

OPINION 6
REAL TEST OF LEADERSHIP

MONEY 9

8 CORE INDUSTRIES' OUTPUT CONTRACTS 23.4 % IN MAY

AVENUES 10
CLASSROOM LEARNING IRREPLACEABLE

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JULY 1, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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FINCH IN AWE OF VIRAT'S CONSISTENCY 12 SPORT

PM Garib Ann Yojna extended till November

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



PM exhorts people to maintain social distancing to fight coronavirus scare

death rate in India has stabilised in comparison to other countries in the globe on account of timely imposition of lockdown and important measures taken by the Government.

The Prime Minister, however, regretted that people are turning "careless" as country moves to unlock-2 phase. "Laparvahi badti chali jaa rahi hain", (carelessness is increasing), he said, adding "We need to be more alert, especially in the containment zone".

The Prime Minister said those who are "flouting norms" in this stage of pandemic need to be counselled. "Jo laparvahi kar rahain hain unkro rokna, tokna aur samjhana hogा," Modi said.

Continued on Page 2

Beijing provokes India by putting up massive banners on Pangong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The inscriptions, located between "Finger 4" and "Finger 5" of the Pangong Tso, where the Chinese soldiers are present, measure approximately 81 metres in length and 25 metres in breadth. These maps were picked up by satellites.

Senior commanders of the Chinese army were also last week photographed repainting the character of "China" in a frontier position along the India-China boundary.

At present, the eyeball on eyeball confrontation between "Finger 4" to "Finger 8" is on between the two armies since May 5. Fingers denote mountain spurs and India has all along maintained that it has the right to patrol up to "Finger 8".

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India, China agree to more talks

No breakthrough, but two sides agree to sustain tempo of dialogue to maintain peace and tranquility at border

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A situation remained tense at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for more than 50 days now, Corps Commanders of the Indian and Chinese armies held the third round of talks on Tuesday to end the impasse. Though there was no major breakthrough in the marathon parleys, the two sides agreed to sustain the tempo of dialogue to maintain peace and tranquility at the border.

The talks between Leh based 14 Corps chief Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin, commander of South Xinjiang Military District, were held at Chushul border meeting point on the LAC. This was the third round of parleys between the two commanders since June 6 to defuse tension at the LAC.

Matters took a turn for the worst on June 15 when a bloody brawl broke out between the Chinese and Indian troops at the Galwan valley leaving 20 Indian Army personnel martyred. Against that backdrop, the two military bosses met on June 22 for the second time and arrived at "mutual consensus" to disengage from the stand-off sites.

The two sides discussed modalities to disengage from all the "friction" areas.

There are at least four "friction" points, including the Galwan valley, Pangong Tso,

Hot Springs and Gogra. Adding to these sites, the Chinese of late have started military activities on their side of the LAC in the Depsang valley. This area saw face-off for more than four weeks in 2013 before intervention at the highest diplomatic and military levels brought the situation under control.

Given this scenario, the two commanders reviewed the progress in the latest round of talks on Tuesday. Though there was no noticeable movement in the proposed de-escalation with China continuing with its

military build-up in the Galwan valley and Pangong Tso (lake), the two sides nonetheless concurred on keeping all lines of communication open, sources said here.

They also said as the Chinese have intruded more than five km in the Pangong Tso area and have built bunkers in that region besides the Galwan valley, the Indian armed forces are ready for a long haul. The security establishment is more or less convinced now that the Chinese are in no hurry to abide by the

agreements on June 6 and 22 and have not withdrawn their troops from the face-off points.

Insisting that the Chinese disengage at the earliest, India on Tuesday conveyed to the Chinese side that status quo ante prior to May 5 must be restored, sources said. However, the Chinese, have shown no inclination to ease the pressure on the LAC. India has taken counter measures in terms of enhanced force levels and deployment of heavy weaponry in the operational areas.

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edges the mutually beneficial nature of China-India economic and trade cooperation, and urge the Indian side to change its discriminatory practices, maintain the momentum of China-India economic and trade cooperation, treat all investments and service providers equally, and create an open, fair and just business environment, while bearing in mind the fundamental interests of both sides and the overall interests of bilateral relations," the Chinese embassy added in its statement.

The TikTok app now displays a "network error" alongside a notice that reads, "Dear users, we are in the process of complying with the Government of India's directive to block 59 apps. Ensuring the privacy and security of all our users in India remains our utmost priority."

Asserting that it has not shared information of Indian users with any foreign Government, including that of China, Tik Tok said it has been invited to meet with concerned Government stakeholders for an opportunity to respond and submit clarifications.

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"India's measure, selectively and discriminatorily aims at certain Chinese apps on ambiguous and far-fetched grounds, runs against fair and transparent procedure requirements, abuses national security exceptions, and suspects of violating the WTO rules. It also goes against the general trend of international trade and e-commerce, and is not conducive to consumer interests and the market competition in India," reads the statement.

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LADAKH FACE-OFF

US senators express solidarity with India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Top US senators have expressed solidarity with India as they slammed China for its "unwarranted and lawless armed aggression" against the country.

Top Republican Senator Marco Rubio on Monday spoke with India's Ambassador to the US Tarunjit Singh Sandhu and expressed solidarity with the people of India on the Chinese aggression. "I spoke to Amb Sandhu to express our solidarity with the people of #India as they firmly confront unwarranted and lawless armed aggression by the Communist Party of China," Rubio tweeted.

"India has made it clear they will not be bullied by Beijing," the top Republican Senator from Florida said.

On the Senate Floor, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, for the second time in less than a week, accused China of aggression against India.

A day earlier, Senator Tom Cotton slammed China for its aggression against India. "China has resumed its submarine intrusions in the Japanese contiguous zones and picked deadly fights with India at high altitude," the top Republican Senator from Arkansas said.

"Just go around the horn. You started in India, where, high up in the Himalayas, China has essentially invaded India, an ally of ours. And they have killed 20 Indian soldiers," Cotton told Fox News.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last several weeks, and the tension escalated manifold after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash in the Galwan Valley on June 15.

The Chinese soldiers used stones, nail-studded sticks, iron rods and clubs in carrying out the brutal attacks on Indian soldiers after they

protested the erection of a surveillance post by China on the Indian side of the Line of

Actual Control (LAC) in Galwan.

The two sides are holding

diplomatic and military-level talks to ease the situation along the LAC.

UK MPs flag China's 'bullying behaviour' with India

PTI ■ LONDON

British MPs have raised concerns in Parliament over China's "bullying behaviour" in the border dispute with India and the "delayed declaration" of Covid-19 and urged an internal review into the UK's dependence on China with a view to reducing collaboration with the country.

Conservative Party MP Ian Duncan Smith raised the issue as part of an urgent question in the House of Commons on Monday evening on the "mis-treatment" by the Chinese government of the Uyghur minor-

ity in Xinjiang province.

"Given the Chinese government's appalling record on human rights, their attack on freedoms in Hong Kong, their bullying behaviour in border disputes from the South China seas to India, their blatant breaching of the rules-based order governing the free market and their delayed declaration on COVID-19, will the government now initiate an internal review of the UK's dependence on China, with a view to significantly reducing that dependence?" questioned Smith.

UK Minister for Asia Nigel

Adams responded to say that the UK government has been regularly raising its concerns with China over various issues.

"On a full government review, our approach to China remains clear-eyed and is rooted in our values and interests. It has always been the case that when we have concerns we raise them, and that where we need to intervene we will," he said.

Opposition Labour Party MP Stephen Kinnock also pressed the minister over the "increasingly belligerent" behaviour of China towards its own people and neighbouring countries.

India supports UN initiative to stop spread of Covid-19 misinformation, fake news

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India is supporting a global initiative by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres that aims to stop the spread of misinformation and fake news related to coronavirus on social media and has also co-authored a cross-regional statement to fight the "infodemic" or the manipulated information relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We support @antonguterres UN Communications Response initiative #VERIFIED and call for global action to fight #infodemic in times of #COVID19," India's Permanent Mission to the UN tweeted.

India, along with Australia, Chile, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Latvia, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Senegal and South Africa co-authored a cross-regional statement on infodemic and so far 132 countries have joined the statement that focuses on the need to spread fact-based content to counter misinformation on coronavirus.

The UN had launched 'Verified', an initiative to combat the growing scourge of Covid-19 misinformation by increasing the volume and reach of trusted, accurate information. Through the initiative, the UN is calling on people around the world to "pause" the Pause campaign said.

before sharing content that may be false or have misinformation on social media.

The pause campaign is launching Tuesday, coinciding with Social Media Day, and consists of videos, graphics and colourful gifs that stress sharing only trusted and accurate science-based social media content.

Fake news is causing global harm. Misinformation spreading around the world is hampering our ability to make progress on many of the world's most pressing issues: from fighting the pandemic, to the struggle for racial justice and the climate emergency," the Pause campaign said.

2 US senators introduce legislations to strengthen India-US defence ties

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Two top senators from the ruling Republican and opposition Democratic parties have introduced legislations to strengthen the India-US defence ties, especially in the area of the fifth-generation fighter aircraft and to accelerate joint research and development in the military field.

Moving an amendment to the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) 2021, Senator Mark Warner and Senator John Cornyn asked for assessment from Defence Secretary Mark Esper whether the Israel-US Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation and Fund provides a model for US-India private sector col-

laboration on defence and critical technologies.

Warner is Vice Chairman of the powerful House Intelligence Committee while Cornyn is the Republican Whip. Both are co-chairs of the powerful Senate India Caucus.

Their legislative amendment asks the Defence Secretary to provide a briefing on joint defence and related industrial and technology research and development and personnel exchange opportunities between the US and India.

It also seeks assessment of whether additional funds are necessary for the defence technology and trade initiative for seed funding and personnel exchanges.

Senator Cornyn, in another

amendment to NDAA, asked the Defence Secretary to provide India a briefing on the fifth-generation fighter jets programme of the US within 180 days of the passage of the legislation.

The amendment seeks a report from the Pentagon to the Congress on the topics covered in the briefing and recommendations for increasing cooperation between the two countries as India develops its own fifth-generation fighter aircraft.

Cornyn and Warner have moved another amendment jointly to include India in the list of NATO plus countries like Israel and New Zealand when it comes to exporting top secret American defence technology and equipment to India.

Another resolution moved by Senator John Sullivan seeks expansion of defence-specific engagement in multilateral frameworks, including the quadrilateral dialogue among the US, India, Japan and Australia to promote regional security and defend shared values and common interests in the rules-based order.

Seeking to pursue strategic initiatives to help develop the defence capabilities of India, the resolution says that the US conducts additional combined exercises with India in the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean and western Pacific regions.

The resolution also urges the Pentagon to focus on several priority areas for cooperation, including Air Launched Small Unmanned Aerial

Systems, Lightweight Small Arms Technologies, and Intelligence Surveillance, Targeting and Reconnaissance.

The US should commend India on its recent, continued, and positive trajectory on decreasing purchases of Russian-made weapons systems and encourage them to be mindful of when considering future purchases of Russian-made systems," Sullivan's amendment said.

An amendment to NDAA 2021 moved by Senator Cory Gardner supports India against the Chinese aggression in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh and says that the two countries should work toward de-escalating the situation along the Line of Actual Control.

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The US should commend India on its recent, continued, and positive trajectory on decreasing purchases of Russian-made weapons systems and encourage them to be mindful of when considering future purchases of Russian-made systems," Sullivan's amendment said.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

DCGI nod must for plasma bank, trial

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Throwing a spanner in the Delhi Government's ambitious plans to set up a Plasma Bank, the Centre in its revised guidelines for blood transfusion services in India has made it clear that for the collection of convalescent plasma and the clinical trials specifically for this purpose should be as prescribed by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

The guidelines which were issued on Monday with an aim to maintain a safe and adequate blood supply during the Covid-19 pandemic, also said that the use of convalescent plasma for routine treatment of virus infected patients is not recommended at present.

This means that the Delhi Government will have to seek nod from the drug regulator everytime it plans for plasma therapy, which might delay the treatment process.

The Union Health Ministry has updated the second interim-national guidance for blood transfusion services-taking inputs from the World Health Organisation (WHO) interim guidance and newer evidence generated for Covid-19.

Dr Sunil Gupta, additional director general, Blood Transfusion Services at NACO, has requested all the State AIDS Control Societies and State Blood Transfusion Councils to adopt the guidelines to their specific needs



Dr Sunil Gupta, additional director general, Blood Transfusion Services at NACO, has requested all the State AIDS Control Societies and State Blood Transfusion Councils to adopt the guidelines to their specific needs

The latest guidance of safe blood transfusion service is in the suppression of the first guidance issued by NBTC on March 25.

While revising the existing national guidance for blood transfusion service, the National Blood Transfusion Councils (NBTC) has updated the exclusion criteria for donors to maintain blood safety, infection control measures etc. Use of facemask by healthcare providers in blood centre, blood mobile van or an outdoor blood donation camp shall be mandatory to prevent transmission of the virus.

The guidelines include factors like criteria for post-donation care, recommendation on testing of blood and blood components for Covid-19 pathogen reduction technologies etc, managing the supply chain system for commodities required in blood transfusion services, collection of convalescent plasma besides managing the supply chain system for commodities required in the blood transfusion service."

Though the guideline enables a platform for the collection of convalescent plasma to help re-entry of cured Covid-19 patients as donors for convalescent plasma for treatment of virus infected patients, it transplant cannot be done without the approval of the DCGI.

Moreover, says the government document, the necessary guidelines for collection of convalescent plasma the recovered COVID-19 patients for the treatment of such cases will be issued as when the efficacy of this form of treatment is established and approved by the competent bodies.

The Delhi Government on Monday, the day the guidelines were issued had announced setting up the plasma bank within next few days to treat the patient with specific symptoms with Plasma therapy.

The State Government had supported its move by citing cases of Covid cured patients after they received Plasma therapy.

FCI has surplus stock to meet PM Garib Ann Yojana till November

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana till November, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has 816.60 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in its buffer stocks to meet the requirements under the scheme. The Centre needs only 200 lakh tonnes of food grains to continue the scheme till November to 81 crore beneficiaries.

According to the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs data, as per the FCI report dated June 28, FCI currently has 266.29 lakh tonnes of rice and 550.31 lakh tonnes of wheat. Hence, a total of 816.60 lakh tonnes of food grain stock is available (excluding the ongoing purchase of wheat and paddy, which have not yet reached the godown). The FCI has transported 277.73 lakh tonnes across the country since lockdown which was imposed on March 25.

Earlier, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY), allocation of about 120 lakh tonnes of food grains was made between April and June. According to the ministry, a total of 116.02 lakh tonnes of food grains have been lifted. In the month of April 2020, 37.02 lakh tonnes (93 per cent) food grains have been distributed to states/UTs and 5.58 lakh tonnes have reached the states/UTs, while 4.40 lakh tonnes of pulses have been distributed.

On foodgrain procurement, the Centre said that as on June 28, 388.34 lakh tonnes of wheat and 745.66 lakh tonnes paddy were procured.

So far, 5.79 lakh tonnes of pulses have been dispatched to states/UTs and 5.58 lakh tonnes have reached the states/UTs, while 4.40 lakh tonnes of pulses have been distributed.

As on June 1, 2020, the 'One Nation One Card' scheme is enabled in 20 states/UTs, namely - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Daman & Diu (Dadra and Nagar Haveli), Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Tripura.

The existing National Food Security Act provides 5kg of foodgrain per person monthly at

a subsidised rate of ₹2-3 per kg to the country's poor. Under the PMGKAY, the ration quota was enhanced by another 5 kg apart from one kg of grams for free for the next five months in June.

Under AtmaNirbhar Bharat package, the Centre decided to provide 8 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to about 8 crore migrant labourers, stranded and needy families, who are not covered under NFSA or State scheme PDS cards. "The states and union territories (UTs) have lifted 6.39 lakh tonnes of food grains. States and UTs have distributed 99,207 tonnes of food grains to total 209.96 lakh (in the May 12.08 lakh and in June 89.88 lakh) beneficiaries," the ministry said. The Government also approved 39,000 tonnes of pulses for 1.96 crore migrant families.

As regards pulses, the total requirement for the three months is 5.87 lakh tonnes. The Centre is bearing 100 per cent financial burden of about ₹5,000 crore under this scheme.

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BSF second paramilitary after ITBP with over 1,000 coronavirus cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



With the emergence of 53 new positive cases during the last 24 hours, the BSF has become the second paramilitary to have breached the 1,000-mark in terms of novel coronavirus infection in the ranks after the CRPF that reported a record 88 Covid positive cases during the day to reach the tally of 1,219 infected personnel.

Out of the total 1,219 infected personnel in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), including 88 new cases during the last 24 hours, the paramilitary has 555 active cases and 655 recovered patients besides nine deaths.

The Border Security Force (BSF) has at present 354 active Covid-19 patients and 659 personnel have recovered from the pandemic. The paramilitary has reported four

deaths due to coronavirus infections besides a road accident victim who was later tested to be positive for the viral disease. The BSF has tally of 1,018 infected personnel till now.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) reported 14 new cases of Covid-19 infection during the last 24 hours and one infected person recovered during the period.

The ITBP has 94 active cases now after 237 persons recovered from the disease.

Out of the 94 active cases in the ITBP ranks, 23 cases are from the national Capital and the remaining from various formations across the country.

Out of the 23 active cases in ITBP in Delhi, 21 are

admitted at CAPF Referral Hospital, Greater Noida and one each at Safdarjung Hospital and MCD Hospital, both in the national Capital.

The CRPF is engaged in internal security roles across the country, including enforcement of lockdown measures, and a number of infections were initially contracted during such duties, officials said. The BSF, essentially a border guarding force, also contracted the disease in the initial phase of the spread due to deployment in aid of civil police, including the national.

The CAPF Referral Hospital, Greater Noida is also managing 11 patients of BSF, 36 of CRPF, 54 of CISF, seven from SSB, two of NIA, one of NSG, two from Intelligence Bureau besides one each from NTRO, NDRF and former BSF personnel.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cong disappointed at silence on LAC in PM's address to nation

T

he Congress expressed its disappointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation on Tuesday, where he announced an extension to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for free distribution of food grains to the poor till the end of November this year.

Congress questioned why the PM didn't address the issue of Chinese incursions.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi used a Urdu poetry to criticise the PM's speech. "Don't beat about the bush, tell us who snatched our land. We have no grudge against those who stole what is ours, but we have questions about your leadership," Rahul

tweeted soon after Modi's speech.

The Congress criticised the PM's speech and said: "We need to move beyond the symbolic gesture of banning 59 Chinese apps; we are importing

more from China. Is this our response to 20 bravehearts losing their lives? We need more decisive decisions and real steps".

The party alleged that the PM was as usual in election mode keeping an eye on Bihar assembly elections due around Diwali and Chhath this year.

"Forget condemning China, the PM is too afraid to even talk about it in his national address," a tweet on the Congress's official handle said, a few minutes after the prime minister's address finished.

"Another national address that could have been a Government notification," the party said in another tweet preceding the one related to the Chinese incursion question.

The Congress has been demanding that the Prime Minister clarifies on his earlier remark on China made during the all party meet. The party has attacked the Prime Minister

ever since alleging that he had denied the incidents of Chinese intrusion across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in contradiction with his own government's official statements confirming the occupation of Indian territory by the Chinese army.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi asked the Prime Minister to explain how he proposes to drive Chinese troops out of Ladakh.

"The whole country knows that China has snatched India's land. We all know the Chinese are at four places in Ladakh. Please tell the country how you will evict the Chinese troops and when?" he asked in a video address barely an hour before the Prime Minister's address to the nation.

He also took a swipe at the BJP over the rising imports from China to allege that the 'Make in India' was not effective.

WESTERN RAILWAY

No. S/I/SII/Auction Programme/July-1/2020-21 Dated : 26.06.2020

E-AUCTION SALE DURING JULY, 2020 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP

Special Attention : All Steel Purchasers & Re-Rollers

Public e-Auction for disposal of P. way scrap, Rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in July, 2020 as per program given below :-

| 1st Round | Depot | Depot Officer-in-Charge | Contact No. |
|------------|----------------|--|---------------------------|
| 22.07.2020 | Ahmedabad | Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Ahmedabad | 07922205888, 09724093750 |
| 23.07.2020 | Vadodara | Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Vadodara | 02652641592, 0724091750 |
| 24.07.2020 | Sabarmati | Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Sabarmati | 07927500080, 09724093774 |
| 25.07.2020 | Pratapnagar | Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Dahod | 02673241295, 09724090455 |
| 27.07.2020 | Ratlam | Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Ratlam | 07412230080, 0972492750 |
| 28.07.2020 | Rajkot | Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Rajkot | 02812476943, 09724094770 |
| 28.07.2020 | Mahalakshmi | Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Mahalakshmi | 022-24929571, 09004495750 |
| 29.07.2020 | Bhavnagar Para | Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Bhavnagar Para | 02782444360, 09724090455 |
| 29.07.2020 | Dahod | Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Dahod | 02673241295, 09724090455 |
| 30.07.2020 | Mumbai Central | Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Mumbai Central | 022-23094142, 09004499006 |

For detailed information, please contact the concerned Depot Officers.

Note : 1. Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. **2.** e-Auction will start as per scheduled time. **3.** e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.irps.gov.in e-Auction portal. **4.** In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, Digital Signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot Officer. **5.** All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway.

03 For Principal Chief Materials Manager
Vishal Agarwal (Advocate)
For Divian and Company LLP
Advocates and Solicitors
House No. 12(LGF), NRI Complex, New Delhi-19
Mobile No: 9813939999

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EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31.03.2020

| Sr. No. | PARTICULARS | Quarter Ended | (Amount in Lakhs) | |
|---------|--|---------------|-------------------|------------|
| | | | 31.03.2020 | 31.03.2019 |
| 1. | Total income from operations (Net) | 1615.15 | 1538.78 | 5967.19 |
| 2. | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | 6.67 | 92.54 | 66.44 |
| 3. | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | 6.67 | 92.54 | 66.44 |
| 4. | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | (1.11) | 97.66 | 44.19 |
| 5. | Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)] | (1.11) | 97.66 | 44.19 |
| 6. | Paid-up Equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each) | 329.00 | 329.00 | |

60 deaths, 3,943 new cases in TN; Chennai sees 2,393 +ve

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu saw 60 persons losing their lives to Covid-19 while 3,943 new patients getting diagnosed with the pandemic on Tuesday, according to the State Government's media release.

The press release said till date 90, 167 persons in the State were diagnosed with covid-19. As on Tuesday, there were 38,889 active cases in the State while 50,074 patients were

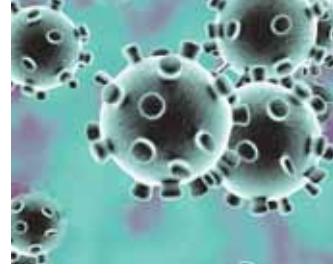
include 57 patients who had co-morbid issues which means they were suffering from serious ailments like diabetes mellitus, kidney malfunctioning, hypertension and cardiovascular problems.

The press release said till date 90, 167 persons in the State were diagnosed with covid-19. As on Tuesday, there were 38,889 active cases in the State while 50,074 patients were

cured from the pandemic and are back in their homes.

Tamil Nadu continued aggressive testing through 90 laboratories which tested 30,053 patients on Tuesday. The State has till date tested 1.1 million persons on till date.

Chengalpet (160), Thiruvallur (153), Kanchipuram (90), Madurai (246) were the other districts which showed unabated



increase in the number of coronavirus afflicted persons. M K Stalin, leader of opposition and DMK chief lambasted the Tamil Nadu Government for not releasing district-wise and hospital-wise details of testing. "The information given in the press releases issued by the Government on a daily basis are mere claims. Had the Chief Minister taken the effort to read the releases

issued by me over the last three months and tried to follow the suggestions given in them, the State would not have seen such a situation like this," said Stalin.

Dr C V Krishnaswamy, Chennai's octogenarian physician and leading diabetologist said he was at pains to understand the logic behind the Government extending the lockdown till July 5 and then

shifting to the pre-June 19 mode. "The lockdown has seen the number of covid-19 patients going up to almost 4,000 per day. The sick has become more sick while the healthy has become more healthy. Had they allowed the people to move freely, such a scenario would not have happened. I do feel that the Tamil Nadu government has lost direction," said Dr Krishnaswamy.

Didi tops Modi bounty with free grains till June next yr

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

While critics called it the beginning of a pre-electoral battle of bounties Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday responded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's extension of free ration package till November --- just around when Bihar elections are scheduled to take place --- with a more-than-matching largesse of free ration that would continue till 2021 June when the State Assembly polls are likely to end.

"They are giving free ration till the month of November... So we will give it till the month of June next year," Banerjee said reminding that "Bengal is giving a better deal than the Centre insofar as the quality of the rice is concerned as we directly procure the good quality rice from the farmers but they take it rice from FCI... additionally we are also giving flour along with rice."

Referring to the central scheme she said that the package announced by the Union Government only covers 60 percent people unlike how it works in Bengal.

"Here in Bengal we provide free ration to the entire population of more than 10 crore people but their scheme is limited to only half of the population. The Central scheme caters to only 6 crore population of Bengal whereas my scheme reaches each and every household. So I will request the Prime Minister to extend his scheme to the entire 130 crore people of the country," Banerjee said questioning the efficacy of

Not only apps, hit harder: Mamata

Kolkata: Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that banning Chinese apps would not suffice and demanded stricter action to teach the north-eastern neighbours a lesson so that they "do not dare look at our mother land."

Responding to questions on what she felt about India banning the Chinese apps Banerjee said "normally the stance of our party is not to meddle with international

affairs and we strongly stand by the decisions that our Government takes to tackle Chinese designs but my suggestion is that our steps should not be half-hearted." Whatever decision India takes should be fully and vigorously implemented, she said adding "we want more steps to be taken so that no one dares look at our motherland. They should be given a befitting reply."

PNS

the one country one ration card scheme too.

"From our childhood we have seen different kinds of ration cards, from the long white ones to blue and red ones to the digital ones and now we are listening to a new slogan of one nation one ration card... the concept is still not clear to me," she said wondering whether this scheme was equivalent to the other schemes like "one nation one election or one nation one leader etc."

On Monday she had launched a circumspect attack against the Centre for refusing to disclose details on the PM CARES Fund, wondering why Delhi was not disclosing the amount it had received.

"We have nothing to hide on how much we have received. We are not shying away from talking about it," she said adding her government has so far got Rs 190 crore to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and for Amphan relief. She said the state government has released Rs 6,500 crore and more will be

required.

Earlier on Tuesday the Chief Minister said that her Government was writing three letters to the Centre requesting it to restrict regular flights from hotspot areas to a single flight a week, besides appealing for withdrawal of special laws related to cooperative banks.

Our Chief Secretary is writing to the Centre to restrict flights from hotspot areas to Bengal to one flight a week," she said. "In fact we will ask the Centre to stop flights from such areas altogether for two coming weeks at least," Banerjee said adding a second letter was going with a "request of repealing the new legislations sought to hammer the cooperative banks which are very useful to run state's economy."

Besides "we are also writing to the Centre to start the Metro services at least to ferry those people who are associated with essential services during the corona times," Banerjee said.

Operation all out in full steam, 51 ultras killed in June 2020

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Operation 'all out' is going full steam in Jammu and Kashmir. In the month of June 2020, the joint teams of security forces have gunned down 51 terrorists, highest so far in one month since November 2018.

The highest number of 28 terrorists were neutralised in South Kashmir's Shopian district alone while 10 terrorists were gunned down in Pulwama, 5 in Anantnag, 2 each in Kulgam and Baramulla and four in Rajouri district.

According to Dilbagh Singh, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police, "despite repeated attempts aimed at pushing heavily armed infiltrators inside the Indian territory the multi layered security grid remains intact and fully alert to foil nefarious designs of Pakistan".

He said in the first six months, the security forces have so far eliminated 128 terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

Out of this, pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit suffered maximum hits. At least 70 terrorists of Hizbul Mujahideen, 20 each of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and rest from different terror outfits were gunned down by the security forces in clean operations.

In the majority of operations conducted in South Kashmir districts, the security forces didn't suffer any major collateral damage and attempts were made to ensure zero loss of life and property of civilians near the encounter site.

DGP, however, maintained that the terrorist launch pads

were active in Pakistan and attempts were being made to infiltrate terrorists into India. In the past many such attempts were foiled and they will be foiled in the future also," he said.

He also said that it was being noticed that there was a decline in the number of local boys joining terror ranks. At present, only 24 fresh recruits are active in the Kashmir valley and a large number of misguided youth, who had taken up arms have been restored back to their families after counselling them.

Interacting with the local media in Poonch, after reviewing the security situation in border districts, DGP said, on Tuesday two terrorists involved in the killing of a five-year-old child and a CRPF jawan last week were eliminated in the village Wagham area of Anantnag.

The joint operation was conducted by the JKP, 3RR and CRPF in the said area.

According to a police spokesman, during the search operation as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given the opportunity to surrender, however they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, 02 unidentified terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said that both the killed terrorists along with terrorist Zahid were involved in killing of one Policeman last year and killings of two CRPF personnel and one minor boy recently.

Madras HC orders CB-CID to probe custodial deaths till CBI takes charge

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

threatened by the cops," said the judges.

The High Court also initiated suo motu criminal contempt proceedings against ASP D.Kumar, DSP C.Prathabhan and constable Murugan, who had made some disparaging remarks against the Judicial Magistrate when the latter went to the station for the investigation. Based on the directions of the court, all the three police personnel appeared before the court on Tuesday. The judges directed them to give an explanation for intimidating the Kovilpatti Judicial Magistrate with the accused cops.

Though the Additional Advocate General informed the Court that the Tamil Nadu Government had ordered a CBI probe into the death of Jeyaraaj and Fenix, the Court said till the time the CBI officials take charge of the investigation, cops belonging to the CB-CID should conduct the investigation as it cannot be left to the officials manning the police station.

While the three officials were suspended from service pending investigation, the policemen and officers attached to the Sattankulam Police Station too were transferred en masse. The State Government on its part transferred the district superintendent of police by Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile Tenkasi SP announced on Tuesday that the probe into the death of Murugesan who died allegedly due to police brutality was happening in proper lines. "A deputy superintendent of police level official is in charge of the investigation and we hope to come out with the details soon," said Suguna Singh, Tenkasi SP.

Murugesan (25) died last Saturday after Police officials who had summoned him to the station in connection with a property dispute case allegedly manhandled him and employed third degree measures.

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Phone : 011-25611041, 25611042, 25611043, 25611044
E-mail : legal@kangrabank.com, legal10@kangrabank.com Website : www.kangrabank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

In terms of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (34) thereof, the Bank has taken over the possession of the under mentioned property.

The Bank intends to sell the property **DETAILED HEREUNDER** on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" THROUGH "SALE BY INVITING TENDERS", as per brief particulars given hereunder:

1. Name of Borrower: Mortgagor & Branch: Sh.Jagbir Singh S/o. Sh. Jeet Ram, R/o. H. No. 11/1125, Top Floor, Right Side, Govind Puri, New Delhi-110019. Also at: M/s. Samrat Car Rental, Shop No.38, Mini Market, DDA Flats,Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. (Borrower & Mortgagor) (Govindpuri Branch) Amount Recoverable: ₹ 10,30,120/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 30-06-2018 till the date of payment. Description of Property: Right side terrace rights of third floor (top floor), consisting of two bed rooms, drawing/dining, one kitchen, two toilet/bathrooms and balcony of built-up property no.1125, gali no.11, out of khasra no.93, measuring 75 sq. yds. (62.7 sq. mtrs.) out of total measuring 150 sq.yds., situated at Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. Reserve Price: Rupees Twenty Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only ₹ 20,25,000/- Earnest Money Deposit: 10% of the Reserve price i.e. Rupees Two Lakhs Two Thousand Five Hundred Only ₹ 2,02,500/-

* The above mentioned property(s) shall be sold on "as is where is basis" and "as is what is basis" and "as is wherever is basis"; except, all the costs and expenses relating to pending electricity, water and house tax bills regarding the above mentioned properties from the date of its possession by the Bank till the same are being sold by the Bank, shall be borne by the Bank, the afore mentioned cost and expenses before the date of possession shall be borne by the concerned borrower(s)/mortgagor(s).

* The aforesaid property(s) shall not be sold below the Reserve Price as mentioned above.

* The successful bidder/tenderer shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the Earnest Money Deposit paid already, immediately after the acceptance of Bid/Tender to the Authorised Officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposit given/paid already shall be forfeited, and in default of such deposit, the aforesaid property(s) shall forthwith be sold again.

* The balance 75% of the sale price shall be payable on or before 15th day of confirmation of the sale by the Bank or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing between the parties. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited, and the aforesaid property(s) shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims towards the aforesaid property(s) or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.

* The provisions of Private Treaty as provided in Law may be resorted to in case of need or if warranted so.

* The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders/bids/offers without assigning any reasons thereof.

* The successful purchaser would bear the Professional charges/fee payable, such as drafting, documentation, stamp duty, registration fee and any other incidental expenses thereto, as applicable as per law.

* The above named borrowers/mortgagors attention is also invited to provision of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the above mentioned property.

* This publication is also 15 days notice to the above named borrower/mortgagor/surety.

Bid/Tenders alongwith Bank Draft/Pay order of the Earnest Money Deposit amount as mentioned in this Sale Notice, are invited in sealed covers by the undersigned from the intending buyer(s) for purchase of the above mentioned property(ies), at the Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058. The last date for submission of the bid/tenders is 20-07-2020 which shall be opened on 21-07-2020 at 4.00 P.M. at the Office of the AGM/Authorised Officer of the Bank i.e. at Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.

The intending buyers/purchasers may inspect the property(s) on 14-07-2020 between 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., Bank Draft/Pay Order for EMD should be in favour of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", account Sh. Jagbir Singh S/o/Sh.Jeet Ram GP/15/67, Membership No.39171.

The other terms and conditions of the sale can be obtained from the AGM/Authorised Officer or the Manager (Legal) of the Bank, from Head Office at C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.

RAMESH CHAND KASANA
AGM/AUTHORISED OFFICER
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
HEAD OFFICE AT C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE,
PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPUR, NEW DELHI-110058,
PHONE NO. 9820040076, 9013568402.

DELHI, DATED: 29.06.2020

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. II, JAMMU

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 36 of 2020-2021/Div-2 Dated 27-06-2020

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Construction Division No. II, Jammu Department Jammu on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, invites tenders by-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. Upto 1800 Hrs on 04-07-2020 for the following work.

S.No. 1 **Name of Work :- Providing and laying Wet Mix Macadam, 50mm thick Bitumen Macadam and 25mm Open Graded Premix Carpet on Janipur Ambroga road in Km 20th RD 0 to Km 21st RD 1000. (UNDERCRF)**

Name of Division:- PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu

Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):- 88.05, Cost of document (Rs.): - 1000

Earnest Money (Rs.):- 1,76,100/-, Time allowed for completion :- 01 month, Time & date of opening of tender :- 06-07-2020 1400 hours

Class of Contractor :- Hot Mix Plant Holder/ 'A' Class Contractor

NOTE: Contractors who have got Contractors cards issued from Kashmir Province, it is mandatory for them to upload their verification certificate of Crime Branch alongwith other qualifying documents failing which their tenders will be declared non-responsive.

1/ Date of Publishing from :- 29-06-2020

2/ The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://tktenders.gov.in from 29-06-2020 to 04-07-2020 (1800 hrs).

**No. DIP/J-1835/20
Dated: 29.06.2020**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu**

PNS

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
CIVIL SURGEON GENERAL HOSPITAL, GADCHIROLI**

Medical Complex, Gadchiroli - 442605



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Ban on China apps

The People's Republic of China has proven itself to not act in good faith. This hitback was coming ever since June 15



The news that India has banned 59 Chinese-made apps did not really come as a huge surprise to many ever since the unfolding of events on June 15. Highly popular applications such as TikTok, Shareit and WeChat have been banned. Some of these apps count India among their biggest markets. For example, India is the biggest driver of the TikTok app and the ban is expected to hit its owner ByteDance hard as it had plans to invest \$1 billion here. So, it would be prudent for the Government to make a watertight data security and privacy case for banning these apps, much of which have been surreptitiously used for data mining and surveillance. As it is China is countering the ban as a violation of WTO and fair trade rules. Which is why India should be thorough in making a case for national security. This wouldn't be too difficult for some apps such as TikTok. It is unfortunate though that several Indian youth, particularly from the subaltern classes, are shedding crocodile tears. That said, two and a half decades of the rise of the internet has taught us that platforms like these come and go. So, these "creators" will clearly find something new.

Already similar Indian apps like ShareChat are registering higher traffic. Of course, the banning of social platforms is a very small step to counter the Chinese aggression. Nevertheless, the step has been met with widespread approval, even by some of those who have been directly impacted.

The fact is that over the past few years, China has proven that it is not a "good faith" actor. It has been in its interest that until now India remained weak, both economically and militarily. The fact that Indian soldiers stood up to colleagues despite having lost 20 of our men gave the Chinese a dose of their own medicine. That our soldiers were able to kill many Chinese personnel is telling. Banning apps is one thing and acting against Chinese consumer products will possibly be next in the line. But extricating Indian industry from the Chinese supply chain is next to impossible. Industries in our country are heavily dependent on Chinese-made capital goods such as power-generating turbines and industrial machinery as well as China-made intermediates such as active pharmaceutical ingredients. Various sectors would collapse in the absence of Chinese products. We have only ourselves to blame for being in this situation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi should harbour some of the blame. His perceived bonhomie with Chinese President Xi Jinping was just an act for the latter. And Xi took Modi for a ride. At the same time, the entire philosophy of selling cheap products and the lowest bidder concept has led to India actively importing from China instead of building up additional capacity or even consider an alternative. Here, the Kolkata and Nagpur metro rail systems are guilty of getting new rolling stock from Dalian instead of encouraging local production lines. India must make it clear that it will not allow Chinese companies to bid for infrastructure projects. Most Chinese companies are beholden to the Chinese Communist Party and, thus, to Xi. We cannot trust the Chinese or their companies. The Ladakh standoff will continue for some time but we have to make it clear to China that India can stand on its own feet. We must reject the Chinese temptation of cheap products and consumer goods. Enough is enough. What is needed is a firm will of the Government to build our own self-sufficiencies and end this dependence.

Our own vaccine

Human trials to start this month, results in October. This is reason enough to prioritise Govt funding to R&D



When the going gets tough, the tough get going. And this is exactly what India's innovators, scientists and researchers have shown in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic, most of them as self-starters. A potential COVID-19 vaccine, the first to be developed in India, has been given the Drug Controller General of India's (DCGI) approval for Phase I and II human clinical trials that are scheduled to start across the country this month. Results are expected to be out by October, following which larger clinical trials will be conducted.

The vaccine has been developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, which has delivered more than four billion doses of vaccines worldwide and also created vaccines for H1N1 and rotavirus in the past. COVAXIN, developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology and the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), is an inactivated vaccine, created from a strain of the infectious SARS-CoV-2 virus that has shown promise in pre-clinical studies, demonstrating extensive safety and effective immune responses. The good news is that apart from COVAXIN, four or five other home-grown vaccines are in early stages of development, too. Zydus Cadila is working on two vaccines while Biological E, Indian Immunologicals and Mynvax are developing one each. The rapid strides that are being made is proof that not for nothing is the country among the largest manufacturers of generic drugs and vaccines in the world. It is home to half a dozen major vaccine makers and a host of smaller ones, making doses against stubborn diseases like polio, meningitis, pneumonia, rotavirus, BCG, measles, mumps and rubella.

When we began our fight against the pandemic, there was an atmosphere of fear and gloom in the country over the fact that our healthcare facilities were inadequate. We did not have enough PPEs, testing kits or ventilators and the general consensus was that with the West and China having massive resources at their disposal to pump into research, they would be the first ones to come out with the drugs and vaccines to treat Coronavirus. A vast majority of Indians were resigned to the fact that even if the vaccine did come out, it would reach us after a considerable time lapse as the rich and developed nations would get it first because of their money power and clout. If anything, the pandemic has unleashed our determination to find our own solutions since the world is starved of resources. It has also made it imperative for us to invest in research and development, so far neglected and supported by corporates. After testing kits, ventilators and even making our own PPE kits — we are now exporting the last — we have been innovating at a rapid pace. We have also developed robots powered by Artificial Intelligence to clean Covid wards and look after patients in isolation wards. The biggest news in the fight against the virus came on June 21 when the DCGI granted permission to Glenmark Pharmaceuticals to manufacture and sell Favipiravir and also gave Cipla and Hetero emergency marketing approval for Remdesivir for treating severe COVID-19 patients. We may have not been the first off the block where the vaccine is concerned as the ones developed by Moderna Inc, China's Sinovac Biotech and UK's Oxford-AstraZeneca are set to enter late-stage trials, but the fact remains that we will be independent and not look to the West or the dragon to tackle our emergency. Our researchers and scientists have shown that not for nothing are they considered the best minds in the business.

Real test of leadership

Maharashtra has led by example in reining in the Corona pandemic even as the Opposition ramped up efforts to pull the Maha Vikas Aghadi Government down



PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

As the city of Mumbai and the rest of Maharashtra re-opens cautiously but optimistically in a phased manner, it is important to mention how the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government continues to face relentless attack from the main Opposition party, the BJP, ever since the three parties — the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress — formed a coalition Government and took charge of the State in November last year. Barely had the MVA Government presented its first budget and started building a roadmap for the revival of the State's economy, the Coronavirus pandemic brought fresh challenges for it.

The Maharashtra Government, namely the Chief Minister and the Health Minister, started providing daily updates on COVID-19 after the first case was registered on March 9. Most cases were related to travellers returning from abroad, who were not in the Centre's scanner list initially. Since then, the State has seen a spurt in the number of Corona cases. With a total of 1,69,883 cases, the death toll stands at 7,429. There are 73,298 active cases while 88,960 patients have recovered so far.

Of course, this has prompted the Opposition to question the State Government's strategy in handling the pandemic. It even predicted doomsday scenarios with hashtags such as #MaharashtraBachao trending on social media platforms. However, as it is said, the devil is always in the details. Truth makes the State's BJP unit uncomfortable and, hence, it is unable to confront actual figures. The death rate in Maharashtra did climb up to 7.5 per cent eight weeks ago but it has dropped steadily since then and now stands at 4.65 per cent. Recovery rate has seen a marked improvement and now stands at 52.26 per cent, up from 26.25 per cent on May 20. Mumbai's COVID-19 doubling rate is 25 days while the national average is 19 days. The daily death figures reported by Maharashtra so far, too, have declined in the fortnight. In the State capital and the nation's financial capital city, Mumbai, where the average doubling rate of cases stood at 41 days, Dharavi, which was labelled as a ticking time bomb, is now recording cases in single digit. Further, Mumbai saw its coronavirus count rise with 1,297 new cases being reported in the last 24 hours, taking the city's tally to 72,175. With 44 new deaths reported this week, Mumbai's death toll stands at 4,179. The number of active cases here are 28,244 and 39,744 patients have recovered so far. This is way below the estimates provided by a five-member inter-ministerial central team that had projected that the number of cases would spiral to approximately 6.5 lakh by mid-May.

When the State Government announced a phased lifting of the lock-



down, it remained focussed on augmenting bed capacity to be able to handle a rise in the number of cases. Since then, the State Government increased bed capacity in hospitals from 400 to 2.5 lakh, of which 25,000 beds had oxygen facilities. The number of ICU beds, too, was increased from 250 to around 8,500. Hospitals for treating infections with isolation facilities, too, were increased from just three to 2,576.

Moreover, the number of COVID-19 testing laboratories was raised from three to 100, the highest in the country. The State Government has also taken charge of 80 per cent of the beds in private hospitals and capped the treatment cost to ensure patients aren't used to profitise in the times of a pandemic. The State has neither shied away from testing nor from sharing data on the same. Trace, test and treat have been the guiding principle.

It was ironic that the media and certain influencers woke up to the transparency once Delhi raced past Mumbai in the number of cases reported, forcing the Central Government to intervene to help augment their capacities. The State Government is now entirely focussed on bringing down

the mortality rate.
WHEN THE STATE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A PHASED LIFTING OF THE LOCKDOWN, IT REMAINED FOCUSED ON AUGMENTING BED CAPACITY TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE A RISE IN THE NUMBER OF CASES. SINCE THEN, IT INCREASED BED CAPACITY IN HOSPITALS FROM 400 TO 2.5 LAKH, OF WHICH 25,000 BEDS HAD OXYGEN FACILITIES

time when the Railways were already facing flak for the conditions of the trains, over 80 deaths and approximately 40 trains that lost their destination and reached a different State altogether.

Despite provocations, the State Government has studiously kept itself out of politics and focussed itself in containing the pandemic by working in close cooperation with the Centre. The State Government was also left battling a second challenge in carrying out relief work that followed before and after cyclone Nisarga struck its coast.

There could be weaknesses in the State's health infrastructure, which is being faced by other States as well, but what is important is that we should not lose sight of being able to handle this medical and humanitarian crisis with empathy and commitment to the people. So, while the Opposition continues with its political agenda, the people of the State continue to solidly back the Chief Minister and the MVA Government to help the State get out of the biggest humanitarian and medical crisis faced by the world.

(The writer is a Rajya Sabha MP and Deputy Leader, Shiv Sena)

SOUND BITE

We should do it (sever ties with Chinese sponsors in IPL) for the sake of the nation. Country comes first, money is secondary. And it is the IPL, not the Chinese Premier League.

Indian businessman
—Ness Wadia



I don't think it's the time to be selfish or think about yourself, but in the larger interest of what's going on. Everybody will have to change.

Actor
—Huma Qureshi



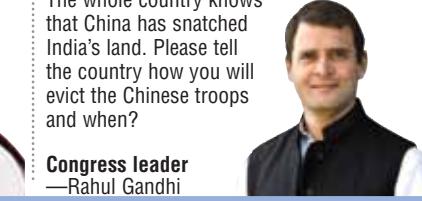
The UP Government is avoiding COVID tests, making it difficult to assess the current situation. It is also difficult to assess when the disease will reach its peak.

SP chief
—Akhilesh Yadav



The whole country knows that China has snatched India's land. Please tell the country how you will evict the Chinese troops and when?

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accept the new normal

Sir — As bilateral ties remain strained, the Government has sought to ban 59 Chinese apps from operating in the country. In doing so, it would be killing two birds with one stone. First, this digital strike must be acknowledged as a crucial move towards making India *aatmanirbhar* (self-reliant). Second, this sends a clear signal about India's resolve to take on Chinese aggression head-on.

Surely, many users back home will miss using these apps, especially TikTok. The app has become extremely popular and there is a lot of creative and humorous content being produced by its users. As of June 2019, it was estimated that there were 120 million monthly TikTok users in India. Many are expecting that the Government would launch Indian substitutes of these apps. But it must not be forgotten that not too long ago when the app was banned, we had got used to not relying on it. Adjusting to life after the exit may not be too hard.

Tushar Anand
Via email

Migrants represent Indian ethos

The migrant workers have started to return to the States that they left at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It's hunger and hopelessness again that is pushing them back to the cities from their villages. They have shown no rancour or disillusionment, either with the Government or their employers. They truly represent the ethos of this nation, that of patience, forbearance and goodwill. They marched hundreds of miles to their villages with hope and fortitude for better times ahead, even as they patiently bore the vicissitudes of an insensitive bureaucracy. The strength of this nation comes from the moral fibre of its lower strata of citizens, even as the upper echelon often weakens it with self-interests in mind.

For a nation that could handle it in stride the massive demonetisation with a four-hour notice, the COVID crisis was but a second run with a different script. The villain had changed robes but the hero was the same in both — the lowly common man. He is as indefatigable

now as he was in 2016. He managed with sheer perseverance and *jugaad*, purely on the enduring sense of brotherhood among men in similar distress. As before, the upper and middle classes would treat this episode, albeit very long, as no more than a temporary blip.

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

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Be grateful to doctors

Sir — July 1 is celebrated as National Doctor's Day every year. It honours doctors across the country for their relentless service. This day serves to show gratitude to all medical practitioners who have selflessly aided us in our time of need and tirelessly worked for the health of their patients by commemorating the greatest representatives of these ideals.

With the number of Coronavirus cases on the rise, it is important to appreciate the efforts made by doctors, nurses, technicians, medical staff, administrators, food service workers, pharmacists, security guards, our military deployed to set up hospitals and deliver aid and everybody else who are endangering their life for our benefit. Doctors are special and this year is one where we have seen them as our real-life heroes. Doctor's Day is an opportunity to thank all the heroes in the medical fraternity for their selfless contributions.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

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R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Arrest the delinquent cops

The brutality committed on P Jayaraj and Fenix is unacceptable. It is high time that policemen in India also fear the law if they violate it



MARKANDEY KATJU

What happened recently in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, is worse than the Nirbhaya case for which four persons involved were hanged a few months ago. A father and son, P Jayaraj and Fenix, running a mobile accessory shop in Sathankulam town in Tuticorin district were arrested by some policemen allegedly for keeping their shop open for some time beyond the period permitted during the lockdown. The two of them were booked under Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 353 (use of force to deter public servant from duty) 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and 506(2) (Punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

They were then taken to the police station and brutally assaulted, evidently by forcibly thrusting rods or sticks into their private parts (since when they were released from custody their clothes were torn and covered in blood and they were profusely bleeding from their private parts. In fact, they needed multiple changes of clothes in the hours after they were released by the policemen). They later died within a day of each other. In the Nirbhaya case, too, a rod was thrust into the private parts of the victim, but it was done by delinquent citizens who were non-officials. In the case of P Jayaraj and Fenix, the brutality was committed by policemen whose duty it is to uphold the law and protect citizens. Thus *rakshaks* (protectors) turned into *bhakshaks* (destroyers).

There is a big uproar all over the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu, over this ghastly incident. There has been an outpouring of outrage and shock by the Hindi and southern film industry and DMK leaders have blamed the administration squarely for the occurrence.

In Prakash Kadam vs Ramprasad Vishwanath Gupta, 2011 case, the Supreme Court held that policemen found guilty of fake encounters should be given the death penalty, treating it as a "rarest of rare" case. The court observed: "Policemen are people who are supposed to uphold the law. In our opinion if crimes are committed by ordinary people, ordinary punishment should be given, but if the offence is committed by policemen much harsher punishment should be given to them because they do an act totally contrary to their duties."

So if the Nirbhaya accused were hanged, all the more should the policemen in the Tuticorin case be, if held guilty by the court. It may be mentioned that instances of custodial deaths were mounting in our country, as noted by the Supreme Court in its landmark decision in DK Basu vs State of West Bengal, 1996. Hence Section 176 of the Criminal Procedure Code was amended and a special procedure created for investigating custodial deaths.

For ordinary crimes, investigation is done by the police. But for custodial deaths, Section 176 provided that investigation be done by a judicial magistrate. The purpose of making this special provision for custodial deaths was obvious: The police may not make a fair investigation against a colleague (as there is often a tendency of people in the same service to side with each other).

However, there is nothing in Section 176 which says that policemen accused of custodial death cannot be arrested before the enquiry by the judicial magistrate is completed. In fact, in cases of murder, the police usually arrest the accused immediately and do not wait to do so till the investigation is over. Hence, the policemen involved in brutalising P Jayaraj and Fenix must be arrested.

In the FIR lodged by the policemen, it was alleged that the deceased father and son had abused the policemen and threatened to kill them. This sounds like an implausible claim, as it is difficult to believe shopkeepers would behave like this with policemen. In any event, assuming this was true, it was no justification for the atrocious and abhorrent acts committed by the policemen on the deceased. In the police FIR it is also alleged that the two deceased suffered injuries because they rolled on the ground. This version is laughable. Why should they roll on the ground? And how can rolling on the ground result in such horrendous injuries as sustained by the deceased?

In the State of UP vs Mohd Naim, Justice AN Mulla of the Allahabad High Court observed: "There is not a single lawless group in the whole of the country whose record of crime comes anywhere near the record of that single organised unit which is known as the Indian police force." No doubt the above observation was expounded by the Supreme Court, calling it a "sweeping generalisation", but it does indicate that many policemen in India think that they are above the law. They seem to believe that the law cannot touch them. This needs to change, else the police brutalities in the country will never end and will, in fact, continue to grow each day as we have recently witnessed during the lockdown. The cases of harassment of the citizens by the policemen for minor lockdown infractions and the harsh punishment and humiliation heaped upon the migrant labourers who were trekking across the country in order to reach home are some of the cases that come to mind. The brutality committed on P Jayaraj and Fenix is unacceptable. It is high time that the fear of the law was put in the hearts of policemen.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India)



KALYANI SHANKAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi turned 50 last week and celebrated his birthday quietly in view of the Coronavirus outbreak. His father Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister of the country at the age of 40.

Rahul, too, could have become the Prime Minister in 2009 when the Congress Party returned to power or at least a Cabinet Minister during the ten years of the UPA's rule from 2004-2014.

However, Rahul had his own ideas of leadership. At the swearing-in ceremony in 2009, I asked him why he did not become a Minister and his reply was, "I don't want to do ten things at

a time. I want to do only one thing at a time." Now, Rahul's loyalists are getting impatient to bring him back as the party chief. Nobody knows why he resigned last year after the Lok Sabha poll results or why he is coming back as the Congress president. It is pertinent to note that though not holding any office, it is Rahul who is fighting from the front on behalf of the Congress Party, though Sonia Gandhi too, is writing letters and participating in meetings with the political leaders and the Prime Minister.

The indications of Rahul's return as the party chief were clear at last week's meeting of the party's top policy-making body, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, where there was a clash between the old guard and Rahul. The power struggle was visible when Rahul was critical of the old guard for not supporting him in his campaign against Prime Minister Narendra Modi either now or earlier during the 2019 poll campaign.

Rahul is being projected as an intellectual who can hold his own with global experts and economists. His conversations with experts like former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan, Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee and former US diplomat Nicholas Burns were meant to con-

vey that, Rahul has also been engaging the media as was evident by the three free-wheeling press conferences he held in recent weeks.

Rahul also launched his own Telegram channel this week. The main purpose of this exercise was to connect with the voters directly. It is available on the messaging app and has so far about 3,500 subscribers. This is a novel experiment as it gives the public access to his views directly. Though he came late to the social media game as compared to the BJP, he has been catching up fast in the last two years. He has 14.9 million followers on Twitter and over a million on Instagram. His YouTube channel has 3.1 lakh subscribers.

His strategists must have thought it is time for a new brand of Rahul. He can no longer be called a young man as he is 50 now. Hence, the time has come to project him as a mature leader, who has a worldview. Even the BJP no longer calls Rahul the demeaning

analysis

07

POINT COUNTER POINT



KEEPING IN MIND THE FESTIVALS THAT ARE COMING UP, THIS SCHEME TO PROVIDE 80 CRORE PEOPLE WITH FREE RATIONS WILL BE EXTENDED TILL NOVEMBER END.

—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI

WE WILL GIVE FREE RATION TILL JUNE 2021. OUR RATION IS BETTER THAN THAT OF THE CENTRE. ONLY 60 PER CENT PEOPLE HERE GET CENTRAL RATIONS.

—BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE

The GST indemnity riddle

Even as States expect full and timely compensation for the shortfall in their tax revenue, *vis-à-vis* a given benchmark, the Union Govt has been making short payment and that too after a time lag



UTTAM GUPTA

The dwindling tax revenue of both the Centre and States since the financial year (FY) 2019-20 has led to a piquant situation. Even as States expect "full" and "timely" compensation for the shortfall in their tax revenue (their own collection plus the amount received as their share in indirect tax collected by the Centre as per the Finance Commission's devolution formula) *vis-à-vis* a given benchmark, the Union Government has been making short payments and that too, after a time lag. The compensation to States is intertwined with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in vogue since July 1, 2017. In fact, the passage of the Constitutional Amendment Bill (August, 2016) leading to the launch of GST was predicated on the Centre giving a legally-binding commitment that it would compensate the States for the loss of revenue they would incur under the GST *vis-à-vis* the revenue they would get under the subsisting dispensation of excise duty, sales tax or Value Added Tax (VAT) plus other local taxes (GST was first mooted in 2006 by the then UPA Government but did not bear fruit during its term as it was unwilling to give this commitment).

Accordingly, the Modi Government enacted the GST Compensation Act (2017) to provide for compensation to the States for five years between 2017 and 2022, for the loss of revenue to be calculated as the difference between their actual collection (including transfer of their share in indirect tax collected by the Centre) and the amount they would have got with annual growth at 14 per cent over the 2015-16 level, under the erstwhile dispensation.

However, to ensure that the Centre has enough funds to pay for the shortfall faced by States, it also passed an amendment to the GST Compensation Act (2018) to levy a cess on the supply of certain goods and services. The cess is levied on demerit goods (those which fall in the highest tax slab at 28 per cent, with the other slabs being five per cent, 12 per cent and 18 per cent, besides the exempt category) such as automobiles, tobacco, alcohol and so on, with a proviso to use the proceeds for compensating States. The cess was to remain in force for five years in sync with the Centre's obligation to compensate States for that period. The rationale behind keeping these arrangements in place for five years was that at the end of this transition, i.e. 2021-22, the GST dispensation would have acquired the much-needed "vitality" and "resilience" to yield sufficient resources for the States to meet their budgetary requirements within the prudential limit set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM), thereby obviating the need for any extra support.

Before we proceed to do the number crunching and analyse the situation on ground zero, it should be abundantly clear that two provisions in the law *viz.*, one relating to compensation and the other levy of cess (and collection thereof) have to be viewed in conjunction with each other. In other words, the discharge of the constitutional obligation to compensate States for the loss of revenue would be possible only when there are enough funds available.

During the first two years (since the launch of GST) *viz.* 2017-18/2018-19, the collection from cess was higher than the shortfall in tax revenue faced by the States. During July 2017-March 2018, the cess collected was ₹62,600 crore against ₹41,150 crore needed for compensating the States. During 2018-19, the cess collection was ₹95,000 crore against ₹69,000 crore distributed among States as compensation. As a result, even after fully meeting the com-

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UNLIKE LAST YEAR, WHEN THE SURPLUS AVAILABLE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEARS HELPED IN SALVAGING THE SITUATION, DURING THE CURRENT YEAR, THE CENTRE HAS NOTHING TO FALL BACK UPON. IN THIS BACKDROP AND WITH STATES UNWILLING TO RELENT ON THEIR CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION IN FULL, THE CENTRE IS TALKING OF FORCE MAJEUR. PUT SIMPLY, THE LATTER MAY HAVE EXPRESSED ITS INABILITY TO PAY INVOKING AN EVENT BEYOND CONTROL OR AN 'ACT OF GOD' (COVID-19)

”



pensation requirement of the States, at the beginning of 2019-20, the Centre had a surplus of about ₹47,000 crore in the tax pool.

During 2019-20, the situation deteriorated. Against the requirement of over ₹1,35,000 crore, proceeds from the cess were just about ₹95,000 crore leaving a deficit of about ₹40,000 crore. Notwithstanding this deficit, the Centre could have drawn upon the surplus from previous years to ensure timely release of the compensation amount. But, that was not to be and there was considerable delay. For instance, the compensation for October/November, 2019 about ₹34,000 crore was released in February/April, 2020.

Now, the devastation triggered by the lockdown has led to a steep decline in tax collection of both the Centre and States (for instance, GST collection during April and May was less than 50 per cent of the amount collected during April/May, 2019). The collection from cess is also expected to go down drastically. Against monthly compensation requirement of over ₹20,000 crore, proceeds from the cess are estimated to be just about ₹9,500 crore leading to a deficit of ₹10,500 crore or around ₹1,25,000 crore for the whole of the current year.

Unlike last year when the surplus available from the previous years helped in salvaging the situation, during the current year, the Centre has nothing to fall back upon. In this backdrop and with States unwilling to relent on their claim for compensation in full, the Centre is talking of force majeure. Put simply, the latter may have expressed its inability to pay invoking an event beyond control or an "act of God" (COVID-19).

Whether or not *force majeure* can be invoked, thereby absolving the Centre of its obligation to compensate the States is for legal luminaries to decide. However,

the latter need to appreciate that in the absence of adequate funds in the tax pool, even if the former is willing to compensate them, it may still not be able to do it. It can take recourse to additional borrowings or ask the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to print more currency but these options entail serious risk.

As regards borrowings, already the Centre has increased its borrowing programme for the current year by 50 per cent to over ₹12,00,000 crore. While this factored in the liabilities arising from the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during May, thereafter, the Government has taken onto itself an additional expenditure commitment of ₹90,000 crore (₹50,000 crore on employment scheme for migrant labour and ₹40,000 crore additional allocation for MGNREGA).

If, to this we add ₹1,25,000 crore required to cover the deficit in the tax pool, the Centre will need to borrow another ₹2,15,000 crore, taking the total to more than ₹14,00,000 crore. This will further crowd the market and increase interest rates.

Alternatively, monetising the deficit has inflationary implications; besides, it sends a wrong message to stakeholders especially rating agencies about India's ability to protect its macro-economic fundamentals. What then is the way forward? How can the States and the Centre wriggle out of the riddle without undermining India's economic fundamentals?

Going strictly by the spirit of the two constitutional amendments relating to compensation and cess, when there is not enough money in the tax pool, the compensation amount to the States needs to be reduced to balance the two. This means that the States should be content with what is available in the tax pool; instead, they

should fund the ₹1,25,000 crore deficit through additional borrowing on their own or rationalise their expenditure to bring about savings.

An alternative which is expected to give comfort to all stakeholders is to continue the cess on demerit products beyond the five-year period (this will require further amendment to the GST Compensation Act, 2018). The deficit in the tax pool during 2020-21 should be met from additional borrowings by the Centre with a clear stipulation that these will be serviced from the proceeds of cess during the extended period say, three years starting from 2022-23.

The States should desist from pursuing their demand made before the 15th Finance Commission for continuing with compensation for three more years. This is not only out of sync with the original intent of the amendment Act on compensation (it was meant to be a stopgap aimed at protecting their revenue till such time GST starts yielding the desired buoyancy in revenue) but also will come in the way of servicing the loan taken to fund the current year's deficit.

When, an overwhelming portion of the proceeds from the cess during the extended period is dedicated to giving compensation to States, there won't be any money left to service the loans taken now. Considering a special dispensation (as proposed above) to bail out the States during the current excruciating year, the GST Council should impress upon States to take urgent steps, like bringing more businesses under the tax net, reining in evasion, eliminating fraudulent claims of input tax credit and so on, to ensure that tax revenue under the new regime is self-sustaining, obviating the need for compensation at least during normal times.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Rahul 2.0 must not miss opportunities

Just Modi-bashing is not enough to get votes. Rahul should be able to convince the people that he will be the better alternative



KALYANI SHANKAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi turned 50 last week and celebrated his birthday quietly in view of the Coronavirus outbreak. His father Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister of the country at the age of 40.

Rahul, too, could have become the Prime Minister in 2009 when the Congress Party returned to power or at least a Cabinet Minister during the ten years of the UPA's rule from 2004-2014.

However, Rahul had his own ideas of leadership. At the swearing-in ceremony in 2009, I asked him why he did not become a Minister and his reply was, "I don't want to do ten things at

a time. I want to do only one thing at a time." Now, Rahul's loyalists are getting impatient to bring him back as the party chief. Nobody knows why he resigned last year after the Lok Sabha poll results or why he is coming back as the Congress president. It is pertinent to note that though not holding any office, it is Rahul who is fighting from the front on behalf of the Congress Party, though Sonia Gandhi too, is writing letters and participating in meetings with the political leaders and the Prime Minister.

The indications of Rahul's return as the party chief were clear at last week's meeting of the party's top policy-making body, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, where there was a clash between the old guard and Rahul. The power struggle was visible when Rahul was critical of the old guard for not supporting him in his campaign against Prime Minister Narendra Modi either now or earlier during the 2019 poll campaign.

Rahul is being projected as an intellectual who can hold his own with global experts and economists. His conversations with experts like former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan, Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee and former US diplomat Nicholas Burns were meant to con-

vey that, Rahul has also been engaging the media as was evident by the three free-wheeling press conferences he held in recent weeks.

Rahul also launched his own Telegram channel this week. The main purpose of this exercise was to connect with the voters directly. It is available on the messaging app and has so far about 3,500 subscribers. This is a novel experiment as it gives the public access to his views directly. Though he came late to the social media game as compared to the BJP, he has been catching up fast in the last two years. He has 14.9 million followers on Twitter and over a million on Instagram. His YouTube channel has 3.1 lakh subscribers.

His strategists must have thought it is time for a new brand of Rahul. He can no longer be called a young man as he is 50 now. Hence, the time has come to project him as a mature leader, who has a worldview. Even the BJP no longer calls Rahul the demeaning

names given to him earlier and is engaging with him politically, though it is still ridiculing him often.

However, undaunted by the jibes, the new avatar of Rahul has been raising pertinent issues like Modi's handling of the Chinese incursions, the failing economy and the hiccups in the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic on behalf of the Congress and tweets about these issues almost daily.

Rahul strategists would like him to shed the image of a dynast and a privileged man. Instead they want him to be seen as the alternative to Modi. But before that happens, Rahul must first revive the party from the grassroots level.

He should promote the second rung leaders in the Congress and appoint the right man for the right job. He must listen to the voices of experience within the party. Second, he should also try to emerge as a successful Opposition leader and unite the till-now scattered Opposition. Right now

it is Sonia Gandhi who is doing that job, but she has not been very successful at it as the regional satraps are all going their own way. Third, and most importantly, the Congress party needs to find a new narrative. Sonia Gandhi was successful because she thought of the "aam aadmi" (common man) slogan in 2004, which clicked well with the electorate. Just Modi-bashing is not enough to get votes. Rahul should be able to convince the people that he will be the better alternative to Modi.

HK NATIONAL SECURITY: CHINA APPROVES LAW

AP ■ HONG KONG

China on Tuesday approved a contentious national security law that will allow authorities to crack down on subversive and secessionist activity in Hong Kong, a move many see as Beijing's boldest yet to erase the legal firewall between the semi-autonomous territory and the mainland's authoritarian Communist Party system.

President Xi Jinping signed a presidential order promulgating the law after it was approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It will be added to the Basic Law,

Hong Kong's constitution.

Few details were given but China's liaison office in Hong Kong issued a statement warning opponents of the law not to "underestimate the party center's determination to safeguard Hong Kong's national security" or its willingness and ability to enforce the new rules.

On Wednesday, Hong Kong's government will mark the 23rd anniversary of the territory's passing from British to Chinese control. A series of official events are scheduled and a heavy police presence is expected to deter any anti-government protests of the type that rocked the city for the second half of last year.

"We hope the law will serve as a deterrent to prevent people from stirring up trouble," said Tam Yiu-Chung, Hong Kong's sole representative on the Standing Committee. "Don't let Hong Kong be used as a tool to split the country."

Tam said punishments would not include the death penalty, but did not elaborate on further details.

Passage of the law came amid fears in Hong Kong and abroad that it would be used to curb opposition voices in the Asian financial hub. The U.S. has already begun moves to end special trade terms given to Hong Kong after the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.

The legislation is aimed at

China warns US against sanctions over HK security law

Beijing/Hong Kong: China on Tuesday warned the US against imposing sanctions on it over the new Hong Kong security law, saying Beijing was ready with its "necessary countermeasures".

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday signed a controversial security law that gave Beijing new powers over Hong Kong that are tailor-made to crackdown against dissent, criminalising sedition and effectively curtailing protests, amidst global anger and outrage in the former British colony.

PTI

curbing subversive, secessionist and terrorist activities, as well as foreign intervention in the city's affairs. It follows months of anti-government protests in Hong Kong last year that at times descended into violence.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

EU reopens its borders but not to US tourists

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Continent on Tuesday reopened to visitors from 14 countries but not the US, where some of the states that pushed hardest and earliest to reopen their economies are now in retreat because of an alarming surge in confirmed coronavirus infections.

The European Union's decision came a day after Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey closed bars, gyms, movie theaters and water parks, and officials in Republican and Democratic strongholds alike mandated the wearing of masks.

The EU extended its ban on visitors not just from the US but from China and from countries such as Russia, Brazil and India where infections are running high. Britain dropped out of the EU in January and maintains its own rules, requiring arriving travelers to go

into 14-day self-quarantine. President Donald Trump suspended the entry of most Europeans in March.

American make up a big share of Europe's tourism industry, and summer is a key period. More than 15 million Americans travel to Europe each year, while some 10 million Europeans head across the Atlantic.

The news was a blow to revenue-starved shopkeepers hoping for a summer-time boom.

"Americans were 50% of my clientele," said Paola Pellizzari, who owns a mask and jewelry shop on the Saint-Louis island in the heart of Paris and heads its business association. "We can't substitute that clientele with another."

The Louvre museum is scheduled to reopen July 6. Americans used to be the largest single group of foreign

visitors to the home of the "Mona Lisa."

"When I returned after lockdown, five businesses had closed," Pellizzari said. "As days go by, and I listen to the business news, it gets worse."

Sharmaine Shives, an American who lives in Paris, said she hopes her countrymen can turn things around soon.

"Paris isn't Paris when there aren't people who really appreciate it and marvel at everything," she said. "I miss that. Seriously, I feel the emotion welling up. It's so sad here."

Across the English Channel, things are also headed in reverse in places.

Britain reimposed a lockdown in Leicester, a city of 330,000 people that officials said accounted for 10% of all new coronavirus cases in the nation last week. Stores closed their doors, and schools prepared to send children home.

The coronavirus has been blamed for over a half-million deaths worldwide, including about 130,000 in the US, where the number of confirmed infections has rocketed over the past month to around 40,000 per day, primarily in the South and West.

A large share of the cases are among young people who are going out again to bars and restaurants.

States such as Texas, Florida and California are backtracking, closing beaches and bars or rolling back restaurant restrictions in some cases.

Around the Globe

● A leading Republican senator says President Donald Trump should start wearing a mask at least some of the time because politics is getting in the way of protecting the American people from COVID-19. "The stakes are too high for the political debate about pro-Trump, anti-Trump masks to continue," said Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee.

● The UN labour agency says the coronavirus pandemic had a more severe impact on jobs than previously estimated, reflecting increasing fallout in many regions and particularly in developing economies. The International Labour Organization estimated 14% of working hours were lost worldwide in the year's second quarter, ending Tuesday, compared with the fourth quarter of 2019. It says that's equivalent to the loss of 400 million full-time jobs. A month ago, the ILO estimated the loss at 10.7% of working hours, equivalent to 305 million full-time jobs.

● Los Angeles will close beaches and ban fireworks displays over the holiday weekend. California officials are warning further restrictions may be necessary to curb a troubling spike in coronavirus cases in much of the state. Gov. Gavin Newsom says he's prepared to impose targeted shutdowns of counties or businesses.

● Britain's medical regulatory agency has approved the resumption of a trial testing whether hydroxychloroquine, the malaria drug favoured by US President Donald Trump, might help prevent health workers from contracting the coronavirus.

COUNTRY TOTAL CASES TOTAL DEATHS

| COUNTRY | TOTAL CASES | TOTAL DEATHS |
|---------|-------------|--------------|
| USA | 2,698,317 | 12,906 |
| Brazil | 1,383,678 | 58,927 |
| Russia | 6,47,849 | 9,320 |
| UK | 3,12,654 | 43,730 |
| Spain | 2,96,351 | 28,355 |
| Peru | 2,82,365 | 9,504 |
| Chile | 2,79,393 | 5,688 |
| Italy | 2,40,578 | 34,767 |

Covid-19 TRACKER

TOTAL

CASES: 10,495,816

DEATHS: 5,10,597

RECOVERED:

5,723,866

Scientists ID drugs that may block virus from jumping to uninfected cells

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES

Researchers have shown that the novel coronavirus hijacks proteins in its target cells, potentially causing them to form long, arm-like extensions to reach nearby cells and advance the infection, a finding that has led to the identification of clinically proven drugs that may disrupt the process.

The scientists, including those from EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI), and the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) in the US, noted that viruses, including the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, take control of the machinery of host cells and manipulate it to produce new viral particles.

They said sometimes this hijacking interferes with the activity of the host's proteins and other important molecules such as enzymes, which change protein activity by making chemical modifications to its structure.

In the study, published on Sunday in the journal Cell, the scientists analysed all host and viral proteins that showed changes in an enzymatic process called phosphorylation after SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Flu virus with 'pandemic potential' found in China; Beijing promises all measures to contain it

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has said it will take all steps to prevent the spread of a new strain of flu being carried by pigs that was identified by scientists in the country while the WHO called for heightened vigilance to contain it for its potential to become another pandemic like Covid-19.

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possibility of jumping to humans, as the G4 virus is able to bind with human cells, state-run Global Times reported.

The study was published Monday in the US science journal PNAS.

Researchers collected samples between 2011 and 2018 among pigs in 10 Chinese provinces and regions, and found that the virus was prevalent in pigs since 2016.

Some 10.4 per cent (35/338) of pig farm workers tested positive for antibodies to the viral disease.

Chinese researchers have issued an early warning over another potential pandemic caused by an influenza virus in pigs, coming after the COVID-19, the official media here reported on Tuesday.

The warning came after scientists from China Agricultural University, the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and other institutes, detected a pig influenza virus bearing genotype 4 (G4), which is contagious among pigs and has the

possibility of jumping to humans, as the G4 virus is able to bind with human cells, state-run Global Times reported.

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The scientists write in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that measures to control the virus in pigs, and the close monitoring of swine industry workers, should be swiftly implemented.

GOVT.OF MAHARASHTRA

P.W. Division, Chiplun

Phone No. 02355/252806

Web-www.mahapwd.com & e-mail chiplun.ee@mahapwd.com

Corrigendum No.02

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 01 FOR 2020-2021 ONLINE

Asst. Director (Adv) Mantrala Mumbai through published newspaper Daily Pioneer Mumbai, Daily Ratnagiri Times, Daily Sagar, Daily Ratnagiri Express Ratnagiri, Daily Punyagari Thane for Online "B-1" e-tenders. Following changes are made for this tender notice.

| Sr. No. | Name of Work | Approximate value of work (Rs.) Lakhs | Bid Security (Rs.) | Time Limit (Month) | Type & Cost of blank e-tender form fee (Non Refundable) |
|---------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Proposed Development For Rehabilitation Of Village Tiwara In S.NO. 104 H.NO. 7,8,9,10,11,12, 13A,13B, 1415 And S.NO. 1054,5,6,7+9,8,10,11,12, 12,13,14 At Village Alore. Tal. Chiplun Dist. Ratnagiri. 1 To 12 Home (For 12 Unit) | 1,79,52,991/- | 150000/- | 12 Months | B-1 Rs. 1000/- |
| 2 | Proposed Development For Rehabilitation Of Village Tiwara In S.NO. 104 H.NO. 7,8,9,10,11,12,13A,13B,1415 And S.NO. 105 4,5,6,7+9,8,10,11,12, 13,14 At Village Alore. Tal. Chiplun Dist. Ratnagiri. 13 To 24 Home (For 12 Unit) | 1,79,52,991/- | 150000/- | 12 Months | B-1 Rs. 1000/- |

E-tender time table

- Download & Bid Preparation Period of online Tender Dt.04/06/2020 at 10.00 a.m. to Dt.24/07/2020 at 18.00 p.m.
- Pre-bid meeting place and date Office of the Superintending Engineer P.W.Circles Ratnagiri on dt. 17.07.2020 @ 11.00 A.M.
- Last date of bid preparation Dt.24/07/2020 at 18.30 p.m.
- Place, Date and timing of opening Technical-bid and Financial bid. In the office of the Superintending Engineer. P.W.Circles Ratnagiri

Technical Bid-dt. 27/07/2020 at 10.00 a.m.
Financial Bid - dt. 28/07/2020 at 10.00 a.m. (If possible)

Note:-

- All eligible/interested contractors who want to participate in tendering process should compulsorily get enrolled on e-tendering portal "<http://mahatenders.gov.in>" the appropriate category applicable to them.
- Contractors details for difficulties in submission of online tenders if any. NIC (National Informatics Center on 18002337315 (Toll free)
- It is compulsory for all participates to submit all documents online.
- Other term and condition displayed in online e-tender forms. Right to reject any or all online bid of work without assigning any reasons thereof is reserved.
- Above Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D website www.mahapwd.com. No any changes.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Chiplun P.W. Division, Chiplun.

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharan Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Tele/Fax: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763507
CIN No: 041010UR2001SC025866 | www.uttarakhandujvnl.com

Date Extension No - 02

Due to unavoidable reason the date of submission and opening of tender against NIT No- 02/EE(E&M)/ICHARITN/2020-21 for Annual contract for Operation & Maintenance of LT panels, DG set and lighting system of Ichari Dam in District Dehradun of office of Executive Engineer (E&M) Ichari dam is extended as here below.

Last date & time for Downloading of tender : 06/07/2020 time 17:00 Hrs.
Last date & time for submission of tender : 07/07/2020 time 16:00 Hrs.
Date & time for opening of tender : 08/07/2020 time 11:30 Hrs.
For full & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents of the above works can be downloaded from the Nigam's web site "www.ujvnli.com".

IRAN SCRIBE SENTENCED TO DEATH IN 2017 PROTESTS
TEHRAN: Iran sentenced a once-exiled journalist to death over his online work that helped inspire nationwide economic protests that began at the end of 2017, authorities said on Tuesday.

CCP'S MEMBERSHIP INCREASES TO 91.91 MILLION BEIJING: The Communist Party of China (CPC) had more than 91.91 million members as of the end of 2019, representing a net increase of 1.32 million from the previous year, the party said.

AP ■ HIRE-MUV-MB-20 Date: 29.06.2020 1455/2020

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BUDGET ESTIMATES AT END-MAY

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The fiscal deficit during the first two months of the current financial year widened to ₹ 4.66 lakh crore or 58.6 per cent of the budget estimates mainly on account of poor tax collection due to the lockdown to check the spread of coronavirus. The fiscal deficit during the corresponding period of last year was be 52 per cent of the budget estimates.

The Government had pegged the fiscal deficit for 2020-21 at ₹ 7.96 lakh crore or 3.5 per cent of the GDP in the budget which was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala

FISCAL DEFICIT TOUCHES 58.6%

Sitharaman in February.

These figures, however, have to be revised significantly in view of the economic disruptions created by the outbreak of the coronavirus.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit stood at ₹ 4,66,343 crore at end-May, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data showed.

The deficit was 35.1 per cent of BE at end-April.

Fiscal deficit had soared to seven-year high of 4.6 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2019-20, mainly on account of poor revenue realisation which dipped further towards the

close of March because of lockdown to contain spread of coronavirus. According to the CGA data, revenue receipts of the government stood at ₹ 44,667 crore or 2.2 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE).

During the same period of the last fiscal, the realisation was 7.3 per cent of the BE.

The tax revenue stood at ₹ 33,850 crore or 2.1 per cent of BE during the first two months of the fiscal.

Total receipts of the Government were 2 per cent of the BE or 45,498 crore. In the Budget, the government had estimated the total receipts for the fiscal at ₹ 22,45 lakh crore.

8 core industries' output contracts 23.4 % in May

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Contracting for the third month in a row, the output of eight core infrastructure industries shrank by 23.4 per cent in May, due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown, according to an official data.

The eight core sectors had expanded by 3.8 per cent in May 2019, the data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Tuesday showed.

Barring fertiliser, all seven sectors - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement, and electricity - had recorded negative growth in May.

The output of coal, natural gas, refinery products, steel,

cement and electricity declined by 14 per cent, 16.8 per cent, 21.3 per cent, 48.4 per cent, 22.2 per cent, and 15.6 per cent, respectively. During April-May 2020-21, the sectors output dipped by 30 per cent as compared to a positive growth of 4.5 per cent in the same period previous year.

"In view of nationwide lockdown during April and May 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, various industries - coal, cement, steel, natural gas, refinery, crude oil etc experienced substantial loss of production," the Ministry said in a statement. These eight industries accounts for 40.27 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Loan recasts to only defer problem, NPAs may zoom up to 14% due to Covid-19: S&P

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Amid reports of the RBI mulling restructuring of loans, global rating agency S&P on Tuesday said that a loan recast will only defer NPAs recognition and not solve the problem.

The agency also said operational outages and the recession because of the pandemic will have a deeper and longer impact on lenders than previously assumed, and estimated the gross non-performing assets ratio to rise up to 14 per cent in FY2021 from the 8.5 per cent in FY2020. "The COVID-19 pandemic may set back the recovery of India's banking sector by years, which could hit credit flows and, ultimately, the economy," the agency said.

I-T exemption on buying shares at discounted price in firms under insolvency proceedings

New Delhi: The CBDT has exempted from income tax the purchase of shares at rates lower than the market price in companies undergoing insolvency proceedings and whose board has been taken over by the Govt. Also investors in troubled debt-driven Yes Bank who have invested in shares at a price lower than the fair market value have been given income tax (I-T) exemption on their discounted investment price. The CBDT through a notification said the exemptions would come into effect from April 1, 2020, and shall be applicable for the assessment year 2020-21 and thereafter. The I-T exemption has been given on any movable property, being unquoted shares, of a company and its subsidiary received by a shareholder, where, the tribunal on an application moved by the central Govt has suspended the board of directors of such company and has appointed new directors.

PTI

LOWER TRADE DEFICIT

India records marginal surplus on current account in Jan-March

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India recorded a current account surplus of \$ 0.6 billion or 0.1 per cent of GDP for the January-March quarter against a deficit of \$4.6 billion or 0.7 per cent of GDP in the year-ago period, the Reserve Bank said on Tuesday.

For the fiscal year 2019-20, the current account deficit narrowed to 0.9 per cent of the GDP compared to 2.1 per cent in FY2018-19, the central bank said.

"Lower trade deficit was one of the prime reasons for the improvement in the current account balances both for the March quarter as well as for the whole fiscal year."

Govt's total liabilities rise to ₹94.62 lakh cr in Jan-March FY20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's total liabilities increased 0.8 per cent to ₹ 94.62 lakh crore at March-end 2020 as compared to the preceding quarter, a finance ministry report said on Tuesday. Public debt accounted for 90.9 per cent of total outstanding liabilities as on March 31, 2020, said the quarterly report on Public Debt Management.

"Total liabilities (including liabilities under 'Public Account') of the Government, as per provisional data, increased to ₹94,62,265 crore at end-March 2020 from ₹93,89,267 crore at end-December 2019," it said.

As per the report, the weighted average yield of primary issuances moderated further to 6.70 per cent during March quarter from 6.86 per cent in October-December.

The proportion of debt (dated securities) maturing in less than one year was lower at 3.90 per cent at end-March 2020. It was 6.64 per cent as on December 31, 2019.

The proportion of debt maturing within 1-5 years at 25.07 per cent at end-March 2020 was almost close to its level of 25.09 per cent on December 31. Debt maturing in the next five years worked out to around 29.0 per cent of total outstanding debt at end-March 2020.

Indices notch marginal decline; energy, financial stocks drag

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market gauges Sensex and Nifty gave up intra-day gains to end lower on Tuesday, dragged down by energy and financial stocks, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation.

After rising 272.39 points during the day, the BSE Sensex turned negative and settled 45.72 points, or 0.13 per cent, down at 34,915.80; while the NSE Nifty slipped 10.30 points, or 0.10 per cent, to close at 10,302.10.

In terms of quarterly performance, the Sensex gained 18.5 per cent or 5,447 points during the April-June quarter, while the Nifty rose nearly 20 per cent or 1,704 points.

Fitch cuts India growth projection to 8% for FY22

Economy to shrink by 5 pc this fiscal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday cut India's growth forecast for 2021-22 fiscal to 8 per cent from 9.5 per cent projected last month.

It, however, retained its projection of Indian economy contracting by 5 per cent in the current fiscal.

Indian economic growth stood at an estimated 4.2 per cent in 2019-20.

In its June update of Global Economic Outlook, Fitch pro-

jected Indian economy to grow 5.5 per cent in 2022-23.

"In India, where authorities imposed one of the most stringent lockdowns globally to try to halt the spread of the virus, measures are being relaxed only very gradually; with a limited policy easing response and ongoing financial sector fragilities, we have pared our 2021 forecast to 8 per cent from 9.5 per cent in the previous GEO," Fitch said.

In May update to the outlook, Fitch had projected 9.5 per cent growth in 2021-22.

&P has forecast a 5 per cent contraction in the fiscal year starting April, and the growth to recover to 8.5 per cent next fiscal.

'Good news for rural loan seekers as CSC ties up with TransUnion for CIBIL score'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

to get the CIBIL score, the CSC VLE will also help in creating the advocacy for explaining the relevance of a good credit score to rural folks.

This will bring a significant behavioural change, necessary for improving the credit ratio especially in States like Bihar and UP. "Customers in rural communities lack awareness about the CIBIL Score and do not have access to their credit worthiness. A good credit score can also be used by a customer to bargain for a better interest rate. In some cases the customer want to dispute the score and therefore can raise such queries through CSC," said CSC CEO Dr Dinesh Tyagi.

PIONEER AGRO EXTRACTS LIMITED

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Telephone No. : 0186-2345352/53/55. E-mail : complianceofficer@pioneeragro.co.in

Extract of unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2020

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S. No | Particulars | Quarter Ending | Previous Quarter Ended | Corresponding three months Ended in the previous year | Year Ended |
|-----------|--|----------------|------------------------|---|------------|
| 31-Mar-20 | 31-Dec-19 | 31-Mar-19 | | | |
| 1 | Total income from operations (net) | 0.99 | 0.99 | 1.08 | |
| 2 | Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax* | (1.87) | (1.40) | (1.41) | |
| 3 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | (1.87) | (1.40) | (1.41) | |
| 4 | Equity Share Capital | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | |
| 5 | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year) | 12.26 | 18.60 | | |
| 6 | Earnings Per Share (from ordinary items) (of Rs 10/- each) (in Rs. 1. Basic: 2. Diluted: | (2.55) | (0.56) | (0.56) | |

*The Company does not have any extraordinary item to report for the above period

Notes:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter and year ended 31.03.2020 Financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LDR) Regulation, 2015. The full financial results is available on the company's Website www.supraindustrialresources.in and on the stock exchange website www.mseb.in

2. The audited standalone financial result of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31.03.2020 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 30.06.2020.

3. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extend applicable.

for Supra Industrial Resources Ltd.,

Sd/-

Rajat Agarwal

Director

(DIN 00266205)

Place: New Delhi
Date: 30.06.2020

Form No INC-26
[Pursuant to rule 30 the companies (incorporation) Rules, 2014]
BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, REGIONAL DIRECTOR,
NORTHERN REGION BENCH, NEW DELHI

In the matter of Sub Section 4 of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub rule (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

IN THE MATTER OF SPD AUTOFAB & ENGINEERS PRIVATE LIMITED

CIN: U29268DL2008PTC173255

Regd. Off.: YOG DHIAN GERA IIND-D-2(A) NEW DELHI, DL-110024

.....Applicant Company

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application before the Regional Director, Northern Region Bench, New Delhi (Central Government) under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 23rd June 2020 for amending clause II of the Memorandum of Association to shift its registered office from 'National Capital Territory of Delhi' to 'State of Haryana'. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may either on MCA-21 Portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his / her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his / her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Northern Region, B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003, within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the objections to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

YOG DHIAN GERA, IIND-D-2(a) New Delhi, DI-110024

On Behalf of the Board

For SPD AUTOFAB & ENGINEERS PRIVATE LIMITED

Sd/- SHAILENDER NAGPAL - Director (DIN: 01560109)

R/o: 560A, Sector-21C, 2nd Floor, Faridabad, Haryana-121001

Date: 01/07/2020

Place: New Delhi

Date: 01/07/2020

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

Deputy Chief Engineer, (Bridge), Western Railway, Dadar invites e-Tender as per details given as follows : (1) Tender Notice

No. & Date : DYCE/B/DDR/2020/14, Dtd: 26.06.2020.

Name of Work : Replacement

of corroded top flange plates and bracing members of Br. Nos. 135, 228(S7), 287(S1), 405(S2) and 442 UP&DN and 104(NG), replacement to tilted bed plates of Br. Nos. 287, and Non-standard bed plates of Br. No. 405 UP&DN, replacing cracked top flange angles of stringers and providing extra top flange plate for strengthening at Br. Nos. 440 UP&DN in SAPHALE-SURAT Section of MMCT Division. Approx. Cost of Work : Rs. 1,92,99,054.31. EMD : Rs. 2,46,500.00. (2) Tender Notice No. & Date : DYCE/B/DDR/2020/12, Dtd: 26.06.2020.

Name of Work : Providing Side Pathway

<p

QUOTE OF THE DAY

My mother said I must always be intolerant of ignorance but understanding of illiteracy. That some people, unable to go to school, were more educated and more intelligent than college professors.

— Maya Angelou

Scholarships on offer

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology — SRMIST, Chennai, India as a member of the India Global Higher Education Alliance of the US based College Board, which conducts the SAT examinations, is offering attractive scholarships up to 35 per cent for students with SAT scores.

SRMIST offers exciting options, like the transfer/twinning programme to study abroad after two years at SRM and completing the final two years abroad for the degree to be awarded overseas or after completing graduation or in opting for a top notch job. With over 200 MoUs with universities overseas, the options are unlimited.

For an NRI/PIO/OCI seeking BTech degree, the fee is ₹2.5 lacs pegged at the domestic fee, by taking the entrance exam SRMJEE and appearing for joint counseling, or alternatively, they can pick their choice of course with attractive scholarships of up to 35 per cent through the direct admission route. The last date to apply is July 15 2020. Those who are NRI/PIO/OCI or Foreigner, can proceed to apply in the International Admission Category, availing amazing scholarships, fee waiver of 25 per cent to 35 per cent under merit and 40 per cent for SAARC and Africa. For more information students can visit www.srmist.edu.in.



RETHINK THE NEW NORMAL

Online learning is in the driver's seat today. But that doesn't mean that the current system should be replaced completely. It needs to be understood that the new protocols will be a supplement and not a replacement of the earlier practises, says MANU GUPTA

striving to remain positive but the challenge to maintain the same level of connection with the students is apparent, and parents are worried if the disruption in children's education will push them a year behind.

The institutions along with health experts must brief the parents, teachers and management bodies about the hygiene protocols, physical screening and physical distancing to gain the confidence. Schools must incorporate some behavioral change practices in their curriculum such as washing and sanitising the hands even before getting on the online class to instill a habit and making children understand the importance of taking such safety precautions.

Teachers need to be trained about the transition to virtual classrooms with the help of the right online teaching strategies and techniques in order to keep their students engaged in a positive manner.

To achieve this goal, teachers and school management will require the active involvement of the parents along with the students.

Classroom teaching is still the ideal way of learning, and this is the best time to evolve innovative ways on how best to welcome children back to schools without compromising their safety. The school authorities will have to be aware that expecting students to immediately adapt to the new normal is an unreasonable ask

The way forward and beyond

There is a definite need to create systems that are convenient for students and educational institutions to implement while ensuring safety for all. This does not mean that the current systems should be replaced completely. It needs to be understood that the new protocols will be a supplement and not a replacement of the earlier practices. Classroom teaching is still the ideal way of learning, and this is the best time to evolve innovative ways on how best to welcome children back to schools without compromising their safety. Most schools are likely to open in September, which is a forward-looking step. The school authorities will have to be aware that expecting students to immediately adapt to the new normal is an unreasonable ask. There should be efforts to introduce exercises that ensure good psycho-social health and a happy emotional state for them. Burdening them with loads of syllabus to catch up on will only make them reluctant, anxious and unwillingness to

adapt. Prevention of bullying amongst the vulnerable weaker or younger students is another aspect we should plan to focus on.

Administrators, educators, and teachers must realise that the present situation does not warrant a complete overhaul of the education system, rather a few critical parameters, especially on the technological front. While students staying at home and attending virtual classes may currently be the best option, absence of friends and conducive school environments will deprive them of a very vital aspect of their learning and upbringing process.

The pandemic has taught us that many unique lessons. India, where education has predominantly been provided by the Government, the need to build resilience into our education systems is being felt stronger than ever before. School has always been more than a building. It is a place for children to learn, to play, to be inspired, and to be safe.

The writer is PhD, Co-Founder, SEEDS,

NAT to be held on July 5

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Vidyamandir Classes, announces the date of conducting the National Admission Test (NAT) Online

on July 5, 2020. VMC will award the top performers with

up to 100 per cent scholarship towards the tuition fee. The last date of registration for this exam is 8 pm, July 4, 2020.

VMC has received an overwhelming response to the Online NAT so far with thousands of students, who have successfully given the test online and taken admissions.

NAT is an online national qualifying test designed for students who aim to score high grades in IIT-JEE & NEET by joining the prestigious classroom & online programs. NAT is an exam for admission at VMC and self-analysis for the students. Through this aptitude test students can also review their current potential and realize their academic intellect on the basis of the marks

obtained in NAT. Since the past 33 years VMC has a proven track record of success in national competitive exams.

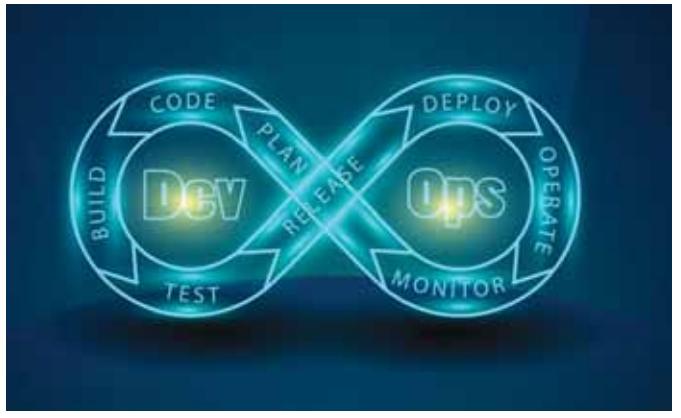
VMC will award the Class XII pass students with Early Bird Scholarships which is 50 per cent and 30 per cent on tuition fee for NEET and JEE preparatory courses respectively through NAT.

This exam is especially designed for IIT/JEE and NEET aspirants who want to be a part of the top engineering and medical colleges. NAT is an opportunity for the students to qualify and be a part of the methodical training programme of VMC which emphasises on explaining the fundamental concepts of the subjects, and provide mock tests and special sessions for eliminating doubts of the students.

The registration fee for the exam has been revised to ₹99 in view of the pandemic. For more information visit www.vidyamandir.com.

DEVELOP YOUR FUTURE

DevOps is being adopted and integrated by most tech companies today, paving the way for an interesting and fulfilling career path. BRIJESH KOHLI shares tips that can help



panies today, paving the way for an interesting and fulfilling career path.

DevOps engineers work with IT developers towards facilitating better coordination among the various IT-related functions by streamlining and automating the integration and the deployment processes.

To be a proficient DevOps engineer, one needs to be adept at certain skills like programming knowledge, system administration, network and storage, infrastructure management and compliance, automation tools, visualisation,

cloud computing, security, testing, and good communication skills. Here, we have explained some of the important skills you need to perfect to become a preferred DevOps engineer.

Programming knowledge: As a DevOps engineer, you have a huge responsibility for ensuring the smooth running of operations and knowledge of coding languages such as Python, Java, NodeJS, .NET, React, Angular, Ruby, and others can help you understand your roles and responsibilities better.

CI/CD: DevOps process

involves a lot of development, testing and deployment technologies for developing automated Continuous Integration/Continuous Delivery pipelines. Continuous integration (CI) combines the work products of individual developers into a repository. Continuous delivery (CD) is intended to reduce the conflicting points which are inherent in the deployment or release processes.

System administration: System administration includes building, deploying, testing and debugging servers regularly. The person responsible for system administration is directly responsible for the overall health of the system and therefore it makes more sense for the DevOps Engineer to know more about system administration as that helps make decisions regarding automation of systems and servers.

DevOps is a growing technology with lots of IT processes dependent on it, professionals tend to move to related roles in a few years, growing in expertise and experience. Apart from a good job profile, one can also expect an attractive salary package.

The writer is Director of Xebia Academy Global

Make way for cobots

Collaborative robots, or cobots, are being introduced worldwide to shape the present and future of students pursuing robotics. PRADEEP DAVID tells you how they are different from the conventional robots

As per a report of 2020 by India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), India has the world's largest population in the age range of five-24 years. With the youth comprising the very future of India, it is only wise for the country to steer them in the right direction while honing their talent to prepare them for the careers they wish to pursue. Undeniably, this can only be achieved by providing them with a strong, holistic education, complete with the appropriate resources, tools, and exposure.

It is no secret that India is especially renowned for its education in engineering, mechanics, and technology. Robotics, especially, is witnessing increased interest. While robotics has made its way as a driving force in the education of more developed countries, India's educational institutes are still not up to the mark, especially considering how imperative it is for universities to provide the right exposure to students, prepping them to be industry-ready professionals.

With this in mind, collaborative robots, or cobots, are being introduced worldwide to shape the present and future of students pursuing robotics. Our country is still at a nascent stage of embracing this technology, as a 2018 report by the International



Federation of Robotics (IFR) states that the country has only about three robots per every 10,000 workers, in contrast to developed countries such as South Korea, which has an average of 710 robots per 10,000 workers. It is time to change those numbers and welcome cobots into the world of educational institutions to prepare students for the fourth industrial revolution.

Built on the concept of Human-Robot Collaboration (a key tenet of Industry 4.0), cobots are a niche, new type of robots. Unlike conventional fenced robots, they have advanced safety features, including a protective stop that is enabled when an object obstructs its path. This makes them safe to work alongside humans without the need for any cumbersome caging or fencing (subject to risk assessment). This is in contrast to their unsafe, industrial robot predeces-

sors, which require a large amount of space to be fenced off to operate autonomously, as well as programming expertise.

Cobots contribute to creating a robotic lab of international repute along with providing the students with all the ingredients at one place. The collaborative technology is deemed fit for the university as cobots are not just user-friendly but also easy to set-up and customise. They enable customisation with their open-source platform, making it ideal for students to experiment with different programmes, and even create their own applications.

Slowly but surely, we see that universities across India are turning to incorporate collaborative robots into their curriculum, investing in the technology to facilitate an interactive association between students and technology. By creating a stimulating environment that shapes industry-ready students, cobots empower today's youth to become aware of technologically advanced solutions that can be used by large and small manufacturers alike to place India on the map as a manufacturing hub of global standards.

The writer is General Manager, South Asia, Universal Robots

Top honours for AU

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

methodology", noted the QS India head Ashwin Fernandes.

Adamas University (AU) is the only other university in East-Northeast India to be awarded so, apart from Bhuvaneswar based KIIT University.

QS IGauge is the Indian arm of global rankings and ratings agency QS, which established the E-Lead: E-Learning Excellence for Academic Digitisation certification on June 27, Saturday. This certification is a representation of the results following a verification and validation process to certify the preparedness of institutions to conduct online teaching and learning.

The certification process involved rigorous data-collection, evaluation and assessment of performance metrics as set out in the

E-Yoga Day at Manav Sthali School

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Manav Sthali School believes in imparting best in academic as well as best in providing facilities for the overall development of the students.

Yoga is a regular feature at the school as it brings together mind, body and breath to produce perfect balance within us. In today's rushed lifestyle, yoga is the perfect addition to school curriculum as it helps children to keep their minds calm and grow holistically.



ed students virtually on this day. The Guest of Honour was Sheetal Verma, a trained & a certified yoga instructor.

Mamta V Bhatnagar enlightened the students with her words of wisdom that yoga benefits people of all ages and is suitable for people at all walks of life. She stressed that during these testing times besides staying connected to family and friends, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, there is also one other thing that can help keep anxiety and mental health in check is practicing yoga.

New high for JGU

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rankings 2021. These rankings of young universities, which are under the age of 50 years, have just been released by QS, one of the leading and influential ranking agencies in the world.

Of the four Indian Universities which made it to the top 150 QS World University under 50 rankings, JGU is the only non-STEM, non-Medicine University to feature in this list.

BE ON THE CLOUD

Cloud computing exists in many avatars, creating a huge opportunity for the Internet and enterprise businesses by offering efficient and scalable solutions, opening doors for lucrative options, says SAIGHIRIDHAR VV

Beginning as an alternative to the soaring IT infrastructure cost, Cloud computing has, within a short span, become the most defining trend now. Cloud computing is no longer a good-to-have option, but a must have one.

Cloud computing began as an alternative to the soaring IT infrastructure costs, and within a decade it has become the defining trend and it is an initiative that all CIO's must evaluate or consider. According to a report by NASSCOM, the cloud market is expected to grow 3-fold to \$7.1 billion by 2022. Globally, the cloud spending on IT is growing at 16.5 per cent (CAGR) and is expected to touch \$345 billion by 2022.

Cloud computing has existed in multiple avatars, the present Cloud computing services is not very old. Its impact is creating a huge opportunity for the Internet and enterprise businesses, by offering efficient and scalable solutions for the industry. Many of the emerging cloud computing trends from the industry are entering a phase of high compatibility and scalability.

The standardisation of Cloud engineering, is further opening up new opportunities to support application-level processes with the help of artificial intelligence and high-per-

A global provider of digital skills training, Simplilearn — announced its findings from a survey conducted on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on employee training programmes and productivity post the implementation of work from home. Simplilearn surveyed executives and managers in the Learning & Development and Human Resources functions of companies around the globe on issues related to current and future employee training plans. While responses were gathered from various global regions, the majority were gathered from representatives of companies located in India (39 per cent) and the US (41 per cent).

The COVID-19 global health crisis has disrupted work patterns worldwide, and one



formance computing. Given the pace at which cloud computing is getting embraced, 2020 can well become a new door-opener in cloud computing and its developments in various sectors. Starting 2020 and in this decade, we can foresee the following trends that will shape up cloud computing.

SECURITY

The securing user data (Privacy) and protecting Intellectual property is the top priority for every organisation. Increased usage of cloud computing has resulted in a large number of users and their data vulnerable to security breach. Users are being subjected to denial of service, malware attacks, phishing, social data theft resulting in huge financial losses. Increasing cloud secure computing will be one of the key trends to watch for. Cloud administrators and architects will be expected to pay close attention to their business use cases and cover all aspects of securing their Cloud solution to avoid embarrassment and revenue loss.

SERVELESS COMPUTING

Serverless computing is the new-in-demand and it is increasing a growing number. Though clients tend to align with a par-

Increasing cloud secure computing will be one of the key trends to watch out for. Cloud administrators and architects will be expected to pay close attention to their business and cover all aspects of securing their Cloud solution

ticular cloud service provider, but many open source solutions are providing serverless computing service across the industry. The serverless model has a conventional structure that uses a pay as you go system giving the flexi-

bility to organisations to have control of their IT Infrastructure expenses.

EDGE COMPUTING

One of the advantages of cloud computing is its distributed computing infrastructure. Organisations need to be always connected and provide instant access to their customers. Hence the sustainable infrastructure of Edge computing will enable them to meet the expectations and meet ever growing User experience. It is one of the sustainable options for the companies because of its low cost and easy access to data.

HYPERSCALE DATA CENTRES

This refers to the capability of an IT system or architecture to scale exponentially and ability to respond to change with minimal downtime. Hyperscale data center is reshaping the global IT landscape, shifting data from on-premises computer rooms and IT closets to massive centralized data center hubs.

These cloud campuses offer economies of scale, enabling hyperscale operators to rapidly add server capacity and electric power. Organisations need an elastic IT infrastructure that can scale at an extremely quick pace to meet the dynamic increase and decrease of demand. This

has led to high demand for hyper-scale data centers.

GROWING POPULARITY

While organizations have started to align with a Cloud platform of their choice, fierce & healthy competition in the cloud arena has resulted in the availability of cost effective computing options with rich, feature-centric services, portability between services and flexible bidding options. Organizations are now incorporating Multi-Cloud solutions and Hybrid-cloud to achieve flexibility in computing & cost effectiveness. In recent years there is a steep rise in organizations incorporating multi cloud deployment, which is clearly the new norm and the way forward in cloud computing.

ALWAYS CONNECTED

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and organizations likely to adopt work-from-home culture for the foreseeable future, dependence on most of the regular softwares such as email, calendar, engineering / development, collaboration and video conferencing will only witness an upward usage trend with minimal downtime. Cloud came as the invisible saviour to address these challenges.

The writer is senior director of Engineering, TechChefs

'Join tech-savvy teaching brigade'

COVID-19 has left education institutes little choice but to revise the syllabus for a phygital teaching experience, says RUSTOM KERAWALLA

■ What are the top three reforms needed in the education sector at present?

The present policy lacks emphasis on the public-private partnership model. It should permit the private sector to build social infrastructure to aid holistic development especially in the social sector with an outreach to the underprivileged sections of the society. The private sector needs to be given a greater role. The proposal of three-language learning being made compulsory has not gone down well with many State. It would be a good idea for students to opt to learn their mother tongue. Edtech should be an integral part of the National Education Policy as its perception and application due to the COVID-19 pandemic has changed altogether.

■ Will online education remove the disparity that exists?

While it may not eradicate disparity at a go, it will be the stepping stone in bringing the education eco-system closer. Students from the remote corners of the country will get an opportunity to learn vocational skills which they were deprived off due to geographical and technological barriers. Also, this would uplift the under-privileged sections of the society who cannot afford expensive education. They would now be able to access and learn the same skill-sets at a fraction of the cost and sitting at home or skilling centres in their town or city. This will ensure a level playing field and also give the country skilled labour who in-turn can turn entrepreneurs and become independent.

■ What are the cons of online education?

Online education is at a very nascent stage but is revolutionising at a pace never thought before. While accessibility to the internet is one of its biggest limitations in the Indian sub-continent, the government should at improving infrastructure across the country to make it financially and socially viable. Also, with the widespread outreach will bring down the cost of online education dramatically.

The Government should lay the foundation by providing uninterrupted high-speed Internet coverage, reduce the taxes on hardware for education products like tablets, laptops, smart phones, and servers etc. to ensure affordability even to the economically weaker sections of the society. In addition, there will have to be specialised training of teachers to dispense their skills on an online platform. The teacher will also have to be attuned to the software and the latest trends and will have to regularly upskill themselves. Due to nascent in online education, there would be certain limi-



Rustom Kerawalla
Chairman, Ampersand Group

itations at the earlier stages but those issues will get addressed over a period of time.

■ How important is for teachers to change their teaching methodology -- due to online teaching?

Teachers don't need to change their methodology in entirety but need to make value additions to their existing style of teaching by incorporating various interactive tools. Many modern schools already have smart classrooms equipped with smart boards, LED screens, projectors, internet, and regularly involve students in interactive conversations with teachers easily operating them. In a modern-day physical classroom, adequate focus is also given to flipped learning in addition to the conventional for of learning.

Teachers who are entering in to the system are conditioning themselves to the new ways of teaching to meet global standards of education to ensure better employment connect. At the same time, teachers from Government and Government-aided schools will have to spend more time in enhancing their skills. Those teachers who were reluctant to adopt technology in their teaching, COVID-19 pandemic has left them little choice to join the newage tech-savvy teaching brigade. The syllabus will also have to be revised for a phygital teaching experience.

MIND IT

Simplilearn, said: "The current global pandemic has posed several new challenges to organisations and businesses across verticals, pushing for the need to embrace digital solutions. Based on our survey results, remote working seems to be the norm for the future, with 52 per cent respondents saying that WFH saw employees being more productive and 77 per cent of respondents predicting that their organizations are considering a permanent shift to work from home. The pandemic and economic slowdown have also brought in the need for organisations and professionals to

focus more on building capabilities in niche skills that would become inevitable for business continuity and sustenance."

Key findings from the survey include:

- 86% of respondents whose organisations offered physical classroom skills training to their employees before the pandemic have moved those training sessions to online platforms
- 82% of respondents whose organizations have moved employee skills training sessions online said the sessions have been equally or more effective than physical classroom sessions

■ 40% of respondents said their organizations anticipate making a permanent move to online training, compared to 18% who plan to revert back to physical classrooms (42% said 'not sure')

- 76% of respondents said that due to the abrupt switch to digital-first business environments they expect their organisations to grow their employee skills development programs

Eight per cent respondents said their budgets had increased, 34% said budgets had decreased, and 58% said they had stayed the same.

Other data collected includes:

- Functional training offered to employees within the organizations who responded includes Digital Operations (66%)

Technology/Software (64%), Digital Marketing (53%), and Artificial Intelligence/Data Science (45%)

- Functional training prioritised as a result of the pandemic includes Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (44%), Digital Marketing (42%), Cloud Computing (42%), and Cyber Security (40%)

■ 73% of respondents said their employees have been as productive or more productive while working from home compared to before the pandemic

- 77% said their organizations are now considering permanent expansion of "work from home" flexibility for their employees

The overall survey findings indicate that the pandemic has increased the importance and demand for digital skills training.

STUDY ABROAD

'Ensure that you know the official website inside out'

One can study at an international university in India. However, one needs to keep a few things in mind, says DR DEVESH KUMAR SINGH

Putting three years of your life in a decent school matters a great deal as how productively you spend this significant period will decide to an enormous degree how effective your life will be.

While inquiring about a college, it's basic that you don't make rankings your chief basis. You have to begin early and make the official university site your Bible. Here's a rundown of measures to remember while looking into universities:

Courses and majors offered: Invest time in doing research at the various types of majors the colleges offer, centre prerequisites otherwise known as central subjects, the blend of majors and minors and chances to increase reasonable introduction by methods for concentrate abroad or understudy trade programs. For example, keeping the current scenario of COVID-19 in mind, the need for medical and paramedical courses has increased

manifold as the health industry is facing shortage of resources.

Hence, choosing this line as your career is both lucrative for you along with helping you in contributing to nation building.

Campus size and life:

College is your shellfish and its assorted variety and size are significant factors also. Huge universities for the most part have more assets like, scholarly fixations and majors, examining offices, personnel, culture, amusement, etc. Little universities for the most part spend significant time in human sciences training and the general experience is typically progressively close.

Location and climate:

Though college is an extraordinary chance to investigate the new and obscure, location is one of the key aspects of choosing the right college. Some important facets while considering an institution are proximity to airport, railways station and other modes of transport to travel, availability of corporates and industry in the specific areas for training internship and future job prospects.

The writer is chairman of Noida International University

IN BRIEF

BYJU'S AIMS AT REDEFINING TUITIONS

The BYJU'S has announced the launch of a comprehensive online tutoring programme that aims at redefining tuitions for school students. With this, students now have access to scheduled online classes from India's best teachers, instant doubt resolution and one-on-one guidance from dedicated mentors, all from the comfort and safety of their homes. In a first-of-its-kind offering, the aim is to provide students all the benefits of personalised after-school tuition classes at their fingertips.

The students can choose from weekday and weekend batches and

attend scheduled online Math and Science classes as per their school curriculum. The students will be assigned a dedicated mentor who will offer one-on-one attention, comprehensive progress reports and also suggest personalised classes to work on topics that they need to focus on. The regular subjective and objective tests will help evaluate a student's performance too.

The are available for students from Classes IV to XII as well as for those preparing for JEE and NEET. The app can be downloaded from Google Playstore or App store.

CENTRAL DIGITAL LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Central Books, an online bookstore and complete education portal announced their strategic partnership with EduBrisk, the industry-leading Edtech Digital Platform for K-12 Segment.

The portal has a vast experience in serving schools in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and this partnership will

help empower these schools & school teachers to easily provide online learning to their students during the ongoing pandemic and thereafter. The partnership aims to touch the lives of 1 million students this academic year in this region.

Sudhir Mungala, CEO, Central Digital Learning, said: "I am a firm believer and executor of Blue Ocean strategy with technical integration. We are confident that this partnership is a

partnership made in heaven with the young energy of EduBrisk and the legacy of Central Books Group makes us equipped to not just address the need of all the stakeholders but to enable students to continue their learning."

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE PLEDGES TO COMBAT THREAT

The MIT World Peace University conducted a four-day virtual international conference on eradication of biological and chemical weapons. The conference saw active participation from across the globe with more than 20,000 plus participants. Through this conference, the

university aimed to spread awareness and awaken the youth against bio-warfare. The conference also focussed on its end goal of establishing a legal discourse towards curbing research and development of such weapons.

Prof Dr Vishwanath D Karad, founder-president, MIT World Peace

University said: "The COVID-19 has created utmost disruption in our mundane lives. Many do speculate that the breakout of the virus was purposefully intended to take over world supremacy. We should all take an oath to work towards peace and harmony rather than fighting each other."

The Concordia University invites applications for its Excellence Tuition Award for the academic year 2020-21. This programme will help students gain undergraduate level education at the university by covering their tuition fees. Applications of this application are open for all prospective students from around the world.

Eligibility: All countries are eligible to apply. Must have applied for an undergraduate degree course in any field at the university. The following must be provided as accompanying documents of application for admission:

Admission requirements: Candidates must meet all the entry requirement of the university.

Language requirement: You have to accomplish the English language requirements of the university.

How to apply: To be considered for this award firstly, you have to enrol in undergraduate degree coursework at the university and also complete the financial aid application.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is November 1, 2020.

CAPTAINCY WON'T CHANGE MY STYLE: STOKES

English all-rounder says leadership responsibility will not affect his desire to influence each match as a player

PTI ■ LONDON

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes says he won't change his playing approach when he will lead England in the absence of regular skipper Joe Root for the Test series-opener against the West Indies.

Vice-captain Stokes was on Tuesday named captain for the opening Test against at Southampton from July 8 in place of Root, who will be with his wife for the birth of their second child.

"I hope that I always try to set the example in terms of attitude and commitment. If I am in charge that's not going to change the way that I go about things," Stokes was quoted as saying by the BBC.

Stokes had a phenomenal run in the past one year as he helped England to World Cup final victory and played a key role in his side's stunning Ashes win over Australia at Headingley.

The 29-year-old, who has played 63 Tests since 2013, says positivity influences his conduct on the field and that will continue.

"In terms of how I want to influence the game, I try to have a positive effect with the ball or bat in my hand. No matter what I do in terms of choosing what to do in a situation, it will always be the positive route," the Durham all-rounder said.

If Stokes is given the captaincy, he will be first-all-rounder since Andrew Flintoff to lead England and 81st skipper overall.

He was named vice-captain in 2017 but he lost the position following the Bristol nightclub incident that year.

"Getting the opportunity to captain



England is a huge honour — even if it's only the once you can still say 'yeah, I've captained England'.

"It's a huge honour to think about, and something I'm really looking forward to

if the opportunity presents itself, but also at the same time I know I'm only stepping in for the one game because of Joe's personal situation."

Stokes does not have experience of

None better than Ben to step in for Root: Hussain

LONDON: Former England captain Nasser Hussain feels Ben Stokes will do well as a one-time skipper, however, handing him the armband permanently would be something *The Three Lions* should be concerned about.

"There is no one better than Ben Stokes to step in for Joe Root as a short-term captain when England take on West Indies in the first Test next week," Hussain wrote in his column for the *Daily Mail*.

"Stokes is extremely loyal, so Root would not have to worry he would be handing his job over to someone with any kind of ulterior motive of wanting to take it for good."

"When Joe returns

Ben will happily hand the captaincy back to him. He will certainly bring passion and energy to captaincy," he added.

Hussain also spoke about the prospect of handing over the role permanently to Stokes and stated it might not be a good idea to put further pressure on someone who is already giving the team everything in all three departments of the game.

"The long term is a different matter. With the full-time England captaincy comes expectancy, selection, ups and downs and a lot of things that can weigh you down. So I would be concerned about giving it to Ben permanently at some point down the line," Hussain wrote.

"I don't think there's anyone in world cricket who does as much as Ben Stokes. Maybe Virat Kohli but he doesn't bowl. Stokes' plate is full and when he does something there are never any half measures. Stokes has to do everything at a hundred miles per hour — there is no other way for him."

"So his workload is in the red zone without the mental strain of captaincy and history tells you if you give the job to your best all-rounder, the graph will go down the longer he does the job. The last thing England need is for Stokes to be affected by high office. Some players do not need an armband to lead and Stokes is one of them," he added. IANS

leading a side but would bank on support from his experienced players.

"We've got some really experienced guys out in the field who I can use. I'd like to think that I'll be quite an open captain

and wouldn't want to just think that my way is the only way," he said.

"There are 11 guys out on the field, so why not get 10 other opinions on something that you're thinking about?"

SINGLES

BURNLEY IN CONTENTION FOR EURO SPOTS

LONDON: Burnley captain Ben Mee marked his 300th appearance for the club by scoring in a 1-0 win at Crystal Palace on Monday as the Clarets climbed to eighth in the Premier League table. Victory saw Sean Dyche's visitors go level on points with Spurs and keep alive their hopes of European football next season.

AUS-ZIM ODI SERIES POSTPONED

MELBOURNE: The One-Day series between Australia and Zimbabwe was on Tuesday postponed by mutual agreement between the two boards due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The three-match series was to be played in August 9, 12 & 15. Zimbabwe have not visited Australia since the 2003-04 and in their last ODI meeting, the team from African nation had beaten Clarke-captained side in a 2014 tri-series played in Harare.

GETAFE BOOST CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HOPES

MADRID: Jaime Mata scored twice as Getafe beat fellow European hopefuls Real Sociedad 2-1 on Monday to give their push for Champions League qualification from La Liga a boost. Getafe had seen their top-four bid hit by a four-game winless run since the league restarted following the coronavirus pandemic, but they moved back to within two points of fourth-placed Sevilla.

BRESNAN PENS 2 YR WARWICKSHIRE DEAL

LONDON: Warwickshire county cricket club has signed former England all-rounder Tim Bresnan on a two-year deal that covers up to the end of the 2022 season. Bresnan will join the Bears initially on a loan deal, subject to clearance from the ECB, which covers the remainder of the 2020 county season. "I'm thrilled to be joining Warwickshire. It's a club that I've always admired, and I've always thoroughly enjoyed playing at Edgbaston with Yorkshire and England," Bresnan said.

WOMEN'S INDIAN OPEN GOLF CANCELLED

GURUGRAM: The Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament was on Tuesday cancelled in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The tournament, co-sanctioned by the Ladies European Tour in 2010, was scheduled for October. It will now return to the Gary Player Course at DLF Golf and Country Club in October next year. The Ladies European Tour and Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI) said "keeping the health and safety as top priority" such a decision became necessary.

VALENCIA APPOINT VORDO AS HEAD COACH

VALENCIA: Spanish football club Valencia have sacked head coach Albert Celades and have appointed Voro Gonzalez as their new manager. "Valencia CF have communicated to Albert Celades his removal from his position as the first-team coach, with immediate effect," the club said in a statement. It further said that Gonzalez will be in charge of the first team coaching staff from Tuesday until the end of the season. This is the sixth time that he has coached the team.

2021 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS POSTPONED

CAIRO: Next year's African Cup of Nations was postponed on Tuesday to 2022 amid a backlog of matches caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The Confederation of African Football said the 24-team tournament in Cameroon will now open one year later in January 2022. The 12 qualifying groups face a challenge to be completed this year. "The date for the final tournament and the remaining matches of the qualifiers will be communicated in due course," CAF said after an executive committee meeting. AGENCIES

6 Pak players test Covid -ve; to join squad in Eng

PTI ■ LAHORE

Six Pakistani cricketers, who were found to be Covid-19 positive ahead of the team's departure for England last week, have now tested negative for the second time in three days making them eligible to join the squad in the UK.

Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Rizwan, Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz have been found negative in the latest round of testing conducted by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

"The players were retested on Monday, 29 June, following a first negative test on 26 June," the PCB said in a statement on Tuesday.

Of these, Hafeez caused quite a stir when he got himself tested at a private facility, which found him negative just a day after the first PCB test put him in the infected list.

In all, 10 Pakistani players were found coronavirus-positive before the team left for England Saturday.

The PCB said six players are now eligible to join the Pakistan men's national cricket team in Worcestershire.

Ramiz advises Azhar to 'focus on his own batting'

PTI ■ LAHORE

Former Pakistan cricketer Ramiz Raja has suggested current Test captain Azhar Ali to focus on his own batting and lead from the front when they take on England in the much-anticipated series in August.

Raja pointed towards Pakistan's tour of Australia last year where Azhar could muster only 62 runs in four innings as the hosts recorded

as convincing 2-0 series whitewash. "My advice for Azhar will be to first focus on his own batting. His captaincy wasn't good in Australia and also in recent times his form has not been that great," Raja told Dawn News. "So he should be focus on his batting first so that he can inspire his teammates. Also, it's a great chance for Babar Azam to again impress the world like he did in Australia," he added. IANS

Rohit has ability, temperament to excel in Oz: Hussey

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Mike Hussey believes the hostile Australian conditions are bound to test any batsmen in the world, but the former cricketer has no doubts about the "ability and temperament" of Rohit Sharma, who according to him has the skills to excel at the top of the order during India's tour Down Under later this year.

India are set to tour Australia for a four-match Test series, starting December 3 at Gabba, Brisbane.

During the series all eyes would be on Rohit, who had scored three hundreds includ-

ing a double ton against South Africa at home in his debut series as Test opener last October. He, however, missed two games in New Zealand due to a calf injury.

"It's going to test any batsman in the world, but I think because he's (Rohit) played a lot of One-Day cricket batting at the top of the order, and now he's been having some success with the red ball game as well, that'll give him confidence coming in," Hussey said.

"I have no doubt in my mind that he's got the ability

and the skill and the temperament, to be able to handle it."

The former Australia left-handed batsman said the key for Rohit would be adaptability to the Australian conditions.

"I think he would adapt. No worries at all of his batting at the top of the order. It will be challenging in Australian conditions against the top quality bowling attack with pace and bounce," Hussey said.

The 45-year-old left-hand-ed batsman feels return of the



India all-rounder Krunal Pandya on Tuesday resumed outdoor training after more than three months at IPL Sports Complex Ground in Vadodara

@krunalpandya24/Twitter

Proteas return to training

TRAINING SQUAD

Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Lungi Ngidi, Aiden Markram, Junior Dala, Theunis de Bruyn, Rassie van der Dussen, Shaun von Berg, Dwaine Pretorius, Henrich Klaasen, Temba Bayuma, Reeza Hendricks, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Wiaan Mulder, Bjorn Fortuin, Andile Phehlukwayo, David Miller, Sarel Erwee, Khaya Zondo, Daryn Dupavill, Keshav Maharaj, Senuran Muthusamy, Keagan Petersen, Imran Tahir, Lutho Sipama, Edward Moore, Anrich Nortje, Sisanda Magala, Glenton Stuurman, Jon-Jon Smuts, Rudi Second, Pite van Biljon, Raynaard van Tonder, Gerald Coetzee, Pieter Malan, Zubayr Hamza, Janneman Malan, Faf du Plessis, Tony de Zorzi, Beurhan Hendricks, Nandre Burger, George Linde and Kyle Verreyne.

guidelines set out by the CSA Covid-19 steering committee and approved by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD).

According to Cricket South Africa, the players will train in small monitored groups with identified coaches from their nearest franchise teams.

The sessions will be in accordance with the

Juve & Barca complete Pjanic-Arthur swap deal



Arthur Melo poses after signing contract with Serie A club Juventus

Juve/Twitter

We don't want to spend 'millions' on transfers: Klopp

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp does not believe he has to spend "millions" in the transfer market, saying it is a tricky task to improve his Premier League winners. Klopp's side were last week crowned English champions for the first time in 30 years with a record seven games to go.

The coronavirus outbreak, which put the Premier League on hold for three months, is likely to have a significant impact on the football transfer market.

But Klopp said even if he had a significant war chest, spending it would not necessarily be easy or the right thing to do. The club decided not to compete with Chelsea for Timo Werner even though he had been heavily linked with a move to Anfield.

Arthur and Pjanic will remain with their current teams until the end of the 2019-20 campaign, which will include the



Frigh players Xherdan Shaqiri and Adam Lallana look likely to be among those who will be leaving the club. "Covid has of course influenced both sides with ins and outs, that is completely normal, and it's just not likely that it will be the most busy summer in the world," Klopp told reporters.

"But maybe at a later point in the year, if the transfer window is still open, we will know more. But this squad... look at it. It is not a squad you have to change now and say 'OK, we need this position and this position.'

The Liverpool boss said he had a "first 16 or 17" who could all play at the same level. "We cannot spend millions and millions because we want to or we think it is nice to do,"

he added. "We never wanted that."

Klopp's last big buy was the purchase of Alisson Becker for £65 million in 2018. Since then the outlay has been relatively small. Teenagers Harvey Elliott and Sepp den Berg have joined the club along with Adrian and Takumi Minamino, who arrived from RB Salzburg for £7.25 million in January.

But the club has invested heavily in longer contracts for their key players and Klopp said his youngsters had the potential to make a major impact. Wales under-19 International Neco Williams has impressed, along with academy graduate Curtis Jones and fellow young forward Elliott.

"You have to be creative and we try to be creative," said Klopp. "We try to find solutions internally and there is still a lot to come. We have three or four players who can make big steps."

I've maximum respect for Klopp: Allison

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool goalkeeper Allison thanked coach Jurgen Klopp for giving him the "opportunity to become a legend" at the club.

Allison joined Liverpool last season and helped the club win the Champions League and the Premier League in his time at Anfield. "The maximum respect I can have for a person, I have for him," the Brazilian goalkeeper told Reds website.

"There's not many words that I could describe. He means everything for this club, for the squad. He and we try to be creative," said Klopp. "We try to find solutions internally and there is still a lot to come. We have three or four players who can make big steps."