating a selection dilemma which could ultimately decide which way the series goes.

Kohli will return home after the first Test in Adelaide from December 17 to 21, to welcome his first child.

The 77-year-old Chappell feels the situation poses a perfect opportunity for young Indian batters to show their skills.

"This creates both a big hole in the Indian batting order and an opportunity for one of their talented young players to make a name for himself," Chappell wrote in a column for ESPNcricinfo.com.

"What was already shaping up as an exciting tussle now has the added sting of crucial selection decisions. The result could well come down to who is the bravest set of selectors."

Stressing on the importance of making correct selection choices, Chappell voted in favour of Will Pucovski over an off-colour Joe Burns to be David Warner's partner at Australia's opening slot.

He differed with Australia coach Justin Langer, who has backed Burns. Chappell said selection should always be made on the basis of current form.

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Australian coach's summation of the choice between incumbent Joe Burns and rising star Will Pucovski for the job of David Warner's opening partner.

"...You shouldn't overestimate the value of the partnership. Burns' contributions last summer equated to an aggregate of 256 runs at an average of 32 with two half-centuries. That is the performance of a below-average Test player," the former Australia skipper said.

"Pucovski has taken a sledgehammer to the entryway by making six centuries at Shield level, three of them doubles; two of those double-hundreds came this season," he added.

But despite Smith's recent issues with the short balls, McDonald doesn't think the Australian run-machine has any weaknesses in his batting.

"I know within a Test match he had that moment with Archer where he got him," McDonald said on Sunday.

"But in terms of coming back off that, he was still able to score runs. Even in one-day cricket and T20 cricket, he's been able to score runs with that plan being adopted by opponents."

"So, I don't necessarily see it as a weakness ... they can keep approaching it that way if they want."

In recent times, quite a few bowlers tried to rattle Smith with short-pitched stuffs and the Australian had also suffered concussion on two occasions after being hit on the neck and head respectively.

The Indians also tried to employ the short-ball strategy against him during the three-match ODI series in January, but the 31-year-old Australian

## McDonald warns against bouncing out Smith

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Attempting to replicate Neil Wagner and Steve Smith with a barrage of bouncers may not be a good idea for the visiting Indians in the upcoming series, according to Australia's assistant coach Andrew McDonald.

Against New Zealand in the 2019-2020 season, Smith was dismissed by left-arm pacer Wagner four times, as the Kiwi consistently attacked the batsman with short-pitched deliveries aimed at his body.

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maestro responded with scores of 98 and 131.

"They had a leg gully, a deep square and a deep man just in front of square and they had everyone up on the off-side during the Powerplay."

"So that's a tactic they've used before, and it's probably to negate the runs that he scores and to try and give themselves the best opportunity to potentially get him out in that area."

"But he was able to combat that in India last time ... so he's had that before and he's worked his way through it. I see this series being no different in the way he approaches it."

McDonald added, "They've used it before and he's done well with it before so I'm suggesting that plan hasn't necessarily worked to its full effect."

## Ronaldo's red-hot form continues

AFF ■ TURIN

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his third brace in five games as champions Juventus moved up to second place in Serie A on Saturday with a 2-0 win over Cagliari in Turin.

Andrea Pirlo's side are one point behind leaders AC Milan, who travel to fourth-placed Atalanta on Sunday. Juventus had been held 1-1 at Lazio last time out — one of four stalemates this season for the nine-time reigning champions — but quickly took charge against the Sardinians.

Pirlo. "There were excellent performances, even from those returning from national teams."

"A lot of them arrived two days ago and did their first training yesterday and were also tired from the trip."

"Tonight they also had fun, performances like this allow the players to gain confidence."

Federico Bernardeschi had an

early goal ruled out for offside before Ronaldo struck twice in a four-minute spell before the break.

The Portuguese striker blasted in an Alvaro Morata cross on 38 minutes, before latching onto a Merih Demiral header from a corner for the second from close range minutes later.

Ronaldo, 35, has come back strong after his coronavirus layoff, scoring eight goals in five games to join Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic at the top of the Serie A scorers' chart.

Ragnar Klavan had a goal disallowed for Cagliari midway through the second half.

But it was Juventus who threatened a third with Demiral, Morata, Bernardeschi and Paulo Dybala having shots at goal.

Dutch defender Matthijs de Ligt played the entire game in his first match

since shoulder surgery in August, a boost for Pirlo's side without injured duo Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini before Tuesday's Champions League game against Hungarian side Ferencváros.

**LUKAKU LIGHTS UP** Romelu Lukaku inspired a remarkable second-half comeback as Inter recovered from 2-0 down to defeat Torino 4-2 and claim their first win for almost a month.

Marco Giampaolo's Torino came into the match with a solitary Serie A win to their name this season but belied that meagre return as the effervescent Simone Zaza crowned an enterprising first-half display with the opening goal.

A penalty from former Inter man Cristian Ansaldi made it 2-0 in the 62nd minute, although Alexis Sanchez swiftly reduced the arrears.

Sanchez turned provider for Lukaku to level in the 67th minute and the Belgian star kept his cool from the spot six minutes from the end of normal time, before Lautaro Martinez came off the bench to make it four shots on target and four goals for Inter in a crazy second half.

## GOLDEN BOY Haaland nets four in Hertha rout



**BERLIN:** Erling Braut Haaland netted four goals and Youssouf Moukoko became the youngest player in Bundesliga history on Saturday as Borussia Dortmund routed Hertha Berlin 5-2 to trim Bayern Munich's lead at the top of the table to just a point.

Haaland equalised when he tapped home an Emre Can pass on 47 minutes.

He grabbed his second two minutes later with perfect timing to slip his marker and fire in a Julian Brandt pass.

Haaland wrapped up his hat-trick on 62 minutes, just before Raphael Guerreiro stabbed the ball home from close range to make it 4-1.

Cunha converted a late penalty, but the night belonged to Haaland who finished with a move he started with 10 minutes to play.

There was still time for history to be made as Moukoko made a late cameo off the Dortmund bench to replace Haaland.

One day after his 16th birthday, Moukoko is the youngest player in Bundesliga history. AFP

## Atlético in pole position Simeone's side record first league victory over Barca in 10 years

AFF ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid delivered a major boost to their hopes of winning La Liga on Saturday by beating Barcelona 1-0 and consigning their opponents to their worst start to a league season in 29 years.

Yannick Carrasco finished brilliantly from range after mistakes from Gerard Pique and Marc-Andre ter Stegen left the goal gaping but Barca, and a below-par Lionel Messi, failed to respond at the Wanda Metropolitano.

Instead, Atletico recorded their first league victory over Barcelona in 10 years, which puts them three points ahead of Real Madrid, with a game in hand, and second in the table, level on points with early leaders Real Sociedad.

It also leaves their opponents languishing in 10th, with Barcelona's 11 points from their first eight games their worst tally at this stage since the 1991-92 season.

"Like any coach, I am responsible," said coach Ronald Koeman. "We know we have to improve the results. I continue to trust the players I have."

Beating Barcelona in La Liga for the first time since 2010 — before Simeone arrived as coach — will do wonders for the Madrid side's belief and extends what is now a considerable advantage in the table.

It also extends Atletico's unbeaten run in the league to 24 matches.

AFF ■ LONDON

Tottenham powered to the top of the Premier League with an impressive 2-0 win against Manchester City at home on Saturday.

Manchester United remained well off the pace in ninth, but did manage a first home win in the Premier League for seven games as Bruno Fernandes's twice-taken penalty saw off lowly West Brom 1-0.

Spurs ended the day on top of the table for the first time in 10 years as goals from Son Heung-min and Giovani Lo Celso saw off a toothless City at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium.

Tottenham took the lead after five minutes as Son ran onto Tangny Ndombele's lofted pass, beat the City offside trap and slotted a cool finish under Ederson for already his 11th goal of the season.

City dominated possession but struggled to create chances and were cut open again for Spurs' second with just their second shot on target.

Lo Celso came off the bench to score just 35 seconds after his introduction as he raced onto Harry Kane's sublime pass to slot past Ederson.

On the one-year anniversary of Jose Mourinho's appointment, Tottenham are unbeaten in their last eight league games since losing to Everton on the opening

## Tottenham on top Spurs reach No 1 position in PL table for first time in six years



weekend, sparking hopes of a genuine title challenge.

The players gave everything and followed a strategy. They were amazing," Mourinho said.

"We found a way to play and it was magnificent to see them play how they did."

Tottenham, who last won the top-flight title in 1961, lead Chelsea by two points with the two set to face each other next weekend.

City are languishing in 11th place, eight points behind the leaders, albeit with a game in hand. Pep Guardiola extended his contract at the Etihad to 2023 this week, but his side look a shadow of the swaggering outfit that won successive league titles in 2018 and 2019.

Twelve points from eight games is City's lowest total at this stage of a Premier League campaign since 2008-09.

"We had more chances than them but we lost. Mourinho's teams are like this, you make a mistake and they punish you on the counter attack," Guardiola said.

**BRUNO SCORES** United still have a long way to go to claw themselves back into title contention as they again flattered to deceive at Old Trafford despite picking up a long-awaited win.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men got two slices of penalty fortune as West Brom were awarded a spot-kick first early in the second-half when Fernandes challenged Connor Gallagher.

However, on review, referee David Coote overturned his original decision.

Moments later, the Red Devils got a penalty for Darnell Furlong's handball.

Fernandes's first effort was saved, but he got a second chance as Sam Johnstone had jumped off his line prior to the Portuguese international's kick.

Fernandes slammed home the reprieve, but was still not happy at missing from the spot for the third time this season.